



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

ON-LINE NEWSLETTER



December 2017 Edition

**Featuring Kingston Diocesan Council and the Administrative
Assistant, Stephanie Spinelli**

This Issue

Annie's Annotations.....1

**Kingston Diocesan
Council.....2-3**

My CWL Journey4

Food for Thought.....5

Take Notice6

Book Recommendations...7

Christian Family Life ...8

Bursary Donations8

OPC Pins8

Blessing of a Creche....9

Awards10

**Blessing of a Christmas
Tree.....11**

St. Francis of Assisi ..12



Annie's

Annotations

The snow is falling gently on this beautiful morning, it looks like a snow globe looking out on the fields from my window! We have so many blessings in our lives; our families, friends, warm homes, food, freedom to practice our faith, please open your hearts and minds to others who do not share our good fortune. A warm smile and prayer will go a long way in letting others know you care. I offer this prayer to you from Catholic.org:

*Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song
and laughter, we praise you for the great
wonders you have sent us: for shining star
and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly
manger. We praise you for the Word made
flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory, and
are bathed in its radiance.*

*Be with us as we sing the ironies of Christmas,
the incomprehensible comprehended, the
poetry made hard fact, the helpless Babe who
cracks the world asunder. We kneel before you
shepherds, innkeepers, wisemen. Help us to
rise bigger than we are. Amen.*

*May you have a Blessed Christmas and
Holy New Year!*





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OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S
LEAGUE OF CANADA

ON-LINE NEWSLETTER



Kingston Diocesan Council

ST. MARK CATHOLIC GIRLS' LEAGUE

At Prescott, Ontario, St. Mark's Catholic Girls League began their 12th year with the usual fall preparation for the annual CWL Craft Show at which they have their own table of goods to sell. This is a fairly large show which everyone looks forward to each year and can be a great means of bolstering the bank account!! This year the girls made a variety of decorated mason candy jars with an owl theme. They were great sellers and they also had made lovely stretch beaded bracelets with tiny cross connectors on each. The girls were delighted to make \$370 this year. The girls were photographed by



the local paper!! The Craft Show was also the starting point for selling custom mugs with a photo of St. Mark's Church on them. These will be for sale at Church during late November and December. On November 17th some of the girls will participate in the local "Light up the Night" parade on the Knights of Columbus float with the theme, "Keep Christ in Christmas." Then

on November 26th, the parish has the annual Turkey Dinner put on by the Knights and the CWL. Our girls are making place favours for over 150 diners.

The Gladue Reports

On October 28, we held our Fall Diocesan Executive Meeting. As part of our meeting, we invited Mark Brinklow to speak to the assembled parish presidents and officers. Mark is a program coordinator at the First Nations Technical Institute in Tyendinaga. Under this role he is also a court worker, accompanying indigenous offenders to court. He and a co-worker are responsible for the Gladue reports in Belleville and area. Mark made us aware of the need for and the process of writing and using Gladue Reports. Through his own story and his knowledge and awareness of the needs of indigenous people, Mark made us much more aware of the issues faced every day by indigenous people living on reserves and in cities. He talked of programs that are having positive effects in communities. The ladies asked many questions and learned much from the presentation.

- Maureen Vincentine, President Kingston Diocesan Council



More news from Kingston...

Sacred Heart of Mary (Madoc)...

The church of Sacred Heart of Mary in Madoc has a consecrated Shrine to Our Lady of Fatima. As a special way to honour the 100th Anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady to the children of Fatima, a committee was formed including, many of our league members. Six days of prayer and reflections were celebrated on the 13th of each month from May to Oct. It was the hope of their committee to strengthen their parish and those in surrounding areas.

Sacred Heart of Mary council like many in the diocese will be preparing and delivering "goody" baskets to the elderly and infirmed members, as well as others in the community in December. They donate each Dec. to a local youth center, Foundations. Foundations offers meals between 11:00-1:00 each day for the students in our community, serving both elementary students and secondary students. Many of our league members volunteer their time working or by donating items. Foundations is run strictly by volunteers and donations and has provided not only nourishment for these young people but also a non-judgemental place to gather with Christian values.

The Madoc parish has been instrumental in helping families in dire need because of illness. They reach out to help with personal donations of money, clothing and food.

They are hoping to do an Easter project to prepare bags containing feminine products along with a spiritual card, and give them to the Women's Shelter in Belleville. For them their hope is to help the less fortunate and be an example of Jesus in the world.

St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Catholic Girls League



In September, as the school year began, we welcomed new members to our group. This year we have 16 girls. Introductions were made and elections were held. Everybody in our group holds

a position.

We accomplished a lot at our October meeting. The girls decided that our fundraising efforts this year will benefit the pediatric floor of the Belleville hospital. We also discussed our annual trip to the Deseronto Friendly Manor.

In the past we have had tea parties, celebrated birthdays, joined in on current events discussions, performed Christmas carols, played the piano and even danced for the residents. This year, the girls would like help with gardening.

Our upcoming November meeting will include making Christmas cards for the shut ins within our tri-parish community. We have gotten off to a great start this year and I look forward to seeing what they accomplish.

- by Judy Hancock Read



My CWL Journey

My CWL journey has been one of discovery...discovery of self, discovery of a deeper faith in God and further discovery of the Catholic Women's League of Canada.

My mother, grandmother and aunts were active members so I was no stranger to the League, but it was not until I joined and became fully involved that I came to appreciate the scope and breadth of all that is accomplished by this national organization. Little did I know what a profound difference it would make in my life.

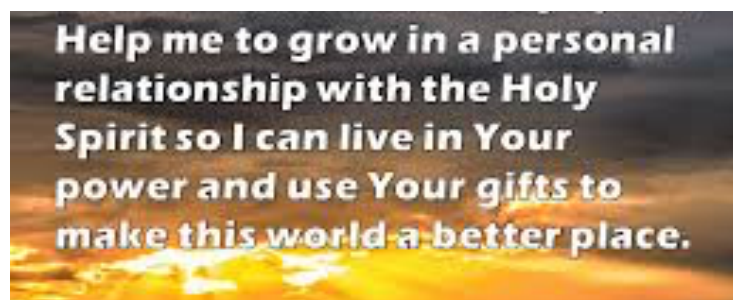
Membership has offered me the opportunity to grow spiritually, to develop personal skills and to make lasting friendships. My League sisters, mentors and spiritual advisors have inspired and supported me, encouraging me to step outside of my comfort zone to say "yes" to opportunities that I would normally have shied away from. They apparently recognized gifts that I was unaware of or had not yet developed fully. I have learned to let down my guard, give up "control of the unknown" and submit to the promptings of the Holy Spirit trusting that He will lead me to where I am meant to be.

It gives me great satisfaction to know that I am one with a legion of women from across Canada...agents of change, whose mission it is to promote Christian values as they strive to provide a better society for all, in particular the vulnerable and the marginalized.

I am nourished in this environment of faith and friendship as we work, laugh and sometimes, cry together. He has led me here...this is where I belong!

Merry Christmas!

- Submitted by Stephanie Spinelli-Administrative Assistant





FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It was a cold winter's day that Sunday. The parking lot to the church was filling up quickly. I noticed as I got out of my car that fellow church members were whispering among themselves as they walked to the church.

As I got closer I saw a man leaned up against the wall outside the church. He was almost laying down as if he was asleep. He had on a long trench coat that was almost in shreds and a hat topped his head, pulled down so you could not see his face.

He wore shoes that looked 30 years old, too small for his feet with holes all over them, his toes stuck out.

I assumed this man was homeless, and asleep, so I walked on by through the doors of the church. We all fellowshiped for a few minutes, and someone brought up the man laying outside.

People snickered and gossiped but no one bothered to ask him to come in, including me.

A few moments later church began. We all waited for the Preacher to take his place and to give us the Word, when the doors to the church opened. In came the homeless man walking down the aisle with his head down. People gasped and whispered and made faces. He made his way down the aisle and up onto the pulpit he took off his hat and coat.

My heart sank.

There stood our preacher...he was the "homeless man." No one said a word. The preacher took his Bible and laid it on the stand.

"Folks, I don't think I have to tell you what I am preaching about today,"

Then he started singing the words to this song. "If I can help somebody as I pass along. If I can cheer somebody with a word or song. If I can show somebody that he's traveling wrong. Then my living shall not be in vain."

"IS YOUR LIVING IN VAIN?"

- submitted by Anna Tremblay, Spiritual Development Chairperson



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

ON-LINE NEWSLETTER



TAKE NOTICE!

"Whatever you did for the least brothers of mine, you did for me.

"Matthew 25:40

The Feast of Christ the King was celebrated on November 26th the last Sunday of the Liturgical Year and the eve of the season of Advent. This feast challenges us to see Christ the King in everyone, especially those whom our society considers the least important, and to treat each person with love, mercy and compassion as Jesus did. The Gospel describes Christ the King coming in His heavenly glory to judge us, based on how we have shared our love and blessings with others through genuine acts of charity in our lives. Jesus makes himself present to us now, dwelling in those for whom we care.

How do we see those around us who are in physical, material, emotional or spiritual need? Are they seen to be useless burdens to be endured with complaints and grumbling about trying to meet their needs? Or do we take the opportunity to discover Jesus in the "disguise of the poor"?

We are called to notice that people of every age have needs and we depend on each other to live a decent standard of living. Sometimes we are called to listen, to offer a caring presence, other times to offer practical help, and always to pray. We have not caused the terrible suffering of people BUT we are charged with being part of the solution. In so doing, we express love of God and love of neighbour.

In this season of Advent, notice the needs of those around you. Find some way that you can serve them.

A young teen from Collingwood, Ontario has noticed!

Appalled by the fact that each day in Canada thousands of men, women and children try to survive on the streets because they have nowhere to call home, Leah Denbok, a budding photographer, was determined to help others take notice. Her father, Tim, accompanied her as she walked through the streets of Barrie, Toronto and New York City for three years offering \$10 to each person for permission to tell their stories. Her poignant photos are featured in her book, **NOWHERE TO CALL HOME: Photographs and Stories of the Homeless.**

Leah's project was inspired by her own mother's experience as a young child. Sara was found wandering alone on the streets of Calcutta, India at age three and taken to Saint Teresa's orphanage. She was raised by Saint Teresa until, at the age of five, she was adopted by a couple from Stayner, Ontario, near Collingwood.

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OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S
LEAGUE OF CANADA

ON-LINE NEWSLETTER



Leah's goals are, "first, to shine a light on the plight of homelessness, and second, to humanize homeless people because so often they are seen as sub-human creatures". She invites us to "look into the eyes of the homeless...they tell a story-one of loneliness, fear, grief, regret, and rejection. But they also tell a story of hope, expectation, and gratitude...emotions common to all human beings."

May these stunning portraits and stories prompt us to "take notice" and inspire us to action.

For a preview of Leah's book and further information, go to www.idenbokphotography.com or simply Google Leah Denbok.

All proceeds from the sale of *NOWHERE TO CALL HOME* will be donated to Barrie's Bayside Mission Shelter.



"God, open the door of our cold hearts.
Show us how to provide warmth
For those who are freezing."

- Submitted by Stephanie Spinelli, Administrative Assistant



Book recommendations from ladies in the Kingston diocese:

1. **"Mother Teresa: - Come Be My Light"**. The Private Writings of the "Saint of Calcutta". (2007)
2. **"33 Days to Morning Glory"**. A Do-It-Yourself Retreat in Preparation for Marian Consecration" by Fr Michael Gaitley. (2011)
3. **"A Pathway under the Gaze of Mary"** - Biography of Sister Lucia. World Apostolate of Fatima (2013)
4. **"Pathway to our Hearts"** by Cardinal Collins -A Simple Approach to Lectio Divina with the Sermon on the Mount. (2011)
5. **"The Church of Mercy"** by Pope Francis-A Vision for the Church (2014)
6. **"Joy of the Gospel"** by Pope Francis; Adult Faith. Diarmuid O'Murchu. The kind of book you read in small chunks and think about!

Book recommendations: by Fr. Dale Wright, Diocesan Spiritual Advisor.

"Where the Hell is God" by Fr. Richard Leonard S.J.

"Perseverance in Prayer" by Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV



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OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S
LEAGUE OF CANADA

ON-LINE NEWSLETTER



Christian Family Life Standing Committee



LIVING WITH DIGNITY

The **Euthanasia Prevention Coalition** recently reported that MPP Sam Oosterhoff (Niagara West – Glanbrook) submitted Private Member **Bill 182 - The Compassionate Care Act** on November 27, 2017 to the Ontario Legislature. The bill will ensure that the provincial government develops a framework to give improved education about and access to hospice care in Ontario. The First Debate of this bill will take place in the legislature on December 14, 2017.

The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition provides excellent information about euthanasia world-wide. To join this group, a membership costs \$25. Donations are also welcome.

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition
P.O. Box 25033
London ON N6C 6A8

Phone: 519-439-3348

- submitted by Linda Squarzolo, Christian Family Life Chairperson

Bursary Donations

Donations are being accepted for the Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Memorial Bursary Fund anytime. Please send donations to the Provincial Treasurer.

Thank you for your kind and generous donations to this bursary.



Ontario Provincial Pins

These pins were initiated in 2017 for elected officers and appointed members of the executive – past and present.

The pins are \$10.00.

For further information contact the Provincial Treasurer.



- submitted by Patricia Rivest, Treasurer



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OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S
LEAGUE OF CANADA

ON-LINE NEWSLETTER



Blessing of a Christmas Creche or Manger Scene

God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have made manifest your love:
when our need for a Saviour was great
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives he brings joy and peace,
justice, mercy, and love.
Lord,
bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Saviour of all,
and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

OR

God of Mary and Joseph, of shepherds and animals,
bless us whenever we gaze on this manger scene.
Through all the days of Christmas
may these figures tell the story
of how humans, angels, and animals
found the Christ in this poor place.
Fill our house with hospitality, joy, gentleness, and thanksgiving
and guide our steps in the way of peace.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

From Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers

- submitted by Anna Tremblay Spiritual Development Chairperson





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OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S
LEAGUE OF CANADA

ON-LINE NEWSLETTER



Awards and Recognition



Special Congratulations to **Theresa Miller** on receiving the Bellelre Guerin Award for her dedication and leadership in St. John the Evangelist council in the Kingston Diocese. The award was presented as they celebrated their 75th anniversary

A Community Expresses their Thanks

Madeline is a twice past president of Peterborough CWL Diocesan Councils as well as a life member of the CWL. She has provided ongoing leadership to the St. Patrick, Kinmount CWL Council.

On December 2, 2017, about 100 friends, family and community gathered in Galway Hall to honour Madeline Pearson for her service to the community of Kinmount and as a councillor for the Galway-Cavendish Ward in the Municipality of Trent Lakes (Kinmount). For 66 years, Madeline has been promoting the community. She was acknowledged as the driving force behind the beautiful community centre. Madeline was more than a fundraiser, organizing bake sales, serving suppers or other events, she was usually in on the planning and the cooking in the community centre.

Mayor Bev Matthews presented Madeline with a beautiful old fashioned clock on behalf of the municipal council of Trent Lakes (Kinmount) Council and grateful citizens. CWL members besides her family included Life Member Anne McKinnon, Life Member Glenda Klein, Audrey Von Bogen and Deanna Allen. Guests enjoyed a light lunch and celebratory cake.





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OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S
LEAGUE OF CANADA

ON-LINE NEWSLETTER



Blessing of a Christmas Tree

Lord our God,
we praise you for the light of creation:
the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night.
We praise you for the light of Israel:
the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures.
We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son:
he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace,
who fills us with the wonder of your love.
Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree.
May the light and cheer it gives
be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.
May all who delight in this tree
come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

OR

God of all creation,
we praise you for this tree which brings beauty and memories
and the promise of life to our home.
May your blessing be upon all who gather around this tree,
all who keep the Christmas festival by its lights.
We wait for the coming of the Christ,
the days of everlasting justice and of peace.
You are our God, living and reigning, for ever and ever.
Amen.



The lights of the tree are then illuminated.

From: *Catholic Book of Blessings & Prayers*
Submitted by Anna Tremblay - Spiritual Development Chairperson



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LEAGUE OF CANADA

ON-LINE NEWSLETTER



Congratulations to St. Francis of Assissi council in Frankford! (Kingston Diocese)

They were on the verge of folding last spring as they did not have ladies to fill executive positions. Last week they had their installation of officers and yes their council is alive and well! Their comment was that The Catholic Women's League is too important, it cannot fold! We congratulate Danielle Haus, their new president and the other executive members who are taking leadership roles.



*Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year*

