

# The Catholic Women's League

St. George Parish Byron,  
London, Ontario

Fall 2013

## *Together, we can make a Difference*

Add your voice/support to a national sisterhood of Catholic women who promote awareness and respond to political and social issues that affect all Canadians.

The CWL of St. George Parish has close to 200 members. Many members are actively involved in the life of St. George's Parish and in the community. As a Council we raise funds for the support of St. George Parish in addition to many organizations in the community. Other members give numerous hours of volunteer service both in our Parish and in the city at large.

Our main fundraiser is our Annual Candy Cane Bazaar held each November. We receive tremendous support from our members, the parish families and the community. It is a lot of work but a great time is had by all. We also plan and host a Rummage Sale in the spring and participate in the Parish Garage Sale with the Parish Knights of Columbus each September. Non-CWL member help is always welcome. During the course of the year, we have General meetings, a Member Brunch, Christmas Dinner and Year End Pot luck. We often have Guest Speakers and or entertainment.

### *COME, JOIN US!*

Are you searching for something worthwhile that makes  
the best use of your time and talents?

Your commitment could be as easy as maintaining an  
inexpensive yearly membership, even when you are  
unable to attend meetings or other events. As time  
permits, you may enjoy helping with just one project.

Make the CWL a priority in your life!

We invite all ladies of St. George Parish to join us for our  
"Opening Breakfast" on Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup>... Bring a  
friend or make some new ones. Cost: \$5.00 per person

To reserve your spot.....Please call:

Gail Clarke            519-473-1185 or  
Linda Husband       519-645-0666

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Congratulations on the first edition of  
your new CWL newsletter. It is so  
important that we share the good news  
and many great works of charity with the  
whole parish community.

I would first like to thank all women of  
the parish who are members of the CWL  
and their numerous hours of volunteer  
work.

A special thank you to our executive who  
have worked well together to vision for  
the future which has resulted in some  
wonderful new initiatives of  
evangelization, education,  
charity and outreach. I look forward to  
the year ahead as we have some  
wonderful events planned.

Mary-Catherine Bishop,  
Pastoral Minister and  
CWL Spiritual Advisor

## *CWL Fundraising Initiatives*

### Annual Candy Cane Bazaar

Our first Christmas Bazaar was held in November 1997 in the basement of the old St. George's Church. Our Penny table was one long table and the Silent Auction had three items on it. We had one craft table, plants and a small tea room. In 1998 we moved to St. George's school gym and could do some expanding. In 1999 we moved to the the present hall, dropped the plants, opened the country kitchen and kept expanding. Today's bazaar is held in the Hall and the Narthex. The penny table has many tables and the Silent Auction usually has about 300 items.

The bazaar has grown to be more of a parish community function, with lots of help from husbands, Knights and non members. We are very thankful for all the help during set-up days and the day of the bazaar. This is our major fundraiser, which gives us our monies to support our many donations within the parish community and the community at large.

Lorrie Bouchard (519-471-0893) and Kaaren Smyth (519-641-4043) are heading up this year's bazaar, if you can donate any items or time, they would love to hear from you.

**Come out and support us November 9<sup>th</sup> .....9:00am to 2:00pm**

### Rummage Sale

The first CWL Rummage Sale was held in June 2007. It has moved to May and again it has grown with each passing year and now fills the Parish hall. The sale held this past May had the highest sales yet . This event is so successful due to all the great donations received from parish members and especially to all the ladies who donated their time and great ideas.

**Watch the Parish Bulletin for news on the Spring 2014 Rummage Sale.**

### Garage Sale

The St. George Parish Annual Garage Sale held in September each year is jointly sponsored by the Catholic Women's League and Knights of Columbus. "Unbelievable"...this event fills the Hall, the Narthex, Meeting Room One and spills out into the parking lot. The funds raised at this event are utilized in Parish and Community by CWL and K of C. The last two years have brought in close to \$5000.

### Funeral Reception/Luncheons

When a family requests, the CWL ladies will prepare and serve a lunch after a funeral Mass.

We have 3 teams of 6-8 ladies, who will be notified of the day, time and number of guests expected.

Volunteers donate desserts and the CWL ladies purchase groceries, make sandwiches and prepare platters of vegetables. We work hard but enjoy each other's company. At the same time we help ease the stress of the grieving family for a nominal donation. We welcome non-member CWL ladies to volunteer to assist with Funeral Luncheons. If you can help, please call a team leader.

Judy Valiquette (473-0782), Chris Wincott (657-3102), Lorrie Bouchard (471-0893).

## CWL Projects and Activities

### Community Life

Our work in Community Life involves giving back to the community, this means parish, city wide and internationally. In the past year we have raised \$2100.00 selling daffodil pins for the Cancer Society. We have delivered loads of toiletries to Women's Community House, an ongoing project. Many members attended the Right to Life Annual Dinner and the L'Arche Banquet/Art Sale and Silent Auction. Also October is the White Ribbon campaign, which brings our attention to the ongoing problem of child pornography worldwide. Another issue is human trafficking, which we will be addressing in more depth next year.

Upcoming on October 8<sup>th</sup>, CWL and the Knights of Columbus have invited Alex Schadenberg, executive director of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, to address the important issue of Euthanasia. **Open to all....Parish Hall...Tuesday October 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm**

### World Day of Prayer

A global, ecumenical movement of Christian women joined together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday of March. This past March, Churches from Lambeth and Byron joined members of St. Anne's Anglican in Byron for the service. The focus country was France, a different country is featured each year. A good number of parishioners from St. George's attended along with CWL members.

### Funeral Honour Guard

A CWL Honour Guard service is available for the funeral of a deceased CWL member. This allows members an opportunity to honour their deceased sister in Christ for her service.

A family member requests an Honour Guard through the Pastoral Minister at the time the member's funeral is being arranged. CWL member, Pat Koenig then contacts members who have served with the deceased member.

The Honour Guard welcomes the family and the casket to the church and escorts them in and out of the worship space. It is an honour for CWL members to be able to show support to the family in their time of sorrow.



*Our Lady of Good Counsel*



#### **League Prayer**

We humbly pray you, O God our Father,  
to bless The Catholic Women's League of Canada.  
Bless our beloved country, our homes and families.  
Send your Holy Spirit upon us to give light to our minds and strength to our wills that we may know and fulfill your great law of charity.  
Teach us to share with others at home and abroad, the good things you have given us. This we ask through Our Lord Jesus Christ and the intercessions of our patroness, our Lady of Good Counsel.  
Amen.

## CWL Convention

The London Diocesan Convention is held in a different location each year. The 2013 Convention took place at the Arden Park Hotel in Stratford from April 22 to April 24. Linda Husband and Gail Clarke attended the three days for St. George Parish. Father John Jasica and six other St. George CWL members joined them for the Tuesday Mass at St. Joseph's Church and the banquet held at the Arden Hotel.

Besides the reports and voting on the constitution and bylaws there were two excellent speakers. Joy Smith, Member of Parliament for Manitoba, spoke about her involvement in the prevention of human trafficking. Some of her experiences were very eye opening. Books she recommended can be found in the parish library. We hope to follow up in future CWL meetings with information and videos that are provided by her office.

The second speaker was Teresa Hartnett, Director of Family Ministry from the Hamilton Diocesan Office. In a very light hearted manner she spoke about the importance of volunteers and their work. She also stressed the importance of balance between volunteer and family life.

The 2014 London Diocesan Convention will be held in April 2014 in Chatham.

The 2015 Convention will be held in London.

## CWL Fundraising Events supported the following groups this year

Birthright	St. George 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade rosaries
Call of the Poor	Sisters of St. Joseph
Canadian Breast Cancer	St. Joseph's Hospitality
Canadian Missions	St. Peter's Seminary
Catholic and Christian Leadership Camp	St. Theresa's School Library
Faith and Light	St. Vincent de Paul
Habitat for Humanity	Street Connection
Heart and Stroke	Thameswood Lodge
L'Arche Donation	Ursuline Sisters-
Living Rosary in Schools	Santa Angela Mission
London Food Bank	Wellspring
London Psych Hospital LPH	Women's Community House
McCormick House Outreach	<u>St. George Parish Support</u>
My Sister's Place	Alter Servers (Outing)
Parkinson Society	Alter Servers (Robes)
Precious Blood Sisters	Building Fund
RCIA Rosaries	Confirmation Reception (Youth)
Right to Life	Gardening Expenses
St. George Uganda Project	Shut-in Gifts (Christmas)
St. George School Library	Sound System
	Tables