



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



ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

April 2024 Edition

Featuring the Sault Ste. Marie Diocese and OPC Past President

Here I Am Lord, Send Me
Isaiah 6:8



Linda's League Letters

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My Dear League Sisters,

April begins "convention season" in the Catholic Women's League. During April and May every diocese across Ontario will be holding their diocesan conventions. I will be attending several of them and look forward to meeting many of you.

The Ontario Provincial Convention will be held in Sudbury from July 7 to 10 at the Holiday Inn. Sudbury is known for its mining industry and is nicknamed the "Nickel Capital". Did you know that the City of Greater Sudbury is famous for being the "City of Lakes"? There are 330 lakes within the city's area, more than any other municipality in Canada. The city is home to several institutions of higher learning, is the referral centre for medical care, a retail centre and the largest city in northeastern Ontario with a population of 160,000. The city's famous landmarks include the Big Nickel, the Super Stack (once the tallest free-standing structure in the world) and Science North, the snowflake-shaped science centre.

The CWL planning committee has organized some interesting experiences for you. Traditionally, on the Monday evening of convention, diocesan dinners are held at nearby restaurants. At this convention, diocesan groups may choose to attend a dinner at St. Mary's Ukrainian Church. Not only will they enjoy a delicious dinner, a portion of the ticket will support Ukrainian war refugees.

The Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes is located in the heart of Sudbury. The grotto was founded in 1907 by Frederic Romanet du Caillaud, a wealthy businessman from France. He erected a six-foot bronze statue of the Virgin Mary on the site. The grotto has been updated over the years to include Greek-style columns, a large fountain, flower gardens, benches, Stations of the Cross, along with other statues and plaques. A "sunrise" prayer service will be held on Tuesday morning at the Grotto for those who choose to get up early.

The business sessions also provide some great education for attendees. Guest speakers include National President Shari Guinta and Edwina MacDonald, Director of the Anishinabe Spiritual Centre. Provincial officers will be offering workshops and diocesan presidents will explain about projects that made a difference in their area.

In order to encourage CWL members to attend the convention, the Ontario Provincial Council is offering a rebate of \$100 to all first-time provincial convention attendees who are registered for the whole convention. More information about how they will receive the rebate will be given at the convention in July. Since Sudbury has not hosted a provincial convention since 1985, 39 years ago, we are looking forward to having you attend and receive a warm northern welcome!

BEE-lieve me, you will be happy that you did.

Blessings,



Linda Squarzolo, President
Ontario Provincial CWL



DON'T DELAY - REGISTER TODAY

<https://cwl.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Information-and-Registration-Package-77th-Ontario-Provincial-Convention.pdf>

SAULT STE. MARIE DIOCESE

Hunger Knows No Season Food Drive

In response to Provincial President Linda Squarzolo's request to diocesan presidents to consider a project focusing on food insecurity, the Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan Council decided to organize the *Hunger Knows No Season* campaign again, as one had been organized previously in 2018.

Each region of the diocese held a one-day food drive on Saturday February 17, 2024 all at the same time in support of food banks and soup kitchens. Sudbury, Chelmsford, Sault Ste. Maire, North Bay, and Callander were present in major grocery stores in their city. The smaller area communities held food drives in their parishes supporting their local food banks. Students from St. Charles College, in Sudbury collected 200 boxes of cereal in support of the food drive.

North Bay total donations were \$379.95 and 1331 pounds of food; Sudbury collected \$2791.75 and 1450 pounds of food plus 200 boxes of cereal; Chelmsford raised \$1072.00 and 385 pounds of food; Sault Ste. Maire collected \$1682.80 and 400 pounds of food as well St. Vincent Food Bank received food valued at \$665.00; Callander Region collected \$465.85 and 386 pounds of food.

The overwhelming response from CWL members and the people in their communities supporting this project reaffirms their commitment to work together building a compassionate, caring place to live.



Congratulations and sincere thanks to all who helped on this very successful project!

Submitted by Debbie Mattiazzi, Diocesan Community Life Chair

DIOCESE OF SAULT STE. MARIE
People of Hope Seeking Reconciliation

In February of 2022, the Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan Executive approved the implementation of an Indigenous Relations Ad Hoc Committee with a goal of journeying towards a reconciliation and fostering deeper relationships with indigenous brothers and sisters. The group is chaired by Mary O'Donnell from Sault Ste. Marie. Mary was born to Ojibwe parents who were both residential school survivors and she was raised in Nipigon, ON. Committee members are CWL members from across the diocese of Sault Ste. Marie. Sister Priscilla Solomon, csj - North Bay, Jane Chaput - Sault Ste. Marie, Faye Wafer - Sudbury, Catherine Boudreau - North Bay, Patricia Clizia - Sudbury and Lisa Henry - North Bay.



Mary O'Donnell



Sister Priscilla Solomon, csj



Jane Chaput



Faye Wafer



Catherine Boudreau



Patricia Clizia



Lisa Henry

Since the group formed, they have identified priorities to further dialogue and reconciliation such as partnering with Jackie Hookimaw-Witt and Norbert Witt to bring their Reconciliation Tapestry to indigenous and non-indigenous people as a tool to foster healing and understanding. Two retreats sharing the tapestry were presented.

The first in May of 2023 at the Anishinabe Spiritual Centre in Espanola where indigenous and non-indigenous participated.



The second retreat was in October 2023 at St. Joseph's Motherhouse where the tapestry was shared with indigenous elders as a means to open dialogue and to provide the opportunity to share experiences of their time in the residential schools. Both retreats were a deeply spiritual time of learning, listening and healing from those who were greatly impacted by their past experiences.



Other priorities and potential projects include offering gatherings to say the rosary in Ojibway, partnering with parishes in the diocese to have Our Lady of Guadalupe mass and celebrations, an ecumenical afternoon prayer service, engagement with Knights of Columbus, engagement with Salt & Light TV to share the story of the Reconciliation Tapestry.

This journey includes creating spaces and opportunities for authentic and respectful relationships and working towards building a new means to walk together in a good way. Reconciliation must be rooted in relationships and is a lifelong journey that includes critical self-reflection and actively contributing to meaningful and intentional positive change. This group is moving slowly, intentionally and with deep respect for all the work they are undertaking.

Filled with the Holy Spirit – Answering His Call

It all started on a cold October morning in 2020 under a steel-grey sky. I saw a homeless person sleeping in a doorway of a downtown North Bay business. The man had two plastic bags at his sides, no doubt holding all that he owned, trying to keep warm. The Holy Spirit spoke to me over and over that day. Was I strong enough to answer? Yes!

That same day, during an executive meeting of the Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption CWL, I retold what I had witnessed and exclaimed that we must act. The Holy Spirit filled the women in the meeting with compassion and a call to action.

Fatefully, shortly after that evening the local media reported the findings of the Everyone Counts survey conducted in March which confirmed what we already knew, homelessness was on the rise in North Bay; and has risen 62% making it a crisis.



Five members of the CWL executive, who created the core organizers, decided it was time to reach out to other churches in the community to form the Compassionate Committee for the Homeless in North Bay. This committee would include at least one representative from each church located in the North Bay downtown and beyond.

Fast forward to March 2021, the Compassionate Committee numbers grew to seventeen volunteers from seven downtown North Bay churches (United, Baptist, Anglican, Presbyterian, etc.) including members from other CWL Councils in North Bay. It was evident that each committee member was passionate about addressing homelessness in North Bay. A spiritual calling.

As a committee, we researched what services the churches already offer. We asked existing support services and organizations what gaps they felt needed filling to address the immediate needs of the homeless. We established an annual year-long strategic plan based on the identified needs (i.e. blankets in the winter, tents in the summer) and educated the various church parishes/congregations as to the needs of the homeless through a publication we developed called the *Good Samaritan Corner* in each of the churches' bulletins. We educated the world through our Facebook page and encouraged everyone to support existing services and organizations through donations of clothing etc., monies and/or volunteering. Our communication has expanded to include an official logo and letterhead and a Gmail account, which helps with e-transfer donations.

Housing continues to be an urgent need in the North Bay area. In 2016, 15.5% of households in Nipissing District were in core housing need. As shown by the Point in Time (PiT) Count, the number of people experiencing homelessness continues to increase, with 182 people in 2018, 293 in March 2019 and 300 people in the most recent PiT count completed in October 2021. Since our inception, we have held four Backpacks of Love campaigns collecting donated essential items and generous cash donations to provide 400 backpacks filled with essential items to frontline organizations that assist people experiencing homelessness. We ran four Winter Boot campaigns collecting donated hats, mitts, scarves and warm socks, and cash donations to purchase 287 winter footwear for the homeless, including partnering with Soles4Souls Canada. As well, we hosted two information sessions to educate the people of North Bay on how they can help people

experiencing homelessness. We have also accepted invitations to speak to groups of people about our committee and what we do to help people experiencing homelessness.

Ultimately, the goal is to find permanent housing for the 300 individuals that were counted as homeless in October 2021. We understand that to accomplish this goal we need to research existing successful models that address homelessness such as Built for Zero Canada and the Suswin Village Project developed from the Suswin Navigator Support Program and provided by the North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre. As well, to seek social justice, we continually engage with community leadership. During our monthly meetings, held on the second Thursday of each month, we have hosted the chair of the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board, the Member of Provincial Parliament for Nipissing, and the Member of Parliament for Nipissing-Timiskaming, who at the time was also Speaker of the House of Commons. We have hosted subject matter experts who provide support services to address the long-term needs of the homeless in North Bay. We also attend the Community Advisory Board meetings held monthly at North Bay City Hall and attended by service organizations and members of the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board that seek to address homelessness.

What does the future hold for the Compassionate Committee? We are planning the following events: On Easter Sunday we are hosting an Easter Dinner at Open Arms Café, located at St. John the Divine Anglican Church, and hosting another Backpacks of Love campaign with the drop off day on Saturday, May 4, 2024 and packing day on May 25th at the Pro-Cathedral garages.

“Hi Leah,” wrote Elaine Summers, a Catholic Charities volunteer in North Bay, “Just back from a busy morning at Catholic Charities. Your boots made many people happy this morning with the snow and cold. One lady said with tears, that she had never had brand new boots before! I must say I had a few tears myself. My thanks again for the opportunity to share. Also, I thank you for the lovely card that I found on my desk this morning.”



Please keep the people experiencing homelessness, the frontline volunteers and workers, and members of the Compassionate Committee in your prayers!

(Pictured left to right: Leah Pierce and Elaine Summers)

- Submitted by Leah Pierce, member

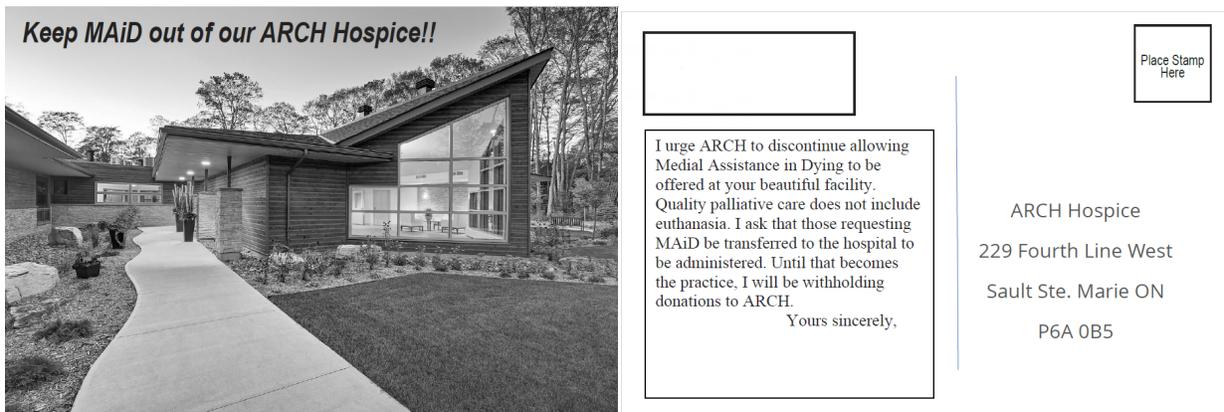
Discouraging MAiD at our local Hospice

The local palliative hospice in Sault Ste. Marie, Algoma Residential Community Hospice (ARCH), currently allows Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) to be administered in their facility upon request. It is NOT allowed at hospices in Sudbury and North Bay. At Maison McCulloch Hospice in Sudbury, they exclude individuals requesting MAiD from being accepted into their hospice. Vivian Papaiz, board chair of Nipissing Serenity Hospice in North Bay, said "We believe we can do pain and symptom management and care for people by giving them excellent quality palliative care. We don't believe that MAiD is a tool in the tool basket of giving someone relief in pain and symptom management." Papaiz added that national and international hospice palliative care organizations are unified in the position that MAiD is not part of the practice of hospice palliative care. That is our hope for change at ARCH, to maintain a safe space for those at the end-of-life.

The Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan council has sent a letter to the Executive Director and board members of ARCH requesting that those asking for MAiD be transferred to the Sault Area Hospital for it to be administered. In the meantime, CWL councils in this diocese are withdrawing donations that would otherwise be made to ARCH. They are also distributing postcards to members to send to ARCH requesting the same.

Additionally, they have also contacted the local Knights of Columbus councils and several Protestant churches, informing them of their position.

They pray that their local hospice can be a safe place for those at end-of-life.



- Submitted by Colleen Murphy, Diocesan Communications Chair

Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan Convention in the Works!

Nothing says spring in the Sault Ste. Marie Diocese like convention! This year's convention will be held in Sault Ste. Marie from April 26 – 28. Your sisters in the Sault have been working hard planning and implementing the weekend. Registration forms are available on our website ssmcwl.ca or from your parish council. Please come for a weekend filled with reverence, spirituality, great speakers, a themed silent auction, chair yoga breaks, fabulous food, great entertainment and lots and lots of sisterhood. This year we are privileged to include a resolution concerning the legislation surrounding mature minors and their health care rights. This

resolution dialogue will take place during the afternoon of Friday April 26 and is an exciting opportunity to witness so please try to schedule your arrival to include this momentous event. The resolution itself will be presented during the convention. Please also join us at City Hall for the flag raising ceremony at 1:00 pm on Friday. Our flag will fly over the city for a week! Opening Mass will be celebrated Friday April 26 at 6:30pm at Precious Blood Cathedral by Bishop Thomas Dowd. Our keynote speaker is Monsignor Dave Tramontini from North Bay who will present on *Journeying to Wholeness*. Charitable donations collected at the convention will be presented to a representative of St. Vincent Place. Don't forget the Incentive Program for first time delegates to the convention. Please see the Registration Package on our website ssmcwl.ca. Whether you are an existing member or future member, all are welcome from near and far! Convention is a wonderful experience filled with love and learning!



Your Sault Ste. Marie sisters are looking forward to seeing you April 26 – 28. We can't guarantee spring like weather but we can guarantee an unforgettable experience. Please come!

Blessings, Marlene Sawko and Linda Mizzi Co-Chairs

St. Francis of Assisi, Walford

Every year, St. Francis of Assisi's major fundraiser is a Pancake Breakfast and Bakesale the last Sunday before the beginning of Lent. They offer pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs with a wide selection of toppings. In conjunction with this event this year, they asked for donations for the food bank. It was very well attended for their small community and they are very grateful for the support. This annual event is attended by 95 % of their members and they involve everyone with a 'job'. It was a pleasure in 2023 to have a visit from the Diocesan President Elect Patricia Clizia and give our input on the future of the League. We looked forward to another visit this year from our Diocesan President Lisa Henry to follow up on the Unity Outreach Program. Thanks for coming to visit us!

They are in their 96th year of service for God and Canada and will hopefully continue to serve one by one!



- Submitted by Cheryl Phillips, President

Our Lady of Peace, Capreol

At their 2023 Christmas Party, CWL members from Our Lady of Peace were proud to present 2 of members with their 40-year pins. Pictured below are their President, Marlynn Paul presenting pins to Arlene Fleming (left) and Lorraine Green (right). Congratulations!



Here are some of their group at their Christmas Party. A lovely meal & some fun games were enjoyed by all. Look at that sea of festive red! In the 1st picture you will see Fr. Rex council Spiritual Advisor on the right (Pastor of St. Kevin's Parish, of which OLP is a site), and Fr. Arul who was visiting.



Submitted by Mary Moylan, Secretary

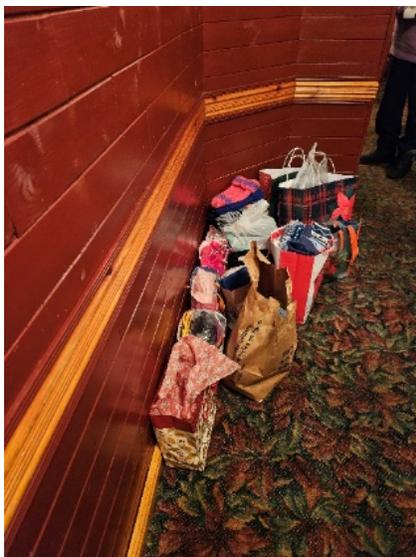
St. Jude Parish, Espanola

St. Jude's CWL sought donation from their parish and collected food donations in conjunction with the "Hunger Knows No Season" Food Drive in mid-February. They collected 16 bags.



For their Christmas Luncheon, they had about 22 ladies in attendance at the Pinewood; they always decorate so nicely, very festive. They asked their ladies to bring items such as hats, gloves, mitts and scarves, both male and female, for donation to their local Food Bank.

- Submitted by Valerie Vondette, President



St. Gerard Majella, Sault Ste. Marie

Once again, St. Gerard Majella's Annual Valentine's Tea was a grand success! It was held on Sunday, February 11, 2024 in their parish hall. This is their only fundraiser for the year and is always sold out. They have 2 sittings, one at 1:00 pm, the other at 2:30. The bake table was filled with beautiful baking donated by parishioners. For the first time this year, they had a silent auction rather than a raffle table. The auction went very well. Proceeds from their Tea will go to their parish and local community.

Pictured below: 1) Young helpers! 2) Jackie oversees the kitchen 3) Fr. Charles with President Josephine and some door prize winners 4) Bake Table 5&6) happy attendees!



- Submitted by Maria Pagnotta, Vice President

St. Peter the Apostle, North Bay

St. Peter the Apostle CWL held a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 3rd, 2024 after both masses. The money raised will help send members go to the Provincial Convention in Sudbury.



At their February General Meeting, members of St. Peter's enjoyed a special spiritual program presented by North Bay Regional Spiritual Advisor, Carol Williams-Boegel. After all business was completed, including passing of their annual budget, Francesca Grillo, a member of the Catholic Women Organization, Nigeria, led everyone in dance. It was a great meeting, enjoyed by all present. Francesca was in North Bay for the birth of her new grandson and has been regularly attending CWL meetings! Welcome Francesca!



- Submitted by Christine Osborne, President

St. Alphonsus Liguori, Callander

On Friday March 1st St. Alphonsus Liguori CWL hosted a World Day of Prayer Service. At this Ecumenical Service were attendees from St. Peter's Anglican Church (Callander), Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish (Corbeil) as well as St. Alphonsus Parish. The service this year was prepared by the Christian Women of Palestine. A video presentation was made available by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC) and was viewed via YouTube. The Palestinian women prepared the service during the COVID pandemic. With the ongoing conflict in the region, it was important to hear the stories of the women from Palestine and to offer prayers for them. Following the service a reception was held in the Church Hall featuring samples of food normally available in Palestine.



- Submitted by Debbie Jones, President

Our Lady of Hope, Sudbury

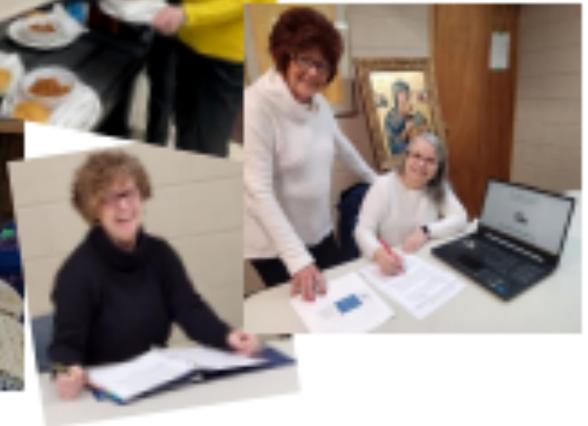
Our Lady of Hope Council continues to live out the League's Mission Statement, "The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service." through the themes that inspire us, Catholic and Living It, Go Make a Difference, J.O.Y and the new national theme, Here I am Lord, send me. Our monthly gatherings provided space for members to experience the sisterhood of the CWL. Every gathering had refreshments and social time; members lingered for a while. Since September, we spent time learning about resolutions and a sub-committee was established to write a resolution to be presented at the diocesan convention. We painted rocks with inspirational pictures and words. Our Spiritual Development chairperson lead us in prayer and helped us to reflect more deeply in our faith and what God is calling us to be – The Rosary, a memorial service for our members who were our mentors, Mary's Way of the Cross and other prayers encouraging members to participate. Leading up to our Christmas social of food and sing along, the 'Helping Hands' project asked members to donate personal hygiene items. We also provided our annual baskets to the shut-ins of our parish with personalized cards from our neighbouring school students. January and February were a time of preparation for our Valentine Tea. We remembered our shut-ins in the nursing homes by writing Valentine cards. Our members are very involved in community efforts to make a difference in people's lives volunteering at food banks, hospice, soup kitchen, addiction centres and the coldest night of the year.



The 2024 CWL Valentine's Tea at Our Lady of Hope parish was a smashing success. After a few years without it, the excitement of our members and the general congregation was a joy to see. We had plenty of generous donations for our silent auction, sewing table, bake sale and other fundraisers. The freshly made homemade pasta impressed me. My favorite part about volunteering for the Tea was helping the day before making sandwiches. I was surprised to find out how many people think of coming out to make the sandwiches as a yearly tradition! We had great fun and conversation and had the work completed in no time at all. The Tea room looked lovely thanks to our hard-working decorator, and I feel confident that our community will once again be looking forward to the event next year.



At our March General Membership, we prayed Mary's Way of the Cross in the Church. This helped the members to participate in the Stations of the Cross during the Lenten season walking with Mary's suffering as she watched her Son. Members were served chili and had the option of choosing from Beef or Vegetarian chili. The closing prayer was the Prayer to St. Joseph. This was chosen as we celebrate St. Joseph during the month of March. These prayers helped us to focus on Jesus, Mary and Joseph (The Holy family).



- Submitted by Kathleen Niro, member

St. James the Greater, Blind River



A Day of fun in the corn maze in Thessalon, after a presidents meeting in Sault Ste. Marie.



Another successful cookie walk. The love we have for each other is in our smiles.

- Submitted by Rhonda DeGraw, President

Holy Name of Jesus, North Bay

“Our Council is small but mighty”, says Fran Malette, President of Holy Name of Jesus CWL Council. Their members are visible around the church as greeters, ushers and lectors at Mass, sacristans. Many members assist with coffee Sundays, the St. Francis Table (a free meal once a month for those in need, started by the lay order of Franciscans). They assist at the parish Christmas turkey dinner, funeral lunches, Sacramental socials, the Catholic Charities clothes depot at the Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption and decorating the church for the various celebrations. They participated in the VERY successful diocesan food drive!

They offer 2 Student bursaries every year, presented at their CWL awards night in June. A group of knitters meet weekly to make “twiddle muffs” for people with dementia to help keep their restless hands calm, occupied and warm. So far, they have made over 100 of these, donated to various agencies, nursing homes and the hospital. They have now started knitting socks, hats and scarves.



They have had Christmas, St. Patrick’s Day and Mother’s Day get togethers, and an Advent craft workshop where they made natural Christmas centrepieces for our homes. They are having less “meetings” and more “get togethers” as the Diocesan CWL has encouraged to align with the Diocesan theme of JOY (Jesus – Others – Yourself).



- Submitted by Frances Ann Malette, President

St. Jerome's, Sault Ste Marie Reaches Out

Since the role of secretary has evolved to include correspondence as well as recording minutes, it has provided me with a ministry opportunity to reach out to our members in new ways. I enjoy corresponding via letter writing. I have tried to get every member's birthday in order to send them a personal birthday card. Who doesn't love to be remembered on our birthday? As well, I have been sending Valentines cards to those members whose partners now reside with God and to those who are not able to get out. It is a joy to reach out to our members who may not receive much correspondence other than invoices and bills. One husband shared with me that the cards I send are put on the coffee table and his wife, who has some memory loss, will pick them up and enjoy the messages over and over again. She is so pleased to be remembered. That brings me immense joy! Now, someone may ask, who pays for the postage. One of our members graciously donates stamps regularly. Many other members donate the cards, especially the cards that come unsolicited in the mail.



Once my term as secretary is complete, I may ask the executive if I may continue with the correspondence to our birthday celebrants and beloved members who are isolated at home, that is, if the new secretary does not want to do it herself!
Sincerely, Sr. Pat Carter, Secretary

St Jerome Christmas get together

Members of St. Jerome's CWL collected gift cards and money for St. Vincent Place instead of prizes this year. They had a great sing-along and played Pictionary. A good time was had by all. Even life member Betty Nori attended!



- Submitted by Sandra Punch, Past President

Precious Blood Cathedral, Sault Ste. Marie

Snowflake Tea, Bazaar and Bake Sale

On Sunday November 5, 2023, 300 ladies enjoyed delicious baking, scrumptious sandwiches and friendship at their tea, bazaar and bake sale held in their beautifully decorated hall. Planning started in late May to make sure they would put on a great event. Volunteers are so essential to such an endeavor. In all, they had over 70 men and women who generously gave of their time and expertise. The donations of cash, baking, crafts and items for the silent auction were overwhelming. Thank you to all!

They are very happy to report that close to \$8000.00 was raised. Team work made for such a special event.

They are looking forward to their next tea, bazaar and bake sale in November 2024.

- Submitted by Karen McAndrew, Secretary

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St. Alexander's, Chelmsford

CWL members gathered to make lasagna for their fundraising event where proceeds are donated to their council and parish. The ladies always have fun getting together to make lasagna, catch up with one another and share in the gift of sisterhood!

L'amore si misura in piatti cucinati

Translation: *Love is measured in cooked dishes*

Cooking is such an act of love! When we cook for someone, we express our affection through our culinary skills. The phrase "Love is measured in cooked dishes" perfectly captures how the time, effort and passion we put into making a meal for someone reflects our feelings for them.



- Submitted by Cathy Desjardins, member

Past President/Historian Committee Chair

Reawakening

We have just experienced the many emotions of Holy Week and Jesus's passion for our salvation.

As Catholic women and members of the Catholic Women's League of Canada we are busy with spring clean-up – mentally and physically in our personal and spiritual lives.

Our journey should be about change; change of attitude, change of schedule, and change of heart.

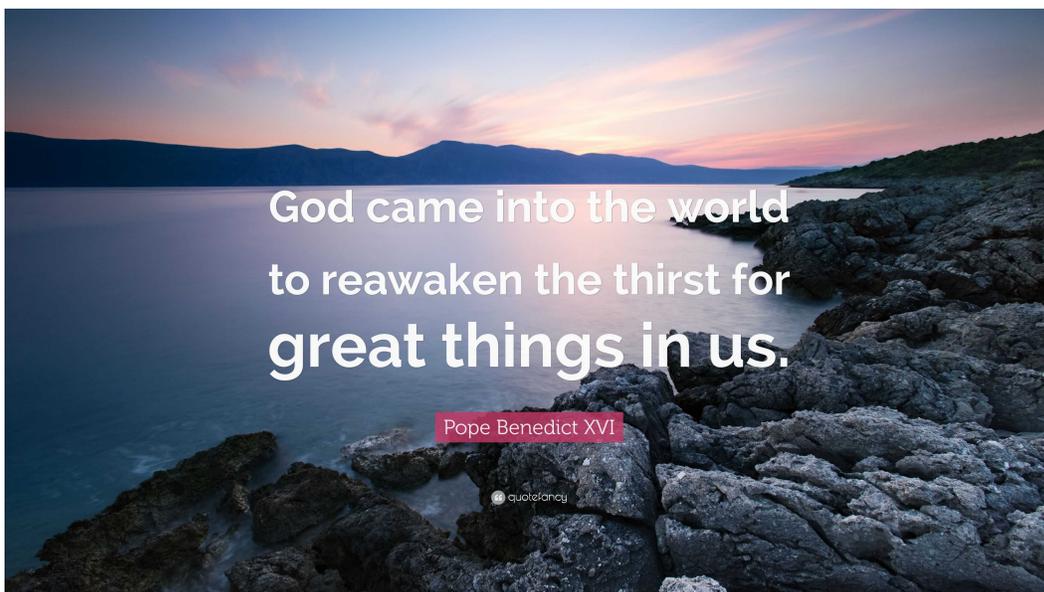
As I get older, I feel the pull of my faith to a more calm and quiet prayer life. The Holy Spirit calls me to spend more time in prayer.

There are many resources available on both the national and provincial websites to explore. You may find something there that will be helpful.

I, personally, like to sit quietly and listen for our Lord to speak to my heart. When I need real focus, I rely on the rosary. The CWL taught me how to pray the rosary and I am most grateful!

As we move into spring and the reawakening of nature after its long winter slumber, let's move with it to reawakening our love of the League and our commitment to helping others as League members.

Submitted by Colleen Perry, OPC Past President/Historian



History, As We Know It

“Under the By-laws incorporated in the amended Constitution of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada approved and passed at the National Convention held at Ottawa, Ontario, it was deemed expedient in 1947 that Provincial Councils of the League should be set up in Canada in order to achieve a high degree of efficiency in bringing about proper, definite and prompt action reasonably expected and demanded of an organization such as ours, and also for the purpose of studying and taking such action as may be deemed prudent upon matters of provincial input”. So, by this amendment of the national constitution, the Ontario Provincial Council was born.

Did you Know this fact? Do you know who the first President of the Ontario Provincial Council was? I invite you to test your knowledge of the Ontario Provincial Council by participating in this quiz...

<https://forms.gle/ajcGeZiut3Wr2aHa6> ...just for fun! All multiple choice once submitted you can see your answers, right or wrong, and get the answers.

History enables us to understand to present and prepare for our future. Embrace your council history. Make it fun! Let’s remember all those wonderful women who have gone before us.

Submitted by Colleen Perry, Ontario Provincial Past President/Historian

Goodbye and thank you!

This will be my last newsletter submission as a member of the Ontario Provincial Council Executive. I was elected in 2011 and have held the positions of Legislation Chair, Communications Chair, Education and Health Chair, Organization Chair, President, and Past President. My term will be complete at the next election in July 2024.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for your support, your commitment to the League and your faith. You are in my prayers always. May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide all members in service to the people of God through faith, service and social justice. See you in church!

Submitted by Colleen Perry, Ontario Provincial Past President/Historian



Our Lady of Good Counsel

The Blessed Virgin Mary was given the title of Our Lady of Good Counsel after a painting said to be miraculous was found in an Augustinian church in Genazzano, Italy in the thirteenth century. The fresco of the image is created on a thick layer of plaster no thicker than an eggshell. It is said that the figures represent Mother and Child after they had returned from the temple where Mary heard the sad prophecies of Simeon. Mary's eyes are half-veiled as though she was lost in contemplation, taking counsel with her God. The Child does not return the gaze of the beholder, as happens in so many pictures, rather He draws our eyes upward to Mary as if to tell us to look for counsel there. If to her was granted the wisdom to counsel her Son, surely she has the wisdom to counsel humanity.

The Genazzano church became a popular place of pilgrimage. Numerous cures were said to take place there. Over the centuries, devotions to Our Lady of Good Counsel grew among saints and Popes. She has been called the Madonna of the Popes. The title, Our Lady of Good Counsel, was added to the Litany of Loreto on April 22, 1903. In 1939, Venerable Pope Pius XII placed his pontificate under the maternal care of Our Lady of Good Counsel. Pope Leo XIII established the white scapular worn by her servants.

Her Feast Day is celebrated on April 26th.

Our Lady of Good Counsel was named the patroness of The Catholic Women's League of Canada at the national convention in 1923. Below is the image used by the League.



Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel, Patroness of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Mary, Our Lady of Good Counsel, filled with the Holy Spirit, you were a disciple of Jesus, your Son.

Intercede with your Son for us that we may be faithful to our baptism, fervent in prayer, and generous in the service we give to our sisters and brothers.

May the spirit of the living God, who graced you with the gift of counsel, lead us in the way of truth and love.

With the help of your prayers, may we come to rejoice forever with

you and the great company of saints in the kingdom of heaven. Amen.

Let all parish councils acknowledge in some way the Feast Day of our patroness. The National Council sponsors the televised Mass on this day. Our National President, Shari Guinta will be doing the reading for the day. Check you local listing to view.

Blessings,
Wilma Vanderzwaag, Spiritual Development Chair



The Year of Prayer

Dr. Josephine Lombardi

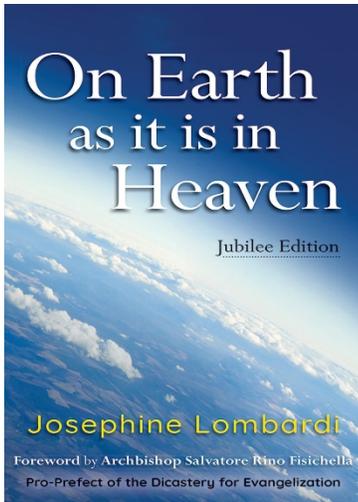
On February 11, 2022, Pope Francis announced preparations for an upcoming Jubilee Year to be celebrated in 2025, with the motto "Pilgrims of Hope." In his letter to Archbishop Salvatore Rino Fisichella, Pro-Prefect for the Dicastery for Evangelization, for the Jubilee Year of 2025, he requested a preparatory year to take place in 2024, focusing on the need for prayer, especially reflection on the Lord's Prayer: "In this time of preparation, I would greatly desire that we devote 2024, the year preceding the Jubilee event, to a great "symphony" of prayer. *In a word, may it be an intense year of prayer in which hearts are opened to receive the outpouring of God's grace and to make the "Our Father," the prayer Jesus taught us, the life programme of each of his disciples.*"

As a contribution to this Year of Prayer, I have prepared a Jubilee Edition of my book, *On Earth as it is in Heaven*. My hope is that this book will be a resource for those seeking to deepen their understanding of the profound relevance and spiritual insight of the Lord's Prayer, helping them to see the logic and the flow of the petitions and how one petition builds on the previous one, setting us up to experience fulfillment and authentic freedom. Each section analyzes one line of the Lord's Prayer, followed by reflection questions and a short prayer, an ideal resource for personal or small group reflection.

I am grateful to Dr. Anne Jamieson, the executive director of the Institute for Catholic Education in Ontario, for encouraging me to write the new edition, and to Archbishop Salvatore Rino Fisichella, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization at the Vatican, for preparing the foreword for the book and for his endorsement.

I offer this reflection on the Lord's Prayer as a contribution to this very important time of preparation. My hope is that this book will be a part of our study of the "life programme" that is revealed in this very important prayer.

The book is available for purchase through [NovalisPublishing](https://www.novalispublishing.com) or [Amazon.ca/Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.ca). Please note the Kindle version on Amazon is the first edition from 2010. The new edition is available in print.



If your parish or group would like to book me for an in person or virtual presentation or retreat on the Lord's Prayer, please contact me at josephine.lombardi@utoronto.ca.

REGISTRATION OPEN

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
OFFICE FOR EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS
WEBINAR SERIES

THE YEAR OF PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR THE JUBILEE 2025
WITH DR. JOSEPHINE LOMBARDI

A GREAT SYMPHONY OF PRAYER:
The Our Father
AS A PROGRAMME OF LIFE

2 APRIL 1. Why did Jesus address God as Father?	TUESDAYS IN APRIL 2024 1:00-2:30 PM EDT	9 APRIL 2. Seeking God's Kingdom & Knowing God's Will
23 APRIL 3. Daily Bread & the Gift of Forgiveness		30 APRIL 4. Managing Trials & Resisting Evil

The Ontario Provincial Council
of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Invites You

To Join Us for an Evening
With Our Spiritual Advisor
The Most Rev. Bishop Thomas Dowd
and the Rosary



May 22, 2024
7:00pm

Please register at :

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvd-6sqz0vG9T8BjxYtN8tbD6hxB0THwf4>

Recognition, honour, respect

BY BISHOP THOMAS DOWD, CATHOLIC REGISTER SPECIAL

March 20, 2024

  One person likes this. [Sign Up](#) to see what your friends think of this.

I first heard about Holy Cross Mission in Wiikwemkoong not long after I became Bishop of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie. My first official visit to the Mission was to celebrate confirmations and to bless a new altar.

The ceremony was to take place shortly after Pope Francis came to Canada on his penitential pilgrimage related to the Indian residential schools. I got word that the newly elected Chief of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory wanted to speak at the end. We went a bit further and received her using the Church protocols for the presence of a head of state at a liturgy. This took some people by surprise, but the time of preparation for Pope Francis' visit had taught me of the deep desire of First Nations to be recognized and treated as proper nations, engaging in a "nation to nation" relationship with Canada. Chief Rachel Mantitowabi understood the gesture we proposed, telling me that it wasn't an honour for her, but a sign of respect for her people. Her words at the end of the liturgy were very moving. Evoking Matthew 5:24, I proposed that the altar we just blessed be seen as an "altar of reconciliation."

When the 150th anniversary of Bishop Jean-François Jamot's arrival in northern Ontario was approaching, I thought it would be another chance to demonstrate respect. Bishop Jamot had been installed in a ceremony held Aug. 2, 1874, in Wiikwemkoong. It was the earliest (and, at the time, largest) Catholic community in northern Ontario. The Chrism Mass seemed to be a good occasion for a commemoration: the bulk of our priests would be present, and delegates from around the diocese could come representing the parishes. It would be a chance to return to our spiritual roots, and to give thanks for the faith and generosity of spirit of so many of the Anishinaabe people.

Still, it was important that the sudden arrival of 150 priests and delegates from outside the territory not be seen as an imposition, but as an opportunity for mutual encounter. I wrote to Chief Manitowabi, and in a meeting offered her a gift of tobacco, expressing my hope that the Chrism Mass might be well received and be an opportunity for partnership. The Band, in response, organized a morning of cultural presentations, so that all the delegates at the Chrism Mass might go home enriched. The vast majority of delegates had probably never been to Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, and even just the simple fact of showing up empowered them to become bridge builders.

I believe the Catholic Church has a lot to learn from the struggles of the various First Nations for self-determination. Simply put, the Church has herself long struggled to have her legitimate sovereignty respected by the secular powers of the day. This includes in Canada, both in the past and in recent years. The Loyola High School case from Montréal showed an example of a secular government agency attempting, *ultra vires*, to tell a Catholic school how to do Catholic teaching. Still, I sometimes find we Catholics have adopted a "colonized" mindset, meekly accepting intrusions into our affairs by secular powers, or worse, being transformed into agents of that power, as we saw in the history of residential schools.

As Catholics, we cannot follow this path without losing ourselves. Jesus is called "Christ" because the oil of chrism was used to anoint the Hebrew kings of old. Jesus is not an ideology, but rather our King, and he must be our first loyalty! Of course, as we will hear on Good Friday, His Kingdom is not of this world — but it is definitely in it, present in the Church. As a diocesan bishop, it is my honour to be an ambassador of this Kingdom. This includes to the First Nations on whose traditional territory my diocese is located.

A nation-to-nation relationship between the Church and First Nations has precedents going back to 1610, as recorded in a wampum collar preserved by the Mi'kmaq people. The Anishinaabe concept of treaty, recorded and preserved in wampum, parallels the Hebrew concept of covenant. The foundations are there, so perhaps some day we will have new treaty relationships between the Church and First Nations, in mutual recognition, honour and respect.

"Community Life & Truth and Reconciliation News" ...

BEE COMPASSION INTO ACTION CHALLENGE

In April 2023, our committee issued a challenge for our **Go Make a Difference** project.

Members were asked to form a team, choose one topic (human trafficking, homelessness, truth & reconciliation), explore the topic, become aware of what is available in their community, and send in a survey by December 12th (Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe).

We are thrilled to have received **19** completed surveys from:

St. Francis de Sales (Smiths Falls)/Blessed Sacrament (Lombardy) CWL - Kingston Diocese
St. Joseph CWL (Corunna) - London Diocese
Immaculate Heart of Mary (Grand Bend) - London Diocese
Our Lady of Mercy (Sarnia) - London Diocese
St. John the Divine - London Diocese
Mary Immaculate Parish CWL- London Diocese
St. John the Baptist (Amherstburg) - London Diocese
St. John the Evangelist (Woodslee) - London Diocese
St. Michael's CWL (Bright's Grove) - London Diocese
St. Michael's CWL (Ridgetown) - London Diocese
Holy Name of Jesus CWL (Essex) - London Diocese
St. Simon/St. Jude CWL (Belle River) - London Diocese
Our Lady of Good Counsel CWL, St. Anthony's CWL - Chalk River, Our Lady of Snows CWL - Stonecliffe - Pembroke Diocese
*St. Lawrence O'Toole CWL - Pembroke Diocese **photo attached (with permission)*
St. Michael's CWL (Douglas) - Pembroke Diocese
St. Andrew the Apostle/St. Kevin/St. Mary CWLs (Welland) - St. Catharine's Diocese
Our Mother of Perpetual Help CWL - Timmins Diocese
Immaculate Conception Parish (Woodbridge) - Toronto Archdiocese
St. Gregory CWL - Toronto Archdiocese

Team names included: **The Barry's Bay Bay-BEE's ... St. Michael Crusaders ... Busy Bees ... Mother's Hope ... St. Michael's Homelessness Challenge ... Living Compassionately = "Being Compassionate"**

What follows are summaries of a few comments from each of the surveys submitted.

Human Trafficking - 1 survey

- invited community (approximately 140 attended), high school/elementary students (grades 7 & 8), and parents to an evening of education and discussion on human trafficking. The theme was, "*Help keep your family and community safe from violent crimes*", and included a presentation by Regional Police Major Crimes investigators

- learned of a non-profit, charitable agency working in partnership with Regional Police and O.P.P. providing support/assistance to persons victimized by human trafficking
- learned about the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline (24 hours, 7 days a week)
- learned that human trafficking exists in our communities and it is a huge money-making business

Homelessness (14 surveys)

- learned of a non-profit agency that supports homeless youth and young adults
- learned that a lack of housing is a cause of homelessness
- learned that their community currently has four people living in tents
- members were enlightened about programs available to homeless youth, and were informed about how to make a difference including donating gift cards
- invited a representative of St. Vincent De Paul to learn more about their programs; council now collects items at their general meetings to restock supplies
- learned about an organization working closely with those living in encampments
- members attended city council meeting about housing crisis for the homeless
- invited speaker from Homelessness/Affordable Housing Team to CWL meeting; Family of Parishes established a Homelessness/Affordable Housing Team and members attended meetings; information shared with parishioners/members
- items were donated to the *Winter Warmth* initiative
- learned about a Homeless Hub program within their community
- a deacon spoke about homelessness and council fundraises for Mission Thrift Store
- learned of Affordable Housing Alliance; House Sharing initiative for seniors in their homes requiring house/yard maintenance; and Out of the Cold initiative
- gained awareness of the challenges in finding and keeping affordable housing
- at Christmas, councils jointly participated in cash/gift card collection for the homeless (raised nearly \$500), rather than having draw prizes/gifts for members
- a council learned of a group fundraising to renovate space for a homeless shelter, and discussed how to assist. Winter wear items were made available at the library in a bin that was kept full all winter with donations from their parish
- researched programs in local community and chose to focus on a food bank
- goods were collected for local homeless shelter (Inn of the Good Shepherd)
- one council continues to support Our Lady of Guadalupe Home of Windsor that provides shelter/support to pregnant women/new mothers who have nowhere to go
- a council learned of Street Help and Windsor Youth Center (and invited directors to speak at their meetings) and of The Soup Shack (mobile trailer providing meals)
- a council learned of Street Outreach (through St. Vincent De Paul), and of Hiatus House (and donated items in lieu of gifts at their Christmas potluck)
- a council used a 'learn, listen, act' model; became aware of homeless individuals in their family of parishes; hosted a Soup Kitchen; guest speakers spoke on homelessness/community needs; parish priest spoke on Indigenous needs, working as a chaplain in prison system, importance of circles, smudging and their stories

Truth and Reconciliation (4 surveys)

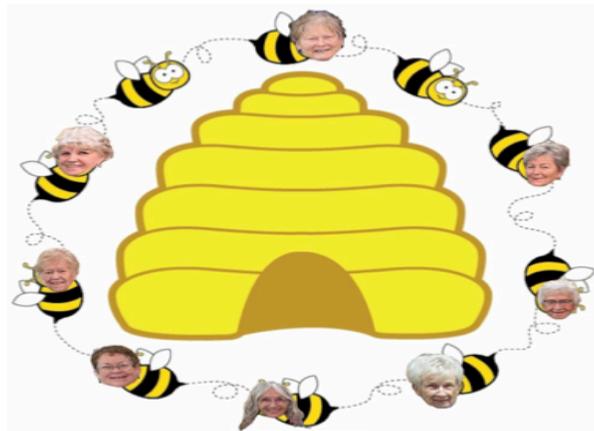
- learned about treaties and how many there are in Ontario (46); number of First Nation communities in their diocese and in Ontario (133); and the 94 Calls to Action
- one council learned about the Indigenous Blanket Exercise presenting an historical timeline of First Nation, Metis, Inuit ("FNMI") people and how they have been, and are currently, impacted by non-indigenous government/other organizations
- one council learned about a Truth & Reconciliation Walk and a Pow Wow in their community and will encourage members to participate next year

- made a connection with local First Nation, and invited member of First Nation and FNMI lead from Catholic District School Board to take part in this challenge
- one team remarked, "*We are busy people and it is gratifying to see so many make the effort to support and learn about our Indigenous sisters and brothers.*"
- learned historical facts and how they impacted FNMI; were shocked at the duration of residential schools; learned their students receive education about FNMI people
- members educated themselves about Saint Kateri Tekakwitha
- learned there are 13 First Nation communities including Metis in their diocese
- found out about a local Friendship Centre and Child Care and Family Centre
- members attended a truth and reconciliation speaker series at Family Healing Services which included a discussion on healing together
- members learned about a house building project centred around homelessness. Attended an Indigenous vendors market with food/crafts and artisans speaking about their history; an Indigenous person showed them how to play the drum
- hosted an evening with drumming lesson, Teaching, and Indigenous crafts with First Nation member; investigated a Preschool Orange Shirt "Every Child Matters Day" drumming session; became familiar with a 'proud Algonquin Community'; became more aware of the "history, culture, heritage, elder teachings, drumming ceremonies, art and political issues around Truth and Reconciliation".

We sincerely wish to thank everyone who participated ... well done!

Provincial 2nd V.P./Community Life Chairperson Karen McDonald
Sub-committee, Pat Weller & Kathleen Niro

BEE Compassion Into Action



The Barry's Bay Bay-BEE's

AROUND THE PROVINCE



Greetings of love!

We would like to share with you our two photos, with our red and green themes.

“Our Council continues to foster our sisterhood at our general meetings. On February 12, 2024, we wore red to show our love for each other on Valentine’s Day. On March 11, 2024, our green theme honours St Patrick. “Here I am Lord, send me”.

Thanks and God bless,
Thérèse Baduria
Past President, CWL St Joseph Council, Scarborough, Ontario



This year's Ste. Anne's CWL Lenten Project was our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper which raised \$1000. Donations of \$500 each were made to Matthew House and Street Help. Here is a photo of Ste. Anne CWL President, Linda Proctor, presenting the donation at Matthew House. Thank you, everyone, for supporting our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide us!

Ozelle Case
Ste. Anne CWL, Tecumseh, ON
Communications and Social Justice

St Simon St Jude CWL, Belle River, Ont. – League Lingo article
March 16, 2024
Jackie Gomes, pres.

On March 1st 2024, our council had the privilege of hosting the World Day Of Prayer at St Simon St Jude church with our sisters in our ecumenical group of churches that included St John the Evangelist Catholic Woodslee, St Andrew’s United Comber, Visitation Catholic Comber and Woodslee United, Woodslee. Together, we presented the program prepared by the Women’s Inter-Church Council in an interactive meaningful prayerful service, the theme this year being “I Beg You...Bear With One Another in Love”, in support of the Christian Women of Palestine in their quest for peace for all in their region. Our Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Mark Poulin shared words of reflection on the Gospel selected, pertinent to this day’s theme. With contributions from our event partners, we displayed several items representative of Palestine culture. From embroidery, plants such as poppies, cactus and jasmine, and food items shared at the luncheon such as pita bread, hummus, olives and citrus fruit. It was a rewarding experience of sisterhood and friendship with women of other Christian denominations as we united in prayer for peace in the middle east.



St. James Council of Ottawa Cornwall Diocese were busy bees this past week preparing Easter cards and gifts for the residents of Maxville Manor. Submitted by Lucy Rolland





The CWL All Saints, Strathroy hosted our second annual Valentine's Tea on a wonderful Sunday afternoon (Feb.11th). The tea was an open invitation for all women of our family of parishes. There was no charge to attend. We posted it in the bulletin, on our Facebook page and email lists, put posters up at all three churches and handed out flyers to all women at church one weekend prior.



The turnout was tremendous, and much bigger than expected! Over 115 came, many new from the year before. We had a meet and greet activity, played a bit of trivia, laughed at a few jokes, and gave away door prizes. Women were treated to tea, punch, finger sandwiches and squares. The robustness of the event has encouraged us to repeat it. Next year we will add a free-will donation component to support the woman's shelter in town.



The CWL All Saints, Strathroy recently participated in supporting a local youth centre. 37 Frank Street is an initiative of a Christian organization that opens its doors to homeless youth (teen to 24). They provide meals, a warm (or cool in the summer) space to sit, visit and rest, phone charging spaces, temporary lockers, laundry facilities and in the winter have cots (off-site) for up to five on the coldest nights. Our CWL already provides meals once a month to them.

A large fundraiser for them is one affiliated with Coldest Night of the Year. This year our group had a team of 9 members collecting donations, with 7 doing the 2k walk. We had 59 individual donors and along with our council's \$250 donation, raised \$2875! By focusing our efforts outwards, God multiplied our own donation over 10-fold. There is great power in asking! We look forward to participating again next year.

Respectfully submitted by
Shelley Stepanuik, President

*EDITOR'S NOTE - Those sashes are pretty sweet! Awesome idea!! Love how they tie on the side!





St Pat's – Cobalt – Timmins Diocese

Each year St Pat's hosts a Vendors Market; members of the community can rent a table from the CWL and sell their crafts. They have great support from the community.



Our Lady of the Angels Council of Ottawa Cornwall Diocese held a very successful Community Breakfast and Egg Hunt with the Easter Bunny in





A small council with a lot of heart and serving the community with big smiles! Even having the younger generation/grandsons helping – a great way to keep the joy of serving alive.

Submitted by Lynn Pomainville





I found this article one day as I was pondering now what – you know, now that Easter is over how am I suppose to be spiritual? The Power of the Resurrection is a short read but a powerful read and I have read it over and over to be reminded of what I am called to do.

<https://catholicvoiceomaha.com/the-power-of-the-resurrection-is-at-work-right-now/>



Paddy's Passion

Spring is in the air, time to clean out our closets, cupboards, garages and sheds. Declutter and make our lives simpler.

- Think about your overall goal and what kind of lifestyle you want to have
- Break up the work into manageable chunks and start with the room that will give you the most satisfaction
- Sort your stuff into three piles: keep, donate, and trash
- Don't worry about the price or sentimental value of the items you are discarding
- Get rid of duplicates and items that you don't use or need
- Pay special attention to surfaces and keep them clear of clutter
- Find creative storage solutions and make your storage spaces beautiful
- Rethink how you use your spaces and optimize them for your needs
- Ask for help from friends or professionals if you feel overwhelmed
- Declutter your schedule and life as well as your home

Decluttering—a seemingly mundane task that involves sorting through our possessions, deciding what to keep, and what to let go—can indeed **transform your life** in profound ways. Let's delve into why decluttering is more than just tidying up:

1. **Calmer Environment:** When you declutter, you create a **calmer and more serene** living space. Imagine walking into a room where everything has its place, and there's no chaos. **It instantly reduces stress and promotes a sense of well-being**
2. **Positive Impact on Emotions:** Cluttered spaces can evoke negative emotions like **anxiety** and dissatisfaction. **By decluttering, you remove these emotional triggers and pave the way for a more positive mindset**
3. **Functional Living:** A decluttered home functions better. Items are grouped logically, making it easier to find what you need. **No more frantic searches for misplaced keys or lost paperwork**
4. **Empowerment:** Decluttering isn't just about discarding things; it's about taking control. **As you decide what stays and what goes, you empower yourself to shape your environment and life**
5. **Holistic Impact:** Interestingly, decluttering often has a ripple effect. Clearing physical clutter may inspire you to reassess other aspects of your life—relationships, habits, and goals. **It's a holistic approach to self-care and intentionality**

Remember, decluttering isn't a quick fix. It's about making lasting changes that align with your goals and values. So, embrace the process, and let it transform your life—one organized drawer at a time!

Paddy Fitzgerald Nolan
Communications Sub-Committee

WELCOME TO LISA'S LIBRARY



If you would like to share one of your favourite books or a review to one of our picks, we would love your feedback please send an email to emmacwl4life@aol.com or lisafillinghamcwl@outlook.com.

Children:

When We Are Kind Hardcover – Picture Book, Oct. 13 2020
by [Monique Gray Smith](#) (Author), [Nicole Neidhardt](#) (Illustrator)

"Notably centering Indigenous families and characters of color in personal and communal activities—and encouraging readers to evaluate their actions toward others."—*Publishers Weekly*

When We Are Kind celebrates simple acts of everyday kindness and encourages children to explore how they feel when they initiate and receive acts of kindness in their lives. Celebrated author Monique Gray Smith has written many books on the topics of resilience and reconciliation and communicates an important message through carefully chosen words for readers of all ages. Beautifully illustrated by artist Nicole Neidhardt, this book encourages children to be kind to others and to themselves.

[Amazon.ca](#) [chapters.ca](#)

What is Truth, Betsy?: A Story of Truth – Picture Book
by [Katherena Vermette](#) (Author), [Irene Kuziw](#) (Illustrator)

Miskwaadesi is learning so much in school. She is learning about the world she lives in and what it means to be a part of it. However, when her class learns about the teaching Truth, Miskwaadesi doesn't understand. Her teacher Betsy asks Miskwaadesi to think about what is in her life and what she knows to be true. Miskwaadesi knows she is a girl and that she is Anishinaabekwens. Together, they explore what the teaching Truth is about.

In this thoughtful story, an Anishinaabe girl explores the meaning of Truth and what she knows is true about the world she lives in. A pronunciation guide for the Anishnaabemowin words can be found at the back of the book.

Rich in culture and grounded in traditional knowledge, Katherena Vermette's *The Seven Teachings Stories* series features themes of love, wisdom, humility, courage, respect, honesty, and truth. Contemporary Indigenous children explore the Seven Teachings of the Anishinaabe through stories of home and family that will look familiar to all young readers in these books for ages 3-5.
[Amazon.ca](#)

Adults:

Jesus: A Pilgrimage
by [James Martin](#)

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER. WINNER OF THE 2015 CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION BOOK AWARD.

“James Martin’s riveting new meditation on Jesus is one of the best books I’ve read in years—on any subject.” — Mary Karr, author of *Lit*

James Martin, SJ, gifted storyteller and *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything*, brings the Gospels to life and invites believers and seekers alike to experience Jesus through Scripture, prayer, and travel.

Father Martin ushers you into Jesus’ life and times and shows us how Jesus speaks to us today through combining fascinating insights of historical Jesus studies with profound spiritual insights about the Christ of faith, recreating the world of first-century Galilee and Judea.

Martin also brings together the most up-to-date Scripture scholarship, wise spiritual reflections, and lighthearted stories about traveling through the Holy Land with a fellow (and funny) Jesuit, visiting important sites in the life of Jesus of Nazareth.

Stories about Jesus’ astonishing life and ministry—clever parables that upended everyone’s expectations, incredible healings that convinced even skeptics, nature miracles that dazzled the dumbstruck disciples—can seem far removed from our own daily lives but in *Jesus* you will come to know him as Father Martin knows him: Messiah and Savior, as well as friend and brother.

Amazon.ca chapters.ca

Speaking Our Truth: A Journey of Reconciliation
by [Monique Gray Smith](#) (Author)

Canada's relationship with its Indigenous people has suffered as a result of both the residential school system and the lack of understanding of the historical and current impact of those schools. Healing and repairing that relationship requires education, awareness and increased understanding of the legacy and the impacts still being felt by Survivors and their families. Guided by acclaimed Indigenous author Monique Gray Smith, readers will learn about the lives of Survivors and listen to allies who are putting the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission into action.

Amazon.ca chapters.ca



For those of you who are on facebook we do have a dedicated page for the Ontario Provincial Council, please come and give us a like! I realize a lot of dioceses and councils have their own facebook pages which is a great form of communications. However, we don't always get to see everything you all posted and as your sisters in the league we would love to share in your joys and be there for you in your tribulations.

<https://www.facebook.com/cwl.on.ca>

If you would like me to share your news on the facebook page please email me at Emmacwl4life@aol.com. Make sure pictures are JPEG format ☺

Don't forget to check out our website regularly at www.cwl.on.ca the OPC executive will be sharing all the pertaining information to their chair there.

If you would like to post something in the newsletter please send an email to Madame President Linda Squarzolo presidentontario@gmail.com and cc myself at emmacwl4life@aol.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

...submitted by Emma Rose Rayburn OPC Communications Chair

