



Pandemic Diary

St Patrick's CWL, Mississauga

President's Message

Greetings Sisters of the League,

Lots of exciting events happening. The Toronto Diocesan Council of the CWL celebrates its **100th anniversary!!** There will be a Zoom celebration on June 3rd 2021 and I do encourage you all to attend. Please contact Andrea to register by May 30th, 2021.

Thanks to all those who attended the Zoom AGM on May 15th 2021. It was wonderful to be able to meet albeit virtually, our sisters from various Councils, be apprised of decisions taken, participate in voting and watch a presentation down memory lane. Our Council will purchase one booklet of the event which can be passed around to the membership to read, if so desired.

Thanks again to all who attended our Council's **Mother's Day Tea Party** on May 8th 2021. It was a delightful event and kudos to Cathy Taylor for the great idea! You can read all about it in her article on Page 2.

This month we thought we'd pick someone from the Executive to share her **Reflections of being a member of St. Patrick's CWL.**

We are proud to feature Andrea Tjioe who has indeed been a staunch pillar.

Brigitte features Mary in our **Women of the Bible** series and Nancy has some interesting trivia on the **Immaculate Mary**. Barbara takes us on a journey of self-awareness in her **Armchair Travelogue** and she also contributes something useful to our **Buy Nothing** segment worth checking out. Cathy has a **puzzle** to keep you busy and Diane's **pundemic corner** features 2 pandas with a joke for you! Marie and Brigitte have contributed a rather unique cookie recipe in our **Bake** section. Be sure to check it out !!

I must admit that it is very discouraging to see the lukewarm response we have been receiving from the membership towards participating in the various Zoom events we organize every month. We have **128** members of which **73** have access to the internet but we barely have 20 people in attendance of which 60% are Executive members. Now, more than ever we must stand together and support our beloved CWL. In-person meetings may not be possible for awhile yet and

we are doing our best to stay connected!! Please join us for our General Meeting next month. We look forward to seeing you there.

COVID has made it impossible to host any fundraisers for over a year now and the Executive has been trying so hard to work with the imposed restrictions, come up with innovative ideas and do what we can with the small fundraisers we organize each month. We **NEED YOUR SUPPORT!!** Next month, we have **miniature Mary gardens and beautiful terrariums for sale** (details on page 4). Please contact us to place an order. We can arrange to have the items delivered to you. Help us make this project a success!! The proceeds will go towards our Council's CHALICE sponsorship.

I conclude with a special thanks to the Executive for their zeal and efforts to keep St. Patrick's CWL going during this challenging time.

Stay safe and God Bless!

Ramona



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Women of the Bible featuring Mary by Brigitte Daniel

Mary is accorded the title "**Blessed**" in recognition of her assumption to Heaven and her capacity to intercede on behalf of those who pray to her.

"Blessed" as a Marian title refers to her exalted state as being the greatest among the saints. The four Catholic dogmas regarding Mary are: her status as **Mother of God**; her **perpetual virginity**; the **Immaculate Conception**; and her bodily **Assumption** into heaven.

It was necessary that the body of the one who preserved her virginity intact in giving birth should also be kept incorrupt after death. She, who carried the Creator in her womb when he was a baby, should dwell among the tabernacles of heaven.

From her we have harvested the grape of life and cultivated the seed of immortality. For our sake she became **Mediatrice** of all blessings;

in her God became man, and man became God.

Mary is not merely the instrument, but the direct positive condition of the Incarnation, its human aspect. It was necessary for that nature itself to say for itself, by the mouth of the most pure human being: "**Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it unto me according to Thy word.**"



Armchair Travelogue with Barbara Azzopardi

Instead of my normal travel blog, I want to travel on a different path, so here goes.

Today is Holiday Monday, the day after Pentecost Sunday and a priest I really respect said to call this weekend Pentecost Weekend, not the May 2-4 weekend or the long weekend. So, the day after Pentecost Sunday, where do we go, what do we do, how do we live? Are we different, are we more loving and caring etc. than the day before?

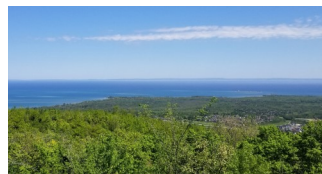
After all, Jesus went back to his Father in Heaven 40 days after his Resurrection and sent the Holy Spirit into our world,

into our lives, into our hearts and made this whole religious 'thing' real. Jesus is real and living today and he wants us to be real with him.

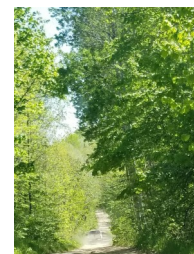
So Jesus, how do I become different today? How do I live differently today than yesterday? These are questions we need to ask ourselves every day and actually get into the mind and heart of Jesus. We know that Jesus tells us to love God with all our hearts, our minds, our strength and to love our neighbour as ourselves. But what if we don't know how to do this practically; what if we don't know how to love ourselves?

How do we find and take the *narrow path* that Jesus tells us will bring us home? I am going to leave these questions with you and I hope that you will let me know your thoughts.

By the way, my husband and I took a 4.5 hour drive to Collingwood, getting off the main highway because I love to drive dirt roads and ate outside by the waters of Georgian Bay. It was so good. Thank you Jesus for this awesome Pentecost weekend and let's spend way more time together and may I be your hands, feet and heart of love to everyone around me.



Collingwood



What do you know about Immaculate Mary? by Nancy Macera

1) At what apparition did Mary request a medal to be made and worn which included, among other elements, the images of the Sacred Heart and Immaculate Heart?

2) When do we celebrate the Assumption of Mary?

3) What is the title of Mary that highlights her role as the channel of graces to all mankind.

4) Which title of Mary means "All Holy"

celebrating the fact that Mary remained free from personal sin her entire life?

5) At what apparition did Mary promise, "...In the end, my immaculate heart will triumph"?

6) On December 8th, we celebrate Mary, conceived without sin. What is the name of that feast day?

7) 19 and 20 days after Pentecost, we celebrate a pair of special feast days honoring the love of Jesus and Mary. Name those feast days.

8) What is the title of Mary that means 'God Bearer', celebrating the hypostatic union of Christ?

9) What's the title of Mary that highlights her role in salvation as prophesied in the protoevangelium?

10) At what apparition did Mary identify herself as: "I am the Immaculate Conception"?

Answers on Page 4

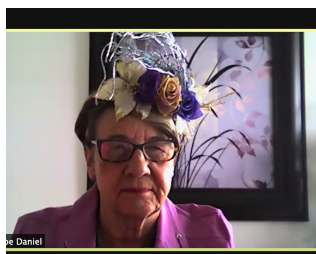
Mother's Day Tea Party by Cathy Taylor

Thank you to all the ladies that were able to join us for our First Virtual Tea Party on Mother's Day weekend.

We had 30 ladies participate for an hour of fun, sharing fond memories with photos, Mom's words of wisdom, and showing off some creative headpieces and tea cups.

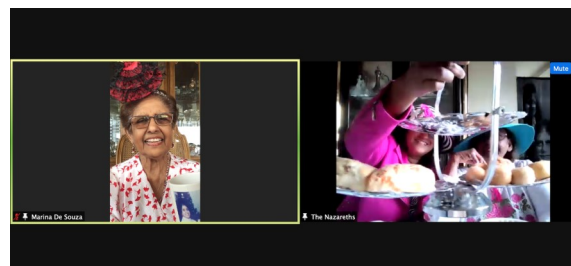
We also thank the willing shoppers that helped us raise over \$100 towards our donations for

this year. Marina was one of our prize winners and Brigitte has earned her stripes as our newfound Auctioneer'esse! Here's hoping our next event will be together in person! God Bless you all!!! TTFN.



Auctioneer'esse Brigitte

Screen shots of the Tea Party



Marina, Melanie and Myrna (Peel Region) Winners of headpieces

Reflections of a CWL Sister Andrea Tjoe

In the early 1990's, I was a 9am to 5pm office administrator, and 5pm to 9am Mom of 2 teen boys, a wife and also an untrained caregiver to my bed-ridden mother-in-law for 5 years, then for my father-in-law, who passed away in 2005. Did I have time for anything else?

Then one Sunday, when our Parish' CWL was holding an international food fest, Gayle (then President of our Council) invited me to host a table with Indonesian food. If only she knew that baking and cooking were not my specialty, but what the heck, anything for an excuse to do something and to be somewhere else other than work and home. Little did I know that it would be the beginning of my CWL journey!

I really enjoyed the experience and was in awe with the works of the CWL women, but mostly, I loved how they always began their meetings with a prayer and reflection. So I decided to join the League.

I immediately became very involved, serving whenever and whenever things needed to get done, from organizing events & bake sales (definitely not the baking part), signed-up as a lector, worked with Altar servers, etc. I was then asked to serve as President of St. Patrick's Parish Council, then on to Regional and Toronto Diocesan level, trainer of Leadership courses, etc. Being involved with the Catholic Women's League gave me the emotional support that I needed, the sisterhood and a sense of self-worth.

Each gathering with my CWL sisters, whether for a Parish Council meeting, a convention, special CWL event, prayer service and even coffee with one or more CWL sisters, served as an affirmation of God's love for me.

To all my League sisters, my companions on the journey, thank you for your affirmation, love, and gentle guidance to ensure that I stay focused in reaching my destination, where God wants me to be.

Mary Gardens by Ramona da Cunha

Have you ever planted a Mary Garden? It is a place of beauty and serenity, inviting prayer and contemplation, with plants named in honour of Mary and Jesus. The plants can remind you of

- ◆ **Mary's features** eg her eyes (Forget-me-nots), her 5 fingers (Potentilla), her veil (Baby's breath), her shoes (Columbine)
- ◆ **Mary's attributes** eg her humility (violets), her Queenship (Lily)
- ◆ **Mary's life** eg her bitter sorrow (Dandelion), her tears (Lily of the Valley), her Assumption (Plantation Lily Hosta)

How do you create such a garden?

- ◆ Pick a quiet, shady spot outdoors or perhaps consider an indoor miniature garden
- ◆ Include an image of Mary as the focal point
- ◆ Select your plants according to Zone, level of your gardening expertise and consider some of the plants described in this article.
- ◆ Add meaningful accents like painted rocks, shells etc
- ◆ Perhaps even consider using Native Pollinator plants that not only ecologically beneficial but also promote biodiversity. They can also be

spiritually fulfilling ex Eastern Red Columbine can represent Mary's shoes or Yarrow can replace Baby's Breath as her veil.



Potato Chip Chocolate Chip Recipe contributed by Marie and Brigitte

Ingredients

2 sticks (1 cup) unsalted butter, softened, 3/4 cup granulated sugar, 1/2 cup packed light brown sugar, 2 teaspoons Vanilla extract, 2 large eggs, 2 cups all-purpose flour, 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1 teaspoon kosher salt, 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips, 4 cups crushed potato chips (8 ounces), such as Lay's

Directions

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment.

In the bowl of a stand mixer, cream together the butter, granulated sugar and brown sugar on medium-high speed until light and fluffy, 3 to 5 minutes. Add the vanilla and eggs and beat on medium speed until just combined. Add the flour, baking soda and salt, then mix on low speed until just combined. Stir in the chocolate chips and 2 cups of the crushed potato chips. Put the remaining 2 cups crushed potato chips in a shallow bowl.

Roll the dough into 2-inch balls, then roll them in the remaining potato chips so they are completely coated. Place the cookies 2 inches apart on the prepared baking sheets and bake until golden, 12 to 15 minutes. Let cool for 5 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.



Cathy's Puzzles



Happy Mother's Day

Make as many words as possible.
Good Luck!!

Buy Nothing (free)

Box full of clean jeans and summer tops
(approx sizes 10 to 12) available for
pick up—FREE!!

Contact Barbara Azzopardi at 905-803-
0851



Diane's Pundemic Corner

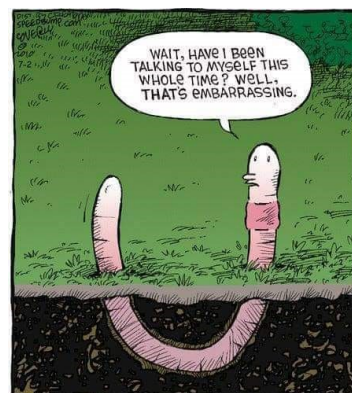


Hello God... we need your
help down here. The world
has gone mad. Please hear
and answer our prayers.
Thank you, God.
Amen



Golden Rules for Living

If you open it, close it.
If you turn it on, turn it off.
If you unlock it, lock it up.
If you break it, admit it.
If you can't fix it, call in someone who can.
If you borrow it, return it.
If you value it, take care of it.
If you make a mess, clean it up.
If you move it, put it back.
If it belongs to someone else and you want to use it, get permission.
If you don't know how to operate it, leave it alone.
If it's none of your business, don't ask questions.
If it ain't broke, don't fix it.
If it will brighten someone's day, say it.
If it will tarnish someone's reputation, keep it to yourself.



June Fundraiser

We planned the sale of something different
for June namely

- ◆ **Miniature Indoor Mary Gardens** (see pic) which can be placed on a table or book-case in your home
- ◆ **Terrariums with succulents or cacti** which are decorative and low maintenance

The terrariums would make a creative gifts for friends or Father's Day or just something for your home.

The items will be priced at \$15 and more depending on the plants included.

We may have a big terrarium for auction. Details about that in the next Newsletter.

We would appreciate donations of coloured stones, shells, vases, decorative bowls, glasses or even a monetary contribution towards plants.

Please contact **Brigitte** at 905-279-1228 or **Ramona** at 647-739-0005 to donate above items or to place an order. We look forward to you supporting this fundraising initiative. These are examples of the variety we plan to create depending on what we have to work with.



TRIVIA ANSWERS: 1. Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal: St. Catherine Laboure 2. August 15th 3. Mediatrix 4. Panagia 5. Fatima 6. The Immaculate Conception 7. Sacred Heart & Immaculate Heart 8. Theotokos 9. The New Eve 10. Lourdes (to Bernadette)