



CWL

St. Catharines Diocese

Friday, February 3, 2023



## *CWL Catholic Connections*

*National CWL:* [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca)

*ON Provincial CWL:* [cwl.on.ca](http://cwl.on.ca)

*St. Catharines CWL:* [stcatharinescwl.ca](http://stcatharinescwl.ca)

CWL  
President's Message

Hi,

It is always believed that February is the month of love. The first thing we think of when we think of love is for others. Do we not need to think about loving ourselves as well? Loving ourselves assists us in loving others and doing what is best for everyone. We are not being selfish to take time to pray, go for a walk, visit a friend, or just sit down. Love is something we give to others; we should also give it to ourselves

**Lisa**

## Messages From Deedee Alexandre:

**Quote for the Month:** The meaning of life is to find your gifts. The purpose of life is to give it away.  
--Pablo Picasso

--there will no longer be a Regional rotation for submitting CWL Council information to the Catholic Connections

--whenever there is something to submit, please send it to either:

**deedecwl321@gmail.com or  
deedeealexandre321@gmail.com and  
lisafillinghamcwl@outlook.com**

**c) Deceased Members:** please send **one email** to **both** Debbie Pine and Deedee Alexandre: **debbiepine@royalpage.ca** **and** to **deedecwl321@gmail.com** with the following information:

**(a) Name and CWL id # of the deceased (b) the Council Code  
(c) date of death (d) Parish name and city (e) years of service**

270 February 14  
**St. Valentine beheaded**

On February 14, around the year 270 A.D., Valentine, a holy priest in Rome in the days of Emperor Claudius II, is said to have been executed.

Under the rule of Claudius the Cruel, Rome was involved in many unpopular and bloody campaigns. The emperor had to maintain a strong army, but was having a difficult time getting soldiers to join his military leagues. Claudius believed that Roman men were unwilling to join the army because of their strong attachment to their wives and families.

To get rid of the problem, Claudius banned all marriages and engagements in Rome. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret.

When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Valentine was arrested and dragged before the Prefect of Rome, who condemned him to be beaten to death with clubs and to have his head cut off. The sentence was carried out on February 14, on or about the year 270.

**READ MORE: [Who Was the Real St. Valentine?](#)**

Legend also has it that while in jail, St. Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it "From Your Valentine."

For his great service, Valentine was named a saint after his death.

In truth, the exact origins and identity of St. Valentine are unclear. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, “At least three different Saint Valentines, all of them martyrs, are mentioned in the early martyrologies under the date of 14 February.” One was a priest in Rome, the second one was a bishop of Interamna (now Terni, Italy) and the third St. Valentine was a martyr in the Roman province of Africa.

Legends vary on how the martyr’s name became connected with romance. The date of his death may have become mingled with the Feast of [Lupercalia](#), a pagan festival of love. On these occasions, the names of young women were placed in a box, from which they were drawn by the men as chance directed. In 496 A.D., Pope Gelasius decided to put an end to the Feast of Lupercalia, and he declared that February 14 be celebrated as [St. Valentine’s Day](#).

Gradually, February 14 became a date for exchanging love messages, poems and simple gifts such as flowers.

**READ MORE:** [6 Surprising Facts About St. Valentine](#)

## Citation Information

### Article Title

St. Valentine beheaded

### Author

[History.com Editors](#)

### Website Name

HISTORY

## URL

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/st-valentine-beheaded>

## Access Date

February 2, 2023

## Publisher

A&E Television Networks

## Last Updated

February 11, 2022

# St. Julia

December 2022



Figure 1

Our Sock-tober and Warm-vember campaigns allowed us to help our community through donations to St. Vincent de Paul, Start Me Up Niagara, Southridge Community Church shelter, and Connaught School. (Photo—Fig. 1: Linda Docherty, Fran Waterhouse, Maria Szeideman).

Our poinsettia sale helped to bring cheer to households in our parish. (Photo Fig. 2: Maureen Dugo [seated], Fran Waterhouse).



Figure 2



In August, at the suggestion of Danielle Cerovic, we sponsored inaugural St. Julia Parish / The Catholic Women's Leage of Canada blood drive. Tammy Maroudas from Canadian Blood Services spoke at the end of all weekend Masses for each drive to stress the importance of donations and to encourage participation.(Photo 1: Tammy at lectern, #2 Tammy and Mary Jo #3 Joyce de Coste and Tammy) (#1&2 Aug., #3 Sept)



Our membership drive, “Reach Out to Someone”, was highlighted by a lectern announcemt after all weekend Masses by Maureen Dugo. Our campaign will allow us to welcome 21 new members and 3 transfers to our Council. (Photo 1; Maureen Dugo)



In May and in October, Kathleen Masse and Wendy Szymiski led the praying of the Rosary after 8:30 am Mass one day per week. (Photo :Wendy Szymiski at the lectern).



In October, we hosted a viewing of “The Euthanasia Deception ... Explored” with our guest, Fr Daniel Corso. (Photo: Fr Daniel, Marion Frenedo, Geddie Pawlowski)



In October we began hosting Coffee Hour after 8:30 am Mass on the second Friday of each month.



Our New Member Ceremony was imbedded in the 11am Mass on Sunday, January 18. As the result of our fall membership drive, twenty-seven women became new members and we welcomed three transfers. These are in addition to the one new member and three transfers we had in the spring of 2022.



Respectfully Submitted, Mary Jo Modolo  
CWL President, St. Julia's

**How was St. Sebastian martyred?**

**(Trick question)**

Catholic Company January 20, 2023

Actually, it wasn't the arrows that killed him.



“What! How did St. Sebastian survive that?” you may exclaim.

Well, he certainly *did* suffer the horrible death sentence to be shot full of arrows—but he didn’t die from it as the Emperor Diocletian had intended.

Here’s the full story.

Sebastian was a Roman citizen in the 4th century during a time of great hostility toward the Catholic faith.

Living in Rome itself under the dangerous rule of

Diocletian, Sebastian not only dared to be a Christian—he dared to be a Christian right under the Emperor’s nose as a captain in the Emperor’s bodyguard! He also used his position in the Praetorian Guard to minister to the Christians suffering persecution.

Diocletian eventually found out about Captain Sebastian’s faith and ordered him to be shot with arrows.



Christians aid the wounded Sebastian

Sebastian survived the ordeal and was nursed back to health by a generous Christian widow. Then—fearless and

unflappable as ever—he marched straight back to Diocletian and rebuked him for his cruelty to the Christians.

The Emperor, shocked that Sebastian was still alive, had him beaten to death.

Sebastian's astounding courage reminds us that we must never give up the fight, no matter what we suffer. Thanks to God's generosity, we don't have to fight alone.

## **Why is Latin the language of the Church?**

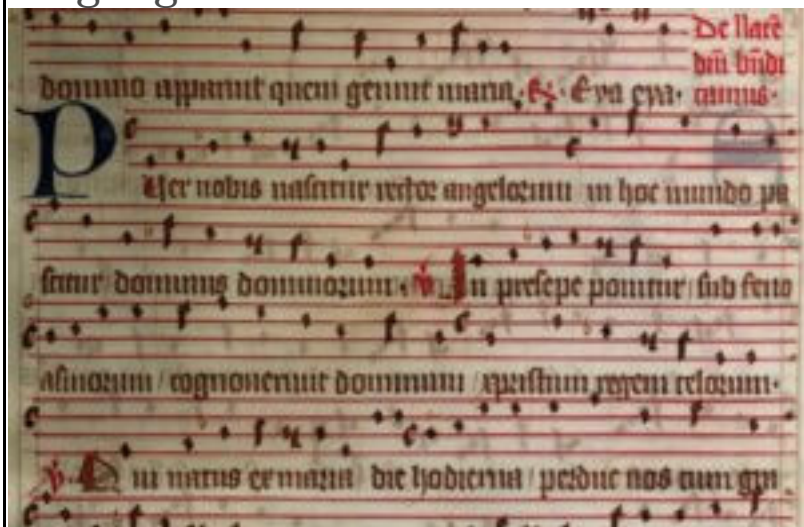
**Before the dawn of the Church, Latin was a language spoken by everyone—from kings to servants.**

**Catholic Company    January 12, 2023**

The Roman Empire spanned all of Europe, from Great Britain down to north Africa and over to Palestine in the East. For six hundred years, Roman law, military, and language ruled supreme. The birth of Our Lord occurred right in the middle of that time. The empire did not begin crumbling until around St. Augustine's time, and then the breakdown of Roman civilization and culture was gradual.

At the time of the birth and propagation of the Holy Church, Latin was the common language for those living under Roman rule. Church leaders spoke and wrote primarily in Greek, but around the 3rd century Latin began to increase in predominance, since that was the language of the faithful.

Despite the fall of the Roman empire, the Church retained Latin as her common language, and even built up her own form of the language which came to be known as ecclesiastical Latin.



Although Latin has faded from common use, it's making a comeback in prayer and liturgy. Many Catholics want to experience the ancient language of the Church.

## St. Kevin's Parish

In December, just in time for Christmas, the St. Kevin CWL pivoted and made apple strudel for a fundraiser. A team of 15 people washed, peeled, cored, and sliced 4 ½ bushels of apples. A total of 140 apple strudels were baked in one day. Monies raised helped to support the

St.

Vincent de Paul society along with other local charities.

Submitted by: Lorrie MacKenzie



## St. Joseph's, Grimsby

Greetings to all from St. Joseph Church in Grimsby. As we settle into 2023, we can reflect on a busy past few months.



Some of our members were interested in doing something a little closer to home for Truth and Reconciliation Day. We attended morning Mass followed by the Rosary at our beautiful grotto. The sun shone on us as we prayed for our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

In October, we promoted our Soc-tober event, collecting 1217 pairs of socks for the needy in our area. Donations were distributed to 5 agencies in the Niagara Region. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of our wonderful parishioners.

The Memorial Mass in November was a beautiful event led by Father Rico and Father Bill. The ladies of the CWL assisted by reading the names of the deceased, lighting candles and presenting a rose to each grieving family. We hosted a reception to come together and offer support to our families. November was also a time to come together and pray for our beloved Father Steve. Our Zoom Rosary was well attended as we prayed to God for his recovery.



This past fall, our CWL ladies resumed funeral receptions. The challenge was to come up with a plan to offer reasonably priced food and beverage options that could be delivered in a safe manner. We have smoothed out the wrinkles and are

ready for what lies ahead. One of our grieving families blessed us with a sizable monetary gift. With this money we purchased CWL aprons, giving our funeral committee a classy and more professional look.



Christmas activities were joyous as the church prepared for the birth of Christ. We were once again able to



hold our poinsettia sale. We have not missed having this sale even through Covid. With the loosening of restrictions, we moved from the pandemic pre-ordering and curbside pickup back into the Gathering Room where families could shop for their plants. Once again, the support was outstanding.



The CWL Christmas dinner at JJ's on the Docks was a festive ending to our events of 2022 with over 40 ladies in attendance. The mood was festive, the food delicious and a good time was had by all.



With prayer and God's grace, we have had a good year and look forward to new challenges ahead. God bless!

Respectfully submitted, Joanne Vander Laan—CWL President

## **Who was the Bishop that doubted Juan Diego's vision?**

Juan Zumárraga was born in the lovely Basque province of Castile in 1468. When he was old enough, he entered the Franciscan order, where his leadership qualities earned him many roles of responsibility.

He met Charles V of Spain when he was in his forties. Charles, like the Franciscans, immediately recognized in

Zumárraga the strength of a leader and the wisdom of an arbitrator. He recommended Zumárraga as the first bishop of Mexico when the Church prepared to send missionaries to the newly-discovered land. Despite his best efforts, however, few received baptism. The Spanish civil authorities in Mexico abused the native Indians so horribly that they had lost trust in the Spaniards. As guardian of the natives, Zumárraga strove to protect them, himself suffering persecution, exile, and false slander due to the



same civil authorities. Meanwhile, he remained devout and unshaken in his faith and zeal.

The situation became so bad in Mexico that Zumárraga wrote to Charles V, saying that nothing but divine intervention could save the new land.

Soon after this letter was sent, a man named Juan Diego came to the bishop, convinced that the Mother of Jesus had come to him to request the building of a chapel. A wise and prudent man, Zumárraga was kind and respectful to Diego, but asked for proof that Our Lady really was appearing to him.

The Blessed Mother answered his prayer in the form of Juan Diego's miraculous *tilma*, when the Indian visionary brought a lapful of Castilian roses to the bishop.

Now the fruits of the bishop's work began to prosper—thanks to Our Lady's intervention through the Guadalupe apparitions! He baptized millions of native Indians, set up a school for girls, and founded a college and several hospitals before his death fourteen years later in 1548.

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## Pope Francis's Message for the 31st World Day of the Sick (11 February 2023)

*Thursday, January 12 2023*

Earlier this week, the Vatican released [Pope Francis's message for the 31<sup>st</sup> World Day of the Sick](#), celebrated every year on 11 February, liturgical memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes. The Holy Father's message is entitled: ***“Take care of him” – Compassion as a synodal exercise of healing.*** In light of the Church's synodal journey, Pope Francis invites “all of us to reflect on the fact that it is especially through the experience of vulnerability and illness that we can learn to walk together according to the style of God, which is closeness, compassion, and tenderness.”

Pope Francis tells us in his Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti* that “we cannot be indifferent to suffering” (68), and he proposes that we read anew the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). The condition of loneliness and abandonment of the sick in today's world only “takes a moment of our attention, of being moved to compassion



within us, in order to eliminate it.” In seeking the help of another to care for the sick man, the Samaritan asks the innkeeper to “take care of him.” Only with the help, courage, and innovation of others in a “face-to-face encounter” can we organize care for the sick in a spirit of fraternity and resilience. Many healthcare workers, family members, and community volunteers are daily witnesses of this accompaniment and caring compassion.

The World Day of the Sick is an occasion to pray for individuals who are suffering, and to find concrete ways to draw nearer to them. Mindful of this call, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops recently published an open-source palliative care toolkit for parishes, families, and communities in order that they may deepen their understandings of illness, suffering, dying and death. Drawing on Catholic moral and pastoral theology, medical expertise, and the Compassionate Community model, the palliative care toolkit facilitates conversations and learning, grounded in the mercy and tenderness of the living Christ. Users of the toolkit are invited to organize group-based engagement according to the toolkit’s four-module program so as to sustain and renew pastoral attention on the sick, lonely and abandoned. [Learn more about \*Horizons of Hope\*](#), its training videos, facilitator guide, social media images, and take-home resources.

Pope Francis reiterates that we are called to learn “how to be a community that truly walks together, capable of resisting the throwaway culture.”

**Ideas on how to promote the World Day for the Sick (11 February 2023):**

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1. Read and share [Pope Francis's message](#)
  2. Watch and share the video: [“An experience of accompanying a loved one through palliative care”](#)
  3. Visit a loved one or stranger who is shut in, lonely or sick
  4. Offer gratitude to a healthcare professional or volunteer
  5. Organize the [Horizons of Hope](#) program in your parish
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## **“Catholics added seven books to the Bible.”**

**Catholic Company—January 19, 2023**

### **What's the truth behind the Deuterocanonical books?**

Your Protestant friend is having coffee with you again, and he's brought another big question with him. He takes a sip of coffee, pauses, and says, “The Deuterocanonical books are really just apocrypha added by Catholics in 1546. The Bible has 66 books, not 73.” Good question. But you don't need to worry—you're ready for this. You've been getting a steady diet of Get Fed and can answer this question easily!



The claim that the Deuterocanon (the seven books of Tobias, Judith, Baruch, Ecclesiastes, Wisdom, and Maccabees I and II) was added in 1546 is a myth that arose during the Protestant Revolution to justify removing books from Sacred Scripture that went against incorrect Protestant teachings. The Deuterocanon was *not* added in 1546. The oldest complete form of the Old Testament, a Greek

translation called the Septuagint, contained these seven books (which were originally in Greek).

When the Church finalized the Old and New Testament books that made up the Bible in 382 A.D., she declared the Septuagint to be the official Old Testament. This decision was ratified in subsequent Church councils, with the last ratification taking place at Trent in...1546. The Church was not adding any new books—she was simply affirming the books that had been there all along.

This 73-book version of the Bible remained predominant up to and through the Protestant Revolution. In fact, the King James Version of 1611 contained all seven of the Deuterocanonical books!

This is just one of many questions your Protestant friend might bring to the table. It can be intimidating answering him—but don't worry.

### **St. Patrick's Parish C.W.L. Council, Caledonia**

On December 08<sup>th</sup>, 2022 we were approximately 24 sisters in the League celebrating at our C.W.L Council's Christmas Social in the parish hall. We enjoyed cheese, crackers, wine, deserts and coffee or tea. We sang Christmas Carols, played a table game and many of us won a door prize.

The following day, three ladies from the Executive visited 9 other members and parishioners at their homes and gave them a red poinsettia plant. At the same time some of these ladies received their service pin for 65, 35, 30 and 20 years of service. It was a very happy encounter!

Our Council has plans to celebrate St. Valentine's Day and draw the winning ticket of a 50/50 draw on February 14, 2023. The lucky winner will receive a cheque for \$1,000.00 if all the tickets are sold.

Respectfully submitted,

Angelica Chavez-Kovacs, Secretary

# Why did the Blessed Mother present herself and Jesus at the temple?

The Catholic Company—February 2, 2023

Today we celebrate the official close of the Christmas cycle, marked by the presentation of Our Lord in the temple.

This feast reveals the profound humility of the Blessed Mother in obeying the Mosaic Law.

The Law stated that every woman who gave birth to a son could not approach the temple for forty days. After that term, she had to go to the temple and offer a sacrifice in order to be ritually purified. The child himself, if he was the first-born son, was considered the property of the Lord and had to be “ransomed”;



*The Presentation in the Temple by Giaquinto*

that is, an offering was given to the temple on his behalf.

The Law of purification and presentation, however, concerned those shackled with sin. The Child Jesus and His Mother were both *immaculate*. These rituals were, moreover, meant to be performed by creatures in obedience to their Creator—but Jesus *is* the Creator! Why did Jesus and His Mother obey these commands, which did not concern them?

The reason, though simple, is astounding:

**[T]he holy Mother of God must go to the Temple like other Hebrew mothers, as though she had lost something which needed restoring by a legal sacrifice. He, that is the Son of God and Son of Man, must be treated in all things as though he were a Servant, and be ransomed in common with the poorest Jewish boy. Mary adores the will of God, and embraces it with her whole heart.**

—*The Liturgical Year*, Dom Prosper Gueranger

The Incarnate Deity—the eternal, all-powerful Word—wished to live as a humble slave, a slave “obedient even unto death” (Phil. 2:8). By presenting herself and her Child in the temple for purification, the Blessed Mother demonstrated a most profound humility and perfect obedience to God’s will.

This Fourth Joyful Mystery offers much to emulate and meditate upon.

## Videos:

a) Breaking the Habit: “Church History in (About) 15 Minutes”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kV6AooHAogk>

b) Father Mike Schmitz: “This is Why We Baptize Babies”—8 min.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/3/#inbox/DmwnWrRspgxlTtVjSjRQZSgfGPTSlVDJDRsdPlSBzBqmfCSDWLsBDLqGWfhcKLBKlsHQLJHjGskl?compose=new&projector=1>



## Passed Away:

a) **Jean Chmiel**—January 2, 2023—Sacred Heart Parish

b) **Veronika Bussman**—January 23, 2023—St. Alexander; 28 years of service

# Upcoming CWL Events!!!

## **a) February 18—Canadian Blood Services Partners for Life**

- the CWL National Goal is to have 200 donations!
- interested? your Council President will have more news

## **b) 40 Days for Life—February 22-April 2**

- you can register online—**40daysforlife.com**
- stay tuned for more details from your Council President

## **c) Friday, March 3—World Day of Prayer**

- please contact Linda Warkentin for more details
- [warkentin.linda@gmail.com](mailto:warkentin.linda@gmail.com)

## **d) Month of Mary—May, 2023**

- Council Presidents will be given more information
- to organize a date and time to dedicate the Rosary at your Parish
- ideas: say the Rosary before a Mass, say the Rosary at your General Meeting, etc.



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
St. Catharines Diocesan Council**



**62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention**  
**"You Did It For Me"—Matthew 25**

**Holiday Inn and Suites Parkway  
Conference Centre  
327 Ontario Street, St. Catharines, Ontario  
Monday, April 24, 2023: Tentative Agenda**

**COST:**

**\$80—Full Day  
-includes lunch**

**\$65—Lunch only**

**TO REGISTER  
PLEASE CONTACT  
Parish Council President**

**7:45 a.m. Registration**

**9 a.m.--Opening Mass/Crowning of Mary/Rosary**

Celebrant: Most Rev. Gerard Bergie, D.D., J.C.L.

**10:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.:** Break

**10:45-11:45 p.m.:** **Guest Speaker**—Bishop Bergie

**Topic:** "The Synod on Synodality"

**11:45-1 p.m.:** CWL Business

**1 p.m.--Lunch**

**2 p.m.—3 p.m.:** **Guest Speaker**—Linda Dayler

**Topic:** "The Role of Women in the Church"

**3 p.m.-3:15 p.m.:** Break

**3:15 p.m.-4:30 p.m.:** CWL Business

**Please note:** the only beverages provided pre-Convention, at breaks, and at lunch are coffee and tea; no juices, etc.

**Registration Deadline: Wednesday, March 15, 2023**



St. Catharines CWL Diocesan Initiative

**Consider Donating**  
**your old eyeglasses today!!**  
**for**  
**War-Torn Countries**  
**Third-World Countries**



### **Parishioners:**

*please deliver the eyeglasses to your parish*

### **CWL President/Representative:**

*please deliver the eyeglasses to the AMM*

*Convention **April 24, 2023***

***thank you so much!***

## **February Liturgical Calendar: Living with Christ**

<b>2<sup>nd</sup>: Presentation of the Lord</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup>: Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup>: St. Blaise and St. Ansgar</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup>: St. Peter Damian</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup>: St. Paul Miki &amp; Companions</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup>: Ash Wednesday</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup>: St. Jerome Emiliani and St. Josephine Bakhita</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup>: St. Polycarp</b>
<b>10: St. Scholastica</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup>: St. Gregory of Narek</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup>: Our Lady of Lourdes</b>	
<b>14<sup>th</sup>: Sts. Cyril &amp; Methodius</b>	

### **The Church lists the corporal works of mercy as follows:**

- 1. Feeding the hungry**
- 2. Giving drink to the thirsty**
- 3. Sheltering the homeless**
- 4. Clothing the naked**
- 5. Visiting the sick**
- 6. Visiting the imprisoned (sometimes listed as “ransoming the captive”)**
- 7. Burying the dead**

### **The Church lists the spiritual works of mercy as follows:**

- 1. To instruct the ignorant**
- 2. To counsel the doubtful**
- 3. To admonish sinners**
- 4. To bear wrongs patiently**
- 5. To forgive offenses willingly**
- 6. To comfort the afflicted**
- 7. To pray for the living and the dead**

## **CWL Executive: 2022-2024**

**President:** Lisa Fillingham

**Past President/Historian:** Frances Murdaca

**Treasurer:** Dina Marchionda

**Secretary:** Karen Hofstede

**President-Elect:** Deedee Alexandre

**Spiritual Development Chair:** Deedee Alexandre

**Service Chair:** Cathy Crabbe

**Social Justice Chair:** Diane Szydowski

**Communications Chair:** Theresa Murphy

**Spiritual Director:** Father Richard Kowalchuk

*Happy St. Valentine's  
Day*