



January 2018 Edition
Featuring Toronto Diocesan Council and
Organization Chairperson, Colleen Perry

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

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Annie's

Annotations

January is the time of year that we all make resolutions, we promise ourselves that we will do something positive for the new year. Our goal is to improve life in the coming year. Resolutions come in many forms, promises to change a bad habit, like giving up chocolate or quitting smoking; or to develop a positive habit like volunteering in the community or starting an exercise program.

Did you know that the tradition of New Year's resolutions dates back to 153 B.C.? January is named for Janus, a mythical God of early Rome. Janus had two faces, one looking forward, and one looking backwards. This permitted him to look back on the past and forward to the future.

History reveals that on December 31st, the Romans imagined Janus looking backward into the old year and forward into the new year. This became a symbolic time for the Romans to make resolutions for the new year and forgive enemies for troubles in the past.

The Romans also believed Janus could forgive them for their wrongdoings in the previous year. The Romans would give gifts and make promises, believing Janus would see this and bless them in the year ahead. Thus, the New Year's resolution was born.

I wish you success in keeping
have fun fulfilling your
you do!



your resolutions, and hope you
promises! May God bless you in all



Toronto Diocesan Council

Guardian Angels, Brampton

Guardian Angels is the newest and 97th council in the Toronto Diocese. The driving force behind the organization of the council was Chinwe Bello a former member of St. John Fisher, Brampton. In her new parish Chinwe realized that the women were very active in other parish ministries and needed to be united under the umbrella of the Catholic Women's League. This was also the vision of Father Jan Gogolewski, who had a CWL council at his last parish. Chinwe is joined by Mavis Kunjappu, Treasurer; Kim Williams, Recording Secretary; Amjelee Caluag, Organization; Venitta D'Souza, Spiritual Development and nine other women inspired by the Spirit, responding to God's call. They are eager to bond as a team, learn more about the League, fill the vacant standing committee positions and to increase their membership in 2018.

Welcome ladies!!



Pictured: Guardian Angel Council, Brampton (present Father Jan Gogolewski, with the charter members and executives from Toronto Diocesan Council at the Organization Meeting. (Nov. 7, 2017).

Toronto Diocesan Leadership & Public Speaking Course

"Great League members do not just happen; they must be encouraged, trained, helped and supported", (League Organization Handbook, 2013). The Leadership & Public Speaking Course is offered one night per week for two hours on six consecutive weeks. The maximum class size is 20 students and is facilitated by life members, past and current diocesan executives. Members learn about the roles of the executive officers and standing committee chairs; develop presentation skills; learn about protocol for introducing and thanking guest speakers; preparing meeting agendas, written and oral reports; understanding parliamentary procedures and more. Sixty-two members from 25 councils graduated. Some have already accepted executive positions including council president. Congratulations ladies!



North York Region



"I was always shy to speak in public. I feel that I learned a lot through the course and gained confidence."

St. Edward the Confessor; St. John XXIII; Our Lady of Annunciation; St. Patrick, Markham; St. Mary Immaculate; St. Timothy; Good Shepherd; St. Justin Martyr

President-Elect/Organization

It was Mom!

I joined the Catholic Women's League on the advice of my mom who was not a member at the time. She felt that as a young career mom it would be beneficial throughout my life. The League has played an instrumental role in all aspects of my life by demonstrating the importance of volunteerism, strengthening my Catholic faith; influencing how I raised my family and enhancing my professional life. Other notable benefits included friendships, convention attendance within Ontario and other provinces.

Twenty years later, it's hard to believe that I am now diocesan President-Elect/ Organization, a role I did not consciously aspire towards. Like previous positions, there is a learning curve in the first few months. I am gaining a more holistic view of each of the executive officers and standing committee positions. Some of the highlights so far, include the re-launch of the Leadership & Public Speaking Course after a six-year hiatus and assisting with the organization of Guardian Angels Council, Brampton.

I am still involved in the League because I am truly responding to God's call and have a duty to give back. It's also a wonderful opportunity to pass the torch to new members of all ages and cultures that reflects Canada's diversity and will represent the League. I congratulate our national executive for involving the grassroots in making the League relevant for all women in the next century. Happy New Year!

- Submitted by Hilarion Mitchell, President-Elect/Organization, Toronto Diocesan Council



There is a plan...

When I began my CWL journey in 2003 I knew nothing about the Catholic Women's League. I am a cradle Catholic and attended church regularly in my youth, but family and work had distracted me from my faith. I had recently started to read at church and my pastor asked me to attend a meeting with the diocesan president to see if we could get a council started in the parish. Nine women came to that meeting and I was elected president that first night. It has been a learning experience ever since then. My first diocesan meeting opened my eyes to the fellowship of The League and introduced me to the work of parish members across our city. I was hooked. These women were faithful servants of God who followed His lead for social justice and our common values. I was home.

Since then I have never said no to anything asked of me in The League. God has a plan for each of us. If it is not an executive position, at any level, then it is something else but I look to Him to show me every day.

The Catholic Women's League has provided me many opportunities for learning. I have developed leadership skills that helped me in my career in communications. I have developed a prayer life that I am content with. I have developed a network of friends across this province and country that show their support in so many ways.

Someone once said to me "in order to be fulfilled you need to find your passion". I have done that in the CWL. I now challenge you to find yours.

God has a plan. Open your heart and mind to all He shows you. Pray, discern and then let the power of that show you what is next. Walk with Jesus. Be the face of Jesus the world sees daily. Offer a hand or a smile or a prayer – all are equally beneficial. There is nothing you can give to anyone more valuable than your time and attention.

- Submitted by Colleen Perry, OPC President-Elect / Organization Chairperson



Driving home from work, I regularly see panhandlers standing at the freeway off-ramp. I hesitate to find Christ in them or give them money. For one thing, it's a dangerous place to stand. I'm suspicious about how *my* money will be spent. *It could be a scam. Plus I do plenty of other charitable works.*

Most days it's someone different. But there's one "regular," a young man with varying cardboard signs. Guilt used to fill me as I tried not to make eye contact and drove past. "I can't help every homeless person in my path," a voice in my head said.

"But you have so much," another inner voice countered. At home I stocked my glove box with a granola bar and bottled water. That would be better than money, right?

When I offered the water, he chugged it immediately. Gratitude was obvious. But how could I remember to restock my glove box every day?

The next time I saw him, I had nothing to give. His sign said, "Grateful for anything except dirty looks."

I smiled; he smiled back. I rolled down the window. "Great sign," I said.

I can't remember our brief conversation, but I looked to the passenger seat to see if I had anything to give. I saw an old umbrella, and rain was predicted. I have others, but this one was a gift from a previous employer. I hesitated only a moment and asked if he could use it. He nodded. Soon I saw my umbrella above his smiling face.

That night it poured in Sacramento. I thought of my beloved umbrella, but more, I prayed for homeless people sleeping out that night.

Someone told me that Pope Francis encouraged us to give money to homeless people, without worrying about how they spend it. I decided for one month to give a dollar to every hopeless person I met. I never expected a transformation to take place inside me.

I began to see people as deep joy took root in me with each dollar given. My fear of being overwhelmed by hands out was unfounded. In fact, I had to look for cups in front of downcast eyes that turned up with surprise when I gave my pittance.



It felt good. But more than that, I was no longer judgmental or afraid. I was reminded of a quote associated with St. Vincent de Paul: "It is only for your love alone that the poor will forgive you the bread you give to them."

I continued to watch for Christ in the disguise of the homeless poor. A few days later, I saw him. The young man at the freeway off-ramp had a new sign: "Hit me with a quarter, and I'll be glad." He was looking at his phone. I reached out with a dollar. I asked his name and gave mine.

"Who are you talking to?" I asked.

"My mom in Reno."

The light changed, and I drove off.



For days, no one was at the off-ramp. Another homeless fellow said days later that the police were passing out fines. My thoughts surprised me: "Where is my friend?"

I don't know what's going to happen next in this one-minute-at-a-stoplight relationship.

Giving something to someone in need "is always right," the Pope said. It should be done with respect and compassion while looking into the person's eyes.

A unique human being. A potential friend. An instrument of my salvation.

- Submitted by: Anne Plaunt, Life Member Liaison, Englehart, Timmins Diocese

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WUCWO Prayer for 2018 - Corruption/General Assembly 2018

War, terrorism, corruption and the like seem far beyond our ability to make a difference. May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation, so that we may work for justice, freedom and peace. Bless all the women of the world who face an unjust global trade system as they struggle to feed their children to provide warmth and comfort, to bring hope and peace to the world. May we strive to remove barriers and change systems. And as we prepare for our General Assembly, help us, as women of hope, to advocate, to persist, to do what we can, trusting that you will bring to completion every good work started in your name.



Education and Health

Resolutions make a difference! In December our Resolution ON 17.3 **Inclusion of Registered Nurses in Provincial Bill 163, Supporting Ontario's First Responders Act 2016** passed. Congratulations to London Diocese. You can link to the article regarding this and see our very own Provincial President, Anne Madden-
<https://www.ona.org/news-posts/ona-celebrates-win-ptsd/>
Check it out!

Help The Homeless Suggestion - As a gesture to their customers, Loblaw's and George Weston Ltd. are offering a \$25. gift card for their part in the price fixing of bread prices. This is available to all who have shopped at a Loblaw store or store supplied by George Weston bakery division. My suggestion is members should apply for the gift card and donate it to the local homeless shelter or out of the cold program to assist them with everything from food items, hygiene products or other needs they may have. Here is how you can register to apply for a gift card:
Go on www.LoblawCard.ca and enter your email address to be notified when registration opens. The company expects registration to begin on January 8, 2018 and end May 8, 2018. You must be 18 years of age and have to declare that you purchased packaged bread products at one of the eligible banner stores before March 1, 2015.

- Submitted by Wilma Vanderzwagg, Education and Health Chairperson

World Meeting of Families

Pope Francis has chosen Dublin, Ireland to host the World Meeting of Families to be held on August 21 – 26, 2018. This event is held every three years. The theme for this gathering is "The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World". Families from around the world will gather to pray, celebrate and reflect on the importance of marriage and the family as "the cornerstone of our lives, of society and of the Church". More about this major international event can be found at <http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie>



The Official Prayer for Families

God, our Father,
 We are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son,
 One family in the Spirit of your love.
 Bless us with the joy of love.
 Make us patient and kind,
 Gentle and generous,
 Welcoming to those in need.
 Help us to live your forgiveness and peace.
 Protect all families in your loving care,
 Especially those for whom we now pray:
*(Pause and remember family members and
 others by name)*
 Increase our faith,
 Strengthen our hope,
 Keep us safe in your love,
 Make us always grateful for the gift of life we share.
 This we ask, through Christ our Lord.
 Amen.



- Submitted by Linda Squarzolo, Christian Family Life Chairperson

Homelessness



Gloria Broad purchases from Glenda Klein a Tim Horton's gift card to keep in her pocket to share with a homeless person As part of St Mary's, Lindsay "Have a Heart" campaign.

- Submitted by Glenda Klein, Life Member, Peterborough Diocese



Awards and Recognition

A Community Expresses Their Thanks

Madeline is a twice past president of Peterborough CWL Diocesan Council 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.

- submitted by Anne McKinnon, Lindsay, Peterborough Diocese





☺ 50 WAYS TO KEEP YOUR MEMBERS ☺

FOR THE PRESIDENT:

1. Start meetings on time.
2. Follow the agenda.
3. Plan meetings at a regular time.
4. Don't cancel a meeting - if you cannot be there, the president-elect chairs in your place.
5. Communicate with your members, especially the executive.
6. Ask for volunteers. Do not try to do it all yourself.
7. Ask for submissions from all for budget/policy, etc., before deadline.
8. Ask an experienced person to mentor a newer member.
9. Make time to honour members and council achievements. Celebrate!
10. Ask for motions. Take a vote. Remain neutral.

FOR MEMBERS:

11. Be welcoming to new members.
12. Arrive on time and stay until the end of the meeting.
13. Support the decisions made by majority vote. No rehash.
14. Be open to new ideas.
15. Volunteer! This means offering, not waiting to be asked or volunteered.
16. Keep all your remarks positive.
17. Invite others to help you.

Here are some expressions that encourage members to participate. Share one of these when needed:

18. Doing that made me feel really good about myself.
19. Thanks.
20. Sometimes we have to nudge the government to make some changes.

21. _____, I think you can do it.
22. What a good idea!
23. Let's pray the League Prayer for each other.
24. CWL is a pro-life organization.
25. We can make a difference.
26. That's beautiful!
27. You make us all look good.
28. I'll be there for you.
29. _____, you are a good influence and role model.
30. Do you think we can do that?
31. Come with me. I'll show you how. We'll do it together.
32. Let's do it again next month.
33. Father sure appreciates our help.
34. Wow! You did a superb job!
35. Many hands make light work.
36. You are such a gift to this council.
37. Together, we have a loud voice.
38. I just love retreats. Spiritual development is our main CWL focus.
39. I haven't laughed this much in a very long time.
40. What an insightful reflection.
41. No, that's okay if you can't help this time. Family comes first.
42. You inspire me.
43. Let's do this again next year.
44. Let's spread the good news!
45. Catholic education is important.
46. We are called to be our sisters' keepers.
47. After listening to the news today, let's pray for peace.
48. We need to take action when we see an injustice.
49. _____, what do you think?
50. League work is an important ministry in the Church.



50 WAYS TO LOSE YOUR MEMBERS

FOR THE PRESIDENT:

1. Start meetings late.
2. Cancel meetings often.
3. Don't bother to communicate the time & place of the meeting to the members. Let them find out on their own.
4. Don't bother with an agenda.
5. Don't delegate duties. Do it all yourself.

FOR EVERYONE:

6. Ignore newcomers and guests.
7. Arrive late and leave early.
8. Criticize all decisions after the meeting is over.
9. Be suspicious of every new idea.
10. Let the president do everything, after all, that's her job.
11. Rehash old controversies at every opportunity.

HERE ARE SOME EXPRESSIONS THAT HAVE PROVED TO BE INVALUABLE IN KEEPING THE MEMBERSHIP DOWN. THROW ONE OF THESE IN EVERY TIME A NEW IDEA COMES UP:

12. We've never done that before.
13. We tried that once and it didn't work.
14. That's too complicated.
15. That's too simple.
16. We don't have time.
17. Our council is too small.
18. Our council is too large.

19. You can't teach an old dog new tricks.
20. It sounds good, but it won't work.
21. What if it doesn't work?
22. Let's wait and see if anyone else tries it first.
23. It's not our problem!
24. They tried that ... and it didn't work.
25. Let's not rock the boat.
26. It's not our responsibility.
27. It's too far ahead of the times.
28. It's too far behind the times.
29. Let's table it for the time being.
30. We don't have enough help.
31. It's not in the budget.
32. The priest won't like it.
33. Parish Pastoral Council won't like it.
34. Other members won't accept it.
35. It's more trouble than it's worth.
36. Why change? Don't you like things the way they are now?
37. It's impossible!
38. Our people don't see things that way.
39. I had the same idea ten years ago.
40. It's not our turn.
41. It's just not a good idea!
42. We won't make any money on it.
43. That doesn't make sense.
44. It's a good idea, but ...
45. It won't work in a city council.
46. It won't work in a rural council.
47. That doesn't affect us here.
48. We might upset someone.
49. We've done enough work already. Let's take it easy for awhile.
50. I refuse to get involved in that sort of thing.

- Submitted by Glenda Klein, Life Member & Organization Sub-Committee, Peterborough Diocese