



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

Care for our Common Home



COMMUNIQUE #4

MARCH 2020

TO: Parish Presidents
From: Lynn Lavictoire, Diocesan President

“Prayer ought to be short and pure, unless it is prolonged by the inspiration of the divine grace.”

St. Benedict

Love, peace and joy to all!

Sadly, all of our CWL activities, events, officers, executive and general meetings have been postponed until further notice. Not only does this include our diocesan convention, but it includes the cancellation of the provincial and national conventions. Everything is either cancelled or postponed indefinitely, e.g., the 2021 OPC Convention Planning Committee meetings, the Lenten Morning of Reflection, “Find Your Voice” Public Speaking Course, and the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel. We will not be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the League in the same way it was planned. We are not alone in this sudden turn of events and the challenges we face. Together we are witnessing history in the making; 2020 will be a year to remember!

Please note that the national office is now officially closed from April 1 – 14, 2020. In a notice received on March 31 from Executive Director Kim Scammell, all emails have been redirected and will still be received. Staff members are working remotely and are available to process membership, communications and inquiries. They may be contacted at the following email addresses:

Kim Scammell	Executive Director	executivedirector@cw.ca
Valroy Anderson	Senior Accounting Clerk	accounting@cw.ca
Amanda McCormick	Executive Secretary	communications@cw.ca
Katherine Choi	Membership Coordinator	membership@cw.ca
Marion Wong	Office Assistant	officeassistant@cw.ca
Rose Angeli Ringor	Data Entry Clerk	clerk@cw.ca
Kerri Sylvester	Project Coordinator	projects@cw.ca

General inquiries can be sent to info@cw.ca. If the closing date for the national office is prolonged, you will be notified.

Thrust into isolation to stay healthy and save lives, we are now emailing each other more frequently as well as calling relatives and neighbours to check on them. We are looking in our cupboards to make our groceries last a little bit longer so that we don't make unnecessary trips to the grocery store. We are depending on each other to help us surf this new world of isolation, screening and care. Our current state of emergency, for some people, means a sudden layoff, isolation and loneliness. We've been told to stay home and stay safe. Yes, much has changed since we met and participated in the League Development Day back in February.

The diocesan officers recently had their first conference call. This was a new experience for some of our officers. A lot was covered and we are trying to keep all of you and our members informed of the new reality that has been thrust upon us. We have opened ourselves to new ways of communicating and keeping in touch with others.

There is a lot of panic and fear regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and with good reason. The Ottawa Diocesan Council Officers want to be present for you during this time to provide support and encouragement.

An email was sent out recently which was asking for your participation. We have introduced "CWL Wednesday!" a day dedicated to our membership in Ottawa where we wear our CWL pin in solidarity with all our sisters in the League in the Ottawa Archdiocese. The second item is "Reaching Out" to our sisters, family and friends so that nobody has even a chance to suffer loneliness in the midst of our current situation. By reaching out to others, we bring God's message, "do not fear, for I am with you" (Isa 41:10) and "may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace" (Rom 15:13). Let's be there for each other.

We have been working diligently on our 2019 Annual Report Book and hope to have it ready on or before April 25. It will be sent to all our presidents electronically and posted on our website. The report book will be smaller in size as some things will have been removed due to the cancellation of our convention. However, I want to stress that your president's reports (although they were only three to five lines) were awesome! It demonstrated all the work you do with your members for your members, parish family, community and the world. Thank you!

Pope Francis tells us, "Hope Does Not Disappoint." In the spirit of these words, I thought I would pass along a prayer to Saint Corona and a short bio sent to me by Resurrection of Our Lord Council Past President Wilma Murzello.

PRAYER TO SAINT CORONA

Almighty God, who forgives the sins of your people and heals all their faults,
whom we call our Lord and healer, and has sent your beloved Son to bear our sickness,
look upon us who stand humbly before You.

We pray to You in this time of plague and need, remember Your love and kindness that
You have always shown to Your people in times of tribulation.

Just as You graciously looked upon Aaron's atonement
and stopped the plague that broke out, just as You accepted David's sacrifice
and commanded the destroying angel to withdraw his hand,
accept also today our prayer and sacrifice and show us mercy.

Keep this disease away from us, allow those affected to be healed,
protect those who have been preserved from it so far by Your goodness,
and do not let the plague spread any further.

Holy Mary, healer of the sick, pray for us!

Saint Corona, pray for us!

Saint Sebastian, pray for us!

Saint Roch, pray for us!

Amen!

Coronavirus:

Saint Corona, protect us!

Saint Corona is invoked as patron Saint against plague and epidemics.

Her feast day is celebrated on May 14.

In Anzù, Northern Italy, the hotbed of the coronavirus in Europe, is a basilica where the relics of Saint Victor and Saint Corona are being preserved since the 9th century. Saint Corona was only fifteen when she professed her Christian Faith and was martyred, during the persecution of the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius around 165. According to the Roman Martyrology, this happened in Syria. Saint Corona is especially venerated in Austria and Bavaria as the Patron Saint against epidemics.



Celebrating 100 Years 1920-2020

Lynn