



## ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

### SPRING NEWSLETTER, 2016

*"ONE HEART, ONE VOICE, ONE MISSION:  
PALLIATIVE AND HOSPICE CARE"*

Spring is here after what can only be described as a mild winter. As the St. Francis C.W.L. winds up its 2016 membership drive we want to thank you for renewing your C.W.L. membership and welcome new members.

We have a very busy schedule for the coming months and we invite all of you to join us as we pray, advocate, learn and strengthen our friendships. On **April 13<sup>th</sup>** we have invited Brian Banks, Community Development Officer from Nutrition for Learning. Each day, one in ten children arrive at school without breakfast or lunch to sustain them an entire school day. Nutrition for Learning provides breakfast and lunch programs to children aged 5 to 18 years throughout the Region of Waterloo. Find out how these programs work and how you can get involved and help.

On **May 4<sup>th</sup>** from 7:00 – 8:30 am, St. Francis C.W.L. is sponsoring a table for the Annual Kitchener-Waterloo and Area Interfaith Community Breakfast at Bingeman's. The Interfaith Community Breakfast is sponsored by Interfaith Grand River, an ecumenical forum for the many faith traditions of Waterloo Region. The breakfast provides an opportunity to come together to affirm and celebrate the richness and diversity of our multi-faith, multi-cultural community. The guest speakers will be Joe and Stephanie Mancini from The Working Centre. If you would like to join us and meet others from neighbouring faith communities, please call Karin Manley at 519-576-6587 or [kmanley@rogers.com](mailto:kmanley@rogers.com). The cost is \$20.00.

On **May 11<sup>th</sup>** we are planning a speaker from Community Services, Waterloo Regional Police Services to speak to us about Identity Theft and Security.

**May 13 – 15<sup>th</sup>** is the 96<sup>th</sup> Hamilton Diocesan Annual Convention at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Kitchener. St. Francis C.W.L. is responsible for the Saturday Mass at the hotel. We need volunteers to sing in the choir and Eucharistic Ministers. If you have never attended a C.W.L. convention this is an ideal time to meet other women making a difference in their parishes and communities. We encourage you to participate. To register, please contact Barbara Diemert at 519-744-8955 or [bdiemert@rogers.com](mailto:bdiemert@rogers.com). Registration deadline is April 13, 2016.

Wednesday, **May 18** at 1:00p.m. in the Church Hall is our Annual Card Party. **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE.** Proceeds from the Card Party will go to Innisfree House, the newest 10-bed residential hospice in Waterloo Region. Donations of prizes would be greatly appreciated.

**June 1<sup>st</sup>** is our annual Pot Luck Supper. In addition to sharing a delicious meal, Fr. Joseph and others will share their experiences from the Holy Land.

### ASSISTED DEATH ISSUE:

Cardinal Collins has asked the members of the Catholic Women's League to join in a letter writing campaign to our MP's about the proposed legislation on assisted death. He is very concerned that doctors, health care workers and institutions will be forced to participate in this, against their conscience and will. The cardinal does not want a form letter to go however, just a sincere, personal, short letter of concern.

Below is a sample of the type of letter he is urging us to write:

*Raj Saini, MP  
209 Frederick St.  
Suite 202  
Kitchener ON N2H 2M7*

*Dear Mr. Saini:*

*I write this letter to you as a very concerned person about the proposed legislation now being prepared by the federal government on Physician Assisted Death. We know that the Supreme Court of Canada has legislated that this service is legal. My concern is that the committee recommendations given to the government to formulate the new law do not take into account in a serious way, the conscience of physicians or health care workers, who do not wish to participate in this mercy killing procedure.*

*Also institutions in our Catholic Health Care Groups could be forced to go against the principles which govern them, and to supply this service of medical killing. Our Catholic health care principles have always been to sustain and respect life, not to eliminate it.*

*I ask that you consider these concerns and work to see that people, especially our physicians and health care workers, and institutions are not forced to do something that they oppose in conscience and in their beliefs. As you know, our democracy is based on freedom and I hope this new law does not hinder the freedom of these people or our institutions.*

*Thank you for taking the time to listen to this concern, and I appreciate your good work in our area as our MP.*

FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THESE WEBSITES:

Declaration of Hope: <http://declarationofhope.ca>

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition: [www.epcc.ca](http://www.epcc.ca)

The Coalition for HealthCARE and Conscience:

[http://www.canadiansforconscience.ca/our\\_coalition](http://www.canadiansforconscience.ca/our_coalition)

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR ANY OR ALL OF THESE EVENTS.**

**You are more than welcome to bring guests.**

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

Barbara Diemert 519-744-8955 – [bdiemert@rogers.com](mailto:bdiemert@rogers.com)

Karin Manley 519-576-6587 – [kmanley@rogers.com](mailto:kmanley@rogers.com)