

**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
KINGSTON DIOCESAN COUNCIL**



Care for our Common Home

2020 Annual Reports

THE ANGELUS

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit,

Hail Mary, etc.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord,
Be it done unto me according to your word.

Hail Mary, etc.

And the word was made flesh,
And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, etc.

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,
That we be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, Your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may be brought by His passion and cross to the glory of His resurrection. Amen.

LEAGUE PRAYER

We humbly pray you, O God our Father, to bless The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Bless our beloved country, our homes, and families. Send your Holy Spirit upon us, to give light to our minds, and strength to our wills, that we may know and fulfill your great law of charity. Teach us to share with others, at home and abroad, the good things you have given us. This we ask through our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the intercession of our Patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel. Amen.

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

Patroness of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Mary, Our Lady of Good Counsel, filled with the Holy Spirit, you were a faithful disciple of Jesus, your Son. Intercede with your Son for us that we may be faithful to our baptism, fervent in prayer, and generous in the service we give to our sisters and brothers. May the Spirit of the Living God, who graced you with the gift of counsel, lead us in the way of truth and love. With the help of your prayers, may we come to rejoice forever with you and the great company of the saints in the kingdom of heaven. Amen.

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Kingston Diocesan Officers
2018 - 2021

Spiritual Advisor

Fr. Dale Wright

President

Nancy Richer

Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Hills

1st Vice-President/Organization

Elizabeth Knudson

2nd Vice-President/Spiritual Development

Lyne Tuepah

Corresponding Secretary

Wilma Turcotte

Treasurer

Jean Mulvihill

Life Member Liaison

Carol Richer

Past President/Historian

Maureen Vincentine

Communications

Margie Norwood

Health and Education

Colleen Hill

Christian Family Life

Angela Town

Community Life

Karen Mulvihill

Resolutions

Shelly Murphy

Webmaster

Lyne Tuepah

Diocesan Regions

Region One (Central) 15 Councils:

Amherstview, Brewers Mills, Centreville, Enterprise, Erinsville, Gananoque, Kingston (5), Kingston Mills, Lansdowne, Napanee, and Railton

Region Two (West) 13 Councils:

Belleville (3), Deseronto, Madoc, Marmora, Marysville, Picton, Read, Stirling, Stoco, Trenton and Tweed

Region Three (North/East) 15 Councils:

Athens, Bedford, Brockville (2), Carleton Place, Elgin, Lanark, Morrisburg/Iroquois, Perth, Prescott, Sharbot Lake, Smiths Falls, Stanleyville, Toledo and Westport

Diocesan Past Presidents

Theresa Mangan (1969-1971)

Carmel Foster (1973-1975)

Dorothy Meehan (1977-1979) (2005-2007)

Catherine Holland (1985-1987)

Eleanor Taggart (1989-1991)

Jocelyn Rait (1993-1995)

Catherine Lortie (1997-1999)

Barbara Hendry (1999-2001)

Geraldine Canning (2001-2003)

Bernadette Burgess (2003-2005)

Anne Madden (2007-2009)

Carol Richer (2009-2011)

Kathy Huffman (2011-2013)

Stephanie Spinelli (2013-2015)

Margie Royle (2015-2017)

Maureen Vincentine (2017-2019)

Honorary Life Member

Betty Anne Brown-Davidson (2014)

Life Members

Theresa Mangan (1971)

Carmel Foster (1975)

Eleanor Taggart (1994)

Rolande Oliver (1994)

Catherine Lortie (2001)

Barbara Hendry (2003)

Geraldine Canning (2005)

Bernadette Burgess (2008)

Dorothy Meehan (2009)

Anne Madden (2011)

Carol Richer (2013)

Kathy Huffman (2016)

Stephanie Spinelli (2017)



Kingston Diocesan Council of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

My Dear Sisters of the League:

This past year has certainly been a most challenging one given the circumstances created by COVID – 19. We have been unable to do so many things, that all of us have so looked forward to each and every year. An important example of this would be, not having a Diocesan Convention in 2020 or in this year as well.

Yet, we know that Our Lady is present to us, even if we are unable to attend Mass or come to the Church to spend some time in prayer. We also realize that Our Lady is interceding for us and the Communion of Saints is praying to God for us as well. All of us can view our house of prayer as our own hearts. As we do this, we can seek a deeper prayer life that will assist in building a more personal relationship with Jesus. All of us should see this time, as an opportunity to pray for others. When we do, the people we are praying for may not know that we are doing so, but Our Heavenly Father certainly does. This prayer of intercession for others is truly a gift for those we are praying for and for us as well.

As we take a moment to consider all of this, let us consider the prayer that most of us pray each day and that is the Rosary. The wisdom of St. John Paul II can teach us when he says, "*the Rosary helps us to be conformed ever more closely to Christ until we attain true holiness*". As we are conformed to Christ, we reflect His image to others, as the Light of Christ burns within our hearts. As we do this, in this most challenging year, my Sisters of the League, we can share the love of Our Lord with others at a time when it is needed by many, which is truly a blessing.

Prayers & Blessings in Christ,

(Rev) Fr. Dale Wright

(Rev.) Fr. Dale Wright



Kingston Diocesan Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

May 2021

Dear Sisters in the League, Spiritual Advisors, and Friends,

Here we are one year later and still trying to function during these troubling times. Please know that I pray daily for every member of the Kingston CWL. Even though we will not have a normal convention, the parish voting members will still meet on May 1st to hold our annual general meeting for 2019 and 2020.

Please take time to read the reports submitted by the officers. These are a compilation of all that has transpired in our diocese in 2020. Your annual reports sent to National, then back to us, provide us with a true and in depth look at all we have done following the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

One of the questions to the presidents in the annual survey was; "What three things are they most proud of in their council"; you see over and over the words: teamwork, pull together, willingness to help, and support of members, caring, spirituality and fellowship. This just shows a small part of who the Kingston Catholic Women are. Please read all of the parish highlights. It has always amazed me to see the League in action, and during this pandemic even more so. We reach out to those in need, whether delivering meals to shut-ins to supporting the local high school retreat program by providing hot lunches.

We are very grateful to our host councils of St. John the Evangelist, Gananoque and Holy Name of Jesus, Kingston Mills as they have agreed to host our convention in 2022. 2022 will be a milestone for the Kingston Diocesan Council as we celebrate our 100th Anniversary.

Our convention weekend is always a time of renewal: of our faith, of our commitment to the work of the League, and of our friendships. Please keep your sisters in the League in your prayers and know we all look forward to seeing everyone when we are able to meet again.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to bless and guide us in all we do.

Sincerely,

Diocesan President

KINGSTON DIOCESAN CWL MEMBERSHIP

COUNCIL	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Amherstview	81	83	77	76	67	66
Athens	14	14	6	6	8	5
Bedford	44	42	43	46	40	88
Belleville, Holy Rosary	152	157	152	146	144	139
Belleville, St. Joseph's	177	169	169	169	149	115
Belleville, St. Michael's	125	130	128	115	120	94
Brewers Mills	69	66	64	63	62	60
Brockville, St. Francis	118	109	85	80	67	57
Brockville, St. John Bosco	54	49	39	46	45	37
Carleton Place	69	60	62	64	62	66
Centreville	80	75	74	73	68	68
Deseronto	36	36	35	34	30	26
Elgin	52	53	36			
Enterprise	38	34	31	28	28	32
Erinsville	54	55	54	56	54	52
Frankford	40	39	38	40	39	0
Gananoque/ Howe Island	87	92	74	75	79	69
Kingston, Our Lady of Lourdes	118	114	106	104	98	107
Kingston, St. John's	50	47	56	59	46	36
Kingston, St. Joseph's	179	181	174	172	157	149
Kingston, St. Mary's	43	48	52	53	47	30
Kingston, St. Paul's	83	85	92	85	83	80
Kingston Mills, Holy Name	59	58	49	49	53	52
Lanark	24	24	22	20	17	18
Lansdowne	15	17	16	15	15	17
Madoc	41	43	46	40	38	38
Marmora	61	59	57	50	49	50
Marysville	36	39	35	32	29	29
Morrisburg & Iroquois	66	68	65	64	66	42
Napanee	126	119	120	121	119	108
Perth	160	160	156	140	128	115
Picton	54	59	55	50	38	35
Prescott	182	176	165	160	158	147
Railton	81	85	74	70	67	60
Read	34	32	31	30	30	30
Sharbot Lake	21	20	19	23	23	17
Smiths Falls	185	184	160	161	118	119
Stanleyville	24	26	27	29	33	33
Stirling	38	35	37	35	45	36
Stoco	37	35	36	36	33	31
Toledo	28	27	27	27	29	29
Trenton	116	103	81	100	82	77
Tweed	44	53	51	49	46	37
Westport	78	72	75	72	65	55
TOTALS	3,273	3,232	3,051	2,963	2791	2551

Spiritual Growth of Members

- 53% of reporting councils made efforts to learn more about our theme 'Care For Our Common Home' through prayer, reflections, directives, discussion and suggested readings; 18% acted on the theme through donations, helping schools and planting trees; 29% felt unable to participate due to pandemic restrictions.
- 71% of council spent one third of their meetings on spiritual growth; the remaining saying their meetings were being kept too short during this restricted period to do anything other than essential business.
- Liturgy programs were organized in the form of Masses, prayer reflections, stations of the cross and honor guards. Councils had to get creative and planned prayers and rosaries over Zoom.
- Our Lady of Good Counsel was honored by a few councils through Masses and personal prayer. Most councils cancelled planned events.
- Most Spiritual Advisors attend council meetings.

Study of Catholic Teachings and Role of Women in the Church

- One third of councils encouraged members to study Catholic teachings and the role of women in the church by referencing national communiqués and article in The Canadian League magazine.
- Many members took up leadership roles in their parishes such as parish committee chairpersons, pastoral councils, finance committees and diocesan councils.
- Only a few members joined their parish liturgy committee.

Evangelization and Mission Assistance

- Councils participated in the CWL Day of Prayer for Home Missions through organized rosaries and special prayers given to members to recite. There were also guest speakers and special activities.
- Councils supported the Catholic Missions in Canada (CMIC) through donations of money as well as quilts and food. They also purchased the CMIC calendars and made them available to parishioners.
- Morning Star Mission in Napanee Ontario was supported with money and clothing.

Lay Ministries

- Almost 90% of the standing committee chairs were personally involved in parish lay ministry with most serving as lectors, Eucharistic ministers and choir ministry.
- The same can be said of our members while also being involved in hospitality, decorating, ushering and parish sacristans.
- Most of these ministries are chaired or organized by CWL members

Ecumenism and Interfaith Endeavors

- Very few councils were able to reach out to women of other denominations and faiths by initiating joint prayers services or inviting them to council meetings and other events.
- Councils promoted ecumenical events by participating in the World Day of Prayer, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Women's Inter-church Council of Canada.
- One council reported assisting a local Syrian family and promoted awareness of the Muslim faith.

Spiritual Development Training and Support

- Standing Committee chairs reported receiving support from the Diocesan council in the form of mentoring, communications, guest speakers, newsletters, website and directly from the President.
- Chairs also appreciated support from the Provincial and National levels by way of communiqués, memos, directives, websites, newsletters, The Canadian League magazine as well as prayers.
- Spiritual Development chairs would also like to see more mentoring from past chairs, meetings with Diocesan and Provincial chairs as well as open communication with their Spiritual Advisors.

Organization Standing Committee Report

2020

Diocese: Kingston

Chairperson: Elizabeth Knudson

Parishes Reporting: 19 / 43

Recruit Members and Maintain Membership

- There have been 7 new members under the age of 40 in the 19 councils reporting.
- More than 50% of councils do member renewals online which is more than last year.
- Members were recognized by pin presentations, lunches, teas, and use of verbal recognition.
- New members were engaged by welcoming them, inviting them to events, asking them to participate and offering workshops.
- Members were included in decisions for annual plans and goals.
- Gifted an RCIA candidate with a membership.

Leadership Development

- Some councils reported some participation in retreat days.
- Our Diocesan and Provincial as well as our National Conventions were cancelled due to Covid19.
- All councils reported having members serving on either diocesan council, and/or provincial council.

League Resource Material

- Councils reported purchasing service pins, prayers cards and welcome brochures.
- Mass cards were sent.

Annual Reports

- 80% of councils use the guidelines to assist in completing their reports.
- Annual reports are usually done by getting together as a group but due to restrictions most were done at home.

Life Membership

- Some councils have life members living in their area and find them a great benefit to their council.
- Life members are a wealth of knowledge and assist in reports and election protocol.
- Act as mentors.
- Always willing to help and facilitate workshops.

Additional

- During covid councils kept lines of communication open via emails and phone calls.
- There were opportunities for communal prayer.
- One council was able to provide an outdoor honor guard for a deceased member of 62 years at her funeral.
- Lines of communication were kept open with phone calls and emails and posts in the online church bulletin as well as masked meetings and zoom meetings.
- Some councils continued to support their regular charities.
- Due to covid activities in the parishes were limited in 2020 with most members not meeting in person.
- The most necessary business was conducted by the executive.
- Usually, a large number of members participate in fundraisers while fewer attended meetings.

Life Member Liaison Report

2020

Diocese: Kingston	Chairperson: Carol Richer
Parishes Reporting: 17 / 43	
Honorary Life Members: 1	Life Members: 13

Deceased Members – 2020

- We have been truly blessed, as God has not taken any of our Life Members.

Newly Appointed Life Members – 2020

- No new Life Members in 2020.

Life Member Liaison's Activity Report

- Provided Kingston Diocesan Life Members with contact information forwarded to me by Provincial Life Member Liaison.

- Forwarded information received from Provincial Life Member Liaison to all Kingston Life Members.
- Requested that Kingston Life Members contact me with any news, prayer requests, anniversaries, etc., so that the information could be shared.
- Forwarded information received from Kingston Life Members to provincial Life Member Liaison.
- Received monthly Birthday List from Provincial Life Member Liaison, and forwarded to Kingston Life Members. Sent Birthday Greetings to those listed. If no email available, sent cards by Canada Post.
- Also sent Sympathy, Get Well, Thinking of You, and Anniversary Cards as required. Well over 100 various emails and cards were sent out.
- Maintained contact with the one Life Member who does not have internet access, via occasional phone calls and regular mailings of information relating to prayer requests, birthdays, etc. as well as any information received relating to conventions, meetings, etc. The Covid 19 pandemic forced us to react to situations in a manner with which we were often not comfortable.
- Shared On-line Newsletter with Life Members.
- Shared National Life Member Liaison's monthly report with Diocesan Life Members upon receipt from provincial Life Member Liaison.

Recommendations

- I quote from the National Past President's Communiqué #7, dated January 28, 2011 {the participation of all members in determining the future of the League is valued. We must live in hope, for "We also boast in our sufferings, know that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been give to us."} Romans 5. 3-5 *Let us live in hope, and work to inspire others to guide the League forwarded in the months and years ahead.*

Christian Family Life Standing Committee Report

2020

Diocese: Kingston

Chairperson: Angela Town

Parishes Reporting: 16 / 43

Marriage and Family

- Six councils indicated that they supported victims of domestic abuse via: supporting and donating to local women's shelters; Three Oaks women's and children's shelter; Interval House and other shelters, referral and support to access local programs.
- Provided marriage preparation courses.
- Two councils had members who attended workshops or seminars on the topic of family life.
- Members organized celebrations for special anniversaries, Mother's Day, Father's Day and National Family Week.

Sanctity of Life

- Three councils held memberships in pro-life organizations.
- Others participated in: march for life, pro-life masses, life chain, pro-life walks and vigils, national week for life and family events, pro-life vigils and 40 days for life.
- Made donations to: Birthright, Campaign Life Coalition, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, local pro-life organizations, Pregnancy and Family Support Services, Priests for Life.
- Four councils indicated that they have copies of the current pro-life brochure available in their church vestibule.
- Two councils have met with pro-life legislators and seven have written letters to inform legislators of CWL resolutions on abortion and euthanasia.
- Fifteen councils have regularly prayed for the protection of life.
- In regard to the resolution "Canada to Honor Its Commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child", seven councils wrote to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice, four councils educated members on the importance of legal protection for unborn children; three councils promoted the day of prayer for the legal protection of unborn children, four councils monitored the federal government's response to this resolution.

Ministry to Youth

- Councils participated in programs for Youth and encouraged young people to share their gifts in ministry.
- Many sponsored youth events or youth ministers in their parish community such as: Catholic Christian Outreach, summer camps, leadership camps or retreats, NET Ministries.
- Two council provided "Sunday School" in their parish.

Ministry to the Disabled

- Five councils organized or participated in support groups and respite for caregivers.
- Reached out to the disabled by bringing communion, sending cards, visiting, praying, providing transportation.

Ministry to Seniors

- Councils visited, involved them in CWL events, brought communion, provided transportation, gifted them with membership, sent cards of encouragement, phoned them, prayed with them, organized social events, invited newly-retired women to join, shared a meal, initiated social programs and celebrations, involved them in intercessory prayer.

Ministry to Widowed

- Sent cards of condolence, visited and called.
- Arranged memorial services and/or funeral lunches.
- Provided prayer and support after the death of the spouse.
- Encouraged participation in programs offered by the parish.
- Ensured there is a bereavement program in the parish.

Ministry to Separated & Divorced

- Three councils purchased copies of "Annulments Today – Merciful and Just" and made them available in their church vestibule.

Vocations

- Sent spiritual bouquets, participated in prayers for vocations, adopted or supported seminarians.
- Encouraged families to invite priests and religious into their home.
- Hosted luncheons for priests and religious.
- Three councils watched the video on the YouTube site regarding the call to serve God through a vocation to the ordained ministry and religious life

Community Life Standing Committee Report

2020

Diocese: Kingston

Chairperson: Karen Mulvihill

Parishes Reporting: 17 / 43

Dignity and Rights of Persons

- Volunteered with minority groups (those incarcerated, suffering from domestic violence, homelessness, human trafficking, poverty and racism)
- Invited Indigenous women to be guest speakers
- Increased awareness of the laws against human trafficking

Social and Economic Justice

- Prayerful and financial support to local organizations
- Councils celebrated National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, 2020 by participating in mass

Refugees, Immigration and Citizenship

- Improved knowledge of issues facing immigrants and refugees (availability of employment services, English language courses, financial assistance for food and rent)
- Participated in Remembrance Day services; supported the Royal Canadian Legion poppy campaign
- Celebrated the CWL Day of Prayer for Christian sisters and brothers in the Holy Land and Middle East on September 21, 2020 (the World Day of Peace) by participating in mass and Mary's Way of the Cross

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace

- Improved knowledge of conditions of child labor in developing countries, and the implications of trade laws and practices in the global economy

Developing Countries

- Supported organizations that focus solely on developing countries (Chalice, World Vision, Buy-A-Net Malaria Prevention Group, Habitat for Humanity, Canadian Red Cross, Holy Childhood Association, Save a Family Plan, Samaritans Purse, Doctors without Borders)

Education and Health Standing Committee Report

2020

Diocese: Kingston

Chairperson: Colleen Hill

Parishes Reporting: 17 / 43

Catholic Education

- The majority of councils are aware of the Catholic teachings in our schools with regards to family life. Needs of the schools were identified and addressed as follows:
- delivered breakfast and lunch programs (until pandemic restrictions enforced)
- provided school supplies
- provided public-speaking judges
- gave financial support via Christmas baskets for families
- approximately half of councils contributed to scholarships and bursaries to elementary and secondary school students
- some councils support the Bernard F. Pappin Bursary Memorial Fund
- a number of parishes contributed to Catholic Missions in Canada.

Literacy and Continuing Education

- a minority of councils are aware of scholarships and bursaries that are available to women for their education
- one council supported a parishioner's placement in Africa as part of her university education (contributed \$500 towards her costs). She is now back and she will share her experience after the pandemic restrictions are lifted
- a large majority have contributed to the Coady International Institute this year

Health and Wellness (Sickness/Disease)

- A majority of councils were unable to support national organizations that focus on the health and wellness of Canadians (due to not having meetings). Those that *were able to* though, supported: CNIB, Canadian Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Autism Canada, Canadian Diabetes Association, Canadian Mental Health Association and Mater Care.
- A number of councils donated to Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Bell Let's Talk Day (for mental health). One council focused on the homeless and human trafficking by making small bags with personal hygiene items and participated in a Walk which raised \$10,000.
- All councils participated in some form of service regarding '12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care'. Letter-writing campaigns were undertaken on palliative care for all Canadians, on Bill C-7 (MAID)

Environment

- Seventy-one per cent of councils participated in 'Care for Our Common Home' initiatives including plastics and waste cleanups. Commitments were made towards reducing single-use straws and plastic bags, green bins for organic waste, composting and reduction of paper use. One council participated in Earth Day by focusing/awareness on reduction of use of lighting. One council held a Zoom Prayer Service on Water Quality in Canada.

Genetics

- Two councils subscribe to the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute newsletter and others committed to learning more.

Suggestion

- An excellent suggestion for future consideration by this Standing Committee was put forth by a member who is a former Catholic School Trustee: during the last Municipal election, there were two jurisdictions in her area with NO one running for School Trustee. She is suggesting CWL consider national research and consideration of Catholic women - women who are ethical, moral and of strong character - to run for offices at all levels of government. Perhaps our Leadership Foundation will produce such women, but certainly awareness through focused member education could be a start.

Communications Standing Committee Report

2020

Diocese: Kingston

Chairperson: Margie Norwood

Parishes Reporting: 16 / 43

The Canadian League Magazine

- The diocesan Council found that in the Winter, Spring and Fall Edition of the magazine the most popular was the Presidents Message at 56%, then Care of the Common Home 50%, Protection of Minors 44%, Living with Alzheimer's Disease 50%, Embracing Change by being part of it 31%, 100 years is good, 200 is better and Pandemic Report all at 38%.
- Suggestions for future articles: For your information, I do read all of the League Magazine from cover to cover. I could not possibly let you know what was what. Everything resonates, but I cannot pinpoint anything in particular. Learning about the Spiritual Advisors on their view, the interactions with the CWL League, practical Spiritual resources. Connecting with younger generation(s) and seeking their involvement with the League.

Media: for Evangelization

- Promoting faith-oriented programs was 63%. World Communications Day was 88%, only 25% support Salt & Light TV, 31% Shared the league sponsored mass on April 26, 2020.

Media: to Promote the League

- About 50% of council's have encouraged members to visit the CWL on Facebook or Twitter. 88% of council's have encouraged members to use cwl.ca. Only 31% have used local media to advertise, most council's use church bulletin inserts or bulletin boards at church.

Media: Evaluation and Promotion of Good Content

- It has been a difficult year and less than 10% of councils have encouraged members to monitor media content.

Media: Newsletter and Bulletins

- Have used local media for submitting material for publication or sent thank you after events or invitation to attend events. 31% of council's produce a newsletter and it is distributed in bulletin or via email.

Pornography

- The diocesan council has found due to covid there was no distribution of Pornography Hurts, they have not promoted the Over 18 documentary, or film Red Light Green light. 25% have written letter's on Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornography. Some have encouraged members to become more involved. 25% of council's have encouraged members to educate themselves and their families on safe, wise and responsible Internet use.
- 40% of council's have shared with their members the strategic planning information 8% recite the Renewal Prayer found on the National website... Many are not comfortable looking up info on the internet. Most councils have not met often, they exchange emails and telephone conversations and continue praying for one another. The biggest challenge this year has been covid 19, most are just trying to survive.
- One council reported holding a virtual silent auction to replace their annual bazaar, it was very successful and raised over \$2,000.00.

Legislation Standing Committee Report

2020

Diocese: Kingston

Chairperson: Position Vacant

Reported by Elizabeth Knudson

Parishes Reporting: 15 / 43

Monitor and Study Legislation at All Levels of Government

- 15 councils responded to this survey but only 4 had the positions filled at the parish level. This is up two from last Year. Only one council received mailings from government officials. All knew the names of their local, provincial and federal government officials
- No Bills were addressed at parish levels but there was some knowledge of federal bills: Bill C-71 Act to amend Certain Acts and Regulations in relation to fire arms, Bill C-13 Covid19 Emergency Response Act, Bill C14 Covid19 Second Emergency Response Act, Bill C15 Canadian Emergency Student Benefit Act,

Brief Canadian and Position Papers

- Councils continued to access the CWL websites and the League Magazine and directives to learn about the current issues.
- One Council wrote their MP Michael Barrett and received a positive response. They also wrote Prime Minister Trudeau and received no response.

Recommendations

- There were many challenges with no face-to-face meetings an aging population and vacant position. I would recommend sharing this position.

Resolutions Standing Committee Report

2020

Diocese: Kingston

Chairperson: Shelley Murphy

Parishes Reporting: 17 / 43

Research and Preparation of Resolutions and Brief

- Information was gathered through the Canadian League Magazine, at general meetings and communiques from diocesan.
- The position of Resolutions was reported to be shared with the position of Legislation in 3 parishes.

Study and implementation of Resolutions

Topics that were acted upon: mental health, poverty, homelessness and women issues (human trafficking).

- Councils took action to support resolutions: through general meetings, signed petitions, e-mails and phone calls.
- 6 % of our councils participated in letter campaigns to their municipal, provincial and federal governments.
- One council reported visiting their government representatives in person.
- Councils were most passionate about homelessness, mental health, Euthanasia and assisted dying.
- One council reported on a provincial resolution- ON 19:03 regarding long term care beds in Ontario. They wrote letters to Minister of health, Minister of long term care, NDP Opposition critic and NDP home care critic.
- Reasons reported for having vacant resolution chair: small council, resolutions being an overwhelming position and lack of interest. Finding a topic of interest was also reported as an issue.
- 6 councils became familiar with the 2020 resolutions that require action on cwl.ca.
- Due to Covid -19 pandemic, councils found it difficult to engage their members and thus attending workshops that outlined resolutions was not possible.
- Councils reported that meetings were cancelled due to covid-19 and most activities were cancelled from March until December 2020.
- Councils reported that due to Covid-19, their energies went to activities that they were still able to accomplish.

Serve in a Consultative Capacity

- It is interesting that the majority of past presidents in our diocese have been members for more than 20 years and have been in this executive position previously. They obviously are a source of strength and support for the league. Most reported attending events and meetings at least most of the time. They all agreed that their president feel supported and that they, as past presidents are there to answer questions and give assistance when needed.

Be Responsible for Archives and History

- The majority of past presidents reported that they were responsible for the council archives. Most indicate they are stored in a CWL cupboard or space. Most were aware of the whereabouts of their council charter.
- Ladies reported storage of documents most often in filing cabinets. Most items are kept indefinitely or for 8 – 9 years. Some councils reported not keeping a Book of Life. Perhaps this might be a project worthy of attention.
- Most past presidents reported that their council reviewed their archives as needed. 50% reported keeping a history book. Photo albums are a popular way of maintaining history and some councils are now storing pictures and documents on sticks.
- There has been much variation on the period of time that minutes and reports have been kept by councils. Some past presidents reported they were kept indefinitely, while some others reported they have been kept for a much briefer period of time.

**Facilitate the Study and Implementation of the *Constitution & Bylaws 2013*
(revised)**

- Councils have copies of Constitution and Bylaws, the National Policy and Procedure and the Diocesan Policy and Procedure. These documents were sometimes consulted, but not on a regular basis. Councils were more likely to seek advice from their spiritual advisor and from members of the diocesan council. Other levels were not often approached, but advice and information were occasionally sought from National office and life members. 50% of councils reported having their own council Policy and Procedure

Diocesan Highlights

- It was encouraging to see that the majority (71%) of past presidents supported the implementation of the envisioned future of the League. They attended workshops and read material that was distributed. Past presidents acknowledged the challenges the past year has posed for councils. They mentioned an aging and declining membership as being another issue. Certainly, Covid has also posed a great challenge to doing the work of the League as we normally have. However, members have found creative and thoughtful ways of serving in their communities. They called and visited members, they updated archival reports and launched letter writing campaigns concerning Long Term Care. Councils reported pop up bake sales and a tree planting. Service pins and awards were presented. Luncheons were enjoyed (when possible).
- Councils continued to support women's shelters, meals for homeless, birthright, and our voluntary funds to mention but a few.

- Members reported the challenge this year of not being able to gather. All councils regret that we have been unable to meet in person and past presidents reported that they have continued to strive to keep the league active and a focal point in their parishes. Councils also continued to seek out new members.

Recommendations

- I would encourage councils without their own Policy and Procedure, to gather a few ladies together and build one. Perhaps councils might introduce a book of life to their council.
- Past presidents should follow the Strategically Planning timeline and keep their council informed of goals and strategies that are being implemented.
- I applaud past presidents who stay involved in their parish councils as mentors and historians. As I mentioned, many of us have over 20 years' experience in and love for the League. We must remain in a supportive role and applaud new ideas and ways of facilitating events.
- I would also strongly encourage past presidents to write a report of highlights of her term as president. This can be kept as the history for her term and will be appreciated by future councils.

Chairperson's Report

- As past president of diocesan, I have prepared directives and forwarded them to parish and provincial counterparts.
- I have attended and reported at executive meetings. I have been attending other meetings when asked. I have written my report for the diocesan history book and am working on collecting and organizing our recent history.

Duties of the Recording Secretary

The following is a summary taken from the National Offices on-line survey pertaining to the duties of Recording Secretaries:

- The majority (71%) of parish council recording secretaries have previously held the position of recording secretary and/or corresponding secretary
- Of the 21 recording secretaries, who filed an on-line report, only 9 were elected, others were appointed
- Of those reporting (21) 14 acted as both recording secretary and as corresponding secretary
- Responding to Question #16 in the survey, (95%) take minutes, but only 11 were signing officers, 12 knew where their charter was located, and 80% maintained a list of their executive officers with contact information.
- Only seven responded as knowing that their council had a motions book, 6 replied that their council did not and 7 were unaware if one existed.
- Asked if they received written reports from the executive 8 replied yes, 7 replied sometimes and 6 replied they did not receive written reports from the executive
- When it came to knowledge of the *Handbook for Secretaries* only 11 were aware of such a handbook. Only 11 were aware of the existence of a *Letter Writing Guide*

Challenges

The last question on the survey this year was "What was the biggest challenge of 2020 and how did you address it?"

The overwhelming challenge the councils faced the COVID-19 pandemic. For some it meant no meetings were held. This could have been a result of internet challenges in rural areas, an aging membership without access to computers or ability to use technology. COVID -19 meant that it was difficult to keep the business of councils to move forward.

- One Council could not hold meetings because there was no active executive.
- One recording secretary cited difficulties in compiling the minutes because of the length of time between meetings. (The council was only able to meet four times during the year).
- For several it was the newness of the position, one required time to create a format for the meetings; others, new to the position, at least had the opportunity to meet with the outgoing recording secretary.
- For others it was waiting for decisions with on-line voting by the Executive.
- Others were able to conduct meetings successfully using the Zoom App and teleconferencing.

Recommendations

- The past year held some unique challenges, it appears that finding members willing to stand for election being the biggest. This, however, is not due to COVID-19. Other factors come into the equation such as aging members, declining membership to name just two of them.
- That past secretaries would mentor their new counterparts.

- Familiarizing them with National's materials such as the handbook and the letter writing guide, give hints on note taking and develop a motion book.

Corresponding Secretary Report

2020

Diocese: Kingston

Chairperson: Wilma Turcotte

Parishes Reporting: 21 / 43

The following is a summary from parish councils annual reports relating to the duties of Corresponding Secretaries in our diocese.

- 38% of councils report corresponding and reporting secretaries do both. Only .5% are corresponding secretaries.
- 43% were elected and 57% were appointed.
- The average number of years for the corresponding secretary were 10.
- 85% maintain a list of executives with contact information.
- Notification of meetings was made by recording secretary.
- Send out cards such as anniversary, birthday and sympathy.
- Many members elderly and ill appreciated and expressed their gratitude upon receiving cards and prayers from the council, especially those receiving sympathy cards.
- Meetings were held via Zoom and sent newsletters to members

Challenges

- Biggest challenge was Covid-19.
- Do not have full executive.
- Unable to hold Zoom meetings – lack of computer knowledge. Due to Covid-19 most councils held only two meetings.
- Ordering Mass cards and supplies without using personal credit cards.
- Inability to meet face to face or by Zoom due to rural challenges with Internet.

Recommendations

- Considerations could be given to providing the following information for Parish corresponding secretaries available on National and Provincial website

Parish Council Highlights - 2020

Amherstview

President: Donna Guiney

- In April we collected from the parish items such as toothbrushes, crossword puzzles, books, games, gum etc. Packages were made up and sent to military serving abroad for Easter

Blessed Sacrament Parish

Rev. Timothy Shea

Athens

Contact: Susan Mensen

- We are a small council with a lot of support of the ladies in the parish.
- We were able to keep in touch during 2020 with emails, phone calls and cards.

St. Denis the Areopagite Parish

Rev. Benedict Ubanii

Bedford

President: Karen Abrams

- At Christmas we made up baskets with homemade jams, jellies, pickles and other items to give to senior shut-ins in the community.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

Rev. Cyprian Ihedoro

Belleville

Contact: Maureen Vincentine

- We installed a new executive in January 2020 without a president, but we have some new members on the executive.
- Several members of our council continue to be supportive of the homeless in the community.
- Homemade baking and sandwiches were provided for community meals.
- Coffee cards and other donations continued to support the less fortunate.

Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish

Rev. John Hibbard

Belleville

Past President: Bertha Miller

- Hosted World Day of Prayer in March.
- Gave bursaries to high school and grade school graduates.
- A donation was given to the Legion on Remembrance Day.
- Donations were sent to various charities at the National, Provincial, Diocesan and Parish Community levels.

St. Joseph Parish

Rev. Charles McDermott

Belleville

Past President: Heather Lafond

- Presented Ann Rorabeck with a Maple Leaf pin
- Workshop on Pastoral Care was put on in 2019 by the Archdiocese. Our Christian Family Life Chairperson with our CWL members convened and provided lunch for the group of 20 attendees
- Socially distanced executive meeting was held in November to facilitate budget and communiqué to membership.

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Rev. Richard Whalen

Brewers Mills

President: Stephanie Weiler

- We sent out sympathy cards and poinsettias at Christmas.
- We awarded two bursaries last fall.

St. Barnaby Parish

Rev. Robert Masters

Brockville

President: Peggy Brand

- We are struggling as a council since the passing of our late president.
- We were unable to hold a meeting in 2020 due to covid.

St. Francis Xavier Parish

Rev. Brian Price

Brockville

President: Mary Macdermot

- Held one meeting in 2020 in January with a guest speaker Christine Kemper-Baker from Days for girls Charity They help provide materials to make hygienic products in Africa. The council gave \$100 to support this cause and continue to donate materials.
- Provided refreshments and lunch and hosted the Diocesan Music Ministry as a fund raiser.
- Donated paper products to Interval House in Brockville.

St. John Bosco Parish

Rev. Jacob Chelamootil

Carleton Place

President: Annette Meadows

- We purchased a zoom account to host CWL and parish activities. We have been leading the rosary two evenings a week via zoom.
- We sponsored the Divine Mercy Cenacle Formation Study Group.
- We are doing our best to reach out to members. We sent members cards at Christmas with a prayer to end the coronavirus, written by our parish priest, Father Cosmas Ajawara.

St. Mary Parish

Rev. Cosmas Ajawara

Centreville

President: Veronica Wemp

- Our Hug Program filled 34 bags with personal items and 100 quilts that were given to Victim Services, Morning Star Mission for the Homeless, and Interval House.
- Our clustered parish walked for the homeless for The Coldest Night of the Year, over \$10,800 was raised.
- 80 bags were sewn and filled with school supplies and given to Canadian Food for Children and Catholic Missions.

St. Anthony of Padua Parish

Rev. Stéphane Pouliot

Deseronto

Contact: Dolores Parks

- Hosted World Day of Prayer in March 2020.
- Mass cards were given out to members who had a death in their family.
- Our parish president passed away January 8, 2020. We had an honor guard at her funeral. 19 ladies participated.
- In partnership with the other churches in our area organized gifts for residents of Friendly Manor nursing home near Deseronto.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish

Rev. Francis Zambon

Elgin

Contact: Sue Brus

- Hosted a 'bakeless' bake sale last July
- Donated \$400 to the Elgin food bank, gifted \$100 to the local public school breakfast fund
- Birthright receives \$200 each Christmas from our group as well a \$100 donation to Kenya Help.

St. Columbanus
Rev. Cyprian Ihedoro

Enterprise

President: Margaret Ann Johnston

- We held two meetings before the pandemic arrived.
- We voted and passed a motion to increase per cap fees by \$2 and sent this amount to national.
- We rented the wreath from the Legion for Remembrance Day in November and placed it at the church for two Sundays before Nov 11.

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

Rev. Stéphane Pouliot

Erinsville

President: Maureen Gaffney

- Our clustered parish participated in a walk in the Coldest Night of the Year campaign for the homeless supporting the Napanee Morning Star Mission.
- We installed our new executive June 29.
- Supported the Tamworth Legion by purchasing a wreath for their virtual Remembrance Day Program.
- Supported the Tamworth and District Lions Club by collecting and donating food and toys for 38 families in need at Christmas.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

Rev. Stéphane Pouliot

Gananogue/Howe Island

President: Jo-Anne McReynolds

- Our council hosted the world day of prayer in March.
- We were unable to meet in person since March but continued to keep contact by phone and emails.

St. John the Evangelist Parish

Rev. Dale Wright

Kingston

President: Karen Mulvihill

- In February we elected a new executive and added four new faces to the executive.
- During the pandemic our focus has been on communication so the executive has been calling our 105 members to check in and keep in touch.
- Many prayer requests have been shared and the calls are very well received.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

Rev. John Brennan

Kingston

Co-Presidents:

Patricia Dessanti, Louise Baillargeon

- Before Covid we managed to hold two Beyond the Basement get togethers. This is a monthly activity to bring together women of the community. All are invited for an afternoon of exchange of friendship over coffee and snacks games and crafts in our church hall.
- We held a socially distanced meeting in September to catch up and plan our next activities.
- We held our second annual Tree of Warmth event for Christmas. We gathered and donated 400 mitts, scarves and other warm items.
- We continue to reach out to each other and help when needed.

St. John the Apostle Parish

Lindsay Reinelt

Kingston

President: Colleen Krasna

St. Joseph Parish

Rev. James Quirk

Kingston

President: Ann Lyng

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish

Rev. Shawn Hughes

- We have not been able to do a lot this year due to covid.
- We are struggling but did manage to collect membership fees.

Kingston

President: Cynthia Fediuk-Mombourquette

St. Paul the Apostle Parish

Rev. Sebastian Amato

Kingston Mills

President: Donna Payne

Holy Name of Jesus Parish

Rev. Wieslaw Chochrek

- We have been unable to meet since Covid began but we were able to support two families in need at Christmas with a gift card from Walmart for each family.
- We sent Christmas cards and Blessings to some of our members in nursing homes and those living alone.
- We were able to support Save a Family Plan project

Lanark

President: Judy Donnelly

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

Rev. Charles Enyinnia

- Donated money to grade 8 graduates which was hand delivered by the principle.
- Supported 4 high school grads from St. John Perth. This was given out by the school.
- Masses were said for seniors and shut-ins at Christmas.
- Supported Christmas Dinner Community Basket organized by our Health Centre.
- Purchased two Angel Tree gifts.
- Gave a card to Father Kusyk with money and spiritual bouquet when he left in November.

Lansdowne

President: Mary Robertson

St. Patrick Parish

Rev. Jan Kusyk

- We approved the motion to increase the Diocesan per capita fee from \$4 to \$5.50.
- Attended the world day of Prayer.
- Did baking for seniors and shut-ins at Christmas and decorated the Church for Christmas.

Madoc

Contact: Debbie Wood

Sacred Heart of Mary Parish

Rev. Justin Pulikunnel

- In December we delivered in person a small bouquet of flowers or Chocolates to members and shut ins.
- We offered Masses, prayers and phone calls to those who were homebound.
- One member of the community relies on restaurants for his meals. When the restaurants were closed in the spring a few members provided him with countless meals and desserts.

Marmora

Contact: Dorothy Meehan

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

Rev. Justin Pulikunnel

- Despite Covid we were able to do a full membership renewal for 2020.
- We have not had any meetings since February. We did not do zoom meetings.

Marysville

Contact: Julia Murphy

Holy Name of Mary Parish

Rev. Francis Zambon

- We made sock bunnies and birthday cards for residents of the Friendly Manor Nursing Home.
- Some members were able to watch the speakers for National Convention on line
- Collected purses and personal items for a women's shelter as usual and will drop off when we are allowed to do so.
- Sponsored a new award at Holy name of Mary elementary school for a grade eight girl who presented the actions of growing in faith, ministry and service.

Morrisburg / Iroquois

President: Jessica Lortie

St. Mary / St. Cecilia Parish

Rev. Thomas Thazhappally

- Presented Nancy Richer with her Maple Leaf pin
- Supported our local schools, Christmas exchange and community share

Napanee

President: Marilyn Murray

St Patrick Parish

Rev. Marek Chochrek

- In January members volunteered to assist with the Canadian Blood Services Clinic in Napanee.
- Attended the February Presidents' meeting.
- We were able to hold the 12 hours of Prayer for Palliative Care in May on an individual basis.
- In November we held an executive meeting to disburse funds. We organized a successful food drive in December for the Salvation Army.

Perth

President: Colleen Donohue

- Our President was very ill and we set up a schedule to make and deliver meals to her house.
- We sent Christmas cards to our shut-ins and sent cards and flowers to members.
- We welcomed Father Charles Okoye and Father Charles Russell to our parish with a gift certificate to Maximillian's Restaurant.

St. John the Baptist Parish

Rev. Charles Enyinnia

Picton

Betty Anne Brown-Davidson

- Members wrote the government about insufficient staffing in nursing homes
- Following outdoor pandemic guidelines, the church lawn was the site of two successful bake sales to assist with the diminished revenue to the parish and mission assistance at home and abroad

St. Gregory the Great Parish

Rev. George Okoye

Prescott

President: Kathy Putman

- In the challenging times during covid restrictions one thing that still had the power to heal and lift hearts was the kindness that we witnessed in so many ways in our parish.
- Our council made a point of connecting with our parishioners and CWL members by sending a personalized Christmas message for residents in long term care and retirement homes and shut-ins within our community.
- We supported four graduates from two Catholic High Schools with a \$250 bursary to each student.

St. Mark the Evangelist Parish

Rev. Brent Brennan

Catholic Girls League

- Due to Covid restrictions we were unable to do our regular activities.

Read

Co-Presidents:

Sharon Whalen, Linda Walsh

- Our annual Soup Luncheon in February was a success with the help of the Catholic Girl's League.
- Because of Covid no other activities or meetings took place, but we distributed our annual donations, fuel for our parish, Birth Right and Food for Learning.

St. Charles Borromeo Parish

Rev. Francis Zambon

Sharbot Lake

President: Jean Patterson

- We held two masked meetings
- Continued to support The Homeless and Birthright
- Planted a centennial tree
- Arranged phone calls to connect parish members during the covid pandemic

St. James Major Parish

Rev. Cyprian Ihedoro

Smiths Falls

President: Ann Johnson

- Our council set up an "In Touch" telephone network contacting members weekly- those who are on their own, isolated, or with limited ability to go out and ensuring they were ok and whether they needed help or just a friendly voice on the other end of the phone.
- Our Resolutions and Legislation Chair guided us through letter writing campaigns to our MP on issues of Bill C7 and Long Term Care Homes.
- We held our Memorial Mass with the Knights of Columbus for our deceased members in November.
- We received many prayer requests, and these were forwarded to our members via emails.
- We continued to support local charities and our foster child in Kenya.
- We volunteered as ushers and greeters at all weekend Masses whenever the church was able to be open.

St. Francis de Sales Parish Blessed Sacrament

Rev. Rod McNeil

Stanleyville

President: Diane Morrison

- At Christmas instead of doing baskets for shut-ins, lonely and bereaved we sent them Mass cards throughout the year.

St. Bridget Parish

Rev. Charles Enyinnia

Stirling

President: Joanne Belanger

- Held loonie brunches after Sunday Mass September to December as a fundraiser.
- We donated \$50 monthly to birthright to cover their phone bill.
- We made donations to 3 Oakes Women's Shelter, Silent Children and Father Don at Christmas

St. James Minor Parish

Rev. Don Oberwarth

Stoco

President: Marion Dolan

- We donated toiletries to the Salvation Army.
- We supported two families at Christmas through the Salvation Army.
- We organized a dinner for the Community of Tweed charging pay what you can.

St. Edmund Parish

Rev. Aidan Dasaah

Toledo

President: Linda Bisonette

- We were unable to do funeral lunches due to covid but we formed an honour guard outside the church for a funeral for a former member of 60 plus years
- Gave to food bank and donated hats and other items of clothing to homeless

St. Philip Neri Parish

Rev. Benedict Ubanii

Trenton

President: Shelly Murphy

St. Peter in Chains Parish

Rev. Timothy Harrison

Tweed

President: Lynda Akey

- We were unable to meet during covid but we managed to do a successful membership drive.
- We kept in touch with phone calls.

St. Carthagh Parish

Rev. Aidan Dasaah

Westport

President: June Gervais

- We helped at a food drive held at Kudrinkos Grocery Store.
- Tickets were sold as an alternative to a bazaar.
- A child was Sponsored in Africa through Chalice.
- Two meetings were held.
- Donations were made to Food Bank and Birthright.

St. Edward the Confessor Parish

Rev. Cyprian Ihedoro

Editor's Note

This book was completed during difficult times in our diocese. Even though the convention was cancelled due to the Covid 19 pandemic, please take the time to review this book. There is so much information shared here.

This Annual Report Book is composed of reports received from the diocesan executive, chairpersons, parish presidents and organization chairpersons. It documents the efforts and achievements of all members of The Catholic Women's League in our diocese and is a testament to the contributions that they have made to Church and society as they serve God and Canada.

It has been a privilege to serve as your editor. As such, I was responsible for receiving, editing, compiling and preparing reports for printing. Thank you to all who submitted reports and to all those ladies who helped put this report book together; those who read and reread and those who fixed the glitches!

Elizabeth Knudson

First Vice, Chairperson of Organization

The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Organization

The League shall be composed of parish, diocesan, provincial councils and a national council with the following compositions:

1. **Parish Council:** shall be composed of the individual members.
2. **Diocesan Council:** shall be composed of its officers, presidents of parish councils in the diocese, parish delegates accredited to the diocesan convention, honorary life members and life members holding a membership in the diocese.
3. **Provincial Council:** shall be composed of its officers, presidents of diocesan councils in the province, diocesan and parish delegates accredited to the provincial convention, honorary life members and life members holding a membership in the diocese.
4. **National Council:** shall be composed of its officers, presidents of provincial councils, honorary life members, life members, and provincial and diocesan delegates accredited to the national convention

Objects

The objects of the League shall be to unite Catholic Women of Canada:

1. to achieve individual and collective spiritual development
2. to promote the teachings of the Catholic Church
3. to exemplify the Christian ideal in home and family life
4. to protect the sanctity of human life
5. to enhance the role of women in Church and society
6. to recognize the human dignity of all people everywhere
7. to uphold and defend Christian education and values in the modern
8. to contribute to the understanding and growth of religious freedom, social justice, peace and harmony

Policy

The policy of the League shall be:

1. to have membership and operation based on the parish unit, with diocesan, provincial and national representation levels
2. to operate on a system of standing committees and to make the fullest possible use of these committees in the involvement of all members
3. to develop leadership qualities and provide training to enable members to take active roles in the affairs of their faith, community and society
4. to maintain affiliation with the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations
5. to cooperate at all levels with other organizations where and in whatever
6. manner the council concerned agrees is necessary or desirable to accomplish the objects of the League
7. to maintain liaison with pastoral councils in accordance with the Code of Canon Law politically non-partisan



**Lord, season after season,
You continue to renew the face of the earth,
"For from the greatness and beauty of created things
Comes a corresponding perception of their Creator."¹**

**Teach us, Lord,
As members of the Catholic Women's League of Canada,
To become attuned to our need to protect
The beauty of our common home.**

**May our efforts lead us to sustain its natural order,
So that, in the words of Pope Francis,
Our heritage is never "deprived of physical contact with nature."²**

**Mary Ryan, Past President,
St. Dunstan Parish Council
Fredericton, New Brunswick**

¹ The Wisdom of Solomon 13:5

² Francis. "Decline In the Quality of Human Life and the Breakdown of Society." Laudato Si', 24 May 2015:44.Web.

Mission Statement: The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

Core Values:

Faith – following Catholic Teaching

Service – local, national and international

Social Justice – actively involved in society