



# **CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE SPRING NEWSLETTER**

# **ONE HEART VOICE MISSION**

**One Heart – filled with mercy, compassion and holiness**

**One Voice – united in harmony to speak the truth with courage and zeal**

**One Mission – witnessing to the Good News of the gospel through personal encounter and joyful service**

## **Spiritual Advisor – Father Brennan**

Dear Sisters in the League,

As you know I have a little reputation for travel. I guess I got the travel bug a few years ago, when I was sixteen. Seventeen years later, I travelled to the same country (Guatemala) with some wonderful students from the Eastern part of the Archdiocese. Naturally, it was an amazing experience. It was a good mixture of faith and friendship, culture and language, food and festivals.

Our stay at the Orphanage turned out to be a blessing. Our students worked in the wood shop sanding the brand new pews for the Church. Some of them worked on the gardens. Some worked in the Kitchen. Others were sent to the fields. Whereas, other groups of students volunteered at a home for the mentally and physically disabled. I worked with a group of students on the grounds (landscaping) of the newly built Church. It was completely satisfying to see the project from start to finish. Well, we did a lot more than work.

One day we travelled to a nearby village in the countryside to deliver school supplies and food staples. The Community we visited greeted us with fireworks - we were wondering who was visiting the town...it turned out to be a greeting for us. The Mayor and his council made us all feel very welcome. Then one by one, each family came forward to receive a bag of supplies. I was proud of our student's generosity and charity. The atmosphere soon became festive with dancing and loud music. As I made my way through the crowd looking for a break from the noise and such, a young mother smiled at me and handed me her Son. I found myself taken aback by this small gesture. I really enjoyed holding the little baby. *It was a blessed moment of peace and joy. Sadly the community does not have running water nor sewers. They recently received power and the former mayor arranged for some minor infrastructure. To help them build roads, a huge (enormous) pile of rock was dumped at the edge of the village. No one helped them to spread it. The community is slowly developing strategies and implementing norms of change. But change is slow.*

Of course, I have a couple of fond memories of the Trip:

One afternoon I was walking by the Church and an avocado fell out of the tree. A young boy picked it up and ate it - right in front of me.

As I was leaving the Church (after celebrating Mass) one of our young pilgrims gave me the thumbs up (as to say - you did a good job Father....)

The young woman is an evangelical Christian - who is very young at heart.

While we were waiting for the procession of the Passion to pass, some of our pilgrims spoke of being tired and ready for bed. As the portages' came closer we could see their tears and their sweat; the heat and the weight of the crucifixion scenes crushed them. They were unbelievably heavy....It took forty men to carry one. Twenty on each side. After they passed I didn't seem so tired nor did I dare complain.

The land of the forest, as it is called, offered us wonderful hospitality. It has changed a lot in seventeen years...and of course, so have I.

God Bless,  
Father Brennan

### **CWL PRESIDENT – Brenda Wardrop**

Dear Parishioners & Sisters in the League: I sincerely thank you for putting your faith in me to be your new President for the next 2 years. I will do the best I can for you as I learn all my duties. I was President in 1986, but much has changed since then! I look forward to working with our new Executive who are very dedicated members. For the first time, we could not fill the Convenor positions for 2 Committees: Community Life and Resolutions. Please pray with us to find someone to take on these important committees. In 2014, we continued to do lots of work in many areas. The committee reports will give you more details. We participated in the Pornography Hurts campaign in March by distributing postcards for people to send to our MP to lobby for better Legislation to fight and prevent this evil. We co-sponsored with the Knights the 1<sup>st</sup> Parish Picnic in June to celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi. It featured a procession of parishioners with the Blessed Sacrament through the streets of Prescott near the church to show our faith to the community. We purchased a baby change table for the back of the church for young parents when needed during Mass or Baptisms. We held our usual fundraisers, a Mother's Day Bake Sale and our annual Craft Show. We helped serve a Turkey Dinner with the Knights of Columbus. We donated several thousand dollars to our schools, local community organizations and various other charities and missions in Ontario and Canada too numerous to list here. We have already donated money to St. Mark and Sacred Heart for maintenance in the churches in 2015. Our members in Cardinal work equally hard to raise funds by serving St. Patrick and Harvest Dinners, plus others projects. Our Catholic Girls League is still very active and is always willing to make beautiful centrepieces for our many occasions. They help us with other projects like the Change for Change collection during Lent for Missions. They are always looking for new members. Contact Diane Jozefowicz if you have a daughter or granddaughter who might be interested in joining. I hear they have lots of fun at their meetings! We attend Spiritual Retreat days in Kingston, and there was a very good Seminar titled "Healthy and Faithful" in October on how to keep God in all aspects of our life to help Spiritual, Mental and Physical Health, especially when caring for a loved one with chronic illness. We also attend the Annual Diocesan CWL Convention in May in Kingston. We gain lots of knowledge and become friends with speakers and contacts with other councils in the Diocese. We don't forget our Spiritual needs and we pray for many. We are partnered with the CWL Council in Picton and we pray for each other at every meeting, as well as for those who are sick, deceased, or need our prayers. We understand if you cannot attend meetings, but you can always pray with us for the many intentions listed in our minutes. We are also looking for new members, so contact Pat Warren or myself if you are interested in joining. Our meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Wednesday of every month, (except July, August & December) in St. Mark's Club room following 7 PM Mass. We send our meeting minutes to several members by email and also place printed copies in both

churches every month. If you have not already given us your email address, you can always contact me at: [murphy.wardrop@sympatico.ca](mailto:murphy.wardrop@sympatico.ca). May our Patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to watch over all of you.

**TREASURER: Alice Laushway (Ann Davy)**

**Donations made in 2014:**

Donations to Schools-\$930.00

Donations-Local, National, 3<sup>rd</sup> World - \$6,290.00 (of this total we donated \$1,000 from donations received during our Change for Change Lenten Project.)

School Bursaries-\$600.00

The above donations total \$7820.00 for the year of 2014.

St. Mark Catholic Women's League is grateful to our members and Church communities for their support and assistance in making the above donations possible.

**Spiritual Development: Andrea Knapp**

Blessings to All,

On March 6th, 2015, St. Mark's participated in the World Day of Prayer hosted by St. John's Anglican Church in Prescott while Sacred Heart was the host church for Cardinal. Unfortunately, I could only attend one event. This year the service was written by the Ladies of the Bahamas and we tried to dress in colours that reflected the beauty of the Islands. Following the service, there was a social hour with dessert and coffee served. We thank the Ladies of St. John's for all their work for making this event a success.

Beginning in May, the theme is "One Heart, One Voice, One Mission - Protect me, O Lord, for in you I take refuge". Spiritual growth of members - The first object of the League is to unite Catholic women to achieve individual and collective spiritual development. Growth depends on our encounters with Jesus Christ through prayer life, sacraments, spiritual reading and our neighbours.

Lay Ministries: Pope Francis says "We can count on many lay persons, although still not nearly enough, who have a deeply-rooted sense of community and a great fidelity to the tasks of charity, catechesis and the celebration of the faith".

On February 24th, I received a copy of a statement from Cardinal Thomas Collins re: Ontario Health & Physical Education Curriculum. "As Catholics, we understand that parents are the primary educators of their children, and that especially in the teaching of family life issues, the parental role is vital. For more than 30 years, Ontario's publicly funded Catholic schools have provided a family life curriculum consistent with our faith. The goal is to present a Catholic view of human life, sexuality, marriage and family, complementing the efforts of parents to teach their children at home. While Catholic schools have a responsibility to follow the curriculum set out by the Ministry of Education, they have always sought to do so in a way that conveys, respects and models Catholic Christian principles to our students. They will continue in this tradition. A group of Catholic educators will produce resources that support the Catholic teachers so that the new curriculum is implemented in a way that is consistent with our Catholic teachings and appropriate within the context of a Catholic classroom".

Family Life: During 2015, the World Meeting of Families will take place in Philadelphia in September and the General Synod of the Bishops on the Family will meet in October in Rome.

Pope Francis stated for the Year of Consecrated Life: "Look at the past with gratitude. Live the present with passion. Move into the future with hope. Find creative ways to proclaim the gospel with joy".

### Upcoming events:

April 26th. - Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

May 31st. - 1st. Communion at St. Mark's at 11 am Mass.

Marian Prayer for the Easter Season: Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia,  
For He whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia,  
Has risen, as He foretold, alleluia,  
Pray for us to God, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.  
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.  
For the Lord has indeed risen, alleluia.

God our Father, you gave joy to the world by the resurrection of your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Through the prayers of his mother, the Virgin Mother, bring us to the happiness of eternal life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Missions: Marion Laton

"When we see a need, when you see an opportunity to help, respond readily". Compassion delayed is compassion denied.

We promote the following:

- Visits to the sick and shut-ins. Bulletins are delivered every week to the shut-ins
- Our council sponsors "Save a Family Plan"
- Some members volunteer, give food and monetary donations to the "St. Mark School Breakfast Program"
- Used cards are taken to St. Lawrence Lodge for crafts
- Some members sponsor a child through World Vision, and also to a child from the Ukraine (Chalice)
- Members donate to the Annual Palliative Care Telethon in Brockville
- Boxes were filled for the seniors in Belarus
- Stamps are collected for the Providence Sisters in Kingston
- Food and monetary donations to the needy, and to the local Food Banks
- Empty egg cartons, aluminum cans and tabs taken to our Food Banks.
- Current magazines given to General Hospital.
- Some students from St. Mark School visit residents at Wellington House and collect gifts for them at Christmas
- Members donate to the Red Cross, Holy Childhood, Spirit of Giving, Ottawa Mission Foundation, Catholic Canadian Missions, Terry Fox Run, Canadian Food for Children, Good Samaritan Trust Fund. Boxes of clothing and religious articles for Labrador
- Members attended the World Day of Prayer in Prescott and Cardinal, and participated in the services
- Money donated for boxes of food for Chernobyl
- Holy Communion is taken to Wellington House every First Friday of the month
- At Christmas, our parishioners at Wellington House, St. Lawrence Lodge, Mayfield Retirement, Sherwood Park Manor, and other shut-ins receive a gift with a Christmas card enclosed

### Christian Family Life: Darlene Marion

"I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly". John 10:10

Sanctity of life is a vital part of the Christian Family Life standing committee. Sanctity of life deals with all stages of life, from conception to natural death and so, we are concerned with topics as diverse as abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia. These matters are of great concern in Canada at this time and if we are to follow the example of Jesus, we will value the whole of our own lives and those of others, and allow God to carry out His plan for them.

We must help those who, through pain or illness, neglect or ignorance, have lost sight of the unique value of human life. As members of Jesus' body here on earth, we are to act as He would to help instruct our sisters and brothers, by our actions and example, in the difficult times of their lives. We must do whatever is necessary to show the sick and the suffering how valuable and lovable they are to us and give support so that they might have the courage to choose life. It is a huge task and challenge, but we must do what we can and trust God that it will be enough.

Together with my sisters in the League, we pray:

Heavenly Father, help us to build a culture of life. A culture in which each and every person is loved and valued as your Child, from conception to natural death, and in every circumstance of life. Amen.

### **Catholic Girls' League: Diane Jozefowicz**

St. Mark Catholic Girls' League has just celebrated their 9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! We are delighted to have come this far and hope we can continue for years to come!

Currently we are recruiting new members.....many of our girls have grown up and will soon be leaving for higher education. If you know of a girl aged 8 – 16 yrs. Who would like to try us out? Please call Anne 925-1251 or Diane 925-5133.

In February we voted in a new executive: Abby Murdock.....President, Sophia Marchand....Vice President, Elisabeth Lavallee.....Secretary and Jane MacDonald Treasurer. We thank our past president (currently our historian) Kate MacDonald for her tenure as President last year.

This past year's activities include: "Change for Change" for Lent, sent Christmas Cards to Pope Francis and Pope Benedict XVI (Emeritus) and received cards back!!,

Tie Dye T-Shirts, Angel Centerpieces for Parish Turkey Dinner, participated in the "Light up the Night" parade, made crafts for CWL Craft Show, Operation Christmas Cookie Boxes, and made donations to the Food Bank, victim of a fire and a cancer patient. We also had a Christmas Pizza/Movie Night.

Our motto is "Faith, Friendship, Fun and Formation."

We hope to: 1. achieve individual and collective spiritual development 2. promote social justice, recognizing the human dignity of all people 3. promote lasting bonds of friendship through enjoyable programs and 4. develop leadership qualities and skills

We thank all those who continue to support us: the girls and their families, the CWL, the Knights, the wonderful parishioners and especially Father Brennan. We are truly blessed!

### **Organization: Patricia Warren**

The total membership in 2014 for our Council was 191. We had two new members join our Council, three members transferred to St. Mark from other Councils, two members moved out of the area. We were saddened to have six deceased members last year, namely Eleanor Gilligan, Angela McLean, Bernadette Boivin, Betty Morris, Viola Reilly, and Elisabeth VanSchie. All of these ladies were long standing members of St. Mark Council.

At our June 2014 Potluck we were pleased to present Service Pins to the following ladies:

New Members: Carlene MacDonald, Colleen Dixon; 10Yrs.: Margaret Gogo, Estelle Guertin-Street, Corrinne Miller, Caitlin Sigg, Margaret (Peggy) Taylor; 25 Yrs.: Ida May Doyle, Marilyn McLelland, Cindy Shields; 40Yrs.: Helen Bovaird, Connie Martelle, Carol McLaughlin; 50Yrs.: Catherine Byrne, Sharon Shoemaker, Elizabeth Wert. It was an honour to present a 70Yr. Scroll to Mary Major.

We are continuing to use the envelope method of collecting our yearly membership. Our 2015 membership collection is near completion and so just a gentle reminder that the 2016 membership envelope can be found in the package of Sunday Offering envelopes the first weekend of December 2015....a long way off I know!! For those who do not use Sunday envelopes we will continue to collect memberships at the back of the church and also by personal contact.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to Shine Her Light upon all our Members and their Families.

**Historian: Patricia Warren**

I am privileged to serve as Historian of our Council. The Historian's role is varied...mentor, adviser and of course maintaining the rich history of our Council. In November 2014 we held our Elections of Executive for the next two years. Unfortunately we are still without two Convenors, Community Life and Resolutions. Both of these Convenorships are very important to our Council....it is not too late to step forward....you would never be alone. There are ladies in our Council and Diocesan Council to help and guide you along with the way. I am sure our President, Brenda Wardrop would be happy to hear from you if you can take on one of these vacant Convenorships. We must all strive to work together to have St. Mark Council remain a vibrant organization within our Parishes.

May Our Patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel, continue to shower Her Blessings upon our members and all those in our Parish communities.

**Community Life and Resolutions & Legislation: No convenors yet!** Please pray that C.W.L. members will come forward with their expertise for these important committees.

**Communications: Joan Toupin**

- Encouraged members to read The League magazine mailed out three times a year to all C.W. L. members and also to encourage them to use the magazine as a resource.
- Submitted articles to the League magazine that highlight members' special events such as service pin celebrations for 2014.
- Promoted faith oriented programs such as World Day of Prayer in Prescott on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Cardinal on January 20-24, 2014.
- Promoted programming on Vision TV and Salt and Light TV. National Communications Day was Feb. 2, 2014.
- World Communications Day was June 1, 2014, and Pope Francis concluded his message with these words, "Let us boldly become citizens of the digital world....may we respond to that challenge with fresh energy and imagination as we seek to share with others the beauty of God".
- Sent email to my MP requesting him to attend the Parliamentary screening of "RedLightGreenLight" regarding sex trafficking in Canada.
- "Catch the Fire" was a great success in Canada. "S'Mores, a collection of workshops intended to empower and energize League leadership is now available, a follow-up to Catch the Fire workshops. More information availed itself on <http://cwl.ca/xmores-now-available/> . Provincial Presidents are the first point of contact for availability to CWL councils.
- The Kingston Diocesan Council website is at [www.kingston.cwl.on.ca](http://www.kingston.cwl.on.ca)
- The Provincial website is at [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca)
- The National website is at [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca)
- Encouraged use of the National, Provincial and Diocesan websites for information and ideas, reports, communications in monthly reports, etc.
- We have a clustered Sacred Heart/St. Mark parish website available at [www.stmarksacredheart.ca](http://www.stmarksacredheart.ca)

- Provided information to members regarding websites for organizations, so that members can keep informed: “Be League” is a good source of information, and is posted online on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.
- Assisted CWL President with yearly calendar of events.
- Sent letters and emails to Members of Parliament, etc. for appreciation of good content.
- Encouraged parents and grandparents to supervise and promote good television viewing and safe internet use, especially for “Pornography Hurts” campaign.
- Produced and distributed Spring Newsletter in April 19/20, 2014 to all parishioners and shut-ins, included in the Parish Bulletin, sent via email and posted on Parish website.
- Used Parish Bulletin to promote League events such as, Church brunches for Mother’s Day and Father’s Day, CWL/K of C Turkey supper, Spaghetti dinners, Crafts & Tea Room, St. Patrick & Harvest suppers, Bake sales, Parish missions, parades, meetings, Christmas Bazaars, etc.
- Used website where available, and Bulletin Boards to post minutes of meetings, retreats or notices regarding CWL activities and other events.
- Used Bulletin to advertise for Pictorial Directory for Sacred Heart church.
- Proclamation 2014 sponsored by Canadian Bible Society – reading of the entire Bible in 10 days. Sacred Heart and St. Mark volunteered to read on April 28<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 5 pm.
- Advertised events in the Church bulletin, submitted articles and advertisements in local newspapers. Positive relationships promote positive images.
- Subscribed to The Catholic Register Updates, Word on Fire via email.

Pornography: Dictates that the satisfaction of one’s own desires is all that matters. It leaves in its wake broken marriages, estranged and molested children, shattered young people, and deteriorating neighbourhoods.

- Sent letters and CWL postcards to government leaders, MP’s and MPP’s urging monitoring of programming on websites and to eliminate pornographic content on TV.
- Sent email to MPP Minister of Education, Liz Sandals and demanded an end to plans announced by the Ministry to update the sexual education curriculum with changes that parents oppose because they are graphic and age-inappropriate and don’t align with the principles of many religious and cultural groups. We do not believe that pre-teen children should be overloaded with graphic information about sex. As their parents and grandparents, we want to preserve their innocence as long as possible. In the realm of the formation of our children, parents are the first educators and have the greatest authority over how and when sensitive material is introduced to them. We expect the schools to support and not undermine parental authority.
- I received a letter from MP for Leeds-Grenville Gord Brown. He advised that a public online reporting service Cybertip.ca was launched by the Government of Canada, law enforcement agencies, the private sector, and non-profit groups to allow the reporting of illegal internet content and sexual exploitation of children.
- What can CWL members do about Pornography? Pray for the conversion of pornographers, pray for the women and children who are degraded, abused and used as objects. Pray for the conversion of our society and for a return to respect for the God-given dignity of every human being.

**Cards: Denise Gauthier**

Visit Mayfield Retirement Residence every 2 weeks and I bring Holy Communion to the Catholics.

In 2014, the following cards were sent:

Sympathy: 30; Get Well: 17; Best Wishes: 7; Birthday: 11;

**St. Mark and Sacred Heart Upcoming Events:**

Mother's Day Breakfast Buffet – Sacred Heart – Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> - 10 am – 1:30 pm  
St. Mark - Mother's Day Bake Sale — Saturday & Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> after each Mass.  
St. Mark - Confirmation – Saturday – May 9<sup>th</sup> @ 5:15 Mass  
March for Life – Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> to Ottawa  
St. Mark School – Family Movie Night - Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm  
St. Mark - First Holy Communion Enrollment — Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> @ 5:15 Mass and Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> @ 11am Mass  
St. Mark - First Holy Communion— May 31<sup>st</sup> @11 am Mass.  
Knights of Columbus - St. Paul the Apostle Council Charity Golf Tournament – June 6<sup>th</sup> – Camben Braes Golf Course.  
Sacred Heart – Feast of Sacred Heart of Jesus celebrated on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> after 9 am Mass at Parish Hall.  
Sacred Heart – Father's Day Breakfast Buffet – Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> after 9 am Mass in Parish Hall.  
St. Mark/Sacred Heart – Summer Potluck and Pin Celebration – Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> after 6 pm Mass at St. Mark Hall.  
St. Mark Cemetery Mass – Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> @ 5:15 pm. Bring your lawn chairs.  
Sacred Heart Cemetery –Chaplet of Divine Mercy – Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 PM. Bring your lawn chairs.  
Sacred Heart Parish Hall – Coffee and Tea Social – Last Sunday of every month after Mass.  
Sacred Heart – Harvest Supper – Thursday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> – turkey dinner.  
St. Mark – Craft Show & Tea Room – Saturday, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. More info to follow.  
St. Mark – Knights of Columbus/Catholic Women's League – Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> – turkey dinner, more info to follow  
St. Mark – Senior Lights Tour – December 2015.