

THE ST. MICHAEL'S LEAGUE

Issue 12

October 2022

Message from our President Dorothy Solomon



I went for a massage to ease the tension in my back, neck and shoulders. It required some acrobatics to get positioned face down on this narrow table. There are two pillows under a loose sheet, very

slippery pillows with plastic covers. I manage to lay on my side and while attempting to turn on my stomach, my arm is trapped under me. Some contortionist moves and I'm ready. Really? The pillow is stuck to my belly because the sheet slid off to who knows where. I get up on my hands and knees to recover the pillow with the sheet and plop back down because I cannot support my own weight. The pillow under my ankles is barely still on the bed as my toes cramp to hold on to it. I scootch up to the head support with the hole for my face and the head cradle falls off. Here I lie, my head suspended over the end of the bed; the top sheet is tangled between my knees and calves. A chirpy voice calls out, "Are we all set?" "I could use some help!" I mumble back to her.

I share this because my life is like this sometimes. God calls me to a task and my response is, "Sure, I got this figured out. I know what needs to get done and exactly how to do it." Then reality hits. I get tangled up in my own way of doing things. I lose my supports (pillows and head cradle), or in life terms, the patience and humility to ask for help. I am limited with one arm stuck under me; my egotistical pride says, "I got this." I do eventually recognize my dilemma and God chuckles at me, and with me, and together we set things right. When I take time to heed God's summons, to get to know him at a deeper, more intimate level, I can also then know his call. I have peace and assurance that he will lead me one step at a time. The call may be at a CWL meeting, from my family and friends, at Mass or watching a sunset. The tugging at my heart and thoughts requires a response. Yes, Lord, I will be your hands, feet, heart and love in service of others. Sometimes I will be the sunshine to light someone's life; other times I will be the moon to

shine in their darkest hour. When the going gets tough, as is bound to happen on occasion, I must learn to be still with my Lord and love all the more by rising to the challenge. As a Catholic woman, I am called by Jesus through the sacramental life of the church, to be a living sign of Christ's presence in my family, church and community. I do not serve in isolation; everyone brings their particular gift to renew the whole of society. As a CWL woman, my life is rooted in gospel values. I am called to holiness and wholeness through faith, service and social justice action.

You are called as well, and I sure hope you recognize the call to participate in the CWL as a member. With over 70,000 members in Canada we are the largest women's group that can use our voice to create resolutions for consideration as legislation, and hold governments accountable to produce laws for the health and safety of Canadians. I cannot even begin to list the attributes of the CWL and because you are receiving this newsletter, you are already a member. Our membership renewal takes place in November and I greatly urge you to consider renewing, asking another woman to join, coming to a meeting when you can, asking questions anytime, and especially praying for all our endeavours.

It is my honour to serve along with you as your president

Prayer Intentions

As we journey together, the need to continue lifting one another in prayer remains ever crucial during these always challenging times. This is a call that the CWL takes to heart, so we are continuing to offer specific intentions monthly which we hope not only CWL members will hold close, but all of our parish community.

October: Uniting their sufferings with Christ, let us pray for those who are terminally ill and who find their own sufferings unbearable.

November: For our beloved family and friends who have died, and those who mourn them. We thank you for continuing to keep these prayers in your hearts.

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Membership News

Darlene Charette

Hello CWL Members! As you know, this is the time of year when we renew our CWL memberships. The membership fee for this upcoming year and going forward is \$40.00.

This amount reflects an increase by National and increased costs of operating. It was passed by our council at the September meeting and should be sufficient to sustain us for the foreseeable future.

Membership renewals may be dropped off in the offertory basket or left in the parish office. Please

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include your name, address, phone number and email address so that our files may be updated.

Alternatively, there will be members available to receive your payment before and after the Masses on the weekends of November 5th and 6th. Please note that if you are using the blue offertory envelope marked CWL and dated Oct. 2, 2022, the amount has changed from \$25.00 to \$40.00 and the fee is for the 2023 year.

I invite you to encourage others to join the CWL as it makes our Council stronger and our work lighter. You are welcome to bring a non-member to our November 7th or December 3rd (Saturday) meeting to see what the CWL is all about!



What does it mean for you to belong to St. Michael's Catholic Women's League?

Connie Cote, a long-time CWL member, has recently transferred to our council from St. George Parish in Byron. We welcome Connie and are grateful to her for sharing her thoughts on CWL membership.

Why I Joined the CWL

I joined the Catholic Women's League (CWL) because I wanted to be a part of a national sisterhood of women with shared Catholic values. I wanted to add my voice to over 70,000 women across Canada who stand for and support women and children. The CWL meets annually with the federal and provincial governments to promote awareness and respond to political and social issues that affect all Canadians. From a global standpoint, the CWL is part of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations and we hold consultative status with agencies of the United Nations. Our only source of income is the annual membership. For \$40 you can make your voice count on a local, national and global level. I encourage you to join the CWL.

Why I Stayed in the CWL for 25 Years

I joined the CWL for fellowship with like-minded Catholic women. The opportunity to meet and socialize with other Catholic women who share our common gospel values is important to me. I found the CWL to be welcoming and inclusive. As I came to know women in the CWL, they inspired me to become involved in outreach to the poor and disadvantaged. There were also many spiritual opportunities to grow in my faith. In summary, the CWL has helped me become more community-minded and grow spiritually and socially.

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Retreat and Workshop

Dorothy Solomon

We certainly had an abundantly blessed morning on Saturday, August 27th. The first hour was dedicated as a time to withdraw from the usual activities of our lives. We took a look at our finiteness and meditated on God saying to us through Paul's letter "I am beautifully and wonderfully made." Romans 12: 2

Included in this retreat time was an opportunity to contemplate our activities and ask, how is this life-giving or life-draining? Then followed meditation and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament where our one-on-one conversation with our Lord Jesus Christ allowed us to open our hearts and talk to him.

The workshop portion helped us examine how the CWL lives out our goals of faith, service and social justice, and the next steps in these endeavours. "There are a variety of gifts and services." 1 Corinthians 12: 4

The Holy Spirit was certainly active in stirring our hearts, minds and souls to share and commit once again to building his Kingdom through our CWL. It is truly amazing what can be accomplished when we submit and commit our lives to God and Our Lady of Good Counsel. The second portion of our workshop was dedicated to planning our meetings and events for the remainder of the year. Ladies, we have some exciting plans for faith, fun and labour in the vineyard. "I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord." Jeremiah 22:11

Our morning continued with prayerful retreating once again as each table collaborated to compose a thanksgiving prayer. This was a new experience for some as we continue to build community. We came to appreciate that God is completing his plan for each of us. These prayers were prayed following our intercessory prayer for our CWL, personal concerns, parish and beyond. The morning painted an incredible picture of what prayer can accomplish, the many services we are embracing and the continual claims for action that we will prayerfully address.

When we claim for ourselves the message that "I am beautifully and wonderfully made" there will be no stopping the faith, service and social justice that we are called to. It is important to retreat from life's busyness and pray in order to know what is yours genuinely to offer in service and social justice. To come to an understanding that, yes there are numerous needs, but we need to prayerfully discern which ones the Lord is asking us to respond to. Here is where evaluating whether our actions are life-giving or life-depleting can be beneficial. This may be the greatest opportunity and challenge of our faith. For a full summary please email me at dorothysolomon41@gmail.com. There are copies available on the CWL shelf in the parish library or at our general membership meetings. It is my astounding honour to call you sisters in faith and service.

*Thank you Lord,
For the simple blessings in
life,
For our sisters throughout
the world,
For the joys that come to us
despite our personal
challenges in life,
And for the opportunity to
come together to share our
faith. Amen*

*Bountiful Father, ever
faithful and giving, we thank
you.
You never fail to provide us
with everything we need.
Make us mindful in
remembering those less
fortunate than us.
Grant us the grace to share
what we have.
We ask this through our
Lord Jesus Christ who lives
and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit One God, forever
and ever. Amen*

*Dear God,
In thanksgiving we are glad
that we have survived covid.
We appreciate the
opportunities to interact with
others and to share and
support each other.
We pray that the process of
reconciliation continues in
our country. Amen*

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Featured Member Marinette Laureano

Joan Roffey



This issue's featured member is Marinette Laureano. Just thinking of her makes me smile. Positive energy, genuine kindness, and a love of life radiate from her. If you attend 10:00 Mass at St. Michael's you will most likely know what I mean. As a member of the Ministry of Hospitality, Marinette is often the first person you meet as she warmly greets parishioners on their way into church.

Marinette was born in the Philippines but immigrated to Canada when she was eight. Home was just down the highway in Sarnia where she was one of four children. Marinette attended the University of Western Ontario where she earned a degree in French. This eventually landed her a job with Canada Trust and later CitiBank. This all came to an end in 2013 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. It was after much prayerful reflection at this difficult time in her life that she found herself at the doors of St. Michael's. She has been a member ever since.

As a parishioner at St. Michael's, Marinette has served in many roles. In addition to the Ministry of Hospitality, she is a Eucharistic Minister and a Lector. She has been a member of Parish Council and the Liturgical Committee and recently acted as a sponsor in the RCIA program. In 2015 she founded "Yarning With Love," a group which meets twice monthly on

Saturday mornings to create articles of warmth for those in need. Marinette was also the inspiration for the St. Michael's Ukulele and Glee Club (SMUGlees) which also meets twice monthly to raise their voices in song and friendship. Feeling moved by those with food insecurity, she organized a sandwich brigade which makes and donates hundreds of peanut butter and jam sandwiches every month. These are delivered by Marinette to Project Hope, a grass-roots organization which hands them out to the homeless in our community. She joined the CWL in 2014 and has served on the executive as both Treasurer and

Marinette is married to Brad. They originally set up house in Forest, moving to London in 1995, two years after the birth of their daughter, Lauren. They are now the proud parents of fur-baby Ace, a cute little Bichon Frise dog with a big personality. In addition to Ace, since 2015 Marinette and her husband have been surrogate parents to young men from around the world through Home Stay. This is a program that allows teenagers aged 16 to 18 to attend high school here in London while living with a Canadian family. In her spare time ("What spare time?" you may ask.), Marinette loves to travel, enjoys camping and sports (soccer and pickleball) and makes a mean cup of tea! She also offers her time to Wellspring (a cancer support program) and sits on the Patient Family Advisory Council with the London Regional Cancer Program.

It is no wonder that Marinette is this issue's featured CWL member - on a day-to-day basis she lives out the League's core values of faith, service, and social justice and does it with joy. We are blessed to have her in our membership!

New This Year – A Daytime Meeting

December Meeting and Christmas Party

St. John Paul II Room

Saturday, December 3rd, 9:30 - 11:30

No need to drive in the dark for this celebration!

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Resolutions

Joan Lobsinger

I am happy to announce that two resolutions were passed at the Provincial Catholic Women's League of Canada convention. They are as follows:

ON 22.01 Improve Care in Long-term Care Homes

ON 22.02 National Strategy to Address Loneliness

To view, go to www.cwl.on.ca and click on resolutions. You will see them under the heading 2021-2025. Just click on the resolution you wish to view.

As well, a resolution was passed at the National Catholic Women's League of Canada convention. It is 2022.01 Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste

To access this resolution, use the following link:

<https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Resolution-2022.01-Enact-Federal-Legislation-to-Reduce-Food-Loss-Waste-Final.pdf>

Part of every resolution is an Action Plan. We need to follow through on the action plan by learning more about the issue, writing letters to the government and seeing what we can do as parish councils to advocate for changes in our parishes, communities, provinces and beyond. I am looking for members to join a subcommittee to assist in this area. If you are interested, please contact me at 519-438-4909 or email joanlobsinger@sympatico.ca

Legislation

Joan Lobsinger

My role as Legislation Chair is to monitor and study legislation at all levels of government, and to prepare briefs and position papers on proposed legislation. There are some bills before parliament that relate to topics of current interest to the League.

Euthanasia: Bill C-7, Bill C-230, Bill S-243

Sexual Exploitation of Children: Bill C-270, Bill C-291, Bill S-210

Human Rights: Bill C-262, Bill C-281

Child and Forced Labour: Bill C-243, Bill S-

211 Environment: Bill C-214, Bill C-217

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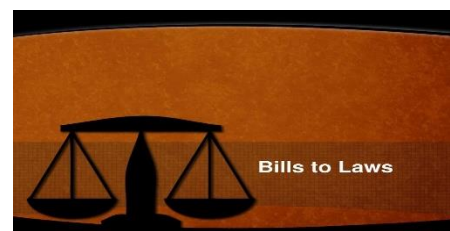
These Bills can be accessed through the LEGISinfo website, parl.ca/legisinfo/

At our council meetings there has been particular interest in Euthanasia, so I've decided to highlight those three bills:

Bill C-7 An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying): The final step to enacting this bill is in the work of the Special Joint Committee on MAiD. The committee is reviewing the expansion of MAiD to mature minors, mental illness, Canadians living with disabilities and the state of palliative care. The work of the committee can be found at parl.ca/Committees/en/AMAD. The committee's report is due in October. Significant concerns regarding this expansion of MAiD have been expressed by the Canadian Conference of Bishops and other organizations, such as the Council of Canadians with Disabilities.

Bill C-230 An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (intimidation of health care professionals): This bill makes it an offence within the Criminal Code to use intimidation or coercion to force medical professionals to take part in euthanasia, and to terminate the employment of, or refuse to hire health care professionals who express a conflict of conscience in taking part in MAiD. (Defeated at second reading, October 5, 2022)

Bill S-243 An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying): This bill from the Senate will allow physicians and nurse practitioners to waive final consent at the time of performing MAiD if a person has consented to an assisted death before losing mental capacity. This change to the consent process is especially troubling given that many people may not have the ability to withdraw consent for euthanasia if their capacity or ability to communicate is compromised at the time of the procedure.



London Public Square Rosary Rally



Saturday, October 15, 2022
Victoria Park Bandshell, London

Gathering Time: 11:55 AM

Duration: An hour or less

**Come pray with us to celebrate
the anniversary of the
Miracle at Fatima**

For peace in the world, for our Church,
For Pope Francis, Bishops, Priests, Deacons,
Religious, for our individual needs, and
intentions and for the conversion of Canada
Luminous Mysteries in 2022, using Bishop Sherlock's
Scriptural Rosary Booklet.

Free will donations accepted to help cover our expenses.

Free parking in St. Peter's North Parking Lot.

**Canada needs the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima.
We need to understand, live and spread her Fatima
Messages for conversion, repentance, prayer and
The Saturdays of Reparation.**

Brought to you by the Legion of Mary
of St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica

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**Are you a Catholic Women's League (CWL) member
or *curious* about what we do?**

**Come out to one of our Diocesan Fall Regional Days
for **Faith**, **Fun** and **Fulfillment!****

9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Sat. Oct. 15, 2022
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
804 Grand Marais Rd E
Windsor, ON

Sat. Oct. 22, 2022
St. John the Divine
390 Base Line Rd W
London, ON

Sat. Nov. 12, 2022
St. Bernard of Clairvaux
165 Thompson Rd W
Waterford, ON



Faith



Service



Social Justice

Come find out about all the exciting new changes happening in 2023 and how it affects you!

There will be a spiritual program, information, a skit, celebration of membership, and question and answer session.

Best of all just come out and enjoy your sisters who you may not have seen for a while!

Cost: \$15 includes lunch

Presidents RSVP one week prior to your Regional Chair!

Go Make A Difference!



CATHOLIC
and **LIVING IT!**