



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

ON-LINE NEWSLETTER



June 2018 Edition

Featuring Hamilton Diocesan Councils and
OPC Legislation Chairperson, Karen McDonald

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



Annie's Annotations

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"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."
Romans 12:2

I have just returned from the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation's Transformative Leadership Course! I have been forever transformed by the experiences and relationships that we shared this week. Fourteen strangers came together on Sunday along with the dynamic Leading Learners from St Paul's University. Over the course of four days we shared our faith and leadership styles, stepping out of our comfort zones to experience a deep awareness of our inner selves. We have parted ways as lifelong friends with a deeper consciousness of what a transformational leader is and what it means to each of us as we share our gifts. I am looking forward to the online

component and continuing our conversations and growth and then reconnecting face to face next April as we complete the course.

Our convention is rapidly approaching, my hope is to see you all there, sharing, loving and learning about the League! As League members we share a special bond with each other and with God. The League is a true gift

to us! If you haven't registered yet, please do! You will find the forms on our website: cwl.on.ca

Blessings,

Anne



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/>



In keeping with our focus on Homelessness, members are being asked to bring a \$5 Tim Hortons or McDonald's Gift Card and donate it at the Provincial Convention. After computation, they will be distributed between St. Claire Inn, Covenant House and Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

All members are asked to bring items to be added to "Blessings Bags", such as small toiletries, personal items, socks, etc., which will be donated to local shelters for distribution to their clientele.

I knew there was more to it ...

As a single gal who has worked as a legal assistant in Sudbury for over 29 years, I now find myself as provincial legislation chairperson ... God always has a plan!

I credit my grandmother (charter member) and mother (45-year member) for my faith and for my love of the League. My first CWL memory is helping granny and mom on the sewing table at our annual Valentine Tea. Even as a small child who could barely see over the sewing table, I knew then that the women belonged to something special ... I just didn't understand it at the time. I became a member in 1990. It made sense that I should join since they were members.

My father passed away over 30 years ago. Mom and I cherish our League sisters who have always been there for us. In 2015, Mom and I, and our special friend Ann, were honoured to each be awarded the Maple Leaf Service Pin by our council.

I have always been active in my parish and I especially enjoy singing 'alto' in our choir. I became active in the League about 10 years after I joined. When I was president-elect, our CWL council amalgamated with a ladies auxiliary to form Our Lady of Hope council of which I am a proud member. The auxiliary voted to join the CWL since we go to government and we advocate for social justice. This opened my eyes to an aspect of the Catholic Women's League that I was not familiar with ... but I am now!

People often say, "I don't know how you do it working full-time." I admit that being a member of a council, the diocesan past president, and provincial legislation chairperson is a challenge but when you believe in something, you find the time.

Since I am a bit older and wiser, I now know the importance of being a CWL member. I appreciate the fact that the federal and provincial governments allow us to meet with them and listen to the concerns of our members. We do make a difference. Our world is "spinning" and as members we need to be involved to ensure that our Catholic values and beliefs are not lost or forgotten ... we cannot let that happen.

The sisterhood of the League is a blessing in my life and it is a privilege to serve!

- Karen McDonald, OPC Legislation Chairperson

Some highlights from the Hamilton Diocese:

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, KITCHENER

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Women's League, Kitchener was so proud to learn that a Papal Honour, CROSS PRO-ECCLESIA ET PONTIFICE was bestowed upon Sandy Milne, one of our CWL executive members.

First established by Pope Leo XIII in 1888 to mark the Jubilee Year proclaimed in celebration of his golden anniversary of priesthood, this award was intended for those who helped with the planning and celebration of the Pope's anniversary.

This award was continued following the Jubilee Year, now to be awarded to those who have offered distinguished service to the Church. It is the highest Papal award in the Church given to the laity.

Sandy was recognized for her amazing resumé of service to the Church in the area of Ecumenism – the work of promoting unity among people of all faiths, Christian and non-Christian alike. Sandy's service to Ecumenism is made visible in her association with: Kitchener-Waterloo Council of Churches; Interfaith Grand River; Interfaith Community Breakfast; LARC; Inshallah; House of Friendship; and Jewish Christian Text Discussion.

Bishop Crosby presented the award on behalf of Pope Francis to Sandy and other recipients at a Liturgy of the Word celebration on March 4, 2018.

ST. BONIFACE, MARYHILL



One of our members - Diane Strickler - received the Dr. Jean Steckle Award for Excellence in Heritage Education. Diane has been preserving and sharing history and genealogy for decades! This is the second award Diane received within a year. It was presented by Waterloo Region Historical Foundation Chair (and Waterloo Historical Society past president) Warren Stauc at the Waterloo Historical Society meeting Saturday May 21, 2018 as pictured in the photo.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES, WATERLOO

In April, Our Lady of Lourdes CWL, Waterloo, hosted a Parish Mother/Daughter breakfast. Twenty young girls with mothers and grandmothers enjoyed a wonderful meal as well as an interactive "Little Blue Riding Hood" story. They also learned to sign the chorus of the Magnificat with our Youth Leader as a final prayer. Many prizes and cookies with their names on them were given out at the end. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful morning together.



ST. LOUIS, WATERLOO



Gerri Duque was our council's President for two consecutive terms, serving from 2014-2017. As President, Gerri attracted many new members by personally reaching out to women and asking them to join. Gerri made a point of getting to know all of our ladies and making us feel like valued members of a special Sisterhood. Gerri is well known for always having a smile on her face and a warm hug for everyone she encounters. Her enthusiasm for the League encouraged not only more women to join but to also become *active* CWL members. Under Gerri's leadership, our CWL flourished and thrived.

Gerri also exemplified how to balance the obligations of personal life while joyfully serving as President. She happily made time for everyone who needed her and volunteered in all events. She showed us that service to the League brings personal growth and fulfillment while serving God.

As a result of Gerri's extraordinary success as President of our St. Louis Catholic Women's League, she was presented with the Maple Leaf Service pin.

Gerri Duque and Claire Armitage, a long-time member of our council are shown in the photo at our Crowning of Mary ceremony that evening.

CORPUS CHRISTI, HAMILTON

We awarded our first ever 65-year CWL Anniversary Pin at our June 4th Spring Banquet. Marg LeBlanc is 89 years old and has been a member of the CWL for 65 years!

ST. ANTHONY DANIEL, KITCHENER

At St. Anthony Daniel Parish in Kitchener, we value our Catholic Women's League members because of their dedication to God and service to the people of God.

One of our members, Arlene McPherson, was recently honoured at the Mayor's Dinner for her work at St. John's Kitchen. Another member, Berrak Kilicoglu, received recognition for her help with the refugees at a Reception House dinner.

We also had the honour to bestow the Maple Leaf Service pin to two of our very deserving members. Joan Schurter and Sandi Farwell are distinguished members who have shown outstanding commitments to our Council. We are very fortunate to have these ladies as members of St. Anthony Daniel Catholic Women's League.

BASILICA OF OUR LADY, GUELPH

Maple Leaf Service Pins were presented to the following members: Olympia Bendo, Gertrude Clayton, Diane Jones and Verna Woynarski.

SACRED HEART CWL COUNCIL, PARIS



In March, Sacred Heart Council, Paris, hosted the World Day of Prayer. The service was a combined effort of St James Anglican, Paris Presbyterian, St Paul's United and Sacred Heart churches. The afternoon was a success, raising over \$470.00 for Suriname.

In April, we had a Church Service for the Installation of New Officers. Donna Campbell is President, Stella Munroe as Corresponding Secretary.

Dora Kuilboer has been nominated for The Frances Lovering Award.

Pictured is Dora Kuilboer presenting Donna Campbell with the President's Pin and in the back ground is Stella Munroe.

HELPING THE HOMELESS



Hamilton Diocese is very proud of Amanda DiFalco, fourth of a five generation family member of the CWL Immaculate Heart of Mary Council, Winona, Ontario.

Amanda has led strategic initiatives worldwide on ending homelessness. An expert in social policy, Amanda has made significant contributions in reducing chronic homelessness. The Premier of Ontario and other leaders have recognized her accomplishments.

Serving as Manager of Homelessness Policy and Programs with the City of Hamilton, Amanda volunteers her expertise as a fellow with the Institute of Global Homelessness and serves

federally as a member on Canada's Homelessness Advisory. She is a sought after key note speaker.

- submitted by Patti Pagett, Communication Chairperson, Hamilton Diocese



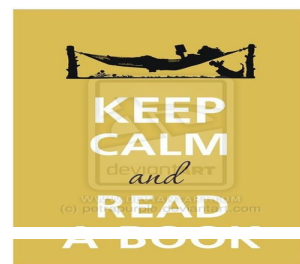
Education and Health-

The summer heat is on. Before heading out for summer holidays or travelling to conventions, please consider using a reusable water bottle instead of buying bottled water. Plastic accounts for 80-90% of ocean pollution and the average Canadian throws away 100 kilograms of plastic each year. Be mindful and think before you buy bottled water.

Effective July 1, 2018 microbeads are banned in shower gels, toothpaste and facial scrubs. Effective July 1, 2019 microbeads found in natural health products and non-prescription drugs will also be banned. **The power of a resolution!**

If you are looking for a book to read this summer, may I suggest, **Forgiveness** by Mark Sakamoto. This book was the winner of Canada Reads 2018—I couldn't put it down.

Enjoy the summer and see you at the Provincial Convention.



- submitted by Wilma Vanderzwaag, OPC Education and Health Chairperson



Awards

LOVERING AWARD



Congratulations to our Frances Lovering Woman of the year for 2018; Maria Theresia Burgund from St. Aloysius Council, Kitchener, in the diocese of Hamilton. Maria is a 44-year CWL member and has been on the executive for most of those years. Her parish involvement includes Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Children's Liturgy, RCIA and much more. Other areas of involvement include World Day of Prayer, Development & Peace, Out of the Cold, Right to Life, Birthright, Chalice child sponsorship and much more. She is pictured with Joan Schurter, Hamilton Diocesan President and Ana Sousa, Hamilton Diocesan Past-President after

receiving the award. The other nominees – all very deserving women, were: Marlene Lehman, St. Boniface, Maryhill; Evelyn Collins, St. Mary of the Purification, Mount Forest; Geraldine Million, Holy Family, Hanover; Frances Paret, St. Michael, Oakville; Joan Smith, Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, Guelph; and Dora Kuilboer, Sacred Heart, Paris.

- submitted by Patti Pagett, Hamilton Communication Chairperson

London Diocese

Maple Leaf Service Award

Theresa Ryan, from St. Patrick's Council, Kinkora is pictured after she received the well-deserved Maple Leaf Service pin in April 2018. Congratulations Theresa!



Bellelle Guerin Award



This year a special presentation was made on Wednesday, April 25th, 2018 at the London Diocesan Convention. Dara Hartman was the recipient of the Bellelle Guerin Award which is presented to members who do not qualify for life membership and who demonstrate a love of the League as well as an availability and willingness to continue to serve. The nominee must be an exemplary member

of the League serving at more than one level, who does not and will not qualify for life membership.

Now past president, Angela Pellerin noted, "The diocesan executive felt there was a member who was deserving of this award having served on her parish council as well as on diocesan as both a regional chairperson and an executive member. She has been involved in many activities in her parish, within the school and with the Sisters of St. Joseph Associates. She has led the diocesan executive in a retreat and has helped facilitate "Catch the Fire" workshops and is always willing to help whenever asked. Dara brings her knowledge, her spirituality and her great sense of humour to all she does."

If you have met or worked with Dara you will know she is always ready with a smile, a set of listening ears, heartfelt encouragement and will inspire you with her faith and energy. Dara knows there is room at the table for everyone and invites you to sit with her awhile. Look for Dara's latest work, assisting Mary Bannon as a member of Mary's sub-committee for Education and Health London Diocesan Committee Chair.

Dara we thank you for your love of the League and for sharing your time and talents. Congratulations!

Social Justice Award

Judy Bridgen, from Visitation Parish, Comber, in the London Diocese, was awarded the Social Justice Award at the Diocesan Convention. She has a great love for the poor, those who are struggling with health issues, those who are grieving and children.

Judy regularly collects and buys clothes for the Windsor Downtown Mission. This mission assists those who are living on the streets. For the last several years, Judy collects items such as scarves, hats, gloves, socks, etc., for "Heat for the Streets Windsor Homeless Centre" for children and adults. She also has made blankets to keep them warm during the winter months, and has given them used coats, which she takes to the cleaners before giving them out, and many more items.



Pictured with Judy are members of her council: (L-R) Marie Theresa Lamphier, Kathy Levesque, Alice Reaume, Helen Masse, Rita Huson, Laurie Lassaline and sitting is Judy Bridgen.

She began and continues to support an education mission for First Communicants, by sewing tote bags for every child who receives their First Communion. These children select items for children their own age to put in the bag, and then Judy brings these totes to the Downtown Mission. She crochets "Prayers shawls" for those who are sick and homebound. She sews beautiful fleece blankets for each child baptized in her parish.

Judy is not only involved with her Parish community, but with the community at large. Always, in an unassuming manner, she helps tend to the needs of the homeless. Along with the personal help she provides, she also facilitates help to the homeless from others in our community by collecting items and foods from individuals and delivering these goods to the shelters and help centers year round. She seems to be tireless in her resolve to help.

Judy is a very special woman who wants to make a difference in the lives of the homeless and the marginalized. Our Visitation Parish Catholic Women's League is very proud that she is a member of our council and of all of her efforts. Though she is facing difficulties in her health, she continues to do God's work. She is walking the path of Jesus every day. She is truly living our National Theme "Inspired by the Spirit, Responding to God's call."

The London Diocesan Executive awarded Judy with a certificate and a cheque for her charity which was made payable to the Street Help Windsor Homeless Centre.

- Submitted by Denise Masse, Communication Chairperson, London Diocese



TWO WOLVES



One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people.

He said, "My son, the battle is between two wolves inside us all.

"One is Evil - It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

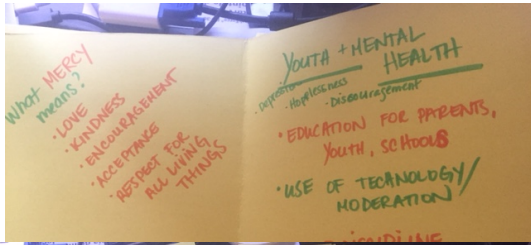
"The other is Good - It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

- submitted by Anna Tremblay, Spiritual Development Chairperson

WHAT'S IN A NAME?



Providing a workshop in Kenora, Ontario at the 65th Annual Thunder Bay Diocesan Convention on May 4, 2018 was an eye opening experience for me as a member of the League and as the current Ontario Provincial Council Resolutions Chair.



After being part of a workshop on mercy during which tie blankets were made, the resolutions workshop became a process to create a "Little Book of Mercy". We talked about what mercy means to us; then discussed how our mercy could be the space for change and turn us into advocates on a particular issue. Many of the groups formulated a detailed work plan with research to identify the needs of those

involved by talking to individuals/groups affected and research to determine who in government would be responsible for the change necessary.

I discovered that what's in a name is everything. In preparing for the workshop, I researched the word 'resolution' on the Internet and up came numerous sites discussing making and keeping New Year resolutions. This was at first disturbing as I was looking for something 'different' and 'exciting' about the kind of resolutions we make as members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. God was listening and leading my eyes down the page .. a title with the word 'advocacy' caught my eye. It intrigued me to want to read more so I clicked.

Oh my gosh!!! It was absolutely amazing to me that the key to interest in resolutions became so clear - advocacy. This very familiar word is what reflects all of the resolutions and those who facilitate their creation. Our resolutions advocate for change... who among us is not an advocate for something. As advocates, we create space for change and that is what resolution chairs also do. Rethink your "I can't" when it comes to resolutions .. are you an advocate, a maker of space for change? If the answer is yes ... welcome to resolutions!!!

- submitted by Colleen Martin, OPC Resolution Chairperson

A Prayer for Social Justice

God, we pray that Your Spirit may rule over all things.
May Your Spirit rule over kings and presidents
over prime ministers and generals
over CEOs and party bosses
over the legislature and over the bureaucrats and over all citizens.

May Your Spirit guide us on the way of peace
on the way of honest dialogue
on the way of reconciliation between peoples
on the way of disarmament and justice
on the way of freedom and life for all.

May Your Spirit lead us on the journey of blessings shared with all
on the journey of educational opportunity for all our children
on the adventure of research and study that helps all men and women
on the road to meaningful work for all people
on the path of solidarity and love between all our brothers and sisters.

May Your Spirit help us
to speak up with courage
to share what we have and what we are
to challenge the powers that be
to offer a message of liberation and life.

We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen

(CWL national website – Resources - Prayers and Hymns)

- submitted by Karen McDonald, OPC Legislation Chairperson

Madonna House, Combermere, Ontario



Perhaps Madonna House Apostolate Community in Combermere, Ontario is not familiar to all members in the province. Founded in 1947 by Catherine Doherty and her husband, Eddie Doherty, Madonna House is a community of Christian lay men, women, and priests, living out the teachings of Jesus Christ and serving with simplicity and love. In addition to the main training centre in Combermere, there are missionary field houses in locations across Canada, in the United States and internationally.

For anyone interested in experiencing the life of the Madonna House community, there are several programs available. One is for "Visiting Working Guests" who may choose to stay from one week to one year. These stays can be scheduled throughout the year. Guests agree to work, pray, study, and live alongside community members.

Families are also able to experience Madonna House. The "Cana Colony: Family Retreat" is scheduled during the summer months. Seven to nine families can be accommodated each week. Applications for this summer family retreat are opened in January and are filled on a "first come – first served" basis. There is no set fee for either of these programs but donations are always accepted based on the individual's or family's resources.

Madonna House also has programs to "Discern Becoming a Priest" and for "Associate Priests". Information and applications for all of the above programs are available on the Madonna House website www.madonnahouse.org

If you find yourself travelling in the Combermere area and would like to visit Madonna House, there are 45 minute tours scheduled during the year with visits to the Island Chapel, the grounds and the bronze statue of Our Lady of Combermere. Madonna House has gift shops, a museum, and book store open to the public. It is best to check the website or call Madonna House at 1-613-756-3713 since days and times of opening differ depending on the time of year. And if a visit is not feasible, one can take a virtual tour on the website.

Catherine Doherty's cause for canonization was opened by Pope John Paul II in the year 2000. She was given the title *Servant of God*. Madonna House is under the authority of the bishop of the Diocese of Pembroke.

- Submitted by Pat Weller, Christian Family Life Sub-Committee