



# Catholic Women's League

**St. Bartholomew Council**

59 Heather Road, Scarborough, ON.



Spring 2014

## Calendar of Events

### Executive Meetings

7 pm—2nd Tuesday monthly, except July/August

### General Meetings

7 pm—Last Tuesday Monthly  
Except July/August.

### Phone Committee Reminder

Please activate your call list 3 days prior to the meetings. Thank you, and keep up the good work.

**Spring Regional Meeting**—April 10

**Baking Bee**—April 23

**Solemnity of Our Lady of Good Counsel**

April 26

**Spring Bake Sale & Raffle**—April 26 & 27

**Spring Plant Sale Project**—May 4

**March for Life**—May 8

**Mothers Day Breakfast**—May 10

**93rd Toronto Diocesan Convention**

May 29 & 30

**St. Bart's Int'l Bread Festival** June 21 / 22

**Solemnity of Corpus Christi**—June 22

**Summer Dining out**—June 24

## CWL Executive 2014-2015

**Spiritual Advisor:** Rev. Fr. Fred Foley

**President:** Sonia DaCosta-Spence

**President Elect :** Dagma St. John

**Recording Secretary:** Anne Wylie

**Treasurer:** Theresa Greasley

**Past President:** Sheilah D'Souza

### Executive Chairs

**Spiritual Development:** Winnie Yan

**Christian Family Life:** Lisa Silva

**Education & Health:** Flora Vaz

**Communications:** Teresa Menezes

**Legislation & Resolution:** Brenda Bourne

## A Message from the President

Welcome to your first newsletter for 2014. As we greet spring it's a time we have all been looking forward to. The winter has been so harsh and appears prolonged that we long to see the new life of Spring, like the Crocuses' followed by the Tulips, peeking through the thin layers of the snow, and the return of the birds that flew south. Yes! Spring is a time of new beginnings, new life and regeneration new hope.

As we journey through the Liturgical 40 days of Lent, we know that the joy of the Resurrection awaits us. Resurrection is a word of hope, but it means that first, something has to die, and so we look forward to the Great Alleluia, the Glorious Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday.

As your new president, I look forward to the opportunity to serve you, and to be the best that I can be. This year we are celebrating 20 years, and an exciting time for all of us, but especially for five of the original members who today can see and enjoy the fruits of their labour.

So whatever the challenges we face, let us as women of "faith and substances" continue to aim for a vibrant viable Council, so those that follow can one day celebrate 50years and more as they recall the trail blazers we were.

May we continue to strive to please God as we live out the Gospel values. May the guiding light of Our Lady of Good Counsel our Patroness, be with us today and always.

Sonia



Back (l-r) Teresa, Winnie  
Front (l-r) Anne, Sheila, Sonia, Dagma, Theresa

# Looking Back

## The Baking Bee:

### Apple Pies Production November 2013

12 members of the CWL met bright and early at Norma Hing's home to bake apple pies for the fall Bake Sale. Norma was ready for us, with stations for cutting apples and making pastry. There were 3 large boxes of apples, huge bowls of flour, and plenty of enthusiasm.

Once everyone had arrived we broke into two groups – 6 were peeling and slicing apples, while the other 6 were mixing filling and rolling pastry. There was plenty of conversation and laughter as we worked away. Before long, the delicious smell of cinnamon and apples was wafting out of the kitchen. As the pies started to stack up on the cooling racks, we were all anxious to have a taste.

After a productive morning, we broke for lunch. Winnie brought a tasty soup and Norma provided some delicious pasta and chicken. Of course, we sampled the first apple pie for dessert! It tasted as good as it smelled. Then it was back to work making up boxes for all those pies.

As usual, the day was a success. It was a fun-filled gathering of women who enjoy each other's company and worked together for a common goal. A "Thank you" goes out to Carmela Burdi, who donated the apples, to Norma Hing for her hospitality, and to the CWL members who attended the Baking Bee.

**Theresa Greasley**

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## The Annual Fall Bake Sale & Raffle November 2013

There is an old saying which goes like this "laughter is the best medicine."

I won't dispute that, since there appears to be medical evidence to support it.

But my personal experience is that baking is a very relaxing tool. You see if I started laughing by myself, I may be perceived as being "not with it."

Well the ladies of the league have earned the reputation of being good bakers and that's why that's the only thing "they do is to have bake sales." That's the conclusion some people have of us. But I would like to share our secret. Yes we love to bake, it's any excellent way to relax, and our talent improves over the years. That's why we enjoy baking stuff.

As usual our Bake Sales are very successful, so it was with our Fall endeavour there were so many choices. The cupcakes were the children's favourite, the Biscotti there

is never enough. The cassava pone, bread pudding, corn bread and banana bread is for the sweet tooth who enjoy the back home baked stuff. Then you ask if it's baked goods why is the chicken and the beef roti such a crowd pleaser. Yes! yes! there is always a line up and there are people who come just for the roti.

The Apple Pies are the best, better than the store bought. They are made with lots of love, fresh spices from the Islands and best of all there are no preservatives. Our grandma's would be proud of us.

Well as I said before the event was very successful we raised \$2300:00. We donated \$1,000:00 to St Bart's Building Fund. Some of our charitable donations to name a few included: Catholic Family Services, Rosalie Hall, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, St Michael's Scholarship and Typhoon Relief.

Sonia DaCosta-Spence

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## CWL Christmas Party 2013 December 2013

Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle all the Way  
OH What Fun It Is To.....

Be a CWL member and celebrate in fellowship, love and laughter.

November meeting was a joyous occasion with celebration of Mass led by

Fr Foley followed by a catered dinner. President Sheilah D'Souza welcomed

all present and also in attendance were newly formed CGL members Amy and Christine who were the Elves assisting merry Mrs Clause our own Ho!! Ho!! Sheilah.

The tables were beautifully decorated in red, white and gold, depicting the ambiance of fine dining.

Our invited guests included Scarborough Regional Chair Suzanne Cockburn, Carol Whittaker and Gaetana Larocca. Mary Ratchford who now resides in a home was picked up and taken home at the end of the evening.

Sam Spence, husband of Sonia Da Costa Spence, was our photographer for the evening, who took individual pictures of the CWL members to start our recognition of 20 years as a council picturesque for 2014.

The evening went extremely well with various ticket draws for gifts, sing-a-long ending with sincere thanks to everyone for continuing support, dedication of sister-ship guided by our Patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Brenda Bourne.

## Installation of Executive 2014-2015 January 2014

On Sunday January 19th at the 9:30 Mass our newly elected executive for 2014-2015 was installed. The Celebrant of the Mass was Fr Dexter Brereton CSSP, a visiting Priest from Trinidad & Tobago who Concelebrated with Fr Fred Foley our Pastor and Spiritual Advisor. Fr Dexter is no stranger to our parish, since he celebrated Mass many times while he was studying for a post graduate degree at University of Toronto's Regis College.

Fr Dexter personalized his homily to reflect the importance of the CWL. He described us as the backbone of the church. But he stated that while we had such a role we must realize that as an executive we are there to serve the people. Like priests, referring to himself and Fr Fred as he pointed to Fr Fred.

He emphasized the importance of the love of people vs the love of things, and that things should not supersede people. He also said that there will be suffering attached to the role as servants and our example was the suffering of Christ in his role, because He told the people He came "to serve and not to be served." Yet he was always criticized for the good that He did.

Fr Fred performed the ceremonial words for the Installation, and during the ceremony, I was given the Gavel and pinned by Sheila, our Past President. I in turn should have pinned Sheila. However, the Past President's pin was not readily available during the ceremony but later at the Reception which followed in the Catacomb, Sheila was pinned with the Past President's Pin.

We were graced with three guests, Lucia Vacca from Toronto Diocesan Council who is Spiritual Development Chair, and 2nd VP, as well as her husband. Also in attendance were Suzanne Cockburn, Scarborough Regional Chair and Mary Gill President of St. Barnabas Council.

There was a reception held in the Catacomb for members and their spouse, in which approximately 40 people were in attendance.

The Executive and I would like to thank everyone for their contribution to the success of the event.

Sonia DaCosta-Spence.



Attendees at the CWL Installation Ceremony including Guests

## **Manresa Retreat Weekend—January 2014**

Silence on any given time is a test for all of us. Silence at Manresa gives value to anyone who attends a retreat there. The weekend topic was, "Making sense of my Faith when things don't make sense in my life".

Common Question: Why me, Lord?

Answer (could be): Why not me, Lord?

There are many challenges in life which can be good or bad. Our Faith provides strength to face the challenges, ie: suffering, failure. The Lord comes to us to fulfill and care for us, to walk along side with us through thick and thin. We are a CHILD OF GOD and He loves us no matter what situation evolves. His love is unconditional and is always there for us. He will never abandon us.

There are no limitations. God loves you, the 'entire' person. Give praise and thanks for the many graces and gifts. May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide you; CWL is rooted in Gospel values.

Brenda Bourne

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## **Health and Education Report February**

The first event that I was partially involved in was the Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest. By the time our election and installation took place, Winnie had already delivered the information packages to the schools and there was no time for her to take me around to introduce me to the principals/teachers.

The event was held Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at St. Bartholomew Church. There were three judges – Annette McDonald, Frank Adams, both retired teachers and Dr. Ken Fung, St. Bart's parishioner, and one time keeper, Roy Van Veen, a retired civil servant, all selected by Winnie.

Seven children participated – Three from Elizabeth Seton, and four from St. Ignatius of Loyola. Sonia, our President, opened the event with a welcome followed by the League Prayer. She then introduced me and I took over from there.

The event was successful in that we had seven children who took part. The winner was Daniella Colangelo from St. Ignatius, and the runner up was Matthew Valencia from Elizabeth Seton.

The trophies have been inscribed with their names and will be returned to the schools. Only a few CWL attended the event. They were: Shirley Fung, Dagma St. John, Bernadette So and Theresa Greasley. Also in attendance were Mary Gill, CWL President of St Barnabas and Annie Iyengar, Health and Education Chair. A poor turnout which I hope will change next year. I personally thought it was very disappointing that there were no students from St. Bartholomew School. I will encourage their participation next year as I remind them that my daughter was a winner in 2013.

Flora Vaz

## **Scarborough Region Winter Event February**

You will surely agree with me that WEATHER is a major topic when it comes to making small talk, and we are certainly experiencing the cold winter blues. So, it is safe to say that winter isn't gone for good. Further, needless to say, that falling temperatures are welcomed by many. For instance our winter Olympians, young ice skaters, and to add more, sixty CWL members from 10 Scarborough Regional Councils braved the weather to attend the Winter Event on Saturday, Jan 25<sup>th</sup> at St. Barnabas Church Hall. I leave you to imagine those CWL Ladies driving to St. Barnabas risking the roads and lanes yet to be snow plowed. Oh! What A Day.

Taking the above into account, Suzanne Cockburn, our Scarborough Regional Chair, planned a simple and yet an inspiring day for us. We attended Mass and returned to the Hall to start the day's event. After registration, straight to the coffee/tea counter, believe me coffee had never been relished and tasty as ever before. After warming ourselves a wee bit, President Suzanne welcomed and thanked us for braving the bad weather to be with our Scarborough sisters of the league. Then what could be more befitting to call Sheilah D'Souza (that's me) to sing my composition about this lingering and good riddance to old man winter to the tune of 'These Boots Are Made For Walking' or should I have said 'Sking' This was followed by Connie De Luca's Quiz Game.

To the serious part of the event. Fr. Edwin Gonsalves, Speaker of the day spoke to us on Pope Francis' book 'Joy of the Gospel'. His inspiring talk touched our hearts and left us spellbound for about a little over two continuous hours and eager to hear more. He reminded our sisters on the following:

- Take time to ponder just like Mary when she said 'yes' to be the Mother of God
- Make God the center of our life and listen to Him
- Do not fall prey to envy and jealousy and play blame games
- Do not be slaves to modern technology (especially cellphones)
- Be women of substance always ready to serve to be great witnesses

At lunch we had more than a brown bag. Finger food topped with fresh cranberry punch were lovingly prepared by the councils. What more could we ask for.

The second half of the day we sang together the hymn to Our Lady 'Gentle Woman'. Suzanne then kept us updated with forthcoming events and later Gerard and Roxanne introduced us to the line dance. These pros did a good job by choreographing the dance with repeated sequences of steps with 2 separate groups facing one direction executing the steps to music at the same time. Some of us synchronized, some stumble and some even took to their seats. The bottom line is that our ladies tried. However, missing steps and dancing with two left feet was part of the fun and laughter.

We then bid farewell,

Sheilah D'Souza

## Out of the Cold

### March

On the weekend of February 22 & 23, we again appealed to our Parishioners to assist Suzanne Marshall in her drive to collect monetary donations, and to donate their time for the annual St Bartholomew's "Out of the Cold" program.

Suzanne started the Bartholomew's branch of this program in 2007. Her passion and drive for this annual event came from encounters she had with the homeless while walking along Shuter Street while on her way to visit her father in hospital. He was recovering from "Cardiac" Surgery. She struck up conversations with these poor and destitute people who had no choice but to sleep on sidewalk grates during the winter. From that time, and from those conversations, the idea was born from which came her participation in the " Out of the Cold" program in Scarborough.

For the donation drive, large Posters were placed all around the Narthex and the South Lobby of the Church. Donation boxes for "Out of the Cold" were used at all the Masses, and volunteers located at the doors of the church. The money collected was used to purchase and prepare food to "Feed the Homeless" in Scarborough.

On Friday night, March 14<sup>th</sup>, a total of 53 dinners, and 25 breakfasts on Saturday morning were catered to. There were 19 who slept over. Upon leaving they were also given a gift bag containing a gift certificate for Swiss Chalet, a toothbrush, and other toiletry items. This was in addition to a "brown bag" lunch on the Saturday morning departure.

The event is held in the Knox United Church Hall-Annex at the corner of Midland & Sheppard Ave. This facility contains mattresses that are available for an overnight stay of the homeless. Our CWL was represented by Trudy Vanderkooy, who was serving meals along with Deacon Leo and Winnie Yan's husband Rudy. Many other parishioners participated in the preparation and serving.

Suzanne wish to thank everyone who contributed time and money and sends a special ' thank you ' to all the people behind the scene, those who washed the dishes, and kept the flow moving smoothly.

Since it was also CWL'S evening to put on the Way of the Cross & the Lenten Reflection, we could not give more active supportive for the Friday night.

The homeless is fed weekly at this location and is supported by various Churches and communities in the area which provides a warm meal every Friday night. With the long cold winter that we have experienced it is almost unimaginable to understand what the homeless experiences are like.

When Toronto was hit by the major ice storm prior to Christmas, some of us had a taste of how unbearably cold and inconvenient it was. With no heat and no electrical power we were brought to a reality of what life can be like living on the streets without any amenities.

Let us always remember the homeless, and the disenfranchised in our prayers .We are all created in God's image and likeness .

*Sonia DaCosta-Spence.*

## Ordinandi Dinner

### March 4, 2014

Sonia, Dagma, and I had the privilege of attending the Ordinandi dinner for the class of 2014. Among the seven young men to be ordained were Michael Simoes, who was baptized at St. Bartholomew's, and my cousin Dave Walter.

The dinner is organized by Serra International, whose mission is to foster and promote vocations. There were over 2000 attendees, including members of the CWL and Knights of Columbus Councils from across the city.

The evening began with a reception in the lobby of the Pearson Convention Centre. The Ordinandi had been there since 8:00 am for various activities, and welcomed the chance to relax and chat with the guests. I found Dave among the crowd and presented our personal Spiritual Bouquet to him.

When dinner was ready to be served, the Ordinandi were accompanied into the hall by bagpipes and a Knights of Columbus honour guard. After the introductions, His Eminence, Thomas Cardinal Collins said grace and blessed the Rosaries that were at each place setting. We then enjoyed a very nice meal and some interesting conversation.

Mary Capobianco, the President of the Toronto Archdiocesan Council of the CWL, presented the Spiritual bouquets that had been collected by all the parishes. In total, there were over 1.5 million Masses, prayers, and offerings for the soon-to-be-ordained priests.

The highlight of the evening was hearing each of the Ordinandi speak about their journey to the priesthood. Each had their own unique story to tell. Some knew early that they wanted to be a priest. Others had no intention of entering the seminary, but they couldn't ignore God's persistent call. The common theme was a sense of peace, contentment, and joy that they now feel.

I felt honoured to be a part of the evening and to share in the experiences of these remarkable young men. May God be with them as they begin their lives of service to the church.

Anne Wylie



## Mass CWL Lenten Reflection & Way of the Cross.

### March

On Friday March 14th our CWL members were the presenters of the above evening. The turnout of our members were good and we were decked in our CWL scarves as we prepared for the evening.

The evening commenced with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass celebrated by our Spiritual Advisor Fr Foley. Our opening Hymn was " God of Mercy & Compassion" to focus on the segment of our theme "GOD INFINITELY MERCIFUL" taken from the Prayer of Hope. The Recessional Hymn ended with "Jerusalem My Destiny. "

A Reflection followed Mass. The reflection covered numerous passages in the Bible in which God's Mercy demonstrated His great mercy and His compassion; being a source of strength and comfort. Two main stories presented were Jesus' forgiveness, compassion and His mercy in the story of the "Adulterous Woman" taken from John 8: 4- 11.

But the main thrust of the presentation was the story of the "Prodigal Son" taken from Luke 15: 11-32 ,in which the father welcomed the returning son with open arms throwing a "Welcome Home" party. That was used as an analogy to epitomize the " Father Most Merciful, God Infinitely Merciful " today and always. Who forgives us and welcomes us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation; with open arms. The story encourages us as sinners to return to God , especially at this time of the liturgical season of Lent.

We were reminded that we too must be merciful as James 2: 13 tells us that "... judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful..." In the Gospel of Luke 6: 36 Jesus' Words " are" Be merciful , just as your Father is merciful."

The presentation ended with a pictorial slides show of images of a Merciful God, set to the Hymns: "God of Mercy and Compassion "and "Soul of my Saviour. " We then continued the "Way of The Cross "presenting Mary's Way Of The Cross.

This follows Mary as she walks the road to Calvary, emphasizing her sense of surrender in which her common thought expressed through each station was: "I knew it had to be , so I walked on silently." As CWL members women of " faith & substance" when we recite it we enter into an intimate journey of faith through a deep reflection; uniting ones pain and suffering with Jesus on the Cross through the sorrowful heart of His Mother. This Way of the Cross always brings tears to my eyes as a mother. I can't imagine what Mary felt ,but I know what I experience when my children suffer "pain" in life. I am certain many others share my sentiments.

I wish to thank Dagma St John for her tireless annual preparation of Inspirational Reflection Themes over the years. It provides us with food for thought and excellent form of spiritual growth.

We are reminded that we are women of the CWL , "...rooted in gospel values , being called to holiness through the service to the people of God." I wish to also thank Winnie Yan and Sheilah D'Souza for their contribution for the success of the evening.

A special thanks to the CGL members the Cross bearer, the Light and our Pianist.

To all those in attendance ThankYou!! Thank You!! For coming out.

Sonia DaCosta-Spence

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## World Day of Prayer Ecumenical Services

### Promoted By :The Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC)

#### March

Once again throughout Canada WICC promoted and supported the World Day of Prayer Committee assisting this years country - **TheWomen of Egypt** .

Christians in more than 170 countries around the world and more than 2,000 communities across Canada gathered to pray and act in solidarity with the women of Egypt.

On Friday March 7th, our Council participated in celebrating the Prayers written by the women of Egypt, and hosted by the Agincourt Baptist Church.

The theme of their Prayers were "Streams in the Desert. " The Guest Speaker himself an Egyptian Pastor, shared some stories of attacks on Christians, and showed photographs of burnt out churches with people standing in the ruins of their church praying. The caption said "You can burn our church, but you cannot burn our faith"

His talk was a moving tribute of hardship to everyone, and in particular of one woman's whose son was murdered. She went on national TV and told her interviewer that she as a Christian had forgiven the men who killed her son. The interviewer, a non-Christian was shocked and asked her the same question several times to which she gave the same answer "I forgive them."

The written prayers included Scripture from John 1: 8-9 " If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us..."

Another poignant scripture was taken from Isaiah 35: 1- 2,5-7

" The desert and the parched land will be glad,  
The wilderness will rejoice and blossom;  
Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom...  
And water will gush forth in the wilderness  
And streams in the desert..."

At the end of the Prayer Service, a reception followed in the church hall. There we had fellowship with the Pastors and their representatives. Some were from Wellesley Chapel, Agincourt Pentecostal, Knox United and Knox Presbyterian.

In attendance were CWL council members, Bernadette, Brenda, Marcelle and her sister Yvonne. Cleo, Winnie and I were participants. Our CWL provided two large trays of fruits and Sandwiches.

May Egypt that gave refuge to the Holy Family be reborn with Love, Peace, Hope, Justice and Tolerance.

Let us pray for all our Sisters around the world, especially in parts where women suffer injustice and denigration.

Sonia DaCosta-Spence

## Membership Drive and Recruitment of New Members 2014

The St. Bartholomew Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada, under the leadership of our new President. We embarked on a vigorous campaign to get the 2013 membership roll renewed.

At the same time efforts were made to encourage lapsed members to return aboard, and to recruit new members.

I am happy to report that to date the 2014 portfolio is completely paid up.

We welcome the return of : Lavina Naidu, Joan West, and Lucy Chong.

We apologize for whatever misunderstanding or circumstances caused you to stay away and we ask for your forgiveness.

A warm and hearty welcome is extended to our new members: Michelle Khan, May Lan Ma, Clementina (Cleo) Sukhdeo, Mavis Young, Nilia Dinglasan and Violeta Dela-Cruz.

Ladies, we pray that your journey with us will be Spiritually enlightening, educationally challenging, Fun and Exciting and you will be pleased to become a part of your new family the CWL.

We have a packed program for 2014, it will take the whole family working in harmony, assisted by the help and guidance of Our Lady of Good Counsel, to make the year successful, memorable and meaningful.

Dagma St.John

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## " PRAY WITHOUT CEASING "-

### 1Thessalonians 5:17

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert and always persevere in supplication for the saints. Eph. 6: 17-18

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Heb 4: 16.

Each month the Catholic Women's League, St. Barts offer intercessory prayers for all of our members, living and deceased.

If you have a special need and would like to be added to our monthly list, you may contact Winnie, our Spiritual Convener.

Winnie Yan

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Catholic Women's League

## DID YOU KNOW ?

The Catholic Women's League of Canada Constitution & Bylaws, 2013, (Page 8)

### Section 3: Responsibilities of the Executive

The executive shall:

- Direct and administer the affairs of the League
- Coordinate and organize programs to promote the Objects of the League
- Represent League members in spiritual, social and political issues
- Develop league policy and long-term planning.

## Toronto Diocesan Development Day

The Toronto Diocesan Development Day was held in Bradford at the Portuguese Cultural Centre, Saturday February 15th. The Theme of the workshop was "We Have Seen The Lord in Gathering around the Hearth.

In attendance were: Sheilah, Marcelle, Brenda ,Lisa, Cecile Anne, Teresa Menezes and myself. Although it was a cold day the weather cooperated and no fresh snow fell which made the trip pleasant.

The day started with a Eucharistic Celebration by Fr. Robert O'Brien the Diocesan Spiritual Advisor. Concelebrant was Fr. Boniface Perri.

The Choir was graced with our own song bird, Sheilah. After the Mass we had an opportunity to view the Displays, fellowship with our colleagues and league sisters. Tea, coffee, muffins and fruits were available.

The working part of the morning started with the welcome and introduction of one of our Guest Speakers Laurie van den Hurk, herself a CWL member, for 30 years.

She shared her experiences as a Missionary and used the opportunity to demonstrate how if we look carefully that we can see The Lord in the simplicity of people in everyday life, and with that in mind, every stranger we meet is a potential for an encounter with our Lord.

She also told us that we also have a stranger within us and we need to deal with the stranger within us first to like the stranger in the world. We did have time for table discussions at intervals in which we shared our personal experiences based on questions she posed to us.

At noon we recited The Angelus, and Grace was said. We then pulled out our "Brown Bag" lunch. As usual there was more than enough to share and so although we were not strangers we shared a meal, had fellowship, possibly how Jesus would enjoy a meal with His disciples, or how the early Christians shared a meal with what they had.

After Lunch the workshop continued and the Presenter was Dr. Connie Price. Some of you may recall her (6)six week presentation on Basic Teachings of The Catholic Church, here at St. Barts in the "Year Of Faith " that I had organized .

Connie took our minds in a different direction using what she refers to as the gathering space as family or friends fellowship with each other, in any part of a home, be it around the kitchen table, or the fire place.

The day was spirit filled and we were sent out to deal with the stranger within us and to greet the stranger we meet.

There were 230 members in attendance.

Sonia DaCosta-Spence

## The St. Bartholomew Website

Have you visited our parish website at [www.stbartholomew.ca](http://www.stbartholomew.ca) lately? If not, you should take a look!

Bookmark the site as one of your Favourites so you can easily find it again.

The website was redesigned in the spring of 2013. The previous website was out of date and had very little information. The new website provides the latest information to both parishioners and those trying to find out more about us.

The home page is updated every week. It has the latest news, upcoming events, and announcements. You can also find the church contact information, mass schedule, telephone extensions, and the weekly Food Donation schedule.

We also keep a copy of all the bulletins. If you're away on vacation, or you're not able to get to mass, you can still browse the current week's bulletin. And you can even go back and see previous bulletins from the previous year!

For CWL members, the *Activities & Organizations* page provides a link to our own CWL pages. In addition to some general information about "Who We Are", there's a link to the national website ([www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca)) and a list of CWL events and dates.

For everyone in the parish, the *Events* calendar shows all the upcoming dates to remember. And there's a photo gallery with some sample shots from various events throughout the year.

There's a lot of good information available, and you can access it on your computer, your iPad, or your smart-phone. Go take a look!

Anne Wylie

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### Birthday Club

Congratulations to all our members who celebrated a birthday during the months of January through March. To date we have celebrated eleven (11) birthdays. 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 each time we meet.

### 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.

## Upcoming Events

### Regional General Meeting

Thursday April 10 -Mass at 7:00pm  
Annunciation Of The Blessed Virgin Mary  
3Combermere Drive (Victoria Park Ave & Ellesmere Road)  
Please Come Out. There is a "Roll Call" of all Councils.

### Baking Bee- At Norma Hing's-April 23

To Make Apple Pies -9:00am-1:00pm  
Come out and join the "BB" Team  
If you can't be there bake at home and bring to the Sale.  
Oh!!! You have no time. No problem !!!  
Buy it at the supermarket & bring it in.  
We appreciate all donations-Home Made or Otherwise !!!

### Solemnity of Our Lady of Good Counsel

Join us on Saturday April 26 at 9:00am Mass  
Followed by Continental Breakfast in the Catacomb.

### Spring Bake Sale& Raffle

Saturday & Sunday -April 26 &27  
Please Donate Baked Goods for Sale.

### Plant Sale Project -Development & Peace

Sunday Only- Outdoor Plant Sale -May 4  
Calling all Gardeners to Donate Plants.  
Please support the cause generously.

### March for Life: Ottawa

Thursday, May 8  
The Knights in conjunction with the CWL.

### Mothers Day Breakfast Saturday May 10

Is there anything you would like to change?  
Please come with some suggestions to share with us at the General Meetings in March & April.

### 93rd.Toronto Diocesan Convention- May 29&30

International Plaza Hotel-655Dixon Road  
Join in the discussion on two Resolutions the League will present to the Government. But read them so we can have a discussion before the Convention.

### Deadline Date To Order Banquet Tickets-May 2

Decide Early So We Can Have Seats Up-Front.  
Ten (10) to a Table -Cost \$60:00 per person.  
Our CWL Will Pay \$30:00  
Refer to Hand Out & mark your Meal Selection.

### Solemnity of Corpus Christi -Sunday June 22

St Bart's International Bread Festival- Saturday 21st &Sunday22nd

Please Donate Bread from all Countries.

### Development & Peace—Project Donation

### Summer Dining Out

Restaurant to be determined.

Date :Tuesday, June 24 or preferred date.

### Mark your Calendar—Fall Event

30th Anniversary Rosary Sunday  
Martyrs' Shrine  
Sunday, September 21

### St. Bartholomew's CWL 20th Year Celebration Mass

Tuesday, September 30, 7 :00 pm.