



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

### SPRING NEWSLETTER, 2017

*"Inspired by the Spirit,  
Women respond to God's call."*

Spring is here and our thoughts start turning to the promise of Easter, a time of joy and renewal. Appropriately the National CWL has chosen a new theme for the next two years. "Inspired by the Spirit, Women respond to God's call."

Mary Ann Jacobs, National President summed up her vision for the league. "I pray for a League where members know and experience God's unconditional love. I pray for a league where members are so empowered by the gifts of the Holy Spirit they respond to God's call in joyful service, embracing the vulnerable. I invite each of us to be the heart and hands of the living God, reaching out to those most in need—to be beatitude people."

As we struggle with our perennial challenge of finding members who will take this message to heart and when asked be willing to carry on joyful service to the Lord leading St. Francis CWL into the future. We need new executive members and it is our hope that the women of St. Francis who are willing to lead us into the future will accept the challenge and respond to our call for commitment to change and a willingness to lead inspired by God's Holy Spirit.

#### **Spirit of the Living God**

**Open our hearts and minds to experience the unconditional love of God.**

**Empower us with the gifts of your Spirit  
So that we may respond to God's call in joyful service.**

**Inspire and bless the members of the Catholic Women's League  
So that the fruits of your Spirit may be evidenced in all that we say and do.**

**Amen.**

St. Francis CWL to ask members to make our desire for ethical and excellent **Palliative and Hospice Care** a priority and continue our works of mercy.

We encourage our members if you have not already done so to let your member of parliament and their provincial counterparts know that we want adequate palliative and hospice care in our province and that doctors and those who work in the medical field must have the right of conscious in the face of the reality of physician assisted death.

Bill C-277 "Frame work on Palliative Care in Canada Act" passed second reading in the House of Commons unanimously and has been referred to the standing Committee on Health for consideration. Letters supporting the bill should be sent to "the Standing Committee on Health, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, 131 Queen St., House of Commons, Ottawa Ontario K1A 0A6

The Catholic Women's League of Canada has announced "**12 hours of Prayer for Palliative Care 2017 on May 4<sup>th</sup>**". All councils across Canada are invited to become actively involved in the initiative by inviting all parishioners, members of other churches and the community at large to gather in prayer on this day or at some time during the National Palliative Care Week May 7 to 13<sup>th</sup>. This

prayer day is designed to promote a culture of life that includes quality palliative care for all citizens. We want all Canadians at end of life stages to experience the comfort, love and sense of accompaniment that we know is possible.

- The National Council has sponsored a Mass on **Vision TV**, on May 4<sup>th</sup> (Check your local listing for time.)
- **\*St. Anthony Daniel CWL** is planning to have CWL members in their chapel every hour starting at 7AM until 6:30 PM when a Mass will be celebrated followed by a special guest speaker—St. Francis CWL is encouraged and invited to participate.
- \*St. Francis CWL will hold a prayer service at its general meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>.
- \*Special Prayer cards printed for the CWL by the Edmonton Catholic School Board will be available.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

***Please note change of date:* Wednesday, April 19 – 7pm – CWL General Meeting – Speaker: Liam Healy, Meals on Wheels.**

***Please note change of date:* Tuesday, April 25 – 1pm – 4pm – St. Francis Annual Card Party. Tickets are \$15.00 and include lunch. Proceeds to Hospice/Palliative Care. (VOLUNTEERS and DOOR PRIZES ARE NEEDED)**

**Thursday, May 4 – 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care 2017**

**Wednesday, May 10 – 7 pm - CWL General Meeting - The St. John's Bible is the first handwritten, illuminated edition of a Bible in 500 years. There are only 299 copies of the Heritage Edition of which Hamilton Diocese has one. We are pleased to be able to invite all parishioners to come and have a look at the Gospels and Acts of the Apostles. A member of the Diocesan archivists team will be here to lead us in a discussion on how and why the Bible was created and what the illustrations mean. On May 9 we will use the Bible in our Volunteer Appreciation Evening Prayer, and on May 11<sup>th</sup> the Bible will be at St. Paul's School all day as the students have a chance to view it and create their own calligraphy.**

**May 26 – 28:** 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Hamilton Diocesan CWL Convention – Crowne Plaza Hotel, Kitchener. All CWL members are cordially invited to attend all or part of the convention. Registration deadline is April 26<sup>th</sup>.

**June 14:** Mass and Pot Luck Supper. We have invited storyteller Mary Baldasaro for an entertaining evening of stories and humour.

In closing, I want to thank all the CWL members who have renewed their memberships. May God bless you in all you do for God and Canada.

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St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Women's League