



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

ON-LINE NEWSLETTER



October 2017 Edition

**Featuring St. Catherine Diocesan Councils and the Spiritual Advisor,
Archbishop Brendan O'Brien**

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



Annie's Annotations

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*In all things give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ
Jesus concerning you all.*

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (RHE)

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on all our blessings. We have much to be thankful for here in Ontario! This has been an unusually warm fall extending our summer-like weather well into the end of September increasing our swimming and harvesting seasons by a few extra weeks. We have been blessed to be spared the devastation that other parts of the world have been experiencing, hurricanes, tornadoes, volcanoes, earthquakes! Be generous in your prayers and donations, many have been left homeless by these disasters.

The Catholic Women's League will be turning 100 in 2020, celebrations are beginning. See below for a glimpse of Janet McLean's message regarding the national convention in Winnipeg. This will be a great way to get to know your League sisters! For the full message see: <https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/2018-100th-Anniversary-Train-Memo-1.pdf>

ALL ABOARD FOR THE 2018 ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

You read it correctly - All Aboard! The 2018 100th anniversary project is an invitation to travel by train to the annual national convention in Winnipeg, Manitoba, August 12-15, 2018. Imagine how much fun it would be travelling to or from the convention, just as members did during the first 40 - 50 years of the League's existence. VIA Rail will never be the same!

To book online, log into your profile or create one prior to booking. On the passenger information screen, select convention fare from the discount type drop-down menu. Enter the convention discount code (13562) in the discount code field. The conference fare will be shown on the next page. Travel may also be booked by calling VIA at 1-888-842-7245. Remember to provide the discount code to the booking agent.

If you have any questions about travelling to the 2018 national convention by train, contact Janet McLean, National Secretary-Treasurer at cwlconventiontrain@gmail.com.

St. Catharines Diocesan Council

Inspired by the Spirit, the members of the St. Catharines Diocesan Council are joyously responding to God's call.



(Members of the League of the St. Catharines Diocesan Council with His Excellency Bishop Gerard Bergie at the Diocesan Marian Event on September 30, 2017)

In July, our members travelled to the superior north of our Province to the City of Thunder Bay to celebrate the 70th annual provincial convention, and in August, we ventured out east to the warm island hospitality of PEI in celebration of the 97th annual national convention in the historic city of Charlottetown. Not only did we celebrate our accomplishments in the League, but we celebrated our country's 150th birthday. These conventions were a blessed experience bringing our sisters in the League together in fellowship to learn and to spiritually grow in our faith.

When we think of September, we think that the hot summer days have ended, but that was not the case on September 16 2017, when our St. Catharines Diocesan Council hosted their Annual Golf Tournament at Whisky Run Golf Course in Port Colborne, Ontario. Members enjoyed a wonderful time of golf and fun on one of our most beautiful hot summer days. Our tournament concluded with participants winning great door prizes and enjoying a fabulous outdoor BBQ dinner prepared by the golf course.

This event helped raise funds to further our work for God and Canada. A big thank you to Shelley Tamas, Past President, and Wilma Vanderzwaag, Life Member Liaison and Ontario Provincial Council Education and Health Chair, for organizing this successful event.



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Now as the fall season has approached us, parish councils have returned to their general meetings to further plan their work, serving their brothers and sisters in Christ. In response to provincial council's focus on the issue of Homelessness, our Diocesan Councils will participate in our first initiative entitled, "SOCTOBER". During the month of October, CWL parish councils will collect new socks and donate them to the "Out of the Cold" organization or a similar one in their region, assisting those in need.

On September 30, 2017, members of the League came together in prayer as they attended the Fall Diocesan Marian Event hosted by the St. Catharines Diocesan Council at St. Alfred Parish in St. Catharine. The day began with the celebration of the Eucharist with His Excellency Bishop Gerard Bergie, followed by Reflections and the praying of the Living Rosary. Members of all organizations in the Diocese were invited to participate in this event commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Apparitions at Fatima and praying the Rosary for peace in the world.



I am currently in the sixth volume of the Angelic Letters Series by Henry K Ripplinger. The series was recommended to me by the ladies from Rainy River council. It is about the life of Henry and Jenny from age 15 onward and Mr. Engleman who later becomes a priest.

The theology in the books is very enlightening, very Catholic, (explaining what and why Catholics believe) with scripture quotes to back everything up.

It is found in the religion section of the book store. I have shared this with my Baptist, and Pentecostal friends and all are so engrossed they can't put it down.

Great way to evangelize!

- submitted by Mary Wilson - President, Thunder Bay Diocese



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Make Me An Instrument Of Your Peace

Earlier this month, on October 4th, we celebrated the memorial of St. Francis of Assisi. After the celebration of Mass, it suddenly struck me how remarkable it is that a man who was born in the 12th century is so well known today and that his message still speaks to our contemporaries. The reason is, I think, because he embodied in his person concerns which are particularly important for people today: poverty, the need to respect our environment, and the desire for peace.

St. Francis befriended beggars, lepers, and other marginalized people, while at the same time having a great sensitivity for the goodness of creation, as is witnessed in his beautiful *Canticle of the Sun*, "Praise be to you, my Lord, with all your creatures".

Earlier this year, after our *ad limina* visit to Rome, the Bishops of Ontario made a retreat in Assisi. It was an opportunity for us to grow closer to this great saint and to reflect on our commitment to the poor, as well as on our need to respect God's Creation.

In this Fall season, as we think of St. Francis of Assisi and marvel at the autumn colours, may we prolong our September 1st celebration of the *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation*, which Pope Francis established in 2015, and find ways to observe the new World Day of Prayer for the Poor (Sunday, November 19th), which the Holy Father established this year.

In a homily which the Holy Father gave in Assisi in 2014, he asked the question, "What is the peace which we associate with St. Francis?"

"It is not something saccharine...", he said, "nor is it a kind of pantheistic harmony with forces of the cosmos. The peace of St. Francis is the peace of Christ, and it comes from taking up Christ's commandment 'love one another as I have loved you'."

Let us ask St. Francis to teach us to be "instruments of peace" – of that peace which has its source in God, the peace which Jesus has brought us.

Archbishop Brendan M. O'Brien
Spiritual Advisor



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A Unique Gift for the Pope By Most Rev. Fred Colli, D.D. Past Provincial Spiritual Advisor



The Holy Father receives special gift from Ontario Bishops and First Nations.

At the Ontario Bishops *ad limina* visit to Pope Francis last April, a special presentation was made to the Holy Father on behalf of the Bishops of Ontario and First Nations people. A wonderful white leather stole, hand made by Grace Esquega, director of the Kateri Faith Community of Thunder Bay and beaded by Sarah Matasawagon, also of Thunder Bay, depicts, in beading, the Tree of Life, along with Eucharistic symbols, Holy Spirit symbols and also the traditional Ojibway flowers.

The Holy Father gladly received the stole and put it on at the end of the meeting on April 22, 2017. The photo shows Bishop Colli with the Holy Father wearing the stole in Rome. The Bishops of Ontario wanted to be included in the gift presentation – so the stole was presented on behalf of the Bishops of Ontario and First Nations people. It is the hope of the Bishops that Pope Francis will treasure this gift as a sign of their love and support to him and for his leadership in the church.



Pornography Hurts Campaign - I have heard from the National Communications Chairperson, Shari Guinta, with regards to the Pornography hurts campaign. It is suggested that each diocese send in the cards at a time that suits their needs. Traditionally this campaign happened in October, however, it is most important that you still send in your cards at whatever time you deem suitable rather than having a designed month for your diocese.

- submitted by Marie-Theresa Lamphier, Communications Chairperson



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Two Traveling Angels

**FOOD FOR
THOUGHT**

Two traveling angels stopped to spend the night in the home of a wealthy family. The family was rude and refused to let the angels stay in the mansion's guest room.

Instead the angels were given a space in the cold basement. As they made their bed on the hard floor, the older angel saw a hole in the wall and repaired it. When the younger angel asked why, the older angel replied... Things aren't always what they seem.

The next night the pair came to rest at the house of a very poor, but very hospitable farmer and his wife. After sharing what little food they had the couple let the angels sleep in their bed where they could have a good night's rest. When the sun came up the next morning the angels found the farmer and his wife in tears. Their only cow, whose milk had been their sole income, lay dead in the field. The younger angel was infuriated and asked the older angel how could you have let this happen!

The first man had everything, yet you helped him. The second family had little but was willing to share everything, and you let their cow die. "Things aren't always what they seem," the older angel replied. "When we stayed in the basement of the mansion, I noticed there was gold stored in that hole in the wall. Since the owner was so obsessed with greed and unwilling to share his good fortune I sealed the wall so he wouldn't find it. Then last night as we slept in the farmer's bed, the angel of death came for his wife. I told him to take the cow instead. Things aren't always what they seem".

Sometimes this is exactly what happens when things don't turn out the way we think they should. If you have faith in God, just trust that every outcome is always to your advantage. You might not realize it until much later.

- submitted by Anna Tremblay - Spiritual Development Chairperson



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Homelessness

Homelessness is a real problem in Ontario

The focus of the community life standing committee, for now, is to

- **educate** people about homeless issues
- **celebrate** and support local good works
- **highlight** local issues

We are already helping to solve homelessness by learning more about it. Share your new knowledge with your family and friends. The next time someone says something rude or unkind about a homeless person, set the record straight.

When passing a street person do not ignore him/her, smile, stop and talk. Show respect and dignity; you do not have to give them money, but give them your time and kindness. This also applies to people in your area, the seniors, refugees, teens, veterans who are alone and need someone to acknowledge them with kindness.

This is well shown in the video "PSA-reveals-sobering-reality-about how we view- homeless" and "The Homeless Dog vs Man" (social experiment).

Some organizations prepare Blessing Bags (How to pack a blessing Bag) and give them to an organization, try to go in person and spend time visiting.

Celebrate and support the good works by donations to agencies. Donations of socks are just one of the items helping homeless people and those who are poorly housed. Food, clothing, and household items are also needed. Many councils are doing this, keep it up.

Consider supporting an organization such as Raising the Roof, at your next party, wedding or celebration. Their partners at ECHOage will provide you with the tools and tips to help plan your next event. Visit **www.ECHOage.com** for all the details. **Donate Points** Whether it's Air Miles, reward points, or other credit or loyalty card points, they are always looking for donations to support the work. To find out how to donate your points, please **contact the organization.**

In smaller towns reach out to the school, and or the church support the isolated.

Highlight local issues and share. Remember prayer is powerful.

- Submitted by Joanna Sisk, Community Life Chairperson



Membership Drives

As year end approaches councils are focusing on their membership drives. Here are just a few ideas I got from the Alberta President-Elect, Judy Look.

Discussions should be placed on the executive's agenda to **evaluate** the previous year's drive. We must always ask ourselves this question: **"Why do we want ladies to join the CWL?"** Hopefully our answer comes close to the following: **"We are recruiting new members so that other women can experience our sisterhood, hospitality, compassion, passion, spirituality and innovation all rooted in the love we have for each other and our God."**

We evaluate:

- What do we usually do, who does it and what is the length of time we do it?
- Are we stale because we have been doing it the same way forever?
- How do we communicate our love for the League when we invite people to join?
- Do only executive members sell memberships or do we invite other members to sell as well?
- Do we wear our nametags, scarves and pins?
- Do we introduce ourselves to any potential new member and engage them in conversation?
- Do we introduce ourselves to members who are renewing and engage them in conversation?
- What is the strategy for shut in members... is a special effort made to visit them to allow them to renew in their homes?

This evaluation should take place around the executive table with input from all present whether there are 5 or 12 members. Once there is a strategy in place then the president or designate should talk the pastor with the outline of what is planned, what Masses will be involved and permission to speak at the Masses. Handouts should be decided on, made in house or ordered from national office. The strategy is then presented at the General meeting where members are asked for their input. This way all members have **ownership** of the membership drive.

Follow-up:

After the membership drive ensure that new members are welcomed and given an opportunity for training at such workshops as Catch the Fire...

- Submitted by Colleen Perry (Randall), Organization Chairperson



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An "Eye on Legislation" ...

• • **Bill 148, Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017** - at Second Reading Debate in the Ontario Legislature, is an Act to amend the *Employment Standards Act, 2000*, *Labour Relations Act, 1995* and to make related amendments to other Acts. Recent Toronto Star articles have brought attention to "temp agency workers". The topic of temporary workers was addressed in **Resolution ON.16.02** and **Resolution 2016.01** (Equal Access to Permanent Resident Status, an Amendment to the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*) adopted at national. Bill 148 also proposes increases to minimum wage rates.

• • **Private Member's Bill C-277 - Framework on Palliative Care in Canada Act** - adopted in the Senate of Canada at Second Reading and referred to Committee on September 26, 2017, the official Senate 'tweet' stated that this Bill, "would provide for the development of a framework designed to support improved access for Canadians to palliative care." This relates to **Resolution 2016.04** (Amend the *Canada Health Act* to Identify Palliative Care as an Insured Health Service); **Resolution 2016.05** (Amend the *Canada Health Act* to Include Home Care as an Insured Health Service); and **Resolution 2001.01** (Quality End-of-Life Care).

• • **Bill S-5 (an Act to amend the *Tobacco Act* and the *Non-smokers' Health Act* and to make consequential amendments to other Acts)** was introduced by the Senate of Canada and passed by the Senate in 2017. It has completed First Reading in the House of Commons. Health Canada is holding consultations on **proposals to regulate vaping products** and providing opportunity to comment. **Online consultation is available until October 27, 2017** (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/programs/consultation-regulation-vaping-products.html>). This relates to **Resolution 2014.02** (Electronic Cigarettes).

As members, we must continue to monitor the legislation ... and take action!

- Submitted by Karen McDonald (Legislation Chairperson) and Sub-Committee Members



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Awards and Recognition



CWL member Doris Labelle, St Kevin's Council, Val Caron, was presented with the "Making a Difference" award by MP France Gelinias on September 24, 2017. These awards honour residents of Jarlette Health Services' 14 Long Term Care and six Retirement Lodges for their remarkable accomplishments, outstanding contributions to society to their community and/or their home or lodge. Mrs Labelle, (front right in pink) resides at The Elizabeth Centre in Val Caron. For more information on this award click on:

<https://www.jarlette.com/news-article.php?id=876>



Life Member and Past Provincial President, Shirley George, was presented with the Bene Merenti Medal at her home parish, Our Lady Queen of Martyrs in Delhi, in the Diocese of London, on September 2, 2017. The award is a papal award presented to those who have lived a life of faith, hope and love displayed through action and service in the Church and community. On the left Shirley proudly shows off her medal after the presentation.



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Application Form for 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 mail form (with cheque), to

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

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:

