

# THE ST. MICHAEL'S LEAGUE

Issue 8

February 2022

## Message from our President Dorothy Solomon



One of my pastimes is playing gin rummy on my tablet. The goal of the game is to score 100 points. One particular game the score was 89-12 for the opponent. I debated whether to even bother trying to finish; it sure seemed like I was bound to

lose. The competitor in me urged me to finish what I had started. So I might lose; what is the challenge if I win all the time? I would quickly tire of that. My life is about carrying on even if odds appear against me. One recent example this month was my many attempts to get internet connection established since I just moved at the beginning of the year. I had a technician install the necessary modem components. I had a router for wireless service, yet nothing seemed to work. Got a new ethernet cable, nada. Got new router, nada. Called tech support four times, nada. My daughter and son-in-law made attempts, nada. Finally, after three weeks I learn it is a faulty brand-new modem. In the meantime, I am scrambling to make arrangements to use other people's internet for checking emails and Zoom meetings. By the way I won the gin rummy game, got three strong hands and beat the opponent. My point is, finish what you started. Have plan A, that would be a win. Count on plan B as a backup, still good. Plan C gets to be a challenge but hang in there.

In my spiritual life I have a GPS plan. Put **God** first in all things. **Prayer** is my wireless connection which does not fail; what fails sometimes is my expected outcome. Finally, **Self**; I rely on God and prayer but my self-hood needs to do the work of faith, social justice and service. These are the three goals of the CWL. Did you know that your executive meets every month prior to our general membership meeting to set goals, evaluate them and adjust as needed, and GPS is a component of each meeting. Our Council theme for the year, Belonging, guides our planning. The National theme is - Being Catholic and Living It. All these parts are interconnected and we need you to do your part. Join a meeting when you can; interact with us and give us feedback about what you heard or would like to hear more about. Above all live your Catholic faith by the GPS.

My modem problem was the very last thing they checked because it was new. My relationship with God is like that sometimes. I trust my spiritual commitments to keep me connected. Check everything else but then check with my God connection. I pray but has it become too familiar? Maybe I need to update my prayer. What about social justice; there are just too many issues. Do not throw up your hands in surrender, there is at least one thing you can do and do it well. Service opportunities may be limited but there are creative ways to respond, call, drop off a note or a meal, offer to get groceries. I recall a Jewish proverb – Before every person is an angel proclaiming, there is an image of God. Serve God in one person at a time with dignity. All it takes maybe is praying God bless that person. Pray also for your sisters in the League. My grace before meals is simple; bless this food for my nourishment, bless me in your service and my fellow parishioners and all sisters in the League.

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### Our Mission

The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

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### Prayer Intentions Megan Young

As our journey through the pandemic continues, the need to raise one another in prayer is a calling which the CWL takes to heart. We are continuing to offer specific prayer intentions each month not only for our members, but for all Parishioners to keep in mind.

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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## Council Executive Installation Dorothy Solomon

Every two years we hold an election of officers who guide the direction of our St. Michael CWL Council. In December we did just that and on January 27 we celebrated a Ceremony of Installation via Zoom. Part of the service states, "As a League member, each woman uses her gifts and talents to share the Good News of her Christian calling to love and serve God and neighbour in the parish, diocese, province and country." That means you, not just the elected officers or better known perhaps as Committee Chairs. We need everyone's voice to be heard; share your ideas. We need everyone's service; do what you are able. We need everyone's prayer.

These are your elected officers for 2022 -2024. Dorothy Solomon, President; Maggie McGee Past President; Mary Maxwell, Treasurer; Veronica Solis, Christian Family Life; Darlene Charrette, Organization; Stephanie McIntyre, Spiritual Development; Gail Brown, Communications; Lucie Sollazzo, Corresponding Secretary; Joan Lobsinger, Legislation and Resolutions; Marilyn Morgan, Education and Health; Megan Young, Recording Secretary. We are grateful to Fr. Daniel Bombardier for presiding at this ceremony and above all for his commitment to assist the executive and members in our work for God and Canada. We pledged to work hand in hand with the parish team and parish council.

## The Bible In A Year with Fr. Mike Schmitz

Veronica Solis



Have you heard about the podcast called "The Bible in a Year" from day 1-365?

Last year Gerarda Smith-Hillier and I did it and we loved it, and as a matter of fact we are doing it again this year for the second time.

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For twenty minutes each day, as you listen to the podcast or watch on YouTube, you read the Bible from cover to cover and you understand the context of each book and its place in the Story of our Salvation. Each daily reading is given a brief explanation by Fr. Mike Schmitz and ends with a prayer of thanksgiving.

I didn't believe that we could go over the whole Bible by just investing 20-30 minutes a day, reading only 10 minutes on average and listening to some comments for 10 minutes to understand meaning and context. You can find the podcast by:

Going to [ascensionpress.com](http://ascensionpress.com) where you will find the podcasts from the present day backwards to day 1.

Going to YouTube and looking for: bible in a year day #; numbers from 1-365.

Any other means where you get podcasts (Apple, Spotify...)

If any of you may be interested in joining together to follow this podcast, we could meet, possibly once a month to share thoughts, questions, highlights, doubts or just any comments. This is the part that I missed doing with someone last year. When you read, even after explanations, you wish you could comment live with someone.

You can start at any time and follow at your own pace, but there is something challenging and special about following along with the whole group of over half a million people reading together day by day.

Please let me know if this is something that any of you may be interested in. Today we are at day 11, but anyone can catch up really fast or just start at this point.

Looking forward to hearing from you by email at [versolis@hotmail.com](mailto:versolis@hotmail.com)

## Anova Donations

The CWL will be collecting items for Anova until **February 27**. Your donations can be placed in the labelled bin in the parish library, and can include kitchen items like juice boxes, cereal, snacks, olive oil and frying pans; boy's underwear, girls and boys running shoes and boots; diapers and pull-ups; double and queen sheet sets; bus tickets and gift cards. Please check the Anova website for a detailed list. Anova provides safe places, shelter, support, counselling, and resources for abused women and their children. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

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**New National Theme** Joan Lobsinger

## CATHOLIC and LIVING IT!

Introducing National's new 2022 CWL theme, "Catholic and Living It". President Fran Lucas says, "The new theme reflects a desire by CWL members from coast to coast to bring life to their local parish councils and to their parishes"; "I want the CWL impact to be felt in parish communities and beyond". Presidents received prayer cards for each member. You can pick yours up from the CWL shelf in the parish library or download your own copy as it is now posted on National's website <https://cwl.ca/new-theme-catholic-and-living-it/>

**Featured Member Lucie Sollazzo** Gail Brown

When it comes to our CWL values of faith, service and social justice, Lucie Sollazzo could be our poster girl. And if you consider the added element of fun, Lucie is the whole package, always ready to help us have a good time. While not an official CWL duty, she can be counted on to surprise us with great entertainment at our June potluck every year, or a new game at a Zoom party. Lucie puts the fun in the CWL.

Lucie was born in Bathurst, New Brunswick, the 10th of 12 children. She was three years old when her mother died and her father remarried, bringing six more children into the family with his new wife, then adding three more of their own.

Lucie and her husband Jerry moved to London with their young son when Jerry left the military in 1973, with plans to attend Fanshawe College and Lucie to work as a nurse at University Hospital. Their plans changed when their two-year-old became ill, and they ended up spending long hours between Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto and St. Joseph's here. It was a tough time for the family. New to London, they had no friends or relatives nearby. It was Lucie's faith that helped sustain them and as Lucie said, God was their only support. They soon added baby Tina to the family and over time, their son Chris recovered.

They belonged to Blessed Sacrament Parish before St. Michael's and Lucie joined the CWL in 1999, wanting to meet more women her own age. She started to get more involved a few years later when time allowed, and hasn't looked back since.

Lucie has served as Christian Family Life Chairperson, supported Right to Life dinners, and helped with funeral lunches and yard sales. She and Jerry regularly volunteer to deliver CWL donations. Wherever there is a need, Lucie is there pitching in. But most important to Lucie is her role as Correspondence Secretary. Lucie makes phone calls, sends cards and writes notes to members who may otherwise feel forgotten. She lets them know that she is praying for them. Keeping in touch this way makes her realize how many lonely people there are right in our parish.

She is also active outside of parish life. Lucie and Jerry were instrumental in starting the French Catholic school system in London, raising money for a new French school through bingos and hard work. God, says Lucie, was her silent partner in this mission and Lucie served as PTA president for two terms at Ecole Frère André. She also started a French bookstore to address the lack of French reading materials for school children in London. As a group leader for the Sjögren's Society of Canada, she received an Outstanding Volunteer Award in 2019. She is busy with NELCE, her neighbourhood community group, organizing Zoom parties for special occasions, and also finds ways to contribute on her own, currently making valentines buttons for Kensington Village retirement home. None of this, says Lucie, would have been possible without the love, support and encouragement of Jerry.

Lucie's compassion, dedication and good cheer are gifts to our council, and we are blessed to count her among our members.



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## Organization Darlene Charette

Hi Everyone! I am the new Organization Chair for St. Michael's CWL. This is my third year as a member, but I have only been to a few in-person meetings because I joined in the fall before COVID shut everything down. In spite of this, I have enjoyed getting to know other members through a variety of spin-off activities (ukulele, walking, gardening, sandwiches) and the online Zoom meetings. My goal as Organization Chair is to welcome new members and foster a sense of belonging.

The Membership drive for 2022 is wrapping up. If you or someone you know has not yet paid their dues, it is not too late! Put \$25 membership fee in an envelope marked CWL Membership and drop it in the collection basket or hand it in to the parish office. Include your name, phone number and email address. Please encourage friends, family and people new to our parish to consider joining as well.

We currently have 119 members who have renewed, and have received \$640.00 in donations. Thanks to those members for their generosity!



## Legislation and Resolutions Joan Lobsinger

One of my duties as Legislation Chairperson is to keep informed on issues pertaining to government. I'd like to share with you two bills that are currently being acted on:

Bill 14, Time To Care Act (Long-Term Care Homes Amendment, Minimum Standard of Care), 2021 – Current status First Reading

This Bill amends the Long-Term Care Act, 2007 so that a long-term care home will have to provide its residents with at least 4 hours a day of nursing and personal support services, averaged across the residents. The minimum hours may be increased by regulation.

Bill 31, Nancy Rose Act (Paediatric Hospice Palliative Care Strategy), 2021

Current status – First Reading carried

This is an Act to provide for the development of a provincial paediatric hospice palliative care strategy to create equity of access to high quality paediatric hospice care across Ontario.

For more information on current government Bills see:

[Legislation Communique-2.pdf \(cwl.on.ca\)](#)

As Resolutions Chairperson, one of my duties is to research and prepare a resolution and brief. In 2015, our council led by Cathie Gauthier, prepared the resolution, "Provision of Regulated Housing for the Chronic, Severely Mentally Ill". This resolution can be read in its entirety at <https://cwl.on.ca/resolutions/>

In 2019, our council, led by Gail Brown, prepared the resolution, "Prohibition of E-Cigarettes with Cannabis". Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the provincial conventions were cancelled so no resolutions were brought forward. Is there any issue you would be interested in our council pursuing? If so, please let Dorothy or me know.

## World Day of Prayer Gail Brown

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 2022 service was written by the England, Wales and Northern Ireland World Day of Prayer Committee and the theme is God's promise to his people in exile in Babylon, found in the book of Jeremiah 29:1. This year's date is Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>.

There is no live service planned for London this year, but a video of the service can be found online at [World Day of Prayer 2022 Service Video - Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada \(WICC\)](#)

Please check our parish bulletin announcements for details on other ways to access this event, as they become available.



**The London Diocesan Council of  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

Invites you to participate in the

## **MARY, OUR BLESSED MOTHER LENTEN RETREAT**

**Saturday February 26, 10:00 a.m.**

Please join the meeting from your computer or tablet.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/241328005>

### Agenda

Welcome

Opening Prayer/Song

Mary's Way of the Cross

Who was Mary?

A Reflection on the Mother of God

Reflection by Fr. Paul Kim

Closing Song