



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



ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

October 2016 Edition

Featuring the Diocese of St Catharines and the Resolutions Standing Committee



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Pauline's Ponderings...

Greetings

Happy belated Thanksgiving. Over the weekend I was with family in Winnipeg for the purpose of visiting the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. It is the first of its kind in all of Canada. The architectural design is a wonder in itself. Spending the day there brought a whole new perspective to all the reasons we can be thankful. Today the term "human rights" refers to rights and freedoms for all people. So many human beings still do not enjoy basic human rights. This brought to mind the work that we, as members, do to ensure rights and freedoms; such as democratic rights, freedom of conscience, and freedom from discrimination to list a few. I am always inspired by how passionately we take action; your choices today do make a difference. Every deed, no matter how small makes a difference for someone. What could be more rewarding?

If you have not already done so, I encourage you and your councils to fill out the pledge form for the your works of mercy that are being collected by our national office with the hope of sending them as part of a spiritual bouquet for our Holy Father, Pope Francis. The deadline for submitting your pledge card is October 31.

The national bursary fund accepts applications twice a year now. The next deadline, to apply for a bursary, is November 30. Visit the national website for criteria and more information.



Congratulations to the four seminarians who were recipients of the Bishop Bernard Pappin Memorial Bursary Fund:

*Daniel (St Catharines Diocese),
Michael and Stephen (Pembroke Diocese)
Chad (Sault Ste. Marie Diocese).*





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MEET OUR NEWLY APPOINTED SPIRITUAL ADVISOR, FR. RICHARD KOWALCHUK

During the month of May, Father Richard Kowalchuk, Pastor of Star of the Sea Church, was appointed Spiritual Advisor for the St. Catharines Diocesan Council. He was installed to this position and affirmed his commitment to assist the executive and members of the League, in their service, at our recent diocesan convention. We look forward to working with Fr. Richard as he guides us in responding to God's call - our mission.



NEWS FROM THE ST. CATHARINES DIOCESAN COUNCIL

There have been a number of very exciting things happening for spiritual advisors and members in the Diocese of St. Catharines since our last submission to the provincial ON-Line Newsletter (May 2016). Father Richard Kowalchuk was appointed St. Catharines Diocesan Spiritual Advisor by the Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D., J.C.L. Unfortunately, this meant that we had to bid farewell to Fr. Mathew Pendanathu to whom we are most grateful. Father Richard has filled the shoes of our past diocesan spiritual advisor most comfortably as he comes to us well groomed for the position from the Diocese of Thunder Bay.

At the winter meeting of the national executive, Wilma Vanderzwaag was officially accepted as a life member of national council. A life member pin was presented to her at our 58th annual diocesan convention. She was officially commissioned by National Spiritual Advisor Bishop William McGrattan at the 96th annual national convention.



We are bursting with joy over the fact that one of our own was elected as a standing committee chairperson at the national convention. Betty Colaneri, Past President of the Ontario Provincial Council, was appointed to serve as community life standing committee chairperson on national council. Our love and prayers go out to all of these individuals as they continue in service to God and Canada. This submission concludes with two upcoming events significant to our council; the celebrations of the 60th Anniversary of St. George Parish on October 16, 2016 and the 80th Anniversary of St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish Council on October 23, 2016. Sincere congratulations are extended to all.



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MEET THE NEWEST LIFE MEMBER IN THE DIOCESE OF ST. CATHARINES

What does life member mean to Wilma Vanderzwaag?

At our Diocesan Convention this past May, in a very moving ceremony, Shelley Tamas, St. Catharines Diocesan Council President, presented me with my life membership pin. I am humbled by my life membership and hope I can fulfill my commitment. My CWL journey has been filled with so many wonderful memories such as this one, but to be honest the decision to become a life member was not one I took lightly. I did a lot of soul searching and praying to reach my decision. Being a life member requires me to be ready when and if the National or Provincial Councils need my assistance with special projects or committees for the rest of my life. I also have to be active in my parish and diocese. This does not mean that I take on an executive role on the parish or diocesan councils - that should be for new, creative, and faith filled leaders from the membership but that I help out in other ways. There are always hands needed for special projects, to organize conventions, speak at parish council meetings to help with issues or assist with retreats to name a few of the ways. Above all I need to be a mentor for the membership as well as a loud and proud cheerleader for The League. I have met so many gifted and faith filled women on my journey so far that have done the same for me. I look forward to what comes next!



FIFTH ANNUAL DIOCESAN GOLF TOURNAMENT



Our Annual Diocesan Golf Tournament was held on Saturday, September 17, 2016 at Whisky Run Golf Club, Port Colborne. Members and guests once again braved the fury of Mother Nature with torrential down pours, thunder, and lightning. The golfers and duffers alike enjoyed the fun-filled event. Proceeds from this year's tourney will benefit the four Regional Councils of the St. Catharines Diocesan Council and subsidize the registration fee of those attending provincial and national conventions. The amount remaining will help to offset the cost

of extraordinary events we are asked to host, so as not to further burden our parish councils. Proceeds from previous years has funded, in part, the provincial convention, subsidized members registration expenses for provincial and national conventions, and covered the fee, over and above the budgeted expense, for convention speakers. Planning has already begun for Sixth Annual Golf Tournament to be held on Saturday, September 16, 2017. Mark the date on your calendar and plan to join in the fun next year.



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Resolutions Standing Committee

By Linda Squarzolo

2nd Vice-President / Resolutions Chairperson

What an exciting and busy year the resolutions committee has had!

On May 4th five members of the provincial executive visited Queen's Park. Many of the resolutions approved over the last few years were brought to the attention of the government. You can read a detailed report of this visit at www.cwl.on.ca/sites/default/files/directives/1383.pdf



Government Visiting Committee: L to R: Linda Squarzolo, Carol Richer, Anne Madden, Pauline Krupa, Betty Colaneri

In June the resolutions reading committee met for several days and studied the seven resolutions that had been forwarded by the diocesan councils. The group determined that four resolutions would be presented at the provincial convention.

In July members from across the province gathered in Stratford for the Ontario Provincial Convention. Many delegates attended the Resolution Dialogue to preview the resolutions, discuss the issues and consider amendments. All four resolutions were approved by the convention delegates. Congratulations to the resolutions committees from the dioceses of Toronto, London and Peterborough for their awesome work. These resolutions can be found at www.cwl.on.ca.

In August the national convention was held in Halifax. Two of the resolutions from Ontario were presented and approved. In total five resolutions were approved. They can be found on the national website at www.cwl.ca.

Councils are currently working on resolutions for next year. I can't wait!



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Community Life Special Report

Sisters in Spirit Gathering



On October 4, 2016 a special gathering was held on Parliament Hill, Ottawa for the missing and murdered Indigenous women. This was the 10th anniversary of the event held by the families of these women. The purpose is to seek justice for these women including renowned Inuit artist Annie Pootoogook, whose body was recently found in the Rideau River, in Ottawa. The circumstances surrounding her death are currently under investigation.

Hundreds of Canadians including dozens from the Ottawa Inuit community and members of Annie's family, prayed, sang, stood in silence and heard heart felt pleas. The Catholic Women's League members in attendance showed their solidarity with our Aboriginal sisters. All members are encouraged to continue to pray for these missing and murdered women, their families and the national inquiry.



Annie Pootoogook



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau took part in the gathering. This was the first time a prime minister had attended this event. He acknowledged the frustration felt by the families who have waited 10 years for a national inquiry to be called. He acknowledged that solutions will not be immediate, but that it was a start.

Special thanks to Joanna Sisk, Ottawa Diocesan Council President, for her report and pictures of this event.

Wilma Vanderzwaag
Ontario Provincial Community Life Standing Committee Chairperson