

FAITH IN ACTION



**NEWSLETTER OF THE
OTTAWA DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF
THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA**

MARCH 2018 ISSUE

Table of Contents

Reflection from our Spiritual Advisor.....	3
A Message from our President.....	4
President-Elect and Organization Chair.....	5
1st Vice President and Community Life Chair.....	6
2nd Vice President and Education & Health Chair.....	7
Spiritual Development Chair.....	8
Christian Family Life Chair.....	9
Communications Chair.....	10
Resolutions and Legislation Chair.....	11
Past President and Historian.....	12
Life Member Liaison.....	13

Reflection from our Spiritual Advisor

Fr. Jessimar Cavan-Tapia, Mount Carmel Parish

Under the guidance of Our Lady of Good Counsel, the Catholic Women's League (CWL) aims to unite all Catholic women to be an example of God's love and compassion. They do so through prayer, acts of charity, supporting the needy and respect for life.

On Saturday, March 3, 2018 – the First Saturday of the month – Pope Francis instituted a feast for Our Lady, Mother of the Church. It is symbolic that this announcement was made on the day reserved for the Blessed Virgin Mary. The liturgical memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church which is currently celebrated in Poland and Argentina, will now be celebrated throughout all the Catholic Church on the day after Pentecost Sunday. Cardinal Robert Sarah, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, said that the new feast emphasizes “the importance of the mystery of Mary's spiritual motherhood, which from the awaiting of the Spirit at Pentecost has never ceased to take motherly care of the pilgrim Church on earth.”

It is very fitting that this new feast be celebrated immediately after Pentecost. Mary was present at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles. Pentecost is the birth of the Church. Our Blessed Mother was with the Apostles when the Holy Spirit descended upon them. This symbolizes that the Virgin Mary is not only the Mother of Christ but the Mother of the Church since she was there for the birth of the Church.

Pope Francis' decree points out the need for the veneration of the Virgin Mary as the Mother of Christ and Mother of the Church. The decree points to the feminine dimension of the Church that the members of the Catholic Women's League exemplify.

Pope Francis ends his decree with the hope that “this devotion might encourage the growth of the maternal sense of the Church in the pastors, religious and faithful, as well as a growth of genuine Marian piety. He wants all the faithful to remember that “growth in the Christian life must be anchored to the Mystery of the Cross, to the oblation of Christ in the Eucharistic Banquet and to the Mother of the Redeemer and Mother of the Redeemed, the Virgin who makes her offering to God.”

To this end, I encourage all members of the Catholic Women's League to promote this feast of Our Lady, Mother of the Church.

A Message from our President

Mrs. Onagh Dooley, Our Lady of Fatima Parish

The Ontario Provincial Council Winter meeting, held February 1-3, in Toronto, started on Thursday evening with dinner, followed by a beautiful half hour prayer service prepared by Anna Tremblay, Provincial Spiritual Development chairperson. The highlight of the evening was listening to our own Joanna Sisk relate her experiences with the homeless people she met and worked with during her years "on the streets". Her presentation, slide show and sometimes heartfelt, sometimes funny stories, made very clear to us, that she gave, as she still does, 100% of her time, energy and love, to those she met.

A brief list of what was reported and/or discussed:

- To-date National has received membership dues for 26,102 members.
- The insurance for personal liability for all provincial and diocesan executive at a cost of \$230 per annum per diocese will have to be added to our next year's budget. National pays general liability for all parish council members..
- Four million have been killed by abortion since 1969 – a staggering figure. We are encouraged to pray a novena to Our Lady of Guadeloupe for the unborn
- OPC received 11 Social Justice Award applications this year..
- Continue to support the Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Memorial Bursary fund which provides financial support for seminarians in Ontario.
- Plans are well under way for the 71st Ontario Provincial Convention in Toronto from July 7-11 and hope many from Ottawa will attend.

In our Winter magazine, Margaret Ann Jacobs, National President, wrote about the National Executive's experience at their Winter meeting when they had "the privilege of experiencing the KAIROS Blanket Exercise and a trip to St. Alexandre Parish on Sagkeeng First Nation". Margaret Ann described the event as "life changing".

We are encouraged to continue our efforts to promote and work for quality palliative care as well as homelessness, poverty, trafficking, pornography and family. "It was decided that mental health should be the national focus for 2018". More information will be forthcoming from members of the national officers. Margaret Ann says "Regardless of the focus you choose to work on in your League activity, listen to what God wants, choose activities that you can achieve with success, tackle them one step at a time and find your passion"

As we are affiliated with the Women's Inter Church Council, we can spread the word about "Black Thursday" - wear black on Thursdays in solidarity of ending rape and violence in our world. I will have buttons for sale at our meetings.

As we are affiliated with the Womens' Inter Church Council, we can spread the word about "Black T

I'm looking forward to meeting all of you at our pre convention executive meeting on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 9 a.m., at St. Ignatius the Martyr parish hall, 518 Donald Street, where we will discuss the three forthcoming resolutions to be presented at our convention this year.

President-Elect and Organization Chair

Mrs. Lynn Lavictoire, Annunciation of the Lord Parish

Thank you all for completing and submitting your online annual reports surveys and membership! They are an awesome testament of our commitment as members of the Catholic Women's League!

Success stories from those reports that witness growth in membership:

- ◆ Always felt welcomed and participated in open discussion.
- ◆ Included members and non-members in our fundraisers that brought a wonderful event of sisterhood and laughter. This was a focus that brought us all together.
- ◆ Our fundraisers gave our council exposure to other women in the parish who have yet to become members.
- ◆ Witnessed a growing CWL interest at our fundraisers which resulted in new memberships.
- ◆ Our members came to life when they worked together on a common goal and at the same time made a positive difference in the life of the League.
- ◆ Having our Spiritual Advisor present at our monthly meetings encourages new members to join.
- ◆ Used enthusiastic personal invitations and attracted new members.
- ◆ Kept our meetings on task and new members or visitors were acknowledged.
- ◆ No member was made to feel she MUST participate – no pressure – was encouraged to share in a task.
- ◆ After working on the annual report, we noticed we should take advantage of the many resources available to us from the national office.
- ◆ We took part in school events e.i., the Rosary.
- ◆ Yearly newsletter was sent out with a calendar of upcoming activities and envelope for membership.

In the Winter 2018 edition of The Canadian League magazine, National President-Elect and Organization Chairperson Anne Gorman submitted an article called "Recruitment: Easy as 1,2,3,4." She reviewed the four types of membership available which can help potential new members find a good fit, namely:

1. **Fully active members:** pay their membership fees and take part in all aspects of the monthly activities of the council.
2. **Partially active members:** pay their membership fees and wish to contribute, especially to specific tasks, when they have time.
3. **Financially supportive members:** pay their membership fees but cannot take part currently for specific reasons; however, they wish to support the local and national organization and wish to keep current on League activities through The Canadian League.
4. **Prayer partners:** pay membership fees and take part by praying for members and are included in the prayer life of the council.

There is a place for every woman in The League!

1st Vice President and Community Life Chair

Mrs. Rosanne Nadon, St. Martin dePorres Parish

This story was sent to me from Audrey Shelton, Timmins Diocesan Council's president, to share with others. We need to change the channel on how we view the homeless and this story gives us something to think about.

"Driving home from work, I regularly see panhandlers standing at the freeway off-ramp. I hesitate to find Christ in them or give them money. For one thing, it's a dangerous place to stand. I'm suspicious about how my money will be spent. It could be a scam. Plus I do plenty of other charitable works.

Most days it's someone different. But there's one "regular," a young man with varying cardboard signs. Guilt used to fill me as I tried not to make eye contact and drove past. "I can't help every homeless person in my path," a voice in my head said. "But you have so much," another inner voice countered. At home I stocked my glove box with a granola bar and a bottled water. That would be better than money, right? When I offered the water, he chugged it immediately. Gratitude was obvious. But how could I remember to restock my glove box every day?

The next time I saw him, I had nothing to give. His sign said, "Grateful for anything except dirty looks." I smiled; he smiled back. I rolled down the window. "Great sign," I said.

I can't remember our brief conversation, but I looked to the passenger seat to see if I had anything to give. I saw an old umbrella, and rain was predicted. I have others, but this one was a gift from a previous employer. I hesitated only a moment and asked if he could use it. He nodded. Soon I saw my umbrella above his smiling face.

That night it poured in Sacramento. I thought of my beloved umbrella, but more, I prayed for homeless people sleeping out that night.

Someone told me that Pope Francis encouraged us to give money to homeless people, without worrying about how they spend it. I decided for one month to give a dollar to every homeless person I met. I never expected a transformation to take place inside me.

I began to see people as deep joy took root in me with each dollar given. My fear of being overwhelmed by hands out was unfounded. In fact, I had to look for cups in front of downcast eyes that turned up with surprise when I gave my pittance.

It felt good. But more than that, I was no longer judgmental or afraid. I was reminded of a quote associated with St. Vincent de Paul: "It is only for your love alone that the poor will forgive you the bread you give to them."

I continued to watch for Christ in the disguise of the homeless poor. A few days later, I saw him. The young man at the freeway off-ramp had a new sign: "Hit me with a quarter, and I'll be glad." He was looking at his phone. I reached out with a dollar. I asked his name and gave mine.

"Who are you talking to?" I asked. "My mom in Reno" The light changed, and I drove off.

For days, no one was at the off-ramp. Another homeless fellow said days later that the police were passing out fines. My thoughts surprised me: "Where is my friend?"

I don't know what's going to happen next in this one-minute-at-a-stoplight relationship.

Giving something to someone in need "is always right," the Pope said. It should be done with respect and compassion while looking into the person's eyes.

2nd Vice President and Education & Health Chair

Mrs. Sandra Blais, Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

Education:

Although there are many successes in our Catholic schools, as apparent in our annual reports, it would be a benefit to increase active support in the areas of: breakfast/lunch programs, clothing drives; donating school supplies or tutoring. There is also a need for those who have the ability and desire to assist those wanting to improve their literacy skills. We are encouraged to contact our local schools.

Health:

Two Month of March Awareness Campaigns are: Prevention of Child Abuse and Awareness of Colon Cancer.

Child Abuse is a world problem. It includes Human Trafficking and Pornography which leads to Mental Health issues for the entire family and community. We can help combat this horrific problem by educating ourselves and becoming involved with organizations working for those afflicted.

Colon Cancer is the third most common cancer in the world. This disease is indiscriminate to those afflicted, however diet can play a large role in its prevention. It is preventable and curable if detected early by simple screening tests. We are encouraged to educate ourselves in detecting the symptoms.

We are fortunate in Canada to have Health Canada with strong medical professionals. We are encouraged to become involved with issues on the Prevention of Suicide, Abortion, Pornography, Human Trafficking, Euthanasia, Palliative Care and MAiD as they relate to mental health in those involved. One valuable tool in being heard by our government is letter writing as individuals. Anyone interested in being guided at a "Letter Writing Workshop" please contact me.

Environment:

You are invited to make one (or more) changes in your council, parish, community or household. Just a small step is beneficial to our earth and those less fortunate. Imagine a milk bag kept from the landfill site and someone sleeping on a soft mat rather than mud. Imagine a student with disabilities, gifted with specialized learning materials and equipment. Imagine the gift of a meal from the proceeds of one used postage stamp or the gift of improved vision with the donation of a pair of eyeglasses. The collection of your donation will find its way to those it is intended for. Please contact me if you require any assistance.

Spiritual Development Chair

Mrs. Nancy Grimshaw, Divine Infant Parish

The Pope's Prayer Intention for March:

Formation in Spiritual Discernment: That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian level.

Please consider this intention at your March meeting.

Spiritual Growth of Members

Divine Infant Parish in Orleans, will host this year's Diocesan Council's Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel on Thursday, April 26th. Recognize Our Lady of Good Counsel in a special way as part of your April meeting.

Remember to keep your Parish CWL Book of Life up to date to honour the members who have served our councils. Spiritual chairs are encouraged to attend the Diocesan Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel and process to the front of the church with your council's Book of Life.

May 4th is the day that we are encouraged to pray 12 hours for palliative care. Please see the diocesan website if you are looking for ideas of what our various councils did last year, or plan your own event.

Evangelization and Mission Assistance

Our Catholic Women's League of Canada officially supports Catholic Missions In Canada as its primary missionary outreach program in Canada. While several of our councils are already supporters, if your council currently, does not, please consider having a collection at meetings to send to them at the end of the year, or consider including them when you do your annual disbursement of funds. I have several copies of CD's about Catholic Missions In Canada that you could show at a meeting. Let me know and I make sure you get a copy. As well, consider other missions that may be in need of support.

Ecumenism and Interfaith Endeavours

World Union of Catholic Women's Organization (WUCWO) day is on May 13. WUCWO's aim is to promote the presence, participation and co-responsibility of Catholic women in society in order to enable them to fulfill their mission of evangelization and to work for human development, including opportunities to increase education, reduce poverty, and advance human rights beginning with the right to life. It includes 100 Catholic Women's Organizations, in 66 countries, and represents eight million Catholic women. The Catholic Women's League is a member of WUCWO. Each year a different region of the world prepares a prayer/message to recognize this day. Consider visiting the WUCWO website at www.wucwo.org closer to May (as it is not yet available) and educating members about the message at your May meeting.

Christian Family Life Chair

Ms. Teresa Psutka, St. Maurice Parish

Hello again. It's hard to believe it's time for another communiqué. We, on the Ottawa Diocesan council, recently completed our annual reports for 2017. It was a good opportunity to see what has been going on in the diocese. Keep up the great work!

As we continue in this season of Lent, on our Lenten journey, try to avail yourself of parish penitential services and confession. Consider reading Pope Francis's booklet entitled "The Joy of Lent – Encouragement and Daily Prayers" by Novalis.

In our consumer society we are encouraged to have more "stuff" without considering its impact on all life on earth, especially the poor, so during Lent, as we care for creation, reflect on how your actions and sacrifices impact on others. The Archdiocese of Ottawa asks us to pray – "Lord our God, in our fasting, help us avoid the temptations of earthly pleasures so that we can see more clearly the treasures of Your Kingdom".

The Journey of Hope program for separated and divorced Catholics, is being offered at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary parish hall, 20 Grant St., at a cost of \$25. 6 sessions - for women (Tuesdays, March 20-April 24, 2018 from 7-9pm) and for men (Thursdays, March 22-May 3, 2018 from 7-9pm). Register by March 16th at www.journeyofhopeottawa.com.

Please keep the following in mind and prayer:

Our youth Grades 9-12, chaperones and clergy as they discern attending Steubenville Toronto from July 13-15, 2018.

The World Meeting of Families taking place in Dublin, Ireland August 21-26, 2018.

Focus groups on palliative care initiated by the CCCB with some Catholic parishes in Ottawa who will learn from the faithful which questions are being asked with regards to what palliative care is, what people know about the Catholic teaching on end of life issues and support mechanisms needed as a person prepares to die, including subsequent bereavement.

The dignity of life – continue to write asking government officials to stop funding abortion. We need God's intervention to stop abortion from taking place. Consider praying the Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe for the Unborn, asking her son to obtain an end to abortion. The novena includes praying for the unborn, the infirm, and those in the latter years of their life.

In your councils, contemplate taking action on the following League resolutions: 2004.01 Protection of Human Life and 1992.05 Support Services for Pregnant Women.

Continue to visit the national, provincial and diocesan websites for information and workshops. Remember to pray for marriage, the family, the sanctity of life, youth, the disabled, seniors, the widowed, separated and divorced and vocations for priests and religious.

Pray for our families, parishes, communities, Canada and the world, that all may live in peace.

Our Lady of Good Counsel - pray for us!

Communications Chair

Mrs. Grace Buchmayer, Divine Infant Parish

Hello there! So nice of you to drop by. Whether this is the first time you're reading the diocesan newsletter, Faith In Action, or you're a return reader it's nice that you have taken the time to 'click' and read. Too often those who are busy making sure information gets out forget to take the time to get information in. I'm assuming you're a Communications Chairperson like me, but if you're not, doesn't this look like an interesting place to be? I think so. Either way, we all want to be in an interesting place - be in an interesting chair. Remember, every chair is an opportunity to express your special talents, and communications is no exception.

The last time we got together here I told you about how I'm pushing my comfort zone to surprising results, and to 'stay tuned to find out more'. If you checked out the diocesan website around Christmas you would have seen the Diocesan Christmas card, filled with blessings and best wishes to all the members in the diocese of Ottawa. That's me pushing my comfort zone. How about you? What are you doing that pushes your comfort zone, or just has your special signature on it?

As for the run-of-the-mill Communications chair duties, please don't forget your members who are not 'tech-savvy'. Do what you need to do to get routine and special information to them. Otherwise, they are isolated, and will feel so. Perhaps printing a few copies of your minutes and making them available on your CWL bulletin board is all you need to do. More helpful hints to come. If your reading this and not lining the bird cage with it, please click [here](#) to say 'Hi' and to be counted.

Since you have taken the time to read this please take the time to check out the other articles, communiques, Provincial and National CWL websites. They are packed with interesting information put there for you.

I hope to see you at the Diocesan Convention on Saturday, April 28th, hosted by Our Lady of Fatima Parish Council. It's going to be an awesome day. If you're a fellow Communications Chairperson don't forget to greet me with the secret handshake.

I wish you and yours a very joyful and blessed Easter Season.

Resolutions and Legislation Chair

Mrs. Dyann MacDonald, The Good Shepherd Parish

*“God conquers evil with infinite mercy. It is in the face of this merciful love that
a desire for conversion and a yearning for new life must be awakened in us.”
Pope Paul II*

Welcome to all new parish executives, we wish you success in all your undertakings during your term of office.

Resolutions:

Here are two websites to help you in your discussions about National Resolution 2017.01 Full Implementation of the Supreme Court Decision in R. vs Gladue for Indigenous Offenders.

What is the Gladue Report: <http://lawfacts.ca/node/460> and MacLeans – Why Gladue has not lived up to its promise for indigenous justice? <http://www.macleans.ca/news/canada/why-gladue-has-not-lived-up-to-its-promise-for-indigenous-justice/> (from Directive #2 January 2018 Ontario Provincial Resolutions Standing Committee).

Legislation:

Federal Bills:

Bill C233 National Strategy for Alzheimer’s Disease and other Dementia in my Communique #4 the Ontario Resolution should have read ON.89.04 (Archived July 2011) not On.03.01. - my apologies.

Bill C313 National Strategy on Advertising to Children Act - no change since its 1st reading in the House of Commons 2016-10-05

Bill C287 An Act to amend the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (nanotechnology) no change since its 1st reading in the House of Commons 2016-06-08

Bill C283 An Act to amend the Canadian Environmental Act, 1999 (electronic products recycling program) no change since its 1st reading in the House of Commons 2016-06-03

Bill S228 Child Health Protection Act (short title) no change since it was passed in Senate & had its 1st reading in the House of Commons 2017-10-06

Provincial Bills:

Bill 20 Improving Mental Health and Addictions Services Act, no change since its 1st reading 9-21-2016

Bill 54 Home Care and Community Services Act (Dan’s Law) 2016 no change since ordered referred to Standing Committee 11-17-2016

Election Day in Ontario is June 7, 2018 please get to know your candidates in your area and find out what their platform is about.

This is my last communique as I will be leaving Ottawa. I enjoyed my years on diocesan council and in my parish council. Thank you for your encouragement, the opportunity to serve and be part of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada, in Ottawa.

Past President and Historian

Ms. Joanna Sisk, St. Ignatius the Martyr Parish

Having just prepared an Annual Report, based on the information I received from National Office, taken from your annual reports, submitted by computer, I was very surprised and disappointed that only eleven of twenty-five councils responded to the Historian Past President survey. Therefore, the feed back with percentages is not a true picture of our diocese Historian /Past Presidents.

Archives: On our national website under Resources, Programs and Workshops, then Laws, you will find a document entitled “Archives Guidelines for League History”. This applies to Provincial, Diocesan and Parish councils and, should give you an idea of what to archive and how long they should be kept for.

On an interesting note, did you know that there should be a page for all Presidents high-lighting their accomplishments during their term? Did you also know that there should be a page not only for your executive, but also, members at large, detailing what positions they held, when they joined, and the works they participated in? A copy of this sheet would follow that person, should they transfer to another location. It would also be important, if you would wanted to recognize a certain individual for the hard work and service given to The League. This document should form part of your Council's Manual of Policy and Procedures

Policy and Procedure Manual: Do you have your manual set up for your council yet? If so, it should be revised or reviewed, every two years for changes. If you do not have one, you can go the National Website and click on Resources, Programs and Workshops, then Organization to get the document - “How to Prepare a Parish Council Manual of Policy and Procedure”. Every council should have their own Manual of Policy and Procedure and we, at diocesan council, are available to assist.

Constitution & Bylaws - 2013: Every member of your executive should have a copy of this booklet and should be referring to it, when questions arise. It would be nice to have a mini workshop with your general membership as well so that they can become aware of the policies and objects of The League.

Please make plans to attend our conventions this year.

Diocesan Annual Convention, April 28, and Provincial Convention, July 7-10.

You will experience The League in such new light.

Life Member Liaison

Mrs. Heather Sisk, Our lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish

Get To Know The Life Members

As the Life Member Liaison I am asked to submit an article for the diocesan newsletter. Not knowing what else to write about and knowing that the Life Members are a “mystery” to a lot of members, I thought I would do a brief profile on 1 or 2 of them for each newsletter during my term to try to dispel the myth that Life Members are a group of “old ladies who have been CWL members for a long time”. I’d like to show that they are vastly experienced and knowledgeable about the League and about our Catholic faith.

Meet Joan Chesser – Honorary Life Member

Joan was born and raised in Sudbury, Ontario and is a former school teacher. She and her husband Marty have 3 sons and 1 daughter and are proud grandparents to 12 grandchildren. Marty’s career in the Canadian Armed Forces took them to 9 locations within Ontario and Manitoba and a 3 year tour in Baden-Soellingen, West Germany. They retired to Russell, Ontario in 1990. While they were living in North Bay, Joan and Marty completed 2 years of study in the Catholic Ministries Program for the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie. In June 1997 during the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Ottawa Archdiocese, Joan was awarded the cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice.

Joan held several convenerships at the provincial level serving the Military Vicariate Council. She was the president of that council when the Military Ordinariate was promulgated in 1987.

At national level Joan served as convener of spiritual development, resolutions, communications and organization before becoming national president in 1996.

In Joan’s own words, “As I reflect on my League ministry I am filled with gratitude for all that I have received; gratitude for those who walked with me, who shared their faith with me, who affirmed me, who challenged me to risk, to dare and enable me to go beyond fear and doubt to grow in service and faith through trust in God”.

Joan is an active member of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Council in Russell and serves as a mentor to members old and new, offering expertise, advice, affirmation and encouragement whenever it is needed.

