



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

CATHOLIC
and LIVING IT!

COMMUNIQUE #11

APRIL 2022

TO: Parish Presidents

From: Lynn Lavictoire, Diocesan President

**"In everything, whether it is a thing sensed or a thing known,
God himself is hidden within."**

-St. Bonaventure

As we move into the Easter Season, we contemplate on what the future has in store for us. A week after we celebrate Easter, I will be chairing my last Ottawa Diocesan Executive Pre-Convention Meeting via Zoom. It will be an interesting meeting as we have two guest speakers, Fran Hadley and Patricial Marsden Dole, who will do a short presentation on identifying a parish focus for the spiritual and social needs of older adults. This initiative is called the Ottawa Cornwall Catholic Seniors (OCCS) Ministry in the diocese. Both Fran and Patricia created and co-lead this ministry. I look forward to their presentation.

All diocesan council presidents across Canada were instructed by national and provincial councils to present the Executive Orientation workshops to their executives. So far, the officers have presented five out of ten workshops. The ones we have completed are:

1. Budgets
2. History of the League
3. Structure of the League and The Promise of the League
4. Member Recognition
5. Public Presence and Member Development.

At our pre-convention meeting our Diocesan Education & Health Chair Rosemary Fikis will be presenting on:

6. Duties of Officers.

This means we will have completed six out of ten workshops. The remainder will be up to the newly elected diocesan council to decide when they want to present the rest of the workshops and how.

The Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel is on Tuesday, April 26, 2022. This year, St. John the Apostle CWL Council is hosting the event. The Eucharistic Celebration will begin at 7:00pm and will honour our deceased members of 2021. At the end of the Mass, members who received awards in 2021 will be mentioned. Due to the concerns over the ongoing pandemic, there won't be a reception afterwards. Our Diocesan Spiritual Development Chair Janet Warren and St. John the Apostle Spiritual Development Chair Claudette Joseph have worked diligently on making this feast memorable, not only for our sisters, but for the family members of their deceased loved one. Thank you also goes out to St. John the Apostle President Audrey Wojcik for saying "yes."

The Ottawa Diocesan Annual Meeting of Members Planning Committee, your diocesan officers, have met on a regular basis to plan for a successful meeting of members on Saturday, May 14, 2022. The event is being held at St. Theresa Parish downtown Ottawa from 9:00am to 4:00pm with the Closing Mass at 4:30pm

presided by Archbishop Marcel Damphousse and, at that time, we plan to have the Installation Ceremony of the newly elected Ottawa Diocesan Officers.

I want to thank all parish council presidents for submitting their reports for the 2021 Annual Report Book. The book was recently emailed to all of you and is posted on the diocesan website. It was wonderful to see all that you and your councils accomplished despite the challenges of not being able to meet in person. Thank you for keeping your members informed and active in the League. Active participation from members goes a long way for a healthy membership in a council.

Thank you for conducting the Instructed Vote in your councils. This may have been confusing when put into practice but you have all done well. Again, thank you. The Instructed Vote will now take place at the Ottawa Diocesan Council Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, May 14, 2022.

The 75th Ontario Provincial Convention Planning Committee continues to meet on a monthly basis. Registration is now open and the forms are available on the provincial website: <https://cwl.on.ca>. There are a couple of good outings one can register for. The whole committee has worked together with love and friendship – the end result will be to make the Ontario Provincial Council President Colleen Perry’s convention memorable. Remember the fundraiser is found on the provincial and diocesan website. The Fundraising Chair Sue Ann Soulliere changes some of the other fundraising items on a monthly basis which are included in our “CWL Wednesday!” every two weeks and also updated on the diocesan website: <https://ottawa.cwl.on.ca>. The committee has worked hard, given all the COVID-19 challenges – it hasn’t been easy. We will soon be looking for volunteers for help during the convention on July 10-13, 2022. The Ottawa Diocesan Executive wanted to host this event so we appreciate all of your love, prayers and support. Blessings to all of you!

Lastly, I want to thank all of you. I was gifted with the responsibility of being the Ottawa Diocesan President on Monday, January 7, 2019. I had to change my life around to meet the needs of the membership. It wasn’t easy, and I had to learn quickly – thankfully I love to learn. I was also met with adversity but I didn’t despair because God was always there for me, He had a plan. I was encouraged and supported by many CWL angels in our diocese, across the province and the country. During my tenure I lost my dear friend and CWL travel companion, our Ottawa Diocesan First Vice President Teresa Psutka. Peace to her – she always stepped in to help me when I needed it. She was missed at the diocesan table.

Needless to say, I will have been in the current role for three and half years. I had a great team!!! I am so grateful to the team in 2019 for their love and support, and the team who was elected and appointed in the following term (May 2019-2022). Thank you!!! I will cherish the moments where the Ottawa Diocesan Council Executive had great learning discussions in meetings and embraced change when it was required.

I also want to take a moment to appreciate our Ottawa Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Father Paul J. Gaudet. He was an excellent diocesan spiritual advisor and shepherd of his own parish. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

THANK YOU!

“If we are afraid to be different, how can we make a difference in the world?”

-St. Ignatius of Loyola

Our Lady of Good Counsel,
Pray for us.