

LIFE MEMBERS NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2013



The St. Anne Christmas stamp issued by Canada Post this year couldn't be more appropriate. A grandmother watching over her sleeping grandchild is an activity many of us can relate to. The candle reminding us of "the Light of the world", "tis better to light a candle than to curse the darkness", "for you are my lamp, O Lord" and the symbol of our Catch the Fire project. Ask for it at your nearest Post Office.

Our fall magazine has a very interesting article called "Pornography Hurts" by Life Member Cecile Miller. Most of the information is very disturbing and should spur us to immediate action. Please make sure you send your post cards to your local Member of Parliament and the Prime Minister ASAP.

In the article Cecile states that this effort must continue through out the year. To expedite this initiative each province has been allocated a particular month. The month designated to Nova Scotia to continue this action of letters and post cards is May.

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Nell Rooney, Life Member



Nell Rooney was a native of the Kentville district and operated a dairy and fruit farm known as "Father Holden Farm" following the death of her father. She was a long time member of St. Joseph's parish. She took a very active part in her parish as a member of the choir, served on the Altar Society under Miss Kearney, and was active in the annual Parish Tea and Sale.

She was a charter member of St. Joseph's CWL, which received its charter on Feb. 14, 1925.

Nell was the first secretary of her council. She went on to be a corresponding secretary, councilor, convener of varies committees and as president. During her tenure as a member of St. Joseph's CWL, she wrote a monthly newsletter which was mailed out to all the members.

She later became the President of the Yarmouth Diocesan Council and served for three years.

During her term as Diocesan President, Nell was responsible for the establishment of a Diocesan Fund which was presented to His Excellency Bishop Lemenager to be used as he saw fit. His Excellency decided to set the Fund aside to be used later. When it was grown sufficiently it was used for the establishment of the Information Bureau in his Diocese.

In a letter dated in 1950, the Halifax Diocesan Secretary, Marguerite Burns, commended Nell on her “masterful presentation of the resume of Kentville’s 25 years in the CWL”. She commented on the special areas of the presentation such as “The Depression”, the War Years”, “Prosperity”, and so on. The National Convention was held in Halifax that year.

A 50 Year Pin was presented to Nell in 1983. She would have been in the league 58 years then.

The Life Membership Pin was presented to Nell Rooney by Rev. Clarence Thibeau at the Yarmouth Diocesan Convention on May 10th, 1971. It was presented to her for her 46 years of outstanding service to the League. (see picture)

(The above information was obtained from a scrapbook kept by Nell and donated to St. Joseph’s Council by her niece, Ann Perrier, who is still a member of this CWL and is presently living in a nursing home in Kentville. (Nov. 2013)

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Mary MacDonald wishes to thank everyone for their prayers. Her brother, Duncan, is recuperating at home and doing well. Her other brother, Jim, will be going for chemo treatment for the next six months but his prognosis is good.

Marg Peters is getting along very well. She is still at the rehab awaiting a nursing home bed. She is going to her daughters for Christmas for three days and looking forward to this time with her family.

Danielle McNeil-Hessian’s brother, Terry, is still holding his own. He has lost a lot of weight but his heart is strong. She also thanks you for your prayers.

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National Organization Chairperson Elect Barb Dowding is seeking testimonies/stories from Life Members and others who have had interesting, enriching experiences during their League Life. Can we count on you to assist Barb in her request to hear from Life members throughout Nova Scotia? This is an opportunity to share your experience(s) or a special memory. Parish Councils can assist by offering to tape or type the experience. Barb is also looking for those members who serve quietly in the workforce, community, on advisory boards, and in boardrooms. As Barb notes, ‘it is important to affirm these women who live out their Catholic faith every day. As we go forward in our new leadership program, we will be looking for women who have expertise to share and who will be the future of the League and the church.’ (from Joan Bona’s communiqué of November 26th)

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Merry Christmas & Peace on Earth!!
Ann Bradbury, LML

