



*St. John Bosco Council*

# **Catholic Women's League**

**January, Volume 16, Issue 1**

## **Executive**

**Joyce Labelle**

President

**Brooke Hayes**

President Elect

**Nicole Lymburner**

Secretary

**Deborah Horn**

Treasurer

**Barb O'Connor**

Past President

**Fr. Raja**

Spiritual Advisor

### **STANDING**

### **COMMITTEES**

**Sophia Kamau**

Organization

**Fay Henry**

Education

**Mariamanna Nallo**

Health

**Isabelle Nash**

Resolutions

**Coleen Jo**

Communications

## **President's Message**

**Happy New Year my Sister,**

***"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice.***

*Philippians 4:4*

On behalf of this executive, I extend to you a very joyous, peace filled greetings for this New Year. Let us begin this year, knowing that there are NO limits to God's love for each of us. We have been blessed with so many graces, which brings so much hope to our hearts.

I am very blessed to be part of this league, belonging to women who love to serve by being the hands and feet of our Lord. I see faith in action when we come together in friendship and fun at our various activities – helping at our parish spaghetti supper, celebrating our council's 35th anniversary, working with St. Bonaventure school for the lunch program through the Dreams for Kids program, visiting Mother Katherine (Carmelite Nuns), helping the Knights at the church picnic and distribution of the food hampers, attending CWL meeting and conventions, helped with hosting at the CWL Provincial convention, letter writing to different levels of government, attending the "Lost Apostle" play, hosting the CWL Zone 9 dinner/meeting, helping the parish to serve refreshments at confirmation and the Christmas caroling, wearing of our sashes to promote the league, making pies, attending the Altar of Repose, hosting the "New to You" Clothing Sale and our annual bazaar (members are generous with all the donations of baking and raffle items), awarding our youth with scholarships, visiting and sending cards to our members, sending prayer requests, providing funds to support our parish priest, our deacon, our seminarian, our adopt a family and financially supporting non-profit agencies such as No Room in the Inn, Back Porch, Refugee bags, Marian Center, Mustard Seed, Hope Mission, Carmelite Nuns, St. Benedict's Chapel, Call of the Poor, Nickels for the North, Guatemala Mission, St. Vincent DePaul, Dreams for Kids, Wings, Development and Peace, Coady Institute and St. Elizabeth Seton snack program. WOW!! Our council is very active!

As well, our Sisters serve with the gift of their time to fold parish bulletins, teach and assist with the RCIA and RCIC classes, serve as readers, Eucharistic ministers and part of the choirs at weekend Masses and take on leaderships roles within our parish. Each of us are fulfilling God's will in an extraordinary way by living as a Christian CWL Sister – sharing this love and passion with joy!

It has been my privilege to be the president of this council. I have been blessed with your prayers and inspired by your passion. What a beautiful journey this has been for myself and for each of the Sisters who have served on this executive for the last 2 years.

Our council will have our upcoming elections this month– this is so very exciting! Please consider and take this opportunity to let your name stand for a position on this executive council. The blessings and the rewards are so abundant – you will be given much support and with Brooke Hayes as our new president this 2-year term will be full of new and wonderful experiences in your own faith journey.

In closing, I am very thankful to each of **YOU** who truly know the importance of being a woman responding to God’s call and letting the Holy Spirit inspire us to serve with love and true joy!!

God bless you and your family!

*Joyce, Barb, Brooke, Sophia, Nicole, Deborah, Coleen, Isabelle, Fay and Mariama*

### **Spiritual Reflection**

***“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”*** Isaiah 43: 18 & 19

***“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercy never comes to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”*** Lamentations 3: 22 & 23

A new year begins, fresh and waiting to be filled. What will we fill it with: the old – memories of hurt, woundedness, anger, selfishness or new – setting aside past failures, hurts and turning a new page with resolve to do it better? As Christians we know that it is always possible to begin again for God’s mercy and love are boundless. All that is needed is a contrite heart and a resolve to work to be better.

### **Prayer for a New Beginning**

Lord,

At the beginning of this new day, I offer you my life.

Come take my voice, may the words I speak be filled with encouragement and goodness.

Come take my hands, may the work they create be generous and giving.

Come take my feet, may the journeys I walk be led by your Spirit within.

Come take my life Lord, for I love your goodness, your kindness and your leading.

Amen.

Read more:

[http://www.prayerscapes.com/FilmPages/prayer\\_for\\_new\\_beginning.html#ixzz52gkgepEE](http://www.prayerscapes.com/FilmPages/prayer_for_new_beginning.html#ixzz52gkgepEE)

## Prayer Circle

Repose of Soul

+Bernard Rivard - praying for the repose of his soul. Comfort, strength and peace for his family (his sister - Edna Roy).

+Tom Desaulniers - Repose of Soul, comfort strength and peace for his family (his sister Nicole Stansky)

+ Anthony Joseph William (Repose of Soul) and for his family- Susan Rengasamy William and family Extended

William Dueck - Health healing strength and peace of mind (brother of Julia Joyal)

Donna Deboer - sister of Louise Smith

Olga Veloza and for her family - surgery - this is our CWL adopted family

Autumn Machney – needs multiple eye surgeries (Deborah Horn's great-niece)

Rose Auburn – Strength, comfort and peace of mind

Elaine Tenley – in Stollery with a kidney infection

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

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

- **January 17<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday:** our CWL Mass/Meeting and Elections starting at 6:40 pm with the rosary, followed by Mass and Meeting
- **January 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>, Saturday/Sunday:** CWL Promotion Weekend
- **January 27<sup>th</sup>, Saturday:** St. John Bosco Feast Day Celebration with spaghetti supper after the 5:00 pm Mass.
- **February 3<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday:** Edmonton Diocesan Mid-Winter Meeting at St. Thomas More

## 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:

### January

Cheryl Boom – January 5  
Carliss Glover – January 9  
Doreen Allen – January 10  
Brooke Hayes – January 11  
Joyce Labelle – January 13  
Christina DeJesus – January 19  
Maria Czarar – January 21  
Aurora Labarda – January 23



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

## Bouquet of Thanks

**Thank you** to our current executive – Barb O'Connor, Brooke Hayes, Nicole Lymburner, Deborah Horn, Sophia Kamau, Coleen Jo, Fay Henry, Mariama Nallo and Isabelle Nash for their service for this council for the last two years. It has been a very fantastic journey as we all work together in proclaiming the good news.

**Thank you** to Kathy Schuster as chair of our Card Ministry. **Thanks** to Olga Piperno, Dolor Pigarowa and Phyllis Rainey for supporting our council as the phoning committee. **Thanks** to Maeve Crothers as our chair of our CWL Prayer Circle Ministry. As well, **thank you** to Edna Roy and Barb O'Connor for chairing the funeral luncheons. These ministries are very special ways to connect with our members and to share the good news of the gospel with people who are need of hope, compassion, love and true joy.

**Thanks** to Barb O'Connor and Joyce Labelle for organizing the items for the adopt a family and thanks to our members who wrapped the gifts. This year's Adopt-a-Family – Olga and her children Julian, Isabella and Paula and Olga's mom were truly excited and very humbled when the gifts and food were brought to their home. They were so very grateful for the presents, food, and the gift card and for our prayers. As well, thanks to Olive and Jim Brown who blessed this family with a lovely lit Christmas tree – what beautiful gestures of love.

**Thank you** to each member who attended our special Christmas dinner/social. We were blessed to have Father Raja, Theresa, Mia and members of the RCIA program join us for the evening. Happy

Catering created a very beautiful supper (everyone enjoyed the food) and the wonderful game organized by Barb and Brooke brought a lot of fun and laughter. Thanks to Barb O'Connor, Nicole Lymburner and Deborah Horn for generously donating the "gifts" for this game.

The true highlight of the evening was the creation of **60 shoeboxes** for the seniors at the McCauley Operations Friendship Senior Society. WOW!!! Thanks be to God – for it was truly a miracle that we were able to make that many shoeboxes. As well, a bouquet of **thanks** to Barb O'Connor, Nicole 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.

Our council would like to extend a **HUGE THANK YOU** to **Coleen Jo** for creating a wonderful newsletter 10 times within a year. The amount of time and talent is immeasurable - creating and editing the newsletter, sending this as fan out email (making sure that all emails are correct) and then copying newsletters and mailing these to our precious members who have no email. There are not many councils who have this special opportunity of communication each month. Please let each of us give Coleen a hug and a thank you when you see her – we are blessed to have this Sister who serves with passion.

## Our Adopted Seminarian

Our council's seminarian, James Schnitzel has sent a special message

*"Dear Sisters in Christ,*

*I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for the kind Christmas wishes and prayers. May God bless you all abundantly this Advent season as we continue to await the coming of our Lord and may you all have a happy and joy-filled new year."*

Let us keep James and the other seminarians in our prayers and continue to pray for vocations.

## 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.

## Budget

Our council will have the opportunity to review the new budget. Deborah Horn has been instrumental in guiding our council's finances and we are so very grateful to her for her expertise and knowledge. Deborah will present the new budget and we, as a council will have the opportunity to discuss it at our January General meeting.

## Elections

### SJB CWL ELECTION NOMINATION COMMITTEE:

Barb O'Connor and Kathy Schuster, acting as your Election Nomination Committee, would like to thank all CWL Sisters very much.

The dedication you have shown toward choosing and submitting the names of those you feel have much to offer Council were very well thought out.

The Committee are now in the process of organizing those names and matching them with the positions they have been Nominated for.

Early in the New Year the Nomination Committee will be contacting those Sisters, informing them of the positions their Sisters have Nominated them for and ascertaining which position may be of interest to them and in letting their name stand.

All are encouraged to really think and Pray on their decision before declining, if that is what first comes to mind. All will then be contacted again in a few days if Nomination Committee have not heard back. They respect all decisions and only wish to be informed.

The Sisters who have let their name stand for various positions will be presented the evening of Wednesday January 17th, CWL Meeting and Election evening.

God Bless and guide you,

Barb O & Kathy S

SJB CWL Election Nomination Committee

## St. John Bosco Celebration/Feast Day – January 27th

Our parish will be celebrating our Patron Saint with the annual spaghetti supper which will be held on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> after the 5 pm Mass. This event is a wonderful opportunity for this parish to come together as family to celebrate. Also, it takes many hands to organize and prepare so if you are able to help with the preparation on Friday, January 26 (starting at 3 pm – making the sauce), please contact Joyce @ 780 475 5886.

## CWL Mid-Winter Meeting – Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>

This year's meeting will be held at St. Thomas More (210 Haddow Close) in Edmonton. Registration will begin at 8:30 am with the call to order at 9:00 am. Our council will cover the registration fee of \$20 and the deadline for registration is January 26<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Brooke – email [brooke@esaf.ca](mailto:brooke@esaf.ca) or call 780 886 9391 if you are interested in attending.

## A New Year's Prayer

*Lord, You make all things new  
You bring hope alive in our hearts  
And cause our Spirits to be born again.*

*Thank you for this new year  
For all the potential it holds.  
Come and kindle in us  
A mighty flame  
So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God  
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.*

**Amen**

*(A modern prayer for the New Year from [www.lords-prayer-words.com](http://www.lords-prayer-words.com))*

Read more: [http://www.lords-prayer-words.com/times/new\\_year\\_prayer.html#ixzz52ua9A5cP](http://www.lords-prayer-words.com/times/new_year_prayer.html#ixzz52ua9A5cP)



**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!!**