



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



ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

May 2017 Edition
Featuring Hearst and Thunder Bay Dioceses
and the Past President/Historian Standing Committee

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

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70 years of Faith filled Service!

**Plan now to attend the 70th
Annual Ontario Provincial Council
Convention**

**July 8 – 12, 2017
Thunder Bay ON**

**Registration forms and
information at www.cwl.on.ca**

Come join your League Sisters



Pauline's Ponderings...

Greetings!

Today is definitely a day of thanksgiving! Thunder Bay just experienced a two-day ice storm. In the greater scheme of things,

I prefer a full out blizzard; shoveling snow is so much easier than trying to free a vehicle from the ice block encasing it. My first thanks is for the remote car starter that allowed me to run the vehicle so it started the melting from the inside out; the second is that I owned more than one ice scrapper; they seem to break so easily when hacking ice. I was able to complete the task without worrying that I had to be somewhere. Most importantly I am grateful that the Lord has gifted me with the wisdom, to take one step at a time; understanding, that everything takes time; counsel, to not whack the car so hard I caused damage; courage, to get started; knowledge, that this too shall pass; reverence, that I did not take the Lord's name in vain; and awe, of all that Mother Nature can do in such a short time...seriously though, all is good and life is grand!

As you have read in the latest issue of the *Canadian League Magazine*, national council has started a strategic planning process to bring the League into the future. I am honoured to be representing Ontario as part of the steering committee. Watch for ways you can be involved. One very special way is to participate in the Town Hall discussion during the national convention. If you cannot be in PEI you will be invited to call in....more details to come.

Diocesan conventions are now in full swing or a lovely memory. Nine councils will elect new executives. This leads the new president to her place, on team OPC. We look forward to getting to know everyone. I end with a quote from the Saskatchewan president sent on April 26, "May God hold you all in the palm of His Hand, wrap you in His cloak of love and hold you close to His heart. May Our Lady guide us on our journey and may she be an inspiration to all of us."



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FEATURING COUNCILS FROM THE DIOCESE OF HEARST



In November, St. John the Baptist Council, Longlac, participated in the Remembrance Day Service by laying a wreath at the cenotaph in Longlac. Pictured is CWL member, Teresa Duffus.



In June, St. John the Baptist Council, Longlac, hosted our first Memorial for the Unborn Child Service.

In the months of May and October, members of St. John the Baptist Council, Longlac, visited the students of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School and led the students in praying the Living Rosary.



We were blessed to have our Bishop, Most Rev. Robert Bourgon, attend our diocesan winter executive meeting in January. He reminded us that our new theme "Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call" is a call to service; a call that is recognized by the community. He also addressed the issues surrounding Bill 84, that legalizes assisted suicide and requires physicians to refer the patient to another professional if he/she refuses to perform the procedure. He stressed the importance of hospice and palliative care. A special cake decorated with the new theme logo was served.

Members of St. Patrick Council, Kapuskasing, celebrated their 80th anniversary at the annual meeting in March. President Lorraine Cusson Arnold, presented an interesting history of the council over these years. In 1942 Kapuskasing was transferred to the Timmins Diocese, before being returned to the Hearst Diocese in 1955. A copy of the original charter was on hand. A social followed with a light lunch and a beautiful cake.



The Longlac CWL and the students of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School participated in the Year of Mercy, by setting up a *Tree of Merciful Acts* at the back of the church.



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We could "bearly" contain our excitement in April 2016, as **Our Lady of Fatima Council, Cochrane**, hosted the **90th Annual Hearst Diocesan Convention**.

Chimo the Polar Bear greets everyone at the entrance to the town of Cochrane, which has a population of approximately 5,000. Cochrane is also home of the Polar Bear Habitat, which houses and rehabilitates orphaned polar bears. We incorporated the bear into the convention décor and sub-

theme, "Bear with us, as we grow in forgiveness and love toward each other, becoming Merciful like the Father". We are all women of faith with one heart, one voice and one mission and we are all invited to take time to share these gifts.

In keeping with the Year of Mercy we accepted non-perishable food items for the Cochrane Regional Food Bank, as well as non-prescription pain medication for the Dominican Republic Missionary group, who will be going to help Sister Maude in March 2017.



We were blessed to have Anne Madden, Ontario Provincial President-Elect, attend the convention, as the provincial representative. Anne presented a workshop on Saturday morning on the topic of being an involved member. It was also an honour to have Barb Dowding, National President of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, present at the convention. Our convention seemed to cover it all; great food, meaningful spiritual time, engaging speakers, and entertainment, such as line dancing demonstrations, to

keep us fit.



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FEATURING COUNCILS FROM THE DIOCESE OF TIMMINS



The executive members of Our Mother of Perpetual Help Council, New Liskeard, entertained the members present at their annual pot luck dinner, with the play "CWL goes to Court". Much fun and laughter was had by everyone present!

Catherine Meagher is a 50 year member of Holy Name of Jesus Council, Kirkland Lake. She had taken ill and was presented with her 50 year pin and certificate, in the hospital. She was inspired by the spirit and answered the call for 50 years with service to her family, church, schools her children attended and her community. Pictured with Catherine is spiritual development chairperson Patricia Roy and Catherine's daughter Cathy Meagher.



Holy Name of Jesus council, Kirkland Lake, held a candle light service. This meaningful service was well attended and brought forward what it meant to be a sister-in-the-League. We truly felt the loss of those who were no longer with us. Inspired by the Spirit, women respond to God's Call.

Betty Smallwood, Program Coordinator for Timiskaming Hospice Palliative Care, has helped develop this organization, over the past 25 years. She has helped to develop 13 rural palliative hospice rooms throughout the northern regions and southern regions. A very difficult call to accomplish yet with persistence and endurance she has completed what she was called to do. Betty continues to teach and spread the knowledge and ability to care and maintain the dignity of the ill and dying via comfort and support through families and volunteers.





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TIMMINS 83RD ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION – MAY 5 – 7, 2017



Convention Convener Peggy MacInnis and Diocesan President Audrey Shelton present Mr. Young the food collected for the Timmins Food bank at the 83rd Timmins Diocesan convention held May 4-6, 2017.

Diocesan President Audrey Shelton presents Fr. Wayne Mills with a 20 year pin and gift for serving as Diocesan Spiritual Adviser for 20 years!



The convention sub theme was "Titles of Mary" and each report spoke of a different title of Mary. The planning committee printed up pictures of each Mary as her title.

Four quilts were presented at the diocesan convention. The blue and yellow quilt, made by members of Our Mother of Perpetual Help Council, New Liskeard, will be brought to the Provincial Convention in July.





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Past President / Historian

Chairperson: Betty Colaneri



As I looked through the papers in our provincial archives, it reminded me that our lives are like a book. I found myself humming the words to one of my favourite Elvis songs, "Memories, pressed between the pages of my mind." Some books may become short stories while others turn into thick

novels. Each page is carefully written by the experiences captured over the years; chapters that highlight the ongoing work being done at home and abroad for a common good. Then there are times when the chapters are full of passion as events surface that become the driving force of our faith in action. The chapter of my time on the provincial council has been an extremely eventful one. It has also been the most profound because the relationships of mutual faith and mission forged in our ultimate relationship with God, the Creator of all the books in the library. It was a chapter that movies are made of. At times, there were smiles and laughter, at times sorrow and tears that led to prayer and joy, with the outpouring of friendship. My journey led me to meet the amazing heroines that have not shied away, but faced the enemy of insensitivity, with a shield of love and compassion. Their concern knew no boundaries, colour or race as they reached out to those in need. "Rooted in Gospel Values" was the inspiration that gave the courage to call its members to holiness through the countless hours of service to His people.

Members have carried that torch throughout history so the mission can continue into the future. I am in awe of all the amazing work that has been done, by our founding sisters that put the story in motion without any of the modern-day conveniences. My admiration continues for the many incredible women that I have had the honour to work with as well as call my friends and sisters in the League.

As my chapter on the provincial council comes to a close, I am filled with gratitude for the friendships made, experiences shared and moments to cherish. There are no words that could possibly express my profound gratitude for the friendship and support of members from across Ontario. With the thought that it is almost time to turn the page, I find emotions are getting the better of me. A quote from Dr. Seuss comes to mind, "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened."



"Don't **CRY** because it's
over. **SMILE** because it
happened."

- Dr. Seuss



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Mayor's Volunteer of the Year Award

Linda Marie O'Hagan	Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria	St. Catharines
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Citizen of the Year Award

Mieke VanEs	St. Patrick Council	Port Colborne
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SERVICE AWARDS

80 Years of Service

Eileen Perreault	St Anthony of Padua Council	Timmins
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65 Years of Service

Ruth Elliot	St Francis Xavier Council	Renfrew
Edna Leclair	St Francis Xavier Council	Renfrew

60 Years of Service

Lucy Buzzell	St Francis Xavier Council	Renfrew
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55 Years of Service

Josie Quinn	St Francis Xavier Council	Renfrew
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50 Years of Service

Anita Agnew	St Francis Xavier Council	Renfrew
Kaza Atonella	Sacred Heart of Jesus Council	Timmins
Ruth Burns	Our Mother of Perpetual Help Council	New Liskeard
Gail Cook	Sacred Heart of Jesus Council	Timmins
Aline Mangotich	Holy Name of Jesus Council	Kirkland Lake
Catherine Meagher	Holy Name of Jesus Council	Kirkland Lake
Claire Schonfeldt	Holy Name of Jesus Council	Kirkland Lake



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45 Years of Service

Mary McNeeley	St Francis Xavier Council	Renfrew
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35 Years of Service

Theresa Cadotte	St Francis Xavier Council	Renfrew
Gladys Curry	St Francis Xavier Council	Renfrew
Susan Ringrose	St Francis Xavier Council	Renfrew

30 Years of Service

Freida Beauregard	St Francis Xavier Council	Renfrew
Marjorie Dubeau	St Anthony of Padua Council	Timmins

25 Years of Service

Claire Desjardin	St Anthony of Padua Council	Timmins
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20 Years of Service

Gerry Craig	St Francis Xavier Council	Renfrew
Sue O'Neil	St Francis Xavier Council	Renfrew

15 Years of Service

Barb Bristow	St Francis Xavier Council	Renfrew
Patricia Neville	St Francis Xavier Council	Renfrew

10 Year Service Pins

Joan Clermont	St Anthony of Padua Council	Timmins
Shelly Leclerc	St Anthony of Padua Council	Timmins
Angie Poirier	St Anthony of Padua Council	Timmins
Vicky Vachon	St Anthony of Padua Council	Timmins

5 Year Service Pins

Danielle Cosier	St Francis Xavier Council	Renfrew
Elsie Kane	St Francis Xavier Council	Renfrew
Eleanore Keon	St Francis Xavier Council	Renfrew
Linda Lee (posthumously)	St Francis Xavier Council	Renfrew
Ruth McEachern	St Francis Xavier Council	Renfrew
Rita Mears	St Francis Xavier Council	Renfrew
Barb Poulin	St Anthony of Padua Council	Timmins
Mary Steele	St Francis Xavier Council	Renfrew





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Introducing... Ontario Provincial Council Pin

This year the Ontario Provincial Council will celebrate 70 years of service to God and Canada. To mark this milestone we are pleased to introduce an OPC pin. This pin is available to all current and former OPC executive members (elected or appointed). The pins are \$10.00 each (includes shipping and handling) and measure approximately 1.25" x 1.25" (3.5 cm x 3.5 cm).

To order, complete the form below and bring (with payment) to the provincial convention in Thunder Bay or mail form (with cheque), to

Patricia Rivest, 86 Alderton St., Leamington ON N8H 4R3.

Following the provincial convention,
pins will be mailed upon verification of term and position.

Please make cheque payable to The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Please print/write clearly.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Term(s) Served on Provincial Council: _____

Position(s) Held: _____

NEXT ISSUE...

The June 2017 issue of the ON-Line Newsletter will feature councils from the diocese of Hamilton and the Organization Standing Committee. STAY TUNED!