



## ***CWL NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2015***

### ***ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD PARISH COUNCIL***

**ONE** HEART  
VOICE  
MISSION

#### **A Message from our President**

Dear Sisters in the League:

As this is our first Newsletter this year, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all members and a very special big welcome to all of our new members.

As many of you know, I served as President in 2005/06. When I was nominated in November for 2015/16 my first reaction was “*no way*”, but after much deliberation and praying I accepted, and am honoured to be your president once again, and I ask for your prayers as we continue on this journey.

I moved to Ottawa from Montreal in 1997. When we joined Annunciation of the Lord Parish my husband Charlie talked me into joining the CWL as a way of getting to meet people. Little did he know how many wonderful people I would meet. Charlie passed away in March 2001 and if it were not for the support and friendship of the many people I did meet I may have considered moving back to Montreal. I was already in the first year as secretary of our CWL council at that point and decided to honour my two-year commitment. I so enjoyed my involvement that when my term was up I was nominated for President-Elect and two years later became President of this very active League.

At our first meeting in January, suggestion sheets were handed out and many of you had some wonderful ideas. Your executive will try to implement some of them during the year.

As Pope Francis reminds us, our *mission* is to be joy-filled witnesses of the gospel. Let's allow our *hearts* and *voices* to join in.

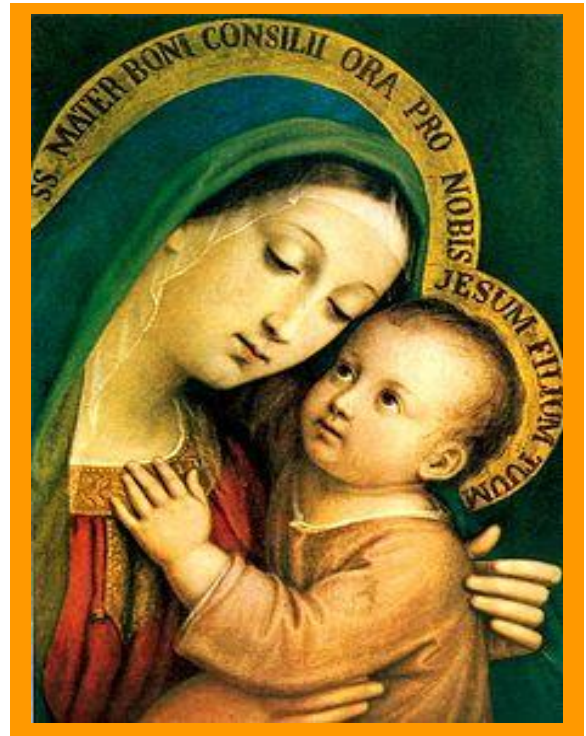
June Thibault, President

#### **NEW EXECUTIVE – 2015/2016**

The installation ceremony for our new CWL executive (2015/2016) took place on January 14, 2015 prior to our General Meeting. Mass was celebrated by our Spiritual Advisor, Father Dennis Hayes, C.C., who also said a prayer of blessing over the new officers at the end of the ceremony. Edith Mockler graciously served as M.C. for the evening. The names and emails of the new executive are listed on the last page of this newsletter. Please feel free to contact them with any suggestions/questions you may have in between our monthly General Meetings.

## FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

The feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel (Patroness of the CWL) was celebrated on Monday, April 27, 2015. Our Council hosted the evening for CWL members of our diocese and all others who wished to attend. We began with Mass at 7:00 p.m. celebrated by Father Dennis Hayes, C.C., followed by a reception in the Parish Hall.



## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Our **Prayer Shawl Ministry** meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month in the Parish Hall from 1-3 p.m.

**Victoria's Quilts** meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month in the Parish Hall from 1-4 p.m.

## MAY – 'TIS THE MONTH OF OUR MOTHER

*“My powerful Queen, you are all mine through your mercy, and I am all yours. Take away from me all that may displease God and cultivate in me all that is pleasing to Him.”*

**St. Louis Marie de Montfort**



## IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of our dear sister in the league, Monica Leydon, who went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, January 27, 2015. Her radiant smile and loving kindness will be greatly missed by her family, all members of our Council and by her fellow-parishioners at Annunciation of the Lord.

# A Message from our Spiritual Advisor, Father Dennis Hayes, C.C.

## 24 hours for the Lord / Year of Mercy

This year for the second time in his pontificate, Pope Francis invited every parish around the world during the Lenten Season to open its doors for 24 hours on Friday and Saturday, March 13-14, in order that the faithful might encounter Jesus Christ anew in the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration.

The Lenten initiative, organized by the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization, is called “24 Hours for the Lord.” It was intended also to be a time of reflection and prayer, an opportunity to speak with a priest, and a chance to rediscover — or perhaps discover for the first time — the great mercy at the heart of the Catholic Faith.

The theme chosen for this year’s initiative, in fact, is “God is rich in mercy” (Eph 2:4).

Dioceses, parishes and communities around the world were invited to adapt the initiative to their local situations and needs.

Here in the Archdiocese of Ottawa, a special day for Confessions was held on Friday, March 6, where many of our local churches had additional hours for confessions.

Pope Francis spoke of the initiative in his 2015 Message for Lent. *“As individuals, we are tempted by indifference,”* he wrote. *“Flooded with news reports and troubling images of human suffering, we often feel our complete inability to help. What can we do to avoid being caught up in this spiral of distress and powerlessness?”*

Pope Francis himself heard confessions during the special Lenten penance service in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on March 13. **During this same service Pope Francis announced an extraordinary jubilee, a Holy Year of Mercy, to be celebrated from Dec. 8, 2015, until Nov. 20, 2016.**

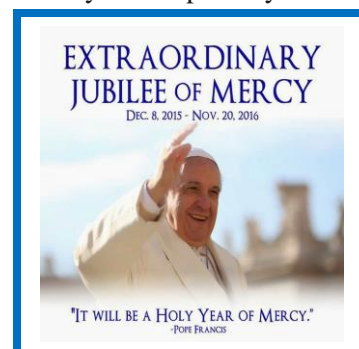
*“Mercy is at the heart of the Church's credibility and the Church has a duty to profess it and live it”* Pope Francis said in a document that officially proclaims the extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy.

Dr. Jared Staudt, writing online for the [Catholic World Report](#) on the extraordinary year of mercy gives us an excellent summary of how we can live out this special year of grace and mercy: *“This year we have much to bring to the Lord for mercy—for example, our brothers and sisters in the Middle East, the end of abortion, the restoration of the family—and we should do so with confidence. The Lord wants us to know that in the midst of the chaos of this world, even in the darkest moments, he is ready to shower his mercy upon us and to lighten our path through this new millennium.”*

Let us all begin right now in these fifty joyous days of Easter to live the full Message of God’s Mercy. Let us pray that as members of the Catholic Women’s League we may all yearn to be in some way vehicles of God’s gratuitous grace for others. - May His Mercy be known and received by all - especially those in greatest need!

Sincerely yours in the Risen Lord,

**Fr. Dennis Hayes**  
Spiritual Advisor  
Annunciation of the Lord CWL



## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2015

On March 6, 2015, six faith communities gathered at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Orleans to celebrate World Day of Prayer. The prayer service this year was written by the women of The Bahamas with the theme of radical love:

**Jesus said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you?”**

We began our time of prayer by a call to join together to praise and worship God with the women of the islands: Andros, Eleuthra, Ezuma, Inagua, Bimini, Abaco, Acklins, Grand Bahamas, Long Island, Cat Island, Crooked Island, Berry Islands, Ragged Islands, San Salvador, Mayaguana, New Providence and Harbour Island.

The context of our prayer was the washing of the feet. We were challenged to open our eyes to those in need of a gentle touch, a listening ear, a word of comfort and a healing presence. We were challenged to a radical love as we learned of the distressing situations that exist in the islands: domestic violence; families living in poverty; sexual abuse; child abuse; the uncertainty and fear of refugees, migrant workers and undocumented immigrants; young single mothers in need of education and assistance with raising their children; those living with HIV and AIDS; and women diagnosed with breast cancer.

As participants representing each of these situations came forward to have their feet washed, including our own Carmella Lemay, they experienced radical love and healing and, symbolically, were cleansed and cured. The prayer was to draw attention to the plight of these women and challenge us to a radical love here at home. We were asked, “How can we reach out in radical love?”

The prayer concluded with a reception in the church hall. Next year, the country of focus will be Cuba and World Day of Prayer will be hosted by Good Shepherd CWL.

*Janet Warren*  
Past-President



Carmella Lemay, randomly selected to represent women diagnosed with breast cancer, having her feet washed.



Some members of Annunciation of the Lord CWL and other parishioners at the reception after attending World Day of Prayer 2015.

## THE NEW EVANGELIZATION SUMMIT (OTTAWA, APRIL 24 & 25, 2015)

The Summit was sold out over 2 weeks before the event. 800 people attended the Friday evening and Saturday sessions, and it was also viewed by 20 sites across Canada and the U.S. via Live Streaming.

Michael Dopp, the founder of Mission of the Redeemer Ministries, and who originally came up with the idea of the Summit, explained how it all came to be, over the last 18 months. He was originally filled with doubt, but when he approached Archbishop Prendergast, the Archbishop said, "you have to do this". So plans went into motion, and after gathering a large team of volunteers, they were underway. There was much concern, because registrations were slow coming in, however once they started, the conference was filled up in record time.

Archbishop Prendergast led us in prayer, and then was followed by the first speaker, Dr. Scott Hahn. Dr. Hahn reminded us that starting Dec.8,2015, Pope Francis has declared a "Year of Mercy", to mark 50 years since the closing of Vatican II. Pope Paul VI was the first Pope to re-establish evangelization, and travelled all over the world emphasizing it. He encouraged us to "inhale the Eucharist" and then go out and "breathe out the Spirit." John Paul II is the father of the New Evangelization. He emphasized that the Eucharist is the "source and summit of the New Evangelization." Dr. Hahn then quoted the Catechism of the Catholic Church #1229, which gives us the 3 points of Evangelization: 1.Evangelize, 2. Catechize, 3. Sacramentalize. He compared it all to Marriage which is the analogy of The Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

The next speaker, Ken Yasinski emphasized "Living with the end in mind." All we bring to heaven is our soul and the other souls we have affected. We are all called to be saints. The 4 principles of sainthood are: 1. Sainthood is now. 2. Sainthood is here. 3. Sainthood is for all. 4. Sainthood multiplies. God wants us to be a river, not a reservoir, letting our faith flow out to others, not keeping it all for ourselves.

Then we heard from JoEllen Gregus who told us about her ministry, "Light of the World Ministries", where teams go into parishes and give a weekend retreat, where the Kerygma is proclaimed, and people are called to an encounter with the Risen Christ. After the retreat, small groups are formed, for ongoing support, growth, and fellowship.

Dr. Ralph Martin started with quoting from the Encyclical "Redemptoris Missio" stating that the Church has as its aim the proclamation of the word of God. He continued to say that there is a force at work separating us from Jesus. Conversion is accomplished by making a personal decision for Christ. Our current culture is showing a hatred and mockery of Christ and the Church. We are facing the Final Confrontation between the Church and the anti-Christ (per John Paul II). We don't have to wait for our Pastors to ask us to act, we have been called through our Baptism. Vatican II states that we won't be saved by giving lip service to Jesus, we must act as well. We will be accountable for lost souls if we keep silent.

We then heard a personal testimony from Angele Sweeney, who is a full-time missionary with Catholic Christian Outreach.

Father Michael Gaitley talked about the Divine Mercy and the Marian Consecration (St. Louis de Montfort). He then gave us his personal testimony telling us of his journey from a California beachcomber to priest.

Father Simon Lobo of the Companions of the Cross then gave us his personal testimony.

Next was Father James Mallon, pastor of St. Benedict's parish in Halifax. He talked about his transformed parish, which was comprised of 3 parishes that amalgamated into one. He was blessed, in a way, because everyone, including himself, was new and starting from scratch. He spoke of the importance of small home based groups, and emphasized the tremendous impact that the Alpha program has had, and is continuing to have, on his parish. This is a 10 week program centered around a meal, where the initial proclamation of the Gospel is made, and small group discussions take place. After the program, the participants form small home groups for further study, discussion etc.

Patrick Coffin is the co-founder of Immaculata Pictures and host of the Catholic Answers Live radio show. He now lives in California, but is originally from Halifax. He spoke about how our country, Canada, was founded on Christian principles, and cited many examples from our coat of arms, constitution etc. where there are Biblically based sayings, etc. that really describe the essence of our country. What we are facing now is a great indifference amongst the people. We, the faithful, need to be equipped with the right answers to defend our faith.

Michael Dopp concluded the day by inviting us to attend the next Summit in 2016. He also recommended the Summer Institute of New Evangelization at St. Paul University, here in Ottawa, and he told us about `Relit`, an intensive set of talks, which he gives, to prepare participants to be active Evangelists in the Church.

We were also uplifted by the wonderful music ministry, and lots of good food.

**Jackie Cuthill, Spiritual Development Chair**

## LEAGUE DEVELOPMENT DAY

League Development Day was held at St. John the Apostle parish on Saturday, March 21, 2015. The focus was on our aboriginal sisters and included a Blanket Exercise from Kairos Canada, to teach about Canada's lands and colonization.



Left to right, some of our Council members attending League Development Day: Michele Hundertmark, June Thibault, Holly Huard (standing), Katherine Le Lievre, Lynn Lavictoire, and Rita Lemay.

### Scenes from the Blanket Exercise



## CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE

Over the course of the last 5 months, after having accepted the nomination to a standing committee chair, I have been on a learning curve about the workings of the CWL. Although in my 10th year as a CWL member, I have been a busy mom of 3, the youngest now entering his young adult life, and volunteering in other parish ministries that support family – in particular sacramental teaching, and supporting school-aged children in parish life. My only *brush* with our council has been as a volunteer for special events. In our recent survey to members, we heard that some of you want to know more about the responsibilities of CWL standing committee chairs. So did I. I'd like to share a little of what I'm learning about CFL (no, not the Canadian Football League) and some of the issues we are facing.

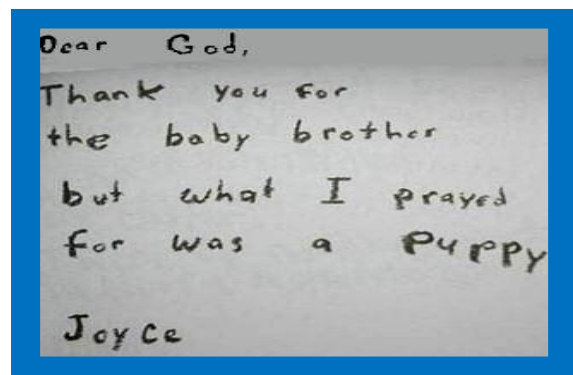
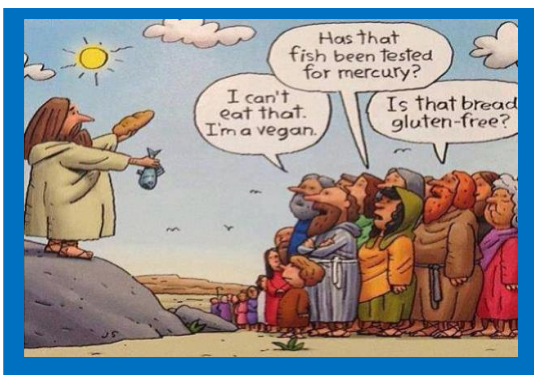
Christian Family Life Chair is an advocate and promoter of the Catholic World View as it pertains to the family, in particular: marriage and family, and sanctity of life. This would include promoting, supporting, and encouraging existing parish programs (or collaborating with other Catholic resources in the wider community) that may appeal to our members' needs/talents that address specific groups within our families and Catholic communities: youth, the disabled, seniors, widowed, separated and divorced, and vocations to the consecrated life. Many of our league members are doing great things in these areas.

So, what is a Catholic World View? How does one know if they share in that view? According to an article posted by Catholic View, "Developing a Catholic Worldview (and conscience!)" is something that takes much prayer, study, reception of grace through the sacraments, time and effort. (Catholic Heart and Mind, October 27, 2012).

<https://catholicview.wordpress.com/resources-for-catholics-and-other-inquiring-minds/catholic-worldview/>.

At this particular time we are facing a number of challenges to a Catholic state of well-being within our families and communities. We are entering prolife month in May and you are encouraged to be receptive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, to support prolife in prayer or attend any of the scheduled activities in Ottawa. In February 2015, the Ontario provincial government disclosed the New Ontario Physical and Sex Education Curriculum for implementation in the fall of 2015. Our Ontario Catholic educators are busy working with this curriculum, but not all may hold a Catholic worldview. Please pray for them as they prepare an appropriate Catholic curriculum.

In peace,  
*Katherine Le Lievre*  
Christian Family Life



## YOUR CWL EXECUTIVE 2015-2016

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**Spiritual Advisor** - Father Dennis Hayes, C.C.

## ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD PARISH

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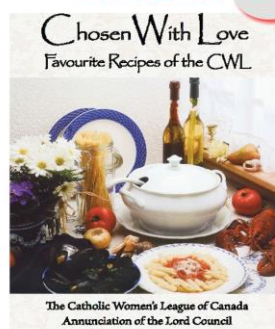
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Email: parish@annunciation-ottawa.com

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COOKBOOKS  
FOR SALE \$12.00



CWL cookbooks can be purchased  
through the church library before and  
after all weekend masses.

All proceeds from the sale of our cookbooks will be used to support our Syrian refugee family being sponsored by our parish. Tell your friends and family members!

## CWL LINKS

**National:** <http://www.cwl.ca> (Click on "Media" to see the latest newsletter and the "Be League" online magazine)

**Provincial:** <http://www.cwl.on.ca>

**Diocesan:** <http://www.ottawa.cwl.on.ca>