

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

SAULT STE. MARIE DIOCESAN COUNCIL



Spring Newsletter 2017

Inside This Issue

Remembering Rose Moher 3

REPORTS

Spiritual Advisor 4

President 5

President-Elect/Organization 7

Treasurer..... 8

Recording Secretary..... 9

Corresponding Secretary..... 10

Past-President/Historian 11

Spiritual Development 12

Christian Family Life 14

Community Life 15

Education and Health 16

Communications..... 17

Resolutions 18

Legislation..... 20

Regional Chairpersons..... 21

SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

Diocesan Executive Spotlight 25

SPECIAL FEATURE

Find Your Voice!
Public Speaking Course..... 27

National Theme 2017 - 2019 28

MISSION STATEMENT

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Is a national organization
Rooted in gospel values
Calling its members to holiness
Through service to the
people of God

LEAGUE PRAYER

We humbly pray you, O God our Father to bless
The Catholic Women's League of Canada.
Bless our beloved country, our homes and families.
Send Your Holy Spirit upon us to give light to our minds
And strength to our wills that we may know
and fulfill your great law of charity.
Teach us to share with others at home and abroad,
The good things you have given us.
This we ask through our Lord Jesus Christ
And the intercession of our patroness
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Amen



Rose Moher



1921 - 2016

Past Diocesan President Rose Moher of North Bay, radiated light and happiness to all who came in contact with her. Rose, who was also the first recipient of the Bellelle Guerin Award in the Sault Ste Marie Diocese, loved and promoted the League wherever she went. She had a gentleness of spirit and a smile that made you smile whenever you saw her. Rose is the mother of Rev. Peter Moher, pastor of Holy Redeemer Church in Sudbury. Never selfish, always loving and kind, these are memories she left behind.

Heaven's Light

The sun shines down upon us and gives us warmth and light.
Then when the day has ended it disappears from sight

So it is when one we love comes to their end of days.
They just go to the other side to shine their loving rays.

That's why heaven is a place that glows beyond compare.
The lights of those who've left us are all brightly shining there.

(By: Ron Tranmer)

The Catholic Women's League of Canada Sault Ste Marie Diocesan Council



“Rooted in Gospel Values”



Dear Sisters in the League,

We hear in a favourite Christmas hymn. “We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we travelled so far. Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star of royal beauty bright. Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light”.

Since we have the pleasure of living in rural areas, we know what the night sky looks like when there is no cloud cover. All one sees is stars. Some are brighter than others. Some twinkle more than others. Nevertheless, they act as ornaments lighting up the dark sky.

“Up in the heavens a star gleamed out, more brilliant than all the rest. No words could describe its luster...the other stars, gathered around it in chorus, but this star outshone them all” (Ignatius of Antioch, Ephesians, 18-19)

It was a star that was ahead of three wise men. It was a star that revealed the Father's presence to them. They saw with their own eyes the reward of their travels. It was if the darkness of their questions and fears of what they might find were answered.

The darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright and brilliant dawn of that word spoken through the prophets of the Old Testament becoming flesh. The Son of God scattered that darkness and filled it with his glory. He has appeared on this day as that light shining in our darkness.

The skies reveal the Father's glory. In our own forgetfulness, which is part of our lives, the Father still invites us to join in the singing and rejoicing, happiness and joy. As we begin and continue, we experience the greatest gift ever given to us.

God enlightens us with his light everyday of our lives. As that gentle star, the most luminous and brightest light, the Virgin Mary, leads us to the light of Jesus, may we like a small star, become sisters of that light. May we be that gift of light in the darkness of others lives.

Fr. Trevor
Spring Newsletter 2017

President
Karen McDonald

Spiritual Advisor
Rev Trevor Scarfone

The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Sault Ste Marie Diocesan Council



"Rooted in Gospel Values"



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

In my term as diocesan president, I often called upon the Holy Spirit for guidance ... that is why I absolutely love our new National theme for 2017 to 2019 with a focus on palliative and hospice care and keeping mercy alive!

In August of 2014, while sitting in a Tim Hortons (my favourite hangout) in Fredericton after the National Convention, I was blessed to sit with Honorary Life Member Agnes Bedard. I asked if she had any advice for a "soon to be" Diocesan President. Agnes said, "You will be on a journey ... embrace it ... enjoy every moment of the journey". I never forgot her words ... she was right ... and I have!

It is not always easy being President, however, the Holy Spirit always guides you. I sincerely wish to thank all Presidents for their continued service to the League. To those Presidents who have served their term(s) and are now assuming the role of Past President, cherish your new role as mentor ... it is very important.

I welcome newly elected Presidents and commend you for saying 'yes' to serve! Remember these words from our National President Margaret Ann Jacobs:

*"Whatever God chooses for you to do, God will equip you to do.
The challenge is to accept the choice God offers knowing that the inspiration,
power and strength of the Holy Spirit will empower us to respond to God's call in loving service,
modelling our greatest teacher. No better advice can be offered than that of Our Blessed Mother,
"Do whatever he tells you." (Jn. 2:5)*

(The Canadian League - Fall 2016)

97th Diocesan Convention (April 28 to 30, 2017 in North Bay)

Plans are under way for an exciting convention to be held at the Best Western in North Bay. National President Margaret Ann Jacobs and Provincial First Vice-President / Education and Health Chairperson Colleen Randall will join us, as well as a representative from Catholic Missions in Canada ... we are in for a treat!

President
Karen McDonald

Spiritual Advisor
Rev Trevor Scarfone

President

12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative and Hospice Care

This wonderful initiative from National Council during the Jubilee Year of Mercy was very successful and it will take place this year on **Thursday, May 4, 2017**. Start thinking of ways to incorporate these much needed prayers into your parish.

Funds for Seminarians

Councils are encouraged each year to donate to the **Seminarian Fund**, established by the Diocesan Council many years ago to assist Seminarian(s) from our diocese discerning the call to be a Priest. In 2016, Bishop Damphousse sent a thank you for our generous donation of \$2,225.35 to the Seminarian Fund and advised that it helped Chad Franklin, a Seminarian from our diocese, who is in his second year of studies at St. Peter's Seminary in London. Bishop Damphousse stated, "your contribution was greatly appreciated and does make a difference".

Councils are encouraged to donate to the **Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Memorial Bursary**, established in 1998 by the Ontario Provincial Council when Bishop Pappin passed away while serving as Provincial Spiritual Advisor. This Fund assists Diocesan Seminarians in Ontario in need of personal financial support. We are pleased that Chad Franklin was one of four recipients of funding in 2016.

Bishop's Message to All:

As we begin another New Year with membership and recruitment on our minds ... I leave you with an inspiring message from our Bishop (in case you missed it) that was published in most English speaking parish bulletins last Fall:

"The Catholic Women's League will soon be commencing membership drives in our parishes. Since 1920, members across the country have used their God-given gifts to evangelize and to lead people to Christ. As your Bishop, I am grateful for the support of the League and for the ongoing commitment of its members across the diocese to serve the people of God, and I encourage women to join The Catholic Women's League of Canada. I pray that the League will continue to flourish and remain active in our parishes."

(Bishop Marcel Damphousse, November 2016)

God bless all members across our diocese for your commitment to the League ... always be welcoming and kind to one another and give lots of hugs (they're free)!



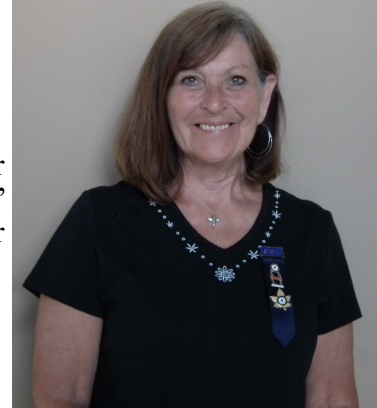
Karen

Karen McDonald
Spring Newsletter 2017

Page 2 of 2

President-Elect and Organization Betsy Currier

Isn't it wonderful that the first Sunday of each year honours Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Mary's "yes" leads us to exactly where we are today. Let us also answer "yes" in our call to serve God's people.



NEW ANNUAL REPORTING PROCESS - Great work ladies !!!!

A quick word of thanks to all of you for tackling the challenge of the new online reporting. You are awesome! President Karen and I have received feedback from many of you and we will ensure that your comments are passed on to the provincial council who will report to National Office. I will be receiving information from National Office about our reports and I will certainly pass this on to our councils.

One responsibility of the Organization chairperson is to promote League development. To that end, here are a few upcoming opportunities for all of us.....

1) FIND YOUR VOICE!

"Find Your Voice" is a new dynamic public speaking course coming soon to each region. It will be a warm, supportive and fun experience for all who attend. It will help to develop communication skills and increase self-confidence. Members will learn how to chair a meeting, make a motion, introduce/thank speakers, give a report, present a gift/award, introduce a head table, and much more. Coming to a location near you this spring and fall.

2) MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Provincial Convention – Victoria Inn and Convention Centre, Thunder Bay, ON July 9 – 12, 2017
- National Convention – Delta Hotels Prince Edward, Charlottetown, PEI August 6 – 9, 2017

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Currier".

**Betsy Currier
Spring Newsletter 2017**

Treasurer
Beverley Michaud



***“The biggest failure you can have in life
is making the mistake of never trying at all.”***
(Unknown)

Well, another Christmas season has come and gone already. I hope everyone had a blessed and joyful holiday. I don't think it will ever stop snowing - the snow banks keep getting higher. I am really wanting back last year's "green Christmas".

I trust everyone utilized the new format for Annual Reports in December. I heard favourable comments from several of my parish counterparts. It is great that National Office is listening and trying to accommodate our members. Now it is our turn to help them. The deadline for remitting Per Capita Fees is February 28th and with January being the usual "recruitment" month, hopefully you will have a lot of new members' dues to remit. By remitting early, these new members will start receiving The Canadian League magazine in a timely manner.



It is recommended that if your council is donating to the Seminarian Fund, please get any cheques to me before the Convention in April. All funds received are given to the Bishop at that time. ***Don't forget to make your cheques payable to The Catholic Women's League of Canada – any other explanation can be entered on memo line ie: Per Capita Dues, Seminarian Fund, etc.***

Councils may also donate to the Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Memorial Bursary Fund by mailing cheques payable to The Catholic Women's League of Canada to the Provincial Treasurer, Patricia Rivest. These funds assist Seminarians in Ontario.

Our current theme is ***Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call***. I look forward to working with all of the new Treasurers in our Diocese who have been inspired by this theme and who are accepting a new challenge, as well as those still completing their term of office. I am only a phone call or e-mail away and want to help with any questions or concerns.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bev".

Bev Michaud
Spring Newsletter 2017

Recording Secretary Marlene Sawko



***“Only God can turn a MESS into a message, a TEST into a testimony,
a TRIAL into a triumph, a VICTIM into a victory.”***

*Spiritual Quotes
(Moving On Quotes)*

It's very wintry as I write this, it seems hardly a day goes by without a snow squall warning! I'm a northern girl but the weather is getting a bit tiresome.

I continue with my goals of sorting out the motions and directives. I'm also a great believer in going paperless but sometimes that seems to be wishful thinking.

Thank you so much to those parish council recording secretaries who responded to my email. I look forward to your comments and appreciate the work that you are doing for our League. I understand that there have been elections held with new secretaries and I hope to hear from you too.

There is a Communiqué from new National **Secretary Treasurer**, Janet McLean, on the National website (www.cwl.ca). Janet points out that members holding these positions often do, or have done, the same for other organizations. These two positions are indispensable in any organization. She encourages members to review our job descriptions which are available in League Manuals at every level. Janet intends to update the Handbook for Secretaries and invites our input. We can look forward to hearing more from her.

2017 promises to be an interesting year. It is an election year for the Diocesan Council and with this in mind I look forward to seeing you at the Convention in April in North Bay. Perhaps you might be interested in helping me with the convention minutes by serving on the Minutes Review Committee. Let me know.

God Bless!

Marlene

**Marlene Sawko
Spring Newsletter 2017**

Corresponding Secretary

Ann Koivu



*Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen,
in whom my soul delights. Isaiah 42:1*

As I prepare this, my last article as your corresponding secretary, it is the beginning of a new year, a time for planning and setting goals. Isaiah reminds me that God has chosen us to be His children and we are assured of His faithfulness in all we aspire to do. ***Thank you for answering the call to serve.*** If I can be of assistance to you at any time, remember I am but a telephone call or email away.

- Have you been on our WEBSITE recently? (www.ssmcwl.ca). In December, I was privileged to participate on a committee looking at ways to grow our website, make design changes to facilitate ease of use, as well as provide information that members (and soon-to-be members) are requesting. Much work is to be done before rolling out the new look but until then, there is great reading and information available on the current website. Please visit it!
- Our annual DIOCESAN CONVENTION will be held April 28-30, 2017 at the Best Western Hotel & Conference Centre in North Bay. We are immensely excited to share that ***National President, Margaret Ann Jacobs, will be in attendance*** and part of the wonderful program being planned for you with opportunities for prayer, business and education. Please plan on joining us!
- Last fall we began a project to develop CONTACT INFORMATION LISTS for executive members serving on every council. By sharing this information with their counterpart on the diocesan executive team, we hoped to provide more opportunity for personal interaction with you. Though this is an ongoing project, it has been rewarding for us to call women on our lists, talk League issues and get to know you better. As elections occur, I would be most grateful to receive a complete list of your council executive members. We will continue to update our information and stay in touch personally!

As we approach the celebration of Easter, I can't resist sharing a smile with you ..

BULLETIN BLOOPER ..

Lent is that period of preparation for Holy Week and Easter.

Ann

Ann Koivu

Spring Newsletter 2017

Past-President/Historian

Anna Tremblay



After 14 years on the diocesan council, this article will be my last contribution to this newsletter. My term as past president, and time on the diocesan council, will come to an end at this year's diocesan convention.

What struck me most about this position is that it can often be likened to walking a tightrope. While we have a wealth of knowledge and experience to share, we do not want to overstep and stifle the ideas of those succeeding us. So, practically speaking, what can we do? I offer some ideas for your consideration.

We have a new theme, explanation and logo. Consider offering that to your members. Many older ladies are not on the internet and would appreciate the deep spiritual meaning behind the theme and logo. All this can be found on the national website at <https://www.cwl.ca/new-theme-inspired-by-the-spirit-women-respond-to-gods-call/> I have done a one page handout which I will happily email it to you upon request.

In your various executive positions, you have learned so very much about the League, its guidelines and protocols. Consider sharing these with your members, perhaps in the form of a quiz or a Q&A format. Make it fun!

You might consider diligently observing Web Wednesdays. Check the provincial (www.cwl.on.ca), national (www.cwl.ca) and diocesan (www.ssmcwl.ca) websites every Wednesday and bring any new information to your executive and/or membership as is appropriate. This would be an invaluable service and help keep everyone up-to-date.

Finally, consider offering yourself for service on the diocesan council. Many of you have already received the Elections Package. I promise you will never regret it. These past 14 years have been a time of great personal and spiritual growth. I have met many wonderful women, made deep and lasting friendships, and have gained a wealth of knowledge about the League, all of which has led to a deeper appreciation of and commitment to the League and all it stands for.

May you be as richly blessed as I have been through my years of service to God and Canada.

Anna

**Anna Tremblay
Spring Newsletter 2017**

Spiritual Development

Cathy McKinney



"Great Love, not great deeds is the essence of sanctity"
St. Therese of Lisieux

My Dear Sisters:

"Inspired by the Spirit, Women respond to God's Call" ... our new theme moves us out of the Year of Mercy and brings with it a renewed sense of what it means to be a Catholic woman. We should all remember to pray and to perform our deeds with love. Pope Francis is a very simple man and he has gifted us with a simple prayer which I share with you today!

Using the fingers on your hand, start with the thumb and pray these intentions in this order:

1. The thumb is the closest finger to you, so start praying for those who are closest to you. They are the persons easiest to remember. To pray for our dear ones is a "Sweet Obligation".
2. The next finger is the index. Pray for those who teach you, instruct you and heal you. They need the support and wisdom to show direction to others. Always keep them in your prayers.
3. The following finger is the tallest. It reminds us of our leaders, the governors and those who have authority. They need God's guidance.
4. The fourth finger is the ring finger. Even though it may surprise you, it is our weakest finger. It should remind us to pray for the weakest, the sick or those plagued by problems. They need your prayers.
5. And finally, we have our smallest finger, the smallest of all. Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. When you are done praying for the other four groups, you will be able to see your own needs but in the proper perspective, and also you will be able to pray for your own needs in a better way.

Spiritual Development



Remember to pray for our deceased members and for members of the Clergy both living and deceased.

Remember to pray for peace in war-torn countries and also thank God for the blessing of living with our freedom in Canada.

Please remember to submit your deceased member forms to National Office as quickly as possible and send me a quick e-mail (tedandcathy@shaw.ca) to confirm that you have sent them.

I am required to submit a quarterly report of deceased members to the Ontario Provincial Council and would like to be current on reporting these names.

The report is January 1 to March 31, April 1 to June 30, July 1 to September 30 and October 1 to December 31. Any questions or concerns, please feel free to e-mail me at any time.

Thank you for all of your hard work and your dedication to The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Respectfully,

Cathy McKinney
Spring Newsletter 2017

Christian Family Life

Rhonda DeGraw



Greetings Sisters,

Our theme this year is, **"Inspired by the Spirit, Women respond to God's Call"**

Are you up for a challenge? National Council is giving us an opportunity to express our creativity and minister to the vulnerable and those in hospices or nursing homes with the **"100th Anniversary Lap Quilt Challenge"**. These can be quilted, knitted or crocheted. Honorary Life Member Betty Anne Brown Davidson has challenged us to make a lap quilt as she (a first time attempter) has already made three. I look forward to seeing your works of art crafted with love.

The year 2016 saw the addition of two new resolutions under the legislation standing committee. The first is to amend the Canada Health Act to include Home Health Care as an Insured Health Service and the second is to Identify Palliative Care as an Insured Health Service.

Suggestions on how to be supportive of those who fall under various sections of this committee:

Married - develop and nurture your relationship with your spouse. Go for a walk together or have a date night.

Seniors and Disabled - visit, offer rides to Mass or shopping or for appointments. Be sure to include them in council meetings and events.

Widowed - be supportive by lending a shoulder to cry on or an ear to listen to their broken heart.

Divorced - be supportive by inviting them to council meetings or events.

Youth - parish councils can support youth (ages 18 to 35) by encouraging them to attend World Youth Day in Panama City in 2019, and perhaps sponsor one or two students.

Vocations - be welcoming and supportive to your parish priest and spiritual advisor by offering your assistance in the parish. Thank them for their service.

Sanctity of Life - have you checked out the Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF) website? I encourage you to. You will find a wealth of information on many topics we support.

Rhonda

Rhonda DeGraw

Spring Newsletter 2017

Community Life

Laurette Woodliffe



"We are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us."

Pope Francis

Last Fall, Bishop Marcel Damphousse asked that we hold a retreat entitled "***I am Mercy***". It was held at Holy Redeemer Church.

It was a very prayerful and thought provoking 24 hours of concentration on God's Mercy, His love for us, and on the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

I came away with a sense of gratitude, filled with the Holy Spirit and felt very blessed by the many gifted speakers that we heard from.

I continue to encourage you to assist the refugees coming to Canada from Syria. Consider visiting them and talking with them as they learn our language and culture.

We are reminded to continue to pray to Blessed Giovannina Franchi, chosen by our Diocesan Council as a focus for prayer during the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

With a New Year upon us, consider sending cards to the children in Attawapiskat assuring them of our love, thoughts and prayers. Encourage them not to lose hope. Invite them to join you in praying for them.

Please send emails or letters to your Member of Parliament and Member of Provincial Parliament reminding them of the commitment made to the youth of Attawapiskat, of the promise to build a meeting place where they can get help. Every little bit helps and together we CAN make a difference!

I wish you all a blessed and Happy New Year!

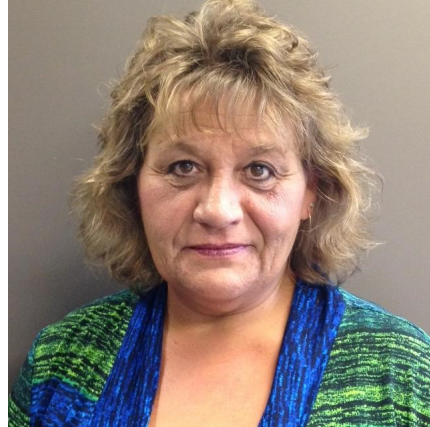
Respectfully submitted,

Laurette

Laurette Woodliffe
Spring Newsletter 2017

2nd Vice-President & Education and Health

Giselle Floyd



*“It is theologically and anthropologically important
for woman to be at the center of Christianity.
Through Mary, and the other holy women,
the feminine element stands at the heart of the
Christian religion.”*

Pope Benedict XVI

I would like to welcome all new and returning Education and Health Standing Committee Chairpersons in all Councils. I pray that you will find your new position to be a very rewarding and fulfilling experience. We will soon begin our faith journey through the Lenten Season, a time to focus on our spirituality. Let us allow ourselves to use this special faith filled season in all aspects of our daily lives and in our work for the League.

Bill C-277 – An Act Providing for the Development of a Framework on Palliative Care in Canada

Most Reverend Douglas Crosby, Bishop of Hamilton and President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), signed a joint interfaith letter to Marilyn Gladu, Conservative Member of Parliament for Sarnia-Lambton, Ontario, in support of her private member's Bill C-277 calling for the development of a palliative care framework in Canada.

This very important private members Bill is at second reading in the House of Commons. This Bill is the result of the Parliamentary Committee on Palliative and Compassionate Care study and recommendations that took place last year.

Please write to your Member of Parliament to show your support for Bill C-277!

Respectfully,

Giselle

Giselle Floyd
Spring Newsletter 2017

Lisa Henry



“Fear not, for I am with you.” Communicating hope and trust in our time. This is the theme Pope Francis has chosen for World Communications Day 2017.

In a time where we are exposed to so much bad news that can at times, numb and have a tone of gloom, we cannot and should not ignore “good news” stories that are all around us, yet are not being told or shared.

“The words from the Book of Isaiah, “Fear not, for I am with you,” encourages people to search for and identify the ways God is working in the world” says the Vatican Secretariat when the theme was announced.

Communicating hope and trust is an invitation to spread good news and focus on the positives in our midst every day.

Can you think of ways you want to share good news and focus on the positives?

How easy it is to get wrapped up in criticism and negative communication, but if we make it our philosophy and daily practice to find the positives and lift one another up, it will not only benefit those around us, but also the League and ourselves! We will be filled with pride knowing we are making a positive difference to those we encounter.

We are called to guide and develop one another in the League and I can't think of a better theme to inspire us to accomplish that than communicating hope, trust and positivity.

Place your trust in God and fear not, for He is with us!

May our Lady of Good Counsel bless each and every one of you with good health, happiness and peace.



Lisa

Lisa Henry
2017 Spring Newsletter

Resolutions

Doris Labelle



My Dear Sisters in the League,

I hope you all had a Happy Christmas with family and friends. We must pray for those less fortunate. I pray that you will have a happy, healthy and prosperous new year in 2017. It seems like yesterday that we were all anticipating the year 2000 and we are at the beginning of 2017!

This April, I will be celebrating my 92nd birthday and my love for the League grows stronger all the time. I know that my life would be lonely without my “sisters”. My family does not reside in the Sudbury area and I appreciate the time that my sisters give up with their loved ones to visit me here at Elizabeth Centre.

This year, the following **resolution topics** have been submitted to Provincial 2nd Vice-President and Resolutions Chairperson, Linda Squarzolo, from councils across Ontario. These are being researched and considered for presentation.

- **The Effects of Wind Turbines on Human Health (submitted by Hamilton Diocese)**
- **Inclusion of Nurses in Provincial Bill 163 (The Supporting Ontario's First Responders Act (submitted by London Diocese)**
- **Improve the Lives of Incarcerated Indigenous Women in Canada (submitted by Ottawa Diocese)**
- **Remove the HST on Essential Children's Products (submitted by Toronto Diocese)**

If anyone has information or has done research on these topics, please contact me and I will submit it to Linda and she will forward same to the appropriate resolutions committee.

There is news concerning **Resolution ON.16.02/2016.01 - Equal Access to Permanent Resident Status**. The federal government has lifted the four-year cumulative duration rule. More announcements may be forthcoming when the House of Commons reconvenes in January.

Spring provincial government visits:

Arrangements are being made by the provincial council to meet with government ministers and/or opposition critics to discuss the resolutions from 2016 and previous years. They contain our concerns so we ask for prayers that they will open their doors to our provincial team.

Resolutions

RESOURCES

Use **primary sources** which means if you read a newspaper article from The Globe and Mail and the Canadian Medical Association is quoted, you would not use The Globe and Mail as the source, but you would go directly to the Canadian Medical Association and find the article where the data or fact was stated. The Globe and Mail would be a **secondary source** and the Canadian Medical Association would be the **primary source**. Too many resources are not necessarily better if the data is not accurate or is biased and cannot be backed up with facts.

If you have an issue that is dear to your heart, the National Council has a "Resolution Supplement to Executive Handbook" which has step by step guide lines for writing resolutions that can be downloaded online or you might pick one up at our next convention in April, 2017.

I encourage councils to email or call me, as diocesan resolutions chairperson, to share the topic of any resolution that you may be working on. As the resolution is being developed, suggestions and advice can be obtained through myself and the provincial resolutions chairperson.



Researching resolutions for the display board that I prepared for last year's diocesan convention in Sault Ste. Marie really brought to light how our beloved League has had influence with our government and legislature. Resolutions can and do effect change in our province, our country and our world. It begins with God speaking to our hearts about some injustice in our world, then with our voice we speak to the injustice. We all know what happened to the mustard seed ... it is our faith, our belief that with God we can move mountains!

For God and Country ... may our God bless all of you and may Our Lady of Good Counsel be your constant guide.

Your Sister in Christ,

Doris

Doris Labelle
Spring Newsletter 2017

Page 2 of 2

Legislation

Nancy Shank



My Dear Sisters in the League,

Another Christmas has past and a new year lies before us. Did you get all that you asked for for Christmas? I certainly did. After two months in hospital my husband Ben returned home in time for all the festivities. I thank you all for your prayers because I believe they were very much a part of his progress.

As I started on this new adventure that began with the return of my husband from hospital I often thought of some of my sisters who are doing the same thing. When we are asked to pray for one of our sisters please be assured that you are performing a real service. Your prayers do work the way God intends them to.

As we embark on a new year we are reminded to continue to work on watching legislation as it unfolds as well as those issues we were already concerned about.

Human trafficking is one that is still at the top of our list as is the current issue around doctor assisted suicide and palliative care.

During my recent visits to the hospital I couldn't help but notice the people around me and wondered about the ones who had no strong advocate. I wondered how many of them could fall victim to the well intended practice of doctor assisted suicide as a result of well meaning family members.

Just before Christmas the government started to introduce the issue of legalizing marijuana. That topic is one we should follow closely as it is not simply making the substance legal but all of the issues around doing that. It made me think about the ending of prohibition many years ago.

We are a powerful organization and must always remember that. As your life unfolds try to look for those laws and practices that seem to favour only a segment of society and not everyone. That is what Legislation Chairpersons do. We keep our eyes open for opportunities to make our world a more level playing field for everyone.

With elections coming up I encourage more of you to say yes to the call to serve. You are needed as we go forward to make our world a better place.

Your Sister in Christ,

Nancy

Nancy Shank
Spring Newsletter 2017

Sault Ste. Marie Regional Chairperson

Rhonda DeGraw



**"Wherever there is a wall, there is a closed heart.
We need bridges, not walls."
*Pope Francis***

Greetings Sisters,

How quickly two years has gone. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve.

Recently, I had to fill in one Sunday for an absent lector. I received very good responses, not that I attained this ability to read well on my own, and I have you, my League sisters, to thank. The best advice that I received was to read as though you were speaking to someone on the other side of the room. The League helped me "find my voice".

Our new national theme is, **"Inspired by the Spirit, Women respond to God's Call"**. How will you respond? Will you consider a place on the diocesan council? I hope you do. I have had the privilege of working with an amazing team of women from across our diocese.

Remember to continue checking the web each Wednesday at www.cwl.ca - there is a new feature entitled **"On the Spot"** that will feature stories and submissions from councils across Canada.

I leave you with a Marian reflection written by Pope John Paul II:

O Mary, bright dawn of the new world, Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life: Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born, of the poor whose lives are made difficult, of men and women who are victims of brutal violence, of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy. Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the Gospel of Life with honesty and love to the people of our time. Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift ever new, the joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout their lives and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely, in order to build, together with all people of good will, the civilization of truth and love, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life

Rhonda

**Rhonda DeGraw
Spring Newsletter 2017**

Sudbury Regional Chairperson

Patricia Clizia



***"Each of you has received a gift to use to serve others."
1 Peter 4:10***

As we have journeyed through the Christmas season together, we have experienced the great gift of Christ's light during the darkest days of winter. We too like the wise men, have sought Christ and brought to him our humble gifts of prayer, love and service. We are called to be lights for each other, and lights for our world.

Light shines and when it is reflected can reveal true beauty, breathtaking colour and endless prisms of new directive beams. A mirror reflects light, even if it is broken or imperfect. Each and every tiny piece of a broken mirror can reflect light into the darkest of places.

Sisterhood in the League offers us a unique opportunity to be mirrors in our dark world. Perhaps we are mirrors of Mary to others - as a sister, wife, mother and friend through our thoughts, words and actions. Her courage, acceptance, devotion and wisdom as she answered God's call as a wife, mother, sister and friend are an inspiration for us all.

A new year beckons! Our service in the League is a gift – to be shared! A special talent to be revealed, a mirror to be reflected, values to be defended - all inspired by Mary's light. Special thanks for sharing your gifts and light in our world. Together we have created a bright prism of individual lights in our parishes and diocese. Keep on shining!

***"I am a fragment of a mirror whose whole design and shape I do not know.
Nevertheless, with what I have I can reflect light into the dark places of this world—
into the black places in the hearts of men—and change some things in some people.
Perhaps others may see and do likewise. This is what I am about.
This is the meaning of my life."***
Alexander Papaderos

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Patricia".

Patricia Clizia
Spring Newsletter 2017

North Bay Regional Chairperson

Lisa Henry

Saying Yes! An Opportunity

How quickly time flies! Two years ago, when Madam President asked if I would take on the position of North Bay Regional Chairperson, I was humbled, honoured and scared all at the same time! Now the term is almost complete and it is amazing how fast the time has passed.



This role has presented itself with so many blessings and I can only say that if you are ever asked, say yes! I feel so incredibly proud to have worked along side the CWL members of the North Bay region. I have learned so much from the Presidents and members and this is what is so incredible about our League, is the experience, creativity and ideas that are continually shared.

So, what happens when we say yes? We are exposed to new opportunities, experiences, perspectives, people, and learning. We open ourselves to new growth and living life fully. Saying yes leads us to feel more empowered and alive!

God calls us to serve and when we say yes, the impact not only on those we serve, but on ourselves, is profound and immeasurable. When you say yes to sharing yourself, your gifts and talents with the CWL, we all benefit and grow in the spirit and in strength with one another.

I invite you to think of one person who inspired you through their leadership and gifts. Now, visualize that person being you. You have it in you! Say yes!

I recall a work colleague approaching me one day after mass saying “if there was anything she could do to help the CWL, just ask”. Knowing her gifted background in communications, I asked if she would be interested in helping with the Communications committee. She said “I was thinking more along the lines of helping with baking but, ok”. The creativity and giftedness she brings to our council is remarkable. We still chuckle over how it all unfolded, but she said yes and what a blessing she is. I’m sure you can relate and know of a similar individual or situation in your council. She said yes!

Finally, I encourage you to say “yes” to attending CWL events being offered in our Region, Diocese and even provincially and nationally. Some upcoming events to take advantage of are: “Find Your Voice!” Public Speaking Course (details on page 27), upcoming Spring retreats being offered and of course, conventions! Your President will keep you advised of all upcoming CWL opportunities.

There is no other like you. God created you to be unique and special and you are all incredible! Be brave, say yes to God and the CWL! You won’t regret it!

*We say "yes Lord" to your love, your grace, your call
We say "yes Lord" to your invitation, your voice, your will
But then as we listen, as we heed your call,
our "yes" becomes quieter, softer, tentative
Our answer less clear, less certain, less firm
We ask, "How, Lord?" "When, Lord?" "Me, Lord?" "Really, Lord?"
We are afraid of saying "yes", Afraid of where we may be led
Afraid of who you may lead us to, Afraid of the cross you may ask us to carry
We are afraid of saying "yes"
Our "yes" to you may require us saying "no"
"No" to our own selfish desires, "No" to the wants of our hearts,
"No" to some around us, "No" to our world
And we are afraid Lord
Teach us to trust your promise, to embrace your call., to listen to your voice
Strengthen us Lord, to be your disciples, to follow your voice*

~ Maureen Paterson ~



Lisa

Lisa Henry
Spring Newsletter 2017

Page 2 of 2

SPOTLIGHT ON DIOCESAN EXECUTIVE



Father Trevor Scarfone Spiritual Advisor



I was born in February 1967 of Ken and Sheila Scarfone (deceased August 1992). I am the oldest of three children. My brother lives and works in Ottawa. My sister is married and has a son (13) and daughter (8). Their family lives in Ohio, U.S.A. and own a garden nursery.

After growing up in Sault Ste. Marie, I moved to London where I attended the University of Western Ontario and St. Peter's Seminary. Being ordained in 1994, I have served in the English, French and Native sectors and many parishes through the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie. I am presently serving the parish communities of Holy Name of Jesus, North Bay and St. Alphonsus Liguori, Callander.

Having served in many parishes, I have been the Spiritual Advisor in Catholic Women's League and served as chaplain in nights of Columbus councils. I was appointed as the Diocesan Spiritual Advisor in 2011 and presently fulfilling an extended three year commitment.

I am also part of the Daughters of Isabella. Since 1994, I have been appointed Chaplain of three circles, one of which I am presently chaplain. I am presently State Chaplain for Trillium Ontario State and was elected in my present position as President of the Chaplains Committee in 2006.

While being part of these organizations, I have attended meetings and conventions throughout Ontario, Quebec and the United States. One might say I am a world traveller, being part of many World Youth Days, bus trips and pilgrimages throughout Europe, Australia, Mexico and the Holy Land.



In my spare time, I enjoy walking, putting together jigsaw puzzles and doing word finds. But my real passion is snowboarding.



I have really enjoyed my many years serving in the variety of parishes I have been assigned across the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie and as Spiritual Advisor in the Catholic Women's League and as chaplain in the Daughters of Isabella and the Knights of Columbus. Meeting a variety of people and priests and travelling around the world, I have come to the realization that we all can live our faith no matter where we are called to minister.

(Spotlight Feature continued on next page)

SPOTLIGHT ON DIOCESAN EXECUTIVE



Karen McDonald
Diocesan President



I am a single gal who obtained a B.A. (Hons) degree in Law & Justice from Laurentian University in 1989 and have worked as a legal assistant for over 27 years (I love a challenge). I enjoy cooking (with a glass of red wine in hand) and learning 'how to' on the cooking channel - but I am glad baking is not a requirement to be a member. An avid sports fan - hockey (go Flyers), basketball (go Raptors), baseball (go Jays), I also enjoy vegetable gardening and being outdoors (although snow shovelling is not a favourite pastime). In my 'spare' time, I enjoy watching the Discovery Channel.



I joined the CWL at St. Clement Parish in 1990. I credit my grandmother and mother for my faith and my love of the League. I was President-Elect in 2002 when my home council amalgamated with a ladies auxiliary to form Our Lady of Hope Council of which I am a proud member. I am active in my parish and one of my greatest pleasures is singing alto in "Ann's choir" ... I never knew singing could be so much fun - it is good for the soul!



I co-chaired the 86th Diocesan Convention in 2006 and was appointed to the Diocesan Council that year where I have chaired Spiritual Development, Resolutions, and Organization Committees, and served as Diocesan Treasurer, Sudbury Regional Chairperson, and currently as Diocesan President. I have presented League workshops (*Leadership and Public Speaking, Knowing the League, Catch the Fire!*). In 2015, I was honoured to receive the Maple Leaf Service Pin from my council along with my mother, Marion McDonald, and my special friend, Ann Koivu, who were also recipients.

I cherish my time with my League sisters and feel blessed to serve through my League involvement.

The Sault Ste Marie Diocesan Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada is proud to present

find your voice!

A Public Speaking Course for Women

Learn public speaking techniques in a safe and fun environment!

Available in the Following Regions:

North Bay:

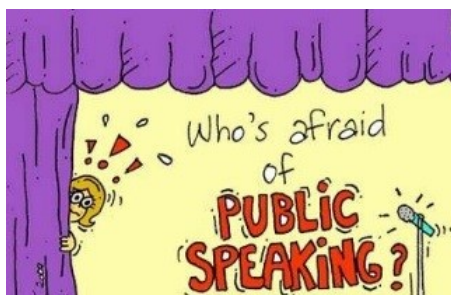
Saturday, February 18th, 2017
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
St. Joseph's Motherhouse -
McColgan Room

Sault Ste Marie:

Saturday, March 4th, 2017
9:00 am—3:00 pm
St. Jerome's Parish

Sudbury:

Saturday, March 25th, 2017
9:00 am—3:00 pm
St. Anthony's Parish



Call 705-472-0354 or email:
tremblay@vianet.ca to register

Bring a brown bag lunch
Coffee and tea will be available

NATIONAL THEME 2017 - 2019



Symbols

Dove

Holy Spirit – advocate, counsellor, intercessor

Cloud & Light

living, saving God of glory

Fire

transforming energy of Pentecost

Disciples

CWL members, responding joyfully to God's call in word and action

Cross, Anchor & Heart

Faith – lived, professed, witnessed and spread

Hope – strength to sustain and preserve us

Love – the first and greatest of all virtues

Theme Prayer

Spirit of the Living God
open our hearts and minds
to experience the unconditional love of God.
Empower us with the gifts of your Spirit
so that we may
respond to God's call
in joyful service.

Inspire and bless the members of the
Catholic Women's League
so that the fruits of your Spirit
may be evidenced in all that we say and do.
Amen.