

CATHOLIC and LIVING IT!



Faith...Service...Social Justice

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.

You are the Beloved

"Life is a gift. Each one of us is unique, known by name, and loved by the One who fashioned us. Unfortunately, there is a very loud, consistent, and powerful message coming to us from our world that leads us to believe that we must prove our belovedness by how we look, by what we have, and by what we can accomplish. We become preoccupied with "making it" in this life, and we are very slow to grasp the liberating truth of our origins and our finality. We need to hear the message announced and the message emboldened over and over again. Only then do we find the courage to claim it and live from it." (Henri Nouwen)

Welcome to our CWL's September update...we hope you have enjoyed a wonderful summer and are now ready to roll your sleeves up for this year's possible activities. We will continue our efforts to try and keep members and our parish family up to date with what is happening in the world of CWL and what our members are doing or can do by providing monthly information is putting a smile on your faces...

"To have lived another year is an achievement. After all, you have another year's worth of blessings to thank God for. Think of how much of God's air you have consumed during the year. Think of how many nights God allowed you to lie down and sleep and how many mornings He awakened you with brand new mercies" (Lamentations 3:22-23).

We remember those members who celebrated birthdays in July and August: Dona Grant, Katie Kuoppa-Aho, Leah Salini, Joleene Kemp, Theresa Grau, Mary Rabachuk, Helen Plouffe, Liz Kovacs, Margaret Gravel and Linda Bukovy...let's say two Hail Mary's for each of them.

The following women will be celebrating birthdays in September: Melvina Herman, Tanya Hladysh, Evelyn Kushnier, Geraldine Luzzi, Sarah Mammoliti, Carmel Sajna, Monica Speer, Madeline Szwkely and Linda West. Remember them in your prayers during the month of June as they celebrate their birthdays.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is many things to many people:

- A sisterhood of support and understanding that is more than 63,000 members strong
- A way to act on important social justice issues by adding your voice to many
- An opportunity to be of service to your community, to the country and to God
- A chance to live your faith with those who share it

Upcoming Events and Information from Provincial Program Chairpersons

This activity is time sensitive:

From diocesan life member liaison Liz Bortolussi:

Development and Peace Fall Workshop:

You are invited! - September 17: 8:30am (registration) – 1 pm at the Catholic Pastoral Centre in Thunder Bay (1222 Reaume Street, Thunder Bay). Come and learn about what Development and Peace is doing to support partners in the Global South in Madagascar, the Honduras and Cambodia, advocating for ecological injustice. All are invited to come, celebrate, and learn in an interactive way as to how Development and Peace continues to support partners and how you can mobilize others in your community by putting *People and Planet First!* Bring a friend! Click here for more information and to register: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-5EonXBePmVygM7gUpzpoL4_Kzuvr4xo/view?usp=sharing

If you prefer to register by phone, give Liz a call 807 767 2514.

That's my land line with an answering machine.

Development and Peace needs you!

From **Colleen Martin Provincial President Elect and Organization Chairperson** comes the following:

League Development – Lots of great topics to choose from – pick one or two or all of them. See the attached sheet for details and how to register.

From **Mary Capobianco Provincial Resolutions Chairperson** comes the following possibility:

2022 – 2024 Project - FAITH into ACTION – Making A Difference:

The development and adoption of a resolution is only the first step of the intended advocacy stated in the resolved clauses. The most important component of the resolutions process is following through on the ACTION PLAN. That is where the League makes the most impact. Through ACTION PLANS, members are encouraged to become more knowledgeable about the issue, write letters to government and advocate for changes within their own parishes, communities and beyond. How appropriate then, when Linda Squarzolo, our Provincial President, asked us to develop a project to highlight her theme Go Make a Difference. What better way to make a difference, than to use our resolutions action plans as our guide? To this end, I would like to introduce the Faith into Action – Making a Difference project. Faith into Action is certainly not a new title but I think very appropriate as it applies to resolution action plans. I ask each diocesan resolution's chair to please encourage their parish councils to take part in this project.

1. Choose a resolution listed on the national or provincial websites. These are resolutions that have been adopted at the national or provincial levels. For copies of past resolutions:

- www.cwl.ca
click on tab **To Act On**
scroll down to **Resolutions**
select **Resolutions By Year**
choose a resolution that would be of interest for your council to work on.
- www.cwl.on.ca

click on tab **Resolutions**

choose a resolution that would be of interest for your council to work on

2. Review the ACTION PLANS – share with your council to select one for your project.
3. Once a resolution action plan has been selected, brainstorm with your council/committee to decide your next steps.
4. Once activities have been completed – fill in the Action Project Form (to be provided)
5. Some resolution topics may deal with same or similar topics. Feel free to combine your activities to include more than one resolution &/or action plan.
6. Projects can be ongoing over the next two years. Feel free to work on as many Action Plans as you like.

From **Betsy Currier, Ontario Provincial Christian Family Life Chairperson** comes the following information:

We are all very busy women. It seems there are never enough hours in a day. Don't allow the responsibilities to overwhelm you and don't worry about the challenge you face but take heart in its completion. Margaret Thatcher suggested, "Look at a day when you are supremely satisfied at the end. It's not a day when you lounge around doing nothing; it's when you've had everything to do, and you've done it." Betsy has created a Calendar of Special Events for the coming year with some highlights for our consideration. Calendar is attached.

From **Karen McDonald 2nd Vice President Provincial Community Life Chairperson** comes the following:

OPC Truth and Reconciliation Working Group This working group was established by the Ontario Provincial Council in 2021 with a focus on educating and raising awareness. The main goals are Learning, Listening, Actioning ... Working Our Way Towards Reconciliation. Did you know? ... a section dedicated to Truth and Reconciliation appears on the provincial website providing Links, Spiritual Resources and Upcoming Events (www.cwl.on.ca ... RESOURCES ... TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION).

September 30th is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day in Canada, honouring the children lost, the Survivors, their family and communities. We can make a difference and show support for this initiative by wearing orange to honour the children who survived residential

schools, and recall those who did not. This is an opportunity to raise awareness about the tragic legacy of residential schools, to honour the Survivors, and to remind ourselves that we have so much to learn on our journey toward reconciliation and healing.

Taken from information pertaining to events in Thunder Bay:

Every child matters. On September 30th, people across Canada wear orange and participate in Orange Shirt Day events to recognize and raise awareness about the history and legacies of the residential school system in Canada.

The Canadian government designated September 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, beginning in 2021. This responds to Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action 80, which states that the federal government will work with Indigenous people to establish a statutory day to “honour Survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process”.

Orange Shirt Day originates from the story of Phyllis Webstad from the Stswecem’c Xgat’tem First Nation. In 1973, on her first day at St. Joseph’s Residential School in Williams Lake, BC, Phyllis’s shiny new orange shirt was stripped from her, never to be seen again.

40 years later, on September 30th, 2013, Phyllis spoke publicly for the first time about her experience, and thus began the Orange Shirt Day movement.

Hear Phyllis tell her orange shirt story:

“When you wear an orange shirt it’s like a little bit of justice for us Survivors in our lifetime, and recognition of a system we can never allow again,”
~Phyllis Webstad

Here is the link to watch: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=EuW4WbekhxY>

Please check local newspaper, social media, listen to news for events happening in Thunder Bay...

Exciting News

Our fall gathering will take place Sunday, September 25th following the 10:30 Mass!!!!

We will gather outside in the prayer garden where Msgr. Pat will bless the hydrangea bush that Rita LeGarde and her team planted for us to celebrate the League's 100th anniversary.

Following the blessing we will move downstairs for a short gathering to reconnect with each other and discuss:

- Fees for the coming year
- Activities we might like to do
- Any updates members might have

We will keep it to under an hour so that everyone can continue to enjoy the wonderful fall weather.

This gathering will be very informal and there will be no formal reports given...those who have updates can share if they wish...

So excited to see everyone on the 25th!!!!

Continuing events:

- Divine Mercy Chaplet for Peace in Ukraine
The Chaplet will be prayed via zoom **every morning at 8:00 am** (EST) 7:00 am (CST)...

Open to anyone. Feel free to join any day until peace returns to Ukraine:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82848869346?pwd=WmJac2RXZTlhYWdzZlhmNjZBYtKdz09>

The link is also be posted on the Thunder Bay Diocesan CWL website...(cwlthunderbay.org)

Keep checking the following websites to see what is happening in the CWL world:

Diocesan website is: www.cwlthunderbay.org

Provincial website is: www.cwl.on.ca

National website is: www.cwl.ca

Development and Peace website: www.devp.org

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Prayer:

Loving Father, open our hearts to your infinite love for all people, and to your presence with us wherever we go in your name. Lord Jesus, deepen the spiritual life of the Catholic Women's League. Strengthen the faith and good works of our members, building-up life in the world by being Catholic and Living It! May we imitate you with works of mercy, welcoming the forgotten, suffering or vulnerable wherever we encounter them.

Holy Spirit, strengthen us to live our faith, witnessing to life, peace and social justice daily wherever we are in Canada. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel, may we be joyful and responsive to our Christian calling, by truly being Catholic and Living It! We make this prayer through Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.