

## **London Diocesan Council Report 2018**

President: Rebecca McCarrell

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Gregory Bonin

Members: 10,600

Councils: 95

Life Members: 9

Regions: 7

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- London Diocesan CWL had a busy and exciting year supporting homelessness, and educating members on the Call for Conscience campaign, Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) legislation, and euthanasia prevention. Members were reminded that with these issues, our voice is brought to the legislature at the provincial level and parliament at the national level, and they can be used as a catalyst for recruiting younger membership as their interest is more focused on current issues facing families today.
- On February 17, 2018, Holy Trinity Parish Council in Woodstock hosted with style our 9th Annual Lenten Retreat. This day of reflection was led by Deacon Don McCullough, permanent deacon at Holy Trinity, Woodstock.
- The 98th Annual London Diocesan Convention was held the end of April in London. Our theme centered on homelessness and was championed by "Chuck", a passionate young lady who began working with the homeless while a student at the University of Western Ontario (2001). That summer, a group of youth activists and homeless individuals formed a tent city in a downtown park to raise public awareness of a desperate situation. This project is now called the Unity Project – a shelter service. Marianne Blonde spoke about "Women Initiating Change" and Development & Peace. Colleen Perry presented a wonderful workshop on membership. Elections took place, and our time closed with a beautiful Mass.
- Sister Joan Atkinson facilitated a two-day retreat on Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si'. All attendees were enriched with her presentation. This yearly retreat happens at the Holy Family Retreat House in Oxley, a most peaceful place.
- We brought our Tim Horton gift cards to the provincial convention in July and were humbled by the support of such a project. Many of the cards were given out within our own diocese.
- The CWL Day at the Shrine retreat was facilitated by our own Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Greg Bonin. Another place of peace within our diocese: Our Lady of the Rosary Diocesan Shrine at St. Patrick's, Merlin.
- Our fall regional meetings were held in three areas of the diocese, having over 100 in attendance at each location. Presentations were made by Farmtown Canada, focusing on human trafficking along the 400 highways (Kelly Franklin). Several workshops were also presented.
- Our year ended with Advent teas being celebrated throughout the diocese.