



February 2018 Edition
Featuring Peterborough Diocesan Councils and
Christian Family Life Chairperson, Linda Squarzolo

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

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Annie's Annotations

*"Gather to me my faithful ones, who
made a covenant with me
by sacrifice!" Psalm 50:5*

Shrove Tuesday is February 13th, also known as Pancake Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, the last day before the long fast for Lent. It often coincides with or falls close to the dates for the winter carnival celebrations that occur in the January/February period.

Shrove Tuesday is a reminder that we are entering a season of penance and was originally a solemn day. But over the centuries, in anticipation of the Lenten fast that would begin the next day, Shrove Tuesday took on a festive nature. That is why Shrove Tuesday is also known as Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras.

Traditionally, lent involved "giving something up", making a sacrifice. Lent is a favourable season for deepening our spiritual life through the means of sanctification offered us by the Church: fasting,

prayer and almsgiving.

As a child and young adult, my understanding of Lent meant that I had to give up something that was extremely important to me, so that it would be difficult to do without that "something" for the 40 days of Lent, something like chocolate, chips, or even TV. But as I grew in my faith, I also grew up, I became a wife, mother, a member of my communities (home, work, faith and village), I realized that sacrifice comes in many forms. Now, I approach Lent from a different perspective, I attempt to do more for others so that I am helping to alleviate their suffering in small ways. I make conscious efforts to go out of my way for others, give more to food banks, and ensure I make eye contact with everyone I encounter and pray that I see the face of Jesus in their eyes and that in turn they see Him in mine.

May you all have a blessed Lent.



Peterborough Diocesan Council Santa's Helpers Busy in Peterborough Diocese

The Honda Express trekked its way to Thunder Bay just before Christmas filled with treasures relating to our Homelessness Project, "Brighten My Day Kits". These items were compliments of some very generous and giving people from Bowmanville and Lakefield CWL Councils. The Lakefield ladies even included some Knights of Columbus members and Fr. Ray Rick who wrote encouraging notes inside their cards. When we all work together amazing things are accomplished! Upon meeting Colleen Martin in Thunder Bay, squeals of delight escaped her as we transferred the items from one vehicle to the other for their trip to the Pikangikum First Nation. Kindness in what we see as a small and friendly thing means so much to others during a low point in their lives. Well done ladies!!

Some members' testimonials of WHY they belong to the CWL

The following comments came from council members at St. Mary's, Lindsay, St. Alphonsus Liguori, Wooler, Holy Angels, Brighton and St. Joseph's Bracebridge.

Lillian O'Connell - Moved not knowing anyone, but still wanted to meet people and make a difference in the community. When approached at a coffee Sunday to join she was so friendly it made me feel as if this is where I belonged. I have made some beautiful friendships and I feel like I am contributing to the community as well.

Glenda Klein - Someone asked me to join three times (48 years ago) and had faith that I could do the job. My League sisters are such a comfort with their prayers and kind words. It's fun! The League is the pastor's right hand. We are needed. Together we can develop our spirituality. I gained skills and confidence to become a Lector and Eucharistic minister. CWL retreats are so inspiring. I'm a convention junkie. There are so many opportunities to serve. The secretary's listening and summarizing skills were useful when I took courses for my BA. I learned how to use a camera and make a scrapbook. I just luuuuuuuuuuuuv the League!

Bonnie Collins - When I became a Catholic and would attend different functions at St. Mary's, I would notice the women working together in the kitchen. I thought that was something I could do when I had the time. Years passed and finally I had the time to join in and help. I am ever so glad I did as I have met some of the greatest friends I have ever had. We laugh, cry, sing and just enjoy doing God's work, be it ever so humble.

Gloria Broad - I joined because it is a Catholic faith filled national organization. Many friendships are formed while serving the community both locally and afar. Living for a while in Florida gave me the opportunity to join the Council of Catholic Women (CCW) (a member of the national organization). By being a CWL member, your vote counts when resolutions are being presented to all levels of government and was very impressed with the number of resolutions presented to governments and accepted by them. You can participate as much or as little as you choose. We always need your prayers.



Patricia Forget - Growing up in a devout Catholic family my mother was very involved. They formed the rosary guild and took turns meeting at each other's homes. In spite of being busy women they always had a project. They would have a lovely little snack with tea and coffee. I thought it was so wonderful to see them altogether and always wanted to join and I did after retirement. The ladies in my parish are just outstanding. They contribute to many causes and your faith is strengthened by these strong, dedicated women. God bless these motivated women.

Joanne Hough - I moved and knew no one. I began teaching and interacted often with ladies of the CWL who were friendly and very helpful. I became a member to support them. Through the League magazine I realized the work of the League as a national organization. I became more active when I retired. I became a member of Diocesan Council and attended several local, provincial and national conventions. I also benefited from the spiritual programs and support. We are a very diverse group who bring great skill and passion to our work. I have the pleasure of calling many members my friends and can count on their support. This is my 33rd year and it is most fulfilling work!

Anne McKinnon - At Mass they were asking women to join. Next meeting I was the treasurer! I was delighted when presented the Maple Leaf Award. As Toronto Diocesan Spiritual Chairperson, I co-chaired the International World Day of Prayer event. Moved to Lindsay and held positions with the parish and diocese. Received my Life Membership! Who would have imagined I could have done all this? The CWL has taught me many things; how to run a meeting, public speaking, acting out skits, singing silly songs, ins and outs of conventions. Being a member means that you have no shortage of friends you can count on. Attending my first meeting in 1986 was the best thing I did!

Madeline Pearson - I joined 65 years ago because my mother Anne Connelly (founding member in Kirkfield) was a member & the meetings were often held at our home. I have enjoyed active membership at both parish and diocesan levels over the years, having been Diocesan President for two terms and a Life Member. My 2 sisters-in-laws and three daughters and 1 daughter-in-law, 2 nieces, and 1 granddaughter have been members at St Patrick's for many years as well.

Linda Healy - Just about every woman in the parish were members who I looked up to and wanted to be one of them. I joined as soon as I became of age. I am still a member 52 years later. For quite a few years I did not know there was a League above and beyond the parish level. To find out that we belonged to a national group of women made me very proud.



Margaret Van Meeuwen - Over 40 years ago two ladies asked me to join. They were so warm and welcoming how could I say no? Being self-employed I wanted to meet people away from our business. Ann Cowan (deceased Life Member) and Vera Powell (deceased Past Diocesan Standing Chairperson) encouraged and supported me to be more involved at the parish level and later at the diocesan level. I might not have been so involved but these two very special ladies were my mentors and I am truly grateful to them. I accepted my Life Membership to keep informed and involved. The more I went to conventions the more I didn't want to miss them for their spirituality, sisterhood and work for God and Canada.

Fr. Damian Smullen - The Catholic Women's League of Canada is a significant voice in the pursuit of Social Justice issues in Canada. They engage the culture in a variety of different ways and use their tremendous talent and abilities to lobby Government to effect changes from which we all benefit. Why is the CWL different from other women's organizations? Well, because they move and act under the mantle of Our Lady of Good Counsel, for whom "The Lord has done great and marvelous deeds." Mary is their advocate; Mary is their strength. This is why they are able "to do good things" for our nation.

Community Life



1% CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Yes, one percent can make a big difference.

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace is one of the most established international development organizations in Canada. It was founded in 1967 by the Catholic Bishops of Canada to inspire the solidarity of Canadians towards their sisters and brothers in the Global South. In its 50 years of existence, it has helped, supported and nourished thousands of women, men and children through more than 15,000 development projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. It is a strong and diverse movement of Canadians from coast to coast acting for justice so that the poorest can live in dignity and with respect.

Since 1969, the CWL has been encouraging its members to put aside 1% of the cost of all personal items that they purchase, and of funds raised by councils, to go towards supporting Development and Peace partners working to improve the status of women in the Global South. Collectively, these funds are having a real impact on the lives of thousands of women striving for a better future. CWL members across Canada are making a real difference!

Brochures are available from the National Office. This is a wonderful tool for members to learn about the 1% program.

- submitted by Joanna Sisk, OPC Community Life Chairperson



My CWL Journey

By

Linda Squarzolo

1st Vice President/Christian Family Life Chair

In 1975 I attended a bazaar at my parish, St. Paul the Apostle in Coniston. I noticed a table where CWL memberships were being sold. Since I had been thinking about getting involved in the parish, I walked up to the table and asked to become a member. So, began my journey as a member of The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Over the years I served on various committees and positions on the parish executive. My friend, Chris, was ending her second time as parish president and no one was willing to step in to replace her. When I offered to take over, she mentored me and offered me assistance. She even covered for me when I battled cancer.

I had no intention of ever serving on the diocesan council. However, a year after I retired, Diocesan President Louise Gamelin called me to ask if I would fill a vacancy on the diocesan council to chair both the Resolutions and Legislation Committees. I could not think of a reason to decline, so I said, "Yes."

Although I enjoy the activities involved at the parish level, I have really embraced the committee work at diocesan and provincial. I love resolutions! I love that we can make a difference! I love that we have the ear of the government! I love that we are working for people who need our voices!

I belong to a CWL family. My mother, daughter, two sisters and mother-in-law are all League members. This year my granddaughter will turn 16 and I have already promised her a CWL membership for her birthday.

I have received more from the League than I have given. The friendships I have made are invaluable to me. Spending time with other Catholic, like-minded women is a gift. I have developed confidence, new skills, a sense of what it means to serve, a greater love for Jesus and my spirituality is growing.

I will always be a member of the League.



ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
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LEAGUE OF CANADA

ON-LINE NEWSLETTER



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Even though I clutch my blanket and growl when the alarm rings, thank you, Lord, that I can hear. There are many who are deaf.

Even though I keep my eyes closed against the morning light as long as possible, thank you, Lord, that I can see. Many are blind.

Even though I huddle in my bed and put off rising, thank you Lord, that I have the strength to rise. There are many who are bedridden.

Even though the first hour of my day is hectic, when socks are lost, toast is burned and tempers are short, my children are so loud, thank you, Lord, for my family. There are many who are lonely.

Even though our breakfast table never looks like the pictures in magazines and the menu is at times balanced, thank you, Lord, for the food we have. There are many who are hungry.

Even though the routine of my job is often monotonous, thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to work. There are many who have no job.

Even though I grumble and bemoan my fate from day to day and wish my circumstances were not so modest, thank you, Lord, for life.

- submitted by Anna Tremblay, Spiritual Development Chairperson

Before You Speak: **THINK**

T is it true?
H is it helpful?
I is it inspiring?
N is it necessary?
K is it kind?



Source: Gratitude Habitat.com

- submitted by Patricia Rivest, OPC Treasurer



A Hand Up

Pope Frances has referred to the family as a school of mercy; *"...an agent of pastoral activity through its explicit proclamation of the Gospel and its legacy of varied forms of witness, namely solidarity with the poor, openness to a diversity of people ...commitment to the promotion of the common good and the transformation of unjust social structures, beginning in the territory in which the family lives, through the practice of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy".*
[310; quoting the Synod Fathers] *Amoris Laetitia and Social Justice*

A few years ago, I had the opportunity to hear Craig Kielburger, a co-founder of the *WE to Me* youth movements, speak to a group of community leaders. He was asked where his sense of social justice was initially sparked. He explained that he lived in a suburb of Toronto and his mother would take him and his brother into the city via local transportation during school breaks. He observed that many times his mother would approach street people and ask their name, give them a few coins from her pocket and say their name as she wished them a good day. These experiences often evolved into long discussions and many questions between mother and sons. He told the group that he believed his mother's respect for the person on the street and her willingness to give to others has had a lasting effect upon both brothers.

In attending conventions, one encounters several street people outside the convention centre and hotels (CWL ladies are known to be a source of help or a hand up...). Often, the ladies would choose to visit a local fast food location for coffee or a snack. During those visits, we sometimes encountered street people outside the shops. It became a habit to purchase a gift card from the store for \$5 or \$10 dollars. The recipients were always pleased to receive this hand up when we were leaving to return to the convention floor.

With the year dedicated to Homelessness, as CWL members, one project in St. Mary's Lindsay, CWL Council, encouraged members to buy \$5 gift cards to be used to support homeless people we might encounter on our journey. I purchased a couple of cards and tucked them away in my wallet.

In December, my daughter, my 12 year old granddaughter and I attended a performance of the *Nutcracker* in Toronto. As we drove into the city, my granddaughter often pointed out people sleeping on grates or bundled in doorways who appeared to be homeless people. She had many questions for her mother and I. After lunch, we headed to the theatre and encountered a man begging in a public hallway. We stopped and I gave my granddaughter a gift card. I asked the person his name. My granddaughter gave him the card. He thanked my granddaughter and we wished him a good day. My granddaughter was very touched that she was able to help at least one homeless person that she saw that day.

After a luncheon in one of the best dining restaurants in Lindsay, I encountered a gentleman on the main street. I noticed his coat was too big, as were his boots and his bare hands were rough and bare. He looked up as I approached and our eyes met. He asked if I might have a coin or two to share. I told him I did not have coins...he said that was fine, he understood...I then added that I did have a gift card for \$5 dollars. He smiled ear to ear and waited as I located the card. He told me his name and as he moved away, he said thank you and *God Bless You*. What a gift to give to others.....what a teaching moment for family! I wonder what opportunities are before me with the next cards I purchase!

- Submitted by Joanne Hough Past President of Peterborough Diocesan CWL

Awards and Recognition

Mary Immaculate CWL, Chepstow, Diocese of Hamilton



This Christmas, instead of a plant, we decided to make lap quilts with an attached one-decade rosary, for our ill and homebound ladies. We prayed for the recipients while working on them, and Fr. Luc blessed them after Mass, prior to our Christmas pot luck supper. Our ladies were very happy to receive them.

Our service pin recipients for 2017 were:

60 years - Marie Waechter; 50 years - Lena Terwoord, Eileen Weishar;

25 years - Karen Clancy, Lisa Hinsperger, Cathy Reich

- Submitted by Jean Hedley, Past-President, Mary Immaculate CWL



Our Mother of Perpetual Help Council awarded a **Maple Leaf Service** pin to **Anne Bailey** at their Christmas Potluck (December 6, 2017). Anne is a member of Our Mother of Perpetual Help CWL council in New Liskeard and has worked on the Timmins Diocesan council as well as her parish councils.

Pictured is Audrey Shelton, Diocesan President of Timmins giving the pin to Anne.



- submitted by Audrey Shelton, Diocesan President, Timmins



St. Anthony of Padua CWL, Timmins ON

Mary Jordon will be celebrating her 100th Birthday on February 25, 2018. She was presented with a 70 year pin in December.

-submitted by Peggy, Past President, St. Anthony of Padua CWL, Timmins, ON



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Sault Ste. Marie Diocese

Each December, the members of St. Peter the Apostle Council, North Bay, deliver gifts to various charities in our community.



Thanks to the generous donations of our parishioners, hats, scarves, mitts, sweaters, blankets, slippers, and assorted toiletries were distributed to the Crisis Centre, Transition House, Catholic Charities, the Gathering Place and the Warming Centre. Items for the gift bags at the Christmas luncheon were also provided by the Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption.

Pictured are: Marcelle Beaulieu, Dianne Whorley-Campsall, Diane Aultman, Lorena Armellini, Shirley Marcotte, Theresa Crawford and Louise Cazabon-Regimbal.

- submitted by Marcelle Beaulieu

"The Tree" by Denise Mallett

This novel takes place in a far-off land many, many years ago. There are two sisters, one is the Queen and the other is very evil and is an unbeliever.

When the queen delivered her baby after many long and hard hours of labour, the evil sister told the head midwife to kill the baby. The head midwife gave the baby a few drops of medication to put it in a deep sleep and make it go limp, so the evil sister thought it was dead. Instead of taking it to the mortician she took it to the Head Lord whose wife had just delivered a still born and asked him if they would swap babies and raise the princess as their own. She then took their baby to the mortician to be buried.

The evil sister then put the Queen in a dungeon under the castle and said that she had died. The evil sister then became Queen.

She wanted to find "The Tree" believing that it would give her freedom and control of the whole country. She sent her lords out to find "The Tree". They had two months to do so and return with the fruit. Basically, it is about good & evil, and how faith converts the unbelievers and how with faith and dedication God Reigns.

The book is very good but it is also very deep .



- submitted by Mary Ellen Villeneuve, Communication Chairperson sub committee



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Four Presidents and an Archbishop

At the OPC winter meeting at the beginning of February, we were entertained by the four Presidents whose term would be ending at their upcoming diocesan conventions. These "Angels" referred to as "Brendan's Angels" serenaded us to a CWL rendition of "Say a Little Prayer". We were then gifted with a decade of a rosary hand crafted by Emma Rose Rayburn and blessed by Archbishop O'Brien, Provincial Spiritual Advisor. It was a lot of fun and we wish them well as they continue on their CWL journey.



Pictured left to right: Angela Pellerin (London), Hazel Barbour (Hearst), Emma Rose Rayburn (Alexandria-Cornwall), Wendy Tedford (Peterborough) and Archbishop Brendan O'Brien. (Kingston)

- submitted by Marie-Theresa Lamphier, OPC Communication Chairperson



Ontario Provincial Convention

The Marriott Toronto Airport Hotel

901 Dixon Road, Toronto ON

Saturday, July 7th to Wednesday July 11th, 2018

See website for more details

<http://cwl.on.ca/>



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Containers of Divine Love

God of affection, devotion, passion, tenderness, and all forms of love, this day we thank you for the myriad ways that we have been given a touch of your goodness. We thank you for your many beneficent gestures:

...love that draws us to friendship and fidelity,
...love that leads us to kindness and compassion,
...love that stirs in our flesh and dances in our bones,
...love that lures us toward the sacred and serene,
...love that calls us to new vision and growth,
...love that soothes our heartaches and gentles our pain,
...love that sees worth in each human being,
...love that believes in us and whispers with hope,
...love that sings in the seasons and sighs in the wind,
...love that taps on the door of forgiveness,
...love that longs for peace among all humankind,
...love that surprises and fills us with awe,
...love that sings praise for the face of earth's beauty,
...love that offers the hand of warm welcome,
...love that respects those who won't come too near,
...love that urges us to take risks and have courage,
...love that goes out to those from afar,
...love that embraces the shadow in us,
...love that sheds the old skin and welcomes the new,
...love that ripens our souls for the final journey home.

Source of Love, we offer thanks for how you are abiding in all these forms of love. May the hearts we give and receive this **Valentine's Day** remind us of you, the One Great Heart, holding us all in the tenderness of your love.

Joyce Rupp

- submitted by Anna Tremblay, OPC Spiritual Development Chairperson