

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI  
CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE  
JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER**



*"Inspired by the spirit, women respond to God's call"*

**MEMBERSHIP**

Our early bird membership drive was quite successful with approximately 80 ladies renewing their membership. Mary Lamb won the free 2018 membership. If you have not yet renewed please do so as soon as possible so you do not miss your League Magazine or important notices. Renewal envelopes are in your parish envelope box or simply place your membership fee of \$30.00 with your name, address, phone # and email address in the Sunday collection basket. If you cannot get to church please contact Judith Booth, 519-742-0155 or [gjbooth@rogers.com](mailto:gjbooth@rogers.com) to make arrangements for a pick up. If you are considering joining the Catholic Women's League and would like to learn more about what we do, please check out our page on the parish website ([www.stfranciskw.ca](http://www.stfranciskw.ca)) under the Ministries and Groups tab, or contact Judith Booth. We would love to welcome you into our CWL family!

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER**

Our annual Christmas dinner was a big success and many thanks go to our devoted organizers and volunteers as well as the unfailing support of the parish staff. The entertainment, Fireside Voices, was awesome.

Joan Schurter, President, Hamilton Diocesan CWL presented service pins to 8 members:

25 years: Marina Christoff  
Michelle Krulicki  
40 years: Jessie Hurst  
Janice Krafchick  
50 years: Margaret Beckner  
Mary Braun  
Bernetta Wettlaufer  
75 years: Bernice Koebel

At the dinner we also disbursed proceeds of our fundraising events (garage sale, raffle & bazaar)

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH \$ 7,300.00**

**CHARITIES:**

Catholic Missions in Canada	225.00
Carmel of St. Joseph	500.00
Parents for Community Living	175.00
YWCA Mary's Place	375.00
Working Centre	275.00
Marillac Place	125.00
Monica Place	125.00
K-W Right to Life	75.00
Canadian Food for Children	225.00
Pornography Hurts and Development & Peace	500.00
House of Friendship	75.00
Save-A-Family	240.00
Birthright	275.00
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	\$ 3190.00

**FOCUS FOR 2018-19 CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE:**

A recent directive from Linda Squarzolo, Provincial Vice President/Christian Family Life Chair, notes that over the next two years the CWL in Ontario will be addressing the issue of HOMELESSNESS. This is an issue of concern, not only in large cities, but even in smaller centres. Here is some information provided by the Canadian Homelessness Research Network and the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness:

- 30,000 Canadians are homeless every night
- 200,000 Canadians can experience homelessness in any given year
- 150,000 Canadians a year use a homeless shelter at some point
- At least 50,000 Canadians are part of the "hidden" homeless on any given night, staying with friends or relatives on a temporary basis

They also identified who are the homeless. The over-represented groups are:

- Single adult males, aged 25 – 55: 47.5%
- Youth, aged 16 – 24: 20%; 25 – 40% of those are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual or transgender
- Aboriginal people are over-represented, especially in the north and west.

The factors that push people into homelessness may be job loss, mental illness, addictions, family violence/abuse and extreme poverty. Social causes are the decline of affordable housing, both owned or rental and the reduction of social benefits.

## WHAT CAN THE LEAGUE MEMBERS DO?

- When councils are donating funds, direct them to soup kitchens, food banks and homeless shelters
- Offer to volunteer time in soup kitchens and food banks
- Food banks often have food or monetary donations, but will provide toiletries, cleaning products and paper products to clients, if they are available.
- Assist these agencies when they are holding fund-raising events
- Volunteer with organizations which work for affordable housing, such as Habitat for Humanity
- Provide programs to low-income individuals on budgeting money, cooking lessons and other skills
- Lobby all levels of government to encourage the construction of affordable housing

**St. Francis CWL 's initial response to this challenge will be held on JANUARY 10, 2018** when Rev. Michael Hackbusch, Director of Spiritual Resources, House of Friendship, will speak on the work being done in our community to assist the homeless, especially at this time of year. Following the Parish Mass at 7pm our speaker will start at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall. This is an open meeting and all are welcome to attend to find out what we as a community can do to help the less fortunate.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 10	Rev. Michael Hackbusch, Director of Spiritual Resources, House Of Friendship
*February 21	Parish Lenten Series: Laudato Si (Note change of regular date)
March 2	World Day of Prayer
March 4	Sandy Milne will receive Cross Pro-Ecclesia et Pontifice at Cathedral in Hamilton (all are invited to the liturgy, more information coming soon in the bulletin)
March 10	Hamilton Diocesan Spring Regional Meeting at St. Francis
*March 21	Muslim Women and Days for Girls (Note change of regular date)
April 11	Nygaard Fashion Show
April 18	St. Francis Card Party
April 25	Interfaith Community Breakfast
April 26	Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel
May 9	Crowning of Mary – Guest Speaker to be confirmed
May 25 – 27	Hamilton Diocese Annual CWL Convention – Guelph
June 13	Mass and Annual Pot Luck Supper

Further details of these events will be published in the Sunday bulletin.

## NEED FOR EXECUTIVE MEMBERS:

The Catholic Women's League is a vehicle for all Catholic women to grow in their faith, to proclaim their faith and to share their faith. We are looking for new members to join the executive and help us keep the St. Francis Council a vibrant and active community of women. The time and work commitment need not be excessive or the tasks difficult. We encourage a team approach with everyone helping. If interested, please contact Barbara Diemert 519-744-8955 or Karin Manley 519-576-6587

And the Lord said GO And I said Who, me? And the Lord said yes, you. And I said But I'm not ready yet. And there is company coming And I can't leave my family. You know that there is no one to take my place. And the Lord said You're stalling. And the Lord said GO I said but I don't want to	And the Lord said I didn't ask you if you wanted to And I said Listen I'm not the kind of person To get involved in arguments. Besides my family won't like it And what will the neighbours think? And the Lord said Baloney! And yet a third time the Lord said GO And I said Do I have to?	And the Lord said Do you love me? And I said Look I'm scared People are going to hate me And cut me into little pieces And I can't take it all by myself And the Lord said Where do you think I'll be? And the Lord said GO And I sighed Here I am...send me. Anonymous
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*May Our Lady of Good Counsel Continue to guide us in all we do.*

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