



May 2016 Edition

Featuring the Diocese of St Catharines and the Community Life Standing Committee



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**Pauline's Ponderings...**



The past few weeks have been a flurry of activity. I have attended three diocesan conventions and am gearing up for the fourth. Each has been an awesome experience!

Each and every day we have moments of self-doubt. You can't imagine how many times I wondered if proposing the Blesseds project was too overwhelming, expecting too much, etc, etc. From what I have witnessed and all that the other provincial representatives have shared, you have taken the projects one hundred times further than I envisioned. Your corporal and spiritual works of mercy are outstanding. Kudos is extended to every member in our province. The provincial convention in Stratford is going to be filled with many amazing stories. Can't wait to see your faces as you hear those reports!

These last few weeks have also been busy for each of you. Many of you celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel on April 26 in a special way and then planned 12 hours of prayer for palliative and hospice care on May 4<sup>th</sup>. I am confident that the Lord's ears were getting so filled with our pleas that He sent a cacophony of messages to our politicians just to keep His head from spinning.

Our government visiting team spent a truly rewarding day at Queen's Park. The group did you proud! Our visits were very fruitful. We have the opportunity to share in many of the strategies planned for Ontario over the next few years. And that rumour you heard about us praying at Queen's Park ... true! ... we did.

May traditionally is the month of Mary. Take time every day to pray to Our Blessed Mother, Queen of Heaven. Remember especially this month our own dear mothers, living and deceased. Cheers and ttfn.



May



Month of Mary

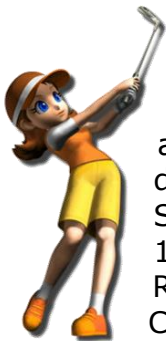


ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL  
OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S  
LEAGUE OF CANADA



## ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

The **St. Catharines Diocesan Council** of The Catholic Women's League of Canada encompasses parishes in four regions of the Regional Municipality of Niagara and Haldimand County – Haldimand, Niagara, St. Catharines, and Welland. Currently this comprises a total of thirty-three parish councils, as of this year, with a membership of 2,250 faith-filled women serving God and Canada. A selection of some of the more recent and upcoming happenings, in the diocese where faith lives, are included in this submission.



### Plans for our **Annual Diocesan Golf Tournament**

are underway. The day is scheduled for Saturday, September 17, 2016 at Whisky Run Golf Club, Port Colborne with a 1:00 p.m. shotgun start.

Please contact Shelley at 905-714-7677 if you are interested in joining in a fun-filled day with your sisters in the League. Though a decision has yet to be made for the profits, last year's proceeds will subsidize, in part, the registration for any executive member attending the 2016 Ontario Provincial or National Conventions.

### **Installation of Re-activated Parish Council of St. Joseph, Grimsby**

On Thursday, May 21, 2016, following the homily of the mass, the installation of the newly elected officers of the recently re-activated Parish Council of St. Joseph, Grimsby took place. The Most Rev. Gerard Bergie, Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines and Past Ontario Provincial Spiritual Advisor, presided at the mass concelebrated by Fr. Rico Passero, Spiritual Advisor of St. Joseph Parish Council and Father Matthew Pendanathu. Ontario Provincial Council Community Life chairperson brought greetings on behalf of Provincial President Pauline Krupa and the Ontario Provincial Council. The officers installed in their prospective positions include: Mary Hendriks, president; Terrie Morrison, recording secretary; Maureen Crane, treasurer; and Dorothy Callaghan, Linda Capostagno, Lee Crampton, Corey Piggott, standing committee chairpersons. The St. Catharines Diocesan Council is delighted to welcome St. Joseph Parish Council back after a twenty year lapse in membership. We pray that Our Lady of Good Counsel guide them and bless them in their service to God and Canada.

### **Welcome Members of St. Joseph Parish Council, Grimsby!**



Left to Right: Shelley Tamas, Diocesan President, Mary Hendriks, Dorothy Callaghan, Linda Capostagno, Terrie Morrison, Lee Crampton, Corey Piggott, and Rev. Rico Passero, Absent: Maureen Crane



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**St. Vincent de Paul Parish Council, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Joins Rally Opposing Bill C-14:** Members of St. Vincent de Paul Parish Council organized and joined a peaceful rally, with their husbands, on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 by the urging of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. They met at the office of their Member of Parliament, Mr. Rob Nicholson, to voice their concerns regarding Bill C-14, indicating that euthanasia and physician assisted suicide are not the answer.



**Pilgrimage to the Holy Doors:** Several parish councils of the Diocese of St. Catharines made a pilgrimage to the Holy Doors of the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria on Tuesday, April 26, 2016 to celebrate mass in honour of our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel, as well as for the intentions of the sick and those suffering from life limiting illness. Fr. Donald Lizzotti, Rector of the cathedral and spiritual advisor of the parish council, was the celebrant of the mass. He also gave a virtual tour of the Cathedral enlightening us with tidbits of Cathedral and diocesan history. The Cathedral parish council prepared a lovely reception, evident of tender loving care, for those attending to enjoy. The evening was yet another opportunity to

experience faith, fun, and fulfillment.

### **Man of the Shroud Exhibit – St. Alfred Parish Council, St Catharines**

Many CWL members volunteered and assisted with the organization of the **Man of the Shroud** exhibit, an extensive exhibition on the history, science and significance of the Shroud of Turin, that was hosted at St. Alfred Church from March 2 to 8, 2016. The exhibit included museum boards and replica artifacts related to the Crucifixion of Christ. Shroud scholar Barrie Schwartz presented information that science and forensics confirm the authenticity of the Shroud. Barrie left audiences with these undeniable facts: there are no pigments, paints, inks, caulk or dyes which in any way contributed to the formation of the image. Shroud scholar, John Iannone related the Shroud image to the phenomenon of the resurrection. Many scientists agree the image was formed by an extremely high density, short duration burst (milliseconds) of radiant energy.



***The June issue will feature the Diocese of London and the Christian Family Life Standing Committee.***

***Stay tuned!***



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### **Community Life Standing Committee Wilma Vanderzwagg**

The community life standing committee is a committee of action. How do we respond to our Christian calling? Are our arms outstretched to give of ourselves and live our League prayer to- "share with others at home and abroad the good things You have given us".

Our aboriginal sisters and their families need our help. We need to stay vigilant with the federal government to ensure they keep their campaign promises with regard to aboriginal issues. In the recent federal budget, funds have been allocated to assist First Nation people with key issues: access to water, quality education, health and social services especially for youth, year round access and employment. Many reserves are experiencing conditions that are the same or worse than in developing countries. The youth have lost hope based on the suicide rates that are at a crisis stage on some reserves. There is media attention to the plights/causes of the First Nations people so stay current and ask your federal representative to be sure that the government honours their commitment to our native peoples. There are two resolutions that can help; ON 14.02 Feathers of Hope-Empowering First Nations Youth and ON11.01 Safe Potable Water for First Nation Communities.

#### *Did you know?*

*There is a new brochure about the 1% program for Development and Peace and an updated PowerPoint on the National Website*

At the Winter Provincial Meeting all diocesan council presidents were give a list of parish councils that have fewer than 15 members. Let us all help build up our "community" of sisters by sending them cards of encouragement and staying in touch. One council only has two members. We can let them know that we are united with them and praying for them.

Almost every diocese in the province is assisting Syrian refugees, either through sponsorship or sending funds to help the refugee camps in Turkey and Jordan. History is repeating itself, as The Catholic Women's League of Canada began by helping immigrant who came to Canada, many years ago. Today parish councils can welcome the "New Canadians" into their communities by hosting a welcome shower or tea. Councils can shower them with cooking recipes, small items for the kitchen or children's toys/clothing/school supplies. All such items will be a big help the families. Volunteer to take them grocery shopping using a list that is in Arabic and English so that you can communicate easily with the family member. Go on the website [www.syriancooking.com](http://www.syriancooking.com) to get the grocery list and a list of items that are usually found in a Syrian kitchen. Mothers are the "glue" in most families, so let's help them feel at home so they can help the other members of their families adjust to our country.



### Provincial Government Visits By Linda Squarzolo

On Wednesday, May 4, 2016 a group representing the Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada visited the Ontario Legislature. The meetings were organized by Linda Squarzolo, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/ Resolutions Chair. Also in attendance were President Pauline Krupa, President-elect Anne Madden, Past President Betty Colaneri and Legislation Chair Carol Richer.

At each meeting Pauline gave an overview of the League and its work. The government was informed about our views on doctor-assisted suicide and our belief that life begins with conception and ends with natural death. They were also told that May 4<sup>th</sup> had been designated a day of prayer for hospice and palliative care.

Meetings were held with Hon. Bill Mauro, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry; Ms. France Gelinias, NDP Critic for Health and Long-term Care as well as Aboriginal Affairs; Mr. Glenn Thibeault, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change; Scott Kirkham, Senior Policy Advisor to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and

Housing and Hon. Tracy MacCharles, Minister of Children and Youth Services.

Ministers and MPPs were commended for their initiatives such as Bill – 132, the use of tanning beds, banning microbeads in personal care products and neonicotinoid pesticides. Discussions were held relating to League resolutions mental health services for children and youth, regulated housing for the chronically mentally ill, awareness of colorectal cancer, infrared breast screening thermography, safe water for First Nations communities, funding for diabetes supplies, "Feathers

of Hope", mandatory police checks and funding for hospice and palliative care. Other topics were also introduced, such as the Ring of Fire, land claims and health care in remote communities. The committee was also given information regarding new programs that will be introduced by the government in the near future, including funding to eliminate homelessness, telehealth psychiatric services, co-ordination of mental health services and support for the well-being of families.

During Question Period the CWL members were invited to the visitors' gallery and Hon. Bill Mauro introduced them to the legislature by name. The committee was impressed with the welcome received at Queen's Park and the wonderful conversation that was generated at each of the meetings.

