



March 2018 Edition
Featuring London Diocesan Councils and
OPC Treasurer, Patricia Rivest

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

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Annie's Annotations

March is one of my favourite months, winter is slowly fading, and spring is peeking her head in bursts of hope for a bright future. This past week has been glorious in Eastern Ontario. Almost all our snow has melted; the ground is still firm enough to permit long walks through our fields. Today is blustery and snowing again but there is promise of longer days with the warmth of the sun, spring is close!

I attended the national executive meetings in Toronto in February. Plans are moving forward with the Strategic Plan due to all the hard work of the steering committee with the support from each of you for a stronger League in the future. The steering committee will be having presentations at each of the diocesan and provincial conventions to inform and enable additional comments and feedback. Please come prepared to offer constructive suggestions.

God has gifted the Madden family with another new blessing, my daughter Katie, and her husband Trent, welcomed their sixth daughter in February, Maeve

Michael. For me, new life is one more sign of spring and a hope for the future, we are so blessed.

My favourite feast day also falls in March, St. Patrick's Day! I am heading down to Buffalo to celebrate my 40th anniversary as a registered nurse. We graduated on St. Patrick's Day weekend, what a celebration that was!

I will leave you with this old Irish blessing:

*May love and laughter light your days,
and warm your heart and home.
May good and faithful friends be yours,
wherever you may roam.
May peace and plenty bless your world
with joy that long endures.
May all life's passing seasons
bring the best to you and yours!*



London Diocesan Council

London Diocesan Lenten Retreat



Adoration of the Eucharist.

The retreat was hosted by Holy Trinity Catholic Parish in Woodstock on Saturday, February 17th, 2018. The day began with a beautiful and moving presentation of the *Physicians Way of the Cross*. After a short break we gathered together in the church hall for a talk by Deacon Don McCullough on the theme of *Jesus' 40 Day Retreat in the Wilderness*. Lent provides for us an adequate time to spiritually renew ourselves as we prepare for the Easter celebration. After a delicious lunch we continued with the theme "Repent and Believe in the Good News". The day concluded with



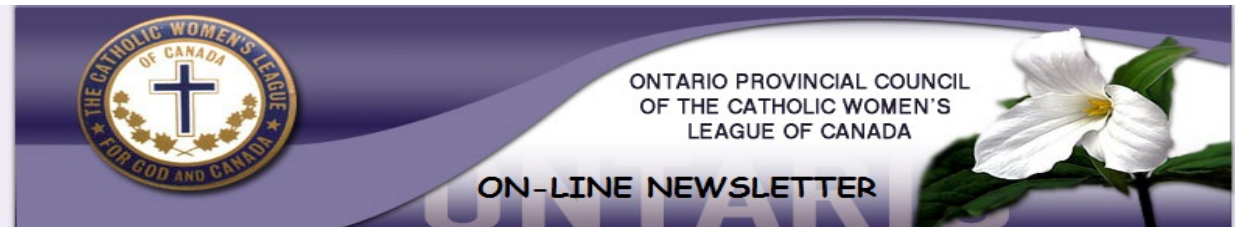
The Procession of Participants for the Physicians Way of the Cross. Pictured (L-R) Willi Kole, Pat Sloan, Carmen Velocci, Noella Cornelis-Litt, Denise Morris, Mary Van Veen, Christina Gable and Fatima Cabral.

Deacon Don McCullough presenting the theme for our Diocesan Lenten Retreat.



98th Annual Diocesan Convention

Councils in the London Diocese are working hard getting ready to host the 98th Annual Diocesan Convention in London for three days from April 23 - 25. Our theme is "Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call". Monday begins with a fun tour that will include lunch in Sparta. In the afternoon, everyone will have the opportunity to participate in a resolutions workshop where we will learn how to write a resolution. The Opening Mass will be at Holy Family Church in London. Tuesday will be a day of presentations by Marion Blonde on the topic of Women Initiating Change and Chuck Lazenby from the London Unity Project on Homelessness. Wednesday will be a day to hear from our national and provincial representatives, Margaret Ann Jacobs and Colleen Perry, and to participate in the diocesan election process. The newly elected executive will be installed at the Closing Mass at St. Justin's Church followed by the closing banquet.



Be Not Afraid

Submitted by Patricia Rivest, OPC Treasurer

On October 16, 1978, the world was introduced to Pope John Paul II. In his opening comments, he asked Christ to make him a servant of servants. He also said, "Do Not Be Afraid" to welcome Christ into your life. "Do Not Be Afraid" to open wide the door for Christ. The hymn "Do Not Be Afraid" has always had a special place in my heart because of the words of Pope John Paul II. In 1972, I became a chosen Catholic and started on my love affair with my Catholic faith and in 1975 I began my journey as a member of the League.

For a few years, I was a non-participating member. I was invited to my first meeting by an active member. At this meeting, I was not sure what to do with the information I had heard. I really wondered was this where I really wanted and was to be? However, there was this tapping on my shoulder, in my head and in my heart to go to another meeting. So, I went! Forty-plus years later here I am learning more about the League, myself and my faith. The Holy Spirit certainly can be persistent. I realized this was my call to become a member and become a servant of servants. Over the years, I have been involved with many groups and organizations, but none as dear to me as The Catholic Women's League of Canada. There is an unconditional love and support that I feel by being a member. This sisterhood of women share their faith, love, hope, support and joy and that can be found at all levels. This is such a precious gift.

Over the years, I have held many positions at all levels, sat on various ad-hoc committees and learned so much from each position and enjoyed each one also. It has been such a great learning experience and I expect to be learning so much more in the years to come.

At times I have doubts, questions as to where I should be in my life then I hear that voice of the Holy Spirit reminding me of Christ's words in Scripture and those of Pope John Paul II and the hymn – "Do Not Be Afraid, I am with you always". To me that is a confirmation or an assurance that I am where God wants me to be.

This has been my on-going go-to-phrase/prayer, if you will, over the years – knowing that I am not alone in this journey of life. Being a member of the League, God has provided me with mentors, many mentors, friends, special friends – sisters to support and love me. How rich is that?

All of this from a member who asked me to attend a meeting with her..... I am forever grateful.



An "Eye on Legislation" ...

Bill 163 - Protecting a Woman's Right to Access Abortion Services



Act, 2017 - received Royal Assent in the Ontario Legislature on October 25, 2017. Known as the "*bubble zone*" law, the purpose is to protect access to abortion services by creating a minimum 50-metre protest-free zone around clinics and facilities where abortion services are provided (this includes pharmacies that provide pills to terminate pregnancies). This could affect the annual March for Life and Life Chain.

2018 Canada Summer Jobs Program

The federal government made a change to the requirements when applying for funding under the [Canada Summer Jobs Program](#) for youth employment in 2018. To be considered for government funding, the applicant **must** attest (confirm) that:

"Both the job and my organization's core mandate respect individual human rights in Canada, including the values underlying the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well as other rights. These include reproductive rights and the right to be free from discrimination on the basis of sex, religion, race, national or ethnic origin, colour, mental or physical disability or sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression."

*(Employment and Social Development Canada -
2018 Canada Summer Jobs Application/Agreement)*

Refer to www.cwl.ca for a letter from National President Margaret Ann Jacobs to the Prime Minister dated February 17, 2018. The application period is now closed; however, as Catholics and as Canadian citizens, we should be writing letters and calling our MPs to express concern. Write to **Prime Minister Justin Trudeau** and **Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour** asking the federal government to respect rights of all citizens, including freedom of religion and freedom of conscience, by removing this requirement in 2019.

Amendments to O. Reg. 79-10 under the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007* effective January 1, 2018, include Ontario's spousal reunification regulation seeking to reunite spouses in a long-term care home if they meet the requirements.



Bill 33 - *The Time to Care Act (Long-Term Care Homes Amendment, Minimum Standard of Daily Care), 2016* - this Private Member's Bill received Second Reading on November 2, 2017 and was referred to Standing Committee. This Bill would amend the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007* and legislate that long-term care homes in Ontario provide residents with a minimum of four hours per day of nursing and personal support services. Members are encouraged to write letters and contact their MPPs to ensure that this Bill is passed prior to the spring election!

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



Death: What a wonderful way to Explain It

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side." Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know..." "You don't know? You're a Christian man, and don't know what's on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door, on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness. Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing ... I know my Master is there and that is enough."

- submitted by Anna Tremblay, Spiritual Development Chairperson



Education and Health

A reminder that the Ontario Call for Conscience Campaign runs until March 31, 2018—

Please ask all of your members to go to the website
<https://www.canadiansforconscience.ca/ontario>

There they can write a letter to their MPP (and as soon as all of the candidates are named, to their candidates) in the upcoming Ontario provincial election. Remember that the members are acting in their own personal capacity in this regard.

Elections are coming! - Once your candidates have been announced find out what their positions are on issues that matter to us—the sanctity of life from conception to natural death, palliative care and Catholic education. Let them know we care.

- submitted by Wilma Vanderzwaag, Education and Health Chairperson





Awards and Recognition

The Catholic Women's League at Holy Rosary Parish, Milton, were extremely proud and pleased to present a cheque to the Townsend Smith Foundation in the amount of \$6,554.91 to assist with the construction of Milton and Halton Hill's first residential hospice. The funds were raised during their 65th Anniversary Dinner Gala. Heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to such a worthy cause.

- Submitted by Margaret Doma, Holy Rosary Parish, Milton, Peterborough Diocese



London Diocese

St. Patrick, Lucan - Maple Leaf Service Pin recipient- Jeanine Damen
 Immaculate Conception, Stratford - Maple Leaf Service Pin recipient- Pat Brewer
 Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Delhi - Maple Leaf Service Pin recipient-Vicki Braun

St. Cecilia's, Port Dover, Pin Presentations

Maple Leaf Service pin – Maureen Rossitter

10 years pins: Ella Brockbank, Elsa Czerlau, Ellen Ferris, Georgette Lavoie, Andree O'Mara, Liana Thompson

25 year pins: Jane Clermont, Rose Ann McSloy, Margaret Parkes

40 year pins: Joan Dancho, Helga Stuermer

50 year pins: Lillian VanDam McCarthy, Joanne Schertzing





CALLING ALL MEMBERS... Come prepared to debate!!

Members in our province are working diligently to thoroughly research and study issues which they are passionate about. Each year resolutions studied for months are debated at diocesan and provincial conventions with members only learning of the topic(s) as they gather for convention.

A proposal was made to the Ontario Provincial Council at its last meeting that this year's resolution topics be published in advance. This will allow you to educate yourself and to be informed for debate during convention. A member with expertise in a particular area applicable to a resolution who wishes to share thoughts can contact me through the contact us page on the provincial website (www.cwl.on.ca). In the meantime, please take time to do some reading both of the online sites provided below and a visit to your local library; after all, we should all be concerned.

Resolutions under study this calendar year and some suggested reading include:

HAMILTON

- Impacts on health caused by the use of wind turbines to produce green energy
 - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3653647/>
 - http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/ministry/publications/reports/wind_turbine/wind_turbine.pdf
 - <https://www.anses.fr/en/content/health-effects-noise-wind-turbines>
Note this last site has a link to another site within the article and when you scroll to the bottom of the page

OTTAWA

- Programs designed to address the specific needs of female Indigenous offenders
- The needs of female Indigenous prisoners with disabling mental health issues
- Alternative sentencing to incarceration of Indigenous prisoners

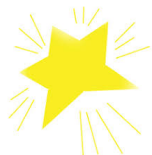
As these topics are related, related sites are listed together below:

- <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/mrgnlzd/index-en.aspx>
- <http://www.correctiveservices.justice.nsw.gov.au/Documents/women-as-offenders-women-as-victims-the-role-of-corrections-in-supporting-women-with-histories-of-sexual-assault.pdf>
- <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/crime-corrections-indigenous-prisons-1.4291568>
- <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/edmonton-women-prison-corrections-institution-senator-1.4346677>

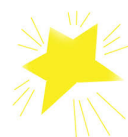


TORONTO

- Enact Guidelines for Levels of Pharmaceuticals in Water Supply
 - [http:// www.cbc.ca/news/health/drinking-water-contaminated-by-excreted-drugs-a-growing-concern-1.2772289](http://www.cbc.ca/news/health/drinking-water-contaminated-by-excreted-drugs-a-growing-concern-1.2772289)
 - Canadian Water Network is currently studying contaminants in municipal waste water <http://www.cwn-rce.ca/news/canadian-water-network-to-lead-a-national-project-on-contaminants-in-wastewater/>
 - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3273502/>
 - Read the many chemicals found on this site <https://esemag.com/featured/monitoring-chemical-substances-in-municipal-wastewater/>
 - Fertility Awareness (*this topic will continue to be studied for possible action in 2019*)
 - <https://www.peterboroughdiocese.org/en/about-us/resources/Natural-Family-Planning.pdf>
- submitted by Colleen Martin, 2nd Vice-President, Resolution 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/>





Pope Francis' Prayer for Countering "Fake News"

May our words be seeds of goodness for the world ...

*Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Help us to recognize the evil latent in a communication
that does not build communion.
Help us to remove the venom from our judgments.
Help us to speak about others as our brothers and sisters.*

*You are faithful and trustworthy;
may our words be seeds of goodness for the world:
where there is shouting, let us practice listening;
where there is confusion, let us inspire harmony;
where there is ambiguity, let us bring clarity;
where there is exclusion, let us offer solidarity;
where there is sensationalism, let us use sobriety;
where there is superficiality, let us raise real questions;
where there is prejudice, let us awaken trust;
where there is hostility, let us bring respect;
where there is falsehood, let us bring truth. Amen.*

Source: <https://aleteia.org/2018/01/25/prayer-to-help-the-world-stand-against-fake-news-and-embrace-truth/>

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- submitted by Marie-Theresa Lamphier – Communications Chairperson