



Pembroke Diocesan Council  
of the Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Newsletter



# The Blue and Gold

February 2018

## Table of Contents

Spiritual Advisor's Message	2
President's Message - Carmel Rumleskie	3
Organization - Joan Lemay	4
Historian – Pat Weller	5
Treasurer - Pauline Hughes	6
Community Life – Andrea Bonneau	7
Communications - Bev Drouin	8
Christian Family Life - Elaine Turner	9
Education & Health – Lore Coyne	10
Legislation - Maureen Brennan	11
Resolutions - Sheila Bielawski	12
Secretary – Donna Provost	13
Spiritual Development - Irene Perrault	14
Most Reverend Bishop Mulhall Biography	16
Conventions	17
Diocesan and Provincial Conventions	17
National Convention	18
Council Activities	19
Diocesan Council	20
Arnprior – St. John's Chrysostum	22
Calumet Island – St. Ann's	22
Chalk River – St. Anthony's	23
Corbeil - Sacred Heart of Jesus	23
Deep River - Our Lady of Good Counsel	24
Douglas – St. Michael's	24
Eganville – St. James the Less	25
Pembroke – Our Lady of Lourdes	25
Pembroke – St. Columbkille's Cathedral	26
Renfrew – Our Lady of Fatima	26
Renfrew - St. Francis Xavier	27
Important Dates to Remember	27
In Memoriam Genevieve Cahill	28
In Memoriam Nina Sullivan	28
Convention Dates	29
CWL News in the Diocese	30
Prayer for Homeless People	31



February 2017

My dear CWL Members of the diocese of Pembroke,

As I prepare this message for the Blue and Gold, I wish to express my thanks to so many of you who took the time to assist the diocese in the collection of personal information for the Coalition of Healthcare and Conscience. The Bishops of Ontario have set aside two Sundays in February 2018 in order to collect this information which will assist the efforts of the Coalition to inform the MPPs of the Legislature of Ontario with regard to the critical importance of conscience rights for our many healthcare workers.

The legislation brought forward by the Federal government which made assisted suicide legal in Canada has been tragic for the moral fabric of our country. In Ontario, the application of this legal decision has been even more tragic. The Province has placed unethical demands on doctors and other healthcare workers, forcing them, through the requirement of “effective referral”, to be complicit in the act of assisted suicide. Other provinces in Canada have provided basic human right provisions for healthcare workers and doctors to follow their conscience and not become involved in any manner in the act of euthanasia. This is not the case in Ontario.

Through the diocesan Chancery, I asked the CWL parish councils to assist in this project on the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> of February to allow the Coalition of Conscience to approach the politicians and public servants who will legislate on this critical question of healthcare in the province. Your assistance in this project is deeply appreciated and has brought a greater awareness of this issue to the minds and hearts of our faithful in the parish communities.

A second matter to which I would like to make mention is the partnership which has been established between the Diocese of Pembroke and the Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas. Because an important source of income to our northern missionary dioceses in Canada will no longer be provided for by the Holy See, the “southern” dioceses of Canada have pledged to assist the northern missions through personnel and financial assistance. I have been made aware that certain parishes and CWL councils in the diocese have had a long-standing partnership with various projects in the Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas. This existing bond will help to initiate the development of a formal diocesan partnership which I trust will only grow with successive years. More information in this regard will be sent to the parishes soon.

My dear sisters of the League, please know of my continued thanks for your energetic and prayerful ministry to the Church and know of my continued prayers.

+Michael Mulhall  
Bishop of Pembroke



**PRESIDENT**

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The themes for 2018 are: **National:** "Inspired by the Spirit, Women respond to God's Call",  
**Provincial:** "Homelessness "and **Diocesan:** "Promote Leadership and Increase Membership"

Happy New Year to all members and Spiritual Advisors across the Diocese of Pembroke!  
The Annual Reports for 2017 are completed. Thank you all for your attention to this request. Your short report for the Diocesan Annual Report Book is due to Joan Lemay by April 1<sup>st</sup> but complete it soon. Our Fall meeting in Haliburton was well attended. The weather was warm and beautiful. Bishop Mulhall and Fr. Scott Murray spent most of the day with us. Lunch and breaks were very tasty! Some members shared stories about their attendance at Provincial and National conventions. Andrea presented an overview about Community Life and Irene did the same on Spiritual Development. We began our action against homelessness by donating a basket of new socks to a charity in Haliburton.

Our Spring meeting will be held in Eganville at St. James the Less parish, hosted by Eganville and Pikwakanagan councils. Elaine will present an overview on Christian Family Life and Sheila will do the same with Resolutions. Bishop Mulhall will speak about the Ontario Campaign for Conscience and Reconciliation. Combined with prayer services, other reports, fun and fellowship with those present, it will be a fulfilling day. Consider joining us on Sat., April 14, 2018.

The Canadian League Fall 2017 contains the Planning Strategically Progress Report: Pgs. 36-43. This is history in the making. Please read it and discuss it at your next meeting. We will have a further presentation on this at our annual convention in May. Let's be prepared to share our ideas. Continue to keep informed by reading thoroughly The Canadian League magazine and checking out the websites: [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca) and [cwl.on.ca](http://cwl.on.ca) especially on Wednesdays as new information is posted on that day.

Yesterday, I received a call from a member who lost her husband of 54 years six months ago. She spoke about their life together which was one of togetherness, caring, shared activities and joy lived with a strong faith, doing the will of the Father. Her story is one to be shared within our parishes and homes. Our call as Catholic women is to share and build up the faith and teach the life lessons that build family and lives based on faith, hope and true love. How are we doing that in our own families and our parishes? With courage, belief in the power of the Resurrection and determination we can!!!

The Diocesan Council is open to visiting your council anytime so please extend an invitation to us. We will provide training on any topic you choose or just join you for an evening of faith, fun and fulfillment!

The Memos we received from National council in October contained plenty of information and suggestions for action. Have you had a chance to pass this on to the whole council? Consider checking out those reports again and select an action to accomplish. Homelessness is still a topic to study and act on. Continue to collect socks for your community and record your success. At the Spring meeting, we may select a new challenge to work on. Many blessings on your year with Our Lady of Good Counsel as our guide.

Sincerely, Carmel



## PRESIDENT-ELECT AND ORGANIZATION

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Recruitment and Retention of Members: Membership drives start in November and should wrap up in January, but, welcoming new members and retaining your present members is a year-round process. Engage your members, recognize their contribution and celebrate together.

Annual Reports: At the time that I'm writing this report, I am waiting for the summary of your reports from National Office. I know that some of you struggle with this on-line process, and some of you did not submit your reports. Let's work on this for next year. If you have difficulty with the on-line reporting, ask for help. If you did not report because you are a small council, and perhaps struggling to maintain your council, do not be disillusioned. All councils contribute to the League. If you have to answer "no" to most of the questions, there is always a place at the end of the report for comments, and an opportunity to state your contribution. Your membership counts!

League Resource Material and Leadership Development: Further to completing her council's annual reports, a council president asked me for more information on scholarships and bursaries that can be accessed by Catholic women to further their education. [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca) and [cwl.on.ca](http://cwl.on.ca) are great resources for information about the League and League resources.

- go to [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca); scroll down to "welcome to New Website". On CWL website navigate to "Resources", the 800 series outline 26 workshops to download for use.
- [cwl.ca/national](http://cwl.ca/national) bursary fund (for application form and criteria)
- [www//cwlfcanada.ca](http://www//cwlfcanada.ca) (for Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation)
- [cwl.on.ca/provincial](http://cwl.on.ca/provincial) development fund.

Your diocesan executive is willing and available to assist councils to mount a workshop or to apply for any of the above funding.

Did you know?

200,000 Canadians can experience  
homelessness in any given year!



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Like everyone new to a position it takes time to figure out where to start and what to prioritize. For the Diocesan Past President, it begins with a trip to the Cathedral where our archives are stored. These include the blue binders that hold the parish council histories -- a visual reminder of how our members have put their faith into action. But what else do our archives hold? For one thing, there are diocesan annual report books.

The 1969 annual report book is a fascinating picture of what has changed and what has remained the same for the League. The 1969 diocesan convention took place on June 07 at Most Precious Blood Parish in Calabogie. The theme was "Is the CWL Relevant Today". Catherine Gallagher was Diocesan President and Rev. E. J. Murray was Spiritual Director. A number of parish councils whose reports are found in the book are no longer active such as Bristol Mines, Brudenell, Calabogie, Cobden, Demers Centre, Killaloe, Maynooth, Osceola, Pembroke-Holy Name, Rapides des Joachim, Vinton and Waltham. In the reports, many councils listed their total membership and from within that, the number of "involved" members. It appears that at the time, subscription to the League magazine was optional. For instance, in Barry's Bay, of the 65 paid members only 14 had a subscription to the magazine. A list of Standing Committees included Spiritual, Education, Citizenship & Immigration, Resolutions & Legislation, Press, Magazine, Social Action, Social Welfare, Report Forms, Membership, Girl Guides, Radio TV & Films, and Finance. The parish report reflected the focus in that particular council. And like today, as seen in the theme, the League struggled with the question of relevancy and how best to meet the needs of the parish, church and country. No written report was included from the Diocesan President or Diocesan Spiritual Director.

We can learn about the League by studying the Constitution & Bylaws, the Manual of Policy and Procedure at the various levels, the League history as published by the national office such as *Companions on the Journey 1990 – 2005* (available online at [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca)) and of course your own council histories. Treasure your histories. The CWL is often the only organization in a parish who keeps a history. Share it. Learn from it. It is a true example of faith lived out in parish and community.

Did you know?

At least 50,000 Canadians are part of the "hidden" homeless on any given night, staying with friends or relatives on a temporary basis!



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At the May 2017 Convention members passed the motion: “payment of the \$1 per member Levy and the Diocesan fees of \$45 currently collected from each Parish Council in Pembroke Diocese be discontinued as of January 01, 2018 and to raise the diocesan per capita fee from \$1.50 to \$3.50 effective January 01, 2018”. So, the Levy is gone! There are no more Diocesan Fees. The book work is considerably less for me, the Diocesan Treasurer, and Parish Treasurers now **send all membership fees to National** who will in turn make a direct deposit to the diocesan bank account at the beginning of each month based on the number of memberships received from parish councils the previous month. **Donations to the National Voluntary Funds are also sent to National.**

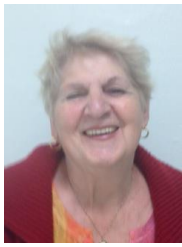
In memory of **Bishop Bernard F. Pappin**, a bursary fund was established for the purpose of assisting arch/diocesan seminarians in need of personal financial support. This bursary is financed by donations from CWL parish council and personal donations. Parish Councils are encouraged to continue their generous support for this bursary. **Send your donations to Patricia Rivest, the provincial treasurer.**

**Matt:25:35 “I was hungry, and ye gave me to eat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in”**

Our Ontario Provincial Council President has challenged us to focus our attentions on the homeless among us. In our rural county these people are often not visible to us the way they are on the streets of major cities but they are there. Recently, I read in the Eganville Leader about the Grind Shelter which is located in the Grind Coffee Shop in Pembroke. It is the only shelter operating between North Bay and Ottawa. It can accommodate three people each night and they can stay a maximum of four nights. Last year this facility assisted 65 persons.

If we, as Catholic women, listen carefully to the Spirit we will find ways to respond to God’s call to assist those in need.

**Treasurers: The monthly financial report does not need to be approved by way of a motion. Your report is for the members’ information only. For expenses to be approved, they must be motioned. Only your annual report, submitted at your Annual meeting, must be voted on for approval. Members are allowed to view the books of their council at any time.**



### COMMUNITY LIFE

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As 2018 dawns with endless new possibilities, I invite you to revisit with renewed enthusiasm our theme "Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call".

Let's revisit our commitments as CWL Members to the 1% program (1% of money spent on our extra luxuries) and how it makes a difference for women in so many countries. The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace is doing such important work since 1969 supporting thousands of women in the Global South through the 1% Program.

Another commitment since 1961 is the Coady International Institute located at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia, Canada. The Institute, created in 1959, is named for Rev. Dr. Moses Coady, one of the prominent founders of the Antigonish Movement, who inspired communities to embrace the principles of cooperation and create self-reliant societies where all people could fully participate. A Special Partnership with the CWL began 56 years ago with a donation of \$1,000.00 dollars to support women studying at the Coady. Since then our National CWL, with many Councils across Canada, supports the Coady Institute.

In every country in the world, women experience a lower status in society than men, with women making up nearly 70% of the world's poor. Despite this statistic, women make tremendous contributions to their families, communities and society in general through their outstanding leadership potential. Recognizing this, a good deal of the Coady Institute's work concentrates on fostering opportunities for women.

Working together as members of the Catholic Women's League of Canada, we give a brighter future to many women around the world.

After 10 years of mobilizing, Development and Peace - Caritas Canada celebrates the announcement by the Canadian Government to create a human rights ombudsperson to oversee Canadian mining, oil and gas operations around the world. Since 2006, D&P has campaigned for greater accountability. They have been finally heard. Check out:  
[www.devp.org](http://www.devp.org)





## COMMUNICATIONS

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***“The Gospel says that they had ‘seen his star in the East’ and they chose to follow it: they chose to be guided by the star of Jesus... The Magi, instead, invite us to follow a steady light, a gentle light that does not wane, because it is not of this world: it comes from heaven and shines... Where? In the heart.” Pope Francis, Angelus, Jan 6, 2017***

Thank you to all who completed their annual reports by the deadline. If you did not get a chance to complete them, please ensure that our Organization Chair, Joan Lemay gets a copy of the President’s report for the Annual Report Book.

This message is from the Provincial Communication Chair, Marie-Theresa Lamphier, “As the Provincial’s theme this year is on homeless and their needs, I would like to suggest that you give just a bit more than you normally would i.e., one more dollar, one more pair of socks, one more box of macaroni and cheese and maybe one more jar of peanut butter. I also would like to suggest that you discuss in your councils some of the facts about homelessness and how it affects different classes of people i.e., the youth, the indigenous, the senior and those who are just down on their luck. Making people aware of the issues may encourage someone to be a little kinder towards the homeless; perhaps smile a little brighter, talk a little longer or offer some assistance that would not normally come their way. Some websites where you may obtain some information are as follows: You can Google “Facts about homelessness in Canada” for more info. Facts & Figures - Raising the Roof: <http://www.raisingtheroof.org/for-media/facts-figures/> Just the Facts: <http://www.cwp-csp.ca/poverty/just-thefacts/> Facts About Youth Homelessness – Eva’s Initiatives for Homeless Youth [www.evas.ca/facts-about-youth-homelessness/](http://www.evas.ca/facts-about-youth-homelessness/) The cold and the winter season is especially hard on the homeless. A warm cup of coffee and a nice warm meal will go a long way in making their day!

And now for some Diocesan requests, please send me the names of those receiving volunteer awards (e.g., Mayor’s Volunteer of the Year, Citizen of the Year, Life Member Award, Maple Leaf Awards etc.).

Please visit our website at [www.pembroke.cwl.on.ca](http://www.pembroke.cwl.on.ca). Take a look at our up-coming events, standing committee chair reports and much more.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel bless you and guide you on your CWL journey.

**Bev**



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### **Marriage and Family**

Parenting Skills: "When one isn't or does not feel loved as an adolescent, then violence can grow. Within many forms of social hate and hooliganism there is often a heart that is not known. There are no bad children just as there are no evil teenagers; there are unhappy people." Pope Francis. I encourage sharing with members the acronyms STOP and LOVE and ask them to consider using with children they encounter.

\*S - Step back and calm down.

\*L - Listen to yourself & your child.

\*T - Take deep calming breaths.

\*O - Observe your child and happenings now.

\*O - Observe your own needs.

\*V - Validate child's feelings; assure love always.

\*P- Proceed with LOVE

\*E - Enjoy playing, laughing and having family fun.

May 13-20, 2018 - National Week for Life & Family: Theme "Love Encountering the Other". Resources have been prepared in collaboration and consultation with CCCB's and COLF and can be found on-line. Encourage adapting and using some of these ideas for your CWL Parish Council during this designated week. In his book *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis states that we should be empowered by Christ and moved by the spirit and "beginning with our own families let us encounter each other with love."

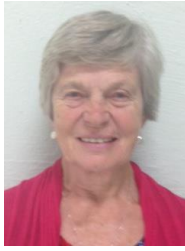
### **Ministry to Youth**

The Vatican's Youth Anonymous Questionnaire: 16-29 years: available on line at [youth.synod2018.va/content/synod2018/it.html](http://youth.synod2018.va/content/synod2018/it.html). "Where is God in all the tragedy in the world today?" Video created by a group of Catholic high school students available at [youtube.com/embed/jFz4uUfPfn8?rel](http://youtube.com/embed/jFz4uUfPfn8?rel).

### **Ministry to Seniors**

At the 89<sup>th</sup> Victoria Diocesan Council Annual Convention, Bishop Gary Gordon challenged CWL Members to "become shepherds" and take God's work outside the church by ministering to "frail, elderly and lonely in our parish families". He encouraged CWL Councils to rise to the challenge showing love, support and care for seniors, giving them the strength to say no to euthanasia if asked or pressured. I encourage all CWL parish councils to consider taking similar action if you have not already done so. Questions to ponder 1. Is there a home visitation team? 2. Is there a palliative care team to reach out to those dying? 3. Are rides offered to senior members to attend socials or parish functions? 4. Are there prayer partners so each member is remembered in prayer?

RTO/ERO sponsored Elder Abuse Ontario provides educational sessions for groups. For info contact Rosemary Cammaert, Carol Sulpher, Isabel O'Reilly or me, Elaine Turner.



EDUCATION & HEALTH  
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Our National Education and Health Chair is Fran Lucas. Our Provincial Chair Person of Education and Health is Wilma Vanderzwaag.

***“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail”***

One of the issues that was addressed in Wilma’s Directive was a Program called “Canadian Integration through Co-operative Education” (C.I.V.E.) This program is available to students 19 years old, out of High School and with developmental disabilities. For more information go to [www.teentransition-lk.org/Education/87](http://www.teentransition-lk.org/Education/87)

**National Bursary Fund.**

This Fund aids members pursuing education in areas of spiritual growth, adult faith formation, youth ministry, patients in palliative care, ministry to shut ins, and ministry to literacy tutoring. Councils are asked to support this bursary.

**Wellness And Sickness.**

Euthanasia **Prevention** Coalition has a monthly News Letter as well as DVD. Caring not Killing Pamphlets are available for \$25.00 for 100 copies. See [www.epcc.ca](http://www.epcc.ca)

**Safe Drinking Water:** Safe drinking water remains a huge problem. We wonder why? Why 73% of First Nation communities in Canada have water systems at high risk? Why nearly 2,000 communities in Canada live under “Boil water” Advisories? Over the last 16 years, The National Council has adopted three solutions related to water quality.

In light of new information with regards to fresh water concerns members are encouraged to consider a new resolution on water for the 2018 convention.

**Homelessness:** Ann Madden reminds us to focus on homelessness during this two-year term. Please review article by Michael Swan in Catholic Register of 31 Dec 2017

Did you know?  
30,000 Canadians are homeless every night!



## LEGISLATION

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***Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. Wisdom 5:12 -13***

In the final Legislation Communiqué of 2017 our National Chairperson of Legislation Nancy Simms advised us not to be overwhelmed! There is certainly a great amount of work taking place in our Parliament that provides us with an abundance of information to share with all our sisters in the League. I believe that we as Catholic Women must seek out 'wisdom' to help us each discern how we can best respond to the challenges of acting upon that which is important for our collective "work in the League".

Once a resolution is adopted the Legislation Chair's work begins!

In our fall 2017 "The Canadian League" pages 20 and 21 state the complete 2017 Annual National Convention Resolutions adopted at the Convention in August. I urge each member of the League to slowly read through 'each entire resolution': **2017.01** Full Implementation of the Supreme Court Decision in R. v. Gladue for Indigenous Offenders; **2017.02** Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornographic Websites; **2017.03** Zero-Rated Status under the Goods and Services Tax Provisions of the Excise Tax Act for Child Safety Products and **2017.04** Protection for Coercion of Conscience for Healthcare Professionals, along with the suggested Action Plan for each resolution. Discern which resolution you feel strongly about. Is there something you feel passionate about getting the government to 'move forward with', at this time? Then I encourage you to make the time to sit down, write your MP expressing your concerns and your passion about whatever resolution you have chosen to support. Each 'Action Plan' is clear about whom you should write to and what you should ask for. At the same time we are educating ourselves in the ways our government puts our resolutions into legislation, which is our ultimate goal for all people in Ontario and Canada.

Wishing you all many blessings in 2018 and May Our Lady of Good Counsel bless you.

**Spiritual Homelessness:** Is homelessness actually a spiritual poverty? How does spiritual and material poverty differ? Everyone knows and can understand the meaning of material poverty- the lack of material goods and the resources to buy those goods. But spiritual poverty is much more complex. It's the state of being unaware as to the true nature of reality and ourselves. Was there ever a time you found yourself spiritually homeless? Are the people we see on the street there, in part, due to spiritual poverty? Remember the words of the Lord Jesus ..... *for without Me, you can do nothing.* John 15:5



**RESOLUTIONS**  
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Resolutions are said to be the actions of the Catholic Women's League. Through each resolution members are called to speak out about injustices, and changes that need to happen in our communities and the world.

We are encouraged to study the Resolutions passed at the annual conventions and follow the action plan suggested. Perhaps looking at a resolution and inviting a speaker to inform us further on the topic will encourage more discussion and action in our individual parishes.

A visit with the government has not taken place this past fall but it is expected to happen next fall with a government reception to expose all members of parliament to The Catholic Women's League and its many endeavours. The League has been known as the conscience of politicians and an advocate for the rights and dignity of people everywhere.

The following Bills are in first reading and we are asked to contact government officials and request support for the Bill:

- **Bill C-254 An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act (baby products)**
- **Bill C- 282 An Act to amend Excise Tax Act and the Income Tax Act (extra-energy-energy efficient products)**
- **Bill C- 283 An Act to amend the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999** (electronic products recycling program)
- **Bill C- 287 An Act to amend the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999** (nanotechnology)

The Resolutions passed at the National Convention and suggestions for action are found in the fall edition of The Canadian League.

Homelessness is the condition of people without a permanent dwelling, such as a house or apartment.....  
a home is not just a physical space: it also provides roots, identity, security, a sense of belonging and a place of emotional wellbeing.



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**“Jesus wants your light to shine out to other people” (Matthew 5:16)**

Being both recording and corresponding secretary is doing two jobs in one. Each job is equally important. As recording secretary, we record the minutes correctly, concisely and completely. In either position I encourage you to have a copy of the Handbook for Secretaries. One can be requested or downloaded from the national website at [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca). Two other good resources are Robert’s Rules of Order and Participate with Ease.

The Secretary is the recording officer and the custodian of the journal of its official proceedings. In addition to being responsible for the minutes, the secretary retains the official membership, sends meetings notices, prepares or assists in the preparation of an order of business of each meeting and performs other duties as assigned by the President. The minutes can be distributed to the membership or read at the meeting. The minutes do not become an official record until they have been approved.

It is important for the council to inform me when a new executive has been established so I can keep updated records. Please do so as soon as possible after the election occurs.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel Bless You

**St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians begs us  
“...to lead a life worthy of the calling ...with all  
humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing  
with one another in love, making every effort to  
maintain the unity of the Spirit in a bond of  
peace.” (Ephesians 4:1-3).**



## SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

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***“If patience is worth anything, it must endure to the end of time. And a living faith will last in the midst of the blackest storm.” Mahatma Gandhi***

National Chairperson of Spiritual Development, Jacqueline Nogier, reports that prayer services can be difficult to find or create a new one. She says that if you go online and take one from an organization, then you must ask their permission to use it. You must acknowledge the creator of the prayer service unless it is entirely your own. Dynamic Catholic is trying to energize the catholic Church in America through its mission by developing world-class resources that inspire people to rediscover their Catholic Faith. You can sign up to receive daily e-mails. Visit [dynamiccatholic.com/](http://dynamiccatholic.com/) to register.

The Pope’s Video features the Holy Father’s monthly prayer intentions. It was developed by the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer networks (Apostleship of Prayer) to help circulate the monthly intentions. It can be assessed at [popevideo.org/](http://popevideo.org/).

Prayer Seeds: a gathering of Blessings, Reflections and Poems for Spiritual growth by Joyce Rupp is a new publication of about 100 never before seen thematically organized poems and reflections. You are allowed to use the poems and reflections, but you must acknowledge where they came from.

An article in the Ottawa Citizen, dated January 3, 2018, reports that as of February 1, 2018 a new law will come into effect restricting protestors from demonstrating outside Ontario abortion clinics. There will be a 50-metre barrier zone around the eight abortion clinics in the province. There will also be a 150-metre bubble zone around homes of people who provide abortion services. Hospitals will be allowed to apply for the zones. An article in the Catholic Register dated December 24, 2017 reports that anyone who refuses to endorse a women’s rights to abortion will be denied funding from a government program. This funding is given to organizations and employers who create summer employment for youth. Candidates must sign a form which affirms that the “core mandate of the organization” respects the Canadian Charter of Rights (now includes reproductive rights). It is feared that many Pro-Life groups will be affected. Catholic Civil Rights League was denied funding last summer (2017)

### **Catechist Formation Day**

On November 4, 2017 I attended the Catechist Formation Day held at Holy Name Annex in Pembroke, Ontario. Father Ryan Holly was the presenter. He mentioned that canon law teaches, sanctifies and governs. It is also about the rights and obligations of the faithful.

The purpose of the day was to inform catechists about the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, First Communion and Penance.

The sacrament of Baptism imprints a character on the soul and it cannot be repeated. If someone comes and asks for the sacrament of Baptism, then there is hope. The role of the sponsor is a spiritual one in which he/she makes a promise to God to support the parent/parents. The sponsor must be a Catholic who has been confirmed and must be 16 years of age. Only one sponsor is needed as a witness. If two people are chosen, one must be female and the other male. Confirmation also imprints a character on the soul and it cannot be repeated. There is no age attached to confirmation, but the candidate must be mature, open and show eagerness. It is also open to the discretion of the Bishop. Only one sponsor is needed, and he/she must behave as a true follower of Christ. It is best to choose the sponsor that one had at Baptism. First Communion is received at the age of discretion. The child must be able to distinguish real bread from Eucharistic bread. Penance is received at the age of discretion. The child must be able to distinguish right from wrong.

This day was not only for Catechists, but for any practicing Catholic who wanted to become informed about the faith. I am glad that I attended because I learned some things that I was not aware of.

### **A summary on the Spiritual Development Standing Committee**

The Spiritual Development Standing Committee is divided into six subtopics:

1. **Spiritual Growth** sets the League above all other women's groups. Chairs are asked to prepare spiritual programs for all meetings and make use of the league's Ceremonies Booklet.
2. **Study of catholic Teaching:** faith is a way of life and members need to be in process of Spiritual Growth
3. **Role of Women in the Church:** women are called to take on an active role in the Church's life, mission and also to take on leadership roles
4. **Evangelization and Mission Assistance:** our mission is to lead all people to encounter Christ
5. **Lay Ministries:** to promote prayer, retreats, study groups and to participate in music, lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and lay leadership
6. **Ecumenism and Interfaith Endeavors:** promote awareness of the work of Prayer for Christian Unity; promote awareness of World Day of Prayer; invite other women of other faiths to council meetings and social events

**Resources:** Catholic Register  
COLF (Organization for Life and Family)  
Local Newspaper  
National and Provincial



## **Most Reverend Michael Mulhall**

Most Reverend Michael Mulhall was born in Peterborough, Ontario, on February 25, 1962, one of five children of Vernon and Maureen Mulhall. He received his elementary and secondary education in Peterborough and then studied at Trent University where he obtained his B.A. in 1985. He pursued theological studies in Rome at the Angelicum (S.T.B.-1988) and at the Augustinianum (S.T.L.-1991) while following the formation program at the North American College.

Bishop Mulhall was ordained to the Priesthood for the Diocese of Peterborough on July 21, 1989. From 1991 to 1994, he served in Huntsville. From 1994 to 2002, he served as an official of the Holy See in the Congregation for Oriental Churches. Returning to his native diocese in 2002, he served again briefly in Huntsville and then in Hastings. In 2003, he was given added responsibilities as Chancellor for Spiritual Affairs and in 2004, as Vicar General of the Diocese of Peterborough. He occupied these positions until June 30, 2007, when he was appointed Bishop of Pembroke, Ontario, by Pope Benedict XVI. He was ordained as the eighth Bishop of Pembroke in St. Columbkille's Cathedral, Pembroke, Ontario, on September 21, 2007 by the Most Reverend Luigi Ventura, Apostolic Nuncio to Canada.

### **Coat of Arms of Bishop Mulhall**

The upper one-third of the design, heraldically known as “the chief”, is divided into two portions. On the right side is a blue field with a silver crescent surrounded by a scattering of twelve gold stars. This symbolism is emblematic of Our Blessed Lady in her title of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the North American College, in Rome, where Bishop Mulhall completed his formation for priestly ordination. On the left is green with three gold stars. This symbolism is taken from the Mulhall family arms. In the major section across the centre is a representation of the heraldic fur ermine, which is a representation of the Hickey family arms. Through the use of these symbols, His Excellency acknowledges the heritage that has come to him from his parents, Vernon and Maureen Mulhall.



The Bishop's home diocese of Peterborough is represented in the lower left by the blue field with the inverted Latin cross (Saint Peter), and to the right the green field with the peace dove standing upon the gold sword represents the Diocese of Pembroke (Saint Columbkille).

Bishop Mulhall's motto is "Fiduciam habemus apud Deum" — "We have confidence before God", the confidence of adoption. Jesus, the Son and Word, who was with God from eternity (John 1.1) has won for us the confidence of friendship before God our creator.

This same idea was dear to the contemplatives of later generations. In their pursuit for holiness, the monks of the desert of Palestine of the 5th adopted this same Greek notion of confidence of boldness (parresia). The monks, following the Apostle John's writings, applied the notion to our relationship with Christ, the confidence or boldness with which we address a dear friend who loves us and who guides us daily. As the Christian makes progress in spiritual perfection through prayer and self-denial, one grows each day in confidence (fiducia).

Today, as in every age, the Risen Christ calls each of us to that same intimate friendship which listens and responds to the Beloved with confidence. It is a confidence that He has given through the mystery of His Church. May we appreciate the invitation that Christ offers and grow each day in confidence (fiducia-parresia).

Acknowledgements: Deacon Paul Sullivan, Diocese of Providence, RI

# CONVENTIONS

## DIOCESAN CONVENTION



National President Margaret Ann Jacobs



Terry Hodgson receiving Madonna statue from Carmel Rumleskie



Installation of Officers from left to right, President Carmel Rumleskie, outgoing Past President June West, Past President Pat Weller, Secretary Donna Provost, Spiritual Development Irene Perrault, Community Life Andrea Bonneau, Spiritual Advisor Bishop Michael Mulhall, Education and Health Lore Coyne, Legislation Maureen Brennan, Resolutions Sheila Bielaskie, Christian Family Life Elaine Turner, Treasurer Pauline Hughes, Communications Bev Drouin and President Elect & Organization Joan Lemay

## PROVINCIAL CONVENTION THUNDER BAY



Irene Perrault with Pat Hachey, owner of the quilt donated to Provincial Council



Elaine Turner, Bev Drouin, Irene Perrault, Donna Provost, Pat Weller and Carmel Rumleskie, missing Maureen Brennan

**NATIONAL CONVENTION CHARLOTTOWN PEI**



**Members from Ontario on Canada Day!**



**Carmel at the Presidents' luncheon**



**Annette Chaplin at Lobster dinner**



**Opening mass: Archbishop O'Brien and Bishop McGrattan**



**Provincial Lap Quilts**



Pope Francis with Donna Provost as herself



Pope Francis with Bev Drouin as Anne of Green Gables

**TWINS!!!**



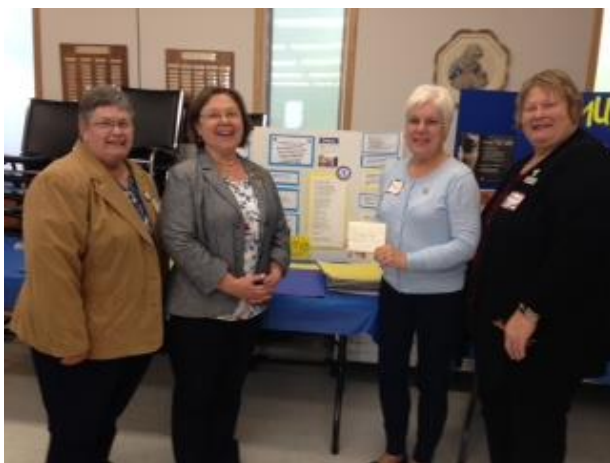
National Team, Grace Richmond and Annette Chaplin, Deep River; Bev Drouin, Chalk River; Irene Perrault, Pembroke; Donna Provost, Quyon, QC; Carmel Rumleskie, Barry's Bay; and Pat Weller, Douglas. We had the Diocese well covered.

# Council Activities



## DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Fall Meeting  
Haliburton October 21, 2017



Our Lady of Fatima parish council in Renfrew is recognized for their efforts to increase membership with a grand total of 18 members over the last two years. Maureen Brennan received the card of congratulations from Diocesan president, Carmel Rumleskie



All councils in Ontario are bringing more awareness to the issue of homelessness for the next two years. In our diocese we selected to provide socks for the homeless as our first action. Every council in the diocese was invited to bring a new pair of socks to the Fall meeting in Haliburton. 48 pairs of socks were collected and given to a local charity in Haliburton. Peg Flowers, president and other members from the Haliburton council received the sock basket from Diocesan president, Carmel Rumleskie

### Did you know?

The factors which push people into homelessness may be job loss, mental illness, addictions, family violence/abuse and extreme poverty. Social causes are the decline in affordable housing, both owned or rented and the reduction in social benefits!

## A New Term for the Pembroke Diocesan CWL



Back row: left to right, Life Member Liaison, Margaret Maloney; Christian Family Life, Elaine Turner; Past-President/Historian, Pat Weller; President, Carmel Rumleskie; Community Life, Andrea Bonneau; Resolutions, Sheila Bielawski; Education and Health, Lore Coyne. Front row: Communications/Webmaster, Bev Drouin; Spiritual Development, Irene Perrault; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Donna Provost; President-Elect/Organization, Joan Lemay; Legislation, Maureen Brennan. Absent: Spiritual Advisor, Bishop M. Mulhall and Treasurer, Pauline Hughes.

The Pembroke Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League has chosen a new Executive for 2017-2019. Under the guidance of President Carmel Rumleskie, this promises to be a great two years filled with faith, fun and fulfillment. Carmel challenges us to provide education to League members using the National theme, "Inspired by The Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call". The provincial theme for the next two years is "Homelessness" and the diocesan theme is "Promote Leadership and Increase Membership".

The Diocesan Council is busy preparing for our upcoming gatherings. The Day of Reflection is hosted by Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Deep River, Ontario on Saturday September 23rd. The Day of Reflection will focus on Eucharistic Adoration. The Fall meeting will take us to beautiful Haliburton on Saturday October 21st. The trees should be all dressed up in their best fall colours for the occasion. League Development will be the focus of our meeting with emphasis on Community Life and Spiritual Development standing committees. We will also touch on the National Policies and Procedures and how they can influence us in our meetings.

In the words of Anne Gorman, National President-Elect and Chairperson of organization, "This is an exciting time in the history of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. As we prepare to celebrate 100 years "For God and Canada", we rely on the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to guide us on this journey". The 100th anniversary of the National Council will take place in 2020.

## ARNPRIOR – ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTUM



L – R a food bank representative, CWL members; Ingrid Waklawick, Kathy Ste. Marie, Joan Hanniman, Helen McGregor, Connie Townley-Emery, Teresa Coady.



L–R Hospice Renfrew's Megan Wilkinson, RN. Seryca David, RN, Tracy Craig-Grundy, PSW, Judy Cobus, Manager of Volunteer and Community Development Services, Arnprior President, Nancy Black, Braeside President Marilyn Robertson, and Hospice volunteer Darlene Meleskie

St John Chrysostom CWL council of Arnprior and Our Lady of Perpetual Help CWL council of McNab Braeside co-hosted the 96th annual Pembroke Diocesan convention in May of 2017. We had wonderful attendance and an opportunity to share and learn about the many works and achievements of the CWL. At this convention we collected \$669.00 for our designated charity. This money was presented to Hospice Renfrew by both presidents, Nancy Black of Arnprior and Marilyn Robertson of McNab Braeside. Hospice Renfrew is a vital asset to Renfrew County and is a safe and wonderfully caring place for end of life care. We were happy to support their work. Arnprior council has actively supported the food bank which is housed in St John Chrysostom church. We have designated masses, on the first weekend of each month, as Food Bank Sundays. At Christmas, with help from a local quilters group who make and donate Christmas gift bags, our CWL ladies encouraged donations of, and collected, personal care items. The CWL ladies, this year, filled 71 bags for distribution at Christmas by the Food Bank to people in need and who might be alone during this time.

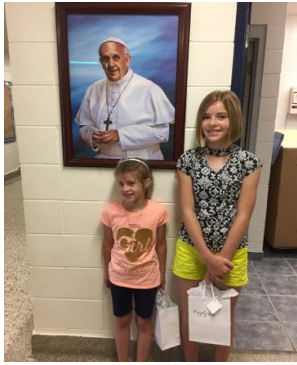
## CALUMET ISLAND – ST. ANN'S



A group of 14 parishioners from the Pontiac made a pilgrimage organized by St. Ann's CWL Pres Joan Derouin to the ordination to the Priesthood of former Calumet Island resident Justin Bertrand at St. Columbkille's Cathedral, Pembroke, Ontario. It was a lovely day of celebration! Father Bertrand celebrated his first mass at 5:00 pm at St. Ann's Church with a reception afterwards at our Municipal Hall.

L-R back: Linda & Gerard Normandeau, Gaetan & Marie Paule Dumouchel, Paulette Lamothe & Lucien Dumouchel, Marjolaine Chartrand, Colette Pigeon, Kay Ranger. Front: Joan Derouin, Judith Lagarde, Marianna, Martina Evans, Suzanne LaSalle

## CHALK RIVER – ST. ANTHONY’S



The Council presented commemorative gifts to Alivia Surette for First Communion and Kaylynn Voisin for Confirmation. The gifts were presented at an assembly in the school.

As customary at Convention, Deep River and Chalk River Councils take a picture near the Madonna. L-R Janet Gow, Grace Richmond, Terri Corbett, June West, Charlene Maguire, Marilyn Kuisma, Debbie Desrochers, Lynne Kelly and Bev Drouin



## CORBEIL - SACRED HEART OF JESUS



Joyce Lafontaine welcoming the ladies from the diocesan council, members of the parish council and the parishioners.



Carmel Rumleskie, Lorraine Crain and Joyce Lafontaine

CONGRATULATIONS to Sacred Heart of Jesus CWL council in Corbeil as they celebrated their 20-year anniversary on January 20, 2018. At mass pins for years of service were given to Nicole Giroux, Yolande Gravel, Helen Vaillancout, Dianne Armitage 5 yrs, Marg Smith, Beth Farrell 20 yrs, Lori Betik 35 yrs, Deborah Corriveau 40 yrs, Joyce Lafontaine 45 yrs and Lorraine Crain 50 yrs. A light supper was served to the members and the parishioners.



## DEEP RIVER - OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL



Sue Newton is presented the Maple Leaf service pin by Co-President Charlene Maguire.



Receiving their 60-year pin at our Christmas luncheon Dec 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017, from left to right, Clare Curley, Shirley Jay, Dorothy Gonneau, and Mary Ahokas, absent from photo are Irene Rainville and Jill Stoute.

## DOUGLAS - ST. MICHAEL'S



Anne English, Maureen Troutman, Fr. Moses, Angela McEachen enjoy some treats.



Duane Andrews with bowls of socks.



Members and parishioners mingle.

An open invitation was extended to the parish for the December meeting of St. Michael's CWL. Fr. Moses Nwosu, our new pastor and Spiritual Advisor, spoke on the Advent season and talked a bit about his home country of Nigeria. His address was followed by a question and answer session. Refreshments were served and everyone had an opportunity to get to know Fr. Moses a little better. Fr. Moses has been very supportive of the CWL. As part of the Homelessness focus, socks were collected at the meeting. A basket has also been placed at the back of the church for donations from the parish at large. To date, 46 pairs of new socks have been collected. They are being gifted to local agencies for distribution.

## EGANVILLE – ST. JAMES THE LESS



Grace Foran, Ann Kelly, and Carmel Rumleskie



Carmel Rumleskie, Dianne Kelly, Grace Foran and Fr. Ken



Grace Foran, Sheila Feres

Dec. 7, 2017 was a special time for St. James the Less CWL at our Annual Christmas Dinner with women of St. James (Eganville), Nativity of Our Lady (Pikwakanagan) and St. Ann's (Cormac). A very special honour was awarded to a long-time member Grace Foran who received the Maple Leaf Service Pin as well as a 75yr service pin. Her daughter, Ann Kelly, was present for the occasion. This is just the second time in the 96-year history of our Council that this award has been presented. Grace is well known and highly respected within the Council and Parish and is always been front and centre with all CWL activities and a great supporter of all we do. She is always the first to show support and encouragement to her family, friends or fellow parishioners. Family, faith and community are and always have been, the cornerstones of her life; such a great role model for all. It certainly gives our council great pride to have her dedication acknowledged by presenting the Maple Leaf Service Pin to Grace Foran. Other members received service pins: Helen Kilgour, Kathryn Oostrom, Lorraine St. Louis 65yrs, Sheila Feres 50yrs, Lois Chretien, Kathleen Prince 25yrs, Margaret Chapeskie, Alice Anderson, Carolyn Desjardins 10yrs.

## PEMBROKE – OUR LADY OF LOURDES



Helen McCann (owner of the quilt) with Pat Hachey with a lap quilt donated to a hospice in Pembroke



Helen McCann with Pat Hachey (owner of the quilt) with a lap quilt which went to Provincial convention donated to a recipient at a hospice in Thunder Bay

## PEMBROKE - ST. COLUMKILLE'S CATHEDRAL



Cathedral council held a Hospice Renfrew Info Night in May of 2017. \$500.00 was donated in 2017, and another \$500.00 in 2018. They also presented the quilts to one of the Hospice Renfrew guest speakers. From left is Barbara Clouthier, Beverly Sloan and Bernadatte Chaput.

## RENFREW – OUR LADY OF FATIMA



Our Lady of Fatima CWL council awarded Pauline Hughes with the Bellelle Guerin Award in June 2017 during our 50th anniversary celebrations. Pauline has worked tirelessly keeping the spirit of the League alive as did the first President, Bellelle Guerin. She exemplifies leadership, strength, commitment and dedication not only to the League but in all activities in Our Lady of Fatima Parish and community. She is certainly deserving of this prestigious award.



Our Lady of Fatima CWL celebrated our 50th Anniversary of investment in June 2017 with the theme, "Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call". Fr. Holly, Fr. Do and approximately 50 members were welcomed by President Nancy Guyea and greeted by Carmel Rumleskie, President of Pembroke Diocesan CWL. We were honoured to have three of our charter members present, Rita Burnett, Lois Murphy and Giovanni Stavole. The evening was filled with gratitude to our founding members, prayers and celebration and thanksgiving for the many gifts of our members.

## RENFREW – ST FRANCIS XAVIER



SFX Renfrew Council made a substantial contribution to finance the replacement of the church doors. Pictured in front of the newly installed doors: Debbie MacDonald, Marg Maloney, Martha Scott, Fr. Kerry Brennan, Joan Lemay, Donna Enright, Mary Richards



In response to Betty Ann Brown Davidson's centennial challenge, six quilt tops were made. They will be quilted and donated to Hospice Renfrew. Pictured are member quilters Donna Enright, Mary Richards, Rita Mears and Joan Lemay

### Important Dates in 2018

1. Pembroke Diocesan Spring meeting Sat., April 14, 2018, St. James the Less, Eganville
2. Annual Pembroke Diocesan Convention Sat., May 26, 2018, Our Lady of Lourdes hall, Pembroke
3. Pembroke Diocesan Day of Reflection Sat., Sept. 8, 2018, Our Lady of Fatima hall, Renfrew
4. Pembroke Diocesan Fall meeting Sat., October 20, 2018, Host council: TBD

# In Memorium

## Genevieve Cahill



It is with great sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of Genevieve Cahill, née McCart on July 13, 2017 at the age 94. Beloved wife of the late Eric Cahill, predeceased by her three children Bernard (Margaret Dempsey), Lynda (Robert Sloan) and Maureen. She leaves behind her loving and cherished grandchildren; Paul Cahill (Louise), Maureen Cahill (David Lamarche); Blake Sloan (Susan), Brian Sloan (Connie), Brent Sloan (Lindsay), Kyle Sloan (Ashley); her great-grandchildren: Sam, Olivia, Noah, Hunter, Campbell, Peyton and Brooke. Survived by her sister, Teresa Moncrieff (late Gordon) and predeceased by nine brothers and sisters. She has a loving family of nieces, nephews and dear friends. Friends may call at Hulse, Playfair & McGarry Funeral Home, 150 Woodroffe Avenue, Ottawa on Sunday, July 16, 2017 from 2 to 4 pm and 7 to 9 pm. There will be no visitation on service day. Funeral Mass will be celebrated in St. Anne's Church, Calumet Island, Quebec on Monday, July 17, 2017 at 11:00 am. Interment Parish Cemetery. The family members extend a special thank you to Diane Blais, CLSC Aylmer and staff at Chateau Symmes for the excellent care given to Genevieve and for their support and compassion. The family has expressed that in lieu of flowers, for those who wish to do so, a donation to Alzheimer's Society would be greatly appreciated. Genevieve Bridget Cahill was a very active and involved member of the Catholic Women's League in Pembroke Diocese. She was a standing Committee chair on the Pembroke Diocesan Council for several years and always supported the programs and activities of the Diocesan Council. Genevieve was well respected for her love of the League. May she rest in peace.

## Nina Sullivan



Peacefully at the Arnprior and District Memorial Hospital with loved ones by her side on Wednesday morning, August 23rd, 2017; Nina Elizabeth Sullivan of Arnprior passed away at the age of 81. Beloved wife of the late Donald Sullivan (August 28, 1980). Dearly loved mother of Donald (Collette) of Braeside; Shelley Sullivan (Al Snider) of Toronto; Brian (Cassandra) of Braeside and Eric of Arnprior. Proud grandmother of Greg and Matt Brophy, both of Richmond. Dear sister of Elta Watt (late Norm) of Arnprior. Predeceased by her brother, Beattie Johnston (late Rita). A fierce political advocate, Nina spent many years working in former MPP Leo Jordan's office. Her involvement in the electoral process saw her manning many local offices prior to federal and provincial elections. Family and friends were invited to a Memorial Mass to be celebrated in our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Braeside on Wednesday morning, August 30th at 11 o'clock. Private interment Malloch Road Cemetery. In memory of Nina, please consider a donation to the Arnprior Regional Health Foundation. In the care of the Pilon Family Funeral Home and Chapel Ltd., 50 John Street North, Arnprior. Nina was an active member of the Catholic Women's League in Arnprior and Braeside. Nina also was a member of the Pembroke Diocesan Council for several years as a standing committee chair. May she rest in peace.

**You are cordially invited to**

**The 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
of the Pembroke Diocesan Council  
of The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Saturday, May 26, 2018**

**Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall  
535 Irving Street, Pembroke, Ontario K8A 2V2  
Registration 8am Start Time 9 AM**

The Diocesan Council looks forward to hosting this event. Come to hear National and Provincial Catholic Women's League speakers with a special focus on our care for the homeless. Provincial Representative will be Anne Madden. Councils are asked to bring new socks to donate to a local charity, a door prize and your CWL banner. Registration forms and details will follow.

**"Inspired by The Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call"  
"Promote Leadership and Increase Membership"**

**Save the Date!**

**What:** Ontario Provincial Convention

**Date:** July 7 - 11, 2018

**Location:** Marriott Toronto Airport

**97th Annual National Convention  
August 12-15, 2018 in Winnipeg, Manitoba**

**Hope to see you there!**

## CWL News in the Diocese

The CWL invites all Catholic Women to join The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Membership year runs January 1 to December 31<sup>st</sup>. Membership drives are usually November to January, but one is welcome to join anytime.

Why belong to the CWL?

- The CWL is the voice of Catholic women expressing their values and promoting dignity and justice for all
- The CWL is a gift of faith, friendship and support, offering leadership development and affirmation
- The CWL gives members the opportunity to serve God and Canada. Through standing committees, members can feel the pulse of what is happening in church and society
- The CWL invites all women to share their gifts and make a difference.

(taken from CWL brochure, Why I am a Member)

The Diocesan CWL is comprised of all the parish councils in the diocese. There are diocesan meetings held in the Spring, in the Fall, and an Annual Convention on the last Saturday of May each year, as well as a Day of Reflection each fall.

At the Day of Reflection in Deep River, hosted by Our Lady of Good Counsel CWL, September 2017, Bishop Mulhall spoke about the Holy Eucharist, and CWL member, Terri MacLeod from St. Lawrence O'Toole parish, Barry's Bay, spoke about her devotion to Eucharistic adoration. As we do at all our Days of Reflection, we held a prayer service for deceased members and Spiritual Advisors of the past year.

Our Fall Meeting, on October 4<sup>th</sup> in beautiful Haliburton, hosted by St. Anthony of Padua Council, was a day filled with faith, fun and fulfillment, - with prayers, reports, hospitality, and "sock action". In supporting our provincial theme of homelessness, each member attending brought a pair of socks to donate to those in need in the Haliburton area. As well, Our Lady of Fatima Council, Renfrew, was recognized for their successful efforts in increasing their membership, (18 new members over the past two years).

Eganville, St. James the Less Council and Pikwakanagan (Golden Lake), Nativity of Mary council will co-host our spring meeting, April 14<sup>th</sup> in Eganville. All CWL members are invited to join us and participate in the gifts that the CWL has to offer.

Joan Lemay, Renfrew  
Diocesan Chair of Organization

## **Prayer for Homeless People**

Hear our prayer today for all women and men, boys and girls who are homeless this day.  
For those sleeping under bridges, on park benches, in doorways or bus stations.  
For those who can only find shelter for the night but must wander in the daytime.  
For families broken because they could not afford to pay the rent.  
For those who have no relatives or friends who can take them in.  
For those who have no place to keep possessions that remind them who they are.  
For those who are afraid and hopeless.  
For those who have been betrayed by our social safety net.  
For all these people, we pray that you will provide shelter, security and hope.  
We pray for those of us with warm houses and comfortable beds  
that we not be lulled into complacency and forgetfulness.  
Jesus, help us to see your face in the eyes of every homeless person we meet  
so that we may be empowered through word and deed,  
and through the political means we have,  
to bring justice and peace to those who are homeless. Amen.