

**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
OTTAWA DIOCESAN COUNCIL**



98th

ANNUAL REPORT BOOK 2020

National Theme for 2019 / 2021



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.

LEAGUE PRAYER

We humbly pray you O God our Father,
to bless the Catholic Women's League of Canada,
bless our beloved country, our homes and families.
Send your Holy Spirit upon us to give light to our minds
and strength to our wills, that we may know and
fulfill your great law of charity.

Teach us to share with others,
at home and abroad,
the good things you have given us.

This we ask through Our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the intercession of our patroness,
our Lady of Good Counsel.

Amen



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CWL Prayer for Renewal

God of new beginnings, ever faithful God, we thank You for your constant care for the women of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. We have sought to serve You in faith by service to your people.

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and with the help of Our Lady of Good Counsel, we continue to discern Your call to seek justice and build Your Kingdom on earth each day.

We ask your guidance as we plan the evolution of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Grant us wisdom, the grace of discernment, and strength. May each of us open her heart and mind to the League.

We ask this through Jesus, Your beloved Son and Our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.

AMEN.



ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Greetings, Ottawa Diocesan Members,

The year of our Lord 2020 will go down in history. Life, as we know it, changed dramatically. One main event changed it all. In March 2020, a worldwide pandemic was declared. The Coronavirus or COVID-19 came to stay for a while... or so we thought. From a Catholic Women's League perspective, we were unprepared to take on the challenges of not being able to meet and still stay in touch and work with our outreach projects. But we persevered and used any method we could to stay in touch. We called, texted, emailed and Zoomed. We even met in parking lots to say the rosary.

Congratulations to all of you as you continue to find new and unique ways of supporting members and our wider communities. I am so proud of how you have embraced both the provincial and national themes. You are truly inspirational!

Know that the prayers and best wishes of the almost 40,000 members across Ontario are with you as you gather to conduct the business of your diocesan council for 2020 and 2021.

You are well represented at the provincial table. Lynn ensures that your diocese has a voice.

Congratulations as you celebrate the 98th anniversary of the League in your diocese.

May God bless you and Our Lady of Good Counsel watch over you as you continue your humble service in the League, *For God and Canada*.

Respectfully,

Colleen Perry

Ontario Provincial President





Ottawa Diocesan Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Sisters in the League,

The year 2020 has not favoured the League in the way we've traditionally known it. Remembering what it was like when all our meetings were cancelled, it seemed like the League was standing still. At first, there was uncertainty but the League plunged into a world of new beginnings. Who would have thought we would be conducting our business on conference calls and slowly enter into the world of virtual meetings?

We did just that and more. The spirit of the League has remained alive and hopeful through the good works of the many parish councils who have found creative ways to continue to carry out our mission. Council members have reached out to people in need of fellowship and comfort. Councils have hosted online prayer services, retreats, discussions and presentations on current topics. All of this represents the strength of the League and uplifts us in hope for a brighter future.

One of the things the pandemic has forced us to do is change and adapt. Isn't this what we should always be doing? Sometimes, though, we get too comfortable and need a push. This past year has taught us that change and creativity is within us. We've learned new technologies and found new ways to interact with each other even when we were physically isolated. We have been changed by our experiences and we can use these experiences to keep growing and changing when the pandemic has passed. There will be new challenges to overcome and, with the same mindset, we will need to continue to change and adapt.

I am excited by what lies ahead because there is so much potential in Ottawa. I am also grateful for all the hard work, amazing ideas, and endurance exemplified by all our members living 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." God has brought us closer together in our sisterhood for which I am truly thankful.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, *pray for us.*

Love, Peace and Joy,

Lynn Lavictoire

President, Ottawa Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

OTTAWA DIOCESAN COUNCIL OFFICERS – 2020

President	Lynn Lavictoire
1 st Vice-President	Teresa Psutka
Recording Secretary	Michelle Morrow
Corresponding Secretary	Michelle Morrow
Treasurer	Diana Baines
Past President	VACANT

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Organization	Teresa Psutka
Education & Health	Teresa Psutka (acting)
Christian Family Life	Jennifer Jones
Community Life	Michelle Morrow (acting)
Communications	Lynn Lavictoire (acting)
Resolutions & Legislation	Lynn Lavictoire (acting)
Spiritual Development	Janet Warren
Life Member Liaison	Moira Matthews
Spiritual Advisor	Rev. Fr. Paul J. Gaudet

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL 2020-2021 ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS JULY 11-14, 2021

The two annual meetings will be livestreamed. More information to come.
Hosted by the Ottawa Diocesan Council.

NATIONAL COUNCIL 2020-2021 ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS AUGUST 8-11, 2021

The two annual meetings will be livestreamed. More information to come.

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020**

President's Report

Diocese: Ottawa	President: Lynn Lavictoire
Spiritual Advisor: Rev. Fr. Paul J. Gaudet	
Parishes Reporting: 15/25	Members: 1,353
Life Members: 11	Honorary Life Members: 1

Introduced, discussed or acted upon current national priorities

- Care for our Common Home 100%
- Palliative care/hospice facilities 87%
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 27%
- These topics were discussed at meetings which were engaged by the standing committee chairperson.

Spiritual Advisor's role in councils

- Supportive of the CWL 93%
- Monthly meetings 33%

Resources used to preside at meetings

- *Constitution & Bylaws* 53%
- *Parish Council Manual of Policy and Procedure* 47%
- *Executive Handbook* 47%
- *Robert's Rules of Order* 40%
- *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* 20%
- *Parliamentary Procedure* 13%

Events councils represented

- Church functions 87%
- Diocesan meetings and conventions 73%
- Special masses 60%
- Fundraising events and dinners 47%
- Workshops 27%
- Sacramental events 27%
- Community events 20%
- Remembrance Day services 20%

Events councils subsidized and by how much

- Conferences – all expenses were paid 87%
- Workshops – all expenses were paid 87%
- Diocesan convention – all expenses were paid 27%
- Provincial convention – all expenses were paid 7%

Executive Handbook

- It assisted in the responsibility of overseeing council operations 87%
- Other methods were used, e.g., email, written reports, oral reports, newsletters and words of wisdom in the parish bulletin to summarize the council's activities.

Council sub-committees

- Annual events, such as teas, bazaars, etc. 47%
- Prayer committee 47%
- Scholarship or bursary 33%
- Social events 27%
- Funeral receptions 27%
- Fundraising 20%
- Donations 20%

Issues spoken on behalf of councils

- Council social events 100%
- Membership 53%

Assistance provided to council presidents

- Past presidents 67%
- Treasurer 47%
- Life member 33%
- Current executive 27%
- Secretary 20%
- Diocesan president 20%

Challenges faced when transitioning into the role of president

- Not having a full slate of officers 67%
- Keeping members interested 53%
- Recruiting 40%
- Finding the time 50%
- Resistance to new ideas 33%
- Tedious policies and procedures 27%
- Delegation 27%
- Feeling undertrained 20%
- Technology 13%
- Meeting expectations 13%

Most councils were challenged due to fewer members and the ongoing pandemic.

National theme

- Councils found having a national theme beneficial 93%

The majority of the councils liked the change of theme with each new national president.

Most council presidents have previously held this position and were proud of the dedication of their members who attended meetings and volunteered when needed.

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020**

Recording and Corresponding Secretary

Diocese: Ottawa

Parishes Reporting: 12/25

Chairperson: Michelle Morrow

Sub-chairpersons: none

- Eleven (92%) councils reported having someone in one or both of the secretary roles.

Recording Secretary

- Eight (67%) were a signing officer.
- Seven (64%) assisted the president with the compilation of the annual reports.
- Nine (75%) knew where the council charter was located.
- Nine (75%) maintained a list of the executive with their contact information.
- Two (17%) acknowledged the existence of a council motion book.
- Three (25%) received written reports from the executive while seven (58%) sometimes received them.
- Eight (67%) councils reported having a copy of the *Handbook for Secretaries* from national office.

Corresponding Secretary

- Five (42%) reported having a copy of the *CWL Personal Letter Writing Guide* from national office.

Diocesan Recording and Corresponding Secretary Annual Report

Recording Secretary

Minutes/Notes were recorded and submitted for:

- Five diocesan officers in person and/or electronic/virtual meetings: for January 11, March 28, April 25, May 14, September 12 and November 7.
- Four diocesan executive meetings in person and/or electronic/virtual: for January 25, May 5, May 30 and September 19.
- Diocesan annual convention: May 2.

An Advent Mass (in lieu of a retreat due to the pandemic) was held with 20 members in attendance.

The above noted minutes/reports were on file and available for review or consultation upon request.

Corresponding Secretary

Various correspondences were sent and received between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020.

The above noted correspondences were on file and available for review or consultation upon request.

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020**

Treasurer

Diocese: Ottawa
Parishes Reporting: 11/25

Chairperson: Diana Baines
Sub-chairpersons: none

Annual Report Survey

- The position was filled by 11 (100%) of the reporting councils and 11 (100%) of the reports were completed by the treasurer.
- Councils used cheque books (100%), bank statements (91%), deposit books (82%), and receipt books (55%) to keep track of receipts and disbursements. Councils used Excel spreadsheets (46%), other computer programs (27%) or manual ledgers (55%) to record transactions.
- The majority of councils charged dues of \$20.00 or \$25.00 yearly.
- All councils (100%) made donations to the National Voluntary Fund submitted through national office. Total given to specific charities by the 11 parishes reporting were:
 - Catholic Missions In Canada: \$200.00
 - Coady International Institute: \$75.00
 - Euthanasia Prevention Coalition: \$50.00
 - Catholic Near East Welfare Association: \$50.00
 - National Bursary Fund: \$50.00
- Councils contributed a total of \$11,969.00 to Parish Activities.
- Other donations not included above totaled \$6,078.00.
- The majority of councils had three signing officers. All required two signatures on cheques.
- Annual budgets were prepared by 73% of reporting councils.
- Council books were examined yearly by an independent individual who was experienced in accounting by 73% of councils.

Comments

One treasurer / membership chair reported that she enjoyed her duties.

Financial Statement

For the period of January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

The financial contents of this page have been deliberately omitted.

Statement of Review of the Ottawa Archdiocesan CWL Council
2020 Accounting Records

At the request of the Ottawa Archdiocesan CWL Council Treasurer, I have examined the Financial records for the year ending December 31, 2020 and have found them to be in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The accounting records are entered using spreadsheets, and are comprised of monthly bank reconciliations, deposits, transfers and paid invoices.

Deposited cheques were properly endorsed or stamped deposit only as required. The bank provides pre-printed cheques. All bank statements, which include Bank deposit slips, ATM deposits and photocopied cheques on both sides, were reconciled on a monthly basis. All void/cancelled cheques were accounted for.

Review of Transactions

I have reviewed expense transactions for 2020 and supporting documentation was present for each. Expense receipts including travel were generally reasonable, and original receipts were attached to each claim.

In general, prudent financial and administrative practices are in place and executed as required.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.



Maureen Corrigan
Financial Manager (retired)
Government of Canada
(613) 749-5285

2 March 2021



Diocesan Treasurer's Annual Summary Report

**Donations for the period of
January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020**

The financial contents of this page have been deliberately omitted.

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Ottawa Diocesan Council
BUDGET FOR 2021
Approved at the Executive Meeting on January 23, 2021**

The financial contents of this page have been deliberately omitted.

BUDGET FOR 2021 (continued)

The financial contents of this page have been deliberately omitted.

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 2020**

Past-President/Historian

Diocese: Ottawa

Chairperson: VACANT

Parishes Reporting: 14/25

Sub-chairpersons: none

Serve in a Consultative Capacity

- Eleven (79%) of twenty-five councils reported this position was filled.
- Nine presidents (64%) felt supported and encouraged by their past president's help.
- Six past presidents (60%) have held this position before.
- Four past presidents (36%) were called upon for advice on a monthly basis.
- Four councils (29%) sought advice from their spiritual advisor.
- Three councils (21%) sought advice from the diocesan executive and the provincial executive.
- Two councils (14%) sought advice from life members in the area.
- Some council past presidents were asked to represent their councils at conventions, organize social events, promote the League in their parishes and communities, check websites at all levels of the League for information to share, chair executive and/or general meetings and to fill the role of vacant standing committee chairs.

Be Responsible for Archives and History

- Twelve past presidents (86%) knew the location of their council charter.
- Eleven past presidents (79%) were responsible for the archives in their councils.
- Ten councils (71%) kept deceased members' history indefinitely; one council (7%) kept them for one-four years.
- Ten councils (71%) kept years of service for members indefinitely; two councils (14%) for five-eight years; one (7%) for one-four years.
- Ten councils (71%) reviewed their archives as needed.
- Ten councils (71%) labelled photo albums.
- Nine councils (64%) maintained a history book.
- Nine councils (64%) stored the Book of Life indefinitely.
- Nine councils (64%) kept past executive lists indefinitely; three councils (21%) for five-eight years.
- Eight councils (57%) stored their archives in filing cabinets; seven councils (50%) used bankers' boxes and memory sticks to store archived information.
- Eight councils (57%) kept photo albums; two councils (14%) kept scrapbooks.
- Eight councils (57%) kept records of service pin and award recipients

- indefinitely; three councils (21%) for one-four years.
- Seven councils (50%) stored their archives in their Catholic Women's League (CWL) room, cupboard or filing cabinets at the church.
- Seven councils (50%) kept membership renewal data indefinitely; three councils (21%) for five-eight years.
- Seven councils (50%) kept minutes of executive meetings indefinitely; four councils (29%) for five-eight years.
- Seven council (50%) kept minutes of general meeting indefinitely; four councils (29%) for five-eight years.
- Six councils (43%) kept financial information indefinitely; one council (7%) kept them for nine-ten years.
- Five councils (36%) kept annual reports indefinitely; one council (7%) kept them for nine-ten years.
- Five councils (36%) kept executive members written reports indefinitely; three councils (21%) for five-eight years.
- Three past presidents (21%) stored their council's archives in their homes or in the home of another member.

**Facilitate the Study and Implementation
of the
*Constitution & Bylaws 2013 (revised)***

- Fourteen councils (100%) had a copy of the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*.
- Thirteen councils (93%) had a copy of the *Constitution & Bylaws*.
- Nine councils (64%) had their own manual of policy and procedure which gets updated every two to five years.
- Four councils (29%) used it multiple times a year.

Diocesan Highlights

- In December 2018, the diocesan archives were moved to a Dymon Storage facility, due to lack of space at the Ottawa Diocesan Centre which is now closed. This continued to be in effect in 2020.

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020**

Organization

Diocese: Ottawa

Parishes Reporting: 12/25

Chairperson: Teresa Psutka

Sub-chairperson: none

Recruit Members and Maintain Membership

- Nine councils (75%) recognized their members with cards or announcements.
- Five councils (50%) encouraged a wide cross-section of members to increase the cultural and age diversity of the community with the following: advertised in the parish bulletin and on bulletin boards; used display tables at parish events, potluck dinners, personal invitations, membership teas and other social events for recruitment; presentations at masses; gave gift memberships; used social media and telephone trees.
- Five councils (50%) reflect the cultural diversity of the parish and general community.
- Three councils (30%) have members under the age of 35 which reflects the age diversity of the general community.
- Councils estimated that 30% of their members participated in fundraising events.
- All councils presented service pins, certificates of merit, awards, had new member ceremonies and reaffirmation ceremonies.
- Most councils administered their member renewals online.
- All new members were welcomed at meetings.
- All new members were engaged by council members with conversation, new member kit, invitations, member feedback and mentoring.
- Some of the new members were invited to participate in sub-committees and conducted an orientation session.
- One council (10%) conducted an orientation session and offered training workshops, e.g., *Planning Strategically*, for their new members.
- Two councils (17%) attracted, maintained, engaged and/or regained a former member or members by showing their appreciation and by inviting them to special events.

Leadership Development

- Five councils (50%) were current on the latest activities of the Strategic Planning Implementation Committee.
- Four councils (40%) set annual goals and plans that included members' input.
- Five councils (50%) had members of their council that played a role on another level of the League which included four at the diocesan level and two at the provincial level.

League Resource Material

- In reference to the Spring 2020 edition of *The Canadian League*, the article "Embrace Change By... Being Part of It" spoke of change as keeping members informed, current and confident. Most councils reported that positive change was embraced in a different way due to the pandemic.
- One council (10%) held their March 2020 meeting in a local retirement home where several members reside.
- Weekly emails went out to all members keeping them informed and updated. Request for prayers were also made.

Annual Reports

- Eight (80%) organization chairpersons used guidelines and assisted their executive members in completing their annual reports.

Life Membership

- Five councils (50%) had the opportunity this past year to gain assistance from either an honorary life member or a life member.

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020**

Community Life

Diocese: Ottawa

Chairperson: Michelle Morrow (acting)

Parishes Reporting: 11/25

Sub-chairpersons: none

Dignity and Rights of Persons

- Seven of the eleven councils that reported had Community Life Chairpersons.
- Five councils were familiar with the *United Declaration of Human Rights*.
- Regarding support for minority groups:
 - Two councils provided a monetary donation to those suffering from domestic violence
 - Five councils provided a monetary donation to those suffering from homelessness and two volunteered their time
 - One council had a guest speaker regarding human trafficking
 - Four councils donated to those suffering from poverty and one council volunteered
 - One council donated to those affected by racism.
- With regard to Indigenous people:
 - Seven councils were aware of the struggles of Indigenous women
 - One council discussed Bill C-262 *United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous People*.
- Six chairpersons became aware of the laws and what has been done in the fight against human trafficking.
 - Four chairpersons shared this information with their council members.

Social and Economic Justice

- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, most councils were unable to provide help and support in this area; council members were encouraged to help, where possible, on an individual basis.
- Ten councils encouraged members to participate in the work of organizations caring for those in need.
- With regard to caring for those in need:
 - Affordable housing – five supported in prayer, one volunteered
 - Anti-poverty – four supported in prayer, one volunteered
 - Before, during and after school programs – three supported in prayer, one volunteered
 - Clothing drives – four supported in prayer, three supported financially, three volunteered
 - Drop-in centres – five supported in prayer, one supported financially, one volunteered
 - Emergency shelters for the homeless – seven supported in prayer, two supported financially, two volunteered

- Emergency shelters for those experiencing domestic abuse – five supported in prayer, one supported financially
- Employment and skills training – three supported in prayer
- Food banks – four supported financially, four supported in prayer, three volunteered
- Food hampers – four supported financially, four supported in prayer, one volunteered
- Resource centres for single parents – four supported in prayer, one supported financially, one volunteered
- Restorative justice program – four supported in prayer
- Soup kitchens – three supported financially, three supported in prayer, two volunteered
- Violence prevention programs – four supported in prayer
- Wish Foundation – three supported in prayer, one volunteered.
- Three councils supported organizations geared towards assisting Indigenous peoples.
- Councils were not able to do anything with restorative justice programs or prison ministry due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Three councils spoke at meetings to promote Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA); five councils financially supported CNEWA's Pieta Bhavan, India initiative and one council financially supported the Adigrat Diocese in Ethiopia initiative.

Refugees, Immigration and Citizenship

- Two councils became informed about Canada's official immigration and refugee policies.
- Three councils rated their understanding as good concerning the needs of immigrants and refugees in their communities.
- Four councils participated in Remembrance Day services and seven supported the Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Campaign.
- Three councils wore red on Fridays in support of our Canadian troops.

Developing Countries

- Four chairpersons became somewhat aware of the conditions of child labour in developing countries.
- Two became somewhat knowledgeable through study about the economic difficulties of developing countries.
- Councils supported the following organizations that focus on developing countries: Canadian Red Cross, Chalice, Operations Christmas Child, Pennies for the Poor, Samaritans Purse Canada and World Vision Canada.

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020**

Education & Health

Diocese: Ottawa

Chairperson: Teresa Psutka (acting)

Parishes Reporting: 13/25

Sub-chairpersons: none

Catholic Education

Catholic Schools and Catechesis

- Ten councils (77%) were aware of family life programs being taught in the Catholic schools in their area.
- Eight councils (62%) investigated the needs of Catholic schools that could be met by their council. These needs included sacramental, faith development, scholarships and bursaries, tutoring and school supplies.
- Five councils (39%) became informed about the quality of Catholic religious instructions in their parish and inquired how they could support the program.
- Five councils (39%) were informed about the quality of Catholic religious instruction in the Catholic schools in their area.
- Four councils (31%) actively encouraged parents to participate in all areas of their children's Catholic school education and activities.
- Two councils (15%) sewed and provided re-usable masks and also collected winter clothing for their school children.

Rites of Christian Initiation

- One council (8%) reported that members were personally involved and participated in the Rites of Christian Initiation programs in their parish.

Literacy and Continuing Education

- Five councils (39%) had a current list of Catholic universities or colleges in the diocese and the information was provided.
- Two councils (15%) encouraged members to assist those wanting to improve their literacy skills.

Scholarships and Bursaries

- Eight (62%) councils provided a bursary, scholarship or gave money.
- Five councils (39%) have a list of scholarships and bursaries that were available.
- One council (8%) contributed to Coady International Institute.
- Councils contributed to Catholic Christian Outreach; provided a bursary for Catholic women furthering their education; contributed to a bursary for high school, university, college students; contributed to a bursary for NET Ministries of Canada.

Wellness and Sickness/Disease

- Councils took action on the following health-related resolutions: 2007.03 (Hospice Palliative Care) 2001.04 (Water Quality), 2001.01 (End of Life Care) and 1990.07 (Environmental Concerns); letters and emails were sent to Members of Parliament opposing Bill C-7.
- Councils supported the following national organizations that focus on the health and wellness of Canadians: Canadian Cancer Society, Canadian Red Cross, Heart & Stroke Foundation, Kidney Foundation of Canada, Alzheimer Society of Canada, Arthritis Society, Canadian Diabetes Association, Children's Wish Foundation and Ronald McDonald House.
- Two councils (15%) participated in the Canadian Blood Services Partners for Life program.
- During the National Hospice Palliative Care Week, councils participated in the "12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care" by arranging a prayer service at home or in their parish; provided members with the "12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care" kit. Councils also encouraged their members to pray for palliative care.
- Councils provided information on advance care planning.

Environment

- Ten councils (77%) participated in the *Care for our Common Home* initiative by participating in plastic and waste clean-up.
- Councils collected milk bags that were used in making milk bag mats.
- Councils addressed the following environmental issues: recycling; reducing use of water, styrofoam cups and paper; eliminating plastic water bottles.
- Due to the COVID-19, many councils' environmental plans were put on hold.
- Two councils (15%) acknowledged and celebrated World Water Day. One council (8%) planned a "Water Poster" contest that was pre-empted by the pandemic.
- Councils primarily addressed issues related to the elimination of plastic water bottles and Styrofoam, recycling and reduction of water use.

Genetics

- Four councils (40%) rated their knowledge as good in regards to the advantages and disadvantages of technology to alter genes in light of the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Reading reports or essays on-line improved members' knowledge of genetics in regard to Catholic teaching.
- One council subscribes to the *Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute* newsletters.

Other

- One council (8%) requested to have more information on the history of Catholic Education in Canada, particularly in Ontario.
- COVID-19 curtailed many activities normally planned by councils.

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020**

Christian Family Life

Diocese: Ottawa

Parishes reporting: 12/25

Chairperson: Jennifer Jones

Sub-chairpersons: none

Marriage and Family

- All councils (100%) promoted family enrichment programs by donating money to a local women's shelter, made referrals to appropriate organizations and offered personal support on a parish level.
- Three councils (25%) supported people who suffered from domestic abuse.
- Two councils (17%) celebrated or organized events for National Family Week.
- One council (8%) promoted programs and supported happily married couples.
- One council (8%) attended workshops or seminars on the topic of family life.

Sanctity of Life

- Ten councils (83%) prayed regularly for the protection of life.
- Seven councils (58%) attended pro-life masses; five councils (42%) participated in the 40 Days for Life and participated in the virtual March for Life event; four councils (33%) participated in the Life Chain and pro-life walks and two councils (17%) participated in pro-life vigils.
- Five councils (42%) donated money and gifts to the following organizations that advocate for the sanctity of life: Campaign Life Coalition, Birthright; Pregnancy and Family Support Services and Euthanasia Prevention Coalition.
- Five councils (42%) ensured every member had a copy of the current pro-life brochure available from national office.
- Three councils (25%) had copies of the current pro-life brochure available in their church vestibule.
- Seven councils (58%) wrote letters and informed legislators of CWL resolutions on abortion and euthanasia.
- One council (8%) met with pro-life legislators.

Ministry to Youth

- Five councils (50%) participated in programs for young people in their parish.
- Councils sponsored youth events or youth ministries in their parish community through National Evangelization Team (NET) Ministries, Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO), leadership camps and retreats, World Youth Day and youth conferences.

Ministry to the Disabled

- All councils (100%) reached out to the disabled by visits, phone calls, prayed together, sent cards, provided transportation, brought communion, and gave gifts on special occasions.
- One council (8%) organized and participated in support groups and respite for caregivers.

Ministry to Seniors

- Ten councils (83%) called and/or visited; eight councils (67%) sent cards of encouragement; six councils (50%) brought communion, gifted them with membership, involved them in CWL events, and provided transportation; five councils (42%) prayed with them; four councils (33%) invited newly-retired women to join the League; three councils (25%); involved them in intercessory prayer; and one council (8%) shared a meal.

Ministry to Widowed

- Eight councils (67%) sent cards of condolences; seven councils (58%) visited or called; five councils (42%) provided prayers and support after the death of the spouse; two councils (17%) arranged memorial services and/or funeral lunches and invited the widows to attend CWL meetings and events; and one council (8%) encouraged participation in programs offered by the parish and invited them to attend community events.

Ministry to Separated & Divorced

- All councils (100%) had copies of the new brochure, *Annulments Today – Merciful and Just* which was available in their church vestibules for people who may need this advice.

Vocations

- All councils (100%) promoted and supported religious vocations.
- Eleven councils (92%) sent spiritual bouquets.
- Six councils (50%) participated in prayers for vocations.
- One council (8%) adopted or supported seminarians.

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020**

Communications

Diocese: Ottawa

Chairperson: Lynn Lavictoire (acting)

Parishes Reporting: 12/25

Sub-chairperson: none

The Canadian League Magazine

- Six councils (50%) found *The Canadian League* a useful resource and educational tool.
- Six councils (50%) found the magazine to be resourceful for advocacy and action and a source for new ideas.
- Five councils (42%) found it useful as a spiritual resource.
- Four councils (33%) were informed of the Strategic Plan, the future of the League and to be part how to become part of that change.
- Four communications chairs (33%) found that all articles published in the fall 2020 edition resonated with them. The top five articles were about the President's Message, Living with Alzheimer's Disease, From the National Spiritual Advisor, Something Beautiful from God and We are Not a Money Making Organization.

Media: to Promote the League

- All councils encouraged members to use cwl.ca for current information.
- Eight councils (67%) made use of local media to advertise their council's activities and events.
- Eight councils (67%) shared with their members the strategic planning information and shared the information as printed in *The Canadian League*.
- Eight councils (67%) shared with their members the League sponsored mass on April 26, 2019 in honour of the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel.
- Six councils (50%) encouraged members to visit the CWL accounts on Facebook and Twitter.
- Six councils (50%) promoted faith-oriented programs; five councils (42%) promoted World Communications Day held on the first Sunday in June.
- Two councils (17%) subscribed and promoted Catholic newspapers.
- Two councils (17%) financially supported Salt + Light TV to assist in their mission to evangelize.
- One council (8%) had a budget set aside for publicity.

Media: Evaluation and Promotion of Good Content

- Nine councils (75%) monitored media content.
- Six councils (50%) promoted faith-oriented programs.

Media: Newsletter and Bulletins

- Ten councils (83%) used email to send out meeting agendas and minutes.
- Eight councils (67%) encouraged members to subscribe to and promoted Catholic newspapers, periodicals and magazines. Some supported financially

through masses for shut-ins and Vision TV.

- Seven councils (58%) organized a telephone committee to invite members to events.
- Four councils (33%) produce a newsletter and distribute it by email.
- Most councils have used email, church bulletins, bulletin boards, parish websites, diocesan website, flyers/posters, Friday Fax and On the Spot to advertise their council's activities and events.

Media: Relations

- All councils (100%) submitted material for publication.
- One council (8%) worked with their local media for the benefit of the League by inviting them to attend an event. Cards of appreciation were sent after a League event was advertised.

Pornography

- Four councils (33%) took steps to become aware about the influence that pornography has on children and adults.
- Three councils (25%) read newspaper articles and attended a seminar and a conference on the topic.
- Five councils (58%) encouraged members to become educated on internet safety and responsible and appropriate technology use.
- Five councils (58%) encouraged members to educate themselves and their families on safe, wise and responsible internet use.
- Three councils (25%) acted on Resolution 2017.02 Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornography Websites, by contacting their members of parliament. These councils made members aware of the lack of age verification controls on adult websites.
- One council (8%) wrote to their members of parliament to establish procedures to prohibit the sale, rental and distribution to minors of videos, movies and games that contain graphic imagery which promote violence and even killing as an acceptable behaviour.
- One council (8%) distributed the League's Pornography Hurts postcards in January, November and December.
- One council (8%) promoted the *Red Light Green Light* film.

Diocesan Communications Chair Report

- The diocesan website was maintained regularly with information and current events from the parish level and the diocesan level.
- Special projects included the diocesan Easter and Christmas card.
- Submitted articles to the *ON-Line Newsletter* for the provincial council.
- Published the June 2020 diocesan newsletter, *Faith in Action*.
- Attended all officers and executive meetings. Prepared reports and emailed information passed on from national and provincial levels to the parish communications chairperson as well as to presidents whose council do not have a communications chairperson.

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020**

Resolutions

Diocese: Ottawa

Parishes Reporting: 9/25

Chairperson: Lynn Lavictoire (acting)

Sub-chairpersons: none

Research and Preparation of Resolutions and Briefs

- All councils were successful in passing on information about resolutions to their members.
- Four councils (44%) emailed their local Members of Parliament.
- Three councils (33%) contacted their Members of Parliament and wrote letters.
- Three councils (33%) had new ideas, projects, workshops used for good results.
- Seven councils (78%) attended workshops that outlined the resolutions process in the League:
 - at a diocesan, provincial, or national convention
 - at a diocesan or provincial development days or workshops
 - at a Catch the Fire S'Mores workshop.
- Three councils (33%) considered and studied issues that might become resolutions.
- All councils (100%) referred to communiques and/or annual reports from other levels of the League.

Study and Implementation of Resolutions adopted by other Levels

- Six councils (67%) undertook actions that support resolutions adopted at all levels of the League.
- Six councils (67%) engaged their members awareness through meetings, emails and newsletters.
- Three councils (33%) wrote letter to federal and/or provincial governments.
- Two councils (22%) became familiar with the resolutions that require action as listed on the national website, cwl.ca.
- Two councils (22%) signed petitions.
- One council (11%) acted on the 2019 resolutions adopted by the provincial council. Resolutions' topic included: Long-Term Care Beds and Children's Rights. Information was shared with members by email and at meetings.

**The Catholic Women’s League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020**

Legislation

Diocese: Ottawa

Chairperson: Lynn Lavictoire (acting)

Parishes Reporting: 9/25

Sub-chairpersons: none

Monitor and Study Legislation at All Levels of Government

- All councils (100%) knew the names of their local, provincial and federal government representatives (municipal, provincial and federal).
- All councils (100%) received mailings from their federal representative.
- Eight councils (89%) received mailings from their municipal and provincial representative.
- Eight councils (89%) had knowledge of the issues being discussed by government at all levels (municipal, provincial and federal).

Preparation of Briefs and Position Papers Proposed Legislation

- Eight councils (89%) accessed *Hansard*, the printed record of the proceeding of federal government.

Knowledge of Federal Bills:

Acts	Very Aware	Some knowledge	Not Aware
C-7	6 (67%)	3 (33%)	0 (0%)
C-13	3 (33%)	2 (22%)	4 (44%)
C-14	3 (33%)	2 (22%)	4 (44%)
C-15	3 (33%)	1 (11%)	5 (56%)
C-71	1 (11%)	1 (11%)	7 (78%)

- Most councils wrote letters and signed petitions at all levels of government regarding Bill C-7 An act to amend the *Criminal Code* (medical assistance in dying).
- Some councils monitored legislative efforts to control long-term care homes, in particular to Bill 13 Time to Care Act (Long-Term Care Homes Amendment, Minimum Standard of Daily Care), 2020.
- Some councils monitored and acted on Bill C-57 An Act to Amend the Federal Sustainable Development Act, 2019.
- Some councils monitored and acted on Bill C-418 Protection of Freedom of Conscience Act: An Act to amend the *Criminal Code* (to protect conscience rights for health professionals).
- In general, councils shared information at meetings and provided links to relevant websites.

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020**

Spiritual Development

Diocese: Ottawa

Parishes Reporting: 11/25

Chairperson: Janet Warren

Sub-chairpersons: none

- Of eleven councils reporting, ten (91%) of the positions were filled.
- Of those positions filled, 50% were appointed.

Spiritual Growth of Members

- *Care of our Common Home*: eight councils (72%) had discussion, sent out prayers and researched information.
- Six councils (55%) spent one third of their meeting time on spiritual aspects of membership.
- Liturgies and spiritual programs were greatly restricted due to COVID-19.
- One council (9%) organized a virtual Remembrance Day ceremony for their deceased sisters. One council offered special Masses with only members present. One council organized a virtual Rosary twice weekly during Lent. One council began all meetings with mass (pre-COVID-19) and subsequently sent out prayers and reflections by email and encouraged online participation in Rosaries organized by others. One council emailed a prayer list regularly and had members pray rosaries throughout the day for the Home Missions on October 1. Two councils (13%) continued to provide prayers for all virtual meetings.
- One (9%) did a short ceremony on the feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel with members on Zoom. One (9%) encouraged members to say a Rosary. One council (9%) shared the links to the online mass celebrated in Calgary and to the mass on Salt & Light TV.
- Regarding the attendance at meetings of the Spiritual Advisor: two always attended (18%); two most of the time (18%); and four sometimes (36%).

Role of Women in the Church

- Four councils (36%) studied Catholic teachings and the role of women in the Church. One (9%) studied the women of the Bible; one (9%) studied women saints; and two (18%) encouraged members to participate in parish ministries.
- Members have undertaken the following leadership roles in the parish: ten (91%) on Parish Pastoral Council; five (46%) on Parish Finance Committee; four (36%) as Parish Committee Chairpersons; three (27%) on diocesan council/committees; one (9%) as a pastoral associate; and one (9%) in other ministries such as Eucharistic Ministers of Communion, grief committee, music, First Communion and Confirmation assistance, outreach, sacristans, Alpha, Legion of Mary, prayer ministry, and food bank volunteer.
- One council (9%) participated in a liturgy committee.

Evangelization and Mission Assistance

- Regarding the CWL Day of Prayer for Home Missions, of six councils (36%) that reported on this activity, four (67%) sent a prayer to the membership to recite; and two councils (33%) organized a rosary.
- Regarding the support of Catholic Missions In Canada, four (36%) sent financial support; one council (9%) took donations at meetings held.
- Other missions supported: Pro-Life, Eski-Omi, Miriam Centre, Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), St. Joe's Women's Centre, National Evangelization Team (NET), Shepherds of Good Hope, MaterCare and providing hats, mitts and socks to an elementary school.

Lay Ministries

- Five (46%) chairpersons participated as Eucharistic Ministers, lectors, four (36%) in music, three (27%) in decorating, hospitality, and sacristan.
- Eleven councils (100%) reported that their members participated in ministries: as Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion; nine (82%) music, lectors, sacristan. Eight (73%) did decorating; six as ushers (55%); five in hospitality (46%); three as catechist (27%); one as facilitator (9%).
- The following were chaired by a CWL member: choir (38%), decorating (38%), Eucharistic Ministers (38%), sacristan (38%), hospitality (25%), lector (25%), catechist (13%), facilitator (13%) and usher (13%).

Ecumenism and Interfaith Endeavours

- One council (9%) reached out to women of other Christian denominations in prayer, invitation to a meeting or social event, or as a speaker.
- One council (9%) promoted Fellowship of the Least Coin.
- Two councils (18%) promoted Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and seven councils (64%) promoted World Day of Prayer.

Training and Communication

- Three councils (27%) cited training and communication was the League Development Day (LDD) hosted by the Ottawa Diocesan Council.
- Training requested: six (54%) responded with suggestions – (9%) continuation of everything we do e.g., LDD, retreats, masses, Days of Reflection; two (18%) requested guidance for spiritual development chairperson; three (27%) requested anything available regarding prayers and resources.
- Communications: "CWL Wednesdays!" from the Ottawa Diocesan Council kept members connected, prayer intentions were given, communiqués at all levels and newsletters were emailed.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Life Member Liaison Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020

Diocese: Ottawa

Honorary Life Members: 1

Life Member Liaison: Moira Matthews

Life Members: 11

Not only the CWL, but the whole world, have been tested to try and carry-on business as usual while dealing with lock-downs and stay-at-home government directives all due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Parish, Diocesan, Provincial and National conventions were all cancelled, and every level of the League scrambled to try and keep in touch with their members.

One of the scheduled highlights of the Ottawa Diocesan Convention in May was to be the awarding of Life Membership to Joanna Sisk. So, although Joanna can be counted as one of our Ottawa Life Members, unfortunately the presentation of the pin and scroll had to be deferred until the membership can meet in person.

Obviously, the Life Members were not able to meet in the Spring, or the Fall. Many were not able to fulfill their various Parish duties as the churches were closed, and meetings were not allowed. But, as many things closed, or ceased to be, other avenues opened up via the internet. Almost overnight the request for prayers from Life Members in our Diocese, in Ontario, and across the country, became a daily plea. Interesting to note is that the members were asking for prayers not only for their families, but for friends and friends of friends as word spread that there were people dedicating their time to pray for others. What a privilege to be able to lift up in prayer those who we do not know, but who have asked for our help!

Birthday cards, get well cards and sympathy cards were all sent out as usual. Two Life Members do not have on-line capabilities, so all directives etc., were printed and mailed to them.

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless."

St. Teresa of Calcutta

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Ottawa Diocesan Council
Life Members 2020**

Honorary Life Member

Joan Chesser

Life Members

Shirley Bernier

Moira Matthews

Kay May

Edith Mockler

Jane Munro

Colleen Perry

Colleen Shirley

Joanna Sisk

Heather Sisk

Anida Simurda

Sharon St. Jean

Military Ordinariate Life Member Living in Ottawa

Marilyn Olsen

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Parish Council Highlights
For the period of January 1 to December 31, 2020

Annunciation of the Lord

President Michèle Hundertmark
Spiritual Advisor Fr. John Likozar, CC
143 Members
1 Life Member: Edith Mockler

Our council fulfilled our commitment to make a concrete footprint in our community over \$15,000.00 to Youville Centre to help them build a daycare for the children of the centre's students. We also committed to and paid for 200 brand new chairs for the parish's hall, but were later supported financially by the parish Knights of Columbus. It started out as a very productive year but came to a halt in March.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

President Joan Lepage
Spiritual Advisor Fr. Dominic Lim
56 Members

In the spring, our members were encouraged to pray for priests in Canada, by saying three Hail Mary's for a week. Later on, an email was forwarded to our members, the Prayer for Canada, issued by the CWL. When there seemed to be no end in sight of the virus, a prayer to Saint Corona was emailed to our members. We also placed this prayer in our church bulletin encouraging our parishioners to say it as well.

Divine Infant

President Frances Chicot (acting)
Spiritual Advisor Fr. Waldemar Podlasz, SDS
63 Members

Our council maintains a prayer list. We pray for loved ones facing challenges, including those affected by COVID-19 and to appeal for an end to the pandemic. Members joined in praying the Rosary on October 1, for the CWL Day of Prayer for Home Missions. Member Jackie Kierulf's reflections called, "Experiencing Holy Moments" was published in the May 29, edition of *Our Sunday Visitor* as part of an article regarding "Keeping the Faith Amid the Pandemic." Jackie's reflections were submitted and published in the winter edition of *The Canadian League* magazine.

Holy Redeemer

Presidents Sharon Sudsbear and Marie Fortier
Spiritual Advisor Fr. Paul Nwaeze
33 Members

Due to the pandemic, we could not meet in person. However, we did have two virtual meetings with good success. We completed our annual Christmas hamper drives. Our members were generous and gave gift cards, cash donations, and donations of personal care items including baby products for St. Mary's Home and the Elizabeth Fry Society. Several of our ladies collected winter coats and jackets that were

sanitized and repaired in tip top condition for the mothers of St. Mary's Home. Both organizations were overwhelmed with the tremendous generosity of our council.

Holy Spirit

President Marilyn Foot Pollock
Spiritual Advisor Msgr. Joseph Muldoon
53 Members

1 Life Member: Shirley Bernier

2020 certainly has been a challenging year for our council. With the outbreak of the COVID-19, we were only able to have one face to face meeting with all of our members. Nonetheless, our executive worked well to continue to communicate with our members via telephone and email communications. Throughout this year we have been able to maintain our commitments to our parish, community, and charitable organizations. We co-sponsored with the Knights of Columbus in setting up a means of livestreaming the weekend Masses for our parish and our members continued to serve as lectors, Ministers of Holy Communion, and in pastoral care.

Immaculate Heart of Mary

President Frances Murphy Pike
Spiritual Advisor Fr. Stephen Liang
28 members

2 Life Members: Moira Matthews and Anida Simurda

We were able to keep meetings going by employing Zoom video conferencing. We awarded three bursaries to grade 12 students. At Christmas time, as we have done for a number of years now, we were able to raise a good sum of money for the Youville Centre. We kept in touch with our members by sending out cards, and by making phone calls.

Our Lady of Fatima

President Jean Anderson
Spiritual Advisor Fr. Bosco Wong
30 members

We hosted the World Day of Prayer in March, raising \$900.00. We held a Pro-Life Baby Shower in October. We had donations to fill a car plus over \$500.00 in cash. These were given to Birthright, St. Mary's Home and the Miriam Centre. We prayed the Rosary daily at 3:00 p.m. for the needs of all our prayer intentions. We supported Interval House for our Christmas charity, with toiletries, Christmas decorations, toys, household necessities and home baking. We topped it up with \$250.00 cash. We weaved milk bags into mats for the poor. Members kept in touch with each other.

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

President Mary Ellen James
Spiritual Advisor Fr. Robert Masternark, SDS
64 Members

1 Honorary Life Member: Joan Chesser

2 Life Members: Jane Munro and Heather Sisk

Thankfully we were able to honour all of our charitable commitments due to the fact that 2019 was so successful. We were able to reach out at our local group home and

provide some treats at Christmas in place of our annual Christmas shopping trip and viewing Christmas lights. Our main focus has been on supporting our parish in all ways needed during the pandemic.

Our Lady of the Visitation

President Beverly O'Hara

Spiritual Advisor Deacon Patrick McNulty

30 Members

We held our General Meetings via email and our Annual Meeting by Zoom. All our chairs and officers provided their written reports for each meeting. Liturgies of The Word were successful and we provided a Spiritual Bouquet to our Spiritual Advisor for Christmas.

Resurrection of Our Lord

Membership Coordinator Fina Lobo

Spiritual Advisor Fr. Tadeusz Jordan

30 Members

We try to keep in touch with our members. The pandemic has hampered our lifestyles but made us realize how we value social contact. Last summer, we shared pictures or plants, flowers, and places we discovered in our vicinity. Some of these pictures were also shared on the diocesan website. Helped identify neighbours' plants and insects, thanks to Google lens. Doing it all while maintaining social distancing. Our members made it a point to watch the televised Mass commemorating the CWL's centennial.

St. Andrew

President Linda Lovelace

Spiritual Advisor Fr. Frank Brewer

24 Members

Our council held a half day reflection on "Loneliness." We invited all women of the parish. We began with a celebration of Mass and a breakfast gathering. Our guest speaker elaborated on many aspects of loneliness, especially death and grieving. During lent we led the parish in St. Andrews's Way of the Cross. We assisted in parish activities and expenses.

St. Basil

President Elizabeth Larmond Elliot

Spiritual Advisor Fr. Daryold Winkler

51 Members

Before the pandemic lockdown, we had one regular meeting and we led the parish in Mary's Way of the Cross in Lent. Later, we had one assembly (meeting) on Zoom and two Zoom discussions of Women's Role in Healing the Church based on Sister Nuala Kenny's presentation to the 100th Anniversary of the CWL. In December, we had a financially successful Bakeless Bake Sale.

St. Bernard

Presidents Patricia Chaplinsky and Joan Gray (acting)

Spiritual Advisor Fr. Eslin Pereira, CMF

36 Members

1 Life Member: Colleen Perry

Our council is made up of mostly elderly members and since we could not meet in person, we stayed in contact through emails, phone calls, and cards. Father Eslin was gracious enough to offer special Masses monthly in the fall which was attended by an average of 14 members. These Masses gave us much needed support.

St. Catherine of Siena

President Beverley-Lynn Rowan

Spiritual Advisor Fr. Hezuk Shroff

18 Members

We haven't had meetings due to COVID-19. The only activity we did was an angel tree for Waupoos Family Farm at Christmas. This was a huge success and we were able to brighten a few family's celebrations.

St. Clare

Presidents Ada Gorrie & Tilly O'Connor

Spiritual Advisor Fr. Bob Poole

No report.

St. Faustina

President Barbara D'Entremont

Spiritual Advisor Deacon Tom Donohue

29 Members

Our members helped provide supplies or make cloth masks for parishioners for a good will offering. We also provided masks, and winter clothing to St. Michael's Ottawa Catholic School. We have kept in touch via email, phone calls, prayers, and outdoor Masses at our parish. We have also called parishioners to check in on them.

St. Ignatius the Martyr

President Lilian Martineau

Spiritual Advisor Fr. Saviour Karamvelil, OFM

32 Members

1 Life Member: Joanna Sisk

In January, we enjoyed our traditional Christmas luncheon (postponed from December 2019.). In January and February, we held the regular meetings, but activities were cancelled for the remainder of the year due to COVID-19 restrictions. Mass requests included: Palliative Care and protection of the unborn, Thanksgiving 90th Charter Anniversary, and Advent Preparation. Members could also view the livestreamed Masses. Communications: email, parish bulletins and phone.

St. Isidore

President Jennifer Bowler (acting)
Spiritual Advisor Fr. Matthew Keshwah

No report.

St. John the Apostle

President Rosemary Fikis
Spiritual Advisor Fr. Lindsay Harrison
58 Members

In early March, our council held one in-person CWL General Meeting and hosted the Stations of the Cross on one Friday evening in Lent. Since then, our members kept in contact with other members through the Telephone Tree and Zoom meetings. Some members volunteered to guide attendees to their seats at Sunday Mass and clean the church afterwards following health protocols. As our council was not able to have events to raise money during the pandemic, we held a No-Bake Sale that was quite successful. Our council also sponsored a 2-day "Healing Hands" Retreat with 10 CWL participants. In December, we had an online Christmas gathering.

St. Leonard

President Suzie Noaro
Spiritual Advisor Fr. Gerard Plant
46 Members

Our council hosted Priests for Regional Meeting in January, prepared and delivered 80 Rosary kits for grade 3 kids at St. Leonard's School. We prepared gifts and gift cards valued over \$500.00 for Waupoos Family Farm at Christmas. We raised \$2,300.00 for the parish by making and selling apple and blueberry pies. We offered "The Search" Zoom Series – Answers to the Big Questions of Life. We did two call rounds for Fr. Gerard to check on our 600 parishioners.

St. Martin de Porres

President Sharon St. Jean
Spiritual Advisor Fr. Titus Egbueh
80 Members

1 Life Member: Sharon St. Jean

Our council made and distributed masks to parishioners; provided masks to Our Lady of Peace Elementary School; presented a bursary to a graduating high school student; celebrated a Christmas Mass; some members helped and made wellness calls to seniors of the parish, and initiative of the parish; we had weekly Advent Prayers sent to members; and a Christmas Letter was mailed to all our members.

St. Mary's (Almonte)

President Cindy Zorgel
Spiritual Advisor Fr. Paul J. Gaudet
97 Members

In February, we hosted a bake sale after all Masses one weekend and raised \$1,525.00 which was donated to the Lanark Food Bank. We collected and donated 62 gift bags and the residents and staff to Country Haven, who were overjoyed. Two of our members donated Christmas cards and stamps and each of our members

received a Christmas card. This was well received by our members. In March, Nancy Deschenes of the North Lanark Home Hospice, who give support and palliative care, was our guest speaker. And lastly, three members participated in the World Day of Prayer Service and three members attended the League Development Day.

St. Maurice

President Maureen Farnand
Spiritual Advisor Fr. Lawrence Hyginus
87 Members

1 Life Member: Colleen Shirley

Our council stayed on course. With the immediate lockdown, we contacted our sisters by phone and helped where needed. We were able to meet by Zoom with the executive monthly (all executive members taking on a 3rd year). As we had successful fundraisers in 2019, we were able to distribute funds in November to our charities. Our first general meeting by Zoom, attracted 35 participants. Our weekly newsletter kept everyone up to date on the CWL, our parish, and the wider community. Christmas cards were sent to all our members with a personal message in each card. We continue to pray for an end to the pandemic, and for the health and wellbeing of our sisters across Canada.

St. Patrick (Fallowfield)

President Cathy Gasper
Spiritual Advisor Fr. Paul Shepherd
85 Members

1 Life Member: Kay May

We hosted Our Lady of Good Counsel Memorial Mass. In October, we celebrated our 75th Anniversary with mass and High Tea where we collected 210 purses and filled them with toiletries, hats, scarves and mittens for the Cornerstone Women's shelter. We fundraised for our Church Restoration Fund and our Christmas stocking campaign supported the poor in Ottawa's missions and shelters. We prayed and supported each other.

St. Philip

President Veronica Gervais
Spiritual Advisor Deacon Mark Masson
60 Members

Council members voted in favour of disbanding on December 31. The members wanted to become a Women's Auxiliary to better serve their parish community.

The Good Shepherd

President Doreen Dumont
Spiritual Advisor Fr. Virgil Amirthakumar
66 Members

We continued to present RCIA candidates with Catechisms, First Communicants with Mass books and Confirmandi with Bibles. We also gifted the Good Shepherd St. Vincent de Paul with a cash donation to assist with the purchase of Christmas gifts for our children who would otherwise do without. We remain in touch requesting prayers for those who are ill and offered Masses for those who have passed away.

25 Year Service Pin

St. John the Apostle

Fran Herman,
Elaine McVeigh,
Mary Ellen Henniger
Pat Smith

St. Patrick, Fallowfield

20 Year Service Pin

St. Catherine of Siena
St. John the Apostle

Beverley Lynn Rowan
Claudette Joseph,
Karen Lavoie, Judy Mears,
Ann Sullivan
Helen Bissonette
Irene Murphy

St. Martin de Porres
St. Patrick, Fallowfield

15 Year Service Pin

St. John the Apostle

Irene Bonner, Grace Cauley,
Gayle Cormier,
Marguerite Hill,
Divina Hogan,
Marjorie Moore, Faye Morin,
Marilyn Muldoon,
Betty Nugent,
Joanne Parenteau,
Madeleine Ryan,
Teresa Wong
Renee Galioto, June Petrie

St. Martin de Porres

10 Year Service Pin

St. Catherine of Siena
St. John the Apostle

Cheryl Thompson
Ella Goodin,
Mary Lou Moulton,
Fatima Peiris, Pearl Synek
Ruby Weber,
Patricia Kavanagh
Francine Crepeault,
Mary Ann LaSalle,
Leah Moore

St. Martin de Porres

St. Patrick, Fallowfield

5 Year Service Pin

St. John the Apostle

Adut Abut, Rosemary Fikis,
Eileen Gallant,
Catherine Leung,
Kati Lyon-Villiger,
Renilde Ntamasamairo,
Liliane Williamson
Roisin O'Reilly
Cecilia Buchanan,
Louise Halpenny,
Lynda Harris, Susan Light,
Natalie Proctor

St. Martin de Porres

St. Patrick, Fallowfield

Bursaries

National Bursary Fund

Sarah Cleyn, Lynn Lavictoire

CONGRATULATIONS!

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Ottawa Diocesan Council
Our Deceased Members 2020**

Annunciation of the Lord

Patricia (Pat) Lepine
Mary Sullivan
Marjorie Webster
Dorothy Moore
Mary MacDonald
Carmella Lemay
Jane Gratton
Winnifred Lehman
Jean McKenna

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Shirley Chartrand
Helen Geneta

Divine Infant

Jackie Sullivan
Elizabeth (Betty) Donnelly

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Joan Ward
Margaret Beauchamp
Adele Law
Ann Darcovich

Our Lady of Fatima

Marion Cordick

Our Lady of the Miraculous

Kathleen McCarthy
Anne Nyentap
Lorraine Small

Resurrection of Our Lord

Noreen (Bridget) Cassidy
Margaret Joan Ronayne
Isabel Charbonneau

St. Basil

Elizabeth Roy

St. John the Apostle

Karen Murawsky
Kathleen (Kay) kot
Theresa Crate
Cecilia Hastings

St. Martin de Porres

Violet Freeland

St. Mary (Almonte)

Betty McAuliffe
Frances Renwick
Margaret O'Connell

St. Maurice

Mary Ruby Farrell
Teresa Psutka (Diocesan 1st Vice President)
Joyce Murphy
Patricia McLeod

St. Patrick (Fallowfield)

Elsie Marshall
Cecelia McCollum

**May the souls of the faithfully departed rest in His peace.
Our Lady of Good Counsel, *Pray for us.***

APPRECIATION

This year was another year full of challenges because of the pandemic reality we are now living in. This year we've had to postpone our 2020 and 2021 Annual Meeting of Members. We continue to work with St. Mary's, Almonte Council to make our 98th meeting an enjoyable event and at the same time provide a safe environment for all our members in the Ottawa diocese.

The Convention Planning Committee has been meeting on a monthly basis and will continue to do so. We hope that a new date will be available soon. I am grateful to be working with such a wonderful group of ladies who want our meeting to be a successful one.

The Ottawa Diocesan Officers offer up a huge:

THANK YOU!

CONVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE

St. Mary's, Almonte Council: President Cindy Zorgel
Past President Gerda Franssen
Secretary Ruth Dubois
Spiritual Development Chair Gay Wood

Ottawa Diocesan Council: President Lynn Lavictoire
Treasurer Diana Baines
Spiritual Development Chair Janet Warren

**Our Lady of Good Counsel,
*Pray for us.***