



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

ON-LINE NEWSLETTER



February 2019 Edition

Featuring the Diocese of Thunder Bay and
OPC Past President/Historian, Pauline Krupa

"Care for our Common Home"



Annie's Annotations

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"Give and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be given to you. For with the same measure you measure it will be measured back to you."

Luke 3:38

This has been an incredibly cold, snowy winter throughout the country. Many are suffering from frostbite and hunger. Shelters are full to capacity. Your overwhelming response to the Warmth and Comfort Project has helped to sustain and warm the feet of thousands. The word generous doesn't begin to embody the response you have given to the call to help the homeless. You continue to amaze me!

We have just completed our Provincial Winter Meetings. In fact I am in the car riding home as I write this. Our term is quickly coming to the end. It was bitter sweet to have to say goodbye to the outgoing diocesan presidents. We have grown so close as a team - like a family. I am honoured to have been able to work with these dynamic women who have accomplished so much during our term. I feel like a proud mother!



There is still much to be done and we have a new national theme, *Care for our Common Home*. Stay tuned for details on how we will be approaching this.

Anne



Past Provincial President / Historian



“And now the time has come...”

As my term as past provincial president comes to an end, it's a good time to take stock and think about how my call to service has changed lives. I can only hope that I have made a small difference in others' lives over the years; but know what has happened to me is mind-altering. First and foremost I have learned to “let go and let God”. By giving each day over to the Lord my stress levels have decreased an amazing amount. I trust that if He takes me to it, He will see me through it. With that in heart and mind, I have taken on some not so comfortable tasks and have grown with each one. Believe me when I say I was not a public speaker and look at me now!

I have come to really understand the power of prayer and the wonder of miracles. I am part of an amazing sisterhood that is not easily explained when asked what keeps me in the League. Where else in this universe can you count on a plethora of prayers for every “ask”? Where else can you pour your heart out, cry an ocean of tears and know that you are wrapped in the arms of many (real or virtual)?

I have grown in confidence, faith, empathy, courage and generosity. I have learned to laugh at myself and share my gift of organization and humour. While I still can't bake worth a darn, I am a great help in the kitchen. In a nutshell, I am the woman I am, because I have CWL in my life.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to think about all of you who have shared in my journey in the League. You have made it one heck of a great ride....many thanks....

- Submitted by Pauline Krupa, OPC Past President/Historian

The Diocese of Thunder Bay

St. Agnes Council Thunder Bay, Ont.



The ladies of St. Agnes council have worked diligently this past year participating in various projects. Blessings bags were gathered for homeless men. At Christmas and Mother's day, members who are in nursing homes were given small gifts and cards made by the children of St. Martin school. Members have been serving at funerals and participating as honour guards. Their latest project was collecting socks which were presented by Cheryl Gibb to Kathy Terhijan from The Dew Drop Inn, and also Faye Peterson House women's shelter. Food items were presented to St. Vincent de Paul.

- Submitted by: Alice Uvanile, Thunder Bay Diocese

Deceased Members Service

Candice Lee, president St. Patrick, Atikokan, and Diocesan President Mary Wilson are pictured with the Book of Life. A Mass was held at St. Patrick's in November to honour all the deceased members of the League. After a prayer service for the deceased members, we were served a lovely luncheon with the opportunity for fellowship.

- Submitted by: Mary Wilson,
Diocesan President, Thunder Bay



League Development Days

In September **St. Dominic's council, Thunder Bay Diocese**, hosted a League Development Day. Our Provincial Past-President, Pauline Krupa presented a workshop on Strategic Planning and the future of the League. All were excited to see the changes that are in the works and are optimistic for the future.

Our guest speaker, Msgr. Pat Stilla, gave a presentation on the "Positives and Challenges" of the Future of the League. The talk lasted about 60 minutes and was over way too soon. Msgr. Stilla listed 11 Positives of the League and nine Challenges. It gave us much to think about and to take back to our councils to help us grow the League.



After our speakers, all the members participated in a Standing Chair Fair. All elected officers had a station with posters and brochures, etc. about their chair and members broke into groups, able to ask questions and learn more about what each officer

does in her position. It is hopeful that more ladies will now feel more comfortable letting their name stand for a position on diocesan, or at the parish level.

- Submitted by: Mary Wilson Diocesan President, Thunder Bay

West Thunder Bay Diocese

Some of the elected officers travelled to the western part of the diocese of Thunder Bay to take the Standing Chair Fair to the ladies that were unable to travel from 3 - 6 hours to attend in Thunder Bay.

They were presented with a video recording of Msgr. Pat Stilla's workshop on the Positives and Challenges of the League. The President had recorded the talk on her phone, which unfortunately ran out of memory for the last 15 minutes of the talk. But we prevailed and gave the rest from our previous notes.



President, Mary Wilson, gave a presentation on the Strategic Plan. The members were very excited about the future of the League.

The ladies were very happy that we travelled for them, saying it makes them feel more a part of the League. Hopefully we can continue this in the future.

- Submitted by: Mary Wilson
Diocesan President Thunder Bay

St. Peter CWL Fill the Basket Project

Our parish community continued to support our project to support Grace Place a street mission for the homeless near our church. The generous gifts each month is our small way to help those who are without a home.



- Submitted by Pauline Krupa, OPC Past President-Historian

Diocesan Presidents Bid Farewell

Eight of our fabulous Diocesan Presidents entertained us with songs of farewell at our Winter Meeting held January 31st to February 2nd, 2019. Ladies job well done! We will miss your talents, your smiling faces and we all hope to see at the table again soon!



(L-R, Betsy Currier, Sault Ste. Marie; Carmel Rumleskie, Pembroke; Mary Wilson, Thunder Bay; Frances Murdaca, St. Catharines; Ann D'Souza, Toronto; Joan Schurter, Hamilton; Maureen Vincentine, Kingston; Audrey Shelton, Timmins.)

Provincial Elections 2019

This year 50 amazing women are discerning their call to let their name stand for election for the 2019 – 2021 term. You have an important role to play in the elections' results come July. At your diocesan conventions this spring you will be asked to make your choices, thus giving your diocesan president an instructed vote which she will make on your behalf. Please be sure to review the resumes to make the best choice for each position. Ask the simple question, "Who is best suited for this task?" Base your choices on what each person has to bring to the provincial table. As we lead up to this decision making time, continue to pray for those discerning their call to service.

- Submitted by: Pauline Krupa, OPC Past-President/Historian



Catholic social teaching is the body of doctrine developed by the Catholic Church on matters of social justice, involving issues of poverty and wealth, economics, social organization and the role of the state.

Modern Catholic Social Teaching began with Pope Leo XIII in 1891, when he issued his Pastoral Letter: On the Condition of the Working Class. Catholic Social Teaching applies the Gospel to bring about social justice and social love.

"To teach and spread her social doctrine belongs to the church's evangelizing Mission and is an essential part of the Christian Message."

The seven principles of Catholic social teaching are:

- **Dignity of the Human Person:** human life is sacred and the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society.
- **Call to Family, Community and Participation:** how we organize our society – in economics and politics, in law and policy – directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community.
- **Rights and Responsibilities:** human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met.
- **Preferential Option for and with People who are Poor:** a basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring.
- **Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers:** the economy must serve people, not the other way around.
- **Solidarity:** We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences.
- **Care for God's Creation:** We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation.

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why is Catholic social teaching an essential part of our Faith?
2. How are the principles of social justice and social love lived out through The Catholic Women's League of Canada?
3. Why do most Catholics have little interest in Catholic social teaching?

-Submitted by: Anna Tremblay, OPC Spiritual Development Chairperson



Award

Michele Grafham was presented the Bellelle Guerin Award at the December joint meeting of Keewatin/ Kenora councils at Sacred Heart/St Louis church, Thunder Bay Diocese



Pictured: Michele Grafham, Spiritual Development Chair, Ann Baker, Organization Chair, Elizabeth Montero, President and Father Alan Abadino, Spiritual Advisor.

- Submitted by: Mary Wilson, Diocesan President, Thunder Bay



Education and Health



World Day of the Sick 2019 - February 11 is World Day of the Sick, an observation started by Pope John Paul II as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses. The day coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes.

The Holy See's Press Office released a statement in which it announced that Pope Francis has named several people to an organizing committee to prepare for the meeting to take place in the Vatican February 21-24, 2019. This meeting will take up the subject of the protection of minors in the Church and will be attended by the Presidents of the Episcopal Conferences. Greg Burke, Director of the Holy See's Press Office, explained the importance of the upcoming meeting. "The February meeting is unprecedented", he said. It "shows [that] Pope Francis has made the protection of minors a fundamental priority for the Church." Please pray for all taking part in these meetings.

- Submitted by: Wilma Vanderzwagg, OPC Education and Health Chairperson



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A man saw a snake being burned to death and decided to take it out of the fire. When he did, the snake bit him, causing excruciating pain. The man dropped the snake, and the reptile fell right back into the fire.

So, the man grabbed a metal pole, took the snake out of the fire and saved its life.

Someone who was watching approached the man and said: "That snake bit you. Why are you still trying to save it?" The man replied: "The nature of the snake is to bite, but that's not going to change my nature, which is to help."

Do not change your nature simply because someone harms you. Do not lose your good heart, only learn to take precautions.

- Submitted by: Anna Tremblay, OPC Spiritual Development Chairperson

Today's Prayer

Father, thank You for Your power which is at work in me. Thank You for equipping me and calling me according to Your good purpose. Give me Your strength and peace today. I keep my mind stayed on You in Jesus' name. Amen.

By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.

2 Peter 1:3



Rivers

Warmth and Comfort Project

Community Life Chairperson Joanna Sisk and the Ontario provincial council were thrilled by the wonderful commitment to the "Warmth and Comfort" project. They were overwhelmed by the members' generosity. We are proud and pleased to announce that it was a resounding success!

This project, which ran from October 1, 2018 to December 31st, 2019, resulted in the following numbers gifted to the communities in your area.

37,465 pairs of socks

2,812 jars of peanut butter

2,896 boxes of crackers

Well done CWL Ladies of Ontario!
You are amazing!



Pictures may be seen on Facebook at #opccwlwarmthandcomfort project.



Ontario Provincial Convention – July 13th – 17th, 2019 Kingston, Ontario

We are quite thrilled to present the 2019 Ontario Provincial Convention Package. Please review and send in your registration as soon as possible. We are looking forward to seeing you there! Details can be viewed on the website at:

<http://www.cwl.on.ca/sites/default/files/bulletin/1842.pdf>

SISTERS TOGETHER in CHRIST PROJECT REPORT

Hearst-Moosonee Diocese
January 10-11, 2019



It was an extremely cold and windy morning as three members of the Hearst CWL, Genny Sexton, Lynn Olenik (Geraldton) and Nel Dalcin (Hornepayne) boarded the Polar Bear Express in Cochrane for the second episode of sharing and friendship with the ladies of Christ the King Parish in Moosonee. This was a most meaningful and special experience as we were now visiting with sisters in our own diocese!!

Along with us came boxes of clothes, school supplies, food, books, puzzles and much more, donated by parishes in the former Hearst Diocese. They are destined for Moosonee and Fort Albany.

After being greeted by Father Paul at the train station, we sorted our supplies for Moosonee, made contact with the elementary school and walked around the community.

Following a delicious pot luck supper, we attended mass in their beautiful cathedral. Fortunately their unique nativity scene was still in place – hand crafted and displayed by Cree parishioners. At the end of mass the ladies had selected a special person in their parish to receive a prayer shawl donated by Lynn Olenik. During the prayer service Father Paul blessed the shawl as it was presented to Annabella - a 94 year old Cree woman who still leads the congregation in singing Cree hymns. This was a special moment - receiving a tangible gift – representing the love, concern and yes prayers that were offered for her.



After mass we gathered in the church hall to watch a video on the "Biblical Walk Through the Mass".



On our previous visit a Cree lady showed us her CWL pin and one that her mother had, but little was known about the existence of the League in the then Moosonee Diocese.

Pauline Krupa and Marlene Pavletic discovered a box in the archives marked Moosonee which contained pertinent information. CWL councils had existed in Fort Albany, Moosonee and Attawapiskat between 1976 and 1991. These councils

were visited annually by members of the provincial council.

On Friday morning we displayed some correspondence, reports, membership lists and several pictures retrieved from the archives. It was very moving to watch the ladies as they recognized mothers, sisters, aunts, priests and friends in these 30 year old photos. What beautiful memories!



During Friday morning the women also dropped in to chat and do a craft. At 11:30 am, we returned to the church where Genny Sexton guided them in the recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

After the Divine Mercy Chaplet we returned to the hall where we had prepared a spaghetti luncheon to share with the ladies.

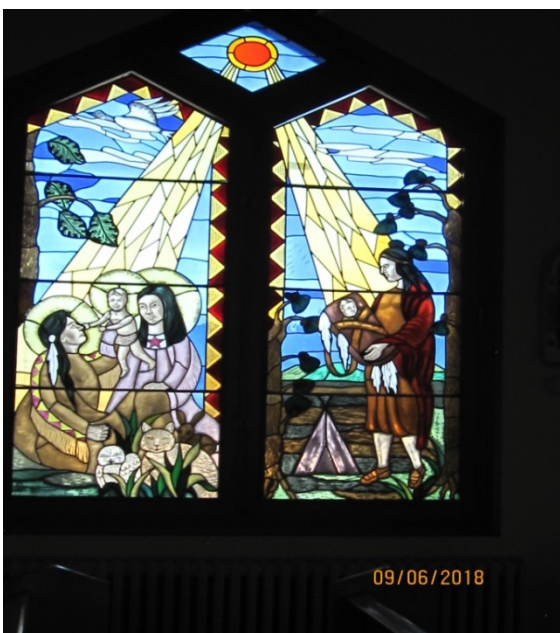
We then hurried out in the cold, over to the school where we did a "Winter Wonderland" craft with the Gr.3,4,5 class. It was great to share and make contact with these children, their teacher and principal of Bishop Belleau Elementary School. This was truly an adventure we will remember!!





Pictured are members of Cochrane's, Our Lady of Fatima CWL, sorting and boxing supplies to be sent by train. They will then be delivered by ice roads to Fort Albany.

Gathered are the parishioners, with Father Paul and ourselves sharing in Annabella's moment!



- Submitted by Lynn Olenik
Hearst-Moosonee Diocesan Spiritual Development Chairperson

Special Prayer Service

During a special Prayer Service at the winter Ontario provincial meeting held in Toronto January 31 - February 2nd, members of the Ontario Provincial Council (OPC) were gifted with Prayer Shawls, made and donated by St Teresa of Avila Prayer Shawl Ministry (Elmira), and St Louis Prayer Shawl Ministry (Waterloo). Special thanks to Life Member, Mary Jane Yaeger, for organizing this most generous gift!



Pictured left to right front row are: Karen McDonald (OPC Legislation Chair), Pat Rivest (OPC Treasurer), Mary Capobianco (OPC Recording Secretary), Marie-Theresa Lamphier (OPC Communications Chair), Linda Squarzolo (OPC 1st Vice President/Christian Family Life Chair), and Joan Schurter (Hamilton Diocesan President). Back row left to right are Stephanie Spinelli (OPC Administrative Assistant) and Betsy Currier (Sault Ste Marie Diocesan President).

- Submitted by Anna Tremblay, OPC Spiritual Development Chairperson

News from Sault Ste. Marie Diocese



(Left to right) Mary-Lynn Truchon, Recording Secretary, Shirlene Condie-McVeigh, President Elect, Dennis Chippa, Executive Director for the Gathering Place, and Elizabeth Delarosbel, Community Life Chairperson. Photo credit: Leah Pierce, Communications Chairperson

On Friday, December 21, a contingent of members from the Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption Catholic Women's League of Canada (CWL) in North Bay, visited the Gathering Place at 1181 Cassells Street to present a cheque in the amount of \$1,500.

In addition to the Gathering Place, Right to Life, Breakfast Program, Meals on Wheels, Catholic Charities, and the Bursary Program, all benefited from the monies raised at the annual Christmas Bazaar & Tea held on Saturday, November 17th, 2018.

"We have been extremely blessed by the generous support of the North Bay community and in turn are able to live the gospel of Jesus by spreading that generosity to those in need in our community," stated Shirlene Condie-McVeigh. The national CWL theme of "Inspired by the Spirit Women Respond to God's Call," comes to fruition in each of the CWL volunteers and supporters through this Bazaar and Tea.

It enables the CWL to continue giving back to local and global communities.

St. Peter the Apostle, North Bay

Every year at Christmas time our council's focus is to give gifts to those less fortunate. Our parishioners supported our campaign 100% and were very generous. Donations were outstanding with collecting over 147 pairs of socks, 53 Tim Horton gift cards, peanut butter, crackers, hats, mitts, scarves and toiletries. We dropped off our gift bags at The Gathering Place, Crisis Centre North Bay, Catholic Charities, Nipissing Transition House and Hope Awaits Men's Shelter.



L-R: Marcelle Beaulieu, Louise Cazabon, June Nunner, Dianne Whorley-Campsall, Judy Davis, Lorena Armellini

-Submitted by P. Cilizia, Communication Chairperson, Sault Ste. Marie Diocese

**A
Little
Clean
Humour**

