



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

## ON-LINE NEWSLETTER



**November 2017 Edition**

**Featuring Thunder Bay Diocesan Councils and the Past President/  
Historian, Pauline Krupa**

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

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## *Annie's Annotations*

November brings us to another month of thanksgiving, again for our many blessings but especially for the brave individuals and their families who so courageously give of themselves for our freedom and peace. Remembrance Day will have passed by the time this is posted but offering our thoughts and prayers in thanksgiving should be an ongoing process...they serve all year round!

Advent will begin on Sunday December 3rd signaling a homecoming, the homecoming of Christ to redeem and renew us, this earth, and all creation. During this season of joy, as we prepare ourselves for the birth of Christ and welcoming our families home for the holidays, remember to include the less fortunate in your communities in your services and celebrations; invite and include someone who might otherwise be alone. In small ways, we can help someone feel they are loved and have a home in our hearts and families.

In my home, there is always room for unexpected visitors, and miraculously, there is always enough to eat when we invite others or have unexpected guests. God blesses us all!

Happy Advent!





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### Thunder Bay Diocesan Council

October 4, 2017



Diocesan President Mary Wilson joined councils of the Rainy River District in a fall mass and supper at St. Mary's in Fort Frances.

She reminded members of the focus on homelessness in the upcoming year. She is seen in the picture with long-time member Faith Adair and life member Josie Schill. Fr. Alan collected chocolates from guests including Leanne Munroe and Pam Markarchuk - supposedly to "give away" at Halloween! A joyous event with CWL members, Nicole Lepine (seen here), and Delores Chabot winning the harvest basket raffle!

### Winning Quilt

The call went out for every council to make and donate quilts for Hospice - Palliative Care. The resulting collection was amazing. After being displayed during the convention for all to see, the committee had the difficult decision to choose the one to represent the Thunder Bay Diocese. The winner was from Our Lady of Lourdes - Couchiching.

President, Christine Kreuger writes.



"Myra Mainville made the Catholic Women's League quilt. Presented by Christine Kreuger, President, and Shirley M. Gruyere (my mother) and Alice Uvanile, Diocesan President. Needless to say, we were thrilled to have it go to Provincial and thrilled to bring the news back to our members. "



## More news from Thunder Bay...

"When you only have 15 members in your Council, you have to come up with ideas outside the box. That is what the St Francis - St John CWL did this past weekend. They hosted a BAKE SALE/ WHITE ELEPHANT SALE.

With four members and a parishioner (future CWL member) they raised a sizeable portion of their yearly operating funds. Parishioners were very generous in donating new and gently used items for the White Elephant sale. In fact there was so much that it will run one more weekend. Anything left is to be donated to New Starts for Women - a place for Women and children who have had to leave an abusive home and need a hand to get settled again.

With the Provincial theme of Homelessness, the Council recognized that not all homeless is visible on the streets.



Pictured are Yvonne SAMSON (President) and Cynthia CHAMBERLAIN ( Secretary Treasurer) from St. Francis - St. John CWL





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"Executive Officers and Chairpersons should be submitting articles monthly to keep us updated, however, when your turn comes up as per the schedule, we would like to hear your personal testimony on how the CWL has affected your life or your personal take on how your position has had an impact on you so far this term. What makes you keep going with the CWL and why you keep volunteering to do this kind of work?"

### **Memories of a President – now past**

It has taken almost this long for me to sit back and reflect on my two years as your provincial president. In the whirlwind of leaving the chair and finishing up a few things left dangling, one tends not to sit back and reflect. What better time than just this moment. Who could have ever imagined that when I became a chartered member of our newly formed council in 1989, I would become the provincial president? I for one, would have never guessed that! Yet, here I am, history!

So what brought me to this place? Three factors:

First and foremost, giving my everyday over to the Lord has played the most important part. Letting go and letting God was 60 years in the making. The transition was slow but effective. In these last ten years life has been so much simpler. I just do what He is asking. I get up in the morning and give my day over to his will.

Support of family and friends played a big part of my everyday. I knew without a doubt, that I could turn to them in a flash. Mentors in CWL are so important. Never be afraid to ask for a hand up.

Finally YOU...that's right, each one of you who are reading this has played an important part. Your trust in me, the kindnesses shown, words of encouragement, gifts and tokens of appreciation mean so much. To say I am grateful is an understatement. You have brought me to this place and time; you have molded me into the woman I am today.

I will forever love the League. I will continue to do the Lord's work in small ways, knowing you are journeying with me. Again, thank you for believing in me, it means the world!

- Submitted by Pauline Krupa - Past-President/Historian



## When I say. . .

*FOOD FOR  
THOUGHT*

When I say . . . I am a Christian I'm not shouting "I am saved." I'm whispering "I get lost" That is why I chose this way.

When I say . . . I am a Christian I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I stumble and need someone to be my guide.

When I say . . . I am a Christian I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I am weak and pray for strength to carry on.

When I say . . . I am a Christian I'm not bragging of success. I'm admitting I have failed and cannot ever pay the debt. I'm worth it.

When I say . . . I am a Christian I'm not bragging of success. I'm admitting I have failed and cannot ever pay the debt .

When I say . . . I am a Christian I'm not claiming to be perfect. My flaws are too visible but God believes I'm worth it.

When I say . . . I am a Christian I still feel the sting of pain. I have my share of heartaches which is why I seek HIS name.

When I say . . . I am a Christian I do not wish to judge. I have no authority I only know I'm loved. – Author Unknown

– submitted by Anna Tremblay – Spiritual Development Chairperson



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### Advent Reflection



Christmas, once again, surrounds us. In the midst of commercialism, we, as Catholic women, are grateful for Advent to keep us focussed on the holiness of the season. Advent is a time of hope, preparation, expectation and celebration. Through acts of charity, Advent helps us to see beyond ourselves and seek Christ as our source of hope and joy. We give selflessly of ourselves as we respond to our baptismal call.

With this years' provincial focus on the homeless, how can we shape our acts of charity to encompass this theme?

I'm sure, as we speak, many councils are already immersed in the preparation of food baskets, gathering of winter coats and warm clothing, visiting the sick and shut-ins and collecting for food banks, just to name a few. At Christmas, our hearts seem to naturally open to the poor and homeless.

Homelessness, however, can be witnessed in a variety of ways. Opportunities to minister and be of service to the people of God, who may be experiencing a sense of displacement, cross our paths daily. Do you know someone, for example, whose home this Christmas will be very incomplete and painful because of the death of a spouse or child, or because of separation/divorce?

Perhaps some homes will be incomplete because grown, adult children will be spending Christmas elsewhere for the first time, parents may have entered a nursing or retirement home, or a family member may be in the hospital. Some homes may have been destroyed in fires or floods and families are gathered in new surroundings without all the familiarity of treasured traditions and décor. Reaching out to these people with an invitation to go for a coffee and being available to simply listen, or perhaps sending a card or email acknowledging their changes and promising prayers can make a tremendous difference.

For thousands of people working in retail, the Christmas season can mean precious time away from their homes. Be a shopper who shows appreciation for their minimum wage efforts. Smile at them, thank them, and leave change to cover their next coffee break, or drop off a box of chocolates for the staff to share. It will warm both your heart and theirs, to witness the response.

As women inspired by the Spirit, let us joyfully respond to God's call by being a witness of hope and celebration to all we meet during this holy season.

Merry Christmas!

- Submitted by Margie Royle, Spiritual Development Sub-committee



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## Christian Family



### Youth

Canadian Catholic Campus Ministry (CCCM) has created a service for post-secondary students. An online form can be completed and the information will be sent to the chaplain of their post-secondary institution. Chaplains will be able to connect with incoming and former students. The form can be found at: [bit.ly/canadachaplaincyconnect](http://bit.ly/canadachaplaincyconnect). Both students and parents may be interested in this service.



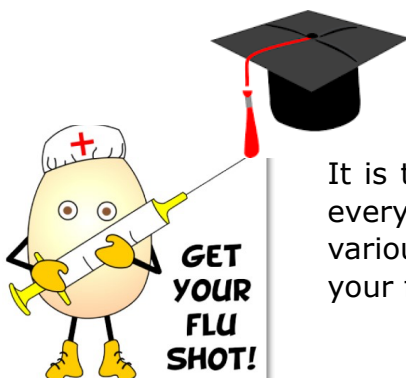
### Seniors

Blue Umbrella Project is an education program organized by the Alzheimer's Society to create a "dementia friendly" community. Businesses and organizations take a training program to learn about dementia and are taught ways to provide good customer service. Those who complete the training program receive a Blue Umbrella decal to display. The person with dementia can wear a lapel pin to be identified by the business. Several Ontario communities are participating in this program.

- submitted by Pat Weller Christian Family Life sub-committee



## Education and Health



It is that time of year again—time to get your flu shot. Almost every one of our members work with others through their various ministries. Help keep them safe from illness by getting your flu shot.





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## Election of Officers

Each year at about this time, parish councils are faced with the process of elections of officers. If this is your year to "hold elections" a first step should be to review *Article XV, Eligibility, Nomination and Elections* from our national policy and procedure manual. It outlines how elections should take place. In our real world of CWL, we might have to think a bit differently. We are in a time when finding women to take on roles of responsibility is tough. Many of you are sharing responsibilities. The idea seems sound. I caution you when doing this to remember that the position held has only one vote in matters needing a motion. As an example, if two members share the position of education and health standing chair, only one person's vote is counted. The same holds true if you are co-president's. Only one of you can be the voting delegate at a diocesan convention. Be sure to settle that issue before hard feelings take over.

Another way councils are looking to fill their positions is by having people continue in their role. This is not necessarily healthy for the council but may be needed for the shorter term. That being said, being president should not be a life sentence.

Presently, our national executive is planning strategically to bring the League into the future. One message the steering committee has received from members is there is need for the structure of councils to change. Keeping that in mind then, I encourage members to find ways to keep your council alive and functioning for this time of transition. Yes, you need someone to chair your meetings / gatherings; you need a keeper of the minutes (recording secretary) and a keeper of the coin (treasurer). Also important is a person to keep you spiritually fed (spiritual development) and another to ensure membership is paid, etc (organization). You might want to add a few others to even out the executive who will look after sharing of information from standing chairs as it relates to your council. Thinking outside the box is not taboo. It is okay to form your executive to suit your needs.

### **Keeping your history up to date Tidbit!**

As past president / historian it is our job to ensure we have our history intact and complete. Be sure to keep records as they happen rather than try to recall what happened in the summer of 2017.

- Submitted by Pauline Krupa, Past President/Historian





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## A Special Prayer

I was adding a name to our family tree in my Grandmother's Bible and found this prayer which she prayed while her three sons were overseas in World War II. I have no idea where this prayer came from but it is just as relevant today as it was 70 years ago.

### Prayer for Those in Active Service

*O God, we beseech thee, watch over those exposed to the horrors of war and to the spiritual dangers of a soldier's, a sailor's, or airman's life.*

*Give them such a strong faith that no human disrespect may ever lead them to deny it, or fear to practice it. By thy grace, fortify them against the contagion of bad example, that being preserved from vice and serving them faithfully, they may be ready to meet death where ever it may happen, through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*Sacred Heart, inspire them with sorrow for sin and grant them pardon.*

*Mother Mary, be with them on the battlefields, and if they should be called to make the supreme sacrifice, grant that they may die in the grace of thy Divine Son.*

*St Joseph, pray for them. May their Guardian Angels protect them. Amen*

– Submitted by Mary Lappan – Treasurer, London Diocesan Council



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## Awards and Recognition



Pauline Hughes, Nancy Guyea,  
Darlene Meleski and Ella Box

At the first dominion convention of the CWL in 1921, Bellelle Guerin, our founder and first president, stated, "We have before us some days of serious and strenuous work. Let us approach it with all the zeal and good will that is in our souls. Shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart, let us go forth from this convention bound by the solidarity that nothing can break, gentlewomen, but brave soldiers holding aloft our banner of patriotism to our beloved country and of inviolable fidelity to our glorious faith!"

Over the past 40 years, Pauline Hughes, has taken these words to heart and has worked tirelessly at the parish and diocesan level to keep the spirit of the Catholic Women's League alive and thriving. Quick to take the lead by responding to the current needs of the League while recognizing and calling upon the strengths and talents of her sister members, Pauline is known for her ability to get the job done. Always gracious, always kind, always giving, she serves God and His people.

At our annual awards dinner, Our Lady of Fatima (Renfrew) Council, in the Diocese of Pembroke, proudly presented the Bellelle Guerin Award to our sister in the League, Pauline Hughes.



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*..... Yes, I am the CWL pin....*

*I've traveled all over the world  
and I can recall thousands of incidents  
where sadness was changed to gladness  
because of those who wear me made it so  
I am a symbol of service to the world*

*If I could really talk,*

*I'd be so filled with emotion....*

*Too full with pride... to say more thank you*

*Thank you for wearing me*

*And may God bless ..... and protect you*

*And please don't just wear me to your CWL meetings.*

*Wear me with pride.. for I am proud of you*

*Wear me every time you get a chance too!!!*

*You see I am a CWL pin.*

*Can you imagine if all the CWL pins  
ever worn by a CWL member in this world could talk?*

*What a story they could tell*

*A story of love... of heartache...of joy ...of success*

- submitted by Life Member, Mary Jean Horne