



Catholic Women's League

St. Bartholomew Council

59 Heather Road, Scarborough, ON.

Winter 2016

Calendar of Events

Executive Meetings

7 pm– 2nd Tuesday of every month (except July, August and December)

General Meetings -Last Tuesday of every month (except June, July, August and December)

World Day of Prayer Festival Day

York Baptist Church—January 9

Installation of Executive

January 17, 9:30 Mass

Scarborough Region Winter Event

St. Joseph Parish Hall

January 23, 9.00 a.m. – 3.00 pm.

Deadline for Ordinandi Payment—January 30

Out of the Cold—Donation Drive—Jan 30 & 31

CWL Membership Drive February 6 & 7

Stations of the Cross February 12

Out of the Cold

February 13 & 14

Development Day

Christ the King Church— February 27

Ordinandi Dinner

Pearson Convention Centre

March 1

World Day of Prayer—March 7

St Barnabas Church Hall

Lift Jesus Higher

March 5
Metro Convention Centre.

Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest - Parish level

March 7

Mary Matthews Public Speaking -Regional

March TBA

St. Michael Scholarship deadline March 31

Spring Raffle Ticket Sales April 9 & 10

Spring Raffle Ticket Sales April 16 & 1

Baking Bee Norma's April 20

Bale Sale and Raffle Draw April 23 & 24

Feast of our Lady of Good Counsel Mass

April 26

Toronto Diocesan Convention International Plaza

May 5 & 6

Mothers Day Breakfast - May 7

March For life-Ottawa May 12

Feast of Corpus Christi – International Bread Day

May 28 & 29

Summer Dining Out TBA June-

Garden Tea Party TBA July—August

Mass for Living & Deceased CWL

St Bartholomew

September 17

CWL Membership Drive October 22 & 23

Sale of Right to Life Cards October 29 & 30

Sale of Fall Raffle Tickets November 5 & 6

Reional Mass for the Deceased TBD

Sale of Raffle Tickets November 12 & 13

Baking Bee November 16

BakeSale & Raffle November 19 & 20

Christmas Party TBC December 6th

Rosalie Hall Bassinette Narthex

December 10 & 11

A Message from the President

Dear Sisters of the League, as we embark on this 2016 term of office, we thank God for His many blessings and favours during the past year. The journey ahead may be tedious and long, but with faith as our compass, we boldly embrace the challenges.

Welcome aboard to the new executive team. Your experience, gifts and talents will be an asset to the league as we endeavour to implement our schedule of activities and programs for the current year.

Welcome back members, a year of spiritual, exciting and fun-filled activities awaits you.

The Catholic Women's League believes we have a responsibility to bear witness to the Good News of Jesus to all. Our membership in the League opens us to a new vision that will help us fulfill this goal.

During this year, designated by the Holy Father as the "Year of Mercy", we shall endeavour to assist in the implementation of his vision for the Jubilee Year.

God of mercy and compassion, we commend this year to you. Our Lady of Good Counsel, be our guide as we journey.

Dagma St. John

President 2016-2017

A Message from Father Foley

Dear Ladies of St. Bartholomew's CWL,

As we are on the doorstep of Lent, let us remember that this is a season of "Making straight way of the Lord". Let us consider various ways of drawing closer to the suffering, crucified & Risen Lord during the Lenten Season.



2016—2017 Executive

Sheila D'Souza, Brenda Bourne, Lisa Silva, Teresa Menezes, Anne Wylie, Flora Vaz, Sonia DaCosta-Spence

Theresa Greasley, Dagma St. John, Father Foley, Philomena Menezes (Regional Chair)

Installation Ceremony of CWL Executive St. Bartholomew Council 2016-2017.

The ceremony took place on Sunday January 17th at the 9.30 a.m. Mass following the liturgy of the Word. Our Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Fr. Foley, reading from the CWL Ceremonies Booklet stated that through baptism the members of the League are called to work together as members of the Body of Christ. He further stated that "the CWL is an organization rooted in Gospel values calling its members to holiness through service to the people of God."

As a league member each woman uses her gifts and talents to share the good news of Christ to love and serve God and neighbours in her parish, diocese, province and country".

The past president, Sonia Da Costa Spence presented the incoming president, Dagma St. John with the gavel, the symbol of the office of president. In her commitment speech she promised to be faithful to her call to help all league members to grow in faith, love, prayers and duties of the league.

Candles were handed to each member of the executive. Using her lighted candle, the president proceeded to light the candle of each Executive member, symbolizing their mission to bring light to the world.

The incoming president was pinned with the presidential pin.

Fr. Foley gave the final blessing. The Lord's Prayer brought the ceremony to a close.

Present at the ceremony were 8 past presidents, 3 founding members and our Regional Chair Philomena Menezes and past Regional Chair Suzanne Cockburn .

Members and parishioners were invited for Refreshments and finger foods, that brought a spirit-filled and delightful morning to a close.

Dagma St. John
St Bartholomew Council
President 2016-2017

C - Could **W** - Women **L** - Lend a Hand

Being a witness of mercy is a journey that starts with a spiritual conversion. As Catholics throughout the work celebrate the Jubilee of Mercy, let us as Catholic Women reflect on what we can do.

"Be Merciful as your Father is Merciful". Luke, 6:36:

Rediscover oneself by getting involved not as a member but as an active council member which will bring more young women having the interests knowing what Women of Faith can do and achieve in many aspects of life.

At St. Bartholomew's Council we are extremely blessed to have 70+ members who continue with a voice telling others what it is like to promote the teachings and gospel values. God has enriched us with talents, therefore let us continue to spread our talents with other ladies in the parish.

Pope Francis has shown the world what we all can do and share with others alike. Guide and Lead

Blessings
Brenda



" Be merciful,even as your Father is merciful."

Luke 6:36

As Christians we know we have received an enormous measure of God's mercy. We have been forgiven a debt of sin we could never repay and we have been blessed with daily mercies we can never number. Now God wants us to show the same kind of mercy to others, to have the same tender feelings of sympathy toward them in their misery, the same eagerness to minister to them and help them in their times of distress, the same willingness to hold back retribution and to forgive them when they wrong us.

To do anything less reveals that we have little understanding of the immense debt of sin from which we have been released. To be stern and exacting, or to insist on getting even with those who have hurt us, exposes a heart that has no concept our need for mercy. When we understand the depths of our own sin and the enormity of God's mercy in forgiving us, we will freely forgive every evil committed against us, great or small.

The prophet Micah in the Old Testament reminds people of this responsibility. He extolled God's Mercy when he said, "*Who is a God like unto Thee that pardon iniquityHe holds not His anger forever, because He delights in mercy*" (Micah 7:18)

But he also made the application to the lives of the people. "*He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?*" (Micah 6:8)

People who know a merciful God should love mercy. Do we love mercy? Do the needs of other people move us to compassion? Do we have a desire to help relieve human suffering?

The Pharisees of Jesus' day failed the mercy test and so will many of us today (no finger pointing), Jesus accused them of insisting on every intricate detail of the law while ignoring the more important matter of mercy (*Matthew 12:7;3*). That could describe some of us as well. We may have long lists of precise rules we try to live by and sometimes force others to observe, yet be unmoved by the misery of other people. Those who have truly experienced God's mercy want to show mercy to others.

I read of a woman at the check-out counter who had groceries which totalled four dollars more than she

had in her purse. A stranger behind her relieved her embarrassment by motioning to the clerk to put the amount on his bill. He refused to give her his name so she could pay him back. A few days later the local newspaper reported that a charity had received a check for four dollars with a note which read: "This check is for the man who helped me out of a tight spot. I'm giving it to you as a 'thank you' to him." When we understand what has been done for us, we want to reach out and do the same for others, just as that woman did.

God's merciful heart aches over the misery of the world today. When we get to know Him intimately, our hearts will ache as well. Not only will our hearts ache, but our arms will reach out, our homes will open up, our wallets will unfold, and we will find great joy in relieving some of the misery in this world.

Our God is called "*the Father of mercies*" (2 Corinthians 1:3). Let us meditate on His mercy, and as we grow in His likeness, mercy will become an increasingly significant part of our daily life style.

Then the beautiful shepherd psalm of David will take on new meaning for us:

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever" (Psalm 23:6).

Editor.

St Bartholomew Council Executives For 2016-2017

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Spiritual Director | Rev. Fr.Fred Foley |
| President: | Dagma St John. |
| President-Elect: | Theresa Greasley |
| Treasurer | Anne Wylie |
| Recording Secretary | Brenda Bourne |

Committee Chairs:

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Spiritual Development: | Lisa Silva |
| Christian Family Life: | Sheilah D'Souza |
| Education & Health: | Flora Vaz |
| Communications: | Teresa Menezes |
| Historian & N/LEditor: | Sonia DaCosta-Spence . |

Serving One Another.

"Beloved, if God so loved us we must love one another."
1 John 4:11

Christianity Is Not A Religion For Spectators

The way to accomplish much for Christ is to serve Him in anyway we can. In serving Him we serve others. In the past two years I have often commented on the need to serve in our community, be it in our church or workplace environment as well at home and abroad. I have also expressed the honour, humility, privilege and pleasure to serve not just as president but during the period when I took over from Amelia Pereria as the Spiritual Development Chair, a chair I held for many, many years.

We are commissioned to love God and love our neighbor, This is accomplished by serving. How can we serve ,where can we serve what is our role and what can we offer?

In the Old Testament, Moses was called to deliver the Israelites from the bondage of slavery in Egypt. Jeremiah was called by God to be a prophet to the nations. In the New Testament John the Baptist was the precursor, to prepare the way for the preaching and teaching of the Kingdom by Jesus. The disciples were commissioned to go to the ends of the world baptizing people in the Name of the Trinity. Peter was called to be a " fisher of men" and Saul became Paul spreading the Word throughout the "world." While our call to serve may not be as dramatic as those of Biblical proportions and fame. God has a purpose for all of the faithful, a purpose that will further the work of His kingdom on this earth. Let us reflect on how best to discern and answer that call to serve.

Where and how we serve is based on our unique talents, skills and a willingness to learn and to listen to the voice of conscience and the promptings of the Holy Spirit. We need to be supportive of our faith community, and that falls under the umbrella of various church ministries and organizations.

The church is more than a community, it is the Body of Christ consisting of a diverse group of members created by God to function in communion with each other. From diversity flows a stream of life experiences to be shared, respected and celebrated. Each person uniquely contributes to God's purpose and the building up of His Kingdom with our varied talents, gifts and personalities and we should never compare ourselves with each other. We all have a job to do in the building up of the kingdom. The Body of Christ functions not in discord but

beautifully when all members work in unity and resolve to serve God and each other.

Mother Teresa to be canonized in September 2016 reminds us :

"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

" Whatever you do in word or deed, do well in the name of The Lord Jesus."

Colossians 3:17

Editor

Congratulations To The Knights Of Columbus-Council 11813

The Catholic Women's League of St Bartholomew Council wish to congratulate our Brother Knights on their milestone celebration of 20 years -1996-2016.

Your Motto "Inservice to one, in service to all" have demonstrated that you take seriously the two great commandments of Jesus Christ: *To love God and to love your neighbour as yourselves (cf. Mt 22:37-40)*. A good explanation of why this motto reflects the Order's purpose comes from the Second Vatican Council document *Lumen Gentium*, which truly serves as your mission statement:

The mission statement of the Catholic Women's League while the words are somewhat different we are both commissioned to live the gospel values , called to holiness and to serve.

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.*"

We wish you every success in all your endeavours. May your Council increase in membership and may you live in unity in this great Jubilee Year of Mercy as you continue to do good in our parish and community.

May your fraternity live up to the ideals of your Founder Venerable Michael J. McGivney

Editor

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.

Looking Back

Annual Fund Raising Event.

After a hectic summer pace of events and attending the Provincial Convention in Niagara Falls preparation for our annual garden tea party fundraising event began. The time was short with a lot to get done as the ball was rolling. On a lovely summer afternoon August 22 our High Tea materialized with 66 ladies in attendance.

Our theme was from the TV series "Downton Abbey" and some of the ladies wore their finest period costumes. We even had someone wearing a Pearl Necklace that was taken from the "Vault" that afternoon. Certainly we had royalty in our midst. The garden was decorated in the backdrop of London in one area and the countryside in another as we sipped tea, ate scones and canapés. The success of the afternoon raised \$1500:00 towards our Seminarian project.

Spring/Fall Bake Sale & Raffle.

Our annual fall bake sale event started with our "baking bee" event at Norma Hing's home in Markham where 14 dedicated Apple pie experts met for our baking convention.

The sale of the pies went well and there were no leftovers. The baked goods somewhat small in donation had no leftovers.

Spring Bake sale and raffle raised \$2297.95.

Fall Bake sale and raffle raised \$2372.95.

Another success story.

Total Charitable donations as of December 31, 2015 = \$7080.00

Advent Retreat-Scarborough Foreign Mission.

On Friday afternoon December 4, CWL members from the Scarborough Region arrived at Scarborough Foreign Mission to attend a Mini Retreat. The first of its kind for our region. With Fr, Silvio Eljua as the architect and the strong support of Philomena Menezes our Regional Chair and Sheilah D'Souza our Regional Spiritual Development Chair.

The evening started with fellowship and a delicious home made soup with a variety of breads. The soup was a real hit and what was so special about the tasty soup is that it was made by the hands of our Regional Spiritual Advisor our beloved Fr Silvio, the recipe was his mother's. Later that evening the spiritual part of the evening commenced with Holy Mass in a Chapel off the main Church, followed by a gathering of Advent hymn singing and Reconciliation.

The following morning after breakfast we commenced with Mass followed by our guest speaker Sister Mary Rose Marrin CSJ from St Joseph in Toronto. Sister Mary Rose is a Sister of St. Joseph of Toronto with a background in teaching, spiritual formation, congregational leadership and parish ministry. She obtained a BA from the University of Toronto, a Masters of Theological Studies from Jesuit Weston, Cambridge MA (now part of Boston College) and certificates in Spiritual Gerontology and Lifelong Faith Development from the Johnson Institute in St. Louis MO.

Her presentation theme to us: The Jubilee Year of Mercy-" Merciful like the Father." The presentation allowed us great participation with reflection on a song entitled "For Someone Who Did You Wrong" by John O'Donohue.. Sister was very interesting and we enjoyed the interaction.

After lunch we reconvened and Fr Silvio took us through the afternoon session with a team building exercise. We were divided into seven groups of five given paper clips, tape and 4x6 blank cards. We were timed and each group built various structures. The results were amazing to see, but the essence of the exercise was to work as a team, plan and execute the plan. It was an enjoyable exercise.

We had 11 members overnight Friday, and a total of 35 members in attendance on Saturday. The afternoon ended with everyone expressing the spirit filled time they had and hoped it would have been longer.

Christmas Party.

The annual Christmas party was a blast. In keeping with the theme of Christmas, the "Reason for the Season" we had the Nativity "with a twist" narrated by Sheilah D'Souza and performed by CWL and CGL youngsters, accompanied on the keyboard by Michelle Glean and our quartet choir Brenda Bourne, Phyllis Chan, Annette Van Kempen, and Trudy Vanderkooy. It was Oscar material and had the audience in stitches. We got word from the North Pole that Santa was not well so Santa sent his young son and Mrs. Claus.

The party was a lot of fun we played games, and sang Carols. The selection on the Menu was out of this world and everyone ate to their heart's content. There were over 70 in attendance, members and their spouses, CGL members and their parents. We were graced with the presence of our Pastor and the Pastoral team and we had the honour of Philomena Menezes our Regional Chair and her husband Terence who joined us later.

(Looking Back Cont'd)

Our St Bart's Syrian families were in attendance including Elie who arrived a week before the party. Thanks to Anne Wylie and her team for another successful, enjoyable Christmas party.

Executive Resignation—Carol Almeida

Dear Madam President, Fr. Fred Foley and Chairs, It is after much thought and with sadness that I have taken the decision to resign from the CWL. I will be making a trip to India as soon as possible to visit my ailing Mum and on my return will be moving from Bushmills Square to reside with my daughter in Brampton. My daughter is aware how much I have loved being part of the CWL. She has offered to give me a ride from Brampton to attend the CWL meeting every month. But, as a doctor I know that this will be very hard for her to do.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone for their help and friendship. Brenda, I was so looking forward to your training. Even though I had a short innings with the CWL, I have been amazed at the zeal with which everyone works. The bake sales are exceptional, the Christmas function was very well organized and enjoyable and the Christmas entertainment was so witty that I laughed till I cried. Ladies, you can bake, act, conduct meetings professionally, do charity, sing, and many of you do this besides having a full time job! Incredible.

Sonia, thanks so much for ensuring that I got back safely every night after the meetings. You really pampered me.
Wishing all of you the very best.

Laughter is the best Medicine

"No Medical Insurance"

A man had just undergone coronary surgery at Mercy Hospital and was in the recovery room. A Sister of Mercy was at his bedside to reassure him that all went well. "You are going to be fine, Mr. Jones, however we do need to know how you intend to pay for your hospital stay. Do you have insurance coverage?"

"No, I don't," the groggy man answered.

"Is it possible for you to pay in cash then?" the nun persisted. "No, I'm afraid that's not possible," he replied.

"Well, do you have any close relatives?" the nun asked.

"Only my sister in Texas, but she's a humble spinster nun," said the man.

"Mr Jones, I must correct you. Nuns are not spinsters for they are married to God," the nun explained.

"Well, in that case, send my bill to my brother-in-law!" he said.

Catholic Women's League

Did You Know?

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.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Constitution & Bylaws (2013-page 8)

New Members

Welcome to Rosa Chin

Wedding Anniversary Corner:

Congratulations to Flora & Simon Vaz who celebrated -25 years.

Shirley & Dr Ken Fung 56 years.

Birthday Club

Congratulations to all our members who celebrated a birthday during the months of January through March . By the end of January we have celebrated (10) ten birthdays. If you did not hear from us we missed your special day. Please let us know your Birth Date.

Thinking Of You Corner.

If you have not attended a recent meeting or one of the many events please join us as soon as you can to meet our new executive team and learn more about what's on for the year. **See you soon, and remember to keep up your annual subscription.**

Sick Note Corner

To our members who at this time are incapacitated due to illness, know that you are being prayed for each time we meet. May you be consoled and strengthened by God's unfailing compassion each day with grace for healing and a speedy recovery.

Bereavement Corner

To those who are suffering the loss of a loved one, may God bring comfort and consolation wrapping His Loving Arms around you as you grieve your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Last November we saw the passing of Janet Teresa Miles, a past member and wife of Ron Miles, our former 9:30 Choir Director.

"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

Scarborough Region Winter Festival Day- January 23, 2016 9:am-3:pm

Our annual winter festival day of part spiritual and part fun and games is here again. It will be held at St Joseph Highland Creek Parish hall. Please come out and beat the winter blahs, I promise you will enjoy the day. We are most fortunate and blessed to have our own Fr Roger Brennan as our Guest Speaker. Topic: Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy "Call To Conversion" Registration starts at 9:am and the cost is \$5:00. Please bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee will be available.

Recruitment Fair/Membership Drive W/E February 6&7(Narthex)

CWL Membership dues for 2016 is now overdue. If you have not paid up your membership here is your opportunity to do so. Renewal is \$25:00. This is also a time to invite a new person to join us.

Ordinandi Annual Dinner

Payment Deadline- - January 30, 2016
Dinner on Tuesday, March 1st.

Annual Spiritual Bouquet for 2016 Ordinandi

The 26th Annual Ordinandi Dinner sponsored by the Serra Foundation of Canada & the five Serra Clubs in the Archdiocese of Toronto will be held on Tuesday March 1, 2016. The location will be at Pearson Convention Centre at 2638 Steels Ave East. The cost is \$70:00 per person. Our CWL have subsidized the event for the past two years. If you are interested in attending **please contact Dagma at (416) 286-5539.**

Our support for the Annual Spiritual Bouquet offered by the CWL members to the soon to be ordained priests, will be presented by the Toronto Diocese Council president Shirley Christo at the dinner on Tuesday, March 1st. If you have not already done so, please offer your Prayers, Mass and Devotions on the form provided. Invite your whole family to participate. **Please see Dagma with your "spiritual donations."**

Out of the Cold - Donation Drive

January 30 & 31.

Do not let Compassion Fatigue overcome you. Commitment, Love & Mercy towards our fellow man calls to us to help in the annual feeding of the homeless in our area. In living out this year that is dedicated to Mercy, we know there is a great need towards the homeless right here in our backyards.

With the driving force of Suzanne Marshall and the Support of Fr Foley the request to donate is the loud cry we hear. Please help !!!! donate generously and help to collect Donations After Each Mass, so .give generously of Your Time ,Talent, and Money.

If you would like to help to serve at the Knox United Annex, 2569 Midland Ave. on February 13 & 14, please contact Suzanne at 416-948-9662

Donation Boxes will be located in the North & South Lobbies

Out of The Cold - Feeding the Hungry

Saturday & Sunday February 13 & 14

Volunteers are required to assist Suzanne and her team to :
Feed The Homeless in Scarborough.

Provide a Meal on Friday Evening, and on Saturday serve Breakfast and Lunch

Development Day 2016: February 27

Christ the King Church-

3495 Confederation Parkway Mississauga. L5B 3G5

Deadline For Registration-February 16, 2016-

Cost \$10:00. Bring Your Own Lunch.

You are encouraged to attend the annual Development Day as we join all League Sisters of the Toronto archdiocese. Come out and join in a day packed with activities. Mass and guest speakers. It's an opportunity to improve and develop ourselves as we share our gifts and talents.

Contact Dagma if you plan to attend at (416) 286-5539.

Lift Jesus High Rally- Metro Convention Centre

Saturday March 5, - 9am-5:30pm.

Closing Mass by Cardinal Collins.

Cost \$20 adults & \$15 youths.(St Bart's Bus additional cost)

The theme is "Unshakable Kingdom." It was inspired by the Letter to the Hebrews:

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire. Experience the joys of this Spirit filled day with thousands of other Catholics.

Contact Dagma if you plan to attend at (416) 286-5539.

Mary Matthew Public Speaking Contest-

Monday March 7—12:30 to 2:30 pm,

The Mary Mathews PSC parish level will be hosted at St Bartholomew and you are invited to come out and support the children and the hard work they have put into their presentation. Participating schools are, St Elizabeth Seaton, St Ignatius of Loyola and St Bartholomew.

World Day of Prayer: Host For the Region -

St Barnabas Church -Monday, March 7th.—7:00 pm

The theme for this year is " Receive Children Receive Me." - Prayer Service Written by the committee Women in Cuba.

The word Cuba is an indigenous word which means "cultivated land." Cuba is comprised of 4,195 islands. The people of Cuba have suffered because of the American embargo. Now that it's been lifted we pray that the Cubans will flourish and improve their standard of living. In this Jubilee Year of Mercy let us pray for the door of mercy to be open wide for them

St Michael Scholarship Award Deadline -

March 31, 2016

The Toronto Archdiocesan CWL is accepting applications for St. Michael's College Scholarship (University of Toronto). Any young woman completing her secondary education and will be attending St. Michael's College for her first choice for post-secondary education may apply. The Scholarship now consists of a Bursary of \$3000:00.

The opportunity is open to daughters, grand and great granddaughters of all parishioners. For applications forms and information please call Flora at (416) 754-0464

Annual CWL Toronto Diocesan Convention

Toronto Diocesan 95th Annual Convention

Thursday May 5th and Friday May 6th

International Plaza Hotel

655 Dixon Rd. Toronto