



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE FALL, 2016 NEWSLETTER

As we head toward the end of this extraordinary Year of Mercy, St. Francis Catholic Women's League continues to embrace the national CWL's theme of One Heart, One Voice,

One Mission: Palliative and Hospice Care. At our first meeting on **Wednesday, September 14** we are pleased to welcome Mark Godin, Director, Strategic and Client Services for HOSPICE OF WATERLOO REGION. Mark will share with us how Hospice of Waterloo Region offers the best in hospice/ palliative support and education to clients, their families and the broader community. On September 25 Ruthann Fisher and Cathy Vanzielegem have signed up to Walk for Hospice. You are invited to join their team or to provide support with a financial pledge.

Saturday, September 24 is our ANNUAL GARAGE SALE. Donations to the garage sale can be dropped off at the church on September 22 & 23 from 6 to 9 pm. Volunteers are needed during drop off times and the day of the event. This is a great way to have your unwanted treasures find a new home and to help our parish. Watch for further information in the bulletin or contact Barbara Diemert 519-744-8955 or bdiemert@rogers.com.

Our general meeting on **Wednesday, October 12** will feature Theresa Harnett, Director, Family Ministry Office from the Diocese of Hamilton, speaking about the Pope's exhortation on JOY OF THE FAMILY. The month will also be filled with plans for our upcoming bazaar as well as the start of our early membership campaign.

Wednesday, November 9 as we close the Year of Mercy, the whole parish is invited to listen to a panel of St. Francis Parish Merciful Youth. Come and be inspired by the thoughts and actions of the young people of our parish. More information will be in your bulletin.

OUR ANNUAL ST. FRANCIS CHRISTMAS BAZAAR will be held **Saturday, November 12, 2016**. The St. Francis Christmas Bazaar has a well-earned reputation for fun and treasures. Please consider helping us continue this great tradition. Support our major draw by returning your draw tickets. We will also need volunteers to set up, to assist on the day of the Bazaar as well as donations of baking, preserves, pies, crafts, children's prizes, toys, silent auctions items. Now is the time to start thinking how you can join the fun and contribute your time, talents and treasures.

December will feature the CWL ADVENT DINNER on **Wednesday, December 7**. This year Mass of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated, followed by a delicious dinner. As a very special treat

arrangements have been made to have the WATERLOO DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL EDUCATION CHOIR join us a share with us their joie de vivre and wonderful singing. These young men and women are truly a joy to hear and this is an occasion not to be missed. So be sure to get your tickets early as the event is usually sold out.

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

On a more serious note, December is also time for nominations to the CWL executive. Please take a moment to consider volunteering your name to stand for office. The CWL is a great organization which contributes to our parish and our community and it needs your support to stay relevant and viable. The task is not onerous if it is shared by many.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE ON DOCTORS' CONSCIENCE RIGHTS:

The National CWL and the Coalition for Healthcare and Conscience needs our support. With the passing of Bill C-14 on June 17, 2016, it is now legal for patients to request physician-assisted suicide in Canada. Decision-makers in provinces across Canada are now faced with the challenge of creating regulations to guide this process.

Some wording to protect conscience rights is present in both the preamble and text of Bill C-14 indicating that no one should be compelled to participate in physician-assisted suicide. However, this directive is already being ignored and doctors who oppose assisted suicide over conscience concerns will be required to help take lives of patients in Ontario.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario passed a policy called "Professional Obligations and Human Rights" that requires physicians to refer, and in some cases perform, procedures even if these procedures go against their conscience. Doctors with conscience objections consider referral, even to a third party, to be a type of participation.

No other foreign jurisdiction that has legalized assisted suicide requires doctors to perform or refer for these procedures. Other provinces have already implemented guidelines to protect doctors who object to providing or referring for assisted suicide.

Currently, doctors who object to performing or arranging referrals for physician assisted suicide, due to their conscience and moral convictions, are subject to professional discipline.

You can help to protect Ontario doctors and their conscience rights by writing to your MPP with copies to the Honourable Eric Hoskins and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide us in all we do.

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