

**Ontario Provincial Council
of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada**



**Annual Report
2020**

The Ontario Provincial Executive

2019-2021(2022) Ontario Provincial Officers

Spiritual Advisor	Most Reverend Archbishop Terrance Prendergast
President	Colleen Perry
President-Elect/Organization	Linda Squarzolo
1 st Vice-Pres/Christian Family Life	Colleen Martin
2 nd Vice-Pres/Resolutions	Wilma Vanderzwaag
Recording Secretary	Joanne Hough
Administrative Assistant	Anna Tremblay
Treasurer	Marie-Theresa Lamphier
Past President/Historian	Anne Madden
Spiritual Development	Emma Rose Rayburn
Communications	Ann D'Souza
Education and Health	Karen McDonald
Community Life	Mary Capobianco
Legislation	Margie Royle

2020 Diocesan Presidents

Alexandria/Cornwall	Lynn Pomainville
Hamilton	Catherine Feren
Hearst	Lorraine Cusson Arnold
Kingston	Nancy Richer
London	Rebecca McCarrell
Ottawa	Lynn Lavictoire
Pembroke	Joan Lemay
Peterborough	Paddy Fitzgerald Nolan
Sault Ste. Marie	Cathy McKinney
St. Catharines	Josie Rocca
Thunder Bay	Maria Bertoldo
Timmins	Annette Kelly
Toronto	Hilarion Mitchell

*** 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.

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

July 2021

Many blessings to all members of the Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada as we celebrate another year of faith, fellowship and service to our parishes, our communities, and our country.

Your convention team Lynn Lavictoire, of the Ottawa Diocesan Council, have worked diligently to provide you with many memorable moments in Ottawa. Unfortunately, the continuing health restrictions have forced our convention to go virtual. This dedicated team has worked through every curve thrown at them. I am truly humbled by their inspiration and honoured to have worked with them this past year. Thank you does not seem enough.

I want to encourage you all to pray for the continued success of the national implementation working committees and the successful implementation of the strategic plan.

In August, a new national executive will be elected, and a new theme announced. It will be exciting and exhilarating.

Thank you for supporting the provincial theme of Loneliness. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed and continue to inspire all members in our parishes, communities, diocese, provinces and nationally.

Please pray for your parish, diocesan, provincial and national executive as they negotiate the almost daily changes to procedures. They truly are an inspired group of women. I welcome all newly elected executive and I encourage you to seek out council from women who held your position in the past, life members and honorary life members.

We are all in this together. You are not alone.

Blessings and virtual hugs,

Colleen Perry

President, Ontario Provincial Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Spiritual Advisor's Message

Message to CWL members of Ontario

By Archbishop Marcel Damphousse, Ontario Provincial Spiritual Advisor

I wish to bring greetings to the Catholic women gathered “virtually” for the 74th Annual Meeting of Members of the Ontario Provincial Council. On the eve of a breakthrough from this pandemic, many look forward to regaining their “normal” lives again and be able to gather in person for all kinds of events. But for the time being, I support the decision of the executive to run this year’s convention in a virtual mode, for most part of it to keep everyone safe. This has required great sacrifice and relentless hours of planning and re-planning. It is my sincerest hope that you will all enjoy the efforts, hard work and resilience of the team that put this convention together.

As a new comer to the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall, I am not a stranger to the region nor to the CWL. I was first introduced to the league in Manitoba where I discovered first hand as a pastor the many services the members of the CWL provided to their respective parishes and to their community. As a bishop in Ontario for the past 8.5 years, I have come to realize the greater role the diocesan and provincial councils play in the life of the Church. You are great thinkers, movers and shakers! You bring to life the Gospel invitation to be the “salt of the earth and the light of the world”. May the Holy Spirit guide your words and actions as you transform our secular world into the Kingdom of God. I believe we still have a little bit of work to do!

I truly believe that your presence and witness to your faith will be most important in the months and years to come. As you are well aware, the Catholic Church has been tossed around in so many different ways just this past year and can feel somewhat tired, confused and hurting. Much will need to be done to have serious, genuine conversations to better understand our state of affairs but more importantly our reason to exist. A purpose driven life usually provides greater motivation and a sense of pride and accomplishment. Let us not be afraid to set a clearly defined mission going forward. This applies to our Church in general but it also has good implications for the League. Who is not concerned with recruitment and retention these days?

I look forward to knowing you more and offering my services in the capacity of a spiritual advisor. Blessings to you all and your respective families.

Inform the Membership of the League's Position on Current Issues and Priorities and New Programs

Highlights from national meetings, directives, research, media and CWL websites were used to inform members.

The following national priorities were introduced, discussed and acted upon:

- One hundred thirty-six trees were planted to commemorate the 100th anniversary of The Catholic Women's League of Canada.
- Strategic planning workshops at diocesan meetings both in-person and virtual.
- Many councils celebrated 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care.
- Letters were sent to the Prime minister and their members of parliament re current bills such as Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD).

The following provincial priorities were introduced, discussed and acted upon:

- Continued focus on the provincial theme of "Loneliness."
- Continued work on Loneliness through outreach by phone and visits.
- Letters of protest were sent to the premier and members of provincial parliament urging reform in several areas such as long-term care homes.
- Resolution workshop was shared and facilitated with provincial counterparts.

Foster Open Communication

- Discussed council business with spiritual advisor by phone and at meetings.
- Shared issues from the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO).

Communications from the Ontario Provincial Council were fostered through:

- the *ON-Line Newsletter*, website and Facebook page
- oral reports at executive meetings
- directives from provincial officers to counterparts
- actual and virtual executive and committee meetings
- Constitution & Bylaws, national and provincial policy and procedure manuals, Roberts Rules of Order, national directives
- knowledge gained from attendance at national meetings

Preside at All Meetings of the Council

- Presided at all executive and administration committee.
- Followed advice of national council and cancelled convention during pandemic.

Be a Signing Officer for All Official Documents

- Worked with the provincial treasurer and recording secretary (when needed) to review claim forms and sign cheques and the annual financial statement.
- Letters, cards, certificates, invitations, emails were sent personally and by the administrative assistant on my behalf.

Initiate Policy, in Consultation with the Officers

- Provincial manuals (policy and procedure, convention guide and provincial guidelines) continued to be updated as "living documents".
- Provincial executive members were encouraged to visit the national and provincial CWL websites to glean information especially on Website Wednesdays.

- Directives submitted by every executive member were shared via email with all other executive members and posted on the website.

Be an Advisory Member of Committees

Was a member of the following committees:

- Administration, Guideline & Policy Review, Social Justice Committee, Resolutions

Be the Official Spokesperson for the Council

- Represented the province at the national table.
- Attended meeting with ACBO executive virtually in December with President-Elect Linda Squarzolo to bring the provincial bishops up to date on current CWL activity and offer support to suggested projects.
- Sent virtual greetings for special anniversaries, award ceremonies, as requested.
- Signed council letters to government officials re resolutions.

Appoint Committees

All appointed committees remained in place for the duration of the term of office:

- administration committee
- policy, guidelines, and convention guide review committee
- registration and credential committee
- resolutions review, reading, government visitation and archiving committees
- minutes review committee
- Bishop Bernard F. Pappin bursary committee
- social justice committee
- nominations and elections committee
- annual report book committee

President's Activities Report

- Attended national executive meetings as required and gave written and oral reports.
- Worked with administrative assistant to send letters for a variety of reasons (congratulatory, sympathy, information, etc.).
- Prepared monthly submissions to *ON-Line Newsletter*.
- Participated in the many webinars and retreats offered at national and diocesan levels.
- Worked with convention site to negotiate compromise when plans changed due to the pandemic.
- Negotiated with future keynote speakers about loneliness.
- Other meetings as listed in other categories.

Recommendations

- That new executives hold a mentoring session soon after election, with their previous counterparts, to swap materials and glean ideas.
- That officers save files to flash drives for ease of access and to decrease the amount of paper transferred and stored.
- That presidents keep a running list of activities for their future counterpart.
- That councils and committees take advantage of opportunities to meet virtually, for any reason, to feel connected.

Spiritual Development Standing Committee Report 2020

Chairperson: Emma Rose Rayburn

Sub-chairpersons: Lisa Fillingham, Anne Vincelli

Number of Dioceses Reporting: 13 / 13

Spiritual Growth of Members

- The theme "Care for our Common Home", remained the theme for prayer services. Majority of the councils reported they honoured the theme by organizing reflections, planting trees, studying/quoting/referencing *Laudato Si*, encouraging reduction of disposables at meetings and at home.
- With the pandemic restrictions it was a bit harder to incorporate one third of their meeting for spiritual aspects.
- Many councils encouraged their members to take part in virtual retreats, adorations, Stations of the Cross, Divine Mercy Chaplets, novenas, rosaries, remembrance services for deceased sisters, crowning of Mary and litany prayer services to complement further spiritual growth. When permitted, they also did so in person.
- Members watched the CWL Summer Speaker series and spiritual retreat, Women in Mission.
- With much creativity and the use of the internet all dioceses were instrumental in keeping the Spirit alive.
- Spiritual development chairs collected, prepared and presented spiritual bouquets to spiritual advisors and bishops.
- Members arranged / participated in 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care.
- Members celebrated deceased members with prayer services and masses.

Study of Catholic Teachings

- Many different materials and websites listed as aids. To name a few topics studied: *Twelve Strong Women of God, Explaining the Faith, Unique Role of Women as Caregivers, Women as Leaders, The Saints, The Catechism of The Catholic Church, Women at the Well, Inspirational Women's Series* and the article by Shari Guinta, "The Genius of Women".

Role of Women in the Church

- Members served as school trustees.
- Some served on parish pastoral councils and diocesan and/or parish finance, liturgy, screening and diaconate committees.
- The majority of our members held leadership roles in their parish.

Evangelization and Mission Assistance

- Catholic Missions In Canada, is reported to be supported by all dioceses. Esk-Omi Missions, Chalice, Development & Peace, Coady International Institute, and Society of St. Vincent de Paul are the popular missions that the members assist monetarily or with goods.
- The CWL Day of Prayer for Home Missions was very popular. Many indicated

they recited special prayers and rosaries. Some even had guest speakers and special activities.

- Report indicates all councils support some type of mission or charity (nationally or locally).

Lay Ministries

- Councils report that they have very active members in the church: lectors, eucharistic ministers, sacristans, altar servers, children's liturgy leaders, parish collection counters, hospitality, choir, cleaning, catechist facilitator, decorators, ushers, visitors to the sick and shut-ins.
- Many ministries are chaired or organized by our members.

Ecumenism and Interfaith Endeavours

- All dioceses took part in World Day of Prayer.
- On the whole, in most dioceses councils reached out to women of other denominations/faiths in the following ways: joint prayer services, invitations to meetings, sharing talks, guest speakers and social events.
- Many also promoted Fellowship of the Least Coin, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, World Union of Catholic Women's Organisation (WUCWO), and Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada.

Chairperson's Activities Report

- Prepared prayers and prayer services for administration and-executive meetings, (and convention which were not used).
- Attended actual and virtual provincial executive meetings.
- Forwarded information received from national counterpart.
- Prepared and sent directives to diocesan counterparts.
- Submitted articles for the *ON-Line Newsletter*.

Recommendations

- Create a yearly calendar of events with topics of reflections –let's put on our thinking caps and make this a reality!
- Partner with a spiritual development chair from another council to share ideas and expertise.
- That the diocesan spiritual development chair offer training session for parish spiritual development chairs.

Chairperson: Linda Squarzolo

Sub-chairpersons: Glenda Klein, Shirley Deleurant

Dioceses Reporting: 13 / 13

Recruit Members and Maintain Membership

- Councils recruited members, to reflect a wide cross-section of cultural and age diversity of the community. Personal invitations were the most effective means of recruitment. Also used were presentations at masses, bulletin boards, parish announcements, gift memberships, membership teas, and social media.
- New members had been recruited with a few being under the age of 40.
- The membership reflected the cultural diversity of the parish and general community.
- New members were engaged by: welcoming at meetings, conversations, invitations, new member kit, mentoring, sub-committee participation, orientation session, and phone calls.
- Current members were retained and former members attracted by showing the council's appreciation, through participation in decision-making for council activities, offering workshops and by inviting them to special events. Elderly members were kept informed of prayer requests, news, updates through email, postal, or drop off door service.
- Members were recognized with service pins, including the Maple Leaf, certificates of merit, luncheons, dinners, socials, and cards.
- The majority of councils used online membership and had an increase from the previous year.
- Almost all councils had an organization chairperson; however, a number of them were appointed rather than elected.

Leadership Development

- Members participated in the League Strategic Plan initiative as steering committee members, core leaders, leads and as committee members.
- The leadership course "Find Your Voice", which was recently developed by the Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan CWL Council, was shared with other diocesan councils.
- The diocesan organization and resolutions chairs attended a workshop in Toronto to introduce the revised Resolutions Supplement and a presentation of "Find Your Voice".
- Many members video-conferenced with League sisters across the province and across the country, making special connections with them.
- The Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation was promoted.
- Following much preparatory work, scheduled conventions, leadership courses, workshops and development days were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The provincial presidents-elect developed an "Orientation Workshop" for presentation to all levels of the League.

League Resource Material

- Councils did encourage members to use manuals, to access the national, provincial and diocesan websites, and to read "The Canadian League" and newsletters.

Annual Reports

- The majority of councils did use the guidelines for completing annual reports and indicated that the reduced version reflected the activities of their committees.
- Annual reports were usually done in a group but due to restrictions of COVID most were done at home, independently.
- Organization chairs provided assistance to their executive to complete the reports, as needed.

Life Membership

- A few councils reported requesting assistance from honorary life and/or life members. Those that accessed their help found that they were a great benefit to their council.
- They provided a wealth of knowledge and acted as mentors by assisting in the completion of reports, ensuring that election protocol was followed and facilitating workshops.

Chairperson's Activities Report

- Attended and participated in executive meetings, in person and online.
- Prepared reports, newsletter articles, and directives.
- Distributed information regarding annual reports at all levels, collected diocesan annual reports and distributed them to the provincial executive.
- Compiled and edited the Annual Report Book for 2019.
- Since the Social Justice Award for 2020 could not be presented at convention, arranged to have the presentation made by Toronto Diocesan President Hilarion Mitchell to Miranda Pinto.
- Reviewed the 2020 applicants for the provincial Social Justice Award.
- At the Association of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO) online meeting, gave a presentation with the provincial president and submitted a report.
- In collaboration with the other provincial presidents-elect, developed an "Orientation Workshop" which will be offered to all levels of the League in 2021.
- Was as a member of the National Implementation Committee for the Strategic Plan, as "Lead" for "Sub-committee #1" tasked with revising the standing committees.

Recommendations

- That facilitators be chosen and trained to unveil the Orientation Workshop once Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.
- That every member keep informed about the Strategic Plan by regular visits to cwl.ca/to-inspire/ and cwl.ca/?s=strategic+plan where updates are made monthly.
- That councils and members familiarize themselves with the proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws and the proposed per capita increase.

Life Member Liaison Report

2020

Life Member Liaison: Jeannie Coleman Assistant: Mary Ellen Villeneuve
Dioceses Reporting: 13/13
Honorary Life Members: 3 Life Members: 135

Deceased Life Members – 2020

We were saddened by the loss of five life members:

- Theresa Bujtas (March 28, St. Catharines Diocese)
- June Meady (May 1, Thunder Bay Diocese)
- Margaret Van Meeuwen (July 15, Peterborough Diocese)
- Georgina Bourke (September 21, Hamilton Diocese)
- Suzanne Mullins (October 22, Pembroke Diocese)

Newly Appointed Life Members – 2020

We were honoured to welcome four new life members:

- Karen McDonald, Sault Ste. Marie Diocese
- Joanna Sisk, Ottawa Diocese
- Wendy Tedford, Peterborough Diocese
- Patricia Weller, Pembroke Diocese

Life Members across the Province

- One life member (LM) was our provincial president.
- Two honorary life members (HLM) served as parish presidents.
- Several LMs served at provincial and national levels as officers, sub-chairs, parliamentarians, screening officer, life member liaison (LML), keeper of the Book of Life and also the Chair of the Centenary Committee.
- Two LMs served on an *ad hoc* life membership committee. Because of Covid-19 all business was conducted by telephone.
- Many LMs became very creative attending virtual retreats, meetings and national webinars to keep informed and active in the League.
- Some LMs wrote letters to the government regarding Bill C-7, protecting the vulnerable in our society.
- Most LMs supported each other by prayer, phone calls, emails, cards, and when possible, with personal visits to the shut-ins and sick.
- Many LMs served as honour guards at funerals, Eucharistic ministers, cantors, sacristans, lectors, finance advisors, webmasters, money counters, and as members of their parish pastoral council and Society of St. Vincent de Paul.
- Few LMs were involved in fundraising events.
- Some LMs participated in the World Day of Prayer and the committee.
- One LM maintained the history cupboard for their diocesan CWL, updating the diocesan CWL archives.
- One LM prepared on a 100-year timeline, events of their diocesan CWL for their 100th Anniversary.
- One LM was on a committee to prepare the diocesan 100th anniversary prayer booklet.
- Two LMs planned the diocesan 100th CWL anniversary celebrations which were postponed due to Covid-19.

- One LM collected, prepared and submitted over 50 recipes from her parish.
- Two LMs organized and distributed a 100th anniversary diocesan cookbook.
- Some LMs prepared prayer services for parish and diocesan tree planting and dedication of 100th anniversary trees in recognition of the League's celebration of 100 years 1920-2020.
- One LM hosted members from the provincial council in her home who were in her diocese to host the workshop, "Find Your Voice".
- One LM created and presented a resolutions workshop for diocesan council presidents and resolution chairs in Toronto.
- Many LMs knit prayer shawls for the shut-ins and the sick, provided gifts for the sacraments, Christmas gifts for residents in nursing homes, providing items for the homeless shelters and missions, and prepared food for the homeless and needy as well as food baskets for those in need at Christmas time.

Life Member Liaison's Activity Report

- Forwarded the national life member liaison's (NLML) monthly communiqué to all diocesan life member liaisons (DLML), HLMs and the provincial executive.
- Forwarded requests for prayers, virtual prayer services, emails of interest to DLMLs for distribution to their LMs, HLMs, provincial executive, provincial presidents and the NLML.
- Cards, emails of support, congratulations, anniversary, thinking of you, get well and sympathy were sent to life members and/or their families.
- Christmas greetings were sent by email to all LMLs to forward to their LMs in their diocese. A Christmas card was mailed to LMs without an email address.
- A list of birthday celebrants was sent out every month to the DLMLs, provincial executive and the NLML with the date of their celebration and a request for prayers.
- A birthday wish was emailed to LMs with emails and a birthday card was mailed to those without an email address.
- Kept in touch with LMs without emails and reminded them to pray for the intentions of all members in the Catholic Women's League.
- Updated the Ontario Provincial Life Member Directory.
- Served on an *ad hoc* life membership committee for national.
- Prepared a welcome and introduction to the four new LMs for the *ON-Line Newsletter*.
- Updated the LM binders with new LMs and deceased LMs.

Recommendations

- That life members offer to mentor members; encourage them to take executive positions; then assist and support them.
- Life members, as role models, can initiate workshops, presentations and provide resources for the members in their parish and diocese. It is important that they remember their role as life member is to be accessible.
- Regrettably due to the pandemic, many councils did not host meetings. They were, however, kept informed of what was taking place at provincial and national levels through websites and webinars. When it is possible to do so, councils need to reach out to their life members to help build parish life. There will be a real need to bring back that sense of community to their parishes.

Christian Family Life Standing Committee Report 2020

Chairperson: Colleen Martin

Sub-chairpersons: Pat Weller and Shelley Tamas

Dioceses Reporting: 13/13

Marriage and Family

- Councils offered encounter weekends for engaged and married, marriage prep, and programs family enrichment.
- Attended workshops on family life, and arranged events for Mothers'/Fathers' Day events, National Family Week and others related to the family.
- Several councils offered support to those suffering domestic abuse through collection of essential items, providing information on community services and demonstrating hand signal to signify abuse.

Sanctity of Life

- Councils were members of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Campaign Life Coalition, National Family Life, Priests for Life, Birthright and Right to Life as well as local organizations that help with family and pregnancy support services. Interestingly, Hearst-Moosonee Diocese does not have a registered charitable pro-life organization.
- Members attended March for Life, 40 Days for Life, pro-life vigils, Life Chain, pro-life walks; pro-life activities, and other events; hosted masses; wrote letters to and met with legislators; made pro-life brochures available in the parish; and all dioceses had parishes that prayed regularly for protection of life.
- Only a small number of councils sponsored or attended a presentation on Pope Paul II's "Theology of the Body."
- Several councils wrote to the Prime Minister and Minister of Justice urging legal protection for children before birth; educated members on the annual Sanctity of Human Life Day of prayer (January 22) and monitored the federal government's response to the resolution.

Ministry to Youth

- Members encouraged young people to participate in liturgical ministries; some offered instruction to youth in ministries.
- Supported children's liturgy, World Youth Day, leadership camps, Catholic Christian Outreach, National Evangelization Team (NET) ministries, summer camps, Girl Guides of Canada, youth conferences, Catholic Girl Leagues and other parish youth groups/programs.

Ministry to the Disabled

- Members encouraged/supported people with a disability to participate in liturgical celebrations. Some provided transportation and supported respite caregivers.
- Members provided communion, visits, cards of encouragement, transportation, and prayers.

Ministry to Seniors

- Members provided visits, communion, transportation, cards and calls of encouragement; and gifted memberships.
- Councils involved seniors in council events; organized special programs / celebrations; shared/served meals, invited retired women to join the League, and involved them in intercessory prayer.

Ministry to Widowed and Widowers

- Councils sent cards of condolences; arranged memorial services and funeral luncheons; visited and called; extended invitations to attend CWL and parish events; provided prayer and support after the death of a spouse.

Ministry to Separated & Divorced

- Some councils purchased "*Annulments Today-Merciful and Just*" pamphlets and/or participated in an information presentation; however, many councils gave little support to the separated and divorced or educate on annulment.

Vocations

- Councils promoted and prayed for religious vocations; watched YouTube video on the call to serve God through vocation to the ordained or religious life; sponsored discernment events for youth; adopted/supported seminarians; supported priestly retirement funds; hosted luncheons for priests and religious; gifted spiritual bouquets and cards; and encouraged inviting priests and religious into the home.

Chairperson's Report

- Attended and gave reports at winter and fall meetings.
- Prepared and sent directives and submitted newsletter articles.
- Began preparation of a toolkit on loneliness in response to pandemic.
- Encouraged diocesan chairpersons to reach out to members in new ways considering the isolation of the pandemic.
- Collated diocesan results and prepared annual report for provincial booklet.

Recommendations

- Promote engagement by councils in areas that lacked involvement in the past.
- Include at least one new project in each year's planning.
- As many members in this standing committee are repeating, long serving and tiring, identify a young council member with a passion for Sanctity of Life to mentor in this committee.

Communications Standing Committee Report 2020

Chairperson: Ann D'Souza

Sub-chairpersons: Debbie Bates, Joan Schurter

Dioceses Reporting: 13 / 13

The Canadian League Magazine

- *The Canadian League Magazine* was ranked excellent by the councils (85%).
- The councils considered it as a resourceful tool for advocacy and action.
- There were articles in each of the Winter, Spring and Fall editions that gave councils creative ideas to use at their meetings.

Media: for Evangelization

- Many councils (199) promoted faith-oriented programs, some councils supported (either financially, subscribed or donated) media to assist in their mission to evangelize like - The Catholic Register, Salt + Light TV, Mass for shut-ins; dailytvmass.com; Vision TV, ccb.ca, Catholic Herald and EWTN. Councils also mentioned in sharing information about on-line retreats, webinars, prayers services, workshops, and Pope Francis's message especially during the pandemic lockdown.
- Due to the pandemic last year councils could not invite media to their events.
- Councils (186) promoted World Communication Day (first Sunday in June). Councils (211) shared in mass on April 26, 2020 in honour of the feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Media: to Promote the League

- Most of the councils (85%) used the national, provincial and diocesan CWL websites to keep themselves informed. Facebook (75%) and Twitter (60%) were also reported as being used to keep themselves well-informed.
- Councils (75%) used emails, newsletter to promote council's activities and events; majority published events on church bulletin and on their website (70%); some councils also used local newspaper to advertise. Telephone tree was being used by majority of the councils. Few councils (70) reported on having a budget for communications.

Media: Evaluation and Promotion of Good Content

- Councils (200) encouraged members to monitor media programs and inform providers of inappropriate content.
- Some councils (77) reported to media (Rogers) about adult content being too early in the day while children are watching and some reported cancelling of Netflix due to inappropriate content.

Media: Newsletter and Bulletins

- Councils (52%) distributed newsletter either via e-mail, church bulletin or on their website - majority produced it quarterly, some monthly and few published annually.
- Councils (80%) encouraged members to subscribe and promote Catholic newspaper, periodicals, and magazines.

Chairperson: Mary Capobianco
Sub-chairperson: Sharon St. Jean
Dioceses Reporting: 13/13

Dignity and Rights of Persons

- Majority of councils are familiar with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Councils supported financially and/or through volunteer hours: street youth; and those suffering from homelessness, domestic violence, human trafficking, racism and poverty.
- Many councils reported making masks for frontline workers, first responders and nursing homes in their communities.
- Councils continued to educate themselves on the struggles facing Indigenous women by holding workshops and inviting guest speakers.

Social and Economic Justice

- The majority of councils encouraged their members to participate in the work of local organizations.
- Financial/volunteer/prayerful support was given to before and after school programs, drop-in centres, emergency shelters for the homeless, food banks, soup kitchens, domestic abuse shelters and violence prevention programs.
- The majority of councils reported supporting initiatives pertaining to affordable housing, employment and skills training programs and resource centers for single parents.
- Councils familiarized themselves with the restorative justice programs and prison ministry.
- One diocese reported donating to *Courage for Freedom Ontario* to help girls who have been victims of human trafficking.
- Councils held awareness and educational presentations on human trafficking.
- Overall, councils reported increased efforts made to keep in touch with members and to give assistance to shut-ins where ever needed.

Refugees, Immigration and Citizenship

- Councils reported honouring Remembrance Day by making donations to the poppy campaign.
- Members supported the Canadian troops by wearing red on Fridays.
- Members worked with their parishes to welcome immigrant families to their communities and acknowledged familiarity with the needs of immigrants.
- The majority of councils reported understanding the difference between a temporary foreign worker, immigrant and refugee.
- Councils continued to monitor Resolution 2016.01 *Equal Access to Permanent Resident Status* and kept their members informed on the amendments to the Immigration and Refugee Protections Act.

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace (CCODP)

- Many councils set up donations in their yearly budget for the Development and Peace 1% Program.
- Members attended Development and Peace workshops in their communities.

Developing Countries

- Councils reported continued and improved knowledge regarding conditions of child labour and the implications of trade laws and practices in the global economy.
- Councils participated in donating to the Pieta Bhavan India project through CNEWA to repair the well cover that was destroyed.
- Councils financially supported national and international organizations that focused on developing countries such as: *Chalice, Canadian Red Cross, Doctors Without Borders, Operation Eyesight International, Sleeping Children Around the World, Habitat for Humanity, Canadian Food for Children and Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA)*.

Chairperson's Report

- Attended winter and fall executive meetings in-person and virtually.
- Prepared and distributed directives.
- Submitted articles for the ON-Line newsletter.
- Forwarded communiqués from the national chairperson.
- Continued the C.A.R.E Connection project in response to the provincial theme on Loneliness. This was especially timely in light of the impact of the pandemic on communities.
- Kept in touch with diocesan community life chairpersons via email and teleconference call.
- Attended workshop on *Compassionate Community Care*.
- Collated diocesan results and prepared annual report for provincial booklet.

Recommendations

- Councils should study and become knowledgeable about the subheadings under this committee.
- Chairpersons should consider reaching out to other sister councils who may not have a chairperson for community life.
- Councils should continue to study resolutions and legislation relating to this committee and follow through on their action plans.
- Councils should encourage their members to educate themselves on issues pertaining to First Nations' people especially issues regarding youth and women.

Education and Health Standing Committee Report 2020

Chairperson: Karen McDonald

Sub-chairpersons: Elizabeth (Betsy) Currier, Joan Schurter

Dioceses Reporting: 13/13

Catholic Education

(i) Catholic Schools and Catechesis

- Majority of councils were aware of the quality and availability of Catholic religious instruction in their parishes and schools, and several councils actively encouraged parents to participate in Catholic education activities.
- Many councils were aware of the family life programs being taught.
- Majority of councils identified school needs with which they could assist (sacramental/faith development, providing New Testament Bibles, scholarships/bursaries, breakfast/lunch and after school/weekend food programs, winter clothing exchange, uniform items, hygiene products, supplies, Christmas baskets for families, extracurricular activities).
- Shoe boxes were filled with items and sent to Operation Christmas Child.
- Items were donated to women's shelters and long-term care residences.
- Members sewed children's masks and made shields for nursing staff.
- Members participated in Diocesan Rosary Prayer Program (monthly with students/teachers, daily rosary for safety of students during pandemic).
- Members made rosaries for students.
- One council donated to a diocesan campus ministries program.

(ii) Rites of Christian Initiation

- Members were involved in First Communion/Confirmation/RCIA programs.
- Online sacramental preparation programs were presented during the pandemic.
- Members participated as sponsors even when pandemic cancelled RCIA.

Literacy and Continuing Education

- Councils contributed to high school bursaries.
- A few councils encouraged members to help people improve literacy skills.
- A few councils had a list of Catholic universities/colleges in their area and promoted scholarships/bursaries for Catholic women to further their education.
- One council supported a parishioner's educational placement in Africa.
- One council collected school items, money for Literacy Nipissing Group.

Scholarships and Bursaries

- Majority of councils gave bursaries and scholarships to graduating Catholic elementary, high school, and university/college students.
- Several councils contributed to Coady International Institute, National Bursary Fund, Catholic Christian Outreach and National Evangelization Team (NET) Ministries of Canada.
- Council helped with expenses of a parishioner pursuing a religious vocation.

Wellness and Sickness/Disease

- Action was taken on resolutions 1997.06, 2001.01, 2007.03, 2008.03, 2011.03, 2011.04, 2014.02, 2015.02, 2016.02, and 2016.03.
- Letter-writing campaigns were initiated in opposition to Bill C-7 re Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD).
- Several councils participated in, or donated to, Relay for Life.
- Members shared the link to register for national organ donations.
- One council focused on homelessness and human trafficking and made bags with personal hygiene items and took part in a walk to raise funds.
- Donations were made to Alzheimer Society, Autism Canada, Cancer Society, Children's Wish Foundation, Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), Diabetes Association, Mental Health Association, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Red Cross, Children's Treatment Centers, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Kidney Foundation, Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society, MaterCare International, Ronald McDonald House, and pro-life initiatives.
- Councils supported Mental Health and Palliative Care postcard campaigns.
- Majority of councils participated in 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care.
- Members donated blood through the *Partners for Life* program.
- During the pandemic, members regularly telephoned those living alone.

Environment

- Action was taken on resolutions 1990.07, 2001.04, 2004.07, 2005.06, 2015.03.
- World Water Day was recognized (donations to Water First Ontario, prayer service on water quality) as was Earth Day (reducing use of lighting, plastic/waste clean-up, Crayola Project, planting milkweed for butterflies).
- Several councils supported the *Care for Our Common Home* initiative.
- Members recycled paper/plastic; eliminated Styrofoam, plastic bags, and straws; used green organic waste bins; and collected milk bags to make mats.
- Trees were planted to commemorate the League's 100th anniversary.

Genetics

- Councils subscribed to Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute newsletters.
- Members have a fairly good knowledge of advantages/disadvantages of technology to alter genes in light of the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Chairperson's Report

- Relayed information on *Bell Let's Talk Day*, National Bursary Fund, Coady International Institute, *Partners for Life* program, World Homeless Day, Earth Day, World Water Day, Fridays for Future, *12 Hours of Prayer*, Mental Health Week, Petition e-2807, Bill C-7, bullying, and spring cleaning for your health.
- Provided members with Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute articles.
- Prepared reports, directives and newsletter submissions, attended virtual executive meetings, and forwarded updates from national chairperson.

Recommendations

- Provide information to members who wish to learn more about bioethics, genetics, the National Bursary Fund and new Alzheimer's research.
- Focus on leadership training for members to run for school trustee positions or political office (at all government levels).

Chairperson: Anne Madden
Archive support: Pauline Krupa
Dioceses Reporting: 13 /13

Serve in a Consultative Capacity

Past presidents in Ontario:

- Approximately half (55%) participated in on-line meetings.
- Attended some actual meetings, indoor and outdoor.
- Majority (69%) were repeat past presidents.
- Prepared and collected election data for elections, facilitating parish elections and retaining info for deferred convention elections.
- Researched materials for significant council anniversaries and helped with relevant celebrations.
- Acted as mentors / providing advice when asked.
- Sought advice from a higher level when necessary.
- Many were over 65 years old who have been members for over 25 years.
- Felt their position was respected and appreciated (85%).

*Due to COVID restrictions most meetings were held on-line, if held at all.
Projects / fund raisers in the parish or community were on hold due to COVID.*

Be Responsible for Archives and History

To ensure the preservation of League history, historians:

- Maintained, reviewed and kept current the council's history / archives (30%).
- Due to COVID restrictions, visiting archives was restricted.
- Reported archived materials were kept indefinitely.
- Were aware of where the council charter was kept (95%).
- Reported materials such as minute books, important reports, photo albums, scrapbooks, CDs, memory sticks were kept in cool, secure, water-proof areas in the parish hall; the majority used acid-free covers, filing cabinets, totes.
- Kept lists of past executives with highlights from each term; kept list of pins and awards recipients.

Facilitate the Study and Implementation of the *Constitution & Bylaws 2013*

- High percentage of councils had copies of the *Constitutions and Bylaws 2013* (91%), policy and procedure manuals and other resources but rarely referred to them (20%).
- Encouraged regular visits to the national, provincial and diocesan websites.
- Assisted and encouraged the preparation and updates of parish manual of policy and procedure.

Other Activities

- Supported projects for national and provincial themes, focusing on homelessness and water conservation.
- Planned and supported on-line fund-raising events for a variety of purposes.

Historian's Activities Report

- Attended actual and on-line meetings.
- Completed reports and directives as required.
- Researched and submitted an article on "20 of the worst epidemics and pandemics in history" for the *ON-Line Newsletter*.
- Researched viable ways to keep archived materials, but unable to visit archives in Hamilton due to COVID restrictions.
- Collected items required to update archives.
- Collated diocesan past presidents' reports and prepared report for 2019 annual report booklet.

Recommendations

- Ask past presidents / historians as they are more than willing to assist when asked.
- Suggest ways you can keep members current with changes to C&B and policy and procedure. The majority of members rarely refer to these important documents.
- Offer support to president but allow and encourage the president to try her new ideas if they are within the policies of the League.
- As mentors, encourage and support your future leaders.
- Encourage councils to have a parish policy and procedure manual and up-to date history records.

Chairperson: Margie Royle

Sub-Chairpersons: Kathy Huffman, Jan Sosiak

Dioceses Reporting: 13/13

Monitor and Study Legislation at All Levels of Government

- The large majority (95 to 100%) of those reporting, knew the names of their municipal, provincial and federal representative.
- Approximately 14% of councils reported accessing Hansard.
- On average, 80% received mailings from all levels of government.
- Approximately 40% of all councils in Ontario submitted a report to their diocese.

Council awareness of current issues:

- Bill C-7 Criminal Code Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)- about 80% councils were very aware.
- Bill C-13 Covid 19 Emergency Response Act – about 65% aware to very aware.
- Bill C-14 Covid Emergency Response Act, Number 2- about 65% aware to very aware.
- Bill C-15 The Canadian Emergency Student Benefit Act – about 50% aware to very aware.
- Bill C-71 Act to Amend Certain Acta and Regulations to Firearms – about 40% aware.

Some councils monitored or acted on, through letter writing, petitions, prayer, guest speakers:

- Bill C-3 An Act to Amend the Judges Act
- Private Members Bill C-233 The Sex Selection Abortion
- Bill C-57 A Sustainable Strategy and resulting Water Challenge
- Bills C-62 and 75 regarding the Rights of Indigenous People
- Bill C-277 to improve access to palliative care in hospitals and long term care
- Bill C-249 to consult on current federal, provincial and territorial strategies to prevent domestic violence and to assist victims of domestic violence
- Bill C-4 An Act relating to certain measures in response to Covid-19 - Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CERB), Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)

Some councils reported acting on the following provincial Bills –

- Bill 63 Right to Timely Mental Health and Addiction Care for Children and Youth
- Bill 161 A Smarter and Stronger Justice Act, 2020
- Bill 175 Connecting People to Home and Community Care
- Bill 184 Protecting Tenants and Strengthening Community Housing
- *Bill 203 More than a Visitor Act, 2020*
- Bill 229 leading to Erosions from Conservation Authority
- Bill 148 Migrant Farm Workers: The Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act 2017
- Bill 218 which denies families of Covid-19 patients the right to sue long term care homes
- Bill 126 La Francophonie Act
- Bill 418 Freedom of Conscience Act

Preparation of Briefs and Position Papers on Proposed Legislation

- Due to the cancellation of regular meetings and conventions, no action was taken.
- Many bills were passed so quickly, there was insufficient time for proper research and action during Covid-19.

Chairperson's Report

- Attended and gave reports at winter and fall meetings.
- Was a member of all resolutions sub-committees.
- Collated diocesan reports and prepared submission for 2019 provincial annual report booklet.
- Was a co-presenter for a workshop in Toronto to introduce the revised Resolutions supplement to diocesan presidents-elect, resolutions and legislation chairs

Recommendations

- That legislation and resolution committees be combined as one.
- That national and provincial chairpersons be more specific in their communiques, highlighting and summarizing important pieces of legislation.
- That members use the Catholic Register and National Catholic Register for issues relevant to Catholics.
- That provincial and diocesan councils conduct virtual workshops for members.

Chairperson: Wilma Vanderzwaag

Resolutions Review Committee: Wilma Vanderzwaag, Margie Royle, Colleen Perry, Linda Squarzolo, Colleen Martin, Archbishop Terrence Prendergast, Tracy MacInnis (Secretary)

Government Visit Committee: Colleen Perry, Anne Madden, Linda Squarzolo, Wilma Vanderzwaag, Margie Royle

Dioceses Reporting: 13/13

Research and Preparation of Resolutions and Briefs

- Topics of intent for a resolution included:
 - restore prominence of milk in 2019 Canada Food Guide
 - the need to have stillborn human remains included in the definition of human remains in the Criminal Code of Canada
 - long-term care
 - single use plastics
- In 2020 due to COVID 19 all diocesan and provincial conventions were canceled which resulted in no resolutions adopted at these levels. Resolutions prepared by parish councils for consideration and discussion have been deferred until the next convention. The resolution titles are:
 - Prohibition of E-Cigarettes with Cannabis
 - National Strategy to Address Loneliness
 - Promoting a Holistic Parish-Based Theology of the Body Lifestyle and Procreation Teachings

Study and Implementation of Resolutions Passed by Other Levels

- Topics studied and action taken on were:
 - long term care
 - Bill C7 Criminal Code Medical Assistance in Dying
 - legislate designation of hospice/palliative care services in facilities to
 - exclude medical assistance in dying
 - amend the Canada Health Act to identify palliative care as an insured service
 - child pornography
 - children's rights
 - homelessness
 - human trafficking
 - mental health, including the effects of abortion on mental health
 - spousal abuse
 - Lyme disease
- Seventy-five percent of all councils reported studying and implementing action plans on 2019 resolutions.
- One parish council mailed 322 signed letters to the Ontario Minister of Long-Term Care and Home Care regarding the health crisis of residents in long-term care.
- Approximately 700 members across Ontario sent letters to the Premier of

Ontario, Ontario Minister of Health and Ontario Minister of Long-Term Care and Home Care regarding the crisis of care in long term care homes.

Chairperson's Activities Report

- Submitted via mail to the Premier of Ontario, Ontario Minister of Health and Ontario Minister of Long-Term Care and Home Care, copies of 2019 adopted resolutions including briefs and cover letter from Ontario Provincial Council President Colleen Perry.
- Prepared directives, notices and reports as required by provincial guidelines.
- Submitted several articles for inclusion in the ON-Line Newsletter.
- Attended regular and virtual provincial council meetings.
- Fine-tuned power point on new resolution supplement from national council, and used it as resource material for resolution workshop.
- On February 6-8, 2020 presented resolution workshop for diocesan resolution chairs in Toronto. Twelve out of 13 dioceses were represented.
- Prepared resolutions for review, unfortunately conventions were cancelled and resolutions were deferred.
- Wrote letters to government officials re long-term care and medical assistance in dying (MAiD) and other current issues. Prepared sample letters; forwarded them to diocesan counterparts; encouraged members to write; and monitored their response to the request.

Recommendations

- Continue to create and distribute to councils and members, sample letters to assist in letter writing on resolutions to government representatives.
- Host workshops on resolutions.
- Invite government representatives to speak at parish meetings.
- Continue to communicate to members about resolutions at meetings, through emails, newsletters even though it is difficult to fill this position at the parish council level. Other standing chairs can educate members on resolutions that fall under their umbrella.

Activities Report

- Attended all Ontario Provincial Council (OPC) meetings.
- Prepared reports and summary reports for meetings.
- Prepared two directives.
- Prepared submissions to the monthly ON-Line Newsletter.
- Forwarded executive reports prior to OPC meetings.
- Prepared and sent correspondence as required/requested.
- Attended to OPC correspondence, including sympathy and get-well cards, congratulatory letters, thank you cards, thinking of you cards, anniversary certificates, and birthday certificates as directed by the provincial president.
- Mailed or emailed Christmas greetings to all arch/bishops in Ontario.
- Mailed or emailed Easter greetings to all arch/bishops in Ontario.
- Maintained and circulated updated committee lists for provincial officers, diocesan presidents, and spiritual advisors.
- Prepared binders for correspondence sent and correspondence received.
- Prepared and submitted annual report for *OPC Annual Report 2019*.

Annual Report Survey

- Five of the 10 councils reported having a corresponding secretary as a separate position.
- All councils made an extra effort to send out cards to keep in touch during this past year due to the pandemic.

Recommendations

- That workshops be developed to train secretaries, at all levels, in the use of social media to attend meetings and for distribution of news/information, as well as how to develop and maintain an electronic distribution list and to use electronic greeting cards.
- That corresponding secretaries have copies of *Good Gracious! Good Grammar!* <http://cwl.on.ca/sites/default/files/resources/627.pdf>), and *Handbook for Secretaries* <https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/612-Handbook-for-Secretaries-2020.pdf> and *CWL Personal Letter Writing Guide* <https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/173-Personal-Letter-Writing-Guide-2020.pdf>
- That all secretaries enlist the help of a competent proof-reader.

Parish and Diocesan Secretaries Reports (Summary)

- Received over 300 parish council reports from parish recording secretaries. Diocesan council recording secretaries reported that two councils received 100% of the requested reports. Four councils reported receiving less than 50% of the reports from parish recording secretaries.
- Served in a dual role as recording secretary and corresponding secretary in 1/3 of parish councils.
- Served as signing officer in 1/3 of the reporting parish councils.
- Elected to the position by parish councils in 1/3 of the reporting parish councils. More than 1/3 were appointed and some executive share the tasks at meetings.
- Reported that motion books were maintained in 1/3 of the parish councils.
- Maintained minutes and current lists of executive members.
- Served for more than one term previously as recording secretary for the parish council.

Recording Secretary's Activities Report

- Attended administration committee and executive meetings.
- Prepared and distributed the *Notices of Meetings*.
- Distributed minutes of previous meetings and agendas for the administrative and executive meetings.
- Prepared minutes of each executive meeting.
- Prepared notes of virtual meetings and administrative meetings.
- Recommended review committee members for each meeting to the president.
- Maintained an archive copy of the minutes of the Ontario Provincial Council and relevant reports.
- Recorded the roll call for each meeting.
- Maintained the motions book for the Ontario Provincial Council.
- Carried out responsibilities as a signing officer.
- Made submissions for the *ON-Line Newsletter*.

Recommendations

- Organize a binder or data stick containing the *Handbook for Secretaries*, relevant pages of the *Executive Handbook*, a role description, national and provincial resources and current directives as a resource over time for the recording secretary.
- Help structure the agenda and suggest timelines be listed.
- Review the role of the secretary and note details such as the role of signing officer and the knowledge of the location of the council charter as part of the role.
- Recognize and promote the value of a motion book as a record that is used to develop and amend the policy and procedures of the council.

Treasurer:-Marie-Theresa Lamphier

Sub-chairperson: Patricia M. Rivest

Dioceses Reporting: 12 /13

Summary of Council Reports

- Of all the councils reporting, all of them had a treasurer.
- Some of the tools used were: bank statements, deposit books, cheque books, ledger/columnar books and/or computer program. Some used Excel spreadsheets, receipt books and disbursement books.
- Financial statements and account books were retained for five years.
- A minimum of two signatures were required on all cheques.
- Membership fees ranged from \$20 to \$30.
- The majority of the councils prepared a budget and had books examined or reviewed.
- Memberships were collected from November through March and some councils collected the bulk from April to August.
- Very little fundraising was done due to Covid-19.
- Councils were very generous in their donations even though Covid did have some impact on them.
- All 13 diocesan councils reported on their donations.

Treasurer's Activities

- Prepared and presented the 2020 budget.
- Processed cheques, deposits and correspondence to acknowledge receipt of donations.
- Prepared directives, reports and newsletter article.
- Met with financial institutions to review guaranteed investment certificates (GICs).
- Prepared financial reports and membership reports for all executive meetings.
- Arranged accommodations and meals for the executive meeting and resolution workshop.
- Prepared books for the auditing firm.
- Reviewed, along with the administration committee, all applications for social justice award and development funds.
- Kept everyone apprised of the falling rates of interest affecting the council's investments.

Recommendations

- That all councils complete the annual survey from national as well as the treasurer's annual report and financial statement.
- That all councils prepare a budget.
- That all diocesan councils offer a workshop for treasurers.
- That past treasurers mentor incoming treasurers.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020

NAME OF COUNCIL: Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

TREASURER: Marie-Theresa Lamphier

ADDRESS: 1617 Katella Avenue, Windsor, ON N8P 1P _____ DATE: Mar 9, 2021

E-MAIL ADDRESS: mtlamphier@gmail.com

DONATIONS RECEIVED FOR PAST CALENDAR YEAR

National Voluntary Fund	
Coady International Institute	4,858
Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace	11,256
Catholic Missions In Canada	30,121
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (until August 18, 2020)	4,700
CNEWA	8,943
National Bursary Fund	3,419
National Voluntary Fund Sub-total	63,297
Standing Committees	
Spiritual Development	70,711
Organization	40,517
Christian Family Life	101,663
Community Life	284,955
Education and Health	125,414
Communications	14,640
Standing Committees Sub-total	637,900

All Donations	
National Voluntary Fund Sub-total	63,297
Standing Committees Sub-total	637,900
Parish Donations	365,095
Other Donations	2,232
TOTAL	1,068,523

Name of Treasurer: Marie-Theresa Lamphier Signature: *Marie-Theresa Lamphier*

Submit the completed report according to guidelines in the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*, keeping one copy for council records.

Alexandria-Cornwall Diocesan Council Annual Report 2020

President: Lynn Pomainville

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Dan VanDelst

Members: 643

Life Members: 10

Councils: 9

- The Alexandria-Cornwall Diocesan Council began the year on a positive note hoping to address the themes of Loneliness (provincial) and Care for Our Common Home (national).
- As part of the Cornwall Service Club, some members took part in the Bowl-A-Thon in Cornwall on Jan. 26th.
- Our February executive meeting held at St. Andrews Parish.
- We held our second annual For the Love of Chocolate event at the Cornwall Legion on February 8th.
- Members attended the Service Club Banquet in Cornwall on Feb. 20th.
- The community life chair organized the LAN Clinic project involved all parishes, each collecting food that would be delivered in hopes to help those suffering from addiction and mental health issues.
- At the request of national and provincial council and the agreement of the officers, all diocesan council positions were extended for a year.
- Once the pandemic hit, the members learned of new ways to connect and reach out to one another.
- In early July, we held the tree planting ceremony at Our Lady of Angel's Church in Moose Creek to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of The Catholic Women's League of Canada.
- All councils learned new ways to have their meetings! Many phone calls and virtual meetings are going to be the new normal.
- All commitments in the form of donations were respected by the diocese.
- The Alexandria-Cornwall Diocesan CWL was one of the focuses on the December ON-Line Newsletter.
- The diocesan council participated in the Rosary Rallies held in Cornwall, Alexandria and Apple Hill. As president, I was honored to crown Mary during the Rosary Rally held at Blessed Sacrament in Cornwall on October 10th.
- In response to the provincial theme of loneliness, all parish presidents reported that their teams were able to have:
 1. virtual prayer groups
 2. prayer warriors
 3. Advent retreat
 4. care team callers
 5. gifts to residents in nursing homes (well wishes, handwritten cards, etc.)
 6. Zoom meetings
 7. spiritual bouquets
 8. donations to service club and women's shelters
- Although many challenges have been thrown to all the membership of Alexandria-Cornwall Diocese, the members have done and continue to do what they can do and finding new ways of doing it!
- We have continued to follow the four Ps, to be: Prayerful, Pro-Active, Positive and Planning.

Hamilton Diocesan Council Report

2020

President: Catherine Feren

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Larry Parent

Members: 7,251

Life Members: 10

Councils: 97

Regions: 4

- Our diocesan spiritual theme “Welcome Home” was incorporated with national theme “Care for our Common Home”. We focused on caring for our earth so it is a welcoming home and striving to make our members feel more welcome, needed and wanted.
- Officers and regional teams made suggestions to implement the “Loneliness” theme into the diocesan theme, “Welcome Home”, some of which will be implemented at a later date.
- In response to Pope Francis’ encouragement that all people nurture and protect creation, thus making it a welcome home for all, we promoted: celebrating Earth Day on April 22nd with a focus on embracing the beauty and wonder of God’s creation; taking the St. Francis Climate Pledge to Protect Creation; cleaning a community; and reflecting on preserving our water.
- Diocesan officers and regional teams have been grouped in groups of three to work together, to have a sounding board for ideas and to provide emotional and spiritual support.
- We updated our Hamilton Diocesan Policy and Procedure Manual.
- Our Lady of Good Counsel Bursary for Seminarians was renamed Our Lady of Good Counsel Vocations Fund to include applicants for religious life.
- We created an online diocesan reporting system for deceased members.
- Implemented governance presentations to teach fundamental principles of the Constitution & Bylaws and the national Manual of Policy & Procedure.
- Discussions with diocesan team members and spiritual advisor continued regarding roles and responsibilities of members and council spiritual advisors.
- Encouraged parish councils to implement suggestions received from other levels of the League, as per interest in their particular council.
- Met with regional chairs and discussed opportunities to work together drafting agendas, focus for meetings, consistency of messages in each region.
- Consulted and intervened with councils experiencing difficulties.
- Conducted several speaking engagements to Knights of Columbus/CWL councils receiving \$7,384.70 in donations as a result.
- After much preparation for our diocesan 100th anniversary, the 100th anniversary dinner dance on April 18 and additional celebrations on June 20 were postponed.
- Our diocesan convention planned for May 29-31, included a banner at registration, readings and hymns reflecting both themes, hopefully a “Welcome Home” song, a candlelight vigil, and more. This too was cancelled.
- Further plans were made for the provincial convention at Crowne Plaza, Kitchener on July 4-8th, which was later cancelled due to COVID restrictions.
- Life Member Georgina Bourke passed away on September 21, 2020. She was an advocate for human trafficking prevention, Sharing Fair, environmental protection, abolishing nuclear weapons, etc. She will be greatly missed.

Hearst Moosonee Diocesan Council Report

2020

President: Lorraine Cusson Arnold

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Praveen Sangabathuni

Members: 228

Life Members: 9

Councils: 6

- In keeping with the national theme, Care for our Common Home, council meetings were opened and closed with prayers to show respect to our planet and resources.
- The diocesan council encouraged members to use real cutlery and dishes at events instead of plastic and Styrofoam in accordance with our theme.
- A mass and prayer service were held on February 8, 2020 for International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking.
- Councils continue to collect pop can tabs for the March of Dimes and used eyeglasses for the poor.
- In keeping with the provincial themes of homelessness and loneliness, councils donated used blankets, sheets and towels for the homeless shelters.
- Councils continue to support the diocesan project "Sisters Together in Christ" which is to build trust and friendship with women in the northern part of our diocese. Although they were unable to visit this year, (due to Covid-19) supplies such as gently used winter coats, hats, and mitts were sent for those in need to both Moosonee and Fort Albany through the winter roads. Communication was maintained through e-mails with Father Paul Awowole and Father Sudakar Jayabalan.
- St. Theresa's Council (Geraldton) held an evening liturgical celebration for the 100th anniversary of the League. Their nearby sisters from St. John the Baptist Council (Longlac) also participated in the celebration. They began with the recitation of 100 Hail Marys with a special intention before each ten. As each Hail Mary was recited, a candle was lit, so in completion, the 100th anniversary sign was illuminated on the altar. During mass, the deceased members of both councils were honoured by placing stars around Mary in a grotto, symbolic of the beauty, grace, and holiness expressed by Mary and their heavenly sisters. There was also a presentation of prayer shawls to parishioners.
- Due to Covid-19, the diocesan convention that was to be held on May 1-3, 2020 in Chapleau, and hosted by the Sacred Heart Parish Council, was cancelled.
- Contact was maintained with council presidents by phone, email, and letters.

Kingston Diocesan Council

2020

President: Nancy Richer

Spiritual Advisor: Rev. Dale Wright

Members: 2538

Honourary Life Members: 1

Councils: 43

Life Members: 13

- The majority of council presidents use *The Canadian League* magazine, national, provincial and diocesan websites, Facebook pages, and directives to inform members and initiate council projects and discussions. Many weekly perused the Catholic Women's League on line at the national, provincial and diocesan levels.
- In February at our presidents' meeting, we were pleased to have Friar Ed DeBono talk about St. Francis of Assisi and *Laudato Si*.
- In March, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, we made the decision to cancel the convention that would have been held in May.
- The annual report book was approved and sent out to the council presidents by email.
- Contact with parish councils was maintained by phone calls and emails.
- We have started the work of updating the diocesan council history book to coincide with our 100th Anniversary in 2022.
- We kept the diocesan website and Facebook page up to date.
- In keeping with the provincial theme of loneliness, members continue to value the friendships and support of other League members. They appreciate working together, supporting each other in faith, fun and fulfilment.
- The executive is keeping in touch using Zoom meetings.
- For two years, when the provincial theme was homelessness, members learned about the issues facing the homeless and helped in our communities. League members across our regions continued to focus on homelessness and loneliness and have found creative ways to help the homeless and the lonely.
- The different climate that the Covid 19 pandemic has forced upon us has shown that councils can continue to pull together, through teamwork and a willingness to help and support each other as we dealt with the many unusual issues that often disrupted our plans and pushed us into taking a different route to achieve our goals.

President: Rebecca McCarrell
Members: 9,273
Councils: 95

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Greg Bonin
Life Members: 9
Regions: 7

- The CWL members of the London Diocese continued to support the national theme of Care for our Common Home, the provincial theme of Loneliness and our diocesan theme of Educate, Engage and Empower. At the beginning of the year, it was not apparent how important the provincial theme would prove to be.
- Our annual Lenten Retreat encapsulated the provincial theme with "Loneliness in Prayer" presented by Bernardine Ketelaars. She took us on a journey of peace, reflection and relaxation. We learned about St. Rita of Cascia, patron saint of loneliness and other biblical persons including Jesus who experienced doubt and loneliness.
- COVID-19 restrictions hampered our celebration of 100 years. Our annual convention was cancelled, and national office instructions were followed by having a meeting called to order and adjourned at 3 pm on April 1, 2020.
- Diocesan elections were postponed for a year.
- Our churches were closed in March and all CWL activities were cancelled to adhere to our bishop's recommendations and the public health department's recommendations.
- Virtual meetings were held by our diocesan council and by the fall many of our 95 councils were doing the same. During the nice weather, some councils met outside so proper social distancing could be practiced.
- Our membership continued to be creative in visiting the sick and lonely of their councils, parishes, and communities. Visits to residences by utilizing music, drama, etc., happened throughout the diocese. Persons were brought to the windows so they could see their visitors.
- Councils implemented various methods for membership drives including "drive-thru" collection of memberships.
- The standing committee chairpersons were paired together and were challenged to provide activities that could be done from home.
- A document was created with outreach ideas for the lonely and put on the website. The diocese made a slideshow to reach out to members. Members have been encouraged in directives to reach out to the lonely in many ways.
- Letter writing in support of resolutions and current government bills were encouraged.
- In November, we were able to have an in-person diocesan executive meeting by following the public health restrictions and meeting at a banquet hall.
- We continued to send out encouraging messages through directives, notes and on our website wishing everyone a healthy happy Christmas season and New Year.

Ottawa Diocesan Council Report

2020

President: Lynn Lavictoire

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Paul J. Gaudet

Members: 1,353

Honorary Life Members: 1

Councils: 26

Life Members: 11

- During the year, members across the Ottawa Diocese, through their generosity and gift of time, continued to embrace the national theme, "Care for our Common Home" and welcomed the new provincial theme of "Loneliness".
- In February, a League Development Day was held at St. Bernard Council. The day began with morning mass, presided by our Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Father Paul Gaudet. The "Future of the League" was presented and a workshop on how to enhance our prayer life was given by our diocesan officers. The afternoon included a workshop, led by a professional facilitator, Leslie Giddings, on how to invite potential members using the four principles of sacred hospitality: invitation, respect, rootedness and openness. Everyone who attended the League Development Day was energized with a new sense of purpose and creative ideas on membership.
- In April, an Easter Greeting was emailed to the executive and to all members in the diocese. The greeting was a video of a collage of paintings which moved us from the death and resurrection of Jesus. One of our members, Grace Buchmayer, was the artist and videographer of this greeting.
- Members celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel in a virtual mass with either Bishop William McGrattan and/or Salt+Light TV. Prayer intentions were for the League's 100th anniversary.
- The Ottawa Diocesan Convention on May 2 which was to be held in Cumberland, ON, was postponed to a later date due to a lack of quorum caused by the health and safety regulations in place as a result of the pandemic.
- In May, projects were established to keep us connected with all of our members in the diocese. These projects included, "Reaching Out," "Seal the Doorposts," and "CWL Wednesday!" All these projects were well received.
- A new Life Member, Joanna Sisk, was welcomed. Joanna asked that she be presented with her award when in-person meetings are allowed.
- The Ottawa Diocesan Council was featured in the June edition of the *ON-Line Newsletter* and also published their *Faith in Action* diocesan newsletter.
- On November 11, Remembrance Day, the *Lest We Forget* wreath was laid on behalf of The Catholic Women's League of Canada.
- Late November, the diocesan council held an in-person Advent Mass. This event was hosted by Immaculate Heart of Mary Council and presided by Father Pierre Champoux. The homily was a reflection on the symbols of Advent. It was a prayerful mass and fitting to our Advent journey.

Because of the ongoing pandemic, members were introduced to new technologies to remain in touch with one another. They continued to collect eye glasses, stamps and milk bags as part of the Reduce and Reuse Program. The pandemic also increased the fervour of our prayer lives in communion, as we prayed for ourselves, people across the country and around the world. Prayers have also increased dramatically.

Pembroke Diocesan Council Report

2020

President: Joan Lemay

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Michael Coyne

Members: 1677

Life Members: 10

Councils: 30

- In February, diocesan executive met. Two presentations were given to executive: from the chair of organization, an update on the Strategic Plan and from the chair of resolutions, a report about the Resolutions Workshop she attended in Toronto. These cancelled presentations were to be repeated at the diocesan spring meeting scheduled for April 18th, along with a workshop on Loneliness.
- In March, COVID restrictions necessitated cancellation of the spring meeting.
- One executive meeting was held by teleconference, in April, and then executive members learned how to participate in Zoom meetings. Executive meetings were held every two months, via Zoom, throughout the remainder of the year.
- Diocesan president sent a communique to parish presidents every two months.
- Parish councils were encouraged to help combat loneliness by telephoning members in their parish and community during this time of COVID restrictions. Members throughout the diocese also did grocery shopping for the elderly in their communities, donated articles to women's shelters and money to food banks.
- The diocesan convention, scheduled for May 30th was cancelled because of COVID. Annual report books were published and distributed.
- Diocesan council's plan to plant a tree in commemoration of CWL's 100th anniversary was delayed until July, and a dedication was made on the day of the New Life Member ceremony. The ceremony, with 15 participants, safe physical distancing and wearing of masks, was held to present new Life Member Pat Weller with her certificate and pin.
- Diocesan legislation chair encouraged members to utilize their time in isolation to write letters on issues of concern to governments. Information was sent to all councils encouraging letter writing opposing Bill C-7 and letters promoting ethical manufacture of vaccines (federal), and requesting a public inquiry into the situation in long-term care homes (provincial). Many members wrote letters.
- In September Pembroke Diocesan CWL was featured in the *ON-Line Newsletter*.
- The diocesan fall meeting was held via Zoom, in November. There were presentations on the CWL strategic plan and on CWL membership.
- We welcomed our new diocesan spiritual advisor, Father Michael Coyne in late November.
- In December we held a diocesan virtual Christmas Party, to have fun, to familiarize members with Zoom technology and to have some social time with each other, which we had all been missing.
- Members throughout the diocese attended educational webinars from CWL on Annual Reports and On-Line Membership.
- Our CWL councils have adapted to virtual meeting, virtual learning and have continued to practice CWL core values of Faith, Service and Social Justice.

Peterborough Diocesan Council Report

2020

President: Paddy Fitzgerald Nolan

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Damian Smullen

Members: 1684

Life Members: 10

Councils: 29

- Since lockdown on March 17th, we communicated by emails, phone calls, and cards.
- The convention and elections were cancelled. Annual report books, prepared by the organization chair, were distributed electronically and on the diocesan website. The programs prepared by our spiritual development chair went unused. We received and reviewed one CFL resolution gifted by Holy Angels CWL, Brighton for convention, but it was postponed until the 2021 annual meeting of members. Upon direction from national CWL council, officers were asked to extend their terms for an additional year. All willingly agreed. Our legally-required meeting was held on March 25 in Sydenham with three in attendance but not enough for a quorum.
- In anticipation of our 100th anniversary celebrations, a gala event was planned and regretfully cancelled. The history committee visited many parishes and made great strides in updating diocesan history. A diocesan cookbook with many tasty recipes and a history of foods was compiled and keepsake copies sold.
- Each officer was asked to call the president of the councils she was mentoring. Contact info was updated. Prayer requests were shared with the executive.
- Bishop Daniel Miehm's office communicated weekly with our diocesan council, always keeping us updated with protocol during this pandemic and offering online sacrament courses. The communications chair kept all councils informed. Since early spring we have been blessed to have Sunday mass livestreamed and offered on YouTube from our cathedral and daily masses from several parishes.
- The annual retreat for officers and life members was scheduled and cancelled because of unlikely attendance and health restrictions. A memorial mass for Margaret Van Meeuwen, was attended by 43 members at St. Peter's-in-Chains Cathedral on November 3rd. We honoured our newest Life Member Wendy Tedford with her pin and certificate, we presented our spiritual bouquets to Spiritual Advisor Fr. Damian Smullen (and later to Bishop Miehm), had our 100th anniversary burning bush blessed (and later planted in Wooler), and a beautiful luncheon followed at Red Lobster for a few.
- Peterborough Diocesan Rosary Program in the schools, organized by the education and health chair, came to a halt; however, the ladies didn't stop praying the rosary monthly with students and teachers; during shut down, they prayed the rosary daily for the safety of the students and teachers and an end to Covid-19.
- When the world changed overnight, so did the women of Peterborough Diocesan CWL. We all became stronger, supportive, and giving; we learned to be kinder and more patient; and most important, we learned to never take today for granted.

St. Catharines Diocesan Council Report

2020

President: Josie Rocca

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Richard Kowalchuk

Members: 2346

Life Members: 13

Councils: 33

Regions: 4

- The St. Catharines Diocesan Council continued to carry out the Mission Statement of The Catholic Women's League of Canada calling its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.
- The St. Catharines Diocesan Council was featured in the January issue of the Ontario Provincial Council Newsletter.
- On February 15th, the diocesan annual League development workshop was held at St. Mary Parish, Welland. "Find Your Voice": A Public Speaking Workshop.
- The February diocesan council meeting was held on Wednesday February 19 at St Mary Parish, Welland. Guest speakers: Annette Loeffen, 40 Days for Life; Leone Stilec, Development and Peace; and Shelley Gilbert and Louise Librock, St. Catharines Central Council of Society of Saint Vincent de Paul: North of 60 Project.
- The Annual Lent Retreat was held at Mount Carmel Spiritual Retreat and Conference Centre in Niagara Falls on Wednesday March 4th, Thursday March 5th (evening) and Friday March 6th, 2020. Fr. Stuart MacDonald, Pastor, St Joseph Snyder was the guest speaker. The Theme was " Lent... A Holy Season of Renewal."
- The Welland Region afternoon of reflection was held Saturday March 14th at St. Therese of Lisieux Parish, Port Colborne. Guest speaker was Sylvia Verde: *Laudato Si*.
- The St. Catharines Diocesan Council, along with several CWL parish councils took part in the National Centenary 2020 Tree Planting project celebrating the 100th Anniversary of The Catholic Women's League of Canada.
- We were saddened by the death of Life Member Theresa Bujtas in March.
- The 62nd annual convention was cancelled, but had been scheduled to take place on May 12th and 13th at the Americana Conference Resort Niagara Falls with the opening mass at St Thomas More Parish with the theme, Growing in Faith to Witness to the Love of God through Ministry and Service. Guest speakers included
 - Tuesday: Jade Bilodeau, Niagara Catholic District School Board Student Trustee, Topic: Stewardship, A Student's Perspective
 - Wednesday: Jennifer Pothier, St. Catharines Diocesan Development and Peace, Jim Marino, Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education, Brian Kon; Indigenous Lead Niagara Catholic District School Board
- Council congratulated Fr. Richard Kowalchuk, Diocesan Spiritual Advisor and pastor of Star of the Sea Parish, Port Dalhousie, on the 25th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, May 13, 1995. A mass of thanksgiving was celebrated at Star of the Sea Parish on October 15th 2020.
- Congratulations to councils celebrating anniversaries:
 - St. Patrick, Merriton, 60 years!
 - St. Ann, Fenwick, 30 years!

Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan Council Report 2020

President: Cathy McKinney

Spiritual Advisor: Father Rex Lumine

Members: 2404

Life Members: 12

Councils: 30

Regions: 3

- Our diocese began 2020 with much anticipation of our impending 100th anniversary celebrations in April.
- Several convention meetings were attended in North Bay for planning.
- Agenda and reports were submitted for the diocesan winter executive meeting.
- Meeting reports for the winter and fall provincial meetings were sent in a timely manner.
- The Sisterhood project continued in the diocese and the pamphlets and information was shared with the northern dioceses at our provincial executive meeting in the winter.
- In the year 2020 several of the councils celebrated significant anniversaries: St. Gerard Majella (50), St. Gregory (55), Our Lady of Good Counsel (55), St. Ambrose (60), St. Alexander (60), St. Bartholomew (65), St. Pius X (55), Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption (100), and St. Peter the Apostle (65). All anniversary celebrations were put on hold until the pandemic is over.
- At our April diocesan convention, we had planned to celebrate our diocese's newest Life Member, Karen McDonald with National President Anne Gorman and Provincial President Colleen Perry in attendance.
- All League business stopped in March as the pandemic changed our lives.
- The cancellation of all meetings and conventions meant that we had to cancel the attendance of our dignitaries, honoured guests and members.
- Many of our senior members were suffering with isolation issues early on in the pandemic and their sisters stepped up to contact them in inventive ways. Calling trees, and prayer partners were used by many councils.
- It was decided that the terms of office for the national and provincial council were extended by one year. Our diocesan executive agreed to extend their term of office as well. The parish presidents followed suit.
- In August, the first of three mighty oak trees were planted in honour of our sisters who have gone before us in the League's first 100 years. As the Pro Cathedral of the Assumption council was celebrating 100 years, we chose the gardens surrounding the cathedral to plant our oak and place our plaque. In 2021 the other two regions will have their trees planted.
- Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan CWL was featured in the November ON-Line Newsletter.
- In early December the councils received a mailout from national office regarding proposed changes to per capita fees and proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws to align with our strategic plan. A phone call was made to each of the presidents and a lively discussion ensued.

Thunder Bay Diocesan Council Report

2020

President: Maria Bertoldo

Spiritual Advisor: Rev. Michael Mahoney

Members: 2210

Life Members: 8

Councils: 25

- Diocesan executive virtual meetings were held in March, June and November.
- Annual reports were completed by 13 of the 25 councils.
- The diocesan convention which was to be held May 1-3, 2020 hosted by Church of the Annunciation, Nipigon, was cancelled. Bishop Fred Colli was to speak on the diversity of the Thunder Bay Diocese; Rev. Terry Sawchuk was to share his experience walking the *Camino de Santiago*; and there was to be a speaker from the local Canadian Mental Health Association.
- A Virtual Rosary and a Virtual Prayer Service to honour our Blessed Mother were held in May with participation from many members in the diocese.
- As part of the 100th Anniversary Centenary Project, a tree was planted on the grounds of the chancery office, with Bishop Fred Colli and Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Fr. Michael Mahoney participating in the blessing service.
- Thunder Bay Diocese was featured in February issue of the ON-Line Newsletter.
- The provincial theme of Loneliness was implemented by most councils through ongoing activities such as phone visits, thinking of you cards, gifts provided for residents of senior homes at Christmas and CWL cards included with Meals on Wheels.
- A display board and vocal tributes were made to honour recently deceased Life Member Liaison June Meady, a long-serving member of the diocese.
- The communications chair initiated sending congratulatory notes to the diocesan bishop and pastors on the anniversary of their ordinations.
- Councils celebrating 70th anniversaries were:
 - St. Agnes Parish, Thunder Bay
 - St. Patrick's Parish, Atikokan
- The Diocesan Dialogue Online Newsletter began in April, in response to the Covid pandemic, and seven issues were shared before year end.

Timmins Diocesan Council Report

2020

President: Annette Kelly

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. John Lemire

Members: 447

Life Members: 3

Councils: 8

- Two diocesan council members attended the Ontario Provincial Council (OPC) Resolutions/President-Elect Workshop in Toronto in February.
- The 2020 Covid 19 lockdown in March changed all plans for diocesan in-person meetings and subsequently the May convention went through a number of transitions, until it was realized that we would not be able to hold this event.
- All terms of office were extended by one year.
- Plans for a spiritual retreat day in September were cancelled until 2021.
- We welcomed newly appointed Spiritual Advisor Fr. John Lemire, who will serve till 2023.
- Diocesan council held Zoom meetings in June and November to deal with business, with the understanding that all motions would have to be ratified at the next in-person meeting. The diocesan president participated in several conference calls and virtual meetings with OPC and the other diocesan presidents.
- Committee chairs continued to forward directives to parish counterparts in the hope that some work would still be able to be done, and to encourage and keep in touch with the members.
- A nomination for life membership was submitted.
- Donations were made to Toronto hosting council for the 2021 national convention, and to Catholic Near East Welfare Association Project for a drinking water well, in addition to all the regular donations made by parish councils.
- Parish councils were encouraged to hold 'safe' fundraising events, e.g., 'Bakeless Bake Sales'.
- Members participated in the national CWL Summer Speakers Series webinars in August.
- Some activities continued, i.e., collecting socks, hats, mitts and hygiene products and handmade facemasks for the needy, the homeless, and the lonely.
- The 'Care for our Common Home' water challenge resulted in saving more than 1773 gallons of water. Garbage was collected from yards and ditches. One council planted a tree.
- Councils kept in touch with fellow members via phone, email and newsletters.
- Timmins Diocesan CWL was featured in the October OPC newsletter with photos of various parish council activities.

Toronto Diocesan Annual Report

2020

President: Hilarion Mitchell

Spiritual Advisor: Msgr. Patrick O’Dea

Members: 6865

Honorary Life Members: 1

Councils: 103

Life Members: 14

Regions: 7

- Eighty councils submitted at least one of the 12 annual reports for 2020.
- Development Day was held on February 22nd; the theme was *Building a New Culture: A Catholic Approach to Faith, Service and Justice* with 257 members present.
- Two new councils were organized: St. Rose of Lima, Scarborough Region on March 1st and St. Jerome’s, Peel Region on March 4th.
- The COVID-19 pandemic declared on March 17th impacted the diocesan level and parish councils during the year. The Toronto 99th annual convention scheduled for April 30th and May 1st was cancelled. Executive and regional meetings were held using teleconference, virtual or a hybrid of both, which were the first use of these technologies for the council. Sixty-nine of the 84 councils in a survey on hosting meetings during the pandemic did not have in-person meetings but 49 held virtual meetings. An ad was placed in the June 28th issue of The Catholic Register to thank our pandemic heroes.
- Miranda Pinto, St. Barnabas Council, Scarborough Region, was the 2020 Ontario Provincial Council Social Justice Award recipient for her work with immigrants and refugees.
- The Toronto Diocesan Council hosted a virtual celebration on June 17th for the national 100th anniversary of the League. There were 60 councils, 230 members including Anne-Marie Gorman, National President. Members and families also planted 115 trees on September 19th at the Gore Meadows Community Centre grounds in Brampton for the anniversary.
- The diocesan council donated \$7,295 in lieu of usual in-person participation in events, scholarships and awards. Recipients were Martyrs’ Shrine, Midland; the Cardinal’s Dinner; Catholic Near East Welfare Association; Catholic Family Services of Toronto; Catholic Missions In Canada; St. Michael’s Scholarship; Catholic Children’s Aid Society Hope for Children Foundation Scholarship; Mary Dobell Pro-Life Awareness Essay and Poetry Literacy; Jean McCann Service Award for Youth; Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest and Patricia Beattie Mentoring Award.
- Msgr. Pat celebrated a diocesan year-end mass on December 30th with 262 members present for the live streaming, followed by a virtual prayer service to mark inauguration of the year for St. Joseph.

Recognition

The Ontario Provincial Council 2020 Social Justice Award

was presented to

Miranda Pinto

St. Barnabas Parish, Diocese of Toronto

for her work with immigrants and refugees.

CONGRATULATIONS!



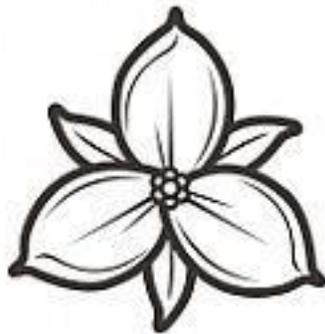
**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE
OF CANADA**

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

1920 - 2020

The Purpose of the Ontario Provincial Council

- To implement the Catholic Women's League objectives and policy in the province
- To represent the Catholic Women's League members of Ontario at the national level
- To coordinate the diocesan councils in the province
- To be a link between the diocesan councils in Ontario and the national council for reporting, for resolutions and for those matters requiring an instructed vote at the national convention
- To disseminate information and direction from the national council to the diocesan councils in the province
- To provide direction, inspiration and encouragement to Catholic Women's League members and councils in the province
- To submit resolutions and briefs on provincial matters as required
- To maintain contact with the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO)



The Annual Report Editing Committee

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