

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

JANUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

ONE

HEART VOICE MISSION

One heart – filled with mercy, compassion and holiness

One voice – united in harmony to speak the truth with courage and zeal

One mission – witnessing the Good News of the gospel through personal encounter and joyful service
(*National Catholic Women's League of Canada Focus and Theme for 2015-2016*)

MEMBERSHIP: Once again it is time to join or renew your Catholic Women's League membership. Membership is \$30.00 and envelopes are included with your Sunday Offering envelopes. If you do not have Sunday envelopes, simply use a plain envelope with your name, address, telephone # and email and place it in the Sunday collection.

As a member of the Catholic Women's League you are part of one of the largest women's organizations in Canada. Through your support C.W.L. promotes awareness and response to political and social issues that affect all Canadians. We comfort the vulnerable, the needy and the marginalized. Your membership adds power to the League's voice when it lobbies government on social issues such as physician-assisted suicide or increased early intervention and access to children and youth mental health services or reinstatement of health care for refugee claimants.

Are you looking for something worthwhile to discover ways to grow in faith, to make new friends or to contribute to the wellbeing of our parish community? Your commitment could be as easy as maintaining inexpensive yearly membership, even when you are unable to attend meetings or other events. As time permits, you may enjoy helping with one project. You will soon notice that prayer and a spirit of joy are important parts of C.W.L. projects as members journey together in faith finding fun and fulfillment. Fresh ideas are always welcome: share them with the new friends that await you. Life is a series of new beginnings; make the Catholic Women's League one of them!

PORNOGRAPHY HURTS CAMPAIGN: The Pornography Hurts campaign, first launched in August, 2013, aims to raise awareness about the dangers of pornography among members, the general public and members of parliament.

It is disturbing to read that tens of thousands of new images or videos are put on the internet every week and that hundreds of thousands of searches for child sexual images are performed daily. This alone identifies the importance of the League's campaign to ensure government representatives at all levels are constantly reminded of the League's position on victimization of children which is in epidemic proportion.

You can be involved by sending a postcard to the Minister of Justice expressing your concern for the proliferation of pornography and its harmful effects on society. To have the greatest impact, please ensure your name and return address are on the postcard in order for the Minister to respond to you. Ask a question or ask for feedback from the Minister (i.e., Will you take a standing by helping to ensure that just punishment is given to the perpetrators of this heinous crime to children and women?) St. Francis C.W.L. will be distributing Pornography Hurts postcards the weekend of January 23/24. Please help us by voicing your concern that Pornography Hurts.

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE CHARITABLE DONATIONS DECEMBER, 2015

Catholic Missions in Canada	\$ 250.00
Carmel of St. Joseph	500.00
Parents for Community Living	100.00
Mary's Place	200.00
Working Centre	300.00
Marillac Place	100.00
St. Monica House	100.00
K-W Right to Life	100.00
Out of the Cold	200.00
Canadian Food for Children	250.00
Pornography Hurts	260.00
Development and Peace	250.00
House of Friendship	100.00
St. Francis Youth Group	150.00
Save a Family	240.00
TOTAL	\$3,100.00

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY – DECEMBER 8, 2015 – NOVEMBER 20, 2016

The Holy Father entreats the Lord to make the Jubilee of Mercy a year of grace so that the Church, “with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.” (Vatican Radio 06/05/2015, 13:33)

St. Francis C.W.L. is part of the Hamilton Diocesan Council. To celebrate the Holy Year of Mercy, each diocese of Ontario has been asked to choose a Blessed named by Pope Francis and study the life of the Blessed. Hamilton Diocese has chosen “Blessed Francisca de Paula de Jesus Isabel” (1808-95), a Brazilian laywoman also known as Nha’ Chica, who was beatified on May 4, 2013 in Baependi, Brazil. The illiterate daughter of a freed slave, she developed a deep bond with the Blessed Mother when she was orphaned at age ten. Spurning marriage proposals in order to devote herself entirely to God, she led a quiet life of prayer and service as a laywoman. In time, others sought her prayers and counsel. Her simple life was totally dedicated to God and to charity, so much so that she was called “mother of the poor”.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- JAN. 13** Ruthann Fisher will be sharing with us some of her experiences during her sabbatical. “A time for quiet and to grow in love with the Lord”. This is an open meeting and all parishioners are invited.
- FEB. 10** Join us for a special Valentine event with a tea sommelier to learn all about various kinds of tea.
- MAR. 4** World Day of Prayer
- MAR. 9** Stations of the Cross and Lenten Retreat with Fr. Freitas
- APR. 13** Speaker from Nutrition for Learning
- MAY 3** Annual Card Party
- MAY 11** Speaker on Fraud and Identity Theft
- MAY 13-15** Hamilton Diocesan C.W.L. convention, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Kitchener
- JUNE 1** C.W.L. annual pot luck. Speaker to be confirmed.

PRAYER FOR REFUGEES

Sheltering God,
You were born in flight,
Your parents anxious and given no rest.
The manner of Your birth calls me to
Open-heartedness and sensitivity to the strangers in our midst.
Help me not to flee Your challenge.
The violence of the present time teaches me fear of the stranger,
reluctance to reach out to those who are different.
Grace me this day as I seek
to see You in the faces of those uprooted,
weary, as they seek refuge and peace. Amen.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide you always as we walk together as sisters helping those who cannot help themselves.

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