



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

SPECTRUM

Fall 2017

Newsletter of the Hamilton Diocesan Council
www.cwl.hamilton.on.ca





Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL



From the Editor

Welcome to the fall edition of the SPECTRUM.

Hard to believe that September is here already. Time to get back to routines- and hopefully yours includes staying in touch with the members and activities of the Hamilton Diocesan CWL with the SPECTRUM.

The SPECTRUM allows the diocesan executive to keep you up to date on happenings throughout the diocese, provincial and national offices of the Catholic Women's League. It also provides you with the opportunity to share your good works, milestones and awards of your council with your league sisters. Thank you to the councils who took the time to make submissions.

The deadline for the spring issue is **January 31, 2018**.

Please use *Calibri 12 font*, and make sure you include the information of your parish council, municipality, and a contact person.

Send your submissions to me at: dpac@golden.net

Patti Pagett
Diocesan Communications Chair
188 Moore Avenue, Kitchener ON N2H 3S8
dpac@golden.net



Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

Table of Contents

From the Editor	2
Table of Contents	3
Diocesan Council Listing (2017 – 2019).....	4
Goals of Your Diocesan Council Members:	
Diocesan President	5
Past President & Historian	6
Recording Secretary	8
Corresponding Secretary	9
Treasurer	10
Christian Family Life	11
Communications	12
Community Life.....	13
Education & Health	14
Legislation	15
Organization.....	16
Resolutions.....	17
Spiritual Development	18
Life Member Liaison.....	19
Provincial Convention Reports.....	20
National Convention Report	23
Parish Council Reports:	
Brant Region.....	25
Hamilton Region	26
Kitchener Region.....	40
Northern Region	47
In Memoriam:	
Mary Carlin.....	48
2017 Frances Lovering Recipient	50
Ontario Provincial Council Social Justice Award	51



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



**INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL**

Diocesan Council Executive (2017-2019)

Bishop . . .	Most Rev. Douglas Crosby
Spiritual Advisor . . .	Rev. John Redmond
President . . .	Joan Schurter
Past President & Historian . . .	Ana Sousa
President Elect . . .	Linda Perron
First Vice-President . . .	Catherine Feren
Second Vice-President . . .	Joyce Cotter
Recording Secretary . . .	Mary Clark
Corresponding Secretary . . .	Nancy Morley
Treasurer . . .	Julia Calverley

Committee Chairs

Christian Family Life . . .	Joyce Cotter
Communications . . .	Patti Pagett
Community Life . . .	Laura Grint
Education and Health . . .	Joanne Palmer
Legislation . . .	Teresa DiFalco
Organization . . .	Linda Perron
Resolutions . . .	Vicki Lee
Spiritual Development . . .	Catherine Feren

Regional Chairs and Secretaries

Brant . . .	Corrinne Carrita (Chair)	Angela Rowley (Secretary)
Hamilton . . .	Debra Noronha (Chair)	Charlene Brule-Lemmen (Secretary)
Kitchener . . .	Barbara Diemert (Chair)	Christine McKenzie (Secretary)
North . . .	Jane Godin (Chair)	Michelle Phillippi (Secretary)



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



**INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL**

DIOCESAN PRESIDENT

Consultant, mentor, advisor, official spokesperson, signing officer, messenger to membership, presider at meetings and conventions, cheerleader.

In addition to the responsibilities that fall under my leadership, my goal is to be an attentive listener, dedicated to supporting your endeavors in your personal development and that of your parish council. I will encourage open communication to all members and non-members. Whether by email or phone, no issue is too small and the only silly question is the one not asked, so please feel comfortable contacting me.

There are leagues of caring and faithful women of all ages who need to know that we really do have a place for them. What can I do to help you welcome them in? Do we help them learn from and experience what you and I take for granted?

Change is constant and I am sure this will apply to us as well, but I will vow to help us learn from our history and experiences and grow to all we can be. I am confident this will strengthen each of us personally and the CWL throughout the church and in Canada. Together, we can do it!

Joan Schurter
Hamilton Diocesan President



Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

PAST PRESIDENT AND HISTORIAN

Dear sisters

You've finished your presidency. Now what! You are still needed in your council as now your role is to mentor your new president.

According to the *Constitution & Bylaws* the past president shall:

- a) serve in a consultative capacity
- b) be responsible for archives and history
- c) facilitate the study and implementation of the *Constitution & Bylaws*
- d) perform other duties as assigned by the president

So you see you still have a busy job ahead.

For the next two years my goal is to work through the *Constitution & Bylaws* with you to make it easier to understand and to follow.

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

Part I: NAME - **The Catholic Women's League of Canada** hereinafter is called the "League".

Part II: PATRONESS - The patroness of the League shall be the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of "Our Lady of Good Counsel".

Part III: Crest, Corporate Seal and Flag

Section 1: Crest

The crest, as designated and adopted in 1922, shall be the cross, symbolic of faith, surmounting 10 maple leaves, symbolic of the provinces of Canada, with the words "**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA FOR GOD AND CANADA**" enclosed in an unbroken circle, symbolic of constant service to God and Canada. The colours of the crest shall be blue, chosen for Our Lady, and the papal colours, white and gold. The crest shall be authentically reproduced and used with dignity and respect. Members shall make written request to the national executive for authorization to reproduce the crest.

(This means that if you want to do any advertising using the crest you must ask national for permission.)

Section 2: Corporate Seal

The corporate seal shall conform in design to that of the crest and shall be held in the custody of national office.

Section 3: Flag

The flag, adopted in 1990, is the permanent public symbol of the League.

Part IV: Objects

The Objects of the League shall be to unite Catholic women of Canada:

1. To achieve individual and collective spiritual development



Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

(Past-President continued)

2. To promote the teachings of the Catholic church
3. To exemplify the Christian ideal in home and family life
4. To protect the sanctity of human life
5. To enhance the role of women in church and society
6. To recognize the human dignity of all people everywhere
7. To uphold and defend Christian education and values in the modern world
8. To contribute to the understanding and growth of religious freedom, social justice, peace and harmony

(The objects of the League is the root of most of all we do for the League. It incorporates the basics for the standing committee chairs and the mission statement.)

This is just the beginning and together we will work through the *Constitution & Bylaws*.

For God and Canada.

Ana Sousa, Past-President/Historian



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



**INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL**

RECORDING SECRETARY

Sisters in the League

My name is Mary Clark. I have enjoyed my past two years on the Hamilton Diocesan Council, as Community Life Chair and look forward to the next two years as your Diocesan Recording Secretary.

My Mother enrolled me into the Catholic Women's League in 1976 and have not stopped being involved since. I have served as Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Co-President and President on the executive of St. Mary Immaculate, Elora during the 40 years that I have been a member. Currently I hold the position of Treasurer. Within the parish, I am a Eucharistic Minister. I work full time in the accounting department at DeBoer's Farm Equipment, Elora. I do the bookkeeping for St. Mary's Church and our mission church, St. Martin of Tours one evening a week. I have the support of my husband Paul of 37 years, along with our three children, Christopher, Jessica and Jennifer and one granddaughter Sophie to enjoy getting out and being involved with my church and the Catholic Women's League.

For the upcoming two years I ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance and your prayers as I record the ongoing history of the Catholic Women's League as your recording secretary.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide us as we continue to work for God and Canada.

Mary Clark
Recording Secretary



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



**INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL**

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Dear Sisters in the League,

The role of the Corresponding Secretary at the Diocesan level is to attend all meetings of the Council and submit all correspondence to the President for her information and action. I send out Mass cards and notify our Spiritual Advisor of a Mass to be offered. I send out sympathy and greeting cards as directed, and reply to any correspondence, also as directed.

Before the Regional Meetings and Convention, I prepare an information envelope for each council President. Most importantly, is to keep the Presidents List as current as possible.

This year, each council will receive a form to fill out with their current executive roster. The plan is to make it easier for the Diocesan officers to contact their parish council counterparts. Presidents: with your help and time I will get it done.

Yours in Service to the League,

Nancy Morley,
Diocesan Corresponding Secretary



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



**INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL**

TREASURER

My goals for the next 2 years are very basic.

First, I need to understand my job as Treasurer, understand my role on the Hamilton Diocesan Executive and follow the dictates of the National and Provincial Council with respect to my job as the Treasurer at the diocesan level.

Second, I need to be a good steward of the monies that pass through the diocesan level, and as a member of the Hamilton Diocesan Executive, I need to be an effective voice for the general membership of the Catholic Women's League.

Julia Calverley



Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE

"God created mankind to be one family; when any of our brothers and sisters suffer, we are all affected." Pope Francis

The definition of the family has changed in today's society. It is not just the conventional family of Mom, Dad and children anymore. It includes blended families, single parent families, foster families, grandparents who have taken the role of main caregiver and single persons or widowers whose friends make up their extended family. What they all have in common is that love is at the core of each of these families.

The Catholic Women's League is a family. A family of sisters who love each other, share personal stories, support each other, care for each other's wellbeing and strengthen their faith by collective experiences. We are called by Jesus, to walk beside, to interact with each other, to carry their burdens with them and for them. We are called to do the very ordinary things of life, to reach out and touch others with a tender touch.

Each member brings something new and unique to the community in which they belong. We as a CWL council need to ask ourselves, what we can do to make each members way easier.

My short term goals for the next two years as Christian Family Life chair is to help councils reach out to their members: so seniors do not feel displaced and isolated from the group, so members with disabilities or health issues are included in parish life, to provide support for separated or divorced members.

My long term goals for the next two years is to create programs/situations that will engage the youth and families in more meaningful ways; to utilize the special gifts and talents of our members so they recognize the significance they can make in someone's life; to foster better communication among members through outreach programs and to promote the diversity of our members.

"Love is shown by little things, by attention to small daily signs which make us feel at home. Faith grows when it is lived and shaped by love. That is why our families, our homes, are true domestic churches. They are the right place for faith to become life, and life to grow in faith."

Pope Francis

Joyce Cotter
Christian Family Life



Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

COMMUNICATIONS

'Communications' the imparting or exchanging of information or news; and the means of connection between people. Both these meanings resonate with me as I ponder my new role.

My two year goal is to keep good communications between all levels of our CWL family- parish, regional, diocesan, provincial and national. It will be a challenging time as we look at all types of communication. In this time of increased reliance on electronics, I feel that patience will be important as we try different methods of staying in touch to find what suits all our members the best.

Also important in my role is to promote our Pornography Hurts Bus Campaign. I encourage parish councils to donate as able, and I plan to communicate with Knights of Columbus councils & others to increase the donations.

Please communicate with me – letter, email or phone call – by whatever means you find most comfortable!

Patti Pagett
Hamilton Diocesan Communications Chair

"Consider the hour-glass; there is nothing to be accomplished by rattling or shaking; you have to wait patiently until the sand, grain by grain, has run from one funnel into the other."
John Christian Morgenstern



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



**INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL**

COMMUNITY LIFE

Hello Sisters,

It is my honour to be chosen as your Community Life Chair and I hope to bring your hearts to great urging in order to help your parishes succeed in reaching out to those in need here and in other communities.

My short term goals are to help you understand that what you do here has great impact on those close to you in your parishes and cities, but also to those as a Diocese as a whole.

My long range goals are to further introduce you to the greater works of Peace and Development and The Saint Vincent de Paul Society other networks that aid in the development of our brothers and sisters.

I wish you all well in your roles, either new or renewed and offer my support when and where I can.

In the Discipleship of Mary,
Laura Grint
Community Life Chair



Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

EDUCATION AND HEALTH

As I start my first term as Chair of Health & Education, I am looking forward to this great experience. Education is my passion as I work with Special Needs. Catholic Education is just not just learning but we are able to teach the students more of their Catholic Faith and to pray. I looked up the meaning of Catholic Education and it said Catholic Education is a lifelong process of human growth and development. It is more than schooling, It begins in the home, continues in the school and matures through involvement with the Christian Community the Parish.

One final thought, Catholic Education invites people to become Christ-like in their lives so that the Reign of God might continue to dawn in our world.

Health & Education
Joanne Palmer



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



**INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL**

LEGISLATION

My name is Teresa DiFalco and I feel extremely blessed to serve you as Diocesan Chairperson of Legislation.

I was born and raised in Hamilton and have called Stoney Creek home for the past 30 years. I am married to my husband Cal and together we have one daughter, a son-in-law, a grand-daughter and a grand-dog.

I have a long history with the CWL. Both my daughter and grand-daughter are members, as was my mother and grandmother, thus giving our family five generations in the league. My most recent positions include serving as Hamilton Regional Secretary, and Parish Council President. I also serve at my parish as: Director of the Music Ministry, Cantor, Co-Chair of the Liturgy Committee, Eucharistic Minister, Adorer, and I participate in various other ministries and committees. I am very active in my community where I serve as President of a Community Association, with a focus on helping those in need. I am also the Publisher of The Hamiltonian, an on-line media source. I have been an active volunteer in the church and in the Hamilton area for over 35 years.

My background is in government. Prior to retiring, I worked as a senior executive with the Ontario Government with portfolios in legislation, regulations, policy, law, issues management and operations.

During my term as Legislation Chair, I petition to work through prayer, patience, and guidance of the Holy Spirit, to monitor and study legislation at all levels of government, related to our Christian values and CWL resolutions. I will keep our members informed through the preparation of briefs and position papers on proposed and existing legislation.

In keeping with my responsibility to monitor legislation at all levels of government, as it pertains to the values held and the interests of the Catholic Women's League, part of my role will be to provide continuity in the examination of issues and to monitor the progress of related legislation. My role will also include scanning for new and emerging legislation that is important to our Catholic beliefs and teachings of our Lord. I will also work towards building relationships with all levels of government and within our League and assembling a Legislative Standing Committee.

The gospels tell us of a myriad of occasions when Jesus stood up to injustices and labored for the betterment of the society of His day. Like the example of our Lord, we are also called to stand up to injustices and to improve and enhance the lives of all. I see serving as the Legislative Chairperson as an opportunity to work with others to model the example set by our Lord in the pursuit of human dignity and justice.

I look forward to serving you, and would invite you to contact me at any time. My phone number is 905-643-6819, and my email is cta-associates@cogeco.ca

Teresa DiFalco



Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

ORGANIZATION

Joan asked us to reflect on our goals in light of the fruit of the Holy Spirit “assigned” to us by our Provincial leaders as women who are, “Inspired by the Spirit...Respond[ing] to God’s Call”

More than once in the past months, I’m sure you’ve felt like you were watching a bad movie when it was, in fact, the evening news! Our world is hurting; there is no doubt about that. As women, as Catholics, we can do something. The fruit Provincial asked us to work with is *Patience*. My immediate responsibility to you is *League Development*. My goal for this term is for us to develop our skills and knowledge as Catholics who have a history of helping the world. Learning what we don’t know may require patience. Helping others, who may not appreciate our work, may require patience. We will have ample opportunities to share this fruit.

Linda Perron
President-Elect/Organization



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



**INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL**

RESOLUTIONS

A resolution is defined as the following:

Resolution (n): a formal expression of opinion or intention made, usually after voting, by a formal organization, a legislature, a club or other group. (Source: Dictionary.com)

An expression of opinion or intention - in other words an opportunity to make ourselves, as an organization rooted in Gospel values, heard in a variety of forums. Resolutions can be made to address issues not just for or about us, but to governments at all levels: Municipal, Provincial, and National. It is an opportunity to make ourselves heard about issues that we feel strongly about.

My goal for the next couple of years, as Resolutions Chair, is to work with you on the issues you feel strongly about, to help you write effective resolutions, and help to make your (our) voices heard on important issues. Together we can change the world around us for the better.

Vicki Lee
Resolutions Chair



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



**INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL**

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Dear Sisters in the League

I am honoured to have been elected as First Vice President of the Catholic Women's League at the Hamilton diocesan level for the 2017-2019 term. Serving as Spiritual Development Chair is an integral part of the first vice president position in this diocese.

Responsibilities associated with spiritual development, as listed in the National Constitution & Bylaws and both the National and Hamilton Diocesan Manuals of Policy & Procedure are varied and extensive. I will focus my efforts on three specific areas of during my term. I will introduce members to the varying and rich prayer forms in the Catholic tradition and use them in League gatherings; will explore Mary, mother of Jesus and mother of the church, again in the richness of Catholic tradition; and bring information about how women can more fully participate as 'lay ministers' in and of the church.

Please pray for and with me as we begin this journey together, for God and Canada!

Catherine Feren



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



**INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL**

LIFE MEMBER LIAISON

Dear Sisters in the League;

I was truly honoured to receive my Life Member Pin at the 97th Hamilton Diocesan Convention. Thank you. What a privilege it will be to sit at the table with the knowledge life members of the Hamilton diocese.

We welcome Jeanne Wilson, a life member from Whitehorse, Yukon. I know you will welcome her to the Hamilton diocese. We will soon say "Good-bye" to two Hamilton life members. Mary Jane Yaeger is moving to Manitoulin Island and Theresa Winchester(M.O.) is returning to Trenton. We wish them well on their new adventures.

Two first time convention goers received the Life Member Incentive Fund monies—Angela Rowley of St. Mary, Brantford and Teresa Carolan of St. Joseph, Port Elgin. I'm sure they had a great time and learned much from all of you.

According to the Constitution & Bylaws Part XVII: Finance Section 3: Audit Year: The audit year, at all levels, shall be the period beginning January 1 and ending December 31. The C & B does not say that parish councils need to be audited yearly. But it is recommended that parish councils' treasurer's records be reviewed regularly. You do not need to hire a professional accountant for this review. A knowledgeable person is able to do this review. Several life members have offered their services for this task of reviewing parish council books. Avail your council of this service.

Thank you Joyce Cotter, Spiritual Development Chair, for the meaningful prayer services throughout the convention and to the volunteers who participated so well. Thank you especially for the beautiful "Crowning of Mary" ceremony.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to watch over each and every one of you and continue to guide you in your work for God, Canada and the League!

God bless
Anna Brady
Life Member Liaison
Hamilton Diocese



Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

2017 PROVINCIAL CONVENTION REPORTS

#1 -Report by Diocesan Officer

Date: July 9 - 12, 2017

Location: Thunder Bay, ON

Convention Theme: Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

The 70th Annual Ontario Provincial Convention of the Catholic Women's League of Canada was opened following a beautiful and prayerful gathering mass at St. Dominic's Church in Thunder Bay. Daily masses were celebrated in the banquet hall at the Victorian Inn, host venue for the convention.

The convention included business sessions, guest speakers and an extensive spiritual program, as at conventions at all levels of the League.

After opening remarks by both Provincial President Pauline Krupa and Provincial Spiritual Advisor Bishop Fred Colli, the agenda and minutes of the 2016 convention were approved by those in attendance. Correspondence, a report of the pre-convention meeting and financial statements were presented. Oral reports from all thirteen (13) Ontario diocesan presidents supplemented those in the 2016 annual report book. Oral reports were also given by the President, Provincial Officers and Spiritual Advisor. National President Margaret Ann Jacobs addressed those in attendance and drew attention to the continuing National strategic planning initiative.

Three (3) resolutions were presented and approved by the assembly. The topics were:

- ON.17.01 – Full Implementation of the Supreme Court's Gladue Decision (1999) for Indigenous Women Offenders;
- ON.17.02 – Grant GST Zero-rated Status to all Child Safety Products Listed in the *Canada Consumer Safety Act (CCPSA)*;
- ON.17.03 – Inclusion of Nurses in Provincial Bill 163 (*The Supporting Ontario's First Responders Act*).

Elections of officers for the 2017-2019 term were held. An invitation was extended to the 2018 convention in Toronto.

His Eminence Gerald Cardinal Lacroix, Archbishop of Quebec, Primate of Canada was the key note speaker. Cardinal Lacroix spoke of Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love) and his vision for the church today. He used specific gospel passages to illustrate how Jesus exemplified four (4) key attitudes for all of us to embrace:

- welcoming & listening,
- accompanying,
- discerning,
- integrating



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



**INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL**

Cardinal Lacroix outlined several challenges for Catholic women today. He encouraged all to “take the risk” of engaging in a growing, personal relationship with Jesus.

Quilts gifted by each diocese in support of palliative care were blessed by Bishop Colli in a special ceremony.

Jody Porter, award winning senior reporter with CBC gave an illustrated talk about the challenges facing Indigenous young people in the area.

Continuing the practice of an extended spiritual program implemented at the provincial convention in Stratford in 2016, a full half day was devoted to this year's spiritual theme “Walking in Spirit with Our Sisters”. Cindy Crowe and other “grandmothers” from Blue Sky Community Healing Centre led participants in a ceremonial walk and drumming circle outside the hotel. Members brought small vials of water from their local water systems. The water was comingled, offered and added to the floodway as part of a moving prayer service devoted to the memory and support of missing and murdered Indigenous women.

A hilarious 70th Anniversary fashion show showcased members wearing outfits from each of the last seven (7) decades. Dancing and laughter continued into the wee hours.

Convention closing mass and installation of newly elected officers was held at historic St. Peter's Church.

Catherine Feren
Hamilton Diocesan Council
Spiritual Development Chair

(see next page for a 2nd report on the Provincial Convention)



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



**INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL**

2017 PROVINCIAL CONVENTION REPORTS

#2 -Report by Parish President

I was honored to win an expense paid trip to the Ontario Provincial Council of the Catholic Woman's League 70th Annual Convention in Thunder Bay thanks to the Hamilton Diocesan Catholic Woman's League.

This was the first Provincial Convention I had attended .I was very impressed with the program, the speakers and the atmosphere of sisterhood .So many CWL members inspired by the Spirit Women Responding to God's Call.

Our days were filled with prayer, business and fun.

In particular I was very impressed with the Keynote Speaker His Eminence Cardinal Gerald Lacroix Archbishop of Quebec, Primate of Canada

He spoke of the joy of love and the struggles of Catholic Women today reminding us that love is a craft that must be worked on with patients, gentleness and kindness. Everyone needs to feel loved. Pope Francis refers to the Church as a Field Hospital

Business sessions were informative and reports shared centered around the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit. I found the framing of the work we do in this way was very meaningful.

I was touched by the presentation Walking in Spirit with our Sisters a tribute to missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women.

We enjoyed a tour of Thunder Bay and the surrounding area including the beautiful Kakabeka Falls. The mountains and waterways were breath taking.

What an experience to be one of 250 members Inspired by The Spirit, Women Responding to God's Call

I am looking to the Provincial Convention which will be held in Toronto next year.

Chris McKenzie President St. Michael's CWL, Waterloo



Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

2017 NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT

National Convention – August 6-9, 2017 – Charlottetown, PEI

Even if it hadn't been held in a charming, historical city, on a friendly, story-book island, surrounded by a beautiful ocean, this year's National Convention for the Catholic Women's League was not to be missed.

The convention team of Prince Edward Islanders and members of the Military Ordinariate were so very welcoming. I was ready to move to the island! As usual, we had Mass and prayers every day, so our spiritual needs were met. And (as usual) we were fed extremely well, so our physical hunger was also addressed. Entertainment at our dinners was a fabulous mix of talent. Tours were available for those who wanted them. The business sessions were informative and motivating.

Resolutions has long been a priority of mine, because those documents are how we put our faith into action. Attending the resolution sessions this year confirmed that. We did some important work that will protect children, benefit parents, preserve the conscience rights of healthcare professionals, and respectfully consider Indigenous Canadians.

Perhaps the most exciting part of the convention began on Monday. For some time, National council has been planning strategically for the future of the League. The speakers and presentations were like threads woven together to help us understand what we should be doing to help the League thrive.

Ken Yasinski spoke twice on Monday morning – once on becoming a living “thank you” and once on our responsibility as Catholics to be evangelizers – not just doers, but *tellers* of the Gospel. The unspoken message was that doing our part in these two areas will help us, the Church, the League, and by extension, the world. (Ken has talks available on Formed.org and through Lighthouse Catholic Media, and after listening to him at Convention, I want to hear more.)

Tuesday morning, we heard Dr. Reginald Bibby, Canadian researcher and sociologist. He brought us encouraging data about the state of religion in Canada, documented in his 2016 book, co-written with Angus Reid, *Canada's Catholics*. Despite what we hear in the media, the percentage of people in Canada who identify as Catholics is still the majority! He challenged us however to consider why, in 1960 2.8% of Catholic women had memberships to the CWL and today only 1.2% hold memberships and encouraged us to set clear goals.



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



**INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL**

(National Convention continued)

Also on Tuesday morning, we participated in the “Town Hall” process of adding our ideas and opinions to information the planning committee has already acquired. This was live-streamed across Canada with 73 groups (from outside the convention) taking part. On Wednesday, “Building on Foundation” was presented by the steering committee responsible for the strategies we had been hearing about. We saw the results of the town hall submissions. We were encouraged to look outward, to support one another, to consider the League’s purpose and core values, and ask, “What are our essential tenets, our guiding principles?”

Finally, we were reminded that “maintenance” is stagnant, but “mission” means growth.

According to the dictionary, “mission” is

any important task or duty that is assigned, allotted, or self-imposed;

an important goal or purpose that is accompanied by strong conviction.

Isn’t that a perfect explanation of the work of a thriving League? The renewal plan is a five-year project. Growth doesn’t happen overnight.

Linda Perron



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



**INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL**

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

BRANT REGION:

**Sacred Heart Parish
Paris Ontario**

This year our Catholic Women's League ladies have been very busy helping with the funeral committee, because of this we have made it possible to give awards to students at 2 Elementary schools Sacred Heart and Holy Family and 3 High Schools St. Johns' and Assumption College and Paris District High School.

In June we had a coffee party to welcome our new Parish priest Father Jeff Bergsma. Plans are now being made to have our annual Parish Picnic in August.

Our first Catholic Women's League meeting will be a breakfast meeting at the Windmill Country Market in Mount Pleasant. At the meeting the ladies are given a schedule for all the events from now until the end of 2017.

Dora Kuilboer, President





Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

HAMILTON REGION:

**Holy Rosary Parish
Burlington ON**

Recent Activities:

- At our March General Meeting, the council executive hosted a *Soup and Bun Supper* which attracted a very good turn-out. The theme of the evening was the work of Catholic Missions in Canada, with special guest speakers Father David Reilander and Father Ed Hinsperger. A free-will collection was made, enabling the council to give a donation of \$250 to Catholic Missions, as well as a cheque for \$400, which was sent to Saint Francis Xavier Church in Attawapiskat.
- May 4 was organized by the Parish as our 12 hours of Prayer for Palliative Care. The event was promoted as a wonderful opportunity to mediate prayerfully on the issue of Medical Assistance in Dying and the need for sensitive, supportive palliative care. Donations were collected on that day and through the weekend, and with the support of the parish, and a donation from the Knights of Columbus, we were able to present a cheque for \$850 to Carpenter Hospice here in Burlington.
- At our May General Meeting, we held our Service Recognition Night, honouring 29 council members and their families. Included were four members with 60 years of service, one who reached the 50-year mark, and three who had given 40 years to the League. An inspirational talk, "Mary, Our Model of Service". was presented by Roseanne Sogan, Christian Family Life Committee Chair, Provincial Executive. A beautiful evening!
- A very interesting and informative presentation was the focus at our June Strawberry Social. The event was open to the Knights of Columbus and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, as well as our own members. Representatives from Habitat for Humanity came to present an overview of their philosophy and plans for local initiatives, with a view to involving our parish members in future projects.

Suzette D'Aoust, President





Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

HAMILTON REGION continued:

**St. Gabriel's Church
Burlington ON**

Pins presented on June 19, 2017:

50 year	Rita Callaghan Pat O'Brien	Patty Huschilt
25 year	Marguerite Birett	
10 year	Sharon Agro Paula Mitton Wanda Risso Anne Swales	Pearlie Chan Elizabeth Piszckek Catherine Sherlock Morag Wilson
1 year	Sally Mutheardy	

Anne Walden, President





Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

HAMILTON REGION continued:

**St Augustine's
Dundas ON**

Every year the St. Augustine's Catholic Women's League celebrates the beginning of summer with a Strawberry Social. This year being Canada's 150th Birthday, the ladies were challenged to bring 150 cans of Campbell's tomato soup. A large 150 was mapped out on the floor and the cans were arranged to look like a large red and white 150. The challenge was met and exceeded, 276 cans of soup were delivered to the Dundas Food Bank. Happy Birthday Canada!



Helen McNamara, President





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



**INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL**

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

HAMILTON REGION continued:

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Freelton, ON**

Pins were presented in March 2017:

55 year	Lois Dunnigan		
50 year	Camilla Laking		
30 year	Jean Aubin	Susan Brady	Marion Taylor
20 year	Vesna Cigan	Mary Purdy	Judy Van Schyndel
15 year	Lucy Brozic	Liz Brunato	Pauline von Zuben
10 year	Nella Buffone	Cathy MacKenzie	
5 year	Penny Costin	Diane Duffy	Paula Harcourt
	Nancy Mills	Christine Nicholson	Joan Wigood

In June our Pastor, Father Wallace Metcalf and our Secretary, Jo Anne Lopata, retired from our Parish. To thank them both for their many dedicated years of service to our parish and our Catholic Women's League, we held a Retirement Luncheon for them. Our council secretary, Ann Van Dinther, took on the busy task of organizing the event. Ann did a fantastic job with the support of a team of terrific volunteers from both our council and our parish. The hall was beautifully decorated, the food was amazing, and the afternoon went smoothly with speeches, gift presentations and joyful fellowship. It was wonderful to celebrate Father Wallace and Jo Anne together with their families, members from Father's previous parishes, and our parish family. Thank you to all for the time and efforts given for this memorable event!

Judy Van Schyndel, President





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



**INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL**

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

HAMILTON REGION continued:

**Annunciation of Our Lord
Hamilton**

In June of 2017, our council organized and ran a very successful parish/community Strawberry Festival.

The event took place on Sunday, June 18. A team from our council baked shortcakes for the event. Another team prepared local strawberries and a local grocery store donated ice cream and whipping cream.

In June, we handed out our first annual graduation scholarship, the Patricia Hansen Christian Service award, to a student in our elementary school. Monies from the Strawberry Festival were used to purchase a plaque for the recipient as well as a plaque to display in the school with the names of recipient winners in years to come.

This event was very well received and will become an annual event for our council.

Claudia Brown, President



**Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King
Hamilton**

Fields often are given a 'fallow' period to allow the soil to recover. This often means better crops in future years. Our council has been like one of those fallow fields. Now, as we have reformed our executive and re-set our priorities, we hope for a year of growth and deep spiritual development for the women in our council.

Our executive met in April to set our program for the year, with the focus on education & health, community life & spiritual development. Our first general meeting is planned for September 10/ 2017. The executive will be installed during Mass before the meeting, and members will have an opportunity to discuss how they see the work of our council unfolding for the next few years.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit through the joys and challenges of being a council, we will continue to respond to God's call.

Mary Helwig-Hall, President





Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

HAMILTON REGION continued:

**Corpus Christi
Hamilton ON**

This year, the Corpus Christi CWL presented 39 anniversary pins to members on June 6:

60 year	Patricia Gismondi	Maureen Radigan	
50 year	Theresa Harvey	Agnes Ysselmuiden	
40 year	Loretta Alyman	Anna Marie Celi	Gemma Silvestri
25 year	Jacqueline Brick	Rose Marie Cornel	
	Gilda D'Amico	Judy Thompson	
20 year	Maria Baiardo	Rose Battaglia	Darlene DeFaria
	Eleanor Duffy	Shirley Johnson	Anna Klaus
	Deborah Lancaster	Santina Muir	Denise Walkinshaw
	Nellie Ziolkoski		
15 year	Adriana Chiappetta	Maria D'Amico	Sharon Fazari
	Pileria Fortino	Maria Kresina	Susan Lepore
	Carol Mercanti	Angelina Muraca	Carmela Vert
	Denise Young		
10 year	Chiara Coluori	Genevieve D'Entremont	
	Pauline DeRosa	Barbara Fanson	Irene Henschel
	Anna Narduzzi	Michele Taylor	Liz Von Braun

89 guests attended the Annual Spring Banquet that featured two entertainers: a singer/pianist and a Filipino Dance Group.

Corpus Christi CWL members found out that we're merging with Our Lady of Lourdes Church and getting a brand new church! The new church will take 3 or 4 years to build but will seat 950 parishioners and have 7 meeting rooms. We will also be getting a banquet hall that can hold 150 people.

Barbara Fanson, President





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



**INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL**

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

HAMILTON REGION continued:

**Our Lady of Lourdes
Hamilton ON**

Our Lady of Lourdes had a good year. In September we had the pleasure to have Sister Elaine Arsenault for a Spiritual Retreat. We had two speakers come out this year from the Heart & Stroke Association and the Lung Association. We held two fundraisers. With the help of the Lung Association, they gave us Crispy Wave Ferns it was a big success and beneficial for both groups. With spring approaching we held a fundraiser for seeds and gardening essentials. On June 28th 2017 Our Lady of Lourdes will become a Campus as we are coming together with another Parish and will be building a new Parish. The name of the new Parish will be called St. Catherine of Siena.

Joanne Palmer, President



**St. Gregory the Great Slovenian
Hamilton ON**

We are pleased that our past president and an active member of our CWL as well as our parish council, Heidy Novak, has spearheaded a popular culinary initiative at St. Gregory the Great Slovenian parish. CWL ladies and other members of our community look forward to regularly scheduled cooking sessions. Classes have focused on sharing traditional recipes while also enhancing fellowship, intergenerational partnerships and community building. Among other things participants learned how to make potica, a traditional walnut roll, a variety of cookies, ham and barley soup, and ricotta cheese that can be used in dumplings in broth. Ladies also became familiar with the art of noodle making and joined in making noodles for our annual CWL bazaar. Conversations at cooking classes often included sharing our rich and positive experiences at St. Gregory and promoted further participation in parish and CWL activities including becoming a proud member of our Catholic Women's League.

Rosemary Sustersic, President-elect





Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

HAMILTON REGION continued:

St. Luke

Hamilton ON

Focus on Youth

We have responded to the needs of the youth in our parish and community.

1. A donation to the Lung Association to purchase a chamber for an inhaler for a child in need.
2. A donation to Catholic Youth Organizations for children to attend Summer Camp.
3. A donation to Food4Kids to provide meals for children.

We acknowledged the spiritual growth of the youth in our parish and community.

1. Gifts for students receiving Confirmation in our parish.
2. Gifts for students receiving First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion in our parish.
3. Bibles for two grade 8 students exemplifying Christian values.
4. A monetary award for a grade 12 graduate exemplifying Christian values.

Enza De Tina, President

Holy Rosary

Milton ON

Holy Rosary, Milton has been blessed to service our faith community over the last year.

A viewing of the St. John Bible was a wonderful faith filled experience to introduce the new executive team and to encourage new memberships.

Our objective this year was to re-energize the CWL by showcasing the League at events such as a Lenten Retreat, presentation on Fatima, spiritual bouquets card making and Holy Rosary's 50th Anniversary committees and events. League members who volunteered in over 12 different ministries in the parish were also profiled. By inviting and encouraging new members to take an active role in many of these events our membership has grown beyond our expectations.

Funding was provided to causes such as but not limited to The Rosary Apostolate, graduating students, Halton Women's Shelter and the Syrian Refugee Committee.

This November, Holy Rosary Council will be celebrating our 65th anniversary with an exciting number of events including a Gala Dinner where three of our founding members will be celebrated for their contributions. May our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide us.

Nancy Fellows, President



Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

HAMILTON REGION continued:

**St. Benedict
Milton ON**

We have been a very busy Council since the Spring Regional. We began with a wonderful tribute to our "Mom's" with a Rose Sale, Mother's Day Weekend. Moving into June, we were happy to award four deserving young women at our four elementary schools, and a scholarship at our Secondary School, Jean Vanier Secondary School. We were thrilled to present our "first" 25 year service pin to one of our deserving members. Moving forward to the fall, we are looking forward to co-hosting the fall regional meeting with our sisters in the League from Holy Rosary Parish. We will close off the year with invitations extended to our neighboring parishes to join us for our Advent Retreat, December 9th headed by our Pastor, Fr. Jim Petrie.

Dianne Taylor, President



**Mary Mother of God
Oakville ON**

Past Events:

Film presentation of our "Lady of Fatima and the Three Children", followed by the praying of the Rosary and the crowning of Mary. All female parishioners were invited.

We had a presentation of the film "The Euthanasia Deception", by film director, Kevin Dunn. It showed how false the ideology of mercy killing really is. This was opened to all of Oakville.

We presented 1 student from each of our 4 elementary schools the CWL award. The schools pick the students following our criteria and we present the award. In our high school, the teachers present the award.

We donated money to a young man who will be doing missionary work under the Catholic Christian Outreach. and to our Youth Ministry.

Every Friday night during Lent, we co-ordinated with the Knights for the "Way of the Cross".

Our members are involved in our Christmas Bazaar fundraiser.

Future Events:

.We will have a licensed instructor from the Red Cross to do a "First Aid" lesson. We will open this to all of our members in our Parish.

We will be following our next meeting with a "Canvas and Cocktail" night, which all the ladies enjoy.



Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

HAMILTON REGION continued:

(Mary Mother of God, Oakville –Continued)

This year we will be hosting the “Candle Light Service”, followed by a social. All churches included.

We are working to try and get families together to help in the kitchen of Kerr Street Missions as an ongoing initiative

Year round, we send cards to the sick, sympathy cards to families of deceased and thinking of you cards for those over 80. We also have masses said for our members and for our deceased members. We visit the sick and bring communion as well as taking care of the funeral receptions in the parish.

Brigit Hughes, President



**St Andrew
Oakville ON**

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call. – St Andrew Parish, Oakville has this year been celebrating its 95th anniversary as a council in the diocese of Hamilton. In May, we celebrated Mother's Day with the parish, by offering carnations, for good will donations. The donations made were split between Shifra Home, and Halton Alive. This week our executive presented baby clothes and a cheque with these proceeds, to Shifra Home.

June concluded with our annual Clergy appreciation evening and potluck. Our CWL sisters also presented awards to our two feeder elementary schools, and our high school.

Our 95th anniversary celebration committee, continues to work diligently on our Oct 15th, 2017 mass and luncheon.

Since our church is a designated historical landmark in Oakville, we will be hosting “Open Doors Oakville, on Sept 30th, 2017 and combining this with a sesquicentennial tea, in celebration of Canada's milestone birthday.

In September we will have our service award celebration, and special recognition for our Francis Lovering award winner for 2017!

Debra Noronha, President-





Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

HAMILTON REGION continued:

**St. Michael
Oakville ON**

In May we hosted a popcorn and movie night which we have never done before, but thought it might help to attract new and younger members. The movie that we chose to view was "God's Not Dead" and also included some gourmet popcorn and refreshments. It was well received by all and provided for some good conversation. All ladies in the parish were invited to join us, and we asked non-members for a \$2 donation. We did have a couple of ladies attend who are not part of the council. This provided an opportunity for non-members to meet us and find out more about our council. We hope to organize another movie night in the upcoming year and might make it a bigger event by inviting the other CWL councils in Oakville and hosting it in a large auditorium.

Also, we have one member, Joan Bisson, who is celebrating 50 years in the CWL this year! We plan to recognize this great achievement at our next meeting in September, and at our November potluck we will celebrate with all our council's service milestones.

Marisa Di Filippo, President



**Our Lady of the Assumption
Stoney Creek, ON**

On May 4th a number of our parishioners participated in "Four Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care" where each hour the Rosary was recited in the church. After each Rosary, the participants shared fellowship in our Marion Room. A goodwill offering was collected and presented to the Dr. Bob Kemp Hospice in support of their compassionate end-of-life services. Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Women League's **60th Anniversary** was February 7, 2017, however, it was decided to celebrate in warmer weather on Sunday, May 28th. Our council proudly hosted the celebration starting with Mass at 11:30 a.m. followed by a celebration luncheon in the parish hall for about 120 people. At the luncheon, 16 members were recognized for their long-standing memberships – ranging from 25, 40, 50 and 60 years. Each milestone member was presented with their "Years of Service Pin" and a long stemmed rose. Four new members were welcomed into our council. The theme of the day was "Family" as a mother and daughter were each recognized for their 40 and 25 years respectively. In addition, two sisters were each recognized for their 40 year membership. Our most senior



Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

HAMILTON REGION continued:

(Our Lady of Assumption, Stoney Creek –Continued)

member of 77 years, Ruth Slattery, was also recognized. A Certificate of Merit was presented to Angela Canci, Co-President for her hard work on behalf of our CWL.

In June, on the 24th and 25th, with the help of very committed and supportive women, the Annual Garage Sale was set up. Items were received from our parishioners and these items were washed and shined up so they sparkled. One lady commented that when all was setup, it looked like Bowrings.

Once again, we thank our parishioners for donating these items and the delicious baked items which everyone likes to purchase. A very successful event thanks to all who worked very hard. Now it is time to rest and enjoy the summer!

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Angela Canci



**St. Francis Xavier
Stoney Creek**

Our council continues to be involved in a great many activities this year:

- We continue to provide refreshments for various Masses and Retreats within our Parish
- When our previous Spiritual Advisor was leaving for another parish, we had a reception for him after all the Masses so that the parishioners could say their good-byes to him
- Every fall, we invite the churches around us for an Ecumenical Potluck
- With the Knights and the Parish Council, the CWL hosts a Karaoke evening which benefits the parish and each council.
- In September, we will have a speaker who will be bringing the Christmas shoeboxes which help needy children around the world.
- Our ladies will be doing crafts and baking for our Fall Bazaar
- We will be hosting a coffee and tea reception for the Confirmands and their parents
- We continue to collect clothes, food, and toiletries for the needy
- On Dec. 3rd, in honour of our Patron Saint, St. Francis Xavier, we will provide refreshments after each Mass.

On Sunday May 28, 2017, we had the Blessing of our Marian Prayer Garden. Bishop Ustrzycki presided and officiated. The ladies provided refreshments after the blessing.



Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

HAMILTON REGION continued:

(St. Francis Xavier, Stoney Creek –Continued)

Congratulations to the 15 ladies who received their Service Award Pins this year:

- | | | | |
|----------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 60 year: | Margaret Forester | Dinah Gatto | Yvonne Seward |
| | Anne Van Troost. | | |
| 50 year: | Livia Allega | | |
| 40 year: | Ascenza Del Monaco | Carol Pin | |
| 25 year: | Assunta Caruso | Kathie Kieb | Angela Kovac |
| | Miranda Muraca | Massima Salciccioli | Shirley Sankarsingh |
| | Nancy Sgreccia | Leorita Staresina | |

Francesca Simone, President



**Immaculate Heart of Mary
Winona**

This year our council's theme is "Sisters in the Spirit", with a focus on spiritual development and growth. We have incorporated spiritual teachings at each of our general meetings. Following our meetings, one member is presented with a spiritual growth book to enhance and assist them on our journey together.

Some other spiritual and growth based activities that our council have participated in, or are upcoming include:

- Invited our sister parish council (St. Francis Xavier) to co-host an Euthanasia Education night/screening with guest speaker Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director/International Chair for Euthanasia Prevention Coalition.
- Organized and circulated prayer requests for our members and those in need of prayers.
- Organized prayer vigils, honour guards and dedication ceremonies for our deceased members and their families.
- Introduced a Council Newsletter
- Knitted and give out prayer shawls to the sick and elderly.
- Hosted a members mass and luncheon in celebration of Our Lady of Good Counsel
- Organized 12 hours of Adoration and prayers as participants in the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care
- Donated to Palliative Care, Alliance for Life Ontario, and Euthanasia Prevention Coalition.



Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

- HAMILTON REGION continued:

(Immaculate Heart of Mary, Winona –Continued)

- Hosted a community ecumenical pot luck and invited ladies for local churches.
- Partnering with our Diocese, and local schools in holding a screening of the film “Over 18”, to provide education on how we can better protect our children against pornography.
- Organized a community outreach initiative to help a local homeless man.
- Hosted Life Member Jakki Jeffs, Executive Director of Alliance for Life Ontario, as a guest speaker, to speak with our members about pro-life.
- Hosted members of the Diocesan Executive who attended a general meeting to speak to our members about the league and how our members can grow in the league.
- Assembled New Member Kits to hand out to new members.
- Promoted and encouraged one of our members to attend their first Diocesan Convention. Our Council Secretary (Suzanne Young), and myself participated on the Diocesan Convention Registration Team for the second year. We introduced the idea of having first time attendees ring a bell while registration volunteers cheered and welcomed them. The idea proved to be fun for all.
- Participated and represented our league and parish at the annual Interfaith Prayer Celebration for women around the world.

Our council proudly celebrated its 60th Anniversary this past December. Our celebrations were combined with our annual Christmas dinner, and over 100 members attended. Several members received Service Pins and other recognitions for their service in the league and to our council. We also held various community building events and activities such as, a strawberry social, bake sales, and handed out cookies to fathers in our parish following each of the masses on Father's Day weekend. We are looking forward to hosting more events this fall and winter. We are working on our council's first ever resolution to be shared with the Diocesan CWL for review and consideration. The resolution addresses the need for more funding and staffing in Long-Term Care facilities. We are also working on developing our council's first ever P&P.

Teresa DiFalco, President





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



**INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL**

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

KITCHENER REGION:

**St. Teresa of Avila
Elmira ON**

We presented Service Pins at our June Potluck. We were also celebrating our 65th anniversary. The following women were recognized for their service to God and Canada.

- 65 year: Theresa Cassel Emmeline Runstedler
Joanne Dillon (Charter Member)
- 60 year: Ann Staines Jean Adams
- 25 year: Mary Helen Frawley Marian Haid
Vicki Rau
- 10 year: Barb Vodicka

Congratulations to these women who have served and continue to serve the League.

Submitted by Mary Jane Yaeger



**St. Mary Immaculate
Elora ON**

We had a special birthday this year: Margo Raynard had her 100th birthday on April 10, 2017. We also had several members receive Years of Service Pins:

- Past President Pin: Marlene Berardine
- 65 Year: Betty Weadick Grace Driscoll
- 60 Year: Doreen Kurtz
- 55 Year: Margaret Ross
- 40 Year: Colleen Cudney Mary Ann Scharman Nancy Tucker
- 25 Year: Doreen Cook Dianne Olinski

Judy McKague, 2nd Vice-President





Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

KITCHENER REGION continued:

**St. Joseph
Guelph ON**

We proudly celebrated their 65 year anniversary this year.

We had our Annual Spring Dinner on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at which time the following people received the respective service awards as indicated:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 65 Year: | Donna McDermott | Peggy Morris | |
| 60 Year: | Sheila Smydo | | |
| 55 Year: | Bev Dalzilio | Fran Fairfull | Helen Humphrey |
| | Doreen Powers | Irene Mahoney | Eileen Tonin |
| | Anne Marie Lafontaine | | |
| 40 Year: | Anna Mandolesi | Pat Neville | Marti Valeriotte |
| 25 Year: | Evelyn Dyer | Jennie Maggiolo | Margaret O'Gorman |
| | Elisabeth Niimi | | |
| 10 Year: | Rose Freeman | Peggy Gibbons | Shirley Stuart |
| | Marie Thorne | Annette Weber | Karin Ball |
| | Phaijith Van Hemmen | | |
| Merit Award: | Donna Haley | | |
| Maple Leaf Award: | Pat Grosicki | | |

Submitted by Sharon Huska





Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

KITCHENER REGION continued:

**St. Aloysius
Kitchener ON**

Although we were unable to arrange for the Lutheran Church to join us- our council planted a white rose in honour of the Lutheran church.

We also hosted a CWL summer potluck with our ladies to finish off the first half of the year.



Kim Ansty, President





Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

KITCHENER REGION continued:

**St. Anthony Daniel
Kitchener ON**

Our Lutheran Rose Gathering June 7, 2017

In honour of the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation in 2017, we followed Pope Francis's encouragement to build further unity and Christian accord with our Lutheran neighbours. The ladies of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in our neighbourhood were invited by our CWL for a gathering at our church.

We began in a circle, with prayer including the Our Father, and an explanation of the evening's activities. Our church has a rose garden so we then proceeded to this spot and a beautiful white rose was planted by our CWL President and Bonita Ziegler from St. Luke's. This ceremony was opened and closed with hymns sung by all. The white rose is the base of the Lutheran church's emblem and a symbol of purity. Hopefully the rose and our relationships will blossom. A brief tour of our church and parish life centre followed. We then gathered for tea and strawberry shortcake with lots of time for conversation and sharing ideas. Tea was enjoyed in china cups and saucers and each table was decorated with a single white long stemmed rose. A blue delphinium perennial, symbolizing Our Lady, was presented to the Lutheran ladies for their church's courtyard garden.

We had about 17 guests plus 14 of our ladies. A lovely time was had by all!

Linda Howey, President





Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

KITCHENER REGION continued:

**St. Francis of Assisi
Kitchener ON**

We held our white rose planting on Sunday, June 4, 2017. We invited the ladies from St. Stephen's Lutheran Church and Faith Lutheran Church to attend the planting of two white rose bushes to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in a specially designed area of our Peace garden.

Our invitation was enthusiastically received by the pastors of each church and passed on to the respective ladies groups. Approximately 40 people attended.

After the planting, the participants enjoyed fellowship and an afternoon tea prepared by the CWL. Blue perennials were presented to each of the ladies' group with the request that they be planted at their home parishes.



Karin Manley, President





Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

KITCHENER REGION continued:

**Holy Family Parish
New Hamburg ON**

Our annual Ladies Breakfast held every April is an event where our individual members shine. This is where our Organization Chairperson recognizes individual members with service pins. This year Holy Family CWL gave out 1-10 year pin, 7-40 year pins and 1-50 year pin to worthy recipients. As well I had the honour to bestow upon Joan Kittel the Maple Leaf service pin. Joan has been a member for 42 years; is a past president and currently serves as our spiritual development chairperson.

Our guest speaker for the breakfast was Mark Godin from Hospice Waterloo Region. He inspired our members so much that at the June meeting we collected items to donate to Innisfree House. We also gave him 16 prayer blankets our members quilted and knotted in response to our CWL Centenary challenge. These were lovely made with prayers for clients in use at both Lissard and Inisfree House in their final days.

Mary Lou Murray, President



**Our Lady of Lourdes
Waterloo ON**

Our Lady of Lourdes CWL has been fortunate to lead the Luther Rose Proposal and on May 31st we, along with St Michael's CWL, invited 3 Lutheran neighbouring churches to a rose planting ceremony in Lourdes church garden. We presented blue hydrangeas to our Lutheran friends and celebrated with wine and cheese afterwards.

For 2016 we have presented the following long time service pins:

- | | | | |
|----------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 60 Year: | Rita Schnarr | Dorothy Rola | Doretta Fritz |
| 50 Year: | Lillian McInnis | Trudy Haffner | |
| 10 Year: | April Postnikoff | Marilyn Melloul | Sharon McAra Joan Gray |

As well we presented Rita Rittenhouse with the Maple Leaf Service Award and nominated her for the Francis Lovering Award this year.

Besides our incredible events (soup tasting, cupcake decorating, mass for our deceased, potluck, Lenten video from Rome, sparkle pumpkin decor and Fall Dessert Party) we have presented bursaries to Grade 8 essay winners and one Grade 12 student.

We are now planning a Thanksgiving Apple Pie sale for Canada's 150th and much more.

Peggy Dietrich, President





Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

KITCHENER REGION continued:

**St. Louis
Waterloo ON**

Inspired by the Spirit, the women of St. Louis Parish C.W.L. responded to God's call this spring by holding a High Tea this past May. Resplendent in fancy dress and hats, the women, men and children of our parish came together to participate in this sold out event. The theme of our High Tea was Canada's 150th Birthday and our venue was beautifully decorated in red and white reflecting our National Pride. Our volunteers worked hard to ensure all the trimmings of a traditional High Tea were present including: china teacups and saucers, 3 tiered trays laden with freshly baked scones with clotted cream and jam, miniature pastries/cookies and delicious tea-sized sandwiches. A delightful time of fellowship and a spot-of-tea was enjoyed by all!

At our May general meeting we were pleased to present years of service pins. For the first time we presented Insignia pins to 10 new members, and 10 year pins more than 35 members who have served between 10-24 years. We also presented the following long time service pins:

- | | | | |
|----------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 60 Year: | Rose Marie Gross | Janice Paleczny | Audrey Reitzel |
| | Loreen Freiburger | Dolly Wideman | |
| 50 Year: | Jackie Anstett | Joan Powers | Mary Smith |
| 40 Year: | Trudy Allensen | Betty Gross | Diane Guckenberger |
| | Verna Keller | | |

Gerri Duque, President





Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

NORTHERN REGION:

**Sacred Heart
Teeswater ON**

This photo shows our CWL quilt- Rita Gallant, on the left, made the quilt and our Organization Chair Lucy Luyten is holding it on the right.



Anita Kreutzwiser, President





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



**INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL**



God is the glory and joy of each of our departed members whose memory we celebrate. A rose, a symbol of life in Christ, is a symbol for each one.

MARY CARLIN

Passed away Friday, March 31, 2017 at the age of 83.



My Journey with Mary

I met Mary Carlin when I was elected to the Diocesan Council in the mid 1990's. We hit it off as friends almost immediately. The next election, I knocked Mary off the executive and I felt awful but as it happened a spot soon opened up because one of those elected was moving. What a relief. She was a welcome guest at my house and got along well with my husband Terry. After Terry passed away in 1998, Mary was a great support and we shared many weekends and trips together.

I had never attended a full Provincial or National Convention until 1999. That August we travelled to Winnipeg for the convention in the Kenilworth bus with an ample supply of mints and picnic lunches for the drive. Of course we made stops at various shrines along the way because she knew them all from travelling to Kenora to see her daughter Maureen and husband John but I think it was mainly to see her grandchildren Sarah and Jacob. Mary was one of the most dedicated family women that I have known. Her love for her daughters, son-in-laws, grandchildren and great grandchildren was phenomenal and it was reciprocal because they all kept in contact with her no matter where they lived. Family also included her husband James' children and all his relatives and the foster children that she welcomed into their home.



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



**INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL**

(tribute to Mary Carlin – continued)

In the summer of 2006, Mary asked me to go to Scotland with her. I met her two sisters and brother and some of their families. She drove far and wide visiting and staying with childhood friends who still kept in regular contact with her. She loved to reminisce about her early life and I never grew tired of hearing about it, well almost never. We didn't see the Lochness Monster.

Sacred Heart Parish in Kenilworth was always close to her heart. She made sure that the League always had a president. Who could say no to Mary. I went up every long weekend at the beginning of August for their cold plate suppers. Mary would spend the weekend baking pies and squares, making potato salad and coleslaw. On the day of the supper, it was her job to slice the many baskets of fresh tomatoes. I helped her sell raffle tickets and of course, she could always convince you to buy more than you had intended because it was for the upkeep of the church. She also gave this same spirit to the League at St. Joseph Parish in Guelph, attending meetings and contributing her energies to everything.

She also left her mark on the community. She made countless trips, driving children and adults to various schools, appointments and home visits for the Children's Aid of Wellington of which she was a Member of the Board. I'm sure that she was a good listener for all she transported and perhaps she had a few words of encouragement for them as well. The Children's Wish Foundation of Guelph had a willing volunteer in Mary. Every December saw her wrapping donated gifts for days on end, she even roped me into helping out a few times.

My fondest memories of Mary are the trips to Florida. We only brought the Kenilworth bus down once. Jerri Hasey came with us on that trip. I met them in Fort Lauderdale because my brother-in-law had passed away. We went to see Bible Land Theme Park in Orlando and we were one of the last to leave. When we got back to the van, Mary had a flat tire. It was no easy trick trying to get help after everything was closed but Mary, with her charm, got it changed and believe it or not hauled the flat tire home under all of our luggage and shopping. She loved to drive and would do so from sunup to sunset. We had our last trip to Florida last year in late November. I miss my travel buddy. We did not always agree on everything, but she was always there for me. She even took time to attend my sister's funeral three summers ago in Amherstburg.

So it is my hope that each of you finds a League sister to share your journey.

Rest in peace my friend. Georgina Bourke



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



**INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL**

2017 FRANCES LOVERING AWARD RECEIPT

Anna Rettinger

St. Andrew Parish, Oakville ON

Over the years, Anna has had several executive roles. Currently, she is her Council's Spiritual Convenor, previously serving as Secretary for almost a decade. Spiritual Convenorship is most fitting for Anna, as she has great faith.

Anna unofficially takes on many vacant roles in the executive. She assumes president responsibilities when needed, helps the Membership Convenor and Treasurer, updates membership lists, and creates a phone committee list. In her role as Spiritual Convenor, Anna takes care of First Friday Vocational Masses, Our Lady of Good Council event, is her Council's lead for World Day of Prayer, 12 hours for Palliative Care, Lenten activities. And the list continues.

In her spare time, she helps maintain her Council's archives, creating PowerPoint presentations for their activities, and printing invitations she created for her Council. Her computer skills have come in great use, as she maintains a rolling event calendar, and produces a Council bulletin. Anna loves the League and keeps the committee updated on all website information; and she does a synopsis of the *Be League*, *Spectrum*, and other online magazines. She attends all Regional meetings and tries to get as many Council members as possible to Regional and Diocesan events.

At the parish level, her Council gets involved in many projects. Two years ago Anna participated in a committee to create a parish cookbook. She attends prayer breakfasts, her Council's participation with the feeder schools in CWL activities, and fostering faith of elementary school children.

Oakville Councils take turns hosting an Advent celebration. When it is her Council's turn, Anna prepares the Mass: coordinating with priests and deacons; organizing the music ministry, lectors, and whatever else is required.

Anna loves to garden, and is a natural "Green Thumb". She is an active member of the Oakville Horticultural Society, recently receiving her 30 year Ontario Volunteer Service Award. She creates the beautiful and unique table decorations for Council events. She supports *Halton Alive*. A retired nurse from St. Joseph Hospital, she has for years maintained the alumni membership and activities for the retired graduates of St. Joseph Hospital.

Anna is always interested in learning about her community and ways her Council can enrich it. Recently, she has been passionate about helping Northern communities, and has fostered and created a new interest in Canadian Missions.

Congratulations Anna.



Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL



Ontario Provincial Council
Of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Social Justice Award

Required Criteria

1. The nominee must be a CWL member in good standing for the past 5 years.
2. The nominee must have been a member of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in the province of Ontario.
3. The nominee must have been a CWL member active at any level and community.
4. The nominee must have given extraordinary service in social justice issues contributing to her community.
5. The nominee must have demonstrated exemplary leadership, generosity of spirit and living the mission of the League.
6. Required documents:
 - Completed nomination form
 - 2 References (one must be the parish priest)
 - Letters of recommendation must accompany the application from the two references
 - Detailed paragraph outlining why they are an ideal candidate from the person making the nomination

Nomination Process

1. Nominations are submitted on an annual basis.
2. Nominations for the Social Justice Award may be submitted by the parish, diocesan or provincial council.
3. The nomination form must be completed by the nominating council president.
4. The nominating president forwards the nomination form and required documentation to the diocesan president by **December 15th**.
5. The diocesan president verifies the nomination and required documentation, signs the form and sends it to the provincial president by **December 30th**.
6. The provincial president will send the nominations and required documentation to the Social Justice Committee by **January 15th** for review, verification of qualifications and approval of criteria. The top three suggested nominations will be forwarded to the provincial president.
7. The provincial president will send the three nominations and documentation to the provincial administration committee by **January 30th** for discussion, via teleconference or at the administration meeting prior to the winter meeting (chairperson's discretion).



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



**INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL**

8. The provincial council executive will choose the recipient by a majority vote following consultation by the administration committee.
9. The award will be presented on an annual basis at the annual provincial convention.

Social Justice Committee Members

- President-Elect (Chairperson)
- Past Provincial President
- President-Elect (Chairperson)
- Past Provincial President

Amended January 2016 by Anne Madden, Ontario Provincial President-elect, chairperson, Social Justice Committee



Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL



Ontario Provincial Council Of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Social Justice Award

Nomination Form (Please print in black ink)

Nominee's Name: _____ **Tel:** _____

Address: _____

Parish: _____ **Diocese:** _____

Respond 'yes' or 'no' to the following 4 questions: Has the individual been...

1. A CWL member in good standing for the past 5 years? _____
2. A member in good standing of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in the province of Ontario? _____
3. A CWL member active at (parish/diocesan/provincial/national) level {circle one} and in her community? _____
4. Has the nominee demonstrated?
 - exemplary leadership _____
 - generosity of spirit _____
 - Lived the mission of the League _____

Name the social justice issue that this member has been involved with:

References:

1. Candidate's Parish Priest:

_____/_____/_____
(Printed name) (Signature) (Date YYYY/MM/DD)

2. Other reference:

_____/_____/_____
(Printed name) (Signature) (Date YYYY/MM/DD)

Signatures:

1. Individual making the nomination:

_____/_____/_____
(Signature) (Date YYYY/MM/DD) (Printed name)

2. Parish President:

_____/_____/_____
(Signature) (Date YYYY/MM/DD) (Printed name)

3. Diocesan President:

_____/_____/_____
(Signature) (Date YYYY/MM/DD) (Printed name)

4. Provincial President:

_____/_____/_____
(Signature) (Date YYYY/MM/DD) (Printed name)



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



**INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL**

*** Provide the detailed paragraph on a separate page** (outlining why this is an ideal candidate)

.....

To be completed by the Social Justice Committee

Nomination form complete: Yes _____ No _____ Documentation Attached: Yes _____ No _____

Printed name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Drafted January 2016 by Anne Madden, Ontario Provincial President-elect, chairperson, Social Justice Committee



Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL



AUTUMN

A WONDERFUL SEASON TO GIVE THANKS!

**SPECTRUM
FALL 2017**