

Copy of 2023 Annual Survey Responses

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Wed 12/13/2023 12:56 AM

To: stjoesbcwl@outlook.com <stjoesbcwl@outlook.com>

Thank you for participating in the annual report survey. A copy of your responses follows:

Council Code: PO-019

Council Name: St. Joseph

Council Town: Bowmanville

Diocese/Province: Peterborough, Ontario

Reporting To: Peterborough

President

If you have changed to the new structure, have members embraced the new positions? No

If you have not changed to the new structure, how are you preparing for these changes? Our members are fully aware of the new structure. The issue is not with the new structure, but to find members to volunteer and take on the roles. Given since COVID-19 in the year 2020 onward, we have been operating with a skeletal executive team, with members who wear multiple hats, performing multiple tasks as needed. The beauty of this set back, resulted in the involuntary cross-training, which is key in such situations. This brought about our constant ask of elder members to train for succession. We are still working on this. Our elders need to train the newer members on how to run a smooth ship and deal with exceptions efficiently. We seemed to be breaking through this year, especially as our elder members are becoming tired. They are now looking forward to training for succession.

Have you presented or had someone else (provincial/diocesan) present any of the workshops from the strategic planning groups that are available on the national website? Yes

Has the Unity Outreach project been presented to your council? If yes, please comment. The Unity Outreach project was presented to us by our Past Diocesan President Helena Lessard. She rallied the girls at our meeting on April 18, 2023, and had them responding to various questions about our Parish Council. The effects of this session, had everyone realize that we were in fact aligned with National and most importantly, that our members were heavily involved in multiple community services, as well as church ministries. They were capable and efficient caterers, Soup Kitchen helpers, palliative care givers, ministers. You name it, and we realized there were many CWL members supporting needy causes in the Bowmanville Community. By the end of the session, Helena had the girls rallied together, boosted morale, and they seemed ready to take on the world. We had new members stay on at the meeting after that night and they continued to attend later meetings. It was then our members realized how their individual efforts helped the 'whole'. They MADE a Difference in the lives of those in need.

Did your council have a specific project or activity this year? If yes, please describe briefly. 1) This year our Church; St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bowmanville, celebrated its 90th Anniversary on September 10, 2023. We assisted in the preparation of the Fun-for-Kids portion of the affair. Our CWL representatives contacted the bouncy castle team, cotton candy, got the various licenses, ensured deposits and payments were made to various vendors. Got supplies for games for the children, setup and kept the children's entertainment running, and donated funds toward the expenses. It was a success and the children were happy. 2) We hosted Italian restaurant themed dinners at the church, catered for Knight of Columbus luncheons, Funeral receptions, School Christmas lunches. 3) We supported and taught catechism and prepared the little ones for their reconciliation, first communion and assisted in lunches for those preparing for confirmation. 4) Many of our members volunteered and are still working toward the recovery of our St. Vincent de Paul Value Store, which was re-opened on August 15, 2023, such that it can continue to provide community services for those most in need in Bowmanville. ** Our spiritual advisor is Fr. Craig - and he is with us every step of the way, advising us on where and how we can help others. He brought it to everyone's attention about the SVP store closure and together we worked to having it re-opened. He gives us new ideas and is all about inclusion. He brought about our Sunday afternoon Nigerian masses, the Philipino Simbangabi and continues to support and push for change and inclusion in our parish community and Bowmanville. **

Have you involved your spiritual advisor in your activities? Yes

Vice President

Is a membership campaign done annually? If yes, what does your council do? Was it successful? We do get new members every year. The trick is to keep them. We get members in our Annual Fall Ministry BBQ, and we

also get members at our Spring Luncheon. However, I would say that we get them via chatting and word of mouth, which is members inviting friends and potential future members and encouraging their participation.

Do you encourage members to invite prospective members? Yes

What do you do to promote the League with current and prospective members? We have luncheons, the church ministry fair, our church brochure, hand outs and book marks with our website and contact information, as well as word of mouth.

Do you encourage members and prospective members to visit the national website for information and resources as a recruitment tool? Yes

What is being done in your council to retain your membership? Our CWL National and CWL St. Joseph websites are on our invitations, bookmarks and the CWL National, Provincial and Diocesan websites are linked and referenced in multiple spots on our CWL St. Joseph's website: <https://www.cwlstjoseph.com/> We keep in touch with our 'telephone' members via phone calls to check up on them and provide them with any updates. We loss members due to the membership fee increases, so we have accepted the same fee from some of our eldest members and simply subsidize these fees. It has been the reason for many members dropping out, in addition to our members moving to nursing homes and further north for more affordable housing, given the state of the economy. Incorporate the ideas of our younger members to implement what is interesting to them. It will require cooperation from our elders to implement such changes. (Hmm... not that easy) Continue with hybrid meetings and change General meeting start times to two (2) hours earlier to increase participation. Include activities that encourage members from different cultures to join the team and introduce their traditions.

What is your greatest challenge with membership? We can get new members to join, however it is keeping them that poses a problem. STAYING POWER. And the Membership fee increase. What we plan to do is gradually increase membership fees every 3-5 years, so that it is not a shocking increase.

Secretary

Did you keep your membership up to date with special events? Yes

Are you responsible for sending out cards and letters to your members for significant life events? Yes

What is the primary method of communication your council uses to become informed of resources at various levels? Email, Communiques/directives/memos, Websites, Word of mouth, Meetings and Telephone

What type of social media have been used by your council to promote activities and events? Websites and Other

Does your council use the national website? If yes, what is it used for the most? Yes! It is used for Reporting, Bylaw referencing, Ordering supplies, Links to the Magazines, Spotlights, NewsLetters, Communiques, Prayers etc. It is the main source and since the update it is very organized and easy to link to from our CWL St. Joseph website.

Does your council access catholicwomenunite.ca, the League's marketing tool to attract new members to the League? No

Does your council prepare a member newsletter? No

Is there any information you would like to share about the position of secretary? If yes, please describe. As secretary, I'm not familiar with the technology. However, I have been told that I am learning very quickly as I am very willing to learn to use the new tools and update electronically. It is a slight learning curve for me. If I am to continue as secretary, it would be a good thing to probably get the communications directly as well. My email is: heidi_minuti49@outlook.com

Treasurer

List the donations made to the national voluntary funds to the nearest dollar.

Catholic Missions In Canada: \$ 100

Catholic Near East Welfare Association: \$ 0

Coady International Institute: \$ 0

Development and Peace - Caritas Canada: \$ 100

What is the total amount of all donations made by the council to all charities in 2023? \$ 4860

Is there any information you would like to share about the position of treasurer? If yes, please describe.

This year 2023 our CWL intake was negligible, hence our donations were based on a smaller budget. However, at the end of this year at Applefest and our Annual Bazaar which was held for the first time since Covid-19 raised roughly \$5,000.00. Therefore we are in a better position for our 2024 budget, and will look into funding the other two(2) organizations on this list.

Past President

In your capacity as past president, list two instances in the last 12 months for which you have been consulted. Since 2020 and covid-19 we run our council via a skeleton executive team. In the past 12 months, we needed the assistance of multiple past presidents at our Diocesan level (Helena Lessard) and our council level. - We went to Peggy Cerrone on the accounting and cash for the Bazaar. - We went to Linda Ainsworth on the licensing requirements - We went to Agnes Rowe, Linda A., Ruth etc. etc. for help with past members, organizing and running the Bazaar etc. - We went to Darlene Sullivan for help getting the Treasurer authorizations changed, location of historical items etc. - We went to Helena Lessard for clarification of the new structure, for engagement of the Unity project, clarification on anything from the Diocesan or National level communications that were confusing.

Have you worked on/updated your council archives in the past 12 months? Yes

Has your council shared a copy of your history book with national office? Yes

Have you recently made archived material (e.g., photograph albums, history book) available at meetings or events for members/others to see? Yes

Have one or more of the most recent amendments to the *Constitution & Bylaws* been shared at your meetings? Yes

It is recommended that councils update their policy and procedure manual every two years. Has your council done so? No

Faith

How did your council assist members in their communal and personal prayer life? provided spiritual programs using resources from the national website's strategic planning page, organized or promoted retreats, days of reflection, raised awareness of online webinars, used a variety of prayer styles for meetings, encouraged spiritual reading/participation in a book club on religious topics and other

What new forms of prayer and spirituality did your council try this year? 1) Sourced from Development and Peace website - 2 prayers 2) Sourced from the Vatican news website - 3 prayers 3) Sourced from National / Diocesan handouts/booklets for the Land Ack prayers

In what ways did your council assist members in their growth in the Catholic faith? shared information from Catholic sources and raised awareness of Catholic websites, apps, courses, programs, workshops, webinars

What ecumenical or interfaith activities did your council members initiate or participate in during 2023? We had two (2) of our members; Joan M. and Linda A., attended and participated in multiple workshops hosted by the Bishop Meihm and provided feedback and input during these sessions as well as returned to the team and provided a summary/ highlight of what was discussed. These meetings were hosted in multiple locations in Peterborough, Bowmanville and New Castle, if I recall. Synodality, is the coming together of both the lay people and various levels of the clergy to raise issues and together make decisions on changes for the betterment of our faith and the community.

How did your council support or promote religious vocations? donated to a seminary fund

In what ways did your council and members uphold or advocate for the sanctity of life? promoted pro-life events and encouraged member participation, included pro-life prayers and reports in meetings and donated to pro-life causes

Service

Describe any actions taken by your council or its members to promote Catholic education within your parishes and/or community. Through the preparation programs for children getting ready for the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. Through the support of Development and Peace ministry Through the support of Kindred spirits, teaching them and solidifying the faith and knowledge in Christ.

Please share what activities your council took part in, including inviting speakers, to raise awareness of mental health. We have been lucky to have a member who practices psychology and she has spoken to our team on two (2) occasions and taught us about mental health and made herself available for the team if they ever

needed any help. (We did not speak on teen suicide and bullying) Joan M. provided links to her practice, along with websites of literature and telephone numbers/hot lines, should anyone need assistance. Joan M. is quite thorough.

Please share what activities or workshops were attended, or speakers invited, by your council to raise awareness on the issue of palliative care. No reply

Please share what activities your council participated in, including inviting speakers, to promote caring for the environment. Linda A. did the research and at one of our meetings she briefed the team on caring for the environment. She also provided the team with links to literature related to how we can help and Linda A. also encouraged us to at least decrease our footprint for just one day, since every day does make a difference.

Describe any actions taken by your council to educate members and members of your parishes on women's health issues. No reply

Is your council involved in any way in supporting immigrants/refugees who are moving to Canada? If so, how? Actually YES. This we learnt during the Unity project that some of our members were also involved with assisting refugees in finding homes, in the fund raising to cover rent a couple years back. SVP members who work in providing kitchenware for those in Ukraine etc. Each meeting we say special prayers for the Ukraine refugees and all refugees struggling in Canada and the world.

Social Justice

List the federal and provincial bills your council has monitored or acted upon over the past year. Linda A. and Michelle L. spoke with our members on the special needs of those in Palliative Care and how we can assist and help. Agnes R. we know visits the hospital and checks in on members and non-members in palliative care as well. Our members were also encouraged to sign online petitions against 'Assisted dying'. Other than the above assistance, we have not delved in detail on this resolution, where the government should consider palliative care as a necessary insured service that should be covered under the health act.

Have any of your council members initiated or participated in acting on government legislation at any of the three levels, and with what methods? No reply

What resources has your council used to remain informed on current federal and provincial legislation?
Other

List the national, provincial and diocesan resolutions that your council has taken action on. We requested our members to participate in the online petition signing and provided them with the related emails with associated links for their support. against 'Assisted dying'. There were many other online petitions that were forwarded to members for their support.

What League resources on developing resolutions on the national website have been promoted or used by your council? None - our council is not interested in the development of resolutions

What is the likelihood of some members of your council participating in virtual resolutions education through League webinars or workshops? Not likely due to challenges with online technology (e.g. members do not have computers or are not comfortable using online technology)

Multi-Year Survey Questions

How many spiritual retreats has your council held in 2023 of at least two hours in duration? 0

How many non-executive members took a lead role in planning, organizing or hosting an event/project in your council? 5

How satisfied are you with communication you receive from national council: Usually
provincial council: Not applicable
diocesan council: Always
regional level: Not applicable

Has your council transitioned to the new structure? Yes

If your council uses the old structure, which positions are filled or vacant and, if filled, by election or appointment? **President:** Not asked **Secretary:** Not asked **Treasurer:** Not asked **Spiritual Development:** Not asked **Organization:** Not asked **Christian Family Life:** Not asked **Community Life:** Not asked **Education and Health:** Not asked **Communications:** Not asked **Resolutions:** Not asked **Legislation:** Not asked

If your council uses the new structure, which positions are filled or vacant, and if filled, by election or appointment? President: Appoint **Vice President:** Vacant **Secretary:** Appoint **Treasurer:** Appoint **Faith:** Appoint **Service:** Appoint **Social Justice:** Appoint

Did your council contact government at any level in 2023, whether by email, letter, phone call or in person visit?

In person: No reply

Phone call: No reply

Letter: No reply

Email: No reply

How many of your members are under the age of 35? None

How often have you reach out for advice to

diocesan level: Monthly

provincial level: Annually

national level: Never

national office: Never

Is there anything else you would like your national board to know? Yes. We are still have executive positions that are not filled, and most of the positions were simply accepted by anyone who wished to volunteer. Our Vice President, is really both the President and Vice President, and it is the same people leading the committees who are assisting on the executive team. Thank goodness there is lots of cross-training, so other members help out where they see the need. It is an interesting dynamic, but it works for our team, and helps us keep our council going, instead of having it closed down.

Thank you for taking this survey. Your input helps the board to understand the priorities of councils for future planning.