



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



ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

April 2016 Edition

Featuring the Dioceses of Pembroke and Peterborough and Past President / Historian



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Prayer for Respect of Life

Heavenly Father, the beauty and dignity of human life was the crowning of your creation. You further ennobled that life when your Son became one with us in his incarnation. Help us to realize the sacredness of human life and to respect it from the moment of conception until the last moment at death. Give us courage to speak with truth and love and with conviction in defence of life. Help us to extend the gentle hand of mercy and forgiveness to those who do not reverence your gift of life. To all, grant pardon for the times we have failed to be grateful for your precious gift of life or to respect it in others. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

Catholic Online



Pauline's Ponderings...

Greetings:

No one has ever accused me of being a *Star Wars* fan... and to say that I even got the whole idea of "May the fourth" be with you would be a stretch, but this year it seems the catchphrase will take on a much more significant meaning. At the winter meeting for the national executive it was decided that all members would gather across the country for 12 hours of prayer for palliative and hospice care. The following is from the preface of the resource booklet produced for the day: "National President Barbara Dowding asks that "all League members find some way to support this day of prayer. The prayer can take place within a parish church, a house of worship, a home or elsewhere. Participation may include a large congregation, a few friends or solitary prayer at home. It is recommended that parishioners, members of neighbouring churches and other faith groups be invited to participate. Where possible, it would be ideal to include the Knights of Columbus and any ecclesial movements or associations in your parish or diocese. The twelve hours can be designed around local schedules."

I am asking that each of the dioceses work with councils to ensure that 12 hours of prayer happens in your diocese. I leave it to you to decide how to best facilitate this. I have heard from a few of you and am in awe of how you are embracing this endeavour.

Diocesan conventions begin this month. Please pray for the success of each convention, safe travels for all who are finding their way to the venue, successful presentations of resolutions and full executives for the four dioceses holding elections this year.

Cheers and ttfn.



Diocese of Pembroke

Diocesan Past President June West organized a **History Day** on April 5th at **St Columbkille Cathedral, Pembroke**. The history books, stored at the Cathedral, are usually only on display at the diocesan convention so this day gave members an extra opportunity to view them and update files. The day included a workshop led by Sharon Munro, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Deep River, member, who showed us how she is compiling the service history of individual members in her own council. This could be the start of an annual event for the diocesan council.



The May issue will feature the St Catharines Diocesan Councils and the Community Life Standing Committee.

Stay tuned!



Our Lady of Good Counsel Council, Deep River, hosted the 2016 World Day of Prayer Service with four local faith communities taking part.

Senior classes from St. Mary's Catholic School, located next to the church, were invited to attend. The school children provided art work and participated in readings and singing, a most appropriate contribution in light of this year's theme "Receive Children, Receive Me".

Sundaes for Nepal: What is more appealing than a sundae on Sunday! **St. Michael's Council, Douglas,** held a "Sundaes for Nepal" fundraiser. Parishioners were invited to enjoy an ice cream sundae after morning mass.



Information was available to explain the extent of casualties and damage from the earthquake and where aid money was most needed. A good will offering was collected in support of Development and Peace Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund.



Facebook Page for Parish Councils: Some councils in the diocese are using Facebook to stay connected. **St. Theresa's Council, Temiscaming, QC,** has created its own Facebook page. The page was recently started and members are gradually finding ways to tailor it to their own needs. As an example, the page was used to promote the World Day of Prayer Service in their community. **St. Francis Xavier Parish Council, Renfrew,** also has its own Facebook page.



Diocese of Peterborough



**Blessed Rosalie Rendu and
Works of Mercy Retreat
Saturday, February 6/16**

St. Mary's CWL, Lindsay, celebrated Blessed Rosalie Rendu's feast day by hosting a retreat for 45 CWL and Society of St. Vincent de Paul members and guests.

Fr. Eric Mason brought the good deeds and character of Blessed Rosalie to life. Blessed Rosalie (1786-1856) and her Sisters of Charity carried out many of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy that St. Vincent de Paul (1581-1660) had begun. She worked tirelessly with the poor in the streets of Paris, France and with Blessed Frederic Ozanam (1813-1853) inspired the founding of the SSVP in 1833.

Peterborough CWL and First Nations:

Throughout the 2015-2016 year, parish councils have been making and collecting items for children and young mothers for distribution to First Nations communities in the Peterborough area as well as Sioux Lookout. The items will be gathered at the upcoming diocesan convention in Lindsay April 16-17th. Last year suitcases of items were delivered to Thunder Bay in November 2015 with the help of Colleen Martin. A cash donation was also used to enhance a Christmas dinner and celebration organized by the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority on a remote reserve north of Sioux Lookout.



On Sunday, September 20, 2015, **St. Joseph's CWL, Bowmanville,** celebrated its **80th anniversary!** The event began with mass celebrated by Father Paul Massel, St. Joseph's Pastor and Spiritual Advisor. The celebration was also attended by a number of St. Joseph's Past

Presidents (pictured here) who were recognized at the reception and publicly thanked for their leadership and contributions over the years. A highlight was the presence of Betty Anne Brown Davidson, National Past President, who spoke eloquently about the spirituality of the CWL, reminding members of the importance of being women of faith and action.

On February 18th ladies of **St. Alphonsus CWL, Wooler,** had Maria Fitzgerald come and do a workshop on making rosaries for the Rosary Apostolate. This program is taking place in schools in the Peterborough Diocese from kindergarten to grade 8. Trained volunteers go into the schools and teach the children how to say the rosary. Maria is always looking for volunteers to make the rosaries needed for the program as each child is given a rosary.





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Past President / Historian Betty Colaneri

*"We study the past to understand the present;
we understand the present to guide the future." -- William Lund*

Pictures have always been a passion of mine. Not only taking them but looking through them. I find they give me such comfort when I'm feeling a little down. Memories from the past of happy times and experiences with family and friends gives such a joyful feeling! Going through the provincial archives, I enjoyed looking through the pictures to see all the incredible women who have paved the way for us. Going through the files, I read some of the minutes that were beautifully handwritten. That's right, handwritten! Could you imagine taking minutes without being able to cut and paste or even having white out! I strongly recommend councils have a subcommittee that would be dedicated to taking care of the archives to ensure that they are updated, properly preserved and maintained in a secure location. Think of how enjoyable it would be for those subcommittee members to work on it together and reminisce about past conventions or events. Ever wonder if those hairstyles or fashions will come back?! A popular method of picture taking these days is with a cellphone or iPad. It is important to make sure your pictures are of the best quality so they will stand the test of time. Also, it is extremely important to label your pictures. Over the years it may not be so easy to put a name to a face.

Unfortunately, those pictures are often locked away in filing cabinets for safe keeping and not seen by the current members. The albums should come to a meeting for a visit once in a while. I think it's important to go down memory lane to see how it all began and see how far we have come. It could be the perfect inspiration for members to carry on for the future. Everything we do today will be history tomorrow. History is important because we are the past in all the events that took place and it is those actions that guide us in the present. The only way we can understand who we are and how we got to be that way is by studying the past. Sharing our history and tradition, then passing it on, gives members a sense of pride and importance in belonging to the League. The future generations will be looking at what we have done for their inspiration. That certainly makes our actions today quite profound.

As past presidents/historians, we are to be mentors and give guidance to the president and the executive members. One of my favourite things to do is to encourage members to share their gifts and continue their growth in the League that will hopefully transition them into leadership roles. God has graced us all with different gifts that often times we don't see in ourselves. God will often, in His gentle way, send us someone to show us our gifts and push us out of our comfort zone so we can serve Him to the utmost through service to His people. I have had the distinct privilege of seeing members that I suggested take on a leadership role grow and blossom into inspirational, hardworking members that represent the League beautifully. It is a thrill to witness their amazement at unveiling their gift and doing something they didn't realize they could do.

So the next time someone brings your gift to your attention, be sure to listen. It just may be God calling! Let's keep passing the torch!



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Check the national website for information and resources

12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care

May 4, 2016

*"True compassion
is found through
palliative care and
access to it must
be a right for all
Canadians."*

**National President
Barbara Dowding**



**The Catholic Women's
League of Canada**

For further information visit
www.cwl.ca