

League Lingo

LONDON DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

2014 Spring Issue

Deadline for Next Issue
September 1st, 2014

*London Diocesan Annual Convention—
Windsor—April, 28, 29, 30, 2014*

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*We Have Seen the Lord -
He Is In Us*





*Remembering our Life Member—Lottie Gorski
October 28th 1923—February 1st, 2014*

Lottie was a devout Catholic. She extended this great faith through her 61 years as a member of the Catholic Women's League. During her time as the London Diocesan President from 1974–1976 she lead with great compassion, always caring for the less fortunate. She had great interest in Social Justice Issues across the diocese, Canada and other countries. Lottie received her Life Members pin in 1976. She always continued to mentor others and her knowledge of the League was of great help for others. She was always willing to share that

knowledge. Her Polish heritage meant a great deal to her and she had a marvelous voice and took pleasure in sharing her talent in her church but also at convention. She also was very involved in the St. Vincent de Paul organization in Harrow.

For those who came to know her well we always were delighted when she could join us at conventions and especially on our Diocesan Annual Retreat.

Pat Rivest, Shirley George Trucy Cornelis and I had the

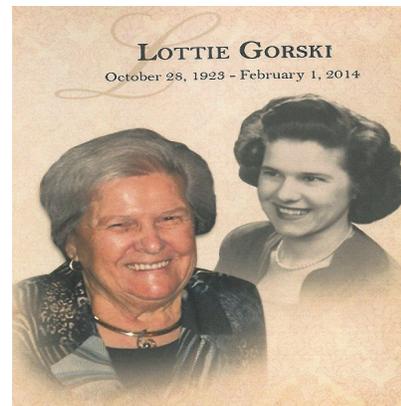
privilege of attending her 90th birthday last October.

Lottie lived our Theme “WE HAVE SEEN the LORD –HE IS IN US” and the Lord shone forth in Lottie.

She will be greatly missed.

Let the perpetual light shine upon her, May she rest in peace.

Mary Jean





President's Report—Mary Jean Horne

"He takes care of His people like a Shepherd. He gathers them like lambs in His arms and carries them close to Him." Isaiah 40:11

We are touched by God's tenderness—all the tenderness of a gentle father. When we read this passage and reflect on it we can see how God keeps each of us close to him. This is my prayer for each of you that you will treat your sisters in the League and all that we come in touch with, tenderness and kindness.

As I prepare my report it is -10C or 14F. As always I have on my old trusty sweater plus a turtle neck. It has been a very cold winter with sub-zero temperatures plus many road and school closures. We will all be looking forward to spring.

Thank you to the councils that sent in their annual reports within the requested time frame. To the president's, thank you for your reports telling the successes of your council's achievements. Just as you would not keep your light under a basket you have let your light glow.

The diocesan executive and the convention committee have been very busy planning the 94th Annual Diocesan Convention to be held April 28th–30th, 2014 in the beautiful city of Windsor at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts. The Essex & Windsor regions have been planning for some time assuring that nothing is

forgotten. Please plan to attend and enjoy hearing your National President, Betty Anne Brown-Davidson speak on how she has seen the Lord. Sister Linda Dube, from Our Lady of Guadalupe Home will share with us the new home that they have established. Come dressed for the "Price is Right For Murder" on Tuesday evening

This is the year you get to elect the new executive for the London Diocesan Council, please remember to bring your instructed vote. For those of you who are not participating in the voting, we will have a parallel programme for you. We, the executive and the Windsor & Essex Region look forward to seeing each of you.

Marie Theresa, Lucy and their teams have been very busy doing Catch the Fire Workshops. They have been well received and there is a lot of interaction. If you have not attended one or wish to host one please contact a member of the executive or your regional chairperson.

I have been very busy with visits to our ecumenical sisterhood's workshops and conventions. I have also had the privilege to bring greetings of behalf of the members of the London Diocese to your councils on your anniversaries. Cam Cadotte and I had the privilege to present seminarian Tim Theriault with the Bishop Sherlock Bursary.

Pope Francis continues to amaze

us with his connection to the people, especially those who are broken, sick, poor, destitute and living on the fringe of society. In Pope Francis' Christmas message he said "God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If he gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it. All of us from the holiest of saints to the sinners to the purest to the most corrupt". Each of you has many gifts that God has given you and you understand. Share those gifts with others. Whether you have accepted a position on your executive or members you are a gift to each other.

I hope you were able to attend one of our Winter Retreats. I will be looking forward to seeing you at the Annual Diocesan Convention.

"Love: It is a celebration. It opens our eyes and hearts and minds even wider. It encourages us to welcome the world".

Happy Easter:



God bless

Mary Jean



Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Fr. Matthew Kucharski

As we know, the church is not just a humanly created institution, but part of God's divine plan. It is not simply programmes and ministries and buildings and hierarchical structures. These are various elements of the church, but in reality these serve a much higher purpose. They exist so that the church can fulfill its mission of being the meeting-place between God and his people. The church is called to be the visible sign of God's presence in the world. As members of the Catholic Women's League of Canada, you are a part of that church. YOU are called to be that visible sign. Actively practicing your faith is not an option, especially if you are involved in the leadership of the League. You and your sisters in the League are called to help others understand that, as

church, we are all members of the family of God - rich or poor, strong or weak, male or female, young or old, and so on. We are called to care for one another. Our love for one another and our respect for one another is a fundamental element of our faith in Jesus. Everything we do can be a way to meet Jesus in each other and to touch his presence more deeply. However, to recognize him, we must first know him. That is why the spiritual must never be neglected nor downplayed in our League meetings and gatherings. Doing the work of Jesus is missing a major component if we do not first bring Jesus *into* the work through our prayer and reflection. We are children of God, which implies relationship, and not just workers of God, which implies achievers of tasks.

Our work should flow out of our love and heart knowledge (not merely head knowledge) of our Saviour. And as we know Jesus better, then we can lead others to know him better through our words and actions. According to the Fathers of Vatican II, "through the preaching [and living] of the gospel, the church makes the heavenly light of Christ visible to the whole world" (*On the Church*, 1). Women of the League, go make Christ's light visible to the whole world!

Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us.

God Bless,

Fr. Matthew Kucharski

I want you to share your Bread with the hungry
Open your homes to the homeless poor
Give clothes to those who have nothing to wear
And do not refuse to help your own relatives
Remove the yoke of injustice
Let the oppressed be free

Isaiah 58

*1st Vice-President—Angela Pellerin
Resolutions Standing Committee Chairperson*



We have entered the season of Lent, a time to reflect on how much Jesus loves us even to the point of dying on a cross for our sins. It is a time to give thanks for our many blessings.

Even though we have not had any resolutions during my term as chairperson, I have been encouraged by the interest shown during discussions at the Catch the Fire workshops. It was also good to see, in reviewing the annual reports that many councils take the time to study past resolutions.

While at a dinner with friends, one of them (not a CWL member, not even a woman) remarked on the good work the Catholic Women's League does. It is a real

boost when people recognize what we do and one of the most important things we in the League do, is speak up to the government on issues that affect us all. We do this through our resolutions.

Last year a resolution was passed at provincial on reducing the stigma of mental illness. Today I watched W5 which discussed this issue. They talked with university students who had experienced depression to such a point that they had attempted/considered suicide and also spoke to military personnel suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. Following this, the local news showed the new London Mental Health Centre that will open later this year and talked about the stigma of mental illness. Has your

council had a speaker on mental illness? If not, this might be a good time to have someone talk to your members on this topic as many families are touched by this.

I am coming to the end of my term as your Resolution Chairperson on diocesan council and I urge you to continue the good work. A resolutions/legislation workshop is available and I am sure the new chairperson would be happy to hold a workshop for your councils.

Thank you for your support over the past 2 years. May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to bless you as you work for God and Canada.

Angela

To Those of us Born 1930—1979

As infants & children, we would ride in cars with no car seats, no booster seats, no seat belts, no air bags, bald tires & sometimes no brakes.

Riding in the back of a pick-up truck on a warm day was always a special treat.

We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle.

We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and no one actually died from this.

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on.

No one was able to reach us all day. And, we were OKAY.



*President-Elect – Marie-Theresa Lamphier
Organization/Membership Standing Committee Chairperson*

It seems that our conversation starters lately have been all about the weather! I must say, it has been quite the year with the record amount of snow, the bone chilling winds and record breaking “Freezing” temperatures. The good news is – we know that this too will come to an end and soon we will be complaining about how hot the weather is, or how much rain or lack of rain we have. This is life! . . . and life goes on whether we agree with it or not! Let us give praise to the Lord for the blessings that we do have . . . beginning with our life, , our family and friends, the air we breathe, the water we have to drink, the food we eat and a roof over our heads to keep us warm!

Much has been happening over the past few months, besides gearing up for the cold weather . . . planning for the Convention in Windsor, finalizing annual reports, “Catch the Fire” presentations, and spending time with family and friends at Christmas time . . . all good stuff! Shortly we will be presenting our Winter Retreat Days! These days will be taking the place of our Fall Regional Days, as we wanted to encourage as many Councils as possible to take advantage of our “Catch the Fire” presentations. By the way, we have a team just

waiting to be asked to make a presentation at your council. It is not too late to do so and it is an essential part in providing development training for the members. Do consider it if you haven’t already done so!

For all those who are new to the position of President-Elect, I want to first of all congratulate you in being elected or taking on this position. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the league, in preparing yourself for a leadership role and to personally know the members in your council. Please review the responsibilities of this position in the Executive Handbook ORG-1 thru to ORG-3, which includes Recruiting and Maintaining Membership, Leadership Development, League Resource Material, Annual Reports, Life Membership and Resources and References. If this is your second year, is there anything that you wanted or should have accomplished by the end of your term. This is the time to review your accomplishments to date and find out what you need to do to reach your goals before the end of your term.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Winter Retreats which are being held in various

locations across the Diocese. Our first one will be held in Chatham on February 15th, our next one on March 1st in London and the third will be on March 15th in Goderich. Please contact your Regional Chairperson for more details.

Before you know it, Lent will be upon us, a time of fasting, alms giving and prayer. After that, Easter, a time of rejoicing, and thanksgiving! Then, it will be time for convention and elections. This is an exciting time, as God willing, I will take on the duties of your next London Diocesan President! I pray that you will keep me in your prayers as I prepare spiritually and mentally to be guided by the Holy Spirit in this new position, and throughout the next two years!

May our Lady of Good Counsel pray for us!

Marie-Theresa





*Past-President—Lucy Hendriks
Historian, Nomination & Elections*

*Amen, I say to you;
whatever you ask in prayer,
believe that you will receive,
and it shall be given to, says
the LordMark 11*

I sit here on a blustery winter's eve wondering where the month of January has gone. It seems that as I get older, time flies even faster. Wow!

First off I want to thank all the Parish Historians who sent in their annual reports. They were well done and it is great to hear that so much is being done in your parish to keep a complete history of the fine work you are doing in support of your parish and the community at large. May God bless all of you as you keep up your fine work.

We are busy making plans for our Winter Retreat, which should bring a time of renewal and spiritual inspiration as we prepare to enter into the Lenten season. We are blessed to have this season of renewal in our Catholic calendar year. We have the opportunity once again to be reborn in the Risen Lord.

Since Easter is late this year our convention will be at the very end of April. I have sent out letters to all those eligible to let their names stand for election to the London Diocesan Council of the CWL. They were returned to me by Jan. 15th and now I have sent out the Nomination for Elections forms to each Parish CWL Council President.

Please make your selection for the person best suited to each position at a general meeting and fill out the form, sign it and mail it back to me. Please don't forget to keep a copy for your records and a copy for the president to bring to convention to help her during the elections process. I hope to hear back from every Parish CWL Council before the end of March.

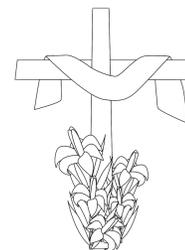
I have asked each council to send pictures and write-ups for the different things they are doing in their councils. I hope to hear from all those councils who have not sent anything in before now by the end of March. Please, please, please let's include everyone in our archives.

Faith, fun and fellowship to all my sisters in the League!

God bless!

Lucy

*To you I call, for you will
surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear
my wordsPsalm 16*



*2nd Vice-President—Rebecca McCarrell
Communications Standing Committee Chairperson*



“The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place.”

— George Bernard Shaw

Isn't that the truth! Have we really taken the time to explain / inform others - or do we think that our unspoken or unexplained thoughts and ideas have been correctly conceived by others?

Welcome all to 2014 ... the Year of Hope in our Christian Calendar. Please pray for all those seen and unseen so that there is HOPE for the future.

Especially, we are called to pray for the vulnerable in our society. Under this chairmanship, we are responsible for those affected by *Pornography*. Continue your

prayers and actions to protect those who are victims and for those who are the perpetrators. London Diocese is requested to continue the “Pornography Hurts” postcard campaign in the month of June. More information is forthcoming.

One issue in communications has come to a head during our mailing campaigns of recent. Many addresses for councils do not have the 911 address updated. We have had many, many convention packages returned because our information only has “R.R.” or Rural Route numbers that are no longer acceptable for mail. Please make sure your regional representative or Cam Cadotte has your correct mailing addressing including the “911 code” and / or

the PO Box number. Thanks for looking after this as the postage alone is very expensive. We really would like to get all materials out to every council.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you in convention in Windsor April 28 - 30, 2014. Please look at the all-inclusive meal package and plan to have Fun! Fun! Fun!

Blessings,

Rebecca

Look for Rebecca's “Recall Notice” - to be found on Page 12

Corresponding Secretary—Kathleen Pasquini



As corresponding secretaries, always keep the Diocesan theme “**We have seen the Lord - He is in us**”, near your hearts and minds when you send out your correspondence. I have enjoyed meeting and sharing with so many of you over these past two years as Corresponding Secretary for the London Diocesan Council. It is always a pleasure to be together to share and grow spiritually.

By the time you read this we will be very close to Easter. So as we prepare for Easter take a moment

quietly to feel God's presence. I hope that those who attended the Winter Retreat were given a good start on preparing for Lent.

I would like to say thank you to all the members who have supported and encouraged me while on the diocesan executive for the past ten years. Thank you Thank you. I will always treasure this experience and have been truly blessed by the many faith filled women, who graciously give of their talents and time for the league.

Happy Easter to all and I hope to see you in Windsor, April 28, 29 & 30, where we have planned a wonderful convention.

May our Lady of Good Counsel continue to watch over each of you and your families

God's Blessings,

Kathleen



Treasurer—Madeleine Visser

Proverbs 24:3-4 *By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; and by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.*

Wow! This statement is deep and holds such meaning for the job of the treasurer!

As my term of treasurer of the London Diocese draws to a close, I want to thank each of you for your input, your guidance, your friendship and your willingness to look at your positions under a different light. The Treasurer's position at your parish level is very important, you are the person with the knowledge and wisdom of how your council can proceed to do the many acts of kindness that you do...to be able to support your parish, and your community. I want you to know how much my position relies on your reports and your diligence in completing them on time. Without your reports I would have nothing to report to the hierarchy within the League and without your timely cheques to National with the dues, our Diocese is unable to conduct the business to continue to provide education {Conventions}, workshops, Retreats, a day at the Shrine etc, which in turn allows you to bring back to your councils your wisdom, knowledge and understanding of what is happening within your own backyard, and the world. Without your support to the timelines of reporting {year-end reports} and membership dues, which are due January 1st each year. The Diocesan Treasurer is unable to

fulfill the requirements of the position, such as sending the treasurer's reports in on time, creating a budget etc.

I am going to go over the Role of the Treasurer at the Parish level, which I hope will adhere to the timelines for whomever follows me in this position.

You can download the [Guideline for Treasurer's](#) by going to www.cwl.ca

[The Secret Recipe to doing year end Treasurer Report: Submitted by Treasurer, London Diocesan Council](#)

I am positive there are many treasurer's out there who are confused by what goes where...I want to take this opportunity to simplify the report to you so that it reflects your true budget and payouts.

The year-end report is an example of the sections you need in your budget. Should your books be set up like the report, it is an easy thing just to copy the numbers from your tally sheet to the proper line in the report. If you are unable to wait until the end of December to do this, estimate what will be going out for the period to the end of the year and send the report to the Diocesan Treasurer the beginning of December.

As the treasurer, you have agreed to doing these reports so I am sorry there is no way around them. The report is broken into sections

that are aspects of our responsibility.

The first is our **PARISH**. Report what you spend to support the parish, broken into sections:

- Donations for church, parish, rectory, etc.: This is a "maintenance clause"...money you have donated towards material things...building fund, repairs to the roof, new equipment in the kitchen, etc.

- Gifts for clergy or staff: how much money has been spent on Birthday gifts, anniversary gifts, a new stole, lunch for the staff, and so on.

- Gifts for sacraments: do you spend money on baptismal scarves, or passports? What do you give to the newly married? Do you support RCIA, 1st Communion, 1st Confession, Confirmation? These expenditures are reported here.

Now, how do you support **MISSIONS**? What do you think **MISSIONS** is...Mission work is any work done to support others in their ministry to others. We have several categories

- Catholic Missions in Canada - straight forward - only donations to this organization goes on this line.

- 3rd World, Save-A Family, etc - much confusion in this area...3rd world missions would include

(Continued on page 10)

Treasurer—Madeleine Visser ... (cont'd)



(Continued from page 9)

Haiti Relief, Buy-A-Net, MaterCare, Guatemalan Relief, Save-A-Family, Unicef, any support given to an organization that supports persons of the 3rd World (Central America, Africa, India, Malaysia, etc.)

- Other: Anything that does not fit above (missions in Canada - or the US for example)

Easy so far???

The next is one line only and is for **Development & Peace** - whether it is sent directly to that organization or collected through the 1% fund...this money is recorded as one sum here.

LEAGUE DEVELOPMENT comes next. This is monies you spend to better your council...

- Development, workshops, training - monies spent to bring someone in to do presentations that will enhance what the League does - it would include monies spent to attend Fall Regional Days, Day at the Shrine, Lenten Retreat or any other workshop presented
- Spiritual - perhaps you have a library and purchase books, tapes, CD's DVD's, or you purchase candles; you may do printing to send out prayers, or reflections.
- Convention - this is the money your council spends to send people to convention...don't forget to include the money send

for the collection! (you do send this, right...tithing 10% of your convention budget for collection at the closing mass)

As our mandate requests we support life from conception to natural death, the next category starts this chain, **PRO-LIFE**:

- National Pro-Life Fund: this is the monies that you send directly to National on their remittance form. National office controls this money and how it is distributed.
- Right to Life and Birthright are the only organizations under this heading. You may have sponsored baby showers, teas, fundraisers, or given money directly to either of these organizations.
- Homes for Unwed Mothers: although we don't see too many of these types of communities today, we still support unwed mothers. Many of your reports mentioned baby showers for these types of facilities.
- Other: an area to put money expended to support the Pro-Life movements not covered in the above categories. An example would be monetary support to a community centre that provides health programmes for pregnant women, or clothing for newborns or expectant mothers.

Following the same mandate, the next series supports life from after birth to natural death, the category is aptly named

C O M M U N I T Y ORGANIZATIONS

- Seniors and shut-ins...do you provide meals for those unable to fend for themselves, how about flowers, or cards sent to our own members, and members of your community. Do you assist at nursing homes or retirement homes? What about a Christmas lunch or celebration in your community geared towards seniors or shut-ins? Any monies spent in these regards would be recorded in this section.
- Community Organizations: this is a vast category and covers nearly any organization that you would support either by direct donation or gifts of kind...the organization list includes but is not limited to Red Cross Society, Cancer Society, Easter Seals, Rotary Club (Aquabox), Kidney Foundation, Alzheimer's Society, and so on.
- The Needy: support to such organizations as The St. Vincent de Paul Society or a food bank or shelters that support people of need. This is the support to the truly poor of our society. It differs from b) above because your support directly provides a service to people.
- Other: once again captures anything not covered above.

We're getting near the end now and want to find out how you support **CATHOLIC**

(Continued on page 11)

Treasurer—Madeleine Visser ... (cont'd)



(Continued from page 10)

EDUCATION in your community

- Local Schools...do you support breakfast, lunch, or snack programmes in your community schools – does not need to be only the Catholic Schools, but local schools. How do you support catechism in the school? What about Rosary Clubs, Prayer Clubs, or anything else that you do to support our Catholic Education in our school system.
- National Funds: through the national remittance form you can support the Coady Institute or bursaries offered by the CWL National office
- Seminarian support...do you send money to our St. Peter's Seminary, or a local young man entering the seminary? Do you send money to augment our

bursaries available to the seminarians

- CWL Member Education: in reports we have had councils supporting our members to take courses that will enrich the parish life...we could also offer seminars and courses to our whole membership that enhances our work in our schools ... i.e., courses from various groups such as the Autism Society, etc.

And finally, the “OTHER” section, which captures anything not mentioned above. This category also has the directed donations of the current year

- WUCWO is directed by National CWL asking for our assistance to support this global organization to which we all belong
- Life Member and Past President Social Justice Award: London Diocese is collecting

monies for this community award in respect of the work done by our past presidents.

- Other: anything not mentioned above...but, I must caution you, unless you are directed at convention for a “specific” charity that we will be collecting for (example in 2009 we collected for Buy-A-Net, 2010 was Salt & Light TV) there should not be much in this column... everything fits in a category above.

As always, if you are in need of help or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Diocesan Treasurer

Madeleine

Life is a Gift

Before you argue about your dirty house,
someone didn't sweep or clean
Think of the people who are living on the streets

And when you are tired and complain about your job
*Think of the unemployed, the disabled
And those who wished they had your job*

*2nd Vice-President—submitted by: Rebecca McCarrell—
Communications Standing Committee Chairperson*

RECALL NOTICE:

The Maker of all human beings (GOD) is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to a serious defect in the primary and central component of the heart.

This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units code named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. This defect has been identified as "Sub sequential Internal Non-morality," more commonly known as S.I.N., as it is primarily expressed.

Some of the symptoms include:

1. Loss of direction;
2. Foul vocal emissions;
3. Amnesia of origin;
4. Lack of peace and joy;
5. Selfish or violent behavior;
6. Depression or confusion;
7. Fearfulness;
8. Idolatry;
9. Rebellion

The Manufacturer, who is neither

liable nor at fault for this defect, is providing factory—authorized repair and service free of charge to correct this defect. The Repair Technician, JESUS, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs. There is no additional fee required.

The number to call for repair in all areas is: P-R-A-Y-E-R. Once connected, please upload your burden of SIN through the REPENTANCE procedure. Next, download ATONEMENT from the Repair Technician, Jesus, into the heart component. No matter how big or small the SIN defect, Jesus will replace it with:

1. Love;
2. Joy;
3. Peace;
4. Patience;
5. Kindness;
6. Goodness;
7. Faithfulness;
8. Gentleness;
9. Self-control

Please see the operating manual, the B.I.B.L.E. (BEST Instructions

Before Leaving Earth) for further details on the use of these fixes.

WARNING:

Continuing to operate the human being unit without correction voids any manufacturer warranties, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list, and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded. For free emergency service, call on Jesus.

DANGER:

The human being units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped in the furnace. The SIN defect will not be permitted to enter Heaven so as to prevent contamination of that facility. Thank you for your attention!

Respectfully:

GOD

P. S. Please assist where possible by notifying others of this important recall notice, and you may contact the Father any time by 'Knee mail'! Because HE Lives!

Fasting & Feasting

Fast from anger

Feast patience

Fast from pessimism

Feast on optimism

Fast from worry

Feast on Divine Providence



*Spiritual Development Standing Committee
Chairperson—Mary Bannon*

Here we are, about to enter the great 40 days of Lent. I was thinking about our theme “We Have Seen the Lord-He is In Us” and what this Lent is calling me to be or do. I thought about the three C’s: Conversion, Conviction and Communion.

Conversion is a life-long process which is brought into sharper focus each Lent. Those who know me know that I have a special love of Max Lucado who writes, “He saw you cast into a river of life you didn't request. He saw you betrayed by those you love. He saw you with a body that gets sick and a heart that grows weak. He saw you in your own garden of gnarled trees and sleeping friends. He saw you staring into the pit of your own failures and the mouth of your own grave. He saw you in your own garden of Gethsemane and he didn't want you to be alone ... He would rather go to hell for you than to heaven without you.” All that we endure in our lives, Christ endured in his. Forgiveness is so essential to our growth in having the Lord come and live in us. And it’s not easy! But, “Forgiveness is unlocking the

door to set someone free and realizing you were the prisoner!”

Conviction in our Faith is our call each day and is strengthened by the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. Many times I have people ask me about the meaning of the letters INRI on the scroll at the top of the crucifix. Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews. “Every passerby could read the sign, for every passerby could read Hebrew, Latin, or Greek—the three great languages of the ancient world. Hebrew was the language of Israel, the language of religion; Latin the language of the Romans, the language of law and government; and Greek the language of Greece, the language of culture. Christ was declared king in them all.” (Max Lucado)]

Communion is the unity which Conversion and Conviction bring to us. This unity calls us to be sisters who love and care for each other. “We are Jesus Christ's; we belong to him. But even more, we are increasingly *him*. He moves in and commandeers our hands and feet, requisitions our minds and tongues. We sense his rearranging:

debris into the divine, pig's ear into silk purse. He repurposes bad decisions and squalid choices. Little by little, a new image emerges.” (Max Lucado) That woman sitting next to you at your meeting or Pot-luck dinner or Retreat is the Lord. He is in her. We need to remember that!

**Have a Blessed Lent
and an Alleluia
Easter!**

Mary



Christian Family Life Standing Committee Chairperson—Theresa Ryan



I am approaching the end of my term as Christian Family Life chairperson and I have been indeed lucky to have been blessed with this standing committee. It is the one that truly embodies who we are and what we are about as a “Catholic Women’s League”. Growing up I remember being told in school how privileged we were to grow up in a country where we are not persecuted for our beliefs. That idea seemed so foreign to me. I thought naively that only happened in the past. I also remember being warned that someday in the future we may not be able to practice our religion so freely as we did back then. I would have never been able to predict the world we are in now.

Marriage and family have taken a huge hit. They have both been redefined so much in an attempt to include everyone that they have lost their meaning and purpose. It used to be if you were from a one parent family you were an exception, and now it is almost the opposite way around. Society has opened a back door that is easy to open if marriages don’t work. Realistically how many couples getting married today enter into it with the trepidation of realizing this is till death do us part? Or do they just think well if worse comes I’ll just get a divorce? We as a society are leaving God out of our marriages.

Birth control has supposedly given women a lot more freedom, but has it? Again we are taking God

out of the equation and we are deciding when and how many children we will have and surprise, surprise now even in some places in the world the sex of the child. If a woman gets pregnant and the baby is not wanted or suspected of disabilities, it quite often ends in an abortion.

I remember when we first started protesting abortion we were warning that euthanasia of the older members of our society or severely disabled would be next . That day is here right now. We still have time to protest this issue, before the laws get changed.

In looking over the year end reports that you have sent me it is obvious that we are trying to minister to the youth, and I particularly like the ones where action is taken at the local schools. We sadly know that not all parents attend church, so therefore their children won’t either. Reaching them at the schools will leave an impression that they can take with them.

In our communities we remember the widowed and include them in our activities, offering them a ride (which is really offering yourself to them) to church or functions.

To minister to the disabled, we have to educate ourselves to what their difficulties are and see what we can do with them, and for them. Does some accommodations have to be made

for them? Can they afford them or does some fund raising need to occur?

We as a society are living longer and now there are more seniors. How are they being taken care of? Do we visit nursing homes and seniors living in their homes to see if their needs are being met? I am afraid there is a lot of isolation out there, where many seniors have no one to turn to.

I was really glad to hear Pope Francis talking about the divorced and separated Catholics in our midst. I feel great compassion for them because not only has their marriage failed but now they are in some case cut off from full communion with their faith.

Vocations. When we hear that word do we just think of vocations to the religious life or do we think of all vocations? God has a specific plan for all of us. The world does not tell you that. The world asks what you want to do with your life? It also pushes marriage as being the answer to life. We need to impress upon people to pray for an answer as to what God wants for us. Do you ever ask your family if they have prayed over it?

In closing I thank you for doing such good work in your communities. Together we can do great things together!

God bless you.....

Theresa

Community Life Standing Committee Chairperson—Caroline Ngui



I hope and pray that we all had a restful and peaceful Christmas celebration with family and friends and we are invigorated again to continue our good deeds in so many ways to ensure the most vulnerable people in our communities and world are protected with love and justice.

First of all a sincere thank you to all Councils and members who generously responded to the relief efforts supported by Development and Peace in the aftermath of the dreadful Typhoon Haiyan that ravaged the Philippines last fall.

Here is an update from CCOND regarding the relief effort:- In the aftermath of the disaster, Development and Peace immediately began to collaborate with Caritas Philippines-NASSA, which is distributing food, water and other essential items in areas that were hardest hit by the storm. These include remote parts of the islands of Palawan and Panay, which have received less attention than other islands, yet still suffered enormous devastation. Development and Peace has just contributed an additional \$1 million to the efforts of Caritas Philippines—Nassa as it continues to bring aid to the most vulnerable affected by this disaster.

There are many areas of our world that are troubled with ethnic violence, religious intolerance or civil war:-

- As violence continues to escalate in the Central African Republic, the Catholic Church in the country is calling for an immediate ceasefire. "We're deeply concerned about the crisis in Central African Republic (CAR). The situation in Bangui is chaotic. Many people have been killed. The fighting must stop immediately," said Archbishop Dieudonné Nzapalainga of the capital Bangui. This call came after extremely violent clashes took place in the last few weeks that left hundreds dead. This most recent wave of fighting has led the United Nations to approve a small peacekeeping mission formed of African and French troops in hopes of restoring calm.
- Syrians have been fleeing battle zones in Syria and crossing over into neighbouring countries. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that there are 1.3 million registered Syrian refugees, with over 400,000 in both Lebanon and Jordan, and over 300,000 in Turkey. The needs in camps are very high for food, clothing, medical assistance and other necessities. There are also large numbers of unregistered refugees living on their own or with friends or family. Since February, an estimated 8,000 Syrians are leaving their country each

day, which is placing an enormous strain on available resources in host countries. The federal government has made an initial commitment to resettle up to 1,300 Syrian refugees this year. Please try to encourage your parish council to help with this settlement

- The humanitarian crisis in South Sudan continues to have dire repercussions on local populations, who have had to adapt to living under the constant threat of conflict. They are now striving to form new communities, to regain their livelihoods, to feed their families, and to find peace and dignity in such difficult circumstances. Development and Peace is committed to standing by them through this ongoing crisis, which must not be forgotten.

Please act now to help refugees and people displaced from their countries - Let us pray for peace and reconciliation and also continue to financially support Development and Peace's relief efforts in the different parts of our troubled world.

Prostitution in Canada:-

Recently the Supreme Court of Canada struck down three Criminal Code provisions regulating prostitution in Canada; -living off the avails of prostitution; - communicating in public for purposes of prostitution; and - keeping or being found in a bawdy house.

(Continued on page 16)

Community Life Standing Committee Chairperson—Caroline Ngui ... (cont'd)



(Continued from page 15)

The effect of the decision is suspended for 12 months to give Parliament a chance to respond. – to change the present laws governing prostitution.

The Catholic Civil Rights League (CCRL) calls for new legislation following this disappointing ruling. “Clearly this is not the decision we wanted, nor in our

opinion is it what the majority of Canadians would wish to see,” said CCRL League Executive Director Joanne McGarry. “We encourage the government to introduce new legislation on prostitution that will reduce its incidence and improve the safety and security of its victims.”

Please read more about this issue at the CCRL website www.ccrl.ca—a report can also be

found on the CWL National website at www.cwl.ca. We should begin writing letters to the Canadian Government and our Members of Parliament asking them to introduce new legislation on Prostitution as soon as possible.

May our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide and protect us every day.

Caroline

Submission from our Life Member—Trucy Cornelis with news of our other Life Members in the Diocese

On September 25th the Life Members spent the day with Gladys Dewey. We shared a few pictures and a sing along with the seniors of North Lambton Rest Home in Forest. Followed by some memories of the past.

The luncheon was joined by Gladys centre from left—Pat Rivest, Lucy Hendrikx, Shirley George, Trucy Cornelis and Mary VanDyk. Absent were Muriel Murphy, Bev Weiler, Lottie Gorski and Maria Odumodu.

Trucy



Education & Health Standing Committee

Chairperson—*Elisabeth Duggan*



Seven Important things we can do to reduce Stigma and Discrimination associated with Mental Illness

1. **Know the facts.** Educate yourself about mental health problems. Learn the facts instead of the myths. Visit the mendthemind.ca and read the Top 11 Myths about Mental Illness.

2. **Be aware of your attitude and behaviour.** We've all grown up with prejudices and judgmental thinking, but we can change the way we think! See people as unique human beings, not as labels or stereotypes. See the person beyond their mental illness; they have many other personal attributes that do not disappear just because they have a mental illness.

3. **Choose your words carefully.** The way we speak can affect the way other people think and speak. Don't use hurtful or derogatory language.

4. **Educate others.** Find opportunities to pass on facts and positive attitudes about people with mental health problems. If your friends, family, co-workers or even the media present information that is not true, challenge their myths and stereotypes. Let them know how their negative words and incorrect descriptions affect people with

mental health problems by keeping alive the false ideas.

5. **Focus on the positive.** People with mental health and substance abuse problems make valuable contributions to society. Their health problems are just one part of who they are. We've all heard the negative stories. Let's recognize and applaud the positive ones.

6. **Support people.** Treat people who have mental health problems with dignity and respect. Think about how you'd like others to act toward you if you were in the same situation. If you have family members, friends or co-workers with substance use or mental health problems, support their choices and encourage their efforts to get well.

7. **Include everyone.** In Canada it is against the law for employers and people who provide services to discriminate against people with mental health and substance use problems. Denying people access to things such as jobs, housing and health care, which the rest of us take for granted, violates human rights.

People with mental and substance use problems have a right to take an equal part in society. Let's make sure that happens!

Anti-Stigma Campaigns Mental health and anti-stigma campaigns are taking place across the world. Here are some links to check out ...*(just type in the names)*

The New Mentality—a programme for children's mental health in Ontario

Mental Health Commission—promoting mental health in Canada

Mood Disorders Canada—the Mood Disorders Society of Canada (MDSC) has evolved to become one of Canada's best-connected mental health NGOs.

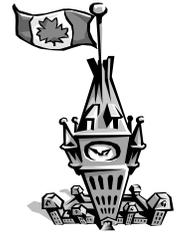
Reach Out—an anti-stigma video campaign by reachout.com

Defeat Depression—a national anti-stigma campaign designed to eliminate stigma associated with mental illness.

(All above information from the mendthemind.ca website)

Elisabeth

Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson—Dara Hartman



Recently, when I was researching a Bill on a legislative website, I came upon something that gave cause for excitement and is a genuine vehicle through which all of us can use our voices. It is called the 'Declaration of Hope' and a chance for us to revisit a Catholic Women's League initiative through the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. It is a letter to all Canadian parliamentarians that urges our governments, federal and provincial, to reinvigorate their support of Canadians, rather than the death of Canadians. Incorporated with this letter is a 1 minute video-clip by Alex Schadenberg (a guest speaker at our 2010 convention in Sarnia) that outlines alternate treatments rather than euthanasia and/or assisted suicide and is very worth 1 minute of your time. The letter itself advocates against euthanasia and/or assisted suicide with 8 points/arguments:"

1. *to legalize euthanasia and/or assisted suicide would enable one citizen to directly and intentionally cause the death of another citizen or be involved with causing that death.*
2. *euthanasia and assisted suicide are not socially acceptable responses to terminal or incurable illness or chronic conditions.*
3. *euthanasia and assisted suicide pose a threat to the equality of persons.*
4. *older Canadians are not a problem to be rid of - they're a*

generation to be honoured and cared for.

5. *Canada must not place lives of citizens at risk.*

6. *legislation for euthanasia and/or assisted suicide is a recipe for abuse.*

7. *all Canadians should have access to quality pain control—no matter where they live.*

8. *being involved in one's health care plan and making informed choices are vitally important to a patient's sense of well being."*

I do not know one single CWL member who would be unwilling to put her signature on that declaration. Here is how to accomplish your support: go to the declarationofhope.ca website, review the information and please use your voice.

Shortly after I offered my support, I received by e-mail, a 'Euthanasia Prevention Coalition' Update Newsletter (which you can 'google' online). This outlines the activities and provides links to important legislative activity such as:

- the Quebec government commission that is examining Bill 52, the euthanasia bill, returned to its discussion of the euthanasia bill on January 15th. The Quebec National Assembly will return from its break on February 11th. Bill 52 will likely go to a vote in March.

- The Newsletter provides links

to [examine Bill 52](#) and to [sign a petition to help stop Quebec's euthanasia Bill 52.](#)

Another link in the Newsletter takes you to a petition that you may sign individually or hardcopy a petition for your council to sign and return to the EPC, involves the 'Carter vs. Canada case'. The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition has prepared its Supreme Court of Canada intervention in the Carter case, that seeks to legalize euthanasia and assisted suicide in Canada. A direct route to this petition is to go to epcc.ca/petition and click on **Petition / Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Carter VS Canada**. This website offers a brief explanation of the case, the opportunity to sign the online petition and to print the petition in English. I cannot urge you strongly enough to sign these petitions and to allow yourselves and your councils the opportunity to use your voices, not once but three times, as we are called to do as Catholic Women's League members.

(* Italicized points are direct quotes from the Declaration of Hope.)

Dara

*Regional News—Essex
Representative—Mary Lappan*



As I sit at my computer to write this article I'm praying that the groundhog will have good news for us. I'm sure we're all looking forward to spring after this long, cold, snow-filled winter.

Something else we are anticipating is our regional day in February. I'm sure Mary Bannon and Father Matt have something wonderful planned for the day.

The Essex Region parishes have been busy with bazaars, potluck suppers and membership drives. In addition to their parish activities, they have been working on the upcoming Diocesan convention to be held in Windsor at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts on April 28, 29, and 30. We have some great activities planned and are looking forward to showing the Diocese our hospitality.

Please come and join us for Faith, Fun and Fulfillment.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to bless our homes and families.

Mary



*Regional News—Sarnia Lambton
Representative—Wilhelmina Kole*

Happy New Year.

Brr! Our winter is a true Canadian one this year, very cold with lots of snow. Oh well, spring is not far away and the cycle of increased light and growth starts again.

In January, 32 CWL ladies of Sarnia Lambton Region enjoyed a wonderful Potluck supper before our meeting. Father Jim Higgins,

Pastor of St. Benedict's Parish, celebrated Mass for us prior to the Potluck.

I am amazed by the amount of work and dedication done by the ladies of our region. One example is the Funeral Lunches that are supplied to the grieving families in our parishes by CWL ladies. This is only one of many ways that the CWL works together for God and Canada. I

am humbled to be surrounded by such amazing women as those in our region. Sarnia Lambton Region presently has 13 councils who work together for God and Canada.

Yours in Christ,

Wilhelmina





*Regional News—Windsor
Representative—Marilyn Morrison*

“We Have Seen the Lord ~
He is in Us!”

Happy New Year to all! Another new year that will be filled with challenges, accomplishments and rewards. The challenge so far has been this very cold winter. We will keep all those who have been affected by the weather and are traveling in our prayers. The rewards will come with all that Councils accomplish this year.

Throughout this past fall and early winter, Windsor Region Councils raised hundreds of dollars to support League Activities, their Parish and community by having Bazaars, Bake Sales etc. The “*giving trees*” in each Parish helped support families by providing children with toys, mittens, hats and scarfs. The outreach to those residents in Nursing Homes and Homes for the Aged was very

gratifying as well.

Windsor and Essex Regions have had several planning meetings for the 94th Annual Diocesan Convention that will be held in Windsor from April 28th - 30th, 2014. We look to hosting the Convention and all Councils in collaboration with the Diocesan Executive have been working tirelessly to ensure that all in attendance have 3 full days of faith, fun and fulfillment. This is an election year so please pray for all who have put their names forward to form the new Diocesan Executive.

We hope as many members as possible accept the invitation from the Diocesan Executive to attend one of the 3 “*Winter Retreats*,” beginning on February 15th at St. Ursula’s in Chatham, March 1st at St. John the Divine in London and on March 15th at

the Knights of Columbus Hall in Goderich. Our Spiritual Director, Fr. Matthew Kucharski will facilitate these retreats providing us with spiritual growth experiencing the sense of “*Belonging to the Catholic Women’s League*.” Notices have been sent to each Council President so be sure to register as soon as possible!

Keep warm, be safe and may Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to bless your work, your home and families.

Marilyn

**Look for the ad for the Windsor
Convention on April 28, 29 &
30. Found on page 24**

We take English for granted,
But if we explore its paradoxes
We find that quicksand can work slowly,
Boxing rings are square
And a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

Let’s face it—English is a crazy language.
There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger;
Neither apple nor pine in pineapple.
English muffins weren’t invented in England.



*Regional News—Ingersoll
Representative—Helga Stuermer*

What an exciting time we all had this past season. Snow, snow and more snow. The winter storms were relentless, but then when the sun peaked through the world looked breathtakingly beautiful. The air is so clean and crisp and very cold.

So much is going on and of serious concern to everyone. The Child Pornography has everyone talking, and much of the Human Trafficking is on everyone's mind. I had many phone calls asking when the cards will be available so the various councils can proceed with planning and implementing their action plan involving the entire parish community. Many find it hard to believe that this could happen here in our beloved Canada. Many parishioners are really not aware this is occurring. We need to raise everyone's awareness and provide information and education on this serious issue.

On January 26th, our combined churches St. Cecilia, Port Dover, & St. Mary, Simcoe had a workshop. "What is Human Trafficking?" Why does it exist in Canada? The speaker Briana Blencowe was very good, and we all left with information booklets and had much to think about.

Before Christmas most councils were really busy with various fundraising bazaars, and helping with food banks and Vincent de Paul programmes. This helps putting some food on the table of some families in need. We have so much to be thankful for, therefore we must be aware and help those who are in need of a helping hand.

I had a 3 hour Kettle Duty on a real cold day to help the Salvation Army with their goal to raise much needed funds to help families. We do this every year. At our last president meeting we had a lovely Lenten Candlelight Celebration. We all enjoyed this very much, as well as all the goodies.

Some council's participated in the Walk for Life, and also had various spiritual awareness programmes. I always enjoy listening to the activities the councils are planning and doing. The dedication and enthusiasm and love they show in all their activities is very encouraging and lifts my heart

St. Peters Council in Norwich celebrated the 50th Anniversary of their Charter. I was privileged to attend.

Currently our councils are contemplating whether they will attend & participate in the February 15th. or March 1st. Regional Days of Belonging and Growth in Spirituality.

The time passes way too quickly, and all too soon Lent will be here. Hopefully the weather will cooperate - no snow or icy roads to travel on.

We are all looking forward to the Annual Convention. There is so much to learn, and we will see and are happy to re-connect with friends.

Helga

Look for a prayer 'To End Human Trafficking' by Gen Cassani, SSND—found of page 23



*Regional News—Chatham Kent
Representative—Angela Soulliere*



My how time flies! To think that we have just finished celebrating Christmas and we are soon to begin our journey through Lent. Ash Wednesday is March 5th. Lent is a time to go the extra mile... and with our Diocesan theme, "We have seen the Lord! He is in us!" Lent is a perfect time to reflect upon that theme and ponder what we CAN do to live that theme, not only during Lent, but all year through.

The Chatham Kent region has been busy working in the parish communities as well as the community as a whole. We are

looking forward to hosting the Winter Retreat at St. Ursula's Parish on February 15th. As usual, it will be a day of Faith, Fun and Fulfillment. I look forward to spending a day with my Sisters in the League.

Convention is in Windsor this April. I know that the Convention Committee has been working hard at making this a wonderful experience. If you have not had the opportunity to attend an Annual Convention, please make an effort to attend, you will not be disappointed. I look forward to seeing old friends there

as well as making new ones too! Convention is always a great time!

May our Lady of Good Counsel bless you,

Angela Soulliere

*Regional News—Huron Perth
Representative—Denise Lalonde-Morris*



I hope everyone is dealing with the ravages of Winter. Mother Nature has swarmed over our area and has stopped many a meeting these past few months.

Even with the weather difficulties our councils are up and running. Some are having problems filling their executive positions but most have overcome this difficulty and continue on.

I have been able to make contact or visit all of the Parish offices and have tried to introduce myself to as many as I can. Huron/Perth expands a fairly large area but I chose some of our few sunny days to go and explore to see some of the distances my fellow sisters have to travel to share Faith, Fellowship and Fun.

We hope that many of our sisters will join us on March 15th, 2014

in Goderich at the Knights of Columbus for this years Regional Winter Days for a Day of "Belonging" - this years theme.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel Guide you all! Wishing you all the Best.

Denise





League Lingo—Editor, Sandra Cabiddu

Today, as I write this it is bitterly cold, but there is a blue sky and the sun is shining! Maybe, just maybe spring is just around the corner. The amount of snow is like it was when I first arrived in Sarnia—at least 2 feet in my garden! I have had enough of the cold & heavy snowfalls this winter. I know, I know we live in Canada, but this year is exceptional. We have been spoiled with the past few mild winters.

Once again orders are down and just not coming in. I know I put an early deadline to this edition, because of my winter holiday, but I thought I would have had the

orders in by now, with all the reminders from your regional chairpersons and our web page. I will make extra copies and bring to convention in Windsor, but I thought the consensus last year was that you preferred to order at the fall regionals or in the early new year.

There is still confusion as to who you make your cheque payable to. Anything that is to do with diocesan council money matters, you make it payable to **THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA**. Not to me personally, or CWL. There is

no bank account with this heading. Also, do not sent it to **NATIONAL CWL OFFICE**

I look forward to seeing you all at our convention which is being held in Windsor this year. It is later than usual this year because of a late Easter.

Don't forget this is an election year, so you must be there to cast your ballot.

Sandra

*Prayer to End Human Trafficking—Gen Cassani, SSND
Submitted by Helga Stuermer*

O God, our words cannot express

What our minds can barely comprehend and our hearts feel

When we hear of women, men and children deceived

And transported to unknown places

For purposes of exploitation and abuse

Because of human greed and profit at this time in our world.

Our hearts are saddened and our spirits angry

That their dignity and rights are being

Transgressed through threats/deceptions and force.

We cry out against the degrading practice of

Trafficking and pray for it to end.

Strengthen the fragile—spirited and broken-hearted

Make real your promises

To fill these our sisters and brothers with a love that is tender and good.

And send the exploiters away empty-handed.

Give us the wisdom and courage

To stand in solidarity with them

That together we will find ways to freedom that is your gift to all of us.

93rd Annual London Diocesan Convention

April 28, 29 & 30, 2014

*St. Clair Centre for the Art's
Windsor, Ontario*

Hotel Information:

Waterfront Hotel, Riverside Dr. Windsor

Quality Suites, Dougall Ave. Windsor

Travelodge, Riverside Dr. E. Windsor

Speakers:

Monday 7:45 p. m. — Fun Night

Tuesday a. m. — Betty Anne Brown Davidson, National President

Tuesday 2:45 p. m. — Sister Linda Dube, Our Lady of Guadalupe Home

Tuesday 3:30 p. m. — Card Writing for our Seniors "I Prayed for You"

Tuesday 6 p. m. — Fun Night Murder Mystery — The Price is Right — For Murder"

Wednesday 9:15 a. m. — Provincial President, Betty Colaneri

Wednesday 10 a. m. Elections & Parallel Programme for non-voting delegates

Wednesday 1:45 p. m. — Betty Colaneri & Lee Levergood

on sharing how they have "Seen the Lord"

Wednesday 2:40 p. m. — Catholic Comm. Foundation of S.W. Ont.

Maria Odumodu

Wednesday, 5 p. m. — Closing Mass & Installation of New Executive

Wednesday 7 p. m. — Banquet — St. Clair Centre for the Art's

*We Have Seen the Lord
He Is In Us*



*Council News—Essex Region—St. Simon & St. Jude,
Belle River—Co—President, Lee Levergood*

Our council has had an extremely busy last few months. At the November meeting we celebrated the lives of eight members who had died in the year of 2013. The families were invited to join the service and light a candle in honour of their mother, grandmother or aunt. The Bazaar was held in November and was a great success. With the support of our members and a few husbands we made over 900 meat pies. Members donated baked goods, penny table items and many volunteer hours. Thank you to all the members for the continued support.

After the bazaar, a girls shopping spree day was planned. We rented a bus and went to Chatham to shop at Birdie's Nest and the

Glasshouse. The bus was full and all ladies enjoyed the time spent together. A buffet lunch concluded our day.. Returning home with lots of parcels and smiles on every face. Great day of friendship and fun!!!!

The Christmas party was a great success with over 100 in attendance. The turkey dinner and CWL apple pies were delicious. Entertainment for the night "Teddy Bear Bachmeier" crooned Frank Sinatra and Elvis Presley tunes for all the audience to enjoy.

At the December meeting the ladies dawned their Christmas attire to celebrate the season. Guest speaker Matthew Bombardier spoke on youth and faith today. Our Advent Tea was held on the 10th with 30 ladies in attendance. The ladies came together to share the day of

spirituality and friendship. The council continues to support the Lakeshore Goodfellows for the third year with our 'pj' drive. This year we provided 160 new pj's to the needy families in our area.

In January, the installation of the new executive was celebrated. The council will have co-presidents for the first time.. Welcome and thank you to Jeanne Lauzon for accepting the co-president position. Thank you to all members who accepted a position on the executive.

What a great team and looking forward to the next two years.

Lee

GRANDPARENTS

A grandfather was delivering his grandchildren to their home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children started discussing the dog's duties. "They use him to keep crowds back." said one child. "No," said another. "He's just for good luck." A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrants."



*Council News—Essex Region—St. Michael,
Leamington—President, Barbara Quenneville*

We here at St. Michael's attempt to fulfill the themes of the CWL of "WE HAVE SEEN THE LORD, HE IS IN US" and "AS PEOPLE OF FAITH". This will be an interesting and challenging year because sometime this year our church will be torn down and a new church, hall and facilities will be built on the same site. We will hold our Masses at St. Joseph's Church during the construction process. As a result, we may have to alter some of our endeavours.

In January, the Kitchen Inventory is completed along with a general cleaning of all the cupboards. Our Membership Campaign is still being conducted as there are some ladies who have not yet renewed. They all have been contacted and have said that they will take care of this obligation in the near future. On January 23rd, we will host an Ecumenical evening during the "CHURCH UNITY OCTAVE WEEK". It involves a prayer service, homilies and choirs singing, followed by a reception with desserts and beverages.

February is a rather busy month. The DIOCESAN WINTER RETREAT will occur on February 15th at St. Ursula's in Chatham. Hopefully some of our ladies will be able to attend this function. We continue to participate in the "MEALS ON

WHEELS" programme for our community. The budget for 2014 is presented, discussed and voted on. MATT DOPP and his wife will be giving a formation in the "SCHOOL OF EVANGELIZATION" from February 20th - 23rd. Then they will conduct a general Parish Mission on February 24th - 26th. Also, we will possibly be making Portuguese Donuts prior to Lent as a fund raiser. In addition, we will have the Regional Presidents Meeting on February 12th. Convention information is distributed as it is received.

ASH WEDNESDAY occurs on March 5th and so begins the season of Lent. We are anticipating to conduct a LENTEN RETREAT on March 15th for any lady of the Parish. WORLD DAY OF PRAYER is on March 7th and we participate along with the other denominations in Leamington. We sponsor the Birthday Party at the Mennonite Senior Home by providing birthday cake, presents and entertainment.

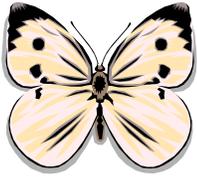
Every first Tuesday of the month, a Mass is said for the living and deceased members of the CWL. In April, we have an additional Mass for "OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL" on April 26th. We will be selling tickets for our Annual Banquet and distribute crosses to the First

Communion Candidates on their Retreat Days. We will provide a Brunch on April 12th for the RCIA candidates, sponsors and leaders. The DIOCESAN CONVENTION occurs on April 28th - 30th in Windsor. Since it is so close to home, perhaps many ladies will take this opportunity to meet other CWL members from our Diocese and enjoy the many activities of this great event. As you celebrate the beautiful feast of "EASTER" on April 20th, may you "see the Lord and increase your faith."

On May 6th, we will be celebrating our 63rd Anniversary with the Crowning of Mother Mary at the Church and a Banquet at the Roma Club. At the time of writing this article, our Council had 15 new members. This year we will honour 4 - 10 yr. members, 3 - 25 yr. members, 9 - 50 yr. members, and 6 - 60 yr. members. All of these ladies will receive their Service Pins at the Banquet. Perhaps we will be conducting the "FAMILY TOTE RAFFLE" again. In addition, we continue to assist the St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank monthly with donations. Hopefully, all of our projects will continue to serve God, Canada, Leamington and St. Michael's Parish.

Barbara





*Council News—Essex Region—Visitation Parish,
Comber—President, Laurie Lassaline*

A special “OLOG HOME shower” was planned for the newly built “OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE HOME FOR MOTHERS”, located in Windsor Ontario, serving women in crisis due to an unplanned pregnancy. Although it was a very busy time of year, Christmas, and many had just donated to the parish Giving Tree, our CWL ladies and parish members rose to the occasion to help outfit the Home that was preparing for their Grand

opening on February 1st, 2014. With 7 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, prayer room kitchen/dining room, laundry room, office, multipurpose room, etc—the needs were many. Over 200+ new items were donated—what a tremendous response and support shown for the Home! A special thank you to Rita Huson, our Spiritual Development Chairperson, who spearheaded the event, coordinating the HOME’s “wish list”,

communicating with the HOME, assisting with the planning of “OLOG Home Shower” event at the general January CWL meeting, as well as delivering the items with the help of 2 other League members. Indeed God’s hands were at work through our wonderful Council and parish members.



Laurie Lassaline and Rita Huson



Some of the over 200 + gifts donated !



Judy Bridgen with her hand made items.



CWL Ladies enjoying the OLOG Shower. L to R

Adrienne Oriet, Betty Trepanier, Alice Reaume, Bertha Bellemore, Margaret Stchyrba, Helene Masse



Agnes Quick & Alice Reaume washing dishes



Dishes in their new OLOG Home !

Council News—Sarnia Lambton Region—Our Lady of Mercy, Sarnia—Past—President, Phyllis Vanoverbeke

We attended a “Catch the Fire” presentation. Some members were really impressed with the event.

We held our usual annual membership appeal, the first weekend in November

Every November, on a Wednesday afternoon, CWL ladies meet to sort books, for the annual book sale. The really hard work and labour paid off, because this year, we had the most successful book sale. Thus the Canadian Catholic

Missions will welcome the donation from the event

On a sad note—it has been decided to discontinue the book sale due to the aging volunteers

On December 3rd 2013 we joined St Joseph’s and St Benedicts CWL at St Joe’s for a wonderful Christmas pot luck supper.

A Christmas gift presentation was made to St Vincent De Paul on behalf of our clergy. It was greatly appreciated

December 9th 2013, we hosted the reception for the Immaculate Conception. We would like to thank again all of the CWL councils who contributed the goodies for the event

Our Lady of Mercy Hall is doing some renovations, thus a few events to be held, will depend on the availability of the facility

Phyllis

Dates of Interest

Ladies, below are some dates of interest or perhaps more than that for some of them. Perhaps attending a Louis Riel Day in your area, talks to our resolution 2013.01.

Blessings,
Fran Lucas, National Community Life Chair

February 15th: National Flag Day - Canada

The flag symbolizes to Canadians what is best about Canada; the Maple Leaf flag was first. raised in 1965.

February 17th: Heritage Day - Canada

This is a time for Canadians to explore and celebrate their own personal heritage. In Alberta, Heritage Day is celebrated on

the first Monday in August. Yukon celebrates Heritage Day on the last Friday in February, and in Saskatchewan it is celebrated on February 17th.

February 17th: Louis Riel Day - Canadian Aboriginal Peoples

Until 1885; Riel was the political leader of the Métis. He led a rebellion against the Canadian authorities and was charged with high treason, found guilty and sentenced to death. His name is a symbol for Native independence.

February 17th: Family Day

This holiday celebrates the importance of families and family life for people and their communities. Family Day is observed in the provinces of

Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan.

March 8th: International Women’s Day - International

Established in 1977 by the United Nations, this special day provides an opportunity to reflect on the progress made to advance women’s equality rights and status

March 21st: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - United Nations

On March 21st, in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid “pass laws”. The day was proclaimed in 1966.

Council News—Sarnia Lambton Region—Sacred Heart, Sarnia—Co-presidents—Martha Knight & Barb Paul

Once again it has been a busy fall for our council. In September we baked apple pies and apple crisp for the Rayjon fall fair. All of the money raised by Rayjon goes to supporting their work in Haiti. Once this task was completed we began preparations for our own Christmas bazaar. We baked Tourtières, apple pies, turkey pies and apple crisps. We had a very successful raffle of gift baskets made from gently used items donated by members. Our bake table was also very successful. We were overwhelmed at the generosity of our members in their donations of baked goods.

At our December meeting, we had a delicious catered meal by the Gourmet Cafe located in Sarnia. After dinner we had a wonderful sing along of Christmas carols. The music was provided by Leanne Moran, our parish musical director. At this meeting we took the opportunity to bestow the Maple Leaf service pin on Pat Finn. Pat has been a member for 37 years in the CWL. She has held many executive positions but is primarily noted for her spirit of service to others. She has coordinated countless funeral luncheons and delivered hundreds of Meals on Wheels.

We are extremely fortunate to have such dedicated members in our council.

Martha



Council News—Sarnia Lambton Region—St. Philip, Petrolia—submitted by: Ann Selman

In November we hosted a tea, silent auction and bake sale with the proceeds going towards our charities which include Lambton Right to Life, Petrolia Rebound, our high school Bursary, Petrolia Food Bank and 11 others.

We're putting on a St. Patrick's Day stew supper on March 15th.

Our Dinner and a Movie nights

are quite successful so on March 1st we are hosting a hot dog and movie night after the 5 p.m. Mass, with the usual popcorn and chips. Admission is by donation.

Our Ladies of the Parish Brunch catered by Knights of Columbus is in February. We invite all the ladies of the parish, and welcome their sisters, cousins, neighbours, friends, mothers, whoever - and

this creates a large turnout for our event, encourages social time with family, and entices some of them to join our League!

Ann



*Council News—Sarnia Lambton Region—St. Benedict,
Sarnia—President, Pat Daamen*

A wonderful year with many of our 262 members working together to change the Community in which we live. Through **Turkey Pie Workshops**, experiencing **Catch The Fire** together, serving up **Funeral Lunches** whenever called to do so, write-ups in our local paper, sharing with others all the activities we have each month, but most of all, the work and love that goes into our Yearly Bazaar.

We are truly blessed to have a Parish that supports our work each and every year. Donations of baking, sewing, knitting, etc. make our Bazaar the talk of the

whole area. Due to this generosity we are able to support, four children to go to St. Vincent de Paul Camp in our area, The Rosary Apostolate, who go to our area Schools to teach how to pray the Rosary to children of all ages, the money raised by the 'Jewels and Things' table goes to this activity. We are also able to support Right To Life, the St. Joseph's Hospice, and our efforts of Charity and Social Justice, and many more worthy Organizations.

In Remembrance:

We mourn the loss of the following members: Hazel Plant May 2013); Bernadette Jose

March 2013); Marianne Taylor (March 2013); Helen Blais (January 2013); Phyllis Ferrera (November 2013); and Catherine Reynolds (April 2013). They will be remembered in our prayers.

We pray 2014, will be a year of Peace and continued sharing of our GIFTS with one another.

Pat

*Council News—London Region—St. Justin, London
Submitted by Elisabeth Duggan*

Our council has had a great year ending with distribution of service pins, and we are very blessed to have a new executive chosen.

Our Christmas Pot Luck was a great success, with great dishes and desserts, and entertainment by Guy Charrette.

We handed out 1-Maple Leaf Service pin, 4-10 year pins, 2-25 year pins, 4-40 year pins, 2-50 year pins and 2-60 year pins. We thank our ladies for their love and service to the league.

On February 23rd, we will be having our new executive installed during the 8:30 a.m. Mass. This will be followed by a brunch for all members, provided by our Knights of Columbus.

Our new executive acclaimed for 2014/ 2015.

Co-Presidents:
Sandra Furlott &
Han Okkerman

President Elect:
Josef Salisbury

Secretary:
Pauline Regan

Treasurer:
Johanna Veilleux-Trommelen

1st Vice (organization):
Maureen Duncan

2nd Vice (Spiritual Development):
Sally Pook

Community Life:
Julie Felix

Elisabeth

*Council News—Sarnia Lambton Region—St. Michael,
Brights Grove—Co-President, Josie Parker*

It seems that 2013 went by with a flurry as we continued with our usual activities as well as adding a workshop and a retreat. At St. Michael we have created a support system for members, their families and friends, in need of prayer via email. Last year had an unusually large number of very ill family, friends and deceased members for whom to pray. This initiative has provided so much comfort and support to our members; it is truly amazing what the power of prayer can accomplish.

As per our mission, we continued to support our parish and charities, both in our community and the Pikanjikum reserve in Northern Ontario. Our very successful fall pie making and Christmas bazaar helped to provide funds for most of our activities and charities. The sewing group was busy making quilts and collecting, with the help of parishioners and our local schools, warm clothing to help provide funds and warmth for winter at the Pikanjikum Reserve.

On the heels of our 25th anniversary, this past year our Council focused on supporting the sacraments and on engaging members, spiritually and socially by:

- Hosting a regional “*Catch the Fire*” workshop at our parish
- Organizing a successful parish cluster retreat, *A Seaside Escape*, facilitated by our pastoral minister, Leanne Morin. Cluster parish is Sacred Heart in Sarnia
- Increasing outreach with regards to funerals as we

started the year with two tragic funerals:

- ◆ Facilitated the visitation at our church for a 27 year old kindergarten teacher who died as the result of a homicide;
- ◆ Partnered with a neighboring United Church to cater a luncheon offsite following the death of a young mother, whose family was having difficulty finding a venue large enough to host guests;
- ◆ Revised the Honour Guard procedure for funerals where cremation has already taken place
- Organizing guest speakers for general meetings: China Presentation; Big Brothers presentation on a Climb to Mount Kilimanjaro
- Organizing activities for our May dinner and December Pot Luck Dinner
- Praying the Rosary before Wednesday evening Masses in May and October and leading the Stations of the Cross one evening during Lent
- Sending cards to and reaching out to the bereaved, sick, and on special occasions to members in nursing homes and parishioners
- Attending a presentation by Dr. Samantha Nutt on Humanitarian Organizations and the Annual Right to Life Dinner with a presentation on Euthanasia.
- Organizing a monthly, “Praying the Rosary”, session in four elementary schools and one high school
- Signing a letter against Euthanasia and Assisted

Suicide and organizing a petition against Prostitution & Sex Trafficking

- Awarding two bursaries to high school students pursuing post-secondary education
- Presenting gifts to first communion participants
- Presenting a crucifix to each couple who was married as a memento of the start of their Christian life together
- Organization and Membership chairs worked hard to keep membership numbers up by emailing, calling, having a booth with literature at our annual bazaar and by following up with past members
- Honouring two outstanding members who received the Maple Leaf Pin for exceptional service to the League; Jo Kulik and Monique Giroux
- Saying goodbye to our Spiritual Advisor, Father Peter Keller and our associate pastor, Father David Butler
- Welcoming our new Spiritual Advisor, Father Vince Gulikers and our new associate pastor, Father Festus Komolafe

Already 2014 is off to a great start as we prepare to host the World Day of Prayer service for our zone on March 7th. Efforts continue to recruit members to our executive council and to entice members to attend the annual Diocesan Convention in Windsor in April.

Josie

Council News—Sarnia Lambton Region—Our Lady Help of Christians, Watford—President—Joanne Hogervorst

The year of 2013 was a very busy year for our council. Our February meeting was a Valentine Mother-Daughter/Friend evening which included a pot luck dinner. A guest speaker, Michelle Donaldson who spent the summer of 2012 in Ukraine and volunteered at a girl's orphanage, gave us a presentation of her experience. We ended the evening with some fun and games.

Through March and April we participated in the World Day of Prayer, the Watford Ecumenical Lenten Lunches, provided a reception to celebrate the February birthdays in Watford's Quality Care Nursing Home, hosted a reception for the RCIA candidates and sponsored many League members to attend the Diocesan Convention.

In May, on Mother's Day, we began our Baby Bottle Campaign

and handed out baby bottles that people could fill with loose change and bring back on Father's Day for a donation to "Right to Life".

In June we had our "break for the summer" potluck dinner and invited our cluster CWL council from Forest to join us for dinner. The Watford Venturers came and did a presentation on their trip to Uganda.

Members also attended the Lenten Retreat day, CWL Shrine day at Merlin, Strathroy CWL's Strawberry Social and Forest CWL's May meeting..

In September we began planning for our annual potluck dinner and skit night. In November we had Ann Martin from the Alzheimer's Society come speak to us. We helped the Knights of Columbus of our parish with their apple pie fundraiser and also held a reception for our

newly ordained deacon, John Lammers in November.

On December 5, we held our annual fund raiser. It was a very successful Christmas Dinner and Skit Night with a full house of women from the surrounding churches attending.

Our League supports many charities, two families through Save a Family Plan, volunteer at the Watford Food Bank, volunteered at the dinners after the Spanish Masses held by the Migrant Ministry of the London Diocese, gave gifts for all the sacraments received in our parish, prepared and served at funeral lunches and provided Coffee Sundays in our parish once a month.

Joanne

FASTING & FEASTING

*Fast from hostility
Feast on peace
Fast from bitterness
Feast on forgiveness
Fast from self-concern
Feast on compassion for others*

*Council News—Huron Perth Region—St. Joseph,
Kingsbridge—President, Denise Lalonde Morris*

The Ladies in Kingsbridge are still shrinking in membership but they are up and running. They have been able to fill the Executive and their new President has tried to have our Blessing to pass the gavel, but Mother Nature has yet again raised her head and closed everything down. That didn't deter a number of the Council to gather at the Rectory to put out over 300 Turkey Pot Pies.

Our Christmas Potluck meeting was changed to a New Year Celebration, to be yet again changed to a Celebration to be held in February!

There are some members who have families that have had membership in the CWL for over 91 years and that dedication drives them to continue in their ancestors footsteps. Hopefully they will be

able to continue for many years to come.

Wishing you all the best

Denise

*Council News—Huron Perth Region—St. Peter Goderich—
submitted by: Diane Weber, Communications Chairperson*

We've recently had many opportunities for growth, spiritual development and action. Following Pope Francis' call for fasting and prayer for peace in Syria, the Middle East and the world on September 7th, our Spiritual Chairperson, several Executive members, and Seminarians of the Diocese of London, organized and lead a parish prayer service. Later that month we had a very well attended potluck with guest speakers Eileen and Marie Sleightholm, who spoke about their trip to Medjugorje.

Our Annual Harvest Luncheon and Bazaar was very well attended, despite the rain, perhaps the weather enticed folks to look for a tasty homemade lunch. Many wonderful items were donated to the Bake Sale, Silent Auction

and Penny Raffle; the 'Priestly Pickles', other preserves and delicious baking sold quickly.

Some of our members attended "Catch the Fire" workshops and left with renewed passion about the League, spiritually rekindled, and motivated to change how the world perceives us as faithful women in action. We enjoyed fellowship with our League sisters, had lots of fun and good food too!

November was busy. On November 2nd, a Spiritual Retreat was organized by our Spiritual Chairperson. Since the retreat conflicted with the service to Commemorate All the Faithful Departed, the retreat was restructured allowing us to attend both. On Remembrance Day wreaths were laid in Goderich and Clinton. At our

November General Meeting, guest speaker Lillian Kluka entertained us with stories of her life as the first female Great Lakes Captain.

December activities included a well-planned and well-attended Christmas Dinner, complete with a skit and sing-along. We assisted the parish with hosting the Huron County Christmas Bureau for Clinton, sang carols at nursing homes in Goderich and Clinton, and participated in the Celtic Christmas Music fundraiser.

On March 15th we will host the Winter Regional Day. We pray for good weather and good attendance. Hope to see you there.

Diane

Council News—Huron Perth Region—Immaculate Heart of Mary, Grand Bend—President, Joanne Vandenberg

For the 2014 membership drive, our Council offered an incentive, to encourage prompt payment. Two ladies had their \$25.00 dues reimbursed in separate “early bird draws”, at our November and December Meetings. This initiative was a success and will be considered again in the future. Our current roster stands at 92 members.

At our annual Advent Party in December 2013, a Maple Leaf Pin

was awarded to Cathy Vrolyk. Service Award pins were given to the following members: Emma Couckuyt - 50 years; Beth Jean - 25 years and Doreen Metson - 10 years. Gera Peters and Joan Rosehart each received a “Certificate of Merit”.

Congratulations to each of these ladies for their contributions to the League and our parish; may Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to bless each of you!

Upcoming events include a Parish Breakfast, our annual Ham & Strawberry Social, an outing to the Huron Country Playhouse, and in the fall, pie making and our ever-popular Bazaar. Along the way, we will meet on a regular basis and enjoy gatherings such as the Winter Retreat and the Convention in Windsor.

Joanne

Council News—Huron Perth Region—St. Joseph, Stratford—Past-president, Mary Gaffney

My two years as St. Josephs CWL President have gone very quickly, and I thank all of the members for their help and support. On January 26th, 2014 the new executive was installed and I wish them Gods' Blessing.

We have had a busy year with the Convention and all of the hard work that went into that but also all of the renewed friendships, fun, joy and fellowship. Above all the joy of sharing the Eucharist together as Catholic Women who "Have Seen the Lord, He is In us.

Many other activities keep us all

active and young at heart. Many of our members prepare and serve at funeral lunches. Others sing in the resurrection choir, there are also several other receptions which the ladies have been responsible

Members individually work in the parish in several other capacities such as the St. Vincent De Paul Society, The Right to Life, ushers, greeters and Lectors at the Sunday Mass, and others help in folding the Sunday Bulletin and act as money counters

Several of our members are now in retirement and nursing homes

and our active members visit and assist in the Holy Communion Services and also take the Eucharist to our sick and shut-in members, and we also participated in the silent abortion protest in October.

Mary



*Council News—Ingersoll Region—Holy Trinity,
Woodstock—President, Fatima Cabral*

It is a pleasure to be reporting as the incoming President for Holy Trinity CWL in Woodstock. We had a very eventful 2013 with many exciting moments like moving to our new church location and representing CWL during our dedication mass in May. We hosted the “Men of Praise” concert which included a beef dinner and entertainment. All proceeds went to our church building fund. Our Christmas bazaar took a little more coordinating in November since we had a new location to plan it in, but it was very successful. We had many of our seasoned CWL members leading the way plus several new members helping with the planning. A great blend of tradition and fresh ideas.

2014 looks just as busy. We have several new members joining our

council’s executive and chairperson roles. We plan to continue many of our traditional activities like presenting our graduates of grade 8 and our newly married couples with crucifixes, visiting our shut-ins and celebrating the birthdays of those members over 80. Our funeral luncheon committee continues to support many important functions at our church. Many of us are looking forward to participating in the spiritual workshop in London in March and the Diocesan convention in Windsor in April.

Some new activities we are planning include sponsoring an essay contest at our local catholic schools to support Catholic Education Week, inviting our parish to bring gifts to a baby shower for a local pregnancy planning centre and collaborating

with our youth group to prepare a special Mother’s Day treat that will be sold over Mother’s Day weekend, with all proceeds going to a local domestic abuse centre. In following with the several themes established by national, provincial and at our diocesan level, our CWL parish council’s new theme is “We are His hands” and we certainly are.

So far this year we have welcomed several new members: Christine, Phylcia, Elaine, Annette, Ann, Kazia and Jenny. God is good.

Fatima

CHRISTIAN ONE LINERS

Prayer:

Don't give God instructions, just report for duty!

The task ahead of us is never as
great as the Power behind us

We don't change the message,
the message changes us.

*Council News—Chatham Kent Region—Holy Family,
Wallaceburg—President, Agnes Moynihan*

After a restful summer, our council held a seniors/shut-in's Mass and luncheon in September. Thanks to our Spiritual Development Convenor, Marguerite Francis, we also held a Day of Reflection in our church for all CWL members in our cluster, with our Spiritual Adviser as our facilitator. It was a wonderful day filled with personal thoughts and views about our faith.

We began our membership drive in earnest, with a talk before Masses and bulletin inserts. We have a membership envelope in our regular box of envelopes as well as taking memberships after all Masses for 2 weeks.

A Year of Faith Mass was held in October in our cluster, for all CWL and Knights of Columbus members with a reception afterwards. Our cluster held a Parish Mission as well with a social afterwards, with coffee and goodies supplied by all four CWL councils. We held another successful Penny Sale, which is our main fundraiser for the year. December began with our annual

Advent Tea. Our past president, Aggie Moynihan, presided over this function. We began with the day's scripture readings, then a wonderful Christmas story, followed by a social with Christmas tea and coffee to go with all of our scrumptious desserts. Christmas gifts were given to members of our clergy and staff.

A Dove of Peace celebration was held on December 8th. This is a time where all families in our cluster who have lost someone during the year, come together for healing. Each family receives a dove with their loved one's name to be put on their Christmas tree. A time of fellowship followed in the parish centre with fruit trays, veggie trays and Christmas baking supplied by all of our clustered CWL councils.

Our council also looked after 25 placings for the Salvation Army Kettles.

This year, our council did quite a bit of fund raising for our church roof. In the summer, we sold tickets on a garden leaf, which was

made by one of our members.

In November, we made and sold Christmas bows of different colours and sizes, in our annex after Masses, and in December we sold homemade salsa, chili sauce, pepper jellies and mustard. Our biggest fund raiser, however, was our turkey pot pies. With the help of our Knights of Columbus and many volunteers, we made and sold 3,222 pot pies.

Our year ended with us presenting a cheque to Fr. Greg for \$7,000.00 payable to Holy Family Roof Fund.

We have indeed had a busy and fruitful year. We thank God for the continued support of our pastor and parish in all that we do. May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to bless us.

Judy



To Those of us Born 1930—1979

We rode bikes or walked to a friends house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just walked in and talked to them.

We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt,
and the worms did not live in us forever.

*Council News—Chatham Kent Region—Blessed Sacrament,
Chatham—submitted by: Patti Johnson, Communications*

Blessed Sacrament CWL has had a busy and rewarding time since September. The highlight of the last quarter was our very blessed "Journey to the Manger". The almost 400 nativities were beautifully arranged and displayed by an energetic crew. The entire weekend of November 29th was so full of blessings as over 2,000 people had the opportunity to gaze on each nativity with open hearts. Gentle music lulled the crowd into a quiet, joyful, spiritual state.

Each living nativity play was a thoughtful presentation, enjoyed by all who had the chance to see. People from all walks of life and faiths joined us for those few contemplative moments before Christmas that always helps to keep Christ in Christmas. The

guided tours of the stained glass windows in the Church told the fantastic history of them. Members of CWL worked together with the parish to publish a lovely pictorial book, "Portals of Prayer", depicting the windows.

Our tea room looked as though we may be inviting the pope himself as the ladies decorated it so beautifully. Most all the cookies were homemade and plentiful. Coffee, tea and hot cider were also on the menu of our "free to everyone" tea room.

The members of the small "Journey to the Manger" committee, chaired by Lori Arnold, did a wonderful job of offering Chatham-Kent a great Christmas gift; as did everyone

who donated nativities to be seen on that Happy weekend.

Since the New Year our new executive was installed with a *liturgy of the word* ceremony. Our deacon, Steve Cartier was glad to assist us. Following the service we enjoyed a Wine and Cheese party. Lynn Moir had invited a small winery, Early Acres Winery, in Chatham to give us a tasting of their delicious wines.

Everyone has been thoroughly enjoying the many things happening in our CWL.

Patti

LIFE IS A GIFT

Before you think of pointing the finger or condemning another
*Remember that not one of us are without sin
and we all answer to one maker*

Today before you complain about life
Think of someone who went too early to heaven

And when depressing thoughts seem to get you down
Put a smile on your face and thank God you're alive and still around

Council News—Chatham Kent Region—St. Michael, Ridgetown—President—Beverley Sanborn

Upon completion of my first year as president, I can report on a busy and productive Council.

Our meetings are quite well attended and usually begin with a celebration of Mass prior to most meetings.

We began in January by sending prayer letters to 17 members, now in assisted living, thanking them for remembering us in their prayers and wishing them a healthy, happy, prayerful year. We also hold one of our regular monthly meetings at The Village Residence.

We served 10 funeral lunches in our parish hall. The number of people served went anywhere from 30 to over 125, depending on the different families. Our local funeral director is most cooperative.

Three ladies attended the annual convention in Stratford, returning with compliments for the organization of everything involved. As a result we signed letters supporting Joy Smith's bill pending, dealing with Human Trafficking.

We also sent letters to our health minister, Deb Mathews, supporting the need for a hospice facility in Chatham-Kent. Thankfully, plans have begun for this project.

Our annual April banquet was well attended. This meal is served from our kitchen by a group from the local Botony United Church., always well done. Everyone enjoyed the dinner and lively entertainment.

Our educational awards are dealt with in June. We award two prizes for 'Esprit de Corps' at St. Michael's school and present two bursaries to two students at our local high school. The graduating students at St. Michael's are each presented with a New Testament Bible.

In June we host a special Brunch, following Sunday Masses, honoring Father's Day. Luckily strawberries are usually in season.

Fall months are busy with plans for our annual Bazaar, which is our major fundraiser. Volunteers prepare our popular cabbage rolls

prior to the event.. This year we sold 193 dozen. Of course the bake tables are very important. We have a number of parishioners who contribute regularly to the success of these tables

We also participate in the World Day of Prayer, the Summer Bible Camp, the Right to Life Walk and the annual Living Nativity. We have dedicated members ready to help out with each activity; we also add monetary donations.

A very successful Baby Shower is held yearly in conjunction with our support for Right to Life. The donation of needed supplies is really appreciated.

This year we celebrated the appointment of our Pastor, Father Mariaraj Irudayam, OFM Cap. He was presented with a Spiritual Bouquet from our parish, this idea having originated with several CWL ladies.

Beverley



Council News—Chatham Kent Region—St. Ursula, Chatham—Communications Chair—Yvette Waddick

Many Thanks to Mary Jean Horne, our Diocesan President for hosting the “Catch the Fire” event for our district members in the fall. It was a real education to understand our roles as members and also in showing us the power and influence we have, as a group, in making things happen.

Our CWL members were busy this year fundraising by means of a Garage Sale, Hosting a Scott Wood Band Concert and Baking for our yearly Bake Sale. All fundraisers were very successful which enabled us to donate to many worthy causes such as Right to Life, Outreach for Hunger, St. Ursula’s Youth Group, Save a Family and also to the much needed Hospice Centre that is to be built in Chatham in the near future. Many of our CWL ladies provide help for our Caring Kitchen serving and cooking meals. This event takes place twice monthly. Habitat for Humanity had asked us in May to provide and serve a lunch for the working crew that were building a house for a young mother and her two children. We were happy to oblige as they are a very worthy organization. A big thank-you goes out to all of the volunteers that assisted in any way with these events. As the old saying goes “Busy hands are happy hands”.

At many of our General Meetings we invited guest speakers to educate us on different topics. This year Karen Tetreault from “Today and Not Tomorrow” spoke to us on early prevention in Psychosis. Denise Emery from

“High Needs Autism Lead” spoke on helping students cope in classroom settings and teachers training. Dancers from “Cornell School of Irish Dance” gave us a little sample of their talents. And our own Karen O’Hara gave us a demonstration on Baking Shortbread Cookie Wreaths to help us prepare for the Holidays.

Our year concluded with a very well organized and successful Banquet convened by Ann Murphy. The food catered by Sony’s Catering was excellent and music was provided by our very own Deacon, Chris Masterson’s Band, “The Pub Crawlers”. Many ladies joined in singing along and even some dancing as well.

Service Pin Awards were presented to Denise Schneider and Violet Delanghe for 60 years; Kathleen Reaume and Shirley Grant for 50 years; Jean Trudell and Agnes Marzicola for 25 years.

Special presentations were made to two dedicated ladies of our Council.

Sheila Nugent was presented with the Bellelle Guerin Pin Award. Sheila has been an active member since 1967. She has convened many fundraising functions such as Garage Sales, Fashion Shows, Bazaars, St. Patrick day dinners, Roast beef dinners and annual council banquets. She formed a group of motivated members in butter tart and pie baking bees which is still a real success. She organized and ran a bingo group

for several years to raise funds to buy hymnals, outfit the parish kitchen and also furnish the church hall. She presided over the St. Ursula mission group for many years. Being involved in Community Services such as St. Vincent de Paul has made her aware of the need for affordable housing in Chatham. She became instrumental in helping establish Chatham’s first geared to income housing. Sheila also cooked for the Caring Kitchen; an interfaith endeavor that serves meals to the needy twice monthly. These are just some of the many projects she has taken on. Sheila has worked very hard for the CWL and the Community. No job has been too big or too small to achieve. Although she works in the background without wanting to draw attention to herself we couldn’t pass up the opportunity to honor her in this way by showing our appreciation and thanks. (See picture on next page)

We are pleased to present Liz Green with the Maple Leaf Pin for her many achievements. Liz has been a member of St. Ursula’s CWL for 23 years fulfilling many roles in our League such as Community Life Convenor, President Elect, President, Past President, Spiritual Convenor, Legislation Convenor. She has served as Regional Chairperson for the Chatham-Kent Region (2007-2010). Treasurer Chatham-Kent (2013-2014). She has also helped with workshops for the Diocesan and was Chairperson for the 2012

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Council News—Chatham Kent Region—St. Ursula, Chatham—Communications Chair—Yvette Waddick (cont'd)

(Continued from page 39)

Annual Diocesan Convention. Working with the Youth in the parish has been very important to her. She was involved in starting “Life Teen” in Chatham. She has held the position of Youth Commission Chairperson, and was COR Parent. She also did some overseeing for World Youth Day, billeting those who needed a place to stay. Liz is currently in a letter writing campaign and encouraged our area CWL’s to write letters to the Ministry of Health urging them in supporting financially, the construction of a much needed

Hospice for Chatham Kent, and because of the strong support, the request has been granted and our community will receive start up money. Liz is a wonderful source of knowledge and support for our league. We are appreciative of her dedication and hard work. (See picture below)

It is with sadness that we remember our deceased members of 2013. Marie Classens; Catharine Flanagan-Gregorio; Beatrice Lamarsh; Patricia Luyt ; Josephine Mantelli; Margaret Neil; E. Marie O’Hara and Catharine Ball.

As we enter this New Year 2014 we reminisce of the many Blessings the good Lord has bestowed upon us in 2013. With the enlightening of the Holy Spirit may we achieve many successes in serving others and helping in many worthy causes in the New Year.

Yvette



Liz Green with Fr. Matt & Sheila Nugent



Sheila Nugent with Fr. Matt & Jane Curry



Council News—Windsor Region—Our Lady of the Atonement, Windsor—President—Deanna Leveque

We have had a very successful year in all our fundraising efforts. Our garage and bake sale, Harvest Bazaar/bake sale, meat pies, raffles, and chicken pot pies being made throughout the year, netted over \$16,000. We held a Spring Fashion Show & Tea and donated \$1,000 each to MS Society of Windsor & Essex County & the Alzheimer Society Windsor/Essex County.

We have donated over \$7,000 to various charities, gave out two \$500 Bursaries to Catholic graduating high school students to help with College or University, sent \$500 to Stephen Marsh a Seminarian who helped Fr. Bob during the summer months. We have two young Seminarians from our parish, James Murphy and Keith Metcalfe. We presented them with cheques of \$1,000 each as they continue on their journey to the priesthood.

For the past several years our members set up a giving tree at Christmas to help the less fortunate in our Community. This year we collected over \$9,000 from our parishioners to assist 5

charities. We also provided 25 families with gifts for each family member, turkeys and a \$50 grocery card provided by CWL.

At our Christmas Dinner we presented Angie Papineau with a Certificate of Merit for grateful and exceptional service to our members since the formation of the Council in 1993. Angie was the Founding President in 1993 and a member of the CWL Executive since then as President, Past-President and Spiritual Advisor. Angie is the rock on which we built the strong Council we have today. Angie is retiring from the Executive but not going away and will continue to support us in many ways.

We presented Maple Leaf pins to three of our very worthy members:

Noela Alexander - is a Charter member of the CWL since 1993 and has been an integral part of the special project fundraising committee, raising funds for our activities for over 20 years. She was instrumental with Jeannine Fontaine in establishing the Bereavement Luncheon Ministry.

Suzanne Cayea - is also a Charter member of our CWL and has contributed to all our special fundraising projects since 1993. She has been the coordinator of the spring Yard and Bake Sale and Christmas Bazaar and a loyal member of the Bereavement Luncheon team for many of these years.

Carole Soulliere - Has worked hard on all our fundraising activities since becoming a member in 1995, including the more recent very popular chicken potpies. She is also the cook for our Parish Bereavement Luncheon Ministry. Carol has been Corresponding Secretary for our council for over 10 years, sending out hundreds of beautiful cards on behalf of our CWL.

May God watch over each of our CWL sisters as we continue our service to God and our Community.

Deanna





Service Pin Awards for 2013/2014
"Congratulations to our faithful & dedicated members"



Huron Perth Region:

St. Joseph, Stratford

Maple Leaf Service Pin

Annie Bokkers
Betty Gras

60 Year Pin

Clara Black
Margaret Walsh

50 Year Pin

Rosemary Lorentz
Elaine Mohr

40 Year Pin

Mary Dingman
Ottillie Schnuerer

25 Year Pin

Betty Gaffney
Claudia Morris
Liz VanGaal
Gerda Wood

10 Year Pin

Viola Boersen
Veronica Flood
Elizabeth Gaffney
Louise Gould
Mary Horenberg
Stella Koperski
Dianne Parr

New Members

Patty Anderson
Gisella Bennett
Sophie Kokot
Rita McLaughlin
Cheryl Pacheco
Jessica VaBakel
Filomena Vito
Sharon Vollett

Honourable Mention

Mary Gould—68 years
Eileen Rothernel—68 years
Vera Beale—70 years
Florence Darby—84 years

**Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Grand Bend**

Maple Leaf Pin

Cathy Vrolyk

50 Year Pin

Emma Couckuyt

25 Year Pin

Beth Jean

10 Year Pin

Doreen Metson

Certificate of Merit

Gera Peters
Joan Rosehart

Chatham Kent Region

St. Ursula, Chatham

60 Year Pin

Denise Schneider
Violet Delanghe

50 Year Pin

Kathleen Reaume
Shirley Grant

25 year Pin

Jean Trudell
Agnes Marzicola

Sarnia Lambton Region

Sacred Heart, Sarnia

Maple Leaf Pin

Pat Finn

50 Year Pin

Nellie Wygergangs
Anna Latosinsky

40 Year Pin

Ramona Kinchsular
Mary Pigott

25 Year Pin

Pat Finn
Claudia Petrucci
Sheila MacKenzie
Anne Clark
Vittoria Marinigh

10 Year Pin

Stephanie Gilmore

New Members

Rosanna Tripp
Diane Cossette
Judy Chumko
Laura St. Amand
Karen VanDerHoff
Ana Maria Moniz
Connie DaSilva
Michelle Christie

St. Benedict, Sarnia

60 Year Pin

Eileen Gilroy
Dawn Harris
Maria Petko
Maria Schyndeï



(Continued on page 43)



Service Pin Awards for 2013/2014
"Congratulations to our faithful & dedicated members"



(Continued from page 42)

St. Benedict, Sarnia (Cont'd)

50 Year Pin

Marg Belak
 Anna Schincariol
 Dorothy Severin
 Germaine Wilson

40 Year Pin

Helen McGee

25 Year Pin

Marie Ward
 Pat Daamen

10 Year Pin

Marie Burns
 Margaret Conrad
 Lynn Ellis
 Barbara Hayward
 Rosemarie Laliberte
 Evelhn Vollrath
 Teresa Belak

In total 600 years of Service!

St. Michael, Brights Grove

40 Year Pin

Mathea DeGroot

25 Year Pin

Pattie Fraser

10 Year Pin

Diane Geis

Essex Region

St. Simon & St. Jude, Belle River

50 Year Pin

Rita Crosby

40 Year Pin

Linda Lee Cassidy
 Bernadette Lanoue
 Jeanne Lauzon
 Connie Luhowy
 Patricia Preston

25 Year Pin

Linda Belland
 Denise Cecile
 Catherine De Clark
 Mary Ann Grant
 Rosella Pinsonneault
 Helen Strong

10 Year Pin

Madeleine Barrette
 Beverly Booker
 Louise Catton
 Marcella Caza
 Carmel Chauvin
 Betty Ann Kelly
 Linda Larocque
 Catherine St. Pierre
 Geraldine St. Pierre
 Doreen Snyder

New Members

Sonya De Rose
 Denise Deimling
 Sonya De Rose
 Angela Dufault
 Josie Gagnier
 Marion Gauthier
 Jo-Ann Hennin
 Janine Le Blanc
 Martha Massender
 Liz Meloche
 Annette Poisson
 Eleanor Sylvestre

St. Michael, Leamington

60 Year Pin

Lena Janik

Helen Mazur

Catherine Dwyer
 Madeline Bailey
 Lorraine Verbeke
 Mary Hudders

50 Year Pin

Josephine DeGoey
 Solange Dewaele
 Julia Borek
 Irene Brown
 Edna Beaulieu
 Margaret Feltz
 Catherine Lafeber
 Gladys Rauth
 Sandra Snider

25 Year Pin

Raymonde Colasanti
 Anja Lee
 Lu-Ann Oriet

10 Year Pin

Giuseppina Fratarcangeli
 Irene Creve
 Marie Harris
 Michelina Mastronardi

St. Clements, McGregor

Maple Leaf Pin

Doris Coyle
 Cathy Lapain

25 Year Pin

Darlene Stracke

10 Year Pin

Sue Charles



(Continued on page 44)



Service Pin Awards for 2013/2014
"Congratulations to our faithful & dedicated members"



(Continued from page 43)

St. Clements, McGregor (cont'd)

New Members

Aline Meloche
 Christine Bennett
 Gabriella DiGiovanni
 Gloria Thibert
 Mary Jane Meloche
 Nancy Brown

70 Year Certificate

Julia Ouellette
 Nan Cecile

London Region

St. Justin London

60 Year Pin

Elizabeth Weir
 Doreen White

50 year pin

Irene Kew
 Theresa Thyssen

40 year pin

Ellen Meyer
 Lynda Terpstra
 Edie Yaworski
 Tina Mol

25 year pin

Katherine Courtney
 Lydia Coleiro

10 year pin

Connie Vescio
 Brenda de Luca
 Rita de Abreo
 Kathleen Divers

St. Patrick, Lucan

50 Year Pin

Rachel Van Daele

25 Year Pin

Alice Dobbie
 Odette Miller
 Aline Quinn
 Colleen Sullivan

10 Year Pin

Ester Vander Heyden
 Mathilda Marten/Flear

Windsor Region

**Our Lady of the Atonement,
 Windsor**

Maple Leaf Pin

Noela Alexander
 Suzanne Cayea
 Carole Soulliere

Certificate of Merit

Angie Papineau



FORM FOR REPORTING DECEASED MEMBERS

PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION CLEARLY AND CORRECTLY
AS RECORDED ON THE PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP LIST

Name of deceased _____
(as shown on membership list)

Spouse's name (If applicable) _____

Full address _____
(as shown on membership list)

Date deceased _____

CWL Parish Council _____

Diocese _____

Parish councils are asked to forward a copy of this completed form to National office to ensure that the deceased member's League magazine is discontinued. Copies must also be sent to provincial and diocesan chairpersons of Spiritual Development to ensure that their respective Books of Life can be updated.

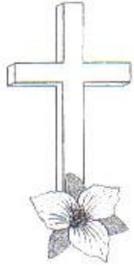
Provincial chairpersons of Spiritual Development are reminded to submit a complete list of their province's deceased members, for the current year, to National Office by January 15th of each year for inclusion in the National Book of Life.

Date _____
Signature of council president and/or chairperson of
spiritual development

MAIL OR FAX TO: **The Catholic Women's League of Canada**
C – 702 Scotland Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3M 1X5
Toll free fax: 1-888-831-9507

Revised 2010

This form replaces all other forms—please discard all old ones.



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E-mail address _____ @ _____

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Note: *diocesan spiritual advisors, Ontario life members and honorary life members, and provincial sub committee chairs, are entitled to a complimentary newsletter subscription.*

If you are ordering multiple years, the expiry date will appear on your mailing label.

This order includes two issues (spring & fall) beginning _____ = \$5.00

Additional years ordered _____ years @ \$5 per year = \$ _____

Total amount \$ _____

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Parkhill, On
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