

THE ST. MICHAEL'S LEAGUE

Issue 13

Message from our President Dorothy Solomon



Advent Blessings,
Sisters in the League.

During this Advent season of new beginnings, longings and waiting for the Lord, we are invited to take a fresh approach to prayer; to ponder the Word of God, but most

importantly to become a reflection of the Light of Christ. What qualities of Jesus are we seeking in our own lives this Advent, qualities that will mirror his purpose being fulfilled through living our CWL values? This call is waking us up to move beyond our perhaps limited understanding of who we are and how we serve as Catholic women in the League.

When I think of our primary values as women in the CWL, I am drawn to faith, service and social justice. For me, this automatically suggests outreach to others. Jesus often liked to turn our human grasp of life upside down, so I propose we do the same. Let us look at faith, service and social justice as a means to care for ourselves first.

There are various ways of naming faith – dependence, trust, reliance, creed, loyalty, dogma, doctrine, confidence, tenet, persuasion, credence, fidelity and religion. Take any one of these words and apply them to yourself; they are all valid and are part of your life. With the daily effort to increase our faith, and through the gracious response of the Holy Spirit, we are able to reflect the Light of Christ. We can light our own path, if only for one step, plus illuminate at least one step for someone else. Put ourselves first.

Service is a primary Catholic Christian calling and denotes mostly attention to others whom I may learn of only through various pleas for assistance. To serve can mean assist, attend, benefit, wait on and make oneself available for others. How about service to ourselves? How do we make ourselves our priority, with discipline and structure in our lives that take care of our needs for safety, shelter, nourishment, social contacts, exercise, laughter, fine arts and stillness? When there is balance and rhythm in our own lives then we can reach out in service to others.

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How do we apply social justice to ourselves? Advent wakes us up to the dangers of falling prey to the disillusionments of life, as we become overly accustomed to the shadowy existence of society. Only with a conversion of heart and the grace of God can we truly be the reflection of Christ.

May the new beginnings in each of our lives be a source of encouragement, true joy, a pathway for our journey and give us thankful hearts.

From Our Spiritual Advisor

Fr. Sekar Raj

My Dear CWL friends,



I remembered this funny story while meditating for the Christmas preaching.

A priest buys a lawn mower at a yard sale. Back home, he pulls on the starter rope a few times with no results. He storms back to the yard sale and tells the previous owner, "I can't get the mower to start!" "That's because you have to curse to get it started," says the man. "I'm a man of the cloth. I don't even remember how to curse." "You keep pulling on that rope, and it'll come back to you."

Friends, yelling at someone silently or explicitly is one of the by-products of the absence of forgiveness. So, one goal of Advent/Christmas spirituality that I want to remind you of is the gift of forgiveness, forgiving one another and forgiving oneself.

The aim of Jesus' birth and death is one and the same. It is everything about the forgiveness of the world. God sent His only son for the forgiveness of the world and Jesus accepted the cross and died on the cross for the forgiveness of the world.

So, the best help that we can give during this season is to forgive everyone who has hurt you. You can let go, free your heart and move on with your life journey. God is faithful all the time!

May baby Jesus lavishly grant the gift of forgiveness to you and through you to everyone! Merry Christmas!

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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. Below are the intentions for the next two months.

December: Let us pray for the unborn, and their mothers.

January: As the colder months come upon us, let us pray for our brothers and sisters who are homeless.

Membership Update

Darlene Charette

The St. Michael's CWL currently has 116 members, including several new members! It was wonderful to see many of you at our December meeting! If you have not yet paid your dues for the 2023 year, please send them in as soon as possible. We would like to have all of our members paid up and ready to go before January 1st when we will be launching our new email system. The fee is \$40 for the year. You may drop it in the offertory or send it to the parish office. Just mark the front of your envelope CWL.

Legislation

Joan Lobsinger

The Quebec College of Physicians recently made a presentation to the Parliamentary AMAD Committee in which it proposed the expansion of the government's euthanasia program (medical assistance in dying) to include sick infants and sick children ages 14 and up. For more information check out this article, <https://www.campaignlifecoalition.com/clc-blog/id/235/title/they-want-to-kill-sick-children>

Please consider signing the on-line petition "NO to Child Euthanasia!" by Campaign Life Coalition. It is an important issue. Here is the link.

<https://www.campaignlifecoalition.com/petition/id/58>

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Communications

Gail Brown

The Ontario Provincial CWL On-line Newsletter for December is now available on their website. It is more than 30 pages long and has a lot of great content from councils far and wide, including many Advent resources and ideas. You can subscribe to this newsletter and have each new issue delivered directly to your email inbox as soon as it becomes available.

The very first issue of the new LNCCFP Newsletter will be ready before the end of December. It will include articles about CWL Councils from both St. Michael's and St. Peter's, and other news about our new Family of Parishes.

The London Diocesan Newsletter has been resurrected, and the deadline for the next issue is January 14. It will include an article about our St. Michael's CWL activities during Fall 2022.

New E-Mail Account

Darlene Charette

We are very excited to announce that beginning in January, the St. Michael's CWL will have our own email account! This is important because we will be able to keep you informed in a more consistent manner, and we will not have to change our email address with each new executive. It also will give us the ability to have membership dues and other fees collected through e-transfer! We are hoping to start with a weekly update on things that are happening in our CWL. Of course members will have the option to unsubscribe from these emails, but this will be our primary method of keeping you informed. All members who have paid their membership dues will be included in the initial emails.

Watch for the inaugural message from CWLstmichlon@gmail.com early in the new year.

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK



St Michael's London CWL

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Featured Member Jane McIver Joan Lobsinger

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In each new term of office, the presidents of the three levels of the Catholic Women's League select a theme. "Catholic and Living It" is the national theme; "Go Make a Difference" is the provincial theme and "Grow Spiritually and Have Fun" is the diocesan theme. This month we are happy to recognize our council member, Jane McIver, who exemplifies all three themes and equally our core values of faith, service and social justice.

Jane was born and raised in Guelph and moved to London in 1977. She is married to Jim and is the proud mother of two sons, Robert and Stephen. Jane is a graduate of Western University and worked in the banking industry at CMHC for 10 years, Family Group Mortgages for 4 years, and Laurentian Bank of Canada for 12 years. Since then, she has been involved in building a real estate appraisal business, McIver Group Appraisals, with her husband, plus a rental property business, McIver Holdings. Over the years she was kept very busy transporting their sons to minor hockey, swimming lessons, soccer, guitar, piano as well as football with Stephen. Jane and Jim always supported and participated in all the fundraising involved in minor hockey and high school hockey.

Jane has many interests. She has run a marathon in Niagara Falls, and many half marathons, Terry Fox 10 km runs, and Forest City Road Races. She also enjoys photography, painting, baking, walking and visiting with her big family of eight siblings and their children.

Jane joined the Catholic Women's League in 2005. Her mom was always a member and sadly passed away at the young age of 63 in 1993. Jane wanted to follow her CWL example and contribute to the parish and she certainly has done that. She was a volunteer for the Give to Grow Campaign and is always willing to lend a hand with various CWL functions including the ministry fair, membership drives, making pies, bake sales and funeral luncheons. She assisted with the deep cleaning of the kitchen prior to Covid and has helped at our joint events with the Knights. Jane joined the funeral lunch ministry early in her CWL journey because she wanted to be of use to the people of the parish and help out the kind ladies of the CWL as they consistently offered this service to parishioners. She believes that families and close friends coming together at this difficult time to support each other is very comforting and healthy.

She regularly attends our meetings and was a member of St. Michael's executive from 2010 to 2021. She served as Organization Chair, Treasurer and Recording Secretary. Her years of service on the executive are greatly appreciated.

Many League members describe the CWL as a sisterhood. Jane feels this is true for her. Similarly, we the members of St. Michael's council feel blessed to call Jane our CWL sister.

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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LifeStraws for Ukraine

Joan Roffey

In September, the members of St. Michael's CWL were invited to support an endeavour being undertaken by the London Ukrainian Centre. The Centre was hoping to purchase and donate 5,000 LifeStraws to the people in Ukraine who are challenged by water insecurity due to the ongoing war there.

LifeStraws are personal water filtration units the size of large straws and typically cost between \$10 and \$20 each. With them, a person is able to drink directly from any water source - ponds, rivers, even puddles - and the filtration portion of the straw filters out 99.999% of particulates including bacteria, parasites and microplastics that could make them sick.

Our members responded to the call and were very generous with their donations. In the end, we collected almost \$700 and on Tuesday, November 8th, we delivered 56 LifeStraws to the London Ukrainian Centre. The representatives who met with us were thrilled with our donation and were pleased to inform us that they would be shipped out on November 10th as part of a larger care package.

Once again, the ladies of St. Michael's CWL demonstrated their willingness to reach out to their neighbours in need - even if those neighbours are halfway across the world.

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In Remembrance

Marilyn Morgan



With fond memories of many shared experiences, we bid farewell to eight of our League sisters this year. We ask that you hold them close in prayer as they are welcomed into God's heavenly Kingdom.

Rest in peace: Mary Charlotte Mahood, Catharine MacDonald, Rose Anne Durand, Joanne Merner, Cathy Eluchok, Fay Goodchild, Verna Le Mesurier, and Liz McKillican.

We extend our deepest condolences to the families of these members and express our gratitude and appreciation for their many years of faithful service. May they now be resting in the loving arms of our merciful Father. Please keep them in your prayers.

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Festive Bake Sale



This year's Festive Bake Sale took place after all masses on December 3rd and 4th. A big THANK YOU to all who helped out whether it was through volunteering to make the pies or providing baking or volunteering to sell. We are grateful for all of your support. The \$1,050.00 raised will be used to help the many groups and organizations that count on the Catholic Women's League for their needs. – Joan Lobsinger

CWL/Knights of Columbus Trivia Fun Night



After a two-year Covid break St. Michael's Knights of Columbus and Catholic Women's League were once again able to host our Trivia Fun Night on Saturday November 26th. Fun was certainly had by all. We enjoyed food and beverages while our host Steve from the Noah Tall Trivia Company kept us on our toes. And of course, we enjoyed each others company. Looking forward to this once again being an annual event. – Joan Lobsinger

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Our C.W.L Christmas Celebration Megan Young

Nothing brightens a rainy and cold Saturday morning like a room filled with the love of a sisterhood unlike any other. December 2nd marked the annual CWL Christmas get-together, and what made this gathering extra special was that this was the first time we were able to hold it in person in two years.

Needless to say, this brought an extra element of joy to the atmosphere with the beautiful sounds of friends reuniting as they arrived and caught up on the happiness and hardships of the past year, along with the chance to welcome new members and visitors to our ever-growing CWL family. However, there was also a place in our hearts that felt rather heavy over the seats left empty by our beloved members who have been called home to Heaven; though we know that their love and prayers were present with us.

Our celebration continued as we shared delicious food, and the always talented SMUGlees led us in song and made us laugh with a few jokes. Then it was time for the gift exchange as Santa (Lucie) distributed the gifts before we all parted ways with full stomachs and even fuller hearts. It was a wonderful morning spent with some amazing people, and it was evident that this was a much-longed-for celebration for us all.

As I think back, what really strikes me is that even though a celebration such as this had not taken place in over two years, the love and friendships seemed to be stronger than ever, and it confirmed what I already knew - not even a global pandemic can dampen the spirit of our Catholic Women's League. I am so blessed to be a part of such a special group of fun, loving and joyous women who are each blessed with unique gifts and talents, and I am looking forward to many more celebrations like this one.



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CWL National Annual Member Satisfaction Survey

Kim Scammell, Executive Director

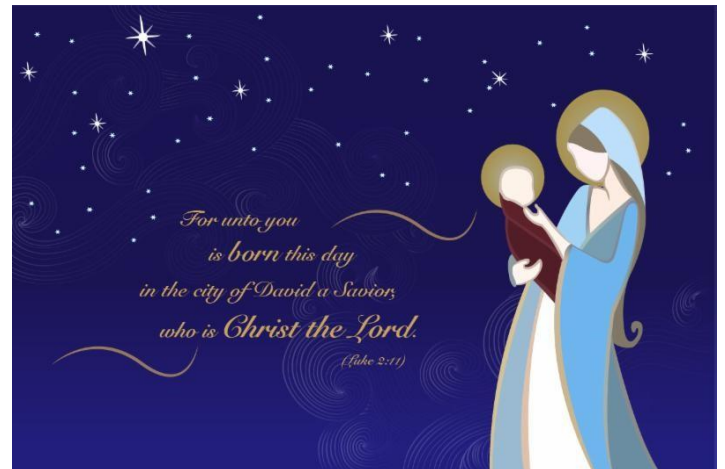
You are invited to participate in the 2022/23 member satisfaction survey. With your help, the national executive/board of directors will be able to evaluate how well the strategic planning efforts are meeting the strategy designed to increase the sense of belonging and connectedness among the membership. The survey may be accessed by copying and pasting the following link:

Member Demographic and Satisfaction Survey (2022) (surveymonkey.com)

It takes about four minutes to complete. The questions are designed to get feedback about how welcome you feel in the CWL and how much support you receive from your CWL sisters. The questions on the second page will provide feedback to the board to see if the sense of belonging is increasing as we would hope now that COVID restrictions have lifted.

Thank you for participating in the process of shaping the League of the future. Your willingness to participate and your time and attention are very much appreciated.

The survey will remain open until January 21, 2023.



May you have the spirit of Christmas which is Peace, the gladness of Christmas which is Hope, and the Heart of Christmas which is Love.