

League Lingo

LONDON DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

2013 Fall Issue

Deadline for Next Issue
February 1st, 2014

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We Have Seen the Lord -
He Is In Us





President's Report—Mary Jean Horne



"He who does not give God gives too little"

Pope Benedict XVI

Dear Sisters', where has the summer gone? I hope it has been a time of rest, fun and travel for you. It has been a busy summer for me and other members of your Diocesan Executive attending both Provincial Convention in Thunder Bay and National in Regina; it was a time for learning and also spiritual growth, along with much laughter.

At Provincial Convention we heard many good speakers. Although the weather was cold and rainy most of the time, Thunder Bay was very happy for the rain and thanked southern Ontario for bringing it. Rev. Msgr. Pat Stilla V.G. of Thunder Bay spoke and related that we need to "Tell the world what we are doing to celebrate our celebrations". We are women of faith and the CWL should be the carbon copy of Christ. Betty Ann Brown Davidson, our National President, did a presentation. I have watched Betty Ann climb the ladder from serving on Provincial Council to becoming the National President. She spoke of a trip she took and how she saw the Lord. Provincial Council continues to award 10 Bishop Pappin Bursaries of \$300 each, to a seminarian who returns to his studies in the fall. Please continue to support the Bishop Pappin Bursary.

This year elections for the Provincial Council were held and as your President I had the privilege to vote for you. Our own Pat Rivest

was elected as the Provincial Recording Secretary and Lucy Hendrikx as the Provincial Treasurer. There were 112 CWL members that attended the convention for the first time and in total there were 317 delegates that attended the convention - London diocese was well represented.

My husband and I enjoyed a much needed rest and holiday on Rose Lake at Wil & Lee Levergood's camp in Bruce Mines in the quiet woods.

August brought travel again to National Convention in Regina. After getting settled in our room we had to move as our bathroom had a problem. Pat Rivest and Carol Richie were in the room next to us, we were in corner rooms and they had the same issue - you flushed the toilet in our room and the water came and it did the same in their room so the big move was on. But of course the rooms were not ready. After a great supper and a Country Hoedown the move was on at 10:00 p.m. Now you must remember it was Regina time which made it 12:00 a.m. Ontario time. Needless to say, it was a late night for all 4 of us. Sunday we took a city bus tour which took us to the RCMP Depot where we were able to tour the museum, it was a real experience learning the history of the RCMP.

The opening and closing Masses were held at Holy Rosary Cathedral. The stained glass windows were beautiful.

Monday we listened to many great speakers. Sister Fay Trombley spoke of the First Nations in Canada. She has been in the north for 8 years and shared with the members her work. Father Bill Burke spoke on the Year of Faith and how we are not just tea, sandwiches and cookie women. He quoted Pope Francis—"Faith is born within an encounter with God". Father Bill also told us the "Good times are a gift from God and in bad times he is always with us". Bishop Currie, told us in his talk that because we live in a secular world—we must consider what 99,000 women can do to bring Sundays back to what they were.

Please read the articles inside this newsletter for a full report on both conventions.

As we begin our fall meetings and start our membership drives, I encourage councils to let the women in the parish know what the Catholic Women's League is all about - not just tea and pie ladies, but also the power we have with both the Provincial and Federal Governments. Let them know that we are a national group of women 99,000 strong and we speak for them, whether it is to keep our Catholic Schools open and support the students. Do they know we have two bursaries for two women seeking to further their education along with spiritual growth?

It was a wonderful summer and I was so proud to represent you at

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President's Report—Mary Jean Horne . . . (cont'd)

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both of the conventions and as you know, we here in the London Diocese have the largest membership in all of Canada with the largest number of active councils.

A little trivia:

London Diocese has 11,624 members, 99 councils and covers 13,266 square miles—21,249 kilometres

God bless
Mary Jean



Spiritual Advisor—Rev. Father Matt KucharSKI

Once again this past summer was occupied with the Provincial and National CWL conventions. At each of these conventions, the participants had an opportunity to grow in their faith, their knowledge of the League and to even grow personally. A lot of hard work goes into the preparation of a convention, as many of you know from our diocesan conventions, and the benefits that one can gain are simply amazing. I have yet to leave a convention where I did not learn something or where I was not inspired. Sometimes it happens at moments I was not expecting, but that is the beauty of God's prerogative. The enthusiasm of the women of the League, the quality of the guest speakers, or just having a "tea" with someone can be one of those special epiphany moments. I would highly recommend attending a Provincial or National Convention if you have the

opportunity. Life can be overwhelming at times and the "break" one receives by attending a convention can be just what is needed. A convention can be one of those "mountain top" experiences, but we all know that ultimately we cannot stay up there. We have to come down and deal with life's daily challenges and triumphs.

As I was thinking about the day's natural rhythms, my thoughts went to my calendar. We are already heading into the Autumn season. The leaves on the trees will soon be falling. It is time for the trees to shed their leaves as they will not be needing them during the winter. I wondered if we need to do the same with some aspects of our lives. Are there any parts of our lives that need to be shed or that we need to let fall? Do we need to let fall engaging in gossip, being

critical of one another, being stubborn in our opinion, negativity, unrealistic expectations of ourselves or others? Trees that try to retain their leaves, discover that it is not healthy for the tree. The same is true for each one of us or for our Council - hanging on to certain things tends not to be healthy. In actual fact, failing to shed certain negative attitudes or behaviours, impedes growth and goodness. Letting go is not always easy, but the rewards can be fruitful when we do!

Fr. Matt





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

Here comes September and we are back to a regular routine with kids or grandchildren going back to school, CWL meetings starting up again as well as attending other church activities that normally start up in September. You can tell that the summer is gone as the weather gets cooler, and the days are shorter . . . the vacation is over! For me this is particularly true as I start back to work after being off for three months. How time flies!

My summer has been most fruitful! I attended the Provincial Convention in Thunder Bay, where we enjoyed beautiful weather and long summer days. We visited the countryside and we feasted on the regional fare. We were entertained with a variety of quizzes – good food, good fun and were fulfilled with faith filled liturgies and wonderful speakers throughout the whole convention. The London Diocese was quite proud to have Pat Rivest and Lucy Hendrikx elected to the Provincial Council as Recording Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Congratulations ladies and best of luck in your new duties.

Our keynote Speaker Rev. Msgr. Pat Stilla, spoke on the “Celebrations and Challenges as Women of Faith.” We seem to think that celebrations are good and challenges are bad . . . or are they? He pointed out that challenges get us excited and give us opportunities to grow. The CWL should be a living carbon copy of God in the world ~ like Christ, we should be a light to the world. Also

women must be encouraged to discern, to discover their own gifts. He cautioned however, that we must use only the gifts that are truly ours, and noted some of the enemies of leadership – envy, jealousy, unhealthy competition, ambition, false motivation and burnout.

Another speaker Anne Jamieson, spoke about the “Spiritual Resiliency of Women” and how we are able to use the resources of prayer, faith and our relationship with God to help us bounce forward and through adversity. Not only did Anne have a good message for us, she truly was a wonderful example as she was stuck on the tarmac at the airport as her flight to Toronto was cancelled because of all the rain and the flooding. CWL sisters brought her back to the hotel and found her a room, a warm bed, a good meal and a glass of wine to keep her going until her flight the next day. Naturally, she gracefully handled this with a smile on her face!

We were also enthralled with a wonderful talk from Grand Chief Harvey Yesno. Chief Yesno referred to the poverty, family dysfunction, suicide, children under the care of social services, unemployment and disease that is so prevalent among his people, and the fact that poverty has no friends, no security and no future. It is his feeling that working with the federal government and together with other chiefs, the opportunity

exists to change this situation. He presented Marlene Pavletic, Provincial President and Betty Anne Brown, National President with a pair of moccasins before his talk, as it is their custom to give gifts before, rather than after their presentation.

You could tell that a lot of work went into a workshop given by the Spiritual Development Chair, the Community Life Chair and the Christian Family Life Chair – a good review on the responsibilities and activities within each of these committees.

I was further blessed to attend the National Convention in Regina, Saskatchewan where once again we enjoyed the entertainment, the food and the liturgies at the different venues. Our speakers were wonderful as we listened to Sr. Fay Trombley and her work with the First Nations in Canada. We were also able to visit the artwork of different artists as coordinated by Louise Tessier and enjoy her talk “Witnessing to Faith through Art” and purchase her book “The Garden Way of the Cross.” We also listened to a very touching presentation by four of our life members who talked about different events in their life where they had seen the Lord. These ladies talked from “the heart” and we were all affected as we listened to their personal life experience on how God was working in their lives. The banquet was wonderful with over 500 people in attendance

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President-Elect –Marie-Theresa Lamphier
Membership & Organization Standing Committee (cont'd)

(Continued from page 4)

and we were royally graced with the presence of the “Queen” who entertained us with different anecdotes about family, friends and the League. We also had a wonderful presentation by Kathryn Perry who talked about Catherine Donnelly, the founder of the Sisters of Service. I was fortunate enough to be able to purchase an autographed copy of her book. The Sister of Service have had their lives linked with the CWL for quite some time and they are the ones who donated a substantial amount of money to the CWL to start up a foundation to formally train women in Leadership. Kathryn Perry wrote the book “The Courage to Date” and I can’t wait to read it and see how the paths of the Sister of Service and the Catholic Women’s League are linked. I would be remiss if I did not mention the fact that Bishop McGrattan was installed as the National Spiritual Advisor for the next five years!

These are only a few of the highlights of the conventions and I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to attend the Provincial or National Convention at least once in your life

Catch the Fire Workshops! – It was also announced at the national convention that phase II of the contest was in place. The criteria is the same as the first – highest percentage of a parish in attendance could win! The time frame is from June 1st, 2013 to May 31st 2014 . . . so if you haven’t booked your workshop please feel free to contact me and set a date now. Our calendar is getting pretty full! Book a workshop and try to win the contest and have your national portion of the fees paid by national! By the way the two councils in Ontario who won the first contest were St. Peter in Norwich and St. John the Baptist in Amherstburg. Congratulations to both councils for a job well done in promoting this initiative! The rewards are priceless!

Fall Regionals – As mentioned at the diocesan convention, we are postponing the Fall Regionals in order to allow the different councils an opportunity to host a “Catch the Fire” workshop. Instead we will be having three **Winter Retreats** – February 15th, 2014, for Chatham/Essex/Windsor, March 1st for London/Sarnia, and March 15th for Huron Perth/Ingersoll. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend. More details, with time and place will be forthcoming. **There will be no Lenten Retreat.**

Life is very exciting and always changing. I look forward to resuming my duties at work and at the league level, and also another life changing event as we welcome two new grandchildren into our lives within the next week or so! Life is good! Bless the Lord!

Marie-Theresa

TIDBITS FROM YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT CONVENTIONS

Where in the world am I?

Your convention package holds tons of materials about the locality of the convention. Maps, directions, restaurants (but we’d rather you eat with us!), churches, points of interest—all are documented. Per your suggestions, maps and directions to the churches sponsoring masses will be included in the convention package sent to your council. If you are the President receiving this information, please ensure this information is distributed to your council members attending the convention.

Coffee and Meal Service at Conventions

We have heard you! At all future conventions, our best effort will be put forth to make this time more convenient and more efficient. We will ensure enough stations are set up to service the crowds! But in return, we need your support at the meals offered to off-set convention costs! Thanks for your comments!



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



Hope everyone had a good summer and feels rested.

Remember back to school days when the teacher always asked you to write an essay on what you did for the summer? Well, let me tell you about my trip. Five of us travelled together in a mini-van to the provincial convention in Thunder Bay. The fun began when we crossed over at Sarnia/Port Huron and the gentleman we got told us we couldn't bring a Canadian fly across the border. Before he sent us on our way he suggested one of our travellers should sign her passport before crossing again ... this was her first passport and she didn't realize you had to sign it! After stopping to shop at Bronner's and enjoying a meal together at Zehnder's we headed to Sault Ste. Marie for a further adventure. Our chauffeur had a room to herself while the rest of us shared accommodation, so she could get a good rest. Next morning after she left her room, her key card wouldn't work. Good thing she had already put her luggage in the van. One of the group loves taking pictures but that became a little difficult as we flew along - by the time she had her camera ready we were past whatever she was going to photograph!. We arrived on the Saturday afternoon and met up with some of the other London diocese members. On Sunday morning we

were off on tours, some to Eagle Canyon and the rest of us toured the city then headed to Kakabeka Falls. Both groups visited the Terry Fox Memorial Park. Did I mention I had fractured my wrist the week before we left? Well, one of my roomies was just super at wrapping my arm in a plastic bag each morning so I could shower. The hotel staff was also excellent in assisting me with meals and my companions helped cut up food that I couldn't handle myself. The convention was very good and interesting. It was especially great to have our own Pat Rivest elected as Recording Secretary and Lucy Hendrikx elected as Treasurer on the Provincial Executive. The trip home was as enjoyable as the trip up had been with us praying for a gas station before we ran out of gas. Our photography enthusiast took some beautiful pictures and when we stopped at Old Woman's Bay her and another one of our travel companions took off their shoes and waded into Lake Superior. We also saw a moose on the side of the road. Thursday evening we arrived home safe and sound if a little tired.

Thank you Lucy, Dara, Theresa and Trucy for a wonderful experience. Maybe we can do it again next year when provincial convention is held in Cobourg.

This experience is part of what

belonging to the CWL means to me - friendship, sharing and caring for each other.

Now the important thing is the resolution that was passed at provincial. This resolution was titled "Reduce the Stigma Attached to Mental Illness" and was submitted by the Toronto Diocese. One of the resolved clauses called for all members to become educated about the reality of mental illness in an effort to reduce the stigma that exists in society. This resolution was to be passed to National for consideration at the national convention.

"The resolution did not make it to the floor at national. However the following were passed:

- 2013.01 Building Relationships and Partnerships with Canada's Indigenous Peoples
- 2013.03 Employment Insurance Benefits for Cancer Patients and their Caregivers.
- Resolution 2013.02 was withdrawn.

Further information on these resolutions will be passed along to you shortly."

Angela





2nd Vice-President — Rebecca McCarrell
Communications Chairperson



Convention! Thanks for coming!
Thanks for your Evaluations!

Wow! Wasn't that a great convention! I certainly was exhausted upon returning home...but in a good way, refreshed and ready to move on!

Thank you for the great response with evaluations this year. A couple ladies didn't like the layout, but in defense of this - it was mirrored from the "Catch the Fire" Evaluations for this year. Next year, we will try a different form.

367 members attended the convention on Tuesday, 282 attended on Wednesday. Of these, I received 173 evaluations.

I am going to answer some of the more poignant remarks / questions raised on the evaluation sheets (see we really do read them).

1. Purpose of the Yearly Convention:

Per our Constitution & Bylaws, we are required to have a yearly meeting where the business of our council is presented to members of the said council. In this case, the council is the London Diocesan Council. The business of the council is reported in two ways: a) the report book which contains the information from each standing committee and office of the council; b) the oral reports given by the elected officers of the Council. The report book information and the oral report contain different information. Motions must be presented upon (financial decisions, order of business, etc.) and a vote

recorded. Resolutions must be presented, and votes taken. Bi-yearly, election of officers takes place. These are your choices for leadership at the Diocesan level. The Conventions are also there to distribute information to members, bring members together in fellowship, friendship and sharing, and to deepen our spirituality.

2. Why can't the convention be one day or on a weekend:

With a Diocese as large as London (the largest in Canada, by the way), it takes some time to report according to the bylaws of our organization. We could make this one day, but we would not be able to put in all the components that currently take place. When resolutions are submitted, they must be presented, time given to inform, debate, and change wording before going to a vote during the main convention time. Our spiritual time would not be as much a part of us...think of the masses, the prayer services, and all that you would miss out on...the Crowning of Mary is a highlight of our opening day! There are two problems with a weekend - 1) because of the commitment of our Spiritual Advisors to their parishes, we would not be able to have them join us; 2) convention facilities in the larger urban area triple in price for a Friday or Saturday venue.

3. We don't like to sit through voting that doesn't pertain to us...Parallel Programming

The current executive was well aware of the downfall of having everyone sit through the tedious voting for the constitution and bylaws. A parallel programme is always the right answer for these situations. However, our

facilities this year did not have the room for us to divide into two groups. Next year, in Windsor with a larger facility, a parallel programme will be offered for the non-voting members. The facilities are larger. Also, some parallel programming may increase the cost of the convention, and we are attempting to keep costs to a minimum.

4. Convention Meals - Price, set-up, food, hospitality

I really would encourage anyone who has not had the opportunity to work on a convention to volunteer at the next one in your region. It really is an eye-opening experience! Let me give a little background on venues, food and costs.

Conventions are usually taking place in large halls that come equipped with proper ventilation systems (heat and cooling, hopefully), chairs, tables, people to set things up, tear them down, plan, run errands, hydro, water, washroom facilities, cleaners, and more...so you can see there are a lot of "happenings" in the background. Now...all of that is without any food. Did you say you were hungry? Well...that's the topping of the cake! The convention centers offer catering (most of the time), and have the same type of background expenses that I have mentioned above - with added costs of multiple servers, chef, cooks, prep people, dishwashers, decorators and more. All of this costs money! Has anyone planned a wedding recently? The good point is that the convention center

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2nd Vice-President—Rebecca McCarrell
Communications Chairperson—cont'd...



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reduces the cost of the convention rooms (main room, lobby use, book room, prayer room, etc) dependent on the amount of food that is ordered for meals. The meal cost is usually about \$16/\$18 before taxes and gratuities for lunches; and \$32 / \$36 for banquets. So, to date, lunches are sold to you at \$20 and banquet at \$40 to recoup the cost of the meals...***but the bonus is for every lunch or banquet/dinner meal we sell, the cost of the convention rooms are reduced!*** Did you know that???? The last convention in Chatham, the majority of the cost of the convention center was covered by the meals sold. The last convention in Windsor, all the convention facility cost was covered by the meals sold. **THIS ALLOWS US TO HAVE THE REGISTRATION FEE FOR THE CONVENTION AT \$25.** If we were unable to recoup these costs, the registration fee would need to be raised. Most other organizations charge upwards of \$100 to attend a convention.

5. Why does Roll Call need to be done every day?

According to our Constitution & By-Laws, an accurate count of the voting councils attending the annual meeting needs to be recorded for each session. Because women may have registered but not attended, this count must be done in the convention room to ensure that the

numbers are accurate for any votes taken. Also, when doing instructed votes, the council must have sent in the instruction for the vote to be taken. Roll Call is again taken because this is the method of cross referencing

6. What is the Purpose of the Hospitality Room?

It seems that there is a huge misunderstanding of the purpose of the Hospitality Room in this instance. The Hospitality Room is for the **Convention Committee Volunteers**. It allows them a quiet place for a break, refreshment, and a place to do the necessities. This room is not generally open to the convention as a whole. It is a place for information to be exchanged between committee members, a private place to discuss and find resolutions for problems that may arise, etc. It also serves as a secure room to store convention materials and articles.

7. Comments about audio-visual equipment and presentations.

We had many comments about the audio video equipment. The London Diocesan Council and the convention committee do **NOT** have full control of this equipment. The equipment is supplied by the facility (sometimes with a charge). The microphones, speakers, screens, and connection condition are the sole responsibility of the facility. Our council and/or speakers supply the

presentations that you view only. Because a/v skills are in demand, a technician was hired in Stratford to assist with these issues. However, his skills are also hampered by the equipment provided by the facility.

The London Diocesan Council diligently works at creating presentations for the convention. Given the background of each council member, technical / presentation skills for computers aren't always available. As a volunteer organization, we do the best we can. If you feel that you are able to contribute to the convention, other meetings and website, please contact communications@cwllondon.ca to volunteer.

We would greatly appreciate your help.

Rebecca

Look for my report on "Exhaustion Sets in as your Diocesan Council comes to Convention on Pages 21/23"





Recording Secretary—Cam Cadotte



I hope that the summer has refreshed you for the beginning of a new year.

As we begin a new year we need to prepare for the end of our term, for those who have elections in their councils.

Recording secretaries should prepare their files for the transfer to a new recording secretary. Be sure that all minutes are in order, all corrections are made and all minutes are dated and signed by both the council president and the secretary. These are the history of your parish and I

am sure that you do not want any mistakes.

It would be very helpful to prepare notes on the various aspects of this position. Perhaps all the material you need to transfer can be put on a memory stick.

Make sure that your reference material includes a copy of *Robert's Rules of Order* as well as the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure, Constitution & Bylaws*, your diocesan manuals and guidelines, the *Handbook for Secretaries*, and lists of your

executive and counterparts at diocesan, provincial and national levels.

You can contact me if you have any questions on the transfer of records.

Thank you again to all the councils that continually bring stamps and eye glasses to Diocesan meetings, fall regional's and conventions. I will continue to send these to the organizations that do the best they can for those in need.

Cam



Treasurer—Madeleine Visser



Wow: it is hard to believe we really did have a summer, between the heat and the cold we experienced there was quite a bit of adjusting each day.

Just some reminders as we enter into the fall...we still have blue CWL scarves for sale for \$20 each. I will have them available at our spiritual gatherings, I also have Madonna Pins available for \$15 and after the cost of the pins, the remainder will go into our Life Members and Past Presidents Social Justice Award.

And,the year-end report time will be upon us soon. More information

will follow to help you in filling out these reports. These forms are available on www.cwllondon.com website and at your President's meetings you will receive my reports and forms.

Please use only the remittance forms with my name on it and make cheques out to The **Catholic Women's League of Canada**, if you would like to make donations to other organizations not listed on the remittance form, please donate to them directly.

As we prepare for the coming of Advent, let us keep in mind all those who may not be as fortunate

as we are and give them all they need....both spiritually and in bodily support.

Please remember to discard all forms with Rebecca's name and address on it and use only the ones with my name and address on it, if you do not have them, please call me or e-mail me and I will send them to you.

Through our Lady of Good Counsel, many blessings

Madeleine





Corresponding Secretary—Kathleen Pasquini

Dear Sister's in Christ,

I hope you have had a restful, calm, and wonderful summer and are now ready to get back to your general meetings and to attend one of the "Catch the Fire" Workshops to be held in your region.

Congratulations to Patricia Rivest on her new position as Recording Secretary for the provincial Council; as well as congratulations to Lucy Hendrikx on her new position as Treasurer on the provincial council.

How time flies. In 2014 it will be an election year and it will be very important to have all the addresses correct for your president, secretary, and treasurer. Do your best in keeping the Diocesan Recording Secretary informed.

If there is anything I can do to assist you with your position as corresponding secretary do not hesitate to contact me.

May our Lady of Good Counsel watch over you and bless you as you continue your work in the League.

God's Blessings

Kathleen

TIDBITS FROM YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT CONVENTIONS

Quiet in Church, is this needed?

Some churches have abandoned the culture that Catholics grew up with: when you enter church, silence prevails. Catholics believe in the Real Presence and in every church the light at the tabernacle serves as a confirmation and reminder of God's presence. Some believe the chatting in church before and after Holy Mass is a disturbance. Others believe that the greeting of friends, neighbours and the welcoming of others is an extension of their Christian beliefs. As Catholic Women we must find a way to bring both of these beliefs into existence. So we must be tolerant of each other, and find our quiet sanctuary in our own hearts, and ... welcome others with a quieter spirit so that both beliefs can be respected. At future gatherings, an announcement for a quiet period before Mass will be made. So come early for the meet & greet, then quiet your soul in the presence of God to celebrate with all!

Banquet Service at Conventions

Because of the restrictions some facilities may encounter to properly service guests for banquets, each convention committee will need to consider a cap on banquet attendees should their banquet facility have a maximum seating capacity. Consideration will be given to full convention attendees, spiritual advisors, then banquet tickets only on a first ordered basis. Space will be left for those with mobility assistance, and room for negotiation between tables.



*Past-president—Lucy Hendrikx
Historian Nominations & Elections*



*Rejoice with me for I have
found my sheep that was
lost.Luke 15*

Where has the summer gone? My mother always told me that as I get older, the years would go by even faster. I always thought she was joking, but now I am seeing the wisdom in her words. The days and years fly by so fast, I can hardly keep up.

We had a wonderful convention in Stratford. Once again it was great to touch base with so many friends from previous years. In July we took a road trip up to Thunder Bay with 5 of us girls to take in the Provincial Convention. We had a great time. The scenery was beautiful, the camaraderie was great, all in all never a dull moment. The speakers at Provincial Convention were great, however the highlight for me was being elected to the Provincial Executive as treasurer. It kind of reminds me of the Girl Guide pledge, "I promise to do my best to do my duty for God, my sisters (the queen) and my country". I only changed it a bit to give it more meaning.

In the spring I had asked each council to send at least one picture and/or write-up to highlight one of the special events they are doing in their council. ½ of my term has flown by and I only have about 20% of the councils who have responded to this request. We would like to enhance the Diocesan archives with information on special events which are happening with CWL in the Diocese, and we want to include everyone.

Let me switch hats for a moment. 2014 is an election year at the Diocesan level of the Catholic Women's League and I am the person co-ordinating the nominations and elections process. If you have been a parish CWL council president within the last 6 years you will be eligible to let your name stand for a position on the London Diocesan executive of the Catholic Women's League. Now would be a good time to start the discerning whether you would like to share your time and talents at the next level. I will be sending out letters with the discerning process and what would all be entailed with being on the

executive at the London Diocesan level, by the middle of November. If you feel you should have been approached and have not received a letter by the end of November, please contact me through the website.

I hope to see all of you at a "Catch the Fire" Workshop this fall if I didn't get a chance to meet you in the invigorating atmosphere of this workshop in the spring.

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

God bless!

Lucy

*Create in me a clean heart, O
GodPsalm 51*

"QUOTES FROM THE CONVENTION TABLES"

Sometimes our light goes out, but is blown again into instant flame by an encounter with another human being. Each of us owes the deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this inner light.

Dr. Albert Schweitzer

I want to do what you ask of me, in the way you ask, for as long as you ask, because you ask it. -

Pope Clement XI

Spiritual Development Standing Committee
Chairperson—Mary Bannon



Here we are, the summer pretty well over. When I think back, I remember how the spring and summer subjected us to wild swings of weather. Remember how it seemed as if it would never be warm, as if it would never stop raining! I didn't even get the flowers planted on my parents' graves till June 22nd. Usually I get them in before Father's Day! Even some of the farmers experienced difficulties getting their crops planted and growing—the fields were so wet!

My experiences with the weather led me to think about the trust we need to have in God, that somehow He will get us through! I found this great meditation from Henri Nouwen about Trust. "Trust is the basis of life. Without trust, no human being can live. Trapeze artists offer a beautiful image of this. Flyers have to trust their catchers. They can do the most spectacular doubles, triples, or quadruples, but what finally makes

their performance spectacular are the catchers who are there for them at the right time in the right place. Much of our lives is flying. It is wonderful to fly in the air free as a bird, but when God isn't there to catch us, all our flying comes to nothing. Let's trust in the "Great Catcher." I guess in some way we are like the trapeze artist, although I know I could not deal with the heights involved!

I'm sure we have also had experiences when we have had to trust people. Have you ever asked someone to perform a task and then you spend time worrying about whether they will do it, how they will do it, if they will do it the way you would? I have, lots of times, simply because I have "control issues" – I lack trust. In fact, I have even called to check in with them about how things are progressing. Then I recall that Jesus trusted his followers to spread the good news—can I do less? In our councils we have so many true,

talented, and gifted women who we need to ask to share in service. Our trust in them to serve in their unique way will enable the League to fly—free to trust!

**SO –TRUST Total
 Reliance
 Upon
 Someone
 True**

Blessings on your new beginnings this Fall.

Mary

Look for Mary's submission on the National Convention held in Regina, Saskatchewan in August 2013 - found on Pages 17/20

"QUOTES FROM THE CONVENTION TABLES"

Growing older is like climbing a mountain: the higher you get, the more strength you need, but the further you see.—Ingmar Bergman

How glorious our Faith is! Instead of restricting hearts, as the world fancies, it uplifts them and enlarges their capacity to love.—St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Sometimes in this life of faith God will remove his blessings from you. But remember that he knows how and when to replace them, either through the ministry of others or by himself.—François de Sales
La Mothe-Fénelon

Just as parents care for their children, you should bear in mind the whole universe. Zen Master Dogen

One word can be more precious than all the treasures on earth. Hazrat Inayat Khan The Bowl of Saki

Community Life Standing Committee
Chairperson—Caroline Ngui



I hope and pray that we all had a restful and peaceful summer break with family and friends. And now we can look forward to continuing our many good deeds and programmes through the Community Life Standing Committee of our parish councils, which give us many opportunities to grow in our faith by serving God's people.

There is much to be done and I would like to offer a few suggestions for your council to consider this fall:

At the 2013 National Convention held in August in Regina, **Resolution 2013-01 Building Relationships and Partnerships with Canada's Indigenous Peoples** was passed to encourage all CWL members and councils to reach out to the indigenous peoples in our communities. So I now encourage your council to consider implementing one or several of the suggestions in the Action Plan of this resolution. For example - invite a speaker from an indigenous community to a general meeting, or plan to celebrate the Feast Day of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha on April 17th 2014, or invite indigenous people to partner in a prayer service followed by a social to share cultural food, music and dance.

See the National website at www.cwl.ca for the full details of this resolution

Elder Abuse: Please do not forget the seniors in our communities and always be aware that Elder Abuse continues to occur in our region of Ontario. It is a crime and must be stopped. Any senior can become a victim of abuse and reports show that between 4% and 10% of seniors will experience some form of abuse in their lifetime. Abuse is often committed by someone known to the victims, including family members, friends, caregivers or neighbours and can include physical violence, psychological harm, financial abuse and neglect. The Ontario Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse is one source to obtain more information. <http://onpea.org>

Please also do not forget to support victims of **Human Trafficking** in our area whenever possible. Remember that Human Trafficking is a modern form of slavery involving mostly women and children. Poverty and vulnerability are two of the driving forces that fuel human trafficking. Three websites will give you more information about this scourge that happens in all our neighbourhoods - not just the big Canadian cities!

The Joy Smith Foundation: www.joysmithfoundation.com
RCMP: www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca
www.deal.org

Lastly I must remind you to

continue your financial and prayerful support of the **Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace**. The Catholic Women's League has partnered with Development and Peace by supporting thousands of women and children in the Global South through the 1% program. For over 40 years many members have contributed 1% of all personal and luxury items as well as 1% of funds raised by CWL councils to D & P projects designed to empower women and improve their standard of living. Together we are **Strong Women Building Stronger Communities**. Please donate generously to this very important Canadian Catholic organization.

See www.devop.org or www.cwl.ca for more information

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

Caroline

See the
"Breaking the
Silence—A
Community
Workshop on
Human
Trafficking
report, found on
pages 26/27



Education & Health Standing Committee
Chairperson—Elisabeth Duggan



I hope everyone enjoyed a restful summer. Our children are now back to another busy school year. I encourage you to be involved with your children and their school to help with growth in their education and Catholic teachings. If you are able, ask the school in your area if you are able to help with the Rosary Apostolate. Teaching the children about the beautiful mysteries of the rosary and praying the rosary.

For those of you with youth in their last year of High School, this can be a stressful time if thinking about going to University or College. Remember that your children are able to apply for OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Programme) which can help if eligible for funding. OSAP offers two kinds of funding.

- Grants: money you do not have to pay back
- A student loan you need to pay back

For further information on this:

Check Laubach Literacy Ontario for more detailed information
 Check the following websites for Scholarships and bursaries.
www.cwl.ca / www.cwl.on.ca / www.cwltoronto.ca

Education means that our children need a good balanced diet. Canada Food Guide guides will assist you. Please remember we have children who go to school hungry and if a breakfast programme is not in place this may be another avenue for you to work on. Ask other schools that have a programme to help you get

started.

See the Chart below for Recommended Number of Food Guide Servings per Day at bottom of this page.

God Bless and enjoy a beautiful upcoming fall.

Caroline

The Social Justice Award Application Form can be found inserted between pages 16/17

Table - Recommended Number of Food Guide Servings per Day

| | Children | | | Teens | | Adults | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----|------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|------------|-------|
| Age in Years | 2-3 | 4-8 | 9-13 | 14-18 years | | 19-50 years | | 51 + years | |
| Sex | Girls and Boys | | | Females | Males | Females | Males | Females | Males |
| Vegetables and Fruit | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 7-8 | 8-10 | 7 | 7 |
| Grain Products | 3 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 6-7 | 8 | 6 | 7 |
| Milk and Alternatives | 2 | 2 | 3-4 | 3-4 | 3-4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Meat and Alternatives | 1 | 1 | 1-2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 |





Legislation Standing Committee
Chairperson—Dara Hartman



What a remarkable summer I have had getting to know the warmth and the friendship and the genuine concerns of some wonderful First Nation people. It began with an opportunity to spend two weeks in Haines Junction, Yukon Territory, with a friend who has a ministry there. My first encounter was with a remarkable 83-year-old Kluane Elder named Grace Johnson and another named Lena Johnson and an Aishihik Elder named Rosalee Washington. These women are looked to as women of wisdom, because of their lived out experience, for guidance and counsel. Grace takes a 2-hour drive up the Alaska Highway weekly to teach southern tutchone, the language of their people, in the Kluane First Nation school in Burwash Landing. She also teaches the young adults how to make gopher snares from eagle feathers, how to tan moose and other hides the old way and how to do the beautiful beading on the moccasins, mukluks and mitts she also makes. She showed me how to make a woman's cape from 100 gopher pelts and informed me, "that is a lot of work." Grace and Lena tell great stories of their people and the animals that surround them. Rosalee told me one of the 'big monkeys' (sasquatch) that live in the mountains there. The Kluane First Nation people lived for centuries in the Kluane National Park area as hunter-gatherers until 1947 when the Alaska Highway was built. Today, along with the Champagne-Aishihik First Nations they work toward self-government. I am

amazed at such an enormous evolution over such a tiny time span and how they work with our federal government towards an infra structure compatible with our own.

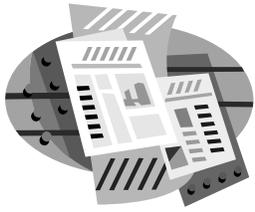
Only a few short weeks after my visit to the Yukon, came a visit to Thunder Bay and the CWL Provincial Convention. On Monday of convention a group of ladies and I left the hotel at 5:15 am for a sunrise service on the shore of Lake Superior. At the marina we entered the Spirit Garden, Celebration Circle and Honouring Circle area used by First Nation people for various services. Our leader, Wendy, led us through a service that honoured the water beings and we did this by wrapping our gifts of tobacco, sweets and shiny objects in a blue fabric bundle and setting it, along with a gift of water, into the lake. The service had beautiful rituals with smudge pots and smoke for purification and one with the sharing of a pipe. It made me think of the interconnectedness of all people with people and all people with nature. On Tuesday we were blessed to have Grand Chief Harvey Yesno come to speak to us at noon. He said his name came from an ancestor who was an original treaty chief and whose language in English was either 'yes' or 'no'. Chief Yesno said that when the treaties were signed 108 years ago, they thought they were doing a good thing but the resulting reality is high unemployment (double our unemployment rate), high family dysfunction, high suicide rates and disease. He said, "poverty is a

disease of disrespect" and when economy is poverty it equals hopelessness.

He advocates for power lines and roads to transport food at reasonable prices so diets can be balanced, not cheap. He talked of the need for nuclear families as a solution for the sad reality of the 'fatherlessness' suffered by his people. He indicated welfare was not a solution rather, if you don't work, you don't eat, which led to concerns about education and meaningful employment. He thought CWL could help in initiatives to train First Nation leaders to educate and give workshops in communities on budgeting, parenting, and so to help First Nations carry their own loads, as entitlement is not a good thing. He also spoke of environmental concerns. I found him as I found the women Elders of the Yukon: warm, friendly and with genuine love and concern for his people.

In a memo from Anne-Marie Gorman, National Legislation Chairperson last April, she said, "... encourage members to review the status of Bill C-45 *Jobs and Growth Act, 2012*, as it pertains to Aboriginal and First Nations peoples." Please consider yourselves encouraged.

Dara



Sandra Cabiddu—League Lingo Editor

Where did the summer go to? It seems like yesterday the warm weather finally arrived end of June and here we are already at the end of August and our work is due to begin again for another year!

My 2 eldest grandchildren are about to start JK for the first time at the grand old age of 4½ years.

Please take notice of the different due date for the spring edition of 2014. I will be away on holiday for 5 weeks from March 3rd to April 7th. Our annual winter break has to be taken later this year! **I WILL NEED YOUR ARTICLES AND PIN AWARDS SENT TO ME BY FEBRUARY 1st, instead of March 1st.**

This means I have to have the newsletter completed and given to an executive member for delivery to our executive meeting in Chatham on March 20th, before I leave for my holiday on March 3rd!

The results of the survey I did at convention this past April turned out to be an even 50/50 on whether orders should be given at convention or fall regional's. For now I will continue to take orders at the regional meetings and of course I will continue taking orders at convention.

Survey undertaken at convention

- I had 66 survey sheets returned
- 47 said they had ordered this year
- 14 did not order
- 19 ordered at conventions
- 21 ordered at the fall regional's
- 19 preferred to order at convention
- 22 preferred to order at the fall regional's
- 34 got a reminder to order from their regional chairperson
- 13 did not
- 10 used the website to read the League Lingo
- 52 do not use the website to read the League Lingo
- 50 prefer to have a hard copy
- 16 prefer to read the newsletter on the website
- one survey said now they know the website is available they might try to read the newsletter online
- four get the newsletter through their council
- one has not seen the revised website - found old one difficult to find material
- one asked how are reminders received & through whom on the parish council—answer, reminders are received through your Regional Chair or your local CWL president
- one wanted an alert on the website to remind them it is time to place an order

- one still have many who cannot access an online copy, but would like to start e-mailing a link to members who are less active to keep them in the loop

So I think the consensus is that there is a 50/50 split on ordering at convention or the fall regional's

For now we will keep it the way it is - ordering at the fall regional's

I will do what I did this year - print extra's and take orders at convention

There is still some confusion about the treasurers form for monies to be sent into Diocesan - some of you are still sending your order in using the League Lingo line on the form you send to the diocesan treasurer when sending in your donations.

I will put a reminder on the website when it is time to order the next edition (which will be the spring edition).

Orders taken at the convention in April pushed our numbers up to previous years orders.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel Bless all of you and have a good year

Sandra





*National Convention Report—Regina, Saskatchewan—August 11/14, 2013—
Submitted by: Mary Bannon, Spiritual Development Chairperson*

Our arrival in Regina was to sunny warm temperatures and began with a country hoedown and buffet. Wonderful entertainment! On Sunday morning we embarked on a tour of the city of Regina and the headquarters and training centre of the RCMP! Sunday afternoon we discussed the resolutions. More about them later in my report!

We were part of 700 sisters in the League who attended the National Convention. Holy Rosary Cathedral was the gathering space for the celebration of the Eucharist. Archbishop Daniel Bohan spoke of faith and hope in his homily, encouraging us to “let our journey through life be carried on the wings of hope”. Opening Ceremonies concluded with President Betty Anne Brown-Davidson likening a convention to coming home to family. A reception followed back at the Delta Hotel.

Monday began with the Eucharist celebrated by Bishop Thevenot of Prince Albert. “Share the Lord in your gentleness, love and care to your children and grandchildren and to the world, which is so in need of understanding, support and forgiveness”, was the message he shared. He challenged us not to focus so much on ourselves or the organization, but on the mission of the League and the Lord would take care of the rest. Members took a few moments to honour deceased members and Spiritual Advisors in a touching tribute where Provincial Presidents presented a red rose in memory of those deceased members

from their provinces and the President presented a white rose in memory of Spiritual Advisors who have died.

Our first keynote speaker on Monday was Sr. Fay Tremblay who began by opening her arms to us and declaring, “What a powerhouse of faith and love and joy!” Sr. Fay works with the Inuvialuit peoples in Tuktoyaktuk in the Canadian Arctic, north of the Arctic circle. These peoples are not first nations peoples since they came from Mongolia about 5,000 years ago. She shared that for her being a missionary involves knowing the people you are with and bringing the Gospel. She continually asks herself, “Who are the people and what good news do they need to hear?” That idea made me think the same; as League members who are the people we are in contact with and what good news do they need to hear? Sr. Fay opens her small home to provide religious services, a place for the children to play, helping wherever there is a need. She beamed when talking of the children, telling their stories and pointing out their immense powers of concentration. These are people who are formed by the land, people who live by the sun which shines 24 hours a day in spring and summer and is dark 24 hours a day in winter, people who love to laugh and people who need hope.

Louise Tessier spoke on “Witnessing to Faith Through Art”. She creates ceramic art tiles. Her love of gardening inspired her to

design 15 ceramic art tiles for Father Thomas Stanley’s book, “The Garden Way of the Cross.” These tiles were part of a beautiful art gallery in the Prayer Room at the convention. She reminded all of us that our experiences of gardening are as varied as our experiences of faith.

Bishop Emeritus Gerald Weisner spoke on the topic, “Women as Missionaries in the Church and the World Today”. He referenced Pope Francis’ words, “Being a missionary means being a disciple of Christ, listening attentively to Him and following Him faithfully.” The Bishop praised us for our missionary work, announcing, “The church needs you; you are dedicated, wonderful and enthusiastic missionaries.” We believe in a “talking God” who wants us to seek the face of Jesus in the Word of God, in the official teaching of the Church, especially the documents of Vatican II, in prayer since “prayer is the one thing that can conquer God” (Tertullian) and in mission to others. As always, we need to be aware that in reality God searches for us first. Through Baptism and Confirmation we are called to be on that mission. Those who fail to contribute to the life of the Church are no good to the Church and no good to themselves. He pointed out the need for us to work with our priests collaboratively, cooperatively and with co-responsibility. Speaking of the role of women he said that

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*National Convention Report—Regina, Saskatchewan—August 11/14, 2013—
Submitted by: Mary Bannon, Spiritual Development Chairperson (cont'd...)*

(Continued from page 17)

every time there is an intervention of God in our world there is always a woman involved, for example, Abraham and Sarah and most importantly, the Incarnation. He called us as women to be involved in the New Evangelization because of our charisms of genius, wisdom, compassion and mystery. Faith is professed with word and heart. Spiritual growth will “cost” us something. In conclusion he asked us, “Why continue to eat spiritual cardboard when there are so many opportunities for rich feasts?”

In very moving speeches, Honorary Life Members Irene Lefort, Claire Heron, Agnes Bedard and Danielle McNeil-Hessian shared their personal encounters with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Irene Lefort shared the story of Jesus appearing to her at the top of a mountain in an unexplainable vision at a Saskatchewan retreat: with arms wide open the Lord said to her, “I’m not through with you yet; I will give you what you need.”

Claire Heron referred to Genesis 16, where Hagar, at the spring, says, “I have now seen the One who sees me.” Agnes Bedard says she saw the eyes of the Lord in the face of her husband, Jim, who says “his garden is his church,” where, in pain, he kneels and weeds the garden to make his own mulch.

Finally, Danielle McNeil-Hessian shared the story of her son Robert’s

remarkable recovery after an accident in California left him brain damaged. She says she saw the Lord in his recovery and in the prayers and people who were with him that day.

On Tuesday after Mass Fr. Bill Burke spoke on the Year of Faith. He is the past Director of Liturgy with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. He began his address stating that he gets very angry when people refer to the CWL as a group known for coffee, tea and sandwiches. “If I were a politician in this room right now, I’d be very nervous.” He then spoke of the meaning of Faith. We hear that Faith is a gift. Of course it’s a gift but that is far too simplistic. God doesn’t say, “This one gets the gift, this one not.” The door of faith is always open. He told the cute story of two women at a thrift store, one the size of a rope (his words), the other his size (he’s a big man), fighting over a piece of clothing and the sign on the bin “ONE SIZE FITS ALL”. There is a diversity in God’s creation; there is a diversity of faith experiences. In *Lumen Fidei*, Pope Francis states that an encounter with God opens the door of faith. In the story of Lazarus Jesus says, “Unbind him.” The root of the word ‘unbind’ also means forgive. Over and over God rolls back the stones of our sins, our apathy, our complacency; this is conversion, a turning of the whole person to God and it is ongoing, a lifetime journey of dying and rising—the Paschal Mystery. Faith is personal but never private—there is

a need for community. Every person walking through our church doors are living Mysteries of the Rosary—Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, Luminous. Imagine that! Christianity is built on stories of real people dying and rising by the love of God. Conversion is that encounter with God in the most unexpected places—be prepared to have God surprise us. Faith requires knowledge but it must be accompanied by an encounter with Jesus. Faith is a question of trust in a person, so “credible” witness is crucial today. We are a community of sinners—Pope Francis even admits to being a sinner. Thomas the Apostle was a heretic, denying the resurrection of Jesus but the community did not throw him out. We also need to take great care that we not make decisions about who gets to stay in our faith communities. The last thing Father Bill spoke about was the loss of the gift of Sunday which is the Lord’s Day and Our Day to become more human and strengthen our relationships. The question, “Why do Jews keep the Sabbath?” The answer: “The Jews don’t keep the Sabbath; the Sabbath keeps the Jews”. We as Christians can substitute our name in place of “Jews”. He spoke of a woman who had lived as a slave in the southern U.S. She told him, “On Sunday we did not work; on Sunday we were allowed to live like human beings.” Sunday celebrates God’s promises kept.

(Continued on page 19)



*National Convention Report—Regina, Saskatchewan—August 11/14, 2013—
Submitted by: Mary Bannon, Spiritual Development Chairperson (cont'd)*

(Continued from page 18)

Business reports followed his talk. Each Provincial President and the President of the Military Ordinariate gave a report. President Betty Anne and Secretary-Treasurer Judy Lewis presented their reports. Barb Dowding reported on Catch the Fire. Archbishop Martin Currie encouraged Spiritual Advisors to come to Provincial and National Conventions.

Our own Pat Rivest was installed as a Life member in a moving ceremony.

On Wednesday the Sisters of Service spoke of their generous participation in a Voluntary Fund with the CWL to provide women with opportunities to study and grow in their faith. Kathryn Perry spoke of her book, "The Courage to Dare", the story of Catherine Donnelly, foundress of the Sisters of Service. A lot of Catherine Donnelly's words and ideas dovetail with the words and ideas of the CWL.

Reports continued from Margaret Ann Jacobs, Fran Lucas and Peggy Roche, chairpersons of Christian Family Life, Community Life and Health and Education respectively.

Ann Chase was a guest speaker and also a 15 year survivor who spoke on Ovarian Cancer Awareness. It is the most fatal women's cancer since 70% will die within five years of diagnosis, yet when diagnosed early,

has a 90% success rate. The Pap test does not detect ovarian cancer. The HPV Vaccine does not prevent it. There is no screening test as yet. The symptoms are varied and vague such as bloating, pelvic pain, abdominal pain, difficulty eating, feeling full quickly, urinary symptoms (urgency, frequency), change in bowel habits. The tests now available, such as pelvic exam, transvaginal ultrasound and the CA125 blood test are not too effective. Risk factors are: family history of breast, ovarian, uterine and or colon cancers, no children, never having used birth control pills, and of course, getting older. See your doctor if symptoms persist for more than three weeks and ask to be referred to a gynecological oncologist. The Walk for Ovarian Cancer funds are used for research for a screening test.

Communications Chairperson Cecile Miller reported that the CWL will take responsibility for the "Pornography No More Campaign" since CASE has disbanded. Post Cards will be in the fall issue of Canadian League for us to send to our MPs. In October we are encouraged to wear the white ribbon. Also, in the fall issue, each province will be designated a month to send cards, emails and letters to MPs. Keep our eyes open for the new CWL website. CWL is also on Facebook.

Resolutions Chairperson Shari Guinta told us that letters sent from us to our MPs and MPP's do influence them and their decisions.

Legislation Chairperson Anne Marie Gorman invited us to read and become informed about our government.

Resolutions passed were:

1. That the national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, in 93rd annual national convention assembled, urge the current national executive to:

- Build relationships with indigenous women leaders
- Identify ideas and programs for members through the national standing committees on building relationships and partnerships with the indigenous peoples of Canada, and
- Encourage all members to reach out to indigenous peoples to learn more about each other and to find common ground

2. That the National Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, in 93rd annual national convention assembled, urge the federal government to:

- Provide employment insurance sickness benefits up to 52 weeks for cancer patients, and
- Increase the employment insurance compassionate care benefit to 26 weeks, accessible during a 52-week period, for caregivers of cancer patients

It was also passed that a letter be written to MPs regarding female genocide because of the

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*National Convention Report—Regina, Saskatchewan—August ??, 2013—
Submitted by: Mary Bannon, Spiritual Development Chairperson (cont'd)*

(Continued from page 19)

occurrences of sex selection abortions using ultrasounds.

The vote was held concerning the amendments to our Bylaws and Constitution. All amendments passed.

Past-President Velma Harasen spoke about the Shepherd's Field Hospital in the Holy Land outside of Bethlehem and the Infant Welfare School in Old Jerusalem. It was passed in a vote that we would continue contributions to these projects through a Voluntary Fund until the end of December 2016.

Maribeth Stewart brought greetings from the World Union of Catholic Women's Organization (WUCWO). It is the first Catholic Women's organization recognized by the UN.

We then headed back to Holy Rosary Cathedral to celebrate the Mass of Reaffirmation of the Executive and the Installation of the new National Spiritual Advisor, Bishop Bill McGratton, who some of you may know. The gala Banquet was delicious followed by a visit from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth who had everyone dissolving into gales of laughter during the skit.

Thursday saw us returning home to our own beds.

All in all, a wonderful convention.

Next year, Fredericton. Won't you consider going?

Mary

Joy Prayer

**J
Who will roll the
stone away?
It's heavy and it
blocks the way
To Jesus**

**O
Women are
gathering here.
There is work that
they must do
For others**

**Y
Together they have
moved the stone
"We have seen the Lord!"
He came for you.**

By Patricia Sheehan



Pat Rivest receiving a Blessing on the occasion of receiving her Life Membership at the National



Pat Rivest receiving her Life Membership Pin at the National Convention.



Exhaustion Sets in as your Diocesan Council comes to Convention!
Submitted by Rebecca McCarrell—Communications Chairperson
& 1st Vice-President

Ever wonder why the Diocesan Council looks so tired, or maybe doesn't smile as much as you would like???? Well, let me walk you through the years, weeks, days and hours leading up to the convention... I think you would be tired as well!

Two years before the convention: Themes are being worked on, speakers are being sought, facilities are being confirmed.

6 bi-monthly meetings, Fall Regional Meetings, other workshops are attended, reports are written, information is gathered.

One year before the convention: Speakers are confirmed, agenda is confirmed, facilities are booked, convention package is being prepared. 3 bi-monthly meetings have taken place along with the regular duties of the councils, the members happily attend many anniversaries, dinners, workshops within and without the Diocese. Reports are written and submitted. League Lingo articles are written. Summer vacation is upon us! Research on theme activities are on-going. Research on resolutions is on-going.

Fall Regional meetings take place along with the September bi-monthly meeting

6 months before the convention: Year-end reports are being gathered from the 99 councils in London Diocese. Each report must be read, and outstanding points of interest, merits, awards, and more must be

gleaned and transferred to a summary report. The media is sent a news alert about the upcoming convention and how to contact the League.

November bi-monthly meeting has taken place, agenda is confirmed, and the convention planning is in high gear. The minutes of the last convention, finance meeting and pre-convention meeting are distributed. The minutes of the last convention are distributed to every council as well. The Diocesan Council registers for the convention and chooses their meals for the time not spent in convention.

Many invitations to Christmas teas, bazaars, dinners, workshops and are gladly attended.

Merry Christmas!

4 months before the convention: Summary Report is required for submission to the President-Elect for the Report Book. Time to think about a display for the display room. The report book is put together by the President-Elect and several members edit it for errors (sorry, we do miss some!). Another media alert is sent out (there are approximately 30 media outlets to send to).

3 months before the convention: Final numbers and reports are due to Provincial Council for their annual report. Oral reports must be written and approved, presentations must be honed.

Another bi-monthly meeting takes

place...these are the regular meetings of the council where the business is taken care of.

2 months before the convention: the crunch is on! The t's are being crossed, the I's are being dotted! Pamphlets, hand-outs, assignments to "who does what" at the convention are being given out, verbal reports are enhanced, information on the speakers is being investigated, introductions and welcomes are being written. The Spiritual programme has taken shape and the Spiritual Development Chairperson works with the convention committee, communications, Spiritual Advisor and the President to finalize the plans for all spiritual programs. The report book, and all convention booklets are sent to the printer. The convention committee is in full action...the London Diocesan Council slows down for a minute! Powerpoints/slides are being prepared. Permission is sought to use music and publish the words to hymns. Media is again contacted.

1 month before the convention: the speakers and presenters are contacted to ensure the travel is appropriate. Oral reports are gone over, presentations tweaked. Media is contacted to interview with the President, and take pictures / footage at the convention.

3 weeks before the convention: the gathering of items to bring to the convention starts. Each member

(Continued on page 22)



Exhaustion Sets in as your Diocesan Council comes to Convention!
Submitted by Rebecca McCarrell—Communications Chairperson
& 1st Vice-President

(Continued from page 21)

can tell you that she has a “CWL”

Don't touch! pile at home. This is our must haves for the convention... written reports, oral reports, presentations, pamphlets, introductions, welcomes, thank you's, and more...gifts are bought, cards are written, hospitality is at the forefront.

2 weeks before the convention: now is the time to ensure everything is going smoothly. Hiccups are dealt with, changes made if necessary which in turn create a domino effect for the whole convention.

1 week before the convention: the final presentations are completed, the packing begins! Double checking to ensure everything is ready. Media interviews are confirmed.

3 days before the convention: final check is being made that all the information is available for the presentations, pamphlets have been gathered for distribution, reports are ready to go, the final changes to powerpoints/slides are being done. Travel arrangements are being confirmed, shopping for our snacks and refreshments happens.

2 days before the convention: One more final check!

1 day before the convention: Pack your clothes, pack up the cars, get ready to rumble! Check again that you have everything...including your toothbrush!

The Monday of the convention: most of the council leaves home in the early hours of the morning. They arrive at the convention center. Unload the cars, start setting up the rooms. Presentations are set up in the display rooms, resolutions are ready for distribution, financial reports are ready to go. It's 11:30 a.m. already! Hopefully the hotel allows the committee to check in at this time...if not, it's done on the run later. 12 noon the finance committee meets and goes over the finance statements and budget with a fine tooth comb. Then after agreement on motions, and budget and reports, it's on to the Pre-Convention Meeting with the full executive council...we try to eat during our meeting. At the pre-convention meeting, the convention agenda is finalized, any bloopers or omissions are hopefully caught. Any issues, motions, and tasks that will take place during the convention are entertained here! Oh, my goodness, it is 4 p.m.! Check in the hotel, get changed for the Opening Mass, travel to the church, meet and greet old friends and new, and take a deep breath! But not for long, dinner is arranged after Mass, then resolutions dialogue, then hop to the Fun Night and party away. Before long it is 10 p.m... Evening prayers. Then the real work begins. Meetings take place to confirm the next day. Set-ups are looked at and changes are made to bring calm to Day 2. Finally able to sit with your feet up...it is around 2 a.m. when you fall into bed.

Convention Day 2: up at 6. Deal with anything not finalized last night,

ensure your presentations are set up correctly, and go down to breakfast to meet with all our wonderful ladies! We love to meet with each of you and catch up. 8 a.m. we freshen up and go to the convention room. Now we sit on edge waiting and watching for our “speaker” whom we may not even know what he/she looks like. Go and greet guests, ensure the presentations go well. Sit at the table and listen, learn, and speak to ideas and motions. At break, you can find us running to take care of an issue that has arisen. Back to the convention, and our day goes on. Lunch! We try to take a servant's attitude and eat last, making our rounds to meet and greet those around. Most times there is no food left when we get there. Afternoon starts, and our participation is required! Mass or spiritual service ends the convention day. But ours hasn't finished. We still need to meet and confirm the next day, if it is a non-election year, we attend the banquet, and wander the room to find our colleagues, friends, family and neighbours. 10 p.m. evening prayer. Back in the hotel rooms, we confirm everything for the next day...My gosh, it's after midnight!

Convention Day 3: did that alarm really go off already! It's only 6 a.m.! But off we go for the day, a repeat of the day before! On election years, we have more to do with the Affirmation Mass and Banquet... clean up of the convention center (remember those displays and

(Continued on page 23)



Exhaustion Sets in as your Diocesan Council comes to Convention!
Submitted by Rebecca McCarrell—Communications Chairperson
& 1st Vice-President

(Continued from page 22)

pamphlets), pack everything up

(this is done early in the day if we are not staying overnight), and are energized to begin a new exciting year!

Remember, our executive are regular ladies just like you...we have family obligations, most of us work outside of the home, we do other volunteer work in our communities and we really do LOVE the work we do for the best organization...the Catholic Women's League of Canada!

We'll see you next year...and really try to smile more, be refreshed, and have the greatest time in FAITH, FUN AND FULFILMENT.

Rebecca



Look for my "Tidbits" sections to be found throughout the newsletter. Also my "Quotes from the tables" - in response to your Evaluation Forms request at convention

TIDBITS FROM YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT CONVENTIONS

Why Do We Sit with the same people every year?

With the clustering of parishes, it has become more difficult to doing seating at the banquets so that the shared Spiritual Advisor has access to all his/her councils' members. This is why you are seated with the same group. If your council wishes to sit apart from your sister council, please indicate on your forms which council will host the Spiritual Advisor. The convention committee would gladly sit you with new friends. For session seating...it is up to you where you sit; it is your choice to choose to meet someone new or sit with your council! Mix it up...that's how ideas are shared, and friendships are made.

Voting Process...how can we change it?

The Voting Process is defined in the National Policy & Procedure Manual as well as the National Constitution & Bylaws. If you would like to change this process, please complete the **Constitution & Bylaws Proposed Amendments Form** that can be found on the National website (www.cwl.ca) under Free Downloads / Forms. Full instructions are found on the form. This proposed amendment needs to be initiated at the member level and then passed through the various levels of the League for voting at an annual convention at each level.


Ontario Provincial Convention—July 8/10th, 2013—Thunder Bay. —
Submitted by: Mary Lappan, Essex Regional Chairperson

*A Look at the Provincial
Convention, Thunder Bay,
Ontario*

*“We Have Seen the Lord –
As People of Faith”.*

This theme was the basis for the Provincial Convention as each Diocesan President was asked to report on how their Diocese was accomplishing this task.

Our rainy week began Saturday evening with a pasta dinner and quiz night where our brains were tested on several different topics. A tour of the city of Thunder Bay and the surrounding countryside on Sunday was entertaining and enlightening. Our business began with the Resolution dialogue on Sunday afternoon following our tour. One resolution was brought to the convention floor for approval. It certainly was a learning experience to follow a resolution at this level.

The convention officially opened Sunday evening with Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Bishop Fred Colli, outgoing Provincial Spiritual Advisor, was the celebrant and homilist. The opening ceremonies always bring greetings from various officials but we were pleasantly surprised to receive greetings from the Chief of Fort William First Nation, Georjann Morriseau. Following mass we attended a reception in the church basement.

Monday gave us the chance to listen to two speakers. In the morning Monsignor Patrick Stilla, Vicar

General of Thunder Bay, spoke to us about our personal relationship with God and the foundations of our faith. He also emphasized that we need to brag about the Catholic Women's League and let everyone know what we stand for.

Our afternoon speaker was Anne Jamieson, Director of Catechesis, Diocese of Hamilton. She spoke to us on the spiritual resiliency of women, how we deal with stress and crises in our life and the different tools we use to bounce back.

Later that afternoon the amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws were all passed.

Tuesday the Diocesan reports were given. Our president, Mary Jean Horne made us all proud when she reported all the accomplishments of the London Diocese. The one resolution discussed on Sunday, “Reduce the Stigma Attached to Mental Illness”, was brought to the floor and was passed.

During lunch, Grand Chief Harvey Yesno of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation, spoke to us about reservation infrastructure and the cost of bringing in food that is not produced locally.

Three standing committee workshops (spiritual development, community life, Christian family life) in the afternoon gave us some solid ideas for our parish councils.

The banquet and entertainment

Tuesday evening was thoroughly enjoyable.

Our National President, Betty Anne Brown Davidson, spoke on Wednesday morning about our theme “We Have Seen the Lord”. She told us our path has been laid out for us and we have been sent on a mission by God and for God.

Next on the agenda was the election. Everyone from London Diocese was excited because we knew two of our members were going to be elected – it was just a matter of what position they would be holding for the next two years. The results were President, Betty Colaneri, President-elect, Pauline Krupa, First Vice President, Anne Madden, Second Vice President, Colleen Randall, Recording Secretary, Pat Rivest, Treasurer, Lucy Hendrikx, Standing Committee Chairs, Rosanne Sogan, Linda Squarzolo, Marlin Taylor, Carol Richie and Mary Jane Yeager. Following the elections, the closing Mass was held at St. Agnes Church. The newly elected executive were installed as well as Bishop Gerard Bergie of St. Catherines, the new Provincial Spiritual Advisor.

Another convention was over. It was wonderful to reconnect with members from other parishes and dioceses. If you think that it is only executive that attend these conventions you would be wrong. Most of the attendees are not voting or accredited delegates.

(Continued on page 25)



*Ontario Provincial Convention—July 8/10th, 2013— Thunder Bay. —
Submitted by: Mary Lappan, Essex Regional Chairperson*

(Continued from page 24)

They are CWL members there to experience a Provincial convention. Any member who has the opportunity to attend a Provincial Convention should grab it. I can guarantee you will not be disappointed. Next year the convention will be in Cobourg, right down the 401. Make plans now with a friend to attend.

Elections brought a few surprises but went very well.

President-Elect Pauline Krupa—
Organization

1st Vice President Anne Madden—
Spiritual Chairperson

2nd Vice President Colleen
Randell—Communication

Recording Secretary—Patricia
Rivest

Treasurer—Lucy Hendrikx

Marlen Taylor—Christian Family
Life

Mary Jane Yager—Community Life

Carol Richie—Education and
Health

Rosanne Sogan—Resolutions

Linda Squarzolo—Legislation

Jennie Coleman—Corresponding
Secretary

Mary Lappan

QUOTES FROM THE CONVENTION TABLES

Sometimes the most important thing in a whole day is the rest we take between two deep breaths, or the turning inwards in prayer for five short minutes. Etty Hillesum

Grace and gratitude go together like heaven and earth. Karl Barth

Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it. William Arthur Ward

Just to be is a blessing; just to live is holy. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

Mistakes are the portals of discovery. James Joyce

There is a calmness to a life lived in gratitude, a quiet joy. Ralph H. Blum

Gratitude is twofold - love coming to visit us and love running out to greet a welcome guest. Henry Van Dyke

*Every breath we draw is a gift of God's love; every moment of existence is a grace. Thomas Merton—
Thoughts in Solitude*



"Breaking the Silence—A Community Workshop on Human Trafficking" Chatham Kent Coalition Against Human Trafficking—March 20th, 2013

I was very pleased to have the opportunity to attend the workshop sponsored by the Chatham Kent Coalition Against Human Trafficking, this week. This was a huge awareness, educational and enlightening experience for me as I learnt so much more about the dreadful scourge of Human Trafficking that is taking place right under our noses here in Southwestern Ontario. Yes, Human Trafficking is happening here in our neighbourhoods as well as in many different parts of Ontario, Canada and the world.

Marty Van Doren, the RCMP Human Trafficking Awareness Coordinator for Ontario gave us a great introduction to all aspects of Human Trafficking, which is happening everyday throughout Ontario, often described as Modern-Day Slavery!

Human Trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation and/or harbouring of persons for the purpose of exploitation, typically for sexual exploitation or forced labour. Traffickers maintain control over their victims through the use of force, fraud, deception or threats of violence to the victim or someone known to them. It is difficult to ascertain the numbers involved as victims at any one time – the present worldwide estimate is 27 million people - 80% of which are girls and women.

Victims of Human Trafficking can be found in commercial sex or prostitution, domestic care giving, farming, hotel and tourism

industries, construction, fisheries, sweatshop factories, restaurant services. Child victims of trafficking are often exploited for sexual purposes, including prostitution, pornography and sex tourism.

Human traffickers recognize and seek out the most vulnerable people in our communities and target them with very sophisticated ways and means. And according to Police they are very good at what they do.

In Canada and Ontario many victims are aboriginal girls and women and young females from urban areas. They are generally recruited for the very lucrative sex trade run by the Pimps operating in the bars, strip bars and on the streets of our towns and cities. These men befriend lonely girls either in the bars, shopping malls or as they come off the bus from remote communities, then they provide the girls with shelter, friendship, support and 'love'. Once they have gained the girl's trust through mind games they force the girls to earn money through prostitution and strip bars. Another disgusting fact I learnt is that a pimp can have many girls in his 'stable' who can earn him upward of \$500,000 per year, depending on how many girls he has.

The most effective part of the workshop for me was the amazing personal testimonies given by two women survivors of human trafficking right here in south western Ontario.

The first told us how she met her 'boyfriend' John, when she was an

adult, 36 years old! At that time she had some savings and owned a condo but had recently lost her husband, her mother and two best friends and she was lonely, sad and very vulnerable. She began to love and trust him, but gradually she lost all her savings, her condo and was then forced by her boyfriend into the sex trade as a way to earn money. She worked in Woodstock, Toronto, Sarnia and Kitchener and ended up using drugs, alcohol and prostitution, was physically, sexually and mentally abused and became suicidal when she realized she was trapped. Eventually the police were involved and she identified to them that she would like to escape from her boyfriend and way of life. She received help from the Salvation Army, got housing and received counselling during the last 3 1/2 years of her long hard journey of recovery as a survivor of human trafficking. She now says she is a victor and not a victim of Human Trafficking and is still recovering from the ordeal.

The second woman was a University of Western Ontario student, 18 years old, at the university who ran up a large visa debt in her first year in London and needed money to pay off her debts and her tuition. She found a job in a strip club selling shots/drinks – a good job that paid well so she thought at the time and she continued with her studies to become a doctor. She met a boyfriend at the club whom she trusted and loved, She was laid off in the London club so as they

(Continued on page 27)



*“Breaking the Silence—A Community Workshop on Human Trafficking”
Chatham Kent Coalition Against Human Trafficking—March 20th, 2013*

(Continued from page 26)

needed money they moved to Windsor because they heard there was work in the strip joints. She thought she would take a semester off from London, make lots of money and return to school eventually. Her plan was to continue as a waiter in Windsor but eventually her boyfriend, who was actually a pimp, persuaded her to earn more money by becoming a stripper and eventually forced her into prostitution and drugs in Windsor. She had a child by this man, who was now sexually and physically abusive to her. She had lost almost all contact with her family but her younger brother managed to help her escape from this man by persuading her to contact the local police. She is now a human trafficking survivor who is telling her story to educate members of our communities that Human Trafficking is happening in our communities and cities throughout Ontario.

We must open our eyes to the Human Trafficking that can occur in our communities :-

- o We must become aware of the issues of human trafficking
- o Help our family and friends to become aware of the issues
- o Raise awareness levels through our community organizations
- o Do not buy goods made in sweatshops e.g. ‘Knock off’ items of merchandise are made using forced child labour or human slavery.
- o Learn safe ways to report and identify suspected cases
- o Lobby politicians for tougher laws to protect victims and to prosecute the traffickers, the pimps, johns etc.
- o Donate money to local organizations that support trafficked victims

o Join or support a local anti-trafficking group such as- the London Anti-human Trafficking Committee, The Chatham-Kent Coalition Against Human Trafficking, Men Against Sexual Trafficking, Windsor-Essex Anti-Human Trafficking Group

There are numerous websites available to educate us about all aspects of Human Trafficking, here are a few:-

www.walk-with-me.org supports survivors

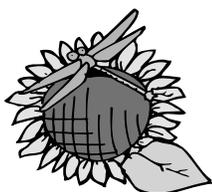
www.publicsafety.gc.ca follow link to the law enforcement page

www.joysmith.ca follow links to Human Trafficking

www.canadiancrimestoppers.org

“You may choose to look the other way, but you can never again say you did not know”

William Wilberforce – British Leader of the Campaign to Abolish Slavery, early nineteenth century



*Regional News—Sarnia Lambton
Chairperson—Wilhelmina Kole*

Wow, where has the summer gone! I hope everyone had lots of family time and relaxation.

On May 28, 2013, 35 ladies from Sarnia Lambton Region CWL enjoyed a year-end dinner (and meeting). Father Raju Allumpurath, Associate Pastor for St. Benedict’s Parish, Sarnia, joined us for dinner

and lead us in prayer before our meal.

We welcomed our most recent addition to the region, St. Peter’s Council of Queen of Peace Parish.

On July 17, 2013, 17 members from Sarnia Lambton Region attended The Catholic Women’s

League Day at Our Lady of the Rosary Shrine in Merlin. It was truly a day of faith and companionship and was enjoyed by everyone attending.

Yours in Christ,

Wilhelmina

Regional News—Windsor
Chairperson—Marilyn Morrison



*“We Have Seen The Lord”,
“He Is In Us”*

It is hard to believe that the first year of the two year term as Regional Chairperson is over. Our year ended with a wonderful “Pot Luck” dinner, with delicious entrees and desserts. It was an exciting, busy year for our Councils with members working hard for their parishes, holding a host of fun activities to raise money for Council initiatives and their parishes such as bazaars, bake sales, dinners and fashion shows.

On July 17th members from several Windsor Councils attended the Catholic Women’s League Day at Our Lady of the Rosary Shrine in Merlin. It was a lovely, warm day celebrating our faith and friendship, with Mass, the Rosary and the Way of the Cross.

Windsor/Essex Regions are working together to plan the 2014 Catholic Women’s League Convention to be held in Windsor from April 28th - 30th 2014. We are well on our way with exciting plans for the Convention. Mark your calendars! Our next meeting will be held on September 18, 2013 at St. Anne’s Parish in Tecumseh at 7:00 p.m. All Council Presidents are invited to attend and to bring a member or two to join us at the meeting. Many hands make light work!

Our first Regional Meeting will be held on October 21, 2013 in order to give all the Councils an opportunity to give a report of their meetings in September. Our Councils report their news in a popular agenda item called “What’s Happening in Your World.” In this way, we can learn

and grow sharing ideas and planning opportunities as well as being able to arrange to attend the events planned by the Council.

There are two “Catch the Fire” workshops in our Region planned this fall, one on September 28th at Corpus Christi Parish and the other on October 5th at Our Lady of the Atonement Parish. As in the other workshops held throughout the Diocese, the day begins at 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. and includes lunch at a cost of \$5.00. Council members who have not been able to attend prior workshops are encouraged to register to attend one of these two sessions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn

QUOTES FROM THE CONVENTION TABLES

Gratitude is the most exquisite form of courtesy.—Jacques Maritain

Something precious is lost if we rush headlong into the details of life without pausing for a moment to pay homage to the mystery of life and the gift of another day.—Kent Nerburn

*Each of us can become a blessed channel of peace for the healing of Earth's wounds: We can awaken from apathy and find creative, non-violent ways to transform the abuses rampant in today's world.
Nan Merrill with Barbara Taylor *Peace Planet: Light for Our World**

Never let mercy outweigh all else in you. Let our compassion be a mirror where we may see in ourselves that likeness and that true image which belong to the Divine nature and Divine essence.—St. Isaac of Syria



Regional News—Huron Perth
Chairperson—Denise Lalonde-Morris

Greetings to all my sisters in the League!

Six years ago I returned back home after spending 27 years teaching in Newfoundland and Labrador. It was there that I really learned how lucky we are back in Ontario. For most of my teaching career I was lucky to have a priest around to say a Mass let alone a Church. I also was teaching out East when the great scandals of abuse hit the news reports. This became a great test to my faith and beliefs in humankind. With the help of prayer and unwavering knowledge God never gives anything we can't handle, I

started to be a staunch defender of our Faith.

Although my husband and I live in Clinton I am the current President of the Kingsbridge Council (our Church—St. Joseph's, was closed in October 2013, but our council remains intact). I had attended Mass at St. Anne's Chapel (which has now been discontinued) which leaves me attending service at St. Peter's, Goderich. These closures have let me view first hand the backlash of such happenings. These things have reinforced my belief that the League is a very valuable source of community and

a way to provide comradeship to our fellow sisters. This past summer I ventured to the Retreat at Merlin. What a wonderful place for prayer and reflection and comradeship.

I hope I will be able to help some of our sisters to see the rewards of our sisterhood while I hold this office. It is an honour to accept the Chairperson's position for Huron Perth. Wishing everyone a successful year

Denise

Regional News—Essex
Chairperson—Mary Lappan



I hope everyone had a restful summer. It's hard to believe we are coming into the fall season. Summer just flew by in spite of the strange weather.

Two parishes in the London Diocese won the "Catch the Fire" contest. St. John the Baptist in Amherstburg and St. Peter in Norwich had the highest percentage of members attending a "Catch the Fire" presentation.. They will not have to pay the National portion of their per capita fees for 2014.

Has your parish "Caught the Fire" yet? If not please arrange a presentation. It's a great learning experience for both young and old. National is running the same contest,

so get your members and parishioners out to enjoy the presentation. Maybe your parish will be the lucky winners this time.

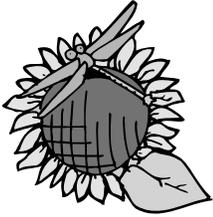
Although I was unable to attend the Day at the Shrine, I understand it was a beautiful day and was enjoyed by those in attendance.

I had the privilege of attending both the Provincial and National Conventions this summer. The Provincial convention held in Thunder Bay was a joyous occasion for the London Diocese. We now have two members on the Provincial Council. Patricia Rivest was elected as Recording Secretary and Lucy Hendrikx was elected as Treasurer.

The Windsor and Essex Regions are going to be very busy this fall and winter. In addition to our normal activities we are planning for the convention in Windsor. We are looking forward to hosting our league sisters in 2014.

Mary

*Look for
Mary's
provincial
report found
on Pages 24 &
25*



*Regional News—Chatham Kent
Chairperson—Angela Soulliere*

It is amazing to me, that summer is drawing to a close. I have enjoyed my summer break from meetings and other business. I was able to get away on vacation with my husband and some friends. I am looking forward to getting back into the swing of things. All is well in Chatham Kent. I work on the philosophy that no news is good news. I have not heard too

much from my councils...so all is well! I was fortunate enough to run into some CWL ladies throughout the summer, it is always nice to see a familiar face.

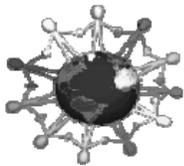
Membership time will soon approach, so get thinking about your strategy for collecting dues. And always be on the lookout for

opportunities to invite other ladies to join the League.

Hope your summer was prayerful, peaceful and relaxing!

God Bless,

Angela



*Regional News—Ingersoll
Chairperson—Helga Stuermer*

Fall is just starting now. I had a very busy summer traveling to Germany seeing old friends and relatives. Also I have had the opportunity meeting new people through Rotary meetings. Thanksgiving is fast approaching. There is so much to thank our Lord for, and yet, there was some sadness of losing friends and cousins.

We need to pray for the people in Syria. There is so much suffering.

Last fall I joined the Ingersoll Region as their chairperson. It is a continued learning experience. I love meeting all the presidents of the 11 councils and learning about what each council is doing to raise monies for various charities they support. They are all hardworking ladies and they are doing a great job. The food bank is very important to the communities where many volunteer as well. St. Vincent de Paul is also on most all councils list.

They all participated in the “Day of Prayer” in their parishes. Some hosted

“Catch the Fire” what a great experience. All councils support their churches in much needed repairs and helped purchasing much needed new stoves and fridges.

At meetings we discussed the Spring Convention. It was enjoyed by all, however the disturbing presentation of human trafficking gave everyone a huge scare, this could surely not be happening in our country. No way - it was reported to me that there was a lot of crying going on. What can be done?

I attended the spring retreat in Chatham. It was a good experience and I came back with many thoughts and reported this to our councils.

I attended a day of faith and companionship at Our Lady of the Rosary Shrine in Merlin, and also attended various councils on their

special celebrations of 50th and 60th anniversary’s. We had a mini retreat held at St. Cecilia’s council. Everyone was welcome to attend. We had also men joining the group. At the presidents meeting we had an open discussion and many excellent ideas surfaced to be implemented in the future.

Kay Beechey 93; received her 75 year pin as a member of St. Mary’s CWL, presented by Veronica Holly, president, in a small ceremony at the Maple Manor in Tillsonburg.

Much was going on in the councils—too numerous to report all. Everyone works hard for their church community and Canada

God Bless you all and keep you in his care

Helga.



*Council News—London Region—St. Patrick, Lucan
Submitted by: Trucy Cornelis, Member & Life Member
& Past-President, London Diocesan Council*

Below are pictures from our Pot-Luck Dinner held on May 30th, showing members receiving their Service Pin Awards.

Trucy



Oddette Miller & Alice Dobbins with Trucy



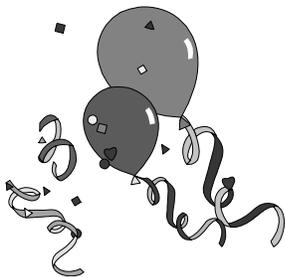
Rhea Vandaele receiving her 50 year service pin with Trucy



Alice Dobbie with Mark Isaac (Speaker from Ailsa Craig Food Bank) & Steve Redmond, Guest



Rhea Vanderloo receiving her service pin from Trucy



QUOTES FROM THE CONVENTION TABLES

Gratitude is an ascending reflection of a descending grace.—Beverly Novak

When we tug at a single thing in nature, we find it attached to the rest of the world.—John Muir

Never lose a holy curiosity.—Albert Einstein

All sorrows can be borne if you tell a story about them.—Karen Blixen

People are like stained glass windows: They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light within.—Elisabeth Kübler-Ross

Every act of love is a work of peace no matter how small.—Blessed Mother Teresa

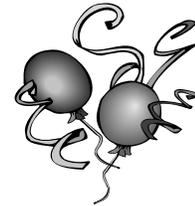


*Council News—London Region—St. Martin of Tours
London—President, Angela Carter*

Rene Adams of our CWL celebrated her 100th Birthday on July 20th. Renee has been a CWL member for 73 years. We are very proud of her accomplishments and we wish her love and happiness.

We presented her with a gift at our June 10th CWL dinner. She comes to church every Sunday and still plays cards on Tuesday afternoons!

This is a picture of Rene.



*Council News—Ingersoll Region—St. Mary, Tillsonburg
Submitted by: Veronica Holly*

- We have our Social, rosary and auction, which is great fun on October 16th
- October 26th is our fall rummage sale at church
- November 9th is our annual bazaar from 10 till 2 at the church and center.
- Caressant Care birthday party & social in Courtland.
- Our annual CWL Christmas party on December 11th.

Veronica

TIDBITS FROM YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT CONVENTIONS

Fun Night...theme...day...

The Fun Night Theme for the convention has been a tricky topic. Sometimes the theme doesn't get distributed well enough, and other times, out of necessity, has had to be changed. If the convention committee is not able to confirm entertainment before the convention package goes out, the theme sometimes gets changed because the planned entertainment is not able to fulfill the request. Watch the website for the Fun Night Theme in the future. On election years, Fun Night is on Tuesday and the banquet is on Wednesday; on non-election years, Fun Night is Monday and the banquet is Tuesday.



*Council News—Ingersoll Region—St. Cecilia, Port Dover
Submitted by: Helga Stuermer, Ingersoll Regional Chair*

Report of some activities in 2012-2013:

- With the help of the K of C, successful bingos were held in October & March.
- Our annual Cabbage Roll Sale took place on November 6th at the Community Centre. Many members of both the CWL & K of C turned out to help make this a great success. We provided refreshments after the Memorial Mass on November 14th.
- In December, our annual Christmas dinner was held at the Legion on December 5th.
- 10, 25, 50 & 60 year membership pins were presented at that time.
- March: The World Day of Prayer for the Port Dover churches was held at St. Cecilia's church on March 1. The offertory collection of \$433.00 was sent to the World Inter-Church Council of Canada in Toronto.
- In April a mini retreat was held on the evening of April 29th. Fr. Michael Isabelle spoke on the "Year of Faith"
- A successful Bazaar was held on May 11th & a reception for the First Communion class was held on the 5th.
- The annual potluck dinner was held on June 19th. Our guest speaker spoke about scams & identity theft. On June 23rd, the Strawberry Social took place in the church hall after Sunday Mass.

Greetings and God Bless

Helga



*Council News—Huron Perth Region—Immaculate Conception
Stratford—Past president, Marjorie Skinner*



First of all, thank you to all who attended the Convention in Stratford. It was so delightful to meet you at the Registration Table. We enjoyed talking with all who attended. We were also pleased that one of our own members received the **CWL Social Justice Award**. The following is **Elisabeth Dobbe's** moving acceptance speech:

With gratitude, I will accept this award in memory of my husband, Nate, and our sons, William and Albert. I also wish to give a special thank you to the ladies who nominated me for this honour. It was some kind of shock to me when I received a letter in the mail telling me

that I was to receive this award, especially when Mary Jean asked me to share with you about what I do and why. My first thought was "Dear Lord, You put me through so much already, what do You want me to say now?" But the story that I will share with you has to be centred around this question, "Why did Nate and I devote our entire married life to looking after our two handicapped sons and then other volunteer service work?" What do we really mean when we talk about social justice? When the Lord said, "Whatsoever you do to the least of My brothers, you do unto Me", we can take this in many different ways. With this in mind, I will tell you a little bit about what and why Nate and I did everything together. When Nate and I got married, we started out like every

other young couple, but when we said "for better or worse", we really did mean it. We both wanted at least six or seven children. So often we hear people say, tell God what you have in mind, but He smiles and says, "That is what you think." In our situation, that became our reality. God had other plans for us. He blessed us with two beautiful healthy sons. When William and Albert reached six months of age they each received immunization shots. Something went terribly wrong. Both of them became completely disabled. For some unknown reason, and only by the Grace of God, Nate and I were able to accept what happened to our sons, without blaming anyone,

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*Council News—Huron Perth Region—Immaculate Conception
Stratford—Past president. Marjorie Skinner - cont'd*

(Continued from page 33)

or asking God why this had to happen to us. We just took care of our boys and loved them. Albert died when he was almost 26 and William was 33 when he died. Against all the expectations of the medical field, both of our boys lived much longer than it was thought possible. After William died, we were lost for a while. But not even two months later, Marge Skinner gave us some material from Dr. Andrew Simone of Canadian Food for Children, which was dropped off at Immaculate Conception Church. They needed someone in the Stratford area to set up a collection and sorting depot and then send it all to Toronto. As we still had the van which we had used for the boys all those years, we decided to get involved, in memory of William and Albert. We already were supporting Bishop Priamo Tejada Missions in the Dominican Republic. We had met Bishop Priamo in Stratford while he was visiting Fr. Bourque. Several times we visited him in the Dominican. He took us all over the place, he did not hide anything. We visited the leprosy hospital and the bathey, etc. What we saw was

suffering, so much cold, hard suffering. One day, Nate asked him how he was able to keep on going with so much suffering of his people and he smiled and said to Nate, "How were you able to keep going all those years with the suffering of your boys? Is it not by the Grace of God that we keep on going?" One night when I came from Marge's place, after we had gathered all the information, it was late when I went home. Something very interesting happened. A car came with such a speed through the red stoplight, that if I had been just a few seconds earlier, I would not be here today. My first thought was, "Okay, Lord, You don't have to be that drastic, I got Your message." When Nate and I started helping Canadian Food for Children, it was just the two of us working out of our house. Soon, God blessed us with more people that wanted to help. We all had fun working and spending time together. Altogether, we did this for fourteen years, until 2008. By then, Nate was no longer able to drive to Toronto. We had taken more than 350 loads to Toronto and I had never washed so many pails in my life; more than 35,000, and rolled milk bags and

plastic bags. Since we believed so strongly in the right to life from conception to natural death, we became greatly involved with the Right to Life in Stratford. Just after, I was voted in as President of the Stratford & District Right to Life in 2009. Nate died in 2010. Today, I spend most of my time doing Right to Life work, which is never ending and very far reaching. Again, there is so much suffering and so much damage. God has blessed us with a sincere group of people as executives for the group, who want to work together for the sanctity of life. There is always lots of work to do. When God gives us life, He does not let us see what is going to happen throughout that life. He does not ask us to be perfect, as only He is perfect. He does not ask us to do impossible tasks, but He does give us a task. The task is to love, not counting the cost, and not asking, "Why me, Lord," but rather, pick up the cross every day and say, "Thy will be done."

Thank you for listening and may God Bless you all.





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

We are holding our own in Kingsbridge with the closure of our church in October 2012.

Our membership plunged to 35 but we have had a busy year. The rectory remains open which has given us a meeting place. We have had 3 turkey pie runs and sold some of our surplus that enabled us to place two stone benches at our Grotto for Mary. In July we had representation at the retreat in Merlin which was a very worth-while day and would recommend others to go some time.

In August we held a very successful

prayer day at the Grotto and a small fund raiser to help put a plaque with the CWL mission statement. This is a memorial to the 90 plus years our council has been in existence. We held our regular meetings with the average attendance of 12, visit the Maitland Manor, take part in Right to Life, have members with active roles at mass in Goderich, others are part of the parish prayer line and six of us enjoyed and worked with the many at the Diocesan Convention at Stratford in April. As well, I participated in a "Catch the Fire" workshop in Exeter and recommend to any one who has

not attended one, to try to take part in one. I believe there is one in Listowel in October.

At our delicious year end potluck we discussed our future and unanimously agreed to continue and to our great pleasure have a new member for September. With the prayers of the sisters of the League and help of Our Lady of Good Counsel we hope to continue to go forth and spread good will.

Go in the grace of God

Denise

QUOTES FROM THE CONVENTION TABLES

God is not too hard to believe in. God is too good to believe in, we being such strangers to such goodness. The love of God is to me absolutely overwhelming. Rev. William Sloane Coffin

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other. Blessed Mother Teresa

Faith is the courageous confidence that trusts in the Source of all gifts. David Steindl-Rast

The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough. Meister Eckhart

When I count my blessings, I count you twice. Irish Proverb

Gratitude is the sweet fragrance of an opening heart. Aine Belton

Gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder. G.K. Chesterton

*Bless those who challenge us for they remind us of doors we have closed and doors we have yet to open.
Native American Prayer*


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

I'm writing this and asking myself where did the summer go? My secretary sent me a reminder she is looking for a September agenda, and another member let me know that in October 2014 we will be celebrating our 60th Anniversary!

We ended our year with a grade 8 graduation dinner, and our Education convenor presented a grade 8 student with a bible.

We gathered early in July for a potluck lunch and social at the

home of one of our members. Sandra Gudz, our Education convenor received the Maple Leaf Pin, A Certificate of Merit award was presented to Pat Towers, Henrietta Geritts, Joan DHooghe, Zephie Boere, and Arlene Nelson. Congradulations ladies and THANK YOU for all you do on behalf of our league. Thank you also to all our other hard working members who so willing give many hours to our various projects.

Life chain is October 6 from 2:30/3:30 p.m. We are to gather at the Loblaws Plaza and branch off to various points along London Road from there. It would be nice to see more CWL members and our Knights joining this worthwhile project.

May our lady of Good Counsel continue to guide and bless us and intercede on our behalf. God bless the CWL of Canada.

Joan


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

It has been a “flurry” of activities as I begin my first year as President for the Visitation CWL. The beginning of the year was busy welcoming new executive, passing the 2013 Budget and Activity Calendar. We hosted Lenten Card parties with other parish organizations. The “Catch the Fire” Workshop in April for members of Comber and Leamington was a success. We also co-hosted a very successful Spring Social with the Squirettes from our Parish with the theme “Beauty from the Inside Out” with a motivational speaker, Tai Chi & healthy snack demos & beauty tips. Several of our ladies attended the monthly “Breakfast meetings” and have found them to be very informative and inspiring.

Following the Installation mass of

our new Executive in April, we hosted a reception for 7 new members and presented appreciation gifts to outgoing executives. At this event we also presented the Maple Leaf Service Pin award to Kathy Levesque, a longtime member of the CWL, who has been on the executive for 12+ years and who has been an instrumental part of the Autumn Fest Bazaar raffle and more recently organized the Baby Bottle Campaign for Our Lady of Guadalupe Home for Mothers.

May & June were busy with a guest speaker from the Canadian Mental Health speaking on financial and legal matters as well as a Brain Gym - an interesting activity to challenge the brain. We hosted 1st Communion receptions and awarded 3 bursaries. Six Grade 8

graduating students from 3 local elementary schools were recognized for their Christian Spirit and given a Brisebois Gift Certificate

While the summer months are time to relax and rejuvenate, members found time to attend a Birthday Sing-along at the local senior residence and as well 6 attended the CWL Shrine day.

We continue to be busy preparing for our Autumn Fest Bazaar which is taking place on Saturday, September 28 - be sure to join us. We have a wonderful baked goods table, and over 20 vendor craft tables, a Penny Sale (which you have to see to believe) and a Grocery Raffle, and so much more.

Laurie



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

As we continue with the “Year of Faith”, the ladies of St. Michael’s CWL truly exemplify the mottos of “WE HAVE SEEN THE LORD” and “HE IS IN US” by all of their commitments. Following are some of the projects which we have planned for the remainder of the year.

In May, we celebrated our 62nd Anniversary with the Crowning of Mother Mary at St. Michael’s Church. We then proceeded to the Portuguese Club for a delicious meal and an informative presentation by Wilma Lamb-Stewart, who is the Chairperson of the Leamington Area Ecumenical Refugee Committee. She explained how they sponsor and support refugee families who come to Canada who need to basically start their lives over completely in a foreign land. We support this organization, so it was enlightening to discover where our support is used. We also had a collection for the 1% Development and Peace and as always the ladies were very generous. In addition, we distributed 1 –60 year pin; 2–50 year pins; 6–40 year pins; 6–25 year pins; 9– 10 year pins; 10 new member pins and 3 Maple Leaf Service pins. Also, in May, we gave crosses to all of the First Communion students on their Retreat Days at the Church. Another fund-raising activity was a Family Tote Raffle where 4 Totes were filled with items for the entire family to enjoy.

In June, we had our Pot Luck Supper where we enjoyed many

good dishes and good fellowship among the ladies. Two Seminarians, our own Don Pumputis and Danny Santos from another Parish talked to us about seminary life and their experiences. They also answered any questions which we posed. We had a successful Rummage Sale. Two Bursaries were given to graduating students from Leamington High School and Cardinal Carter.

The Provincial Convention was held on July 8/10 in Thunder Bay. Our very own Pat Rivest was elected to the office of Recording Secretary. We congratulate Pat on her Position and know that she will do a fantastic job! We hosted the Birthday Party at the Sun Parlor Home with cake, entertainment and gifts for the 21 Birthday People.

In August, we paid for 3 youth to attend the St. Vincent de Paul Summer Camp. Also, we prepared and served lunch for the Vacation Bible School participants, their parents and grandparents. In addition, we hosted a Farewell Reception for our Seminarian, Don Pumputis who is returning to St. Peter’s Seminary for a year of study. Don was at our Parish for an entire year for his Pastoral Formation and will be returning in May 2014. The National Convention will occur on August 11/14 in Regina. We will probably be receiving more news from this event. We are beginning to get ready for the up-coming months by ordering Calendars and Membership Cards.

In September, we organize all of our events for the year. “40 Days For

Life” will commence again in late September at the Leamington Hospital. Once again, we will support this endeavour by participating in this vigil. Also, usually some of the ladies donate food or gift cards to various establishments where the captains can go and purchase food items.

The Membership Campaign starts in October and continues until December 31. We sell memberships at all of the Masses during the first weeks of October, November and December. The ladies can also obtain their membership at the Church Office during this time. We hold our Annual Apple Pie Baking Blitz and Bake Sale. There is no Fall Regional Day in October so Parishes can attend the “Catch the Fire” Workshops. We participated in the Comber Workshop.

In November, we participate in the Memorial Mass for all of the deceased members of our parish. The Book of Life is displayed for the entire month. We will be making and selling Portuguese Donuts one weekend at all of the Masses. We will be distributing crosses to all of the Confirmation candidates. The Executive Reports are to be completed this month. We host the Birthday Party at the Franklin Gardens Nursing Home by providing cake, entertainment and gifts. Our Membership Campaign also continues.

Lastly, December brings our Pot Luck Supper and White Elephant

(Continued on page 38)



*Council News—Essex Region—St. Michael, Leamington
President—Barbara Zuenneville (cont'd)*

(Continued from page 37)

Sale. The Proceeds from the sale go to St. Vincent de Paul to purchase gifts at Christmas time for the less fortunate of our community. We provide our Shut-ins with a beautiful Christmas bag stuffed with all kinds of goodies, including a Catholic Calendar. The Membership Campaign concludes on December 31. The President's Report is due and we prepare the Budget for 2014. An Advent Retreat also occurs.

During the entire year, we say prayers at the funeral home for a deceased member as well as an honour guard at the Funeral Mass. Funeral lunches are provided for any family who requests it. We make a donation to the Children's Aid Society to purchase baby layette packages which are given to a baby before he/she goes to a foster home from the hospital. Lastly, our Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to provide a Prayer Shawl or Lap Quilt to any parishioner who needs it. We also support the St. Vincent de Paul Food

Bank by donating a certain food product every week or by contributing money to purchase food items. Also, this year, we have given support to the Holy Family Retreat House in Oxley and the Women's Conference in Essex.

Hopefully, we can be inspired by Our Lady of Good Counsel to serve God, Our Parish, our community and our country.

Barbara



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

Summer is almost over and back to work we go. This year has been rewarding and productive. Many projects new and old keep the council very busy.

February meeting we booked a speaker from the local funeral home, Susan Pope. Susan spoke to us about "living wills" and prepaid Funerals.

We held 3 Stations of the Cross during the Lenten season.....one for the students at the local school. World Day of Prayer was attended by a group of members.

Six ladies attended and enjoyed Diocesan Convention in April—two ladies for the first time. On the 26th, we held a mass to celebrate all CWL members past and present.

With a beautiful sunny evening, we prayed the rosary at the grotto before our May meeting. Immediately following, the Crowning of Mary was held. Four new members were welcomed and presented with their CWL insignia pin. Recognizing members for their years of service included 6 with 10 years: 7 with 25 years and one with 40 years. The evening concluded with cake and drinksgood to see so many members out to thank and support the council.

In June, our Blind Auction was a great success. Thanks to our wonderful auctioneer, Terry....she always does a great job. As September quickly approaches, we look forward to our annual Pot Luck meeting. The ladies always surprise us with their secret recipes. After the

meeting we will hold our first baby shower, to be donated to Birthright. Complete with decorations, games and decorated cupcakes... it is sure to be a great night.

This fall we will be holding four separate dates to complete our meat pies needed for our annual bazaar. Many members volunteer to assist in this project. Although Fall is a busy time, it is wonderful to share time and friendship with our sisters in the League.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to bless us all.

Lee

Council News—Essex Region—St. Anne, Tecumseh
President—Sherri Thibeault



I hope everyone had a wonderful summer, so hard to believe it's almost over already. We at St. Anne's are ready to get back into the fall season. Last year, we had our new executive take over at the beginning of the year, and with the help of everyone, we managed to successfully get through to the summer months. We held our Pancake Supper at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Tecumseh. It was a good turnout and of course the pancakes were delicious. We held a Soup and Sandwich Luncheon which raised \$821.00, which we increased to \$1,000 and presented a cheque to one of our members to help pay for "Aimee's bed". We held a Lenten retreat which went very well. We had five members attend the Convention in Stratford in April, and we all learned a lot and had a great time, reconnecting with old acquaintances and making new ones. We are excited to have the convention in Windsor in 2014. In May we did the Living Rosary at

St. Anne's which is always a very spiritual and rewarding ending to the evening Mass. This past season we decided to hand out our Membership pins during our year end Dinner meeting. This seemed to go very well, and was very well attended. We handed out nine New Member pins; eleven 10 year pins, four 25 year pins; three 40 year pins; two 50 year pins and one 60 year pin. We unfortunately had a 60 year member pass on to the Lord this year, but I was honoured to be able to pin her 60 year pin on her at the funeral home.

We are looking forward to a very busy 2013-2014 season, starting with a Bake Sale at the end of September after all our Masses. In October we will be attending "Catch the Fire" and are looking forward to a great day. In November, as always we will be making and selling our Meat Pies, something everyone looks forward to each year. December brings our Advent Tea as well as our Annual Christmas Dinner and Fashion Show. We are planning something new for our February meeting, a Valentine pot luck lunch meeting

and party to follow, should take some of the winter blahs away from the ladies, even for just a short time. In March, on Shrove Tuesday, the ladies will be happily making Pancakes in the Parish Hall for all our parishioners. Our Lenten project this year will be the bassinet for baby items, as well as the bottle drive for Our Lady of Guadalupe Home. We will also be working on getting Windsor and Essex County ready for the arrival of our CWL sisters for the 2014 Convention here in Windsor. In April we will hold a Soup and Sandwich Luncheon for a local charity, which did very well last year, and in May we will hold our Annual Living Rosary after Mass. To finish off 2013-2014, we will hold our annual Dinner and as last year, hand out our Membership pins at the dinner. A very busy year is in store for the CWL ladies at St. Anne's Parish, Tecumseh.

May our Lady of Good Counsel continue to be with us as we embark on the 2013-2014 season!

Sherri

QUOTES FROM THE CONVENTION TABLES

Love makes labour light. Love alone gives value to all things. St. Teresa of Avila

Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle. Philo of Alexandria

When it is dark enough, you can see the stars. Ralph Waldo Emerson

There is nothing in a caterpillar that tells you it's going to be a butterfly. Margaret Fuller

One word can be more precious than all the treasures on earth Hazrat Inayat Khan—The Bowl of Saki

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

We collected prom, graduation and bridesmaid dresses that Essex Community Services handed out to young ladies in need of a prom or graduation dress.

We handed out rosaries and prayer books to our RCIA candidates after the Easter Vigil and hosted a reception for them.

We attended and helped host the 2nd Annual Women's' Conference in May.

We gave the First Communicants

prayer books and Confirmation candidates crosses on necklaces.

I attended the Diocesan convention in Stratford-it was a wonderful event, again.

Our annual banquet was well attended, with many of our members receiving their 10, 25, 50, 60 year service pins.

We held a welcome reception for our temporary priest, Fr. Francis Tekkumkattil who is filling in for Fr. Rob Rocheleau while he is away on a

six month sabbatical.

We collected back packs and school supplies for the Children's Aid Society again this summer.

We will be hosting a reception for our newly ordained Deacon, Gary Flewelling, on November 17th. He will be a welcome addition to our Pastoral team.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel bless us all.

Janice

*Council News—Windsor Region—St. John Vianney, Windsor
President—Yvette Henkel*

- on April 7, 2013 we bid farewell to our Pastor Fr. Thom Blondin, who was with us for 11 yrs. & welcome Fr. Nelson Cabral
- since January 2013 sadly we lost 3 members & had many members join in an honour guard at their funeral mass & will remember them in our "Book of Life"
- we awarded a CWL bursary to a grade 8 graduating student continuing in Catholic education, this was a gift card to help out with the cost of a school uniform and was presented at our June dinner social. Also at our social we presented 2 of our members

with service pins 60 years & 40 years and gave insignia pins to members who have not yet received them, 19 in total.

- last fall we had a very successful fashion show fundraiser, giving Street Help, Unit 7 a cheque for \$1,700.00 - this is a day shelter for the homeless in Windsor
- we also donated funds to our parish capital campaign, St. Vincent de Paul for "Sleep Walk" event to purchase beds, also to St. Anne's school in Ghana, Africa
- we sent in our signed petitions regarding "Prostitution & Sex Trafficking"

- in May we had our annual baby shower for Birthright
- we had 10 ladies attend a "Catch the Fire" workshop
- 6 ladies attended Diocesan Convention in Stratford - 4 of whom was their first time experience - we have "Sparked" much enthusiasm and are looking at a few changes with renewed energy - a good thing!!

God Bless

Yvette





*Council News—Chatham Kent Region—Blessed Sacrament, Chatham.
Submitted by: Communications Chair, Josephine Leszczynski*

WHAT A GREAT YEAR!

The following new members received their CWL pins at the end of the year potluck:

Mary Travis, Patti Johnson, Cathy Stuart, Gina Gillet, Ruth Ann Tremblay, Elaine Breynaert, Pauline Perione, Carol Anne Lazzarin, Catharine Lanagan, and Sheila Everitt.

Also at the potluck, Sandra VanRaay received a Certificate of Merit Award for the work she does to promote Canadian Food For Children in Chatham which supplies food, kitchen items, clothing and footwear, baby items, medical equipment and supplies, tools and school supplies for students and teachers in third world countries. All these items are shipped to over 20 countries to help the most vulnerable in our world. Congratulations to Sandy.

We continue to administer to our elderly through card parties, bus trips and visits to our shut ins and elderly of our parish.

All were invited by Blessed Sacrament CWL to a special evening in May to honour Mary through the celebration of the May Crowning. It was an evening of prayer, and reflection followed by fellowship.

We continue to raise money through our Coffee Muffin Party and the CWL ladies willingly bake goodies which are enjoyed by all.

This year the proceeds went to help the Chatham Breakfast programme, May family bus trip to London and St. Vincent de Paul Camp

We have had many excellent speakers on a variety of subjects come to speak to us this year. Elaine Lewis-Breakfast Programme in Chatham

- Marjorie Crew-Chaps— informed us about the services available for Seniors so that they can live independently in their homes.
- Carol Bryden—Importance of keeping our Catholic Schools and what we could do to help.
- Dax Biondi and his wife Meghan—Trip to Uganda from the perspective of a doctor (Dax) and teacher (Meghan).

In the midst of all the commercialization that surrounds Christmas, our CWL, longed for a meaningful way to draw more attention to the heart of the Christmas message. That longing led to the idea of Journey to the M a n g e r — A N a t i v i t y Exhibit. Blessed Sacrament CWL members are excited and have worked tirelessly to present an extensive collection of nativity sets for all to enjoy. Also included in the programme will be live music, a living nativity presentation and a glass window guided tour of our church. There will also be complimentary refreshments and admission is free. This exhibit will take place in

the basement of Blessed Sacrament Church on November 30, 2013 between the hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sunday December 1st from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Blessed Sacrament Church Hall is located at 145 Victoria Avenue, Chatham Ontario and is wheelchair accessible. We have set aside a day for Seniors' Residences on Friday Nov. 29, 2013 where they may view the displays and enjoy the complimentary tea room without the crowds of the general public. The CWL has worked hard to make this exhibit accessible to all!

On Wednesday July 17, several of our CWL ladies gathered at Our Lady's Shrine in Merlin for mass and a day of prayer, reflection and friendship. Even the hot humid weather didn't keep our members away!

Several prayer shawls were given to sick members of our CWL family With this being the Year of Faith, our two councils in Chatham decided on a Lenten Calendar of prayer where members would sign up to say a prayer and a Hail Mary on a specific self chosen date.

A vibrant group of ladies, made 2012-2013 a great year! They led by love and followed through with commitment to accomplish the many tasks set before them, making sure that no one was forgotten.

Josephine



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

We started the year off with the installation of our new executive during Mass and held a reception afterwards to congratulate them and socialize.

A lot of time was spent in January and February going over the changes to the Constitution and Bylaws in preparation for the Convention in April. In February, we held our annual turkey dinner, which is aimed toward our seniors, who are served a home cooked meal with all of the fixings, even luscious desserts. Euchre was played afterwards, with cash prizes given out.

We took part in our Community World Day of Prayer on March 1st. Tickets were sold after Masses on a complete Easter Dinner, with the proceeds going to a parishioner who is preparing to become a Deacon. On Easter Saturday, the RICA candidates in our cluster became new members of our Catholic faith. With the help of our sister councils, there was a reception held for them in our hall.

Several members of our executive attended the Right to Life Banquet, held in Chatham, where we presented them with a financial donation. On April 21st, we held Our Lady of Good Counsel Mass, with about 50 of our members getting involved in the procession and all of the ministries. This year, Father Greg Bonin, our spiritual adviser, assembled all of us around the altar during the consecration.

This was wonderful!! We also chose to give out our pins and merit awards at this Mass. A bake sale and religious goods sale was held after both of our Masses, with proceeds going to local charities. Two of our members attended the Diocesan Convention in Stratford. Many of us attended the Silver Jubilee of Father Dennis Wilhelm, our former Pastor, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Windsor, where we gifted him with a spiritual bouquet.

During the month of May, we hosted a Right to Life Shower. Many beautiful and needed items were donated by our parishioners. Every spring and fall, we host a senior/shut-ins Mass at Holy Family Church. We bring them to Church, where Mass begins with one of them crowning Mary. We assist with the ministries, and serve a luncheon for them afterwards in our hall.

In June, we enjoyed a Mother/Daughter Pot Luck with our sister council, Our Lady Help of Christians. Everyone brings their favourite dish or dessert and no one goes home hungry. Our guest speaker was a CWL member who spoke about human trafficking. Many of us were not aware that this is an ongoing problem everywhere, even in our own backyard. There were also many door prizes given out to those attending.

We continue to look after our

students, honouring them with gifts and receptions when they receive their sacraments. We also sent a Spiritual Bouquet to Father Greg Blondie on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee.

During the summer, we canvass our local merchants for prizes, and sell raffle tickets for our annual fall penny sale. Throughout the year, we collect used stamps for leprosy; used eye glasses for third world countries; Campbell soup labels for our school; can openers, binders, used paper good on one side, soap, and candles for Canadian Food For Children; food for St. Vincent de Paul; pennies for the Least Coin; wool for pneumonia vests; and milk bags for crocheting mats and purses.

A meeting was held in Holy Family School for all of our parishioners. There, we were told about upcoming repairs to our church. With a large debt in front of us, we will need to work hard to help in this endeavour.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel keep us strong and bless us in all that we do.

Judy





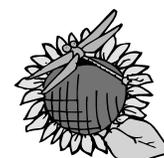
*Council News—Chatham Kent Region—St. Michael, Dresden.
Submitted by:—Recording Secretary, Lori Brown*

The first half of this year has been enjoyable and busy for the St. Michael's Dresden CWL. Some members were busy preparing backpacks that were distributed to homeless people in Toronto and one member donated afghans and teddy bears that she made for 'Right to Life'. A new event, "Fall Prevention & Health Care Workshop for Seniors" was held at our church hall and was well attended. Members enjoyed attending several events such as the Lenten Retreat at Sacred Heart

Church in Delaware, the "Catch the Fire" programme, World Day of Prayer, and the Annual Convention in Stratford just to name a few. Copies of "Rediscover Catholicism", "The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic" and "A Father Who Keeps his Promises" were added to the church library to be signed out and enjoyed by all. In June, we enjoyed a wonderful dinner at Burns Restaurant followed by a very informative slide presentation by a

parishioner who was part of a team that travelled to Haiti in April to provide medical support and build a trade school. We look forward to our fall activities such as preparing Christmas Turkey Baskets to be raffled and the annual Christmas Card Party.

Lori



*Council News—Chatham Kent Region—Our Lady Help of
Christians, Wallaceburg—submitted by: Mary Van Damme*

As of the first of year 2013, we have been a busy group of gals. We had our annual roast beef dinner in February which was very successful and also our annual Indoor Yard Sale which brought in lots of revenue and the local Wallaceburg Museum took all of our left over's for their indoor yard sale in March.

Our new President Mary Bell did an excellent job hosting the Community World Day of Prayer at Our Lady Help of Christians Church here in Wallaceburg. She then attended the Diocesan Convention in Stratford. Many of our members participated in the Outdoor Way of the Cross held on Good Friday. We had many gals attend the Right To Life Banquet held in Chatham and we had a good attendance of 60 at our

own annual Spring Banquet May 2 with dinner at our local Knights of Columbus Hall. We had a playpen set out in May for the Right to Life Shower and it was filled to the top.

We helped with the reception for the Holy Redeemer students who made their Confirmation May 29. We hosted another yard sale - this time we were included in the Town Wide Yard Sale and we cooked hot dogs which helped make an even better profit approximately \$800.00 total. We ended our year with a joint Mother Daughter Potluck at Our Lady of Help Parish Centre with 67 in attendance and lots of door prizes. We had Helen Lowman and Margaret Cushman speak on Human Trafficking.

We are so very fortunate that our Fr Greg Bonin and Fr Yacek Kokosa can stay with us another year. We are so blessed to have them.

Our President Mary Bell sent us a letter in July that she must step down as president of our league due to family and health issues. We will miss her as she did a great job as a new member and president of our league. She had been president of her league at another parish years ago.

Our past president Marlene Judson has happily stepped into the President position and we shall continue to serve God and Canada in the next year.

Mary



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



**St. Simon St. Jude, Belle River,
Essex Region**

40 Years
Jacqueline Denis-Benard

25 Years
Lorette Barrette
Jeannette Brady
Sharon Gagnier
Rita Meloche
Jeanne Rosati
Marianne St. Pierre
Sally Sauve

10 Years
Annette Bellemore
Cathy Beneteau
Denis Jobin
Marcella Jobin
Dianne Mc Vitty
Jo Anne Tellier

New Members
Kathy Blyth
Geraldyn Cote
Alicia Davey
Georgette Killaire

**Visitation Parish, Comber
Essex Region**

40 Years
Jeannette Rivest
Theresa McLeod

25 Years
Bernadette Donais

Maple Leaf Service Pin
Kathy Levesque

**St. Michael, Leamington
Essex Region**

60 Years
Emily Bachmeier

50 Years
Carol Debergh
Eileen Edwards

40 Years
Elizabeth Iacobelli
Marianne McQueen
Anna Tempich
Barbara Impens
Rose Miekl
Sally Jabbour

25 Years
Josephine D'Annibale
Helen Preyde
Emily Luma
Fatima Freitas
Donna Mastronardi
Annie Zimmer

10 Years
Lori Cervini
Teresa Di Domenico
Carol Lee
Aguida Pacheco
Carolyn Daudlin
Jane Fejko
Irene Nawracki
Ann Seguin
Cory Van Beekveld

Maple Leaf Service Pin
Sister Elaine Cole
Barbara Quenneville
Fatima Freitas

New Members
Isabel Bento
Carmelle Quinn
Rosa Calzada Anaya
Regina McCracken
Madalena Medeiros
Sharon Stevenson
Elisa Malliconi
Jacqueline Chartier
Teresa Muschman

**St. Anne, Tecumseh
Essex Region**

60 Years
Jean Fauteax
Evelyn Lambert (deceased but pinned)

50 Years
Mary Turnball
Elaine Leblanc

40 Years
Kathy Lesperance
Muriel Mantha
Beatrice Shymanski

25 Years
Clair Couvillion
Pauline Leblanc
Jacqueline Papineau
Pat Brecka

10 Years
Jen Busch
Mary Chick
Josette Desjardin
Onorina Fregonese
Janice Harrison
Pauline May
Carmelle Mills
Helga Mousseau
Jean Pittao
Joan Recchia
Anne Marie Staley

New Members
Rose Chittle
Gertrude Comri
Adriana Goggins
Glecilda Inting
Denise Malone
Bernardina Uzonyl
Barbara Bateman
Ursula Soulliere
Leanne Nadeau

**Holy Name of Jesus,
Essex
Essex Region**

60 Years
Virginia Oates

50 Years
Margaret Bystryk
Catherine Hart





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



(Continued from page 44)

Ann Matis
 Joan Whitty-Verhagen

40 Years

Cecile Campeau
 Clarice Flewelling
 Lois Hudvagner
 Louise Perrault
 Isabelle Quenneville
 Joanne White

25 Years

Margaret Bodnar
 Rosamond Robinson
 Madeleine St. Pierre
 Julie Unholzer

Maple Leaf Service Pin

Ellen Bowman
 Clarice Flewelling
 Louise Smith
 Laura Trepanier

**St. Michael, Brights Grove,
 Sarnia Lambton Region**

40 Years

Mathea Degroot

25 Years

Patti Fraser

10 Years

Diane Geiss

Mary Helen Morrealle

Maple Leaf Service Pin

Monique Giroux
 Jo Kulik

**Holy Rosary, Wyoming
 Sarnia Lambton Region**

Maple Leaf Service Pin

Sandra Gudz

Certificate of Merit

Pat Towers
 Henrietta Geritts
 Joan DHooghe
 Zephie Boere
 Arlene Nelson

**St. Patrick, Lucan,
 London Region**

50 Years

Rachel Van Daele

25 Years

Alice Dobbie
 Odette Miller
 Aline Quinn
 Colleen Sullivan

10 Years

Ester Vander Heyden
 Mathilda Marten/Flear

Maple Leaf Service Pin

Rhea Vanderloo

**Holy Family, Wallaceburg
 Chatham Kent Region**

25 Years

Theresa Belanger
 Helena Moniz

10 Years

Jeannette Foster
 Colleen Janssens
 Connie St. Pierre

Merit Awards

Sally Mahoney
 Barbara Regan
 Margaret Roest
 Louise Stallaert
 Mary VanCampen
 Debbie Wilmott

New Members

Sonya Aarssen
 Marlene Chauvin
 Sophia DeNiys
 Shirley Gormley
 Karen O'Brien
 Tammy Vandenbogaerde



TIDBITS FROM YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT CONVENTIONS

Key Note Speaker: Honorable Joy Smith, MP

Working together to end Human Trafficking

"You may choose to look the other way, but you can never again say that you did not know."

- William Wilberforce (British Parliamentarian and leader of the campaign to abolish the Atlantic slave trade in the late eighteenth century)

The Joy Smith Foundation

PO Box 28023
 North Kildonan, Winnipeg, Manitoba
 R2G 4E9
www.joysmithfoundation.com



LONDON DIOCESAN COUNCIL
THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
LIFE MEMBERS AND PAST PRESIDENTS
SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD

In the past few years, some of our Life Members have passed away. Following the untimely death of Life Member, Helene Regier, the Diocesan Executive felt we should have some way to recognize the work done by our Life Members and Diocesan Past Presidents. As many of these ladies were involved in or had great concern for social justice issues, it was felt that the most appropriate way we could recognize them would be through the establishment of a Social Justice Award.

The London Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada has established a Social Justice Award to be awarded annually. The award is intended to recognize men or women engaged in social justice work. A person will be eligible to receive the award upon a nomination form being submitted.

Award Criteria:

1. Demonstrated involvement in social justice activities
2. Nomination by a CWL Council, a pastor or campus minister or equivalent
3. The award must be used to finance participation in a reputable social justice activity, either at home or abroad, e.g. Development and Peace, work in inner city or northern experiences
4. Priority will be given to someone who identifies with Catholic ideals
5. The committee may decide to give the yearly amount to one candidate or divide it among several nominees
6. Successful nominees will be asked to share their experience with League members
7. Decision of the committee is final

With this award –

- We hope to raise awareness of social justice
- To build solidarity and community to those in need
- To hold as our highest priority, the teachings of the gospels through our concern for the common good and dignity of all human persons
- To bring to light issues around the world and call the world to action on behalf of those who lack this basic human right.

The application form is on the next page

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

**Life Members and Past Presidents
Social Justice Award**

Nomination Form

Completed nomination forms are due any time before January 15, 2014

Name of Nominating Person or Council:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

CWL member: Yes No **Parish CWL Council:** _____

Please attach the following on a separate sheet:

- 1. Name, address, phone number of person being nominated.**
- 2. Reason for nominating the individual.**
- 3. Demonstrated involvement in social justice programmes. Please provide references.**
- 4. Recommendation of a pastor, campus minister, or equivalent with regard to the activity.**
- 5. Description of the social justice activity that has been undertaken: e.g. dates, place, purpose and your involvement and cost.**

Recipients of the award will be invited to the Diocesan Convention to speak about their social justice activity.

Mail completed form to Diocesan President, Mary Jean Horne, 105 Tissiman Ave, Chatham, Ontario N7M 4G6

For further information contact Mary Jean Horne at 519-352-2643 or email wmjhorne@ciaccess.com

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.

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

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

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

Revised 2012