



May 2018 Edition
Featuring Hearst Diocesan Councils and
OPC Community Life Chairperson, Joanna Sisk

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



Annie's Annotations

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May has brought the long-awaited spring, at least in Eastern Ontario. Today Jimmy and I planted 10 fruit trees, eight new apple varieties and 2 peach trees. My mini orchard is growing and renewing. The cherry trees were severely damaged in the wind storm this last week, but my pear and plums are just beginning to bud. Soon the soil will be warm enough to plant vegetables and flowers with the promise of delicious fresh salads and preserves.

Planting brings to mind new life and growth. The Easter season is a great time to reflect on what Jesus did for us on the cross to redeem us and give us new life. This new life started with the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus on the first Easter. After embracing this grace, the Holy Spirit can begin to transform us from the inside – renewing our minds, freeing us to love and give of ourselves freely.

I hope you are all enjoying the sunshine and warmer weather in this hope filled season of love.



St. Edward the Confessor Ecumenical Prayer Service - for the Yonge Street Victims



Father Patrick O'Dea, Spiritual Advisor, Toronto Diocesan Council, organized and hosted an ecumenical prayer service at his parish, St. Edward the Confessor on April 26, 2018 honouring the victims of the Yonge Street van attack. Several faith communities at the epicenter of the incident, Cardinal Thomas Collins, Bishop Robert Kasum, parish ministries, media outlets, Toronto Diocesan CWL executives and others attended the prayer service. In front of the altar, stood a memorial wall on which was placed flowers and 10 candles each representing one of the deceased victims.

Following the prayer service, a wonderful reception was provided by St. Edward the Confessor CWL and many other parish ministries. The hosts welcomed everyone as they entered the hall. #TorontoStrong

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



Hearst Diocesan Councils



As part of their Thanksgiving alms, Our Lady of Fatima Council – Cochrane, recently sponsored a collection of personal care comfort items to help the homeless and needy in their community. Thanks to the generosity of the parishioners of The Transfiguration Parish the council was able to collect 4 boxes of items. Pauline Hopper (far left) who spearheaded the drive is seen in the photo making the presentation to Josie and Collette who assist in the distribution of items to the needy in Cochrane - October 2017.

- Submitted by Nancy Bouvier – Communications Chairperson – Our Lady of Fatima Council

CWL has been preparing a hot luncheon for the students of St. Joseph School once a month. Not only does this provide the children with a nutritional meal but helps them learn how to cook a meal and expose them to foods they may not eat at home.

Pictured are members Lynn Olenik, Pauline Savage and Cheryl Marino cutting the turkeys and adding all the trimmings for a delicious feast.





In October St. Theresa's Parish welcomed newly ordained Father Hugo Tremblay as their pastor. Following a special mass, a reception was hosted by the CWL council where President Genny Sexton presented Father Hugo with the spiritual advisor's pin and stole. Congratulations!



It was a very cold and frosty afternoon when a few hardy members of St. Theresa's CWL council walked down Main Street to hand out CHRISTMAS CHEER to Christmas shoppers and businesses. Baggies filled with candies, Christmas cookies, schedule for Christmas masses and a Christmas greeting were greatly appreciated. Here are members Mary Rose Mascotto, Lynn Olenik, Grace Mascotto and Father Hugo who were part of the group.

CWL, there is a time for everything.....

The past two days I have been to two funerals; the readings at both included the verse, "there is a time for everything ..."

This led me to think about time and my involvement in the League.

My family moved to Ottawa when I was ten. My mother and grandmother were involved in the CWL. In only a short time, Mom was CWL convenor of the hospitality committee, which organized funeral lunches and catering for various banquets in the area. I participated by peeling potatoes or washing dishes for the many events. The sink used to be the right height, but as I grew taller it was too low for me. That is my story and I am sticking to it. When the time came and I was old enough, I became a member of the CWL at St. Ignatius the Martyr council in 1974; it was just the natural thing for me to do. Over the years and even when I lived in different places, I kept up my membership, but was not really involved in the leadership of the League. Then it was time; I was back in Ottawa and on the parish CWL executive. Our president became ill and I was elected president. At the time, I felt that, even though I had been in the League for years, I did not really understand it.

I attended my first CWL provincial convention in Arnprior and my first national convention, held here in Ottawa. I was hooked. My life has been enriched. The knowledge, friends, faith and confidence have all been a gift. Today I smile when I pass the church hall kitchen sink and give thanks for the women who have journeyed with me, all these years. The CWL has been an important part of the lives of the women in my family; my grandma, aunts, mom (diocesan treasure), my sister (diocesan community life), my sister-in-law as diocesan president and my niece all are/were proud CWL members.

Fifteen years ago, I was in end stages of renal failure and was a candidate for kidney transplant. Some were concerned that I might not make it, but I believed and knew that it was not time for me to die. God had something in store for me. I had a live kidney transplant and am here today in awe. Little did I know how the CWL would be such a big part of my life. Through situations/events, I knew it was time for me to be more active in the League.

I have served on diocesan council as spiritual development chair, education and health chair, organization chair and president and now past president. At provincial level, I am community life chair. I am learning so much and enjoy the wisdom shared, at this level.

One never knows what is next, but be open, have faith and trust and God will lead you. Take a chance; it is time!

- submitted by Joanna Sisk – OPC Community Life Chairperson



Education and Health-

Catholic Education Week-May 6-11, 2018

Last year the Ontario Assembly of Catholic Bishops stated:

"When Bill 30 received royal assent on June 24, 1986 and guaranteed the Catholics of Ontario a tax supported educational system from kindergarten through the Ontario Secondary School Diploma, it pointedly reminded us of the true significance of the Separate School system. The heart and soul of Catholic education is Jesus Christ, and our school system finds its very reason for existence in its communication of the Christian message. The goal of Catholic education is nothing less than a truly holistic formation of persons who will be living witnesses to the faith."

Catholic Education Week Prayer

God of mercy, we thank you for the gift of Catholic education.
We walk in faith and thanks, guided by those who have gone before us,
who nurtured and sustained Catholic education.

Inspired by the Catholic Graduate Expectations,
we acknowledge that the promise of Catholic education is within us,
that it is a promise that we live out in families and communities
and is a promise that we proclaim in acts of justice
and compassion, in word and deed.

We make this prayer that we may live out the promise
of Catholic education for many years to come. Amen

- submitted by Wilma Vanderzwaag, Education and Health Chairperson



The Catholic Women's League of Canada will receive a lifetime Xavierian Patron award from St. Francis Xavier University for the funding of Coady International Institute.

A reminder that applications for the National bursary need to be postmarked by May 31, 2018 in order to be eligible for consideration this year.

New Evangelization Summit 2018



This past weekend I attended the New Evangelization Summit held in Ottawa. My good fortune was that I did not have to go to Ottawa – just to Terrace Bay, a mere two hours from home. The drive along the shores of Lake Superior was wonderful and the company delightful. Time flew by. I mention this because members across the

province can be a part of this gathering weekend by becoming a host site in your diocese for the live streaming broadcast of speakers, inspiring songs and prayer. This year those watching hailed from parish communities across five countries; as far away as Australia. So why would you even consider finding more information on becoming a host site? Through the live streaming, I heard eight renowned Catholic leaders who love The Lord and want to bring people into a closer relationship with Christ. Truly inspirational!

A great part of the day for me was seeing many of my CWL sisters from far away attending in Ottawa and other host sites. Each of the speakers told stories that are good examples for ways that we as members can live the Objects of the League to a higher degree. What did I personally take away from the weekend? We are all missionaries whose work is to bring the Word to life....in our kitchens, at work, at play or at prayer. Don't ever say I can't...with God you can and when you are at the worst moments simply lean on Him.

I'm beginning my journey to ensure that I won't have to travel as far next year. Thunder Bay will be a host site next year! The cost for this past weekend, all expenses in \$150.00. What I came away with – priceless!

- submitted by Pauline Krupa, OPC Past President



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 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.



One Sunday morning at a small southern church, the new pastor called on one of his older deacons to lead in the opening prayer. The deacon stood up, bowed his head and said, "Lord, I hate buttermilk."

The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going. The deacon continued, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was totally perplexed. The deacon continued, "Lord, I ain't too crazy about plain flour. But after you mix 'em all

together and bake 'em in a hot oven, I just love biscuits."

"Lord, help us to realize when life gets hard, when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what You are doing, that we need to wait and see what You are making. After You get through mixing and baking, it'll probably be something even better than biscuits. Amen."

- submitted by Anna Tremblay, Spiritual Development Chairperson



Mud Puddles and Dandelions

When I look at a patch of dandelions, I see a bunch of weeds that are going to take over my yard. My kids see flowers for Mom and blowing white fluff you can wish on.

When I look at an old drunk and he smiles at me, I see a smelly, dirty person who probably wants money and I look away. My kids see someone smiling at them and they smile back.

When I hear music I love, I know I can't carry a tune and don't have much rhythm so I sit self-consciously and listen. My kids feel the beat and move to it. They sing out the words. If they don't know them, they make up their own.

When I feel wind on my face, I brace myself against it. I feel it messing up my hair and pulling me back when I walk. My kids close their eyes, spread their arms

When I pray, I say thee and thou and grant me this, give me that. My kids say, "Hi God! Thanks for my toys and my friends. Please keep the bad dreams away tonight. Sorry, I don't want to go to Heaven yet. I would miss my Mommy and Daddy."

When I see a mud puddle I step around it. I see muddy shoes and dirty carpets. My kids sit in it. They see dams to build, rivers to cross and worms to play with.

I wonder if we are given kids to teach or to learn from?

No wonder God loves the little children!!

"Enjoy the little things in life, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things."

I wish you mud puddles and dandelions...

- submitted by Patricia Rivest, OPC Treasurer

MY MOTHER

Catherine McAlear (Wood)

My Mom was born in 1903 the fourth in the line of ten children to Mary Ellen & Clarence Wood (it was a mixed marriage)

She was raised in the village of Lunenburg ON. where her father was the Blacksmith and traded his work for food to feed the family as money was very scarce. It was while she was a little girl playing in the shop that she remembers the Priest coming to the shop to give her father catechism lessons to become a Catholic.

She received her education in a little one room school grades 1-8 and never went to high school. She had two sisters (the oldest & youngest which were twenty years apart) who entered the order of "The Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph". Upon taking their final vows they both choose the name "Sr. Wood" out of respect of their father having turned Catholic.



My grandparents and family moved to their new home in Cornwall when my Mom was 20 years old. At which time she went to work as a seamstress at the local Pants Factory (which made men's suits) where she worked until she married my Dad in 1940.

My parents had two children, my brother and I. My Mom was a stay at home housewife raising her two children. When I was four our little family moved in with her Mother so that my Mom could look after her mother who had congestive heart failure and was getting weaker.

Mom was very dedicated to her family, friends and her religion. She attended Mass daily and visited the sick and shut-in as well. She belonged to the Sacred Heart Program and was a promoter. Every month she would pick up the magazines for her members at St. Columban's church and take us with her to deliver them.

Times were hard as Dad worked in a factory and his salary was small, but Mom was very thrifty with the money. She made all our clothes even our coats and leggings. She also did some sewing for the neighbors. She was a wonderful seamstress but a perfectionist.

She taught me to knit at a very young age and when she was satisfied with my knitting she taught me to sew. When I would get discouraged and want to give up because the piece I was making wasn't working out right after ripping out the stitches for the umpteenth time she would just say: "Put it away and take it out later and finish it". I always had to finish the piece before she would let me start a new one no matter how long I left it. I must admit they were two of the many wonderful gifts that she passed on to me.

I have so many wonderful memories of my Mother but the one I remember the most was her helping me to make my wedding dress, veil and cape. We had a great time picking out the materials and piecing two or three patterns together to have it just the way I wanted it to be.

After my Dad died Mom came to live with us our family of eight, (she had very crippling arthritis) so I had the honor to help her in her trying time of loss both physically and mentally for five years. She died at the age of 82, in 1985.

Thanks Mom, my best friend. Rest in peace.

Your daughter

Mary Ellen Villeneuve (McAlear)



Mary, Our Mother and Model



O Blessed Virgin Mary, you are the Mother and Queen of every Christian Family. When you conceived and gave birth to Jesus, human motherhood reached its greatest achievement. From the time of the Annunciation you were the living chalice of the Son of God made Man. You are the Queen of the home. As woman of faith, you inspire all mothers to transmit faith to their children.

Watch over our families. Let the children learn free and loving obedience to God. Let parents learn dedication and selflessness based on our unselfish attitude.

Let all families honour you and remain devoted to you. Amen

(from the Essential Mary Handbook by Liguori Publications)

Mary is mother, nurturer, handmaid of the Lord. We are to be like her.

- submitted by Lisa Henry, Communication sub-committee chairperson

An "Eye on Legislation" ...



*"Legislation is social justice in action.
It is the carrying out of League resolutions to influence government policy."*

(CWL Executive Handbook - May 2014)

Voting Day in Ontario - Thursday, June 7, 2018

The election campaign has officially begun ... in one month, we will exercise our democratic right (and duty) to vote in the 42nd Ontario general election to elect the members of the 42nd Parliament of Ontario (Legislative Assembly of Ontario).

It is a privilege to vote and with it comes responsibility. By being well informed ... by listening to the candidates ... by asking questions ... and by praying, we are a voice for the most vulnerable and those who are unable to speak for themselves: the elderly, disabled, sick, homeless, and the unborn. With an understanding of the principles of Catholic moral and social teaching, we then let God's wisdom guide us in making wise choices on voting day.

We pray for all candidates, many of whom will be the next provincial leaders tasked with making critical decisions concerning issues that we advocate for ... improved care for seniors, better standards for long-term care residents and a minimum standard of daily care, compassionate care for the sick, fairer workplaces, assisting the homeless, eliminating human trafficking, protection for immigrants and refugees, improving access to palliative care, protection from coercion of conscience for healthcare professionals, regulating vaping products ... just to name a few.

Pray that we will continue to be blessed to live in a peaceful and just society!

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

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/report_s/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/rsracs/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>
- 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>

- re-submitted by Colleen Martin, Resolution Chairperson

ARCHIVING RESOLUTIONS

CALLING ALL LIFE MEMBERS WITH A PASSION FOR RESOLUTIONS!!!!!!

Every second term, our Provincial Resolutions Chair is mandated to review all active resolutions to identify those fulfilled and/or no longer relevant. Those identified will then be honoured with a ceremony at the provincial convention in 2019 before being officially archived. If you would like to assist with reviewing a resolution or two, email me through the contact us link on our website at www.cwl.on.ca. Looking forward to hearing from many of you,

Colleen Martin, Provincial Resolutions Chair

Our Lady of Hope - Sudbury Region - SSM Diocese



CWL Sunday at our Lady of Hope April 7-8 coincided with the parish name tag weekend and collections for the Diocesan food drive. What a weekend to showcase the League in action, meet some new parishioners ...and future League members! Thank you Fr. Larry for introducing and welcoming members to serve and bring profile to the League at both weekend Masses.

Past President, Kathleen Niro, Treasurer, Diane Leuschen
Community Life, Sara Timpano,
President Elect, Dorothy Boyer, Spiritual advisor, Fr. Larry Rymes

