



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
Ottawa Diocesan Council
President

Care for our Common Home



COMMUNIQUE #1

JUNE 2019

TO: Parish Presidents

From: Lynn Lavictoire, Diocesan President

“An Angel of Paradise is always beside me, an angel who protects and prays for me.”

Pope John XXIII

The diocesan council is proud to have such a wonderful executive team and a membership who continue to serve the poor and the marginalized in our communities, across our country, and across the world. We live our Mission Statement: “The Catholic Women’s League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.”

There hasn’t been any new national communiques or provincial directives to pass on to you, that being said, the Ottawa Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada has been blessed with activity since the New Year began. With this in mind, I’ve decided to elaborate on a few highlights of the activities we have accomplished over the last six months. They are as follows:

- ✚ “Find Your Voice” Public Speaking Course was held at Annunciation of the Lord Parish and this is the first time the course was given in Ottawa.
- ✚ Our Lenten Morning of Reflection held at Our Lady of the Visitation Parish with guest speaker Deacon James Scheer who spoke on the importance of Mother Mary in scripture and in the life of her Son.
- ✚ The Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel honoured the Virgin Mary as well as highlighted our CWL members who received awards and commemorated members who passed away in the last year. This event was hosted by St. Patrick Council.
- ✚ Our 96th Annual Ottawa Diocesan Convention was held at Holy Spirit Parish.
 - ✓ Three new officers were elected and I was honoured to be installed with them at the closing mass.
 - ✓ Diocesan Treasurer Diana Baines was recognized with the Bellelle Guerin Award.
 - ✓ Pam Swords from St. Maurice Council was acknowledged for her participation in social justice work.
 - ✓ Life Members were honoured with a yellow rose tied with a blue and white ribbon.
 - ✓ Two guest speakers, the coordinator of Creation Care Ministry Dr. John Dorner and Saint Paul University Professor Dr. Tom McAuley, provided insightful presentations on water ecology and spirituality.
 - ✓ Ontario Provincial Spiritual Development Chairperson Anna Tremblay gave a workshop on spirituality which was well received.
 - ✓ The officers’ reports were based on the theme of homelessness, the parish presidents’ reports and displays were based on the theme of water, and the prayers throughout the day were based on both themes.
 - ✓ The elimination draw brought us fun and laughter.

- ✓ We were gifted with a resolution from Annunciation of the Lord Council, “Resolution on Long Term Care Beds in Ontario” which was passed.
- ✓ The water theme entertainment after the banquet was just awesome! Thank you everyone!!
- ✚ The Annual March for Life which began on Parliament Hill was well attended by the executive and other council members from our diocese. Our CWL banner was carried for the whole walk. Some members also attended the Rose Dinner afterwards.
- ✚ The three year term of our new Ottawa Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Father Paul J. Gaudet began on May 13, 2019. His Installation will occur on September 14, 2019, at our Executive and Potluck Meeting.
- ✚ At our “handoff meeting,” we had a chance to introduce and welcome our new officers, Diana Baines, Claudette Langdon, Teresa Psutka, Life Member Liaison Moira Matthews and chairpersons for the 2021 Ontario Provincial Planning Committee. It was also an opportunity to thank our outgoing officers who have served and led us over the years.
- ✚ At our Post-Convention Executive Meeting, three new officers were appointed to the diocesan council. They are Jennifer Jones, Janet Seward and Janet Warren. We also heard from two young guest speakers from Ryan’s Well – this was the charitable organization the executive chose and voted to be the recipient of our convention collection.
- ✚ In June the Ottawa Diocesan Hosting Guidelines Review Committee met to revise the guidelines which have not been updated since 2014.
- ✚ Also in June, the first official meeting of the 2021 Ontario Provincial Convention Planning Committee was held to begin planning for this future convention. The Chairpersons for this event are Claudette Joseph from St. John the Apostle Council and Shannon Corrigan from St. Bernard Council.

Here are some of the parish council activities, as reported to me that were open to the diocese and/or supported our provincial and national themes:

March

- ✚ The Good Shepherd: Lenten Reflection.
- ✚ St. Bernard: guest speaker Ruth Shaw, the director at National Campus Life Network in Ottawa (a pro-life organization).

May

- ✚ Annunciation of the Lord: Women’s Breakfast with presenter Mimi Wilson who is a facilitator for the Catholic Apostolate, “Women of Grace.”
- ✚ St. Isidore: Spring Tea and Bazaar.
- ✚ St. Patrick: Paint-Nite Fundraiser.

June

- ✚ St. Basil: Guest speaker Dr. Eric Schiller presented on water as the source of life with words of support from Ottawa City Councillor Catherine McKenney.
- ✚ Our Lady of the Visitation: Mother Earth Tea Party.
- ✚ Holy Redeemer: In support of H.U.G. (helping, understanding, giving), donations were made to Cornerstone who provide emergency shelter and safe affordable permanent housing for women in Ottawa.
- ✚ St. Margaret Mary and St. Philip: also provided donations in support of H.U.G.
- ✚ Most parish councils: held annual potluck meetings before the summer break.

In keeping with our national theme and our provincial theme on the preservation and conservation of water, everyone is doing and continues to do such wonderful work for God and Canada. Awesome!

We are looking forward to a wonderful summer with the upcoming Ontario Provincial Convention in Kingston with the promise of “our very own” Colleen Perry who will automatically become the Ontario Provincial Council President for 2019-2021. There is also the upcoming 99th Annual National Convention which will be held in Calgary, Alberta in August where 900 Catholic women of faith will gather.

If we don't see you at these conventions, we will see you at our Executive Potluck Meeting on Saturday, September 14, 2019 at Our Lady of Fatima Parish. At that meeting the officers will present an update on national's *Planning Strategically*.

If you have any CWL events that you have done including successes and you would like to promote, or future CWL events, please send me an article to have it published in our diocesan newsletter, *Faith in Action*. If you have something you want advertised, please send me the flyer/poster and it will be added to our website. I encourage all of you and your members to visit our diocesan website at <https://www.ottawa.cwl.on.ca> for updates on the calendar, pictures, reports, etc. Let's keep connected. †

Praying you have a safe and wonderful God filled summer!

Love, Peace and Joy as you continue to journey with Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Lynn