

THE ST. MICHAEL'S LEAGUE

Issue 14

February 2023

Message from our President Dorothy Solomon



Catholic and Living It is the theme set by the National CWL Council. This is a broad statement and everyone can apply it by increasing awareness and a daily review of how we are living. The Sunday Eucharist is the source and

summit of our faith and from there we receive the grace to be Catholic women in action and prayer.

As CWL members we have the advantage of monthly meetings and minutes for those who cannot attend, to educate each other on relevant issues. Through our seven Standing Committees, we are made aware of current concerns, offered concrete steps to take action and obtain feedback on results. By being Catholic and Living it, we engage as much as we are able in assisting the committee chairs. Our Past President is always on hand to be a source of support for the executive and all members.

The Organization Chairperson invites us to work on membership drive weekends and promotion of the League.

Christian Family Life brings us updates on ministry to youth, the disabled, seniors, singles, widowed, married, separated, young adults, divorced and those with vocations.

Community Life includes a broader scope of duties involving dignity and rights of persons, social and economic justice, refugees, immigration and citizenship, the Canadian Organization for Development and Peace, and Canadian Missions. We are so blessed to have other groups within the parish who focus on these issues along with CWL members.

Our Education and Health committee seems pretty straightforward but it is fairly extensive. Catholic education at all levels, literacy and continuing education, wellness and health plus environment are the key areas.

Our Communications Chairperson is responsible for evangelization and promotion of the League. She offers excellent content via newsletters, bulletins, and media relations, endorsing parish events and making

us aware of workshops being offered by other levels of the CWL.

The Resolutions and Legislation Committee includes research and implementation of resolutions at all levels of government in cooperation with Diocesan, Provincial and National CWL Councils. The legislation aspect includes monitoring and studying issues at all levels of government. The local concern may be homelessness and what the city is doing to address this.

All of these Standing Committees welcome members to participate in even one concern. You do not necessarily have to attend meetings, although we encourage you to, but you can lend your voice and ideas by emailing to our new address at cwlstmichlon@gmail.com. We invite speakers to our meetings to inform us of specific concerns and sometimes just for fun. Please let us know your suggestions for speakers.

There are many ways to participate – prayer everyone can incorporate, letter writing to all levels of government with no postage required, phone calls and visits to shut-ins and those in long-term care, carpooling for mass or meetings, and I am sure I am missing some ideas. Watch for our May Tea, open to all ladies of the parish, when we will ask for carpooling drivers. How are you Catholic and Living It?

CATHOLIC and LIVING IT!

Prayer Intentions

We have offered specific prayer intentions for each month and we are asking not only each of our members but also all the members of St. Michael's community, to bring these intentions to the Lord. Let us continue to lift one another up in prayer.

February: During this month when we celebrate love, we pray for those who are finding struggles in their marriages, friendships, and family relationships.

March: Spring is a time of new life, and new beginnings, let us pray for the healing of those women who have had an abortion.

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From Our Spiritual Advisor Fr. Sekar Raj

Are you lukewarm? (Revelation 3:16)

Friends, once Jesus conducted a campaign on one of the streets of the village. Devil also did the same on the other street of the same village. There was a huge wall that separated the area of Jesus' campaign and the devil's campaign. Those who chose Jesus lined up with Jesus, and those who chose Devil lined up with the devil.



But there was a man in that village who found it difficult to choose between Jesus and Devil. Jesus or Devil? He was having a bit of confusion between them. So, with all his confusion, he decided to be neutral. That means he chose neither Jesus nor the devil. So, he sat on the wall which separated the area of Jesus' preaching and the Devil's preaching.

After the campaign, everyone went along with the person whom they had chosen. Those who had chosen Jesus went to heaven with Jesus; and those who had chosen the devil, went to hell with the devil.

Now, once everything was settled down, the devil came back to this man who was neutral in his decision; and the devil pulled him and was dragging him to hell. So, the man shouted, "Why are you dragging me to hell, for I did not choose you?"

The devil replied, "No one can be neutral while choosing between God and me. They can choose either God or me. If you are neutral, then you are already mine!"

Friends, time flies fast and we are about to start Lent season with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd. At this juncture, one of our spiritual reflections could be on spiritual lukewarmness (Revelation 3:16).

We cannot be neutral about eternal life, but many try to be. They try to ride the middle road—but there is no middle road. Jesus said it's one or the other. He said if you're not on the narrow road (gospel values) that leads to eternal life, then you must be on the broad road (worldly attractions) that leads to destruction. Every person is on one or the other. So, Lent is a kind of homecoming to the loving Lord, who is already keeping His eyes on our ways, even if we are

still far away! (Luke 14:20) Where there is Love, distance doesn't matter! - Fr. Raj

St. Michael's CWL

General Membership Meeting

Monday, March 6, 2023

7:00 pm, St. John Paul II Room

Followed by speaker at 7:30

St. Michael's Parish Hall

Guest Speaker

Diocesan Archivist Deb Majer

Topic

The Women, A Bishop and a Princess:

The History of the CWL in the

Diocese of London

All women of our Family of Parishes are

Welcome to attend

Legislation and Resolutions Joan Lobsinger

The provincial resolutions chair has a project that she would like parish councils to take part in. It is called Faith Into Action – Making a Difference. She asks us to choose a resolution listed on either the National (cwl.ca) or provincial websites (cwl.on.ca), review the Action Plans and follow up on one of the suggestions. I am happy to announce that two of our members have already volunteered to be on a sub-committee with me to pursue this project. If you are interested in joining us please email me at joanlobsinger@sympatico.ca We would like to get started on this project in March.

I'm also excited to announce that two Resolutions will be presented at this year's upcoming London Diocesan Annual Meeting of Members in Sarnia. The first is entitled 2023-01 LON Indigenous Language Resolution and the second, is 2023-02 LON Compassionate Community Care. The Resolution Dialogue will take place on Monday, April 24th at 2:00 p.m. and voting on the resolutions will take place on Wednesday afternoon.

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Education and Health

Marilyn Morgan

CWL Bursary Funds Please encourage your members to take courses and to apply!

LONDON DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL ADVISOR BURSARY <http://www.cwllondon.ca/Forms.html> This bursary is available to any League member only. It shall be used to finance education at any level: university, college, technical school, etc. Applications to the London Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Bursary (with supporting documentation – refer to the criteria) must be submitted to London Diocesan Catholic Women's League President ie. emailed or postmarked by April 1st. Applications must be completed on the official application form.

LONDON DIOCESAN J.L. HENNESSEY EDUCATION BURSARY <http://www.cwllondon.ca/Forms.html> This bursary is available to any League member or her immediate family. It shall be used to finance education at any level: university, community colleges, technical school, etc. Applications to the London Diocesan J.L. Hennessey Education Bursary (with supporting documentation – refer to the criteria) must be submitted to London Diocesan Catholic Women's League President ie. emailed or postmarked by April 1st. Applications must be completed on the official application form.

NATIONAL BURSARY FUND Applications to the National Bursary Fund (with supporting documentation – refer to the criteria) must be submitted to the national office and postmarked by May 15th. Applications must be completed on the official form (use this link): <https://cwl.ca/wpcontent/uploads/2021/06/552-National-Bursary-Application-Form-2021.pdf>

Canadian Blood Services: CWL Blood Donors The previous link for members to donate blood through Canadian Blood Services is inactive. Members wishing to donate blood are to visit blood.ca/ Select ways-donate/partners-life/group-donations-and-pledge-based-partnerships. Members will need to complete the registration to set up a new donor account if they do not have one. Once the account is set up, then choose Partners for Life to join an existing team which is the "The Catholic Women's League of Canada."

Communications

Gail Brown

There is no lack of sources for information and stories about our CWL, both local, and from farther afield.

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Members were happy to receive a printed copy of the Canadian League Magazine for Winter 2023 in their mailboxes after several issues of online access only. Of course, we can still request an email version if we prefer or go directly to the National website and access it there. [The Canadian League – Winter 2023 - The Catholic Women's League of Canada \(cwl.ca\)](http://www.cwl.ca/)

We also welcomed the return of the London Diocesan CWL Newsletter, thanks to the hard work and editing skills of Julie Sans, Diocesan CWL Administrative Assistant. You can check it out here at [Diocesan News Jan 2023](http://www.diocesannews.ca/) and see what's been happening in parishes from Windsor to Sarnia to Seaforth and beyond.

For even more news from across the province, the latest issue of the newsletter from the Ontario Provincial Council of the CWL has just been added to their website here [Feb online newsletter](http://www.onpcwl.ca/) You can also subscribe to this one and have it emailed directly to your inbox.

London Diocesan CWL Lenten Retreat

Joan Lobsinger

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd and as the London Diocesan CWL Spiritual Development Chair, I am happy to announce the return of our in-person Lenten Retreat. It will be hosted here at St. Michael's parish on Saturday, February 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Fr. Jim Mockler is the facilitator. Cost for lunch is \$15.00 and is payable by cheque or cash on the day of the Retreat. If you are paying by cheque, the cheque should be made payable to St. Michael's CWL. Coffee, tea and refreshments will be available upon arrival. Please inform Dorothy if you plan to attend at dorothysolomon41@gmail.com or 519-204-2931, by February 18th.

CWL Lenten Cross initiative

The CWL Lenten Cross initiative begins February 25th/26th. All parishioners are encouraged to participate by taking a prayer request card and/or leaving one in the baskets provided at both entrances to the church. This is a wonderful opportunity to support one another in prayer and to build a sense of community as we journey through this season of Lent.



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Featured Member Anna Kovacic

Dorothy Solomon

Anna has been a faithful Catholic all her life and an involved CWL member for 39 years at St. Michael's, attending meetings and special events regularly. What she appreciates about CWL is the fact that it upholds Gospel values and is instrumental in protecting and reaching out to all people rich or poor, Christian or non-Christian, with service and social justice to all. The CWL promotes participation at whatever level you can offer and has the highest regard for life at all stages. Anna cherishes the many pilgrimages, the miracles she has witnessed and seemingly impossible activities resulting from times of fellowship and prayer with other members. She mentions that often she hesitates to take part but then follows her motto – *Trust and go wherever God opens an opportunity.*

Anna expressed much gratitude for the friendships she has developed through the CWL and daily Mass. Her devotion to daily Mass and Rosary is truly an example of dedicated faith, hope and love. Every encounter someone has with Anna leaves them truly believing they have met a living saint, a woman who has a degree of holiness and a particular closeness to God. Her extraordinary devotion to the Apostolate of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is her favourite topic of conversation. The mission of the Apostolate is a renewal and restoration of Christian family values based in the love of God.

Anna was born in Slovakia and along with her parents and sister Maria, escaped the communist overtaking in a dramatic flight by horse and carriage with opposing snipers shooting randomly. Later, when Anna married Albin he was jailed and held at gunpoint for expressing anti-communist views. Once again Anna had to flee with Albin and two children. A miraculous escape brought them first to Austria. World peace is an immense longing for Anna as she recounts the terrors and memories of growing up during WW II and reading the book her father wrote as a veteran about the tragedy of war. This has made her keenly sensitive and compassionate to victims of any conflict anywhere in the world. Her prayer for progress in ecumenism follows Jesus' prayer *That they may all be one; John 17:21*. In London, Anna worked at St. Mary's Hospital, and becoming more comfortable with English, volunteered with the CWL and ecumenical and heritage groups.

The lives of the saints are an enormous consolation and inspiration to Anna as she is interested in current politics from municipal to world governments. Many

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saints had to face the ruling authorities of their time. Local, Canadian and world current events are part of her day so that she knows what to pray for. She also studies history, especially from her homeland of Slovakia. Prayer and faith were the lens through which life moves and had its meaning.

Anna's faith and devotion are an inspiration to us all, and we are blessed to count her among our members.



Special Guest Speaker, April 3rd Veronica Solis

Do you want to learn how to have effective conversations about the termination of life in the womb (abortion) with others? Join us for a workshop on how to communicate the pro-life position in a compassionate and compelling way. Simple conversational tools will help you to share the truth about the humanity of pre-born children, and the inhumanity of killing a person at any stage of life. Come learn how to change hearts and minds, and save lives! Guest speaker Maria McCann, a local pro-life advocate, has had hundreds of conversations about abortion and has spoken to many audiences about the issue.

Maria McCann has been actively involved in the pro-life movement since 2015. Her past roles include working for the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform, serving as the president of Western University's pro-life club, and more. Currently, she volunteers for London Against Abortion and London Area Right to Life Association. She has a passionate desire to see children saved from abortion, and to see pregnant mothers supported and loved. Looking forward to seeing you at our April meeting, Monday, April 3rd, St. John Paul II Room, at 7:00 pm.

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World Day of Prayer 2023

Gail Brown

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The World Day of Prayer started in the United States in the late 1800's and spread to Canada in the 1920's when Christian women in North America began to be involved in missions at home and in other parts of the world. Today it is observed in over 170 countries worldwide. Each year

on the first Friday in March, women gather in churches around the globe to celebrate a common scripture service based on a special theme for each year. Every year the service is written by women from a different country.

The 2023 service was written by the women of Taiwan and the theme is "I Have Heard About Your Faith," based on the letter to the Ephesians (1:15-19). It is an invitation to active listening, which is the basis of our prayers. The worship service brings us the witness of the saints with the stories from Taiwan.

There is no live group service in London planned for this year, but members are encouraged to access the Service via YouTube at this link [WDP Service Taiwan](#)

World Day of Prayer will be observed on March 4, but the video can be viewed at any time.

Next year's live event in London will be organized by our own St. Michael's CWL and take place in our parish hall, with participation from other North London interdenominational churches.



CATHOLIC
and **LIVING IT!**

London Diocesan CWL Lenten Retreat Facilitated by Father Jim Mockler

Saturday, February 25, 2023

St. Michael's London, 511 Cheapside St.

9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Cost \$15.00/person

Please inform Dorothy if you plan to attend at dorothysolomon41@gmail.com or 519-204-2931

by February 17th