



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

Care for our Common Home



COMMUNIQUE #3

NOVEMBER 2019

TO: Parish Presidents

From: Lynn Lavictoire, Diocesan President

The gifts of grace increase as the struggles increase.

St. Rose of Lima

This is an exciting time we live in as we continue our journey in the League. Since our September Potluck Executive Meeting, we've continued with our national theme, *Care for Our Common Home*, with a focus on water and introduced our new provincial theme on *loneliness*.

In our quest for growth in relationship with Christ, we are asked to educate ourselves on what loneliness is really all about. Loneliness is one of the silent epidemics of this century. It is not easy to define succinctly but we can at least say that loneliness is not healthy. As women of faith in the League, we are called "to help each other grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service." We may not understand loneliness, but we've been asked to learn about it, its impact, its meaning, educate ourselves on the subject, educate our council members and even talk about it. It is a challenging phenomenon that affects people of all ages. It doesn't discriminate. We need to listen to what the lonely are saying.

Councils have been buzzing with many fundraisers. We were thrilled to see that so many of you advertised your events on the diocesan website! It's really refreshing to see that councils and their members are actively working with joy in serving their communities. It has been a busy fall.

There were a couple of councils celebrating anniversaries during the month of October which I was able to attend. On Sunday, October 6, St. Margaret Mary's (Cumberland) Council was presented with a 70th Anniversary certificate and, at the same time, the council was presented with their new Organization Charter for their council's name change to St. Faustina. On Sunday, October 20, St. Patrick's (Fallowfield) Council was presented with a certificate from the provincial council for their 75th Anniversary. Congratulations!!

The diocesan council re-introduced Holy Hour on Tuesday, October 22. Our Lady of Fatima Council hosted this event. Our Diocesan Spiritual Advisor was present for us and gave a wonderful homily. The whole evening was beautifully done and divinely inspired. Thank you to all who made this event memorable! Time spent with our Lord is a blessing in itself.

The *Guidelines for Parish Councils Hosting Meetings and Events for the Ottawa Diocesan Council* has been updated and revised. A team began working on it early during the summer, and its final revision was completed in December. It will be posted on the diocesan website before the new year. It was a lot of work and a lot of fun working as a team. Thank you to all members of the committee.

The diocesan council just held its Advent Retreat hosted by Divine Infant Council. The retreat was led by Dr. Carol Kuzmochka and she delivered a fabulous retreat. Divine Infant Council members were helpful in every way and their hospitality was exceptional! Thank you.

We are looking forward to working on our League Development Day which will include a presentation on the *Planning Strategically* and our Lenten Morning of Reflection. Please check the Calendar of Events. More information will come on this. As National Past President Margaret Ann Jacobs said, “may the spirit guide you as you prepare for this most valuable process which will bear much fruit for the League of the future.” The League needs change and we need to change from within.

**May this Advent season prepare you fully for
the love, peace and joy Our Lady of Good Counsel holds in her arms.**

Lynn