

Newsletter
PEI Provincial Council
Catholic Women's League of Canada



May, 2015

Issue 27



Provincial President's Message

Louise Doiron

As I look over the past year as your Provincial President, the many challenges I have faced has taught me many valuable life lessons. I want to thank all of my executive for their support that they have given me. I am grateful for the many friends I have met that belong to this great organization.

RENEWING FRIENDSHIPS

Last week-end I attended The Annual Catholic Women's League Convention at The Credit Union Place in Summerside, a lovely, spacious and convenient location for meetings and conventions. I have been fortunate to attend convention in the last thirty years.

It is amazing that upwards to two hundred busy women across the Province take the time each year to attend the convention, meet new friends and share ideas and show their appreciation for the effort that goes into scheduling and planning such as event.

It was hard to believe that fifty-six of our members had passed away in 2014. It was encouraging however to see a number of younger members in attendance, sitting among all the grey hairs. Like ourselves the Women from all Church Groups wonder "Who will carry on when we are gone?" especially with the all-over decline in church attendance.

The Life Members have been Provincial Presidents in past years, and we presently have fourteen still living. It is an annual event for us to meet for dinner just prior to the opening of the Convention. We all look forward to being together to share our present day happenings, laughing over past events, ones that happened and ones that nearly happened. Each of us had held the position for two years, sometimes struggling, relying on each other and only feeling qualified by the time we handed the gavel to our successor.

Our theme this year, One Heart, One Voice, One Mission was summoned up in a few words by our Spiritual Director ,Fr. Paul Batchilder when he said "We need only to love each other." ;sometimes hard to do.

Our guest speaker on Saturday morning was Reverend Amanda Henderson-Bolton, Minister at St. James Presbyterian Church in Charlottetown. She was given a standing ovation after speaking on our theme and the effect this should have on the lives of Christian women today. We heard an informative and interesting presentation on the role that Music Therapy is playing in the lives of suffering individuals who cannot be reached by any other means.

The staff at Credit Union Place served a delicious roast beef dinner for our banquet. It is inspiring when women representing a number of Island Churches are in attendance and bring greetings and best wishes from their groups.

Life Members are asked to provide a skit before the closing on Saturday and this year, being the year of the Religious, we chose The Sister Act. I had agreed to design fourteen nun's head dresses to be worn with long black skirts, black tops and black shoes. Our capable Mother Superior and choir director put us through the paces. Imagine the fun as we rehearsed in my motel room on Friday night, hardly able to recognize each other in our new outfits. We trust it brought a laugh to the tired girls attending the week-end.

We believe the Lord loves a cheerful heart.

Marg Fitzpatrick April 2015

It is with regret that Provincial Council learned of the death of our sister executive member, Irene Gallant's husband, Bill, passed away on Tuesday, May 12th. May his soul rest in peace.

A BUSY WINTER AND SPRING

During the last several months the St. Francis of Assisi Council in Cornwall has been very active, despite Mother Nature's attempt to shut us down over the winter months.

This year we are blessed to have Fr. Jim Brown as our Spiritual Advisor. We begin all our meetings with Mass, and later Fr. Jim joins us in our group with messages of support and encouragement.

In February we planned our usual Valentine Coffee Party with fingers crossed because of the weather, Mother Nature gave us a beautiful sunny day and one of our biggest turnouts, lots of food and best of all socializing.

Before Lent began one of our ladies, Vanessa Brown, offered to do a book study and carry it on during Lent. After meeting many obstacles with weather delays being the greatest it carried on to completion. The book chosen for our study was called "*Left to Tell*" by Immaculee Ilibagiza.

The book was her own story of discovering God amidst the Rwandan Holocaust.

The book was certainly a perfect topic for Lent emphasizing suffering and in the end resurrection. Thanks to Vanessa for her patience for sticking with it.

This past winter our council also hosted the World Day of Prayer for our area, under Elaine Black's very capable direction. Since the program was prepared by the Ladies of The Bahamas, many of the members of St. Francis and other Area Churches wore some traditional clothing consisting of bright dresses, scarves and sandals even to having our hair tied up in a turban. The St. Francis Church Choir sang beautifully that evening tying all aspects of the program together. We enlisted some youth to play specific roles in the program and topping it off we had two gals from the Bahamas (here studying) do a special presentation. Following the presentations and program we all gathered for some traditional Bahamian food and we were even treated to a form of Bahamian dancing etc.

Also during the winter we were called upon to cater to funeral receptions, as well as 1st Holy Communion reception, and Confirmation reception.

As a joint effort with the Knights of Columbus we are joining forces to make available a Food Safe Program, required by the Dept of Health, since many regulations about serving food in church areas have changed and this hopefully will bring us all up to date with safety issues around food preparation and serving.

Submitted by Frances McCourt

We the St. Cuthbert's Catholic Women's League held a celebration for Our Lady of Good Counsel Sunday April 26th in our Church. We personally phoned every member to ensure they knew and we put the celebration in our bulletin. We invited the surrounding Councils, All Saints, Cardigan, St George's, St. Patrick's, Fort Augustus and St. Theresa St. Lawrence Morell. There were about 40 in attendance. Maureen Grant and Marjorie Gillan prepared the program. Mary Trainor led the singing. We had scripture reading on the Magnificat. Father Augustine read this and gave a history of our Lady of Good Counsel. This was followed by the Rosary and the Litany of our Lady of Good Counsel.

Following was a social. There was a lot of laughter and good conversation. We would like to thank all councils who took part and made this such a great celebration.

Theresa Kenny—President St. Cuthbert's Catholic Women's League

St. Mary's Holy Family Council keeps stepping up to the plate. Members of our Parish volunteer at the Soup Kitchen in Charlottetown and they made a comment to a C.W.L. member that they were in need of desserts for their meals. They serve 50 people at lunch time and 110 for supper, give or take a few. It was taken to our February meeting and it was decided that the last Sunday of each month members would donate baked goodies and present them to the people who would be working at the soup kitchen that week. Lots of goodies have made it to those in need. We as a council will continue as long as the need is there. Nine of our members attended a very well organized Convention. We all agreed there was lots of food for thought. We also just wrapped up a very successful fundraiser, a Mother's Day Basket draw. The proceeds will go towards our fee for the National Convention in Charlottetown in 2017. Since we are always working for the betterment of others, we decided to work for the betterment of ourselves and treat ourselves, at least once a month. We make reservations to a nice eatery and pig out a bit. Our last treat was on April 30th with 14 members taking time to share with each other food, laughter and each other's company, This is a wonderful way to build on friendship. Hope everyone has a wonderful summer, keep safe, share a smile and hug with those who most need it. God's Blessings! Carol Evans

2017 National CWL Convention Aug 6-9

The contract with the Delta Prince Edward Hotel has been signed and most of our committees are formed and have met at least once, so we are well on the way! The first meeting of all committee members was held in April and we were so fortunate to have Kim Scammell, Executive Director of the Catholic Women's League of Canada, join us from Winnipeg as she was here to tour the Delta. Members put their heads together and came up with fabulous ideas for us to inspire members at the convention in Vancouver in 2016 and in Halifax in 2017 to come to PEI in 2017. We have three committees that are still in need of membership: Protocol, Printing and Secretariat, and Special Events. Please call or email us if you would like to assist on any of these committees.

There was some question at the Provincial Convention as to what we are requesting of councils in monetary assistance. As we have repeated often, this request for funding is not a must for struggling councils. The ideal is for each council to donate to the 2017 National CWL Convention Planning Committee the amount of \$15 per member. For instance, if a council has 10 members, the total donation would be \$150. If a council has 100 members, the total amount would be \$1,500. This amount could be sent all at one time or in installments. One example is a council has chosen to send 1/3 in their total in 2014, 1/3 in 2015, and 1/3 in 2016. Whatever method works best for your council works best with us and we truly appreciate your generosity! Convention will be an exciting time for us! We will all have a vital part in ensuring the work of the League...**our** League...happens. We will be One Heart, One Voice, One Mission!

Elaine Black, Chair, 2017 National CWL Planning Committee

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