

# THE ST. MICHAEL'S LEAGUE

Issue 22

CWLstmichlon@gmail.com

August 2024

## Message From Our President Dorothy Solomon



Hello readers, welcome to the twenty second issue of St. Michael's League newsletter. A big thank you to Gail, our editor, who in December 2020 followed through on an idea to keep us connected when we could not meet in person. What an enormous blessing this has been and

continues to be.

I look back to 2020 and remember the heartache of not being able to meet. Maybe it is an age thing, but I sometimes need to look back in order to see where I am going. In our April newsletter I invited each of us to consider where we are being sent, based on Isaiah 6:8 – *Here I am Lord, send me.* I spoke of creating my personal mission statement and asked a reflection question. How is the church and CWL different because I exercised clarity in my actions? The answer is slow to disclose itself to me. This does not stop me from continuing to develop my leadership skills and help others reach their full potential.

In the June newsletter, Stephanie refreshed our memory of what we had seen, heard and accomplished in the past year and a half. Take a look again at past issues which are available on our family of parishes website at [www.Incc.dol.ca](http://www.Incc.dol.ca). Click on Our Parishes, St. Michael's Parish, scroll down to Parish Groups, then choose Catholic Women's League and newsletters.

I recall Fr. Felix's definition of joy, "We are joyful not because of the absence of pain and struggle, but because like Mary, we recognize God's presence and his actions in our lives." The year-end potluck supper and pins award ceremony very much impacted me with the realization that everyone belongs and contributes in their own way. Belonging strengthens our faith journey, creates a sense of direction and offers opportunities which support your contribution of time and talent. Sisterhood in the CWL, in whatever way you participate, allows your voice to be heard. It

creates a sense of empathy for whatever cause you are concerned about; you are part of a network of like-minded women.

We host a variety of meetings and activities which address our goal as CWL women to grow in faith and witness to the love of God in ministry and service. There is something for each member as you will see in our calendar of upcoming events. The social aspect of our events gives us a place to catch up with friends, make new friends, and have a safe environment to ask questions about what we believe and do. As we share and listen to the stories and the goals of our League, we learn how others are attempting to combine the common life and the sacred as Catholic Christians. We embrace the gospel by believing, sharing and living in the ordinariness of everyday life. That means putting ourselves "out there" in faith, service and social justice. We may be the only gospel someone experiences. We pray for the courage to allow us to welcome and respond to opportunities that God places before us each day to be his messengers of hope and love.

With this issue we are invited to reflect on where we are sent. We are preparing to resume meeting in September and please invite a friend to come and see. Bring your questions, tell us what you have done over the summer, come enjoy fellowship, be ready to respond as you are able when asked to help. Know that your place is among us.

## *"Here I am Lord, Send Me"*

### Prayer Intentions

We have offered specific prayer intentions for each month, and we are asking not only each of our members but also all the members of St. Michael's community, to bring these intentions to the Lord. Let us continue to lift one another up in prayer.

**August:** For elected officials who are asked to make decisions that support the sanctity of life.

**September:** For those who are experiencing loneliness, in particular the elderly.

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From Our Spiritual Advisor Fr. Felix Odobi



## Looking to the future with unshakable faith

In the letter to the Hebrews 11:1, faith is described as the “assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” As we look

to the future, this description of faith invites us to exhibit two qualities, namely, confidence and certainty in our daily living. We are to be confident of who God says He is, and we are to be certain that God will do what He says.

With summer winding down, we prepare to move to another season, embracing different activities and new routines. The transition, from one season to another, is a natural part of life. However, adapting to another season and taking up our routines and responsibilities after summer can sometimes be a source of tension, fear, anxiety and worry.

Additionally, over the summer, I have had the opportunity to speak to parents and grandparents. Many of them expressed concerns about the growing cases of hate crimes in our city, unrest in different parts of the world, inflation, and rising cost of living.

The tension, fear, anxiety and worry are real, but we can overcome them by reflecting on God’s active presence in our lives and on his promises. This requires looking to the future with faith, not with fear. Often, fear is a prediction that something bad is going to happen. But faith inspires confidence and certainty that it will be done to us according to God’s words and promises (Luke 1:38). In Jeremiah 29:11, the Lord says: “For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Paul tells us in Philippians 4:6: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” This is because, “we live by faith, not by sight” (2 Cor. 5:7).

As we embrace another season, picking up our routines and responsibilities, let us approach it with unshakable faith, trusting in God’s plan and promises for us. Psalm

125:1 says: “Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever”. Let us be confident that no matter what is going on around us, God’s Word has the final authority. It is the same yesterday, today and forever. God never abandons his people. We can hear Him say to us: “Be still and know that I am God” (Ps 46:10).

## St. Michael’s CWL Council 2024 Coming Events

**Monday, September 9th** – Membership Meeting and Welcome Back Social

**Sunday, October 6th** – Life Chain for the Unborn

**Monday, October 7th** – Membership Meeting and Social

**Saturday, October 19th** - Woodstock, and **October 26th** - Strathroy - Fall Regional Days

**Thursday, October 24th** – 4LifeLondon Dinner

**Saturday, November 2nd** – CWL Christmas Market

**Monday, November 4th** – Membership Meeting and Social

**Tuesday, November 12th** – 7PM Mass for Deceased Members

**Thursday, November 14th** - Pie Making

**Saturday, November 16th** – Trivia Night

**Saturday and Sunday, November 30th and December 1st** - Membership Drive after all masses

**Saturday and Sunday, November 30th and December 1st** – Annual Festive Fall Bake Sale

**Saturday, December 7th** – Daytime Membership Meeting and Christmas Celebration

**Please check bulletins, website and emails for further details**

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## Featured Member Connie Cote Joan Lobsinger

This month we recognize Connie Cote as our member who exemplifies the League's core values of faith, service, and social justice. Connie has been a member of St. Michael's council for only three years and we on the executive are wondering how we ever got along without her. Connie's role as a part of our Communications sub-committee is to keep members updated through emails. Before joining us at St. Michael's, Connie was a member of St. George's council for 25 years and served as the Communications chairperson on their executive. She feels communication is crucial for a vibrant and informed membership and enjoys preparing the emails for St. Michael's CWL. I don't know about you, but I look forward to receiving my CWL St. Michael's emails. I am always impressed by how well-organized they are.

Connie was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and was raised in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Her mother was visiting her father when she was born. Connie graduated from the University of Waterloo, with a Bachelor of Math and Computer Science. There she met her husband Vic. They graduated in 1974 and married two months later. We congratulate Connie and Vic as they celebrated their 50th Anniversary this year!

After graduation, Connie worked writing software code and doing systems analysis for several companies. When her third child was born, she

decided to become a full-time Mom. Later, Connie returned to the workforce to work in the computer department at the Diocese of London supporting their computer software and teaching parish secretaries. In her spare time, Connie enjoys learning new computer skills.

She and Vic have three daughters Vicki, Laura, and Andrea. Two of them live in London and one in Ajax. Vicki and her family are members of St. Michael's parish. You will often see Connie and Vic with their daughter and her family at the 10:00 Mass. Connie and Vic have five grandchildren who bring them great joy. Three girls and two boys ranging in age from 14 to 3.

Connie and Vic like to travel. They have been to Paris, Italy three times, Israel, Spain, Portugal, and Helsinki, Finland for the World Junior Hockey Championships. Connie feels however that she is a home body. Vic is the travel planner. She doesn't like to leave home but once she gets there, she really enjoys it and feels blessed to have been able to experience so many different cultures.

Besides her involvement with the CWL, Connie was a catechist and speaker in the RCIA for 12 years; she and Vic organized Marriage Prep weekends for eight years; she was a member of the Diaconate Admissions Committee for 12 years and chair for 2 years; she started a bible study group back in 1990's and she currently facilitates the online bible study group at St. Michael's. She is also a Lector and creates the schedule for all the Ministry Volunteers.

Connie expressed that she is so impressed with the ladies in our council; with their humility and dedication and the way they all work together and support each other. She feels it's an honour to be a part of this group. It is a two-way street, we at St. Michael's are so honoured to have her.

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**Did you know... You don't have to be a member to attend a meeting. Bring a friend to enjoy an evening and see what the Catholic Women's League is all about.**

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## It's Official!

Gail Brown



Our very own Faith Chairperson Megan Young is now an official Pastoral Minister with our Family of Parishes. She will begin her part-time position on August 26th and one of her responsibilities will be working with families for baptismal preparation at both parishes.

Megan has strong roots in our parish community. She grew up in St. Michael's Parish and attended St. Michael's School and Catholic Central High School. In addition to her career as an Early Childhood Educator, Megan has also completed the three-year Certificate in Pastoral Ministry through St. Peter's Seminary.

Megan was a member of the organizing teams for RCIA and RCIC (Right of Christian Initiation for Children) and has also been a leader for Children's Liturgy, as well as participating in countless other church activities.

With her deep faith, ready smile and experience in ministry, I can think of no one better suited for this position. Congratulations Megan as you continue to be a blessing to our parish and to our CWL Council.

## September Welcome Back Social

Monday, September 9th, 7:00 pm  
St. John Paul II Room

All women of the parish, 16 years and up, are invited to the Catholic Women's League Welcome Back Social and General Membership Meeting, to celebrate the start of our fall season. Come and share in special refreshments provided by the CWL executive and enjoy the opportunity to socialize after the summer break.

## CWL Day at the Shrine, St. Patrick's Church, Merlin, July 24th



Joan Lobsinger and her friends from St. Peter's CWL relax between showers.



Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Father Paul Kim celebrates Mass



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## Family Trivia Fun Night

Gail Brown

Top of the group, unbeaten and on the favourable side of the draw for the knockout phase... Euro 2024 Soccer? No, it was the CWL / KofC Family Trivia Night this past June 22. Families and table teams gathered for the excitement – among them the Smarty Pants, Late To The Party, Al's Gals and the Maas Bunch. But the favoured champs, the unbeaten Smartinis, was the team to watch. Would they emerge victorious again this year?



### The Smartinis

Drinks and munchies were enjoyed, questions were asked, answered and scored, and by the end of the rounds, lo and behold, the come-from-behind team of Al's Gals surged ahead on the last question and won the night. The Smartinis came second, and The Maas Bunch was the first runner-up.

The Smartinis were gracious in defeat and it's safe to say a good time was had by all who attended. Steve Duncan from Noah Tall Trivia did a great job of entertaining both older and younger players and it was all in good fun. The next Family Trivia Night is on

November 16<sup>th</sup>. So gather a few friends and family members, come up with a team name, and get ready to challenge for the win!



### Al's Gals

## Attention All Crafters

Veronica Solis

Dear CWL Members, remember that we are on the way to the Christmas Market on Saturday, November 2nd. Here are some ideas about crafts that are welcome for this Christmas Market:

All knitting and sewn items for men and women:

scarves, shawls, hats, ear and leg warmers;

Kitchen items: runners, table cloths and mats, napkins, towels, pot warmers, aprons;

Kid's items like organizers, pencil bags, cloths, blankets, stuffed animals;

Wood crafts: chopping and cheese boards, bird houses;

Christmas almost new and new decorations;

paintings; general items: purses, wallets, bags

These are just a few ideas; the only limit is your imagination. If you need materials or pick-up of crafts you have ready, you can contact me, Veronica Solis, at 519-488-6265, or by email at [versolis@hotmail.com](mailto:versolis@hotmail.com). Thank you very much in advance for your hard work and generosity.

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*Come One Come All*

St. Michael's CWL Christmas Market  
511 Cheapside (at Maitland), London  
Saturday November 2, 2024  
9:00am to 3:00pm

Shop early for unique one-of-a-kind Gifts and Products offered by Parish Crafters including:

- ♥ Hand-crafted Wooden Gifts
- ♥ Hand-knitted and Hand-Sewn Clothing & Gifts
- ♥ Hand-made Jewellery & Yarn Crafts
- ♥ Homemade Preserves, Baked Goods, Spices & Candy

This year we will have a Christmas Cafe, a Children's Corner, a photo-op area and other surprises!

We will also be hosting a Draw Table and Silent Auction which will offer wonderful Gifts and Prizes for all ages!

★ Enjoy beverages and a delicious lunch ★

Find something for everyone on your list!

❄️❄️ *Cash Only For All Purchases* ❄️❄️

Proceeds to support the St. Vincent de Paul Housing Project and other CWL Charities and Initiatives

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## CHRISTMAS MARKET NEWS

The CWL will be having a one-day Christmas Market this year on **Saturday, November 2nd**. Last year's Christmas Sale brought in just over \$3000 which was donated to Hospitality North and the St. Vincent de Paul Housing Project. This year, we will once again use the profits from the Christmas Market to support the CWL charities and initiatives.

We have already begun planning for this event. This year, we will be adding food tables, a photo op area and some other surprises!

**We need your help!** Below, you will see the team leaders for each aspect of the market. **If you are able to volunteer on one of these teams to help organize, please contact the team leader directly.** You will not be alone. This is a great way for new and working members to get involved because you can make it suit your schedule! It is also a nice way to get to know some of the other members better.

We will need donations of items for sale as well. Think about what items you might be able to donate. **We will be looking for new craft items, children's items, preserves and candy, draw and raffle items, jewelry, Christmas decorations, and ready-to-give gifts.** Contact the team leaders below if you have items to donate or wish to arrange for pickup outside of a CWL meeting.

In the fall, we will be seeking volunteers to assist with setup, selling, and clean up. **Please consider how you can help to make this Christmas Market a success!**

### Team Leaders:

**Darlene Charrette (dcharrette8101@rogers.com; 519-852-5252)** for general inquiries, volunteers, ready-to-go gifts, or gifts from the kitchen

**Veronica Solis (versolis@hotmail.com; 519-476-3407)** for craft items or volunteers

**Corrie Gicante (corriegicante@yahoo.ca; 519-672-4875)** for advertising and promotion

**Judy Devlin (devcan6@msn.com; 519-878-5992)** for silent auction and draw table items

**Margaret Riehl (margriehl47@gmail.com; 519-365-1019)** for children's corner

**Donna Thompson (donna.mark@hotmail.com; 519-679-2639)** for Christmas Café

**Theresa Dwyer (tdhome@hotmail.com; 519-858-4009)** for new and vintage jewelry

**Kaylin Pridding (kaylin.pridding@gmail.com; 519-871-7137)** for Christmas decorations

**Marinette Laureano (Mlaureano0431@gmail.com; 519-859-0947)** for photo op area

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## Opportunities to participate in Pro-life events this Fall!

Veronica Solis

I think we can all agree that there cannot be anyone more vulnerable and innocent than a baby, more so before the baby has even been born. If we do not cherish and protect life from conception to natural death, we are doomed to disappear as a society. As women, we have a large role to play in defending the rights of the unborn. The feminine qualities of women move us to pray and look after those in need in a way that no one else can. This fall we will have some amazing opportunities to speak in favor of those who cannot speak for themselves. 4LifeLondon offers a number of activities where all are welcome. Please consider giving a few hours of your time to contribute to this very worthy cause.

Below is a list of activities planned for this fall:

1. **Western Fair Booth.** From September 6 – September 15. Volunteers commit 3 hours to work at our booth with a display that illustrates the beauty of the life growing in the womb of a mother. There are always 2 or more people working together at the booth. All volunteers get free entrance to the Western Fair.
2. **40 Days for Life** Join in silent prayer for mothers and babies in danger for 40 days this fall. Our Family of Parishes will be in charge of attendance for all the Wednesdays during the 40 days of the event, from September 25 to November 3. Everyone is welcome to come for an hour or any time you are available. We hope to fill the corner of Wellington and Commissioner every Wednesday during the event, near the site of Victoria Hospital where an average of 15 abortions take place every week. You will meet amazing people and save many lives.
3. **4LifeLondon Annual Gala.** The keynote speaker is Abby Johnson; the person on whom the movie *Unplanned* is based. Abby is a former director of a Planned Parenthood facility. After she saw and was involved firsthand in what was happening, she was not able to continue working there. Abby is now a passionate pro-life advocate. Tickets to the gala are \$75 per person.
4. **Chain for Life.** One hour of prayer along Wellington and Commissioners. Sunday October 6 from 2-3PM. This is a one time get together to pray for mothers' and babies' safety and well being.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to get involved, or if you would like more information. Veronica Solis: 519-488-6265; [versolis@hotmail.com](mailto:versolis@hotmail.com).



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## London Diocesan Fall Regional Days



***Calling All Our Sisters in the League!***

***What Is God Calling You to Do?***

**Join us for an inspiring day, learning and sharing!**



**Sept. 28, 9:00 am**

**St. Peter's, Tilbury East  
5425 Tecumseh Line,  
Tilbury, Ontario, N0P 2L0**



**Oct. 19. 9:00am**

**Holy Trinity, Woodstock  
1420 Devonshire Ave.  
Woodstock, ON, N4S 7V9**



**Oct. 26, 9:00am**

**All Saints, Strathroy  
124 Front St E,  
Strathroy Ontario N7G 1Y9**



**Praise**



**Presentations**



**Sharing**



***Rejoice in the Lord Always!***