

**Peterborough Diocesan Council of  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada**



**Fall Newsletter  
2021**



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## The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Peterborough Diocesan Officers and Appointees 2021-2023

Position	Name	E-Mail Address
President	Helena Lessard	<a href="mailto:prespocwl@gmail.com">prespocwl@gmail.com</a>
Spiritual Advisor	Father Roy Villas	<a href="mailto:sapocwl@gmail.com">sapocwl@gmail.com</a>
President Elect/Organization	Maria Fitzgerald	<a href="mailto:orgpocwl@gmail.com">orgpocwl@gmail.com</a>
Past President/Historian	Paddy Fitzgerald-Nolan	<a href="mailto:ppdpocwl@gmail.com">ppdpocwl@gmail.com</a>
Recording Secretary	Lynne Donnelly	<a href="mailto:secpocwl@gmail.com">secpocwl@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Ferrol O'Reilly	<a href="mailto:trpocwl@gmail.com">trpocwl@gmail.com</a>
Christian Family Life	TBA	
Communications	Wendy Tedford	<a href="mailto:cmpocwl@gmail.com">cmpocwl@gmail.com</a>
Community Life	Lois Crider	<a href="mailto:cldpocwl@gmail.com">cldpocwl@gmail.com</a>
Education and Health	Pamela Bryson-Weaver	<a href="mailto:ehpocwl@gmail.com">ehpocwl@gmail.com</a>
Resolutions & Legislation	Glenda Klein	<a href="mailto:rjpocwl@gmail.com">rjpocwl@gmail.com</a>
Spiritual Development	Lynda Macpherson	<a href="mailto:sdpocwl@gmail.com">sdpocwl@gmail.com</a>
<b><u>Appointees:</u></b>		
Corresponding Secretary	Anne McKinnon	<a href="mailto:copocwl@gmail.com">copocwl@gmail.com</a>
Life Member Liaison	Anne McKinnon	<a href="mailto:lpocwl@gmail.com">lpocwl@gmail.com</a>
Membership/Mentorship Liaison	Madeline Pearson	<a href="mailto:mmpocwl@gmail.com">mmpocwl@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	Wendy Tedford	<a href="mailto:nlpocwl@gmail.com">nlpocwl@gmail.com</a>

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN WEBSITE: [www.peterboroughcwl.com](http://www.peterboroughcwl.com)



*The above contacts may be used for CWL purposes only.*



## Diocesan President: Helena Lessard



Welcome to another CWL Peterborough Diocese Newsletter. A lot of information has been shared with the various committee chairs since the various levels held their Annual Meeting of Members (AMM), instead of the usual conventions. Also, councils are starting to be more active, despite the pandemic. These times continue to be trying. However, members are here for one another, praying and supporting one another and their families.

With our own AMM, we have a change of executives with some individuals returning to the council along with a handful of new individuals. As well, we have a few appointments. What I believe to be exciting, is that we have five life members who are on the executive, members who are moved to provide guidance and advice, by active participation on the councils. Check out who is filling what role and what they have to say.

As a start to my term, in addition to assigning roles and selecting appointees, I spoke with Bishop Miehm. We spoke about councils and members, their work in the diocese during 2019 and 2020 as documented in the Annual Report books, the CWL and strategic plan changes, the proposed National motions, the possibility of having a fall meeting in person, and members' support of the church and parishes, including being informed on the issue of residential schools. Bishop Miehm also provided his thanks for the spiritual bouquet, as did Father Damian when I spoke with him.

I decided to tackle Gmail, which is a valuable communication tool and I desire to see better utilization between members, councils, and levels of the league. Changes have been made to the accounts as follows:

1. The signature has been updated to include the mission statement, core values and a confidentiality statement.
2. Old Mail and Saved Mail folders were set up. These folders help to keep track of emails which have been dealt with and update an easy spot to find important emails.
3. Contacts have been updated with councils, officers,/appointees and life members. Only in the case of life members are names, email addresses and phone numbers provided. Presidents could print life member information for council executives so that this valuable resource is available for all executive members. The contacts for officer/appointees and councils relate to the position or council itself and not to the individual. Thus, this information can be utilized term after term without having to update it. When composing an email, one can then search for contacts by council, officer/appointee, and life member, by inserting the email address(es) within the addressee section.
4. Another change made is forwarding of accounts to personal email addresses, which avoids a focus on personal email addresses and places emphasis on councils and their executive members.
5. Passwords have been updated to include capital and small letters, numbers, and symbols, as recommended by Google.
6. Recovery phone numbers and email addresses have been updated. For officers and appointees, the information is that of the President while for councils, the



Communication Chair's information is on file. Please, I cannot stress enough that this information should remain as designated. Otherwise, maintaining and updating this information becomes problematic. Wendy or myself are available if one is having problems with the account assigned to you or your council.

I participated in the Year of St. Joseph Pilgrimage within our diocese attending celebrations at Douro, Bracebridge, and Bowmanville. I attended the Masses with Wendy Tedford who also attended in Powassan, and then in Bowmanville with Lynda Macpherson. Four ladies from Lindsay council, and other lady from Lakefield council, also attended Bowmanville. If you happen to be on Facebook and follow the Lindsay page, a group photo was posted. The Bishop was thankful for our taking part in the celebrations however we were the fortunate ones to see the different programs at the different locations, and OH, gluten free hosts in Bowmanville!

Commented [WT1]:

As life returns to the parishes.....For myself, personally, I have co-ordinated the Alpha program at St. Mary's Lindsay. Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. Each session looks at a different question and is designed to create conversation about life, faith, and Jesus. Conversation takes place in small groups to grow people in their faith and confidence in talking about Jesus with their friends, family, and neighbours. These small groups can consist of mature believers, people new to the faith, and those still exploring faith. Recently, I have spoken to Father Joseph, and team members, about future plans for Alpha. We had hoped to have an in-person program this fall after running Alpha online at the beginning 2021. However, given COVID-19, we will hold off and look at options for 2022.

I am also involved in pastoral planning, both at the diocesan and parish levels. We have continued to meet for diocesan meetings online through Zoom, as our panning carries on. For our parish, as with many other parishes, we will need to focus on the Rebuilt discussion process, so that we are prepared to provide input into the pastoral planning process.

.....have you thought about your role?

#### **Have you heard?**

The new National Theme is "Catholic and Living It!" The theme will run from January 1 2022 to December 31 2023. More details will be shared closer to year end.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough has published a background document about residential schools. This paper answers many questions that we, as catholics, have. Topics include the role of the catholic church then and now, goal of residential schools, information about students at the schools, unmarked grave sites, and the delegation to Rome. One can find the document at [v4-Residential-Schools---Background-for-Catholics---July-16-2021.pdf \(peterboroughdiocese.org\)](https://www.peterboroughdiocese.org/v4-Residential-Schools---Background-for-Catholics---July-16-2021.pdf).

I, believe that we have an excellent line up of officers and appointees who have already started to show you what they are capable of. Soon, mentors will begin to contact councils. I would recommend that council presidents share contact information of the council mentor with their executive members in order to receive the full benefit of guidance and direction of this diocesan member. Remember, diocesan level is also here to



provide councils and members with information and assistance. Together, I hope that we will enjoy the journey.

Helena Lessard 

### Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Damian Smullen/Father Roy Villas



It is with great sadness that Father Damian's term has been completed as the Peterborough Diocesan CWL Spiritual Advisor. His guidance, enlightening homilies, and kind words, have been a God send to us. We wish Father the very best and hope he has a wonderful, and enjoyable, Christmas on his upcoming trip home. As we say farewell to our Spiritual Advisor, Father Damian, we welcome newly appointed, Father Roy Villas, to our family as Spiritual Advisor for his term.

Bishop Miehm appointed Father Roy just a few days ago so this is very new to him. Father Roy was ordained into the priesthood in the Philippines in 2004. He is presenting the pastor of the Bracebridge Parish and has just finished celebrating his place in the Year of St. Joseph Pilgrimage. You will find Father very easy to speak with, so please introduce yourself when you meet him.



Dear Lord, as we rise to meet each new day, please let us be filled with Your **spirit**. Wherever we go, let us spread love, joy, peace, and goodness. Amen.

### Spiritual Development: Lynda Macpherson



*Lord, God, your light which dims the stars  
Awakes all things,  
And all that springs to life in you  
Your glory sings.*

I feel so blessed and yes, excited to be appointed as your new chair for spiritual development! Having attended virtually the 2020/2021 CWL National convention, and learning of all the new resources to be made available, I can hardly wait to share them with all of you. How wonderful then to have a new CWL National theme that will guide us over the next two years. The new theme, Catholic and Living It, will begin January 2022.



Pope Francis, in his message for the 107<sup>th</sup> World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees, writes: "A Church that is more and more "catholic". For the members of the Catholic Church, this appeal entails a commitment to becoming ever more faithful to our being "catholic". Saint Paul reminded the community in Ephesus: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Eph 4:4-5). 17 new prayers and workshops will be made available later this fall on the National website to help us on our journey of "Catholic and Living It!" Theme prayer cards will be mailed out in September and the fall issue of The Canadian League magazine will also provide information on our new theme.



As many Spiritual Development Chairs of our councils know, there are six areas of responsibilities for us to consider and act upon where possible. These responsibilities are as follows: Spiritual Growth of Members, Study of Catholic Teachings, Role of Women in the Church, Evangelization and Mission Assistance, Lay Ministries, Ecumenism and Interfaith Endeavours. How well our new theme can be applied to this position!

As we begin to reclaim our in-person meetings here are some important dates in September and October for you to consider as you plan your Spiritual activities such as reflections/prayers/actions. Of special significance this year is **Thursday September 30<sup>th</sup> a new federal statutory holiday.**

### **September**

#### **Wednesday 8: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

*O Virgin immaculate, thou who by a singular privilege of grace was preserved from original sin, look in pity upon our separated brethren, who are nevertheless thy children, and call them back to the center of unity. Not a few of them, although separated from the Church, have kept a certain veneration for thee; and do thou, generous as thou art, reward them for it, by obtaining for them the grace of conversion.*

*Thou wast conqueror of the infernal serpent from the first instant of thy existence; renew even now, for it is now more necessary than ever before, thine ancient triumphs; glorify thy divine Son, bring back to Him the sheep that have strayed from the one fold and place them once more under the guidance of the universal Shepherd who holds the place of thy Son on earth; let it be thy glory, O Virgin who destroyest all heresies, to restore unity and peace once more to all the Christian people.*

#### **Wednesday 15: Our Lady of Sorrows**

*O most holy Virgin, Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ: by the overwhelming grief you experienced when you witnessed the martyrdom, the crucifixion, and death of your divine Son, look upon me with eyes of compassion, and awaken in my heart a tender commiseration for those sufferings, as well as a sincere detestation of my sins, in order that being disengaged from all undue affection for the passing joys of this earth, I may sigh after the eternal Jerusalem, and that henceforward all my thoughts and all my actions may be directed towards this one most desirable object. Honor, glory, and love to our divine Lord Jesus, and to the holy and immaculate Mother of God. Amen.*

#### **Sunday 19: National CWL Faith Day**

*Mary She is my strength, Most Holy Virgin, privileged one from birth. Her love restores the weakest to citadels of worth. Without fear, I speak to her and even as I start, the*



*words which seem the hardest are closest to my heart. There comes a captured moment in the quietness of day when through the healing silence I somehow hear her say: "Don't worry, I am with you through loneliness and fear. I will be your confidence. Remember, I am here." And so I do remember at any time or place the power of my endurance is in her warm embrace. (Kathy Vignoli, printed in The Marian Helpers' Bulletin, August-September/89) Kay Allen Newfoundland and Labrador*

#### **Monday 20: Federal Election Day**

Novalis is offering a free webinar entitled - Politics and Faith In a Polarized World, A Challenge for Catholics. This webinar will take place on Sept 9, 2021 at 4:00pm. This would be an excellent opportunity to view prior to the election.

#### **Tuesday 21: National Day of Prayer for Christians in the Holy Land/ International Day of Peace**

*"Take care of the people who are hurt. Take care of the people in the homes that were destroyed, that they will also be well. Please, Lord. Watch over the little children. Take care of the people who are waging the war, that they will come to know you, Lord. That they would be well. That they come to know your Word and Your love and everything that is Yours, Lord. Watch over us. Watch over all of us," Thomas prayed.*

#### **Sunday 26: World Day of Migrants and Refugees**

As of the writing of my report the situations in both Afghanistan and Haiti are desperate. This is a time for us, as members of the Catholic Women's League, to act on our theme of "Catholic and Living It". View Pope Francis inspirational message at [www.vatican](http://www.vatican)

#### **Thursday 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**

The Government of Canada recently passed legislation to make September 30 a federal statutory holiday called the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This day is an important step in the reconciliation process. It provides an opportunity to recognize and commemorate the tragic history and ongoing legacy of residential schools, and to honour their survivors, their families and communities. Much information is available from Diocese of Peterborough [www.peterboroughdiocese.org](http://www.peterboroughdiocese.org) Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops [www.cccb.ca](http://www.cccb.ca) and Archdiocese of Toronto [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org)  
You may wish to hold an Indigenous awareness ceremony.

#### **October**

#### **Friday 1: National Day of Prayer for Canadian Home Missions**

Catholic Missions in Canada is now a permanent voluntary fund for the CWL. You may wish to consider making a donation at this time to this organization and/or reading articles from their magazine at your council meetings. They also have a great yearly calendar for your personal use.



## PRAYER FOR CANADIAN HOME MISSIONS

*Heavenly Father,  
we pray for our  
Canadian home missions,  
from sea to sea to sea.*

*Take into Your care,  
through our prayer,  
our brothers and sisters in faith.  
We ask protection  
and strength in faith, hope and love.*

*Grant zeal with compassion  
to the missionaries  
who share the Gospel.  
Let your face shine upon them.*

*Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God forever and ever.*

*Amen*



### Thursday 7: Our Lady of the Rosary

**The Story of Our Lady of the Rosary:** Saint Pius V established this feast in 1573. The purpose was to thank God for the victory of Christians over the Turks at Lepanto—a victory attributed to the praying of the rosary. Clement XI extended the feast to the universal Church in 1716.

The development of the rosary has a long history. First a practice developed of praying 150 Our Fathers in imitation of the 150 Psalms. Then there was a parallel practice of praying 150 Hail Marys. Soon a mystery of Jesus' life was attached to each Hail Mary. Though Mary's giving of the rosary to Saint Dominic is recognized as a legend, the development of this prayer form owes much to the followers of Saint Dominic. One of them, Alan de la Roche, was known as "the apostle of the rosary." He founded the first Confraternity of the Rosary in the 15th century. In the 16th century, the rosary was developed to its present form—with the 15 mysteries: joyful, sorrowful and glorious. In 2002, Pope John Paul II added the five Mysteries of Light to this devotion.

### Saturday 9-Monday 11 : Thanksgiving Weekend

*Father in Heaven, Creator of all and source of all goodness and love,  
please look kindly upon us and receive our heartfelt gratitude in this time of giving  
thanks.*

*Thank you for all the graces and blessings. You have bestowed upon us, spiritual and  
temporal; our faith and religious heritage. Our food and shelter, our health, the loves we  
have for one another, our family and friends.*

*Dear Father, in Your infinite generosity, please grant us continued graces and blessings  
throughout the coming year.*

*This we ask in the name of Jesus, Your Son and our Brother. Amen.*



### Sunday 24: World Mission Sunday

Pope Francis' message for World Mission Sunday this year reflects on the theme: "We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). He reminds us that, "as Christians, we cannot keep the Lord to ourselves," as we "recall with gratitude all those men and women who by their testimony of life help us to renew our baptismal commitment to be generous and joyful apostles of the Gospel." On World Mission Sunday, we join our Holy Father in supporting his missions. As we pray and respond here at home, we share in those celebrations taking place in every parish and school throughout the world. Together, through our prayers and financial support, we bring the Lord's mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities in the Pope's missions.

Dear sisters, I look forward to our time together in sharing our faith. Please consider bringing your requests to our upcoming Diocesan General meeting on Saturday, October 23.

### **INFLUENCE**

*Drop a pebble in the water,  
And its ripples reach out far;  
And the sunbeams dancing on them  
May reflect them to a star.*

*Give a smile to someone passing,  
Thereby making his morning glad;  
It may greet you in the evening  
When your own heart may be sad.*

*Do a deed of simple kindness;  
Though it end you may not see,  
It may reach, like widening ripples,  
Down a long eternity.  
By Joseph Norris*



*Lynda Macpherson*

## **Education and Health: Pamela Bryson-Weaver**

The below directive was sent our from the National Education and Health Chair, Margaret Schwab.



In keeping with the national theme *Care for Our Common Home*, the League is invited to participate in the Earth Action Initiative sponsored by the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO).

**Call to Action:** "In the face of the plastic and toxic waste crisis that is devastating oceans, lakes and rivers, people [worldwide] are called upon to eliminate any further damage to the Earth's water resources and to clean up the damage already sustained." (WUCWO)

Please ask your diocesan counterparts to encourage members to choose any day in September to actively participate in an environmental clean-up project within their community. Some suggested projects include:

Organize a plastic and waste clean-up event along waterways, roadways and public spaces.

Organize a public event to educate attendees about the plastic waste crisis.

Advocate for better landfill practices, particularly where waste could enter a water system.

Advocate for eliminating single-use plastics, and re-using and recycling disposable plastics.

Change personal habits by:

- 1) reducing the use of plastic products.
- 2) re-using plastic containers as often as possible
- 3) recycling plastics that can no longer be used
- 4) ensure plastics are not contaminated (i.e. food waste) before recycling

Review the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform initiated by the Holy Father and pledge a commitment to developing a *Laudato Si'* Action Plan by registering at [www.laudatosiactionplatform.org/pledge-your-commitment](http://www.laudatosiactionplatform.org/pledge-your-commitment)

"This is to continue to recognize our collective responsibility, as part of humanity, to care for the planet that God created and placed in our care and take steps to reduce and reverse the damage already sustained." (WUCWO)

All schools, service clubs, and Church organizations are asked to choose a day also in September to speak with the students, teachers and members, and possibly organize similar activities as above.

It should also be noted that all life is interconnected. In a similar way, all pollution is interconnected in that the majority of pollutants entering our water systems come from activities on land. Human activities along the coastlines and far inland affect the health of our oceans (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – USA). As a result:

- Over 14 billion pounds of trash end up in oceans every year (Seastewards)
- 70% of industrial waste is dumped into water (National Geographic)
- 2 million tons of sewage, industrial & agricultural waste, are discharged into the world's water every day (UN WWAP)

Every year, more people die from unsafe water than from all forms of violence, including war (UN - Water for life decade)



*Margaret Schwab*  
*National Chairperson of Education and Health*

### **2022 Leadership Program: Call for Participants**

We are pleased to announce that we are accepting applications for the 2022 cohort of our Leadership Program, scheduled to begin in May 2022 at the Providence School of Transformative Leadership and Spirituality, Saint Paul University, Ottawa. The program is open to all Canadian Catholic women, from all walks of life, who have a genuine interest in making a difference in their communities and places of work.

A candidate must be a Catholic woman, at least 21 years of age, demonstrate oral and written English language competencies, have a genuine desire to cultivate her gifts of leadership, and have made a previous contribution to her community in some capacity.

The Program is a 11-month Certificate program with an ongoing mentorship once the course work is completed. Throughout the Program, participants will be guided by professional facilitators from Saint Paul University. The Program is specifically designed to integrate faith and life, personal and professional leadership development. Spirituality and a Catholic faith perspective are the foundation of all activities; prayer and reflective practice are core elements integrated throughout the program.

At present, the plan for the 2022 Program, will have an introductory get-to-know-you online module in April 2022; and a five-day intensive component in May /June 2022. This is scheduled to be through ZOOM, and you will be expected to be present. All other modules are online and consist of videos, readings, personal reflections, and discussion forums.

The final face-to-face residency component is scheduled for May/June 2023 in Ottawa. To assist with your planning, an announcement will be made in January 2023, about whether this will be online or in person.

***Application deadline is November 20, 2021.***

### **4<sup>th</sup> Moria Ste. Marie Memorial Lecture**

The below lecture series may be of interest to you. Please pass it around to other our members as many are interested in our school board issues. Previous years have demonstrated a very interesting and enlightening set of lectures. If you feel you require some more information on the lecture, go on to the Toronto Diocese website, you will find the link on the poster. Broadening our minds is always a worthwhile experience. For those who take part, it would be interesting to hear from you and we could pass on your experiences to others. There is surely going to be a 5<sup>th</sup> Lecture.



**4<sup>th</sup> Moira Ste. Marie Memorial Lecture**  
 Hosted by: **The Catholic Women's League of Canada**  
 Toronto Diocesan Council

**Catholic Education "Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together"**  
**A Lecture Series**  
**In Honour of the late Moira Ste. Marie**



**DATE:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021  
**LOCATION:** Virtual via Zoom call  
**TIME:** 7:00 pm - 9:00pm  
**Registration:** via Toronto Diocese website  
**click link:** <https://www.cwtoronto.ca/>

**HEAR OUR DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS:**

<b>BARRY WHITE</b> Founding member of the Catholic Teachers Guild of Toronto. Interim Director of St. Michael's Choir School	<b>ANNE O'BRIEN</b> Director of Catholic Education Ontario Catholic School Board Trustees' Association	<b>PATRICK J. DALY</b> President of Canadian Association of Trustees and President of Ontario Catholic Trustees
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- ◆ In the face of the ongoing reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, how do we rebuild, restore, and renew our Catholic schools to meet the academic, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of our students and teachers?
- ◆ Post-pandemic, as families connect and re-engage with their Catholic schools, their communities, and their parishes, how can we continue to rebuild, restore, and renew the essential relationships?
- ◆ A look at the ever-present danger to the Catholic system from the political viewpoint.
- ◆ In recognition of the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Year of Laudato Si', what next steps must we take to continue to rebuild, restore and renew Our Common Home.

Remember, Education and Health, are essentials in life. The more knowledge we have, the better health we demonstrate.



*Pamela Bryson-Weaver*

## Recording Secretary: Lynne Donnelly



As I begin my new role as your Recording Secretary I would like to first, express my gratitude for all the thoughts and prayers extended to my husband Barry and our family during this difficult time. It means so much to us and helps on this road we are taking!

Recording your council minutes is very important for many reasons. Of course, you wish them for referral back to, however more importantly, you are able to refer to them if a dispute arises on a previous motion, for example. At the Diocese level a separate book is kept for motions. I am unsure if many councils practice this, however you may consider it in future. Perhaps a small thin book that could be inserted with our meeting minutes, for quick referral.



Storing your minutes in a safe area is sometimes a difficult task. Whether your minutes are kept in writing/typing or they are digital, finding a secure area poses consideration. As with many councils, this storing is usually in the home of the secretary, while they are in the position. Remember, that as the years go by they are required to be kept, and of course for your archives. Speak to your Spiritual Advisor to see if a space can be found within the church properties.

Shortly, we all will be receiving our documents to complete the year end reports. Take the time to review the document and complete it for your council. You will then forward the document to me and I will compile the Diocese submission for the National office.

I, along with yourselves, look forward to getting back into the regular CWL life we remember and appreciate. Here's to this happening very soon. Best regards for a successful year.



*Lynne Donnelly*

## **Treasurer: Ferrol O'Reilly**

Welcome Back Ladies! I hope this message finds you well. I realize there are still a few hiccups as to what we can and cannot do, but things are getting better.

At the Diocesan Council level, your new executive officers have been elected and committee chairs set in place. Congratulations to all new officers and returning members.

As your Diocesan Treasurer, my work has begun, and as your treasurer I would like to remind all of the Council Treasurers of a few items that need taking care, of as soon as possible, after you take office.

1. If it is necessary, possible change of executive, make an appointment with the bank to change your signing officers for your cheques to include the president, treasurer, and one other executive officer. Each cheque must have two signatures.
2. If you are fortunate enough to have sufficient funds to invest, update your banking information.
3. Order cheques and deposit slips, if necessary.
4. In November, you will be asked to do an Annual Report, online, for the National office. The information regarding this report will be sent to your president. Your president will also receive, from me, a request for an annual report of your donations for the year. My advice is to mark the due date on your calendar. Be sure to consult with your president so the deadlines are met. I know that with things being difficult this past year to raise funds, things may not be as they used to be, but all information is important. For all treasurers I will include a list of items that can be included in each area when this report goes out.



Remember, it's a new year, a new month, a new week, and a new day, so do everything you can to enjoy it.

God Bless you all for the work that you have done, are doing, and will continue to do!



*Ferrol O'Reilly*

## Past President/Historian: Paddy Fitzgerald-Nolan

**1 Chronicles 28:20**

***"Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished.***

As I now move into my last position of the Peterborough Diocesan C.W.L. as your Past President, know that I am still here for you.

The Past President's role is to be there for the new president when called upon and for guidance when asked. The reason I say this, is it's our new President, Helena that will shine and bring forth new ideas under new leadership. All presidents are like snowflakes, there are never two of a kind. Only when this happens do we move in a more positive way and we grow as a council.

At the present time, we have 29 councils. I would love to have on record, in our history books, how your council survived the COVID years? What unique ways did you fundraise and supported your sisters in the league, our priests and our families? This is important to record so our sisters 50 years from now can read how we did it. Please send a report to [ppdpocwl@gmail.com](mailto:ppdpocwl@gmail.com) for our history books, explain the positive and negative of COVID and how the "sisters" of our C.W.L. became stronger.

At any time over the next two years when you have events, email me pictures, write ups for our history files.

Over the last four to five years Past President and Life Member Joanne Hough worked extremely hard in organizing our history. Thanks to Joanne as we are in great shape in our diocese for her hours of dedication and time. Our history is important at every level of our C.W.L.

When we have our Fall Meeting, please bring bulletins, newsletters, and pictures you would love to share from your council to be added to our Diocesan History Book.

Blessings for a beautiful harvest fall.



*Paddy Fitzgerald-Nolan*

## Membership and Mentorship: Madeline Pearson

It is disheartening to watch membership in the Catholic Women's League decreasing. In our own diocese, in the ten years from 2011 to 2021, membership has decreased by almost five hundred. It is time we put more effort into recruiting new members and renewing lapsed memberships.

The National Executive has launched a new initiative called the "Welcome Programme". Our Diocesan Executive plans to implement this programme beginning this fall and it is our hope, and our prayer, that every council will participate.

Diocesan Council is also renewing the mentoring program and each Parish Council will be appointed a Diocesan Officer as its mentor, whom they can call with any problem or question they have. You are always, of course, quite welcome to call any Diocesan member if you have a question specific to her committee.

Also, a program of registering new members and registering current members, will be spoken of during the Fall Meeting. Your Mentor will be reviewing this with each council.

As the Membership & Mentorship Liaison, I am also always available to help to the best of my ability. I am proud to say I have 68 years experience with the CWL, have been the Diocesan President twice, and I am a Life Member.

Mentoring and Membership go hand and hand. Here are some quotes to help you get inspired to begin a new season.

*"Our chief want in life is somebody who will make us do what we can." — Ralph Waldo Emerson*

*"My job is not to be easy on people. My job is to take these great people we have and to push them and make them even better." — Steve Jobs*

*"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." — Winston Churchill*

*"The delicate balance of mentoring someone is not creating them in your own image, but giving them the opportunity to create themselves." — Steven Spielberg*

*"The mind is not a vessel that needs filling, but wood that needs igniting." — Plutarch*

*"We're here for a reason. I believe a bit of the reason is to throw little torches out to lead people through the dark." — Whoopi Goldberg*



"A mentor is someone who sees more talent and ability within you, than you see in yourself, and helps bring it out of you." — *Bob Proctor*

I think the greatest thing we give each other is encouragement...knowing that I'm talking to someone in this mentoring relationship who's interested in the big idea here is very, very important to me. I think if it were just about helping me get to the next step, it would be a heck of a lot less interesting." — *Anne Sweeney*

"Advice is like snow; the softer it falls, the longer it dwells upon, and the deeper it sinks into the mind." — *Samuel Taylor Coleridge*

"Learning is finding out that you already know. Doing is demonstrating that you know it. Teaching is reminding others that they know just as well as you. You are all learners, doers, and teachers." — *Richard Bach*

"If you cannot see where you are going, ask someone who has been there before." — *J Loren Norris*

"Mentoring is a brain to pick, an ear to listen, and a push in the right direction." — *John Crosby*

"A mentor is someone who sees more talent and ability within you, than you see in yourself, and helps bring it out of you." — *Bob Proctor*

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." — *Maya Angelou*

Wishing you many blessed and fruitful years in the Catholic Women's League.



*Madeline Pearson*

## **Communications: Wendy Tedford**

The root of all good communication is the willingness to share and/or pass along.

Our Gmail accounts were created a number of years ago in order to ease communication with our CWL business. During the last few weeks many hours have been spent overhauling the addresses to better serve the parish councils and officers. It is so important that we have a two way street with these emails, given the geographical area of the Peterborough Diocese. We ask that you follow the below in their regard.

1. Please do not make any changes to the settings on the accounts, including changing of the password.



2. If you have any difficulties with the account please contact myself, if you are a parish council, or Helena, if you are an officer
3. Please designate someone to check the account at least once a week
4. The account is meant for CWL business only.
5. If you would like to have the account linked to your personal inbox, please request this, and we would be please to make it happen. That way you will only have to check one email address.

Please find below a copy of Betty Colaneri's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> (received as one)communique as National Communication Chairperson

*"Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear." (Ephesians 4:29)*

Sisters in the League, I am truly honoured and thrilled to be elected as National First Vice-President and Chairperson of Communications! Doreen Gowans, the League's previous chairperson, did an amazing job, and I certainly have big shoes to fill.

The term "tech-savvy" was never something I had considered myself to be. When I told my sons about my new position, they had a good chuckle about it! As it was with my previous standing committee position, this will be an excellent opportunity for me to learn the process. Technology as a form of communication can be daunting for some. I believe there is nothing better than face-to-face communication. However, look how essential it was to have technology available to stay connected during the pandemic. No doubt we have all become experts in virtual meetings!

The fall issue of The Canadian League will be online only. Due to rising printing and mailing costs, the decision was made to have this done on a trial basis. A survey asking members for their opinion will be distributed in the fall parish mailing. Kindly inform your diocesan counterparts to watch for it and encourage members to respond. An important part of communication is to make sure we are all on the same page. Please send anything that you would like posted on the League's social media accounts to national office and me. This is to clarify and verify. National Chairperson: Betty Colaneri National Office: C-702 Scotland Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3M 1X5 Telephone: (204) 927-2310 | E-mail: [info@cwl.ca](mailto:info@cwl.ca). I look forward to working with you as we take this awesome adventure together!

Should you have any questions, concerns or want to chat, please do not hesitate to contact me. Let us be the ambassadors of good communication and keep our lines open!

Betty Colaneri National Chairperson of Communication

AND

Sisters in the League,

Hot off the Press!



The Catholic Register has produced a special 36-page commemorative magazine about The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Regular subscribers to The Catholic Register will receive one copy of the magazine with their subscription included with the issue dated September 5th. For non-subscribers, the commemorative magazine is available through a link created especially for members at [catholicregister.org/cwlmembers](http://catholicregister.org/cwlmembers). In addition, The Catholic Register has generously given members a special price of \$5.00, including taxes, shipping and handling costs.

Members can order by the following methods:

- Online ([catholicregister.org/cwlmembers](http://catholicregister.org/cwlmembers))
- Telephone: (416) 934-3410, extension 404 or (855) 441-4077. When placing their call, members must mention they are a CWL member and quote the coupon code CWL2021 to receive the special pricing.
- E-mail: Download an order form available from [catholicregister.org/cwlmembers](http://catholicregister.org/cwlmembers) and email the completed form to [cwl@catholicregister.org](mailto:cwl@catholicregister.org).
- Mail: Send a completed order form to: The Catholic Register 1155 Yonge Street, Suite 401 Toronto, ON M4T 1W2 Kindly forward the information and spread the word!

I look forward to receiving your comments regarding this commemorative magazine.

Betty Colaneri National First Vice-President and Chairperson of Communication



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1-18-23.mp4

Double click on the box



*Wendy Tedford*

## Community Life: Lois Crider

Proverbs 16: Verse 24

***Pleasant words are a honeycomb, Sweet to the soul, Healing to the bones***

My name is Lois (Carew) Crider. I live in Cobourg and belong to Our Lady of Mercy CWL in Port Hope. I was raised in the United Church, and taught both Sunday school and an after school program called "Messenger" for both boys and girls. In the fall of 1984 a notice in our local area read: "Anyone interested in the Catholic faith or wishes to renew their faith come out to church." For six months I attended and in March 1985 I became a Catholic and a member of the CWL. There were people who thought I had made a big mistake BUT this was the best mistake I ever made. My faith has grown in leaps and bounds and the friendships I have made over the years are so precious to me.

I am thrilled to be back as an Officer of the Peterborough Diocese. As a Life Member, it is one of my requirements to assist my fellow sisters wherever possible. I look forward to this new challenge of your Community Life Chair. As we work together in the area of immigration/citizenship, social & economic justice, dignity and rights of everyone, and



developing countries, please feel free to contact me with your questions, comments and suggestions. In my understanding, that at the National AMM, a motion was passed to development Palliative Care Kits for parishes. Once I have more information on this I will pass it along.

The following has been forwarded from the National Community Life Chairperson, Faith Anderson:

"... the time dedicated to staying with God revives faith, which helps us in the practicalities of living, and faith, in turn, nurtures prayer, without interruption. In this circularity between faith, life, and prayer, one keeps alight that flame of Christian life that God expects of us" (Pope Francis).

Once again, you are called on to send this timely request to diocesan counterparts and for them, in turn, to forward to parish councils, to set aside September 21st to pray for Christians in the Holy Land. As Catholics, members know the power of prayer and are called upon to pray with humility for all Christians in the Holy Land. This quote speaks to the power of prayer, "Prayer then is nothing more and nothing less than placing ourselves face to face with God. It offers us nothing more and nothing less than God himself. He does indeed listen. He does indeed act. He does indeed transform you. He does indeed conquer this world" (Garrett Johnson). National council adopted this day of prayer at the 2019 national convention, with September 21st chosen as it is also the International Day of Peace. All are encouraged to access Catholic Near East Welfare Association's (CNEWA) website ([cnewa.org/ca/](http://cnewa.org/ca/)) to learn about its work in the Middle East, Northeast Africa, India and Eastern Europe, "... in places where poverty, war and displacement shatter innocent lives."

With some COVID-19 pandemic restrictions lifted and attendance in church occurring, it may be possible to celebrate this day of prayer as a council activity, perhaps to start the renewal of meetings in the fall. However, keep in mind when meeting in person to follow the health restrictions in each province/territory. Please ask your diocesan counterparts to share the following suggestions for activities with parish councils:

- Contact the parish priest to ask if this prayer could be recited at a weekday mass and provide information on the day of prayer.
- Recite this prayer at a monthly meeting and arrange for a leader to guide the prayer.
- If gathering in person, as a larger group is not possible, one member could offer her home to meet and invite one or two members to join her in prayer.
- Members can pray in their homes as collective and individual prayer is always a gift to God.
  - Begin the day of prayer by lighting a candle and praising God through the song, "Peace is Flowing like a River." CNEWA offers peace lamps to purchase at ([cnewa.org/ca/peacelamps/](http://cnewa.org/ca/peacelamps/)), with proceeds helping in the efforts in the Holy Land.
  - Proceed with saying the Prayer for Peace in the Holy Land (a copy is attached). Meditate after each statement. If possible, take turns reading.
  - After the prayer is complete, do a scripture reading from the Word of God. A discussion of the reading could follow. Some suggestions:
    - "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).
    - "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).



- "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:6-7).
- "Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved" (Psalm 55:22).
- "Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).
- "I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!" (John 16:33)
- End the service by praising God for the good things He has given. Members are fortunate to live in a free country such as Canada, and although the pandemic has created challenging times, they recognize there are people in the world suffering more. Praise be to God! These are only suggestions for members to celebrate in prayer for Christian sisters and brothers in the Holy Land and Middle East. Members have been known for being prayerful and finding creative ways to participate spiritually. More information can be found at [cnewa.org/ca/prayerday-for-peace/](http://cnewa.org/ca/prayerday-for-peace/). Please share any initiatives taken to recognize this day of prayer—my e-mail can be found in the footer of this communique. The federal election in Canada is Monday, September 20th . Please ask your diocesan counterparts to urge members to exercise their right to vote. It is an opportunity to vote for Christian values and beliefs. Perhaps rides could be offered to those members who require transportation in order to cast a vote. Remember, the people of Canada elect those who will run the country following the election. Each vote and voice count! I encourage you to forward me your communiqués. Each communique is read with great interest on messages distributed to diocesan and ultimately to parish councils.

After the above directive as sent out I received a message about September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Federal Government has legislated September 30<sup>th</sup> a federal holiday called "National Day for Truth and Reconciliation" commencing this year. Although Ontario is not taking part as an official Stat Holiday the CWL wishes September 30<sup>th</sup> to be an unofficial orange shirt day.

I ask that each council send me a note or photo as to how you observed this day.  
Thank you and Blessings to you ALL!



*Lois Crider*

## **President Elect/Organization: Maria Fitzgerald**

***Let all that you do, be done in Love*** 1 Corinthians 16:14

That COVID – 19 pandemic brought with it many life changing experiences for everyone in the world, is no understatement. All organizations, including the CWL, witnessed a change in all activities. However, while meetings, conventions, celebrations, fundraisers and regular activities were cancelled, it was very impressive to read in your annual reports how, despite this setback, you discovered ways i.e. virtual meetings, to be ever present to your community, living up to our mission to "witness....through ministry and



service". (Mission statement). As we embark upon a new beginning, I will outline the mandates ahead for this year.

Recently I forwarded a blank Council Executive sheet, to be completed by each council, and returned to me by Sept. 10. Although there will be some changes during the year, please complete according to your executive composition as of August 2021, including your Spiritual Advisor information. If you are uncomfortable completing the chart, just send the information and I will chart it for you. Please notify me of election results immediately after the election to enable me to promptly report the results to National Office.

As membership continues to decline, emphasis will continue to focus on the acquisition of new members with reference to the Welcome Program, which will be spearheaded by Membership/Mentorship Liaison Madeline Pearson. During the COVID pause, several councils seized the opportunity to update/develop the New Members Kit.

The deadline for annual reports is still December. It is a general consensus that it is easier to complete these as a group as opposed to individually. Might this be an agenda item for the Dec. meeting?

As some councils are preparing to honour their members with awards, please remember to forward these awards and the names of the recipients to me.

More information re organization items will be shared at the Fall meeting. In the meantime, do not hesitate to contact me at [orgpocwl@gmail.com](mailto:orgpocwl@gmail.com) re questions you may have. I look forward to working with each of you this year.

May Our lady of Good Counsel surround you with her mantle of love in all you do.

Blessings and keep well,



*Maria Fitzgerald*

## **Resolutions/Legislation: Glenda Klein**

Congratulations to newly-elected National Resolutions Chair Rolande Chernichan.

\* Rolande reports that several resolutions were archived at the annual meeting of members in August. A comprehensive list of CWL archived resolutions may be found at: [cwl.ca/archived/](http://cwl.ca/archived/) or [Archived Resolutions - The Catholic Women's League of Canada \(cwl.ca\)](http://Archived Resolutions - The Catholic Women's League of Canada (cwl.ca))

While many resolutions still seem relevant, the world keeps changing; so, topics of archived resolutions may be reintroduced in the form of a new resolution, supported by new information and with current, reliably sourced citations that would support the new intent.



\* There is an excellent new resource created by the Catholic Social Teaching Working Group of The Catholic Women's League of Canada Plans Strategically called

Calendar of Social Justice/Catholic Social Teaching in the Church.

It (Item 622) may be viewed at: <https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/622-CWL-Calendar-of-Social-Justice-Events-module.pdf>

Based on this document, choose your own, or may I suggest the following:

**September** – The last Sunday is World Day of Migrants and Refugees, as authorized by the Church. Visit: [migrants-refugees.va/world-day-of-migrants-refugees/](http://migrants-refugees.va/world-day-of-migrants-refugees/), then write a letter to your MP and the PM about Resolution [2016.01](#) Equal Access to Permanent Resident Status, an Amendment to the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*.

**October** – October 10<sup>th</sup> was designated as World Mental Health Day by the World Health Organization. Visit: [who.int/campaigns/world-mental-health-day](http://who.int/campaigns/world-mental-health-day) and write a letter to your MP and PM about Resolution [2015.01](#) – Increased Early Access and Intervention to Children and Youth Mental Health Services.

**November** – November 17<sup>th</sup> is World Day of the Poor designated by the Church. Promote the study of Resolution 2000.03 [Promotion of Fair Trade Coffee](#). Buy some Fair Trade coffee or chocolate -- you gotta have some fun.

**December** – December 12<sup>th</sup> is the National Day of Solidarity with Indigenous People, designated by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. Take action on Resolution 2013.01 [Building Relationships and Partnerships with Canada's Indigenous Peoples](#): and 2017.01 Full Implementation of the Supreme Court Decision in R. v. Gladue for Indigenous Offenders. With your spiritual development chair, plan an hour of prayer to honour Our Lady of Guadalupe, the (Indigenous) patron saint of the Americas, on her feast day.

**January** – The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has designated January 22<sup>nd</sup> as the World Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. The Catholic Women's League of Canada is a pro life organization. Write a letter of support and commendation to another local pro life organization. Donate a package of diapers to a pregnancy crisis centre near you. (Better yet, collect them from your members too.)

**February** – The Vatican has declared February 11<sup>th</sup> as the World Day of the Sick. For ideas, visit: [vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick.index.html#messages](http://vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick.index.html#messages) and / or send a letter re Resolution [2018.03](#) Legislate Designation of Hospice/Palliative Care Services in Facilities to Exclude Medical Assistance in Dying. Phone, pray for and send a get well card to a sick friend.

***If you are working on a new resolution, please contact me before December 15<sup>th</sup>.***

#### **LEGISLATION**

Congratulations to newly-elected National Legislation Chair Glenda Carson. In her first communique, she mentioned that Betty Colaneri, in her past role of national legislation chair, had prepared an absolutely amazing workshop for all members, but especially for legislation chairs. As diocesan resolution and legislation chair, I would be happy to work with you and your council to ensure that all members have access to this information.

View her letter: <https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/828a-Introductory-Letter.pdf>



Here are just a couple of the pages of the PowerPoint presentation:  
As a member of the League, your mission, should you choose to accept it...

**Read,  
Research,  
React!**

All it takes is the power of one to get things rolling!  
Yes,  
Special Agent T.A.G. ...  
You're it!!

**Resources:**

- Bill Status - Parliament of Canada website: parl.ca
- Hansard - House of Commons: ourcommons.ca
- Government of Canada: canada.ca
- Department of Justice: justice.gc.ca
- The Catholic Women's League of Canada website: cwl.ca – Personal Letter Writing Guide

**Survey:** I urge you to complete this survey which was created by the Government Collaboration working group of The Catholic Women's League of Canada Plans Strategically before October 15<sup>th</sup>. Parish councils are invited to tell of their activities with various levels of government as they advocate for the poor and collaborate with governments.

Survey link: <https://form.jotform.com/212364948437060>

**Federal Elections:**

Elections have consequences. – Thank you for learning the issues and voting responsibly.  
If you didn't vote - you have given up your voice (at this time).  
It's your money. – Good leadership promotes responsible spending. Be aware!  
Looking for change? – Use your vote to speak. Contact your MP before and after an election.



Your friends and community are counting on you. – Just vote!

*Glenda Klein*

**Life Member Liaison: Anne McKinnon**

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthen me: (Philippians 4:13)*

It is an honor to be asked to be the liaison for the diocese with the Life Members.

We are ten in number; all having held a seat on the diocesan executive in previous years. The role of the Life Member Liaison is to keep the life members informed about the comings and goings of their peers at all levels of the League.



Madeline Pearson, celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in August and four members of the executive surprised her at her home with lunch, a cake and a congratulatory certificate. We completed the afternoon with a business meeting. She had a busy week with her celebrations with the family and friends.



Erica Perk, who has been in failing health, is moving out of the diocese to a residence in Orangeville to be nearer to family. We will miss her, but will keep in touch with phone calls and cards.

Lois Crider and Madeline Pearson are life members who are acting as presidents in their councils, Port Hope and Kinmount respectively. They also hold positions as Diocesan Officers. Good going ladies!

Joanne Hough sits on the Provincial council as Recording Secretary, so you see we are keeping involved in the League.

Great excitement for Joan Gaensbauer and husband, Herb, who became great grandparents for the first time a few months ago!

Elizabeth Condon, whom I spoke to recently is doing well; as is Willy Wicha, who is enjoying her garden: leaving Glenda, Wendy and myself who each hold a position on the Diocesan executive. Just before press time, I was extremely happy to announce that I became a great grandmother for the first time to Raymond Joseph, born Sept. 11. Weighing a hefty 7.6oz

It has been a hard year and a half being isolated from our sisters in the League and we can only hope and pray that we shall soon be able to meet up and get acquainted again.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us!



*Anne McKinnon*



## CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE

The below is a message from the National Chair of Christian Family Life, Dorothy Johansen

My dear sisters in the League,

The one extra year before being elected to the national executive/board was a godsend. It gave me time to seriously prepare for the work and time commitment expected of a national chairperson by allowing me to reduce or modify my work commitments and other volunteer activities.

I have lived in Alberta my entire life and in Edmonton for more than 35 years. I am married to Michael and have one daughter. I am currently a member of St. Thomas More Parish Council (Edmonton) and volunteer at church as an adult server. I recently retired from engineering and now own and work in a store that caters to quilters and needleworkers.

I joined the League in 1985 when I was expecting my daughter and had moved into a new parish. The warmth and support I received are what makes the League different from other organizations. Over the years, I have met incredible women who I consider my sisters, and I hope I have extended that feeling to new members. The League also gave me opportunities to grow in faith and service and learn about many issues facing people, both home and abroad.

As National Chairperson of Christian family life, I will focus on providing information that you may find helpful. I would also like to hear about resources or information you have encountered in your province.

**Marriage and Family**  
The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has established a standing committee for family and life. Two of the purposes of this committee are to assist the CCCB in responding to the pastoral needs of married couples and families and helping it affirm and strengthen the domestic church in every household and proclaim the Christian teachings on marriage and the family.

Resources are available to assist you in preparing or participating in events during the National Week for Life and Family, which coincides with the United Nations' International Day of Families on May 15th each year.

**Sanctity of Life**  
The other purposes of the family and life committee are to assist the CCCB in responding to new questions raised by contemporary ethical debates, such as medical assistance in dying and promoting the dignity and sacredness of human life at all stages of life, from conception to natural death. The CCCB website ([cccb.ca](http://cccb.ca)) has many resources that identify government legislation on life issues and responses from the church.



Campaign Life Coalition organizes the National March for Life, to be held on May 12, 2022. Provincial councils may also wish to support local March for Life activities.

National council affirmed its support for Euthanasia Prevention Coalition through a motion to continue the temporary national voluntary fund until August 31, 2022. Please ask your diocesan counterparts to consider informing members about this fund and direct them to the resources available to enhance their knowledge about preventing euthanasia at [epcc.ca/](http://epcc.ca/).

**Ministry to Youth, Disabled, Seniors, Widowed, Separated, Divorced**  
World Youth Day is an international gathering of young people with the pope in August 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal. Please forward this information to your diocesan counterparts to encourage parish councils to support the youth in their parish to attend this gathering.

National Seniors Day on October 1st is an occasion when members can join in celebrating older adults. Please share this information with your counterparts so they, in turn, may encourage parish councils to acknowledge seniors and the contributions they have made to society. Let seniors know how much they are appreciated.

An *Annulments Today, Merciful and Just* brochure is written in plain language and is available from the national website ([cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca)).

#### **Vocations**

Please remind your diocesan counterparts to encourage parish councils to contact their diocesan office to determine if there are any special requests to support vocations.

I look forward to meeting each of you in person in the future. If you would like me to know or share information across the country, please reach out. If I can help you in any way, please contact me.

Dorothy Johansen, National Chairperson

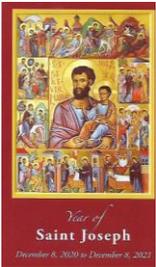
## **The Year of St. Joseph**

With the Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde* (With a Father's Heart), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. Pope Francis has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph." It started on December 8, 2020 and continues through to December 8, 2021 - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 2020 -2021.

Within the Peterborough Diocese we have 4 parishes who celebrated their parish name sake with Bishop Miehm celebrating mass and other activities. These parishes were in Douro, Powassan, Bracebridge and Bowmanville. At each mass the Bishop reminded everyone of the fact that St. Joseph is the patron saint of Canada also. He also spoke of the obedience of St. Joseph, and his faith, during difficult tasks he was requested to do. Even though he was not always sure of why or how he was going to accomplish them, St. Joseph pushed forward to fulfil his duties. We all know those times were not easy by any



means. These actions follow us today with our obedience, through our faith, assisting us to move forward. We also face obstacles, of other forms, especially during current revelations. Below is a short synopsis of their day.



*Prayer to St. Joseph - Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. AMEN.*

St. Joseph Douro – 21<sup>st</sup> August – A busy day for the opening of the Year of St. Joseph Pilgrimage. It began with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Morning Prayer; Confessions for community members; Chaplet of St. Joseph; Mass with Bishop Miehm; Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; Spiritual Reflections; Litany of St. Joseph; and Benediction. Bishop Miehm was assisted on the altar by Deacon Paul Dunford. Father Bill Moloney spoke of the variety of vocations of St. Joseph, including his role of foster father of Jesus. Father Randy Foster thanked everyone for their participation during the day, including the visiting priests, Fr. Sany Sesaiah, Fr. Peter Seabrooke, Fr. Peter Wayo, Fr. John Perdue, Fr. Issac, Fr. Dominic Mbah, Fr. Joshy George, Fr. Bill Moloney, and of course Bishop Miehm. Father Randy gifted the Bishop with a new vestment and stole with a St. Joseph embroidered insignia.



St. Joseph Powassan – 29<sup>th</sup> August – Due to church renovations, celebrations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> stop of the Year of St. Joseph Pilgrimage, took place at 250 Clark. This a community centre, created from a closed school, therefore the old gym created an ideal setting for Holy Mass. Bishop Miehm's enlightening homily of the aspects of St. Joseph's life was pleasing to the ears of those gathered. He also made comment that St. Joseph, besides being our year of celebration, is the patron saint of Canada. Father Eric Mason thanked Bishop Miehm for celebrating Holy Mass with the people of Powassan along with Deacon Brian Mason. A potluck took place outside, on the church lawn, after Mass.



St. Joseph Bracebridge- 4<sup>th</sup> of September – The 3<sup>rd</sup> stop on the Year of St. Joseph Pilgrimage took place in cottage country. An informative banner greeted us as we entered the church. Bishop Miehm received his second gift, a mask with a fatherly St. Joseph insignia on the side. The church was near full, COVID -19 protocols in place, as Bishop celebrated Mass with Father Roy Vallis assisting. Visiting priest, Father Jim Saginario, complemented the altar setting. The parish and visiting members listened attentively absorbed in the Bishop's homily. A friendly gathering, and catch up, took place outside the parish doors after mass.



St. Joseph Bowmanville – 11<sup>th</sup> of September – The 4<sup>th</sup> and final stop on the Year of St. Joseph pilgrimage took to the west in the diocese. The activities of the day took place outside, which one participated was heard to day. "this is like what Jesus experienced, with preaching outside to those sitting around or standing." Besides the barbecue and games for all to enjoy, 4 young people were confirmed by Bishop Miehm. Confessions were also heard by Father Issac and Father Paul. The Bishop was assisted by Deacon Larry during mass. Father Craig Cruikshank thanked Bishop Miehm and all those who travelled to attend. Special thanks went out to all those who assisted with the many preparations and the take down.





## The Parish Corner

*Sharing parish events and successes is a wonderful opportunity to grow your council. Take this time to try some things others do. Don't be afraid to say, "This did not work for us because..." Thank you to all the parishes submitting. Please remember to keep in mind we love to hear about our surrounding parishes. If you missed this edition we will do another soon. If it is easier for you to remember, send in a notice each time you do something and I will earmark it for next time.*

**St. John and Missions, Kirkfield**, celebrated The feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel with Mass and a prayer service on April 26, 2021. We had a novena and prayer service to honour the Year of St. Joseph in July. I am planning a retreat in September. We will use the Papal Encyclical "Amoris Laetitia for discussion of the family. I will also ask ladies to complete the returning members form to highlight their interests and areas in which they would like to be more involved. We will enjoy a Potluck lunch together. All of these activities take place in our Pastoral Centre (the former St. John's Catholic Elementary School).. We will also choose new Secret Prayer Partners for 2021-22. We have had this activity for many years.

I have no definite plans for further meetings at the moment. I think it is important to celebrate 'us' with Fun Faith and Fellowship for the next few months. All the best.

**Regards Katie Probst, President**

### **St. Alphonsus Liguori Council Peterborough - Since our last report early in 2021:**

We have been maintaining contact with our members with Jackie sending out periodic email messages and Marnie Tapp, our Spiritual Development Chairperson, sending out weekly reflections.

Jackie and several other CWL members have been looking after the gardens and flowers around and in the church all summer. They have done a wonderful job!

Our pastor, Fr. Jerry Tavares left us at the end of July. The CWL provided treats and refreshments for Fr. Jerry's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday and we helped out with refreshments after all masses at Father's last weekend with us.

Jackie and Betty met with our new pastor, Fr. Joshy George, a few weeks ago to inform him about our Council and our plans to come back together.

Our first meeting will be Wednesday, September 8th in the church hall. Rather than having a full business meeting, we thought it was important for our members to finally be able to get together so we are having an evening of spiritual reflections with Marnie Tapp and Fr. Joshy.



Then in October we will return to our normal meetings and start the election process for a new executive for 2022.

**Jackie Sides & Betty Sommers Co Presidents**

**Powassan, Bev Miller President**

St. Joseph's Church in Powassan celebrated "The Year of St. Joseph" on August 29, 2021. Due to church renovations, the Mass was celebrated at 250 Clark Community Centre by Bishop Daniel Miehm, Father Eric Mason, and Deacon Brian Mason. After mass there was a reception held under a tent beside the church house. We were encouraged by the Bishop's homily and always enjoy his kind words.

C.W.L. will be starting on September 14<sup>th</sup> with Mass and afterwards a short meeting. On October 5<sup>th</sup> we will attend Mass and a meeting afterwards, to celebrate our members, with "Years of Service" awards presentation. On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, will be attend Mass where we honour our Deceased Members and then at the Meeting there will be nominations for our next election. On December 7<sup>th</sup>, will be Mass with our meeting following. After the meeting our elections for the 2022 – 2023 term will take place.

Thank you all for your prayers for our member, Elaine Beaton. Please continue your prayers for a speedy recovery. We all appreciate your thoughts and prayers.

Looking forward to attending the Fall Meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.



15 Year Pin Carmel Ulrick  
 30 Year Pin Brenda Bolton  
 30 Year Pin Elva Way  
 40 Year Pin Marj Davis  
 50 Year Pin Yvonne Kunkel

25 Year Pin Monica Giles  
 30 Year Pin Viola Rowan  
 35 Year Pin Lois Vester  
 45 Year Pin Margaret Ann Popkie  
 50 Year Pin Bev Miller

**Kinmount – Madeline Pearson, President**

We are a very small council, and have been for years, however we continue to live by the CWL guidelines to motivate us. Our main focus is our community and church. Being such a small church, in size and numbers, membership is lower than most but that does not hinder us from participation. We are most pleased to be able to host the Fall Meeting for the Diocese on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2021 and welcome you all.

**St Alphonus Wooler, Denise Brennen**



### **Distribution of Long Term Service Pins for 2020/21**

Sunday August 15<sup>th</sup>, the feast of The Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary, was chosen to distribute long term service pins to our CWL sisters. As we were unable to distribute pins last year in light of the pandemic we combined two years into one.

We had 10 ladies receiving pins, 7 were from 2020 and 3 for 2021. Following communion a small prayerful ceremony was held and pins were handed out to our CWL sisters. Seven ladies were able to attend. The remaining pins were given to the ladies unable to attend by CWL members.

Receiving pins for 2020 were: Lori Pike 10 years  
Karen Lawson, Kathy Moran 20 years  
Sharon Convey 25 years  
Mary Brethour 35 years  
Teresa Plue, Corry Wanjon 40 years

Receiving pins for 2021 were: Kris Edwards and Chyrel Lapenna 30 years  
Lois Wolfe 55 years



Lori Pike



Chyrel Lapenna



Kris Edwards



Sharon Convey



Corry Wanjon



Lois Wolfe



Teresa Plue

### **Otonabee/Keene, Anna Marie Bolin, President**

During our September meeting we discussed the National Proposed Voting document, which brought forward a lively discussion.

We also spoke of how we could fundraise, as all of our annual fundraisers are still on hold, due to the pandemic. We do also take part in community projects, a fundraiser also, however they have been cancelled. As with most councils, it poses a problem for



availability of funds. Discussion also took place around persons to take on council positions.

### **Newcastle**

I, on behalf of Newcastle CWL, am leading a Senior Exercise Program beginning September 9th and meeting, hopefully, twice weekly going forward. You are able to come and go as your availability allows. Please see the poster below.

**Dennie Radcliff, President**



### **Lakefield – Audrey von Bogen, President**

A number of years ago we were made aware of very worthwhile cause called "Faith's Orphans Fund". The Fund, ministers to over 4000 HIV/Aids orphans & vulnerable children in Zambia, through 24 centres set up across the country. This efficient ministry model does not include the ownership of orphanages, but rather empowers existing villages, through the provision of clothing, rural teachers, school fees, horticultural training, and supplies to provide for the many orphaned & vulnerable children within the area.

We looked into the Fund and since then we have sent thousands, the ladies love to sew, of colourful little dresses, including little panties, to Zambia. Faith even visited one of our CWL meetings to both thank us and speak of the orphanage. We found this very exciting, to see our work put in such action and how people for so grateful.



Our seamstresses, Bern Caza and Ellen Kay, have been very busy creating cute little dresses for these children. Their new, and so importantly exciting enterprise, has included little shorts and T-shirts for the boys; and little skirts with matching tops for the girls. If you have any buttons or ric rac about, and would be willing to provide them to us, we would be most grateful. The children love these items on the clothing. The little panties defer men from raping the girls, so a pocket is added to every dress/skirt to tuck the panties in. Pictured below are some ladies packaging up the items to be sent off.

Left to Right

Carol Brewer  
Audrey von Bogen  
Kay Marler  
Avryl Edwards  
Rita Harrington



Prior to packaging the clothing items, the above ladies celebrated Kay's 88<sup>th</sup> birthday with a luncheon. We so enjoyed ourselves during this long awaited time together, and then we got to work packaging.

We will have our first meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. At this time our installation of the new executive will take place. We will continue with a short business meeting.

### **ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, COBOURG**

I believe we are coming alive again as a Council. St. Michael's Catholic Women's Council have held their first face to face Executive meeting since forever ago. The Holy Spirit is within us and guiding our way.

We were able to meet our new pastor Fr. Emmanuel Okpataku and Therese May presented him with the CWL Spiritual Advisors pin.

The Executive reviewed the Constitution revisions, and we will be ready to present them to our Council, hopefully, at our October General Meeting.

We are planning to hold a General meeting September 22<sup>nd</sup>. With the new Ontario Government requirements, it is not easy to plan but we are going to try. It is so long since we have been able to hold a face-to-face General Meeting. I believe it was February 2020.

We have Long Service pins to present. Last year we had to present them to our members at their homes.

We will have guest speaker Edward Nkyi from the Salvation Army, ready to inform us about their upcoming programs.



We were hoping to have our Harvest Fest in early October but due to the increased number in COVID-19 infection, it was decided to hold a *Bakeless Harvest Fest*. Therefore, we will ask our Parishioners for contributions toward this fundraiser. A portion of the funds will be donated to the Northumberland Fare Share Food Bank.

Looking forward to seeing my League sisters again and perhaps to meet new parishioners ready to join our League.

**Carol Lawless, Co President**

**Douro, Mary McKeiver President**

We had our first CWL meeting since March 2019 in September 2021. We were happy to have our new pastor, Fr. Randy Foster, join us for our meeting. He said his last two parishes did not have CWL's so he is happy to be involved again. Fr. Randy is a Past Spiritual Advisor of the Diocese. We are planning a "Harvest Tea" in October. We have 15 members who qualify for service pins:



60 years - Helen Massey, Marie Moher & Sally Scott.

50 years - Marion Coughlin, Mary Eileen Holland, Pat Leahy, Marion Sullivan, Barb Vollering & Rosemary Towns.

40 years - Dorothy Perdue & Jill Scott

25 years - Suzanne Allen, Anna Dyer, Lorraine Moher & Loretta Thurston.

A special award which will be a surprise, SHHHHH!

## Conventions ~ Diocesan, Provincial, National

**DIOCESAN** - As you are aware, conventions were replaced this year with AMMs, Annual Members Meeting. The Diocesan AMM took place on July 6<sup>th</sup> 2021 at St. Mary's in Lindsay. The missed two years were wrapped into one with 15 parishes represented, together with the officers. Paddy presented appreciated certificates to parishes and officers. We passed a motion to accept a Resolution, gifted from the Brighton Parish Council, to present to the Ontario Provincial Council. Reports were deferred to the Annual Report Book. Elections took place for the 2021-2023 term.



**PROVINCIAL** - The 72<sup>nd</sup> and 73<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL ONTARIO PROVINCIAL CONVENTIONS, were held virtually on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July, as AMMs also. The site used was GO TO MEETINGS. The meetings moved so well that the 2 days set aside were completed in 1. The AMM was attended by 100 members. Reports centred around how business was handled due to COVID-19. Helena Lessard spoke of the decline of membership within the Peterborough Diocese over the past 10 years.



**NATIONAL** - The 100<sup>th</sup> and 101<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL CWL CONVENTIONS were also held as AMMs and virtually. GO TO WEBINAR was the site used. We spent the full 2 days. The official press release is list below.

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, AUGUST 11, 2021—Five hundred Catholic women and guests of faith met August 9th and 10th for the partially virtual 100th and 101<sup>st</sup> National Annual Meetings of members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada with the theme, Care for Our Common Home. Making history, the partially virtual annual meeting opened with National President and Chairperson of International Relations Anne-Marie Gorman bringing greetings and welcoming National Spiritual Advisor Most Rev. Bishop Jensen (Prince George), along with members and guests. This virtual event was the first opportunity members across Canada had to gather and unite in faith since the beginning of the global COVID-19 pandemic. His Eminence Gerald Cardinal Lacroix, ISPX, Archbishop of Quebec and the Primate of Canada, welcomed attendees to the 100th national annual meeting with his words of appreciation, encouragement and hope for the future. He affirmed the League as an organization that builds without destructing and serves through its love—to heal and by taking action. His Eminence thanked members for persevering and said the Lord bestows on members and their families many blessings. Encouraging members to celebrate the League's centenary with joy, he asked them to continue protecting their creation and renew their spirit in service "For God and Canada". The 101st national annual meeting opened with reports presented by the provincial presidents who informed that councils had been actively working even through the pandemic. Online teleconferences, prayer services and much more had been held. The presidents noted they looked forward to re-opening in-person meetings this fall. The morning of August 10th began with the Divine Office, followed by reports from national officers who shared what had been accomplished throughout their extended three-year term. Complete reports from the national officers and provincial presidents will be available in the fall electronic issue of The Canadian League magazine. The League's theme for 2022-2023, Catholic and Living It!, was announced by incoming National President Fran Lucas. The national election and installation of officers was held with the new executive/board announced. Congratulations to National President and Chairperson of International Relations Fran Lucas, National President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization Shari Guinta, National First Vice-President and Chairperson of Communications Betty Colaneri, National Second VicePresident and Chairperson of Spiritual Development Cathy Bouchard, National SecretaryTreasurer Marie Rackley and National Past President and Chairperson of Laws Anne-Marie Gorman. Congratulations also to National Standing Committee Chairpersons Dorothy Johansen (Christian family life), Faith Anderson (Community life), Margaret Schwab (Education and Health), Rolande Chernichan (Resolutions) and Glenda Carson (Legislation).

The partially virtual gathering concluded with the closing mass live-streamed from Sacred Heart Cathedral in Prince George, British Columbia and presided over by Bishop Jensen. About The Catholic Women's League of Canada The Catholic Women's League of Canada is one of the largest organizations of women in Canada with more than 70,000 members represented in every province, territory and in the military. With a membership representing a broad cross-section of Canadian society, the League has received the commendation and keen appreciation of federal, provincial, territorial and municipal authorities for the voluntary services ably performed by its nationwide membership.



## Remembering

Along with many, we respectfully remember those who attended, and those who lost their lives, in the residential schools. We continue in prayer, and provide the below prayer, to pray together.



*For the children who died in residential schools throughout Canada and for all those who continue on a journey through the darkness that there may be healing founded on the truth and the Spirit will inspire our ongoing commitment to reconciliation*

*God, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, continue to offer us correction so that your grace might change and transform us in our weakness and repentance*

*Give us humility to listen when others reveal how we have failed and courage to love others as ourselves, mindful of your love for the weakest and most vulnerable among us.  
 AMEN*

## Important Dates

### DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>September 21</b>	<b>International Day of Peace</b> –pray for Christians in the Holy Land
<b>October 9-11</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Weekend</b>
<b>October 23</b>	<b>Fall Meeting- Galway Community Centre</b>
<b>November 11</b>	<b>Remembrance Day-</b> Please take the time to honour our Vets
<b>December 25</b>	<b>MERRY Christmas to all our members and their families</b>
<b>April 23-24 2022</b>	<b>Proposed Diocese Convention weekend</b>
<b>July 10-13 2022</b>	<b>Ontario Provincial Convention - Ottawa</b>
<b>Aug 9-12 2022</b>	<b>National CWL Convention - in Kamloops British Columbia</b>

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Several parishes in the diocese, and many in other councils across Canada, have an active prayer shawl ministry as a Catholic Women's League activity. For many years, shawls have been symbols of shelter, peace and faith, offering love, friendship, hope and comfort. Women work individually, or in prayer groups, to knit, crochet or create with material, bringing comfort and warmth to the person who is gifted. There are many



patterns and styles available on the internet or create your own. The shawls or lap blankets are meant to serve as mantles of God's gentle love and blessings. Our hope is that, as the recipients wear their item, they will be enfolded in warmth, peace, strength and comfort. The power of a prayer shawl/lap blanket is not in the shawl. It is in the love, the blessings, and the prayers that have gone into the making and giving.

Perhaps your parish CWL, or individual CWL members, would like to start a prayer shawl ministry and get involved? I do know of some parishes and individuals who are already involved. Please update me with your activities. I once was approached as to whether I could provide names or organizations who may be in need of shawl or a small lap blanket. Remember also these items are not just for Catholics but for all those in need of some kindness and a gentle reminder of God's love. I recently heard Sick Kids hospital in Toronto is interested for their little ones. Check you areas to see which organization may be in need.

## Fun Time with Word Search

Read the passage below and search for the "Bolted and Capitized Words" in the word search below.

1 (To the **CHIEF** Musician upon **NEHILOTH**, A Psalm of David.) Give ear to my words, O Lord, **CONSIDER** my meditation.

2 Harken unto the voice of my cry, my **King**, and my God: for unto thee will I pray.

3 My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the **MORNING** will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

4 For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in **WICKEDNESS**: neither shall evil dwell with thee.

5 The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity.

6 Thou shalt destroy them that speak **LEASING**: the Lord will **ABHOR** the **BLOODY** and **DECEITFUL** man.

7 But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy **MERCY**: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.

8 Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness because of mine **ENEMIES**; make thy way straight before my face.

9 For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part is very wickedness; their **THROAT** is an open **SEPULCHRE**; they flatter with their tongue.

10 Destroy thou them, O God; let them fall by their own **COUNSELS**; cast them out in the **MULTITUDE** of their **TRANSGRESSIONS**; for they have rebelled against thee.

11 But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou **DEFENDEST** them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

12 For thou, Lord, wilt bless the **RIGHTEOUS**; with favour wilt thou **COMPASS** him as with a **SHIELD**.



S	T	R	A	N	S	G	R	E	S	S	I	O	N	S
A	S	E	R	H	C	L	U	P	E	S	R	R	B	S
J	E	P	W	W	L	U	F	T	I	E	C	E	D	Z
A	D	R	R	P	L	E	A	S	I	N	G	B	E	R
L	N	S	W	K	S	H	I	E	L	D	C	K	E	J
U	E	N	G	S	R	I	G	H	T	E	O	U	S	S
U	F	R	H	N	S	H	K	C	T	K	U	U	T	P
Y	E	D	U	T	I	T	L	U	M	C	N	E	C	Z
T	D	N	L	S	O	N	R	E	D	I	S	N	O	C
T	C	O	E	A	K	L	R	R	S	W	E	O	M	H
N	H	H	O	M	B	P	I	O	E	B	L	E	P	I
J	J	R	E	L	I	R	T	H	M	P	S	Q	A	E
U	E	R	O	T	B	E	I	B	E	A	J	T	S	F
R	C	U	A	A	P	V	S	A	X	N	H	Y	S	M
Y	U	X	K	A	T	U	M	N	K	R	P	I	A	Z

