

# THE ST. MICHAEL'S LEAGUE

Issue 11

August 2022

## Message From Our President Dorothy Solomon



We do small things and believe in big outcomes. It is like the miraculous drops of water that seep through mountain limestone. They gather themselves into trickles, then springs, that flow into

creeks, that merge into rivers, that find their way into the oceans. Each single drop cannot be distinguished from the other but unites for a common purpose and force. Our work is to think bold and dream big, envision our small efforts and ideas as oceans someday. We give our little contribution knowing together we create a powerful ocean of compassion and love for the benefit of many downstream. Even along the way the springs, creeks and rivers are nourishing and watering everything they pass. No idea is too big, too small, too silly or too simple. We are looking for suggestions for guest speakers, which may be serious topics or fun ideas for the social portions of our meetings, or ideas you would like to see implemented. I want to hear them all please.

The CWL of Canada calls on its members to grow in faith and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service. This is not a time to stagnate or isolate and think that we have made all possible progress in our faith and service. We are to grow, witness, and serve. There is ample opportunity within our League itself to share your ideas or assist on a specific project. Our committees are always welcoming ideas and helpers: Communications, Education and Health, Organization, Spiritual Development, Christian Family Life, and Legislation and Resolutions. The positions of President-Elect and Chair of Community Life are still open.

Each one of us, a single drop of water, all members, are invited to join forces for a mini-retreat/workshop led by me and the Holy Spirit. Our goal is to prayerfully discern who we are as St. Michael's Catholic Women's League Council; define our values and goals; assess our past and plan for the upcoming

year and build community and camaraderie. The morning will have reflection times and brainstorming times. If you are unable to attend, we still need your ideas. Let us start an ocean of compassion and love for the sake of our development and others along the way.

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### Mini-Retreat/ Workshop

**St. Michael's, St. John Paul II Room**

**Saturday, August 27**

**9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

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The Family of Parishes was inaugurated in July and has already brought about some changes, primarily in the allocation of duties for the pastoral team and staff. The role and place of the CWL will not change in this regard. Each parish council at St. Michael's and St. Peter's will remain on its own just as in the past.

May you be rewarded this summer with happy memories, rejuvenated energy and a thankful heart.

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**CATHOLIC**  
and **LIVING IT!**

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### 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.

**August:** For elected officials who are asked to make decisions that support the sanctity of life.

**September:** For those who are experiencing loneliness, in particular the elderly.

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## St. Michael's CWL Council 2022 Coming Events Tentative Schedule

Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> – CWL Workshop  
and Retreat

Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> – General  
Membership Meeting and Welcome Back  
Social

Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> – General  
Membership Meeting

Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> – Fall Regional  
Retreat Day, St. John the Divine

November 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> - Membership  
Drive after all masses

November 7<sup>th</sup> – General Membership  
Meeting

Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup> - Pie Making

December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> – Annual Festive Fall  
Bake Sale

Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> – General  
Membership Meeting and Christmas  
Celebration

**Please check bulletins, website and emails  
for further details**

*The hub does not replace the national website. Instead, it is intended to drive women interested in what the League is and what members do to the website to learn more. The goal is that they will then take their place among the membership.*

It is well worth a look and can be found at [catholicwomenunite.ca](http://catholicwomenunite.ca).

**WHERE WOMEN  
COME  
TOGETHER TO  
LIVE THEIR  
FAITH**



**Fall Regional Days**

Joan Lobsinger

**SAVE-THE-DATE**

**Saturday, October 22, 2022**

I'm happy to announce the resumption of the London Diocesan Catholic Women's League Fall Regional Days. They are always filled with faith, fun and fulfilment. The London Region's Day will be held at St. John the Divine, 390 Base Line Rd West, London, on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. More information will be made available closer to the date through the CWL Diocesan website ([cwlondon.ca](http://cwlondon.ca)), an email from our president Dorothy, and in our next October newsletter but for now, just SAVE-THE-DATE!



## Communications

Gail Brown

The Catholic Women's League of Canada has launched a new communication tool, called the Engagement Hub, designed to promote national sisterhood, mentorship and new member recruitment. Its theme is "Catholic Women Unite, Where Women Come Together to Live Their Faith." The new web page is lively and interactive, with videos, brief surveys and simple ways to subscribe and stay up to date on CWL activities. According to Betty Colaneri, National First Vice-President and Chairperson of Communications,

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## Featured Member Janet Peckham

Dorothy Solomon



During my visit with Janet to prepare this tribute I quickly discovered that her whole life is based on the values of faith, service and social justice, which are the basic principles of the Catholic Women's League.

Janet was born in Palmerston and her parents and their six children moved first to London and later to Lucan. They were poor but thrived on lots of love from Mom and her many sacrifices, doing without food so the children could eat was one such instance. It was not until later that Janet became aware of this but she knows it taught her about putting others ahead of herself. When Janet was in grade three her mother sustained severe injuries in a car collision which left her in hospital in a body cast and recuperation for nine months. Janet became the primary caretaker of her one-year-old brother. To this day he always gives Janet a Christmas gift addressed to "my second mom." The Catholic faith helped them to sustain hope and Sunday was always set aside for Church and family.

Janet has been married to Bob for 58 years and together they raised three children with the primary

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focus of bringing them up them in the Catholic faith. Marriage and family are her proudest accomplishments. Her other involvements included Girl Guides, Beavers, Saturday Night Dance Group, the Maltese Club and of course the CWL for over 42 years. Janet is still an active member at CWL meetings welcoming others and leading discussions at her table.

Her silk wreaths, for all seasons, have adorned our own church on occasion. Her garden of flowers offers tranquillity to her day. After completing grade eight Janet worked as a nanny for three robust boys, and then for Chapman Book Binding, Shaw's Dairy Store, (ice cream is still Bob's number one food group), and the Post Office. Her church ministries include Extraordinary Minister of Eucharist, Sacristan and Sacristan Trainer, Liturgy Committee and the CWL. Her reflections on the CWL were without hesitation, saying, "It is a great place of comfort and friendship and helping those most in need. It gives me a sense of not being alone. The pandemic has raised awareness of our emphasis on reaching out to look after one another. There are desperate concerns that have to be addressed with regards to seniors and the most vulnerable."

Janet is often called on to drive seniors to appointments and of course, give empathetic and listening support. Her hope is that families and especially youth return to the faith. Because of her mother's example, Janet lives by the golden rule, treat others as you would like to be treated. Her mother taught her to always have space for joy and laughter; put others' needs before her own; share whatever you have and be thankful.

We are blessed to have Janet as one of our members and wish to thank her for her many years of service with St. Michael's council.

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## Welcome Back Social

All women of the parish are invited to the Catholic Women's League Welcome Back Social and General Membership Meeting, Monday, September 12 at 7:00 pm in the St. John Paul II. Come and share in special refreshments provided by the CWL executive, hear about plans for the upcoming months, and enjoy the opportunity to socialize after the summer break. First-time members are especially encouraged to attend this start to the fall season.

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## CWL Day at the Shrine

Donna Thompson



What a truly glorious Wednesday gathering it was in Merlin at the Our Lady of the Rosary Shrine, on the land of the Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island on July 27, 2022.

Attendance from our diocese was bountiful as we mingled and shared our faith. Our veneration and love for our heavenly mother were evident as we celebrated Mass and lifted our voices in hymn and prayer.

We were truly honoured to have our own Father Paul Kim, the London Diocesan Spiritual advisor, as the main celebrant. We acknowledged that our Holy Father, Pope Francis, was currently in Canada and Mass intentions included his penitential pilgrimage. After Mass we processed with a depiction of the new ark of the covenant, a statue of Mary, through the tranquil garden trails, reciting the scriptural rosary aloud. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus, Councils 09, 49, and 104 for providing us with our booklets.

Father Kim blessed ample amounts of holy water and salt during the ceremony and we were invited to take bottles of holy water home for our personal use. Father Kim also made himself available to hear confessions during the procession and afterwards. The gift shop was a welcome treat and many of us browsed and purchased mementos.

The weather cooperated and the rain held off until the day had concluded. We had driven literally only 300 metres from the Shrine when it started raining. A divine blessing for sure!

Thank you to everyone who participated and those that joined us in spirit. Special thank you to Joan Lobsinger for her organizational skills and efforts as Diocesan spiritual development chairperson, along with input from the Our Lady of the Rosary council.

