

**Peterborough Diocesan Council of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada**



**Spring Newsletter
2016**

ONE HEART
VOICE
MISSION



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The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Peterborough Diocesan Officers and Sub-Committee Appointees 2014 - 2016

Office	Name	Contact Information
President	Joanne Hough	prespocwl@gmail.com
Spiritual Advisor	Rev. Damian Smullen	sapocwl@gmail.com
President-Elect/ Organization	Wendy Tedford	orgpocwl@gmail.com
1 st Vice-President/ Resolutions & Legislation	Helena Lessard	rlpocwl@gmail.com
2 nd Vice-President/ Christian Family Life	Denise Brennan	cflpocwl@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Audrey McLaughlin	secpocwl@gmail.com
Treasurer	Danielle Gagnon	trpocwl@gmail.com
Past President/Historian	Margaret Van Meeuwen	pastpocwl@gmail.com
Spiritual Development	Suzanne Liptay	sdpocwl@gmail.com
Community Life	Susan Wood	clpocwl@gmail.com
Education & Health	Donna Moore	ehpocwl@gmail.com
Communications	Linda Ainsworth	cmpocwl@gmail.com
<u>Sub-Committee Appointees:</u>		
Organization Sub-chair	Joan Gaensbauer	lifemembpocwl@gmail.com
Life Member Liaison		
Communications Sub-chair	Linda Ainsworth	newspocwl@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Glenda Klein	

This list may be used for CWL purposes only.



From the Desk of the Diocesan President: Joanne Hough



Spring is in the air! This has been a most unusual winter in respect to weather. It has been a great year to travel to councils and meet members. Your work in the parishes and throughout the diocese is vital to so many as you live out your mission as Catholic Women's League members, serving God and Canada.

The 95th Peterborough Diocesan Convention with the theme of *Personal Encounters with Mercy* will celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis. St. Mary's Catholic Women's League Council in Lindsay have worked diligently to plan events that will welcome you!

Elections have been held in several parish councils. A special welcome is extended to new executive members and new presidents who will provide leadership in their parish councils. Welcome to all executive members and their council members. The leadership in all of the parish councils is both recognized and appreciated. The Catholic Women's League is a grass roots organization and at all levels there is dependency upon each other. The importance of the work of the parish councils cannot be underestimated, the parish councils are the foundation.

During the 2015 Peterborough Diocesan Convention, two fundraising activities were held...an auction and a collection. Two charities were identified, Native Peoples Programs and the Canadian Mental Health Associations. As a result, five CMHA received donations of \$200 and a donation of \$500 was made to First Nations Child & Family Caring Society and \$380 to the Mikinakoos Children's Fund.



An executive meeting took place on October 17, 2015 in Kirkfield with St. John's CWL Council as hosts. During this meeting, a presentation was made of S'Mores Program...Discerning A Call to Service. The presidents were introduced to Blessed Rosalie Rendu and were asked to pray through and for Blessed Rosalie.

I had the opportunity to attend CWL meetings in Powassan and Bobcaygeon. This provided the opportunity for good dialogue and the sharing of information about the work of CWL at all levels. Several officers have had the opportunity to attend parish council events and have appreciated the warm welcome of parish councils.

The Peterborough Diocesan Council will present two resolutions in respect to the use of ATVs at the convention. The resolutions have been sponsored by the St. Mary's Parish Council in Lindsay. In the Spring of 2015, a young 10-year-old boy was attending a dirt bike event. He and two other boys took an adult size ATV for a ride. The ATV rolled and the 10-year-old was killed. Several youths each year have



lost their lives or been severely injured. There are attempts to lobby the provincial government by private groups and the Hospital for Sick Children. The Peterborough Diocesan CWL Council would like the Ontario CWL Provincial Council to add its voice to the need for reform of the regulations governing the use of ATVs and youth.



In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, the members of the Catholic Women's League have much to celebrate. You have reflected on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy and have taken it steps forward to ACT... "**A**ction **C**hanges **T**hings!"

It has been an honour to serve as the Peterborough Diocesan President for the last two years. The opportunity to work with a team of officers and appointees with so many skills and so much devotion to the work of the League has been inspiring. Thank you for your friendship and leadership! The presidents in each of the parish councils have been very supportive of initiatives of the diocesan council. Thank you!

The time has flown by so quickly! Your friendship, generosity, welcoming ways and passion for issues of importance has been greatly appreciated. You and the valuable work of the Catholic Women's League will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers! May the blessings of Easter bring you joy and peace.



Joanne Hough

Peterborough Diocesan President

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Damian Smullen

Dear Ladies of the Catholic Women's League,

We have just celebrated the great Paschal Mystery: the glorious Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

My prayer is that you continue to experience the depth of the love that Christ has for you. Allow it to penetrate into every inch and fibre of your being, so that in your individual lives and in the important work that you do as the Catholic Women's League, the love of Christ may shine forth in greater splendour.

The world has forgotten this great truth. The task that lies ahead for you is to be a conduit of God's infinite and boundless love and mercy.

In Christ our peace,
Fr. Damian Smullen
Diocesan Spiritual Advisor





President-Elect/Organization: Wendy Tedford

Numbers are Down and We Need to Increase Membership

By now you are all aware we have a new Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Damian Smullen. We all welcome him with open arms, as Fr. Tom bids us a well-deserved farewell. Father Damian is a long time supporter of the Catholic Women's League and is looking forward to meeting all of you at the convention. Father Damian is all set up with his Gmail account sapocwl@gmail.com, so feel free to contact him when you are doing CWL business and have questions or requests of him.



It has been a pleasure to attend the installations of the new executive members of different councils. Some councils install new members as well, which is a good practice. The effort put into increasing membership is also gratifying. I encourage you to continue these efforts and if we can be of further assistance, please contact your diocesan liaison or myself. I was asked why some people are turning towards "Women's Groups" instead of the CWL. Some say it is because they do not want to pay monies to National. It really makes no sense to me to belong to something that you are paying dues to and only getting social time out of. I also made it a point to find out what the CWL does and it was amazing to see the influence that we have in certain areas. I too do not like to see monies going elsewhere other than to parish projects but when you see the whole picture and have some input into a project where your money is having some influence, you can appreciate the full picture. Last year at our convention we heard about the membership success story experienced at St. Peter-in-Chains Cathedral Council and I shared that when I attended an installation of members. We were sitting enjoying a cookie and refreshments and within 15 minutes, four new members were recruited into the CWL.

As a follow up to my last email to you about the importance of attending all levels of conventions, I would like to add that it is also important to encourage your parish spiritual advisor to attend with you or for him to attend on his own. He will find interesting venues and also be able to engage in conversation with fellow advisors. I also found it interesting to speak with a few advisors who are not aware that they are to attend parish meetings and conventions. Do we not invite them or encourage them to attend? Please reach out and extend those invitations. After summer vacation, maybe start your year off with a potluck and have a social time with limited business to the meeting. I know that Father Tom has always contacted his CWL council about our convention but it is always pleasant to have that personal touch from those we work directly with. Think about how good it feels to get a personal invitation to something and pass that feeling on to someone else.

The names of those who have offered to stand for elected positions this year have been shared with me. I find it disappointing that more of you have not offered to let your name stand. To have successful and smoothly operating parish and diocesan councils, we require the bodies to do so. If you look at the positions and the duties



that come with them, it does not take hours and hours of your time. You also have others whom you can call upon when needed to assist you with projects. As with anything, we don't know how much we will miss it until it is gone!

To end this insert for the newsletter, I remind all executive members that we are working on the review of policies and procedures. I thank those who have taken the time to offer suggestions. Joanne and I have been requested to extend the deadline and not to address these changes through a conference call, so we will take this project to the fall meeting. I ask those who have not offered any suggestions to at least read over the document and let me know that you have read it and have no suggestions to offer. It only takes a few minutes. You may find something there that requires clarification. Take it, or certain areas, to your council and see if they have any input.

Take care and have a great Easter.

Wendy Tedford

Peterborough Diocesan President-Elect/Organization



1st Vice-President/Resolutions/Legislation Report: Helena Lessard

Resolutions

Have you ever made a resolution? Have you ever broken a resolution? Having come to the second question, maybe you went back to revise your answer to the first question. Most of us have made, and sometimes broken, New Year's resolutions. Designing a personal resolution is similar to writing a resolution for CWL members.

Any resolution must focus on one issue or topic. One wouldn't state, "I want to stop smoking and watch my weight", in one resolution. The focus needs to be more specific. "I plan on losing 10 pounds by August 1st." (4 month timeframe)

Has this issue been dealt with before? I would need to reflect on what was covered by a previous resolution and how this issue is different. Maybe this time, the focus is on "getting buff" and not specifically about "ditching the pounds."

Next, you have to do some research. You might ask yourself, "How am I going to make this happen?" Well, I will have to find some information that supports the issue and helps to achieve the goal. Specifically, "The exercises that I need to do are ... and the reasons for that are ..."

Now it's time to get down and dirty – I mean time to write the resolution! First, it's a matter of stating what you want to be done, then, write the explanations for it. (Enter your idea here because perhaps by now you have thought of your own resolution.)



There, that wasn't too hard. For a CWL resolution, the work following writing the resolution would include writing the brief and citing the works used. The brief is a



short essay that provides the facts supporting your case. The works cited are all the sources – books, articles, papers and letters used to write the resolution.



An action plan can also be developed so that you can see your resolution come to fruition. You might determine in what ways you can enlist the help of others so that you can achieve your goal. And that is about it.



Micah 6:8 – "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."

For more information about resolutions, see the "Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook".

Legislation

What interests you? When you are on the internet, what sort of information are you searching for? When you read the newspaper, what type of articles do you like to read? When you turn your focus to government, of what do you like to keep abreast?

Well, there is an easy way to get informed. You can set up an "Alert" which will email you information about the topic(s) of your choice.

On the internet, visit <https://www.google.ca/alerts>.

Type your area of interest in the "Alerts" box.

Enter your email address.

Click "Show Options" to determine how often, the type of sources, language of your choice, etc.

Click "Create Alert."

Some areas to consider for an alert are:

Physician assisted suicide/physician assisted death

Inquiry into murdered and missing indigenous women

Bill 75 (relates to microbeads and resolutions ON.15.01 and 2015.01)

Bill 95 (relates to mental health and resolution ON.13.01)

Bill 132 (relates to sexual violence, sexual harassment and domestic violence)

Bill 144 (relates to accessibility for persons with disabilities)

Many of us write letters to our members of parliament (MP), members of provincial parliament (MPP), City Council, etc. Often we will show our support by signing petitions. Sometimes we make our voice known by participating in elections and by visiting elected officials such as our MPP. See the section on resolutions to find another alternative which is to write a resolution.



By these actions, steps are taken to impact legislation. However, our final action should be to pray for our elected officials.

"Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law."
(Romans 13:10)

With love from your sister in Christ,

Helena Lessard

First Vice President and Resolutions and Legislation Chair



2nd Vice-President/Christian Family Life Report: Denise Brennan

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis is asking each and every one of us to be like Mother Teresa and other Saints of Mercy. We must enter into the other person's suffering; see through the other persons' eyes. When we do this, we respond in a merciful way.

The wide range of responsibilities of the Christian family life committee gives ample opportunity to respond to the call of Pope Francis. Through both the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, we are putting the call into action and helping those most in need.

I would like to share with you some inspiring suggestions that will hopefully help you on your journey to becoming more merciful.

- 1.) Dare to Really Care – Allow yourself to feel this person's sufferings.
- 2.) Don't Judge – Let God be the judge of what really happened.
- 3.) Avoid Gossip – It fills your heart with bitterness.
- 4.) Refuse to Retaliate – With forgiveness, you mirror God's mercy.
- 5.) Don't Turn Away – Be willing to stand with the person in need.
- 6.) Cultivate Little Kindnesses – No opportunity for mercy is ever insignificant.
- 7.) Accept Mercy from Others – It takes humility to admit that we too, are in need.
- 8.) Pray for Mercy – Pray for yourself and for others to be merciful to one another.

(Taken from a pamphlet on Mercy by Our Sunday Visitor)



As we continue our faith journey together as sisters in the League with one heart, one voice, one mission, let us ask for God's mercy as we strive for a more compassionate world.

May our Lady of Good Counsel bless us.

Denise Brennan

Peterborough Diocesan Christian Family Life Chair



"Dear Jesus, help me to spread Thy fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with Thy spirit and love. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of Thine. Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come into contact with may feel Thy presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus. Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as you shine, so to shine as to be the light to others." Blessed Mother Teresa.

Secretary's Report: Audrey McLaughlin



Here are several helpful hints from the Handbook for Secretaries:

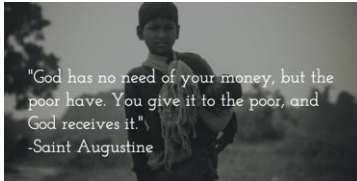
- At **parish** level, where meetings are held monthly, minutes of one meeting are always approved at the next meeting by the members in attendance. This holds true, as well, for the minutes of the annual meeting which are approved at the next regular monthly meeting of the parish council.
- As each council may assign different duties to the secretarial position, upon completion of her term of office, the secretary should describe what she has done over the past two years. A brief job description and an index of all files in her custody, together with files not given to archives, should be delivered promptly to her successor.
- Some councils combine the position of recording secretary and corresponding secretary while in other councils which have the two positions, the duties have been separated accordingly.
- Duties include taking attendance, recording and distributing minutes.

Audrey McLaughlin

Peterborough Diocesan Secretary



Treasurer's Report: Danielle Gagnon



Firstly, I would like you to know how grateful I am to have been allowed to serve as treasurer for this term and hopefully you will give me the opportunity to continue working with all of you.

I thank you all for your great generosity in supporting causes that are precious to our heart. Your dedicated contributions to Aboriginal families, mental health, Development & Peace, Seminarian Fund and more are appreciated by the recipients. Not only does it help them concretely and bring joy to their hearts, but through you, they see the Love of God.

Every year I look forward to receiving your report of contributions to national, provincial, diocesan and parish causes. Unfortunately, there is no recording of the countless hours shared to make a Christian difference to the underprivileged, the sick, the Church and more. This simple report is an opportunity for each one of you to register your diocesan contributions at the provincial level and then to national. I encourage all of you to take the time to forward your reports every year. Simply fill in your monthly calendar and this will facilitate reporting.

Here is a definition of Mercy according to the Catholic dictionary. I find it appropriate, in line with our mission and a warm balm for the soul.

The disposition to be kind and forgiving. Founded on compassion, mercy differs from compassion or the feeling of sympathy in putting this feeling into practice with a readiness to assist. It is therefore the ready willingness to help anyone in need, especially in need of pardon or reconciliation.

Isn't this who we are!!!

Danielle Gagnon

Peterborough Diocesan Treasurer

Past President/Historian Report: Margaret Van Meeuwen

*"For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you."
(Psalm 86:5)*

Welcome to our new past presidents. Some councils in our diocese have already held elections for their 2016-2018 executive, while others will do so sometime this year.



ELECTIONS AHEAD

All parish councils should go through the election process every two years. An election gives your parish council members a chance to grow in the League and an opportunity to use their talents and gifts in different positions. A member needs to have been the past president of a council in order to be eligible for nomination and election to the diocesan council.



There is a very good workshop on 'Discernment' in S'mores that would be helpful to councils, especially in their election year. Members of the diocesan council are willing to present this workshop at your council or you could run it yourself by downloading it from the national website. Go to www.cwl.ca and then look under resources. S'mores has many other excellent workshops.

This is a bittersweet report for me after having had the privilege of serving on the diocesan council in various positions for 12 years. It has been a pleasure for me to work with so many talented, gifted sisters and to meet so many League sisters in the diocese and throughout the province. My sisters in the League have been my strength and support system whenever needed.

Please make sure that your council president sends me your parish nomination form for the 2016 diocesan election by April 5, 2016.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Diocesan Convention in Lindsay.

May Our Lady bless you on your journey in the League with 'One Voice, One Heart and One Mission' in this Year of Mercy.

Margaret Van Meeuwen

Peterborough Diocesan Past President/Historian

Spiritual Development Report: Suzanne Liptay



Book of Life

Our CWL Book of Life is a treasured tribute to women with whom we have shared faith, fun and fulfillment. We want to honour and pray for them and to ensure that no name is lost or entered incorrectly. To that end, please continue to email the woman's name, CWL ID number, date of death and parish to CWL national office (cwl.ca/resources/forms/choosing and completing Form for Reporting Deceased Members), to provincial council (lizbort@tbaytel.net) and to me (sdpocwl@gmail.com). It is very helpful if I receive this information from you ASAP after a death or at least quarterly.

Year of Mercy

Pope Francis called the Jubilee Year of Mercy a "privileged moment" for the church to "choose only that which God loves most - forgiving His children, having mercy on them, in order that they may, in turn forgive their brothers and sisters, shining as torches of God's Mercy in the world." He is inviting the whole Church to be a light for all by extending mercy, forgiveness, love and welcome.

By offering our own Christian witness in everyday activities, we are called to be merciful in the state of life where we find ourselves. Every state of life – married, divorced, single, religious, can lead us to sanctity if lived in communion with the Lord and in the service of our neighbour.

We put our lives in the hands of our merciful God. There we are loved and safe.

The Liturgical Seasons

Before Lent, I sent out information on "The Best Lent Ever" from Dynamic Catholic on the Internet. I hope this resource was circulated and that you found it helpful.



For the Easter season, "The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit Prayer Service" is available on the provincial CWL website. You may find it useful for the spiritual portion of a meeting or for a retreat day.

Book Reviews

"The Name of God is Mercy" by Pope Francis is an intimate dialogue with the pope on mercy, the central teaching of his papacy.

A series of very readable books by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization provide excellent spiritual nourishment during this Jubilee Year of Mercy. Titles include:

"Celebrating Mercy"

"The Psalms of Mercy"

"Parables of Mercy"

"Confession: the Sacrament of Mercy"

"The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy"

"The Saints of Mercy" (my favourite)

In these 50 days of Easter, keep in mind our theme "One Heart, One Voice and One Mission" and also remember Blessed Rosalie Rendu who is such an exemplar for us in the Works of Mercy.

Suzanne Liptay

Peterborough Diocesan Spiritual Development Chair

Community Life Report: Susan Wood



The focus for the community life committee at this time involves issues regarding the Syrian refugees. Monetary donations can be made to Development and Peace. It has been suggested that you could make this part of the Lenten activities of your councils and help Development and Peace assist refugees in the camps in Turkey and Jordan. Councils should send all donations for Development and Peace (including the 1% program) to CWL National.

CWL National is collecting information to see how many refugees are being sponsored. I am also presently gathering information for my report at the diocesan convention.

If you know of someone in Canada wishing to help a relative who is a refugee, there is a new program called "Family Links Initiative" or FLI. They may want to look into that initiative.

There are some CWL parish councils in Ontario that have fewer than 15 members. They need encouragement and we need to communicate with these councils. One council only has two members. Let's help them remember that they are part of "the CWL Community" and that we support them. We can let them know that we are praying for them and ask them if there is any other way we can show our support.

On January 26, 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal found that the Canadian government is racially discriminating against 163,000 First Nations children and their families by providing flawed and inequitable child welfare services and failing to implement Jordan's Principle to ensure equitable access to government services that are available to other children. First Nations Child and Family Services have a funding shortfall between 22 and 34 percent less than what other children receive.



The Status of Women Minister, Patty Hajdu, is setting up a national inquiry on missing and murdered indigenous women ... a small step in the right direction. Barbara Dowding, our national president, wrote a letter to the prime minister commending him on his work.

So much is happening in our Community Life!

Susan Wood

Peterborough Diocesan Community Life Chair

Communications Report: Linda Ainsworth

As we look forward to convention season in the League, let us take a moment to focus on the need for good communication in our lives, both personally within our families, at our workplaces and as members of the League. Our families, our co-workers and our world needs to hear what the Spirit of God is telling us and needs to see it in our everyday actions.

Year of Mercy

During this Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis we are asked to be aware of and practise the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. Our councils are already practising the corporal works of mercy so perhaps our job is to communicate the special events and initiatives going on in our councils (such as Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy brochure and pledge cards) during this year. We need not be shy to proclaim the Good News of The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Authorized Signatures

One piece of good news to share is that the Privacy Commissioner of Canada says the League does not require signed permissions to use photos in any publication due to the non-commercial nature of the League's activities. The work of chairpersons of communications at all levels has just been made easier.



Woman on a Mission

The League documentary *Woman on a Mission* was launched on Sunday, December 6th on Salt + Light Television. It is a true gift to the League. For those who do not yet subscribe to Salt + Light TV, the documentary can be viewed on the League's website www.cwl.ca. This is an excellent, high quality documentary and we are encouraged to watch it and to encourage our friends to do the same. This is a definite must-see!

2016 World Communications Day

The theme for the 2016 World Communications Day is *Communication and Mercy: A Fruitful Encounter*. The choice of theme this year has clearly been determined by the Celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, and the Holy Father undoubtedly desired that World Communications Day would provide the appropriate occasion to reflect on the deep interaction between communication and mercy.

In the Bull of Indiction proclaiming the Year of Mercy, the Pope says that the language and gestures of the Church must transmit mercy, so as to touch the hearts of all people and inspire them once more to find the road that leads to the Father. The context of the Year of Mercy makes it clear that all men and women in their own communications, in their reaching out to meet others, ought to be motivated by a deep expression of welcome, availability and forgiveness.



The theme highlights the capacity of good communication to open up a space for dialogue, mutual understanding and reconciliation, thereby allowing fruitful human encounters to flourish. At a time when our attention is often drawn to the polarized and judgmental nature of much commentary on the social networks, the theme invokes the power of words and gestures to overcome misunderstandings, to heal memories and to build peace and harmony.

Once again, Pope Francis is reminding us that, in its essence, communication is a profoundly human achievement. Good communication is never merely the product of the latest or most developed technology, but is realized within the context of a deep interpersonal relationship (taken from news.va).

Let us celebrate World Communications Day on the Sunday before Pentecost, May 8th, with a heart that is open to mercy and a voice that communicates what the heart knows.

May God bless us as we continue to communicate his message to one another in the sisterhood of the League and to the world beyond that so desperately needs to hear it.

Linda Ainsworth

Peterborough Diocesan Communications Chair

Education and Health Report: Donna Moore

Declaration on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC) and the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada launched a joint declaration on euthanasia and assisted suicide. Members are encouraged to sign and distribute the declaration to help make it known to all Canadians. The declaration and the signatory option can be easily accessed at www.euthanasiadeclaration.ca.

Physician-Assisted Dying Presentation and Letter

Thomas Cardinal Collins and the Coalition for HealthCARE made a presentation to the Special Joint Committee on Physician-Assisted Dying (PDAM). The presentation explained the need for conscience protection for health care workers, palliative care and support services for the vulnerable. CWL members are encouraged to read and share this presentation, perhaps at a meeting for this purpose.

Bishop Douglas Crosby (Hamilton), President of the CCCC, has written a letter to the Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Canada. The many points in both the letter and the afore-mentioned presentation will assist members in their letter writing to government on this important issue.

Most importantly, members must continue to pray that wise counsel will guide those on the PDAM to prepare recommendations that will be respectful of all people and the sacred gift of life.

***Resources and statements regarding Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia
may be viewed online at www.cccb.ca.***



External Panel on Options for a Legislative Response to Carter vs. Canada

The final report of the independent panel's consultations urges Canada to strengthen its palliative care framework and to ensure safeguards are in place for all Canadians. You can find the final report at www.justice.gc.ca.

Hospice Palliative Care Pledge Cards



Parish councils should have received the individual and council hospice palliative care pledge cards along with the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy brochure and a letter from National President Barbara Dowding. Councils are encouraged to complete these cards and return them to CWL national office to be included in the spiritual and corporal works of mercy bouquet that will be sent to our Holy Father.

Never doubt the power of prayer. Let us join in prayer with the 85,000 other Catholic Women's League members across Canada, so that the Holy Spirit guides our legislators toward protection of life from conception to natural death.

Donna Moore

Peterborough Diocesan Education & Health Chair

Life Member Liaison: Joan Gaensbauer

Please continue to keep the Life Members of the Peterborough Diocesan Catholic Women's League in your thoughts and prayers. We pray for you and your work as CWL Sisters of the League.



O Lord,
Risen, alive and full of grace.
You paid such a price that we may live in freedom today.
We worship your holy name and give thanks for your redeeming grace.

Heavenly Father,
May we drink in your tender love so that we can pour this love out to others.
Come reign in our hearts, minds and spirits.

Holy Spirit,
We welcome you to blow through our every word, action and thought.
Come transform us on the inside so that each day we become more like our
risen Lord. Amen

Read more:

http://www.prayerscapes.com/prayers/times/easter_prayers.html#ixzz450LnwFDX

Joan Gaensbauer

Peterborough Diocesan Life Member Liaison

"Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads." (Henry David Thoreau, Walden)



Thank You, Fr. Tom Lynch, Past Diocesan Spiritual Advisor



On behalf of the Peterborough Diocesan Council of The Catholic Women League of Canada, it is my pleasure to thank Fr. Tom Lynch for his eight years of service as Peterborough Diocesan CWL Spiritual Advisor. Father Tom joined the council on January 22, 2008. His willingness to assist the council through out the eight years has been greatly appreciated. He embraced his roll with energy and a great sense of humour. He guided the council in respect to theological issues as such arose and assisted the council to find speakers for the convention.

He challenged the council and members to consider 60 Ways to Evangelize as well as take action in respect to the impact of federal legislation on living our lives in ways that reflect our Catholic faith. His skill as a speaker resulted in several opportunities to speak to the parish councils throughout his eight years. He saw his role as helping to promote the League, both to sustain the League in parishes and to encourage the start up of new groups and the revival of defunct ones. His efforts to keep the pastors and the bishops aware of the activities of The Catholic Women's League of Canada at all levels have been appreciated.

Father Tom supported the value of solidarity! He worked tirelessly to build bridges and bonds between members, councils and parish priests. He saw the great opportunities for fellowship, education and fun in attending the diocesan, provincial and national conventions. Father also celebrated Mass for the members through the time he has served as Peterborough Diocesan Spiritual Advisor.

We wish Fr. Tom well as he continues to serve The Catholic Women League of Canada through the Parish of St. Mary's in Lindsay and throughout the Diocese of Peterborough and beyond. He will be in our thoughts and prayers.

Joanne Hough

The Rosary Apostolate Program – Making Rosaries at St. Alphonsus, Wooler



On February 18th, 2016, ladies of St. Alphonsus Wooler CWL had Diocesan Rosary Apostolate Coordinator Maria Fitzgerald come and do a workshop on making rosaries for the Rosary Apostolate. This program is taking place in many schools in the Peterborough Diocese from Kindergarten to Grade 8.



Trained volunteers go into the schools and teach the children how to say the rosary. Maria is always looking for volunteers to make the rosaries needed for the program, as each child is given a rosary.

Works of Mercy Retreat – St. Mary's Lindsay – Feb. 6/16

St. Mary's CWL, Lindsay celebrated Blessed Rosalie Rendu's feast day by hosting a retreat with 45 members and guests in attendance. Many attendees were also members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP). Following morning mass, the retreat began



with a Mercy prayer composed and led by Peterborough Diocesan Spiritual Development Chair Suzanne Liptay. Keynote speaker Fr. Eric Mason, associate pastor, brought the good deeds and character of Blessed Rosalie to life for the participants. His excellent knowledge of this period in history shed light on the many inadequacies and challenges faced by the poor. Blessed Rosalie (1786-1856) and her Sisters of Charity had carried out many of the corporal works that St. Vincent de Paul (1581-1660) had begun. Rosalie taught

the energetic students of the Sorbonne to serve the poor with an attitude of respect and general helpfulness. She worked tirelessly with the poor in the streets of Paris, France and along with

Blessed Frederic Ozanam (1813-1853), inspired the founding of the SSVP in 1833.

The retreat program included Fr. Tom Lynch, pastor, speaking about the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Following a delicious lunch, the afternoon concluded with reflection, a mercy quiz and prayer.



PS: Fr. Eric will be presenting again at convention. Take this opportunity to learn more about the blessed whom our diocese has chosen to study and emulate. Please continue to pray for her canonization.



2015 Retreat of Life Members and Officers

(submitted by Suzanne Liptay, Diocesan Spiritual Development Chair)

The Annual Peterborough Diocesan Retreat Day for Officers and Life Members was held Thursday, October 29, 2015 from 10 to 2 at Ricky's Grill in Peterborough. Since the Year of Mercy was to begin December 8th, the theme chosen was "The Year of Mercy".



Our facilitator, Sister Mary Rowell, a Sister of St. Joseph, is a spiritual woman with ample academic qualifications and broad international experience. She ably led us and challenged us with readings, reflections, prayers, music and anecdotes to enter into the experience of the Mercy of God. She quoted liberally from Pope Francis: "Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in Him. Jesus of Nazareth, by His words,

His actions and His entire person reveals the mercy of God." We need to read and prayerfully reflect on the gospels to come to know Jesus better. Are we doing that? As Jesus did, we need to accept the ways that other people differ from us, and not judge them.



The retreat day was also a great opportunity for social interaction as Life Members and officers mingled and chatted over lunch, rekindling longstanding friendships or meeting for the first time.



Our time together prepared us to enter into the Year of Mercy and also provided a good measure of 'faith', a bit of 'fun', and ample 'fulfillment'.

A Warm Diocesan Welcome to Newcomers from Syria

In his message for world day of peace January 1, 2016, Pope Francis said, " How many families open their hearts and homes to those in need, such as refugees and migrants! I wish to thank in a particular way all those individuals, families, [and] parishes ... who readily responded to my appeal to welcome a refugee family.



Peterborough Diocese and Sr. Ruth Hennessey as a Sponsorship Agreement Holder are coordinating the arrival of 35 families within the area. Seven of these families have already arrived for Catholic parishes and another seven parishes await their family. St. Mary's CWL, Lindsay were a major contributor to this fund.

Pictured are Marie and Caroline who arrived on Feb. 11 and were welcomed at the Toronto Pearson International Airport by several committee members of the St. Mary's Lindsay Refugee Committee.



ONE HEART
VOICE
MISSION



COMING EVENTS

April 17-18, 2016	Peterborough Diocesan Convention – hosted by St. Mary's, Lindsay, ON Post Convention Meeting
	Diocesan Development Day – TBA
April 24, 2016	95 th Anniversary – St. Peter-in-Chains CWL Parish Council
May 4, 2016	The Catholic Women's League of Canada National Day of Prayer for Palliative Care
June 12, 2016	60 th Anniversary – St. Mary of the Assumption CWL Parish Council, Huntsville - Mass at 11: am followed by a luncheon
June 18, 2016	25 th Anniversary – St. Alphonsus Liguori, Peterborough 2-4 pm in Church hall
July 10-13, 2016	Ontario Provincial Convention - in Stratford, ON
August 14-17, 2016	National CWL Convention - in Halifax, NS
October 15, 2016	Peterborough Diocesan Executive Council Meeting –Location TBA

IF YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CWL TRY:

Peterborough Diocesan CWL
Ontario CWL Provincial Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

www.peterboroughcwl.ca
www.cwl.on.ca
www.cwl.ca

Parish Council Newsletters

Cobourg - www.saintmichaelchurch.thebargainstudio.com
Huntsville- Monthly Newsletters –contact 28pocwl@gmail.com

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
is a national organization rooted in gospel
values calling its members to holiness
through service to the people of God.

