



Catholic Women's League

St. Joseph's Parish Highland Creek Council

Newsletter for March & April 2009

Spiritual Advisor	Fr. David Okenyi
President	Mary Tuccitto
Organization & Membership	Eileen D'Souza
Treasurer	Raffaella Civello
Secretary	Marianne Civello
Spiritual Development	Anne Marie Callender
Resolutions & Legislation	Patsy Jordan
Education & Health	Danielle Giggie
Community Life	Erika Cabrera Vale
Christian Family Life	
Communications	Denise Van Veen
Past President & Historian	Lucia Vacca

Spiritual Advisor *Fr. David Okenyi*

GROWING IN THE SPIRIT OF LENT

Another holy season of Lent has come upon us. Majority of Christians have been thinking of how to make the best of this Lenten Season.

The best use of the season is to be involved in acts that will make us closer to God - our love of God and neighbour. The usual theme for Lent, as we know, is always fasting and penance. I believe that the most meritorious acts of fasting and penance are to focus on the inner self and not on the outer - fasting from food and drink, etc. As the prophet Joel would say: "...tear your hearts and not your clothes..."

The Justice and Peace "Newsletter" of February 2007 puts it very clearly: "We should fast from discontent and feast on gratitude; fast from anger and feast on patience; fast from worry and feast on faith; fast from complaining and feast on appreciation; fast from bitterness and feast on forgiveness; fast from self-centeredness and feast on compassion for others; fast from lethargy and feast on enthusiasm; fast from emphasis on differences and feast on recognizing unity; fast from unsettling anxiety and feast on inner peace; fast from half-heartedness and feast on commitment."

Each and every one of us knows where our personal problems lie, as the saying goes that the person who wears the shoe knows where it pinches. Let us avail ourselves of the opportunity of this holy season that calls us to repentance, change, and renewal. St. Paul has a good advice for all of us - an advice he gave as we started this Lenten season on Ash Wednesday (second reading): "*See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!*"

President's Message *Mary Tuccitto*

As I sit down to write my message, I am inspired by how fortunate we are as St. Joseph's parishioners. We belong to a very alive and vibrant parish community. Not all Churches have the active and well supported ministries that we do, not to mention the genuine feeling of community and welcome as we enter the doors. Our CWL sisters and their families play an important role in many of these ministries and still they "come out to play". I know for me, as like many of you, the more you give, the more you get and the more involved you become, the happier you are. So, I encourage you to get involved and take advantage of the various activities planned and if you haven't been to a CWL General Meeting lately, come out and see what the buzz is all about. You will not be disappointed. These first two

months of our new executive have flown by. We have been busy with many projects and there is no end in sight.

Our General Meetings are well attended and informative. We have interesting and well appointed reports from all our Standing Committee Chairs and our membership is growing with 166 to date. I am also proud to report that we have had and will continue to have, speakers at every meeting. These speakers are our own CWL sisters who are willing to share their God given talents to educate us on various topics. I challenge you all to look in the mirror and see that you are priceless in God's eyes and have great potential. Love yourself and let **your** hidden talents shine. This is one of my goals for my term from 2009-2010.

March – April is a special time. We are entering Lent where we have an opportunity to reflect and renew and soon after, come the painful realization of our Lord's crucifixion for our sins, followed by the joy in the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I wish you and your families a blessed Easter Season and we look forward to your involvement and participation at our upcoming events, in particular Heritage Day.



Installation Ceremony for Executive Team 2009-2010 January 12, 2009

L to R (Gloria Gross, Mary Tuccitto, Lucia Vacca, Eileen D'Souza, Patsy Jordan, Erika Cabrera Vale, Raffaella Civello, Denise Van Veen, Anne-Marie Callender) Absent: Marianne Civello & Danielle Giggie

Organization & Membership

Eileen D'Souza

Welcome to New members/Returning & Transfers in from other Parishes

Charmaine D'Souza, Ann Marie Belcastro, Maureen Noble, Yolande Fernandes, Gabriel Van Veen, Svitlana Hare, Sandra Ramdial & Auriel Cordeiro

Toronto Archdiocesan Development Day – Saturday – Feb 21st, 2009

This year 21 ladies from St. Joseph's CWL attended a Pilgrimage of 3 St. Paul's Churches. It was a spirit filled day with informative tours of the churches, in Toronto, Mississauga and Alliston. The day progressed with a meditative rosary and mass which was celebrated by Archbishop Thomas Collins at St. Paul's Basilica, Toronto. A video on St. Paul and his early years as a Christian at St. Peter & Paul Church and ended with the Divine Mercy Rosary, meditation and Exposition of the blessed Sacrament. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet and fellowship with approx. 600 members of the League from Toronto.

Angel Luncheon – 95th Anniversary Rosalie Hall

Rosalie Hall is celebrating their 95th anniversary on Sunday, March 29, 2009 at the Bayview Golf and Country Club 12:30 p.m. In support of the young mothers and children of Rosalie Hall. For 95 years Rosalie Hall has assisted young single mothers and their children with compassion and respect and protection from fear, uncertainty, loneliness, abuse and abandonment. Those interested in attending, tickets are \$125.00 Please contact 416-438-6880 Rosalie Hall Centre.

Our Lady of Good Counsel Mass/New Members Celebration & CWL Day of Peace and Hope – Monday Apr. 27, 2009

Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church by our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. David Okenyi. This year we are welcoming 17 new members/reinstated/transferred to the St. Joseph's CWL. We will also be celebrating our new National theme of "Women of Peace and Hope" on this special evening of prayer and celebration. Refreshments will follow after the Mass in the Hall. Your generous contributions of goodies to this event are welcome. For further information, call: Mary Tuccitto 416-283-8828, Eileen D'Souza - 416-283-3959 or Denise Van Veen – 416-281-0132

88th Toronto Archdiocesan Convention – Tuesday May 12th and Wednesday May 13th, 2009

This annual event will take place at the Doubletree International Plaza Hotel, 655 Dixon Road, Toronto On, M9W 1J3. The theme is "Women of Peace & Hope". This is one of the opportunities for you to learn more about the League, meet other women and learn what other Regions are doing. The Scarborough Region is also involved this year with looking after the "Ushering". If you are interested in helping with this endeavour, give us a call. We will be reserving tables for the dinner on Wednesday. If you are interested in attending both days, one of the days or dinner only, give us a call ASAP. Mary Tuccitto 416-283-8828, Eileen D'Souza 416-283-3959.

CWL St. Joseph Social Lunch – Sunday, May 24th

This year we have organized a luncheon to take place at the Great Wall Buffet (Chinese Food) at 12:30 p.m. as our social gathering, given the time restraint in May due to Communion and Confirmations. Hope that you will join us and enjoy a great buffet experience. Address is 1099 Kingston Rd. Pickering at Dixie. The cost is \$20.00 per person. We would like to hear from you asap as this is a popular event and great value. Call Mary Tuccitto 416-283-8828 or Lucia Vacca 416-283-3536

62nd Annual Ontario Provincial Convention – Saturday July 4th – Wednesday July 8th, 2009

This annual event will take place in Midland, Ontario at the Best Western Highland Inn. This year the theme is entitled "Women of Peace and Hope – Rooted in Faith". This is a good opportunity to meet our CWL counterparts from a wider circle at the Provincial Level. More information is available, please contact Mary Tuccitto 416-283-8828, Eileen D'Souza 416-283-3959.

Spiritual Development

Anne Marie Callender

Videos from Eucharistic Congress held in Quebec City: Reminder

Members of the CWL are invited to join members of the Prayer Group on the last Thursday of each month, for the remaining three (3) VIDEOS on the various talks and Testimonies that were part of the program at the Eucharistic Congress held in Quebec City during June 2008.

The three dates remaining are as follows: Thursday March 26, 2009, Thursday April 30, 2009 and Thursday May 28, 2009.

The session will begin with the Rosary at 7:30 p.m., followed by a few songs and then the Video. All members are encouraged to attend and be inspired by these messages that can serve to enhance our spiritual lives through fellowship with each other.

Toronto 2009 Lift Jesus Higher Rally will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2009 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre in the **North Building**, 255 Front Street West. The speakers are, Ralph Martin, Sr. Ann Shields, and Peter Herbeck for The Renewal Team. Special Guest Speakers are: Tim Staples, Sister Sarah Burdick and Debbie Herbeck. Time 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Ticket Prices Adults \$18, Youth \$8 (12-20 years). Please contact Jennifer or Tony Aitken 416-287-7986. They have tickets and are also organizing a bus from St. Joseph's to the rally. Price is \$6.00. Posters will be in the narthex.

Resolutions & Legislations

Patsy Jordan

Legislation

Liberals pledge to take 90,000 Ontario children out of poverty ranks in five years

Liberals promise \$300 million to be spent annually on new initiatives and commits to reducing **25%** of the number of children living in poverty over next 5 years. Will provide \$1,310 will be allotted to each child in low income families. After-school programs will be provided for children in high needs neighborhoods and \$6 million will be spent to triple the number of parenting and family literacy centres in Ontario. Each year \$7 million will be spent on a "community hub program" around schools to help local areas in reducing poverty. This will also include the previous promise of full learning for 4 and 5 year olds, and more skills training for kids in "priority neighborhoods."

Restrictions on teenage drivers

The automatic license suspension for speeding and drinking remains in place. However the Transportation Minister Jim Bradley reported the withdrawal of the passenger limits from the bill because of public outcry.

Resolutions

Two out of the five topics presented at the Archdiocesan meeting were selected for the 2009 Archdiocesan Convention

2009.01 Make Dementia One of Canada's National Health Care Priorities

2009.02 Accept "Canadian Food for Children" as a National CWL Voluntary Fund

We are challenged to choose one or two of these topics to discuss at our meeting and develop an effective action plan in response.

Consider attending the 2009 Archdiocesan Convention on May 12 & 13, to experience the debates and discussions of these resolutions.

Education & Health

Danielle Giggie

St. Joseph CWL Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest

We had participation from Cardinal Leger School who had a public speaking contest under the direction of Mrs. E. Ciavarella and Mrs. McEachen. We awarded 3 students with certificates and ribbons:

1st: Kailash Nehru (spoke about cruelty to animals) 2nd: Michael Corsano (spoke about child labour) 3rd: Elora Borges (spoke about global warming)

A trophy will be presented to be displayed at the school for 2009 with Kailash Nehru's name.

Scarborough Region Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest – Sunday, March 1st

We congratulate Kailash Nehru the winner from Cardinal Leger School, who represented St. Joseph. Also thank the teachers, parents and members who came to support this event.

Toronto Archdiocesan Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest – Sunday, March 29th

Will take place at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 2:00 p.m. – 3501 Finch Avenue East, Scarborough. This event is open to everyone to attend and show our support to both the students and other Parishes.

Jean McCann Service Award /Youth

This award is offered to confirmed Catholic youth ages 15-18 who has shown service to others, involvement in the community and has used their talents by taking the gospel message seriously.

We are very pleased to report that we have submitted a nomination to the Toronto Archdiocesan level for their evaluation and consideration from our Youth Group - Michelle D'Souza. The winner will be invited to attend the Toronto Archdiocesan Annual Convention in May. Let's keep our fingers crossed!

National Bursary

The National Office has setup a bursary to provide financial assistance to any CWL member who is interested in pursuing studies in adult faith formation or youth ministry. Anyone interested in this assistance further information is available as well as the application forms at the national website www.cwl.ca. The application must be submitted to the National Office before May 31, 2009.

Earth Hour: 8:30 – 9:30 p.m. – Saturday, March 28th

March

Help Fight Liver Disease	March 11 – 17 Canadian Agricultural Safety
National Colorectal Cancer Awareness	March 16 - 22 Brain Awareness
National Epilepsy	March 8 – International Women's Day
National Kidney	March 12 – World Glaucoma Day
National Nutrition	March 22 – World Day of Water
National Social Work	March 24 – World Tuberculosis Day
Red Cross	

April

Cancer Awareness	April 17 – International Hemophilia
Oral Health Awareness	April 19 - 25 National Dental Hygienists
Irritable Bowel Syndrome Awareness	April 19 - 25 National Immunization Awareness
Parkinson Awareness	April 19 - 26 National Organ & Tissue Awareness
Autism (April 2)	April 22 – Earth Day
April 7 – Health Day	April 28 – National Day of Mourning: Remembering lives lost or injured in the workplace

Community Life

Erika Cabrera Vale

Refugees - Sponsorship and Settlement – Wednesday March 25th 7:30 p.m.

A CWL information evening on **Refugees - Sponsorship and Settlement** will take place at St Joseph's in the Parish Hall. Speakers include Dr. Martin Mark, Father Alex Osei and Sister Maria Lanthier. The event is being advertised across the GTA as well as in the Catholic Register. Flyers are available in the Narthex. Please mark your calendars and do your best to attend what promises to be a very informative evening. To provide you with a glimpse of the world wide need, information about Iraqi Christians under siege is available at www.cnewa.ca - Catholic Near East Welfare Association - an agency of the Holy See that provides humanitarian and pastoral support to the churches and peoples of the Middle East, Northeast Africa, India and Eastern Europe.

Development and Peace (D&P) has launched their annual Share Life campaign and aims to collect \$10 million. The theme this year is *I believe, I give*. The campaign runs until April 12th. Lifestyle Awareness Calendars for the Lenten season are available from me or from the D&P web site <http://www.devp.org/devpme/main-eng.html>.

In anticipation of the release of the 2009 Provincial Budget, the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC) will begin an Interfaith Prayer Vigil at Queen's Park starting Tuesday, March 3, to pray for the Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) and for those who are most economically marginalized: people who are low wage workers, disabled, on social assistance, children, and/or homeless. The Prayer Vigil will run until the Budget is released - Monday through Thursday. More information is available at www.isarc.ca.

Finally, if you are in any way interested in working with Community Life issues, I would be very happy to hear from you. It would be wonderful to work with those who have a special interest in Charity and especially in Justice - locally and internationally.

Christian Family Life

CWL Ordinandi Spiritual Bouquet:

A warm thank you goes to all members of St. Joseph's Parish who participated in the collection of prayer pledges to be presented on March 3, 2009 at the annual ordinandi dinner. We more than doubled our pledges over last year with this year's grand total of **8,902** equaling: *Masses 1,128; Communion 1,041; Rosaries 800; Stations of the Cross 174; Eucharistic Adorations 94; Prayers 5,476 and Other 189.*

A special thanks to our parish ministries, our Sunday school and the local parish schools for participating with such heart-felt enthusiasm, in particular St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic School with an exemplary show of support.

Thousands and thousands of spiritual bouquets were presented on Tuesday March 2nd at the Ordinandi Dinner by Carol Pitcher, The Archdiocesan CWL President in front of an audience of 1330, to the 10 very appreciative Ordinandi men. This was truly a testimony of the faithfulness of God's People.

A Word of Hope in a Tough Economy:

Pope Benedict does indeed offer encouragement in these tough economic times:

“Those who have the possibility of working should be thankful to God and open their hearts with generosity toward those who find themselves with employment and economic difficulties.” (The Catholic Register, Week of January 11, 2009)

The Catholic Family Services of both Toronto and Durham have seen an increase in the number of people seeking counseling due to job loss and lay-offs. Oshawa in particular has been affected by the auto sector decline. May God indeed grant us grateful and generous hearts in these trying economic times.

Communications *Denise Van Veen*

Communication Process

Members of organizations spend a lot of time in interpersonal situations. Unfortunately, sometimes some of the meanings are lost in the transmission of the message from sender to receiver. In many situations the true message is lost and the message that is heard is often far different from the intended.

Being a good communicator requires you to be a good listener process the information you hear before responding or taking any action.

Good News Media

Tired of channel surfing, looking for something educational or spiritual on TV? Why not subscribe to Salt and Light TV (available for a small fee if you have Rogers Digital Cable, Bell Express Vu, Cogeco Digital Cable, Videotron Illico Digital, Mountain Cable)

Salt and Light TV won the Gabriel Award in October 2008 as Television Station of the year. This award is awarded to Film, Radio and TV programs from US/Canada in recognition of work that uplifts and nourishes the human spirit.

Here are a few of the programs offered:

Rosary Stars, Daily Mass, Vatican events, Food for Life and The choices we face.

If you need more information go to www.saltandlighttv.org.

Tired of watching TV?, why not read a book.

Here are a few suggestions by Fr. Ron Rolheiser from the Catholic Register:

Kite Runner - Khaled Hosseini

Divisadero - Michael Ondaatje

The Sparrow – Doria Russel

The Maytrees – Annie Dilliard

The Shack – William Young

Home – Marilynne Robinson

Plainsong and Evening song – Kent Haruf (2 novels)

Looking for a movie with good values take your family to see NEW IN TOWN.

Past President & Historian Lucia Vacca

“God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God’s many kinds of blessings.” 1 Peter 4:10 LB

We have a great team of ladies working tirelessly to give us/you plenty of opportunities to build and explore our gifts and talents. We are counting on your attendance, involvement, participation and contributions to the many upcoming events. This is testimony of our strong active CWL presence at St. Joseph’s Parish and at other Scarborough Region & Toronto CWL events.

I am looking to the Past-Presidents and Past-Standing Committee Chairs to help mentor and give all of our support, advice and experiences to the current executives, as well as the many new members who have recently joined. It’s up to us to make everyone feel welcome and give opportunities to explore their interests and talents.

Heritage Day Celebration for the Highland Creek Community will take place on Saturday, June 20th and we are looking to form a Committee for this very busy event and start planning NOW! Will you join and take the responsibility and participate to make our summer fund-raising event a success? Without our efforts our charities will not benefit. Be part of this team, give me a call.

Evening of Lenten Reflection

This event took place at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish on Tuesday, February 24th with Rosary, Eucharistic Celebration, pancake tasting and reflection. St. Joseph CWL was represented by 5 of our members. The reflection was led by Deacon Ramon Villardo from St. Maria Goretti Parish. It was focused around our ability to heal and to continue the power of healing like Jesus, not to perform miracles, but by reaching out to someone in a small way as long as it is from our heart it will have a healing power. Our healing ministry is by helping someone who is alone; hurt, give hope, in need of comfort, companionship etc...by offering our kind words, being present and healing spirit in our hands to touch. *Do you have the power to heal someone?* This is our challenge.

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.

We would like to extend our condolences to our sister Carmel Rivet on the passing of her husband Raymond Rivet and to our sister Marlene Florio on the passing of her father Angelo Novia.

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

Continue to Pray for Good Health for our CWL Sisters and their families. May Our Lady of Good Counsel keep you in her loving care. If you know of any of our Sisters in the League who is ill, please call Eileen D'Souza

Items for Purchase: CWL Blue Scarves \$23.00 -- CWL Name Tags \$3.50 -- Madonna Pins \$10.00
CWL Insignia Pin \$4.00 -- Windshield Decal \$2.00 Call Lucia Vacca if you are interested in purchasing any of these items.

Masses for Shut-ins --Daily Masses can be seen on the following channels:

Vision TV at 8.30 a.m. and 12.00 p.m. -- CTS TV at 10.30 a.m. -- Sunday Mass -- CTV at 8.30 a.m.

COFFEE MUGS -- Members are encouraged to bring their own mugs to the meetings.

ROSARIES

We are collecting any rosaries you may have which you are not using. These will be sent to Fr. Byron and/or given to the Rosary Apostlates to be distributed to the schools.

Dates to Remember

March 19 (Thursday)	St. Joseph's Celebration Mass 7:30 p.m. & Reception
March 19 (Thursday)	Scarborough Region General Meeting – St. Boniface 7:00 p.m. Mass/Meeting – all members are encouraged and welcome to attend
March 25 (Wednesday)	Information Evening on Refugees-Sponsorship & Settlement There will be 3 speakers: Dr. Martin Mark, Sr. Maria Lanthier and Fr. Alex Osei – this is our Community Project for 2009. Give us your support with your attendance – bring a friend this event is open to all the Community.
March 25 (Wednesday)	ShareLife Day on TTC
March 26 (Thursday)	Prayer Group – Eucharistic Congress videos & discussions 7:30 p.m.
March 28 (Saturday)	Earth Hour – 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Do your part
March 29 (Sunday)	Toronto Archdiocesan Mary Mathews Public Speaking Contest –St. Aidan Catholic School – 2:00 p.m. – 3501 Finch Avenue East, Scarborough – all are invited to attend
April 12 (Sunday)	EASTER
April 14 (Tuesday)	General Meeting – Rosary 7:10 Meeting 7:30
April 18 (Saturday)	Lift Jesus Higher Rally
April 27 (Monday)	Our Lady of Good Counsel Mass/New Members – 7:30 p.m. CWL Day of Peace and Hope Celebration – Reception in Hall
April 30 (Thursday)	Prayer Group – Eucharistic Congress videos & discussions 7:30 p.m.
May 10 (Sunday)	CWL Mass only - Mother's Day
May 11	General Meeting – Rosary 7:10 Meeting 7:30 – Mothers Day Meeting
May 12 & 13 (Tues/Wed)	88 th Toronto Archdiocesan Convention – Doubletree International Plaza Hotel Toronto Airport
May 14 (Thursday)	March for Life – Parliament Hill - Ottawa
May 24 (Sunday)	Luncheon at the Great Wall Buffet in Pickering 12:30 p.m.
May 28 (Thursday)	Prayer Group – Eucharistic Congress videos & discussions 7:30 p.m.
June 8 (Monday)	Social – Pot Luck Dinner – Hall – 7:00 p.m. Setup 2:30 p.m.
June 14 (Sunday)	CWL Mass /Welcome Sunday
June 19 (Friday)	Setup Hall for Heritage Day 2:00 – 9:30 p.m.
June 20 (Saturday)	Heritage Day –Parade, Plant Sale, Tea Room etc... 7:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m.
July 4-8	62 th Provincial Convention – Midland, Ontario
August 9-12	89 th National Convention – St. Johns, Newfoundland