



Catholic Women's League

St. Bartholomew Council

59 Heather Road, Scarborough, ON.



Fall/Winter 2014

Calendar of Events

Executive Meetings

7pm-2nd Tuesday of every month except July & August

General Meetings

7pm-Last Tuesday of every month.
No meeting in July & August.

20th CWL Anniversary Celebration Mass.

September 30, 2014

Holy Spirit Retreat

St Bartholomew Parish

Oct 1- Nov 19, 2014

Wednesday Evenings.

Scarborough Regional General Meeting.

October 6th. 7:00pm.

Precious Blood Church

Mass at St Rose of Lima Oct 7th 7:00pm.

End Women Abuse

Lecture Series U of T - October 8

Topic : Euthanasia

Speaker: Dr Margaret Somerville

21st. Interfaith Celebration. Oct 17th 7:30pm

St. Joseph's Church

Executive Meeting October 22nd- 7:00pm

General Meeting & Talk on Alzheimer's

October 28th. 7:00pm

Cardinal's Dinner. November 6th

Mass For Deceased CWL Members.

Wed November 12, -7:00pm

Precious Blood

Parish Executive Training

Deadline to Register Friday November 7th.

Saturday November 15th. -9:00am-2:00pm

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Baking Bee Thursday November 20th.

9:00am-1:00pm

Bake Sale & Raffle November 22 & 23

Saturday & Sunday

General Meeting November 26th.

Evening of Advent Reflection

Thursday November 27th, 7:00-9:00pm

St Aidan's Church

Christmas Craft Night CWL & CGL

Family Night- Popcorn & Chips.

November 27.

Christmas Party Dec 2

World Day of Prayer—January 10, 2015

Festival Day.

Development Day February 26, 2015.

Mary Matthews PSC—February 9, 2015

Ordinandi Dinner.—March 3, 2015

Pearson Convention Centre.

Deadline for Payment:

January 31st. 2015

A Message from the President

At this juncture of time, we have done remarkably well on the plans we have set out to do. Thanks to a vibrant hard working executive, we have rolled through the past nine months as if we were on a locomotive going for gold; and we did achieve gold on the celebration of our twentieth anniversary.

But like athletes we must stay fit. To our regular members, thank you for supporting us. Your confidence goes a long way. We have been short of two executives who have stepped down from their Chairs. We thank them for their contributions of the past, and wish them every success in their future undertakings.

As the leaves turn from their beautiful bright colours we welcome Fall and anticipate the winter months ahead; and pray that this winter will be a bit kinder and more bearable than last winter.

But in the book of Psalms; 147:16-18 , we are reminded of God's goodness. It states: "He gives snow like wool; He scatters frost like ashes. He hurls hail like crumbs--who can stand before His cold? He sends out His Word and melts them."

We have worked hard to uphold our mantra " For God and Canada" we have demonstrated our Christian values as women of 'Faith in Action' in the many activities we have participated in to help our sisters around the world.

Whatever social and spiritual challenges we may face, we will stand firm and confidently say: "We have seen the Lord. Let His Light continue to Guide Our Path".

May we never lose sight of the many blessings bestowed on us and our families, and be always cognizant of the gifts given to us, they must be shared with those in need.

May our Patroness continue to be the beacon leading us to her Son. Our Lady Of Good Counsel pray for us.

Sonia

Looking Back

At our general meeting January 28, 2014 and in my first address as your incoming president, I stated there will be "many challenges along the path, but if we work as a team, we can conquer the negatives & accomplish the positives"...I don't think I knew what I was saying then. It was words of expression put in my thought process and it sounded great.

While we have achieved a lot in the past ten months, nurturing our spiritual growth, and enjoying our social activities, the pace has been hectic as well. I have seen the growth and participation of our members increase. We have tried to live out the gospel values in everything we do, and we call on the wisdom of our Patroness Our Lady of Good Council at all our meetings; relying on her guidance.

But because it's an ongoing life process, we have a long way to go and to grow. But I wish to pause & reflect and share my appreciation for all the help and support I have received. To our executives, you have been amazing with your contributions and your loyalty; even being short of Teresa Menezes who stepped -down from her Communication Chair responsibilities.

Both Dagma and I stepped-up to take on the extra assignment and have done well. Lisa Silva have now stepped down from her Christian Family Life Chair. We thank Lisa and Teresa for their past contributions. But you do know what that means. We are hoping that two members will be drawn to fill those voids. Please come forward, Don't be shy.

To the ladies who joined the ad hoc committee, I wish to reiterate my sentiments to thank you on accomplishing what we set out to do when we started meeting in July. Your contribution was invaluable. Team Spirit prevailed and what a roaring success our twentieth anniversary turned out to be. I do hope everyone who attended had an enjoyable evening, appreciated the details that went into making the evening so special. You can share with pride the outcome of the evening. We now look fondly with pride to twenty years passed but that we will continue to build the blocks for another twenty years and beyond.

To all new members, Welcome. Please join us as often as you can at our monthly meetings. I know that's not always possible because of work schedule and family commitments. But come when you can and bring your ideas. Soon we will be sending out notification to renew your membership for 2015, Please renew when you are called upon. The Catholic Women's League is a great Organization.

To all our long standing members, you have been the bedrock of stability to our council. Thank you for your faithfulness and your ongoing support. While age and illness may have caused us to slow down somewhat, our spirits are undaunted. Please continue to help us keep our council strong as we move forward.

I would like to use this opportunity to let you know that I was deeply humbled, surprised and thankful to receive the beautiful arrangement of flowers at the end of our evening of celebration. I felt like a maestro at the end of a concert. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

I am honoured to serve as your president.
May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide us in all that we do as we journey the path that leads to her Son.

Membership 2015

We have increased our membership from 52- to 66 and it is still growing in 2014. Some were members renewal, and we have added new members. It is time once again to renew membership for 2015, I am requesting that if it's possible to renew your membership by cheque, please do so. You can give it to our Treasurer Theresa Greasley, or place it in a sealed envelope and place it in the CWL mail-slot, located in the corridor leading from the Church Office. A cheque is an excellent way to keep your record. But remember we won't refuse cash.

Anniversary Dinner .

After a successful evening, the Anniversary Mass and Celebration Dinner, held September 30th, those in attendance are still talking about it. One member's comment was, "our council was recognized on the Catholic Women's League Map Of Canada. It enabled us to soar to new heights. We Can! We will soar!" We dined in style in a beautifully decorated fine dining elegance with wine being available to soothe the palate.

But the evening was primarily to recognize our members at all levels. We had members in attendance who were some of the founding members *who said "Yes"* to Fr Joseph Murphy's Call. Those members who served as Presidents. Those members who served the League for 20 years in executive roles. And the regular members who demonstrated dedication and exceptional service to our *Council*.

Special Presentation Awards were made to recognize and to acknowledge the support of our Pastor Fr Foley and our two Deacons; Tab Charbonneau and Leo Vanderkooy whose wives Mary and Trudy, were part of the original 19 founding members, and who have held executive roles throughout the past 20 years.

Invited Guest

Also in attendance were Mary Capobianco, President of the Toronto Diocese and her husband Vince, Luccia Vacca, 2nd Vice President and Spiritual Conventor of the TDC. our Regional Chair Suzanne Cockburn; who is very supportive in attending all our special events.

The event was opened to member's spouse so that we could acknowledge their attendance which is not the usual practice of our event gatherings. The meal was catered and everyone was invited for seconds. Please visit the Church's website at www.stbartholomew.com to view the photographs in the Gallery.

CWL Anniversary Booklets Are Available.

The anniversary booklets are still available at a cost of \$5:00 each. The cost of printing was \$3:50 and 75 copies were printed. It's a keepsake similar to a high school "Year Book" and contains photographs of all our members up to the time of printing in mid September. This is your opportunity "to put a name to a face." Please get your copy, and get to know your St Bart's CWL family. The booklet tells a story. It's a St Bart's story about things you never knew about our Council.

The booklet was a real labour of love. It took three months of daily changes, additions and deletions to achieve the final booklet. For those who purchase a copy, I thank you for your respect and appreciation, it was a tireless effort to ensure that every member was represented by many many calls to individuals and even going to homes to take some photographs. For those who have not yet purchased one of the twentieth anniversary "Year Book" there are some still available.

Welcome Back From Your Summer Retreat

While everyone did not go away, I am certain there was time to relax and do something special. As you may not be aware, the executive did not have a rest from planning all the events that occurred since we last had a general meeting in May 2014.

93rd Toronto Diocesan Convention

On the first day of TDC CONVENTION five of us attended the 93rd Toronto Diocesan Convention at the International Plaza Hotel. On the second day there were 6 of us. For the Banquet there were 16 of us scheduled to attend, including Fr Fred, but due to illness two were unable to attend. The theme of the Convention was: *"We have Seen the Lord. Let His Light Guide our Path"*

Both days were packed with great speakers. On the morning of the first day, we attended the Resolution Workshop, working on the language of the two Resolutions to be presented. At the last minuet one of the Resolutions was withdrawn.

Summer Dining Out

On a beautiful warm summer evening in early July, 24 of our members including our Pastor attended our annual summer "dining out." We dined at Barsilino and celebrated a surprise. It was the 90th birthday of Amelia Pereira and included a cake, candles, and all the trimmings. See our website for photos.

High Tea

On a summer afternoon in a garden setting reminiscent of bygone Commonwealth Royal etiquette era, we sat under canopies as we sipped tea and ate hors d'oeuvres. We strolled through the garden enjoying the friendship and fellowship of sisterhood. In the beautifully decorated English garden ambiance, we spent the afternoon.

The purpose of the event was for the Development & Peace fund raiser "High Tea" There were 50 members and their friends in attendance and raised \$891:00. You can visit the St Bartholomew's website and view the photographs that were taken.

Garage Sale & Church Picnic

In August we participated in the Garage Sale in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus. We sold household items as well as shoes and clothing's. A big hit was our Lemonade and Guava Juice Stand. We raised \$346:00 from the event.

The month of August was busy planning meetings for our twentieth anniversary. During August we also joined in the church's Saint Day Vigil Mass and Picnic on the Church-grounds which was held on August 23rd.

CGL celebrates 1st year

On August 10th, our young protégés, the CGL, celebrated their 1st anniversary at the 11.15 am Mass. A Special Blessing was bestowed on the girls and their parents; by our Pastor Fr Fred, the Founder. The CGL dedicated a Hymn to the Blessed Mother during communion with their rendition of "Gentle Woman" conducted by their Counselor Sheila D'Souza. At the end of Mass there was a round of applause by the congregation and the usual "Photo Op" followed by cake served to our parishioners.

September was drawing close The planning continued which included the shopping, rentals and finalizing of the details of the the program. The "big day" finally arrived September 30th. That day we celebrated our twentieth anniversary in style. That's now history as we move forward.

Submitted by Sonia.



20th Anniversary Members

The 93rd Annual Toronto Diocesan Convention May 29-30 2014

"We Have Seen the Lord, Let His Light Guide Our Path" was the theme for the 93rd Annual Toronto Diocesan Convention held in May 2014. What a success! Two wonderful days of prayer, fun, fellowship and bonding of our sisters in the League. Everyone did a wonderful job from the TDC Convention Committee, members of the executive, regional chairs and all those members who gave their time and talents. Those who attended had a memorable time.

A number of Spiritual Advisors joined us to celebrate the opening and closing Masses. Alice Warford and the wonderful/fairful Scarborough Choir for the past 3 years in attendance. The keynote speakers were inspiring especially Maria Karajovanova, Pastoral Minister at Covenant House spoke passionately about the challenges the youth of today have to face.

The guest speaker that struck me most was Monsignor Pat Stilla from St. Patrick's Cathedral in Thunder Bay. His wonderful sense of humour along with a very thorough understanding of the League he spoke about the many challenges Catholic women face today both in their communities and with the CWL. (You should have seen our ladies looking at each other from the corner of their eyes with a smirk on their face).

Thanks and appreciation was extended to key members for dedicated service in their regions. Imelda Santos received the Bellelre Guerin Award.

At the closing banquet, we welcomed His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins. He continues to support and encourage the CWL. We now look forward to the next TDC Convention scheduled for April/May, 2015

***Sheilah D'Souza
Past President.***

The 67th Annual Ontario Provincial Convention July 6-9 2014.

The journey at St Bartholomew started when I announced at the May General meeting that I would like to encourage members who are available to attend the Provincial Convention at least for one day. I further stated that the Council would pay the \$10:00 registration but all other Expense would have to be absorbed by the individuals. The information on registration and the events were circulated.

The challenge we faced was to find a driver or drivers to make the mission possible. We were fortunate that Brenda our Resolution & Legislation Chair was due to start vacation. The date July 8 was selected to attend the Convention.

Five of us on the morning of July 8th departed from the parking lot of St Bart's at approximately 5:45am our drive was uneventful except for the thick fog for the whole course of the trip. We arrived at our destination the Best Western in Cobourg in record time.

The morning started with Eucharistic Celebration at 8:30 am, the main Celebrant was the Most Reverend Bishop Gerard Bergie Bishop of St Catherine, Our Ontario Provincial Spiritual Advisor. In attendance were many Spiritual Advisors and visiting Priests as Concelebrants. The offering that was taken up was for Development and Peace to be directed to the Philip-pines Disaster Fund.

After an energized music stretch break with foot tapping, clapping, dancing and singing of the "Roar" Katy Perry's song "Eye of the Tiger, to the words befitting of a CWL member's lifestyle led by Toronto Diocese twosome Alice Warford and Tracy MacInnis. We emphasized the roar and the eye of the tiger as we roared. The team participants then dressed in straw colourful Hawaiian costumes demonstrating the CWL "Catch The Fire" theme. We then had a refreshment break.

The next phase of the morning was our keynote speaker Fr. Frank Freitas, who elaborated on the CWL's theme "We Have Seen The Lord." He explained that to see The Lord is to watch Him, to emulate Him, to love Him, to go and follow Him and in turn to transform our lives. Fr emphasized that when we see The Lord remember He sees us too. He explained that when the disciples saw the Ascension of our Lord that was not the end they went on to transfer their hearts of love to others. He spoke of God's approach to us that it's never in a shout but in a whisper and God asks us to come a little closer so He can tell us more about Himself. He also invites us through His Son Jesus to love Him, to serve Him and to thank Him for all that He has done for us.

After lunch the session resumed with The Divine Mercy Chaplet in Song. The business session commenced with the discussions on the two Proposed Resolutions:

- *ON. 1401 Mandatory Labelling of Genetically Modified Products.*
- *ON. 14.02 Feathers of Hope-Empowering First Nation Youth.*

After some more discussion and minor changes the two Resolutions were voted on and passed to be presented at the National Convention in Fredericton, New Brunswick August 10-13, 2014.

At the end of the business session all five of us went for a drive to "Betty's Home Made Pies" store and purchased some of the goodies. Although it was raining we went for a drive in the town as far as the Waterfront Trail, sitting in the car and enjoyed the beautiful scenery.

Later on that afternoon at the invitation of our Regional Chair Suzanne Cockburn we relaxed in her suite, for some down time and conversation.

At approximately 6:45 we left to attend the Banquet. Most people were decked in beautiful Mardi Grass style face masks. Some people were even dressed in period costumes eg Marie Antoinette.

The evening event was well organized and most enjoyable, and although we did not sit with each other we made new friends we had a fantastic time. The buffet meal was delightful and the entertainment was beyond our expectation. We were entertained by a band playing Canadian Folk music; Doug Leahy, his wife Jennifer and six of their seven children. They all played the Fiddle, played the piano, sang, danced like the "Riverboat Dancers, played the drum and one would have to see them in action to appreciate how talented they are.

The day was most enjoyable and we left after 9:00pm arriving at St Bart's parking lot approximately 10:45.

The group in attendance were Mary Charbonneau, Brenda Bourne Marcel Glean, Sheilah D'Souza and I.

Submitted by Sonia.

WHO ARE WE ?

We the ladies of the Catholic Women's League are described or known by many names. Some describe us as the " old ladies" who like to bake, some describe us as knitters and craft makers. Most often the Clergy at various levels refer to us as the "backbone" of the Church. This is in no way meant to take away anything from our brother Knights.

But two of the best descriptions which in my mind demonstrate who we really are states : "Women of Faith and Substance" and "Women of Faith and Action. "

But recently I convinced myself that the best description befitting us is "Women of Faith In Action."

How did I manipulate the expression to women of faith in action? Here are some of my reasons. At Martyrs Shrine September 21, Rosary Sunday as we attended the thirtieth anniversary "open air" Mass on a rainy Sunday afternoon, I saw my sisters decked in their rain gear and their most identifiable mark, the blue scarf. Later on in the afternoon we proudly held our Banners high as we processed around the grounds to the Papal Altar; where the living Rosary was being said. But that's not all, participating in announcing three of the Decades of the Rosary were three of our executives from the Toronto Diocese.

On October 6th on a rainy night, we attended the Scarborough Regional Mass at Precious Blood Parish followed by a meeting. At the meeting we listened to the report of ten presidents of Scarborough Region relating one by one the various activities they had accomplished in the past six months. Those accomplishments were all rooted in living the Gospel Values.

The following evening on another rainy windy night we attended the fifth annual Mass to "End Abuse to Women" at St Rose Of Lima Church. Before the commencement of the Mass after "saying" the Rosary we processed around the inside of the Church with our CWL Banners to show our solidarity for women who meet with violence in their daily lives from spousal abuse.

The following evening, another damp cool autumn night as I attended the Holy Spirit Retreat (a six week presentation) at our Parish of ,St Bartholomew, there were approximately 140 men and women in attendance. My observation was how many of the participants were my CWL sisters in attendance. To top my observation and to stimulate this article was the number of group leaders who were CWL members. Are you curious? There are 15 small groups and of those 15 there are 7 CWL sisters as leaders. The music ministry is conducted by a CWL sister and the choir is stacked with CWL sisters.

Now by those few examples I have tried to demonstrate just a glimpse of who we are. We are constantly striving to grow in our faith; in doing so we become not simply women of faith and action; but "Women Of Faith In Action. "

In one of the readings from the 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time in 1 Thessalonians 1—5, St Paul commended the Christian churches for their faith in action. May we too as students of the Gospel develop a strong desire To imitate the Master and reflect on how the power of our example influence all whom we meet.

Our Duties Towards God From the Book Of Sirach .

"My child, when you come to serve the Lord ,prepare yourself for testing.

Set your heart right and be steadfast, and do not be impetuous in time of calamity. Cling to him and do not depart, so that your last days may be prosperous.

Accept whatever befalls you ,and in times of humiliation be patient. For gold is tested in the fire, and those found acceptable ,in the furnace of humiliation. Trust in him, and he will help you; make your ways straight, and hope in him". Sirach 2:1-6

Reflection:

In the above words of Sirach his advise to us is to serve God by preparing ourselves for trials and sufferings,clinging to God steadfastly, and trusting in God.

French Proverb

"The efficient person gets the job done right.
The effective person gets the right job done"

Peter Drucker's Principle

"Management is doing things right, Leadership is doing the right things"

Explanation

Efficiency is the use of financial, human, physical and information resources so that the output is maximized even if those input is minimized.

But doing a job effectively involves time,planning, and the right strategy. In this case, the focus is placed on the outcome rather than just the input.

But both efficiency and effectiveness are an integral part of a successful endeavour.

Catholic Women's League Did You Know

The Maple Leaf Service Pin.

The Maple Leaf Service pin is a very attractive pin it is gold-plated sterling silver with the league crest. It is awarded to CWL members who have served the League in an exceptional or meritorious manner.

At our twentieth anniversary celebration September 30th the Pin was awarded to one of our members.

Some of the best laid successful plans start around the dinner table in homes and in restaurants in every culture. That is why families are encouraged to have meals together with the whole family in a healthy discussion at dinner time. Today that can be difficult to achieve but that's worth making every effort to be maintained as an excellent family tradition.

On April 30th, 2013 when Sheilah sat at the banquet table at our 92nd Toronto Diocesan Convention, little did she know that something new to St. Bart's was about to be born. When the first CGL from Xavier parish performed; a conversation ensued and Fr. Foley was impressed to do something for the young girls of our parish at St. Bart's. The rest as they say is history. The Catholic Girls League celebrated their first anniversary this August.

The birth of the Catholic Girls League became a reality and Sheilah added 9 young ladies under her wings, with the help of Lisa Silva and Theresa Greasley two of the Counsellors who co-authored this new chapter in the life of St. Bart's.

As a result of the hard work that was put in for the formation and ongoing leadership and mentoring to these young ladies and for work to the Scarborough Region; Sheilah was awarded the Maple Leaf Service Pin from our Council.

Congratulations to you for achieving a first in our Council. Continue to do what is good for God and Canada.

Birthday Club

Congratulations to all our members who celebrated a birthday during the past months. If you did not hear from us, we are sorry we missed your special day. Please let us know before your next birthday.

Sick Note Corner

To our members who are this time incapacitated due to illness, know that you are being prayed for at each meeting.

Bereavement Corner

To those who are suffering the loss of a loved one, may the God of Comfort wrap His loving Arms around you as you grieve your loss.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let Perpetual light shine upon them.

May their soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Contributions to the Newsletter

All submissions should be typed and the digital file submitted by email.

Copyright material will not be accepted for use in the newsletter without written permission of the author.

Contact: Sonia for further details.

Upcoming Events

General Meeting & Alzheimer's Talk

Tuesday October 28th- 7:00pm -9:00pm
Refreshment will be available

35th. Annual Cardinal's Dinner

Thursday November 6th.
Metro Convention Centre
Cost \$185:00 per person.

Mass For Deceased CWL Members.

Wednesday November 12th. 7:00pm
Precious Blood Parish.
1737 Lawrence Ave E

Right To Life Christmas Cards Sale

Dates: October 25 & 26-November 1 & 2
Cost per package \$8:00
Please show your support.

Parish Executive Training Session.

All CWL Members Are Invited.
Immaculate Heart Of Mary. Parish
131 Birchmount Road
Saturday November 15th.
Training Session 9:00am-2:00pm.
Registration starts at 8:30am (pick up name tags).
Deadline For Pre-Registration is Friday Nov. 7th.

Fall Baking Bee

Thursday November 20th 9:00am-2:00pm.
Norma Hing's Residence.
Come and join us there is something for everyone to do.
We need volunteers to peel & slice apples, to prepare the pastry, roll, shape & decorate the pies, prepare the pie boxes. The only thing you don't have to do is bake the pie. The large oven will do the rest.

Bake Sale & Raffle.

Saturday & Sunday November 22 & 23
We need Volunteers to sell tickets at each Mass
Ticket Sale Start: November 8 & 9 and Two Following W/E
We need : Prizes For Raffle/Baked Goods for adults & children,
For example, cupcakes etc. Please note: it's a Nut Free Zone.

Family Craft Night-November CWL & CGL

November 27
Michelina with all her ideas on Christmas decorations/crafts will show us things like how to make Christmas Stocking. You will pay the cost of the material, and get to take home what you have made. Are you interested?

Santa Is In Town OH OH OH!!!

The Annual CWL Christmas Party to be held in the Narthex
December 2nd
It will be a "Potluck" event.

CWL Spiritual Development Growth Ongoing

For All Councils- Read Galatians 5:22-23
Fruits Of the Spirit Prayer Guide
Autumn 2014-Spring 2015 (April 30 & May 1)
Each Meeting **We will focus on one or more of the Fruits of the Spirit.**
Hand Outs -Meeting October 28, 2014