

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



Catholic and Living It!

2023 Annual Reports

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Diocesan Regions

Region One (Central) 14 Councils:

Amherstview, Brewers Mills, Centreville, Enterprise, Erinsville, Gananoque, Kingston (4), 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

Kingston Diocesan Officers 2022 - 2024

Spiritual Advisor
Fr. Stéphane Pouliot

President
Lyne Tuepah

President Elect / Health & Education
Elizabeth Knudson

Past President/Historian
Nancy Richer

Organization
Maureen Vincentine

Spiritual Development
Angela Town

Treasurer
Mary Lou Hills

**Corresponding Secretary/
Communications**
Annette Meadows

Recording Secretary
Colleen Hill

Christian Family Life
Bernadette Veitch

Resolutions
Karen Mulvihill

Life Member Liaison
Stephanie Spinelli

Diocesan Past Presidents

Theresa Mangan (1969-1971)	Carmel Foster (1973-1975)
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)
Nancy Richer (2019 – 2022)	

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)
Anne Madden (2011)	Kathy Huffman(2016)
Stephanie Spinelli (2017)	



ARCHDIOCESE of KINGSTON

Message from Archbishop Michael Mulhall to the Members of the Catholic Women's League of the Archdiocese of Kingston April 2024

Dear Catholic Women's League Members:

I am pleased to offer greetings and best wishes on the occasion of your annual convention, which is being held on the last weekend of April. I look forward to welcoming you to the Cathedral on Sunday, April 28th, to celebrate the Sunday Eucharist.

After Isaiah is caught up in the awe-inspiring presence of God, the question is posed to him, whom shall I send? The revelation of His greatness, His authority, and His generosity made Isaiah aware of who God really is, and in turn, his own poverty. Isaiah simply could not ignore this profound encounter. He is propelled to action. Isaiah chooses to respond with a repentant heart and is met with God's abundant mercy and grace. In humility and gratefulness, Isaiah replies, "Here am I Lord; send me!"

This same question that God asks Isaiah is the question He asks each one of us today, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" The answer to this pressing question is this year's National convention theme - **"Here I am Lord, Send Me"** (Isaiah 6:8). With heart-felt passion, Isaiah boldly makes himself available for God's service. Like Isaiah, over the years in the Archdiocese of Kingston, the members of the Catholic Women's League have whole-heartedly committed themselves to being available to serve God and the needs of the Church locally, provincially, and nationally. As you generously serve, may God's blessing, through the Holy Spirit, bring to all its members, renewed vision and strength.

My dear sisters, may your time together at this Convention be once again a source of spiritual growth, friendship, and restored commitment as dedicated members of the Catholic Women's League. Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

† Michael Mulhall
Archbishop of Kingston

Annual Report 2023 – Spiritual Advisor to the Diocesan Executive

My dear sisters in the League,

It is with a grateful joy that I am preparing this 2023 summary report as spiritual advisor to the Diocesan Executive of the Catholic Women's League in the Archdiocese of Kingston. What a road we have travelled since our last diocesan convention of the League held in Kingston from April 29-30, 2023!

I attended the provincial convention of the Catholic Women's League held in Cornwall from July 10-12. I gave a retreat to the Diocesan Executive on the 14 rules of discernment of St. Ignatius of Loyola on Saturday August 19, 2023.

On Saturday, September 30, 2023, as spiritual advisor to the Diocesan Executive, I was invited by the local parish council of the League at St. Francis de Sales in Smiths Falls to give a retreat on "Lessons from our holy founders on the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation". I spoke of St. François de Laval, the first bishop of Canada; St. Marie of the Incarnation, Mother of the colony and first educator of the children of our European settlers and Indigenous brothers and sisters; Blessed Catherine of St. Augustine, nursing sister and manager of the first hospital in our country; St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks, the first canonized Indigenous Catholic saint.

On Saturday, October 21, 2023, I spoke in the context of the Fall Presidents' meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Hall in Kingston about the vision of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy promulgated by Pope Saint Paul VI in the context of Vatican II as we were approaching its 60th anniversary (Dec. 4, 1963), and I invited all of you my dear sisters to study actively the four constitutions (Sacrosanctum Concilium/On the Sacred Liturgy, Lumen Gentium/On the Church, Dei Verbum/On Divine Revelation and Gaudium et Spes/On the Church in the modern world).

On Saturday, February 10, 2024, I spoke in the context of the Winter Presidents' meeting at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall in Kingston deriving inspiration from "Mysterium Fidei", the 1967 encyclical of Pope St. Paul VI, and providing you a practical way to pay attention to how God communicates with you upon returning to consciousness after each distraction during Mass.

Most recently, over 110 of you my sisters gathered on March 9, 2024 at St. Patrick's Church and Parish Hall in Napanee for the retreat whose theme was "Belonging to Our Heavenly Father: I am loved, I am saved, I am valued, I am missionary". It was such a blessing to be able to serve you in preaching this retreat where we all felt the presence of the Holy Spirit moving our hearts. It is clearly a blessing to conclude this report with the blessing of this diocesan convention taking place in Kingston from April 27-28, 2024,

For the Glory of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and assisted by the fervent prayers of Our Lady of Good Counsel, I remain grateful for your prayers and assure you of mine,



Father Stéphane Pouliot, Spiritual Advisor to the Diocesan Executive



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

March 13, 2024

Dear League Sisters and Spiritual Advisors,

Our annual convention is a great time to reflect back on our many events of 2023 and remember what we have accomplished as a council as we strived to 'Go Make a Difference' and 'Reconnect'.

In February, our Kingston Diocesan Council of officers and parish presidents, along with our life members and past diocesan presidents, met at St Paul the Apostle in Kingston for our Winter Presidents meeting. We were fortunate to have our Provincial president, Linda Squarzolo, travel to Kingston from Sudbury to present us with the National Unity Outreach project.

In March, 75 League sisters gathered at St Patrick's in Railton for our annual Spiritual Retreat. Our Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Father Stéphane, lead us on the Feast of the Annunciation in a 3 part 'Mary's Yes'. Their local Knights of Columbus served us a delicious lunch and morning refreshments.

Our 101st Annual Convention was held at the end of April at the Quality Inn and Conference Centre in Kingston with over 140 delegates in attendance. The weekend was filled with spiritual services and education, highlighted by our keynote speakers, sisters Rose Clare and Philomena from the Queenship of Mary. We had 3 angels demonstrate how 'we are making a difference' and had Life members and past presidents recap 'The first 100 years of our Kingston Diocesan CWL'. There was a real sense of reconnection with our sisters.

In May and June, we held 7 Unity Outreach sessions for all parish councils to attend. We gathered your questions and concerns, and got a feel for what was happening at the parish level.

In July, the Ontario Provincial Convention was held in Cornwall and many of our own sisters made the trip. One highlight was Joanne Belanger, parish president of St James Minor in Stirling, winning the Provincial Social Justice Award. Very proud moment for our Archdiocese.

In August, I had the pleasure of representing our Diocesan Council at the National AMM (Annual Meeting of Members) in St John, New Brunswick. Voting delegates were invited for 2 days of business and spiritual services.

Later in August, the Diocesan officers gathered in Carleton Place for the 'Officers Retreat and Planning' session. After a morning lead by Father Stéphane taking us through the '14 rules of discernment outlined by St. Ignatius of Loyola', we spent the afternoon planning our year ahead.

In October, St Joseph in Kingston hosted the Fall Presidents meeting. Many were in attendance as Father Stéphane gave us an overview of the four Vatican II Dogmatic Constitutions. We also discussed the outcome and next steps of the Unity Outreach feedback.

November brought 'CWL Info Sessions' held in 4 locations across the archdiocese. We reviewed 3 of the main topics brought up in the Outreach feedback: Promoting and Recruiting, New Executive Model and Simplifying Meetings. If you missed them, the content can be found on our website.

We saw our website, www.kingston.cwl.on.ca, be completely revamped by our very talented webmaster. We visited parish councils struggling with how to keep their group going, providing ideas and support. In the spirit of 'Ecumenism', I accepted invitations to the United Church Women (UCW) Annual meeting as well as the Anglican Church Women (ACW) Convention Day. They in turn accepted and joined us at our annual convention.

2023 was a full year and I thank all of you for being a part of it.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide us well.

Your sister in Christ,

Lyne

Lyne Tuepah
President
Kingston Diocesan Council of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

KINGSTON DIOCESAN CWL MEMBERSHIP

Council	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Amherstview	67	66	64	55	65
Athens	8	5	6	5	7
Bedford	40	88	34	27	30
Belleville, Holy Rosary	142	139	134	126	123
Belleville, St. Joseph's	149	115	95	2	95
Belleville, St. Michael's	120	94	89	83	78
Brewers Mills	62	60	58	56	54
Brockville, St. Francis	67	57	0	0	34
Brockville, St. John Bosco	45	37	37	27	30
Carleton Place	62	66	65	62	65
Centreville	68	68	63	60	59
Deseronto	30	26	26	-	-
Elgin					16
Enterprise	28	32	34	33	33
Erinsville	54	52	49	46	47
Frankford	39	-	-	-	-
Gananoque/ Howe Island	79	69	44	58	56
Kingston, Our Lady of Lourdes	98	107	83	78	87
Kingston, St. John's	46	36	33	34	34
Kingston, St. Joseph's	157	149	119	123	120
Kingston, St. Mary's	47	30	27	29	-
Kingston, St. Paul's	83	80	52	44	47
Kingston Mills, Holy Name	53	52	40	37	32
Lanark	17	18	16	15	16
Lansdowne	15	17	14	13	10
Madoc	38	38	38	42	41
Marmora	49	50	33	-	27
Marysville	29	29	28	36	37
Morrisburg & Iroquois	66	42	34	46	44
Napanee	119	108	92	88	84
Perth	128	115	103	101	91
Picton	38	35	28	36	33
Prescott	158	147	135	137	132
Railton	67	60	51	54	51
Read	30	30	28	24	22
Sharbot Lake	23	17	14	12	11
Smiths Falls	118	119	110	140	136
Stanleyville	33	33	30	29	27
Stirling	45	36	36	29	31
Stoco	33	31	32	31	27
Toledo	29	29	29	27	26
Trenton	82	77	76	70	59
Tweed	46	37	37	34	34
Westport	65	55	54	46	49
TOTALS	2772	2551	2170	1995	2100

President Report

2023

Diocese: Kingston

President: Lyne Tuepah

of parishes responding 27 of 41

of life members 12

Councils moving to the new structure in 2024, prepared by:

- Educating members at general meetings, at Fall Development day, via Newsletter
- Transition is gradual, small councils not seeing much difference

The Unity Outreach Project was presented to 34 or 83% of councils in the diocese and most councils found it was:

- Very informative, well received
- Unified understanding, provided implementation ideas for changes

Many councils had specific projects/focuses for the year that touched on all pillars. Some were new to the diocese, for example:

- Purchased a gold tabor for church to use during adoration in commemoration of our 100th anniversary
- Organized weekly prayer/reflection gatherings after reactivating our parish council
- Remembering our Missing Indigenous Sisters – Red Dress presentation
- Fancy Hat Tea Party for all members to enjoy
- Hosted retired priests and deacons from the Archdiocese – appreciation potluck
- Soup lunch for the community
- Lenten workshops on 'The Chosen' series
- Kindness Rock Project: painted rocks with inspiring words: left around park
- Truth and Reconciliation Prayer Service led by sisters from Tyendinaga First Nations
- Christmas party at seniors' residence – organized with 5 other Christian churches

List any recommendations for improvements in policy, guidelines, or reporting related to the President position at what level of the League.

- Suggest Diocesan Presidents should be given access to membership online database for her diocese as well as Deceased member online database to have a better handle on parish council statuses before it is too late to assist. Struggling councils are not always transparent in asking for assistance. If privacy is an issue, she can sign a confidentiality agreement.

Treasurer Committee Report

2023

Diocese: Kingston

Chairperson: Mary Lou Hills

Parishes Reporting: 28 of 41

In 2023. Diocesan Treasurers were asked to submit their annual report to the Provincial Council based on Parish Councils responses to national council's annual survey. The following information is based on councils' responses to questions related to the treasurer's position at the Executive level.

A. Total donated to national voluntary funds:

- Catholic Missions in Canada \$ 1260
- Catholic Near East Welfare Association \$ 665
- Coady International Institute \$ 890
- Development and Peace – Caritas Canada \$ 1462

Total donations to all charities in 2023 \$ 62,600

B. Significant and/or unusual donations reported:

Parish Level:

- Special funding by a council to support a student from Kenya through the Diocesan Charity – Kenya Help – this includes the student’s tuition and other expenses for the Student’s education. Total support to the students was \$2500. The same council assists Cornerstone Landing – a non-profit organization focusing on youth homelessness.
- Another council’s special activity for the year was to walk in support of “Coldest Night of the Year – local and national fundraising charity..
- Another council donates a significant amount of money to local charities such as Birthright, Veronica’s Veil, Martha’s Table, Kenya Help, St Vincent de Paul, Hope Fund, Street Mission, bursaries, Chalice, food baskets, and the National Bursary Fund. Donations to local and Diocesan charities total \$2607

Diocesan level:

- Diocesan Voluntary charity donations include \$1,500 to support Birthright Organizations in Kington and Belleville
- Kenya Help: \$1,125.00: a charity aimed at making positive change for a village in Kenya.
- Hope Fund: \$2007 to assist 5 families in the Diocesan area with special circumstances, a fund to provide some help with coping with their situation.

C. Recommendations for making improvements in policy, guidelines, or reporting related to the Treasure position and Communication – including identifying at what level of the League:

- Difficulties with technology –converting PDF documents to Word for completing forms: at both the Parish and Diocesan level.
- Even though treasurers can be elected for a second term some councils find it difficult to fill the position. It is not unusual for treasurers to remain in the position for over 4 years. One council has had the same treasurer for 6 years.
- One council had difficulty completing the on-line survey – the system would not allow them to input their responses
- On a positive level using Excel spreadsheets makes it easier to keep track of revenue and expenditure.

Recording Secretary Report

2023

Diocese: Kingston

Chairperson: Colleen Hill

Parishes Reporting: 28 of 41

RECORDING OF MINUTES:

- One parish mentioned that it is good for the Secretary to have good computer skills
- 100% of parishes strive to keep members up to date
- No issues raised over actual reporting of minutes

COMMUNICATION:

- 20 of 27 parishes have Secretaries who are responsible for sending out cards and letters out to members to celebrate significant life events
- primary method of communication for information and resources was email at 85%, followed by meetings 74% and word of mouth 52%
- types of social media used were: website 33%, Facebook 33% , other 33% (not specified)
- National website was accessed to keep abreast, to be informed, for workshops, prayers, Policies and Procedures and to be aware of Resolutions (action)
- only 15% utilize catholicwomenunite.ca website
- 59% have a Council newsletter

List any recommendations for improvements in policy, guidelines or reporting related to the Secretary position including identifying what level of the League:

- good to have two separate roles – Recording Secretary and Correspondence/Communications role
- one council expressed being overwhelmed with the deluge of emails and attachments at times.

Parish secretaries shared specific comments of note on their position as follows:

- A list of government officials and their addresses was compiled to use in letter writing campaigns.

Spiritual Development Standing Committee Report

2023

Diocese: Kingston

Chairperson: Angela Town

Parishes Reporting: 28 of 41

Spiritual Growth of Members

New forms of prayer and spirituality that councils tried this year: Living Rosary evening. At each meeting, a member was asked to speak about their favourite saint. We then prayed to them. We used prayers from a book of prayers put together by our Kingston Diocesan Council, celebrating its 100th anniversary 1922-2022 "Catholic and Living It". Every meeting was preceded by Mass, having an opening and closing prayer for every meeting, inviting our priest (spiritual advisor) to provide "words of wisdom" to members at the beginning of every meeting. Planted a tree in honour of the CWL Anniversary and memory of a deceased CWL member and family. Prayer Box for parish members' intentions and communal time to pray for these offered intentions. Encouraged Novenas & provided links. Lit candles for the deceased & prayed for peace in the Middle East.

Members' Growth in the Catholic faith included: shared information from Catholic sources (16); raised awareness of Catholic resources such as websites (13); encouraging study of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (5); studying/reading encyclicals by Pope Francis (4); scheduled guest speakers on religious topics (4); reported on progress of the Synod on Synodality begun in 2022 (4).

Ecumenical or interfaith activities that council members initiated or participated in during 2023 included: attending an Ecumenical Prayer Group; praying for all the Churches in Our Village; participating in the World Day of Prayer held in March; September 30 - Indigenous Day of Reconciliation; Hosted Coldest Night of the Year; Sponsored a baby shower for a family newly immigrated to our parish; Members of the parish are invited to donate to our Collections for St Vincent de Paul, Birthright, Feed the People (Integrated Care Hub).

Support for Religious vocations: donated to a seminary fund (7); supported consecrated women through prayer and/or donations (4); invited a guest speaker on vocations to ordained ministry and consecrated life (2).

Sanctity of life: donated to pro-life causes (17); promoted pro-life events and encouraged member participation (15); wrote letters to the government against abortion and/or medical assistance in dying (15); participated in 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care (14); participated in March for Life or similar public pro-life gatherings (13); included pro-life prayers and reports in meetings (8); wrote letters to the government advocating for palliative care funding and accessibility (6)

Organization Standing Committee Report

2023

Diocese: Kingston

Chairperson: Maureen Vincentine

Parishes Reporting: 27 of 41

Annual membership campaigns included new and creative ideas, for example:

- Annual membership campaigns were held in the majority of parishes.
- Most agreed that personal contact was imperative. This was achieved through information tables at the back of the church; phone calls, e-mails and letters; members available after Masses to answer questions.
- A council reported having members wear name tags to Mass during the membership campaign Sundays.
- Other methods used include speaking from the pulpit and invitations in the bulletins and posters up in the church entrance; new member draw; report of what CWL has accomplished has helped to accent membership; linking a luncheon or other event with the membership drive has also drawn attention to the membership campaign. In some councils, pastors have spoken to congregations on the importance of the League. Bulletins are used for messages throughout the campaign and also throughout the rest of the year promoting "Faith, Service and Social Justice"
- Envelopes are in parishioners' envelope boxes.
- From the reports, it is evident many councils understand that the reports, messages, invitations and conversations held with members and potential members throughout the year, are seen as an effective way to retain members and welcome new ones.
- New technology such as web sites and e-transfer have been introduced in a few councils to make the membership process easier.
- The majority of councils invite perspective members to join.

Other activities were undertaken to promote the League with current and prospective members:

Common strategies used in the diocese: monthly or quarterly newsletters; social events; cards to those members who are ill; bulletin announcements; invitations to social events; use of technology such as email and websites. Councils reported trying to match interests of members with various projects. Social gatherings and opportunities to celebrate or come together were emphasized. Members who cannot attend meetings are frequently called and/or sent updates. Many members have now given their email address to their council and this is an easy way to keep members informed. Celebrating and coming together for the feast day of Our Lady of Good Counsel was mentioned as a time to gather. Some councils mentioned meals out and/or potluck get togethers to keep members together. Christmas events from pot lucks and appreciation ceremonies to cards and gifts for individuals are important. One council mentioned a fancy hat tea party.

To promote the league and retain current members were:

- Communicated special events, sent cards/letters for significant life events
- Always encouraging members to support/work at various events and projects.
- To attract prospective members were:
- Councils all reported personal invitations to women of the parish.
- They reported the bulletin announcements and newsletters that promote our activities are important.
- As said previously, letting ladies know that they can have a role to play in the League that does not entail attending meetings. They are still valuable.

New and creative strategies used in the diocese were:

- Councils all reported personal invitation is the most important.

Councils faced the following challenges to membership development:

- Time commitment might be an influencer. We sometimes ask a lot from our members.
- Electing executive members is getting very difficult.

List any recommendations for improvements in policy, guidelines, or reporting related to membership/organization including identifying at what level of the League.

- We have had a few inquiries in our diocese that came through the National website. Ladies have searched out the CWL and national has put us in touch with them. This is an exercise that is working.
- The material provided around membership is a great help: welcome kit, joy of Leadership workshops, questionnaires for members etc.
- It must be emphasized often that we belong to CWL not only at the parish level, but our work at the provincial and national levels is so important. Members can join and perhaps cannot attend parish meetings but can support the League.

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 workshop

Life Member Liaison Report

2023

Diocese: Kingston Chairperson: Stephanie Spinelli
 Honorary Life Members: 1 Life Members: 11

Deceased Members – 2023

- No Life Members passed away in 2023.

Newly appointed Life Members in 2023

- No new life members in 2023

Current Life Member Activities

- Life members continue to support the League at parish and diocesan levels as advisors, mentors, speakers and facilitators.
- One member completed her term as subcommittee member of the National Spiritual Development Chair and continues to contribute as needed to the Provincial Spiritual Development Chair as a sub committee member.
- Life members continued to share their gifts within their parishes filling administrative positions; serving as members of parish committees; as liturgical ministers and as volunteers throughout their communities.
- Friendship and support offered to League sisters individually through prayer, phone calls and personal visits
- Attended funeral services and participated in guard of honour for deceased CWL sisters
- Life members attended diocesan and provincial conventions and the national AMM in person or virtually in 2023.
- Paid tribute to Life Member Dorothy Meehan (deceased in 2022) at 2023 diocesan convention
- Highlight of the year was presenting the 100 Year History at our annual convention with the involvement of many life members and past presidents

Life Member Liaison Activities in 2023

- Maintained current contact list of life members for diocesan and provincial records
- Diocesan, provincial and national communiques, prayer requests and announcements of upcoming events were forwarded to life members by email or personal contact.
- Requests for prayers for life members and their families forwarded for distribution to provincial and national life members
- Expressions of sympathy, words of encouragement, congratulatory and birthday wishes were sent to life members and/or their families by electronic mail, Canada Post and/or personal contact.
- Christmas and Easter greetings sent to life members by email or Canada Post
- Continued to serve as member of the Provincial Social Justice Award Committee

Recommendations

- That life members update their League story every five years
- That life members continue to be actively involved in all levels of the League, available for consultation, to mentor, assist and share ideas when called upon by council presidents and executive members
- That life members promote membership in the League and encourage members to recognize and develop their talents working toward a leadership role
- That members continue to pray for the future growth of The Catholic Women's League.

Community Life Standing Committee Report

2023

Diocese: Kingston
Vincentine)

Chairperson: Vacant (report compiled by Maureen

Parishes Reporting: 28 of 41

Councils supported immigrants and refugees moving to Canada through:

- Councils reported encouraging members to help support those in need and/or to donate to organizations that are helping. Donations of food, furniture and money have been made in many councils.
- A council reports helping a new family attending a local school.
- Help was provided to a Syrian family as they settled in Canada. This involved help with housing, finding a doctor, and coping with other measures.
- A young immigrant family was befriended by members of CWL. A baby shower was hosted for them. A very positive experience for all involved!
- A council reported supporting newly arrived Nigerian families. They have been gifted with friendship, advice, drives, free CWL memberships, dinner invitations, invitations to the teenage children to youth group activities.
- Welcome presentations introductions and donations for Ukrainian and other newcomers. Things like groceries, lunch boxes, water bottles, sports equipment and much more have been provided by individual members.
- Involvement is school breakfast clubs.

Communications Standing Committee Report

2023

Diocese: Kingston

Chairperson: Annette Meadows

Parishes Reporting: 28 of 41

For Communication, councils primarily used the following:

Regular Communication: 1. Email 2. Meetings 3. Word of Mouth

Social Media: 1. Facebook 2: Other (not specified)•

- No unusual and/or significant activities were reported.

List any recommendations for improvements in policy, guidelines, or reporting related to communication including identifying at what level of the League.

- As some councils are small, the role of secretary can be overwhelming. It was suggested that National create a list of new communications so they can quickly assess what would be important to review for their Council (something like, "recently added" perhaps.)

Diocese: Kingston

Chairperson: Bernadette Veitch

Parishes Reporting: 28 of 41

Council (#) upheld or advocated for the sanctity of life by:

- Promoted pro-life events and encouraged member participation 15 - 63%
- Donated to pro-life causes 17 - 71%
- Participated in 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care 14 - 58%
- Participated in March for Life or similar public pro-life gatherings 15 - 54%
- Included pro-life prayers and reports in meetings 8 - 33%
- Wrote letters to government against abortion and/or MAID 6 - 25%
- Participated in 40 Days for Life prayer vigils 1
- Participated in pro-life webinars or guest speaker events 4 - 17%

List any recommendations for improvements in policy, guidelines, or reporting related to sanctity of life, vocations, marriage and family, and ministry to youth and elderly including identifying at what level of the League.

There being none of the above, I would like to highlight some of the events of the parishes of Kingston Dioceses: Parishes have encouraged vocations by supporting a seminary fund, consecrated women religious through prayer and/or donations, invited guest speakers on vocations to ordained ministry and consecrated life and the role of women in the church. They have also sponsored League memberships to novitiates and/or consecrated women religious. The figures above demonstrate the activities support for pro-life and sanctity of life, As well as letter writing campaigns regarding euthanasia, MAID, Palliative Care and had guest speakers come to talk at their parishes regarding these subjects. To encourage families, they present a candle, Miraculous medal of Mary and prayer card at Baptisms. They have initiated Family Candlelight Mass with school participation. Since preparation for sacraments has shifted to the parish, instead of the school, have helped to facilitate the programs.

With regard to Seniors, Parishes have held Mental Health presentations for Seniors, by using a shared-care approach the team works in partnership with physicians and family members to provide support to older adults in their homes. Pay for membership of Seniors in Nursing Homes.

Education and Health Standing Committee Report**2023**

Diocese: Kingston

Chairperson: Elizabeth Knudson

Parishes Reporting: 28 of 41

(compiled by Maureen Vincentine)

Catholic Education was promoted within council's community or parish through:

- Donations of bursaries, rosaries, books, candles, medals and stoles were provided to schools and children for their sacramental milestone events
- Members are often part of the sacramental preparation team in parishes. One council reported facilitating retreats for students preparing for First Communion and Confirmation.

- Life Chain support: a council described a silent hour of prayer outside their church in October.
- A council reported school classes coming to a daily Mass and members would help the children follow and understand the parts of the Mass; Family Candlelight Mass with school participants; 1 council reported having prayer buddies with students.
- A member of our council was elected as trustee on our Catholic school board. She talked to a council about Catholic education in our high schools.
- A council reported having a liaison between the church and school to promote Catholic Children's World Day of Prayer Seasonal celebrations.
- A Christmas lunch was provided by a council
- Some members are part of RCIA programs.
- Financial support and leadership in retreats for teens was reported.
- (Emmaus and New Life)
- A council led a Lenten series on the Chosen.
- Financial support was given to schools to buy books.
- Taxpayers are encouraged to support Catholic schools through their taxes.
- Receptions were facilitated after First Communion, Confirmation and graduation in many councils.
- One council reported hosting an "Orange Shirt Event". Members of the parish were invited to gather outside the church to participate.
- More information to focus on Health Issues
- World Day of Prayer events were supported. One council reported facilitating a children's World Day of Prayer.
- A council reported having a liaison between church and school.

Awareness of mental health (teen suicide, bullying, etc.) was raised through:

- The following presentations were provided by councils and were open to members of their parishes: Seniors Mental Health Outreach; 5 RNs presented on Mental Health; Morningstar Mission; homelessness and mental health MAID; Not Alone Team Quinte; Mental Health clinic in Brockville; Homelessness; Affordable Housing Food insecurity.
- A parish wide writing campaign on the issue of Maid was initiated.
- Funds were donated to agencies who support the homeless and the food insecure population which is most often connected with mental health.

Awareness of palliative care was raised through:

- A presentation by VON was held in one parish.
- 12 Hours of Prayer was supported in some councils. Hospices were supported financially and were presenters at 12 hours of prayer presentations.
- Masses and prayers were said.
- Letters have been written after members educated themselves on the issues around palliative care.
- A council reported they have researched on national website and are preparing an action plan.
- Groups attended workshops in Kingston on the topic of Palliative Care. Alex Schadenberg's presentation on Euthanasia was mentioned.
- Members were asked to pray at home. They were also encouraged to participate in the webinar "Horizons of Hope" and the webinar "Accompanying the Journey"
- Donations were made to various agencies.

Activities promoted the need to care for the environment:

- Councils were encouraged to recycle, reduce waste, reduce the amount of water used.
- At meetings a council reported they started using ceramic cups and cloth serviettes. Others are moving towards 100% green hospitality events. Many are composting after events.
- Prayers are said at meeting in support of renewing the planet.
- One council has reported partnering with Earth hub collecting small everyday items that can then be reused. A school has partnered with the council.
- Bee Compassion into Action presentation to a council was reported.
- Members in Prescott were encouraged to participate in the “cleanup day”
- Councils educated members and their parish communities on women’s health issues:
- Discussions were had at councils in support of women’s health and education issues, also dementia, respiratory illness and mental health.
- Encouragement to know about vaccinations, flu shots, fitness, and to participate in blood donor services.
- Birthright was supported by the majority of councils.
- Support for World Day of Prayer which was written by the women of Taiwan in 2023.
- A council reported having a discussion on human trafficking.
- Hygiene products donated to food banks.
- March 8, International Women’s Day was recognized by some council

Resolution and Legislation Standing Committee Report

2023

Diocese: Kingston

Chairperson: Karen Mulvihill

Parishes Reporting: 28 of 41

Councils monitored, studied, or acted upon the following federal (f)/provincial (p) bills:

- Bill C-314 MAID
- Federal bill C-7 (the proposed expansion of MAID for mental health disease)
- Bill C-39 MAID
- Bill 42 – gender affirming health care advisory committee act 2022
- Bill C-4 banning conversion therapy
- Bill C-18 The online act
- Bill S-223 Forced Organ Harvesting
- Bill C-11 Broadcasting Act (censorship)
- Bill C-311 Violence against pregnant women act
- Bill 89 Protecting Religious Freedom
- Bill S-201 voting age
- Bill C-216 seeking to decriminalize ALL drugs
- Bill 100 regarding border blockades
- Bill 211 abortion

Councils monitored, studied, or acted upon the following resolutions (national – n/provincial-p/diocesan-d/parish council-c):

- Against infant euthanasia
- Members attended a local workshop on The Good Death – discussed palliative care and MAID
- Provincial resolution on food insecurity
- National resolution on textile waste
- Resolution on trafficking

Past President/Historian Report

2023

Diocese: Kingston

Chairperson: Nancy Richer

Parishes Reporting: 28 of 41

In your capacity as past president, list two instances in the last 12 months for which you have been consulted.

- Provide the opening and closing prayer for the meetings
- Helped with annual bazaar
- Concerning policies and procedures and update policy and procedure manuals
- Celebration of 100th Anniversary
- Explained some of the charities supported
- Encourage members to attend workshops and webinars
- Past Records
- Attend meeting for the current president
- Installation of new members
- A sounding board, on practices, organization and reporting
- Archive work, annual report,
- Procedure for funeral luncheons, long service awards procedure
- Organization of the archives
- Don't have one

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

- YES 12 NO 15

Do parish councils have a history book and shared with National?

- YES 3 NO 24

Have you made archived materials available at meetings or events for members/others to see?

- YES 13 NO 14

Did parish councils use the Constitution and Bylaws at meetings?

- YES 17 NO 10

It is recommended that councils update their policy and procedure manuals every two years. Has your council done so?

- YES 5 NO 22

During 2023, councils in the Kingston diocese, made donations to numerous organizations and groups. These financial donations have an impact on many lives and we are making a difference in our communities and beyond.

Parish church projects and gifts
Local Legion, Poppy Fund
Franciscan Sisters
Highschool bursaries
Contributions to Knights of Columbus
Catholic Missions
Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Bursary Fund
National bursary Fund
Meals on Wheels
Christmas Sharing
Birthright
Tamworth Lion's Club
Local Hospices
Local Shelters
Coady International
Lionhearts: Kingston Street Mission
St. Vincent de Paul Society
Morningstar Mission
Salt and Light TV
Society of the Little Flower
Priests' Retirement Fund
Community Care
Shelters for Women
Kingston Street Mission
Salvation Army
San Damiano foundation
Callaloo Mews Basic School Jamaica
Homes of Joy
Holy Childhood Association
Madonna House
Wellington House
Palliative Care
Right Now
Adopt a Child
Sacred Heart Cemetery
Loaves and Fishes
Hope Centre for homeless

Breakfast clubs
Food Banks
Veronica's Veil
Elementary school bursaries
Anchor of Hope
CNEWA
Hope fund
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition
Development and Peace
Ukraine Support
Morningstar Mission
Orphanage in Nigeria
Chalice
New Legacy Centre
Loughborough Emergency Relief
Sacramental gifts
Interval House
New Leaf Link Adult Program
Coldest Night of the Year
CCCB Palliative Care Kit
Township Library
Dawn House
Tree of Hope
Donations to Nigerian Students
Festival of Sacred Praise
School Mission trips
A parishioner's mission trip Zambia
Almost Home
30 hr Palliative Care telethon
Big Breakfast Event
Save a Family
Quilt Makers
South Dundas Christmas Exchange
Masses and votive candles for causes
SSVP Weekend kids program
CMI
Kenya Help

IN MEMORIAM

We remember our sisters in the League who have passed away in 2023. They have added much to our councils with their faith and commitment. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

Margaret O'Ray
Lorraine Stafford
Doreen Lyons
Mary McNulty
Jean Mahon
Genevieve Forgie
Geraldine Slack
Veronica O'Neill
Christine Verheyen
Audrey Swett
June Lyman
Alison Boyle
Norah Robbins
Helen Millhardt
Jean Fortner
Diane Brennan
Theresa Rashotte
Louise O'Sullivan
Louise Lally
Aileen O'Neill
Margaret Slack
Catherine Brennan
Catherine Harper
Rita Halpin
Ivana Pecek
Josephine Gentile
Elaine Younge

Agnes Cadue
Lois McKenna
Norma Donovan
Anne Rita Beltrami
Gloria McLaren
Shirley Lajoie
Colleen Abrams
Margaret Huck
Pat Badgley
Sue Clendenning
Patricia Patti
Helen Coyea
Mary Ann Stewart
Claire McNeill
Theresa Poelwyk
Fran Rogers
Cecile Downey
Leona DeGenova
Mary St. Pierre
Mary Haley
Joyce Kelly
Cecilia Tomaso
Jeanet Nye
Lynne Terry
Betty Storrington
Liz Hansen
Della Berthiaume

Linda Roberts
Barbara Carroll
Doris Lupinette
Anne MacLennan
Jane Fowlie
Jean Shannon
Joan Brunt
Mary Goulah
Alice Laushway
Dorothy Dove
Grace Neddow
Edith Gavin
Anne Thissen
Lillian Bibby
Theresa Diotte
Marian Dowdall
Vera Hatfield
Eileen Kennelly
Helen McAvoy
Shirley Martin
Jean Farlinger
Anne McHenry
Lorraine Woods
Olive Schiins
Teresa Donnelly
Jackie McCabe
Noreen Brisbois

**Parish Council Highlights and Responses to the Question:
"How has your council made a difference in 2023?"**

Amherstview:

President: Kelly Neville
Charter Date:
November 14, 1995

Blessed Sacrament Parish

Rev. Americo Santos

Highlight: Carnations were given out to all Mothers on Mother's Day at all weekend Masses.

Go Make a Difference: We have a Birthright Baby shower to support the Mothers of our community

Athens

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

St. Denis the Areopagite Parish

Rev. Benedict Ubanii

Highlight: Although a small council, we continue to support our parish and the community.

Go Make a Difference: Our contributions to parish and community make a difference.

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

Highlight: We celebrated our 80th anniversary with a cookbook created by our members, families and parishioners. We also helped organize and participated in the celebration of Father Cyprian's 25th anniversary in the priesthood.

Go Make a Difference: Collected donations for a local family and also for the homeless.

Belleville

President: Ruth Terry
January 24, 1954

Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish

Rev. Dale Wright

Highlight: We held a prayer service in conjunction with ladies from Tyendinaga to recognize Indigenous Day. It was very well attended by our own council and members of our parish and neighbouring parishes.

Go Make a Difference: members of our council facilitated retreats for First Communion and Confirmation candidates.

Belleville

President: Anne Weldon
January 24, 1954

St. Joseph Parish

Rev. Rod McNeil

Highlight: Keeping our council alive. A meeting had been scheduled to discuss putting the council on pause or disbanding totally. We are so grateful for the young woman, new to the League, who stepped forward to take the role of President. Her leadership is a powerful example to all.

Go Make a Difference: We had a guest speaker from Three Oaks, our local Women's shelter. Our members made a difference by their donations of clothing, toiletries, and craft items and money to Three Oaks.

Belleville

President: Iris Sager
October 26, 1921

St. Michael the Archangel

Rev. Richard Whalen

Highlight: We are happy to know we are a viable council and have been able to recognize ladies willing to take leadership roles within our council.

Go Make a Difference: We contribute once a month to the parish after Mass coffee and breakfast gatherings.

Brewers Mills

President: Bonnie McCann
September 18, 1931

St. Barnaby Parish

Rev. Sebastian Amato

Highlight: We purchased poinsettias which were delivered to seniors and the sick of the parish. These were brought as we visited at Christmas time.

Go Make a Difference: We had our annual pancake and sausage breakfast. There were lots of baked goods for sale as well as a raffle and silent auction. It was a great fundraiser and social opportunity.

Brockville

President: Peggy Brand
March 1921

St. Francis Xavier Parish

Rev. Andrew Shim

Highlight: We continue to support parish and community activities.

Go Make a Difference: Our leadership in the parish and our donations to our community are making a difference.

Brockville

President: Michelle Morrow
January 18, 2009

St. John Bosco Parish

Rev. Jacob Chelamootil

Highlight: We were able to resume handing out service pins and the pins to be handed out in 2023 totaled 490 years of service provided by the recipients and included two members who received their 50-year pins

Go Make a Difference: - we were able provide funding for 1 child to receive a bag of food every weekend through the SSVP Weekend Program for Kids

Carleton Place

President: Michelle Niefer
November 9, 1941

St. Mary Parish

Rev. Stephane Pouliot

(inactive in 1973, reactivated 1983, disbanded 1991, reactivated 2003)

Highlight: Bazaar; Helping a family living in a hotel; Prayer shawls donated to parishioners and others who needed the comfort provided by one.

Go Make a Difference: The evening of information on wills with Elizabeth Swarbrick.

Centreville

President: Veronica Wemp

November 1, 1931

Highlight: We incorporated our three themes; Reconnect, Make a Difference and Catholic and Living it by making and cloth bags for convention which would then be filled and donated. We gave left over bags to members in our parish who were unable to attend.

Go Make a Difference: Our church team walked in "The Coldest Night of the Year" event in our community. We worked hard and raised \$22000 for Morningstar Mission.

St. Anthony of Padua Parish

Rev. Brian Russell

Elgin

President: Trudy Whittaker

November 1, 1931

(inactive in 2021, reinstated Summer 2023)

Highlight: Re-activated in 2023 after a hiatus during the pandemic.

St. Columbanus

Rev. Cyprian Ihedoro

Enterprise

President: Sue Boutilier

November 1, 1931

Highlight: We held a baby shower for Birthright. Suzanne, from Birthright spoke and took away a carload of baby gifts. Parishioners and sister councils attended.

Go Make a Difference: We host Sunday coffee after Mass on the first Sunday of the month leading us to offer various breakfasts such as Christmas tree decorating breakfast and Shrove Tuesday pancake breakfast.

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

Rev. Brian Russell

Erinsville

President: Maureen Gaffney

February 4, 1932

Highlight: Our Council and community gathered at Beaver Lake Park to participate in the "Kindest Rock Project". Rocks with inspirational messages were placed in the flower beds at the church. Father Brian join us and participated in painting. Refreshments were served and we enjoyed a fun filled afternoon of fellowship.

Go Make a Difference: We collect year-round Christmas gifts and food items for the Tamworth & District Lion's Club and the New Legacy Centre in Tamworth. The Lion's Club had an increase in Christmas Food Hampers which helped 63 families totaling 206 family members. These hampers included a complete Christmas Dinner and boxes of groceries. Christmas gifts for everyone as well in the family.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

Rev. Brian Russell

Gananogue/Howe Island

President: Jo-Anne McReynolds

September 6, 1931

Highlight: Our donation to the local food bank is our highlight.

Go Make a Difference: Providing socks and gloves to the Gananogue Police and Gananogue Food Bank for the less fortunate.

St. John the Evangelist Parish

Rev. Christian Ifezue

Kingston

President: Elizabeth Iori

April 12, 1984

(Inactive 1987-1990; reactivated 1991)

Highlight: One highlight from our Council was hosting a chili luncheon for our Parish. Over 100 Parishioners attended.

Go Make a Difference: We believe our charitable contributions make a difference in our community.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

Rev. John Brennan

Kingston

Contact: Mary Amodeo

June 1, 1942

Inactive in October 2023

Highlight: Voted to go inactive in October 2023 however members continue to stay in touch, pay their membership, in hopes of re-inactivating in a year

St. John the Apostle Parish

Sr. Jeannette Filthaut

Kingston

Presidents: Susan Conway Williamson, Kathi Colwell

April 14, 1950

(inactive 1972-76, reactivated 1977, inactive 1980-85, reactivated 1986)

Highlight: Project #1 We held a Marian Prayer service outside by our maple tree, planted in recognition of CWL 100 anniversary. It was funded by the Cotnam family in honour of Leona Cotnam, a long time faith filled CWL member.

Project #2 In December at our member appreciation evening, our charter, recently printed and framed, was presented and hung.

Go Make a Difference: We adopted our own local theme of "Creating Hope through Action." Our Speaker Series, has educated us and allowed us to create hope in our community through our active service. Topics included our relationship with our indigenous sisters; to honour the land by an emphasis on recycling and we also learned about vanishing affordable housing in Kingston, homelessness and food insecurity.

St. Joseph

Rev. Cosmas Ajawara

Kingston

Contact: Ann Lyng

April 6, 1921

Inactive

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish

Rev. Shawn Hughes

Kingston

Presidents: Lucienne Coppens, Cindy Mills

November 9, 1999

Highlight: We have 10 new members in our council!

Go Make a Difference: We gave St. Vincent de Paul blessed gift bags with many different items requested by them.

St. Paul the Apostle

Rev. John Hibbard

Kingston Mills

President: Donna Payne

September 20, 1925

Highlight: Members of our council prayed the rosary virtually on Wednesdays for our members of our parish community, those who suffer from mental illnesses and for those affected by the war in Ukraine.

Go Make a Difference: We collected undergarments and socks during the month of December. Many parishioners were generous and it was a very successful drive. Items were donated to Veronica's Veil, (St. Mary's Cathedral warming centre).

Holy Name of Jesus Parish

Rev. Wieslaw Chochrek

Lanark

President: Judy Donnelly

December 8, 1931

Highlight: We continue to support our parish and our community.

Go Make a Difference: We support one another and make a difference in our parish and community with our generosity.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

Rev. Charles Enyinnia

Lansdowne

President: Mary Robertson

September 1933

(Disbanded 1975, reorganized June 1997)

Highlight: We ran a pie fundraiser in November which was very successful.

Go Make a Difference. Our donations to our parish projects and to community organizations have made a difference.

St. Patrick Parish

Rev. Charles Enyinnia

Madoc

Contact: Debbie Wood

1922

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

Highlight: In 2023 we celebrated our 100th anniversary with a large celebration. Our morning started with Sunday Mass, offered by Fr. Justin Pulikunnel. Several ladies carried symbolic items to be placed at the foot of the altar, all representing our service to God and country. All parts of the Mass were celebrated by various CWL members. At the conclusion of Mass, a delicious breakfast was provided by the men of the parish. At the close of breakfast, we started our pin presentation ceremony. Each member reaching specific milestones were honoured with a pin and prayers. A brief history of our council was read by one of our members. The morning concluded with a prayer, asking God and Our Lady for guidance in the next leg of our journey. Onwards to the next 100 years.

Go Make a Difference: As part of our 100th anniversary of our council, we bought a tabor for Sacred Heart of Mary church. This beautiful gold tabor, fittingly holds the votive candle, before the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. This year we started three separate initiatives; a) Prayer shawls or lap quilts have been made. To date we have delivered 14 to our home bound or ill friends; b) We had a special rosary blessed at our healing Mass. This rosary is being given to any sick member of our parish to use until they return to good health. The rosary is a constant reminder of our prayers being united with Our Lady. In June we enrolled in the Chalice sponsorship program.

Sacred Heart of Mary Parish

Rev. Justin Pulikunnel

Marmora

Contact: Anne Marie McGregor

December 2, 1931

Highlight: We updated all of our membership and we are now an active council working mostly within our parish and community.

Go Make a Difference: Renewing our memberships has initiated a renewed strength in the League.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

Rev. Justin Pulikunnel

Marysville

Presidents: Julia Murphy, Janet Murphy

October 4, 1931

Highlight: Over 3 months we collected numerous warm clothing, both new & gently used, plus toiletries. We delivery many bags to local shelters. Which they were very appreciative

Go Make a Difference: Held a Soup Luncheon that we felt brought our parish and community together

Holy Name of Mary Parish

Rev. Francis Zambon

Morrisburg/Iroquois

President: Nancy Richer

1931

(Morrisburg and Iroquois combined in 1969)

Highlight: Working with the Catholic school to organize a family candlelight Mass to begin Advent.

Go Make a Difference: CWL ladies (as individual members) regularly visited/called/supported shut in or sick members of CWL/parish/community to help them or keep them connected to the parish/community

St. Mary, St. Cecilia Parishes

Rev. Thomas Thazhappally

Napanee

President: Gertrude Connors

March 19, 1922

Highlight: In November we hosted CWL Development Day. Several ladies from neighbouring parishes attended.. We also hosted World Day of Prayer.

Go Make a Difference: We supported Morningstar overnight sleeping centre financially and with donations of food and clothing. We had a guest speaker from Morningstar. We also hosted Father Peter's thank you party.

St Patrick Parish

Rev. Marek Chochrek

Perth

President: Colleen Donohue

October 1921

Highlight: We supplied luncheons First Holy Communion and Reconciliation classes after twice a month from October to May

Go Make a Difference: We had a Christmas Bake Sale for 4 needy families in our parish.

St. John the Baptist Parish

Rev. Charles Enyinnia

Picton

President: Mary Lynn Lester

September 13, 1931

(disbanded 1981, reactivated 1982)

Highlight: Vista gift card fundraiser; Orange Shirt Day prayer service; Made decorations for CWL convention

Go Make a Difference: Christmas cards were delivered to parishioners' homes; Participation in parish Ministry Fair

St. Gregory the Great Parish

Rev. George Okoye

Prescott

President: Carolyn Wilson

October 1928

Highlight: St. Mark Council celebrated our 95th Anniversary on October 15, 2023, with a Mass celebrated at St. Mark Church by our Spiritual Advisor, Father McDermott. Brunch followed with seventy-five ladies in attendance. We held a Pin Celebration and presented twenty-six ladies with Service Pins ranging from five years to seventy-five years.

Go Make a Difference: Each Christmas season a collection of beautiful gifts along with generous monetary donations are collected from the parishioners of St. Mark and Sacred Heart churches. We are very blessed to have the students and staff of St. Mark School participate as well with beautiful and meaningful gifts. Gifts are delivered to those parishioners who reside in area Nursing Homes, Retirement Homes as well as homebound residents. A personalized Christmas card accompanies the gifts. In a small way we help to brighten Christmas for those who are confined to their homes or residents in Nursing Homes and Retirement Homes.

St. Mark the Evangelist Parish

Rev. Charles McDermott

Railton

President: Maryanne Takala

September 1931

(disbanded 1997, reactivated 1999)

Highlight: Our League at St Patrick Railton has been donating supplies and clothing to a Northern Mission in Tuktoyaktuk for several years. We were able to send a record number of parcels free this year due to some community support. We have a wonderful relationship over the years with Sister Fay Trombley who has been the Spiritual Contact for the Mission and by communicating with her we become aware of their needs.

Go Make a Difference: New Leaf Link Adult program.

St. Patrick

Rev. Sebastian Amato

Read

Presidents: Sharon Whalen, Linda Walsh

January 12, 1932

Highlight: Over 3 months we collected numerous warm clothing, both new & gently used, plus toiletries. We delivery many bags to local shelters. Which they were very appreciative.

Go Make a Difference: Held a Soup Luncheon that we felt brought our parish and community together.

St. Charles Borromeo Parish

Rev. Francis Zambon

Sharbot Lake

President: Jeanne Patterson

April 29, 1992

Highlight: We finished a palliative quilt and presented it to a member.

Go Make a Difference: Our Advent Retreat and our Rosary evening made a difference.

St. James Major Parish

Rev. Cyprian Ihedoro

Smiths Falls, Lombardy

President: Dorothy Quattrocchi

1921

(Disbanded March 15, 1985, reactivated 1990 St. Anne's joined this council in 1995)

Highlight. A Pastoral Care Ministry was formed with six volunteers, all CWL members, who recognized the growing need to provide outreach to members of our Parish in their home and hospital, bringing Holy Communion, relieving conditions of isolation, and assisting them to get to appointments, buy groceries, etc. These ladies participated in a Palliative Workshop in Kingston in September expanding their field of knowledge on palliative care and provide sensitivity in comforting the patient as well their families.

Go Make a Difference: Our council hosted a Fashion Show fundraiser to support and welcome Ukrainian Refugee families to our community.

St. Francis de Sales, Blessed Sacrament Parishes

Rev. Brent Brennan

Stanleyville

Presidents: Brenda Noonan, Krystyna Williamson

October 4, 1931

(Disbanded at some point and reactivated in 1983)

Highlight: We continue to be active in our parish and community.

Go Make a Difference: Our parish and community have benefitted from our generosity. We have benefitted from the support of each other.

St. Bridget Parish

Rev. Charles Enyinnia

Stirling

President: Joanne Belanger

1922

St. James Minor Parish

Rev. Don Oberwarth

Highlight: Last year, our St. James the Minor CWL Council, recognizing that our parish was still recovering financially from the pandemic (largely due to a decline in attendance and hence lower collection amounts), decided to increase our annual 'donation' to the parish by a significant amount. We had to deliberate carefully as this decision did mean cutting some of our other 'donations'. I was heartened to see that we did want to prioritize the needs of our parish. We hope to build back in our other donations as we are able to increase our fundraising capacity.

Go Make a Difference: The Stirling community, initiated Community dinners on Thursday evenings last year. These dinners are held at the Anglican church and provide a hot meal for a free will donation. A number of our members have joined the 'teams' that prepare and serve these dinners. The number of folks attending has continued to climb as the community has become aware of this weekly event. Initially the attendance was around 25 folks and now averages close to 100 folks. This initiative has become a strong community builder in the small village of Stirling.

Stoco

President: Marion Dolan

February 6, 1922

Highlight: Our council continued to minister to our seniors and shut ins. We delivered weekly lunches, homemade treats at Christmas and Communion weekly.

Go Make a Difference: We worked with other churches in our community to put on a pay what you can dinner once a month. We also spearheaded weekly lunches that were delivered to the needy shut-ins.

St. Edmund Parish

Rev. Aidan Dasaah

Toledo

President: Linda Bisonette

September 20, 1931

Highlight: Our council was able to support several families during the loss of a loved one by providing funeral lunches, honour guards, Masses in memory and ongoing support to the remaining family members. Shut-ins were visited and supported.

Go Make a Difference: Our council supported the local food bank and the homeless on numerous occasions. Donations of non-perishable food items and warm clothing were collected and distributed.

St. Philip Neri Parish

Rev. Benedict Ubanii

Trenton

President: Shelly Murphy

October 30, 1921

Highlight: Our council took our bags we received at Convention and filled them with personal items for the guests of Grace Inn, in Belleville. We filled some extra bags and took 22 to the shelter.

Go Make a Difference: This past Christmas we took gift bags of personal items as well as little Christmas gifts to the Quinte West pregnancy shelter. The ladies were thrilled at our donations as this was probably their only Christmas gifts they would have received. We took 18 bags to the center.

St. Peter-in-Chains

Rev. Timothy Harrison

Tweed

President: Lynda Akey

June 1922

Highlight: We continue to play a significant role in parish projects and in ecumenical events in our community.

Go Make a Difference: We continue to help with sacramental preparation.

St. Carthagh Parish

Rev. Aidan Dasaah

Westport

President: Margie Norwood

November 22, 1921

Highlight: Our Christmas Bazaar

Go Make a Difference: Helping with the Breakfast Club at school; Preparing children for First Communion and Confirmation; Giving food vouchers to school for needy families at Christmas time.

St. Edward the Confessor Parish

Rev. Cyprian Ihedoro

Editor's Note

This Annual Report Book is composed of reports received from the diocesan executive, chairpersons and parish presidents. 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 highlight" for me, to read about all the ways we are "making a difference" in Kingston diocese and elsewhere.

Maureen Vincentine
Chair 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

Archdiocese of Kingston

Eastern Ontario

New York State

St. Lawrence River

Lake Ontario

Kingston, Ontario

Churches and Saints:

- Carleton Place: St. Mary
- Ferguson Falls: St. Patrick
- Lanark: Sacred Heart
- McDonalds Corners: St. Columbkille
- Bathurst: St. Vincent de Paul
- Stanleyville: St. Bridget
- Sharbot Lake: St. James
- Ardoch: St. Killian
- Flinton: St. John
- Ormsby: St. Bernadette
- Nadoc: Sacred Heart
- Tweed: St. Carthaigh
- Marmora: Sacred Heart
- Stirling: St. James
- Read: St. Charles
- Frankford: St. Francis
- Balaqua: Sacred Heart
- Trenton: St. Peter
- Belleville: St. Michael, St. Joseph, Holy Rosary
- Wellington: St. Frances of Rome
- Picton: St. Gregory
- Amherst Island: St. Bartholomew
- Kingston Mills: Holy Name
- Brewers' Mills: St. Barnaby
- Elgin: St. Columbanus
- Westport: St. Edward
- Philippines: Japanese Martyrs
- Alhens: St. Denis
- St. Philip Neri
- Perth: St. John
- Lombardy: Blessed Sacrament
- Smiths Falls: St. Francis de Sales
- Merrickville: St. Ann
- Kempville: Holy Cross
- Spencererville: St. Laurence O'Toole
- North Augusta: St. Theresa
- Prescott: St. Mark
- Brockville: St. Francis Xavier, St. John Bosco, St. Andrew
- Lansdowne: St. Patrick
- Rockport: St. Brendan
- Gananoque: St. John
- Howe Island: St. Philomena
- Wolfe Island: Sacred Heart of Mary
- Kingston: St. Mary's Cathedral, Good Thief, Holy Family, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Francis d'Assise, St. John, St. Joseph, St. Thomas More, St. Paul the Apostle

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 saints in the kingdom of heaven.
Amen

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**