



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

Care for our Common Home



COMMUNIQUE #5

JUNE 2020

TO: Parish Presidents

From: Lynn Lavictoire, Diocesan President

**“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit (which) was given to us.”**

Romans 5:5

With blossoming flowers all around us reminding us of the summer delights that still lie ahead, there is much hope. This year, especially, the joy of nature's reawakening has been reinforced by the reopening of stores, businesses, and our churches. Walking together as one body, we have met the challenge and pushed back against our tiny enemy. Our joy and thanksgiving in the Eucharist will be sweeter than it has ever been. The war may not be over but hope will bring us to ultimate victory.

As well suffering through the battle against COVID-19, other events have troubled our hearts. The mass killings that took place in Nova Scotia last April filled our prayers with concerns for our sisters and all those affected by this tragedy. The unnecessary death of George Floyd at the hands of police in May sparked a wave of demonstrations across the United States, Canada and around the world which continues to resonate as we grapple with racism in our society. The national website even posted the [response of the Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops \(CCCB\)](#) which affirms the dignity of all humans.

We were saddened by these events but hope continues to drive us forward. Initiatives such as “CWL Wednesday!” and virtual prayers that have been led by various parish councils continue to affirm our sisterhood. The activities of the Ottawa membership were also showcased in the June edition of the Ontario Provincial [On-Line Newsletter](#) as well as the most recent edition of our diocesan [Faith in Action](#) newsletter.

Planning is also continued for the 2021 Ontario Provincial Convention that will be held in Ottawa. A link with all the latest information has been added to our [diocesan website](#). Part of the planning includes fundraising which will help offset some of the cost of holding the convention. The items for fundraising include: a yellow shoulder bag with a blue logo showing the convention date and featuring the provincial theme of loneliness; Rosary bracelets with the CWL charm in assorted colours made by our own sisters in League; and a beautiful quilt handmade by one of our committee members which will raffled off.

As many of you are probably aware, the Archdiocese of Ottawa and the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall were officially amalgamated as the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall in May. Since we now have two diocesan councils (Ottawa and Alexandria-Cornwall) in the same Archdiocese things will eventually have to change. Currently there is no specific timeline for this change but I will keep you abreast of any new information I receive.

Last year (2019) a CWL Resolution originated from Annunciation of the Lord Council to increase the number of Long-Term Care (LTC) beds in Ontario was approved at the Ontario Provincial Convention. Given the current situation in LTC facilities and the number of recent deaths this focus on LTC was timely. Obviously, a lot more needs to be done. Divine Infant Council recently supported a petition to improve the standard of care in LTC facilities. This petition originated from Seniors in Care Crisis and is destined for the House of Commons. Ontario Provincial Resolutions Chair Wilma Vanderzwaag applauded this effort and suggested that we could go even further by sending our MPPs, the LTC Minister and the Health Minister individual letters. She went on to say: "one MPP mentioned in the past that each individual letter is worth more than one thousand signatures on a petition. Plus, each time you write a letter they have to send a response." Wilma also discussed effective letter writing in her [Directive #3](#) and focused on keeping our seniors safe in LTC facilities in her [Directive #4](#).

At the national level there has been some good news. Although the national convention was cancelled this summer, national has initiated the Online Summer Speakers Series which will give us access to some interesting and informative presentations. The series begins on August 10 and ends on August 14 with one speaker featured everyday. Although the online talks are free, you will need to register for each speaker. For more information check out the link: cwl.ca/summer-speaker-series-registration/.

There is also a unique opportunity to help celebrate the League's 100th Anniversary by submitting an article to the Fall issue of *The Canadian League* magazine. The article should pertain "to your position but looks back to reflect on history and how it would have looked 100 years ago." The deadline for submissions is July 15. For more information see National Communications Chairperson Doreen Gowans' [Communique #12](#).

The Centenary Committee is also looking for pictures from parish CWL archives of memorable events which have happened over the last 100 years. Clean and crisp copies of the pictures can be displayed at the 2021 National Convention as well as sent to national office (email: info@cwl.ca). The Centenary Committee will be choosing pictures that will be included in the 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coffee Table Book. This book can be pre-ordered at the 2021 National Convention which will be held in Toronto.

Doreen Gowans has also challenged parish councils to submit pictures and a write-up to On the Spot and Facebook which reflect on what members have been doing during the pandemic given the restrictions we have faced. For more information, see Doreen's [Communique #13](#).

It has not been business as usual over the last few months but the League is still very much alive and active. A pandemic is never a good thing but it has motivated us to reach out to our sisters in need as well as the greater community. With a re-energized love for each other we open ourselves to God's abundant blessings and new possibilities for the future of the League.

Have yourselves a healthy and wonderful summer!
Love, peace and joy,

Lynn

Celebrating 100 Years, 1920-2020!