A Message from the President

Mother Teresa once wrote "Kind words can be short and easy to speak but their echoes are truly endless." Be kind to all you meet, each one of us carries a burden that others cannot see.

**WANTED:** All ladies 16 and older who want to make a difference in world - the CWL is looking for you.

Welcome back every one.

Another year is upon us and there is much to look forward to. Your executive has been busy making plans to meet and greet you at our upcoming events. Please come out and help us to keep the Catholic Women’s League alive and flourishing at St. Gregory’s.

**We need your support.**

During this year we have lost another two of our CWL Sisters - Anna Paul and Ingrid Kastelic. They are truly missed. May they rest in peace. We also have some CWL members who have become very frail and unable to care for themselves. Please keep them in your prayers.

Ladies, I look forward to personally meeting with you at our events and hope you will share your ideas with us about the direction you would like the CWL to take.

I close with this thought (author unknown), "Sometimes in the winds of change we find our true direction".

Marie Bertin

**Altar Cloth**

The CWL has donated a beautiful altar cloth now being used in our church. The cloth was selected by Marie Bertin and Jane O’Brien at a cost of $497.20.

“Centered on Faith and Justice – Living in the Light”

The 2011-2012 theme Centered on Faith and Justice is represented by the colors of blue and gold which are the League’s colors; the cross is the symbol of faith; the globe represents global justice, justice for all; the dove, a symbol of peace and faith, with outstretched wings embracing the world with peace, faith, hope and justice; the sprig of green, a symbol of hope, growth and the environment. (cwltoronto.ca)

**Altar Cross**

courtesy of Fr. John Bertao

St. Gregory’s Catholic Women's League is proud to sponsor a new Altar Cross in recognition of the many women who have faithfully served on the Altar Society since the first Masses at Rosethorn School. The women clean the sanctuary, launder and iron the linens, polish the silver and brasses, prepare the altar and decorate for the Liturgical seasons. The new Altar Cross, chosen by Fr. John, is also in honour of Marie Palleschi and her dedicated leadership. Thank you to Fr. John for generously providing the engraving.
October 2012:
Month of the
Holy Rosary

Dear Sisters in Christ:

The Holy Father, Pope Benedict VI, has asked the universal church to dedicate this year as the Year of Faith.

Some may wonder what this may mean for YOU as an individual and the Church as a whole.

The document from the Holy Father, that is available on line, has a number of suggestions that we could undertake. In this reflection, and perhaps to guide us, I call your attention to a phrase that is so true and hurtful: “We are in a crisis of faith.”

I take this phrase very much to heart, perhaps because of the great truth that it bears. Our Society is straying away from faith in God and moving towards reliability on material goods that are easily disposed. We have also implemented laws that are more self centered than they are on the Kingdom of God. For example, more and more men and women are choosing to ‘live together’ rather than commit to the bond of Holy Matrimony; others want laws changed to accommodate their own personal needs and desires, such as abortion on demand and many others that hurt our relationship with our God. What message are these actions giving to our children?

Yet, not all is lost. We still have a chance to make things better. Here are two for your consideration and reflection: The first is regular Mass attendance. At each Mass a small part of Holy Scripture is revealed to us for guidance and reflection. We should consider this guidance for our day to day living more important, and true than the daily horoscope.

In my second suggestion, I take you back to October in 1917 when three innocent children were visited by Mary, the Mother of Jesus in the hill country of Fátima, Portugal. Our Lady’s main message, or request to the seers was, “...pray the Rosary every day for the conversion of sinners...” And they did so.

One thing that is striking about the seers is that these children did not pray for themselves but for others, (for us) as Our Lady had requested. They prayed in dialogue, devotion and great faith that Mary and Jesus would make things better. The rest is history.

Dear sisters in Christ, the world around us continues to change, as it has since 1917 and beyond. Yet, God remains the same as does the message and request of Our Lady: PRAY THE ROSARY EVERY DAY.

For over fifty years the members of the Catholic Women’s League of our parish has made an incredible difference to all who have passed on, those who are still with us, and, hopefully to those who will come tomorrow and in the days ahead.

How can YOU make a difference today? Maybe inviting someone to join you and walking with them in some ministry. Perhaps inviting someone for coffee and praying the Rosary with them. Or humbly asking someone to help you in a task you can no longer do on your own.

Ninety five years ago three little children asked Mary to ‘give a sign that more could believe’; she did, and many have come to believe and follow Our Lady’s request to pray the Rosary every day with faith in Her Son.

Mary can do the same for you, not to change the world but one small thing at a time.

Ask with conviction, sincerity and most of all with FAITH.

May your faith in Jesus and the intercession of His Most Blessed Mother bless you with the faith you require to know that with HIM all is possible, one thing at a time.

Sincerely In Christ

Fr. John Bertão
Spring Luncheon

A Certificate of Merit was awarded to Jane O’Brien in recognition of her outstanding contributions to St. Gregory’s CWL and parish. What follows is the speech given by Marie Bertin upon bestowing the award.

She is organized, generous, creative, tireless, dedicated, cheerful, persuasive and humble – She is JANE O’BRIEN.

She has taken charge of the decorating of the sanctuary and side altars which shows her creative side. Jane works wonders with a few plants and some ribbon as well as lights and a little burlap at Christmas.

She is presently director of the Living Rosary because of her devotion to keeping the group active.

Jane is a master CWL recruiter. Many ladies in this room have been welcomed into the embrace of the CWL because of her. I know we have all heard these words, “Would you like to come out and give us a hand? It won’t take long and you’ll have fun.” It’s her gentle persuasion at work and it is hard to say “no” to her.

The CWL Christmas Craft Show continues to flourish because of her. From recruiting the vendors, to handling all the correspondence, lining up the prizes, raffle tickets, organizing volunteers, etc. etc. she does it all. Then the night before the show she goes home and bakes pies for the bake table.

The Friendship Luncheon is another of her endeavours. She has been the driving force behind the monthly luncheons social welcoming parishioners for many years, serving sandwiches and dessert for lunch and occasionally invites someone to entertain them.

Jane, the members of St. Gregory’s Catholic Women’s League wish to honour you with this “Certificate of Merit” for all your many years of faithful service, not only to the CWL, but to the whole St. Gregory’s community. Each and every one of us treasures your leadership, your boundless energy, your kind and generous heart and your welcoming smile.

Certificates in recognition of dedicated service were also awarded to Loretta Antonacci,

Jenny Evans

and Lucy Pereira.

Long Service Pins were awarded to Clara Antonacci

and Daisy Hart.

Guest Speaker: Bill O’Brien

The Spring Luncheon was the scene of an inspirational talk by Bill O’Brien, more commonly known as “Jane’s husband”. Bill told the story of his pilgrimage on El Camino de Santiago de Compostela. It was a journey of spiritual and personal growth, told with grace and humour. Bill’s story moved all of us with its simplicity, honesty and depth of emotion. The power of prayer and faith was illustrated when Bill told of placing stones dedicated to Margaret Maclean-Wade on a hill made of thousands of prayer stones carried there by other pilgrims.

Day one: 28km walked, 790km to go

Hill of thousands of prayer stones

On the journey, over and around mountains, fields and towns.
December Pot Luck Luncheon

The Pot Luck Luncheon is always a popular event at St. Greg’s.

54 gifts were donated to Ernestine’s Women’s Shelter.

The delicious lunch was followed by a sing-a-long led by Jane O’Brien and Lila Bellantone.

The gift basket draw, which netted $60, was won by Dorothy Foran.

Bravest man in the parish, Garth Wade, only man at the luncheon.

Pancake Breakfast

The CWL joined the Knights of Columbus, Kingsway Council, in hosting the parish Pancake Breakfast. Hundreds of hungry parishioners enjoyed pancakes and sausages.

Marie Bertin, Dina Tjiang and Jane O’Brien suit up for the crowds.

Marie Bertin keeps an eye on the Knights.

Anne Tataj and Francis Hatfield at the Membership Table

Knights of the kitchen table.

The Keep Kids Warm Campaign, spearheaded by Francis Hatfield, came to a successful end with the collection of enough hats, mitts and scarves to fill a van. All items were donated to a parish in northern Manitoba.

Helpful Hint for Cold & Flu Season

Studies show cheerful people resist disease better than chronic grumblers. Doctors conclude the surly bird gets the germ.

(from Holy Humor, Cal and Rose Samra)
Out of the Cold Program

On December 18, 2011, Lucy Pereira and her team prepared and served 78 meals for the Out of the Cold program at a cost of $155.72. The meal consisted of chicken thighs, rice, mixed vegetables, buns and banana splits for dessert. Only some rice and vegetables left over which were frozen to supplement soups made for the ‘Out of the Cold’ program. All this for $1.97 per person!

Donations

The Parish Treasurer’s Annual Donations Report for January 1 to December 31, 2011 was submitted to the Toronto Archdiocesan CWL. Our parish council donated a total of $8,805 which is broken down in the following categories:

- Parish $1,644.00
- Missions $1,960.00
- League Development $850.00
- Pro-Life $444.00
- Community Organizations $2,837.00
- Catholic Education $670.00
- Other: Matercare, WUCWO $400.

Coffee Sunday on October 28 will be hosted by the CWL. Come out and be an ambassador for the CWL. Let the rest of the parish in on the good news that the CWL is alive and well and important to the parish.

Christmas Craft Show

This year’s Christmas Craft Show will take place the weekend of November 17/18, 2012. Help is always needed for advertising, setting up, manning the tables, working in the kitchen and cleaning up. To volunteer any time you have, please contact Jane O’Brien at 416-239-0450 or cwl.stgregorys@gmail.com.

Raffle tickets: 3 for $5.00 or a book of 8 tickets for $10.00

Prizes Include:
1) 40” Flat Screen TV - $700.00
2) 9x6 Natural Sisal Area Rug - $650.00
3) Cash Prize of $500.00 from St. Gregory’s CWL
4) Pair of Red Seats for Toronto Raptors $400.00
5) Pair of Toronto Raptor Tickets $140.00

Catch the Fire Training Workshop

Toronto Diocesan Council
Date: Saturday November 24, 2012 (8:30 am - 4:00 pm)
Nativity of Our Lord Parish
480 Rathburn Road
For more info: http://www.cwltoronto.ca/index.php/sponsored_events

CWL is on-line!
www.cwl.ca National
www.cwl.on.ca Provincial

Fr. Henry’s Celebration

November 25, 2012 is the date for the parish celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Ordination of Fr. Henry Alva. Come celebrate this joyous occasion with Fr. Henry at a reception in the parish hall following the 11am Mass.

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha canonized October 21, 2012

On October 21, 2011 Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks, will be canonized in Rome. Kateri was a woman who was steadfast in her beliefs, overcoming disease and social alienation. In a parallel to the woes of today’s society, Kateri stood up to the bullying directed at her. St. Kateri is not only a patron of First Nations peoples, but an inspiration to all of us as we face our own difficult challenges. St. Kateri’s feast day is July 14; she is patron of the environment and ecology.
“It’s all about the blessings from the heart”

Janice Passafiume, a lifelong member of the parish, has “always wanted to do something for St. Greg’s.” When, during a Sunday Mass, Fr. John asked if anyone in the parish could help paint a new Divine Mercy image, Janice turned to her husband, Rick, and smiled. He knew what that smile meant. It was the first step in a four year journey that took them from Toronto to Rome to Israel to Wasaga Beach and finally back to St. Gregory’s parish with a finished painting of The Divine Mercy.

Janice’s expertise comes from being an internationally renowned art conservator and an amateur artist. (Amateur only because instead of selling her original works, she gives them away.) The painting and the preparation took its toll. Janice says she is fortunate to have had the unending support of her mother, Clara, and her family and friends. They gave her the freedom to devote countless hours to the refinement of each minute detail of the painting.

Before beginning to paint, Janice had to consider all the materials used to create a painting. Knowing what damage could occur, Janice vowed to make sure that this painting would withstand the ravages of time and its environment. The painting became a large science project, a quest to find the right canvas, brushes, paints, glazes and techniques. There are 165 sample test projects stacked in her work room. In trying to find just the right materials, Janice and a team of interns working for her invented a process to mount the painting so that it will last longer. This process will now be used on her current project, restoring the art at the Ontario Legislature.

The scientific discovery process is meticulously recorded. Janice kept notes and catalogued samples of each material, every sketch and model used. All documentation will be given to the church for their records to aid in future restorations. Janice’s vision is that the academic materials will also be developed into a program to use in schools which would teach students how to create their own interpretation of the Divine Mercy, and also to explore the relationship between science, art, religion and the role of the divine.

When asked why she undertook such an important project, Janice answered, “because I can,” meaning that she was given a talent, so she should use it. Janice didn’t have a vision of Jesus herself, but she came to see the divine in the people around her. She asked friends, colleagues and priests to pose for various parts of Jesus. His face is a compilation of many people. She didn’t want this Jesus to be recognizable because the image is to be used to inspire prayer.

Prayer played a large part in Janice’s work. She fasted, prayed and practised yoga before each work session. This allowed her to focus all her energy from every part of her body through the brush to its movement on the canvas. Yoga helped to alleviate the physical demands of painting. Janice wanted the painting to be ready for Divine Mercy Sunday of this year. She sent a message heavenward, “If You want it painted, then help me out here.” From November 2011, Janice spent every spare minute and every weekend locked in one of her two studios at home and at the cottage. Whenever she was getting stuck, “points of inspiration kept falling in my lap,” she said.

The prayer of the Divine Mercy is a simple one. The message is direct. In her diary, St. Faustina quotes Jesus, “Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus I trust in You.” (Diary 47)...”By means of this image I shall grant many graces to souls. It is to be a reminder of the demands of My mercy, because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works. “(Diary 742)

Janice has heeded the words of Jesus. Her response, too, is simple: “It’s my job to get the message out...If you know the secret of how to get into heaven, wouldn’t you tell everyone?”
In Memoriam

Forever in our hearts and prayers

Ingrid Kastelic was a quiet but steadfast source of wisdom and guidance. Ingrid knew where each penny was in the CWL while she herself was ever generous. One of Ingrid’s passions was helping Sr. Jeanne Davidson of Duncan/Little Buffalo First Nations. For more about Sr. Jeanne from Catholic Missions in Canada magazine, please see http://www.cmic.info/faithful_witness

In her gentle, unassuming way, Anna Paul brought much joy to our parish through her gift of song at the 10:30 Mass. Anna served on the Executive of the CWL for many years, and while illness kept her away from the CWL in the last while, her devotion and kindness will serve as examples to us all.

League Prayer

We humbly pray you, O God our Father, to bless The Catholic Women’s League of Canada. Bless our beloved country, our homes and families. Send your Holy Spirit upon us to give light to our minds and strength to our wills that we may know and fulfill Your great law of charity. Teach us to share with others, at home and abroad, The good things you have given us. This we ask through Our Lord Jesus Christ And the intercession of our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel. Amen

Calendar of Events

October 28   CWL Coffee Sunday
“Celebrating the CWL at St. Greg’s”
November 6, 6:30 pm Living Rosary
November 17, 9am – 12pm Christmas Craft Sale
November 18, after both Masses Christmas Craft Sale
November 25, following 11am Mass Reception for Fr. Henry Alva Celebrating 25 years of Ordination
December 4, 6:30 pm Living Rosary
December 5, 7:30 pm Advent Reflection
December 14, 12:30 pm Friendship Luncheon

Membership Form

All women of the parish aged 16 and older are invited to join St. Gregory’s CWL or to renew their CWL Membership for 2013. Dues are $25. Please help us update our records by detaching and including this form with your payment. Envelopes marked “CWL Membership” may be placed in the collection basket at any Mass.

Name_______________________
__________________
Address_____________________
______________

Telephone Number

Email Address

New Membership______
Renewal______
Cash Enclosed______
Cheque Enclosed______
Please make cheques payable to St. Gregory’s Catholic Women’s League.
Any questions re membership may be directed to cwl.stgregorys@gmail.com.