



ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S
LEAGUE OF CANADA



ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

October 2015 Edition

Featuring the Archdiocese of Toronto and the Provincial Spiritual Advisor

ONE HEART
VOICE
MISSION

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October
Month of the
Holy Rosary



Pauline's Ponderings...

Greetings:

As we approach Thanksgiving let us take a moment or two to really count our blessings. How fortunate we are to live in this grand country, where we have the abundance of the harvest to bring to the feast. How fortunate to receive love and concern from family and friends. How fortunate for us to share in the lives of our parish families. And how fortunate we are to gather at the table of the Lord for Eucharist. As I sit here pondering the hummingbird I chose for this month, my thoughts have gone to the song *Wind Beneath My Wings*...that is what my sisters in The League are...you allow me to soar...for that I am most grateful.

The refugee crisis is significant. We have opportunities to do our part by supporting one of the many agencies working to bring families to safety. The government will match donations dollar for dollar for registered agencies until mid December 2015.

I encourage each of you to use your right to vote in this up and coming election and encourage family and friends to do so as well.

Cheers and ttfn...



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31st Rosary Sunday, Martyrs' Shrine – Midland, Ontario

The 31st Annual Rosary Sunday with Mass and the Living Rosary was held on Sunday, September 13th, 2015 at Martyrs' Shrine in Midland. Mass was celebrated by Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick. The procession of the Blessed Sacrament with the Living Rosary and Benediction took place at the Papal Altar. As in past years this Mass was well attended and the procession included the Knights of Columbus, the Legion of Mary and The Catholic Women's League proudly displaying their banners, representing the various Councils from across the Toronto Diocese. There was representation from National, Provincial, Toronto and Regional Councils.



**The November issue will
feature the Kingston Diocesan
Councils and the Legislation
Standing Committee.**

Stay tuned!



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World Meeting of Families with Pope Francis —Philadelphia 2015

The theme of the World Meeting of Families (WMOF) was "Love is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive". CWL members joined others to attend keynote and breakout sessions with internationally known speakers and engaged in thought provoking dialogue on issues confronting families.

Pope Francis spoke at the Festival of Families and also in his homily at Sunday's Mass to well over a million people. The take-home message clarified

the importance of family as foundational to civic society. We are called to renew the domestic church with improved intergenerational ministry to both grandparents and children.

This pilgrimage was planned by St. Mary Immaculate CWL president, Boots Montano working collaboratively with her parish team. Deacon Joseph D'Amico provided spiritual guidance journeying to the (WMOF) and to Catholic Shrines and churches around Philadelphia.



CWL Outing to Niagara Region

The CWL Council of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Woodbridge Ontario planned and participated in a day excursion to the Niagara Region on Tuesday September 15, 2015. It gave our council of loyal, constant, volunteers an opportunity to travel together outside our local community and enjoy together socially the natural wonders of Canada. It also gave us an opportunity to become a stronger council as we work and learn together. The outing included a wine tasting tour in Beamsville; a Mass at the St. Catherine of Alexandria Cathedral in St. Catharines Ontario; lunch and shopping in Niagara-on-the-Lake; sightseeing and supper at Niagara Falls. Fun was had by all.





Gift for Catholic Missions in Canada Annual Potluck Social

At the June potluck social, Ingrid Hart, President of St. Joseph Highland Creek Council of Scarborough Region, Toronto Diocese presented a Christening gown to Catholic Missions in Canada. This special gift was donated by the Noble Family in memory of Maureen Noble, a CWL member who passed away in March. This gift and \$207.00 in cash, collected by the CWL members in attendance, was graciously received by Patricia Gyulay on behalf of Catholic Missions in Canada. Patricia was also the speaker at this popular annual event and was very appreciative of the generous gifts by the Council



Aboriginal Mass

The Toronto Diocesan Council sponsored a special Mass on June 28th recognizing National Aboriginal Day. Hosted St. John's Parish CWL, Toronto Region, the celebration was well attended by many CWL and the Community at large.

Fr John Newton and Native Elder, John Robinson, brought together traditional Native and Catholic worship creating a moving spiritual encounter. Fr. John wore a vestment made of buckskin with accent bead-work and the First Nations participants were in their native attire. Native drummer Red Bear welcomed all to prayer with a traditional chant and beat of his drum.



Elder John then began with the Native ceremony which included smudging, prayer for Mother Earth and the traditional drummed offering song.

Fr John proceeded with the Mass and spoke in his Homily of how he himself had found insight in this coming together of cultures and this was an opportunity for all of us to reach out and learn about each other. All who attended will not soon forget this wonderful celebration.



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Provincial Spiritual Advisor Bishop Fred Colli

"The Mercy of God Through the People of God"

As I thought about this newsletter article, I wondered why Pope Francis had called for a Jubilee Year of Mercy. Mercy is an important topic in our church. Of course we know that God is merciful. We have the sacrament of Reconciliation, we have the Divine Mercy Chaplet, we have Divine Mercy Sunday, and the word mercy is found on 252 pages of the Roman Missal - the word count for 'mercy' is even much higher. We know the word, we know the concept, but how do we show this in a concrete way in our daily lives?

I think Pope Francis is asking us to look again at the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy we learned in school. We are to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, give shelter to the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, bury the dead, instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, admonish the sinner, bear wrongs patiently, forgive offences willingly, comfort the afflicted, and to pray for the living and the dead. These are the Works of Mercy given to us by the Church to guide us in our daily life.

We know that in many ways, we already practice these works of mercy. We know that we try to be generous, comforting, forgiving, and supportive in many different ways and to many people. I think Pope Francis, however, wants us to take a step further in our acts of mercy. He wants to look honestly at how we live, to examine the strengths and weaknesses in our actions, and during this Jubilee Year, to see how we can improve as followers of Jesus.

The Jubilee Year is a year of joy and excitement. The entire Church will be sharing this together, and we know that with all the outreach that exists already in our parish communities and organizations, to enhance this effort will be wonderful for the Church and for the world. Also the Holy Father wants us to remember that our outreach is not just to those close to us, but also extends beyond our homes and parishes, especially to those who feel alone, forgotten, abandoned and helpless.

To venture into these areas is always a challenge. It can be messy, it can be inconvenient, it can be uncomfortable for us, but it is the call of Jesus to each of us. As the Lord reached out to those in need without exception or discrimination, so we as followers are called to do the same. The mercy of God is recognized through the people of God, in their care and compassion.

This theme of mercy also prompts us to look at our relationship with the Lord, and to see how we can strengthen our bond with Him in our prayer, through the Sacraments, in our good works, and in our spiritual lives. In doing this we can turn also to relationships with one another and realize, that if there is a need for forgiveness or for seeking forgiveness so a relationship can be re-established in love, then the Year of Mercy is a time to do this. God's special grace during this time, will give us the courage to bring healing and compassion in our bonds with one another, beginning within our families.

So let us prepare ourselves for this great outpouring of grace and mercy when this Holy Year begins on December 8th. As Pope Francis has noted: "I have asked the Church in this Jubilee Year to rediscover the richness encompassed by the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The experience of mercy, indeed, becomes visible in the witness of concrete signs as Jesus himself taught us. Each time that one of the faithful personally performs one or more of these actions, he or she shall surely obtain the Jubilee Indulgence. Hence the commitment to live by mercy so as to obtain the grace of complete and exhaustive forgiveness, by the power of the love of the Father, who excludes no one."

The challenge for us is in the words of Pope Francis. No matter what our situation, we all can practice mercy in our lives, and seek mercy from God and from one another. As the Pope again notes: "It is indeed my wish that the Jubilee Year be a living experience of the closeness of the Father, whose tenderness is almost tangible, so that the faith of every believer may be strengthened and thus testimony to it be ever more effective". As a members of the Catholic Women's League we ask ourselves, are to up to this challenge?