# **Annual Report Book**

# **Hamilton Diocesan Council**

2020



#### Hamilton Diocesan Council

Of

The Catholic Women's League of Canada



Care for Our Common Home

#### **Table of Contents**

MESSAGES Most Reverend Douglas Crosby, Bishop of Hamilton Reverend Larry Parent, Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Colleen Perry, Provincial President President Catherine Feren, Diocesan President	. 6 . 7
100 <sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY	. 9
BOOK OF LIFE	. 13
DIOCESAN OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS Diocesan Council Executive Past President/Historian Secretary Treasurer.	. 22 . 24
DIOCESAN COMMITTEE REPORTS Spiritual Development Organization Christian Family Life Communications Community Life Education & Health Resolutions Legislation Life Member Liaison	30 32 34 36 . 38 41 43
REGIONAL REPORTS Brant Hamilton Kitchener North	53 72

#### SPECIAL MENTIONS

Frances Lovering Woman of the Year Award1	00	)
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#### **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.

### It's About Faith, Fun and Fulfillment!

- The CWL is the voice of Catholic women expressing their values and promoting dignity and justice for all.
- The CWL is a gift of faith, friendship and support, offering leadership development and affirmation.
- The CWL gives members the opportunity to serve God and Canada. Through standing committees, members can feel the pulse of what is happening in church and society.
- The CWL invites all women to share their gifts and make a difference.



#### 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.



# Care for our Common Home



#### BISHOP OF HAMILTON

June 9, 2021

Dear Sisters in the League,

The COVID-19 pandemic shut down and other restrictions seriously affected the communal events and activities of the Catholic Women's League in the Diocese of Hamilton in 2020. I was saddened that the plans for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Catholic Women's League in the Diocese of Hamilton were cancelled last summer – as were the celebrations for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Catholic Women's League nationally. I had looked forward to both events.

Know of my support for the good works of the League. You are an important organization in the Diocese of Hamilton. The President of the Diocesan Council sits as a member of the Council of Catholic Service Organizations – and keeps us well informed about the projects and plans of the organization.

The fact that the League is still the largest grassroots organization of women in Canada is significant! I can only think that the same is true throughout the Diocese of Hamilton!

This Annual Report for 2020 will record for posterity the effect of the pandemic on League activities. It did not, however, affect the creative and generous spirit that invigorates your many efforts. Blessings on all your good works at all times.

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

+ Dauglas Cresky, OMI

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



Dear Members of the Catholic Women's League,

2020 has been a year like no other in our lives. As I write this letter, we are slowly opening up on the heels of a third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Who would have thought our lives would be transformed so much over such a long period of time! Zoom chats, delayed decisions, and conventions put on hold have characterized this past year.

I believe the change of lifestyle has also been, with the help of God's grace, a clarifying of our lives to see more readily what really matters, what God call's us to and how we have responded to that call throughout our lives. The blessings of a spiritual 20/20 vision of sorts.

I am fairly new to the role of spiritual advisor for the diocesan council and thank the council members for their welcome and kindness. I have witnessed a diligent executive that continues to keep lines of communication open and creatively connects with online chats and prayer services.

May the year ahead be filled with the blessings of opening up from the pandemic to continue our service to our families, parishes and our country.

God bless,

Fr. Larry Parent



Greetings Hamilton Diocesan Members,

The year of our Lord 2020 will go down in history. Life, as we know it, changed dramatically. One main event changed it all. In March 2020, a worldwide pandemic was declared. The Coronavirus or COVID-19 came to stay for a while... or so we thought. From a Catholic Women's League perspective, we were unprepared to take on the challenges of not being able to meet and still stay in touch and work with our outreach projects. But we persevered and used any method we could to stay in touch. We called, texted, emailed and "Zoomed". We even met in parking lots to say the rosary.

Congratulations to all of you as you continue to find new and unique ways of supporting members and our wider 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 40,000 members across Ontario are with you as you gather to conduct the business of your diocesan council for 2020 and 2021.

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

Congratulations as you celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary 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



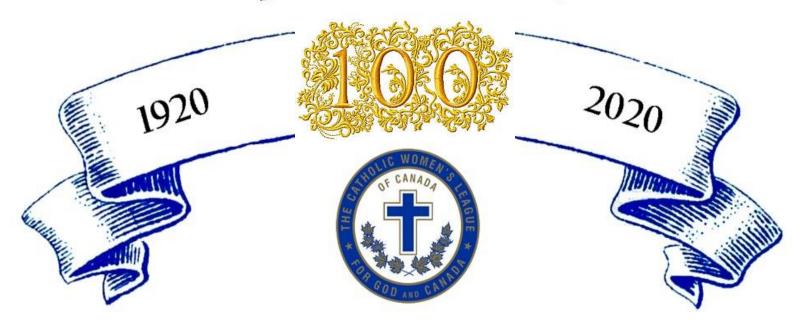
**Ontario Provincial President** 

#### Hamilton Diocesan Council Report

President: Catherine Feren	Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Larry Parent
Members: 7,251	Life Members: 10
Councils: 97	Regions: 4

- Our diocesan spiritual theme "Welcome Home" was incorporated with national theme "Care for our Common Home". We focused on caring for our earth so it is a welcoming home and striving to make our members feel more welcome, needed and wanted.
- Officers and regional teams made suggestions to implement the "Loneliness" theme into the diocesan theme, "Welcome Home", some of which will be implemented at a later date.
- In response to Pope Francis' encouragement that all people nurture and protect creation, thus making it a welcome home for all, we promoted: celebrating Earth Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup> with a focus on embracing the beauty and wonder of God's creation; taking the St. Francis Climate Pledge to Protect Creation; cleaning a community; and reflecting on preserving our water.
- Diocesan officers and regional teams have been grouped in groups of three to work together, to have a sounding board for ideas and to provide emotional and spiritual support.
- We updated our Hamilton Diocesan Policy and Procedure Manual.
- Our Lady of Good Counsel Bursary for Seminarians was renamed Our Lady of Good Counsel Vocations Fund to include applicants for religious life.
- We created an online diocesan reporting system for deceased members.
- Implemented Governance Presentations to teach fundamental principles of Constitution & Bylaws and the National Policy & Procedures manual
- Discussions with diocesan team members and spiritual advisor continued regarding roles and responsibilities of members and council spiritual advisors.
- Encouraged parish councils to implement suggestions received from other levels of the League, as per interest in their particular council.
- Met with regional chairs and discussed opportunities to work together drafting agendas, focus for meetings, consistency of messages in each region.
- Consulted and intervened with councils experiencing difficulties.
- Conducted several speaking engagements to Knights of Columbus/CWL councils receiving \$7384.70 in donations as a result.
- After much preparation for our diocesan 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner dance on April 18 and additional celebrations on June 20 were postponed.
- Our diocesan convention planned for May 29-31, included a banner at registration, readings and hymns reflecting both themes, hopefully a "Welcome Home" song, a candlelight vigil, and more. This too was cancelled.
- Further plans were made for the provincial convention at Crowne Plaza, Kitchener on July 4-8<sup>th</sup>, which was later cancelled due to COVID restrictions.
- Life Member, Georgina Bourke passed away on September 21, 2020. She was an activist for Human Trafficking Prevention, Sharing Fair, Environmental Protection, abolishing Nuclear Weapons etc. She will be greatly missed.

## Hamilton Diocese



## 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

### THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA



FOR GOD AND CANADA



## **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

100 years of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in the Diocese of Hamilton. What an awesome achievement and a proud legacy that has been accomplished across the diocese. 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.

And it all began when 15 women from different parishes met to discuss the advisability of forming a society to care for the religious needs of Catholic soldiers quartered in Hamilton and for the soldiers in sanatoriums and hospitals. It was called "The Catholic Women's Guild" with Rose Smith as President and Monsignor Mahony as Chaplain in 1917.

In June 1920, President Frances Lovering and Secretary Mrs. F.E. Regan were invited to attend a meeting held in Montreal for all the local societies from across Canada. This is where the National League came into existence with its own set of Constitution and By-laws.

After their return home, in September 1920, they asked that the name of the Catholic Women's Guild be changed to The Catholic Women's League and so it all began. We started with 11 sub-divisions (councils). Today we have 97 parish councils, 4 regions: Brant, Hamilton, Kitchener, North and 7,251 members.

The League became the public voice promoting Christian family values and upholding the life and dignity of human persons. We gathered 100,000 signatures in protest of abortion laws; distributed 35,000 pamphlets concerning the misleading impressions about adoption and placed 72 children in foster care.

We've raised awareness of the additive influence of pornography and its destructive effect on children, marriage and families through our "Pornography Hurts" campaign which was launched in 1996. Signs were posted on transit buses, billboards and letters/postcards sent to Members of Parliament.

We petitioned for larger school grants for Separate Schools, for an increase in family allowance, for raising the age of consent to 16 years and against sex education in the schools.

We've empowered women and children through becoming guide leaders for organizations like Girl Guides and Brownies. Encouraged the role of women in the church in lay ministry such as lectors, Eucharistic ministers, sacristans, ushers, facilitators, catechists, etc. Supported leadership opportunities by serving on school boards, hospital boards, teaching night school to new immigrants.

We've supplied surgical dressings to military hospitals, gave food and medicine to school kids, sewed masks and protective gowns for front line workers. Donated food, clothing, toiletries and collected 10,523 socks to combat homelessness. We supported organizations aimed at world peace, benefiting unwed mothers, palliative care and missions and much more.

Through our "Resolutions", we raised awareness on nuclear arms, elder abuse, acid rain, reduce-reuse-recycle, mental health, industrial wind turbines, and save the family farm. "Apostleship of the Sea" and Plastic Microbeads- The High Cost of Beauty were adopted at the National level.

We walked for peace in 1962, prayed at Martyr's Shrine in Midland, increased our devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel through Marian retreats, vigils, and held virtual Rosary nights. We celebrate special Masses for our deceased members, World Day of Prayer, vocations to the Priesthood to name a few.

We resurrected phone trees, mailed cards/newsletters and communicated through emails, Zoom, GoToMeetings, Facebook, and Twitter. We kept in touch with our members and together prayed for the end to the world-wide pandemic of COVID-19.

This is just a small fraction of all the remarkable accomplishments the League has done over the past 100 years. Those members whose commitment to the objects of the League have left a lasting legacy of service. Let their stories and devotion, inspire you and encourage you to continue working to grow in faith and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

Membership is the strength and back-bone of our organization. Every Catholic Woman should be proud and anxious to enroll and serve under our banner – FOR GOD AND CANADA.

#### Prayer for the 100<sup>th</sup> 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.

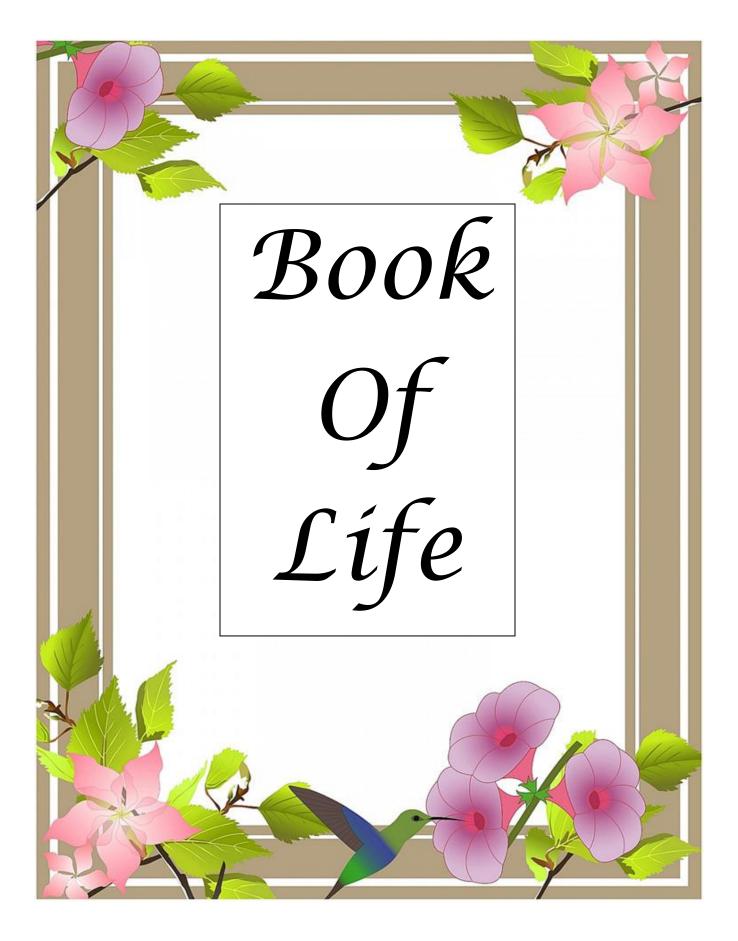
We give thanks for the joyful ways You have graced us in our mission of Faith, Service and Social Justice.

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



Adapted from a memorial prayer service for departed members

In the world of today, as perhaps never before, the church needs an enlightened and faithful laity.

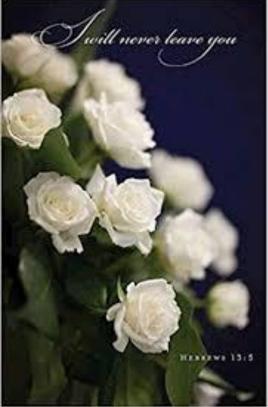
Dedicated members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada live their faith by serving others and thus discover Christ through relationships with others. We honour our deceased members and list them here in tribute. They had made a solemn commitment to be witnesses of Christ, carrying out the mission of Christ at home, in the parish and in the whole community.

We recall now their service to others, and we pray that the God of all has joyously welcomed them into the fullness of life, where they rest in peace and love.

#### "Gracious God, to whom mercy and forgiveness belong hear our prayers on behalf of Your faithful servants whom You have called into the light of Your presence. May they be welcomed joyously into heaven. We ask this through Christ, our Redeemer. Amen

God is the glory and joy of each of our departed members whose memory we celebrate.

A rose, a symbol of life in Christ, represents a living memorial for each one of our departed members.



Hamilton Diocesan Catholic Women's League List of Deceased Members for 2020

#### **Brant Region**

#### **St. Basil, Brantford** Lillian Balasz Barbara Hewitt

#### St. Joseph, Brantford

Maria Michniewicz

#### St. Mary, Brantford

Patricia (Carol) Cunningham Mary Marcella Mafalda Tuori

#### St. Pius X, Brantford

Lillian Barrieau Marie Burns

#### **Blessed Sacrament, Burford**

Sarolta Demeter Rita Van Berlo

#### Sacred Heart, Paris Diane Bol

#### **HAMILTON REGION**

#### Holy Rosary, Burlington

Barbara Blake Yolanda Fleming Agnes Hayhurst Pauline Ann Lepinskie Rita Rochford Sidrid Marianna Whelan

#### St. John the Baptist, Burlington

Reta Egan Mary Lange Patricia MacDougall Margaret Marie O'Keefe

#### St. Patrick, Burlington

Rita Donnelly

#### St. Paul the Apostle, Burlington

Shirley E. Fortune Reeves Moira Perkovich

#### St. Augustine, Dundas Nata Barresi

Patricia Kibzey Eileen Mary Ruggles Vera Elizabeth Walker

#### **Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Freelton**

Joan Wigood

#### Holy Cross, Georgetown

Maria Fatima DeSousa Marie Hulme Dorothy Hunt Chris Macewan Jessie Milton Margaret O'Rouke Theresa Scholz Marie Bridget Simpson

#### Annunciation of Our Lord, Hamilton

Elenor Rodney

**Canadian Martyrs, Hamilton** Veronica Finnin Marjorie Wilkinson St. Peter & St. Paul, Hamilton Jean Stakich

**St. Stanislaus Kosta, Hamilton** Theresa Ostrowski

#### Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton

Irene Hawkes Lily Joseph

Regina Mundi, Hamilton Maria Mantione Theresa C. Sheill (2019)

Sacred Heart, Hamilton Shirley Sartor

St. Anthony of Padua, Hamilton Caterina Rotella

**St. Eugene, Hamilton** Mary Carlin Mary D. Nielson

**St. Gregory the Great, Hamilton** Slava Gombosa Joyce Tompa

St. John the Baptist, Hamilton Mary Gibbons

**St. Joseph, Hamilton** Kacheta Sonia Cobourne

#### **St. Luke, Hamilton** Kathleen Lilliman Avis Margaret Sargent

**St. Patrick, Hamilton** Theresa Klaman Holy Rosary, Milton Irene Gibbs Martina Opsteen

**St. Andrew, Oakville** Madge Benson Bernice Birch Margaret Graham

**St. Dominic, Oakville** Georgina Bourke Dalphine Alice Rutherford

St. Michael, Oakville Mary Anne Levine

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

Onorina Caterini Bernice Dewar-Wannop Angela Stanziani Netty Verboom

#### St. Francis Xavier, Stoney Creek Jean Catlin

Margaret Forester

#### **Immaculate Heart of Mary, Winona**

Eve Kovacs Dianna Malvaso Alma Roy

#### **KITCHENER REGION**

#### St. Clement, Cambridge

Rosemary Fischer Joan Weiler

#### St. Gregory the Great, Cambridge

Judy Fox (2019) Eileen Pickard Lourdes Sousa

#### St. Patrick, Cambridge

Johanna Henneman (2019)

#### St. Martin of Tours, Drayton Ethel Doucette

Ethel Doucette

#### St. Teresa of Avila, Elmira

Lucy Bertin Rita Lorbetski Carol Stortz Edna Zinger

#### Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, Guelph

Lina Gemin Mary Huxley Peggy Moore

#### Holy Rosary, Guelph

Agnes Kolodziejczak Jackie Krizmanich Ann Taylor Margaret Thomas Joanne Van Heeswyk

#### Sacred Heart, Guelph

Allessandrina Franceschi Evelyn Goetz Teresa Leo Hiole Peloso Elizabeth Sorbara

#### St. Joseph, Guelph

Madeline Bolton Bernice Carey Lorraine Goetz Phyllis Henke Maria Manera Margaret Morris

#### Sacred Heart, Kenilworth

Verna Epoch

#### St. Anthony Daniel, Kitchener

Lorraine Nolan Anne Shantz

#### St. Francis of Assisi, Kitchener

Violet Bateman Mary Bergamin Madeline Heughan Theresa Kelly Elaine Meyer Annabelle Ritchie Theresa Smith (2019) Catherine Warner

#### St. John the Baptist, Kitchener

Norma Culver Doreen Hogan Sister Joyce Lorentz

#### St. Teresa of Avila, Kitchener

Rosa Gerger Marie Miller Yvonne Rettinger

#### St. Boniface, Maryhill

Margaret Mary Beitz Gloria M. Hipel Barbara Ann Nosal Therese Marie Reinhart Frances Johanna Waechter Katherine (Katharina) Wetzel

#### Holy Family, New Hamburg

Marie Egil Joan Herteis Thelma Moser Eileen Plouffe

#### **Our Lady of Fatima, Rockwood & Oustic**

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Marie Herwynen

#### St. Agatha, St. Agatha

Irene Detzler Pat Henhoeffer Laura Kroetsch Patricia Tallman Sherree Tallman

#### St. Agnes, Waterloo Helen Lehman

Helen Palach

#### St. Louis, Waterloo

Josephine Haid Loretta Lavigne Katie Catherine Ruetz Alexandra Stockie

#### St. Michael, Waterloo

Doris Bechtel Irene Boatman Marlene Voisin

#### **NORTH REGION**

#### St. Joseph, Cargill

Verna Lang

#### Mary Immaculate, Chepstow

Lina Terwoord Mary Vallee Eileen Waechter E. Victoria Zettel

#### St. Ann, Chesley

Mary Biermans

#### Holy Family, Hanover

Catherine "Caye" Kittel Glenna Oberle Helen Siemiaszko

#### Sacred Heart, Mildmay

Martina Cronin

#### St. Mary of the Purification, Mount Forest

Eileen Murray Theresa Roberts

#### St. Mary of the Assumption, Owen Sound

Sheila Hamilton Sharon McLaren Dorothy McLinden

#### Sacred Heart, Teeswater

Beatrice Callahan Elaine Denomme

#### Sacred Heart, Walkerton

Grace Giesler Audrey Grubb Carol Mullen Margaret O'Hagan Cathy Vasey



### In Memory of



Georgína Bourke

Georgina Bourke was called to her Lord and His Holy Mother on September 21, 2020. Georgina was the beloved wife of the late Terry Bourke, mother to Patrick and daughter-in-law Jill.

She was a member of St. Dominic, Oakville and was on the Executive Council for many years. Georgina was also very implicated in the St. Dominic parish as a Eucharistic minister, and in her role as secretary of the St. Dominic Refugee Committee. Georgina participated actively for several years on the organizing committee for the "Oakville World Day of Prayer" held the first Friday of March.

She was elected Hamilton Diocesan President in 2003-2005. She could be counted on to relay all the League news as she attended all the diocesan, provincial and national conventions. At these conventions she would bring goods from "Sharing Fair", a program of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd to provide a market in Canada for handmade goods created by women in developing countries. Georgina also volunteered with Wellspring a resource centre for cancer patients and their families.

Georgina was an activist and participated in various committees such as International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. She attended several workshops: Pro-life, Human trafficking prevention, Environmental protection, or how to save our planet earth.

Georgina was a woman of great Faith, a good friend to many and a dedicated member of the League who lived out her faith through her actions. She will be greatly missed by her Sisters in the League.

#### May Our Lord welcome her into His Kingdom for Eternal Life.

# Díocesan Reports



### WELCOME Home



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

#### **Hamilton Diocesan Officers**

Spiritual Advisor

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

#### **Committee Chairs**

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

#### **Regional Chairs**

Brant Hamilton Kitchener North Father John Redmond Father Larry Parent Catherine Feren Joan Schurter Joyce Cotter Teresa DiFalco Laura Grint Julia Calverley

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

Diana Quildon Diana Quildon Francesca Simone Francesca Simone

#### Past President/Historian Annual Report

Past President/Historian: Joan Schurter

#### Parishes Reporting: 23/97

**Diocese:** Hamilton

Sub-chairpersons:

#### Serve in a Consultative Capacity

Approximately one-third of the parish council past presidents had been a member for more than 25 years with almost half falling in the 65 -74 year old age group. Overall, two-thirds attended executive and general meetings and spiritual events. Only a small percentage was called on for advice. The majority said their current presidents felt supported and encouraged by their help.

#### Be Responsible for Archives and History

The majority of past presidents were responsible for archives in their parish councils while a small number had a historian or an appointed member to assist. Their archives were stored in a Catholic Women's League room in their church with items in a cupboard, banker box or filing cabinet. These council archives were only reviewed as needed. The majority of the past presidents knew the whereabouts of their council charter. Pariah council historical archives included photo albums, scrapbooks, memory sticks, DVDs and CDs. The majority of the parish council's annual reports, Books of Life, financial information, membership renewal dates, executive and general meeting minutes and records of pins and awards were kept indefinitely.

#### Study and Implementation of the Constitution and Bylaws

One hundred percent of the parish councils that reported had a copy of the Constitution & Bylaws in their files. Most also had the National Manual of Policy and Procedure although they rarely referred to this manual to help with their own policies and procedures. Three quarters of the councils had their own parish council manual of policy and procedure, which was mostly updated when policies changed. Rarely was advice sought from diocesan, provincial and national executive or their spiritual advisor. Very seldom was advice sought from the life members. The past presidents checked the National and Provincial websites for information to share with their members.

#### Other duties as Assigned by the President

Very few past parish presidents were asked to perform other duties or to promote the League. One past president presented a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary gift to a long-

standing member. A small number of past presidents checked national and provincial websites, prepared agendas, newsletters or correspondence. Some past presidents received in-service at various Regional meetings, took part in surveys and shared reports from the Canadian League magazine as well as presenting pertinent information at their general meetings. Some of the past presidents shared their knowledge of computers and worked on new ideas that came in from other levels.

#### Successes

Some parish councils planted a tree and mounted a plague on their church grounds to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Catholic Women's League. Holding meetings in the daytime during winter months was a great success for a few parish councils when health regulations permitted. Many councils connected on Zoom to celebrate the recitation of the rosary.

Electronic newsletters and Zoom meetings kept the executive member active and present in the lives of their councils. A Catholic Women's League newsletter, mailed to all members on what they had accomplished in 2020 was well received. One parish council successfully created their own policy and procedure manual. Another parish council successfully held a fundraiser for their local Maternity Home in the form of a Musical variety show.

#### Challenges

Succession planning for future parish presidents was difficult for most parish councils. Many found balancing the needs of the parish Catholic Women's League and the recommendations of the National Catholic Women's League a challenge. It has been challenging trying to engage younger members to join their parish council and successfully having them assume a role on their executive. A great challenge was completing the national reports - the questions often did not pertain to the small community where they lived. Just knowing what is expected in their role presented a challenge for some and where to turn to receive this information.

#### **Recording Secretary's Annual Report**

Diocese: Hamilton Sub-chairpersons: Parishes Reporting: 31/97 Secretary: Laura Grint

31 of 95 Councils completed the Annual report survey. In these 31 councils 17 have both positions filled, 6 have active recording secretary, 4 have one person doing both positions, 1 has a corresponding secretary, and 2 have neither. The following is a compilation in numbers and percentages of the answers given to the survey

#### Does your council have a Recording/Corresponding Secretary?

(57%) of the councils have both, (20%) have a recording secretary, (13%) have one person covering both positions, and (3%) has a corresponding secretary

**Is the position of recording secretary vacant? -** 19 (63%) reported position appointed and 8 (27%) reported position elected 3 (10%) reported vacant

How long have you been a member? No data How many years have you held this position? No data Have you held this position previously? No data What is your age? No data

Attends executive and general meetings of the council – No data Distribute copies of the agenda No data Take the roll call at meetings No data Bring the minutes books to all meetings No data Take minutes at the meetings - 27 (90%) do and 1 (3%) don't Transcribe and distribute minutes of the previous meeting for approval No data

**Is a signing officer –** 15-(56%) yes and 10-(37%) no N/A 2-(7%)

Assist the president with the compilation of the annual report? No data

Know where the council charter is located - 22 (79%) Yes and 4 (14%) No

Maintain a list of the executive with their contact information - 13 (83%) do and 4 (13%) don't

Bring the motions books to all meetings No Data

**Receive written reports from the executive -** 14 (47%) Yes, 8 (27%) Sometimes and 8 (27%) 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 No data

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? -** 2 (7%) reported position filled by one person 9 (30%) and 6 (20%) reported other

How many years have you been corresponding secretary?

**Does your council have a copy of the Handbook for Secretaries from national office? -** 17 (57%) do and 5 (17%) don't 8 (27%) don't know

Do you notify members of upcoming meetings and events? - No Data

What methods do you use? No Data

Provide a list of incoming and outgoing correspondence for each meeting? No data

Read the correspondence received and sent at meetings? No data Responsible for sending out occasion cards such as anniversary, sympathy cards, etc. No data Does your council have a copy of the CWL Personal Letter Writing Guide from national office? - 12 (40%) do and 4 (13%) don't Is there anything else you would like to share about your tasks as secretary? - 28 (93%) said no and 2 (1%) shared yes

They would like to share with other parishes' ideas or new approaches. Others have increased transparency via google drive for notes and instructions in a private group so everyone can see.

Great Job! Keep up the good work recording your council's history, and you are the information highway through which all of your parish notes, lists, and activities are maintained!

#### Treasurer's Annual Report

Diocese: Hamilton Sub-chairpersons: Parishes Reporting: 33/97 **Treasurer:** Julia Calverley

This information was gathered from 33 of our 95 Catholic Women's League Parish Treasurers in the Hamilton Diocese. This represented one third of our parishes in this diocese.

Treasurers held position on the executive councils in 100% of parishes.

Bank statements (97%), cheque books (91%), deposit books (76%), ledger/columnar books (61%), and receipt books (24%) tended to be the tools of the treasurer. Some reported using technology in the form of Excel spreadsheets (42%) or computer programs (30%).

Signing of cheques was done by two of treasurer, president, recording secretary, past president, and/or correspondence secretary. [C&B 2013, Part XII, Section 5(c)]. Some councils reported having as many as 4 possible signatories.

Seventy-two percent of councils used a budget. This is up from last year's 61%. There was no question asked regarding whether the budget was presented to the parish council for approval [C&B 2013, Part XII, Section 5(e)]

Some treasurers (55%) had their books examined annually by an independent experienced bookkeeper or accountant. [C&B 2013, Part XII, Section 5(a)]

Membership fees were anywhere from \$22.00 to \$30.00

Donations to the National Voluntary Funds were as such:

- Catholic Missions in Canada: 0 \$600
- Coady International Institute: 0 \$300
- Euthanasia Prevention Coalition: 0 \$300
- Catholic Near East Welfare Association: 0 \$300
- National Bursary Fund: 0 \$100

Total Donations given to their Parish ranged from 0 - \$5,000.

Other Donations given under the direction of the various Standing Committees ranged from 0 - \$9,642.

Several Treasurers commented that this year was a very different year for fundraising due to COVID-19. All expressed that their total numbers were greatly impacted by the virus.

#### **Financial Statement**

For the period of January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

The financial contents of these pages have been deliberately omitted.

#### Spiritual Development Standing Committee Report 2020

Diocese: HamiltonChairperson: Teresa DiFalcoSub-chairpersons: Colleen Ionson, Maggie Lutz, Ruth Perron, Diana QuildonParishes Reporting: 23/97

Parish Councils reporting is representative of less than 1/4 of the Hamilton Diocesan Councils. 87% of reporting councils have Spiritual Development Chair positions filled. 65% of these positions were filled via an election. COVID-19 was a barrier for many councils in learning more about the national theme "*Care for Our Common Home*". In terms of the national theme, councils recited theme prayer at meetings, had a guest speaker, retreats, presentations, shared information from Diocesan and National, and took steps to be more environmentally friendly. One council discussed Laudato Si. Several councils celebrated the Feast of our Lady of Good Counsel virtually due to COVID-19 by promoting a prayer service/teaching/reflection I prepared for our parish councils in our diocese. Other activities included, a Facebook Mass and praying together. Other councils did not celebrate due to COVID-19.

#### **Spiritual Growth of Members**

- 68% of councils reported spending 1/3 of their meetings on spiritual growth programs and activities of members. 32% of councils reported that time constraints, heavy agendas and starting meetings with Mass prevented them from spending 1/3 of their meetings on spiritual growth of members.
- 44% of Spiritual Advisors sometime attend council meetings, 22% attend most of the time, 17% always attend, and 17% never attend.
- A couple of councils recognized their deceased members by arranging a special Mass for them. Another council organized an honour guard.
- Several liturgies and programs were cancelled due to the pandemic. Some councils utilized virtual methods to hold prayer services, Mass, prayer partners, meditation on Mother Mary, outreach to members, and included liturgies to begin their meetings.

#### Study of Catholic Teachings

- 83% of councils do not encourage their councils or members to study and discuss Catholic teachings in the church.
- No councils reported joining their parish liturgy committee, and 50% reported their church did not have a liturgy committee.

#### **Role of Women in the Church**

- 83% of councils do not encourage their councils or members to study and discuss the role of women in the church.
- 17% of councils encouraged women to be lectors, offertory bearers, Bible study, "Women at the Well" talk, Inspirational Women's Series.
- 61% of councils took on leadership roles in the church.

#### **Evangelization and Mission Assistance**

- 50% of councils participate in other Missions. 38% recite special prayers, 24% organize rosaries, and 13% had a Home Missions guest speaker.
- Councils donated to CMIC, others did not due to COVID-19. Donations were made to the Good Shepherd, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Canadian Food for Children, Adopt a Family in Kenya, MaterCare, and a Hospice.

#### Lay Ministries

- 58% of Parish Spiritual Development Chairs reported that they participate in lay ministries as Eucharistic ministers, 53% as lectors, 37% in choir, 32% decorating, 32% in hospitality, 26% as facilitators, 21% as sacristans, 21% as ushers, and 11% as catechists.
- Councils who participate and lead/organize (in bracket) lay ministries: 100% lectors (63%), 91% Eucharistic ministers (56%), 91% choir (44%), 91% decorating (50%), 73% hospitality (50%), 32% facilitators (19%), 73% sacristans (44%), 77% ushers (19%), and 55% catechists (13%).

#### **Ecumenism and Interfaith Endeavours**

- 59% 91% of councils did not reach out to women of other denominations or faiths to invite them to initiate a joint prayer service, attend a meeting, social event, as joint speaker, or for fellowship of the Least Coin.
- 27% of councils participated in ecumenical activities. 10% of councils participated in interfaith group activities, such as world day of prayer.

#### **Chairperson's Report**

The pandemic in 2020 was a challenge for all. Many councils were unable to meet, but several councils found creative ways of staying connected with members using technology. Many councils reported to have benefited from diocesan level support through my guidance and teachings on Catholic theology/reflections/prayers; especially during Advent, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Divine Mercy, Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel, and other Marian Themes, solemnities and feast days. Councils also found resources from National and Provincial helpful. I will continue to provide support to councils.

#### Recommendations

• Councils believe that direction for this portfolio should come from the Diocesan Spiritual Development Chair. I would support this through diocesan in person training and webinars for councils on how to prepare and lead prayers, spiritual retreats, spending 1/3 of meetings on spiritual growth.

• More emphasis is needed on studying the role of women in the church.

• Timely dissemination of information through the proper channels of communication (National-Provincial-Diocesan-Parish and vice-versa).

#### **Organization Standing Committee Report**

Diocese: Hamilton Sub-chairpersons: none Parishes Reporting: 26/97 Chairperson: Joyce Cotter

#### **Recruit Members and Maintain Membership**

- 21 councils recruited new members; 7 councils had new members under the age of 40
- 54% stated personal invitation was most effective; 15% advertising in councils used display tables, and presentations at masses
- Council recognition methods: 73% service pin presentations, 58% cards or announcements, 35% luncheon/teas/special event/award presentation, 31% small gifts, 27% Maple Leaf service pin, 23% new member ceremony, 12% reaffirmation ceremony, 8% presentation of certificate,
- New members are engaged by: welcoming at meetings, conversations, invitations, new member kit, mentoring, member feedback, sub-committee participation, orientation session, and phone call
- 18 councils use online membership renewal, 8 council administer manually
- Councils sent out reminder letters with paid postage for them to send their membership dues in
- Special activities to engage members: Christmas craft, take out cold plate dinner, monthly coffee socials, potluck dinners,
- Give examples of a CWL member in my daily life Milestone Recognition Mass
- Keeping elderly members informed of prayers, news, updates through email, postal, or drop off door service

#### Leadership Development

- 89% councils had this organization position filled, 52% were elected and 48% were appointed
- 15 councils set annual goals with members' input while 7 councils do not
- 4 councils had members on diocesan executive, 3 councils on regional executive, 1 council on provincial executive, 1 council on national executive (not reported)

#### Cultural & Age Diversity

Members are described by their race, ethnicity, and place of birth, national origin or country of birth, visible minority:

Members represent: 14% Oceana, 2% North American Indigenous, 19% European, 2.8% Latin, Central or South American, 3% Caribbean, 3% Asian, 2.4% African, 40% North American, 43% Unknown origin

Executive members represent: 2% African, 2% Caribbean, 14% Oceana, 45% North American, 2% North American Indigenous, 3% Latin, Central or South American, 6% Asian, 19% European, 44& Unknown origin

91% councils stated the membership reflects the cultural diversity of the parish/community

Percentage of members under 35 years of age is 7.3%; 57% councils stated the age diversity did not reflect that of the parish; 78% councils stated it didn't reflect that age diversity of the community

Methods used to attract different cultures/ages: 78% parish announcements, 74% bulletin boards, 52\$ guest speakers, 48% personal invitations, 35% parish schools, lay ministries, 30% gift memberships, 30% council/parish/League websites, 26% ecumenism and interfaith endeavours, 13% cultural day celebrations, 9% social media

#### League Resource Material

58% councils are current on the activities of the Strategic Planning implementation committee

The Canadian League Spring 2020 organization article influenced change by: using electronic newsletters, email communication, weekly virtual rosary in May, mailed newsletters with Christmas ornament to members

#### **Annual Reports**

- 74% councils do not use guidelines to assist in completing annual report
- Majority councils agreed the reduced version of annual questionnaire was more meaningful way to review activities
- Difficulty in answering ethnic group survey councils used best guess, not accurate, misunderstood question, angry with question, thought racist, privacy issue, figuring out percentages
- Survey issues: unsure what response was needed, computer limitations, nonrelevant questions, no COVID related questions, remembering details as no engagement with other members

#### Life Membership

Life Members were not asked to assist in 77% of the councils

#### Membership Participation

- 11 councils had under 20% of the members participate in general meetings, 6 councils had 20–40% of members' participation, and 6 councils had 41-60% members' participation at meetings
- 3 councils have over 80% members participate in fund raising events, 5 councils have over 60% members' participation, 6 councils have over 41% members participation, 5 councils have over 21% members participation and 4 councils have under 20% of members participating in fund raising events
- Over 91% of councils had members participate in social events, where 9% of councils had members participate in all social events
- 7 councils enjoyed over 61%+ members' participation in spiritual events, 5 councils had over 41%+ members' participation, 4 councils had over 21%+ members' participation and 7 councils had under 20% members' participate in spiritual events
- Councils participated in zoom executive meetings

#### Challenges

- No president elect, past president or president doing most of the work,
- No members taking on leadership roles
- Older membership with younger generation not interested
- Just organization chair but not president elect
- Time consuming job of collecting membership dues, difficulty recruiting new members
- Impossible to conduct meeting due to COVID, members not leaving home, no involvement in community

#### Christian Family Life Committee Report

Diocese: Hamilton Sub-chairpersons: none Parishes Reporting: 14/97 Chairperson: Chris McKenzie

- Christian Family Life Chairpersons reported 79% positions were filled, 73% elected and 27% appointed. Years of service: 42% had 25 years, 33% had 6-10 years, 8% had 11—15 years, 8% had 5 years and less; 50% previously held this position.
- The age of members: 36% were age 55-64, 27% were 65-74, 18% were 45-54, and 18% were 75-84

#### **Marriage and Family**

- Family enrichment programs promoted this year included: Marriage Preparation 7%, Marriage Encounter Weekend 7%
- Support for people suffering from domestic abuse 21%
- Members collected kitchen items for a charity that gave women a fresh start by providing a furnished accommodation for her and her family. Referred individuals to professional organization support, prayers shared and phone calls in time of need and transportation to therapy
- Workshops or seminars on the topic of family life were not attended. Events for National Family Life were not organized or celebrated

#### Sanctity of Life

- Membership held in local pro-life organizations 57%, members attended life chain 43 %, 40 days for life 29%, pro- life masses 29%, March for life 21%, pro-life walks 14%, pro-life vigils 14%
- Councils did not sponsor or attend a presentation on Pope John Paul's Theology of The Body
- Monetary /gifts: local pro-life organizations 50%, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition 21%, Pregnancy and Family Support Services 21%, Birth right 7%
- Ensure members have current copies of pro-life brochures: from National 14%, available in church vestibule 14%.
- Councils have met with Pro-Life Legislators 7%, sent letters to legislators 29%, said Prayers to protect life 64%

#### **Ministry to Youth**

- Parish programs for the young: 18% supported Catholic Girls League, none held 100% Youth events
- Youth events sponsored: World Youth Day 50%, Sunday school 33%, Girl Guides of Canada 17%, Leadership Camps 17%, Summer Camps 17%

#### Ministry to the Disabled

- Support groups and respite for the caregivers: 7%
- Outreach to the disabled 71%, sent cards 71%, brought Communion 57%, visited or called 0%, transportation 29%, no focused on this Ministry 14%

#### **Ministry to Senior**

 Members brought communion 79%, called/visited 71%, gifted with membership 57%, prayed with them 57%, sent cards 57%, involved them with CWL events 36%, organized social events 29%, transportation 29%, shared a meal 29%, intercessory prayer 21%, invited newly retired women to join 14%

#### **Ministry to Widowed**

 Sent cards of condolence 71%, prayer and support 36%, called or visited 36%, Memorial services funeral lunches 29%, invitations to attend CWL meetings /events 29%

#### **Ministry to Separated and Divorced**

 Councils have not sponsored or attended presentations on divorce nor purchased copies of Annulments Today

#### Vocations

 Prayers 82%, spiritual bouquets 46%, Support 36%, invitations to your home 9%, Invite Priest to speak on vocations 0%



#### **Communications Standing Committee Report**

Diocese: Hamilton Sub-chairpersons: none Parishes Reporting: 19/97 Chairperson: Mary Clark

#### The Canadian League Magazine & National Website

• The President's Message and articles relating to Where Does Your 13 Dollars Go, Living with Alzheimer's Disease, Inappropriate Medication Prescribing for Older Adults, 2020 Life Members, Looking Back, Looking Forward resonated highest with councils

• 14 councils encouraged members to use cwl.ca for current information; 10 encouraged members to visit Catholic Women's League on Facebook or Twitter

#### Media: for Evangelization

• 9 councils promoted faith-oriented programs to members; while just 5 promoted World Communications Day (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in June)

• Councils supported (either financially or by subscription) the following media to assist in their mission to evangelize: 7 -The Catholic Register; 1 -Salt & Light TV; 1 - Mass for Shut-ins; 1 -canadiandailymass.com; 1 -for Vision TV, 0 for cccb.ca, EWTN and 2 for other. 11 councils reported no support

#### Media: to Promote the League

11 councils shared with their members the League sponsored mass on April 26, 2020 in honour of the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel

• 14 councils encouraged members to use cwl.ca for current information; 9 organized a phone committee to invite members to events; 9 made use of local media to advertise activities & events; 10 encouraged members to visit Catholic Women's League on Facebook or Twitter

• Only 3 councils set aside a budget for publicity

• The top five types of media used to promote council activities & events were church bulletins 18; email 17 including meeting agenda and minutes; church bulletin boards 16; bulletin inserts 13; parish websites 11; along with local newspapers, telephone committees, school newsletters, community webpages to mention some others also being used

#### Media: Evaluation and Promotion of Good Content

• 3 councils encouraged their members to monitor media content, 9 reported not sure

• 4 councils responded "NO" to the request to ask their members to voice their objection to inappropriate content

#### **Media: Newsletter and Bulletins**

- 9 councils produced a newsletter
- Usually produced by the President or Communications Chair

• Newsletters were distributed by email 6; parish bulletin 4; mail 4, website subscription 1

#### **Media: Relations**

• While 8 councils did not reach out to local media, 6 submitted publication material; 4 invited them to events and 4 advertised with them

#### Pornography

• To be informed about the influence of pornography: 7 councils read newspaper articles; 1 attended a seminar or conference; 1 viewed the website fightthenewdrug.org; 2 reviewed current legislation; 2 did other, while 4 councils haven't take any action

• In 2020 3 councils distributed Pornography Hurts postcards in the month of February; 1 council in the month of October. 15 Councils did not participate

• 3 councils promoted the *Over 18* documentary; no council promoted the *Red Light Green Light* film with 2 holding information session

In response to Resolution 2017.02 Mandatory Age Verification for Adult Pornographic Websites

• 5 contacted government requesting this legislation and 6 monitored the federal government's response to the issue

• 6 councils encouraged education of members on internet safety and responsible and appropriate technology use

• 4 made members aware of the lack of age verification on such websites

In response to Resolution 2004.11 Link Between Violent, Graphic Imagery and Aggressive Behaviour and the Mechanics of Killing

• 3 councils wrote to government to establish procedures to prohibit the sale and/or rental and/or distribution to minors of videos, movies and games that contain graphic imagery which promotes violence and even killing as an acceptable behaviour

• 3 councils ensured that the educational system contains required curricula to students with the tools to respond thoughtfully and critically to media content

In response to Resolution 2002.11 Responsible Internet Use for Children

• 5 councils have encouraged federal government to continue supporting research and development of tools to protect children against offensive content on the Internet

• 6 councils have encouraged members to educate themselves and their families on safe, wise and responsible Internet use

### **Community Life Standing Committee Report**

Diocese: Hamilton Sub-chairpersons: none Parishes Reporting: 23/97 Chairperson: Joanne Palmer

### Is this position filled or vacant: 64% filled, 36% Vacant

If filled were you elected or appointed as a standing committee chairperson: 50% elected 50% appointed.

**Years you have been a member:** 25 years or more 45%, 6-10 years 30%, 5 years or less 15%, 16-20 years 5%, 21-25 years 5%.

Councils reported holding this position at any other time: No 55% Yes 45% **Age groups:** 55-64, 35%; 45-54, 30%; 65-74, 20%; 75-84, 15%

Councils that heard the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Yes 64%, No 36%.

### Did councils support any minority groups and in what way:

Yes 64%, No 36%.

- Those incarcerated: Yes we had a guess speaker. 100%.
- Those suffering from bulling: Yes we had a guess speaker 100%.
- Those suffering from domestic violence: Yes provided donations 67%, had a guess speaker 50%.
- Those suffering from homelessness: Yes had guess speaker 30%, volunteered 10%.
- Those suffering from human trafficking: Yes had a guess speaker, provided donations 25%.
- Those suffering from poverty: Yes had a guess speaker 25%, volunteered 8%.
- Those suffering from racism: Yes had a guess speaker 100%.

**Are you aware of the struggles of the Indigenous women?** Yes 71%, No 29%.

Have you discussed Bill C-262 UND on the rights of Indigenous people? No 93%, Yes 7%.

Aware of the laws to fight against human trafficking: Yes 71% No 29%. Did you share info with your council: Yes 20%, No 80%.

Reviewed the report on human trafficking: No 9, Yes 2

Did you take part in International Day of Prayer: No 13, Yes 2

Supported Social and Economic Justice: Gave donation to Wilmot Resource. How did you support Social and Economic Justice? Helped SVDP serve dinner to the homeless.

Was this different than other years? Yes 68% No 50%

Did you help those in need with supplies? Yes 50% N0 50%.

- **Do you support any local Organizations?** Yes 71% financial, 43% prayerful, and 14% volunteer.
- **Before and after programs:** financial 60%, prayerfully 20%, volunteer 20%.
- Held Clothing drives.
- **Prolife drop in centres:** financial 80%, prayerful 40%, volunteer 40%.
- Wish Foundation- prayerful, 100%.

Did you support assisting Indigenous people? No 64%, Yes 36%.

Did you promote Catholic Near East Welfare Association? Distributed pamphlets, spoke at meeting.

Did you support CNEWA to fund schools of Adigrat Diocese: No 96%, Yes 5%.

### Did you take part in the CWL Day of Prayer? No 17, Yes 2.

Know the immigration and refugee police? Yes 43%, No 57%. Do you know the difference between foreign workers, immigrant and refugee? Yes 93&, No 7%.

Are you reviewing Resolution 2016.01? No 100%.

Became aware of trade laws: No 50%, Yes 29% somewhat 21%. Economic difficulties in developing countries No 43%, Yes 36%, somewhat 21%.

Supported any organization that focuses on Developing Countries: Chalice 80%, Habitat for Humanity 33%.

**Do you have a success story:** Participated in World Day of Prayer with the Wiarton Inter Church Group

Biggest challenge: Need a chairperson, unable to meet in person.

New projects: Collected "back to school" items, emphasize on loneliness especially the elderly.

### Education and Health Standing Committee Report 2020

**Diocese:** Hamilton **Sub-chairpersons:** none Chairperson: Diane Jones

Parishes Reporting: 20/97

15/20 had this position filled on the parish council

- 9/15 filled by appointment
- 7/19 have been a member for 25 years
- 5/19 have been a member for 6-10 years
- 2/19 have been a member for less than 5 years
- 2/19 have been a member for 11-15 years
- 2/19 have been a member for 21-25 years
- 1/19 have been a member for 16-20 years
- 13/18 held this position previously
- 7/17 members were in the age bracket 65-74
- 5/17 members were in the age bracket 56-64
- 2/17 members were in the age bracket 45–54
- 2/17 members were in the age bracket 75-84
- 1/17 members were in the age bracket 35–44, none under the age of 18

### **Catholic Schools and Catechesis**

- 9/15 have become informed about the quality of Catholic religious instruction in the parish and have inquired how to support the programs
- 10/15 have become informed about the quality of Catholic religious instruction in the Catholic schools in the area/diocese
- 8/15 actively encouraged parental participation in all areas of their children's Catholic school education and activities
- ↓ 11/20 asked local schools about their needs that could be met by the council:
- ↓ 63% for scholarships, bursaries 50% for sacramental/faith development
- 4 38% for breakfast or lunch program
- ↓ 38% for other 25% for school
- ↓ 12/20 were aware of the family life programs being taught
- Other needs identified were: physical needs, uniform items, socks, boots and winter accessories; after school and weekend food program support. (Food for kids); rosary program in the schools; mentoring some students at local Catholic High Schools but did not happen, partly due to the pandemic.
- 12/20 aware family life programs taught in the Catholic schools in the area/diocese

### **Rites of Christian Initiation**

10/15 were involved in Rites of Christian Initiation programs by attending sessions, meeting candidates, initiating spiritual development for graduating students entering grade nine and university/college, Sacramental coordinator for the parish, and providing lunch to three Catholic High Schools after Confirmation

### Literacy and Continuing Education

- 1/15 encouraged members to assist those who wish to improve their literacy skills
- ♣ 5/16 councils have a current list of Catholic universities or colleges
- 6/20 councils have a list of scholarships and bursaries that are available and could be accessed by Catholic women to further their education

### **Scholarships and Bursaries**

- ♣ 9/20 councils provide a bursary or scholarship
- ♣ 3/9 provided a bursary to elementary aged children
- ↓ 5/9 provided a bursary, 2/5 provide a scholarship to high school students
- 1/20 provided a scholarship to university/college students, to NET, no one has downloaded the newly revised bursary certificate/National Bursary Fund brochure, and not made application to the National Bursary Fund
- 4 1/19 contributed to Coady International Institute this year

### Wellness and Sickness/Disease

- 4 10/20 not aware of the CWL Mental Health Postcard campaign
- 11/ 20 did not support areas of the national organizations that focus on the health and wellness of Canadians, 18 areas supported were Alzheimer Society of Canada (5), Canadian Mental Health Association (3), Canadian Cancer Society (2), Heart & Stroke Foundation (2), other (2), Catholic Health Alliance of Canada (1), Kidney Foundation of Canada [The] (1), Mater Care International (1), Ronald McDonald House Charities Canada (1), donations kept in the community to Woolwich Counselling Centre, Woolwich Community Services, Elmira and District Community Living, Community Care Access (senior ladies) Catholic Missions, financial support to: Grey-Bruce Mentorship, Walkerton Right-to-Life, Canadian Food for Children, local hospitals, pregnancy centres, hospice, Youth for Life bus to Ottawa, sponsor a child, Canada Women's House, Fotocan, food bank, Wes for Youth (Mental Health)

- ♣ 3/19 used the Palliative Care postcard
- 4 9/19 councils participated in the Care for Our Common Home initiative

#### Environment

- ♣ 4/19 planted a tree to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the League
- Environmental issues addressed were: recycling (9), reduce the use of styrofoam cups (7), other topics (7), eliminate plastic water bottles (6), reduce paper use (6), eliminate plastic straws (5), green bins for organic waste (4), reduce water use (3, other (3), compost (1), and roadside or community clean-up (1).

#### Genetics

- Knowledge in regard to the advantages and disadvantages of technology to alter genes in light of the teaching of the Catholic Church was rated as: good (6), poor (4), very good (2,) fair (2). Topics to learn more about were: genetics, senior health, what programs available to them through the diocese, mental health postcards and The Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute newsletter.
- Other council activities included: local Little Royal Winter Fair, elementary school division donation, Most Improved Student Award to grade eight student, Citizenship Award to high school graduate, grocery sales tapes collected for local Catholic elementary school, and bibles to the grade five students at the beginning of their school year which are their school bibles that stay at the school until they graduate or relocate.



### **Resolutions Standing Committee Report**

Diocese: Hamilton Sub-chairpersons: N/A Parishes Reporting: 15/97 Chairperson: Camille L. Naranjit

In Hamilton Diocese, Catholic Women's League reports were received from 15 parishes. Five councils have resolution chairs, and in all councils the resolutions chair shares the role with legislation. Three of the resolution/legislation chairs were elected and two of the chairs were filled by council appointment.

#### Challenges

The reported biggest challenges to getting people for this position are trying to generate interest, and deciding on a topic to study at length to write a resolution on. The three reasons for not writing resolutions given were that there is no chairperson or leadership, parishes were unsure of the actual research brief process, and they had no issues to write resolutions.

Unique to this year, in the League, this past year was full of challenges as the world experienced a pandemic. Due to lockdowns and the inability to meet, most council did not hold meetings (or, if they did they only had one or two and they were very poorly attended.) As such there was no opportunity to examine resolutions regularly and brainstorm ideas for resolutions.

#### **Research and Preparation of Resolutions and Briefs**

This year, one council had success by discussing an action plan to review the 2019 resolutions and discuss how they could contribute to the resolution regarding the state of Long Term Care in Ontario. (In particular, the lack of beds, the lengthy system of patient allocations and the lack of care and need for more thorough patient-centred care.) This plan however got stalled due to meetings not being held. The council hopes to continue with this initiative when meetings start up again.

Four councils wrote federal or provincial governments, three signed petitions, and two arranged to have a guest speaker. When chairs, contacted their local, provincial and federal government representatives, most used letters or email and none contacted them by phone or in person. One council reported having a letter writing session. Three chairs referred to communiqués, and annual reports for information. Two councils discussed ideas for resolutions and three studied issues that might become resolutions in the future.

It was reported that one council went to a Catch the Fire or S'Mores workshop for their member's own development. Additionally a council on World Water Day, March 22, 2020 had a hands-on activity that surveyed parish members on how they conserve water in their homes and then group sharing of ideas took place.

#### Study and Implementation of Resolutions Adopted by Other Levels

A few councils had one or two meetings to review 2019 resolutions in 2020. Resolutions that councils were passionate about were: long-term care, youth mental health and access to healthcare. One council chose to examine and act upon the provincial resolutions having to do with euthanasia, pregnancy crisis centre for those who do not choose abortion, and spousal abuse. There were no diocesan resolutions for 2019 so there were no resolutions to act upon. Three councils were aware of the National resolutions from the website <u>www.cwl.ca</u>.

### Hanover, ON

A group of members from Holy Family Council, Hanover, get together following their council meeting to write letters to local MPs and MPPs on Bill 33 and abortion issues.



League ladies in action!

### **Legislation Standing Committee Report**

Diocese: Hamilton Sub-chairpersons: N/A Parishes Reporting: 15/97 Chairperson: VACANT

In Hamilton Diocese, 15 parishes filled out the Catholic Women's League reports. Six councils have legislation chairs and all were elected.

### **Monitored and Studied Legislation**

All councils knew the names of their local, provincial and federal government representatives and the majority (5 out of 6) receives mailings from them. One chair attended a public municipal city council forum and took information back to their council. All legislation chairs rate their knowledge of government issues at all three levels as either "well informed" or "somewhat informed". Three chairs made use of Hansard Transcripts to learn about current legislation.

The majority of councils (10 of 15) were aware of Bill C-7: an act to amend the *Criminal Code of Canada*" related to medical assistance in dying (MAID). One of the councils reported on carrying out a letter writing campaign to get their Catholic voices on the issue of MAID heard by the government. Nine councils were aware of both Bill C-13: the COVID-19 Emergency response Act, and Bill C-14: COVID-19 Emergency response Act, No. 2. Regarding Bill C-15: the Canadian Emergency Student Benefit Act, about half of respondents knew about it. The majority of councils (10 of 15) reported they were not aware of Bill C-71: Act to Amend Certain Acts and Regulations in Relations to Firearms.

In the main, councils did not monitor any Bills as they had no meetings in 2020. However, one council examined the federal Bill C-3: *An Act to Amend the Judges Act* whereby judges must take special units of training on sexual assault matters and myths in order to keep practicing as a judge. Furthermore, this council advocated for over 2 years and worked with Rona Ambrose to get her private members bill passed and given Royal Assent and then celebrated their successes.

Regarding provincial legislation, councils examined both long term care issues related to 2019 resolutions and a council advocated for better palliative care and held a prayer vigil for it. A council also monitored the We Charity scandal and prorogation of Parliament.

SUBMITTED BY: Camille L. Naranjit (Resolutions Chair)

### Life Member Liaison Report

Diocese: Hamilton Honorary Life Members: none Life Members: 10 Life Member Liaison: Jakki Jeffs

### **Deceased Members – 2020**

The diocese was saddened by the loss of Life Member Georgina Bourke who passed away on September 21, 2020. Georgina was a member of St. Dominic, Oakville. She joined the Sisters of the Holy Name of Jesus and Mary and taught at St. Mary's Academy but left the convent to work as a teacher and special educator. Georgina traveled the country to participate in provincial and national conferences. She was a long-time volunteer with Sharing Fair, a program of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd to provide a market in Canada for handmade goods created by women in developing countries. She volunteered with Wellspring, a resource centre for cancer patients and their families. Georgina was prolifically charitable, supporting a long list of causes each year with donations and advocacy. Recently she worked to sponsor Syrian refugees to immigrate to Canada and support them as they became established. Georgina's story if one of service to her family, friends community and God. She will be greatly missed.

### Life Member Liaison's Activity Report

- **Pat Crawford:** I have nothing to report. I work, go home and nothing else. It has been a hard year, but it has been for everyone.
- **Anna Brady:** I read my emails, add people to my prayer list; send out sympathy or encouragement cards; try to keep the Brant presidents up-to-date on happenings in the diocese and League. I am currently President of St. Mary's, Brantford.
- Jakki Jeffs: Had a busy year with Presidency at Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, Guelph. Keeps connected with council executive and members via zoom meetings. Reaches out to members without email through phone calls. Endeavours to keep the Life Members updated on all information. Finds new and innovative ways to keep the CWL family connected. Shares in the loss of Life Member Georgina Bourke.
- **Rosanne Sogan:** I kept in touch with members via phone and email answering questions about the League, and informing them where information can be found and/or who to speak with. Completed compiling of all the resolutions over the past 100 years and submitted them to the elected officers for the web page to inform our members

of all the great work we have accomplished over the years and hoping this would spark an interest for new resolutions. Kept informed on what has been happening in provincial and national councils. Welcomed my third grandchild Gavin Christopher Sogan into our family.

- Jacqueline Papke: Recovering from her heart trouble and determined to stay fit has put a spark into her step again. Her commitment to the League is as strong as it ever was and she is a great example for us all.
- **Mary Lou Watson:** Had nothing to report as her council has been shut down since last March.
- **Ana Sousa:** With COVID I haven't been able to do too much, but I did respond to a couple of emails from National wanting Life Members input.
- **Mary Lou Colwell:** Feels remiss about not being an active Life Members as not attending CWL meetings. Welcomed another grandchild and getting ready for another. Mary Lou and her husband Alan are doing well and send their best wishes to everyone.
- Shari Guinta: Loves being the recording secretary for her parish council at St. Michael, Waterloo. Arranged tree planting at church as per the national initiative to plant 100 trees celebrating the 100 years of the CWL in Canada. Invited Bishop Crosby to bless the council and the tree. Continues to serve on national council and is involved in various items such as planning retreats etc. I am on the board of directors for the Brothers of the Good Shepherd and love the work.
- Jeanne Wilson: Installed as parish president for St. Matthew, Oakville. Enjoyed lunch with Life Members and former executives of diocesan. Watched webinars from National. Attended funeral of Life Member Georgina Bourke.











# Regional Reports



### WELCOME Home

### **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 Regina Mundi Sacred Heart St. Anthony of Padua St. Catherine of Siena 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** 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





Care for Our Common Home

# Parish Council: St. Mary, BrantfordPresident: Anna BradySpiritual Advisor: Father Lukasz KopaniakNumber of members: 30Life Members: 1

The year 2020 started out as any ordinary year with members attending monthly meetings, delivering Meals on Wheels, volunteering at St. Vincent de Paul, counting weekly collections, being lectors and Eucharistic Ministers of Communion.

Then COVID-19 hit us in March. Activities stopped and Church stopped. However, some members continued to work at St. Vincent de Paul delivering necessary supplies and other members were counting collections as necessary.

As we were able to attend Mass again, some members volunteered as lectors and ushers. During this difficult time, we worked to keep our spirits high and to keep in touch through email.

### "Lord help me to remember that nothing is going to happen to me today that you and I together can't handle."





Care for Our Common Home



### Name of Council:St. Pius X, BrantfordName of President:Patricia McDougallSpiritual Advisor:Father John RedmondNumber of members:152Life Members:0

We had many exciting activities planned but with the virulence of this virus, everything had to be cancelled. Our CWL continued to stay involved as much as we were able. In the months of April, May, and June, St. Pius X CWL (arranged by Eva Evans) sponsored a hot meal for people in need through the Blessing Centre on Burnley Ave. We were able to provide 75 meals each date, prepared for us by Pace Catering. I know the dinners were much appreciated.

We planted a lovely pink magnolia tree in front of the church in commemoration of our 100th year anniversary and Father John gave us his blessing for the coming year. A plaque was placed on the wall of the church to recognize this wonderful accomplishment.

Members were hard at work arranging the awards going to our elementary and high school student recipients. The presentation was held in the fall.

Many thanks to Ann Harangozo and Lisa Berki for their on-going service to the CWL during this time of isolation. They were always available for office support. Several members volunteered to be on the St. Pius X prayer team. When a prayer request would come into the parish office, Father John would forward it on to the Team. Many people have received support and comfort by being remembered. Newsletters and cheerful cards were sent to the members in spring and Christmas. Members also reached out by phone tree to those who did not have computers.

Our annual Autumn Bazaar had to be rescheduled and plan on holding a Grand Draw in 2021, in place of our bazaar.

We said goodbye to Father Andrew Czarny, a caring, dedicated priest who gave a lot to the parish and presented him with a card of thanks and a small gift. Ann Harangozo retired from St. Pius this year as well. The CWL presented her with a recognition gift and card of thanks. We welcomed our new seminarian Jonathan Reitzel. Jonathan will be a valuable addition to St. Pius X Parish. We look forward to greeting him properly when we are able.

This season has seen its share of changes and adjustments to stay safe and well. But together, through prayer and our strong belief in Mary, Our Lady of Good Counsel, we can be successful in overcoming Covid 19. Together, we can continue to build a strong union of women to serve and praise our Lord Jesus. Together we will achieve.





Care for Our Common Home

Parish Council: Sacred Heart, Paris President: Donna Campbell Spiritual Advisor: Father Joe Okoko Number of members: 95

Life Members: 0

Due to Covid 19 we are in the same boat as other parishes. We were unable to host our usual events. Leaving us with no revenue. We are however very fortunate to still have some money in the bank and were able to donate financially to our usual charities.

Paris is becoming a booming place. There are two new subdivisions in various stages of construction, this has helped us to achieve a membership of 95. For this year's Membership Drive, some of the executive made phone calls and hand delivered membership forms.

As a Parish we hope to see shovels in the ground in 2021 to start construction of our New Parish Center, we have never had one. We plan to use the Center for not only Parish functions but Catholic Women's League meetings, Retreats, Guest Speakers etc.

Let us all continue to pray for an end to Covid 19. May God continue to bless us.





Care for Our Common Home

# Name of Council: St. Gabriel, BurlingtonName of President: Anne WaldenSpiritual Advisor: Father Janusz RoginskiNumber of members: 53Life Members: 0

We were able to have the installation of the 2020 – 2021 Executive on March  $14^{th}$  even though I was uncertain about having it then but the Priest confirmed that we should go ahead.

We were asked if our Catholic Women's League could supply oranges and chocolates for the Angel Tree. By email and telephone we were able to contact all our Members who had replied yes. (The Angel Tree was different this year as no gifts were given. Instead cheques were sent so that St. Vincent de Paul Society could purchase Gift Cards applicable for each single or Family Group.)

Also we asked all our Members if they were in favour of donating certain amounts to the different Charities that we normally support at Christmas. All were in Favour.

That was all we were able to do. God Bless







Care for Our Common Home

Name of Council: St. Paul The Apostle, BurlingtonName of President: Susan Williams and Shelley MonacoSpiritual Advisor: Father Ed HenhoefferNumber of members: 125Life Members: 0

We began our year full of promise, with mass attendance before each meeting, our mission at the forefront of our minds and many plans. The global pandemic news eventually sunk in whether we wanted to deal with it or not. Our Pastor and Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Ed Henhoeffer, began sending weekly emails to all ministries encouraging us all to pass along his notes regarding the Sunday readings and gospel. Susan Williams then created a CWL newsletter to compliment Father's notes. This turned into a weekly ministry many looked forward to and a much-needed link to our council and parish. Through this newsletter word spread of prayer requests, births, deaths, faithful and inspirational illustrations, poems of encouragement and much more.

To recognize Fr. Ed's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the priesthood, a drive through parade was organized in the spring. While familiar faces gathered at a distance Father received a spiritual bouquet, cards, well wishes and our generous donation to our Food for Life chapter in honour of him.

In September we held a drive through food bank, this simple event proved profoundly successful with over 2,000 lb.'s of food donated. Members and parishioners, we hadn't seen in months safely visited while the sun shone blanketing us with hope this pandemic's end was in sight.

Our Annual Christmas Bazaar was altered into a well-orchestrated online auction as our way of saying 'the show must go on'! It proved successful in raising over \$7,000.00 to benefit our local community.

We continue to support our members to the best of our ability while recognizing needs with mass and prayer cards for our members, as well as Baptism cards for our parish families. Our faithfulness and creativity throughout this past year has sustained our membership and we look ahead to many more opportunities but most of all gathering again.





Care for Our Common Home

# Name of Council: St. Augustine, DundasName of President: Phyllis MissettSpiritual Advisor: Father Scott WhitfieldNumber of members: 100Life Members: 0

During 2020, our council held one general meeting in February and hosted the World Day of Prayer in March. At the general meeting, a guest speaker from the Good Shepherd Centres delivered a presentation on the Notre Dame School Program. At that time, a donation was made to the Notre Dame Bursary Fund. Money raised at the Bazaar (2019) from the lottery licensed booths was distributed to community charities.

In June, the executive members met (socially distanced) in the Marian Garden to recite the rosary.

Two mailings were sent to the members; in August a newsletter and in December a Christmas card. The members of St. Augustine, Dundas council have since the pandemic prayed the Memorare daily at 11:00 am.







Care for Our Common Home

Name of Council:Our Lady of Mount Carmel, FreeltonName of President:Judy Van SchyndelSpiritual Advisor:Father Edward MahonyNumber of members:33Life Members:0

Dear Sisters in the League,

As we journeyed through last year and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, our council worked to stay connected, prayerful, hopeful and of service to our members, parish, community and others in need. In January, we celebrated Father Mahony's 70th birthday with a hospitality gathering, cake and gifts after mass.

In celebration of the 100th Anniversary and our parish council's 60th Anniversary, we presented a 100th Anniversary rosary and a 100th Anniversary pin to the two longest standing members of our parish council. We also had a membership drive raffle in February with the prize of a 100th Anniversary carry bag.

In March, we attended the World Day of Prayer services held at Freelton United Church. At the beginning of Lent, we hosted a Lenten Retreat and Luncheon, led by Father Mahony, which was very much enjoyed by all our parish members.

We presented rosaries to the First Communicants, laminated prayer cards to the Confirmandi, Student Bibles to Grade 8 Award winners and a parishgiven spiritual bouquet to Father Mahony as a Christmas gift.

We supported a family in Nunavut with food and clothing through several parish-involved fundraisers from July to December. Members of "Youth Life" helped with the fundraising and collecting of donations, along with making handmade cards with loving and inspiring messages for the family. We also continued our support of the Men's Street Ministry by collecting donations of food and clothing throughout the year.

We held a very successful Christmas Planter Fundraiser, with everything coordinated safely regarding the pandemic regulations. We also continued to sell our 60th Anniversary Cookbook released earlier in 2020.

We held a Zoom Rosary Evening, which was greatly appreciated by our parish and council members, so we will be continuing that this year beginning in May.

Throughout the year, we were blessed to have the spiritual development provided by our Diocesan Council, and we are truly grateful.





Care for Our Common Home

# Name of Council: Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, HamiltonName of President: Mary MutiibwaSpiritual Advisor: Rev. Father David WynenNumber of members: 60Life Members: 0

We had a new executive committee elected in January of 2020 and had our first assignment meeting in February. Unfortunately, since then, we have not been able to meet again in person.

During the lockdowns, we made phone calls and sent emails to our members to ensure they were doing well and also to keep them updated.

For 2020, sadly, with pandemic lockdown and restrictions, it took some time for our council to re-evaluate how we could function. Our passionate executive met virtually daily in October, the month of the Rosary, to pray together. This was also a pilot (zoom) project to determine if we could open it up to the full membership. It was a great success logistically and spiritually. We then initiated Rosary on Wednesday evenings, opening it up to the full membership and families, and it has been a great success. It also gave members and their families a chance to see each other and connect with others they had not seen since spring, generating a greater sense of community.

Our parish priest had advised us to be more involved in parish activities and to wear our CWL scarfs or pins in order to be visible. In November, on the Feast of Christ The King weekend, we had our membership drive and managed to get a good number of our members renewing. Even though COVID-19 put a damper on our activities we did have 5 new members join us and we look forward to welcoming them officially when we are able to do so. As well we did have several past members return to join us after a brief hiatus.

Though the pandemic has restricted our in-person activities, we continue to motivate and encourage our members to use this time for growth in faith. With this faith and hope, we look forward to meeting again in person (soon), and accomplish all we planned and prayed for.





Care for Our Common Home

### Name of Council: Corpus Christi, HamiltonName of President: Barbara FansonSpiritual Advisor: Mary Pat CushingNumber of members: 61Life Members: 0

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we have not met since March 2020.

In March 2020, we welcomed a Hamilton Police Officer who warned us of many SCAMS involving seniors and how to prevent them.

In October 2020, we had a food drive and donated \$252.25 and 269 lbs. of food for our annual Fall Food Drive. It was donated to Neighbour to Neighbour Food Bank.

We continued to send out our email newsletter to keep members aware of church and community activities.

Our CWL membership is down from 79 in 2019, 61 in 2020, to 26 in 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In December, Father Mark Gatto suggested to print a Christmas card to mail to CWL members of Corpus Christi and Our Lady of Lourdes parishes. The two churches have combined to form St. Catharine of Siena. We sent out donations to the usual recipients, though it may have been a smaller amount.

As our council continues to endeavour to stay connected, grow, enlighten and support one another and our parish family, we pray and hope for the guidance of Our Lady of Good Counsel and for an end to this pandemic.

To all our sisters in the Catholic Women's League and your loved ones, we pray that you all remain





Care for Our Common Home

### Name of Council: Regina Mundi, Hamilton Name of President: Dolores Morrallee Spiritual Advisor: Father Adam Voisin Number of members: 100

### Life Members: 0

This year has been an exceptionally difficult one for everyone. As a Council we have tried to continue with our work within the limitations given. We have tried to reach out to our members in some way. With the help and inspiration from the executive team we were able to reach out to our members at Christmas time with a specially designed Christmas card that one of our newest executive members created. This card was mailed to all the members including the members who did not renew the year before. Also included with the card was our newsletter to let the members know what we have continued to do during this challenging year. Instructions were given in order to offer our members three different ways of paying for their 2021 memberships including mailing them to the president. This has been a successful way this year for our members to remit their payments. We have had many kind comments from the members who have used this way to continue their memberships.

When the church was able to open for the first time after a lock down we reached out to our pastor to see if we could hold a small retreat as we felt there was a need for some spiritual comfort at that time. When we were given permission to do so we organized a small retreat on a Saturday morning keeping within the health guidelines. The retreat was facilitated by Deacon Randy Matters and was beautifully done. The retreat was short but was still able to give some hope to all who attended. This year we will be continuing with our 'Reflections of Hope' during this difficult time to continue sharing moments of Spiritual hope.

We would like to thank Father Adam Voisin and Deacon Randy Matters for all the support they continue to give our Council and to all the executive members who work so hard to keep our Council strong. We will continue working to give the support to the church and the community by whatever means we can. Keeping our Council active during this challenging time is what we strive towards as we go forward.





Care for Our Common Home

Name of Council: St. Catherine of Siena Parish (Our Lady of Lourdes Site)Name of President: Dr. Marie SsemandaSpiritual Advisor: Father Mark GattoNumber of members: 56Life Members: 0

We did not have any events other than the CWL meeting held on February 19, 2020. Our Guest speakers were Mrs. Catherine Feren, CWL President of Hamilton Diocese and Mrs. Joyce Cotter, President-Elect/Organization Chair of the CWL – Hamilton Diocese.

Our next meeting was scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Unfortunately, due to the Covid 19 Pandemic Public Health restrictions we have not been able to meet since.







Care for Our Common Home

# Name of Council:St. Gregory the Great Slovenian, HamiltonName of President:Rosemary SustersicSpiritual Advisor:Father Drago Gacnik, SDBNumber of members:Life Members: 0

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic our Catholic Women's League was not as actively engaged in activities at our parish, St. Gregory the Great Slovenian Parish in Hamilton as we usually have been in accordance with our past traditions. However, we tried to reach out to each other via phone calls and some personal contact when this was permissible.

Our priest and spiritual advisor, Father Drago Gačnik said Masses in accordance with our intentions on a monthly basis. This also included Our Lady of Good Counsel Mass.

We remembered deceased Catholic Women's League members at a Memorial Mass in conjunction with members of our Slomšek Altar Society in November and were able to be present at church for this service. Members who passed away were honoured in special ways with funeral flowers, sympathy cards and a small honour guard when this was possible. Elderly/ill members were provided with Get Well and Christmas cards.

We anticipate and look forward to being able to meet in person and resume face to face interactions and engagement in our usual activities.





Care for Our Common Home

# Name of Council:St. Luke's HamiltonName of President:Lori GrafSpiritual Advisor:Father Jerry PunnasseryNumber of members:87Life Members:1

It is my pleasure to present the following report on behalf of the members of the St. Luke's, Hamilton CWL. Although 2020 presented all of us with unprecedented restrictions our Council did the best we could to reach out to others.

We held our last General Meeting in February where we celebrated our friendship within the League prior to Valentine's Day. In March we hosted the World Day of Prayer in our Parish Centre where a small group of ladies from other churches joined together with us in prayer & thanksgiving.

Unfortunately due to the Lockdown which began in the middle of March we were & are still unable to hold regular monthly meetings with our membership. But our Executive has continued to reach out to our members through cards, phone calls & notes of support.

We continued to financially support our Parish with a donation given specifically to our Youth Group. We also supported the Nutrition Program at St. Luke's School prior to schools switching to online learning. Awards were also given to Bishop Ryan Secondary School for their graduates.

In April our Council presented our Parish's Administrative Assistant with a gift card & a bouquet of flowers in appreciation for all that she does to support CWL & our Parish.

Pins were bought for St. Luke's students receiving their First Communion which were given to them when it was deemed safe to do so.

Once again our Christmas Stocking & Angel Tree initiatives were a huge success. We reached out to our Parishioners for monetary donations. Through their generosity we were able to purchase gift cards & treats for ten (10) families at St. Luke's School, Regina's Place, Brennan House, Notre Dame House & St. Martin's Manor. Monetary donations were also given to Interval House, The Catholic Children's Aid Society, Hamilton Children's Aid Society and The Good Shepherd.





Care for Our Common Home

# Name of Council:St Patrick, HamiltonName of President:Evelyn ShoemakerSpiritual Advisor:Diana QuildonNumber of members:36Life Me

Life Members: 0

What a weird year this has been with so many events cancelled due to COVID restrictions! Our St Patrick Novena abruptly ended with 2 days remaining and our annual Mary's Way of the Cross Stations of the Cross evening during Lent had to be cancelled as well.

Our prayer shawl ministry continued to progress during the lockdowns, producing 21 shawls which were blessed during a livestream mass honouring Our Lady of Good Counsel in April.

As the pandemic progressed, the homeless issues within our parish community became more visible. Our council was approached to start crocheting sleeping mats out of milk bags. We started researching YouTube videos to find out how to do them then began running small workshops in the backyard for members interested. Then we were off and running with parishioners dropping off bags monthly and groups washing the bags and cutting the strips then looping them into plastic yarn for the crochet team. We completed 2 mats over the winter and presented them to the Hamilton Social Navigator team on St Patrick Day for distribution. A 3<sup>rd</sup> mat was presented April 14<sup>m</sup>.

Our parish opened its doors during lockdowns providing the opportunity for the homeless community to have rest and hygiene since most of their usual go to spots are closed. Our members volunteer regularly to help in this new ministry.

We continue to make preemie and baby hats for the local hospitals this year. They aren't taking any donations during the pandemic but they will be donated once the all-clear is given. One most prolific knitter made over 200 hats this year. She feels so much love making them for the babies and always has a smile in her heart as she knits.

In December we finally found a location to plant our centenary trees. We planted 7 cedars and 2 spruce. They have all survived the winter and were blessed March 30th.

At Christmas our council was approached by the DeMazenod Door outreach to bake 200 dozen cookies for the social navigator coat giveaway evenings. Over 20 members stepped forward baking and donating the delicious cookies, what an assortment! Baggers gathered on 2 occasions to put them into zip lock baggies for easy and safe distribution.





Care for Our Common Home

# Name of Council: Mary Mother of God, OakvilleName of President: Pierrette Ryan (Acting)Spiritual Advisor: Father Issac TharayilNumber of members: 103Life Members: 0

I have just taken over the role of President for Mary Mother of God Parish after Brigitte Hughes stepped down.

In February 2020, we had our one and only meeting. It was a fun afternoon of Bingo.

On 11 March 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic was declared and we have not meet with our members since.

We continue to send out cards for milestone birthdays and anniversaries to our members. We also keep in touch with members experiencing loss of loved ones or illnesses.

In November, we received permission to sell our hand-made Advent Candles. We did have to respect social distancing. We also distributed the new Sunday missals.

We also had a mini sale of pies and craft. With the proceeds, we were able to donate to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for their Christmas drive.

We look forward to have in-person meetings in September 2021. We also hope to host a Christmas Market in November to raise some funds.



WELCOME

Care for Our Common Home

Name of Council:St. Andrew, OakvilleName of President:Yvette VukanovichSpiritual Advisor:Father Cornelius O'MahonyNumber of members:58Life Members:0

### January, 2020

General Meeting Mass for Vocations followed by Coffee Hour Attended Funeral Mass for Father Peter Watters with Honour Guard Members submitted prayers for 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Diocesan Prayer Book Members assisted/volunteered with DeMazenod Door Parish Project Executive Meeting

### February 2020

General Meeting Mass for Vocations followed by Coffee Hour Members attended 3 funerals (1 with Honour Guard) Assisted with Baptismal Prep Executive and 2 members attended Budget Meeting Executive Meeting

### March 2020

General Meeting with Guest Speaker, Sandra Nolan-Boshell from Canadian Mental Health Association

Terry Murphy gave an update on Bill C-7 and members were encouraged to contact MP and PM to express opposition to C-7 and request better Palliative Care

Members attended Regional Meeting at Holy Cross, Georgetown Members attended St. Dominic CWL Mass with speaker, Deacon Robert Kinghorn talk on his ministry on the streets of Toronto Prayer of Pope Francis sent to members

### April 2020

E-Blasted members about events & links to Palm Sunday & Holy Week Encouraged members to pray for World Health as urged by Pope Francis

#### May 2020

Executive Members called members to see how they were fairing during lockdown Prayer of St. Francis to end pandemic sent to members CWL Award given to St. Thomas Aquinas

### June 2020

Executive Meeting Members took part in 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care on the Feast of the Sacred Heart

### July 2020

Executive Meeting – Policy and Procedure Review Newsletter sent to members (Electronically and Canada Post) Members, wearing CWL scarves, attended funeral for Bernice Birch Advised members of Kerr Street Ministries food collection

### August 2020

Clergy Appreciation Dinner sent to Priests \$500.00 sent to St. Vincent De Paul Executive Meeting Novena for opening of schools sent to members

#### September 2020

Coffee for Members after 9:00 am mass Members encouraged to watch national Virtual Retreat CWL Mass followed by awarding Years of Service Pins (live streamed) Newsletter sent Int. Day of Peace – members to pray for Christians in the Holy Land

### October 2020

Executive Meeting Sent money to Diocesan Pornography Hurts Campaign Novena of Hope done by Terry Murphy sent to members & to Diocesan, Provincial & National Councils

### November 2020

**Executive Meeting** 

#### December 2020

CWL Advent Mass in Church & live-streamed – Maple Leaf Pin Presented Members participated in Twilight Retreat (live-streamed) Newsletter sent to members





Care for Our Common Home

### Name of Council: St. Matthew, OakvilleName of President: Jean WilsonSpiritual Advisor: Father Allen VarlakiNumber of members: 57Life Members: 1

Events for 2020

January Executive Meeting Installation of Executive and membership pins were given out

February Attended Father Tim Hingston's funeral Executive meeting Attended World Day of Prayer organization meeting

March Attended World Day of Prayer at St. Simon's Anglican Church CWL retreat with Father Allen Varlaki, asked for donations for CNEWA Attended regional meeting in Georgetown Executive meeting

June Organized six grade 8 awards and delivered awards to schools

August Watched National's Virtual talks Organized Spiritual Bouquet for Father Paul Edmondstone's ordination

October Attended Georgina Bourke's funeral





Care for Our Common Home

Name of Council:St. Michael, OakvilleName of President:Marisa DiFilippo (Past President)Spiritual Advisor:Father Jerzy Tomon, PPNumber of members:36Life Members:

1- We had planned to do a craft (small crafts) and bake sale a few weekends before Easter but all was cancelled due to the lockdown starting March 16 2020.

2- We gave out \$500 in bursaries. \$300 to a high school graduate and \$100 each to 2 grade school graduates.

Celine Randall, Treasurer submitted







Care for Our Common Home

Name of Council:Our Lady of the Assumption, Stoney CreekName of President:Maricris CubacubSpiritual Advisor:Ann MasonNumber of members:107Life Members:0

### Our Lady of the Assumption Parish CWL 2020 Report

- May 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care
  - With the COVID 19 global pandemic, this event was held virtually via Zoom. Volunteers were designated an hour of prayer for palliative care in the comfort of home. The concluding hour, participants had an opportunity to meet on Zoom and pray the Holy Rosary, led by our parish priest.
- August 15<sup>th</sup> Feast of Assumption CWL members participated in decorating statue of Blessed Virgin Mary and held Installation Ceremony following public health guidelines.
- September 21<sup>st</sup> First Annual Day of Prayers for Christians in the Holy Land
- October 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> weekend official launch of our council's newsletter
- October Thanksgiving 2020 CWL Fall Food Drive for DeMazenod Door at St Patrick's Church, Hamilton Ontario.
- October-November Holy Rosary Month Novena
- November Poinsettia Fundraiser
- December Christmas Tree Decorating Contest





Care for Our Common Home

# Name of Council: St. Francis Xavier, Stoney CreekName of President: Angie Garside and Louise CastellaniSpiritual Advisor: Father Claude PereraNumber of members: 157Life Members: 0

This Pandemic year has been a very challenging one for everyone including our St. Francis Xavier Council. Due to the Covid 19 gathering restrictions of 2020, we have been unable to meet as in the past.

We recognized the following 5 members for their milestone years of service via an announcement in a newsletter. We congratulated them for their long standing dedication to the Catholic Women's League of Canada. Unfortunately, because of the gathering restrictions, we were not able to present them with their service pins. This will be a priority as soon as we are able to gather.

Pat Nugent 50 years Antonietta Grande 40 years Angie Garside 40 years Barb Cardno 25 years Mary Lee Sipos 25 years

We were very fortunate to be able to participate in the World Day of Prayer at a neighboring church just before the Pandemic lockdown.

When restrictions were relaxed, we were able to have one socially distanced outdoor Executive meeting.

Because we did not do any fundraising, our charitable donations were very limited. We continued to sponsor our foster child In India. We supported our elementary feeder schools by awarding a Bible as a Christian Humanitarian Award to a graduate. We also gave a monetary gift to a graduate of our local Secondary school for the Religion award. We chose to donate to the Good Shepherd as our only charity.

We continued to send Mass Intention, Sympathy, and Thinking of you cards to our members. We also sent cards to members and former members who are living in Long Term Care or Retirement homes.

Through newsletters, we encouraged our members to reach out and stay in touch with family and friends and we provided them with our email addresses and phone numbers if they wished to contact us.





Care for Our Common Home

# Name of Council: Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, WinonaName of President: Adele van TroostSpiritual Advisor: Father Bill TruszNumber of members: 101Life Members: 0

This year, 2020, has been a year of patience and perseverance. Any plans that we made were suddenly cancelled at the last minute due to the pandemic rules and rescheduled to a later date only in many cases there was no later date. However, whenever it was possible to do anything safe following the province's guidelines on Covid-19 restrictions, we were able to squeeze in a few accomplishments.

We were able to do Mary's Way of the Cross for our Lenten devotion and we were able to present our newly ordained Deacon a Dalmatic robe after a mass.

A magnolia tree was planted for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Catholic Women's League.

We were able to send sympathy cards, thinking of you and get well cards to our members who were in need of moral support. At Christmas time we sent a newsletter and also a Christmas ornament of the Holy Family blessed by our pastor to our members.





#### Hamilton Diocesan Council Of

The Catholic Women's League of Canada



Care for Our Common Home

#### Name of Council: St. Joseph, Patron of Canada, Acton Name of President: Christie deSouza **Spiritual Advisor:** Father Mark Sullivan Number of members: 63 Life Members: 0

#### January 2020

Jan. 22 - cleaning of all statues and stations after renovation Jan. 25-26 - Membership Drive weekend (CWL host Masses & speaks at end of Mass) February 2020 Feb. 5, 6 - cleaning all contents of kitchen cupboards after renovation Feb. 11 - CWL Installation Mass and pasta dinner/general meeting Feb. 25 - pancake dinner for parishioners (casual drop-in-style) Feb. 26 - hosted and provided food for first Lenten luncheon for all churches in Acton March 2020 Mar 4 - hosted second Lenten Luncheon (other church providing food) Mar. 5 -"Sisters of Kateri" info meeting – for girls grades 5-8 (sister group to "Squires") Mar. 7 - Andrea and Christie attended Hamilton Regional Meeting at Holy Cross Mar. 11 - hosted third Lenten Luncheon (rest cancelled due to pandemic lockdown) April 2020 Apr 5 - Eddie brought care packages to approximately 80 parish families (included palms, messages, saint medal, CD, magazines, prayer cards and

pamphlets)

May 2020

Eddie brought new care packages to parish families (included rosary, calla lilies, holy water)

#### June 2020

Eddie brought new care packages to parish families (included candle, messages, "Word Among Us" for summer, Christie made cloth face masks for each) October 2020

All month, lead Rosary half an hour before each weekend Mass

"Diaper Drive" – donating diapers for Michael House, Guelph

### November 2019

Nov. 10 - executive meeting (suspended since March) for those who could attend

#### December 2019

Dec. 1-5 - Poinsettias purchased from school brought to 10 shut-ins, Mass cards for 12 seniors who haven't been able to attend Mass due to COVID restrictions

Dec. 12 - provided music for Knights' Our Lady of Guadeloupe Mass





Care for Our Common Home

Name of Council: St. Mary's of Visitation, CambridgeName of President: Carmen S. LoperaSpiritual Advisor: Father Robert LoveNumber of members: 48Life Members: 0

During this time of pandemic as we are separated from all of our Church friends Catholic Women's League continues to pray for everyone. We also continue to support the Parish and other organizations, financially, during this period of isolation. We patiently await the day when we can be reunited together!

We also continue to financially support the Parish and other organizations such as St. Vincent de Paul, Monica House, Michael House and Bridges Shelter, during this period of isolation.

In 2020 we reached out to the ladies of the parish and invited anyone 16 years and older to consider joining/rejoining our parish CWL to journey with us in a sisterhood of faith, fulfillment and friendship. We said then and we'll say now **"We know you have unique and valuable gifts that are meant to be discovered, developed and shared, so come join us!"** The response to our invitation was wonderful! We had 75 ladies join with 25 first time members!

The pandemic shut us down less than two months later, but not before we had a few events that had ladies attend in numbers we had not seen in several years! Throughout the pandemic members continued to help were they could offering assistance during the parish First Holy Communion services, Lectors, Health and Safety coordinators, etc.

Unfortunately, the pandemic took a toll – we only had 48 ladies rejoin the league this year.





Care for Our Common Home

# Name of Council:St. Mary Immaculate, EloraName of President:Joanne KruegerSpiritual Advisor:Father Gordian OkpurukaNumber of members:82Life Members:0

This year was challenging. Much of our time was spent learning how to navigate lockdown restrictions. However, we were able to carry out a few activities.

### A list of the activities engaged in is as follows:

- Membership collections
- As pins were not able to be distributed in person, we sent out cards to those of our members that will be receiving pins.



- One member of our CWL made several beautiful Christmas and Easter Cards that were distributed to parishioners in nursing homes.
- We also sent out cards to parishioners who lost loved ones or had family in the hospital.
- The Community life group organized the food bank collection each month. We communicated with the food bank and were able to get a list of what items were needed each month.
- We executed a Christmas hamper drive as well as an Easter meal collection activity for the food bank.
- The church collected hats, mittens, and socks for St. Vincent de Paul and the Knights of Columbus. This collection took place in October and November.
- Christian Family Life emailed parishioners a reminder about how they can make donations online for our yearly Walk for Life and Michael House.
- □ Finally, throughout the year, the spiritual committee sent out prayer suggestions by email.





Care for Our Common Home

Name of Council: St. Joseph, FergusName of President: Judy DanielSpiritual Advisor: Father Ken MiskiewiczNumber of members: 79Life Members: 0

Before most of our planned activities for 2020 had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we provided an honour guard and funeral luncheon on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2 funeral luncheons in February, held a General Meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup> (in part to approve the 2020 budget), participated in the World Day of Prayer at St. Mary's Parish in Elora on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, provided a luncheon following an Anointing of the Sick Mass on March 14<sup>th</sup> and arranged for the purchase and planting of a tree by our Parish Gardener sometime in June in commemoration of the League's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the Provincial Government recommended the closure of all churches and that date marked the end of all in-person Catholic Women's League activities in our Parish for the remainder of the year.

On May 28<sup>th</sup> we were asked to confirm the wording for a listing on the donor wall at the New Groves Memorial Community Hospital in recognition of our donations which, over the years, are over \$10,000.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation gifts were delivered to St. Joseph's School October 26<sup>th</sup> along with a congratulatory note.





Care for Our Common Home

# Name of Council: Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, GuelphName of President: Jakki JeffsSpiritual Advisor: Father Ian DuffyNumber of members: 152Life Members: 1

As we prepared for another exciting CWL year in January we were totally unaware of how our plans would have to change due to the COVID -19 Pandemic. We were picking dates for our teas, bazaars and brunches, planning our upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> year celebrations to be held throughout 2021, excited by our meeting on homelessness at which time our Guelph mayor was to address us on the City's strategy, and looking forward to our hosting of the Kitchener regional CWL meeting. We were organizing our retreat and the special Mass to be celebrated to Our Lady of Good Counsel – preparing meals every Monday for the Drop In centre and sandwiches for the Royal City Mission, dealing with an overwhelming response to the CWL "Comfort and Warmth" project, developing our membership strategy, setting up our budget, responding to government consultations on euthanasia and assistedsuicide, euphemistically called MAiD, deciding who would attend the CWL conventions, serving funeral lunches for our bereaved parishioners, planning the 40 days for Life Mass, our St Patrick's tea, setting up our Nominations and Elections Committee, starting an official CWL Prayer Shawl ministry and then suddenly it all stopped as our world changed forever.

Our CWL parish council officers continued to meet monthly but our members became reticent to attend meetings and mostly could not because of restrictions. Our focus then became prioritizing the practical work we needed to do and looking after our CWL members. Our email contact list and telephone tree became more important than ever and have become a vital life-line for all things CWL. We have learned to appreciate what we took so much for granted before, attending Mass, working, laughing and crying together. Seeing and hugging each other all in the service Our God, our parish and our Catholic Women's League. 2020 was a real year of change, exploring new ways of being together and different methods of contact. One thing I have learned is that while COVID -19 guidelines might restrict us physically, the CWL sisterly love and our shared Faith, can never be restricted and in fact take flight under such challenges – we prayed for brighter days ahead as we look forward to a New year.





Care for Our Common Home

### Name of Council: Holy Rosary, Guelph Name of President: Catherine Whyte Spiritual Advisor: Father Vernon Boyd Number of members: 161

### Life Members: 0

We started off the year with approving a strong budget and donations to several charities both in Guelph and missions in the Northwest Territories. In February we hosted Robin Smart from the Waterloo-Wellington Alzheimer's Society, who spoke on healthy aging. We hosted the Women's Word Day of Prayer in March. As the pandemic closed in, twelve women from our council sewed 50 protective gowns from kits for St. Joseph's Health Care Centre, in TWO WEEKS! Also, many CWL women sewed masks, protective gowns and head coverings for various community groups, including the reserve on Manitoulin Island for whom we made around 160 masks. Though we were unable to hold our June luncheon, service pins were personally delivered to all the recipients with the promise to honour them at next year's luncheon. This year, for the first time, we had two recipients of the 70 year pin!

In July, CWL members packed up the Parish Hall kitchen so that demolition could begin prior to renovations of the Hall, and we have been consulted regularly by the renovation committee for input on the kitchen design. We attempted to hold an outdoor sale of Christmas arrangements, and though we had a lot of support, unfortunately the resurgence of the pandemic forced us to cancel it. Members are still knitting for children in third world countries and others continue to crochet for the oncology departments at area hospitals.

In accordance with this year's themes of Care for Our Common Home and Loneliness, the executive tried to stay in touch with our members and encouraged each member to reach out to others. We personally called everyone this summer on behalf of the executive and continued to reach out to some members who were going through difficult times. At Christmas we sent cards to our senior members who are alone and who live in senior's residences or nursing homes. We sent out a Christmas newsletter to those who have email and are actively engaged in telephoning those who do not. Five of our members had their names entered into the Book of Life. We were able to hold honour guards for two of them by standing outside.





Care for Our Common Home

# Name of Council:St. Joseph, GuelphName of President:Wendy SynnottSpiritual Advisor:Father Jeff BergsmaNumber of members:127Life Members:0

Mass preceded our January and February meeting with our Spiritual Advisor Father Jeff Bergsma in attendance.

Due to the pandemic there will be no special projects planned for the time being.

Those who are entitled a service pin will receive them at a later date and a banquet will be held to honour them back as 2019.

Homemade masks were donated to St. Joseph's Health Centre. Also we made 50 crochet flower brooches for Mother's Day and knitted 80 Christmas bells for the Long Term residents.

Around Christmas we gave Mass cards to our CWL members in Long Term Care Homes and to the shut-ins residents of the parish.

We gave two awards to our high school students upon their graduation and one elementary school student.

Emails are sent to members and a phone tree to inform them of what the League can do and cannot do during the pandemic.





Care for Our Common Home

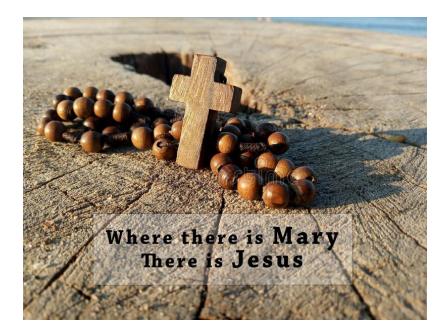
# Name of Council: Blessed Sacrament, KitchenerName of President: Judy KnightSpiritual Advisor: Father Pawel StankiewiczNumber of members: 88Life Members: 0

This has been quite an interesting year. COVID-19 is still here and we are now getting the vaccine. In January of 2020, we made preparations for our 1st Family Day in February. It was a great success, hot dogs, & buns, desserts donated games & crafts. A good time had by all.

In March we had our retreat done by Deacon Neil. Very inspiring. We were going to give out pins for our members but unfortunately that did not happen either. In April our Spring Social was cancelled along with May & June.

One of our members started a Tuesday night Rosary on Zoom for anyone who needed prayers.

I pray to Our Lady of Good Counsel to keep us safe during these times of the unknown & May Our Lord Bless you & keep you in the palm of His Hands.







Care for Our Common Home

# Name of Council: St. Anthony Daniel, KitchenerName of President: Theresa MillerSpiritual Advisor: Father Tim TheriaultNumber of members: 119Life Members: 0

What a year this has been! We have been keeping in touch with our 119 members with emails, 3 or 4 times a month to share current information.

In March of 2020 we were approached by a member of our parish asking if our CWL members could assist a Community Living facility by sewing masks and gowns for the staff. I sent an email to our ladies and they responded with many offers to help. We were given the fabric and patterns, then one of our members did all of the cutting, so they would all be the same. Our efforts were gratefully appreciated.

We were still able to award bursaries to three students who graduated from grade eight and one student who graduated from grade twelve.

To honour our Mother Mary, on October 1, 2020, our members participated in the CWL National Day of Prayer for Home Missions. The ladies signed up to say at least one rosary during the hour of their choice from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Since our church was closed for in person meetings, we had masses requested once a month for the living and deceased members of our CWL. These were well attended, either in person or virtually, as our church has been using YouTube to share the masses.

We sent a Prayer card and a Christmas card to all of our members from our Executive in 2020. The ladies appreciated the gesture and we received many thanks for our effort.

We are very thankful to Father Tim Theriault for his leadership and help during a stressful year and pray we will be able to hold in-person meetings again soon.





Care for Our Common Home

## Name of Council: St. John's, KitchenerName of President: Wende BedirianSpiritual Advisor: Father Francisco CruzNumber of members: 53Life Members: 0

Fortunately, in February we were able to have one general meeting which included setting the budget for the year 2020, before we were hit with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout the year, CWL members were kept in the loop by email with many forwarded emails from Francesca Simone, which were always appreciated.

On Saturday October 3, we planted a commemorative tree on the parish grounds with Father Francisco Cruz presiding over the event with a beautiful prayer service.

Our CWL Council made a \$500.00 donation to St. John's Parish One Heart One Soul Campaign.







Care for Our Common Home

Name of Council: St. Mark, KitchenerName of President: Anna JosephSpiritual Advisor: Father Stephen MurrinNumber of members: 42Life Members: 0

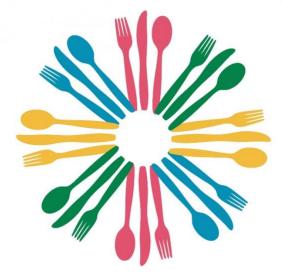
Due to Covid-19 in 2020, we were able to:

January 2020: New Year Potluck, it included Secret Prayer Sister revealed, and a new Secret Prayer Sister picked.

January 2020: Started our community fundraiser of 200 coffee mugs, 200 forks, 200 spoons, 200 towels (bath, kitchen), for St. John's Kitchen. We managed to meet our targets, before the lockdown and delivered the items to St. John's Kitchen in July.

March 14<sup>th</sup>: Lenten Retreat; this was the day the lockdown started yet we were able to have a small retreat at the church with approximately 17 participants.

No other activities, except for touch point meetings with the executive throughout the remainder of the year.







Care for Our Common Home

Name of Council:St. Mary's KitchenerName of President:Lani Courchesne & Lynda MunzSpiritual Advisor:Father Toby CollinsNumber of members:48Life Members:0

Due to COVD we have not had meetings since March/2020.

We sent out Easter and Christmas cards to our members.

In May we had a Ghost Tea. We send a poem and a tea bag to our members requesting a donation.

In October, we sent out a letter to our members advising that the Executive met on Oct. 9/20 and discussed decisions we felt we had to make on their behalf. They were asked to call us if they had any concerns.

We have a child from the Ukraine which we sponsor through Chalice.

Also, we gave a Bursary to a High School Graduate for Social Justice.

On Christmas Day we have a Mass said for the sick & shut-ins. This year we were all shut-ins.

Our parish helps the homeless by making daily meals from our Tiny Home Takeout. Some members volunteer.





Care for Our Common Home

### Name of Council:St. Teresa, KitchenerName of President:Mary Alice ZisterSpiritual Advisor:Father Marian GilNumber of members:105Life

#### Life Members: 1

### 2020 President's Report

It seems these are the best of times and the worst of times. It has been a very different year for everyone. It has been a challenge knowing how to respond in these times.

We were blessed in February to be able to have our annual Twilight Retreat with Father (now Bishop!) Wayne Lobsinger as our guest speaker. As always it was a privilege to welcome Father back in to our parish. As part of the Mass we memorialized members and parishioners of St. Teresa Parish who passed away in 2019.

On March 10<sup>th</sup> we set up our executive for 2020 and 2021 sans a president. On March 14<sup>th</sup> Father asked me to stand in as president. Early in 2021 we had our installation of officers....finally.

In the meantime we have sent email messages to members who have email; we mailed and hand delivered (to keep our costs down) a Christmas newsletter to members. Cards and best wishes have been mailed to senior members, parishioners and shut-ins for the past two Easters, Christmas, and Valentine's Day with at least two other mailings. Sometimes, when the weather allowed as it did last spring, summer and fall we had `driveway visits with members. It was handy to have a couple of lawn chairs in our cars to take advantage of this. During this Easter season we have tried to contact all members who have not been able to go to Church, etc.

Where we go from here remains to be seen. We hope that the 'rest' will increase our enthusiasm when this is all over. And we pray.





Care for Our Common Home

### Name of Council:Our Lady of Fatima, Rockwood and OusticName of President:Marian De WinterSpiritual Advisor:Father Mark MorleyNumber of members:24Life Members:

No activities in 2020 Had a monthly Mass for members and their families CWL award to a grade 12 graduate who is living her/his faith







Care for Our Common Home

Name of Council: St. Agnes, Waterloo Name of President: Julie Nafziger Spiritual Advisor: Father Aleks Mazur Number of members: 148

Life Members: none

Dear Sisters in Christ:

Prior to the first shut down in 2020, we welcomed guest speakers from Community Support Connections and invited spouses/guests to that meeting since couples often volunteer together. It was very successful.

We also held our Annual Used Book Sale, which is our only major fundraising effort. This occurred just before the lockdown announcement in March 2020.

Then, like everyone else, we had to pivot from in-person meetings and events to alternate methods of keeping our members connected.

We have: sent out emails to our members on an ongoing basis; sent letters in the mail to all of our members; made personal phone calls and wellness checks as well as sent Christmas and Easter cards.

We gift the Sacramental students (First Communion and Confirmandi) with cross necklaces as well as present awards to the graduating students of St. Agnes, St. Luke, St. Matthew as well as St. David. And this year we included the students of St. Isidore.

We were able to continue to make donations that are annual gifts to the Carmel of St. Joseph in St. Agatha, as well as to a small number of charities that we support.

Our membership drive went well. This year we offered e-transfer which was hugely successful. Members paid more promptly and the process was seamless. Very positive feedback.





Care for Our Common Home

### Name of Council: St. Louis, Waterloo Name of President: Donna Herbstreit Spiritual Advisor: Father Phil Reilly Number of members: 96

Life Members: 0

In May of 2020, we planted our Centenary Tree on Church property. In the works is a plaque and rock that will explain its significance. Also in May of last year, we presented eight First Communicants with a gift. By way of ZOOM we said a virtual rosary involving many members of our Parish.

In September, we had a Mass celebrated to remember and honour our members who died within the last year. Each family received a rose.

In December, we mailed a letter to each member explaining what we did and what we hope to do. Also in December, we had a Mass celebrated at noon. Anniversary pins were presented to the appropriate recipients along with a rose. Chocolates were given to everyone. Father Reilly and rectory staff were presented with a Christmas gift.







Care for Our Common Home

## Name of Council:St. Michael, WaterlooName of President:Shani PregeljSpiritual Advisor:Father JamrozNumber of members:115Life

Life Members: 1

Our council was gearing up for a very busy year in 2020 but it all went quiet. We were scheduled to host the Opening Mass for the Diocesan Convention as well as the CWL joint Lenten Retreat for our four local parishes plus the Word Day of Prayer. I'm happy to report the World Day of Prayer took place at our Parish in early March and was very successful.

We did manage to fit in a few gatherings early on. In February we enjoyed a soup lunch and movie which brought members together for some fun and fellowship during a cold winter afternoon. Our March meeting included a very informative presentation from Reception House, an organization that provides support and services to refugees in our community.

From mid-March onwards, our focus was staying connected with CWL members through email updates and phone calls. Our members were all very appreciative of the CWL reaching out during this time.

Despite COVID we had a small outdoor gathering in late September. We planted a tree in celebration of the  $100^{Th}$  Anniversary of the League. We were honoured to have Bishop Douglas Crosby come and bless our tree. It was a beautiful fall day and both our current executive as well as many past CWL Presidents come out for this special occasion

As a means of staying connected, members of our executive lead the Rosary over Zoom weekly in October and again during Advent for both CWL members and parishioners. We also organized 12 hours of prayer on Mondays in October where CWL members prayed the Rosary each hour.

With all the uncertainty brought on by the pandemic, having a strong faith brings comfort and consistency. It is during these difficult times that I feel particularly Blessed to be part of such a wonderful organization of Catholic Women and knowing my League Sisters are by my side.





Care for Our Common Home

# Name of Council:St. Joseph's CargillName of President:Shelley RuimySpiritual Advisor:Father Luc PayetteNumber of members:72Life

Life Members: 0

In 2020 there were no meetings held due to COVID-19.







Care for Our Common Home

Name of Council: St Anne, Chesley Name of President: Jane Godin Spiritual Advisor: Emanuel Azika Number of members: 11

Life Members: 0

We have not met in the past year.

Our spiritual convenor, thought it would be a great idea for us to keep in touch with each other. She put everyone's name on a list and then place them in order to have each of us contact a different person every week. Every 10<sup>th</sup> week, we started all over again. It is great to keep in touch. From what they are missing, who else they have contacted, checking in on their children and grandchildren. At times, it is like we visit with each other after church.

So glad, she thought of it.



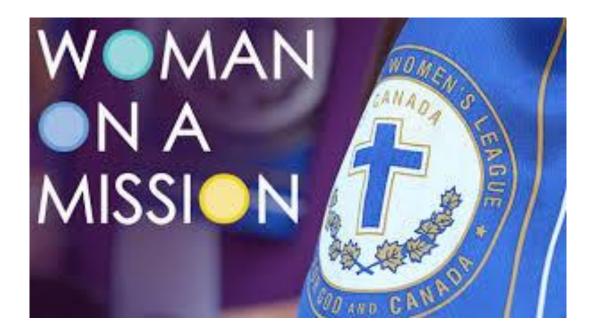




Care for Our Common Home

Name of Council: St. Peter's & St. Paul's, DurhamName of President: Deceased February 2020 (vacant at this time)Spiritual Advisor: Father Romelito GuillenNumber of members: 20Life Members: 0

Our Council was inactive in 2020 with the exception of our Organization Convener, Kathleen Keffer, soliciting and collecting Membership fees to be submitted.







Care for Our Common Home

## Parish Council: Immaculate Conception, FormosaPresident: Marlene VoisinSpiritual Advisor: Father Michael AndersonNumber of members: 112Life Members: 0

In March of 2020 we started the year with our annual pot luck supper, in which about 30 people were in attendance. We had door prizes and a short information meeting followed by different card games.

Because of Covid we were unable to continue with our meetings, fundraisers, church services, guest speakers and other gatherings that made us feel united, spiritually, socially and even emotionally. Father Anderson continued to have the Mass celebrated (when it was allowed) for the living and deceased members of our League, even though we were unable to meet for a meeting.

We communicated and kept members updated and informed by email, phone calls and newsletters delivered from a distance. We continued to send get well cards to our sick, and obtain a Mass card for a deceased member. At Christmas we gave cookies or had a Mass offered for seniors over 80 years old and this also included the shut-ins of our community.

At our Christmas dinner we usually ask the ladies to bring an item for our local food bank, but because we were unable to have our dinner this year, the ladies still donated and dropped off their donation at a safe designated location, and then taken to the bank.

Fortunately in 2020 we were able to continue making our usual donations to our needy and charitable organizations. Some of our members made mats out of milk bags to be sent to the poor countries, others were making masks, and caps for local medical workers and for people in their community.

A Formosa Lions Club and CWL member suggested making Valentines, so some members made valentines with our school, and Lions club. They made over 600 valentines to give out to staff, patients and residents at our local hospital, nursing and retirement homes on Valentine's Day. 2020 was a difficult year but together we stayed united.





Care for Our Common Home

Name of Council:St. John the Evangelist, GlenelgName of President:Elly PenningsSpiritual Advisor:Father Romelito GuillenNumber of members:9Life Members:OO

I am sorry to let you know that we as a council have not conducted any CWL business during this time with COVID-19, up to this date.

I did print up a letter for renewing members and inviting new ladies of the parish to join, handing them out before Christmas outside of the church. The regular members have renewed but no new ones. When I did receive important information from the National Council it was sent to those online and copies were handed to others at their homes.





Hamilton Diocesan Council

The Catholic Women's League of Canada



Care for Our Common Home

## Name of Council: Holy Family, HanoverName of President: vacantSpiritual Advisor: Father Emmanuel AzikeNumber of members: 106Life Members: 0

A year of the covid-19 pandemic has seen a lot of difficult times in our league as everyone around us has experienced. Activities our league was involved in this year 2020 are as follows:

We held two meetings in person at the church.

At one of these meetings the budget was presented for 2020 and our meetings scheduled for the year. Our league donated and presented \$1,100.00 to a new build for a hospice in the Grey Bruce area.

Communication was mostly in part by emails to our League sisters. Seventeen emails were sent out during the year 2020. These emails covered subjects on CWL news, candlelight vigil, reflections, a farewell, summer speaker series, letters from the Medical Health officer: Marion Wong concerning covid-19 restrictions, issues and concerns, All Souls Day, Instructed vote, and more CWL news.

We have 106 paid memberships; sent out 10 sympathy cards to our League sisters and families, 3 cards for get well wishes, 2 cards to League sisters who celebrated 85 years on their birthdays, a card to 1 League sister who celebrated a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, a card to 1 League sister who celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Flowers were also sent to the above birthday League sisters. Recognized a league sister who has been in charge of the funeral lunches for 25 years with a card of thanks and a plant. Service pins: 3-25 years; 1-40 years; 1-50 years; 2-60 years. Crosses for the First Communion children were purchased and pasted out, also Baptism medals to newborns.

The Catholic Women's League at Holy Family purchased a digital mixer to enhance the sound system in the church. World Day of Pray in March was attended by two League sisters. All other planned meetings, pie making, and events were cancelled.

Respectfully submitted, Diane McNichol-Byers, Past President



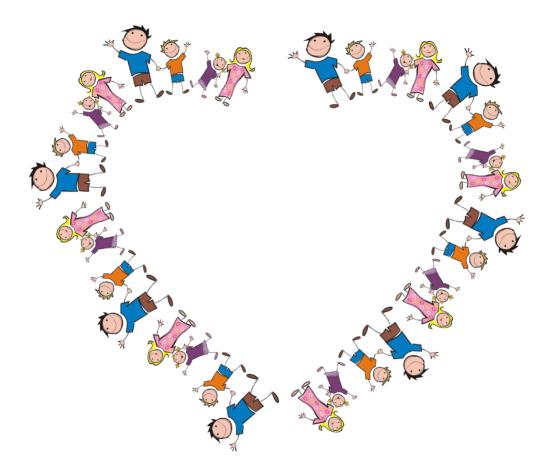


Care for Our Common Home

### Name of Council: St. Anthony of Padua, KincardineName of President: Kathleen Milne-DaySpiritual Advisor: VacantNumber of members: 120Life Members: 0

Due to Covid-19 and the related restrictions and lockdowns, there have been no activities in the last year at St. Anthony's Council.

We are looking forward to being able to open up and have some activities when regulations permit.







Care for Our Common Home

Name of Council:St. Joseph & St. Patrick, Saugeen ShoresName of President:Teresa CarolanSpiritual Advisor:Father Chris TraceyNumber of members:58Life Members:0

Despite living through a full year in the COVID Pandemic, our Catholic Women's League Council has kept its spirit alive with many parish activities.

In March of 2020, we began meeting on Zoom every Tuesday evening to pray the Rosary for an end to the pandemic. The invitation was extended to the parish. We have not missed one Tuesday since. Our monthly General Meetings have since begun with the Rosary as our opening prayer.

St. Joseph Parish celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in December 2020. Our council ordered a banner and a few baskets of flowers for the altar. One of our members wrote a short rendition of the parish's history and shared it at our Masses. It was written in a pamphlet form and sent to many parishioners.

We have continued our monthly Executive and General Meetings on Zoom to keep abreast of changing protocols and events in our parish. It is also an opportunity to know the happenings in our Diocesan, Provincial and National Councils as well.

Our members are Lectors, Ushers, Greeters and Cleaners at all our scheduled Masses.

Our idea of producing slide shows of The Stations of the Cross became a reality when two members created and presented a different version of this beautiful Lenten Devotion every Friday evening during Lent. It was attended by many.

Our next endeavor is to have our Council news and happenings on Facebook. That is still in the works. We are happy to have renewed 58 members for this upcoming year by phone, text and Zoom! We are very thankful for the technology that allowed all of this to happen!





Care for Our Common Home

Name of Council: Sacred Heart, TeeswaterName of President: Lucy LuytenSpiritual Advisor: Father Michael AndersonNumber of members: 72Life Members: 0

In 2020, our President, Lucy Luyten, was very much personally involved in the pandemic caring for her grandchildren while their mother, a nurse, worked in hospital. Lucy would be away for weeks at a time but kept us aware of news from our diocese.

The discussion of the changes suggested by the CWL National would be tabled until the spring of 2021, hoping we could then meet in person.

March of 2020 was our annual food drive which as always, the parish supported us generously. Our giving tree for Advent Season, because of COVID restrictions, was changed to monetary donations only. A few hundred dollars of gift cards were purchased and given to the homeless.

CWL pins were presented to our members at their door. We planned to have a CWL pin presentation in the fall but many of our members were not feeling safe to attend church yet. Maybe the 2020 pin presentation can be combined with our 2022 pin presentation service.





Care for Our Common Home

Name of Council: Sacred Heart, WalkertonName of President: Maryanne BuehlowSpiritual Advisor: Father Les SzczgielNumber of members: 154Life Members: 0

Although our activities were limited because of COVID, we were able to have a few in-person meetings. Our annual Fish Fry was delivered curb-side and our December Bake Sale became a very successful No-Bake Bake Sale with great support from members and other parishioners.

We encouraged members to write letters to MPs and to pray the CWL Vigil on Wednesday evenings. In honour of CWL 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we planted a tree near the new ciborium in Calvary Cemetery. Members twice led the parish Lenten Station using Mary's Way of the Cross. For Christmas, we delivered poinsettias to 35 parishioners (both men and women).

For membership renewal and nominations for new executive, we personally delivered letters to most of our members who appreciated the sociallydistanced visits at their doors. One of members frequently phoned others, especially those homebound, and increased these calls because of COVID.

Awards were given to two grade eight students at St. Teresa of Calcutta School and to one grade twelve student at Sacred Heart High School. We were able to donate approximately \$5000.00 to various charities.

We consider this to be a very successful year even with so many restrictions because of COVID.





Care for Our Common Home

## Name of Council:St. Thomas Aquinas, WiartonName of President:Ruth DitnerSpiritual Advisor:Deacon Phil DwyerNumber of members:31Life Members:0

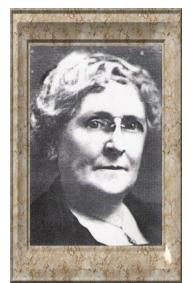
2020 was an unusual year!

As Sisters in the League, we emailed and telephoned each other. We supported each other and did errands to help each other. Zoom was the new technology and became a necessary tool. We read our Sunday bulletins from our own church through the internet and watched mass from TV channels. We read many books, articles and blogs. Our spiritual life grew with the internet, especially with the help from our Diocesan League executive, and from all sources. We prayed the rosary.

We participated in World Day of Prayer in our community before the lockdown.



### **1st Hamilton Diocesan President**



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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the League, a memorial gravestone marker was placed at Frances' gravesite in Hamilton.

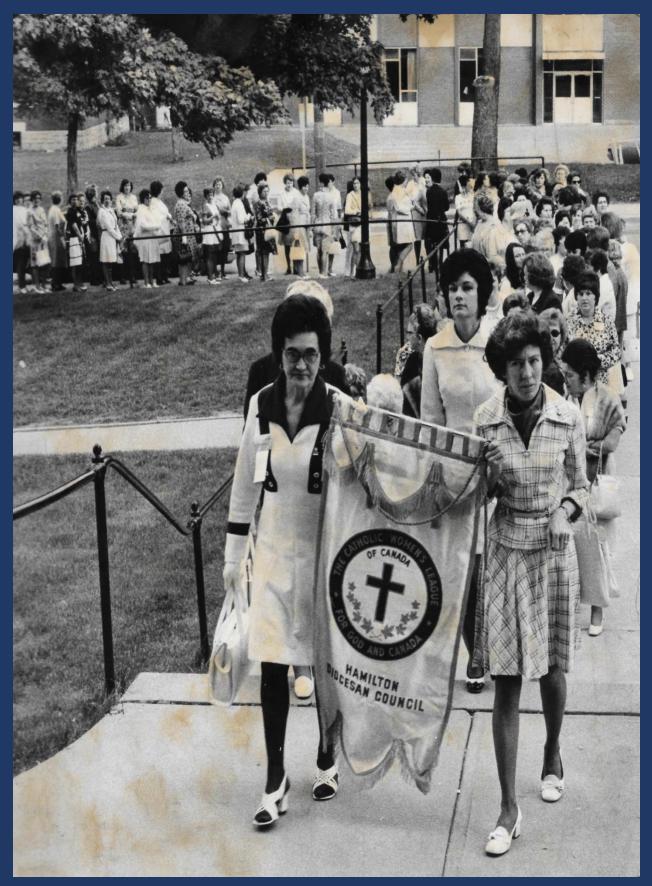


### FRANCES LOVERING WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

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 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013	Bonita Jones Maria Theresia Burgund Anna Rettinger Lillian Orzel Barbara Diemert Anne Rehkopf Elsie Hankinson	<ul> <li>St. Mary of the Assumption, Owen Sound</li> <li>St. Aloysius, Kitchener</li> <li>St. Andrew, Oakville</li> <li>St. Luke, Hamilton</li> <li>St. Francis of Assisi, Kitchener</li> <li>Holy Family, Hanover</li> <li>St. Pius, Brantford</li> </ul>
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
2003 2004 2003	Dorothy Farwell Mary Elizabeth Codnich	Sacred Heart, Kitchener Regina Mundi, Hamilton
2003 2002 2001 2000	Betty Dietrich Siena Van Hoekelin Ann Brown	St. John, Kitchener Holy Cross, Georgetown St. John, Arthur

Congratulations to all our past recipients and the 2020 award winner will be presented her award at the next convention. (hopefully 2022).



### 100 Years and still going strong!