

**KINGSTON DIOCESAN COUNCIL of
THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
LIFE MEMBER LIAISON REPORT**

October 22, 2022

Father, Madam President, Ladies,

Life members are members of the national council, committed to active service to The Catholic Women's League of Canada. They do not attend executive meetings at other levels of the League unless appointed or at the invitation of their sitting president. Their role is that of providing encouragement and support.

I was humbled and honoured to accept Lyne's appointment as life member liaison for the Kingston Diocesan Council. An initial task was that of presenting an overview of the duties and responsibilities of executive members at the Executive Transition Meeting in May.

Responsibilities for this position include working closely with the Provincial Council Life Member Liaison, Shelley Tamas, maintaining a current list of diocesan life members contact information and providing it to Shelley and the diocesan corresponding secretary. Our function as liaisons is to be the connecting link that communicates from one level to another, the condition and needs of life members from across the province and the country.

Most often this includes requests for prayers for life members, their families and loved ones relating to all of life's circumstances. Notification of important issues that require action or upcoming events of interest to League members are also shared.

When appropriate, e-cards and email messages are sent on behalf of diocesan life members expressing sympathy, words of encouragement, congratulations and birthday wishes.

In June a number of life members joined League sisters at a Celebration of Life for Carol Richer. Just a few weeks later another contingent bid farewell to Dorothy Meehan as she passed on to her eternal home, thus leaving ten diocesan life members, one of whom is an honorary life member.

At the July Ontario Provincial Convention hosted in Ottawa, the life member luncheon offered the opportunity to re-connect with sisters from across the province, a joyful and long-awaited reunion. The long-standing habit of sharing hugs unfortunately resulted in the incidence of a number of post-convention Covid cases.

In her fall report, National Organization Chair, Shari Guinta announced that the moratorium on nominations to life membership has been lifted. A two year examination of criteria by an *ad hoc* committee of seasoned life members and honorary life members resulted in some changes to the criteria.

Father Stéphane's August retreat presentation introduced executive members to a wonderful book by Meg Hunter-Kilmer entitled "*PRAY FOR US: 75 Saints Who Sinned, Suffered and Struggled on Their Way to Holiness*" illustrating that "there are no circumstances or characteristics that make holiness unattainable, which means every one of us is called to run after Jesus, however often we may stumble." a refreshing and powerful hope filled message. This book is a must read for those of us striving to live a grace filled life as we are *Catholic and Living It!*

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Spinelli