

LIFE MEMBERS NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2013

Congratulations to LM Donna Bates of St. Anthony Daniel CWL of the Antigonish Diocese on receiving her 40th year membership pin on May 11, 2013. (It should also be noted Donna received her Maple Leaf Service pin in 1990 which was omitted from her biography.)

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Journey with Life Member - Florence Khattar

Florence was born in Aguilar, Colorado, USA. She graduated from Burdett College, Boston and following her marriage to Simon Khattar, settled in Sydney, Nova Scotia. Florence has one son, George (Carole) living in Sydney and three daughters, Barbara (Hank),New Jersey, Anita (John), Halifax and Stephanie (Paul) Halifax. She is also the proud grand-mother of seven grandchildren.

Her journey in the Catholic Women's league began as a Charter member of St. Theresa's Parish Council in 1962. Florence has served as President on all levels of the League - Parish (1967- 69), Antigonish Diocesan (1973-75) and Nova Scotia Provincial (1978 - 80). Due to her dedication and work for the League, she was presented with her Life Membership in 1984. She has been an excellent mentor for many younger members of the League, assisting them in projects and encouraging them to continue their work for God and Canada.

Aside from CWL activities Florence served as president and supported the KOC Ladies Auxiliary, the Lebanese Ladies Society and the former St. Rita' Hospital Auxiliary. She certainly earned her title "Hostess with the Mostess" as she generously shared her talents and knowledge.

Although not as active as she would like to be, Florence remains a faithful member of St. Theresa's Parish Council. We were blessed to have her attending all our Special Events associated with our 50th Anniversary Celebrations in 1912 and especially when she received her 50 Year Pin and scroll at our Feast day Celebration.

(Written with the assistance of LM Doreen MacDonnell - 2013)

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On August 2-4, 2013, 600 to 700 Catholic youth between the ages of 14 and 18 will gather at St. Francis Xavier University for the Steubenville - Catholic Youth Conference. Please encourage your councils to give monetary support to the youth of your parish in order for them to attend this wonderful event. Imagine the vision of 700 teenagers singing the praises of Jesus, talking openly about their faith, extolling the virtues of abstinence and honesty, obeying the commandments and serving their church. Keep them in your prayers. You can get more information on www.steubenville.org.

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The Provincial Convention is just around the corner in Louisdale, N.S. June 7-9, 2013. I hope to see you there.

Journey with Life Member - Doreen MacDonnell

My humble beginning with the Catholic Women's League began in 1962 when I became a Charter member of St. Theresa's Parish Council, Sydney along with my Mom and sister-in-law Jean MacArthur.

"Life is God's Gift to you - What you do with your Life is your Gift to God." My goal was to live by this motto and with lots of love and support on my CWL journey. I have many people to celebrate - my family, especially my husband Oscar, for allowing me the freedom to make my own choices and my Council of St. Theresa's who were always there for me. I enjoyed the spiritual experiences of friendship and working with so many understanding and faith-filled women and Spiritual Advisors who encouraged me to accept office at the various levels of the league., including Parish President (1969-71), Antigonish Diocesan President (1977- 79), and N.S Provincial President (1982- 84). In 1974, I was invited to travel to Newfoundland with Dorothy Brocklehurst and Irene Lefort to assist the Bishop and ladies in forming a CWL council. This visit initiated the "beginning" of CWL in Newfoundland - a very exciting experience!

As provincial President, I assisted Kay Jones, National Spiritual Development Convener prepare a position Paper on Christian Feminism at the request of Most Rev. William E. Power, Bishop of Antigonish Diocese. The next two terms I was elected to National Council and served as Spiritual Development and Christian Family Life Convener At this time my journey took me to Ottawa as a CWL delegate to meet with the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, Most Rev. Angelo Palmas and the Executive of the CCCB. It was an over-whelming experience of awe, education and appreciation of the League. The highlight of these few years was when I was awarded a Life membership from National Council.

Following the elected positions, I was appointed in 1991 a National Field Worker and helped create teams across the Dioceses to inspire, inform and to affirm our members as they extend their spiritual growth and service to God and Canada, Thank God for my health as I was able to continue also to serve my own councils' activities and was honored by them with a "Maple Leaf Service Pin" which I will cherish forever.

As an Associate of the Congregation of Notre Dame, I am indebted to the Sisters for their spirit of love and gratitude as they continue the tremendous work began by St. Marguerite Bourgeoys. I also take part in Parish activities, visitation of the sick and Shut-ins and support the work of the Steelworkers and Sydney pensioners and the Retired Teachers' Association.

Enjoying retirement, I am the proud Nana to five Grand-sons, three Grand-daughters and two special Great-Grandsons whom I love dearly and cherish our time together at family get-togethers.

In 2012, I became a 50 Year member of St. Theresa's Parish Council, Sydney - 50 years of "unconditional " love and friendship. They were truly my "Companions" on my CWL journey!

God Bless! Doreen MacDonnell (April 17th, 2013)

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Peace. Ann Bradbury, Nova Scotia LML