

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



Care for our Common Home

2021 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
2019 - 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

Bernadette Burgess

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) 12 Councils:

Belleville (3), 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)

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)

Kathy Huffman (2016)

Stephanie Spinelli (2017)



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

My Dear Sisters of the League:

I am very pleased, after a two year absence due to the Pandemic to welcome you back to the 100th Annual Convention, in my role as Spiritual Advisor of the Kingston Diocesan Council.

The theme of this Convention, at this very special celebration, is one that encourages all of us to share our faith with others and it is the theme of "Catholic and Living it". We are called to be instruments in God's hands to produce good fruit in this life. St. Paul expresses it this way when he said, "***It is not my life, I live but Christ who lives through me.***" (***Gal.2:20***). For the next two years, the Catholic Women's League focuses on this theme, as we find joy in being Catholic and living it in our Parish Communities.

I would like to thank all of those who in any way have assisted in the preparations to celebrate this Convention. This includes the Diocesan Council Executive, as well as the Councils of St. John the Evangelist/St. Philomena's. I am most thankful for how the women have used their time and talents to support this very special Convention on our 100th Anniversary.

Yours in Jesus and Our Lady of Good Council,

(Rev) Fr. Dale Wright

(Rev.) Fr. Dale Wright



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

May 2022

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

Here we are after two long years, I welcome you to our 100th Celebration as the Kingston Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Please take time to read the reports submitted by the officers. These are a compilation of all that has transpired in our diocese in 2021 even with a pandemic our councils have continued to work hard. 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.

Reading the annual reports, the main comments that was repeated was working and praying together, shows a real "Sisterhood of the League".

We are very grateful to our host council of St. John the Evangelist, Gananoque they are joyfully waiting to welcome you to our 100th Anniversary celebration.

Our key note speaker will be Robert Mundle, who is a certified spiritual health practitioner at Providence Care Hospital. Our Life Members and Past Diocesan Presidents have been working hard to bring to us the "History" of the Diocesan Council.

For the first time we will be offering the chance for those members who can't attend to watch at home or have a group together as the convention will be live streamed.

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.

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

Sincerely,

Diocesan President

KINGSTON DIOCESAN CWL MEMBERSHIP

COUNCIL	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Amherstview	83	77	76	67	66	64
Athens	14	6	6	8	5	6
Bedford	42	43	46	40	88	34
Belleville, Holy Rosary	157	152	146	144	139	134
Belleville, St. Joseph's	169	169	169	149	115	95
Belleville, St. Michael's	130	128	115	120	94	89
Brewers Mills	66	64	63	62	60	58
Brockville, St. Francis	109	85	80	67	57	0
Brockville, St. John Bosco	49	39	46	45	37	37
Carleton Place	60	62	64	62	66	65
Centreville	75	74	73	68	68	63
Deseronto	36	35	34	30	26	26
Elgin	53	36				
Enterprise	34	31	28	28	32	34
Erinsville	55	54	56	54	52	49
Frankford	39	38	40	39		
Gananoque/ Howe Island	92	74	75	79	69	44
Kingston, Our Lady of Lourdes	114	106	104	98	107	83
Kingston, St. John's	47	56	59	46	36	33
Kingston, St. Joseph's	181	174	172	157	149	119
Kingston, St. Mary's	48	52	53	47	30	27
Kingston, St. Paul's	85	92	85	83	80	52
Kingston Mills, Holy Name	58	49	49	53	52	40
Lanark	24	22	20	17	18	16
Lansdowne	17	16	15	15	17	14
Madoc	43	46	40	38	38	38
Marmora	59	57	50	49	50	33
Marysville	39	35	32	29	29	28
Morrisburg & Iroquois	68	65	64	66	42	34
Napanee	119	120	121	119	108	92
Perth	160	156	140	128	115	103
Picton	59	55	50	38	35	28
Prescott	176	165	160	158	147	135
Railton	85	74	70	67	60	51
Read	32	31	30	30	30	28
Sharbot Lake	20	19	23	23	17	14
Smiths Falls	184	160	161	118	119	110
Stanleyville	26	27	29	33	33	30
Stirling	35	37	35	45	36	36
Stoco	35	36	36	33	31	32
Toledo	27	27	27	29	29	29
Trenton	103	81	100	82	77	76
Tweed	53	51	49	46	37	37
Westport	72	75	72	65	55	54
TOTALS	3,232	3,051	2,963	2791	2551	2170

Spiritual Growth of Members

- Efforts continued in 2021 to learn more about our theme 'Care For Our Common Home' mostly through prayer and sending suggested readings via email or direct mail. One council asked their members to clean out closets and drawers then donate coats, clothes, old eyeglasses, books and blankets to various charities in need. Another council developed Thanksgiving Reflections and Prayers focused on Laudato Si, specifically 'ecological conversion'. They also reflected on 'Indigenous way of caring for our common home'.
- The % of councils spending one third of their meetings on spiritual growth has decreased but mostly because if they are meeting at all, the time is kept short due to restrictions: and the time they have is used for essential business. All meetings are still started and ended with prayer.
- For liturgies and programs, many Masses were held for living and deceased members. Rosaries before Mass and for Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes were prayed. Outdoor prayer services for National Truth and Reconciliation Day and Christians in the Holy Land were held. One Spiritual Advisor provides reflections on the Bible at meetings.
- Our Lady of Good Counsel was honoured through Masses and personal prayer. Some members were encouraged to pray the Litany to Our Lady of Good Counsel.
- For the newly initiated 'CWL National Faith Day' on September 19th, there were a few Masses celebrated to mark the occasion. Most councils were either limited with the restrictions or hadn't yet heard of this day. Communication will be key going forward.
- Most Spiritual Advisors attend council meetings, and they are included in the agenda. Their role is that of support and advisor. Some lead the participants in prayer and reflections, as well as answer any theological questions from members. Some provide suggested websites, spiritual readings as well as online conferences to attend.
- Parish Spiritual Development chairs continue to develop their own spirituality through novenas, spiritual books, daily rosaries, divine mercy recitation and bible studies. They are also inspired by attending daily Mass (in person or on TV), participating in webinars, virtual presentations, music and keeping in touch with homebound members.
- Only 35% of chairs use National resources such as Communiqués, prayer resources for ideas on services and newsletters.

Study of Catholic Teachings and Role of Women in the Church

- Only 29% of councils encouraged members to study Catholic teachings and the role of women in the church by attending and promoting related webinars and retreats.
- 2 councils have started to study Pope Francis' encyclical Fratelli Tutti (On Fraternity and Social Friendship)
- 82% of councils reported participating in Pope Francis' ask to pray the rosary daily in May to end the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 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

- Some councils were able to participate in the CWL Day of Prayer for Home Missions through organized rosaries and special prayers given to members to recite.
- Councils supported the Catholic Missions in Canada (CMIC) through financial donations. They also purchased the CMIC calendars and made them available to parishioners

Lay Ministries

- Many standing committee chairs were personally involved in parish lay ministry with most serving as lectors, hospitality, ushers and choir ministry.
- The same can be said of our members while also being involved in Eucharistic Ministry, decorating and parish sacristans.
- Several of these ministries are chaired or organized by CWL members

Ecumenism and Interfaith Endeavors

- Very few council 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 did promote 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
- For Orange Shirt Day Celebration, one council used the Prayer Service developed by Colleen Martin, Thunder Bay Diocese, with great success.

Spiritual Development Training and Support

- Standing Committee chairs reported receiving support from the Diocesan council in the form of mentoring and directives. Little training was received from higher levels during this past year.
- Spiritual Development chairs would like executive training on all positions with the Diocesan Council

Organization Standing Committee Report

2021

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.
- Life members act as mentors and are 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 2021 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

2021

Diocese: Kingston

Chairperson: Bernadette Burgess

Parishes Reporting: 17 / 43

Honorary Life Members: 1

Life Members: 12

Deceased Members – 2021

- The Kingston Diocese mourned the loss of Life Member Liaison, Carol Richer in April. Bernadette Burgess was appointed to complete the term.

Newly Appointed Life Members – 2021

- No new Life Members in 2021.

Life Member Liaison's Activity Report

- Emails were sent providing information to be shared at the diocesan, provincial and national levels.
- Ecards were sent to life members throughout the country as we celebrated together the joys and sorrows of life.
- Kingston Life Members continue to mentor members at the parish and diocesan levels.
- Life Members have stepped into the role as parish presidents in order to continue the League in their parish. They have served as facilitators and advisors, especially during the election process and compilation of the Kingston Diocesan 10-year history book.
- One member serves on the sub-committee of Spiritual Development at the national level and Life Member, Anne Madden is completing her term as Ontario Past-President/Historian.
- Parishes are encouraged to keep in touch with their life members and utilize their knowledge.
- Parishes would also benefit from asking life members, especially those that may be homebound, to be prayer partners for the future of The Catholic Women's League.

Christian Family Life Standing Committee Report

2021

Diocese: Kingston

Chairperson: Angela Town

Parishes Reporting: 15 / 43

Marriage and Family

- One council planned an event to recognize the Year "Amoris Laetitia Family." Pope Francis proclaimed March 19, 2021 to June 26, 2022.
- Three councils indicated that they supported victims of domestic abuse via: supporting and donating to local women's shelters; Interval House, referral and support to access local programs;
- Provided marriage preparation courses;
- One council had members who attended workshops or seminars on the topic of family life.

Sanctity of Life

- Two 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;
- Two councils indicated that they have copies of the current pro-life brochure available in their church vestibule;
- Three councils have met with pro-life legislators and seven have written letters to inform legislators of CWL resolutions on abortion and euthanasia.
- Ten councils have regularly prayed for the protection of life.

Ministry to Youth

- Three 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, World Youth Day and Sunday school.

Ministry to the Disabled

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

Ministry to Seniors

- Councils called, visited, involved them in CWL events, brought communion, provided transportation, gifted them with membership, sent cards of encouragement, 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

- Councils 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

- Councils supported them by lending an ear and through prayer.

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;
- Viewed World Day of Prayer for Vocations website for resources
- Attended the Ordination of a local Deacon on-line.
- Circulated a cross in a prayer box. Each family had it for 2 week and prayed daily for priests and vocation to religious life.

Community Life Standing Committee Report

2021

Diocese: Kingston

Chairperson: Karen Mulvihill

Parishes Reporting: 13 / 43

Dignity and Rights of Persons

- Volunteered with minority groups (those incarcerated, suffering from domestic violence, homelessness, poverty and racism)
- Invited Indigenous women to be guest speakers

- Increased awareness of the laws against human trafficking through sharing and discussing books and general intercessions at Mass

Social and Economic Justice

- Volunteer, prayerful, and financial support to local organizations (affordable housing, anti-poverty, after school programs, clothing drives, drop-in centers, emergency shelters, food banks and soup kitchens)
- Councils celebrated National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, 2021, by participating in virtual masses
- Recognized the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2021, by reading/sharing articles, prayer services, offered masses, wore orange shirts, and displayed We Matter signs

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; wore red on Fridays to support Canadian troops
- Celebrated the CWL Day of Prayer for Christian sisters and brothers in the Holy Land and Middle East on September 21, 2021 (the World Day of Peace) by participating in mass and Mary's Way of the Cross, and printing and distributing prayers at mass in advance

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace

- Participated in the League's program of donating 1% of the price of luxury items purchased during this year to CCOOP

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)
- Improved awareness of conditions and implications of child labour, trade laws, and economic difficulties within developing countries, and criticized structures that put profits before people

Education and Health Standing Committee Report

2021

Diocese: Kingston

Chairperson: Colleen Hill

Parishes Reporting: 11 / 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:
- provided school supplies
- donated books to Catholic elementary school with emphasis on Christian values
- taught material for preparation for First Communion and Confirmation

- 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.

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.
- Members were encouraged to read and become knowledgeable about Covid 19, so that they can understand ways they can prevent and protect themselves against this virus and members were encouraged to get vaccinated
- 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)
- Councils continued to do wellness checks on their members during these periods of isolation
- Councils held virtual speakers through Zoom on MAiD, Dementia and Spirituality and Mental Health Life Coaching

Literacy and Continuing Education

- A minority of councils are aware of scholarships and bursaries that are available to women for their education
- A large majority have contributed to the Coady International Institute this year

Environment

- Fifty five 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 on the awareness of the impact of reduction of use of lighting. One council held a Zoom Prayer Service on Water Quality in Canada.
- Some councils planted a tree to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the League in Canada

Genetics

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

The Canadian League Magazine

- In winter magazine 2021, an article that was liked was The Role of Women in the Church.
- Need more articles on local parish councils.

Media: for Evangelization

- Promoting faith-oriented programs such as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation; world communications day; The Catholic Register; Mass for Shut-ins plus salt and light daily mass.
- Shared League Mass on April 26 in honour of "The Feast of Our Lady of Good Council".

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. Most councils 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 and parish websites for submitting material for publication or sent thank you after events or invitation to attend events
- Organized telephone calls to members or by 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. 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.
- 42% of council's have shared with their members the strategic planning information 25% recite the Renewal Prayer found on the National website.

Legislation Standing Committee Report

2021

Diocese: Kingston Chairperson: Vacant
Parishes Reporting: 14 / 43

Monitor and Study Legislations at All Levels of Government

- 14 councils responded to this survey but only 4 had the positions filled at the parish level. All knew the names of their local, provincial and federal government officials

Brief Canadian and Position Papers

- Councils continued to access the CWL websites and the League Magazine and directives to learn about the current issues.

Resolutions Standing Committee Report

2021

Diocese: Kingston Chairperson: Shelley Murphy
Parishes Reporting: 6 / 43

Research and Preparation of Resolutions and Brief

- Councils received information from Diocesan directives
- Kept informed by using the Canadian League magazine
- Some councils had combined Resolutions with Legislations committees

Study and Implementation of Resolutions

- Responded to National, Provincial and Diocesan incentives on medical assistance in dying and awareness of water issues in Indigenous communities
- Councils wrote their local MP with their concerns and received positive feedback

Past President/Historian Report

2021

Diocese: Kingston Chairperson: Maureen Vincentine
Parishes Reporting: 17 / 43

Serve in a Consultative Capacity

- It is interesting that again this year 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 love, strength and support for the league. These past presidents show their dedication through their attendance at events and meetings at least most of the time. Although they are not often called upon to give advice, they mostly 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. 9 of the 17 councils reporting, said they have their own manual of policy and procedure. Of the other 8 councils, only one said they would like to work on a new P&P in the new year. 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.
- Other duties taken on by several past presidents are as follows: nomination and election committee (43%); organizing social events (36%); sharing information from national and provincial websites (29%), filling in a vacant position (29%) and representing the council at convention (29%).
- Half of those responding are at least usually satisfied with communication they receive from National Council, Provincial Council and Diocesan Council. They report that communication from diocesan Council is always relevant and that it is usually relevant coming from the provincial and national levels as well and it is concise and time appropriate for action or response.
- Half of those responding have supported the implementation of the envisioned future of the League through Planning Strategically.

Diocesan Highlights

- Past presidents commented on their abilities to carry on with projects that have been very close to their hearts during this difficult year. They commented that prayer and intervention of the Holy Spirit has been and continues to be essential to the work of the League. Some councils have already celebrated or are preparing to celebrate 100 year anniversaries by planting a tree, placing a granite bench in a parish cemetery. Past presidents report other challenges such as: Members who do not agree on the direction in which their council is being directed; aging membership; use of technology in order to meet; keeping on top of information and directives.

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 been busy working on collecting and organizing our recent history.
- I am also organizing and preparing for the 2022 Diocesan election.

Recording Secretary Report

2021

Diocese: Kingston

Chairperson: Mary Lou Hills

Parishes Reporting: 21 / 43

Duties of the Recording Secretary

- 52% (11) held the position of Recording Secretary only, 38% (8) held both the position of secretary and corresponding secretary. Two councils had neither and the positions were covered by the president or the Organization chair.
- Of the 21 recording secretaries, who filed an on-line report, only 8 were elected, 13 were appointed.
- The survey then asked them to report on the following: (95%) take minutes, but only 12 were signing officers, 126 knew where their charter was located, and 86% maintained a list of their executive officers with contact information.
- Nine of those who responded were aware that their council had a motions book, 10 replied that their council did not and only 2 were unaware if one existed.
- Asked if they received written reports from the executive 10 replied yes, 7 replied sometimes and 4 replied they did not receive written reports from the executive.
- When it came to knowledge of the *Handbook for Secretaries* only 15 were aware of such a handbook.
- Only 12 were aware of the existence of the *CWL Personal Letter Writing Guide*, 6 didn't know and 3 said no

Challenges

- The overwhelming challenge in 2021 was again the COVID-19 pandemic.
- One council was unable to hold meetings, while another council was only able to hold one meeting, outdoors during the summer. Another council, unable to meet in person, communicated by updating their website, sending emails.
- Another secretary felt her biggest challenge, as with those of her Council's members, was feeling safe to attend in person meetings.
- Most saw that their biggest challenge was keeping members informed. Most used email, telephone, mailbox drop-offs and social media.

- Some Councils met this challenge by utilizing technology such as Zoom, emails, and quarterly newsletters. It is difficult to hold virtual meetings when dealing with an older demographic that is not into technology.

Communications Satisfaction Survey

- This year the National Council asked respondents to rate communications they receive from National, Provincial, Diocesan and Regional Councils. They were asked to rate not only how satisfied they were with communications from the 4 levels, but also to rate how relevant, and if the communications were clear and concise. They were also asked how often they received duplicate communications, and did they feel that, when asked/invited to respond to a particular communique, that they were given enough time to complete the task. Responses as to the survey varied. 50% or half said that communications were clear and concise; 43% said that they never received duplicate communications and 12 out of the 20 (60%) felt that they usually had enough time to respond to a request or invite. 30% felt communications were relevant to their council and finally Provincial council’s communications received the highest (45%) ranking for satisfactory communiques.

Recommendations

- The main duties of a recording secretary can be found in the following response one secretary gave to the question “What was your biggest challenge as secretary and how did you address it?” “As a number of Executive meetings were conducted via zoom over the past year, ensuring an accurate record of the motions made and/or issues discussed was the biggest challenge; ensuring minutes are translated immediately and in consultation with the President, when necessary, was the most effective way to ensure accurate reporting”. Without in person meetings League members have felt further isolated during the pandemic. Corresponding and Recording Secretaries found ways to alleviate some of the isolationism through emails, personal phone calls. They kept members informed.

Corresponding Secretary Report

2021

Diocese: Kingston Chairperson: Wilma Turcotte
 Parishes Reporting: 21 / 43

- 38% of councils report corresponding and reporting secretaries do both. Only 0% are corresponding secretaries.
- 38% were elected and 62% were appointed.
- 86% 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 meetings but kept in contact with members by updating website and sent emails.
- Members felt unsafe to attend meeting; meeting not held due to members not being vaccinated
- 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 Charter Dates

Over the last year our councils have continue to support those causes that they can despite the Covid-19 pandemic. Councils have sent in their highlights for our 10 year history book. Below are the Charter Dates that were confirmed with National for our 90th Anniversary in 2012.

Amherstview

President: Donna Guiney
November 14, 1995

Blessed Sacrament Parish

Rev. Timothy Shea

Athens

Contact: Susan Mensen
June 15, 1952
(became inactive, then reactivated in 1983)

St. Denis the Areopagite Parish

Rev. Benedict Ubanii

Bedford

President: Karen Abrams
November 15, 1931
(disbanded in late 1940's, reactivated July 29, 1959, disbanded again date unknown, reactivated in 1983)

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

Rev. Cyprian Ihedoro

Belleville

Contact: Maureen Vincentine
January 24, 1954

Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish

Rev. John Hibbard

Belleville

Past President: Bertha Miller
January 24, 1954

St. Joseph Parish

Rev. Charles McDermott

Belleville

President: Heather Lafond
October 26, 1921

St. Michael the Archangel

Rev. Richard Whalen

Brewers Mills

President: Stephanie Weiler
September 18, 1931

St. Barnaby Parish

Rev. Robert Masters

Brockville

President: Peggy Brand
March 1921

St. Francis Xavier Parish

Rev. Brian Price

Brockville

President: Mary Macdermot
January 18, 2009

St. John Bosco Parish

Rev. Jacob Chelamootil

Carleton Place

President: Annette Meadows

November 9, 1941

*(inactive in 1973, reactivated 1983, disbanded 1991, reactivated 2003)***St. Mary Parish**

Rev. Cosmas Ajawara

Centreville

President: Veronica Wemp

November 1, 1931

St. Anthony of Padua Parish

Rev. Stéphane Pouliot

Deseronto

Contact: Dolores Parks

January 1922

*(Disbanded November 2022)***St. Vincent de Paul Parish**

Rev. Francis Zambon

Elgin

Contact: Sue Brus

September 6, 1931

St. Columbanus

Rev. Cyprian Ihedoro

Enterprise

President: Margaret Ann Johnston

November 1, 1931

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

Rev. Stéphane Pouliot

Erinsville

President: Maureen Gaffney

February 4, 1932

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

Rev. Stéphane Pouliot

Gananogue/Howe Island

President: Jo-Anne McReynolds

September 6, 1931

St. John the Evangelist Parish

Rev. Dale Wright

Kingston

President: Karen Mulvihill

April 12, 1984

*(Inactive 1987-1990; reactivated 1991)***Our Lady of Lourdes Parish**

Rev. John Brennan

Kingston

Co-Presidents:

Patricia Dessanti, Louise Baillargeon

June 14, 1942

St. John the Apostle Parish

Lindsay Reinelt

Kingston

President: Colleen Krasna

April 14, 1950

*(inactive 1972-76, reactivated 1977, inactive 1980-85, reactivated 1986)***St. Joseph**

Rev. James Quirk

Kingston

President: Ann Lyng
April 6, 1921

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish

Rev. Shawn Hughes

Kingston

President: Cynthia Fediuk-Mombourquette
November 9, 1999

St. Paul the Apostle

Rev. John Hibbard

Kingston Mills

President: Donna Payne
September 20, 1925

Holy Name of Jesus Parish

Rev. Wieslaw Chochrek

Lanark

President: Judy Donnelly
December 8, 1931

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

Rev. Charles Enyinnia

Lansdowne

President: Mary Robertson
September 1933
(Disbanded 1975, reorganized June 1997)

St. Patrick Parish

Rev. Jan Kusyk

Madoc

Contact: Debbie Wood
1922

(originally organized in 1922 as Madoc subdivision. Disbanded and then reorganized in 1931)

Sacred Heart of Mary Parish

Rev. Justin Pulikunnel

Marmora

Contact: Dorothy Meehan
December 2, 1931

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

Rev. Justin Pulikunnel

Marysville

Contact: Julia Murphy
October 4, 1931

Holy Name of Mary Parish

Rev. Francis Zambon

Morrisburg/Iroquois

President: Jessica Lortie
1931
(Morrisburg and Iroquois combined in 1969)

St. Mary, St. Cecilia Parishes

Rev. Thomas Thazhappally

Napanee

President: Marilyn Murray
March 19, 1922

St Patrick Parish

Rev. Marek Chochrek

Perth

President: Colleen Donohue
October 1921

St. John the Baptist Parish

Rev. Charles Enyinnia

Picton

Betty Anne Brown-Davidson
 September 13, 1931
(disbanded 1981, reactivated 1982)

Prescott

President: Kathy Putman
 October 1928

Railton

President: Maryanne Takala
 September 1931
(disbanded 1997, reactivated 1999)

Read

Co-Presidents:
 Sharon Whalen, Linda Walsh
 January 12, 1932

Sharbot Lake

President: Jean Patterson
 April 29, 1992

Smiths Falls, Lombardy

President: Ann Johnson
 1921
(Disbanded March 15, 1985, reactivated 1990 St. Anne's joined this council in 1995)

Stanleyville

President: Diane Morrison
 October 4, 1931
(Disbanded at some point and reactivated in 1983)

Stirling

President: Joanne Belanger
 1922

Stoco

President: Marion Dolan
 February 6, 1922

Toledo

President: Linda Bisonette
 September 20, 1931

St. Gregory the Great Parish

Rev. George Okoye

St. Mark the Evangelist Parish

Rev. Brent Brennan

St. Patrick

Rev. W. Steacy

St. Charles Borromeo Parish

Rev. Francis Zambon

St. James Major Parish

Rev. Cyprian Ihedoro

St. Francis de Sales, Blessed Sacrament Parishes

Rev. Rod McNeil

St. Bridget Parish

Rev. Charles Enyinnia

St. James Minor Parish

Rev. Don Oberwarth

St. Edmund Parish

Rev. Aidan Dasaah

St. Philip Neri Parish

Rev. Benedict Ubanii

Trenton

President: Shelly Murphy
October 30, 1921

St. Peter-in-Chains

Rev. Timothy Harrison

Tweed

President: Lynda Akey
June 1922

St. Carthagh Parish

Rev. Aidan Dasaah

Westport

President: June Gervais
November 22, 1921

St. Edward the Confessor Parish

Rev. Cyprian Ihedoro

Editor's Note

This book was completed during difficult times in our diocese.

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.

Thank you to the following members who worked together to complete the book.

Elizabeth Knudson
First Vice President, Chairperson of Organization

Lyne Tuepah
Second Vice President, Spiritual Development

Maureen Vincentine
Past President/Historian

Nancy Richer
Diocesan President

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:

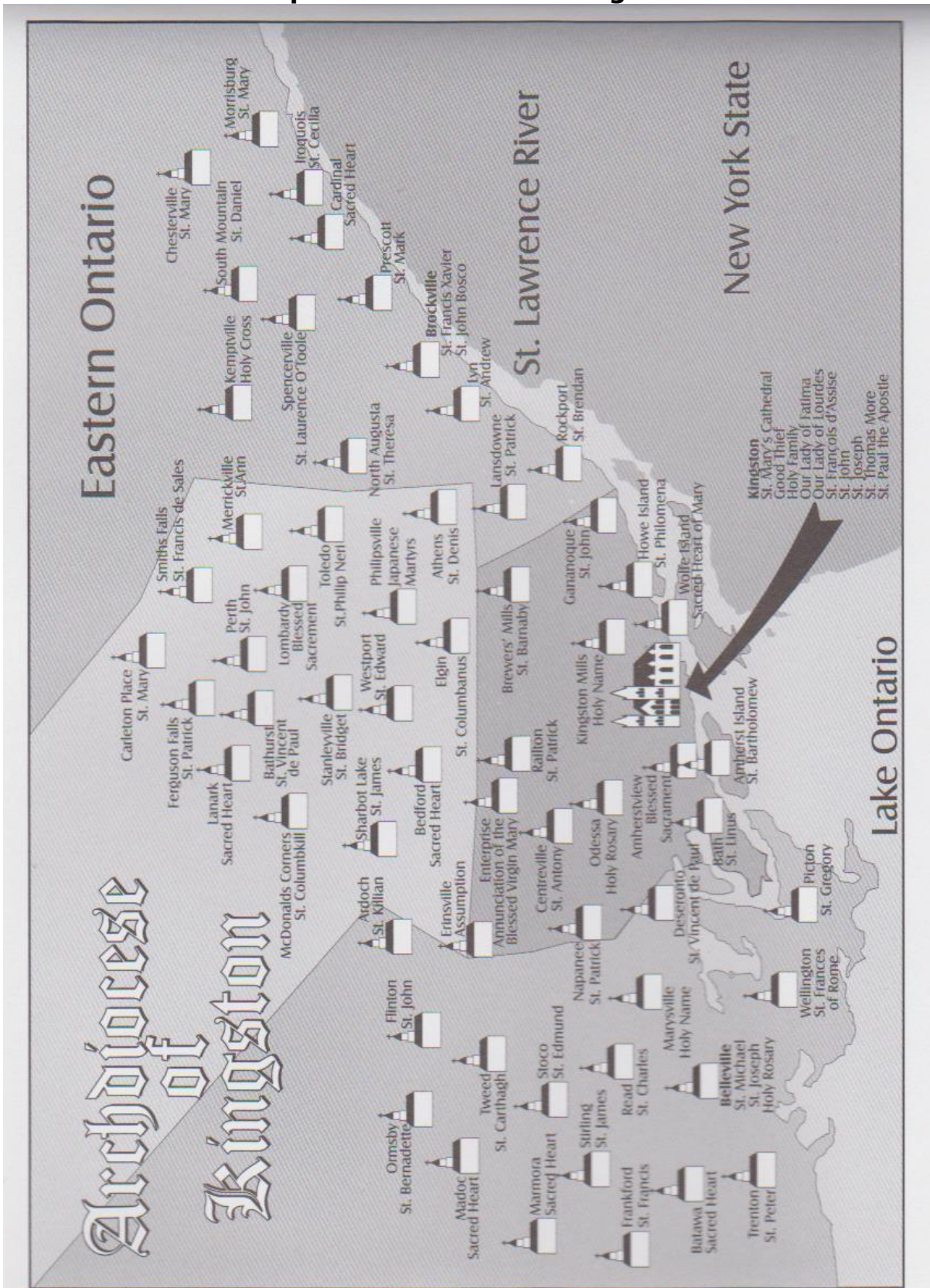
1. to achieve individual and collective spiritual development
2. to promote the teachings of the Catholic Church
3. to exemplify the Christian ideal in home and family life
4. to protect the sanctity of human life
5. to enhance the role of women in Church and society
6. to recognize the human dignity 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

Map of Archdiocese of Kingston



CATHOLIC **and LIVING IT!**

**Loving Father, open our hearts to your infinite love for all people,
and to your presence with us wherever we go in your name.**

Lord Jesus, deepen the spiritual life of the Catholic Women's League.

**Strengthen the faith and good works of our members,
building-up life in the world by being Catholic and Living It!**

**May we imitate you with works of mercy,
welcoming the forgotten, suffering or vulnerable wherever
we encounter them.**

**Holy Spirit, strengthen us to live our faith,
witnessing to life, peace and social justice daily wherever
we are in Canada.**

**Through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel,
may we be joyful and responsive to our
Christian calling, by truly being
Catholic and Living It!**

**We make this prayer through Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah,
who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
forever and ever.**

Amen

Prayer: Deacon John Lindsay, Archdiocese of Edmonton.

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**