



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



ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

December 2016 Edition
Featuring the Diocese of Thunder Bay
and the Education and Health Standing Committee



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Pauline's Ponderings...



Greetings:

In January the new theme gifted to us by National President Margaret Ann Jacobs, *Inspired by the Spirit: Women Respond to God's Call*, will come into effect. At the fall national meeting the executive spent time discussing how we can best live the theme for the next two years. Consensus around the table was to ask members to continue to make our desire for ethical and excellent palliative and hospice care a priority and continue our works of mercy...in short to keep mercy alive.

I urge each of you to continue your letter writing and visiting with members of parliament to let Ministers know that we want palliative and hospice care in our province to be their priority as well. Also we should stress with them the importance of right of conscience for those who work in the medical field and face the reality of physician-assisted death.

As members we can do many things in small ways to keep mercy alive. Your blessed projects are living proof of that. Pope Francis' pleas for showing mercy did not stop when the holy doors were closed.

Over this past weekend my own parish council held a bazaar – a first for us in many, many years. It was our mothers who held bazaars long before we were ever a council in CWL. I am in awe of all the people who gave of their time to make the event happen. The number of hours given is truly a gift. Thinking about it today, I have come to realize that is what we are all about – the giving.

As we prepare ourselves for the gift of Christ at Christmas, I thank God for each one of you – the women of The Catholic Women's League of Canada who bring joy to so many in all that you do. God Bless.



...they will call him
Immanuel...

Jesus

...which means,
"GOD WITH US"



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FEATURING THUNDER BAY COUNCILS

The Diocesan CWL Fall League Development Day was held on Saturday, October 15th, 2016 hosted by **St. Andrew's Parish CWL, Thunder Bay.** Members began with a prayer service. Presenter Evelyn Marcon spoke on Pope Francis and St. Francis of Assisi. Provincial President Pauline Krupa and Josie Schill facilitated an *Impressions Count* workshop. A presentation of "Congratulations" was made to Holy Angels CWL Council, Schreiber, on the occasion of their 90th anniversary.



Evelyn Marcon



"Impressions Count" Workshop



Thunder Bay Diocesan President Alice Uvanile making presentation to Holy Angels President Cathy Carlino



Coats for Kids Drive

CWL members, Alice Uvanile (left) of St Agnes Council and Marlene Pavletic (right) of St Margaret's Council, Thunder Bay work with elementary teacher Marisa Andreacchi (centre) at a laundromat laundering winter jackets for the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA) annual *Coats for Kids Drive*. The jackets are washed, dried, and packed, ready to be distributed, to those in need, at a mall located in the city.



St. Agnes Council, Thunder Bay, "Blessed Margaret Project" was to make and donate prayer shawls or blankets to our seniors who are shut-ins. The blankets and prayer shawls were very well received. We delivered them the week of Mother's Day. Pictured with one of the blankets are Joyce Ilkka (left) and Annette Raynak (right).



St Patrick's Council in Emo hosted a visit from some of the Diocesan Executive; Diocesan President Alice Uvanile, Organization Chair Mary Wilson and Provincial President Pauline Krupa, on October 27th, 2016. Our sister councils St. Mary's, Fort Frances, Our Lady of the Way, Pinewood/ Stratton, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Rainy River and Emo were invited and attended. Provincial information was shared and we reviewed and studied the new annual reporting system. A time for fellowship followed. Thanks for the visit ladies!



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On October 15, 2016, *National Child and Infant Loss Day*, **St. Joseph's Catholic Woman's League, Dryden**, and the Knights of Columbus, with the support of Father Al Campeau, held a memorial service.

It is estimated that one of every four pregnancies ends in a loss. We prayed that the stigma of talking about such tragic events and the veil of silence that it has been concealed under, be lifted. We also prayed for the children lost to abortion and for the parents who have regretted and grieved their decision.

At 7 p.m., in what is referred to as the *Wave of Light*, candles were lit, as were many around the world, in memory and support of these little ones and for all those who grieve their loss.



In the *Year of Mercy*, the members of **St. Dominic's CWL, Thunder Bay**, have undertaken the *Prayer Shawl* ministry. The generosity of our members and friends has been overwhelming.

During this holy season of Christmas, we adopt a family from the Children's Aid Society who are in need. We purchase food, clothing, household essentials, personal hygiene products and some toys and hope that their Christmas will be "merry and bright".

As this year of mercy ends, we hope that with these small gestures, we have helped to brighten someone's day or made life a little easier, for a family in our community.



St. Anthony of Padua Thunder Bay – Small Things Mean a Lot



Filling Blessing Bags

- ❖ Working with the chaplain at the local correctional facility we were able to provide each inmate with a bag of treats and a Christmas card with a message wishing them well.
- ❖ Using some of the proceeds of a fundraiser and enlisting the help of community donors, we were able to provide each person spending a night at the local Shelter House with a small bag containing several items including socks, toothpaste/brush, Kleenex, plus soap and shampoo provided by a local hotel.
- ❖ Members contributed to a "Household Shower", for women who have left an abusive relationship and are now living on their own.



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Education and Health Standing Committee

Submitted by Colleen Randall Education and Health Standing Committee Chair

Warning Signs of Dementia

1. Memory loss that affects day-to-day function
2. Difficulty performing familiar tasks
3. Problems with language
4. Disorientation of time and place
5. Poor or decreased judgment
6. Problems with abstract thinking
7. Misplacing things
8. Changes in mood and behaviour
9. Changes in personality
10. Loss of initiative

If you or a loved one develops any number of these signs please see a physician. The symptoms can be related to other conditions but if you are concerned it is worth the visit.

Catholic Education Week 2017 - April 30 – May 5

It is never too early to start planning how you and your council can be involved...

Find out more at <http://www.ocsta.on.ca/resources/catholic-education-week-resources/>

CATHOLIC EDUCATION:
WALKING
forward
together

Compassionate Community Care Helpline



*Compassionate
Community Care*

*Advice, help and support
regarding euthanasia, assisted suicide
and all end-of-life treatment issues.*

Confidential and free: 1.855.675.8749

www.CompassionateCommunityCare.org

Recently I received a call from Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. When talking to them I learned about the Compassionate Community Care Helpline. The CCC helpline exists for any Canadian dealing with end-of-life issues who needs advice, help and/or support. Please share this information with anyone you know who may need this service.



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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

"There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions, and it is wonderful how education can bring about real changes in lifestyle. Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper".

"All of these reflect a generous and worthy creativity which brings out the best in human beings"

~ Pope Francis ~ (From the encyclical: "Laudato Si" on Care For Our Common Home)

LIVING Laudato Si'



In keeping with the spirit of Pope Francis' encyclical, and taking steps to reduce our carbon footprint, the Ontario Provincial Council, after discussion, careful discernment and consideration, has decided that the

**Spring 2017 will be the last paper edition of
The Trillium News and Views.
Stay tuned for more information!**