

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

OTTAWA DIOCESAN COUNCIL

COMMUNIQUÉ # 1

SEPTEMBER 24, 2011

TO: PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

FROM: HEATHER SISK, DIOCESAN PRESIDENT

Many seek an audience with a ruler, but it is from the Lord that man gets justice.

Proverbs 29:26

Well, here it is September and we're all rested, rejuvenated and ready to take on our CWL events with enthusiasm and fervour. I was privileged to attend the Provincial Convention in Hamilton in July and the National Convention in Toronto in August. Full reports of these conventions are being distributed at the September 24th Executive Meeting. I came away from these conventions with a sense of joy, pride, even excitement. Each convention was unique in its own way, but they were both faith-filled and fun-filled and I came home fulfilled. I learned, I prayed, I ate and I laughed. I enjoyed the company of old friends and I met new ones. We made plans and shared stories. We wished more of you could have been there with us. Having said that, I would like to take the opportunity to urge your councils as you do your budgets for next year to try to find funds that will allow at least some (or even one) of your members to attend a convention at either the Provincial or National level. It will be money well spent by your council.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Executive Meeting and Pot Luck Lunch on September 24th at Holy Spirit Parish in Stittsville. As will be the case with most of our events over the next 2 years, we will be focusing on the National Theme "Centred on Faith and Justice". Our guest speaker will be Patricia Marsden-Dole, the social justice coordinator for the Archdiocese. She will be speaking on Pope Benedict's Encyclical 'Caritas in Veritate' and her role in the Archdiocese. The presidents have been asked to do their reports on what initiatives their councils have undertaken that would fall under the topic "Women Against Poverty". I'm hoping the day will be rewarding and uplifting to get our CWL year off to a good start.

We are once again offering our Leadership and Public Speaking Course this fall from October 5th to November 16th at Holy Spirit Parish in Stittsville. I encourage anyone who has not taken this course to do so. It is well worth the time.

Another highlight this fall will be our Advent Retreat on November 26th. It is being held at the Diocesan Centre this year. The retreat master will be Sister Jane McDonell, a Loretto sister from Toronto. Her presentation will be Come Wisdom and Light and it promises to be a faith-filled day of reflection as we enter into Advent. More information and Registration forms will be distributed at the September 24th Executive Meeting.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION 2012

I am greatly concerned that we do not yet have a venue for our Annual Diocesan Convention on May 12, 2012. Plans should already be underway. I know a lot of councils do not have a big enough hall to host the convention, but I'm sure most parishes have schools affiliated with them – look at the possibility of hosting in the school gym. A few years ago the ladies in Almonte hosted the convention at the Civitan Hall. Other Dioceses in Ontario have taken the steps to assign councils to host their Diocesan Conventions. I'm hoping we won't have to take that step.

I will be attending the Provincial Meeting in Toronto from September 29th to October 1st. I'll share what I learn there in my next Communiqué in November.

I am looking forward to working with my "Team" of Diocesan Officers over the next 2 years. I'm hoping to promote our National Theme "Centred on Faith and Justice" as we go about our work in service to the members of the Catholic Women's League in the Archdiocese of Ottawa and lovingly embrace our motto "For God and Canada" in all we do.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide us and bless us.

Your sister in Christ,

Heather