



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



ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

September 2016 Edition

Featuring the Dioceses of Alexandria-Cornwall, Ottawa and the Spiritual Advisor

ONE HEART
VOICE
MISSION

This Issue

<i>Pauline's Ponderings</i>	1
<i>Alexandria-Cornwall Diocesan Council</i>	2
<i>Ottawa Diocesan Council Spiritual Advisor's Message</i>	3 4

Stay tuned:

The October edition of ON-Line Newsletter will feature councils from St Catharines Diocesan Council and the Resolutions Standing Committee.



Pauline's Ponderings...

Greetings!

Where has the first year gone? It seems only yesterday I was penning the first ponderings for the ON-Line newsletter and here it is I'm doing the last one for September in my term as president. Conventions are now a memory. How fortunate for me to have shared time with so many of you at all the conventions beginning with diocesan, then provincial and finally national. What wonderful memories! The celebration day for the Jubilee Year of Mercy will long be chatted about....how blessed we were to have spiritual advisors present to allow for the sacrament of reconciliation that afternoon. Thanks to Bishop Colli for organizing that for us. The host committee of London diocese went above and beyond for us...thanks to all of them as well. Thunder Bay is now working hard to do as good a job for all of us. I remind you that we will celebrate our 70th anniversary in Thunder Bay. The committee is promising to make it an event to remember. Watch for details of what your diocese is going to be responsible for doing.

The Nova Scotia host council treated us royally during the national convention. Congratulations to our three Ontario members who were elected to the new executive. Margaret Ann Jacobs (Toronto Diocese) is president, Shari Guinta (Hamilton Diocese) is second vice president / Communications and Betty Colaneri (St. Catharines diocese) is Community Life Standing Committee Chair. I encourage you to visit the national website to follow the links so you can hear the three speakers from national convention. Well worth the viewing!

I wish for all of you a good year in CWL. May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to bless you in all your good deeds.



The theme of "One Heart, One Voice, One Mission" prompted **St. Finnan's CWL, Alexandria, Ontario** to support a palliative care facility in eastern Ontario. The CWL made a financial donation in late 2015 and held a successful paper goods drive during Lent 2016. Parishioners were invited to participate and more than 250 articles were collected and delivered to Carefor Hospice, a 10 bed-facility located in Cornwall, Ontario. CWL member Mary Ferguson is seen here with a few of the many bags of goods she delivered in her truck. We hope to make this a yearly drive.



Alexandria-Cornwall Diocesan Council

Blankets for Syrian Refugees

Alexandria/Cornwall Diocese was pleased to assist **Ottawa Diocese** with helping the new refugees that have settled in our area. We had a blanket drive and collected close to 100 blankets/quilts. Our goal is that they may feel our warmth and prayers for their new transition into our country. Pictured in the photo is a representative of each of our parish councils.



The **St. Andrew's CWL in St. Andrew's West, Ontario** held, "Wedding Dresses Through the Ages" Fashion Show and Dessert Tea in June to bring history to life and to help others. Those that attended experienced 175 years of bridal fashion, family photos and stories of customs of the day. It began with replicas of 19th Century Wedding attire on loan from Upper Canada Village and the Cornwall Museum as well as from parishioners and friends. Over 50 dresses from 1909 to the present day were on display in the hall or worn by models who walked down the aisles of the historic church. The reception took place in the hall which was decorated for a wedding reception. Fancy desserts, tea and punch were served. The proceeds were donated to the new Addiction and Mental Health Centre in Cornwall and other local charities.





Ottawa Diocesan Council

The Ottawa Diocesan Leadership and Public Speaking Course was held one evening a week for seven weeks; beginning May 4 and concluding on June 16. One of our CWL members, Wilma Murzello, from Resurrection of Our Lord Council, who participated in the course made the following observations.

- The coaching and critical appreciation, by the facilitators, made the course fun.
- The smile on the faces of the facilitators, on seeing our progress, was encouraging.
- We all felt that the review of the *Constitution and Bylaws*, was very beneficial.
- We became more confident in the process of making motions.
- Diversity in thinking, resulted in very informative and enlightening discussions, which contained drama, humour and musical interludes.
- The spirit of the national theme *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission* was very evident throughout the course.

The picture is of the graduating class with facilitators Moira Mathews and Claudette Joseph.



The CWL at **Our Lady of the Visitation Council, Ottawa**, initiated our Milk Bag Division in March of 2014. We have since spread out to other CWL councils, churches, groups, schools, businesses and individuals. The response has been gratifying.

On July 19th 2016 four travel trailers were organized by our division to deliver 173 sleeping mats; 25 sitting mats; 12 totes; and 121 pillows to Peterborough. They will then in turn be shipped to Mississauga to be amalgamated with other donations and shipped to developing countries.

Another noteworthy accomplishment: we recently received word that 300,000 (not a typo) milk bags were headed to the land fill sight due to a misprint on the labeling. One of our volunteers was able to obtain 52,800 of these bags. These milk bags are in the hands of our crafters and it is estimated that by the end of December they will be shipped off to developing countries, in the form of mats, pillows, etc. Shown are members of **St. Ignatius the Martyr Council** working on the milk bag project.





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Joy is a Net of Love

As we come to the end of this Jubilee Year of Mercy, let us firstly give thanks that Pope Francis guided us to celebrate this unique year and he helped us to reflect and broaden our understanding of how we can be a people of mercy and a Church of mercy to the world. Even though the official year will end, the works of mercy must continue in our lives if we are to witness to the mercy, compassion and love that the Holy Father suggested.

I recall learning the Works of Mercy when I was in grade school, and in all honesty, it was refreshing to examine them again and to pray about how we can put them into practice in our daily lives. In particular, we must remember the poor, the lonely, those who feel in some way that the Church has abandoned them and left them on the sidelines. We know of people who feel this way, they might even be in our families, they might be League members, and members of our parish community. As I mentioned at the closing Mass of our provincial convention, we pray that we will be like Mary, quietly attentive to the needs of those around us, and open to any direction that Jesus might give us to respond to those needs, even if the direction is different, uncomfortable, and challenging.

I imagine the best example of this for us might also be the example of Saint Teresa of Calcutta or Mother Teresa as most of us know her. She was a woman of faith and a woman of action. She listened to the call from the Lord to reach out to the most needy in India, and her example has touched the world and sparked an outpouring of generosity and service to others, as never seen before. We cannot all do as Saint Mother Teresa did, but we can do our little bit, and this will make a difference in the life of the people we touch with our kindness and concern.

The Catholic Women's League offers us opportunities to reach out and to be these messengers of mercy. I recall at the provincial convention how our funeral luncheons were seen as special acts of mercy for those who are grieving, and how the little sandwiches were compared to little actions of mercy and love. It gave us a new perspective on how these acts of kindness are seen, especially by others.

Now that the fall season is upon us, and we return to our regular routines in school and family, let us remember that the work of The Catholic Women's League, which touches each one of us as members, continues to build a stronger church and society through our efforts and generosity. As we cooperatively work together, sharing our gifts and talents, respecting each other's needs and abilities, we bring the message of the Gospel to our world in a very tangible way. Like Saint Mother Teresa, we help to make "something beautiful for God". I wish to close with a few quotes from Saint Mother Teresa which can help us as League members in all that we do.



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- *If you judge people, you have no time to love them.*
- *There are no great things, only small things with great love.*
- *Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.*
- *Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.*
- *If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.*
- *Peace begins with a smile..*
- *Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.*
- *I have found the paradox that if I love until it hurts, then there is no hurt, but only more love.*
- *If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one.*
- *Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls.*

Bishop Fred J. Colli
Provincial Spiritual Advisor

THE WORKS OF MERCY
CORPORAL & SPIRITUAL

FEED THE HUNGRY 	 INSTRUCT THE IGNORANT
GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY 	 COUNSEL THE DOUBTFUL
SHELTER THE HOMELESS 	 ADMONISH SINNERS
CLOTHE THE NAKED 	 FORGIVE OFFENSES
VISIT THE SICK 	 COMFORT THE AFFLICTED
VISIT THE IMPRISONED 	 BARE WRONGS PATIENTLY
BURY THE DEAD 	 PRAY FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

"A BIT OF MERCY MAKES THE WORLD LESS COLD AND MORE JUST" (POPE FRANCIS) 