



*St. John Bosco Council*

# **Catholic Women's League**

*February, Volume 16, Issue 2*

## **Executive**

**Brooke Hayes**

President

**Alexandra Stansky**

President Elect

**Cecilia Fernandes**

VicePresident/Spiritual

**Nicole Lymburner**

Secretary

**Shelley Barabash**

Treasurer

**Joyce Labelle**

Past President

**Fr. Raja**

Spiritual Advisor

**STANDING**

**COMMITTEES**

**Sophia Kamau**

Organization

**Fay Henry**

Education

**Mariamama Nallo**

Health

**Coleen Jo**

Communications

**Kathy Schuster**

Card Ministry

**Susan Rengasamy**

## **President's Message**

My Sisters in Christ

I cannot say how truly blessed I feel to have had so many of our sisters step up to serve our council! Thank you to those who have felt the calling to serve officially as part of our executive as well as those who will continue to support as active members of our general membership, I know that I will appreciate the leadership, guidance and talents that everyone offers.

Thank you to our past council; **Barb O'Connor, Deborah Horn, Sophia Kamau, Nicole Lymburner, Coleen Jo, Fay Henry, Isabelle Nash, Mariama Nallo and Joyce Labelle**, I have found their guidance and passion to be truly inspiring. I am also so happy to welcome (and in many cases, welcome back) our new executive, **Alexandra Stansky, Joyce Labelle, Cecilia Fernandes, Nicole Lymburner, Shelly Barabash, Sophia Kamau, Fay Henry, Mariama Nallo, Coleen Jo, Susan Rengasamy and Kathy Schuster**. Our council is truly blessed to have such continual passion from our members!

This year, we have a rather unique experience in being able to celebrate Ash Wednesday on the same day that we traditionally celebrate romantic love. As we go into the season of Lent, let us also reflect on and share the joy and love that Jesus had for us and we have for our fellow mankind. We may even be able to sneak a few heart-shaped pancakes in for the children at St. Bonaventure School.

Our February meeting will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> this year. Because this meeting often falls during lent, we have moved away from a full "Chocolate Fest" meeting, instead having a slightly simpler offering. Please stay tuned for an update on the proceedings for this meeting.

God Bless!

**Brooke, Alexandra, Joyce, Cecilia, Nicole, Shelly, Sophia, Fay, Mariama, Coleen, Susan and Kathy**

## **Spiritual Reflection**

"Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then. Put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations, and say continually: "The Lord is my strength and my shield. My heart has trusted in Him and I am helped. He is not only with me but in me, and I in Him."

St. Francis de Sales

## Prayer Circle

Jane Musey - peace of mind, comfort, strength and healing - surgery is January 4

Mikael - healing, comfort, courage and strength. Praying for his family - Jolene(wife) and children - strength, comfort and peace during this difficult time.

Ludwina Crosby - healing, strength and comfort

Janet Sijo - healing and health

Elizabeth Strzelec - comfort, strength, peace of mind (breast cancer)

Colin Daly - comfort, strength, peace of mind (palliative)

Brooke Hayes - comfort, healing, abundant grace

Fran Huguenin - healing, comfort, peace

Syremko Family - health, financial resolutions

Francine Stewart - healing, strength, comfort ( back surgery)

Terry Lasek - peace of mind, courage, comfort and may our Lord carry her.

Jamie Lane - healing, comfort, peace of mind (cancer) and comfort and peace for the family

Doug Bioloo - Heart Surgery 31st January Health healing strength comfort and peace of mind.

Harwinder Kensray - cancer relapse after 7 years.

If you have a Prayer Circle request, please contact Maeve Crothers at [maeve.crow@gmail.com](mailto:maeve.crow@gmail.com) or by phone @ 780-473-1355.

## Card Ministry

Hello CWL Sisters,

The Card Ministry has been busy offering service by sending a Card to those in need. There have been 153 Cards sent out to those in need by the Card Ministry in 2017.

Birthday Cards are sent to CWL Sisters in Christ. Their Special Day is acknowledged with warm Birthday Wishes.

Thank You Cards, a special service or kindness is appreciated.

Encourage/Thinking of You to those facing a dark time in their lives in many areas. Family, Health, Work, Coping.

Get Well Cards to those recovering from Surgery or Illness.

Sympathy Cards to those who have lost a loved one. (Family/Friend).

Christmas Cards to our housebound Sisters in Christ.

Thank you, Sisters, for contacting the Card Ministry for all who would be comforted or strengthened by a Card holding them up in Prayer, expressing Caring, Hope, Sympathy and Love.

Thank you for your support of this heartwarming and meaningful Ministry.

God Bless your Day,

Your caring for those in need and an opportunity to send a Card on behalf of SJB CWL Sisters is very much appreciated.

Kathy S. 780-473-7860 or 780-975-6701 or [tastetestqueen@shaw.ca](mailto:tastetestqueen@shaw.ca)

## Upcoming Events

- **February 13, Tuesday: CWL making pancakes at the church at 8:45am.**
- **February 14, Wednesday; Ash Wednesday**
- **February 17/18, Saturday/Sunday: CWL Promotion**
- **February 21, Wednesday: CWL Mass/ meeting, rosary @ 6:40 pm., and Mass @ 7 pm.**

## Birthdays

I said a birthday prayer for you today; I wanted you to know that I asked the Lord to bless you so your faith will always grow. I prayed for you to feel His love at the start of each new day and to share His love with everyone you meet along the way. Happy Birthday wishes to our CWL Sisters who are celebrating a birthday in:

### February

Deborah Horn – February 12  
Phyllis Rainey – February 13  
Mariama Nallo – February 15  
Jocelyne Spilak – February 19  
Subina David – February 19  
Mary-Lynn Gantfoer – February 22  
Mary Leslie – February 23  
Edna Roy – February 23  
Daisy Massey – February 27  
Fran Hugenin – February 28  
Rose Auburn – February 28



May God Bless you on your very special day with Love, Joy and Happiness.

## Bouquet of Thanks

A very special **thank you** to Father Raja for his help and to our CWL Sisters who came forward to organize, shop for groceries, prepare, serve and clean up at our annual St. John Bosco Feast Day Celebration – Barb O'Connor, Eugenia Sieben, Phyllis Rainey, Edna Roy, Julia Joyal, Olga Piperno, Philomena Wong, Deborah Horn, Nicole Stansky, Kathy Hermanson, Coleen Jo and Joyce Labelle. It was a fantastic event of fellowship working with our Brother Knights – special thanks to Ed Sieben, Dennis Felts, Greg Gelasco and Martin Westly for their wonderful help. Thanks to Philomena Wong for the very delicious cake she created for this special feast day. The evening was enjoyed by so many parishioners, which created a true sense of St. John Bosco spirit being there.

Lymburner and Nicole Stansky for delivering these beautifully wrapped boxes to the seniors. Our heart and thanks go out to Nicole Stansky as she had just heard that her brother, Tom had passed that same day but she still wanted to help with this delivery. Our prayers are with her and the family.

**Thanks** so much to Marlene Hearn and Coleen Jo for organizing and helping serve the refreshments at our first Christmas caroling evening.

## Society of St. Vincent De Paul



St Vincent de Paul, All Saints' Conference of is a Catholic lay organization that assists the poor with food, housewares, furniture, and clothing. Our mission is to live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy. Our members thank the CWL for their generous financial contribution to our conference for the last several years. With this money we purchased items in short supply such as hand towels, tea towels, can openers, pots and pans. Our Clothing Room is always in need of gently used men's jeans (30 to 34-inch waist), underwear, socks, long johns, t-shirts and winter jackets. Presently we need volunteers to help with Food Hampers at St John Bosco Hall on Tuesday mornings and in the Clothing Room or Housewares area at the Distribution Centre on weekdays. Volunteer time could be 2 to 3 hours a month or more often if your time permits. If you have gently used furniture or housewares to donate, please email [ssvpdonations@gmail.com](mailto:ssvpdonations@gmail.com) to have your donations picked up. If you wish to volunteer or have any questions, please contact Marlene by email at [pres.allsaints@gmail.com](mailto:pres.allsaints@gmail.com) or 780-478-8325.

## Elections

At our January meeting we elected a new executive to lead our council through the years 2018 and 2019. God listened to all of our prayers and we have been blessed with a full slate on the executive. The following sisters have agreed to fill the positions.

**President** - Brooke Hayes

**President - Elect** - Alexandra Stansky

**Past President** - Joyce Labelle

**Vice President** - Cecilia Fernandes

**Secretary** - Nicole Lymburner

**Treasurer** - Shelly Barabash

**Standing committee** -

Sophia Kamau (organization)

Fay Henry

Mariama Nallo

Coleen Jo (newsletter)

Susan Rengasamy

Kathy Schuster (card ministry)

## Shrove Tuesday, February 13

Our council has been asked by St. Bonaventure School to help make pancakes for the annual Shrove Tuesday. Presently, Philomena Wong, Susan Rengasamy, Edna Roy and Manuelita Ikahara have offered to help. Father Raja is quite happy that our council is helping this school and he too will help after morning Mass. Our council will be making the **pancakes at the church starting at 8:45 am**. It would be ideal to have about 9 people participating. If you are interested in helping please contact Brooke at 780 886 9391 or [brooke@esaf.ca](mailto:brooke@esaf.ca) As well, please bring an electric griddle and flipper. Your generosity of your time is truly appreciated.

God of mercy,  
God of love,  
look on us with kindness  
as we turn our hearts to you.

Together as community  
we have received  
the blessing of ashes,  
--a sign of repentance  
and commitment to both  
personal and communal conversion.

Blessed are you  
for calling us now  
to all we are to become.

Be our strength  
as we seek to support one another  
in the Lenten journey we have begun.

Amen

(from The Benedictine Sisters of Erie)



**Spirit of the Living God,  
open our hearts and minds to experience the unconditional love of God.  
Empower us with the gifts of Your Spirit,  
so that we may respond to God's call in joyful service.  
Inspire and bless the members of the Catholic Women's League  
so that the fruits of Your Spirit may be evidences in all that we say and do.**

**Amen**

**And so, inspired by the Spirit, women respond to God's call, empowered by the gifts of the Spirit,  
invited to bear fruit. We are challenged in our councils to be loving, joyful women who work  
patiently for people, whose kindness and goodness touch the lives of all we encounter, who are  
faithful to the Gospel message and live lives of humility and self-control.**

**And we do it in joy!!**