

THE ST. MICHAEL'S LEAGUE

Issue 25

CWLstmichlon@gmail.com

February 2025

Message from our President

Dorothy Solomon



The envisioned future of The Catholic Women's League of Canada is an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women who are inspired by faith. We are a valued partner in social justice concerns. We are a respected influence and advocate at all

government levels. We are connected to the world through the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations. You are a significant woman worldwide, countrywide, provincewide, diocesan wide, citywide and especially in the St. Michael's Council.

As I mentioned in the December newsletter, the more I learn about CWL, the more astonished I am at how little I know. I referred to us as being like a jigsaw puzzle - we all belong and absolutely everyone is needed to fill their role. One of the fruits of everyone doing something has resulted in a healthy bank balance. At our February meeting, we decided on a flexible budget guideline for 2025. Charities can be added as requests come in and funds allow.

We have prepared an events calendar that you will want to keep handy. Our activities are based on creating an atmosphere of inclusivity and forming an engaged community. We are Catholic women who are inspired by faith to be fully involved in our families, homes, church and neighbourhoods. Invite a friend to come to any of these events; they do not necessarily have to be Catholic. The calendar is just words and dates on a page until you attend and make the experience real which you can share with others. Share this newsletter too. Wishing you sunshine - Dorothy

CWL Lenten Prayer Cards

The CWL Lenten Cross initiative begins the weekend of March 8th/9th and ends on April 11th. 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.



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.

St. Michael's CWL
General Membership Meeting
Monday, March 3, 2025
7:00 pm
Saint John Paul II Room

All women of our Family of Parishes are welcome to attend for an evening of faith and friendship in our common goals.

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Message from Faith Chair Megan Young



Pilgrims of Hope

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has made 2025 a Year of Jubilee, and he has made the theme of this year "Pilgrims of Hope." Over 3.5 million pilgrims are expected

to make their way to Rome to commemorate this year. As I think of that many people gathered, I am amazed at the way our Heavenly Father will use any and all opportunities to gather his beloved sons and daughters into one place whenever possible.

Our Holy Father also encourages the faithful to make as many pilgrimages as we can during this year. This can include visiting one of the many holy shrines located in the area or perhaps visiting a parish that you have never attended before. This is to broaden our horizons as it were, and to deepen our understanding that our spiritual family is not limited to our own Parish community.

As your faith pillar chair, I encourage us as a council to make as many pilgrimages as we can; and I am praying that the Lord will provide us with many opportunities to do so. During the warmer months, I plan for us to gather at St. Peter's Cemetery at least once a month to do a "Rosary Walk" and to visit the resting places of our loved ones who have already completed their earthly journey. I will also look into having a tour of the Seminary over the next few months as well. It will be wonderful for those who have not had the chance to visit the beautiful campus to do so.

This Jubilee Year is also a good reminder that we ourselves are pilgrims on this earth, and our

true home is with our Father in heaven. I firmly believe that this year is a call for us to keep that in mind during our day-to-day lives as we work, and through our interactions with one another. It is a call to hopefulness during those times of despair, and a call for rejoicing during those moments of triumph so we can enjoy each and every moment of the gift that is our earthly pilgrimage.

Membership Matters! Darlene Charette

Whether you wish to be highly involved or a member in the background, your membership helps us to carry on our valuable work in the church, community and internationally under the three pillars of faith, service, and social justice.

We have 135 paid members so far this year, but there are still a few members who have not yet sent in their dues for 2025. If you are not sure, please contact Darlene at 519-852-5252. Membership is \$40 for the year.

If you have not yet renewed your membership, simply put it in an envelope marked 'St. Michael's CWL' and your name and drop it into the collection basket at Mass or send an e-transfer to CWLstmichlon@gmail.com.

GET YOUR FROSTY GROOVE ON

CWL/K of C
DINNER DANCE
& SILENT AUCTION

Saturday February 22, 2025
7:00 pm - 11:00pm

Tickets \$30.00
Available from executive

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Lenten Spiritual Workshop

Sponsored By St. Michael's CWL
In response to Pope Francis' Call to Universal Jubilee



With Debbie Craven, BA MDiv

Debbie Craven has been an Ignatian trained Spiritual Director since 1999. She has guided many people through the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises.

My Sheep Know My Voice & They Follow Me



Finding it difficult to discern God's Voice?

This Lenten workshop will teach you how to discern between the 3 voices we hear: the voice of God, the voice of the evil one, or our own inner voice. Am I being led astray or is this where God is leading me?

All are Welcome!

**A free-Will Offering for
Lunch will be accepted
No Cost for the Workshop.**

Please Bring a Bible

Saturday, April 5th

9:30 am – 1:30 pm

St. Michael's Parish Hall

511 Cheapside Street

To Register:

Email: CWLstmichlon@gmail.com, Phone: 519-433-6689

Deadline for registration is Monday, March 31st

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Featured Member Mary Herlick Joan Roffey



I was delighted and honoured when asked if I would write about our featured member, Mary Herlick. Although I have known Mary for around 20 years, there were things about her that I didn't know. What I did know, however, was that she is a kind, compassionate, and giving individual who epitomizes what it means to be a CWL member.

Mary is the youngest of five children, spending her earliest years in the Owen Sound and Simcoe area. Like many of us, her mother was a CWL member and a wonderful faith role model for her. Her family moved to London when she was three. She attended St. Michael's Elementary School and then Catholic Central High School.

Mary was wed to Rob 35 years ago. Several years later they were blessed with twins, Katie and Eddie, born three months premature. Six weeks after birth, Eddie developed sepsis, and the medical team wasn't sure if he would survive. Faced with this devastating situation, Mary turned to prayer and when she got to the words, "Thy will be done," in the Our Father, she knew

that she had to give it up to God. That moment changed her life and deepened her faith. The children were discharged from hospital three months after they were born and shortly thereafter, Eddie was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Even with his special needs and maybe because of them, Eddie was a gift to all who knew him. He passed at the age of 14. Katie prospered and currently resides in Vancouver where she works and is engaged to be married. She is a remarkable young woman and continues to be a blessing to Mary and Rob.

Mary worked for many years as a medical transcriptionist and then several years after as an office administrator in a doctor's office. She retired in 2023 and had no difficulty filling her time with her many hobbies and interests. Mary has always loved music and joined the 10:00 a.m. Mass Choir at St. Michael's in 2016. She is also a faithful member of the SMUGlees ukulele group. She enjoys gardening, yoga, board games, and cards and recently joined a fitness class two days a week focusing on cardio and core strengthening. Walking with friends and reading and discussing books with her Book Club, bring her great pleasure.

Mary has been an active member of St. Michael's parish most of her life. In addition to singing in the choir, she is a Eucharistic Minister and was a Marriage Prep leader for many years. She has also been a member of the CWL for over 25 years participating in bake sales, the Project Hope Sandwich brigade, SMUGlees, and more recently, the Christmas Market. As an organization, the CWL is truly blessed to count Mary among their number, and I look forward to knowing her for many years to come.

Correspondence

Our Corresponding Secretary has been faithfully sending out Sympathy cards, Get Well cards and Thinking of You cards. If you have news about one of our members who might need a card, please contact: cwlstmichlon@gmail.com

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CWL Social

Beat the mid-winter blues!

Join us for a social evening

Tuesday, February 18

6:30-8:00 p.m.

St. Michael's Parish Hall

Geraldine Peters from Jim Anderson Flowers will be demonstrating a variety of simple flower arrangements that you may want to try out at home. There is no cost for this event, but her arrangements will be for sale at cost at the end of the evening. Money raised from selling these arrangements goes towards making flower arrangements for our Spring Luncheon and for members who are shut-in or in need of a smile. Refreshments and time for socializing will be offered after the demonstration. Bring a friend! All are welcome.



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Finding Hope in the Fight Against Human Trafficking

Joan Lobsinger

On Tuesday, January 21st, the CWL National presented the webinar, "Finding Hope in the Fight Against Human Trafficking". The webinar began with a greeting from Shari Guinta, National's president followed by three presenters.

The first, Barbara Renaud, is an educated advocate in the fight against human trafficking. She shared her experience with writing the archived resolution, 2012.01 – *Criminalization of the Purchasing of Sexual Services*. She presented it at the diocesan, provincial and national conventions and spoke with her local MP. In 2013 the government created *The Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act, Bill C-36*. In 2017 she wrote a second resolution, 2017.02 *Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornographic Websites*. <https://shorturl.at/hoyu6> Barbara encouraged us to take some action to address human trafficking in our society.

The second presenter, Glendyne Gerrard shared that over 50 percent of those who are trafficked are Indigenous women. Glendyne is the founder of Defend Dignity, (<https://defenddignity.ca/>). Defend Dignity acts as a catalyst for individuals and churches to end all forms of sexual exploitation through aid, awareness and advocacy.

The third presenter, Trisha Baptie was a victim of trafficking from the age of 13 to 28. She founded EVE, Formerly Exploited Voices Now Educating, (<https://educating-voices.com/new/>)

These women not only inspired and motivated us but provided concrete actions moving forward. The webinar was taped and can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HI5hAh91WYo>.

Schedule of Events February – August 2025

Tuesday, February 18th – Flower Arranging with Geraldine

Wednesday, February 19th – 9:30AM Mass for Mary Moir

Saturday, February 22nd – Dinner Dance – KofC and CWL

Monday, March 3rd – General Membership Meeting & Social

Friday, March 7th – World Day of Prayer Service

Sunday, March 9th – Lenten Prayer Cards begins

Wednesday, March 19th, 9:30AM Mass for Gisele Hamilton

Saturday, April 5th – Lenten Spiritual Workshop

Monday, April 7th – General Membership Meeting & Social

Friday, April 25th – 9:30AM Mass for CWL Members

Saturday, April 26th – Feast of Lady of Good Counsel

Mon-Wed, April 28-30 – CWL Diocesan Convention, Stratford

Friday, May 2 - 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care

Saturday, May 3rd – Jubilee Year Rosary, St. Peters Seminary

Monday, May 5th – General Meeting & Crowning of Mary

Friday, May 16th – Spring Friendship Luncheon

Wednesday, June 4th – Potluck and Membership Pins Awards

Sat - Sun, June 7th-8th - Perennial Plant & Bake Sale

Sun - Wed, July 6th-9th – CWL Provincial Convention, London

Wednesday, July 23rd – Day at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary

Sun-Wed, Aug 10-13 – CWL National Convention, Toronto

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Diocesan Secretary Nelly Kelders' Directive

Highlights

Joan Lobsinger

In her January directive, Nelly encouraged us to be effective communicators and reminded us that the role of secretary has expanded to include Communications. She mentioned that this could be a daunting task and suggests we have a committee to assist us. In the past, each council had a recording secretary, a corresponding secretary and a communications chairperson.

When I first took on the role of St. Michael's CWL Secretary in January 2024, I quickly got my team in place. Lucie Sollazzo, who in the past was our Correspondence Secretary, always did an excellent job of looking after our correspondence. I so appreciate Lucie for continuing to check the mail and make sure cards are sent out on behalf of our council.

Similarly, the role of the Communications Chair was to keep our members informed. I have two members on my communications team who do an excellent job of this. Gail Brown is our newsletter editor. I'm sure that our members are just like me and always look forward to reading our council's bimonthly newsletters. Gail also sends in our bulletin announcements and updates the CWL information on our parish website. Connie Cote, who works behind the scenes, regularly sends out our emails from CWL St. Michael's London. Whenever I have a message to send out to our members, Connie will work her magic and send it out in a much more interesting and informative manner than it was sent to her.

Nelly also mentioned perhaps finding someone to create a Facebook page. Again, our council is ahead of the game as Megan Young has already created and looks after our Facebook page. I hope you'll check us out on Facebook, St. Michael's London CWL.

I sooooo appreciate my sub-committee and all they do!

Some of you may be thinking, well Joan what is it that you do? I help prepare the agenda and write the minutes of our meetings. Next year, February 2026, is an election year for our council. I hope that some of

you will consider putting your name forward for the position of Secretary and know that it is not a daunting task with the support of an excellent team.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook

facebook

St Michael's London C.W.L



Save the Date!

St. Michael's Catholic Women's League

Spring



Friendship

Luncheon

Friday May 16, 2025

12:00 – 2:00

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London Diocesan Council of the
Catholic Women's League of Canada

Invites you to

"Pilgrims of Hope in the
Jubilee year"

Where: St. Benedict's Catholic
Church, 1011 Oak Ave., Sarnia, On
N7S 1J4

When: Saturday March 15, 2025

Lunch: \$15.00 per person

Agenda:

8:30 am – Registration

9:00 am – Mass

9:45 – 10:15 am – meet and greet, snacks

10:15 am – Welcome

-Land Acknowledgement

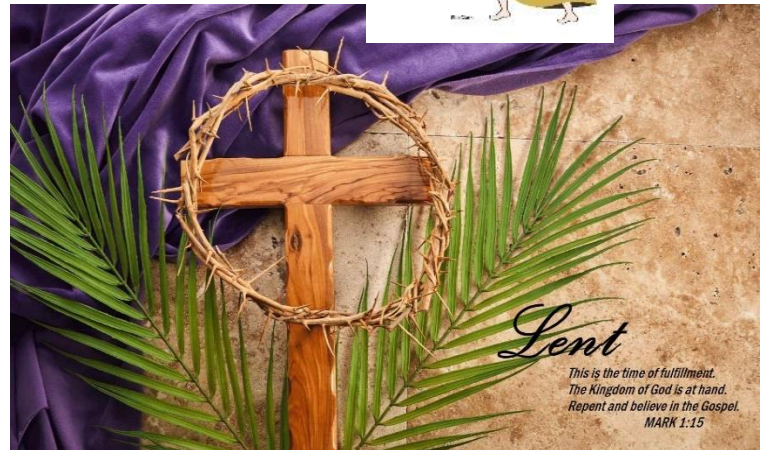
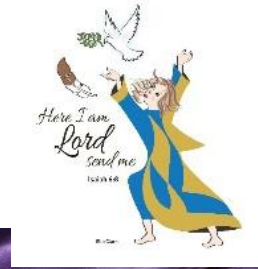
10:25 am - Speaker: Laura Lee, Pastoral Minister, Elgin Roman
Catholic Family of Parishes: *Pilgrims of Hope*

12:30 pm – lunch

1:30 pm – Speaker: Christine Bresette, Faith Pillar Chair, St.
Michael CWL Council, Bright's Grove: *Mary's Perfect Yes*

2:30 pm – Final Blessing

Register with Dorothy by **March 7th, 2025**



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World Day of Prayer 2025 – Friday, March 7th

Hosted by St. James Presbyterian Church, 280 Oxford Street, London

World Day of Prayer, a global Christian movement, began in the United States in the late 1800s and expanded to Canada in the 1920s, as Christian women became increasingly involved in missions both at home and abroad. Today, this event is celebrated in over 170 countries around the world.

Each year, on the first Friday in March,



women gather in churches globally to partake in a unified scripture service, centered around a unique theme chosen for that year.

The service is written by women from

a different country each year, sharing their cultural perspectives and insights.

The theme for the 2025 World Day of Prayer is "I Made You Wonderful," inspired by Psalm 139:13. The service has been written by the women of the Cook Islands.

In London, World Day of Prayer is organized by various Christian denominations, with the Catholic Women's League (CWL) councils representing our Catholic parishes. We invite all members of our parishes to join in this

interdenominational celebration, standing in prayer alongside women around the world and in our own community.

Join us as we unite in faith and prayer on **Friday, March 7th, 2025, 2:00 pm at St. James Presbyterian Church.**

"Here I am Lord, Send Me"

CWL Christmas Market 2025

November 8

9:00 – 3:00

St. Michael's Parish Hall

Winter is the perfect time to make some of those beautiful handmade crafts that sell so well at our Christmas Market!

If you have unused fabric, yarn, or other craft materials that you would like to donate, our crafters are happy to accept your donations to make new items for sale. Contact Darlene at 519-852-5252.

If you would like to be involved in planning for this year's market, stayed tuned. We will be sending out a meeting notice in the spring.