



Annual Reports

The Catholic Women's League of Canada

**Hamilton
Diocesan Council**

2019



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

Care for Our Common Home



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

Care for Our Common Home



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.

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 world.
8. To contribute to the understanding and growth of religious freedom, social justice, peace and harmony.

THE LEAGUE PRAYER

We humbly prayer 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 fulfil 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.



THE LEAGUE PROMISE

For the glory of God and the good of God's people, I promise as a
Catholic woman to honour, invoke and imitate our patroness, Our Lady
of Good Counsel.

I promise to be a loyal member of The Catholic Women's League of
Canada and to promote its interest and growth in every way.

I promise to cooperate with officers in all programs under their
direction and to conform to the best of my ability to the bylaws of the
organization in all League activities.



BISHOP OF HAMILTON

May 2020

Dear Members of the Hamilton Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada,

It is a pleasure for me to congratulate you on yet another year of service to God and Canada! I never fail to be impressed by the many good works accomplished by the "sisters" of the League in your parishes throughout the Diocese.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is the largest "grassroots" organization of women in Canada. When you gather for your annual convention, it is a gathering of committed and focused women, whose faith makes a difference in your personal lives, in your families, and for the organization.

Thank you for being bearers of hope in a suffering world. Thank you for being a joyful presence in the Diocese of Hamilton. You are in my prayers.

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI
Bishop of Hamilton



/cd

Dear Members of the Catholic Women's League:

Most of us who serve as spiritual advisors to parish and diocesan councils also have another responsibility, the spiritual care of our local parish community.

Parish life is always invigorating, and it brings with it a variety of experiences and encounters with parishioners who are at various points on their spiritual journey. At the human level, the celebration of the sacraments of initiation, for example, has a different dynamic than the Sunday gathering of the parish community for the Eucharist.

Similarly, in my time as spiritual advisor to the diocesan council, I have come to recognize a dynamic that I have found to be particular to the League – most especially in the celebration of the Eucharist at parish, diocesan, and regional meetings. I can best describe that dynamic as hopeful expectation. The Lord's promise to share himself and his life with his Church in this sacrament is clear, and our faith teaches us that He always keeps his promises. But in celebrating the Eucharist with the league, I have experienced a community who truly believe and expect the Lord to bless them through their presence and participation.

I suspect that this is because as it gathers to go about its business, the league forms what theologians describe as an intentional community. Her members have chosen to join the league, to take a step beyond Sunday mass attendance and personal prayer, and to serve their parish community and the world. And the Lord has blessed those choices.

Each of us, spiritual advisors and league members alike, still labour under the burden of our own broken humanity (that is a fancy way of saying we are not perfect!) but together we have accomplished so much good in our parishes, our communities and in our own lives and families. And we will continue to do so.

My heartfelt thanks to the many women who, even when filled with apprehension, respond to the invitation to become a leader in the Catholic Women's League at every level. A special thanks to those members of our diocesan executive with whom I work so closely.

Your good work, rooted in your love for Christ our Risen Lord, is an inspiration and source of joyful hope for us all. Keep up your excellent efforts, persevere and pray always that you may model Mary, Our Lady of Good Counsel, especially in her love for her Son who lives and reigns with us for all time. In Christ,



Rev. John Redmond



ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Greetings Hamilton Diocesan Members,

Conventions are a wonderful time to reconnect with old friends, meet new sisters in the League, become spiritually fulfilled and learn more about the challenges that we face in society. It is a time to focus on our core values of faith, service and social justice.

I congratulate you on your continued efforts and good deeds in helping the lonely and under-privileged in your communities. I am so proud of how you have embraced both the provincial and national themes. You are truly inspirational!

Know that the prayers and best wishes of the almost 44,000 members across Ontario are with you as you celebrate.

You are well represented at the provincial table. Catherine ensures that your diocese has a voice.

Congratulations as you celebrate the accomplishments of the League in your diocese.

May God bless you and Our Lady of Good Counsel watch over you as you continue your humble service in the League, *For God and Canada*.

Respectfully,

Colleen Perry

Ontario Provincial President





Hamilton Diocesan Council Of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

My dear sisters in the League,

The president's contribution to this report book can take many forms. It can be a welcome, a specific acknowledgement of the service of members in the League and in the community, a thank you for exceptional good works or a statement of hopes and dreams. My message this year highlights a few of the activities that spoke to me personally. I think it also accomplishes what all the other forms do, a celebration of all the League is and does in Hamilton Diocese.

Members in Hamilton Diocese continued to reflect and act on the Ontario focus on homelessness in the first half of 2019. Guest speakers at councils and at the diocesan convention brought messages of awareness and suggestions for concrete action for members to take in response to this serious issue. Members donated a variety of supplies to homeless shelters, social service agencies and on their own in an effort to assist. The loneliness focus, introduced for the 2019-2021 provincial term, resulted in a new awareness of those in our midst who may experience loneliness and how small gestures, a smile, a "hello", a hug can make a profound impact.

"Care for Our Common Home" was enthusiastically embraced by members throughout the diocese. Awareness campaigns related to recycling, our use of scarce resources, and how to make small adjustments in consuming behaviour inspired members to action. Councils held retreats, days of reflection and formed working groups to address our call to "walk softly upon the earth."

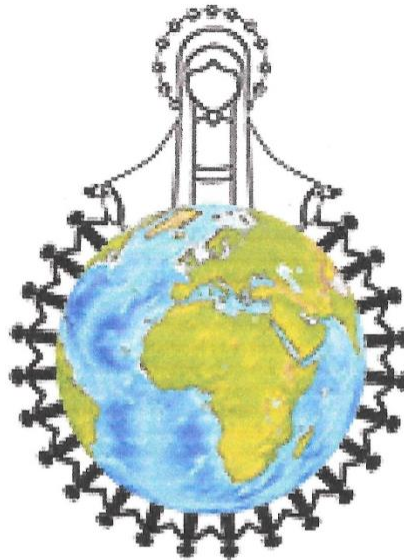
"Welcome Home", the diocesan theme introduced at the 2019 convention, continued to be developed and expanded for the 2019-2021 term. Members were encouraged to work together, participate in a welcoming environment for all League gatherings and recognize and affirm the giftedness of all members. A special "Welcome Home" song was composed by Diocesan First Vice President and Spiritual Development Chair Teresa DiFalco and was made available to all members in the diocese. It will be sung throughout our 100th year, and beyond.

As an acknowledgement of our collective responsibility for truth and reconciliation, a special land acknowledgement was offered at the diocesan convention for the first time. Councils were encouraged to offer similar acknowledgements at local gatherings.

A renewed commitment to learning and teaching foundational principles of the Constitution & Bylaws and National Manual of Policy and Procedure was made by the diocesan team. A governance presentation was created and offered at all fall regional meetings. A comprehensive nomination and elections workshop and package was developed and offered in individual councils. This workshop will be offered throughout the diocese in the fall of 2020.

May God continue to bless you in all you do...for God and Canada!

Catherine Feren
Hamilton Diocesan President



WELCOME
HOME

Welcome Home

Our "Welcome Home" theme calls to mind the love and bond we share as women, as members of The Catholic Women's League and as sisters with and through Christ.

Our mission in the Hamilton Diocese is to promote a welcoming and safe environment for our members to thrive in, feel valued, wanted, protected, at peace and at home.

Recognizing and acknowledging that many experience "homelessness" in a variety of ways:

- Physical – no shelter over your head or a place to sleep, eat and live
- Emotional – lack of sense worth, purpose or belonging, not having a safe place, lack of loving and caring environment
- Psychological – not having any secure or stable sense of self worth, identity or belonging
- Spiritual – not belonging to religious community, not having a sense of being loved by God

Acknowledging that we are all God's daughters and we belong to one family through Christ and it is in this belonging that we are truly "home".

Recognizing the need to take action in social justice to protect and advocate for God's creation of our Common Home, the earth that God created for humankind. In doing so, we are witnessing the love of God through ministry and service.

Our Common Home – the earth is sacred in that our Lord once walked upon it as fully human and fully divine. God commands us to respect and love His gift of life, each other and the earth.

Our "Welcome Home" theme embraces our national theme and Pope Francis's message in "Laudato si'. We ask that each member embrace, promote and practice this virtue in every parish council diocesan wide.

Welcome Home (CWL)

Welcome Home
You are my sister, you're my friend
Welcome Home
The love we share is heaven sent
We joined the League, cause we believe
In God, we're not alone
We'll grow in faith, make no mistake
This sisterhood is HOME
Welcome Home
Welcome Home
We pray to Mary everyday
Welcome Home
We serve our Lord in every way
We advocate to change the world
For justice, life and love
Protect the earth, a child's birth
A gift from up above
Welcome Home
A humble heart will keep us grounded
We shall never judge
Respect and caring
Support and sharing
A sisterhood of love
Welcome Home
Our motto, faith, fulfillment, fun
Welcome Home
It is through Christ that we are One
We joined the League, cause we believe
In God, we're not alone
We'll grow in faith, make no mistake
This sisterhood is HOME
Welcome Home

(Music and Lyrics by Teresa M. DiFalco)

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<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WxCN6YN5si0OV5GTtDgjek6eIV9C12l8/view?usp=sharing> © ***2019, All rights reserved***

BOOK OF LIFE

2019



In Memory Of Our Deceased Members 2019



**(We said goodbye to 151 Faithful Departed League Sisters in 2019 – Eternal rest
grant upon them)**

*(This count does include the three Members for 2018, who were only recently
reported)*

**Hamilton Diocesan Catholic Women's League
List of Deceased Members for 2019**

Brant Region

St. Basil, Brantford

Margaret Keefe
Elizabeth Van Chick

St. Joseph, Brantford

Marianne Koza
Helen Kramczyk
Mary Zubar

St. Mary, Brantford

Santina Di Domenico
Catherine (Anne) Jenkins (2018)
Kay Peterson (2018)
Lucille Viau

St. Pius X, Brantford

Bernice Barber
Teresa Buckle
Leona Ficzer
Maria Friscoll
Jean Jenkins
Nelie Vandermaid

Blessed Sacrament, Burford

Eleanor Perro
Kathleen Smith

St. Anthony Daniel, Scotland

Beatrice Masson



HAMILTON REGION

Holy Rosary, Burlington

Florence Colangelo
Linda Cupido
Margaret Howcroft
Rose Sazio
Margaret Venema
Doris Vidakovic

St. John the Baptist, Burlington

Kay Cutler
Jean Jaszek
Marion Scollard
Therese Tessier

St. Raphael, Burlington

Rejeanne Flake

St. Patrick, Burlington

Clara Gardner

St. Paul the Apostle, Burlington

Molly Pinto

St. Augustine, Dundas

Mary Ferguson
Claudia Rossignoli
Fran Samson
Marjorie Stephen
Judy White

Holy Cross, Georgetown

Marie Cini
Margaret O'Flaherty

Annunciation of Our Lord, Hamilton

Patricia McKenna

Most Blessed Sacrament, Hamilton

Gerry Hey

Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton

Florence Bedek

Judith Carreiro

Geraldine (Jerri) Hasey

Irene Hawkes

Lana Hollington

Maureen Venema

Corpus Christi, Hamilton

Karin Allan

Barbara Male

Jeanette Rooney

Regina Mundi, Hamilton

Marie St. Denis

Irene Thompson (2018)

St. John the Baptist, Hamilton

Marilyn Trepels

St. Lawrence, Hamilton

Lillian Brown

Anna Paris

St. Luke, Hamilton

Fernada Colangelo

St. Stanislaus Kostka, Hamilton

Helen Dziuba

Danuta Gora

Sophie Hader

Stella Latwis

Janina Marchewko

Holy Rosary, Milton

Nancy Fellow

Monique Heroux

Mary, Mother of God, Oakville

Daisy Hoo

St. Andrew, Oakville

Marie Roberta Dooley

Paula McLarty

St. Michael, Oakville

Elinor Gallagher

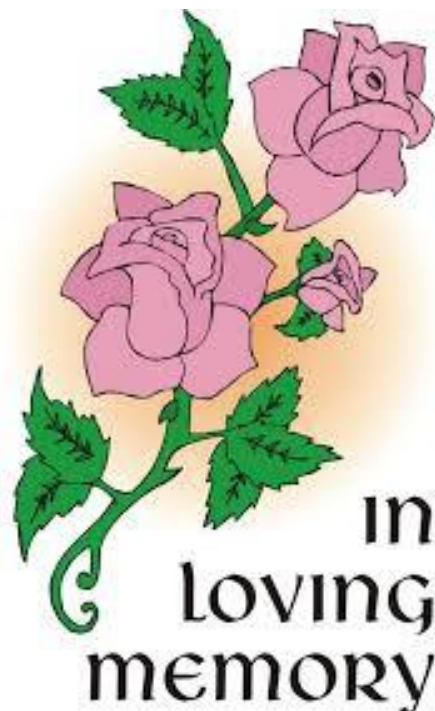
**Our Lady of the Assumption,
Stoney Creek**

Audell Schimmel

St. Francis Xavier, Stoney Creek

Kathleen Dalton

Lillian Di Vincent



KITCHENER REGION

St. John the Evangelist, Arthur
Sheila Stortz

St. Clement, Cambridge
Stella Cassel
Rieta Fietsch
Francis Frank
Eileen Hnatejko
Jaina Klimt
Julie Lesniewich
Ruby Murray
Idella Sieradzki
Mary Szwatjkowski
Joan Weiler

St. Gregory the Great, Cambridge
Maria Andrade
Marguerite Speed

St. Patrick, Cambridge
Joyce St. Cartier

St. Teresa of Avila, Elmira
Urusla Hahn

St. Mary Immaculate, Elora
Betty Davidson
Catherine Robinson

Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, Guelph
Catherine Francuz
Annette Gebotys
Margaret Rebellati
Hilda Mann

St. Joseph, Guelph
Shirley Carter
Lucy Martone

St. Aloysius, Kitchener
Trudy Omand

St. Anthony Daniel, Kitchener
Maria Freitas
Yvonne Lobsinger
Patricia Marion
Mary Mccrohan

St. Francis of Assisi, Kitchener
Maria Barbosa
Joan Bauman
Mary Christopher
Margaret Coffey
Mildred Fisher
Helen Hornyak
Ann Hutter
Dora Lamers
Rose Lorentz
Venette Padden
Jennie Rodzen
Theresa Smith
Dorothy Sobisch

St. John, Kitchener
Betty Dietrich
Julia Naklusk

St. Joseph, Kitchener
Elaine Ditner

St. Mark, Kitchener
Linda Adair

St. Teresa of Avila, Kitchener
Yvonne Bastian
Maria C. Canhoto
Mary Cashubec
Mae Nowak

St. Boniface, Maryhill
Mary Voisin

Holy Family, New Hamburg

Anne Fisher
Marlene Gross
Mary Jauch
Reta Langenegger
Thelma Moser
Lorraine Steffler
Salvatrice Vitello

St. Agatha, St. Agatha

Gayle Dubrick
Rose McKenzie

Our Lady of Lourdes, Waterloo

Lillian McInnis

St. Agnes, Waterloo

Marie Solomon
Helen Tracey

St. Louis, Waterloo

Colleen Blake
Ruth Durst
Shirley Ellert
Rita Guenther
Stella Hrycyk
Rita Mroz
Ann Rielly
Janet Stevens
Marnie Whamsby
Dana Woito

St. Michael, Waterloo

Theresa Friedmann
Leona Grebinski
Cecelia Karges



NORTH REGION

Holy Family, Hanover

Gabrielle Hilton
Helen Siemiaszko
Carol Wilson

St. Mary of the Purification, Mount Forest

Catherine O'Donnell
Josie Van De Pas

Sacred Heart, Teeswater

Anita Kennedy
Beatrice Thomas

St. Thomas Aquinas, Wiarton

Anna Elliot



In Memory of Jerri Hasey



Jerri Marie Hasey passed away peacefully and with grace into God's loving care on August 24, 2019 at the age of 86. She was the dear wife of the late Bill Hasey, loving mother to Lori, Kelly, the late Rose, Blake, Jeri-Lou and Brent. A cherished grandmother and great grandmother.

Jerri was a lifelong parishioner of the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton as well as a member. She was involved in the Rosary group, collection counter, bulletin folder, Reader at Mass, volunteered at bazaars, dinners, celebrations and distributed goods to Martha House. She was a volunteer for the Good Shepherd, member of the Legion of Mary and St. John Berchman's Serving Guild.

Jerri was elected Diocesan President from 1999 – 2001. She was an advocate for the League, and promoted members taking on leadership roles. She developed good relationships with Bishops and priests and supported vocations to the priesthood. She received the Hamilton Diocesan Medal of Honour.

Better known as Mrs. Murphy, Jerri was fiercely independent, loved to joke, slip off her shoes and share a good story.

She was a devoted follower of Christ and a faithful servant. A kind, gentle woman who gave of her heart. Her many friends remember her with warmth and fondness. Jerri was an inspiration to all Catholic women.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her

Prayer of Blessing for Deceased Members 2019

Ever loving and gracious God.

**We thank you for the gift you gave your church
In the women whose names are inscribed on these pages.**

**You called them
To be the salt of the earth
And a light to the world.**

**In their families and in their parish
They let their light shine before all
So that their good works
Gave glory to you
And were an example and encouragement for all of us.**

**As we hold close to our hearts
The memory of the women whose names are inscribed here,
We ask you to bless those members of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Whom we honour on these pages.**

**We ask this blessing through Jesus Christ
And through the intercession of our patroness,
Our Lady of Good Counsel.**

Amen

DIOCESAN REPORTS





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

Care for Our Common Home



Hamilton Diocesan Officers

Spiritual Advisor
President
Past President/Historian
President-Elect
First Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

Father John Redmond
Catherine Feren
Joan Schurter
Joyce Cotter
Teresa DiFalco
Laura Grint
Julia Calverley

Committee Chairs

Spiritual Development
Organization
Christian Family Life
Communications
Community Life
Education & Health
Resolutions
Legislation

Teresa DiFalco
Joyce Cotter
Christine McKenzie
Mary Clark
Joanne Palmer
Diane Jones
Camille Naranjit
vacant

Regional Chairs

Brant
Hamilton
Kitchener
North

Linda Perron
Linda Perron
Francesca Simone
Diana Quildon

**Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2019**

Historian's Report

2019

Diocese: Hamilton
Parishes Reporting: 30/99

Diocesan Officer: Joan Schurter

Serve in a Consultative Capacity

Past Presidents in Hamilton:

- Continued to be involved in councils attending meetings, regional meetings, spiritual events, chairing meetings in president's absence, helping at many parish events
- Encouraged members to take on executive positions
- Represented their council at the conventions (47%)
- Informed the general membership about Strategic Planning given at convention and in League magazine
- Kept template of general meeting agenda, minutes and motions for the new president
- Promoted council in their parish and community (40%)
- Supported the implementation of the envisioned future of the League through Planning Strategically
- Led executive in the creation of their own strategic planning
- Mentored presidents/new executive by encouraging and supporting them
- Compiled information for a parish welcome brochure

Be Responsible for Archives and History

- Preserved the League's history by taking photos of parish council events and compiling them in albums and on memory sticks
- Assured safe storage of archival materials - filing cabinets, banker boxes, memory sticks, historical society in their village
- Reported archival materials are kept indefinitely: annual reports (47%), Book of Life (87%), financial information (60%), minutes (67%)
- Were aware of the location of their council charter (90%)

- Reviewed council archives as needed (87%),
- Reported they do not keep a history book (67%)
- Councils maintained a labelled photo album (83%)
- Recorded milestone anniversaries of members and councils

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

- All councils reported they have a copy of Constitution & Bylaws, policy and procedure manual and other resources but rarely referred to them ((57%)
- Assisted in preparing policy and procedure manuals and updating them whenever a policy is changed (18%)
- Councils rarely referred to the National Manual of Policy and Procedure

Diocesan Highlights

- Planned and supported fundraising events for a variety of purposes
- Completed a task for Halton Alive for their Candy Canes for Life Christmas Campaign
- Attended a workshop with Halton Alive and how to better partner with them
- Worked with local high school students preparing lunches for homelessness in Toronto and collected coats, sweaters, boots
- Travelling crucifix encouraged prayer for priest and vocations
- Charity musical variety show raised money for a local maternity home
- Hosted the 100th Diocesan convention
- Toasty Toes campaign, Purses for Martha's House
- Plant and yard sales, St. Patrick Day's luncheon. Parish Christmas Potluck, Christmas Shoeboxes,
- Spiritual retreat – Life, Love and Being a Woman
- Collected items for student needs in their parish and community
- Silent auction to support Dr. Simone's CFC
- Decorated hall for Bishop's Charity dinner and supported their Silent Auction, bags for Guatemala
- Held a Father's Day Bake sale, Alzheimer's Coffee Break
- Implemented and executed Parish Brunches
- Held a Meet, Craft and Pray group that met monthly
- Assisted with the Feast of the Family event
- Involved in the DeMazenod Door project along with the parish

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2019**

Recording Secretary

2019

Diocese: Hamilton
Parishes Reporting: 33

Recording Secretary: Laura Grint

33 of 99 Councils completed the Annual report survey. In these 33 councils 17 have both positions filled, 6 have active recording secretary, 8 have one person doing both positions and 1 has a corresponding secretary. The following is a compilation in numbers and percentages of the answers given to the survey.

Does your council have a Recording/Corresponding Secretary?

-17 (53%) of the councils have both, 6 (19%) have a recording secretary, 8 (25%) have one person covering both positions, and 1 (2%) has a corresponding secretary

Is the position of recording secretary vacant? - 19 (59%) reported position appointed and 12 (38%) reported position elected 1(3%) reported vacant

How long have you been a member? 16(25%) more than 25 years 4(13%) 4-6 years 3(10%) less than 5 years 3 (10%) 21-25 years 1 (3%) 11-15 years

How many years have you held this position?

| Count | Sum | Mean | Sample Standard Deviation | Minimum | Maximum | Range |
|-------|-----|------|---------------------------|---------|---------|-------|
| 29 | 130 | 4.48 | 4.58 | 1 | 20 | 19 |

Have you held this position previously?

-21 (70%) reported yes and 9 (30%) reported no

What is your age?

-12 (40%) 65-74, 10 (33%) 56-64, 5 (17%) 75-84, 3 (10%) 45-54

Attends executive and general meetings of the council

- 29(100%)

Distribute copies of the agenda - 13 (46%) do and 15 (54%) don't

Take the roll call at meetings - 21 (75%) do and 7 (25%) don't

Bring the minutes books to all meetings - 25 (89%) do and 3 (11%) don't

Take minutes at the meetings - 29 (100%) do

Transcribe and distribute minutes of the previous meeting for approval - 27 (93%) do and 2 (7%) don't

Is a signing officer - 17 (61%) Yes and 11(39%) No

Assist the president with the compilation of the annual report
-15 (56%) Yes and 12 (44%) No

Know where the council charter is located - 19 (66%) Yes and 10 (35%) No

Maintain a list of the executive with their contact information
-25 (89%) do and 3 (11%) don't

Bring the motions books to all meetings - 12 (41%) do not have a motions book, 15 (52%) do bring and 2 (7%) do not bring

Receive written reports from the executive - 6 (21%) Yes, 18 (62%) Sometimes and 5 (17%) No

Does your council have a copy of the Handbook for Secretaries from National office?

-25 (78%) reported yes and 7 (22%) reported no

Years of council minutes kept in the minutes book before being turned over for archives

| Count | Sum | Mean | Sample Standard Deviation | Minimum | Maximum | Range |
|-------|-----|------|---------------------------|---------|---------|-------|
| 26 | 79 | 4.39 | 4.34 | 0 | 16 | 16 |

If your council does NOT have a recording secretary, who records the minutes at meetings - No information given as to who of the other executive members record minutes

Is the position of corresponding secretary vacant in your council? - 18 (34%) reported position filled and 35 (66%) reported position vacant

How many years have you been corresponding secretary?

| Count | Sum | Mean | Sample Standard Deviation | Minimum | Maximum | Range |
|-------|-----|------|---------------------------|---------|---------|-------|
| 18 | 99 | 2.83 | 2.23 | 0 | 10 | 10 |

Does your council have a copy of the Handbook for Secretaries from national office? - 31 (59%) do and 22 (42%) don't

Do you notify members of upcoming meetings and events?

- 11 (58%) do and 8 (42%) don't

What methods do you use? - 10 (91%) parish bulletin, 7 (64%) e-mail, 1 (9%) telephone, 4 (36%) parish bulletin board, 1 (9%) parish

website, (%) newsletter, (%) other – Presidents notify using methods listed here and under coming events at end of minutes, 2 (4%) parish calendar, (%) cell phone/text and no Facebook

Provide a list of incoming and outgoing correspondence for each meeting - 24 (69%) do and 11 (31%) don't

Read the correspondence received and sent at meetings
- 28 (80%) do and 7 (20%)

Responsible for sending out occasion cards such as anniversary, sympathy cards, etc. - 11 (41%) are and 16 (59%) are not

Does your council have a copy of the CWL Personal Letter Writing Guide from national office? - 18 (56%) do and 14 (44%) don't

Is there anything else you would like to share about your tasks as secretary? - 3 (10%) shared comments about success and 30 (90%) shared general comments

Great Job! Keep up the good work recording your council's history!



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2019**

Treasurer

2019

Diocese: Hamilton
Parishes Reporting: 25

Treasurer: Julia Calverley

Dear League Sisters:

I have truly enjoyed my time as the Diocesan Treasurer and am saddened that we were not able to meet at the 2020 Hamilton Diocesan Convention due to Covid-19.

As always, I would like to thank you for your generosity in your donations received at the Saturday Eucharistic celebration at the 2019 Hamilton Diocesan Convention in May. We were able to give half the money donated (\$582) to the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph, to their Office for Systemic Justice. This office works for systemic change by focusing on the root causes of social, environmental and economic injustice. They collaborate with many groups to shift public conversations and government policies in ways which create greater justice for marginalized communities and damaged bioregions.

Half again (\$582) was given to the Jesuit Forum. The Jesuit Forum promotes a small group dialogue process inviting participants to tap into the energy of their deep aspirations for a just and sustainable world and to regain a sense of agency and hope to engage current social and ecological issues.

In lieu of gifts given to the co-chairs of the 2019 Hamilton Diocesan Convention, and the National and Provincial representatives of our League, a donation of was given to the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation. The Greenbelt Foundation stewards Ontario's Greenbelt—two million acres of protected land that provides clean air, fresh water, climate resilience, and a reliable local food source to help Ontario thrive. They are the only charitable organization solely dedicated to the health and prosperity of Ontario's Greenbelt.

The Diocesan Treasurer's Revised Annual Summary Report reflects the input of 53 parish councils and shows total donations of just under

\$253,000.00. I am working to hear from more parishes as this is only a little more than half of our councils.

In the December Remittance Report is the amount of donations to Pornography Hurts/Bus Signs (\$3,757.83 + \$2,013.10 from 2 Knights of Columbus councils (Burlington & Walkerton), private donations, the "little bus" sent around at the regional meetings and a motion from the Executive to move \$1000.00 from Operating Account to the Trust Account/Pornography Hurts). Our Lady of Good Counsel Seminarian Bursary had donations of \$1,668.03 + \$350.00 from private donors.

At the 2020/2021 Convention, we will present Bishop Douglas Crosby with a cheque for the Bishop's Charities in the amount of \$2500.20 for 2019 and whatever is accumulated in 2020.

Respectfully submitted Julia Calverley



Financial Statement

For the period of January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019

The financial contents of these pages have been deliberately omitted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2019**

Spiritual Development Committee Report - 2019

Diocese: Hamilton
Parishes Reporting: 27

Chairperson: Teresa DiFalco
Sub-chairpersons: Colleen Ionson,
Maggie Lutz, Ruth Perron, and
Diana Quildon

Parish Councils reporting is representative of just over ¼ of the Hamilton Diocesan Councils. 93% of the councils reported to have Spiritual Development Chair positions filled. 52% of these positions were filled via an election. 58% of these members have been a member for more than 25 years. 52% have held this portfolio previously. 77% of these members are between the ages of 65 and 84. Only 4% are between the age of 25 and 34.

Spiritual Growth of Members

Just over half of the councils reported spending 1/3 of its meeting time on the spiritual aspect of membership. 89% of councils reporting recite the League prayer. 85% have funeral honour guard service for deceased members. 74% have Masses for their membership, 4% - 63% involve members in some sort of prayer service. Only 12% of councils reported that they use resources to assist them in their spiritual development portfolios. Of the councils reporting, less than ¼ of Spiritual Advisors always attend council meetings. 78% of members are able to attend Mass either before or after a council meeting.

Study of Catholic Teachings

44% studied the theme Care for Our Common Home and 30% reflected on the theme at meetings. Between 72% and 96% of councils did not use spiritual development resources (i.e., various, websites, documents, apps).

Less than half of the councils used the resources listed when developing their liturgies and spiritual programs.

Role of Women in the Church

Less than half of councils reporting celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel on April 26th. 89% of councils reported that they did not

share "The Genius of Women" with their members. 85% of councils have not undertaken any studies of women in scripture. 32% of councils promote awareness of women's role in the church. Just under half participate as Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors. Between 28% - 36% participate in choir, hospitality and sacristans. Between 16% - 24% participate as cleaners and ushers.

Evangelization and Mission Assistance

Over half of councils reporting participate in leadership roles that reflect more fully the partnership of women and men in Christ's mission. 68% of councils reported that their parish does not have a liturgy committee. Less than half of the councils participate with the Knights of Columbus in the Keep Christ in Christmas campaign. 63% of councils has a subscription to Catholic Missions in Canada magazine. 50% of councils donate and volunteer to help missions in Canada.

Lay Ministries

72% of council Spiritual Development Chairs enrolled in a lay formation program or retreat for their own personal growth such as Bible Study, RCIA, and Ignatius Jesuit Centre. 100% participated as Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion (52% chaired by CWL member), 96% in choir (48% chaired by CWL member), 92% lectors (43% chaired by CWL member), 89% decorators (71% chaired by CWL member), 85% cleaners (62% chaired by CWL member), 85% hospitality (38% chaired by CWL member), 73% sacristan (52% chaired by CWL member), 54% catechist (33% chaired by CWL member), 50% usher (10% chaired by CWL member) and 27% facilitator (24% chaired by CWL member).

Ecumenism and Interfaith Endeavours

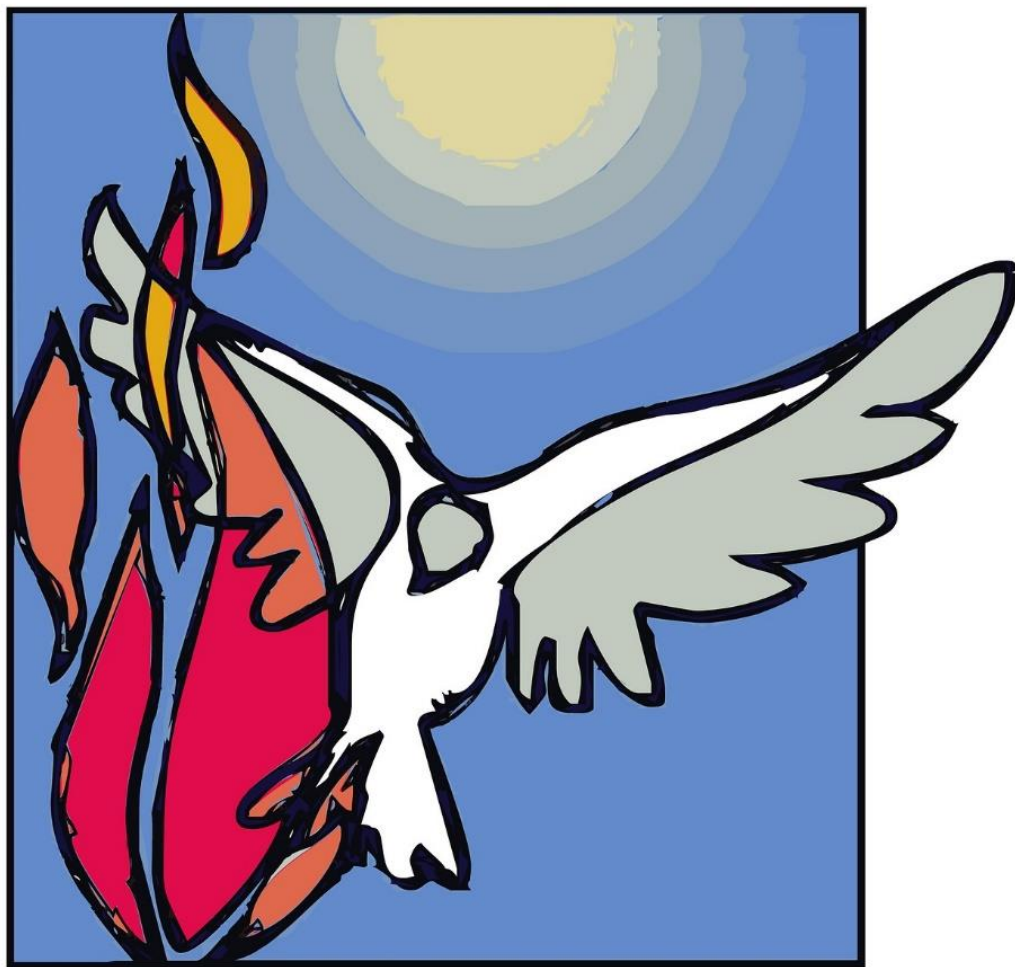
39% of councils have reached out to other denominations or faiths. 73% have not invited them to council meetings. 23% of councils have invited women of other denominations to social events. 92% of councils do not participate in fellowship of the Least Coin. 31% participate in week of Christian Unity Prayer. 15-19% participated in World Day of Prayer and Women Inter-church Council of Canada.

In Summary and Other

Councils reported their biggest challenges being: aging membership – long & late meetings – don't drive/like driving at night – spiritual activity is too short – finding time to prepare prayer services – finding

people to serve - attracting new members, attendance at monthly meetings - and not being computer literate.

With councils expressing the need for more opportunities for spiritual development and growth, in my role as Hamilton Diocesan Spiritual Development Chair, I have placed greater emphasis on theological teachings of the Catholic faith, the role of women in the church and spiritual growth, through Catholic teachings, presentations, spiritual reflections and prayer services throughout the year. It is important for Spiritual Development Chairs to assist members in recognizing their value, God given gifts and talents, and to encourage members to share their gifts, and to celebrate their commitment to the League, the League's vision and mission, and to live as Catholic women with strong Catholic morals, ethics, integrity, spiritual maturity and love for one another.



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2019**

Organization Standing Committee Report **2019**

Diocese: Hamilton
Parishes Reporting: 32/99

Chairperson: Joyce Cotter
Sub-chairpersons: Debra Noronha

Recruit Members and Maintain Membership

- 27 councils recruited new members for a total of 131 members, 44% under the age of 40
- Recruiting methods: advertise in bulletin/bulletin boards, potluck dinners, membership teas & social events, personal invitations, collection envelopes, display tables, presentation at masses, promotional displays, gift memberships, spiritual advisor's support, social media, telephone tree,
- 247 members did not renew their membership for health reasons, moved away, lack of interest, deceased
- Personal phone calls, emails, letters, face to face invites were used to invite members to renew
- Members were recognized through: presentation of service pins, luncheons, teas or other special events, cards or announcements, Maple Leaf service pin, presentation of awards, new member ceremony, small gifts, presentation of certificates,
- Councils gave birthday cards & cards to shut ins, knitted lap blankets to hospitalized or homebound members
- Councils engaged members through: teas, potluck dinners, craft workshop, harvest auction, Christmas socials, brunch, evening of spirituality, soup luncheon, wine & cheese evening, inspirational speakers, fundraiser dinner, retreats

Success stories

- Some councils have members that have had a membership since their teens and therefore, wish to continue supporting Catholic Women's League
- Councils introduced interesting topics at their general meetings to engage all the ladies i.e. guest speakers come in and show us cooking tips, ways to conserve and protect the environment, dance lessons, spiritual guidance, medical information, community service helping the homeless, service dogs, sing-a-longs, pot luck meetings, auction to raise money for the missions.

- Personal contact to share with women the benefits of being a CWL League member for fellowship, prayers, and to be a part of a group that lobbies the government for our Christian values
- The treasurer has started to send out a renewal package with announcements and opportunities to volunteer, as well as an invitation to donate to the council. This has brought in some unexpected donations and early payment of dues.
- A council with an active member with 70 years of service in the League is a wealth of information and continues to lead by example

Leadership Development

- Members attended regional, diocesan, provincial and national conventions
- 16 councils participated in diocesan retreat day; 9 councils were involved in leadership workshop
- Many councils plan and set annual goals based on member's input, while 44% participated in a National planning strategically session
- 72% dedicate 1/3 time schedule to faith, fund and fulfilment at meetings
- Almost half the councils are familiar with Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation while 19% promote members to apply to the Foundation

League Resource Material

- Councils refer to Constitution & Bylaws, National Manual of Policy and Procedure League Handbooks, The League magazine, prayer books, online resources Parliamentary Procedure
- Promotional material used in membership drives are: service pins, invitation cards, welcome brochures, prayer cards, Mass cards, membership certificates, notecards, gratitude postcards, Catholic Women's League pens and some prepare their own material

Annual Reports

- Councils review minutes, calendar, chairperson's reports to complete annual reports, keep monthly records of events, worked together as a group

Life Membership

- Eleven Life Members in Hamilton Diocese, Ana Sousa received a Life Membership, Jerri Hasey was called home on August, 24, 2019.
- Life members are involved in workshops, mentoring, convention planning, 100th anniversary preparations, National strategic planning

League Development Workshops

- League Development workshops were given at the fall regional meetings, 50 councils and 140 members attended these workshops
- Workshops at parish councils: St. Joseph, Port Elgin (30 members), Holy Rosary, Guelph (18 members), St. Joseph, Kitchener (55 members)

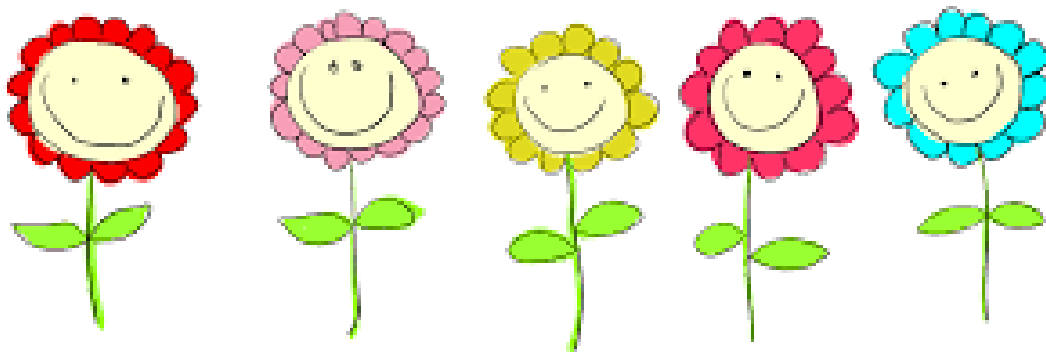
Challenges

- Biggest challenges are time management, vacant positions, membership participation and doing justice to the leadership position
- Duplication of executive positions, struggle to fulfill executive positions
- Online membership – problems with efficiency
- Small attendance at general meetings
- Disconnect with working women, women with younger families and members who enter retirement/nursing homes
- Lack of knowledge concerning the duties of the organization chairperson
- Differing ideas on general meetings between younger members and the senior members (proactive/learning versus social gathering)

Recommendations

- Councils need to keep an accurate eligibility list for nominations/elections
- Every member should be asked to help with recruiting new members, not just the executive officers
- Struggling parish councils should connect or join with other nearby active councils to become more united as a League member – i.e. share events, guest speakers etc.
- Keep encouraging and asking members to be nominated for an executive position, if you don't ask, the answer is always no

- Leadership training workshops provided by Diocesan, Provincial or National levels
- Team building workshops
- Greater awareness of the Constitution & Bylaws and Policy & Procedures is needed
- Encourage members to attend Regional Meeting and Conventions at all levels
- Promote the League, legacy of 100 years
- Utilizing strengths of Life Members/Diocesan executive – workshops, guest speakers, mentoring
- Better communication with members/council presidents
- Validating and asking members to share their gifts



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2019**

Christian Family Life Standing Committee Report 2019

Diocese: Hamilton
Parishes Reporting: 23/99

Chairperson: Chris McKenzie

Marriage and Family

- Family enrichment programs promoted this year included:
Marriage
Encounter Weekends 13%, Single Parent Families 9%, Marriage
Preparation 4%, Natural Family Planning 4%
- Support to people suffering from domestic abuse 13%,
- Donations of: purses to Martha's House; food and clothing
donations, contact information on how to receive help
- Collect gift cards for rural women support groups at Christmas
party
- Members attended Workshops on family life 17%
- Councils celebrated Mother's Day [52%], Special Anniversary
[30%],
Father's Day [13%]
Held "Life, love and being a woman" retreat

Sanctity of Life

- Members attended: Life Chain [57%], 40 Days for Life [44%],
Pro-life Dinners [39%], Pro-life Mases [30%], Pro-life walks
[6%],
March for life [22%], Pro-life vigils [2%], National week for life
and
Family events [4%]
Council promoted movie 'unplanned'
- Monetary donations/gifts: Local pro-life organizations [48%],
Birthright [39%], Euthanasia Prevention Coalition [26%], Priests
for
Life [4%]
- Ensure members have current copies of Pro-Life Brochures from
National [13%], available in church vestibule [44%]
- Council met with Pro-Life Legislators [4%], Letters to Legislators
[35%], and prayers to protect

- Members pray regularly for the protection of life [61%]
- Raised awareness through "Petition of One Million"
- Supported Marillac Place

Ministry to Youth

- Programs for young [40%]
- Encourage youth to share their gifts in ministry: at events [40%], lectors [40%], choirs [40%], other [33%], ushers [20%], Catechists [13%], cleaning [13%], gardening [7%]
- Council has sponsored: [35%] summer camps, [17%] World Youth Day, [13%] other, [13%] Leadership camps, [9%] Catholic Outreach, [4%] Girl Guides, [4%] Steubenville, [4%] Conferences [4%]
- Donations to Youth at St. Augustine, provide Mass Books for Children's Liturgy, Support youth missions to Central America. Subscriptions to Catholic magazines, videos [17%]
- Members participate in the Rosary program with grade 2 students
- Hold lunches for First Communion and Confirmation students
- Collected back to school supplies for "Send Them Off Smiling" program

Ministry to the Disabled

- Invitations to liturgical Celebrations [20%], Group support and respite [17%], urged committees to make buildings more accessible [35%], church [48% shelters] 30%]
- Outreach to Disabled: prayers [78%], Brought Communion [61%], Cards [61%], visited or called [61%], transportation [35%], Gifts [22%], special events [9%], other [4%]

Ministry to Seniors

- Members brought communion [78%], visited [78%], CWL events [74%], prayed with them [65%], provided transportation [57%], gifted membership [52%], called [52%], cards [39%], invited new retired women to join [30%], shared a meal [26%], shared their faith story [9%]
- Send flowers to the shut-ins
- Members attended training programs on palliative care

Ministry to Widowed

- Sent cards of condolence [78%], invitation to attend CWL events
- Visited [61%], Bereavement support [57%], called [48%],
- Arranged memorial services or funeral lunches [48%],

- Prayer shawls [26%], bereavement programs [13%]

Ministry to Separated & Divorced

- Join outings [13%], access to support [9%], visiting time [4%]
- No focus on this ministry [83%], annulment process presentations [4%], brochures [4%]

Vocation

- Prayers [48%], offered mass [22%], supported Serra [22%], Spiritual bouquets [17%], discuss vocations in your home life [13%]
- Invite priests and religious to speak on vocations [9%]



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2019**

Community Life Standing Committee Report - 2019

Diocese: Hamilton
Parishes Reporting: 19/99

Chairperson: Joanne Palmer

Dignity and Rights of Persons

- Is this position filled or vacant: 10 Filled 9 Vacant
- 10 councils know about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Supported minority groups: 1 council volunteers at a bullying support group; 11 councils provide donations for domestic violence groups and 1 council volunteered
- 91% provided donations for those suffering from homelessness, 36% had a guest speaker; 36% volunteered at shelters
- 3 councils supported Human Trafficking: 1 workshop, 1 provided donations, 1 volunteered
- 11 councils provided donations for those suffering from poverty, 4 volunteered
- 80% of the councils are aware of the Struggles of Indigenous women; only 1 council discussed Bill C-262
- Fight against human trafficking: 50% are aware of the laws of human trafficking; 60% shared this information with their members
- One council had a slide show presentation on human trafficking, one council had a discussion on an article in the League magazine and from the local paper

Social and Economic Justice

90% councils encourage members to participate in work of organizations caring for those in need; 6 prayerful support, 4 financial support.

Types of local organizations councils support:

Before, during and after school programs: 3 prayerful, 2 financial, 2 volunteer

Clothing drives: 9 volunteer, 6 financial, 6 prayerful

Drop in centres: 5 financial, 5 volunteer, 4 prayerful

Emergency shelters for homeless: 7 prayerful, 3 financial 2 volunteer

Emergency shelter domestic abuse: 7 prayerful, 5 financial, 1 volunteer

Employment and skills training: 2 prayerful

Food banks: 10 financial, 7 volunteer, 6 prayerful

Food hampers: 11 volunteer, 8 financial, 4 prayerful

Resource centres for single parents: 4 financial, 4 prayerful, 2 volunteer

Restorative justice programs: 2 prayerful, 1 volunteer

Soup kitchens: 7 volunteer, 5 financial, 4 prayerful
Violence prevention programs: 3 financial, 3 prayerful, 1 volunteer
Wish foundation: 2 prayerful
Assisting Indigenous peoples: 4 councils support
Restorative Justice Programs and Prison Ministry: 3 councils support

Refugees Immigration and Citizenship

- 3 councils made donations to Catholic Near East Welfare Association; 2 councils attended workshops on topics related to Social and Economic Justice
- 40% are familiar with Immigration and Refugee Policies
- Personal understanding of needs of immigrants and refugees: 4 good, 3 poor, 1 excellent, 1 very good, 1 fair
- Awareness on financial assistance, food, rent in community for immigrants: 4 poor, 2 very good, 2 fair, 1 excellent, 1 good
- Knowledge of the number of immigrants and refugees in the community: 4 poor, 3 fair, 2 very good, 1 excellent
- Participate in Remembrance Day Service: 14 councils
- 15 councils support Royal Canadian Legion poppy campaign and wear red on Fridays to support Canadian Troops

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace (CCODP)

- 20% councils are aware of conditions of child labour in developing countries
Child labour awareness: 2 yes, 4 no, 4 somewhat
Trade laws and practices in global economy: 2 yes, 7 no, 1 somewhat
Economic difficulties: 2 yes, 3 no, 5 somewhat
Criticized structures: 3 yes, 6 no, 1 somewhat
- 11 councils give donations to Canada Food for Children

Developing Countries

- Councils support these organization who focus in on developing countries:
- Chalice 62%, Save a Family Plan 46%, Operation Christmas Child 39%, Samaritans Purse 23%, Canadian Red Cross 23%, Buy A Net Malaria Prevention Group 15%, Doctors Without Borders, 15%, Habitat for Humanity, 15%, Holy Childhood Association 15%, World Vision 15%, Mustard Seed Project 8%, Sleeping Children Around the World 8%

Community Life Activities

- Remember shut-ins at Christmas, participated in World Day of Prayer, served at the Advent and Lenten Luncheons, donated socks, hats, mitts, and scarves to local homeless shelters. Volunteered serving at a Mennonite Church, Baby bottle campaign on Mother's Day

- 3-5 times/year make sandwiches for Royal City Mission Soup Kitchen
- Created environment for women to gather, share experiences and plan community fundraisers,
- Participated in H.U.G. program by donating purses filled with hygiene products for Eagles Nest Association of Waterdown & Drummond's House Women's Shelter; food & clothing to Roger Boyd's Men's Street Ministry
- Hosted a "Fantastic" event for the community living residents in our area
- 400 items of toiletries, cosmetic bags & soft toys collected for Nova Vita Ladies Shelter along with a flower & chocolate fundraiser
- Supported a refugee family



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2019**

Education & Health Standing Committee Report 2019

Diocese: Hamilton
Parishes Reporting: 21/99

Chairperson: Diane Jones

Catholic Schools and Catechesis

Many councils were informed about the quality of Catholic religious instruction in their parish. They had enquired about how they may be of support to their parish. The same number of councils became informed about the quality of Catholic religious instruction in the Catholic schools in their area/diocese. These 56 to 63% of councils actively encouraged parents to participate in all areas of their children's Catholic school education and activities.

Rites of Christian Initiation

In this area, 75% of those reporting had no involvement.

Literacy and Continuing Education

Only 13% have encouraged members to assist those who wish to improve their literacy skills. There were 52% of councils who reported they had investigated the needs of Catholic schools in our diocese that could be met by their council.

One council donated bibles to the Grade 5 students. These personalized Bibles stayed in the classroom to be used during their religious instruction and did not leave the school until the student graduated Grade 8 or left the school. The students were encouraged to make notes, highlight, bookmark sections/paragraphs in their own Bibles.

Scholarships and Bursaries

There were 62% of councils who identified giving scholarships or bursaries with 55% who saw sacramental/faith development through the family life programs that were being taught in the Catholic schools in their area and in the diocese. There were 92% of the councils who

provided a bursary or scholarship to high school students and 46% who donated to elementary school children. There were only 8% who had university or college students as recipients. Perhaps this is an area that could be investigated by councils.

Wellness and Sickness/Disease

Some councils discussed the importance of getting a flu shot annually and encouraged senior members who live alone to subscribe to a Lifeline Service.

Only one council participated in the CWL Mental Health Postcard campaign; and 9 others said they were not aware of it. There were 54% of the councils who supported national organizations that focused on the health and wellness of Canadians. Many of the councils supported local organizations as well. As May 5-11, 2019 was designated as National Hospice Palliative Care Week by the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association, during that week, all councils were invited to participate in "12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care" by: arranging a prayer space in the parish, prayerful support, offering refreshments and a time for fellowship, welcoming those who shared their own experience of palliative care, giving brochures on local palliative care facilities and services, taking a free will offering and donating it to a local hospice.

Environment

Councils celebrated United Nations World Water Day, March 22, 2019, in a variety of ways. They became more aware of ways to conserve water through guest speakers, and brainstorming in their own councils.

Some of the environmental issues that councils addressed during the year included: 67% recycling, 57% reduced the use of styrofoam cups, 57% eliminated plastic water bottles, 43% reduced water use, 38% used green bins for organic waste, 24% reduced paper use, 14% composted, and 10% did roadside or community clean-up and collected used ink cartridges, toner, used batteries, to recycle them.

Genetics

In the area of knowledge rated in regard to the advantages and disadvantages of technology to alter genes in light of the teaching of the Catholic church, the following were noted - 38% fair, 31% poor, 25% good and 6% excellent.

There was one council subscribed to the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute newsletters to keep informed of current issues in bioethics.

All councils demonstrated dedication in providing information, taking action and being of service.

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2019**

Communications Committee Report 2019

Diocese: Hamilton
Parishes Reporting: 29/99

Chairperson: Mary Clark

The Canadian League Magazine & National Website

The League Magazine was rated good, very good or excellent by 24 councils as an educational tool; by 20 councils as a spiritual resource; by 18 councils as a resource for advocacy/action; and by 20 councils as a resource for new ideas. Articles relating to Dignity and Rights of Persons: Human Trafficking in Canada and The President's Message, resonated highest with councils. Suggestions made for future articles were "emotional and spiritual health ideas for members and ideas for "supporting and involving youth in our parish". It was suggested that the magazine be made available on-line for those who choose to, rather than by mail.

I strongly urge councils to send in their milestones to The Canadian League Magazine. Let members across Canada see what is happening in your council!

25 councils encouraged members to view the national website. 13 councils encouraged members to visit CWL on Facebook or Twitter.

Visit all the websites for directives, prayers, forms etc. and to keep up to date on what is happening at all levels. **National** – cwl.ca; **Provincial** – cwl.on.ca; **Diocesan** – cwlhamilton.ca

Media: for Evangelization

19 councils promoted faith-oriented programs to members; while just 4 promoted World Communications Day (1st Sunday in June).

Councils showed their support (either financially or by subscription) to the following media to assist in their mission to evangelize: 11 -The

Catholic Register; 3 -Salt & Light TV; 3 -Mass for Shut-ins; 2 -canadiandailymass.com; 1 -for each of cccb.ca, Vision TV, EWTN and other. 17 councils showed no support.

Media: to Promote the League

A total of 8 councils watched one or both of the 2019 national convention speakers by live-feed on cwl.ca.

Inviting members to share in with the League sponsored mass on April 26, 2019 in honour of the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel was done by 21 councils.

Councils that encouraged their members to use cwl.ca for current information was 25; 15 organized a phone committee to invite members to events; 14 made use of local media to advertise activities and events. Only 5 councils set aside a budget for publicity.

The top five types of media used to promote council activities and events were church bulletins 29; church bulletin boards 22; email 25 including meeting agenda and minutes; bulletin inserts 22 and posters 18; with parish websites, school newsletters, phone committees, local newspapers and flyers also being used.

An average of 28 councils could not rate CWL's *Testimonials Video* or Salt & Light's *Woman on a Mission* as they had not viewed them but 1 council that had viewed one or both rated them as very good or excellent.

Media: Evaluation and Promotion of Good Content

8 councils encouraged their members to monitor media content. Of the 10 councils that responded to the request to ask their members to voice their objection to inappropriate content, only 2 Councils responded to the Global TV series *Mary Kills People* and 8 responded no or n/a.

Media: Newsletter and Bulletins

The production of a newsletter or bulletin was done by 12 councils with varying frequencies being either annually, twice a year, quarterly, monthly or bi-monthly. Of the numbers producing a newsletter 7 were done by the Communications Chair, 5 by the President and 1 by the Secretary. The newsletters were distributed by 5 through the parish bulletin, by 6 through email, by 5 through mail and by 1 through website subscription.

Media: Relations

While 12 councils did not reach out to their local media, 10 did submit

publication material and 5 invited them to events and 5 advertised with them.

Pornography

To be kept informed about the influence of pornography members of 9 councils read newspaper articles; 2 attended a seminar or conference; 1 viewed the website fightthenewdrug.org; 3 contacted agencies such as Child Pornography Hurts and 3 reviewed current legislation. Sadly 13 councils haven't taken any action.

With the upcoming 2019 federal election 5 councils reported their members were educated or knew the various parties/candidates platforms on pornography and human trafficking.

In 2019, 23 councils didn't distribute Pornography Hurts postcards. The top three months for those who did send out postcards were 4 councils in October, followed by 1 council each in February & March.

Promotion of the documentary Over 18 was done by 12 councils of which 6 held information sessions. 1 promoted the *Red Light Green Light* film.

I encourage all Communication Chairs to keep up the good work at making their members aware of the many issues that the Catholic Women's League is working on. At meetings bring to member's attention



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2019**

Resolutions Standing Committee Report 2019

Diocese: Hamilton
Parishes Reporting: 21

Chairperson: Camille L. Naranjit
Sub-chairpersons: None

From the Constitution and Bylaws, the Resolutions Chair is responsible for the: (a) research and preparation of resolutions and briefs; (b) study and implementation of resolutions adopted by other levels; and (c) at provincial and national levels, presentation of resolutions to government.

Councils reported that members studied resolutions adopted at the Hamilton Diocesan Level which included: Environmental Water Conservation Initiatives; Ink Cartridge Recycling, Bill C-418 the *Protection of Freedom of Conscience for Healthcare Practitioners Act*; the "slippery slope" of MAID; and becoming a Green Parish – the banning of Styrofoam cups.

Members studied action plans of resolutions adopted at the Provincial Level which included: ON.02 – Income Security for the Disabled; a road map for change – 10 year plan to improve living standards and revise the OPSP program; education cuts of autism programs; the banning of Neonicotinoid pesticides (via David Suzuki Foundation authored petitions).

The parishes reported carrying out the action plans by doing the following actions: 10% did other outreach activities (these activities were not clarified in the report summary); 10% met with their local MP or MPPs to discuss bills and political issues; and 10% of councils discussed and studied issues with their parish members that might at a later date become resolutions. Other actions taken by the 21 councils that were associated with action plans, included: 52% raised awareness through meetings, e-mails, newsletters; 43% created and circulated petitions to sign (in the community or with the Bishop's permission); 38% wrote their Provincial and Federal Government Representatives on issues; 14% participated in letter writing session/campaigns; and 10% hosted guest speakers to raise awareness of resolution issue (e.g. scams, help for youth seeking out abortions, euthanasia, access to healthcare). Out of the 21 councils

that reported, 14% of reporting councils did nothing in their parishes to carry out resolution action plans.

Additionally, parishes carried out other activities concerning resolutions which included: regularly looking at the Diocesan, Provincial and National Catholic Women's League website to share relevant resolution information to members of their parish; hosting speaker; had movie nights showing movies like the Euthanasia Coalition's right to life films; facilitating and presenting workshops on environment issues (e.g. pollution), homelessness, low income programs to aid seniors, how to access palliative care, mental health and MAID; contacted their local, provincial and federal representatives by phone, letter, e-mail and in person; and attended League workshops on the resolutions process at conventions. It was also reported that a parish started the research and preparation for a resolution and research brief on into the dangers of and the reasons for restricting Polyethylene balls in the manufacture of cosmetics.

Most parishes reported challenges concerning finding and electing a resolutions chair. Only 10 of the 21 reporting parishes in Hamilton Diocese had resolutions chair (4 were elected, and 6 were appointed), and 11 of the reporting councils did not have a resolution chair. Furthermore, only 3 parishes of the 10 who had resolution chairs as a "stand alone" resolutions position, and in 7 of the 10 parishes, the legislation chair assumed the resolutions duties and shared the tasks with other executive members. Another challenge was that some parishes felt that they lacked the information and know-how on drafting resolutions, how to compile and write a research brief, and how to present the resolution at convention.

A recommendation from a council was that should the Resolutions Dialogue Session Workshop presented at the National Convention be repeated, the members wanted more discussion about how to "bring about" a resolution at the parish and grassroots level of the League (i.e. the idea forming and beginning of the resolutions process). In addition, parishes wanted discussion and to have "sit downs" with Diocesan and Provincial Resolution Chairs to brainstorm ways to engage members and better understand the process from the first step which is the idea to last step which is the presentation of the Resolution and Research Brief.

Report submitted by,
Camille L. Naranjit,
Hamilton Diocesan Resolutions Chair

The Catholic Women's League of Canada Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2019

Legislation Standing Committee Report 2019

Diocese: Hamilton
Parishes Reporting: 17

Chairperson: Vacant
Sub-chairpersons: None

From the Constitution and Bylaws, the Legislation Chair: (a) monitors and studies legislation at all levels of government; (b) prepares briefs and position papers on proposed legislation.

Members monitored and studied legislation at the provincial level of government which included: changes and challenges to the *Palliative Care Act* and *Access to Care Act*; the *Compassionate Care Act*; micro-bead in bath products; the *Income Security Act* and implementation of income security initiatives for seniors. Additionally councils examined the "Roadmap for Change 2017" – the 10 year plan to improve living standards and revise the ODSP; raised awareness of the need for climate action initiatives; and wrote to Premier Ford to listen to the scientists and youth (e.g. Greta Thunberg) who are acting to protect our environment. In general, members monitored the Ontario Conservative Government's changes regarding proposed cuts to health care and education.

Members monitored and studied legislation at the federal level of government which included: Bill C-418, the *Protection of Freedom of Conscience Act* (Medical Practitioners and MAID); monitored Bill C-404 – amendment to the *Assisted Human Reproductive Act*; a bill that decriminalized marijuana (and how it pertains to youth and affects their developing minds); the Indigenous People's Truth and Reconciliation document; and current abortion laws.

A legislation chair cooperated with the resolution chair and executive members to start preparing a brief and position paper on proposed legislation to research the reasons for eliminating polyethylene balls in cosmetics, and followed provincial government proceedings regarding transportation, agriculture, homelessness, medical and hospital funding to possibly develop resolutions in the future. From received reports, 100% of Legislation Chairs knew their Municipal, Provincial and Federal Government Representatives; 50% of Legislation Chairs received mailings or e-mails from their Municipal, Provincial and Federal Government Representative; 90% of Legislation Chairs were either well or somewhat well informed of current government issues; and 80% of Legislation Chairs have accessed Hansard

Transcripts and other legislature gazettes to learn about debates and the reading of laws.

In Hamilton Diocese, League members participated in a few grassroots protests. Hamilton Diocesan Catholic Women's League members took part in the following protest to advocate against certain legislation or government policies: (1) The "Red for Ed" Education Protest at Queen's Park to advocate for improved autism services and ending thoughtless education cuts without a rationale on April 6, 2019 at noon; (2) The March for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Toronto on February 14, 2019; (3) Local Healthcare Protests to advocate for more funding, effective programs, and unrestricted pharma care programs in Ontario; and (4) Members went to Queen's Park to sit in the gallery and protest to defend the programs for children with autism and special needs.

In Hamilton Diocese, League members organized awareness campaigns (e.g. hosting speakers and distributing information) of different types of scams targeting the elderly and individuals with special needs. Members also attended public forums on issues such as, local land and building development issues, public transit and trails in our neighbourhood which were sponsored by governments. Councils participated in: municipal pre-election rallies; attended all-candidate debates for municipal and federal elections; and spoke to inform those in attendance highlighting Christian values and Catholic Women's League positions on various political issues. Many members closely followed the MAID legislation and wrote their MPs and MPPs identifying euthanasia as a "slippery slope" and exactly why we are against the legislation and changed in the Canadian Criminal Code legalizing euthanasia.

A few parishes reported challenges concerning the legislation chair position. By in large, the most common challenge was electing a legislation chair as only 11 of the 17 reported parishes had legislation chairs (4 were elected and 7 were appointed) and 7 parishes did not (the position was either done by the resolutions chair or the position was shared amongst all the executive officers). Parishes also noted that this position is "heavy" in reading and reported challenges with simply keeping up with the legislation and current events in a timely manner. Furthermore, they lacked the time necessary to fully follow-up on the legislation (how it moved through the parliamentary process becoming law) and implementing the "League's action plans (e.g. writing letters, advocacy work). Lastly, some felt overwhelmed and that their actions did not always matter because legislation that opposed Christian values and positions became law after achieving third reading.

While this Diocese is quite active in various legislation activities, there are a few recommendations and suggestions that could be made. Due to councils having trouble keeping up with legislation, it is suggested that legislation

chairs ask all women in the parish council to simply watch the news, read the papers, glance at Internet articles, and peruse Catholic journals (e.g. Vatican News or the Catholic Register). Then all members can forward any issues – especially legislation that may apply to any of the chair positions that the council might feel inclined to study further to lighten the workload. Moreover parish legislation subcommittees can be formed to help combat the lack of time issue. Another suggestion was to phone (or visit their website) the MPP or MP in your riding and be added to their e-mail list so legislation information can be received in a timely manner. It is noted that it is important to try to enlist your MPP/MP office's help because they have several resources at their disposal. In the same vein, it is recommended to join Facebook groups, Twitter feeds and RSS feeds to be sent legislation information, the last two actions could reduce the work in actively searching out legislation material. Lastly, if possible, it is good to elect a chair who has an interest in and knowledge of the area of politics.

Report submitted by:

Camille L. Naranjit,
Hamilton Diocesan Resolutions Chair



Diocesan Life Member Liaison: Jakki Jeffs
Honorary Life Members: none
Life Members: 11

Deceased Members – 2019

The diocese was saddened by the loss of Life Member Jerri Hasey who passed away on August 24, 2019 at 86 years of age. Jerri was a lifelong member of Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton. She was extremely active in her parish council and worked for The Good Shepherd until her retirement. She will be missed by all the Sisters in the League.

Newly Appointed Life Members – 2019

Ana Sousa

Life Member Liaison's Activity Report

- **Pat Crawford:** I settled into my new home in Kitchener.
- My family is doing well, one granddaughter out in the work force, a grandson in college and the youngest granddaughter is finishing up in high school. I began the planning of the Ontario Provincial Convention being held in Kitchener in 2020
- **Anna Brady:** I attended Ontario provincial convention as well as national convention; was a co-chair for the Hamilton Diocesan Convention. I continue to be Eucharistic minister at church; do Meals on Wheels for our parish; am a money counter
- **Georgina Bourke:** I attended the Provincial Convention and am recovering from health issues.
- **Jakki Jeffs:** I attended Diocesan Convention but was unable to attend provincial or national as my sister and her husband died 4 months apart which devastated our family. I gave a couple of League development workshops for our council members which were appreciated by those in attendance. As a re-cycled parish president, it was my honour to serve the parish council again and to use the experience I have gained in the League to assist. I prepared a Christmas dinner for the Life members in the Kitchener region and several lunches were held throughout the year
- **Rosanne Sogan:** I co-chaired the Hamilton Diocesan Council 2019 Convention.
- **Jacqueline Papke:** I was not able to be too active in 2019 as my health and my husband's health was not the best

- **Mary Lou Watson:** Had nothing to report for 2019
- **Ana Sousa:** I was honoured to receive my Life Membership and I truly love The League and will try my best to support The League in all it does.
- **Mary Lou Colwell:** Continued to be involved in her local Victim's Services organization – travelling with her husband since her retirement in 2019 and doted on her 6 grandchildren
- **Shari Guinta:** Continued serving on the national CWL council, made presentations regarding the CWL National Strategy
- **Jeanne Wilson:** Became president of her parish council, attended the Diocesan Convention and had several great lunches with the Life Members in the Hamilton Region as well as celebrating the birth of her 3rd grandchild.



Regional Reports



CWL COUNCILS IN HAMILTON DIOCESE

BRANT REGION

BRANTFORD

St. Basil
St. Joseph
St. Mary
St. Pius

BURFORD

Blessed Sacrament

PARIS

Sacred Heart

SCOTLAND

St. Anthony

HAMILTON REGION

BURLINGTON

Holy Rosary
St. Gabriel
St. John the Baptist
St. Patrick
St. Paul the Apostle
St. Raphael

DUNDAS

St. Augustine

FREELTON

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

GEORGETOWN

Holy Cross

HAMILTON

Annunciation of Our Lord
Most Blessed Sacrament
Canadian Martyrs
Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King
Corpus Christi
Holy Cross (Croatian)
Our Lady of Lourdes
Regina Mundi
Sacred Heart
St. Anthony of Padua
St. Charles Garnier

HAMILTON CONT'D

St. Eugene
St. Gregory the Great
St. John the Baptist
St. Joseph
St. Lawrence
St. Luke
St. Margaret Mary
St. Patrick
St. Peter and Paul
St. Stanislaus

MILTON

Holy Rosary
St. Benedict

OAKVILLE

Mary Mother of God
St. Andrew
St. Dominic
St. James
St. Matthew
St. Michael

STONEY CREEK

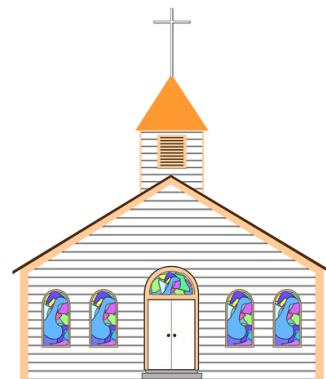
Our Lady of the Assumption
St. Francis Xavier

WATERDOWN

St. Thomas the Apostle

WINONA

Immaculate Heart of Mary



KITCHENER REGION

ACTON

St. Joseph, Patron of Canada

ARTHUR

St. John the Evangelist

CAMBRIDGE

St. Clement

St. Gregory the Great

St. Mary of the Visitation

St. Patrick

DRAYTON

St. Martin of Tours

ELMIRA

St. Teresa of Avila

ELORA

St. Mary Immaculate

FERGUS

St. Joseph

GUELPH

Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate

Holy Rosary

Sacred Heart

St. John

St. Joseph

KENILWORTH

Sacred Heart

KITCHENER

Blessed Sacrament

Sacred Heart

St. Aloysius

St. Anthony Daniel

St. Francis of Assisi

St. John

St. Joseph

St. Mark

St. Mary

St. Teresa of Avila

MARYHILL

St. Boniface

NEW HAMBURG

Holy Family

ROCKWOOD AND OUSTIC

Sacred Heart & St. Peter Mission

St. AGATHA

St. Agatha

WATERLOO

Our Lady of Lourdes

St. Agnes

St. Louis

St. Michael

NORTH REGION

CARGILL

St. Joseph

CHEPSTOW

Mary Immaculate

CHESLEY

St. Ann

DUNDALK

Our Lady of the Rosary

DURHAM

St. Peter and St. Paul

FORMOSA

Immaculate Conception

GLENELG

St. John

HANOVER

Holy Family

KINCARDINE

St. Anthony of Padua

MILDMAY

Sacred Heart

MOUNT FOREST

St. Mary of the Purification

OWEN SOUND

St. Mary of the Assumption

PORT ELGIN

St. Joseph

TEESWATER

Sacred Heart

WALKERTON

Sacred Heart

WIARTON

St. Thomas Aquinas



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Basil, Brantford

Name of President: Donna Kane

Spiritual Advisor: Father Kevin D'Souza

Number of members: 85

The ladies of our Council continued to serve our parish and community as we faced another year of change and disappointment. Father Paul resigned as pastor in January, Monsignor Sheridan served as administrator until June when Father Kevin was appointed pastor. Each change brought a new perspective to the parish and understanding of the Catholic Women's League.

The Council hosts a coffee hour each month to promote fellowship within the parish. We also hosted receptions for confirmation and departures of parish personnel and a team of dedicated women continue to provide funeral luncheons.

Women continue to make sleeping mats out of milk bags and fill shoe boxes for children at Christmas. These are sent to Third World countries through Canadian Food for Children.

We participated in the HUGS program collecting menstrual and personal hygiene products for women. We invited a guest speaker from the "Period Purse" to explain the program and the items collected will be distributed through them to women in need that seek help at the women's shelter, temporary shelters for the homeless and the food bank. We also gave a monetary donation to the program.

As always, I am proud of the work performed by our members and grateful for their support over the past year. I pray that God will continue to bless them in their work for God and Canada.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Parish Council: St. Joseph, Brantford

President: Steph Peycha

Spiritual Advisor: Father Adam Wroblewicz

Members: 36

Our Catholic Women's League Council has been operating for many years, and was started originally as the "Christian Mothers". St. Joseph's Catholic Women's League has one very important tradition known as "The Oplatek". This tradition has continued in our Council since the Christian Mothers started.

In the past, ladies would prepare and cook the meat (either roast beef or turkey), in their own homes, and bring the finished product to the Church. The rest of the food was prepared in the Church Kitchen. Ladies of the parish would donate home baking for dessert. When the tables are set up, a piece of Holy Wafer (Oplatek) is placed on the top of the empty Salad Bowls. After Fr. Adam has blessed the food, people take their pieces of Oplatek, and share it with their friends and fellow parishioners. Following the dinner, the pastor of the church would provide entertainment (usually a choir from a Polish Church). Many years ago, when Virginia Blaha, was playing the organ, the Choir would perform for the parishioners. The Polish Choir was always such a delight to listen to, and Virginia was also Choir Director. Now, all the food is prepared in the Hall Kitchen, and usually consumes a lot of volunteer hours.

This wonderful tradition, which continues today, takes place on the first Sunday in the New Year, which is "The Epiphany of the Lord". In Polish, we celebrate the festival of "The Three Kings" (Trzej Krolowie) when they came to visit the Baby Jesus. This is depicted in the Nativity Story. The children from the Polish school, with the assistance of their educators and Fr. Adam present their "Nativity Story", recited in Polish, and parents assemble their co-ordinating costumes for this event. This year, Emeritus Bishop Matthew Ustrzycki celebrated Mass, with Fr. Adam concelebrating. After dinner, while the tables were being cleared, Polish Koledy would be sung by the people, and socializing would take place.

This tradition is such a wonderful event – and the parishioners are very eager to attend, and the ladies of the parish do come out and assist with this dinner preparation.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Mary, Brantford

Name of President: Anna Brady

Spiritual Advisor: Father Lukasz Kopaniak, S.A.C.

Number of members: 43

Life Members: 1

Our council members continue to contribute to the life of the parish as Eucharistic Ministers of Communion, lectors, funeral luncheon committee, delivering meals on wheels, money counters.

Our membership has declined but we hold meetings every few months. We began this year with a wine and cheese welcome meeting.

Some members attended the spring and fall regional meetings and we had one member attend the diocesan convention as a voting delegate. One member also attended the provincial and national conventions. One member was the Brant Regional secretary and worked very hard for us on the diocesan convention.

“Lord, help me to remember that nothing is going to happen to me today that You and I can't handle”



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Pius X, Brantford
Name of President: Patricia McDougall
Spiritual Advisor: Father John Redmond
Number of members: 193

The St. Pius X Parish Catholic Women's League had two main focuses this past year. The first was for the Warmth and Comfort Program; in support of people in our community who are in need. We were very pleased with the generosity and care of the parish community. Over the course of five weeks, we were able to collect more than five hundred items; woollen socks, scarves, hats, mitts, (a number hand knitted), and other items suitable to help keep people, who are homeless, protected and warm. We delivered these items to the St. Vincent de Paul centre in Brantford for distribution to their clients. Pat McDougall, then Community Chair, organized this event.

The second successful project was for the H.U.G.S. initiative. Again calling on our members and the church community in general, people donated toiletries, cosmetic bags, back packs, and stuffed teddies and items for babies and young children. We collected almost ninety items in support of the local Nova Vita Domestic Violence Protection Services in Brantford. This is a safe home that takes in women and their children in cases of domestic abuse. Lindsay Greene, Communications Chair, spearheaded this initiative for St. Pius X. Two guest speakers from the Nova Vita organization addressed our Catholic Women's League members at our February meeting and were well received. It is our intention to continue to support these worthwhile causes in the coming year.

For our centenary project, we have decided to plant a Rose of Sharon tree in the gardens at the side of St. Pius X Church. We felt that a tree with blossoms in the bright blue colour would be suitable in honour of Mary our Mother. We will place a plaque to highlight the Catholic Women's League 100th year anniversary.

Thank you for continuing to promote this blessed and dynamic women's league. Our members are dedicated and their faith renewed by belonging to this amazing organization.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: Holy Rosary (Aldershot), Burlington

Name of President: Theresa Milton

Spiritual Advisor: Father Martin Vallely

Number of members: 144

In January, we held our first Hospitality weekend, serving tea and coffee after each mass. We had a good response from the Parish, with help from a number of our CWL members. At our general meeting, we had a Guest Line Dancing Instructor, Lynn Gorux.

We assisted the Knights of Columbus with their Annual Shrove Tuesday, Breakfast Lunch and Dinner, serving 229 guests and volunteers. The Free Will offering raised \$375 to each charity: The St. Vincent de Paul and The Halton Women's Place.

In April, our guest speaker, Beth Craver spoke of spring flower arrangements. The members enjoyed it immensely.

We raised \$750 with 135 ladies attending our Annual Fashion Show in May. The funds were donated to Sister Joanna Baumgartner's Charity, which is building a school in Haiti.

Members participated in 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care, where \$1,700 donations were collected in support of Burlington Carpenter Hospice.

On June 22, our Catholic Women's League Craft Ladies held a garage sale on Sister Lorraine MacNamara's driveway, raising \$400 for craft supplies for our Annual CWL Bell Bazaar.

We hosted our Annual CWL Communion Breakfast and Pin Ceremony in October. The Knights of Columbus prepared and served the meal to the members and guests.

The Annual CWL Bell Bazaar was a great success making \$14,336.10.

We closed off our year with a wonderful Christmas dinner during which we also celebrated the 100th Anniversary of our League. What better way to mark this landmark than to have a birthday party for our much-loved member Yolanda Fleming, who turned 100 on December 19! Music, laughter and cake! A donation of \$600 was given to a Saint Vincent de Paul family, along with Christmas gifts, clothing and gift certificates.

In December, members made up plates of cookies for the East Plains United Church's Annual Christmas Dinner for the community.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. John the Baptist, Burlington

Name of President: Lori Skinner

Spiritual Advisor: Father Bob Sims

Number of members: 120

Our Council continues to be an active Ministry in our parish due to a few very dedicated members who are committed to its significance in the spiritual and social life of the Church.

We continue to organize two Retreats for ladies of our parish and also beyond. We hold a morning Advent Retreat which is facilitated by our own Father Bob. It includes Mass, a social time with coffee and sweets, a talk from Father, quiet time during which confessions are heard and ends with Benediction.

Our Lenten Retreat this year was facilitated by Father Ciallella. The Lenten Retreat includes also, further sessions with Father, lunch and ends with Benediction at 2 p.m. Both these events draw great numbers and are much appreciated by all the ladies who attend as is noted in the Comment Sheets provided at the conclusion.

This year's Christmas Charitable Drive focused on requests for items for Good Shepherd's Women Shelter. Again our parishioners did not disappoint us. Four trunk loads of shampoo, body wash, diapers, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, etc. were delivered to Martha House.

We usually hold a Pot Luck at Christmas, but this year, for a nominal fee, we provided our ladies with a delicious meal of hot chicken, salads and delicious desserts. We presented Father Bob and Deacon Rob with their Christmas Baskets. Deserving recipients of our Christmas baskets also went to the office administrator and our outstanding care taker.

We continue to pray that our numbers of active volunteers increase, so that the blessings felt by those doing good works can be shared.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Paul the Apostle, Burlington

Name of Co- Presidents: Susan Williams & Shelley Monaco

Spiritual Advisor: Father Ed Henhoeffter

Number of members: 167

Life Members: 1

We had another busy and fulfilling year of growth and activity. We began our year with the Annual Welcome Back Dinner enjoyed by 80 guests and catered by 'Dinner Is Served' – Catholic Women's League member-owned and operated. This event is relished by all who attend as we foster familiar friendships and meet new friends. This gathering continues to promote a lot of networking and socializing, nourishing the spirits and souls of all who attend. Our guest speaker was Father John Schnurr, our new Associate Pastor, who focused on a book written by Monica Migliornio Miller and the importance of the role of women in the church being spiritual mothers of priests. Theresa Hawley provided insight to the Catholic Women's League's National Five-Year Strategic Plan focusing on the 21st Century.

Each month we gather for Mass prior to our general meeting with reports and information from a different Convenor per month as well as a guest speaker.

Fall, in our council, focuses on our Annual C.W.L. Christmas Bazaar. We were blessed again with over 800 visitors who filled the halls with joyful spirits as they visited the numerous areas throughout the Hall and Narthex. Each year we choose a charity to sponsor with the \$1 entrance fee. This year was Carpenter Hospice in Burlington, and timing was perfect as they had suffered a flood shortly after our bazaar and needed more funding. As a result of our entrance fee, and a nominal top-up, we presented Carpenter Hospice with a cheque for \$1,000. We profited over \$15,000 from the entire event, which was disbursed among many charities.

Our Funeral Luncheon Ministry remains active. Our many volunteers are pleased to accommodate whenever the call is put into action. Some months were busier than others – many hands make light the work. We hope to carry on this well-appreciated tradition for many years to come.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Raphael, Burlington

Name of Co-Presidents: Leony Hettinger & Helen Sheehan

Spiritual Advisor: Father Francis Salasiar

Number of members: 91

Our council celebrated 60 years in 2019. We encouraged our members to learn about the history of the league. Our goal for 2020 is to promote the CWL within our council and parish community; increase visibility and recruit new members. We gave an ambo talk in January to explain why women should belong to the league. We had a very positive response. Along with the talk, we held a Quiz where participants filled out a ballot to win one of 3 gift baskets. As a result, we had 28 new contacts.

We worked on the list of the "100 Reasons for Joining the CWL" and we came up with 50 excellent reasons. We also submitted a Diocesan Anniversary Prayer which was suggested. We plan to have a special celebration in the fall when we will be hosting a lunch for our members and parishioners to celebrate the centenary. We added a few new ideas to our monthly general meetings. We are using a book entitled "Walking with Mary" and each month a member shares a summary of one chapter from this book as our spiritual reflection. We also initiated a "Take a Book/Give a Book" similar to a book exchange of religious books. We have also starting using a note book where members can add prayer intentions for all to pray for.

Our council is very committed to pro-life and have worked with Halton Alive by holding a workshop in 2019 and now at the end of February will be hosting along with Knights of Columbus an education evening on the work of Halton Alive. In May we will hold a "Baby Bottle" campaign for Shifra Homes to help them with their pro-life work. Again, respect for life was demonstrated when we had a speaker from Halton Alzheimer's Society. She explained how the society works, counselling offered and education classes for caregivers and family members. We had a very good discussion!

As part of our social justice commitment, our council continues to support Canadian Food for Children (Lenten project); Good Shepherd in Hamilton; St. Vincent de Paul and St. Raphael's children's bible camp. Each year our council organizes a "Women's Day of Reflection" (retreat) and it will be our 10th year of continuing to offer this very important day of reflection for women of faith.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Augustine, Dundas

Name of President: Phyllis Missett

Spiritual Advisor: Father Scott Whitfield

Number of members: 120

A number of years ago, at a general meeting, the director of the Ellen Osler House was the guest speaker. Ellen Osler House in downtown Dundas is a transition residence for former female federal prisoners. One executive member explored the idea of how the council could assist the women of Ellen Osler House. Thus began the practise of supplying items for the "welcome bags." Once or twice a year the membership is asked to donate personal care items. Each new arrival to the Ellen Osler House receives a welcome bag. The women of the St. Augustine council generously donate to this ongoing project which helps vulnerable women in the community.





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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Freelton

Name of President: Judy Van Schyndel

Spiritual Advisor: Father Edward Mahony

Number of members: 49

Last year, 2019, held many special blessings for our Council as we prepared for the 100th Anniversary year of The Catholic Women's League of Canada and in the Hamilton Diocese, and, the 60th Anniversary year of our Parish Council. Our members very much enjoyed participating in many of the Diocesan's celebration activities throughout the year. For the H.U.G. project, we collected over 30 gifts for the Drummond House and Hope Centre of Waterdown. We collected pictures and newspaper articles depicting our "Members in Action". We wrote and submitted a prayer for the 100th Anniversary Diocesan Prayer Book. Throughout these activities, we enjoyed countless hours of fellowship, fun and faith fulfillment. We were continually grateful for the generosity of our members and parish family in all of their charitable donations and endeavours. We laughed and heard many "remember when's" while we were looking at old pictures and sharing stories from the past. And we were very much blessed as we wrote together, with the guidance of Father Mahony, our 100th Anniversary Prayer. We are a small council in numbers, but we always remember the words of Saint Mother Teresa... "It is not the magnitude of our actions, but the amount of love that is put into them that matters."

The highlight of our year was the creation of the "Our Lady of Mount Carmel Celebration Cookbook" in celebration of the 100th and 60th Anniversaries we are celebrating in 2020. Included in the cookbook are recipes collected from our Parish family, our prayer for the Hamilton Diocesan 100th Anniversary Prayer Book, a prayer and grace submitted by Father Mahony, a president's message, as well as a message from our council secretary who has been a parish member for decades. While compiling the cookbook, much joy and thanksgiving was felt as we reminisced about 60 years of friendships and good food shared. It was truly a labour of love, sharing ideas, work and happy memories, which in turn blessed us all, bringing us even closer as sisters in the League.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: Holy Cross, Georgetown

Name of Co-Presidents: Leslie Rutherford & Michele Meitz

Spiritual Advisor: Father Dave Walters

Number of members: 147

Our council focus for the year was to find small ways to touch and help the parishioners of Holy Cross, and our community of Georgetown. We hosted several "coffee Sundays", held a bake sale, and made "candy cane reindeer" with the youth group. Not only did we share some great laughs with the youth of our parish, but together we saw the sparkle in the eye of every small child and their parents when we handed them out at Christmas. We knitted, crocheted, sewed, and donated a multitude of baby goods for our annual baby shower. All donations were presented to Birthright Hamilton and Shifra Homes.

We revamped our program for working with our Georgetown Catholic Elementary Schools, and set in place a bursary to help a high school graduate from our Parish.

Our new initiative for the year was to join in the CWL "Hugs" project. We began planning our contributions to the "Hugs" project in September. Members were requested to bring toiletries and small gift bags to our October general meeting. All in all we collected sufficient supplies to fill 45 gift bags! At our November meeting, we worked together to fill the bags. What a wonderful opportunity to work together, laugh together, and help others! The gift bags were taken to the local "Links 2Care" office. We are blessed to have a vibrant, faith-filled Catholic Women's League at Holy Cross Parish!



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: Canadian Martyrs, Hamilton

Name of President: Karen Hughes

Spiritual Advisor: Father Bradley Markus

Number of members: 40

The threat of imminent construction in the parish hall made planning difficult but, as always, my ladies came through. We hosted a Lenten retreat for the women of the parish, facilitated by David Dayler at the diocese office. We held a lovely Annual General Meeting gathering at the president's house (celebrating members with 40, 50 and 60 years of service!) and managed our annual fundraising Christmas fair by moving into the neighbouring school's gym. (Many thanks to the school board for their help and generosity.)





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

Care for Our Common Home



Council: Cathedra Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton

President: Mary Mutiibwa

Spiritual Advisor: Father David Wynen

Number of members: 65

Our council was guided by the Hamilton Diocesan Executive to follow the National Policies and Procedure for **Parish level Council Elections**. Our Executive had *concerns that our members would find the process onerous* and that we would not be able to fill the roles to form our executive. We were pleasantly surprised that this was not the case! First, our Executive appointed a Nominations committee, led by the Past President, Georgina Minnes who organized a spreadsheet showing members *eligible for nomination to various positions*. This list set the tone for the process, as it very clearly showed that only a small number of members had been filling most positions. Clearly, other members need to “step up to the plate”.

Next, members nominated themselves or other members for all Executive positions including *President Elect*. This meant that on the day of our Elections, we had a couple of positions that required a vote. Finally, the election was held on January 19, 2020. About 30 members attended. The formal election process was explained, and through prayer and discernment, our council members rose to the occasion electing newer members and a few seasoned members to our Council Executive for 2020-2022.

Like many councils, we had planned to participate in the Memory Capsule Project for the 100th Anniversary of the Catholic Women's League. Though the global pandemic has restricted our council's activities, we plan to follow up with our collection of Memorable Photos from our council as soon as we return to our “New Normal”. The theme for our previous Executive council was “Re-Boot”. This Executive may need to adopt a different theme such as “Re-install” to acknowledge how differently we will need to operate.

Parish Council: Corpus Christi, Hamilton

President: Barbara Fanson

Spiritual Advisor: Mary Pat Cushing

Members: 65

For over 20 years, we have played **Bingo for Heart & Stroke**, but this is the most we've ever donated. Since February is Friendship Month and Heart and Stroke Month, it's a win-win situation. We donated \$416 from Bingo for Heart and Stroke. There are many ways to have fun while helping others.

At the **Bingo for Heart & Stroke**, 19 people showed up—including 2 new members! We rent bingo cards for \$2 each, with some members renting \$10 worth. A few executive members donated a prize for under \$10. We also had a 50/50 Draw with our share going to Heart & Stroke, too. We made \$208 for Heart and Stroke Foundation and Shopper's Drug Mart matched it!

I designed this 2-sided rack card for Corpus Christi CWL and handed them out to women after every mass. There are 3 fronts on one letter sheet with 3 backs on the other side. Then I cut it into 3 cards. The promotion showed the dates of upcoming events and invited them to join us.

What does the CWL do?

Last year, we presented gifts for First Communion, Baptisms, and 3 grade 8 grads at St. Catherine of Siena Church.

We supported Neighbour to Neighbour Food Bank, Heart & Stroke Foundation, Interval House Women's Shelter, Birthright, and sent several children to camp.

Please join us

Corpus Christi CWL gets together at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month during the school year: September to May, but not in January.



March 3: **Help Prevent Scams & Fraud** with Hamilton Police Services

April 7: **Baby Shower for Birthright.** Knit, crochet, quilt, or buy for babies up to 2 yrs.

May 5: **Elders for Climate Sanity** will show how you can help with climate change.

June 1: **CWL Spring Banquet and Awards** to celebrate volunteers at Michelangelo's.

How will you support Corpus Christi CWL?
1694 Upper James St. Hamilton L9B 1K6



CORPUS CHRISTI CWL

Consider joining the largest women's group in Canada

Imagine if every Catholic Church in Canada had a group of women that came together to support each other, petition the government for a change, or support local charities. We do. The Catholic Women's League (CWL) has over 77,000 members. Why not you?

Corpus Christi CWL offers different levels of support:

The Quiet Supporter

offers prayers and support but doesn't have time to attend gatherings.

The Semi-Active Supporter

tries to attend monthly gatherings but participates in special activities like the Bake Sale, Spring Banquet, and Christmas Sing-Along.

The Active Supporter

attends regularly and volunteers in special activities like the Bake Sale, Spring Banquet, and Christmas Dinner.

The Executive Supporter

is active in CWL activities and volunteers with the running of the organization.

Women over 16 are invited to attend a monthly event for free.



CORPUS CHRISTI CWL



Hamilton Diocesan Council
of
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Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: Our Lady of Lourdes, Hamilton

Name of President: Dr. Marie Ssemanda

Spiritual Advisor: Father Mark Gatto

Number of members: 53

The Catholic Women's League of St. Catherine of Siena (Our Lady of Lourdes site) did a variety of good works as indicated below:

February 19, the Catholic Women's League ladies joined about 500 parish members in the celebration of "Winter wonderland" an evening held at Michelangelo's Banquet Centre. This evening gave our two parish sites, that is, Our Lady of Lourdes and Corpus Christi an opportunity to get to know each other while we wait for the new Church to be built.

February 23, and March 16, 2019, we hosted an evening to which all ladies in our Parish were invited to watch a video about St. Catherine of Siena, the patron saint of our new Parish. Father Mark Gatto, our pastor, facilitated the video and the members provided the refreshments. We got to learn new information about our patron saint.

April 24, 2019, we invited Mr. Andy Burns, the Religion and Family Life consultant with the Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District Board to inform us about Christian Meditation. It was a highly informative and spiritual evening. June 15, 2019, we facilitated a retreat to Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara. About 30 members attended the retreat which was facilitated by our spiritual adviser, Father Gatto. We celebrated Mass at the chapel and the members had ample time for spiritual reflection. We were also provided with a delicious meal.

November 30 – December 1, 2019, the members held a bake sale and managed to raise \$473.75, despite the very treacherous weather that happened on that weekend. The money is to be donated to local charities.

December 12, 2019, the League hosted a potluck dinner to which all ladies of the parish were invited. We had about 20 ladies join us. Father Gatto, Seminarian Diaz Carlos and the members from the Corpus Christi site joined us. It was a joyful evening accompanied with Christmas carolling.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: Regina Mundi, Hamilton

Name of President: Dolores Morrallee

Spiritual Advisor: Father Adam Voisin

Number of members: 136

This past year again proved to be a very busy time for our Council. Continuing with the many events, fundraisers, school involvement and the many other undertakings this Council carries out every year.

This year ended with a tremendous honour from the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board on November 26th at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King. It was at this event that the Regina Mundi Catholic Women's League was selected to receive the 2019 Award for Distinguished Service to Catholic Education-Institutions/Group Category. We were honoured and grateful to be recognized for the work our members do for Catholic Education.

We are very grateful for the leadership of our Education and Spiritual Convenors both former and present, and all the council executive and members who have made the commitment to continue reaching out to our students. Without their volunteer time and dedication, we would not be able to continue these spiritually enriching programs.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all the executive team for their continued support and hard work and to our Spiritual Advisor, Father Adam Voisin whose encouragement and spiritual guidance is greatly appreciated.

Name of Council: St. Anthony of Padua, Hamilton

Name of President: Angela Ciotti

Spiritual Advisor: Father Francesco Cucchi

Number of members: 40

St. Anthony of Padua CWL was founded by Father Mascari, March 1954. Our first president was Phyllis Mancini.

Last year was extremely eventful. The highlight was the celebration of a memorable milestone, our 65th Anniversary, held June 9, 2019. We commenced with Holy Mass, followed by a celebratory dinner at Liuna Station Banquet Centre, which turned out to be a huge success. For each place setting we designed a laminated bookmark with 65th anniversary and League prayer on one side and a most beautiful, spiritual poem from the "Spectrum" called "Take Time" on the other.

We had the pleasure of four Hamilton Diocesan Executive Officers – President, Catherine Feren, Secretary, Laura Grint, Treasurer, Julia Calverley, and First Vice-President, Teresa Di Falco.

We honoured members who reached various milestones in their years of League service. Lorette Sedan along with Flora Formosi, their 50 year pin, and Rosa Ferrara, 25 year pin. We also acknowledged Flora Formosi turning 100 years young. Our longest serving League member, Ida Spilak, started in 1957. She has been a CWL member for 62 years of our 65. Ida served as president for 16 of those years.

During the year, our Council prepared bags filled with toiletries for Martha House Women's Shelter. At Easter, 4 needy families in our schools were provided with \$200.00 certificates each for their needs. This was due to the proceeds from members and from the generosity of our parishioners. We partnered with Knights of Columbus (Fr. Mascari Council 8380) for our Christmas party.

One of our extremely successful initiatives was the fund raising effort for the NEW beautiful electronic sign in front of our church. In addition to spearheading the project, our council contributed \$3,000 to the cost. Other donations for 2019 included: Bishop Crosby's Charities, St. Anthony's Feast and the Knights of Columbus Cancer Fundraiser.

We concluded the year with our first election in a very, very long time. Late fall we started with an elections workshop done by Catherine Feren, and Teresa Di Falco and with Regional Chair, Linda Perron there to assist.

Congratulations and thank-you President, Angela Ciotti; President-Elect, Josie Cooke; Treasurer, Rose Silenzi; Recording Secretary, Linda Mulligan; Correspondence Secretary, Rita Mendola for stepping up to the challenge. This new executive will continue leading our Council in service.

Respectfully submitted, Mary D'Orazio, Past President



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Eugene, Hamilton

Name of President: Marie Gallacher

Spiritual Advisor: Father Andrew Quarshie

Number of members: 60

- January 28 Executive Meeting
- February 12 General Meeting following the 8:30 am Mass
- February 25 Executive Meeting
- March 1 General Meeting following the 8:30 am Mass
- April 1 Executive Meeting
- April 5 General Meeting following the 8:30 Mass
- April 21 Easter cards and chocolates to the parishioners who are unable to attend Mass
- May 5 Communion Breakfast at the Knights of Columbus
- May 14 crowning of Mary during the 8:30 Mass
- June 3 Executive Meeting
- June 4 Elections and social
- July 7 members helped with set-up, running and cleanup of our Parish picnic
- August 29 Executive Meeting
- September 3 General Meeting
- September 18 Catholic Women's League ran a bus trip to Oh Canada Eh!
- September 23 Executive Meeting
- October 17, 18, 19 Members of CWL set-up, ran and cleaned up our Fall Fare held in St. Eugene's School Gym
- November 5 General Meeting
- November 24 packed purses with necessities for women living on the street in downtown Hamilton. We filled 29 purses. Fr. Andrew blessed them and they were delivered November 26 to Help Hamilton Homeless.
- December 3 Christmas social with Secret Santa and blessing and distribution of Canada Service Pin following the 7:00 pm Mass
- December 22 Christmas greetings, cards and gifts to our senior citizens and shut-ins sponsored by Catholic Women's League



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Gregory the Great, Hamilton

Name of President: Rosemary Sustersic

Spiritual Advisor: Father Drago Gačnik

Number of members: 81

Our annual bazaar, a time honoured tradition took place on March 10th. We were so grateful for the support provided by our volunteers and parish community at this fun filled event. At Our Lady of Good Counsel Mass on April 24th, we welcomed one new member and recognized eleven ladies for their ten years of service and one member for forty years of service.

In May we provided corsages or boutonnieres intertwined with Our Lady of Good Counsel medallions to those receiving their First Communion. The Feast of Corpus Christi in June was celebrated with a procession and prepared altars at our church and at Slovenski Park.

A well received and inspirational presentation was shared on two volumes of the illuminated St. John's Bible. A Memorial Mass for our deceased members as well as the Slomšek Altar Society took place on November 27th. This year we were saddened by the loss of one of our members, Marija Bukvic and honoured her at her funeral. In December, with the help of our parish community we conducted a Food Drive to support local food banks. Our ill/elderly were visited and/or cards were sent to them.

In 2019 we made gracious donations to our church, of which about \$10,000 covered the purchase of new church doors. We maintained our Chalice sponsorship, allocated monies to Catholic Missions in Canada, the Good Shepherd Centre, monthly masses, a visiting priest and St. Gregory's Summer Day Camp. We maintained votive candles.

Our Community Service Project pertained to our Slovenian Summer Day Camp which was spearheaded by one of our own, Heidi Novak, first in 1999. This Day Camp has brought our community together in a fun and memorable way and has become a tradition uniting multiple generations of Slovenians.



Hamilton Diocesan Council
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The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. John the Baptist, Hamilton

Name of President: Anne Linger

Spiritual Advisor: Father Andrew Quarshie

Number of members: 34

As our council had no President for several years, I was elected in May, 2019 and have been working to bring the council up-to-date. Our council is active in our parish life and community.

- We sponsor a child in Africa.
- Yearly Birthright Baby Shower
- Donate plaques (1 girl, 1 boy) to the Grade 8 Graduate who represents Christian Life at school and in the community.
- To be visible in our Parish, one of our members made Catholic Women's League sashes for our council.
- We had 2 speakers this year as well we donated to the DeMazenod Door Outreach at St. Patrick's Parish along with knitted toques from one of our members.
- At our Welcome Sunday, held in September, we had a Catholic Women's League display and recruited 3 new members.
- We had a Welcome Ceremony in December for our 3 new members as well as 1 transfer member.
- A Service Pin Ceremony for 10 ladies was held:
 - 5 Year Pin: Diana Sauve and Lisa White
 - 20 Year Pin: Esperanza Lafleur, Karen Rachner, Rina Sheehan
 - 45 Year Pin: Nellie Vertrone
 - 55 Year Pin: Palma Bomben
 - 65 Year Pin: Antonia Frisina, Mary Gibbons, Maryanna Jean
- We are now working on a program to keep our members who are unable to attend our meetings updated and therefore involved in their council.



Hamilton Diocesan Council
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Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Patrick, Hamilton
Name of President: Evelyn Shoemaker
Spiritual Advisor: Diana Quildon
Number of members: 38

Our council hosted a reception for the Confirmation recipients and their families. The school appreciates our efforts to mark this special occasion.

The highlight of the year is always the pot luck dinner/Birthright baby shower at our June meeting. All women of the parish are invited to join in the fun and friendship of a baby shower complete with food, gifts and games. A Birthright representative is invited as guest speaker and fills a whole van with gifts!

At our Christmas pot luck, we had a baby shower for the parish music director who was expecting their first child in the New Year. An evening of fun & games with leftovers donated to DeMazenod Door which is the parish outreach program, feeding the homeless over 300 meals a day.

Our prayer shawl ministry made 25 shawls which were blessed at Our Lady of Good Council mass in April. Once blessed, they are ready for distribution to members of our parish, CWL and nearby Long Term Care facilities. Our prayer shawl ministry branched out into making preemie and baby hats for the local hospitals this year. One tireless knitter made 125 hats. She always has a smile in her heart as she knits.

On a spiritual level, our council leads a Mary's Way of the Cross evening during lent. Participation is encouraged by asking everyone in attendance to read for one of the stations, carry the cross or be one of the singers. We also organized a Novena to St Patrick for the 9 days leading up to the feast of the patron saint of our parish. We plan to continue both events in 2020, hoping to grow participation in them.

This year we took an inventory of where our members are involved in parish ministries. What an eye-opening exercise that was! Of our 39 members, 19 volunteer in various ministries within the parish. Most volunteer quietly behind the scenes in multiple ministries for a total of 54 volunteer positions.



Hamilton Diocesan Council
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The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: Holy Rosary, Milton
Name of President: Mary-Lou Nerbonne
Spiritual Advisor: Father Vivek Trindale
Number of members: 63

We have had many events in 2019 that have been well received by not only our members but also the ladies of the parish. We invite all to attend in hopes that they meet the members of the group and enjoy the time spent together.

One event that was attended by many ladies was the Membership Tea. We invited all ladies of the parish to bring a friend or two and enjoy a nice afternoon Tea. Eight tables were filled, each with a different theme, Christmas, England, Coronation Street just to name a few.

We were blessed to have ladies bake and make sandwiches for the event so we did not need to charge a fee but did collect donations for the Townsend Smith Hospice Foundation. Some see this as an opportunity to visit with friends, and others to meet women of the parish. We had three people join that day and the talk around the parish has had new members attending our events regularly.

I am blessed to have a great Executive, but even more blessed to have the ongoing support of our general members. The ladies enjoyed this and want it to be an annual event, now we just have to pick the best time of year!





Hamilton Diocesan Council
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Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Benedict, Milton
Name of President: Lily Gall
Spiritual Advisor: Father James Petrie
Number of members: 31

We are a fast-growing and vibrant community of Milton; we have new families to our parish community and look forward to the opening of our new church. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, we are faced with many challenges; hence delay in opening of our new church. We continue to hold monthly virtual meetings and daily rosary prayer meeting.

Saint Benedict CWL was (formed in 2013) and have 31 members on the membership, but only a handful who are very active. We are a unique and diverse group of ladies. The membership drive every January brings in new members. We recently had members who have completed 25 years with CWL. We also have young ladies in their early thirties joined our league. Our ladies have done an amazing job in making everyone feel welcome and belonging.

During the Lenten Retreat this year, we collected donation for the Women's Shelter in Milton. The ladies participated in crocheting / knitting squares to join together to create blankets/throws. These blankets/throws will be donated in the Fall to the Women's Shelter in Milton.

We provided bursary to a graduate catholic female student from our secondary school and 5 elementary school.

We also provided donation to Milton District Hospital for their expansion of the new hospital.

We encourage our members to bring a relative, friend or neighbor to join us for our monthly meeting. It is amazing to see many of our ladies with so many talents, gifts and enthusiasm, ready to share with the league and our community.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: Mary Mother of God, Oakville

Name of President: Brigitte Hughes

Spiritual Advisor: Father Issac Tharayil, CMI

Number of members:

We held a coloring contest for Easter for the children of our Parish. They are simple religious images that can be colored. The poster was done by the child of our executive who proposed and spear-headed this event.

We put out the sheets to be picked up at one of the 3 masses and they were given a due date. In order to protect the child's information, i.e.: name and phone number, we had an envelope that the completed forms were put into. After every mass someone collected the envelope.

The prize for all the participants was a booklet, a kinder egg and a participation certificate. The certificate had our Catholic Women's League logo and their personalized name.

The booklet was bought at the convention. The younger children's booklet was, "I Feel, I Love" and the older children received a booklet featuring various Saints.

The winner from 2-6 and 7-9 also received a Lindt chocolate bunny.

The submissions were all displayed in the narthex.

The Parish community absolutely loved this event and the children hope that we will do it every year.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Andrew, Oakville

Name of President: Yvette Vukanich

Spiritual Advisor: Father Cornelius O'Mahoney

Number of members: 98

St. Andrew is very busy and involved in all aspects of our Parish Community.

- First Friday masses for increase in vocations followed by refreshments.
- Two members assist with Baptismal Prep every month giving a history background of our parish and a Catholic Women's League testimonial.
- Offer a free membership to RCIA women joining our parish.
- Call to Life Workshop presentation at general meeting.
- Members were encouraged to contact their MPP on Bill C-418.
- Members observed World Water Day in March.
- In April we had Krista Craig, guest speaker from The Good Shepherd.
- Our annual Bake Sale was held in April.
- Terry Murphy was nominated for the Social Justice Award. In May, she gave a presentation on parish history & stained glass windows.
- Jean Parent, was nominated for the Frances Lovering Award.
- Members observed 12 Hours of Prayers & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
- Celebrated Father Felix's 40th anniversary in Ministry.
- Mother's Day carnations were presented with prayer book.
- Awards presented to St. Vincent and St. Luke schools.
- Petition of 1 Million garnered 450 signatures.
- Members organized & helped with Deacon Samuel Landman's retirement.
- Celebrated St. Mary's Cemetery 200th anniversary with Mass.
- We had 20 people attend the Halton Alive Gala in October.
- We baked over 2000 shortbread for the St. Andrew House Tour, volunteering to hostess, serve in their tea room, sell tickets, etc.
- December Potluck we presented Maple Leaf Pin to Connie Clarke.
- Supported First Communion, CYO Camp, Catholic School Awards, MaterCare, Shifra House, Halton Alive, Good Shepherd Hamilton, Catholic Missions in Canada, St. Vincent de Paul, Pornography Hurts Campaign, and Development & Peace.



Hamilton Diocesan Council
of
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Care for Our Common Home



Council: St. Matthew, Oakville

President: Jeanne Wilson

Spiritual Advisor: Father Allen Varlaki

Number of members: 72

Life Members: 1

On Saturday, October 19, 2019 a group of us attended our Catholic Women's League retreat at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre in Mississauga. It is a beautiful, peaceful location and an excellent facility. We were blessed to participate in a very meaningful and uplifting day - truly a day of renewal.



We concluded with mass in their chapel
– A quietly stunning place.

Here are a few comments from our members who attended:

"The retreat at Queen of Apostles was just what I needed to shut out the busyness of my daily life. It was a day for quiet reflection, and communion with God and with a group of special women whom I got to know more deeply throughout the day. Thank you for a wonderful day!"

"For me, it was a day of reflection. The highlight of the day was, discussing and sharing our stories of life experiences with the ladies of my group and how we experienced the presence of Jesus during those life experiences. Also, ending the retreat with the celebration of mass in the beautiful chapel with Father Rudy. Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre is a beautiful place secluded in the woods and a great venue for a retreat."

The feelings evoked lasted well beyond the day of the actual retreat. Very highly recommended once we are back to some semblance of "normal".



Hamilton Diocesan Council
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Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Michael, Oakville
Name of President: Vacant, Marissa Di Filippo, Past President
Spiritual Advisor: Father Jerzy Toman
Number of members: 24

In December 2019, at our general meeting, we decided to take part and help out with the Halton Alive Candy Canes for Life campaign. Halton Alive is a local pro-life charity that provides resources and education about life issues. www.haltionalive.ca. We attached mini candy canes onto over 200 postcards that were then distributed throughout the community. Some of which, we gave out during our parish Christmas concert. We had a lot of fun assembling the postcards, which had loving messages and encouragement, and that they are not alone during the holidays.

A few of our members had also attended the Halton Alive fundraising gala in October and tickets were sponsored by our council.

As well, this past March, Halton Alive hosted a Life Talks Conference, so we decided to do a pulpit announcement, and had a draw after mass one weekend – our council sponsored 2 tickets to give away to the conference. We also set up an information booth in the narthex. This helped to engage our parish community and spread the word about Halton Alive. The conference was not able to take place in person due to the pandemic, however, we were able to attend a virtual conference online which was very informative.

We hope to continue to support and partner with local charities.



Hamilton Diocesan Council
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Name of Council: St. Francis Xavier, Stoney Creek
Name of Co-Presidents: Louise Castellani & Angie Garside
Spiritual Advisor: Father Claude Perera
Number of members: 157

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Women's League celebrated its 70th anniversary last year (2019) and we continue to be a strong and vital council orchestrating many activities that show our strong Faith and our commitment to Service and Social Justice.

Our Annual Retreat, our Seniors' Supper and our drive to pack purses for Martha House and Backpacks for Guatemala are among our personal favourite activities.

The Seniors' Supper started over 10 years ago as a joint effort with the HarmoKnights, a singing group that is part of Knights of Columbus council 7969 in our parish. Once a year, our council invites residents from the several Retirement/ Nursing Homes in our area to join us for dinner. Our members prepare a delicious meal, serve it to the residents, and socialize with them. We also provide all our guests with little surprises for them to take home. We average 80 – 100 people in attendance (including 30-40 members who help). The Harmoknights provide the entertainment. The seniors come with a smile and always leave with an even bigger one!





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

Care for Our Common Home



Parish Council: Immaculate Heart of Mary, Winona

President: Adele van Troost

Spiritual Advisor: Father Bill Trusz

Number of members: 104

This past year we held a very successful fundraiser and with the proceeds we were able to help our parish and various charities. Generous donations were made to our parish, the hungry and homeless and hospices. We also supported our local schools with bursaries and bibles for the graduating student who had shown religious dedication during the school year. None of this would have been possible without the dedicated ladies of our parish who worked tirelessly and selflessly at our fundraiser in the hope of doing good for our community.

Many of our ladies helped in the kitchen to provide weekly meals twice a month to feed the homeless. We provided prayer shawls to those who were in need of spiritual and health support. We held monthly craft sessions to encourage social interaction. Yearly we hold a memorial service for our deceased members. We did 12 hours of prayer for palliative care. We provided hats and mittens for the Coats for Kids program that the Knights of Columbus in our parish are involved in. We have ecumenical meals with our surrounding churches and enjoy meeting these ladies of different faiths. We had a guest speaker in for our Lenten retreat, and participated in the Stations of the Cross during Lent, Palm Sunday procession and the Corpus Christi and candlelight Rosary processions. We are always very prominent in our church's activities.

For our 100th Anniversary project we made a quilt which will be revealed at Our Lady of Good Counsel Luncheon in April. This quilt has been signed by each member of our council.

We have been blessed with an excellent executive who are dedicated to our Council and Parish and work tirelessly for the good of our League and community.



Hamilton Diocesan Council
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Care for Our Common Home



Parish Council: St. Joseph, Patron of Canada, Acton

President: Christie deSouza

Spiritual Advisor: Father Mark Sullivan

Membership: 63

January 2019

- 27th CWL Mass and Membership Drive

March 2019

- 6th Ash Wednesday – provided non-meat soups & sandwiches for the Lenten Luncheon
- 20th Providing soups for Lenten Luncheon

April 2019

- 26th Feast of Our Lady of Good Council – evening Mass, refreshments and taking photo of members for “100 Years Strong”
- 27th Spring Clean-up of church yard, gardens

May 2019 (All month, lead Rosary half an hour before each weekend Mass)

- 1st First Communion retreat for students of St. Joseph school
- 5th Bake Sale (during Knights of Columbus BBQ brunch)
- 24-26th Convention in Guelph

June 2019

- 11th Potluck – Mass at 6, dinner at 6:30
- 16th Collect bottles for donation to Marillac Place
- 16th Chalice Sponsorship presentation at all Masses, recruit new sponsors

August 2019

- 23rd Community Dinner BBQ hosting at St. Alban's

September 2019

- 10th Michael House, Guelph “baby shower” gifts and donations
- 27th Community Dinner BBQ hosting at St. Alban's
- 29th kick-off weekend of “One Heart, One Soul” fundraising campaign

October 2019 (lead Rosary half an hour before each weekend Mass)

- 3rd pie-making day at Eddie's for fundraising
- 6th Selling of apple pies after 9:00 and 11:00 Masses

November 2019

- 12th – presentation on Drag Queen Story Time –also website shared, petition available

December 2019

- 7th -“Christmas Goodies” bake sale, 50/50 & home-made stuffed animals sale



**Hamilton Diocesan Council
of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

Care for Our Common Home



Parish Council: St. Gregory the Great, Cambridge

President: Lisa Chippindale

Spiritual Advisor: Father Malcolm Katzenburger

Membership: 55

Although our Catholic Women's League took a lower profile in 2019, we still had our social evenings. Swiss Chalet in April and our June potluck and Christmas potluck. Our 2019 Christmas bazaar was a success and we raised enough money to make donations to several local charities. With the covid-19 pandemic this year, we have missed 2 of our socials and we are missing our church family. Here's hoping we will all meet again soon!





Hamilton Diocesan Council
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Name of Council: St. Mary of the Visitation, Cambridge

Name of President: Carmen S. Lopera

Spiritual Advisor: Father Robert Love

Number of members: 75

For 2019-2020, our council had worked hard keeping the membership and encouraging involvements in different activities supporting the parish and the Community. Our council makes time for Spiritual Development at each meeting. In 2019, focused on theme: "*Care of our Common Earth*" giving us always thoughts on meditation and prayer.

Our activities started with a Baby Shower in May 2019 for Michael House. We had a speaker from Michael House which was both informative and inspiring. In June, we welcomed Father Love who is a great support for our council.

Much of our fundraising is the result of Bake Sales and Bazaars, that were hosted twice in 2019. The first one for Father's Day weekend and end of November. They were a total success. Netted a total of **\$2328.00**.

We also participated on "Right to Life" walk in fall. We had members of our council attend and raise money; supported "Catholic Missions in Canada" and 2 of our Seminarians. Our members took a leadership role in Station of Cross, Mass for the deceased members of Catholic Women's League and Knights of Columbus and various activities like Parish Potluck had 177 presents.

On March 6th the World Day of Prayer hosted by our parish with great support and participation from our members included 4 other churches in Hespeler and guests totalling about 60 attendees. We raised \$848.00.

This year we planned a membership drive strategy led by our membership convenor who tirelessly worked for the benefit of our council. We revamped our CWL brochure, had 2 weekends of membership drive face to face contact which yielded 25 new members, 13 reinstated and 37 renewals totalling 75 members. Improving communication with all CWL members in our community, we have increased the notice of our activities in the church bulletin also a system of communication through email. We were able to participate and support the CWL at St. Mary of the Visitation with the wonderful support of our church members and spiritual advisor.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Council: St. Teresa of Avila, Elmira
President: Barb Vodicka
Spiritual Advisor: Father Peter Meyer
Number of members: 91

Before I became a member of the Catholic Women's League, I was so impressed to see a CWL Honour Guard at a friend's funeral. It really hit home to me that an organization cares enough about their members that they are remembered forever. That's what I wanted, and although it sounds funny now, it was one of the main reasons I joined shortly after that. Forever Remembered.

When I came to St. Teresa's though, I was surprised that a physical Book of Life was nowhere to be found. I had seen other councils had one so I wanted to do the same here. I made it my project to take our online list and create a book but I wanted to include more than just a list of names. I wanted to include their picture and the obituary if possible so I began searching the web. I managed to find quite a few that had passed in the last 7 – 10 years from funeral home websites so that was a great start! Our new Book of Life now includes a list of all deceased (right back to the start - October 1952) and separate obituaries from the last 7-10 years and is being kept up to date with each funeral.

November is a month for Remembrance. Sunday November 24, 2019, during the 9:30 Mass, we included a small memorial ceremony for those who had died within the last 2 years. We invited the families of our sisters to our Mass as well as any of our current membership to attend. Our new Book of Life was blessed by Father Peter. A single red rose for each member was placed in a vase and a votive candle lit while the names of the recently departed were read. It was good to share this with the congregation as well as our members and it was a special tribute to our sisters who sleep in Christ, forever remembered.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Mary Immaculate, Elora

Name of President: Joanne Krueger

Spiritual Advisor: Father Gordian Okpuruka

Number of members: 87

In September, the Catholic Women's League of St. Mary Immaculate, Elora, was faced with the challenge of choosing a Community Outreach project. We wanted to try something a little different and support the community better. This initiative led us to partner with the Center Wellington Food Bank to collect the items that are most desired and needed by their customers. Every month our parish speaks with the food bank volunteers to establish which item is most needed, and then we ask our parishes to help us collect as many of that item as possible.

Given that this year is the 100th anniversary of the Catholic Women's League in Elora, we decided to challenge our parishioners to collect 100 items a month of each requested item. The project has been met with overwhelming support from our church community. It allows parishioners to contribute to the project in a number of different ways beyond simply donating items. For example, spreading the word about what item we are collecting, or even being the one to drop off the items. Our support to the food bank should not end just because we cannot gather for mass. One member and her husband have continued the work, collecting items from their neighborhood in bins outside their home. We hope to continue to keep in touch with the Food Bank, and to continue to contribute as much as possible.

| Month | Item | Quantity Collected |
|----------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| October | Toilet Paper | 100+ |
| November | Shampoo and Conditioner | 100+ |
| December | Hamper Drive | 20+ bags |
| January | Dish Soap | 90+ |
| February | Laundry Detergent | 60+ |
| March | Coffee and Tea | 70+ |
| April | Non-Perishable Food | 328lb+\$595.00 |



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Joseph, Fergus
Name of President: Judy Daniel
Spiritual Advisor: Father Ken Miskiewicz
Number of members: 75

There were two events in 2019 that stand out as prime examples of what it means to be an active member of the Catholic Women's League and of the faith community of St. Joseph's Parish in Fergus. Both of these events were organized by the Executive of our Catholic Women's League.

A very well attended Ladies Spring Brunch brought together young and old to share a meal, listen to an inspiring guest speaker and have fun making bracelets and playing a game. It is always rewarding when the hard work of planning for this event produces such a positive outcome. It inspires us to continue to work diligently to proudly represent the Catholic Women's League not only at social events such as this, but also in all other aspects of parish life.

Our Parish Bazaar is our largest fundraiser of the year. The planning for this event entails months of preparation and hard work. Before the doors open up to the general public, I like to take a walk around and see what working together as Sisters in the League, along with other members of our parish family, can accomplish. It's impressive and is a tribute to the many people who volunteer their time and talents, that St. Joseph's Parish Bazaar is held in high regard within our community, draws a large crowd and raises a lot of money that supports the work of the League in our Parish throughout the year. All proceeds from our raffle sales go to our Church Building Fund and Groves Memorial Community Hospital. This event is also supported by many local business owners who donate items for the silent auction.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, Guelph

Name of President: Jakki Jeffs

Spiritual Advisor: Father Ian Duffy

Number of members: 153

Life Members: 1

2019 was another busy and eventful Catholic Women's League year as we began involvement in the 100th Anniversary projects encouraged by our National CWL and Diocesan CWL Councils.

However, the most outstanding event for us in 2019 was our pastor's retirement after 16 years of service to our parish community. Father Dennis Noon had been the Catholic Women's League's spiritual advisor as well. He attended every General meeting, and executive meetings if asked, he supported everything that we did and offered Mass for our intentions before our monthly CWL general meetings. He guided us and made suggestions where necessary, but never did he assume any control over our projects or services. As CWL president, I appreciated his frankness and transparency, his love of our faith, our beautiful Basilica, our League Council and our parishioners. He spoke on his life as a priest, at our awards luncheon in May.

It was a very special luncheon where we expressed our love and thanks for his guidance and support to each president, executive and CWL member during his time at our parish. It has reminded me that during the last 100 years the Catholic Women's League, at every level, has been blessed to have the love and support of so many wonderful priests and bishops. In June 2019 we happily welcomed Father Ian Duffy to our parish as our pastor and CWL spiritual advisor. I pray for our Spiritual Advisors, all priests and clergy.

***Keep them, I pray Thee, dearest Lord, keep them, for they are Thine
- Thy priests whose lives burn out before Thy consecrated shrine.
Keep them, for they are in the world, though from the world apart;
when earthly pleasures tempt, allure - shelter them in Thy heart.
Keep them, and comfort them in hours of loneliness and pain, when
all their lives of sacrifice for souls seems but in vain.
Keep them, and O remember, Lord, they have no one but Thee, yet
they have only human hearts, with human frailty.
Keep them as spotless as the Host,
That daily they caress; their every thoughts and word and deed,
Deign, dearest Lord, to bless.***



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

Care for Our Common Home



Parish Council: Holy Rosary, Guelph
President: Catherine Whyte
Spiritual Advisor: Father Vernon Boyd
Membership: 160

Holy Rosary CWL has remained committed to our three pillars of Faith, Service and Social Justice in 2019 we prioritized activities that helped us deepen our faith and thanks to the leadership of Olga Protz, our Faith Development Chairperson, our group hosted Lenten and advent retreats at Loyola house, in Guelph. They were well attended by members of our group who enjoyed a beautiful day of reflection each time.

In the area of service, we gave our time to fundraise for worthy causes and worked to provide help for those in need. Our funeral luncheon workers provided compassionate service to bereaved families throughout the year. In August, a core group of women and a few husbands prepared, delivered and served a hot meal to 125 Pilgrims enroute to Midland.

Thanks to the inspiration of Patricia Carroll, our treasurer, and the leadership of Pelagie Nkubito, Community Life Chair, a group of our council crocheted chemo caps for cancer patients and delivered over 80 caps to the oncology department of Grand River hospital in December.

As well, members brought new and gently used hats, mittens and scarves, and new socks to our Christmas potluck dinner which were distributed to families in need in the east side of Guelph. We were pleased to donate to four worthy causes from the proceeds of our raffle, penny table and hamper draw at our Christmas bazaar.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Joseph Guelph
Name of President: Wendy Synnott
Spiritual Advisor: Father Jeff Bergsma
Number of Members: 246

St. Joseph's CWL Guelph is a very active parish. We begin each meeting with Mass & in February at Mass our new members are installed.

This year we co-hosted the Seniors Valentines Luncheon with the Parish. We were responsible for getting servers from our Catholic High Schools to help them obtain their community hours.

At our Annual Dinner we present our Maple leaf and Merit Award pin which is chosen by our Past Presidents. We also give out our service pins for 10-25-40-50 Etc. We also have a draw at our dinner to send two children to Camp Brebeuf.

For four years now in April we hold a successful Spring Market Vendors Day. Vendors come from all over selling different crafts. We provide lunch and also have a silent auction that is well attended.

Each year we offer to pay half of the cost of any member wishing to go to the convention. We also pay full cost for our President and alternate or delegate which ever it is.

In June we host a night of Spirituality inviting other councils in the city to Mass, Spiritual talk and a meal.

We sponsor two tables of ten for the Bishop Dinner in October by offering a discount on each CWL member going. The dinner was an experience to see how much support is shown for his Excellency's Charity.

In November, we host our Annual Christmas Bazaar. This event raises the money for the year to give to our ongoing charities raising anywhere from \$10,000 to \$12,000. We finish off our year by having a pot luck dinner in December which is well attended.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Parish Council: Blessed Sacrament, Kitchener

President: Judy Knight

Spiritual Advisor: Father Larry Parent

Membership: 88

Dear ladies of the league

This has been a very difficult year because of so many things that went wrong. Elections had to be postponed because of weather. In October 2019, we had a wine & cheese get together for the parish with a wonderful turn out.

In November, we did not have the sock drive this year due to so many other things going on in the parish so we decided to pay for the pizza from the Catholic Women's League for the altar servers' event at Christmas.

In December we had to cancel our pot luck for our members due to very bad weather conditions.

I hope & pray that you are all well and all the best to you.
Blessings





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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Anthony Daniel, Kitchener

Name of President: Theresa Miller

Spiritual Advisor: Father Tim Theriault

Number of members: 121

The ladies of St. Anthony Daniel, Kitchener CWL hold several different fundraisers throughout the year. With the money raised we were able to donate to Operation Smile, YMKW Women's Shelter and Sanguin Health Van. Besides the Catholic Women's League National Funds, we also donate to Canadian Food for Children, St. John's Kitchen, Meals on Wheels, Ray of Hope, The Carmel of St. Joseph, and the House of Friendship.

In March we had a lively discussion about ways to conserve water for our planet.

One speaker we heard was someone who gave an informative talk on Mental Health which was geared more to seniors.

To commemorate the Diocesan 100th Anniversary, we are planning to plant a Jefferson Red Maple tree, which will happen sometime in 2020.





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

Care for Our Common Home



Parish Council: St. Francis of Assisi, Kitchener

President: Karin Manley

Spiritual Advisor: Father Tim Uniac C.R.

Membership: 119

The year was especially eventful for our council. We hosted the World Day of Prayer, held a fashion show for charity, supported the Interfaith Community Breakfast, held a card party for Hospice of Waterloo Region, had an annual bazaar and hosted a Christmas dinner to award service pins and to thank all the wonderful members and volunteers who work so hard to make our council a vibrant part of our parish community.

To highlight the 100th anniversary of the Catholic Women's League of Canada, and, coincidentally, the 60th anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Kitchener, we responded to Pope Francis' encouragement to participate in prayer for creation by hosting **Celebrating Creation**, an hour of song, scripture and reflection. The date was chosen to fall within what is sometimes called the "Season of Creation" which runs from September 1 to the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4.

This year's theme was "the web of life." We value and protect biodiversity in all its wonderful complexity because each member of God's creation reveals a piece of the Creator's glory. We invited our neighbouring Catholic and Christian parishes to join us and we gathered a multi-parish choir to lead the singing. The prayers included the one at the end of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si*.

As part of protecting the environment, we did not use a printed program. Instead, we enlisted the expertise of our youth to provide a PowerPoint presentation which provided the assembly with the information they needed. They also included some lovely images. It was an all-ages event with refreshments, again provided by our youth, served on reusable plates. Given that music, the environment and ecumenical connections are strengths in our parish, we hope to repeat the event.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. John's, Kitchener
Name of President: Wende Bedirian
Spiritual Advisor: Father Francisco Cruz
Number of members: 61

Each May, members of St. John's Catholic Women's League host a First Holy Communion Post-Sacramental Celebration for the children of St. John's School who received their First Holy Communion a few weeks prior. The event includes cake and juice for the grade two classes. With a "sugar high" the children entertain Father Francisco Cruz and the Catholic Women's League members with a song or two. To conclude, each child receives a blessed handmade rosary. The gathering provides a rare opportunity for the ladies to interact with the young students and share their stories when they themselves were students at St. John's school.





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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Mark, Kitchener

Name of President: Anna Joseph

Spiritual Advisor: Father Stephen Murrin

Number of members: 40

This being my first year as president, I am so grateful to be part of this amazing group of ladies.

We might be small in numbers; however we are mighty in spirit and willing to serve the Lord, one another, and the community.

Last year we took a big initiative by raising money to install "Accessible Doors" for our church, and our 24 hour Adoration Chapel. Once the installation was completed and the final bill submitted, we quickly realized our fundraising efforts had to continue a bit longer. We organized a book and DVD sale; sold flowers for Mother's Day; and sold our famous cheese balls. With the help of our generous parishioners, the collaboration of The Knights of Columbus, Legion of Mary, and the support of our Spiritual Advisor, Father Stephen Murrin, we were able to meet our financial obligation of over \$10,000.

For years we have been organizing a bus to The Lift Jesus Higher Rally in Toronto. It's been my prayer that one year we would fill two buses; the prayer came true in 2019. With the collaboration from the churches in Waterloo, Cambridge and Guelph, we were able to transport close to 100 faithful to the rally.

We continue to strive to make our council more visible to the parish by organizing various events, for example: Lenten retreat, Advent retreat, celebrating the Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel, and Crowning of Mary.

May of 2019, we had the honour of hosting a reception for one of our parishioners to celebrate his ordination to the Priesthood, Father Gregory Merkley. He offered his first Sunday Mass at St Marks.

We were also very thankful to have been able to join the St Marks Writers Group to compose our prayer for the Diocesan Prayer Book. Not only one but two prayers were submitted.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Mary, Kitchener

Name of Co-Presidents: Lani Courchesne & Lynda Munz

Spiritual Advisor: Father Toby Collins

Number of members: 44

This year our parish got involved in helping the homeless. In November we took in the homeless for two weeks when the outreach places were not ready to take them in.

Everyone was asked to donate food, blankets, toilet paper, etc.

After the two weeks we started making sandwiches for the homeless who were staying at an overflow church. We did this two or three days per week.

The response from the parish was overwhelming. It is great how people will step up when there is a need.

Many of our members got involved either by donating, helping out or by praying for the needs of the church.





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

Care for Our Common Home



Parish Council: St. Teresa, Kitchener

President: Ann Onn

Spiritual Advisor: Father Marian Gil

Membership: 106

Life Members: 1

On Saturday June 8, 2019 St. Teresa's Catholic Women's League celebrated its 60th Anniversary.

Members were contacted by phone and invited to the celebration. Members were honoured to be invited in this way. We also contacted members who lost loved ones in 2019 to join us for Mass. They were presented with a rose and lit a candle in memory of their loved one. Our invited special guests were Shari Guinta, National First Vice President and Chairperson of Spiritual Life, Sister Edna Hood and Sister Anne Rektor, former pastoral assistants in the Parish.

Mass, offered by Pastor and Spiritual Adviser, Father Marian was a perfect way to begin the celebration. Three past presidents sang in the choir and three others carried up gifts at the Offertory.

Following the Mass we gathered in the Parish Centre to enjoy a wonderful luncheon that was catered by Vincenzo's of Waterloo. Young parishioners served, much to the delight of the ladies. We, then presented service pins for 10, 25, 40, 50 and 60 years of service in the Catholic Women's League at St. Teresa's. Shari Guinta brought us a gift from National Council. Files, pictures, posters and other treasures were displayed on a table for all to see.

Father Marian praised us for our work in the parish, especially visiting of shut-ins in their homes and in Nursing and Retirement homes. Sister Anne Rektor spoke about being at our parish in the late 1980's and early 90's and reminisced about some special memories she had with us. We decided to rent dishes so everyone could have a good time and socialize after the meal. This time was enjoyed by all who shared memories and gathered for pictures. It was a great celebration on a beautiful spring day!



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Boniface, Maryhill

Name of President: Frances Vegh

Spiritual Advisor: Father Ronald Voisin

Number of members: 122

The Highlight for St. Boniface in 2019 was participating in the sacramental celebrations of the children at St. Boniface School.

We provide support with sacramental books to assist the teachers; bibles for the children in grade 4 as well as other assistance and gifts for other grades, but in particular we are pleased and honoured to be able to present the scapulars we provide to the first communion children at the Mass in which they receive their first communion. This allows us to be more visible in our church community.





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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: Holy Family, New Hamburg

Name of President: Beth Kress

Spiritual Advisor: Father Stephen Gilbert

Number of members: 122

Holy Family Council CWL New Hamburg Community Service Project
As members of The Catholic Women's League we are inspired by the spirit to celebrate God's unconditional love through service to his people. Since 1991 Holy Family Catholic Women's League has been collecting money to assist in purchasing gifts and food for Christmas hampers which is sponsored by the Wilmot Family Resource Center. The number of families we purchase for varies from year to year depending on the money collected. Over the years we've included the parishioners of Holy Family parish to donate as well. Once we receive the families and their requests, shoppers are recruited to fill their needs. The boxes of food and presents are dropped off at the Wilmot Resource Center where they are distributed to families in need the week before Christmas. Partaking in this community project each year reflects our CWL mission of faith, service and social justice to others.





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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: Our Lady of Fatima, Rockwood and Oustic

Name of President: Marian DeWinter

Spiritual Advisor: Father Mark Morley

Number of members: 27

Our Council is small in numbers; however, we are very active within our parish and our community. Masses are offered each month for the deceased members and their families. We donate to several charities throughout the year and assist with purchases required for our church.

Each March, we participate with all the Christian Churches in Rockwood to commemorate the World Day of Prayer. May, the month of Mary, brings us many opportunities to praise her beginning with the Crowning of Mary Procession and reciting the rosary before each weekend Mass during the month. Our Council purchases a small token of congratulations for all our First Communicants at both our associated elementary school and our catechism class. We prayed for the needs of all in Palliative care and donated to our local Hospice. We enjoy celebrating those seniors in our community nursing home who celebrate their birthdays in June by purchasing flowers for them and host a little "birthday party". We also acknowledge with a monetary award, one Grade 12 graduate from our affiliate high school who exemplifies what it means to be a Catholic.

Our Annual Turkey Supper Fundraiser was once again a success. We served over 350 people a home-style turkey dinner with all the fixings. Our fundraiser is sold out each year as people from cities all around us eagerly wait to purchase their tickets. We were able to use this fundraiser to commemorate the Catholic Women's League 100 years in the Hamilton Diocese. This year we also add a successful Poinsettia fundraiser which we will continue on in the years to come.

We end off the year by adopting seniors from our local community service centre and involve our parish in purchasing items they need and want for Christmas. A donation is also made to our local Children's Foundation to assist in the wants and needs of many families during the Christmas season.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Agnes, Waterloo

Name of President: Julie Nafziger

Spiritual Advisor: Father Aleks Mazur

Number of members: 157

With great pride I would like to report on one successful event that we have held for 4 consecutive years – The St. Agnes C.W.L. Used Book Sale!

With many of our members, including myself, self-identifying as a voracious reader, we thought that it would be an excellent way to trade books. It is a very successful event.

Each year just after Christmas, we start advertising for our members to “clear out their bookshelves” and start saving their gently used but current books for us. In February, we start asking for books to be brought to the church (I’ve even gone to members’ homes to collect large donations) and we are rewarded each year!

We receive hundreds and hundreds of books in bags and boxes.

Each year we wonder if we have received every last book that our members want to donate, and then that year we receive hundreds more.

With a group of eager helpers, we sort them by genre and then by author and offer them at a very good price during our Annual Used Book Sale weekend.

Not only is this an excellent source of revenue for us with little effort, it is a fun weekend as we recommend to each other authors and titles of books we have read. I usually end up buying far more books than I donated, on the recommendation of my fellow readers.

We hold this weekend Book Sale just before March Break, to promote family reading time to our parishioners who travel or stay at home. It is advertised throughout the community on social media, and to our schools through newswire as well as to our parishioners via the bulletin and email.

This year, we were fortunate to have held the book sale before restrictions on social distancing were announced. However, there is no place to donate our unsold books so we are considering holding a second sale this year.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Louis Parish, Waterloo

Name of President: Donna Herbstreit

Spiritual Advisor: Father Phil Reilly

Number of Members: 154

We are a very active and involved council. The year began with our newly installed executive at the helm...some new, some experienced. In March we hosted a Lenten Retreat where we invited all the members from the four Waterloo Parishes. We started with the celebration of Mass, served refreshments and listened to our wonderful guest Speaker, Teresa Harnett whose speech was very inspiring. On April 5th we hosted our Simple Supper of vegetable soup prepared by our members and served free of charge to our Church community. This takes place preceding the Stations of the Cross devoutly enacted by our Youth Group. In May we honoured Mary with a special crowning ceremony and recognized those members with significant years of service. Our Spaghetti Supper, our major fundraiser, was held in September. The gym was packed with happy families enjoying a wonderful meal prepared by many volunteer hands. November 16-17 our annual Craft and Bake sale was held after each Mass with the proceeds being donated to our chosen missions. Monthly meetings begin with Mass celebrated by Father Phil Reilly; a guest speaker highlights our meetings and expands our knowledge such as Dances from around the World, the importance of Therapy Dogs and Service Dogs; our executive members present their reports and share information. We have had quite a few funerals...our honour guard greets our deceased sister, walks together down the aisle, sits together proudly wearing our CWL stoles. A decade of the rosary follows Mass, a beautiful and meaningful tribute. We serve the funeral lunch if the family wishes. In May, we present each first Communicant with a gift of a prayer book. Our Grade 8 students and High School students were invited to submit an essay telling us why they should receive a monetary gift toward their education. One winner was chosen and recognized at Sunday Mass. The year concluded with a Chinese takeout dinner for all executive members and husbands, boyfriends graciously hosted by our then president, Rosanne Scarfone. I am blessed to be a member of this wonderful and dynamic organization.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Michael, Waterloo

Name of President: Shani Pregelj

Spiritual Advisor: Father Frank Freitas

Number of members: 115

Life Members: 1

This is my second year as president and I'm very pleased to report on another great year with the CWL ladies of our parish.

We ended 2018 with a renewed focus on community life and that continued throughout 2019. Members volunteered their time at various organizations throughout the year including the Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church, House of Friendship, Sunnydale Community Centre and SHOW (Supportive Housing of Waterloo). These opportunities for community outreach brought members together in roles that were fun, engaging and rewarding.

At our monthly gatherings we enjoyed some wonderful guest speakers and activities that supported both League initiatives and areas of interest in our lives. Anne Jamison visited in March and lead us in a reflection on Our Life in Community through the illuminations of the Saint John's Bible. Father David Perrin spoke in October and helped us understand our deep roots behind Catholic beliefs concerning abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide. We had a hands-on workshop for Rosary making in May and participated in prayer writing in November. Here we composed three beautiful prayers to be included in the 100th Anniversary prayer booklet.

Speaking of 100th Anniversaries, we have a Centenarian that deserves a special mention: Mable Finch of our parish turned 100 on December 27th 2018! (I failed to mention this in last year's report) She was also the recipient of a 75 year pin in June 2019.

I feel blessed to be involved with such a wonderful group of ladies in our parish and such a wonderful organization of Catholic women across the country. Congratulations to all on another great year!



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

Care for Our Common Home



Parish Council: Immaculate Conception Formosa

President: Marlene Voisin

Spiritual Advisor: Father Michael Anderson

Membership: 113

In 2019, 3 of our members passed away, and as of now we have 113 members. In our League the members are always willing to participate by praying for each other, taking an executive role, or helping with the Leagues many activities throughout the year. Our members are very important to the League, very much appreciated and greatly contribute in uniting us as one. Our spring project was a cold plate supper. In the fall together with the Lions Club of Formosa, we planned a hot turkey supper. Throughout the year we sell tickets for a quilt and afghan draw, which was held at our annual Christmas dinner. The quilt and afghan are made and quilted by some of our very own talented Catholic Women's League ladies. These functions help the League to support and donate to our own community and other charities, that members in our area rely and depend on when necessary.

In honour of the 100th anniversary of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in the Hamilton diocese, we gave an extra donation to our local food bank, which we realize that more and more people are in need for food and other necessary items.

We gave donations to: The Pornography Hurts campaign, Fruits of Bruce/Canadian Food Grains, 2 local Hospital Foundation through Health Care Heroes Radiothon, Ramouth Life Centre, Hanover Pregnancy Centre, FOTOCAN, Ronald McDonald House, Hike for Hospice, Right to Life, and Youth for Life for a trip to Ottawa.

As usual at Christmas we gave cookies or had a mass offered for seniors over 80 years old and this includes the shut ins of our community.

This past May, Father John Schnurr was ordained a priest in Hamilton. He said his first mass in his home parish at Immaculate Conception Church, Formosa. The Catholic Women's League were honoured to be a part of his special day by attending the Mass, providing and serving food/refreshments at a reception held for him at our local community hall. Our Catholic Women's League looks forward to celebrating 100 years of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in Hamilton Diocese.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Council: Holy Family, Hanover

President: Vacant (Secretary – Anne Gateman)

Spiritual Advisor: Father Gary Schlack

Number of members: 131

2019 has been a successful year for our council. In spite of the lack of a President, the executive members have worked tirelessly for the success of our council and our parish.

In recent years, we noticed that our members who attend meetings tended to prefer the social aspect. We do include a spiritual theme and prayer time at each meeting and we do draw attention to the Leagues projects and initiatives. But we found that topics on the lighter side attracted the most interest.

In that regard, the meetings covered many things. We held a baby shower for the local Pregnancy Centre and invited their volunteers to come and share about the centre's activities.

We learned about the Easter breads and foods, as well as the unique method of decorating eggs from our members of Ukrainian descent.

We invited a CWL member from a nearby parish to speak and show pictures of her walk along the Way of St. James in Spain (the Camino de Santiago).

We highlighted 'Care of our Common Home' in October when we created table centres with pumpkin bowls filled with all-natural flowers and foliage gathered from roadsides.

Our ladies particularly enjoyed an afternoon high tea in memory of a long-time member who had passed away. Marlene had very much enjoyed such teas whenever she could, so her family cordially invited the membership for one last special tea in their mother's honour.

We successfully held the usual fund raisers to support our many charities. Our popular Christmas dinner complete with entertainment and a silent auction was a highlight of the year.

We still use email regularly to communicate with members. There is also a telephone committee to relay information to those without email. Keeping members current has built a stronger connection with both those who attend meetings, and those who cannot.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Anthony of Padua, Kincardine

Name of President: Kathy Milne-Day

Spiritual Advisor: Father Thomas Manninezhath, CMI

Number of members: 130

The 2019 year started with the installation of our new 2019-2020 Executive, of which I have the pleasure of being the President. We started with almost a full executive counsel, however, over time a couple of the ladies found they could not continue for various reasons, and I accepted resignations from them. With some switching around and additional recruitment, we were able to fill some of the vacant positions, but more recently, the Spiritual Development Chair has become vacant. This position remains vacant, as I try to fill the gap. The President-Elect position also remains vacant. A situation that I personally have great concerns about!

On March 1, 2019, St. Anthony of Padua hosted the World Day of Prayer, with approximately 90 people in attendance. Although not strictly a Catholic Women's League activity, we found ourselves as a Parish heavily involved with the planning of the service. We invited the Grade 7 & 8 students from St. Anthony's school to attend, and a good number did so. Following the service, one lady said to me it was so nice to see the young people in attendance.

Our rummage sales in May and September were a great success raising in excess of \$4,700 for disbursement to the charities we support.

Father Anderson from Sacred Heart Parish in Teeswater came to St. Anthony's to guide us through our Advent Retreat, while our Lenten Retreat was an excellent, and well attended, time direction by Anne Jamieson.

Participation in the annual ecumenical Lenten Luncheon hosted this year by the "Kincardine Baptist on Queen" church provided a good time to share some fellowship with other Christian faithful. As is customary, members of the Catholic Women's League were asked to provide some of the soups and sandwiches for this event.

At our Spring Brunch, we presented service pins to: three 10-year pins, two 40-year pins to Margaret Cullerton and Rose-Marie Stacey, and a 60-year pin to Gabrielle Kleist. A Maple Leaf Service Pin was presented to Diana Griffith. A special event was planned in recognition of Gabrielle's 60 years as a member of the Catholic Women's League of Canada.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Joseph & St. Patrick, Port Elgin & Southampton

Name of President: Teresa Carolan

Spiritual Advisor: Father Christopher Tracey

Number of members: 54

Greetings All!

We've had a busy and delightful year in Saugeen Shores. Last summer we participated in the HUGS program and we raised close to \$3,000. We donated 55 Bags of Love and loads of other products, (compliments of Loblaws Canada). These were delivered to our local woman's shelter in Kincardine.

In October, the ladies were pleased to received Diocesan President Catherine Feren who spoke to us about the League's direction and how important it is to have a Catholic Woman's voice in our country, in our legislature and in our parish.

In November, our Socks Campaign received over 200 pairs of socks to distribute to the homeless. Also in November, a potluck dinner was a hit with our parishioners. We also began serving coffee after the 5 pm Mass. This hospitality time was appreciated by many.

Before Christmas, two of our young students travelled to England to take part in a Lifesaving competition. We were very happy to assist them with travel funds. Another young lady was to travel to Nicaragua, in March, however her trip was cancelled. We asked that the school keep our donation and use as they see need.

In December, our council hosted the Ladies of the Parish Christmas Dinner in Jubilee Hall with 55 ladies attending. A great night was enjoyed by all.

In February, we served a Soup Luncheon at our general meeting, with about 20 members in attendance. Father's Chris' sermon on the Aparacida Document was discussed. A second Pot Luck Dinner boasted another mingling time for our parishioners. We look forward to spring and summer with joyful, hopeful and prayerful anticipation.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Parish Council: Sacred Heart, Walkerton
President: Maryanne Buehlow
Spiritual Advisor: Father Leszek Szczygiel
Membership: 161

Our council hosted several speakers (Pharmacist; Cadet Squadron; LOFT Mental Health). Our 100th Anniversary Community Service project speaker was Bobbi-Jo Moran from GROW Rooted in Love Maternity Home which is expanding services to moms and babies. In support, we sponsored a Variety Musical Show at Victoria Jubilee Hall raising \$1500.00 which, along with many needed items, was presented to her at our Christmas Dinner. With her were a mom and baby living at the home. We will continue to support GROW in the years ahead.

In response to an article and photo re the importance of cleanliness in a Canadian Food for Children newsletter, we launched a parish campaign called "Rub-a-Dub-Dub; Soap-in-a-Tub" to collect bars of soap and laundry detergent. Over 1,100 items were received with some going to our local Food Bank but most to CFFC.

To celebrate our Council's 95th Anniversary, we hosted a parish social with an historical display of Catholic Women's League events. We continue to support Sacred Heart High School students with Mission trips to Toronto by providing items and assistance to pack 400 lunch bags, and collecting clothing, personal hygiene items, blankets, etc. One of our members collaborated with SHHS to collect several hundred winter coats to be sent to Nunavut.

We collected, parish wide, signatures for the Petition of One Million, sponsored 40 Days for Life prayers, helped at Community Suppers, prepared a prayer for the 100th Anniversary, promoted "Unplanned" at a nearby theatre, signed post cards re homelessness and financial need for people on ODSP and OW which were sent to the Provincial government, and many other activities too numerous to mention.



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

Care for Our Common Home



Name of Council: St. Thomas Aquinas, Warton

Name of President: Ruth Ditner

Spiritual Advisor: Deacon Phil Dwyer

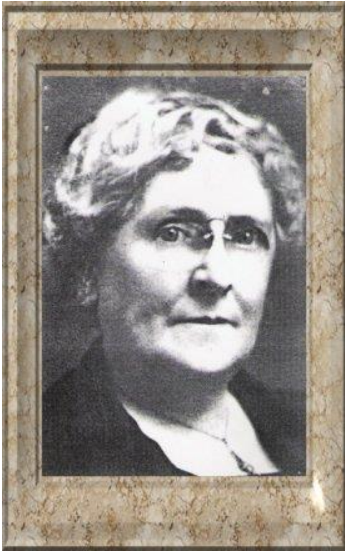
Number of members: 32

One event we held was a Retreat. Our Spiritual Advisor, Deacon Phil Dwyer reminded us how God sees us. God has mercy for each person. He accepts us and calls us to be open-minded to grow in his love for us, his decrees, and his plans for us. How does God see us? Women are care givers, we provide life and nurture our children, are involved and support our community. It is a natural thing for us. Other things women are good at, were mentioned... What is God calling us to do? He will give us the strength we need to go forward.

Some free time allowed for discussion and reflection. All members thought this was an excellent day. Thank you, Deacon Phil



100th Anniversary Archives



Frances Lovering, the First Hamilton Diocesan President from 1920 – 1923 was an active member of St. Joseph's and St. Mary's Parish churches in Hamilton where she had been Parish President.

Frances Lovering along with Miss Florence Barker helped organize the Catholic Women's Guild of Hamilton in 1917 to care for the religious needs of Catholic soldiers. This Guild was later formed into the Catholic Women's League of Hamilton Diocese in September 1920.

Frances became the 1st National CWL Treasurer in 1920. In 1923 – 1925, Frances was elected the National CWL President.

For Frances the CWL provided a public voice on matters that affected all women and Catholics in particular. She became an advocate for humane and social welfare; formed a branch of Secours National that sent trucks, cases of food, clothing and hospital supplies to soldiers and their families in France; organized aid to the underprivileged in France; provided aid to the elderly, ill and physically disabled travelers, and volunteered for social agencies such as Big Sisters' Association, Children's Aid Society etc.

Frances received the Medal of Honor (1917) and Medal of Reconnaissance Francaise (1921) from the French government for her work on behalf of Secours National; for her religious work the papacy gave her the Medal Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (1925) and Mesaglia Benemerenti (1926). Shortly after her death (March 26, 1926) she was made a chevalier of France's Legion of Honour, the only woman in Canada to have been granted this tribute.

A "Frances Lovering Bursary" was established in 1996 at St. Jerome' University. For our 75th anniversary year of the League, a memorial gravestone marker was placed at Frances' gravesite in Hamilton.



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

Care for Our Common Home



FRANCES LOVERING WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

In the year 2000, as a Millennium Project, the diocesan executive initiated the *Woman of the Year Award*. This award is named to honour Frances Lovering, a member of the first executive of Catholic Women's League of Canada, and our first diocesan president. Here is a list of our past recipients:

| | | |
|------|------------------------|--|
| 2019 | Bonita Jones | St. Mary of the Assumption, Owen Sound |
| 2018 | Maria Theresia Burgund | St. Aloysius, Kitchener |
| 2017 | Anna Rettinger | St. Andrew, Oakville |
| 2016 | Lillian Orzel | St. Luke, Hamilton |
| 2015 | Barbara Diemert | St. Francis of Assisi, Kitchener |
| 2014 | Anne Rehkopf | Holy Family, Hanover |
| 2013 | Elsie Hankinson | St. Pius, Brantford |
| 2012 | Helen Kurtz Christie | St. Joseph, Guelph |
| 2011 | Noreen Miehm | Holy Cross, Georgetown |
| 2010 | Barbara Bishop | Holy Rosary, Guelph |
| 2009 | Anne Marie Sehl | St. Agnes, Waterloo |
| 2008 | Marian Flanigan | St. Mary of the Purification, Mount Forest |
| 2007 | Nancy Morley | St. Luke, Hamilton |
| 2006 | Margaret Synnott | St. Joseph, Guelph |
| 2005 | Rita Bradbury | St. Gabriel, Burlington |
| 2004 | Dorothy Farwell | Sacred Heart, Kitchener |
| 2003 | Mary Elizabeth Codnich | Regina Mundi, Hamilton |
| 2002 | Betty Dietrich | St. John, Kitchener |
| 2001 | Siena Van Hoekelin | Holy Cross, Georgetown |
| 2000 | Ann Brown | St. John, Arthur |

Congratulations to all our past recipients and to this year's winner.

Other nominees for the 2019 Frances Lovering Woman of the Year award were: Adele van Troost, Christine McKenzie, Lenore Enright, Ann Stipancic, Jean Parent and Marie Simpson

FRANCES LOVERING WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER

Name: Bonita Jones

Parish: St. Mary of the Assumption, Owen Sound

Years of Membership: 25

Catholic Women's League Involvement

Bonita was President for 3 years and Co-President for 1 year at parish level. Past Presidency followed and she was the Keeper of the Archives. She held numerous Chair positions: at present she is the Christian Family Life Chair.

Bonita is a member of our CWL Prayers and Squares Ministry. Making beautiful lap quilts for those who are ill and who have asked for a quilt. She is involved presenting the finished quilt to parishioners after Masses and asking them to tie a knot on it and to say a prayer for that person.

She is part of the Rosary Program at our St. Basil's School, teaching grade 2 students how to pray the Rosary. This program runs through the school year. In September they show the movie, "The Day the Sun Danced" (the story of Our Lady of Fatima) to the Grade 2 students to introduce them to Our Lady and to her request that we all pray the Rosary. Bonita very much enjoys her time with children and has many touching stories to tell.

Bonita meets once a month with other CWL members as part of the Rosary Making Program. They make beautiful Rosaries that are handed out to the Grade 2 students participating in the St. Basil's School Rosary Program, some are placed in the church foyer for anyone to take, and some are sent to the Catholic Missions of Canada to be distributed as needed.

Bonita is organizing the Honour Guard Ministry at all CWL funerals when asked by the family of our deceased CWL sister. Calling and organizing members and handing out candles and scarves at the funeral service.

Bonita is the Head Coordinator of our Funeral Lunch Committee. She organizes the 4 teams of ladies schedules. She comes up with the menu, purchases some of the ingredients and oversees the set up and cleanup of funeral lunches which are offered to any parishioner having a funeral Mass in the parish for a nominal fee.

Parish Involvement

Bonita is and has been for years a Communion Minister at Sunday Masses. She also takes Holy Communion to people in nursing homes. Very much

involved in Bible studies. Some of her above-mention (under the CWL involvement) contributions are also parish related.

For years now, she has organized Bake Sales to raise funds for CWL charities. Bake Sales turned into Bake less Bake Sales, donating money instead of baked goods and it is going strong just as before.

She is the first to be called by our Parish Priests if they need anything for parish-related functions.

Bonita is also involved in organizing gifts for handing out at Baptism Celebrations; handing out pins at First Communion and Confirmations. She also organizes the lunches for the First Communion and Confirmation retreats.

Community Involvement

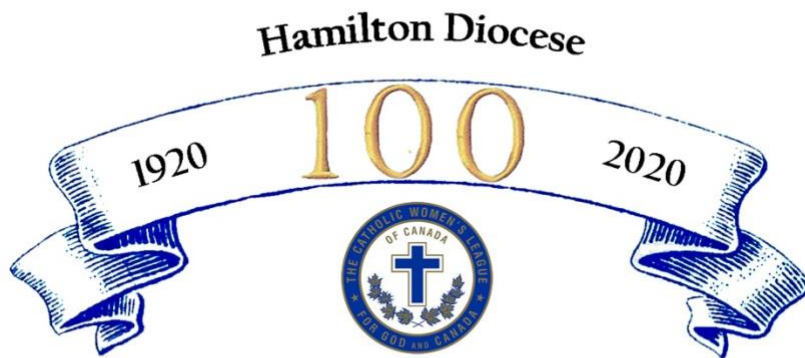
Bonita is a coordinator for the Meals on Wheels program. She is organizing and scheduling teams to drive and deliver food to people who are having difficulty preparing nutritious meals at home.

Visiting Nursing Homes – Bonita very much enjoys her time when visiting our sisters who are or were members of our CWL. She visits with other members too who are lonely and need a friendly smile, a few words, or just being listened to. She organized a drive to hand out gifts to people in Nursing Home, first it was a small personal item at Christmas, now it is potted plants. For Mother's Day she handed out plants and flowers as gifts in Nursing Homes. This is very well received and appreciated by so many. Bonita gives her time, but she is getting much more enjoyment for herself.

Bonita is a volunteer with other CWL members at the Owen Sound Blood Donor Clinic at the Legion every October. Helping out with welcoming donors and refreshments offered after. This is the first Wednesday of the month, our usual monthly meeting time. Since our ladies do this wonderfully needed volunteering, we have moved our meetings to second Wednesday of the month, for years now in October.

Personal Information

Bonita is a kind and caring person. She never complains, doesn't know how to say "no" to anything. Supportive of all functions be that CWL or parish-related. Bonita is a great friend, a good listener and a person you can always count on. She always has a smile on her face; she's a valuable member of our CWL and we are proud to know her.



The Catholic Women's League of Canada is rooted in history and has a proud legacy in Hamilton Diocese. As we look back over the past 100 years, it is impossible to measure the work of the Holy Spirit in the League. Through God's grace, members have shared their gifts in their parish, community, diocese, province, across Canada and throughout the world.

We invite everyone to take the time to reminisce on the past 100 years and encourage the opportunity to take action in the present and plan for the future.

Reverend Edward (Ted) Hughes, a Past Diocesan Spiritual Advisor wrote in his letter to the Annual Report in May 1995:

"As women of faith, the members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada must be individuals of courage in our world, filled with the belief that we can discern and live out the power of God. We must be people who are endowed with the gift of Christian hospitality, which means an openness to God and our neighbours. Let us welcome God into our hearts and lives to challenge us, to comfort us, to remind us daily of the good works done in our world through us. That is our Christian vision."

**Prayer for the 100th Year Anniversary of the
Catholic Women's League in the Hamilton Diocese**

GOD OF LOVE, GOD OF MERCY

We, sisters in Christ,
members of The Catholic Women's League,
Come to you today to praise You
and give honour to your Holy Name.

Filled with the wonder of Your presence within us,
together we celebrate One Hundred Years
of our organization in Canada.

We give thanks
for the joyful ways You have graced us
in our mission of Faith, Service and Social Justice.

Called to be your disciples in the world today,
we acknowledge your guidance
as we seek your Holy Will in all we do.

We are a community of love,
compassion, inclusion and generosity.
Bless us as we journey with the less fortunate,
as we pledge to be stewards of your Creation,
as we pray for the Holy Church and each other.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, lead us to Jesus, our brother.
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Written by Olga Protz
Holy Rosary, Guelph