



# Catholic Women's League

## St. Joseph's Parish Highland Creek Council

March & April 2008

### *President's Message*

Lucia Vacca (416) 283-3536

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Spiritual Advisor

Lucia Vacca  
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Jean Fernandes  
Spiritual Development

Marguerite Civello  
Resolutions &  
Legislation

Costanza De Luca  
Education & Health

Anne Marie Callender  
Community Life

Mary Tuccitto  
Christian Family Life

Clare Gotera  
Communications

Gloria Gross  
Past President &  
Historian

We have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend many Lenten retreats here at St. Joseph's: 3 day retreat, Lenten Day of Reflection (Serra Club), Prayer Group Lenten Missions, Toronto Archdiocesan Development Day, Scarborough Region Lenten Retreat etc... to give us a deeper understanding, meaning of what our faith and the opportunity to hear God's word in a new way. As we go through this Lenten time to Easter, we are reminded of the Passion of Jesus and how much God loves us to sacrifice His only Son for us. We need to open ourselves to the Spirit of God to be able to fast, pray, forgive, give to others, take a stand, be present, have compassion, get rid of resentments, have humility, be patience, have perseverance, be obedient....all this to remind ourselves to Love God and our Neighbours.

One of the songs, I believe captures the depth of our faith is a song called "Amazing Love." It reminds us that we must work to honor God in all that we do; do it with Love for One Another.

*Amazing love, how can it be  
That you, my King would die for me?  
Amazing love, I know it's true:  
It's my joy to honor you.  
In all I do I honor you.*

The St. Joseph CWL Executive Team 2007-2008 has been working closely together incorporating our little way to have "faith, friendship and fun". We have built a strong team in order to have interesting meetings, events and opportunities for you to join in and participate. There will be many upcoming events before the end of this year, so join in to build friendships and have fun. Your involvement and participation is what keeps St. Joseph's CWL strong.

May you see the love in others and let them know that they are loved in return.  
God Bless you and your families this Easter.

*Welcome to our new members* Ingrid Hart, Cecile Jones and Denise Van Veen

***Toronto Archdiocesan Development Day; Saturday, February 23rd***

The Development Day was held at the Portuguese Cultural Centre, 767 Simcoe Road in Bradford. 5 members represented St. Joseph's: Eileen D'Souza, Winifred Martin, Anne Rode, Lucia Vacca and Margaret Wilton.

The day began with Mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. Damian Ali, Archdiocesan Spiritual Director, followed by a light breakfast.

The Theme for the day was 'Love One Another'. The day's program was facilitated by Susan Hook Kong-Taylor and Ann Da Costa and focused on the story of the Prodigal Son.

The program ended with personal dedication of members to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

***Scarborough Regional Meeting; Thursday, March 27, 2008***

Every CWL member is invited to attend this meeting. It will be held at St. Barnabas Parish, 10 Washburn Way, Scarborough (Sheppard - east of Markham Road). Mass is at 7:00 p.m. meeting to follow. Give us a call to carpool Lucia Vacca or Winifred Martin.

***CWL Leadership Course***

CWL Leadership course is scheduled to run in April and May 2008.

Dates for the course are as follows:

April 5, 12, 19, 26 and May 3 & 10 in Room 2 at St. Joseph's Parish from 9:30 to 12:30.

The course is **FREE OF CHARGE** to all members of St. Joseph's CWL. The presentations are a lot of fun and presented in an atmosphere of friendliness camaraderie. Participants will find that the course enhances their communications skills in all areas, whether at home, at the workplace or at the parish. It builds understanding and knowledge of the workings of the League and gives members a deeper appreciation for the work done at every level of the CWL. An added bonus of doing this course is the confidence you will gain to speak in public.

You are encouraged to take this course, and we hope you will avail of this opportunity to do it on home ground. Please call Winifred Martin to register for the course

***Our Lady of Good Counsel Mass & New Members Celebration ; Friday, April 25, 2008***

Mass will be at 7:30 p.m. celebrated by our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. David Okenyi. On this special evening of prayer and celebration, we will officially welcome 14 new members to the St. Joseph's CWL

After the Mass, refreshments will be served in the Hall. Your contributions of goodies to this event are welcome. For further information, call Lucia Vacca or Winifred Martin.

***87<sup>th</sup> Toronto Archdiocesan Convention; Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>***

This annual event will take place at the Sheraton Parkway Hotel (600 Hwy #7 East at Leslie) in Richmond Hill on May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The theme is "Love one Another."

This is an opportunity for you to discover more about the League, meet members of other councils and learn what other Regions are doing.

Deadline for registration is April 20. For more information or to register, please call Winifred Martin at an early date. Members attending the convention will have 50% of the cost met by our council

## ***CWL Annual Brunch – Sunday, May 25th***

Mark your calendars! Tickets will be on sale soon! Look for Posters in the Narthex.

This event is to be held at Sisters Restaurant at 10:30 a.m. We have arranged for a speaker from Rosalie Hall to be part of this very popular event. More information on this event will be forth coming. For tickets call Mary Tuccitto or Clare Gotera.

**\*\*\*\*Notice: Due to scheduling conflicts with this year's Toronto Archdiocesan CWL Convention, May's General Meeting is being re-scheduled to Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.\*\*\*\***

## ***Spiritual Development***

Jean Fernandes

(416) 281-4182

## ***CWL Scarborough Region – “Lenten Retreat” February 25th***

This event was held at Annunciation Church beginning with Rosary at 6:30 followed by Mass and then the Lenten Reflection. CWL ladies from the Scarborough Region attended this event. St. Joseph's CWL was represented by Anne Rode, Lucia Vacca, Rose Joseph and Margaret Wilton. Deacon Ramon Villardo gave his talk on “God's Love, the driving force of all life in time and eternity.” The message given was that, every one of us needs love. Love is what leads to mercy, compassion, joy and peace. To Love is to Sacrifice. Faith without action is dead faith. With God there is nothing impossible. Love is the gift when we can see the face of God in others.

## ***World Day of Prayer: Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>***

This year St. Joseph's Catholic Church hosted this annual event. The theme was: ***God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding***, written by the Women in Guyana. This service was a huge success. All nine churches in our area who participate were well represented. We had approximately 250 people in attendance. Mr. Noel Denny was our guest speaker and Mr. Maurice Serrao entertained us with folk music and songs from Guyana. The spiritual reflection was given by Ms. Allison Covey, Pastoral Associate, and the music was provided by the Prayer Group's Music Ministry. A DVD was shown while many enjoyed the vast variety of food specialties contributed from the Guyanese community. The hall was colorfully decorated with exhibits from Guyana, and positive feedback was forthcoming. The various Church ministries of St. Joseph's came together to foster support and unity. For more information on Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada go to [www.wicc.org](http://www.wicc.org).

## ***Relic of St. Anthony of Padua***

Please be informed that the precious relic of St. Anthony of Padua from the Basilica will be traveling to Toronto and Burlington. You may attend the service in Toronto on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at the Franciscan Church of St. Bonaventure, 1300 Leslie Street, south of Lawrence. You are invited to come and ask for his intercession for more than the loss of material things, but also for those who have lost peace of mind or who have lost a sense of direction.

## ***Mass for Fr. David's Sister***

All CWL members are informed that the 5:00pm Mass on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, is being offered for the repose of the soul of Caroline Mbah, sister of Fr. David.

## ***Lift Jesus Higher Rally***

Renewal Ministries 16<sup>th</sup> Evangelization Event, the popular Life Jesus Higher Rally takes place on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> 2008 at the North Building of Metro Toronto Convention Centre, 255 Front Street, West. Adult tickets are \$18 each and Youth \$8. We encourage everyone to attend this inspiring and most uplifting Rally.

## ***Year of Saint Paul***

On June 28, Pope Benedict plans to inaugurate the “Year of St. Paul” which will feature liturgies, conferences and ecumenical encounters in Rome and around the world. The Pope wants modern Christians to draw inspiration from the apostle's missionary energy, and that's a theme he will be talking about in the coming months.

***Proposals to Be Presented at Toronto Convention***

We have recently been advised that two topics were submitted to the Archdiocesan Executive Council for presentation to the 2008 Toronto Archdiocesan Annual Convention.

They are:

Toronto A/D 08.01: Put the breaks on Speeding — Regulating Speed Limiters and Speedometers  
*Presented by Holy Spirit Parish, Northern Region*

Toronto A/D 08.02: Help to Address Poverty by Increasing Availability of Tax Credits for Low Income Couples.  
*Presented by St. Gertrude's Parish, Durham Region*

Anyone of us with information to share on any of these topics is welcome to forward it to Resolutions Sub-Convener Imelda Santos, Toronto Archdiocesan Council or directly to the council that proposed the topic.

We as members and as councils must continue to act by writing letters and educating our government leaders if we want these resolutions to be effective and accomplish their purpose. We must respect the time and effort put by concerned members into these resolutions to be a voice and to make a difference for those who are not capable of doing so.

We all must do our little part.

***Education & Health***

Costanza De Luca

(416) 284-5350

***Toronto Archdiocesan Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest; Sunday, April 6th***

At Precious Blood Parish, 1737 Lawrence Ave. E., Scarborough at 1:00 p.m. This event is open to everyone. Your support is appreciated especially from the students.

***St. Michael's College Scholarship***

The Toronto Archdiocesan CWL is accepting applications for St. Michael's College Scholarship (University of Toronto). Any young woman completing her secondary education who will be attending St. Michael's College for her first choice for post-secondary education may apply. The Scholarship now consists for a Bursary of \$2000. **Application Deadline is April 15th, 2008.** Call Costanza De Luca for applications and information.

***Jean McCann Service Award***

Each year the St. Joseph's Parish Catholic Women's League is encouraged to participate in the Jean McCann Service Award /Youth. This award is a tribute to Jean McCann, an inspirational CWL Life Member. It is offered to confirmed Catholic youth ages 15-18 who have shown service to others, involvement in the community and have used their talents by taking the gospel message seriously.

We are very pleased to report that we have a nomination from our Youth and will report on this further once we know the outcome as the nomination as it has been submitted to the next level for evaluation and consideration.

The winner will be invited to attend the Toronto Archdiocesan Annual Convention. A plaque will be presented as well as, a cheque of \$100.00. This award is being offered by the CWL Toronto Archdiocesan Council. Let's keep our fingers crossed!

***Earth Day April 22, 2008***

Please join this year's clean up events to beautify the city. On April 18th, we are asked to spend 20 minutes cleaning our yards and neighborhoods. On April 19th, join Mayor David Miller in cleaning up downtown Toronto. Let's beautify our city.

**Earth Hour:** Are you interested on participating in global action for our planet? It is so simple, you just agree to turn off your lights for one hour on March 29 from 8-9 pm. Together we can send a powerful message about saving our planet.

***Foster Child Project***

We asked and you responded to the call about Fighting Child Poverty.

The consolidated information reveals that our members are involved in Fighting Child Poverty! There are 20 (twenty) children sponsored by our CWL members. Support is provided to children in countries such as Bangladesh, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Mexico, Philippines, Tanzania and Zambia.

We have wrapped up this survey and will be forwarding the information to the CWL National Community Life Chair.

Child poverty is a global problem and we will continue to pray for this to be reduced.

***Community Life Project for Toronto Archdiocese***

On Monday, January 14, 2008, St Joseph's CWL hosted a community event on ***"Raising Awareness about Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS)/ Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) Fibromyalgia (FM) – What you want to know but can't find a doctor to ask."***

This event provided a real life connection between one of our CWL resolutions, resolution 98.06 Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome) to urge the federal government through the ministers of health and finance to provide funding for research to find the cause and a cure for Myalgic Encephalomyelitis.

Dr Alison Bested was the speaker/presenter as she is a renowned specialist in this field and has been dedicated to finding a solution over the last 17 years. She is the author of "Hope and Help for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Fibromyalgia".

The event was well attended with approximately 100 people. A book signing session took place. We have had a large number of members give us very positive feedback.

We have selected, submitted and reported on this event as our Community Life Project for the Toronto Archdiocesan Convention in May. We will have a display along with other Scarborough Region Parishes and their Community Life Projects.

**Where to Find Help?**

Environmental Health Clinic at Women's College Hospital (416) 351-3764

Dr. Bested's Office (416) 283-0007 [www.thedoctors.ca](http://www.thedoctors.ca) - educational support group

ME Association of Ontario (416) 222-8820 or [www.meao-cfs-on.ca](http://www.meao-cfs-on.ca)



St. Joseph's CWL President, Lucia Vacca, receives a signed copy of Dr. Bested's book.

### ***Spiritual Bouquets For 2008 Ordinandi***

A big Thank You to all who participated in the collection of the Spiritual Bouquets for the Ordinandi class of 2008. Our numbers were astounding! We more than doubled last year's count with 649 masses, 683 Communion, 601 Rosaries, 144 Stations of The Cross, 168 Eucharistic Adorations, 1094 Prayers and 300 "other". A grand total of 3,639 offerings. We are truly blessed. The total number of offerings presented at the Ordinandi Dinner by the CWL of the Archdiocese of Toronto was in excess of 256,310. Our prayers are powerful.

### ***National March for Life***

A National March for Life is being organized for May 8<sup>th</sup>. 2008 in Ottawa and it has been proposed that councils across Canada who are unable to attend the national march go to their provincial legislatures on that date and participate in the March for Life. I will be receiving more information on this worthy cause and will pass it on as it becomes available.

### ***St. Joseph's Youth Group***

Our dynamic St. Joseph's Youth Group will be hosting the Regional Mass for all the other youth groups in our neighboring parishes on Sunday March 30<sup>th</sup>. at 7:00P.M. Fr. Edwin Gonsalves will be the celebrant with a reflection and reception to follow. All youth of the parish are encouraged to attend.

### ***Sanctity of Life – Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide***

We have available to our members a video DVD entitled "*Turning The Tide: Fighting for our Lives*" dealing with the above subject. Due to the length of this movie we are unable to show it at our CWL General Meeting at this time however, you may borrow it if you wish. Please give me a call.

## ***Communications***

Clare Gotera (416) 855-7243

### ***Update on Bill C-2, Crime Bill***

I am pleased to inform you that on February 28, 2008 we welcomed the Royal Assent of the *Tackling Violent Crime Act* (Bill C-2), which makes changes to Canada's *Criminal Code* that will better protect Canadians against those who commit serious and violent crimes.

The new law strengthens the *Criminal Code* in the following five areas:

- Tougher mandatory jail time for serious gun crimes;
- New bail provisions which require that those accused of serious gun crimes show why they shouldn't be kept in jail while awaiting trial;
- *Better protection for youth from adult sexual predators by increasing the age of protection for sexual activity from 14 years to 16 years;*
- More effective sentencing and monitoring to prevent dangerous, high-risk offenders from offending again; and
- New ways to detect and investigate drug-impaired driving and stronger penalties for impaired driving.

Our voices have been heard and we are especially thankful that our children are better protected.

### ***"Bella" Coming to Canada***

A movie anticipated by pro-lifers is set to make it's debut in Canada. According to producer, Leo Severino, *Bella* is scheduled for release between the middle of March and the first week of April in most major cities of Canada. For information on dates and movie theaters, please visit [www.bellamoviesite.com](http://www.bellamoviesite.com) Check back if there are no updates for Canada, or see your local movie theatre for show time details.

### ***Book Review: "I Chose God"***

Many of us know of someone in our families or friends, that has had a teenage struggle with the difficulties of life, especially those which are harder on kids such as divorce, tragic events and moral issues. *I Chose God* is geared towards young people in high school and post secondary to help them tackle such issues. A recent review in the Catholic Register raves that this is a book worth reading as it expresses the message that our Church always has its doors open to everyone seeking advice and calm from troubles.

### *Calling Out For Notes on Our History!*

There are a number of members who have been in the St. Joseph's CWL for years and have experienced many occasions of what our current Executive calls "Faith, Friendship and Fun". We would love to hear from you to get a glimpse of what the CWL was all about in the past, why you joined, or what CWL means to you. Give us a short paragraph, a note or a full story. These stories will be incorporated into a booklet to commemorate our St. Joseph's CWL 55th Anniversary Celebration this November. You can drop them off in the CWL Box in the Narthex or at the St. Joseph's Office – addressed CWL

### *From the Communications desk:*

Websites for your consideration:

[www.catholicskyhost.com](http://www.catholicskyhost.com) This website is a non-profit media that offers website hosting, FM quality audio streaming for Catholic organizations, local communities and parishes.

[www.internet101.ca](http://www.internet101.ca) Offers an educator's guide to Internet safety

### *In Other News...*

Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary: *Best Wishes* to all our Members celebrating these special occasions during the months of March and April. God Bless!

#### *For the Deceased*

*Pray for our Deceased Sisters and Family Members*

*Our Sincere Sympathies to Fr. David Okenyi (Sister) Anne Rode (Brother) and Anna Falotico (Husband)*

*Eternal rest, grant unto to them and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.*

#### Continue to Pray for Good Health

To our CWL Sisters who are not well, be assured that you are in our prayers and may Our Lady of Good Counsel keep you in her care. Please say a special prayer for our CWL members and their families who are not well. If you know of anyone who is ill, please call Lucia Vacca.

#### Items for Purchase:

CWL Blue Scarves \$23.00      CWL Name Tags \$3.50      *Madonna Pins \$10.00 (NEW)*

CWL Insignia Pin \$4.00      Windshield Decal \$2.00

Call Lucia Vacca if you are interested in purchasing any of these items.

## *Dates to Remember*

### **March**

Thursday 27 Scarborough Region Meeting, St. Barnabas, 7pm

### **April**

Saturday 5 CWL Leadership Course - 9:30 – 12:30 (Room 2)

Sunday 6 Public Speaking Contest, Precious Blood Parish, 1pm

Saturday 12 CWL Leadership Course - 9:30 – 12:30 (Room 2)

Sunday 13 CWL Mass and Welcome Sunday

Monday 14 General Meeting – Rosary 7:10 Meeting 7:30

Saturday 19 CWL Leadership Course - 9:30 – 12:30 (Room 2)

Friday 25 Our Lady of Good Counsel Mass/New Members Ceremony – 7:30 p.m. St. Joseph's  
Mass and Reception

Saturday 26 CWL Leadership Course - 9:30 – 12:30 - Hall

### **May**

Saturday 3 CWL Leadership Course - 9:30 – 12:30 – (Room 2)

Saturday 10 CWL Leadership Course - 9:30 – 12:30 – (Room 2)

Sunday 11 CWL Mass - PENTACOST & Mother's Day

Mon/Tues 12 & 13 87<sup>th</sup> Toronto Archdiocesan Convention

Tuesday 20 General Meeting – Rosary 7:10 Meeting 7:30

Sunday 25 CWL Brunch at Sisters 10:30 a.m. - Speaker

### **June**

Sunday 8 CWL Mass and Welcome Sunday

Monday 9 Social – Pot Luck Dinner – Hall – 7:00 p.m.

Friday 13 Setup Hall for Heritage Day 2:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Saturday 14 Heritage Day –Parade, Plant Sale, Tea Room etc... 9:30 – 3:00 p.m.

### **July 5-9**

61<sup>st</sup> Provincial Convention – Arnprior, Ontario

### **August 10-13**

88<sup>th</sup> National Convention – Winnipeg, Manitoba

### **September**

Monday 8 General Meeting — Rosary 7:10, Meeting 7:30

List of Members for Nominations for new Executives & Responsibilities

Sunday 14 CWL Mass and Welcome Sunday

Sunday 14 Rosary Sunday – Midland Martyr Shrine