



Diocesan Dialogue

Online Newsletter
Volume 6



President's Message

Table of Contents

President's Message.....1/2
 The Candy Cane.....2
 St Mary's Quilt Draw.....2
 Christmas Wishes.....3/4
 Breakfast Program.....4
 Generous Giving.....5
 More Wishes.....5/6
 Keeping Active.....6
 Father Mike's Reflection.....7
 Before Covid.....8

What's New This Month

Enjoy greetings from members of our diocesan executive. Read how councils are keeping CWL alive during these days of COVID.

Thanks to all who submitted items for our newsletter this month. Wishing you all the very best of this holy season.

Web Wednesday is real!

Check out the up and coming webinars hosted by national council.

Websites to visit

www.cwlthunderbay.org
www.cwl.on.ca
www.cwl.ca



My dear sisters in the League

Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." (Matthew 24:42)

The season of Advent has begun, a time to prepare and be vigilant for the coming of our Infant Saviour.

The lighting of the first Advent candle represents Hope. This has been a trying and difficult year and we do not have a sense of how Christmas will unfold or how the new year will begin. It is easy to lose sight of hope in the midst of this pandemic. We have to remember that God is with us, no matter where or when. Let us linger in the hope of this season found in the message of an angel, in the carols we sing, in the quiet moments of prayer (even if only for two minutes while washing our hands again) and in the invitation to "Keep Alert. Keep Awake." (Matthew 13.33-37)

Many members are questioning the materializing of the Diocesan Convention in 2021. The issue is, that in order for a National Convention to occur, where the future direction of the League will be discussed, it will require votes to be held on elections, per capita fees and amendments to the *Constitution and Bylaws*. These votes depend on the meetings of councils at all other levels, and if they do not hold meetings, they forfeit their right

to vote on some very important issues effecting the future of the organization. We will therefore, do our best to comply and it may be a very different convention as we know it. The dates of the Diocesan Convention, will be May 1st and 2nd 2021. In spite of COVID, we are slowly moving forward!

Blessings of this most holy season. Maria

The Candy Cane



Jesus, Gentle Shepherd,
this cane of red and white
proclaims the sweet love story

born on Christmas night

This cane, you see, when turned
around
begins your name of love
and now becomes a symbol
of peace proclaimed above

The lively peppermint flavour
is the regal gift of spice
The white is your purity
and the red your sacrifice

And so this cane reminds us
of just how much you care
and like your Christmas gift to us
it's meant for all to share.

Submitted by Dorothy from St. Andrew Parish

St Mary Quilt Draw



CWL member, Nicole LePine, with the assistance of Micaela Jensen and Kim LePine convened the raffle of a quilt donated by Margaret Fontana.

The proceeds of \$1,510.00 went to the local Family Centre which provides day shelter for the homeless and food and other items for the needy.

Congratulations to winner Sandra Wepruk!
Submitted by Linda, St. Mary, Fort Frances



Christmas Wishes

Santa's little helpers
Elves with Christmas cheer
Candy canes and candle light
Rudolph preparing with other reindeer for
Eve's Christmas plan
Travel of gifts to all the good boys and girls
Angels singing all over the land
Rejoicing in the beauty of a
Yuletide night



Wishing everyone a holiday season full of faith, love, laughter and health.
Merry Christmas!

Joanne Scerba, Secretary
Thunder Bay Diocesan Council



For many Christians throughout the world, no matter the characters, the sight of a nativity still evokes the miracle of Jesus' conception, his humble birth, his ultimate sacrifice and the gift of everlasting life to those who believe.

This is the meaning of Christmas.

May you rejoice in the gift and promise of Christmas -
Jesus Christ our saviour.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas.
Kathy Pelletier - Diocesan Resolutions Chair

Advent helps us remember that light shines in the darkness and we reflect it." ~ Greg Richardson

"May your light shine bright this Christmas season, as we reflect the message of Christmas".

Christmas is a wonderful time for everyone to rejoice and share in the warmth of those dear to us. May your Christmas be filled with God's love and blessings.

Dorothy Bechta, Diocesan Treasurer



All the blessings of Christmas to you and yours

Keep healthy and safe.

Take care.

Jane Slobodnik, Communications Chair

St. Joseph Supports Breakfast Program



Barb Roussin (rt) of St. Josephs Parish CWL donates to St. Josephs School Student Breakfast Program and the Nutrition on Weekends Program.

Accepting check is Kathy Bryck co chair of CWL Education and Health committee who will deliver to the school.

Supporting local initiatives is a priority of St. Josephs CWL this year as most funding raising is limited and local needs are great.

Submitted. By Lorraine of St. Joseph, Dryden

St. Patrick, Atikokan Gives Generously

**"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
2 Corinthians 9:7**

Hosting Annual Bazaars has been an impossible task during Covid 19. St. Patrick's Council in Atikokan came up a new way to support the Parish during this time. Here is an excerpt from a letter that was posted in the bulletin.

Yes, there will be an Annual Parish Bazaar this fall. It will be like no other bazaar you have ever seen before. Shhh! The bazaar is a secret; we don't want anyone to come. Also, you don't have to buy or sell raffle tickets at Foodland. You don't even need to bake, make crafts, or donate items for the various tables.

We are asking parishioners to consider what they would have normally contributed to the bazaar in past years. For example how many raffle tickets you would have purchased, what would you have spent on baking, gifts or craft items for the various tables and how much you would have spent on the day of the bazaar. From this information we ask that you make a donation directly to the church.

Parishioners were asked to place their donations in a special envelope and drop them in the collection basket. A tax receipt would be issued for their donation to the church.

This fundraiser turned out to be very popular among the parishioners. We were blessed to receive many generous donations that will help support our church in the coming year.

Submitted by Candice of St. Patrick, Atikokan

More Wishes....

"Live joyfully and courageously because the Angel who foretells the birth of Our Saviour and Lord, announces singing, and sings announcing that he brings tidings of joy, peace, and happiness to all of good will." PADRE PIO

As we enter this Christmas season let us all be joyful as we follow Padre Pio's advice. It has been a tough year but with the help of Our Lord we are getting through it. And a new year is just around the corner.

May blessings flow bountifully for each one of you and your families. Merry Christmas to you all and Happy New Year!!

Mary Wilson. Diocesan Past President





Blessed Christmas and A Happier New Year to all.

May the love of Baby Jesus surround your home with peace and joy.

We are sending you all our earnest and loving Christmas

Blessings. May you have a Holy Christmas.

From St. Patrick's Catholic Women's League, Emo.

As we go into a busy time of year, one cannot help but think, "why?" Why do we cook and bake so much? The extra cleaning, the gift buying, there must be a reason.

The reason is it is time to prepare Him room. We are all preparing for the biggest celebration of the year- the coming of baby Jesus! The coming of our Saviour!

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas season with peace, love and joy.
Cathy Carlino, Diocesan Spiritual Development



St. Dominic Keeping Active

Executive members of St. Dominic council decided that they should do something to let members know they are still an active CWL. They organized a clothing drive for those in need. Over three weekends they collected new gloves, mitts, hats, socks and gently used outer ware such as jackets and coats. Then they delivered items to St Vincent and St Ann schools, Grace Place, Faye Peterson and dropped coats and jackets to first Wesley United Church for their clothes line project.

They are also sending clothing items and toys to a First Nations' community up north that Father Mike is in touch with.

Lastly they held a food drive and are going to deliver to the Dew Drop Inn and RFDA. This was a successful effort. All this was their way of letting our people know their council is still very active.

They held their deceased members mass which was part of our Saturday 5 pm mass in November. The names of the 5 members lost in 2020 were called. It was so nice to see families of the deceased in attendance. The Book of Life was place in the sanctuary along with the CWL banner and candles. It was very spiritual.

Submitted by Wanda, St. Dominic

Reflection from Father Mike Mahoney, Diocesan Spiritual Advisor



“ ‘... and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.’

And nobody plays dumb by looking the other way”.

Pope Francis

It’s a (a) turn of phrase added to the words of Jesus describing the Kingdom of God in response to the global crisis. (a) turn of phrase is also what Pope Francis calls for on the part of everyone so that we come out of the pandemic better, not worse than before.

In *Heal the World*, a summary of Pope Francis’ catechesis on the pandemic, he focuses on principles that can shape our response to the global crises and how their implementation can bring us to a new way of life that will heal the world. Topics such as human dignity, solidarity, listening to the disenfranchised, as well as the powerful, subsidiarity, the common good, our common home; all of these are related to the other plagues revealed by the pandemic – poverty, inequality, insecurity, injustice.

Not only does the world need to mobilize resources to fend off the virus, we also are being called to an inner mobilization, to change our response from an old way to a new normal that gives from the heart with ‘generous care, full of tenderness.’

Writes Pope Francis:

“The normality to which we are called is that of the Kingdom of God, where ‘the blind see again, and the lame walk, those suffering from virulent skin diseases are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life and the good news is proclaimed to the poor’ (Mt 11:5). And nobody plays dumb by looking the other way. This is what we have to do in order to change. In the normality of the Kingdom of God, there is bread for all and more to spare, social organization is based on contributing, sharing and distributing, not on possessing, excluding and accumulating (see Mt 14:13-21).” *Heal the World*

In Jesus, God has shown that every life is worthwhile, that we are all in this together, and that in Christ – the light which darkness cannot overwhelm, we live hopefully.

May God Bless you this Christmas and always.

Night Before Christmas - Covid

T'was the month before Christmas
 And all through the town,
 People wore masks,
 That covered their frown.
 The frown had begun
 Way back in the Spring,
 When a global pandemic
 Changed everything.
 They called it corona,
 But unlike the beer,
 It didn't bring good times,
 It didn't bring cheer.
 Airplanes were grounded,
 Travel was banned.
 Borders were closed
 Across air, sea and land.
 As the world entered lockdown
 To flatten the curve,
 The economy halted,
 And folks lost their nerve.
 From March to July
 We rode the first wave,
 People stayed home,
 They tried to behave.
 When summer emerged
 The lockdown was lifted.
 But away from caution,
 Many folks drifted.

Now it's November
 And cases are spiking,
 Wave two has arrived,
 Much to our disliking.
 It's true that this year
 Has had sadness a plenty,
 We'll never forget
 The year 2020.
 And just 'round the corner -
 The holiday season,
 But why be merry?
 Is there even one reason?
 To decorate the house
 And put up the tree,
 Who will see it,
 No one but me.
 But outside my window
 The snow gently falls,
 And I think to myself,
 Let's deck the halls!
 So, I gather the ribbon,
 The garland and bows,
 As I play those old carols,
 My happiness grows.
 Christmas is not cancelled
 And neither is hope.
 If we lean on each other,
 I know we can cope.

By Shawna Hickling

Shared by Josie, St. Mary, Fort Frances

