

League Lingo

LONDON DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

2016 Spring Issue

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London Diocesan Annual Convention
Sarnia—April, 18, 19, 20, 2016

ONE HEART
VOICE
MISSION

- ♦ One heart – filled with mercy, compassion and holiness
- ♦ One voice – united in harmony to speak the truth with courage and zeal
- ♦ One mission – witnessing to the Good News of the gospel through personal encounter and joyful service

This edition of the League Lingo is dedicated to our Sarnia Lambton Life Member, Gladys Dewey, who died on December 18th, 2015.

Gladys was London Diocesan President from 1998/2000

Gladys was my mentor and one of the main reasons I became so heavily involved in the Catholic Women's League.

Rest in Peace Gladys.



President's Report—Marie-Therese Lamphier

This past week we celebrated Ash Wednesday and on Saturday we enjoyed our Lenten Retreat at Sacred Heart Parish in Sarnia, which was led by Fr. Dan Vere. What a great way to start the Lenten season! There were approximately 85 ladies in attendance. Many ladies had to cancel out because of treacherous road conditions, so it is still considered a good turn out. Fr. Dan spoke on the Year of Mercy, but was also instrumental in showing mercy to members as he answered many of their queries on topics that came to the forefront. Fr. Dan's presentation was very enlightening and his handouts were superb! I always enjoy these road trips because it gives us a chance to bond with the other members in the vehicle, catching up on what's new and what's happening in their lives. We don't always get a chance to do that at meetings or short gatherings. For my group, the drive to Sarnia and back was very good...Praise the Lord!

There is so much to keep us busy in the CWL. I have been blessed to be invited to many of the councils for their celebrations of advent teas, awards banquets, anniversaries, Christmas parties and installation of officers. It is always a joy for me to go out to the councils and get to know the members better.

Diocesan Convention: Besides preparing for the Christmas holidays, the Sarnia Convention committee has been very busy preparing for the Convention in

April at the Holiday Inn, Point Edward. It promises to be another good convention with lots of fun, faith and fulfillment. Besides our speakers we will also have two resolutions to present. The dialogue that surrounds resolution makes it a very interesting part of the convention. It helps if you come prepared by studying the proposed resolutions and having questions in advance. Everyone benefits from the discussion that ensues. Don't forget to come dressed for the Country Hoedown on Fun Night! It promises to be a good evening. Elections are happening at the Diocesan Level, so you don't want to miss out on cheering on your candidates and seeing the changes to your executive. For those who are attending the parallel programme on Membership, you may want to come prepared to ask the "difficult" question of your Life Members in "Stump the Life Members" section of the programme. It promises to be interesting and you might even learn something!

As for me, it will be time for me to step back (after the convention) and enjoy the last couple of years as Past President. Our journey always has to have an end. It is important to enjoy it while you can and be ready to move on to the next phase of your life. You may be surprised at what the Lord has waiting for you and for me!

Provincial Convention: The Diocesan Executive has also been very busy preparing for the Provincial Convention in

Stratford. One of the main focuses is to raise money to sponsor this event. It is the responsibility of every council to help us out. Our fundraiser has been the sale of pewter ornaments. Not all councils have taken on this responsibility and we ask that you please do. If every council purchased/sold 15 ornaments, we would attain our goal. There must be family members, friends that would like them. They also make good gifts for speakers, clergy etc. Please renew your efforts to sell these ornaments. They are available from the Regional Chairpersons.

Bursaries Available: Check with your Education and Health Chairperson to find out what bursaries are available to you or someone you know. Try not to miss out on these opportunities.

Blessed Oscar Romero: Many of you already know that we are praying for the canonization of Blessed Oscar Romero. I hope you have all had a chance to study his life and the virtues he possessed. We will be celebrating Oscar Romero at our convention highlighting how the councils have performed works of Corporal and Spiritual works of mercy to commemorate his virtues and work in Social Justice. We hope you all have a good story to show or tell.

Once again I look forward to seeing you at convention. It is always a busy time, but perhaps you can take time to say hello. It won't be my last convention, but it

(Continued on page 4)



Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Fr. Matthew Kucharski

We are well into the Jubilee Year of Mercy. It is a year that the Pope is asking us to reflect a little extra on God's mercy for us and, in return, our mercy for others. Mercy can be an awkward topic to consider. I believe the average person would like to receive mercy, but we often do not feel we deserve it. However, we need to remember that our God does not operate using the "do they deserve it principle." Our God loves us so much, he operates with the "do they need it principle." And we definitely need his mercy and forgiveness. Our God knows and understands our human weakness. He also knows how that weakness can separate us from his love when we allow weakness to cause us to sin. Sin blocks us from his love. God so desperately wants to share his love with us, he will do whatever he can to remove the barriers (sin) to receive his love. God knows that his love is what our world needs and he desires for us to be his instruments in bringing that love. Anything that impedes that love from being shared hinders God's plan of salvation.

Thus, God eagerly awaits each one of us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If you have not taken advantage of this beautiful sacrament of mercy and forgiveness, you are "short-changing" yourself. Sometimes, due to the priest's words, we have had an unfortunate experience in the confessional. Please ask God to give you the strength and courage to overcome that. Give God (and his human, limited instruments—his priests) another chance to share with you his understanding and compassion. The Sacrament of Reconciliation involves conversion, so if you are not willing to try to change, it will be difficult. However, if you enter the sacrament with humility and a true desire to clear the slate so as to begin anew, then be ready to receive amazing graces. God is very generous with his mercy and forgiveness. He does not refuse a truly penitent heart. We carry many burdens for things we have said or done. During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Pope is encouraging us to let them go, for that is what God wants.

Having received mercy, we are then invited to share that mercy with others. Mercy can be shared in many ways. The most obvious, is to forgive somebody who has hurt us. This is never easy, but with God's help, it is possible. We can also try to exercise one of the Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy (there are many resources online to help you with that; not computer savvy, ask a sister in the League to help you). The more merciful we act, the better we become at living it.

This is a special year to both receive AND give a precious gift—mercy!

God's Peace,

Rev. Matthew Kucharski





President-Elect – Angela Pellerin *Organization/Membership Standing Committee Chairperson*

Firstly, I thank you for submitting your per capita fees to national in a timely fashion.

Since my last article in the Lingo, I have had the opportunity to meet some of you at the fall regional meetings. I hope you learnt something at the meeting and passed along the information to your councils.

I also had the opportunity to bring greetings on your behalf to the **Women's Mission Society of the Presbyterian Church**. This was during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which seemed so appropriate. No matter how we practice our faith, we have the same concerns and issues. These ladies were promoting support for a program called **ARISE** in Toronto that helps those working in the sex trade and also helps

those wanting to leave the trade – these are issues that CWL is also concerned with. They were also looking for support for those in 3rd world countries and actually had their National President give some details on her mission trip to Guatemala – very interesting. The WMS is holding their annual meeting in Sarnia the same dates as we are there for our diocesan convention.

I have enjoyed my time serving as the organization chairperson on diocesan council. I know increasing and maintaining our members is a challenge but I know it is very important to all of us. Calling or visiting our members to collect their membership fees gives us the opportunity to share with them and stay connected. Keep up the good work.

Don't forget we have many workshops that are available to you. Just let your regional chairperson know if you are interested in having a workshop. The diocesan executive would be most happy to come out and help you any way they can.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the diocesan convention in Sarnia and at the provincial convention being held in July in Stratford.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel bless you as you work for God and Canada.

Angela



President's Report—Marie-Therese Lamphier—(cont'd.)

(Continued from page 2)

will be my last convention as Diocesan President. I want to thank every one who prayed for me and supported me during my term as President. Prayers do work and it is always appreciated. I hope to see you and that you come to enjoy the convention!

May you have a Blessed Easter and faith-filled celebrations!

May our Lady of Good Counsel through the intercession of our Lord, Jesus Christ, bless you in all you do and keep you safe from all harm!

Marie-Therese



*1st Vice-President—Rebecca McCarrell
Resolutions Standing Committee Chairperson*



It is important that you come to convention prepared to “dialogue” / discuss the proposed resolutions for our 2016 convention. The full information for each resolution has been sent to every council president in the diocese as of January 30, 2016. In this information you will find the resolution, the brief, the references and the action plan. Study those, and bring your questions and comments to the resolution dialogue on Monday April 18, 2016.

Proposed: 2016-01 LON Draft:
Equal Access to Permanent Residence

What better time than now to equal the playing field for all immigrants and refugees coming to our great country. This resolution addresses the unfair practice of denying access to immigrants who are classified as labourers. These are the people who work in our greenhouse and farming communities. Take time to explore this resolution and the

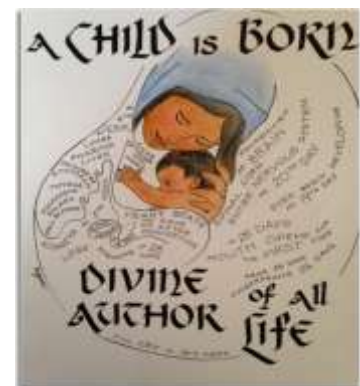
impact the current immigration act has on our farming communities.

Proposed: 2016-02 LON Draft:
Unborn Victims of Crime

Formally known as Molly’s Law, this resolution will promote the recognition of unborn fetus/babies who lose their lives due to the murder of their mothers. Molly, who was 29 weeks old in her mother’s womb died as the result of her mother’s murder. Her mother’s murderer was only charged with one murder and not two. When is a fetus recognized as a human being? What can we do to make the perpetrator responsible for both crimes? Read the amazing research done on this resolution.



Sister Miriam Cosgrove is the creator of the beautiful artwork of Madonna and Child identifying life from conception...entitled “Divine Author of All Life”. Sister Miriam would like us to share her picture as much as possible so that the information contained becomes knowledge to all.



Church Bulletin Bloopers

*Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir.
They need all the help they can get.*

*Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those
things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.*

Potluck supper Sunday night at 5 p.m. —prayer & medication to follow.

1st Vice-President—Rebecca McCarrell
Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson



It's the LAW!....It's LEGISLATION!

What is Legislation? Webster defines it as a law or set of laws made by a government; the exercise of the power and function of making rules (as laws) that have the force of authority by virtue of their promulgation by an official organ of a state or other organization! Well, doesn't that sound pompous!

But wait a minute, if we didn't have these rules, functions, laws, would we be able to function as a community, a diocese, a county, a province, a country? I think not. Even in our organization we have our Policies & Procedures, Constitution and Bylaws that allow each of us to act according to the dogmas of The Catholic Women's League of Canada!

And, that is where I want to take you in this article....the rules surrounding the Nomination and Elections of this organization, specifically as it pertains to the London Diocesan Council. Do I hear rumblings...not THAT again! Flip the page...but hang on not so fast...

We really need to understand this section of our "LEGISLATION", our rules, the promulgation (that's just a pompous word for statement) on how our electoral system works.

I am sure by now each of the

council's in the London Diocese has received the "Nominations and Elections" material from Mary Jean Horne, Past President. She has sent you a list with positions and names of people for these positions. You are to have a vote and send in your picks...is this correct? SLAM ON THE BRAKES!!!! NO, NO, NO!!!!



This is a list of the people who have let their name stand for NOMINATION to these positions.

Every past president of every council within the London Diocese has the opportunity to consider standing for a position at the diocesan level for 6 years (or 3 election cycles) after her term of President of her council is complete. It would be ideal if every Past President allowed her name to be part of the electoral list. But, as we all know, this is not the case. SO....If you **DON'T** want to be contacted by Marie-Therese Lamphier, currently President, in 2 years time..... send your yellow "**Please take my name off the list**" paper to Mary Jean now! If not, Marie-Therese will be sending you a "**please consider a position**" letter in 2 years.

Where were we??? Oh yes, NOMINATIONS. This is the form you are filling out at your council's meeting. Your council will NOMINATE someone from the candidates list for each position. This is NOT A VOTE. This works like the US Presidential race that we have been inundated with for the past few months.... PICK YOUR CANDIDATE! Your Past President is allowing her name to stand for several positions... you would like to see her on the Diocesan Council ... now's your chance...NOMINATE her for every position where her name appears. See someone else you would really like to support... put her name where she is allowing her name to show. Don't see a name or someone you would like to support...leave it blank. IT IS NOT REQUIRED that you nominate someone for every position. But, the first round of voting at the convention will not have your vote. Now pop that little form into the mail... remember to register it. That's to ensure Mary Jean gets your NOMINATION.

At your council's meeting, the "WHAT IF's" should be discussed... what happens when your voting delegate VOTES at the convention... FIRST... your voting delegate must support your NOMINATION in the first round of votes...she MUST vote for who your council selected.

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1st Vice-President—Rebecca McCarrell
Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson... (cont'd)



(Continued from page 6)

How does the nomination committee know... the vote won't match the nominations sent in to Mary Jean Horne. The nomination list and the first vote tally must match. If there is not a person who wins a majority VOTE during this ballot another ballot will happen. YOUR VOTING DELEGATE CAN DECIDE AT THIS TIME TO CONTINUE TO VOTE FOR YOUR NOMINATION OR VOTE FOR SOMEONE ELSE. This is why it is important to discuss the **WHAT IF'S**. Who is your 2nd choice, 3rd, etc... Your voting delegate is representing your council so make sure she

knows how you wish her to vote. There are many reasons why the nominated person may not be on the ballot when it comes around. She may have been voted into a higher position, she may have withdrawn, or at the 2nd and 3rd round of voting your voting delegate may vote for one of your other choices. ARM YOUR VOTING DELEGATE with the tools to vote for her council.

How do you know who to nominate? Your job throughout the next two years is to evaluate how this elected council operates. Evaluate their strengths, weaknesses, gifts and talents. Bring this with you to the NOMINATION meeting at your

council where you can share your views with your SISTERS in your council. It is okay not to automatically move a person up... she may not have the strengths, weaknesses, gifts and talents to do the job. But this way each woman will be nominated for a position that represents who she is, thereby strengthening the London Council to do bigger and better things for our London Diocesan Community.

Hope this brings a clearer picture of LEGISLATION in action for Nominations & Elections within our League! See you at convention!

Rebecca

Corresponding Secretary—Cam Cadotte



Greetings to everyone.

It is hard to believe that it is lent already, it was just Christmas. Time does fly.

Welcome to all new corresponding secretaries and welcome back to those on their second term. It is a wonderful position to communicate on behalf of your council.

This being the year of Mercy there are so many ways as communications chairperson that you can fulfill the corporal works of Mercy.

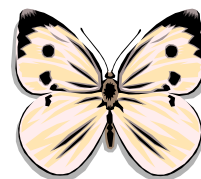
Being aware of the needs of your parish and community will help in doing the works of Mercy. We are asked to visit the sick, the hospitalized or the lonely, sending cards, especially at this time of year when socializing is very difficult for so many, will brighten their day.

Our Lady of Good Counsel cards, hasty note cards with the League crest, prayer cards and Mass cards are all available from National Office.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at convention in Sarnia on April 18th to 20th.

God Bless all of you as we journey through the Lenten season toward the wonderful Easter Morning when Christ has risen.

Cam





Past President—Mary Jean Horne *Historian, Nomination & Elections*

*Even now, says the Lord,
return to me with your
heart. Joel 2:12*

Today we begin the season of Lent. Lent offers us forty days for God to reveal himself, especially so during this Holy Year of Mercy!

This will be my last article for the League Lingo as your past president. Over the many years I have been on the executive and also as a member of the CWL I have had many graces I have been blessed with love, companionship and faith filled members across the London diocese.

Let us review our theme “One Heart, One Voice, One Mission”.

One Heart: There is a natural progression in the cycle of life. We are always moving and always changing as we move toward the centre and final union with God. (Betty Anne Brown Davidson, League Magazine). As a member, you may have been the president and have now served as past president and your term is done. One wonders where your journey will take you next. We need to encourage women to join the League and become women rooted in gospel values. You

must be the heart and a mentor to all members. We must now learn to be present and if asked for help, be there for the new president, allowing her to spread her wings and do things her way as she embarks on new programmes. Remember to be gentle and kind

One Voice: In today's second reading from the Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 5:20, 6:2 Paul, asks us to be ambassadors for Christ. As we work together let us be one voice as ambassadors for the League not only proclaiming the word of God but also proclaiming the values and the love and companionship of the Catholic Women's League of Canada from coast to coast.

One Mission: : In the Oxford dictionary the word “mission” means a particular task or goal assigned to a person or a group. Our mission as members rooted in gospel values is to continue to spread the word. We are women of great faith and through our actions we are called to share the Gospel through evangelization. We need to practice this every day in our thoughts, words and deeds. Let each of us deepen our roots in the League. Just as we

water a tree to make it grow and expand its roots, let us do the same spreading the good news of the League.

As I close with this my last article a big thank you to each member who has supported me and on whose shoulders I stand on

Shalom

Mary Jean

*I feel lucky to have found
you-*

*A friend that is so kind
and true;*

*To lift me up when I am
down,
and make me smile when
I frown.*

*It's hard to find the
words to say
just how much I care.
But these will have to do:*

“Thank you”





2nd Vice-President—Theresa Ryan *Spiritual Development Standing Committee*

As I am writing this we are in the Lenten season, and I am preparing the Liturgy for our convention. We are in the Year of Mercy, as declared by Pope Francis, we have our theme from national CWL of “One Voice, One Heart, One Mission; our Blessed Oscar Romero to pray for and of course our patroness Our Lady of Good Counsel. There are so many things going on in our busy lives but we must remember that “Only one thing is important.” God. If we could only remember this and live accordingly our lives would be so much better.

I came across this story through one of my emails and would like to share it with you.

The Black Dot

One day, a professor entered the classroom and asked his students to prepare for a surprise test. They all waited anxiously at their desks for the exam to begin. The professor handed out the exams with the text facing down, as

usual. Once he handed them all out, he asked the students to turn over the papers. To everyone’s surprise, there were no questions – just a black dot in the center of the sheet of paper. The professor, seeing the expression on everyone’s faces, told them the following: “I want you to write about what you see there.” The students, confused, got started on the inexplicable task. At the end of the class, the professor took all the exams, and started reading each one of them out loud, in front of all the students. All of them, with no exception, defined the black dot, trying to explain its position in the center of the sheet. After all had been read, the classroom silent, the professor started to explain: “I’m not going to grade you on this, I just wanted to give you something to think about. No one wrote about the white part of the paper. Everyone focused on the black dot – and the same happens in our lives. We have a piece of paper to observe and enjoy, but we always focus on the dark spots. Our life is a gift, and we always have

reasons to celebrate – nature renewing itself daily, friends around us, the job that provides our livelihood, etc.

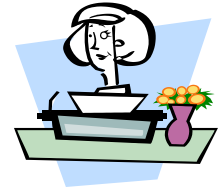
However, we insist on focusing only on the dark spot – the health issues that bother us, the lack of money, the complicated relationships with others, or the disappointment with a friend. The dark spots are very small when compared to everything we have in our lives, but they’re the ones that pollute our mind. Take your eyes away from the black dots in your life. Enjoy each one of your blessings and each moment that life gives you. Be happy and live a life such that even the undertaker will be disappointed when it is your time to go.

I hope to see many of you at the convention in Sarnia in April. Please continue the good works you do. May Our Lady of Good Counsel pray for us.

Theresa



Recording Secretary Mary Bannon



To me it seems unbelievable how fast time passes. Here we are in the season of Lent preparing for the greatest feast in the Church year. In my parish I volunteer as coordinator of the RCIA, so we are busy journeying with our catechumens and candidates. Soon we will celebrate their full membership in our parish family and the huge Church community around the world. They are eager and anticipatory for this great event at the Easter Vigil.

Time has also passed in my term as your Recording Secretary. I am almost finished my two year term. I have enjoyed being the keeper of records of activities in the Diocese. And I am grateful to those councils who have managed to send in their council's information which helps

in our communication with you each year as we mail convention packages to the Presidents and Election information for those who wish and do not wish to let their names stand for election to the Diocesan Executive. I know there is a fear about running for election even in your own Parish councils where the ladies love you and are willing to support you. I have also experienced that fear.

But now, as I continue I take heart from Max Lucado's message: *God never sends you out alone. Are you on the eve of change? Do you find yourself looking into a new chapter? Is the foliage of your world showing signs of a new season? Heaven's message for you is clear: when everything else changes, God's presence never*

does. You journey in the company of the Holy Spirit, who "will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you" (John 14:26). I take courage as well from those words and press on step by step in my journey.

May you experience God's mercy this Lent and Easter season in this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

In Christ,
Mary



Isn't it Strange

Isn't it strange how we believe everything that magazines & newspapers say, but ... we question the words in the Bible?

Isn't it strange how difficult it is to learn a fact about God to share it with others, but ... how easy it is to learn, understand, extend and repeat gossip?

Isn't it strange how everyone wants a place in heaven but ... they don't want to believe, do or say anything to get there?

Isn't it strange how difficult & boring it is to read one chapter of the Bible but ... how easy it is to read 100 pages of a popular novel?



Treasurer—Mary Lappan

As I sit here writing this article, I am thinking about how much I enjoyed our Lenten Retreat yesterday in Sarnia. The weather for the last few years has not been very cooperative for our Lenten Retreats but anyone that has managed to attend has had a wonderful time. As usual, Father Dan Vere did an excellent job explaining the Year of Mercy.

A great big THANK YOU to all the treasurers that submitted their reports. I received 87 of 99 reports. It is mind boggling to see how much money is donated by the London Diocese to our parishes and various community organizations. However I was a little surprised at the amount of money in the “other” column. I am sure that most of the money allotted to this section should have been included in one of the standing committee donations. Since there seems to be some confusion as to what goes where, I thought a short list of charities that could be used in a standing committee would be useful. So here goes:

The first group on the list are the charities on the National Voluntary Fund. These are self explanatory and are usually sent to National directly although they can be sent to Diocesan. A new addition to this list is the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition.

The next group is the Standing Committees. They are as follows:

Spiritual Development—If your council has purchased books or tapes, or have paid a stipend for someone giving a retreat, the amount goes here.

Organization—Costs for leadership development, new member kits or anything spent to better your council belongs here.

Christian Family Life—The list for this standing committee is extensive - donations to marriage preparation courses, Natural Family Planning, programmes for single parent / divorced families, gifts for sacraments, Right to Life, Birthright, homes for unwed mothers, youth groups, ministry for the disabled, seniors, vocations are just some of the donations that belong in this category.

Community Life—This is another large group and the one that has the largest monetary donations - refugee programmes, human trafficking, domestic violence, homelessness, poverty, issues affecting Native peoples are but a few of the groups that are recipients of our donations.

Education And Health—Another large group—scholarships, bursaries, Catholic Education, Rosary Apostolate, RCIA programmes, health care,

palliative care, care of the environment.

Communications—Most councils do not show a lot of money spent in this committee but it is so important. We cannot get the word out without communications, so donations to League Lingo, newsletters, Pornography Hurts campaigns, publicity for your parish council belong here.

The final section is for Parish and “other”. Donations made towards the upkeep of the buildings, gifts for clergy or staff should go in this section. As you can see, the “other” section would contain anything that doesn't fit in the other groups; however this should not be a large amount. Almost all of your donations belong in one of the other groups.

I hope this clarifies things for you. I am looking forward to the convention in Sarnia in April. I would love to meet you and “pick your brain” regarding this new report form.

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

Mary



Christian Family Life Standing Committee Chairperson—Elisabeth Duggan



Marriage and Family

Dear sisters in the League, Pope Francis has declared a jubilee Year of Mercy “Merciful Like the Father”. Family is one of Pope Francis’ interests. Our National Chairperson, Judy Lewis states: “The family is the basic cell of society. It is the cradle of life and love, the place in which the individual “is born” and “grows.”

We as parents are the first teachers to our children and therefore we must be diligent to continue to teach and teaching is also by example. I have attached a web site you are able to open and use with your family. It is on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The activity involves the making of a booklet. You as a family can work together and share how as a family or a family member are doing with the activity. Working on this as a family will also allow a time for prayer as a family and build closeness.

“Pope Francis states that throughout this year the Christian people reflect on the corporal and

spiritual works of mercy and that we ask God “to pour out his mercy upon us like the morning dew, so that everyone may work together to build a brighter future.”

“It is indeed my wish that the Jubilee be a living experience of the closeness of the Father, whose tenderness is almost tangible, so that the faith of every believer may be strengthened and thus testimony to it be ever more effective.” Pope Francis

www.thereligionteacher.com/year-of-mercy-activities
www.iubilaeummisericordiae.va

Sanctity of Life

The right to life continues to be sacred from conception to natural death. Pope Francis calls abortion and Assisted Suicide a sin against God. We cannot simply stand by. We need to continue to fight for life! Continue to participate in the pro-life walks; 40 Days for Life; Right to Life.

It is very important we continue to bombard our politicians with letters stating our views on

Assisted Suicide. We need to be bold and active. We need to be the voice for those who are unable to speak.

“Francis has spoken out several times against the assisted suicide movement, which he considers to be a symptom of today’s “throw-away culture” that views the sick and elderly as a drain on society.”

“Your work wants to witness by word and by example that human life is always sacred, valuable and inviolable,” the pontiff said. “And as such, it must be loved, defended and cared for.”

www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/11/17/pope-francis-assisted-suicide_n

Elisabeth

Look for Rebecca’s clear explanation on how to pick & nominate candidates for our diocesan election this year. Found on Pages 6 & 7



Community Life Standing Committee Chairperson—Kathy Levesque



*The Lord said "I was a stranger and
you did not invite me in,
I needed clothes and you did not
clothe me,
I was sick and in prison and you
did not look after me."
(Matthew 25:43)*

I would like to wish all of my Sisters in the League a Happy New Year 2016. As we start off the New Year, let us not forget to reach out to the homeless, poor, those who suffer from addictions, shut-ins and all who need our help and love. It is hard to realize that winter is almost over and spring will be soon upon us. If anyone knows me, I love spring, the growth of new things. A new year springs forth!

I would like to thank all the councils that returned their annual reports. The Annual London Diocesan Community Life Report which is found in the Diocesan Annual Report Book, that will be available at the 2016 April Convention, reports on all the wonderful ways on our theme "One Voice, One Heart, and One Mission". It shows the many wonderful and different ways that our members helped others. I urge everyone to read this report and use some of the ideas

presented to bring to your own councils.

Development and Peace (D&P)
Share Lent 2016 – Creating a climate of change together! Each year during Lent, Canadian Catholics are invited to stand in solidarity with communities in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East who are struggling for dignity and justice. This Lent, inspired by the Jubilee Year of Mercy and Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE invites us to join in a Climate of Change solidarity pilgrimage with our sisters and brothers in the Global South. By opening our hearts and walking hand in hand with the most poor and vulnerable, we can contribute to building a world rooted in justice, equality, compassion and love. Our generosity is a source of hope! With your generous donations, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE is working to create a climate of change and build a more just world. Please continue to support Development and Peace through the 1% Plan. www.devp.org

Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide—
Alex Schadenberg, Executive
Director / International Chair

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, made up a Declaration of Hope on his website in which he is hoping for those who oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide to sign. As you may remember, at our Fall Regional Day 2015, Alex Schadenberg was our guest speaker on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide. If you would like to be part of making a difference and want to sign the declaration, this can be done by logging onto Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (www.epcc.ca/) and looking for "Declaration of Hope". Your voice can make a difference in this matter.

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Diocesan Convention in Sarnia in April 2016. Have a blessed and holy Easter Season.

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

Kathy



Communications Standing Committee Chairperson—Sandra Cabiddu



What a strange winter we have had so far this winter! It only seems like yesterday we were celebrating Christmas and now hear we are already into Lent. I wish you all God's Blessings at Easter which will have arrived by the time you get this newsletter.

Thank you to the 2/3 councils who submitted your report for the Annual Report Book 2015.

There is one important discussion out there that we need to communicate to our members. That is the need to communicate our feelings on the "Euthanasia Bill" that the federal government wants to impose on Canadian society, whether we agree or not.

You are encouraged to sign the Declaration of Hope (this can be done by logging onto Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (www.epcc.ca/)) or write to your local MP's etc. So let us bombard our MP's with our letters expressing our views on this subject. You would have received details about this from your Regional Chairperson. I sent it out immediately instead of waiting to do a directive on the subject because time was of the essence.

Why are our doctors, who took a Hippocratic oath to defend life, being forced to make a choice? We must do everything possible to either stop this or at least to

make sure the most vulnerable of our society are not deemed to be useless to society, so let's end their life. What if they cannot speak for themselves—we must do it for them.

This will be my last article as Communications Chairperson in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you all in my hometown of Sarnia for our convention to be held this coming April.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel Bless you all.

Sandra



League Lingo—Editor, Sandra Cabiddu

Well orders are down significantly this year of 2016. I know a lot of you look at it on our diocesan website, but I would have liked to see a few more orders of the paper edition—for me personally I still like a piece of paper in my hand to read!!

This edition has seen a much larger than usual submission to me. Thank you.

Also, you are slipping back into making out your cheques for the

orders to 'LEAGUE LINGO'. There is no such account as this. Any money you send for anything to do with CWL must be made out to "THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA". The forms to order are at the back of this newsletter, and it clearly states who to make the cheque out to!

As usual I will bring extra copies with me to convention in Sarnia.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Sarnia & once again meeting new & old friends again.

Happy Easter to you all & God's blessings.

Sandra

Education & Health Standing Committee

Chairperson—Mary Maxwell



The season of Lent inspires us to reflect, meditate, pray, fast and give alms as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Easter. This time of renewal coincides with the seasonal calendar as the sun begins to warm our days. When Lent is over, we know spring is around the corner.

This is a great time to renew our promises to help our earth's environment. Earth Day arrives on April 22nd, a day to be more aware of protecting our earth. The Earth Day committee is suggesting we

could try to join in by helping to plant a tree. Trees help create a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable planet.

Trees help combat climate change by absorbing excess and harmful CO₂ from our atmosphere. In fact, in a single year, an acre of mature trees absorbs the same amount of CO₂ produced by driving the average car about 42,000 km. (The distance across Canada is about 7,000 km)

Trees help us breathe clean air

by absorbing odours and pollutant gases (nitrogen oxides, ammonia, sulfur dioxide and ozone) and filter particulates out of the air by trapping them on their leaves and bark. Trees help communities achieve long-term economic and environmental sustainability and provide food, energy and income.

Plant a tree. Enjoy the coming spring breezes.

Happy Easter!

Mary

Regional News—Chatham Kent

Representative—Angela Soulliere



The last 2 years seem to have flown by. My term as Regional Chair is drawing to a close. I have greatly enjoyed my time as Regional Chair. I have learned a lot and met a lot of wonderful, faith filled women; many of whom I look up to and admire.

After some prayer and discernment, I have decided not to let my name stand for an executive position at this time. I recently became a college student and after 18 years being out of school, it is a bit of a challenge. I am adapting. In January, I also became president of my parish council. So I think my plate is full. I am trying to juggle everything, so far I think I am succeeding...

When I began my second term as Regional Chair, I set a goal; to attend a council meeting at least

once from each of my 15 councils. At this point, I have visited 13. We have had some scheduling conflicts, but I think I might be able to get it done by April. I have thoroughly enjoyed attending the parishes. I have met a lot of wonderful women. I have enjoyed seeing the dynamics at each council. Each council does things a little bit differently than the other, and THAT's OKAY! I was welcomed into the homes of a few councils (that's where their meeting is hosted) and have participated in different celebrations (90th Anniversary at St. Michael's Dresden, Christmas Party with St. Paul's, Thamesville and St. Francis, Tilbury, service awards mass and dinner at St. Agnes) and General meetings for many others. One council liked the message that I delivered, they

invited me back 2 weeks later to deliver the same message at their awards dinner (thank you Our Lady Help of Christians, Wallaceburg).

If any of you are in the position that you are eligible to become Regional Chair in your area, I highly encourage you to step up if asked! It is the most wonderful job. It is easier than being council president and it is A LOT OF FUN! Please consider joining the Diocesan Executive. I don't think you will regret it...

I look forward to seeing many of you at Convention in Sarnia.

Through Our Lady of Good Counsel

Angela



Regional News—Sarnia Lambton Representative—Wilhelmina Kole

As we enjoy winter and anticipate a beautiful spring, I am coming to the end of my tenure as Regional Representative for Sarnia Lambton. It has been a joy working with the dedicated presidents of our region. We are busy preparing for the 96th CWL Annual Diocesan Convention to be held in our region and look forward to seeing you all there.

One of my hopes was to attend a meeting at each of our 12

councils in Sarnia Lambton. I am pleased to say that I was able to visit 10 of the councils and was made to feel at home at each meeting.

As a member of the Catholic women's League for 40 years, I have learned many things, but never as much as I have learned in the last 4 years in the position of Regional Representative.

I give special thanks to the

presidents of Sarnia Lambton and especially the ladies on the Diocesan Council for the prayers and support during my recent medical issues. You are all very faith filled and special ladies.

Yours in Christ,

Willi Kole

Regional News—Huron Perth Representative—Denise Lalonde-Morris



How time flies when you are in such a fulfilling position. My duties as Regional Chairperson are coming to a close. I have held this position for three years and it has been one of the most rewarding things I have done. None of it would have been possible without the guidance and support from many, many people over these three years. Thank you all so very much. If I am successful at securing a position on our new executive in the upcoming election I hope to continue to work for all our sisters in the League.

As for the Region of Huron/Perth we have been very busy at attending to the needs of the many. It could have come in the form of an old fashioned tea to silent auctions, bazaars, workshops, attending Regional

Days, bombarding the government with Pornography Hurts Postcards, Christmas Bureaus, a group retreat to the Holy Family Retreat House or just a simple smile for someone who looks alone. The ladies of our region continue to amaze me with the number of hours they donate to those they might not even know. Bravo! Everyone!

I recently read this following excerpt that I would like all of you to consider. We all have very busy lives. Try to get into the habit of gathering with Jesus at the end of the day. Come away with him every Sabbath and soak in his words. Lay your work, your concerns, your successes, and your failures at his feet, and let him take care of them. (The Word among us). If you just take a little time for Jesus and Our

Lady of Good Counsel you will be amazed.

Thank You and have a Good Day !!

Denise

Below is a picture of a number of our presidents presenting a cheque to Father Michael at the Holy Family Retreat house.





Regional News—Windsor Representative—Mary Ann Horne-White

2016 started out with an invitation to be part of a ceremony at Most Precious Blood where Margaret Eastlake was given the Bellelles Guerin award for service to the Catholic Women's League at multiple levels. It was a wonderful experience to be part of the ceremony and to assist giving other service pins as well.

St. Michael's German CWL celebrated their 65th anniversary Sunday March 6th. They invited all the councils in Windsor to celebrate with them. It's an exciting year for their CWL.

The Diocesan Lenten Retreat was February 13th at Sacred Heart Church in Sarnia. Our Lady of Guadalupe CWL hosted a retreat March 10th.. The Windsor councils enjoy retreat days together.

Our Diocesan Convention is in Sarnia this year. The Windsor councils go to enjoy the time, meeting, praying, and sharing with the other ladies in the league. Two resolutions from Windsor/Essex area are being presented. We are very proud of the members who worked so hard on these. 2016 is an election year. It's exciting to be part of the process as we see a new Diocesan Executive voted in for the next two years.

The London Diocese is hosting the Provincial Convention in Stratford this July. Councils are invited to be there and welcome the visitors from all over Ontario and Canada. Our resolutions will be presented as they were at our convention in Sarnia.

Our Presidents' Meeting in May brings us all together for a

Potluck. We enjoy the shared information, food, and camaraderie.

I look forward to working with all the Windsor Presidents this year, and supporting them in all their endeavours. The councils are actively working on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, and praying for the canonization of Blessed Oscar Romero. Windsor will be welcoming refugees and hope to make them feel welcome.

May our Lady of Good Counsel continue to bless us in all that we do.

Mary Ann

The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts

The heaviest thing you can carry is a grudge

One thing you can give and still keep ... is your word

You lie the loudest when you lie to yourself

If you lack the courage to start, you have already finished

One thing you can't recycle is wasted time

Regional News—Essex Representative—Denise Masse



When it comes time to write for the Spring League Lingo again, we often are in the midst of winter. This year however has been different with the constant change in the weather, which has often felt like spring. As I write this today, I see tulips poking out of the ground alongside the house and crocuses. I am trying to think how best to protect them, as every year they are coming up prematurely due to climate change. I am grateful to the CWL for their support of the environment, under Education and Health. The importance of resources, events such as ice melt and severe storms affect us all and in this Year of Mercy, the Pope too has brought the environment to the forefront. What will you and your council be doing this spring?

Since our last writing, a new year has begun. Reflecting on the latter portion of 2015, I would like to thank everyone that attended the Fall Regional Day held in Kingsville and hosted by St. John

de Brebeuf. There is a lot involved when a large number of company is coming and the day was informative and full of fellowship with excellent food. Fall days were filled with bazaars, breakfasts, speakers and led into Christmas potlucks, fashion shows and retreats.

With spring comes renewal, especially with Easter approaching. While some may say Easter is early this year, I often find Easter is right on time in our lives when we need to celebrate our Risen Lord. I hope your Lenten journey was prayerful and fulfilling. When you give of yourself so much, as our ladies do, we need that renewal, to continue to inspire others and call them to Him.

Our next Diocesan Convention in Sarnia is coming soon, April 18th-20th, 2016. The agenda has many wonderful events. Please attend and bring a newer member with you, they may be inspired. We are proud that two proposed

resolutions from our region will be presented at Convention, one of which was created in conjunction with Windsor region. Please come out to help pass these resolutions and celebrate. The dialogue will be interesting and informative. Judging from last year in London, those in attendance will be engaged and learn a lot. We really do make a difference.

Just as the spring garden is sure to bloom soon, with colour and bring beauty to all, so too will the works of your councils continue to bring beauty, prayer, love, and understanding to those whose lives you and the work of your councils touch. You colour what is around you with God's love.

Many blessings to you all.

Denise

Things you can do with 'Bounce' Fabric Softener Sheets

Eliminates static electricity from venetian blinds. Wipe the blinds with a sheet of Bounce to prevent dust from resettling

Prevents musty suitcases. Place a sheet of Bounce inside the empty luggage before storing

Regional News—London Representative—Joan Lobsinger



What a great Fall we had. Two councils in the London Region celebrated significant anniversaries.



I'd like to congratulate St. John the Divine's council who celebrated their 50th Anniversary in September and Holy Cross' council who celebrated their 65th Anniversary in November. All Saints Council graciously hosted our Advent Tea on November 23rd. The various presidents took part in reading "A Mary Christmas", Judy Vandenberg from All Saints parish provided the music and the attending councils brought delicious goodies to share. Many thanks to everyone who helped make this a special evening.



The mild winter made travelling ideal. Our presidents' meeting is

every other month on the 4th Monday. I welcome the new presidents of the London Region and wish to thank the past presidents for their years of service and for their continued support to the new presidents. As usual, the councils in the London Region have been very busy with their very successful bazaars, completing their membership drives, catering funeral luncheons and focussing on their Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy projects.



Wow, in mid-February, winter hit London with a vengeance. Seventeen members from the London Region planned to attend the CWL Lenten Retreat Day on February 13th in Sarnia. However falling snow and snow squalls prevented us from getting there. I understand it was a very enriching experience.

Spring is around the corner and I look forward to attending the Diocesan Convention in Sarnia this April. The Resolutions Committee has again worked very hard and has two resolutions to present. It is

always wonderful to see familiar faces, renew friendships, make new ones and meet women of faith. It will indeed be a great experience of learning, faith, fun and fulfillment!



Elisabeth Duggan and Joan Lobsinger with the CWL display at King's College Catholic Fair on Tuesday February 2nd.

Joan



96th Annual London Diocesan Convention Sarnia - April 18, 19 & 20, 2016

One Heart, One Voice, One Mission

*Holiday Inn, Point Edward (Sarnia), Ontario
1408 Venetian Blvd., Point Edward, ON. N7T 7W6
519-336-8667 or 1-888-212-2252*

*Twin Pines Orchard Estate Winery Tour/Fashion Show at
Marcanda Tea House—\$35—Monday April 20th, 10 a.m. sharp*

Speakers:

Monday 6 p.m.—Opening Mass—Our Lady of Mercy, Sarnia

Monday 7:30/9 p.m.—Resolution Dialogue

Tuesday 2:00 p.m.—Fr. Paul Baillargeon—

Parish Family Grouping & Impact on CWL

Tuesday 8 p.m. Fun Night—Country Style Dinner & Country Hoedown

Wednesday 8:45 a.m.—Michelle O'Rourke—Palliative Care & Dying with Dignity

Wednesday 10:20 a.m. Elections/Parallel Programme—

Features Life Members. Pat Rivest & Lucy Hendriks on "Membership"

Wednesday 1 p.m.—Luncheon Speaker—Angela Pellerin—Incoming President

Wednesday 1:30 p.m.—Speaker—Aux. Bishop Joseph Dabrowski—

"One Heart, One Voice, One Mission"

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

With Bishop Ronald P. Fabbro, Sacred Heart Church, Sarnia

We look forward to welcoming you to the 96th Annual CWL Convention. It promises to

fill our mandate of "Faith, Fun & Fulfillment"!

For more information & registration forms please visit www.cwllondon.ca



Council News—Essex Region—St. Michael, Leamington—President, Peggy Barrette

- * Marie-Therese Lamphier performed our councils' reaffirmation ceremony during the 5pm Mass on January 23rd. It was just beautiful.
- * Our council has submitted our Resolution 'Unborn Victims of Crime Act' and has had it accepted for introduction at the Diocesan Convention in April.
- * Apple Pie Fundraiser was a success with all proceeds going to furnish the new church kitchen.
- * New St. Michael church construction is ahead of schedule thanks to a mild winter in our area.
- * Speaker from Reid Funeral Home that services our Parish, spoke on CWL information given to grieving family members during their Mothers' passing. Even though she may have been a long time member, some families are unaware of this involvement and fail to request CWL prayers or honour guard. He suggested we put this request in writing and verbally inform our families of this beautiful tribute. For our councils part, we are sending birthday and Easter greetings to our nursing home members, to keep family aware of their importance to the CWL.
- * Two raffles of gift baskets were done for fund raising for the newly-formed parish refugee committee. The family of six is expected to arrive soon.
- * Holy Spirit neck crucifixes were presented to 85 Confirmation Students this past weekend.
- * A Lenten Mission at Holy Family Retreat House is scheduled for February 27th, 2016 and being led by Fr. Michael O'Brien.
- * Our Spiritual Advisor and Pastor, Fr. Pat Fuerth is on sabbatical. In his absence Fr. Danny Santos has generously agreed to take on that role. Thanks Fr. Danny!

Peggy



DID YOU KNOW?

*Take your bananas apart when you get home from the store.
If you leave them connected at the stem, they ripen faster*

*Reheat Pizza—Heat leftover pizza in a nonstick skillet on top of the stove,
set heat to med-low & heat till warm. No soggy micro pizza.
Saw this on a cooking show & it really works*

*Reopening Envelope—If you seal an envelope and then realize you forgot
to include something inside, just place your sealed envelope in the freezer
for an hour or two. Viola! It unseals easily*

Council News—Essex Region—Holy Name of Jesus, Essex—President, Janice Rounding



We served ice cream at our very hot Parish Picnic in August and the Knights of Columbus barbequed hot dogs for us. We had face painting, cotton candy, games for the kids, and our President-Elect's granddaughter, dressed as Anna from Frozen, sang songs from the movie and mingled among all the children.

We brought back the Vocation Cross, placed a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space, asking families to take it home for a week, and pray for vocations. It has worked out well, so far.

At our October meeting, Jasmine Chevalier, a member of our parish, spoke of her faith journey and her mission project with CCO in India.

Approximately 25 members of our parish showed up for the annual International Life Chain on October 4th. We held a pie sale on the first weekend of October, making a nice profit.

We had 2 staff members from Libro Credit Union speak to our ladies about Elder Abuse at our November meeting.

2 members of our council attended the Fall Regional Meeting in Kingsville. We had a great day.

Our annual turkey dinner and bazaar in November was a success. We sold advance tickets for the first time and opened up our bake table, penny raffle room, knitted/crocheted items and raffle tables after each Mass all weekend. People who would not have been able to make the dinner Sunday afternoon, had a chance to buy items earlier.

We served cake at a reception for our newly ordained Deacon Andy Labrosse and presented him with a stole. He is our second Deacon to be ordained. We are a blessed parish.

We enjoyed good food, word games and visiting at our December meeting pot luck. Wendy purchased ornate crosses to sell to parishioners for \$2.00. Julie attached a tag to them for names of deceased loved ones. They filled the large Christmas tree in the Gathering Space. After Christmas, the purchasers were able to pick them up and take them home. We also took

them to our shut-ins at home and nursing homes.

This is the end of my second term as president. Joanne White will take over the reins in January, but as Past President, I believe that I shall continue these reports for the League Lingo and I am planning on seeing everyone in Sarnia at convention in April.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel bless you and your families in the new year. It has been a great pleasure serving as my council's president for the past 4 years.

Janice



Council News—London Region—St. George, London

Co-presidents—Becky Bulsza & Michele Ferri

Greetings sisters of the League!

Like all of you, we have been hard at work with League business. Our Candy Cane Bazaar in November was a rousing success once again with net earnings of over \$14,000. With the many charities we support, parish needs, and our refugee family, the funds will be well spent.

In the last issue of the Lingo, we mentioned that we would be increasing our focus on our members' spiritual needs. To that end, we asked Debbie Craven, a member of our parish with a Master of Divinity degree and experienced in giving retreats, to offer the women of our parish a retreat. Her topic was *Mary the Mother of Mercy in the Year of Mercy*. Over sixty women listened to Debbie share with us Mary's message on how to connect with her Son. Debbie also helped us to understand the spiritual works of mercy and how we might incorporate them in our lives.

To reach all the women of our parish, we put out a 2 page newsletter inserted in the bulletin, detailing the work (and fun) in which we have been engaged. We must have been successful, as we have had at least

14 new members join and now stand at over 200 members. We will continue to strive to increase our numbers by informing women of the important role the League plays in our society and encouraging them to participate in activities that fulfill that role.

At Christmas, three of our members visited our homebound members and gifted each of them with a League Christmas ornament (the fundraiser ornaments for the Diocesan Convention). They loved them and were proud to hang them in their rooms!

Our ongoing relationship with **Women's Community House** that serves abused women and their children, has been expanded. Due to the outreach efforts of our Community Life Convenor, Carole McGeough, we now provide some support to women and children moving out of the shelter and into their own homes on their own. We purchase and solicit needed items that these women can use in their new homes, and deliver them.

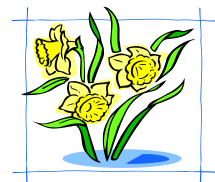
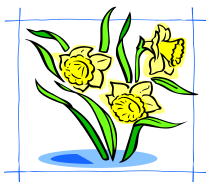
At our membership brunch in January, we began a new tradition. As this was the interim year, between elections, we decided to welcome our new

members from the past two years with a special ceremony. Holding white candles, twelve new members listened while Fr. John Jasica (our spiritual advisor and pastor), recited prayers of welcome and commitment. They were each given a medal of Our Lady of Good Counsel pinned to a prayer card with the League prayer. Then the rest of the members were asked to renew their commitment to the League. It was a lovely way to welcome our new sisters in the League.

The focus on Blessed Bishop Oscar Romero has spurred us to learn more about him. We have purchased a documentary DVD and are in the process of obtaining permission to show it to our parishioners.

Bless you all for your many corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Becky and Michele



*Council News—London Region—St. Michael, London
submitted by: Joan Lobsinger, London Regional Chair*

Members of St. Michael's CWL, London are busy preparing delicious apple pies for their upcoming bake sale.



*Council News—London Region—Holy Cross, London
submitted by: Joan Lobsinger, London Regional Chair*

Holy Cross Council proudly display their increase in membership certificate.



Council News—London Region—St. John the Divine, London

President—Jane Williams

This has been a very eventful year for our parish and our council. We celebrated 50 years as a parish and council. To mark this momentous event we held an anniversary luncheon. We had about 100 members and guests in attendance. We were pleased to welcome Marie-Therese Lamphier along with several members of the diocesan executive. Our guest speaker was Elizabeth Birchell whose presentation was titled "The Women, a Bishop and a Princess: A Story Found in Boxes".



Several of our ladies have been with our council since it began. We honoured these women with special recognition and a rose. One of our ladies, Betty Worral received her 75 year pin.



on registration for two diocesan conventions and is currently working on the committee preparing for the provincial convention. It was an honour to present her with her well-deserved Maple Leaf pin.

Though lunch was catered, the Knights of Columbus assisted in the serving and cleanup. They also provided rides for members who requested transportation. It was a wonderful celebration.

Jane

One of the highlights of our afternoon was the presentation of the Maple Leaf pin to Dianne Kehoe. Retirement brought Dianne to our council. Over the years she has worked tirelessly in the service of our council. Dianne has also worked with the diocese

Council News—London Region—St. Patrick, London

Past-president—Mary Paradine

The new executive for 2016 - 17 was installed by Father David Furlonger on January 10th at the 10 a.m. Mass. Under the guidance of our new President, Gil Bedard, (front row on the left) everyone is busy preparing for our annual St. Patrick's Bazaar on March 19th, 2016.

We have a very full slate of officers this time and feel very blessed to have experienced



members and some members new to an executive position.

Everyone is looking forward to a wonderful two years with the many activities familiar to us and some new projects in the coming months.

Mary

Council News—Sarnia Lambton Region—Our Lady of Mercy, Sarnia—Submitted by Treasurer, Joan Naug

November 28, 2015:

- Held a very successful "Crafternoon Tea". Sent a cheque for \$1,000.00 to Catholic Missions in the North (proceeds from the tea).
- We have sent them over \$6,000.00 in the last 6 years.

November 30, 2015:

- Attended a cluster parish pot-luck Christmas Party with St. Joseph's Council and St. Benedict's. Had over 100 ladies in attendance along with our 2 Deacons and Associate Pastor Father Stephen Marsh. A great time was had with food, fun and fellowship.

December 8, 2015:

- Our council hosted a Deanery wide Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. A social followed and about 200 attended.
- Many of us helped with St. Vincent de Paul with food baskets, gifts for the children, etc.
- We are looking forward to hosting the 2016 London Diocesan Convention in Sarnia.
- Flowers will be sent to shut-ins on Valentine's Day

- Hosted several funerals, (sadly) including 2 CWL members.
- Helping with World Day of Prayer on March 4th, 2016 at All Saint's Anglican Church

Joan

Look for the ad for the Sarnia Convention on April 18, 19 & 20. Found on page 20

I am a Seenager (Senior teenager)

I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later.

I don't have to go to school or work.

I get an allowance every month.

I have my own pad.

I don't have a curfew.

I have a driver's license and my own car.

I have ID that gets me into bars and the liquor store.

The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant.

And I don't have acne.

Council News—Sarnia Lambton Region—Sacred Heart, Sarnia—Co-president—Judith Gillespie

I am truly amazed at the dedication and hard work done by our council members. They are very committed to the CWL mission and to helping the less fortunate in our society. Whenever my co-president, Anne Clark, or I, ask for assistance, there are always a number of willing volunteers. We are so blessed by the number of committed Sisters-in-Christ. They have helped make Sacred Heart an exciting and vibrant Council.

In September we learned of the initiative to bring Syrian refugee families to Sarnia. Many people from our Church have worked tirelessly to bring this about and this past week we were rewarded with the arrival of our family of five. The CWL provided funding, as well as helping to accumulate the necessary items for setting up a new home. I am so proud of their generosity. We only had to report a need for a specific item and one of our members would provide it.

This year our Christmas bazaar was, once again, very successful and we made a record-breaking amount of money. The money is then put to work supporting our many charities. November was a very busy month getting ready for the bazaar – baking pies and gathering the necessary items to create our ever popular Christmas pots. Our bazaar convenors, Linda Forbes and Kathy Bristo, did an incredible job. Way to go ladies!

63 women attended our Christmas dinner which was catered by Aldo of Gourmet Café and was

delicious, as always. We were delighted to have Father Vince Gulikers and Father Festus Komolafe in attendance. While the ladies enjoyed dessert and coffee, they were entertained by the group Harmony for Youth, singing Christmas carols.

We have had a number of excellent speakers over the past few months. In September we heard from Maria Muscadere and Bernie Taylor from Hospice. Our council is very concerned about end-of-life choices and the alarming issue of euthanasia, which is now before our courts. Many of our members have been involved in the letter-writing campaign to draw attention to our concerns about this very critical issue.

In October, Josie Popen of **Michael's** demonstrated how to make beautiful seasonal arrangements. She created a lovely table centerpiece, as well as a swag for the front door. Then she delighted the women by giving the door swag to the council member who had the closest birthday to that date. Noreen Salak was the lucky prize winner.

John and Maggie Barnfield gave a wonderful presentation, in November, about all their good works through Rayjon in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. They stressed the importance of assisting the Haitians with works that are important to them. This is a different approach from many mission services which go into areas to complete specific goals (i.e.

building a well) which may not be of importance to the people themselves. They stressed the importance of having the people on board with the mission work.

Our speakers in February were from the Circles program – Mary Lou Robb and Martine. Circles out of poverty is a comprehensive strategy that helps the impoverished in our community find a way to raise themselves out of their present circumstances towards a better life for themselves and their families. Many women from our CWL are already involved in helping out in this very innovative programme.

This February we had the privilege of hosting the Lenten Retreat, led by Father Dan Vere. 115 women signed up to attend this very thought-provoking presentation but due to inclement weather – a major snowstorm – only 86 were able to attend. This was still a very impressive number. It was a very inspiring day, filled with true CWL camaraderie, friendship and the inspirational thoughts of Father Dan. We were so blessed!

We are looking forward to the Easter season. It is a busy time but also very rewarding, filled with Spiritual renewal and intensive soul-searching. Sacred Heart wishes all of you a blessed Easter season!

Judith

Council News—Sarnia Lambton Region—Holy Rosary, Wyoming—President, Joan Fournier

Holy Rosary CWL hosted a 50th Anniversary Celebration for Sr. Colleen Young Pentecost Sunday, May 24th, 2015 at St. Philip's Parish. A social was held after each of the Sunday Masses and a lunch was provided for Sr. Colleen's family members, the Sister's of Service, and some very close friends who all happily came and surprised Sr. Colleen with their presence to join in her special day.



(top) Holy Rosary CWL members with Sr. Colleen Young at her 50th Anniversary Celebration.
(bottom) Sr. Marylin and Sr. Joan of the Sisters of Service.

Our CWL was invited to the grand opening of the Wyoming Skateboard Park and our CWL plaque is included in the list of sponsors.

Sr. Colleen also received an award from our Mayor, Lonny

Napper of Plympton Wyoming for her 50 years of service, over half of these years in our community, February 6th, 2016 and a group from our CWL attended the luncheon/ awards presentation.



Sr. Colleen and
Mayor Lonny
Napper,

We will be joining our community to celebrate World Day of Prayer March 4 at the Wyoming Christian Reform Church.

Our CWL no longer hosts World Day of Prayer but we do participate in it. The Presbyterian Church in Wyoming has also closed down and they no longer participate, and this year the Anglican Church in Wyoming is concerned that they also will be closing down. That will leave 3 host churches in our community.

Our CWL is co-hosting a spaghetti dinner with St. Philip's CWL in Petrolia. The profits will be split between the CWL National Bursary Fund and the Sarnia/Lambton Refugee Ministry Group.

May our lady of Good Council bless us all

Joan



Skateboard park Grand Opening,

*Council News—Sarnia Lambton Region—
St. Michael, Bright's Grove—
Communications/Education & Health—Nelly Kelders*

Valentine's Tea Brightens
February in the Grove



We need your feedback! That was the rationale the Co-president, Mary McLeay gave to our members at St. Michael's CWL general meeting in May 2015. The ladies were asked to respond to several questions regarding our activities, communications and fund-raising. For those not at the meeting, they were given the opportunity to complete the survey on-line or by hard copy. At our general meeting in September the executive council presented the results to those in attendance and a healthy discussion took place.

One issue the executive had was how to ensure there would be sufficient attendance at the February general meeting. This meeting is important because the annual budget needs to be passed at this time. There are several problems with the February meeting date. Bad weather the last few years meant either postponement or very low attendance. Another problem is that a number of the ladies have left the area for warmer weather in a no snow zone! The survey told us that many of the remaining

ladies would be open to an afternoon meeting, weather permitting, of course. Another thing they told us was that they would like to have a "tea". The executive decided to try the



afternoon meeting as we had nowhere to go but up in the attendance. The second thing we decided was that since the meeting date was near Valentine's Day, we would have a "tea" as part of the general meeting.

We needed ladies to sign up so that we would know how much food to prepare and how many tea cups would be needed. Yes, it would be a fancy tea with real china cups and saucers. Invitations were handed out at mass. Members were encouraged to bring a guest. Ladies, not members of the CWL, were also invited to attend. We needed to get our business done but we



wanted a festive atmosphere, where the ladies had time to socialize and enjoy the refreshments. The executive council took care of the menu: chocolate dipped strawberries, petit-fours, cookies, mini-cakes, crust less sandwiches, chocolates,



celery & carrot sticks and of course tea. There was food in abundance as some of our members wanted to contribute to the afternoon and brought treats too.

The entertainment, prior to the meeting, was our pastor, Father Vince Gulikers and retired educator and executive member Nelly Kelders. Their slide presentation was about their pilgrimage to Spain, France and Portugal in the fall of 2015. Through their eyes, the ladies were taken to the heights of Montserrat and the Benedictine monastery in Spain, where the Black Madonna can be found. From there, we were taken on a tour of Antoni Gaudi's *Sagrada Familia* in Barcelona. Still in Spain, they took us on a tour of the Cathedral of Toledo, thought

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*Council News—Sarnia Lambton Region—
St. Michael, Brights Grove—
Communications/Education & Health—Nelly Kelders (cont'd)*

(Continued from page 29)

to be one of the most beautiful in the country. From there we virtually walked in the walled city of Avila, home of mystic and doctor of the Church, St. Teresa of Avila. No tour of Spain would be complete without a stop in Santiago De Compostella, the end of the *Way of St. James*. We were exhausted just listening to them and then there were the fun stops; a night at the Corral De La Moreria, home of world famous flamingo dancing; and several hours exploring Carassonne, a medieval fortified town and castle in France. The shrines at Lourdes and Fatima were the highlights of the pilgrimage and our presenters talked about their experiences there, the bath in Lourdes, the stations of the cross, the candle-

light processions and the masses. They left many of us wishing we could have been on the pilgrimage too.

Yes, the business that needed to be discussed did take place. Co-president Mary McLeay took us through the agenda and of course the most important item, the budget for 2016. Several good questions were asked, the vote was taken and the budget passed unanimously. All this was taking place while we enjoyed the lovely food and tea prepared. The business meeting wrapped up quickly, leaving the ladies ample time for socializing. When the tea ended many members joined in the clean up, all the time chatting about the success of our first Valentine's Tea and general meeting.

So, what made it so successful you ask? More than 20 ladies, other than executive members were in attendance, which is about 23 more than last year; the budget was passed; there existed a beautiful feeling of camaraderie and a desire to make this an annual event. Who knows, maybe a sell-out crowd next year!

Nelly



I am a Seenager (Senior teenager—cont'd)

Life is Good! Also, you will feel much more intelligent after reading this.

Brains of older people are slow because they know so much. People do not decline mentally with age, it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains, scientists believe.

Much like a computer struggles as the hard drive gets full, so too, do humans take longer to access information when their brains are full.

Researchers say this slowing down process is not the same as cognitive decline. The human brain works slower in old age, said Dr. Michael Ramscar, but only because we have stored more information over time. The brains of older people do not get weak. On the contrary, they simply know more.

Council News—Huron Perth Region—St. Joseph, Stratford, President, Edna Brake

This spring and summer has been very busy. Last year we committed to a restoration project for a five (5) years period. We committed to restoring the window beside Our Lady's altar. We did some fund raising last year, but, this year the fund raising really took off.

In the spring we started with our usual raffle ticket draw and bake sale, proceeds were really great, it is unreal how people get involved when it is for the church.

Next we had an Irish Stew Dinner with goodwill offering, for entertainment our men's choir sang Irish tunes, they were great and so was the dinner.

Then a group of our CWL members put on a Swing into Spring ham dinner. They sold tickets for the dinner and the tickets sold out. During the night they bought balloons, burst it and received the prize, and once again all of the balloons were sold. They hired a band to play for the night, all people enjoyed the music and were on the floor all night dancing it up, and it was enjoyed by all. After organizing the Swing into Spring the ladies had a fun night with people impersonating singers from all types of music from country, to Elvis, to Broadway. They had a lot of fun and now want another night to have them back again.

Well that took care of a very busy spring.

So much for missing the spring/summer 2015 addition of the lingo, so, here we go with the Fall and Winter news

Now to settle back in for another fun and exciting year of fellowship with our sisters in the league, and of course trying to recruit new members. We are always trying to bring into the league young new blood. We started off the Fall with our Communion Luncheon renewing all of our summer activities with the members. It was very joyous to see the faces of many I hadn't seen over the summer, you could really see the theme in that room:

**"We have seen the Lord,
He is in us".**

There were many awards given out that day with the help of Fr. Dick Bester our Spiritual Adviser and myself.

Honourable Mention: Florence Darby 86yrs, Clara Black & Doreen Pigeon 62 yrs; Eileen Rothernel 70yrs; Eleanor Bernier, Fran Culliton, Arnolda Dwyer, Angela Haggarty, Pauline Helm & Margaret O'Brien 60yrs; Annie Bokkers, Frances Leyser, Lillian Morris, & Mary Nyenhuis 55yrs; Sylvia McGovern, Geraldine Merkel, & Joan Shantz 50yrs; Dorleen Beacham, Cory Dewys, Cecilia Meagher, Ruth Stock & Mary Whaling 45yrs; Judy Boersen, Josephine Burgers, Rite Klooster, Grace LaCroix, Corrine Malcho, Frances Shantz, Wilhelmina

Vanden Temple, Mary Weber, Regina Whaling 40yrs; Maureen Griffin, Joan Mezenberg & Marijke Van Nes 35yrs; Marilyn Morgan 25yrs; Kay Anderson, Sandra Baker, Joan Ritchie, & Cleo Smith 20yrs; Linda Ingoldsby, Patricia Mezenberg, Anna Pallone, Colleen Ryan & Cheryl Simons 10yrs;

New Members: Anni Elieff, Olivia Flegg, Ruth Lacey, Celeste McEwan, & Grace McEwan.

God Bless One and All.

In October we once again held a fund raiser with a Fashion Show the turn out wasn't good but we had lots of fun.

November started with the Feast of Holy Souls and All Saints, **whenever there are special mass'** you always get that feeling inside you that makes you feel calm and peaceful.

On November 11th it is a time when we give thanks to our fallen soldiers who gave their life so freely for us, the president and spiritual member laid a wreath at the war memorial on behalf of the St. Joseph's Catholic Women's League. Then we finish off the month with the Holy season of Advent. It is a prayerful time of the month because we are waiting to celebrate the coming of Christ.

During the next 2 months January & February we didn't

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Council News—Huron Perth Region—St. Joseph, Stratford, President, Edna Brake

(Continued from page 31)

have a meeting because of weather condition, most of our ladies that faithfully come out to our meetings are hitting that sweet age and don't like going out at night.

There is something else I would like to say, and that is I have a great council behind me and the work they do for the CWL and Church are as follows, Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Ushers, Greeters, they also work at the funeral ceremony and the reception working long hours preparing and standing to make

sure everything is at its best. I also would like to thank the Quilting Ladies, they come out one day a week to make a quilt for our Raffle in the Spring and also for others in the community that has an occasion happening.

I guess that pretty much sums up our works for Spring, Summer (2015) & Winter (2016) but I must tell you this, we have Alex Schadenberg coming to our parish on February 17/16 to speak on Euthanasia, hope we have a good night and a good turnout.

Hope to see and meet more of you at the Convention in April

where we can proclaim with
"One Heart, One Voice, One Mission"

God Bless to all and a joyous New Year.

Edna

Council News—Huron Perth Region—Precious Blood, Exeter, President, Barbara Truchon

This year has been a very rewarding one as our council tried to incorporate our theme ONE HEART, ONE VOICE, ONE MISSION into our League activities. We started with changing our annual penny sale into an Autumn Showcase, Tea and Silent Auction. We had over 20 vendors showing their products, tea tables for the buyers to relax and enjoy a plate of goodies with tea, coffee etc. We all found it a more relaxing day and a time when we could actually visit with the people who came. And it was fruitful.

We took part in a Ham and Sausage Dinner with the Knights of Columbus and the proceeds from that went to installing Defibrillators in both parishes.

A reverse food drive is held in the parish quarterly, whereby one week you choose a slip of paper from a basket that has an item printed on it needed by the food bank and the following week you bring that to the church. What is gathered is brought to the food bank. Twice a year we put on a free community meal for anyone to come. We hope those in the community that need it will

come out but it is open to everyone. All the churches and service clubs in the area take part so that there is one meal a month.

This year besides our \$200.00 a month charity we were able to donate \$1,000.00 for a Syrian family and we gave \$3,000.00 to the Parish for the building fund. All in all this has been a good year and I thank my executive – they are a great team. See you in Sarnia.

Barbara

Council News—Huron Perth Region—Immaculate Conception, Stratford, Co-President, Lorraine Hertel

2015 was a very a busy year for our council. We started our regular meetings in February. The first large event was hosting our Lenten Lunches presented by Stratford and District Council of Churches starting on Ash Wednesday. We served approximately 120 people each Wednesday, soup, sandwiches, dessert, tea and coffee at 12:00 noon for the six weeks following Ash Wednesday until Holy week. The speakers from the different churches had a spiritual message based on the gospel. Our CWL members prepare and serve the food.

In March we had a presentation on Residential Hospice Initiative. The Rotary Club of Stratford has been fund raising to have a hospice building in Stratford for approximately ten beds. This would eliminate our residents driving to Woodstock.

May was a busy month, we had

our first afternoon tea, fashion show, a planter demonstration, draws and music. Brenda Campbell from Cozyn's commented on clothes and did the plant demonstration. Cozyn's Garden Gallery on Huron Street in Stratford have a large selection of clothes, giftware, decorating ideas and of course plants. Our members modeled the clothes, all ages and sizes. Proceeds from this event went to Hospice and Oxley House.

We advertised in the Stratford Gazette our Sunday Masses. The costs were covered by Immaculate Conception CWL, St. Joseph's CWL, and the Knights of Columbus.

We did not meet in July and August. We opened our meeting in September with a delicious pot luck supper. Our ladies were working all summer in the background on crafts,

selling raffle tickets, gathering items for penny sale, wheel of fortune, making an extra jar of pickles, jam or other preserves for our Bazaar in November. It was a lot of fun and well attended. From the proceeds of our functions we were able to donate \$12,300 to our church and \$1,750 to local charities, \$800 to Hospice and \$200 to Oxley House.

This coming year in July the Provincial Convention will be taking place in Stratford. Our members are looking forward to this event, meeting many of you again and showing off our beautiful city.

On a sad note we lost six of our members who have gone to be with our Lord.

Blessings to all

Lorraine

SIMPLE TIPS

Water straight from the tap becomes cloudy when frozen. To make ice cubes crystal clear, allow a kettle of boiled water to cool slightly and use this to fill your ice cube trays.

Use a large muffin tin to cook stuffed peppers in the oven — it will help keep them upright.

To prevent potatoes budding, add an apple in the bag.

Add half a teaspoon of baking soda to the water when hard-boiling eggs to make the shells incredibly easy to peel off.

Council News—Huron Perth Region—St. Peter Goderich—President, Jo-Ann Blay-Rowan

It's hard to believe that we are already in the Lenten season. It seems like we just packed away our Christmas decorations! As each new year starts, we typically reflect on the previous year and make plans for the new year. This is also true for our Council. We are welcoming any new memberships from the St. Joseph Kingsbridge Council and are extending a warm invitation to them.

Our dedicated members have been busy in the kitchen preparing for funeral luncheons and several breakfasts following Sunday Masses. These have been opportunities for us to serve our community in a special and meaningful way, while at the same time fostering fellowship. Some of our members worked with and supported the Knights

of Columbus in hosting a guest speaker on Divine Mercy and a garage sale fundraiser for youth activities.

Another successful fundraiser was our annual Fall Harvest Luncheon and Bazaar. The local businesses were very generous and the Silent Auction items kept everyone going back to check on their bids, making new bids and watching to see who was out-bidding them.



Right—Adele Drennan
Left—Crystal Crowley

At our last General Meeting, we reviewed the 2015 financial report. It was so rewarding to see what we've accomplished by way of fundraising and donations to various local, national and international charities. We were pleased to make a substantial donation to a local church that is sponsoring a refugee family.

Several ladies attended Fun Night in Parkhill and remarked on the great food and how much fun they had. This year we've decided to host the event. Although we still have some details to work out, mark "18 May - Hawaiian Night in Goderich" on your calendar and we'll see you there.

Submitted by:

Diane Weber

THOUGHTS TO THINK ABOUT

*When you start caring about yourself, you start loving somebody
But when you start caring about others somebody will start loving you*

*What is the Secret of SUCCESS? - 'RIGHT DECISIONS'
How do you make Right Decisions? - 'EXPERIENCE'
How do you get Experience? - 'WRONG DECISIONS'*

*Write your sad times in Sand; Write your Good times in Stone.
Behind every successful man, there is an untold pain in his heart.*

*Without your involvement you can't succeed.
With your involvement, you can't fail;*

Council News—Huron Perth Region—St. Joseph, Listowel

CO-presidents, Lisa Martin & Judy Charles

We have enjoyed our first year as co-presidents and have been busy learning. The procedures and bylaws and list of yearly duties are being reviewed and updated as these are a wonderful resource.

We organized a Roast Beef Dinner on October 8th for our community which was a great fundraiser. Our Christmas Bazaar was a success with a luncheon, selling of live evergreen arrangements, grocery hamper draw, bake table, white elephant table, pick-a-stick table and loonie/toonie table. At our Christmas Dinner, we collected non-perishable food items to donate to the Salvation Army food bank. Sick and shut-ins were visited and presented with a small Christmas gift or plate of assorted goodies.

We were happy to be able to

present Father Morrison with a cheque for \$5,000 towards our building fund for our Parish Centre.

We have joined a group of 11 Listowel churches who are sponsoring Syrian refugees. Our council pledged \$500 to the Refugee Settlement Committee.

Our council continues coordinating coffee and cookies after Sunday mass on the first Sunday of each month (except July, August and September). A dedicated group of ladies cater funeral luncheons when requested. Members form an honour guard at member's funerals. We continue to present a medal and small prayer book to those who are baptized. Small prayer books will be presented to our children celebrating their First Communion on April

17th. Wedding crucifixes are presented to couples getting married. Small gifts were presented to 34 children who were confirmed in our parish in November.

Our focus now is on our annual Spring Social which will be held on May 3. Several of our members are looking forward to attending the Diocesan Convention in April in Sarnia and Provincial Convention in Stratford in July where we can meet old friends and learn new ideas.

Lisa & Judy



THOUGHTS TO THINK ABOUT

*Don't compare yourself with anyone in this world.
If you do so, you are insulting yourself*

*You are not responsible for what people think about you, but you are
responsible for what you give them to think about you*

Don't make promises when you are in JOY. Don't reply when you are SAD

*Don't make decisions when you are ANGRY.
Think twice, Act wise. BE happy*

Council News—Huron Perth Region—Immaculate Heart of Mary, Grand Bend—Past-president, Joanne Vandenberg

Greetings from Grand Bend! Under the dedicated guidance of our CWL Co-Presidents Maureen Garinther and Joan Brewer, our Council now has 94 members; three ladies are charter members who have maintained their membership since the beginning! They were here on November 25th, 1956 when the CWL Council at Immaculate Heart of Mary was born! We will mark this special occasion on October 28th with Mass and a Banquet.

This year will be special in other ways too. A number of our CWL members and their husbands will accompany our pastor Father Tony Laforet on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. We look forward to meeting our Sisters in the League at the *London Diocesan Convention* in Sarnia, the *Huron-Perth Fun Night* in Goderich on May 18th and at the *Ontario CWL Convention* in Stratford in July. In June, our members and friends will attend a performance of "Sister Act" at the nearby *Huron Country Playhouse*. Pope Francis has decreed the Extraordinary

Jubilee of Mercy which ends in November; we have plans to perform corporal and spiritual works of mercy and hope to make a difference in the lives of others as we donate to food banks, give financial support for area Syrian refugees, call and visit parishioners who are shut-in, raise funds for area palliative care facilities and pray for sick and grieving parishioners.

In 2015, we held 10 monthly meetings and 8 ladies had perfect attendance! Our Council held its usual functions - Coffee Sundays, Parish Breakfast, Ham & Strawberry Social, funeral lunches, pie-making, and Bazaar.

We were pleased to host the "World Day of Prayer" in March and the "CWL Fall Regional Day for Huron-Perth/Ingersoll" last September. Interesting presentations and guest speaker Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition gave us food for thought.

The year ended with our annual CWL Advent Party; after our business meeting, our husbands joined us for a Christmas Social. Service Awards were presented as follows: 10 years—Gloria Laporte, Patricia Hlady, Cathy McLellan; 25 years—Janet Willsie; 40 years—Antoinette Pachlarz; 50 years—Mary Campbell and Marie Srokosz. And lastly, I (Joanne) was the surprised recipient of the Maple Leaf Service Pin!

Congratulations ladies and may *Our Lady of Good Counsel* continue to bless us all, as we work for God and Canada!

Joanne



Council News—Chatham Kent Region—Holy Family, Wallaceburg—President, Judy Roy

After a restful summer, our council held a seniors/shut-in's Mass in September. Seniors from our local residences and nursing home were invited to attend. Members also picked up seniors who needed a ride to church. During Mass, Father Chris anointed all of our seniors as well as any other parishioners attending who wished it. Afterwards, everyone in the church was invited into the annex for a soup and sandwich luncheon.

We began our membership drive in earnest, with a talk before Mass as well as bulletin and newsletter inserts. There is also a special CWL membership envelope included in our boxes of offertory envelopes. We took memberships after all Masses for 2 weeks. This year, an information day was set up for all of the different groups and functions that go on in the church. Unfortunately, it was poorly attended.

Our Pornography Hurts Campaign began with a short talk before Mass. White ribbons were handed out after Mass and everyone was asked to wear it for the week and to tell anyone who asked, what it stood for. A large wooden white cross was also displayed in the front yard of the church for passersby to take notice. We wrote about pornography in the bulletin and in our monthly newsletter, as

well as asking our parishioners to write letters to our MP about this ever growing problem.

The annual Holy Family CWL Penny Sale was held at the UAW Hall. This is our main fundraiser and is a lot of work for our members.

All of the councils in our Parish co-hosted a reception for our newly ordained Deacon, Mr. Richard Walter. A monetary gift was also presented to him by our council.

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 tasty Christmas baking. Gifts were given to members of our clergy and office staff. A Dove of Peace celebration was held to help families who are grieving the loss of a loved one. 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, veggies trays and Christmas baking supplied by all of our clustered CWL councils.

Our council did quite a bit of work, fundraising for our Holy Family Roof Fund. We managed to make over 4,400 turkey pot

pies, with the help of the wonderful Knights of Columbus men and parishioners who volunteered to work with us. We also sold lots of our homemade canning after Masses for two weeks. We presented a cheque to Fr. Chris in the amount of \$8,000.00 payable to Holy Family Roof Fund.

During the year, we lost our Spiritual Development Chairperson, Marguerite Francis. We will certainly miss her talks and insights about our faith and her unwavering friendship to all who knew her. She fought the good fight. She finished the race. She kept the faith.

We have had another busy 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



*Council News—Chatham Kent Region—St. Joseph
Harwich, Chatham—President, Beth Eagen*

In the presence of our sisters of the Chatham Kent Region of the CWL, seven members of our council were presented with service pins at our June BBQ. Ten year pins were received by Debbie Zink and Julia Earley. Amy Dodman and Bertha Vickard were given 25 year pins. Martha Kovar and Kathleen O'Hara were

acknowledged for 50 years of service. Rosemary Zimmer was honoured with a 60 year pin. Our council was very pleased to present a Maple Leaf Service pin to Geraldine King for sharing her talents with us on our executives and many fundraising efforts.

Throughout the year our council will be concentrating on expanding the spiritual component of our meetings and supporting the Spirit and Life Centre in our parish.

Beth

*Council News—Chatham Kent Region—Our Lady Help of
Christians, Wallaceburg—President—Marlene Judson*

We are please to welcome 4 new members for 2016.

One of our members who was to receive her 75 year pin at our Spring Banquet passed away in November. The previous 2 years, we presented her with a small gift in recognition of her many years of service. She was so proud of this. So we presented her family with her pin at the Funeral home which was much appreciated.

Our Annual Fall Bazaar featuring a craft table, bake table, country store (fresh vegetables, flowers, bulbs etc) tearoom (a light lunch is served) and a raffle table, was again a huge success. It is quite an enjoyable day.

In February, we also had a delicious roast beef dinner, which was well attended.

We will be hosting the RCIA candidates reception after the Easter Vigil and for Confirmation.

Gifts are given to students making their sacraments and graduation where we give out a Christian Living Award to a boy and girl chosen by the teacher who lives up to the meaning of Christian Living.

At our Annual Spring Banquet, we present anniversary pins, and our new members with a CWL insignia pin, present any Merit Certificates when required and have some type of entertainment or a speaker.

We also participated in our town wide yard sale in June.

In June, rather than having a meeting, we have a mother/daughter potluck following Mass.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pray for us.

Marlene

Council News—Chatham Kent Region—St. Agnes, Chatham submitted by, Barb Masse, Communications Chairperson

CWL Going Co-op

A new year has started for us with a new president leading us, and changes have already started.

In Chatham-Kent, the parishes of Blessed Sacrament and St. Agnes are clustered. Each parish has a council of the Catholic Women's League. Recently these 2 groups have come together to strengthen our impact in our community, with joint ventures, such as the Pornography Hurts Campaign, parish picnics, and working with the K of C of both parishes.

The Blessed Sacrament and St. Agnes Catholic Women's League

have also shared the installation of officers, encouraged members to attend each others' special meetings such as the Barn Quilt Historic presentation. We also work together on funeral lunch preparation and organized Stations of the Cross, shared Christmas gatherings and many other activities. Executive information has been shared so that each chair can work together. One notice of information will be put in the parish bulletin with two contact names.

Since one of the mandates of the CWL is the performance of Spiritual and Corporal works of mercy, we have indeed tried our

very best to do as many as possible, all the while doing so with a joyful heart.

Currently our Catholic Women's League is working with the other Catholic Women's League parishes to do some fund-raising to assist with our Syrian family that has settled in our city. Our family has been sponsored by the Catholic community of Chatham.

We are looking forward to many more joint projects.

Barb

Council News—Chatham Kent Region—Blessed Sacrament, Chatham—submitted by: Lorelei Arnold, Communications

It has been a busy year so far full of many blessings.

Several of our Ladies work tirelessly hosting card parties for the seniors in our community twice a month. The turnout is always fantastic with usually 19 tables of players. The CWL members take turns donating homemade sandwiches. The



seniors come out to play euchre, for fellowship and the hugs.

Last year, our Spiritual committee started a Travelling Vocation Cross programme that is still going strong. Each month members sign up to take home a crucifix and prayer that comes in a handy bag. Each day the

member prays for all vocations, Priesthood, Religious Life, Married Life and Single Life. They then return it at the next meeting, encouraging members to attend the meetings.

To celebrate our Membership Weekend this year, we worked with the Knights of Columbus to serve breakfast to the parish. Everyone enjoyed pancakes and such while listening to presentations on the value of joining the groups and watching a slide show of the many fun events we've had. We had literature and

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Council News—Chatham Kent Region—Blessed Sacrament, Chatham—submitted by: Lorelei Arnold, Communications

(Continued from page 39)



poster boards to encourage membership.

To encourage our ladies to wear their membership pins, we have begun a draw at the General meetings. The member receive a ticket if they remember to wear their pin and they can win a prize of CWL themed items, like the beautiful mugs and pen and paper sets that CWL national sells. Now we've caught members wearing their pins at other Church events too!



We honoured one of our members, Carol Robert, who retired from organizing CWL bus trips for our parish cluster

community. Over the years, Carol took us to fun places like St Jacob's, The Walters Dinner Theatre, Frankenmuth and of course, Mystery Tours that were full of excitement. It was not only the funds that she raised that went on to good causes, but the comradery that was created during these trips.

Thanks Carol!

Our Christmas party each year is celebrated with the two CWL groups from our parish cluster coming together. This year our St. Agnes sisters hosted a lovely dinner and mass. As our pastor, Fr Jim Higgins, was soon to leave on his sabbatical, we held our Installation of Officers mass that night. It was the first time we had done the Installation together and everyone truly enjoyed it. It has led to more co-operative things like working together on the "Pornography Hurts" campaign. Putting One Heart, One Voice, One Mission into action.

The ladies who knit and crochet in our group continue to work hard on making beautiful prayer shawls for our women who are in need of our thoughts and prayers as they suffer through grief or health and wellness issues. Now, they're going to try a few lap blankets for those

members in wheelchairs too. It's like having a warm hug whenever they need it!

To participate more fully in the Year of Mercy, our council has decided to perform the Corporal Works of Mercy at each General meeting. We began in January with "Counsel the Doubtful" at our Roots Potluck dinner. Everyone brought a dish significant to their ancestry and discussed Cursillo which encourages one's faith which results in being able to encourage others as well. At our February meeting, we will be undertaking "Clothe the Naked" by collecting female underclothes for Canadian Food For Children. In March, it will be "Shelter the Homeless" by collecting blankets and giving them to a charity in need. We will attempt to perform each of the works.

Our Lady of Good Counsel pray for us and our CWL sisters.

Lorelei



Council News—Windsor Region—Most Precious Blood, Windsor—President—Betty Recker

Our council had a Corporate Communion, when the council got together for a Mass and received the Eucharist and then we sat down for a meal together. The K of C served us so that we could all sit down as a family to break bread together. It was also the day that we gave out our new member pins and other awards.

Awards from Corporate Communion



Belleelle Guerin award – Marg Eastlake (middle) with Marie-Therese Lamphier—Diocesan President (left) & Rebecca McCarrell—Legislation/Resolutions Chairperson on the right



Maple Leaf Awards –
Betty Recker, (left)
Carol Alexander, (right)
Noella Hodgins missing
from photo)
Mary Ann Horne-White—
Windsor Regional
Chairperson (middle)

25 year pin – Noreen Renaud,
Joanne Thibeault, Colette
Comtois

60 year pin – Blanche Strong,
Rita Carroll



Back row – Maureen Hobbs,
Arda Vadori, Nicole Convey,
Doris Wilson, Denise
Eckford,
Front Row – Gabrielle
Donais, Cindy Marier, Jaclyn
Bergeron, Julie Macko,
Andrea Franklin.

Member Pins: 2015/2016
Julie Macko, Rose Marie Renaud,
Joyce Stasik, Andrea Franklin,
Nicole Convey, Denise Eckford,
Doris Wilson, Gabrielle Donais,
Maureen Hobbs, Brenda Roberts,
Arda Vadori, Jaclyn Bergeron,
Cindy Marier, Mary Beth Girard,
Pat Kennedy Mary Kennedy

Betty



Council News—Windsor Region—St. John Vianney Windsor—Submitted by: Jan Conlan, Recording Secretary

May, 2015

Our May meeting has traditionally been a “baby shower” for Birthright and this year we had Victoria Eid, Treasurer and Volunteer Counselor, address our group. She was happy to accept all the baby gifts we had gathered to present to her and gave us an insight into how counselors help women.

June, 2015

Our last formal meeting was a Pizza Party – and we enjoyed various types of pizza, delicious salads, and of course, lots of desserts. Our President, AnneMarie Kozak, presented bursaries to two young ladies from our parish graduating to Catholic High Schools – Kaitlyn Dufault and Abbegale Tibor, along with CWL pins to several new members. Also awarded were long term pins as follows: 20 year pins – Diana DeBergh, Eleanor Devine and Donna Masse, and 10 year pins to Shari Fazekas and Margaret Devlin.

November, 2015

Our speaker for the November meeting was a young lady, Lisa, from NET (National

Evangelization Team) Ministries. She explained how she felt a calling from God to interrupt her university studies to join the NET team. Members are trained in various programmes – evangelization, etc. Once training is complete, some teams travel across Canada to bring the good news of the gospel, others work in parishes. They also have music groups and bands to give honour and praise through music. The home office is based in Ottawa.

Four members attended the Fall Regional at St. John de Brebeuf Parish in Kingsville and learned details on the functions of a CWL Council and methods of bookkeeping, record keeping, elections (urging members to discern if the Lord calls them to serve by using gifts He has given them) etc. After a lovely lunch, an informative talk was given by Alex Schadenberg, who initiated the Euthanasia Prevention Organization. Alex gave examples of how this Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide can be misused and stated the Supreme Court’s decision to allow this is extremely IMPRECISE. Cards for signature against this movement were provided to be mailed to Ottawa.

December, 2015

Our final meeting of 2015 was a social event – including a catered chicken and trimmings dinner, some games, and door prizes. Margaret Mann was awarded a certificate of merit in recognition of her services, by President AnneMarie Kozak. We are fortunate enough to have a gentleman in our parish who provided Christmas music for us, and everyone seemed to enjoy the evening.

January, 2016

Together with the Knights of Columbus, we hosted a bake sale and raffle to raise funds to help support the three youths from our parish going to World Youth Day. The youths and their families also baked and worked the bake sale. A video of World Youth Day was played and an album from a past World Youth Day was displayed during the sale to let parishioners know what an incredible spiritual journey World Youth Day is.

Jan



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

- We had a very successful year thanks to all our ladies for the many hours spent helping out with all our various fundraisers. We were able to donate \$11,000 to help out various charities.
- On April 23rd we are having a “Blanket Exercise” at our parish. The Blanket Exercise, created by Kairos gives us the opportunity to experience the historical story of the relationship between the Indigenous People in Canada and the European settlers in a creative and experiential learning format. We hope to have Indigenous people or an Elder join us.
- Further to the letter received from Barbara Dowding our National President on the Year of Mercy, We are printing the member Pledge Cards in our Spring Newsletter, urging our members to fill them out and return them.
- We are having a speaker from Iris House (a home for mentally challenged adults) for our March General Meeting.
- Sr. Linda Dube from Guadalupe Home was a guest speaker at our February meeting. This home opened in Windsor three years ago and helps women in crisis pregnancy situations.
- We held a baby shower in February, jointly with the Knights of Columbus, for Birthright Windsor/Essex County.
- **We support our local school's** breakfast programme throughout the year. A number of the families are from geared to income housing and come to school hungry.
- We support Save-A-Family Plan
- We held a Retreat Day at the Holy Family Retreat House in Oxley to re-energize our members. 20 of our members attended and it was so successful we have another Retreat Day planned for this summer.
- We support the disabled and seniors in two neighborhood Nursing homes by assisting residents to attend Mass at the Home. Our members also bring communion to some residents.
- Provide Honour Guard for the funeral of our deceased members
- Bereavement luncheon group provide lunches as requested, providing both food and comfort to the family and friends.
- We begin and end all of our General Meetings with a hymn led by Sr. Yvonne Parent, our Spiritual Chairperson. As we move through the Year of Mercy we encourage each of our members to open their hearts and minds as we continue to help those in need.

Deanna



*Council News—Windsor Region—Immaculate Heart,
Windsor—President—Rose Ann Haeussler*



Above is a picture of 2 of our Catholic Women's League members who have given 25 years of service on the committee for Immaculate Heart Council. Betty Fifield has served on Community Life for 25 years and Murielle Sheff served on Christian Family Life, also for 25 years.

At our 2015 Christmas Social, they received their certificates, and a pewter ornament of the Catholic Women's League

Rose Ann





Service Pin Awards for 2015/2016
"Congratulations to our faithful & dedicated members"



Huron Perth Region:

St. Joseph, Stratford

Honourable Mention:

86 years

Florence Darby

62 years

Clara Black

Doreen Pigeon

70 year pin

Eileen Rothernel

60 year pin

Eleanor Bernier

Fran Culliton

Arnolda Dwyer

Angela Harggarty

Pauline Helm

Margaret O'Brien

50 year pin

Sylvia McGovern

Geraldine Merkel

Joan Shantz

55 year pin

Annie Bokkers

Frances Leyser

Lillian Morris

Mary Nyenhuis

45 year pin

Dorleen Beacham

Cory Dewys

Cecilia Meagher

Ruth Stock

Mary Whaling

40 year pin

Judy Boersen

Josephine Burgers

Rite Klooster

Grace LaCroix

Corrine Malcho

Frances Shantz

Wilhelmina Vanden Temple

Mary Weber

Regina Whaling

35 year pin

Maureen Griffin

Joan Mezenberg

Marijke Van Nes

25 year pin

Marilyn Morgan

20 year pin

Kay Anderson,

Sandra Baker

Joan Ritchie

Cleo Smith

10 year pin

Linda Ingoldsby

Patricia Mezenberg

Anna Pallone

Colleen Ryan

Cheryl Simons

New Members

Anni Elieff

Olivia Flegg

Ruth Lacey

Celeste McEwan

Grace McEwan.

Immaculate Heart of Mary,

Grand Bend

50 year pin

Mary Campbell

Marie Srokosz

40 year pin

Antoinette Pachlarz

25 year pin

Janet Willsie

10 year pin

Gloria Laporte

Patricia Hlady

Cathy McLellan

Maple Leaf Service Pin

Joanne Vandenberk

Chatham Kent Region

St. Joseph, City, Chatham

70 Year pin

Fran Doyle

60 Year pin

Kitt Hillman

Cora VanBrunschot

50 Year pin

Mary Kuchta

45 Year pin

Anne Foster

Julia Denys

Joanna Lombardi

Rose Pepper

30 year pin

Cindy Lacina

10 Year pin

Sharon Thievin

Magda Ward

St. Joseph, Harwich,

Chatham

60 year pin

Rosemary Zimmer

50 year pin

Martha Kovar

Kathleen O'Hara



(Continued on page 46)



Service Pin Awards for 2015/2016 "Congratulations to our faithful & dedicated members"



(Continued from page 45)

St. Joseph, Harwich, Chatham ... cont'd

25 year pin
 Amy Dodman
 Bertha Vickard

Ten year pin
 Debbie Zink
 Julia Earley.

Maple Leaf Service Pin
 Geraldine King

Windsor Region

St. John Vianney, Windsor

Certificate of Merit
 Yvette Henkel;
 Margaret Mann
 **both for services 'above &
 beyond' for a number of
 years

20 year pin
 Diana Debergh
 Eleanor Devine
 Donna Masse

10 Year pin
 Margaret Devlin
 Shari Fazekas

New Members
 Jocelyn Falls
 Maureen Holland
 Theresa McLaughlin
 Louise Sharkey
 Pat Collins
 Rose Lamug
 Theresa Zichichi
 Jeanne Marie Lachine

Windsor Region

Most Precious Blood, Windsor

Bellelle Guerin Award
 Marg Eastlake

Maple Leaf Service Pin
 Betty Recker
 Carol Alexander
 Noella Hodgins

60 year pin
 Blanche Strong
 Rita Carroll

25 year pin
 Noreen Renaud
 Joanne Thibeault
 Colette Comtois

New Member Pins
 Julie Macko
 Rose Marie Renaud
 Joyce Stasik
 Andrea Franklin
 Nicole Convey
 Denise Eckford,
 Doris Wilson
 Gabrielle Donais
 Maureen Hobbs
 Brenda Roberts
 Arda Vadori
 Jaclyn Bergeron
 Cindy Marier
 Mary Beth Girard
 Pat Kennedy
 Mary Kennedy

London Region

St. John the Divine,
 London

Maple Leaf Service Pin
 Dianne Kehoe



ONE HEART VOICE MISSION

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

February 2016

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



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