



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



ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

November 2016 Edition

**Featuring the Dioceses of Pembroke and Peterborough
and the Legislation Standing Committee**



This Issue

<i>Pauline's Ponderings</i>	1
<i>Pembroke Diocesan Councils</i>	2
<i>Peterborough Diocesan Councils</i>	3
<i>Legislation Standing Committee</i>	4



**November 21
Presentation of Mary**

James tells us that Anna and Joachim offered Mary to God in the Temple when she was 3 years old. This was to carry out a promise made to God when Anna was still childless.

Mary's presentation was celebrated in Jerusalem in the sixth century. A church was built there in honour of this mystery. Although the feast at times disappeared from the calendar, in the 16th century it became a feast of the universal Church.



Pauline's Ponderings...

Greetings

For most of us across this province we are still enjoying a bit of warmth from the sun. Let's hope November will be as kind to us. I am guessing that the buzz at every council meeting in the province this month will include the new online reporting survey process. By the time you read this, councils will have received the packages with step-by-step instructions. From all that I have seen and read the process is simple.

Kudos are extended to the organization chairs for ensuring that the launch of the new process is successful in every parish council. OPC is very grateful to Anne Madden for all her work. She organized a very successful training session and has asked every plausible question to make certain everyone is in the loop and comfortable. Rumour has it her phone number is on speed dial at national office...lol...I remind you that the reporting window closes on December 31, 2016. If you have not completed the survey to date, plan a way to do this. One suggestion that I like is for councils to work on the hard copy together and then have someone input the responses online. National office is suggesting that you complete an entire officer / standing chair without logging off. Then go onto the next one.

This month we will remember those who have given their lives so that we continue to enjoy basic rights and freedoms. I encourage you to view the video *A Pittance of Time* (you tube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kX_3y3u5Uo). Take that two minutes on November 11 to remember.



**Pembroke Diocesan
Fall Meeting
October 22**

The Pembroke Diocesan Council's Fall Meeting was hosted by **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Council** in **Lapasse** on October 22, 2016. Cards with a picture of Blessed Irene Stefani's boots were used to represent each parish council's special donation to palliative and hospice care for the privilege of keeping the wooden cross from provincial convention. The cross and cards were blessed by host council Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Bill Kenney. Diocesan Community Life Chairperson Joan Lemay, a palliative care nurse, gave a presentation on palliative and hospice care and an overview of services available locally.



Pembroke Diocesan Council

Breakfast for Pilgrims



On Thursday July 28, 2016, members of **Our Lady of Fatima CWL Council** in **Renfrew** served a hearty breakfast to 55 pilgrims, ages 11 to 77, who were about to begin a three day walk from Renfrew to Cormac. Their destination was St. Ann's Shrine in Cormac for the 78th Annual Pilgrimage. Accompanied by

the newly ordained deacons and priest from Pembroke Diocese, it was a journey nourished by both food and spiritual support.



Day of Reflection September 10, 2016

Pembroke Diocesan Council's Annual Day of Reflection was hosted by **St. Ann's CWL Council** in **Mattawa**, on September 10. In a small group activity, intentions and an examination of conscience were composed based on each of the Works of Mercy. The intentions were incorporated into a prayer service for the diocesan fall meeting and a copy of the Examination of Conscience was sent out to all councils to use as a daily reflection. The following is an example of one of the intentions:

That we as CWL members may, through wisdom and courage, find ways of living Jesus' example in helping people to make right choices, we pray, Lord in your mercy.....

Hear our prayer.





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

ON-LINE NEWSLETTER



Peterborough Diocesan Councils

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESE HOSTS SISTERS IN CHRIST RETREATS!



The Vocations Office of the Diocese of Peterborough, encouraged by the Christian Family Life Chair, has begun a series of retreats for high school-aged young women called the 'Sisters in Christ' (SIC) retreats. Seventeen girls attended the first retreat, titled *The Adventure Begins*, held Oct. 21-23 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Retreat Centre in Cobourg. The focus of the retreat was vocational discernment - how do the young women find the

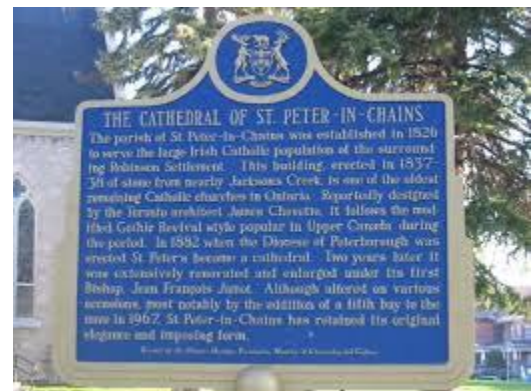
purpose God created them for, in order that they can be deeply satisfied? The girls were introduced to the idea that there are three vocations they may be called to - the committed single life, marriage or consecrated religious life. Three religious orders were present to guide the young women and to have fun with them.



Cathedral of St Peter in Chains, Peterborough

held a Retreat Day on Saturday September 17th with twenty five women from the Parry Sound, Brighton, Peterborough and surrounding parish councils.

Fr Dominic Borg, ocd from Toronto, an outstanding presenter, spoke to the women on "The Mission of a Catholic Woman". Father based his teachings and reflections on *Romans 12*. He very adeptly mixed humour with his very practical suggestions, making it easy for all to relate and to ponder. His calm, un-rushed presence spoke volumes to those of us who live very busy, hectic lives. God bless Father Borg! We hope to make this day an annual event.





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

ON-LINE NEWSLETTER



Legislation Standing Committee

Lest We Forget!

In over two hundred years, there has not been one day without some kind of war on earth...political, tribal, religious, territorial, civil, regional or global.

Few of us have any real experience of war, even though there are horrific atrocities taking place all around the world. Canada has been at the forefront in providing safe shelter for many who have lived with the atrocities of war, and who have come as refugees to our great country

The closest most of us have come to war in this nation may be that some of us, or our loved ones, have served in the military and have actually seen firsthand the devastation of such evils. The valiant men and women who have volunteered to play a selfless role in protecting our freedoms, and in fighting for the freedom of the oppressed in war torn countries, deserve our reverence and gratitude.

Days like Remembrance Day are vital. We need moments like this to reflect on what it means to be free, what it means to have had someone else pay the price of freedom. What a thankless and undeserving nation we would be, if we didn't take moments like Remembrance Day to honour the sacrifices others have made, both those who have survived and those who have died. We need to reflect on these things again and again. It is why we need Remembrance Day every year, to set aside our daily routines and focus on those who have fought and continue to defend human rights and democracy.

For Christians, Remembrance Day presents a unique opportunity for us to reflect on the way of peace. The words of Jesus as recorded in *John 20.21* tell us how we are called by the Holy Spirit to announce the good news of God's peaceable kingdom... "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you". We are called to embody God's peace in the world. God is calling us to be peacemakers.

As we 'remember' this year, let us seize the opportunity to prayerfully take to heart the message of the Prince of Peace, and discern together the ways in which God is calling us to be peacemakers in His world.

It is critical that we make a concerted effort to turn our hearts and minds towards a state of remembrance, doing as Paul admonished: "The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decisions you make; for it is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body" (*Colossians 3.15*)

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5.9)

Submitted by Carol Richer
Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson

