



Catholic Women's League

St. Bartholomew Council

59 Heather Road, Scarborough, ON.

Spring/Summer 2017

Calendar of Events

Executive Meetings

7pm- 2nd Tuesday of every month(except July, August & September)

General Meetings

7pm-Last Tuesday of every month(except June, July, August,& December)

Scarborough Region General Meeting

Wednesday March 22nd
Immaculate Heart-Mass 7pm
131 Birchmount Road

Mary Matthews PSC Finals

Saturday March 25-1pm
St Francis Xavier Church
5650 Mavis Road
Mississauga

CWL TV Mass Taping

Wednesday April 19 -4pm
Loretta Abbey, - 101 Mason Blvd
North York.

Spring Raffle Ticket Sales

April 22&23/ 29&30/
All Masses: Volunteers Needed.

Mass & Meeting-Feast of Our Lady of Good Council

Tuesday April 25-7pm—St Bartholomew.

Baking Bee-May 3rd.9am

Norma Hing's Home

12 Hours of Prayer For Palliative Care.

May 4

TDC 96th Annual Convention

May 4&5—Marriott Toronto Airport

Spring Raffle & Bake Sale

May 6&7—Raffle Draw on Sunday.

National March For Life-Ottawa

May 11th.

Mothers Day Breakfast

Saturday May 13-9am
Mass & Breakfast.

175th. Anniversary Archdiocese of Toronto Mass

St Michael's Cathedral.—May30th.

June Summer Fundraiser TBA.

Ontario 70th Provincial Convention .

July 9th -12th
Thunder Bay

97th.National Convention August 6th-9th

Charlottetown. PEI

Rosary Sunday, Martyrs Shrine, Midland

September 10

Mass For Living & Deceased CWL Members.

September 26—St Bartholomew 7pm

A Message from the President

Sisters of the league I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to you for your help and contribution for the past year.

We still have more to do before we break for Summer, such as the Spring Raffle and Bake sale, TDC Convention and Mothers Day Break-fast celebration. I will be calling you for assistance once again for these ventures.

Have a Blessed and Holy Easter and may God Bless you and keep you safe.

May our Patroness Our Lady of Good Counsel guide us in our task, and may we continue to be an example of service for God and Canada.

Theresa

A Message from Father Foley

To the Ladies of St. Bartholomew's CWL

We are very close to celebrating the most holy and important feast day in the churches' calendar. Without the feast of the Resurrection we would not be gathering as Christian Community. This feast day illustrates in no other way in Christ's gift of hope and life for every one of us.

Best wishes to you all.



Lord Jesus, you embraced your cross to redeem the world. .. Help us to embrace the crosses in our life, the hardships, struggles, disappointments, pain. Only by recognizing our own weakness, can we discover Your strength. "Author Unknown"

As we prepare to walk the road to Calvary this Good Friday we have spent the past weeks of Lent in

prayer, in fasting, in abstinence and in alms giving and now our preparation leads us into Holy Week. In reflecting on the life Jesus lived on this earth; the miracles, forgiveness, healing, compassion, mercy and great love, He gave hope. While we may not be able to work miracles as he did, we can participate in healing others, comforting our brothers and sisters. We can understand people who feel alone, giving hope to those in despair and caring for those in greatest needs. For me, this Lent has gone by far too quickly. If you're feeling the same way, don't despair; simply redouble your efforts as you enter Holy Week. As St. John Chrysostom writes in his famous Easter Homily, "...if any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him not be afraid by his delay. For the Lord is gracious and receives the last, even as the first..." God accepts all of our efforts, no matter how small they are or how late they are in coming.

May this period of Solemnity bring you peace and increase your love for God who loves us so much that He sent His Only Son to die for you and for me. May the great sacrifice of love offered by Jesus on the Cross fill us all with the motive to love Him and to love each other.

Thank You All

St Bartholomew Council wish to thank our out-going Scarborough Region Chair Philomena Menezes for her leadership, hard work, commitment and strong spiritual direction.

A special thank you to her husband Terence for his support and musical contribution to Scarborough Choir and all our Masses at the Region. We hope this time will give them more flexibility to spend with their grand-daughter baby Ivy.

As this is an election year at TDC we look forward to a strong representation from Scarborough Region with Philomena, Alice Warford and Suzanne Cockburn.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our own Sheilah D'Souza for her contribution and on going representation at the Regional level.

"Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call."

Editor.

Congratulations To Desiree De Abreu who celebrates 55 years as a CWL Member.

Desiree joined the CWL soon after immigrating from her native Guyana to Canada in a small town in British Columbia where she met a welcoming group of CWL ladies and enjoyed the social activities and the fellowship. As a young mother she felt at home with all the other young mothers.

This is her story of her early years of the CWL Experience.

I joined the Catholic Women's League in Tahsis, Vancouver Island, when I arrived in Canada in October 1962.

The Village of Tahsis is set amidst a rugged landscape on the western edge of Vancouver Island, British Columbia. The lush rainforest, steep fjord-like mountains that slope down towards the Pacific Ocean draw many adventurers to experience this pristine coastal area.

I was a young mother far away from home with three children; 1,2 & 4 years old. At the time the CWL was the only adult social life that Tahsis had to offer. There was no TV and to get a radio signal, we had to string a line up the mountain in our back yard.

As we had an Italian group, we always had wine at our meetings. The meetings were always held in our homes.

My husband and I, along with the children, spent a very happy two (2)years there. We recall many pleasant memories of that time so long ago.

These memories are part of the reason that I have always kept up my CWL membership.

Desiree

Mary Mathew's Public Speaking Contest

Parish Level

The Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest – Parish Level – was held on Monday, February 27th at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church. 3 parish schools participated with a total of 8 speakers - St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Bartholomew, and St. Elizabeth Seton.

There were a variety of topics and it was interesting to hear the perspectives of our future leaders. The participants were confident and presented their topics in a very eloquent manner.

The impromptu topic was "Pizza or Mac & Cheese – which is better and why?" Almost all of them touched on how pizza has more value because of the many toppings which cover the various food groups. Even as young children they are already aware of the dangers of being on "high-calorie" foods.

While the judges deliberated in an effort to reach an equitable decision, the children enjoyed an array of refreshments in the narthex. When the judges made their choice and announced it, it turned out that both the winner as well as the runner up were from St. Elizabeth Seton. They were thrilled to have 3 trophies to take back with them. All the participants received certificates as well as a ribbon.

Regional Level

The Regional Level contest was held on Sunday, March 12th at St. Barnabas Parish Hall. 3 schools participated, resulting in 3 participants (all first place winners at the parish level). Our Council participant, Olivia Rivera from St. Elizabeth Seton, was under the weather with a sore throat. But she was determined to attend and do the best she could.

Prior to Olivia making her presentation, she sipped warm ginger tea to ease the voice problem she was experiencing. Her presentation was filled with excellent content pertinent to her topic, eloquence and her diction was very good. She was the winner with runners up from St Joseph Highland Creek and St Boniface Councils. After the presentation of awards, the head judge Sunaina Menezes gave encouraging remarks to all the participants for their future life experiences in public speaking.

Our Council at St Bartholomew is very excited and wish Olivia all the success, and hope she can bring home the trophy from TDC on March 25th. She will also do Elizabeth Seaton School in Scarborough proud.

We will be there to give our support. It would be the second time in more than 20 years, our Council would share this winning experience. The Odds are much better than the Maple Leafs bringing home the Stanley Cup, which was 50 years ago..

Go Olivia Go!!

Flora Vaz

Reflection On The Resurrection and The Joy of The Easter Song

In the midst of our busy lives, it is easy to be overwhelmed and feel overcome by difficult circumstances. As we strive to pray, Christ risen from the dead allows us to taste this only in order to help us come to Spiritual maturity. He himself comes to give us hope, that we might stand firm and not lose heart.

This is the great spiritual battle of prayer--our victory is assured because Christ rose from the dead and has not abandoned us. It was along these lines that to encourage the faithful entrusted to his care, an ancient author once wrote in an Easter Homily: Sermon 35, 6-9; PL 17ed 1879, 696-697

"As we have borne the image of the earthly man, the image of human nature grown old in sin, so let us bear now the image of the heavenly man: human nature raised, redeemed, and purified by Christ. We must hold fast to the salvation we have received." (Paraphrased from St Paul's Letter to the Corinthians).

Christ comes to those who trust Him, and He is constantly coming in every new ways. He is here, risen from the dead, to help us hold fast--- enveloping us in His love and establishing us in His truth. His silent presence knocks on the door of our hearts. His voice whispers in the stillness of our prayer. He gently admonishes the wayward and leaves the proud displeased. He firmly defends the innocent. He patiently seeks the lost. He lifts up the lowly. He lovingly gazes into the eyes of those who hold fast, and gratefully rests in the hearts of the humble. He speaks of beautiful mysteries that await those who will persevere until the end.

To be visited by the Lord in this way is not merely to have a good feeling or pleasant thoughts. He who is risen in flesh to new life offers us heavenly power over everything that seeks to dehumanize us in this present old life. If we are trapped we can call Him, for He is the unconquered Liberator. If we are overwhelmed with sorrow--- we can go to Him. For He is the Consolation of all consolations. If someone has been unjustly treated -- Jesus the King of Righteousness takes up our cause. If someone is anxious and it seem death itself overshadow us-- fear not for the Prince of Peace is at our side.

Christ is truly risen!!! Real power flows from His glorified body and He longs to show us the victory He beholds even now. This is why Easter is the greatest of all feasts ever known--- it contains the essence of Christian hope, the secret of true prayer, a glimpse of the victory God yearns to realize in our own lives.

Trust in Him who comes to us each and every day -- hold fast to the salvation we have received, bear the image of the Heavenly Man--- raised up. Redeemed. Purified by His Blood.

The Resurrection has to be central to who we are as Christians and how we live as Christians. Those who bear witness to Jesus Christ risen from the dead have an understanding of reality which gives us courage faith and fortitude itself and even love in the face of events that others find absolutely destructive; where other find darkness, despair and turmoil.

Christians see the light of Christ shining through and this gives us the opportunity to be at peace; to be truly tranquil and to realize that everything is in God's hands. He will bring something good and beautiful out of even the darkest moment.

From the world's most darkest, evil moment two thousand years ago, the joy of the Resurrection is shared and all mankind will benefit from His Resurrection because God loves everyone, created in His image and likeness. Our song of praise and thanksgiving is Alleluia !! Alleluia !! He is Risen and we too will share in His victory.

Editor.



Christmas 2016—"The Cast"

Stations of the Cross by CWL & CGL Members

St. Bartholomew's theme for 2017 Lenten Reflection and Stations of the Cross is "*For by Grace you have been saved through Faith*" (**Ephesians 2:8**).

Each parish ministry is given one Friday in Lent (March 3 – April 7), to organize and lead the Stations of the Cross. Friday March 10th was assigned to the CWL and CGL to present our reflection and lead the Stations. Although it was a very cold winter's night many parishioners and non-parishioners attended. Their presence reflected great faith and thankfulness for the unconditional love Jesus showed for us by His death and resurrection so that we may live in His Spirit.

The program for the night included the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, followed by a Reflection and concluded with the Stations of the Cross. The Mass was celebrated by Fr Warren, concelebrated by Fr. Foley. Fr. David Warren is the Secretary General of the Scarborough Foreign Mission Society, and conducts Bible study at SFM.

Our theme for the night was "The Power of Grace" and Fr. Warren was invited to speak on Grace. He spoke on the analogy of the brothers in the parable "The Prodigal Son" (Luke 15:11-32).

Fr. Warren did not make mention to 'the parable of the prodigal son', we knew his story was based on it since we are all so familiar with this parable from Luke's Gospel. Fr. Warren conveyed picturesque descriptions in the story that provided cultural details that helped us understand the settings at that time period. By understanding the settings, the main point of the story comes to light of understanding the personalities of the father and his two sons. The prodigal son represents a sinner who comes to repentance and reminds us of the duty of the sinner to repent. The father's love, generosity, and joy over the son's return demonstrated divine grace.

God's generosity dealing with Sinners, His compassion, forgiveness, mercy and divine grace is mirrored in the Father who welcomed his son with open arms.

The older brother's indifference, a point we may or may not have paid much attention to previously, as it turns out — his attitude betrayed his self-centeredness. The older brother is a reminder that neither a show of religion nor the pretence of respectability is a valid substitution for redemption. At the end of the talk, Fr. Warren asked who of the sons do we recognize in ourself, or do we recognize ourself in both sons?

This was a powerful question put forward to us. Something we can take away that we may reflect on during this Lenten season, or reflect on during the year so we may be constantly reminded of God's inexhaustible grace and love for each and everyone of us. And that God's grace is

greater than any sin we commit as long as we seek His forgiveness.

Seeing ourselves in the Parable we may recognize ourselves and taking a side of one of the brothers. . The prodigal son is a humbling reminder of who we are and how much we owe to Divine Grace. Regardless of which of those categories we fall into, may we gain a new understanding and appreciation for the beauty, the glory and the sacrifice of God's Only Son and the plan of redemption.

After the completion of the Reflection, we gathered to recite the Stations of the Cross. Each Station was narrated by members of CWL and CGL in front of each of the Stations in the Church. It was a deep moving spiritual experience as we meditated on each of the Stations.

The evening ended with a closing 'thank you' to everyone for participating.

Lisa Silva
Spiritual Development Chair.

Renewal and Rebirth-The Life of Springtime.
Spring is a **miraculous experience of nature.** It is the time of year when the whole world comes alive after the Winter in which it seemed that everything was dead. The cold gives way to the warmth, the rain renews the earth and the greenery emerges from the rotten leaves that covered and protected the bulbs beneath. The long days of darkness gradually recedes and we begin to enjoy longer daylight. Life is renewed and the vivid colours begin to emerge.

"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."
John 12:24

The world comes filled with colour and the scent of greenery, and an array of the Crocuses, the Hyacinths and the Tulips. Later the shrubs and trees show their blossoms, the bright colour of the Forsythia, the Crab Apple and the Cherry blossoms display their majestic beauty. The world that seemed so dull and cold has come alive once again. Little did we know that beneath the cold hard ground the plants and trees were preparing for rebirth. Spring gives us hope for rejuvenation in our own lives as well. Spring is a time to renew the excitement and zest for life that lives inside.

May we be strengthened in keeping our Lenten observance and grow in the necessary virtue in order to prepare our souls. As we move toward Easter, may each of our hearts experience a symphony of spiritual renewal like Mother Earth at Springtime. May the virtue of hope which is found in the life we have through the death of Jesus, and the eager anticipation we have been given because of His glorious Résurrection!

Editor.

"DARE TO BE A PRIEST LIKE ME. Phone 977-1100."

Early in the 1980's that slogan was seen on 38 large black-and-white billboards spotted around Toronto. The billboard constituted an effort by the archdiocese to raise awareness and to inject new blood into the Catholic clergy.

"We are in a genuine crisis," says the Rev. Sean O'Sullivan, 31, who was the "Poster Priest" in the billboard photograph. Prior to that time, he had been a Member of Parliament. In fact, when elected at age 20 in 1972 as a protégé of Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, he'd been the youngest MP in Canadian history at the time.

"Everybody assumed I was going to make a lifetime career out of politics," he recalls. "I had the usual ambitions: Move up the ladder, and when the people, in their wisdom, asked me to be Prime Minister, I would serve. But God reaches us in different ways. He gave me everything I thought I wanted. I had lots of money and ego reinforcement and friends. I had a sense I was doing some good things. But I felt a lack of peace. I felt that something was missing in my life."

Today there are no such public displays asking for young men to answer the Call to the Priesthood. With the explosion of social media such public displays would probably create controversy as it did then ; but probably more extensive controversy now, than it did then. In our secular society some people would probably find it offensive and question the political correctness. We have to continue to pray for Vocations. Such support and prayers are fostered by parents or clergy who see that something special in a young man and gives him encouragement to pray, discern , and listen to what God is saying to him. " *No vocation is born of itself or lives for itself...*"

Pope Francis

As women of the Catholic Women's League let us continue to offer up our Spiritual Bouquets of prayers for more young men to respond to the Call of the Priestly Vocation, and continue to pray for them as they serve. At St Bartholomew after the daily weekday Mass we say the Rosary and pray for Vocations to the Priesthood.

At the 27th. Annual Ordainandi Dinner, March 7, 2017 there were approximately 2000 in attendance. Parents, family , friends, Bishops, Clergy, Catholic Organizations, Serra International, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women's League, Students and Seminarians.

This year's theme: "My Immaculate Heart Will Triumph". Vocation director, Fr Chris Lemieux in his address to the Ordainandi said, "*Know Him, Love Him, Walk with Him in every step you take*".

"*The harvest is great but the labourers are few.*" This year 11 men, ages from 25 to 58. will be ordained on May 13th, Life is full of many choices as well a challenges. as each Ordainandi related their story of their personal journey and their answer to the Call as that special gift of walking in His footsteps came to each one of them.

Faith is built on reason, God is in the driver seat. Each of us reflect in silence and many questions comes to us. How can God call me and Is this God speaking to me, Fr Edwin Gonsalves in his address said, "*The Holy Spirit is in charge of the Seminary*".

Each year as CWL members we bring forth Spiritual Bouquets and the many, many, spiritual offerings are being offered up as spiritual support. It is a gift and one that as Catholics we acknowledge and are extremely thankful of the many men who answer The Call to serve God.

One of the Mission Statement of the Serra International Organization (Supporters) is :

"*To foster and promote Vocations to the ministerial priesthood in the Catholic Church as a particular vocation to service, and to support priests in their sacred ministry.*"

We need priests to administer the Sacraments. "*A priest is one who makes Christ visible.* Venerable Fulton J Sheen : " A treasure in Clay"(page 4)

Brenda Bourne.

Recording Secretary

2017 Lenten Project.—Inspired By The Spirit

As we respond to our CWL theme the call to be "**Inspired By The Spirit which may be evident in all we say and do.**" May we be guided each step of the way to do what is pleasing to God.

After attending TDC Development Day in February our Council took on the challenge from Hilarion Mitchel , TDC 2nd Vice President and Spiritual Development Chair. She suggested that we could think of a project we could accomplish and to in cooperate one or more of the Fruit of the Holy Spirit, write a blurb and submit it to the newsletter by February 28, 2017.

While we did not submit the blurb, we presented a project at our February general meeting, selecting : "**Kindness and Generosity.**"

From "**Understanding" a Gift of the Holy Spirit**" derives the characteristics of kindness and generosity to do, starting from **Ash Wednesday**.

Member were asked to remove an item of clothing from their closet that they no longer wear or need and place the items in in a bag. At the end of the 40 days of Lent we will donate the collection of clothing to a charity.

With the significance of the challenge we posed a question, instead of saying "*what can I give up for Lent.?*"

We can do something positive by giving away something to "**improve the lives**" of those in need. In accomplishing this act of kindness we are also "**clothing the naked**". One of the Corporal works of Mercy a charitable action by which we "**help our neighbours for their bodily needs**" based on the teachings of Jesus.

May we grow and bear much fruit for our spiritual wellbeing and the well being of the world.

Editor

CWL Theme: Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call. Empower Us With The Gifts of The Holy Spirit.

*"Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth. "*

In the National CWL 2017 Winter League Magazine, our National President, Margaret Ann Jacobs invites all Councils to reflect on the theme logo and prayer. Please refer to the prayer card which came as removable insert in the magazine.

How can we be filled with the Spirit? How can we be Inspired by the Spirit ?

First we must know what are the gifts of the Holy Spirit as written in Galatians 5:22-23.

As well as the fruits that will be a manifestation of the gifts. The meaning of Galatians 5:22-23 is to tell us what the Holy Spirit can provide us with (the fruits of the Spirit) if we follow the nine manifestations of the spirit; they will bear fruits within us.

Those fruits of the spirit are love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

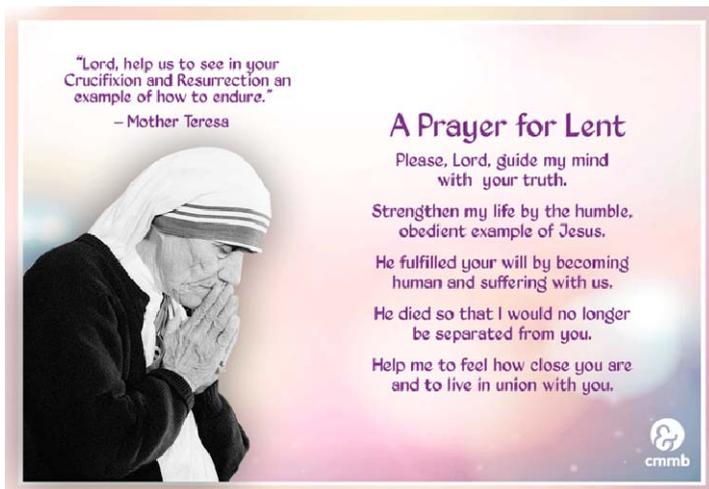
We know what it means to be filled with excitement and happiness. Those emotions are very strong when we experience great joy in our lives. St Paul in his letter to the Galatians tells us to be filled with the Spirit, let everything we think and do be influenced or controlled by the Holy Spirit. That is what our National Theme wants us to strive for.

But that's not all. we are invited, called to come forth- **"Women Respond To God's Call."** We are called to respond in spiritual and temporal/secular deeds daily. We are to invite the Holy Spirit in our lives and willing to use the talents we are blessed with and share those talents in service in our parishes, in our councils, in our communities, and in the workplace place, every area of our lives.

This world would most certainly be a better place filled with love, peace and justice. As the prophet Micah tells us :

"What he requires of us is this: to do what is just, to show constant love, and to live in humble fellowship with our God." (6.8). And I would add our neighbour. Without humility we cannot serve others.

May God give us a heart to worship him and to do his will readily and generously as we respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to ".....Respond to God's Call"



As we began the Liturgical season of Lent on March 1 this year we know that the Lenten season can demand a lot of commitment from us.

However we choose to celebrate this Lent; it's a time of more frequent prayers, reflection, penitence, and alms giving. This is our sacrifice, but it's a sliver, when we contemplate the incredible gift of love we have been granted.

This gift of love we have been given is the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please take some time to focus on the impact of this gift. It will encourage and strengthen each of us to meet the challenges of life with gratitude and thanksgiving.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God - not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life."

Ephesians 2:8-10

The refrain "We adore you , O Christ and we bless you. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world" is a prayer and a constant reminder of God's love as it tells the story of greatest love and obedience to the will of the Father.

"Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard "delay", but he is patient with you , not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance..."

2Peter 3:8-9

May you find great blessing from your time this Lent and consider Jesus' resurrection as an assurance of victory over suffering and death, when Hosanna and Alleluia will be our song at Easter.

Forget about giving up chocolate for Lent. Do something extra instead.

Editor

The World Day Of Prayer Worship Service, March 2017.

This year the WDP in our region was hosted by St Aidan's CWL and CGL. The theme was : **"Am I Being Unfair To You?"** The reading taken from the Gospel of Matthew 20:1-16

The service was written by the women of WDP Committee of the Philippines, and prepared and adapted by the Women's Inter-Church Council (WICC) of Canada.

Participating in the Ecumenical Service were the following Churches: Agincourt Pentecostal, Wellesley Chapel (Methodist), Agincourt Baptist, Knox United, St Aidan, St Joseph's Highland Creek, St Barnabas and St Bartholomew.

The event was well attended, and all the songs were sung by a group ladies and men from the Philippines from various Catholic churches. The choir is called " Soli Deo Gloria Choir."

Fr Pena, the priest who reflected on the Scripture reading is from the Philippines but now residing in Canada.

Both Brenda and I had "reading" parts in the event. Some of the participants were dressed in the Philippines cultural and traditional clothes and many symbols of the country were displayed. At the end of the Prayer Service everyone participated in meeting and greeting fellowship along with food from the Philippines. Sam Spence took photographs of the event and some of the photographs will be donated to St Aidan's for their archives, and some will be kept in St Bartholomew's archives.

For those who are not familiar with the WDP, the movement is initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and Regions. It is a movement symbolized by an annual day of celebration-the first Friday of March. It usually falls on the first Friday of Lent for Catholics and so most Catholic Churches when hosting the event may plan it for the afternoon or another day. The movement brings together women around the world of various races, cultures, and traditions. Through the WDP women around the world affirm their faith in Jesus Christ, share their joys and sorrows; their opportunities and needs. By participating women become aware of the needs of other women and they no longer live in isolation.

Donations collected at the WDP are tax deductible and provide grants for various projects, from helping women in Canada, Africa, Central & South America, the Caribbean and Asia.

Next year the the Prayers will be written by the Women of Surinam. The Theme is:

"All God's Creation is Very Good!."

It would be a privilege for St. Barts to host it next year as we have previously done in the past.

Editor.

Why do we have Easter Eggs?

What do Easter Eggs have to do with Christ rising from the dead? The practice of blessing Easter eggs actually came from the practice of giving up dairy products during Lent. Since you couldn't have eggs during Lent, they became part of the Easter morning tradition.

To prepare our hearts for Christ's victory, we imitate the 40 days He spent in the desert.

Why the number 40?

40 has always been a significant time period in the Bible.

Moses spent 40 days on Mount Sinai with God (Exodus 24:18)

Elijah spent 40 days and nights walking to Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:8)

God sent 40 days and nights of rain in the great flood (Genesis 7:4)

The Hebrew people wandered 40 years in the desert (Numbers 14:33)

Jonah's prophecy of judgment gave 40 days to the city of Nineveh to repent or be destroyed (Jonah 3:4)

Why the number 40? As you look at the examples in the bible, they are all times of trial or struggle. Although we do not wish to struggle, remember God uses suffering and trial to bring us closer to Him.

What else takes 40 weeks? A baby! A pregnant woman is considered full term at 40 weeks. Think God did that on purpose? :)

Why do we give up certain foods during Lent?

In the middle ages, meat, eggs, and milk were forbidden during Lent not only by ecclesiastical law, but by civil statutes as well. Believe it or not, this rule was enforced until the reign of King William III (England, 1689).

Why do we give up certain types of food for Lent? What good does that do? Giving up a sensual pleasure (food) helps ensure that our lives do not become overly comfortable and without suffering.

Fasting from pleasures of this life help us to realize that this is not what we are made for - we are made for a higher good, to serve Christ in this life and be with him in paradise!

"Flocknote" by Matthew Sewell

Did You Know ?

Centenary Celebration for the Catholic Women's League-2020

The Catholic Women's League of Canada was organized nationally on June 17, 1920 and granted federal incorporation on December 12, 1923.

The First National President- Bellelle Guerin

In 1921 at the first national convention, held in Toronto, Ontario, she expressed her belief in the future of the organization. *"We may be said to be laying the cornerstone of an edifice that will arise fair and beautiful, strong and proud before the eyes of the world."*

Bellelle's role in the League was recognized in 1922 at a meeting of the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues in Rome, where she became the first woman in Canada to receive the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal. She said, *"I hold the honour as belonging to every individual member of the Catholic Women's League of Canada."*

Congratulations To Desiree De Abreu who celebrates 55 years as a CWL Member.

Congratulations to the Khan's, Winston & Lilet, on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

On June 25, 1967 they were married in All Saints Anglican Church, on the beautiful Island of Trinidad. The presiding Priest was Rev. Rawle Douglin. They are parents to Kevin and Michelle and are the proud grand parents to Axel and Marek.

" A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person."

Mignon McLaughlin.

Thinking Of You Corner

If you have not attended a meeting since the beginning of the year due to the weather, we look forward to you joining us as soon as you can. Come out and share your ideas. We need to keep our Council active and vibrant

We would like to say farewell to Winnie Yan who is now officially a member of St Joseph Highland Creek CWL. Winnie, you know, we, the "old timers", will miss you. Please feel free to visit us on our special occasions and keep in touch.

Contributions to the Newsletter

All submissions should be typed and the digital file submitted by email.

Copyright material will not be accepted for use in the newsletter without written permission of the author.

Contact: Sonia for further details.

Email: soniad70@hotmail.com

Bereavement Corner

To those who have recently lost a loved one, may God bring comfort and consolation wrapping His Loving Arms around you as grieve your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Last September , Sandra Talman passed after a courageous battle with cancer.

In Christ , the end is only the beginning , may she enjoy the company of the Angels and the Saints and the welcome of Our God and the fullness of heaven.

"Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord ,and let Perpetual light shine upon them. May their soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace."

Sick Note Corner

To our members who have been incapacitated due to illness, know that you are prayed for each time we meet at the executive and general meetings. We are happy to see the smiling faces of Mary, Noreen, Marcelle and Nelia as they continues on their road to recovery.

May all of you be consoled and strengthened by God's unfailing compassion, love, mercy and healing each day for a total recovery.

Birthday Club

Congratulations to all our members who celebrated birthday during the months of January through June. The month of January is the month with most of our members celebrating birthdays. If you have not heard from us on your birthday, it means we have missed your Special Day. Please let us know your birthday and come out to our monthly meeting as our social time is spent enjoying birthday cake and ice cream.

A special birthday wish to Desiree who celebrated her 80th.

Some of our members are shy and would prefer not to have their milestone publicly acknowledged. We wish all our members a happy birthday on their special day and will continue to celebrate birthdays monthly as part of the social segment at our meetings.

St Bartholomew CWL Executives 2016-2017

Spiritual Director	Rev Fr Fred Foley
President	Theresa Greasley
Treasurer	Anne Wylie
Recording Secretary	Brenda Bourne

Committee Chairs:

Spiritual Development.	Lisa Silva
Christian Family Life	Sheilah D' Souza
Education & Health	Flora Vaz
Historian & Newsletter Editor	Sonia DaCosta-Spence.