

**Ontario Provincial Council  
of  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada**



**Annual Report  
2018**

# **The Ontario Provincial Executive**

## **2017-2019 Ontario Provincial Officers**

Spiritual Advisor	Most Reverend Archbishop Brendan M. O'Brien
President	Anne Madden
President-Elect/Organization	Colleen Perry
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-Pres/Christian Family Life	Linda Squarzolo
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-Pres/Resolutions	Colleen Martin
Recording Secretary	Mary Capobianco
Administrative Assistant	Stephanie Spinelli
Treasurer	Patricia Rivest
Past President/Historian	Pauline Krupa
Spiritual Development	Anna Tremblay
Communications	Marie-Theresa Lamphier
Education and Health	Wilma Vanderzwaag
Community Life	Joanna Sisk
Legislation	Karen McDonald

## **2018 Diocesan Presidents**

Alexandria/Cornwall	Lynn Pomainville
Hamilton	Joan Schurter
Hearst	Lorraine Cusson Arnold
Kingston	Maureen Vincentine
London	Rebecca McCarrell
Ottawa	Onagh Dooley
Pembroke	Carmel Rumbleskie
Peterborough	Paddy Fitzgerald Nolan
Sault Ste. Marie	Betsy Currier
St. Catharines	Frances Murdaca
Thunder Bay	Mary Wilson
Timmins	Audrey Shelton
Toronto	Ann D'Souza

### **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.*

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

July 2019

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Provincial Convention in my home diocese, Kingston.

Your convention team, led by co-chairs Bernadette Burgess and Kathy Huffman, have worked extremely hard to ensure your time here in Kingston is enjoyable and memorable. Many hours of planning and preparation have gone into organizing this convention. Members of the committee will be happy to assist you to ensure your stay is comfortable.

The national theme *Care for our Common Home* will be made evident throughout the convention and through the reports the executive will give highlighting all the good works you have completed together in your parishes and dioceses.

Our provincial theme of *Homelessness* will be coming to a close at the end of this convention, but my hope is that you will continue to be magnanimous and open minded. Your dedication and care for God's vulnerable is to be commended. Countless individuals and families have benefited from your generosity. But more importantly, I believe that many of you have also changed and grown in your understanding of and love for the underprivileged. I feel blessed to have been a part of all this as your president.

Conventions are a special time to renew friendships, create new ones, learn new things, laugh together, and to celebrate who we are and what we do as proud Catholic Women's League members. Let the celebrations begin!

May Our Lady of Good Counsel bless you abundantly in all you do!

Anne Madden, President



## Archdiocese of Kingston

July 2019

Dear Members of the Catholic Women's League:

As your Provincial Spiritual Advisor, I am pleased to welcome you to the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention of the Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

As we reflect on our provincial theme, *Care for our Common Home*, I hope that the program of prayer, the Eucharistic celebrations, the presentations by our guest speakers, and the business sessions will be a source of encouragement in your work as CWL members.

In his Encyclical Letter, *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us that, in order to address our environmental issues, we must go beyond simply proposing technical solutions; our concern for ecology must become part of our Christian spirituality and moral outlook. This involves a profound interior change or "ecological conversion".

In the words of the Holy Father, "Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience. (LS 217)

It is my sincere hope that our time together at this Convention will be a source of spiritual growth, new friendships, and renewed commitment to the mission and activities of the League.

Sincerely in Christ,

Brendan M. O'Brien  
Provincial Spiritual Advisor  
Archbishop Emeritus of Kingston

## **President's Report 2018**

President: Anne Madden

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### **Inform the Membership of the League's Position on Current Issues**

Members used the following resources to keep informed:

- national meetings, directives, research, media and CWL websites
- issues of concern from the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO)
- continued focus on Homelessness, Attestation Requirement on Summer Jobs Program especially educating members on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

The following current national priorities were introduced and discussed or acted upon by our councils:

- strategic planning
- continued work on the 100th anniversary of the CWL in Canada
- palliative care
- mental health
- membership recruitment and maintenance
- leadership training

The following methods were used to introduce these topics:

- Held strategic planning workshops at all diocesan conventions with follow-up workshops in parishes, dioceses and provincial meetings.
- Celebrated 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care.
- Continued work on Homelessness assisting individuals with mental health issues.

### **Foster Open Communication on All League Matters**

Communication was fostered with the spiritual advisors and all members through:

- the ON-Line Newsletter
- provincial website
- oral reports at executive meetings
- directives from provincial officers to counterparts
- many OPC bulletins re: urgent matters
- personal and conference phone calls and emails

### **Preside at All Council Meetings and Conventions**

The following resources were used to preside at meetings:

- Constitution & Bylaws 2013
- national and provincial policy and procedure manuals
- Roberts Rules of Order
- national and provincial directives
- knowledge gained from attendance at national meetings
- reports from committees

## **Be a Signing Officer for All Official Documents**

On behalf of provincial council, the president signed the following documents:

- Worked with the provincial treasurer and recording secretary (when needed) to review claim forms and sign cheques.
- Letters, cards, certificates, invitations, emails were sent by the administrative assistant on behalf of president and council.
- In consultation with the resolutions chair, sent letters and documentation to the Premier and relevant MPPs re resolutions, visits and reception.

## **Provide Active Leadership**

- Represented OPC at all 13 diocesan conventions.
- Reps from OPC attended development days, workshops, retreats, special council anniversaries/events.
- Members were subsidized to attend conferences/seminars through Canadian Bioethics, Henri Nouwen Society Courage for Caregivers, New Evangelization Summit, and Centre for Clinical Ethics.

## **Initiate Policy in Consultation with the Officers**

- Provincial manuals (policy and procedure, convention guide and provincial guidelines) were updated as "living documents", made searchable and added to the website following each executive meeting.
- Kept fully informed on the operation of the League and reported annually to the membership.
- All executive members have read and understand the Executive Handbook and duties of their executive team.
- Provincial executive members were encouraged to visit the national and provincial CWL websites on all Website Wednesdays.
- Reports submitted by every executive member were shared via email with all other executive members and posted on the website.

## **Be an Ex Officio Member of All Committees except the Nominations and Elections Committee**

- Participated as chair of the administration committee, and as an *ex officio* member of all committees except the nominations and elections committee.
- Appointed the following committees:
  - administration committee
  - policy, guidelines and convention guide review committee
  - registration and credential committee
  - resolutions review, reading, government visitation committees
  - archiving committee
  - minutes review committee
  - Bishop Bernard F. Pappin bursary committee
  - social justice committee
  - nominations and elections committee
  - annual report book committee

## **Be the Official Spokesperson for the Council**

- Represented the province at the national table.
- Attended meeting with ACBO executive in September with president-elect.
- Had representation at special anniversaries, award ceremonies, funerals as requested or as needed.
- Administration, convention, executive and president's meetings were arranged, and executive members engaged in dialogue on relevant topics.

## **Diocesan Highlights**

- Homelessness activities included Ontario Provincial Warmth and Comfort Project where we collected and distributed socks, peanut butter and crackers.
- Focused on Palliative/Hospice Care including Medical Assistance in Dying.
- Researched Rights of Indigenous Offenders.
- Presented Find Your Voice workshop.

## **President's Activity Report**

- Attended national executive meetings and convention as required and gave written and oral reports.
- Worked with administrative assistant to send letters for a variety of reasons (congratulatory, sympathy, information, etc.).
- Prepared monthly submissions to ON-Line newsletter.
- Visited future convention sites.
- Consulted with convention committees about convention arrangements.
- Consulted with spiritual development chair re program and liturgy.
- Selected guest speakers for annual convention in keeping with the national theme and the provincial theme of Homelessness.
- Accepted requests to speak at meetings in my own diocese.

## **Recommendations**

- That officers and diocesan presidents copy their files to a flash drive before elections and transfer these files to the incoming officer/president as soon as possible.
- That officers and presidents arrange a mentoring session and make themselves available for further consultation.
- That officers and presidents keep a calendar of activities for their successors.

## **Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation**

I completed the Catholic Women's Leadership Program in May 2019 as a member of the first cohort. This experience has helped me to appreciate the importance of celebrating our friendships as women and fine-tuned my understanding of leadership as a Catholic Woman. I have matured and grown in my individual leadership style while deepening my desire to make a difference in the world. I recognize that being genuine is key to engaging others and that leadership is a responsibility and gift that is empowering. I highly recommend this course to all Catholic women.



# Beginning to Plan Strategically

## CORE PURPOSE

Uniting Catholic women to grow in faith, and to promote social justice through service to the church, Canada and the world

## CORE VALUES

**FAITH** – following Catholic teaching  
**SERVICE** – local, national and international  
**SOCIAL JUSTICE** – actively involved in society

## 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.

## ENVISIONED FUTURE

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women inspired by faith. It is:

- A vital participant in the church;
- A valued partner for social justice;
- A respected advocate at all government levels;
- Connected to the world.

### Prayer for Strategic Planning

Lord, we praise your name and work for your glory. We thank you for our many blessings. Help us to discern and meet the future needs of our members. We ask your guidance for the decision-makers. Bless all the members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada as we journey through the many changes you inspire. Give us the courage to answer your call and the wisdom to do your will. Bless this inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women inspired by faith.

Teach us to follow Catholic teachings; enlighten us how to better serve locally, nationally and internationally; and keep us actively involved in seeking social justice in society. Help our organization to unite Catholic women to grow in faith and to promote social justice through service to the church, Canada and the world.

Lord, bless our Catholic Church with vital participants, valued partners for social justice, and respected advocates at all government levels, who are connected to the world. Bless The Catholic Women's League of Canada as it calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ and the intercession of our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel. Amen.

## **Spiritual Development Standing Committee Report 2018**

Chairperson: Anna Tremblay  
Sub-chairpersons: Sharon St. Jean, Margie Royle  
Dioceses Reporting: 13 / 13

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### **Spiritual Growth of Members**

- Of the 169 councils who studied the theme "*Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call*" at meetings, 67 councils prepared prayer services, 30 councils invited a guest speaker, and 21 councils held a retreat on the theme. Many (150) councils used ready-made prayer services and workshops in developing the theme, while 91 councils created their own. Most (199) councils had mass either before or after council meetings. Many (120) councils reported that the spiritual advisor attended their meetings. Most (219) councils reported spending one-third of their meeting on the spiritual aspect of members.
- A variety of liturgies and programs were organized: 92% recited the League Prayer, 85% provided funeral honour guards, 85% offered masses, 66% participated in World Day of Prayer, 64% held deceased member services, 57% offered scripture reflections and 55% prayed the Rosary/Living Rosary. In addition, councils were very creative in offering a variety of other programs and devotions, to their members. The most widely used planning resource was the *Living with Christ* missal. Many (125) spiritual development chairpersons enrolled in a lay formation program or retreats. Most (197) councils celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel with a mass, while 56 councils celebrated with a luncheon.

### **Study of Catholic Teachings**

- Twenty councils studied *Laudato Si*; eight councils studied *Evangelii Gaudium*; 38 councils studied the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Some (21) councils studied/shared information from the CCCB website, while 55 councils had members involved in lay formation programs.

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

- Some (82) councils undertook studies of women in scripture.
- Many (128) councils promoted an awareness of women's place in church and society as found in scripture.
- Members have assumed leadership roles as parish committee chairpersons (198), parish pastoral councils (180), finance committees (146), diocesan council/committees (100), and 40 as pastoral associates.

### **Evangelization and Mission Assistance**

- Many (107) councils participated in the *Keep Christ in Christmas* campaign with the Knights of Columbus.
- Many (153) councils supported *Catholic Missions In Canada*; a total of 16 councils supported Esk-Omi Missions, Kee-Pas Missions and/or St. Francis Xavier Mission by donating clothing, food, money, school supplies, etc.

## **Lay Ministries**

- Council members participated in lay ministries as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (94%), lector (90%), choir/music ministry (86%), environment (80%), hospitality (77%) while others served as sacristans, ushers, catechists and/or facilitators, many as leaders of their ministry.

## **Ecumenism and Interfaith Endeavours**

- Many (81) councils initiated joint prayer services with other churches, 63 councils with other faiths; 73 councils invited women from other churches to a council meeting, 30 councils invited women of other faiths; 119 councils invited women of other churches to social events, 73 councils invited women from other faiths.
- Some (17) councils promoted awareness of *Fellowship of the Least Coin*, 249 councils promoted *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*, 81 councils promoted *Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada*, 297 councils promoted *World Day of Prayer*, 32 councils promoted *World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations* through WUCWO Day (May).

## **Chairperson's Activities Report**

- Attended provincial executive meetings and provincial convention.
- Prepared prayers for administration and executive meetings.
- Prepared prayer services for OPC meetings and provincial convention.
- Organized spiritual bouquets for Ontario Provincial Spiritual Advisor Archbishop Brendan O'Brien and newly ordained Auxiliary Bishop Guy Desrochers, Alexandria-Cornwall Diocese.
- Completed directives and reports as required.
- Submitted monthly *Food for Thought* to the *ON-Line Newsletter*.
- Submitted monthly articles to the *ON-Line Newsletter*.
- Represented Ontario Provincial Council at Timmins Diocesan Convention.
- Represented Ontario Provincial Council at Rosary Sunday celebration at Martyrs' Shrine in Midland in September.
- Invited Alice Warford to facilitate a workshop on *Copyright* for the Ontario Provincial Council at the winter 2019 meeting.
- Forwarded information received from national counterpart.

## **Recommendations**

- Encourage councils to follow the one-third rule for meetings: 1/3 prayer, 1/3 business, 1/3 social.
- Make every possible effort to fill this position. Currently 63 councils report this position vacant, although one council shared this position on a rotation basis.
- That councils, especially diocesan councils, make every effort to educate themselves, and comply with, copyright laws when reproducing lyrics and/or music for conventions and/or other functions.

## **Organization Standing Committee Report 2018**

Chairperson: Colleen Perry

Sub-chairpersons: Glenda Klein

Dioceses Reporting: 13 / 13

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

Members in Ontario = 42,552 Parish Councils in Ontario = 531

- Sixty-two percent (62%) of councils used online reporting for membership renewals.
- The average number of members in each council is 90. Of the 191 councils that showed an increase in membership approximately 50 percent (50%) said that those new members were under 40.
- Personal invitation was (and is) still the best recruitment tool.
- Eighty-nine percent (89%) of councils used service pin presentation as the number one recognition tool for members.

### **Leadership Development**

- Councils reported participation in League development days, Strategic Planning sessions and workshops including "Find your Voice", "Membership – More than Just Numbers" and "Leadership and Public Speaking Course".
- Diocesan, provincial and national conventions provided more opportunities for League development.
- Fifty-seven percent (57%) of councils reported setting goals from member input.
- Fifty-two percent (52%) of councils reported awareness of the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation and twenty-seven percent (27%) promoted applications to this program.
- Sixty-six percent (66%) of councils reported trying the 90-minute meetings protocol with a one third dedication to each of the faith, fun and fulfilment aspects.

### **League Resource Material**

The following resources were used by councils as resources in both downloaded and print versions:

- *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* = 66% of councils
- *Constitution and Bylaws* = 91%
- *League Prayers* = 86%
- *Ceremonies Booklet* = 62%
- *CWL Prays* = 64%
- *Executive Handbook* = 82%
- *The Canadian League* magazine = 91%

National, provincial and diocesan websites were also used for information sharing.

### **Annual Reports**

- Seventy-five percent (75%) of councils participated in the online survey for annual reporting.

- Chairpersons used guidelines to assist the executive in completing reports.
- Councils met as a group and reviewed minutes to complete the survey.

### **Life Membership**

- Thirty-eight percent (38%) of councils benefitted from having a life member in their council.
- See the *Life Member Liaison Report* for details.

### **Chairperson’s Activities Report**

- Attended and reported at executive meetings and convention as required.
- Completed reports, newsletter articles and directives as required.
- Prepared/distributed annual report packages to diocesan and provincial levels.
- Assisted with parish online annual reporting process.
- Collected/edited provincial officers’ and diocesan presidents’ reports for the annual report booklet.
- Attended the national convention in Winnipeg, Manitoba, as an accredited delegate; organized the provincial dinner and co-wrote a report on the convention.
- Attended the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO) executive meeting with our provincial president; co-wrote and submitted the follow-up report.
- Reviewed the 2019 applicants for the Social Justice Award and the Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Memorial Bursary.
- Attended diocesan conventions and prepared reports.
- Prepared and facilitated workshops for diocesan conventions.

### **Recommendations**

- Encourage organization chairs and councils to extend more personal touch through phone calls and in person contact to recruit and retain new and existing members.
- Encourage members to attend and participate in development days, leadership workshops, conventions and special events.
- Encourage councils on the manual system to use the online membership system.

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**The Ontario Provincial Council 2018 Social Justice Award** was awarded to **Jan Sosiak** from St. Joseph Parish, Belleville in the diocese of Kingston.

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**National CWL President Margaret Ann Jacobs** of Our Lady of Lourdes CWL, Elmvale, Ontario, received the ***Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*** (Latin: “For Church and Pope”) decoration, presented by His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto. It is also known as the “Decoration of Honour”. The award, presented during the 2018 Ontario provincial convention, is conferred for distinguished service to the church by lay people and clergy.

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## **Life Member Liaison Report 2018**

Life Member Liaison: Donna Provost

Dioceses Reporting: 13/13

Honorary Life Members: 3

Life Members: 135

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### **Deceased Members in 2018**

We were saddened by the loss of three life members:

- Betty Abbott            May 17, 2018
- Mary Huffman         June 6, 2018
- Clare Flagler         September 1, 2018

### **Newly Appointed Life Members in 2018**

We were pleased to welcome five new life members:

- Joanne Hough                            (Peterborough)
- Sharon St. Jean                         (Ottawa)
- Stephanie Spinelli                       (Kingston)
- Genevieve (Genny) Sexton            (Hearst)
- Lynn Olenik                                (Hearst)

### **Life Members Across the Province**

- Were active members in their parishes as Eucharistic ministers, sacristans, cantors, lectors and members of parish council.
- Were active in their parish councils as president and other positions and committees.
- Got together periodically for lunch and social time.
- Acted as mentors, guest speakers and facilitators.
- Participated in and or organized the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care.
- Organized and participated in the World Day of Prayer.
- Worked on committees to update policy and procedure manuals.
- Organized various diocesan social and fund-raising events.
- Served on both provincial and national levels as officers, sub-committee members, parliamentarians and screening officer.
- Attended, hosted and participated fully in diocesan, provincial and national conventions.
- Supported one another through prayer, phone calls, emails, sending cards, luncheon gatherings, personal visits, and birthday celebrations.
- Organized and participated in CWL anniversary celebrations.
- Promoted and assisted in writing and proofreading resolutions.
- Were part of planning committee for the 2018 convention.
- Were part of planning committee for the 2019 convention.
- Acted as honour guard for League sisters.
- Organized or helped with funeral luncheons.
- Prayed and offered masses for deceased life members.

- Were leaders or volunteers with various charities.
- Welcomed and encouraged new members to bring fresh ideas to the table.
- Were part of committee working on national strategic planning.
- Participated in and facilitated workshops on Homelessness.

### **Life Member Liaison's Activity Report**

- Sent cards of support: congratulations, anniversary, thinking of you, get well, and sympathy to life members and/or their families.
- Worked with the administrative assistant to send Christmas greetings.
- Sent Christmas letter from provincial president and card by email.
- Sent birthday letter each month with names of those celebrating to diocesan life member liaisons, diocesan presidents, provincial executive and honorary life members.
- Sent birthday card each month to life members celebrating by email and by snail mail to those without email.
- Forwarded messages from national life member liaison to honorary life members, provincial executive, diocesan life member liaisons and diocesan presidents.
- Forwarded requests for prayers for life members and families.
- Forwarded updates on the health of life members and families as notified.
- Offered Masses for deceased life members and/or their immediate family.
- Sent welcome letters to new life members.
- Requested new life members send a profile and photo for life member book.
- Updated the life member directory as required throughout the year.
- Advised life members, honorary life members, provincial executive, national life member liaison and national office of changes to directory as necessary.
- Updated some of the life member book.
- Hosted the life member luncheon at the provincial convention.
- Prepared an oral report for the life member luncheon.
- Organized a memento for life members attending the luncheon.
- Prepared and led the life member's memorial service for our deceased sisters at the provincial convention.
- Attended a diocesan life member luncheon as a guest.

### **Recommendations**

- That life members continue to share their talents whenever called upon, so that parish councils utilize life member enthusiasm in all aspects of League work.
- That a guideline manual be prepared for all life members.
- That life members continue to pray for CWL sisters and their families and for those sick and grieving.

## **Christian Family Life Standing Committee Report 2018**

Chairperson: Linda Squarzolo

Sub-chairpersons: Joanne Hough, Pat Weller

Dioceses reporting: 11/13

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### **Marriage and Family**

- Resources used were: CCCB website - Life and Family section (20%), "The Joy of Love at the Heart of the Family" (10%), "Prayers and Rituals for the Home" (5%), "Families on the Way of the Cross" (5%), "Pocket Prayer; For Parents (4%), laityfamilylife.va (2%), and Breaking the Silence of Being Barren (1%).
- Programs for family enrichment were used: marriage preparation courses (13%), programs for the happily married (5%), marriage encounter weekends (5%), natural family planning methods (4%), single parent families (3%), and parenting courses (2%).
- Some (21%) supported people suffering from domestic abuse: with masses, speakers, financial support for shelters and donations of clothing and toiletries.
- Attended workshops on family life (16%).
- Councils held events for: Mother's Day (36%), anniversaries (23%), Father's Day (19%), National Family Week (8%), and special masses for couples (6%).

### **Sanctity of Life**

- Councils belonged to pro-life groups (42%).
- Members participated in: Life Chain (57%), March for Life (38%), pro-life dinners (36%), pro-life masses (28%), pro-life walks (28%), 40 Days for Life (24%), pro-life vigils (14%).
- Councils made donations, had speakers, offered prayers, wrote letters and signed petitions.
- Support was given to: Birthright (31%), Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (30%), Pregnancy and Family Support Services (26%), Campaign Life Coalition (15%), Priests for Life (67%).
- Eight percent met with pro-life legislators.

### **Ministry to Youth**

- World Youth Day 2019 in Panama was promoted in parishes (14%).
- Programs for young people were offered (53%).
- Young people were encouraged to share their gifts in ministry (63%).
- Youth events and ministries sponsored: Sunday School (27%), summer camps (24%), NET Ministries (13%), World Youth Day (12%), leadership camps (10%), Steubenville (10%), youth conferences (9%), Catholic Christian Outreach (5%), youth festivals (4%), Girl Guides (4%).
- Councils also supported: choirs, local events, parish groups, altar servers, missions, foundations and bursaries.
- Subscriptions were purchased for Catholic materials (24%).



## **Ministry to the Disabled**

- Members invited disabled persons to take part in liturgical celebrations (32%).
- Organized support for caregivers (17%).
- Urged communities to make churches and all buildings more accessible (29%).
- Supported shelters or programs to assist the disabled (34%).
- Councils reached out to the disabled: prayed (67%), brought communion (63%), visited or called (61%), sent cards (54%), provided transportation (35%), gifts (32%), organized special events (8%).
- Gifted CWL memberships, prayer shawls, and food.

## **Ministry to Seniors**

- Members brought communion (78%), visited (71%), involved them in CWL events (70%), gifted with memberships (55%), sent cards of encouragement (54%), called (53%), prayed with them (52%), provided transportation (48%), organized social events (30%), shared a meal (20%), initiated social programs (18%) and wrote letters for advocacy.
- Gave cards, gifts, prayer shawls and clothing for shut ins.

## **Ministry to Widowed**

- Sent cards of condolence (71%), arranged memorial services/funeral lunches (57%), offered prayer and support for loss of spouse (52%), invited widows to meetings/events (48%), visited (46%), called (41%) and invited them to parish involvement (27%), parish bereavement program (11%), family outings (9%) and gave them prayer shawls (18%).

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

- Two percent of councils sponsored presentations on the annulment process.
- Some gave time to be a confidant (11%), invited to join outings (8%), access to counselling/support services (4%), and babysitting services (1%).
- Asked how the League could help them feel more welcome (4%).

## **Vocations**

- Four percent have read "The Gift of Priestly Vocations".
- Vocations were supported with: spiritual bouquets (61%), prayers (52%), seminarian support (35%), masses (22%), luncheons (18%), retirement funds (16%), Serra (13%), guest speakers (13%), travelling chalice/crucifix (11%), receptions, donations to Bishop Pappin Fund.
- Members invited priest into their homes (12%) and held discussions with children (9%).

## **Chairperson's Activities Report**

- Attended provincial meetings and diocesan, provincial and national conventions.
- Prepared reports, directives and newsletter submissions.
- Gave presentations at seminaries about the League and Bishop Pappin bursary.
- Represented provincial council at diocesan conventions bringing greetings and giving a workshop.
- Was a member of the resolutions review committee.

## **Communications Standing Committee Report 2018**

Chairperson: Marie-Theresa Lamphier

Sub-chairpersons: Lisa Henry, Mary Ellen Villeneuve

Number of Dioceses Reporting: 13 / 13

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### ***The Canadian League Magazine***

- *The Canadian League* magazine was rated very good by 104 councils (35%) as an educational tool and 95 felt it was a good resource for advocacy/action and for new ideas and a very good spiritual resource.

### **Media: for Evangelization**

- Faith oriented programs were promoted by 164 councils; and World Communication Day was promoted by 261 councils.
- Many councils (60) supported *The Catholic Register*.
- Many councils, (253) reported watching on cwl.ca the keynote speaker from the national convention.
- Most councils (165) encouraged members to visit CWL on Facebook or Twitter.

### **Media: to Promote the League**

- Most councils (249 or 84%) encouraged members to use cwl.ca for current information; 183 made use of local media and 230 used a telephone committee to invite members to events.
- Most councils (216) had a budget for publicity.
- Most councils (232) used e-mail to send out agendas or minutes.
- Top types of media used were the following: church bulletin – 93%, bulletin boards – 76%, email – 74%, bulletin inserts – 70%, posters 54%, and telephone committees – 50%.
- Thirty percent were able to rate the “Woman on a Mission” video from good to excellent; while 25% were able to rate “CWL’s Testimonial Video” as good or excellent.
- Many members were encouraged to visit national, provincial and diocesan websites on Website Wednesdays.

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

- Media content was monitored by 55% or 169 councils. Objection to “Mary Kills People” was acted upon by 41% or 127 councils.
- Only 48 councils (16%) spoke out against inappropriate content.

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

- Few councils (104) reported having a newsletter or had one which was prepared by the president (73%) or communication chairperson. About 69% councils published either annually or semi-annually. The newsletter was distributed via parish bulletin (49) or email (47).

- Ontario Provincial Council distributed their ON-Line newsletter monthly featuring a different committee chair and diocese each month of the year.
- Most dioceses had a newsletter which was distributed quarterly or twice yearly.

### **Media: Relations**

- Councils (153 or 50%) reported that they have reached out to the local media, by inviting them to events, sending material for publication, advertising, and sending thank you cards after an event.

### **Pornography**

- Many councils (122) reported having read newspaper articles to keep informed about the influence of pornography, while others (66) reviewed current legislation. The distribution of the Pornography Hurts postcard was done by 50% of the councils, and many councils (42) chose October as the month of choice. The films "Over 18" and "Red Light Green Light" were promoted. Seventeen information sessions were held by seven councils on Red Light Green Light. Few councils (12) viewed "fightthenewdrug.org".
- Only 121 councils or 39% reported knowing the various political platforms on pornography and human trafficking. Many councils were taking steps to educate their members.
- Some councils (75) contacted members of parliament on Resolution 2017-02 – Mandatory Age Verification, while many (156) encouraged members to become educated on internet safety; 114 councils made members aware of the lack of age verification controls; 70 monitored the federal government's response to this issue.
- Few acted on Resolution 2004-11, Link Between Violent, Graphic Imagery and Aggressive Behavior, but 139 encouraged members to educate themselves on responsible internet use for children.
- Many councils (156) viewed the new national website and 133 liked it and found it easy to navigate.

### **Chairperson's Report**

- Attended provincial executive meetings and provincial convention.
- Completed directives, reports and monthly ON-Line newsletter.
- Managed the OPC website and Facebook pages with daily postings.
- Promoted the study of Homelessness and encouraged councils to assist the homeless in some manner.
- Tracked the "Warmth and Comfort" project (socks, peanut butter and crackers) and posted pictures to the website as requested.

### **Recommendations**

- Encourage members to view the CWL website and Facebook, and read the ON-Line newsletter for up-to-date information.

## **Community Life Standing Committee Report 2018**

Chairperson: Joanna Sisk

Sub-chairpersons: Rosanne Sogan, Alice Uvanile

Dioceses Reporting: 13 / 13

Parish Councils Reporting: 301/532

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### **Dignity and Rights of Persons**

- Majority of councils were familiar with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Councils supported those suffering from homelessness, domestic violence, human trafficking, poverty, loneliness and racism with guest speakers, workshops, volunteering and donations.
- Workshops and speakers were invited to enhance relationships and understanding of Indigenous groups.
- Held awareness and educational presentations of human trafficking.

### **Social and Economic Justice**

- With a provincial focus on homelessness, councils participated in the Warmth and Comfort Program October 1st to December 31st, 2018 gifting: 37,465 pairs of socks, 2,812 jars of peanut butter and 2,896 boxes of crackers, to those who needed warmth and comfort. Councils responded very well to the provincial focus of homelessness through awareness and support.
- Members also supported people in need, either through prayer support, blessing bags, financial support and/or actions such as having volunteered at shelters, food banks, St. Vincent de Paul Stores, Habitat for Humanity, Take Back the Night Vigil (to stop violence against women), March for Life on Parliament Hill, Christmas hamper programs, Out of the Cold, Community Care, school breakfast and lunch programs, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, and prison ministry.
- Councils gifted students at Catholic schools with mitts, hats, and scarves.
- Members gave their time/financial support to emergency programs and local palliative care facilities, several Canadian Catholic missions, senior residences and Canadian Food for Children.
- Members throughout the province collected milk bags for mats, mitts, clothing, scarves, blankets food, money, pop tabs, and used stamps.
- Promoted the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), by distributing information and having speakers at meetings.
- Councils continued to review and monitor the following resolutions:
  - 2017.01 *Full Implementation of the Supreme Court Decision in R. v. Gladue for Indigenous Offenders*
  - 2013.01 *Building Relationships and Partnerships with Canada's Indigenous Peoples*
- Councils responded to the 2018 Canada Summer Jobs applications attestation (Res. 2018.01), through education of members and parishioners. Members wrote letters and visited MPPs and MPs to discuss these and other issues.

## **Refugees, Immigration and Citizenship**

- Councils participated in organized local events, hosting parish functions or attending citizenship court.
- Councils wrote letters to governments, had guest speakers and established outreach programs.
- Members joined sponsorship committees in parish and/or community.
- Members participated in Remembrance Day services, supported the poppy campaign and wore red on Fridays in support of Canadian troops and families.
- Councils sponsored and purchased items for refugee families.

## **Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace (CCODP or D&P)**

- Many members and councils supported the D&P campaign locally and through the League 1% program with donations, signing support cards and volunteering.
- Following investigation of the practices of several D&P partners, national CWL office released remitted funds before year end, at the suggestion of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and directed funds to partners which upheld Catholic values.
- Collection of funds at the national office continues to be suspended.

## **Developing Countries**

- Councils financially supported international and national organizations such as: *Chalice, Doctors Without Borders, Canadian Food for Children, Habitat for Humanity, Canadian Red Cross, Buy-A-Net, Operation Eyesight International, Samaritan's Purse, Save a Family Plan, World Vision Canada, and CNEWA.*

## **Chairperson's Activities Report**

- Attended provincial executive meetings.
- Attended diocesan, provincial and national conventions.
- Prepared directives for diocesan community life chairs with focus on homelessness in Ontario.
- Forwarded information to national community life chairs.
- Presented talks on homelessness.

## **Recommendations**

- That the attention of all 532 councils is needed for the Annual Report Survey.

## **Education and Health Standing Committee Report 2018**

Chairperson: Wilma Vanderzwaag

Sub-chairpersons: Mary Lou Watson, Heather Sisk

Number of Dioceses Reporting: 13 / 13

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### **Catholic Education**

#### **(i) Catholic Schools and Catechesis**

- Most (81%) reporting councils in Ontario were informed about the quality and availability of Catholic religious instruction in our Catholic schools and parishes. Most (58%) parish councils were aware of family life programs in our Catholic school system. Both percentages have decreased since 2017 annual report statistics.
- Almost all (98%) parish councils had a relationship with their feeder schools. They were involved with breakfast and lunch programs, supervision, reading/tutoring, nutrition programs, funding and supervision for school trips and school supplies. A large number of councils have reached out to their feeder schools and asked what their needs were and the best way their council could assist. All found this approach created great dialogue.

#### **(ii) Rites of Christian Initiation**

- Every diocese had members personally involved in RCIA programs.
- Almost all (98%) councils were involved in preparation for Baptism, Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Notable events: Councils hosted retreats for First Holy Communion participants as well as receptions for Baptism and Confirmation.

### **Literacy and Continuing Education**

- Some (25%) encouraged members to tutor and promote literacy skills.

### **Scholarships and Bursaries**

- Most (76%) councils reported scholarships for graduating elementary and high school students.
- Some (20%) councils contributed to the Coady International Institute.
- Some (16.5%) councils contributed and promoted the National Bursary Fund.
- Some (41) councils donated to the Bishop Bernard F Pappin Memorial Bursary Fund.

### **Wellness and Sickness/Disease**

- Most (54%) councils became more aware of mental health issues through presentations, pamphlets and speakers.
- Most (81%) councils participated in various ways in the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care.
- Councils shared information regarding improved health for persons without a home when proper housing obtained, as well as other health related issues.
- All councils supported national and community organizations that focus on health and wellness of Canadians.

## **Environment**

- Nine of 13 dioceses had councils participate in International Earth Hour Vigil on March 25, 2018.
- Six of 13 dioceses had councils study and act on:  
Resolution 2018.2: Setting a Standard for Products Marketed as Flushable.
- Every council kept informed through education and action on eliminating use of plastic water bottles, Styrofoam cups and one time use of plastics.
- A few councils participated in roadside and community cleanup days.

## **Genetics**

- Some (37%) councils rated themselves from fair, good or very good on their knowledge with regards to the advantages and disadvantages of technological development with considerations of the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Thirteen parish councils in Ontario received the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute newsletter, *Bioethics Matters*.

## **Chairperson's Activities Report**

- Attended the Centre for Clinical Ethics Annual Conference - Putting Care into Mental Health Care on November 2, 2018 in Toronto and prepared report.
- Prepared province-wide questionnaire for members regarding long-term and palliative care concerns/issues. Compiled information and prepared report for Ontario Provincial Council members to present at government visit.
- Attended provincial convention and prepared report.
- Attended provincial executive meetings and submitted required reports.
- Prepared directives and *ON-Line Newsletter* submissions.
- Shared information received from national counterpart, sub-committee chairs and the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute (CCBI).
- Prepared information under this committee for provincial focus on homelessness.
- Prepared information under this committee for national focus on mental health.

## **Recommendations**

- That councils continue to educate and inform on issues including brain health, nutrition needs/changes, fitness, loneliness, "ageism", climate change and plastics.
- That councils be encouraged to subscribe to the free newsletters from the CCBI.
- That members without an education and health chair be encouraged to go to diocesan and provincial websites to read directives and stay current.

## **Legislation Standing Committee Report 2018**

Chairperson: Karen McDonald

Sub-chairpersons: Carol Richer, Sue Lubowitz

Dioceses Reporting: 13/13

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*This report includes information from 512 respondents in the online reporting.*

### **Monitor and Study Legislation at All Levels of Government**

- Most (98%) of respondents knew the names of their municipal and provincial government representatives, 93% knew the names of their federal government representatives, and over half received mailings from them.
- The majority had knowledge of government issues being discussed at all levels.

*A majority of members had some knowledge or were aware of the following:*

#### **Federal Bills:**

- **Bill C-38** An Act to amend the *Criminal Code* (exploitation and trafficking in persons)
- **Bill C-277** Framework on Palliative Care in Canada Act
- **Bill C-418** Protection of Freedom of Conscience Act
- **Bill S-228** Child Health Protection Act (prohibiting food and beverage marketing directed at children)

#### **Provincial Bills:**

- **Bill 33** Compassionate Care Act, 2018
- **Bill 56** Keeping Students Safe on School Buses Act (Highway Traffic Amendment), 2018
- **Bill 63** Right to Timely Mental Health and Addiction Care for Children and Youth Act, 2018

*Members acted upon these (and other) national and provincial resolutions:*

- **2017.04** Protection from Coercion of Conscience for Healthcare Professionals
- **2018.03** Legislate Designation of Hospice/Palliative Care Services in Facilities to Exclude Medical Assistance in Dying
- **ON.18.01** Develop National Standards for Levels of Pharmaceuticals in Canada's Drinking Water
- **ON.18.02** Immediate Implementation of *Income Security: A Roadmap for Change* for Ontarians with a Disability

### ***Other Actions Taken by Members***

- Participated in the *Call for Conscience Campaign* in February of 2018.
- Read Private Member's Motion M-147 - Special Committee on Homelessness.
- Attended public forums (MAiD, municipal election candidates meeting, town hall meeting on crime, Greenbelt expansion) and brought information back.



## **Briefs and Position Papers**

- Members became informed on League's position on issues of concern and implemented action plans.
- Members visited provincial/national websites; 24% accessed Hansard printed records of federal government proceedings.

## **Chairperson's Activities Report**

- Researched and shared information on: new attestation requirements for 2018 Canada Summer Jobs Program; Amendments to O. Reg. 79/10 under *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007* (re-uniting spouses); Bill 33 – Compassionate Care Act, 2018; Bill C-254, An Act to amend the *Excise Tax Act* (baby products); Bill C-282, An Act to amend the *Excise Tax Act* and the *Income Tax Act* (extra-energy-efficient products); Bills C-283/C-287, An Act to amend the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (electronic products recycling program and nanotechnology); Bill C-313, National Strategy on Advertising to Children Act; Bill C-249, An Act to amend *Public Health Agency of Canada Act* (National Alzheimer Office); and Bill C-350, An Act to amend the *Criminal Code* and *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (trafficking/transplanting human organs, other body parts).
- Updated the status of: Bill C-211, Federal Framework on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Act; Bill C-277, Framework on Palliative Care in Canada Act; Bill C-243, National Maternity Assistance Program Strategy Act; Bill S-228, Child Health Protection Act; Bill S-225, An Act to amend the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*; Bill S-5, An Act to amend the *Tobacco Act* and the *Non-smokers' Health Act*; and Bill C-45, Cannabis Act.
- Reminded members of opportunity to share their views with government concerning palliative care to help develop a framework on palliative care.
- Forwarded Action Plan for Resolution 2018.03 - Legislate Designation of Hospice/Palliative Care Services in Facilities to Exclude MAiD.
- Encouraged members to be informed and to vote in 42nd Ontario election.
- Attended executive meetings, diocesan, provincial, national conventions.
- Prepared reports, directives, and submissions to *ON-Line Newsletter*.
- Forwarded updates from national legislation chairperson.
- Prepared *Scavenger Hunt* homelessness project (27 councils participated).
- Monitored government websites, Hansard, newspapers, media sources.
- After election, brought attention to: Bill 13, Time to Care Act, 2018; Bills 58/59, Family Caregiver Day Act/Caregiver Recognition Act, 2018; Bill 63, Right to Timely Mental Health, Addiction Care for Children and Youth, 2018.
- Reviewed/assisted with resolutions presentation at provincial convention.
- Attended meetings at the Legislature as member of provincial delegation.

## **Recommendations**

- That legislation and letter-writing workshops be held at diocesan conventions to educate members and generate interest.
- That councils be encouraged to keep 'legislation' on all meeting agendas.

## **Resolutions Standing Committee Report 2018**

Chairperson: Colleen Martin

Dioceses Reporting: 12/13

Resolutions Reading Committee: Colleen Martin, Moira Matthews, Jolene Kemp, Bernadette Burgess, Shirley George, Jeannie Coleman

Resolutions Review Committee: Colleen Martin, Karen McDonald, Linda Squarzolo, Anne Madden, Colleen Perry, Pauline Krupa, Roger Lawler (ACBO), Archbishop Brendan O'Brien

Government Visit Committee: Anne Madden, Pauline Krupa, Colleen Perry, Colleen Martin, Karen McDonald

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

- Several councils studied topics with intent to prepare resolutions on: children experiencing mental health issues, human trafficking, abortion and the effects on mental health, equal access to permanent resident status for religious workers, developing a parish-based family education program, requesting the Canadian government study the effects of hormonal contraceptives, requesting the Canadian government to sign United Nations treaty to ban nuclear weapons, and recommending someone for beatification.
- Training or workshops were provided at various levels to assist resolution chairs with their duties.
- Members were encouraged to take action on the resolutions approved at the provincial convention which included:
  - ON.18.01 Develop National Standards for Levels of Pharmaceuticals in Canada's Drinking Water
  - ON.18.02 Immediate Implementation of *Income Security: A Roadmap for Change* for Ontarians with a Disability
  - ON.18.03 To Fully Implement Alternative Sentencing to Incarceration of Indigenous Offenders

### **Study and Implementation of Resolutions Passed by Other Levels**

- The majority of councils studied the 2018, and previous, resolutions in order to take recommended action and/or to share information provided in communiqués from counterparts at other levels.
- Various methods were used to raise awareness including parish bulletins, newsletters, emails, making members aware at meetings, creating scavenger hunts, participating in organized demonstrations with League members, organizing Call for Conscience campaign in parish, arranging for speakers, using biodegradable or reusable cutlery and plates/bowls, and encouraging the signing of petitions and letter writing to the federal and/or provincial government.
- The topics studied and action taken on were:
  - levels of pharmaceuticals in Canada's drinking water
  - alternative sentencing to incarceration of Indigenous offenders
  - poverty

- Call for Conscience campaign
- Canada Summer Jobs Attestation
- homelessness
- Development and Peace
- Pornography Hurts campaign
- flushable items
- hospice/palliative care to exclude medical assistance in dying (MAiD)
- income security for Ontarians with disabilities
- taxation of child safety restraints
- plastics
- amendments to the Assisted Human Reproduction Act
- implementation of Gladue reports in corrections
- protection of conscience rights for health care providers
- licensing and regulation for the use of four-wheelers by youth
- medication and food labelling
- Canada Food Guide
- use of micro-beads in products

## **Chairperson's Activities Report**

- Prepared directives, urgent bulletins and reports as required by provincial guidelines.
- Submitted articles for the *ON-Line Newsletter*.
- Attended fall and winter meetings of the Ontario Provincial Council.
- Developed a refined presentation for the resolution dialogue at annual convention.
- Attended the Ontario Provincial Council annual meeting facilitating the resolutions dialogue and resolution sessions during the business agenda.
- Facilitated a government visit to the Ontario legislature including a breakfast reception, and visits with two opposition critics and a minister's executive assistant.
- Supported diocesan resolution chairs through email and teleconferences.

## **Recommendations**

- Since many parish councils do not have a resolutions or legislation chair, in several dioceses more than half, encourage the parish president and other standing committees to share information regularly.
- Hold annual workshops on resolutions at various levels to encourage additional participation in the resolution process.
- Councils should consider meeting with their local/regional politicians annually to discuss topics of concern.
- Encourage councils to access Hansard, the printed record of the proceedings of the federal government, as most are not aware of this resource.

## **Past President/Historian's Report 2018**

Chairperson: Pauline Krupa

Dioceses Reporting: 13 / 13

Archiving Review Committee Members: Georgina Bourke, Anna Brady, Betty Colaneri, Janice Krupa, Ethel O'Brien, Rosanne Sogan, and Mary Wilson

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### **Serve in a Consultative Capacity**

Past presidents in Ontario:

- Most attended council meetings regularly (94%) and were ready to mentor and provide advice when asked.
- A small percentage filled a vacant role on the executive for a variety of reasons; many have chaired projects / fund raisers in the parish or community.
- Were called upon at least monthly (32%) as need arose (64%).
- Felt their position is respected and appreciated and were a benefit to presidents and executive members (91%).

### **Be Responsible for Archives and History**

To ensure the preservation of League history, historians:

- Maintained, reviewed and kept current the council's history / archives (80%).
- Others reported a person was appointed to keep their history current.
- Reported archived materials are kept indefinitely (43%); and some reported materials kept for up to eight years (57%).
- Most (95%) kept a history or labeled albums.
- Were aware of where the council charter was kept (89%).
- Reported materials such as minute books, important reports, photo albums, scrapbooks, CDs, memory sticks were stored in the parish hall; the majority used filing cabinets, totes and/or banker's boxes (80%).
- Ensured the Book of Life was current, (79%) helping the person responsible.
- Kept lists of past executives with highlights from each term (39%); kept list of pins and awards recipients (63%); and maintained a history book (51%).
- Reviewed archived materials as needed (84%). Rarely were materials culled.
- Drew on archives for reports and newsletters to bring diocesan history to members.
- Reviewed the diocesan archival materials to ensure they were up to date.

### **Facilitate the Study and Implementation of the *Constitution & Bylaws 2013***

Past presidents in Ontario reported:

- High percentage of councils had copies of the *Constitutions and Bylaws 2013* (95%), policy and procedure manuals and other resources.
- Parish councils had their own policy and procedure manual (62%) and were reviewed whenever policies need changing (54%).
- Some sought advice at higher levels (46%).
- Regular visits to the national and provincial websites were encouraged.
- Supported the implementation of the envisioned future of the League through *Planning Strategically 2018 – 2022* (60%) by attending workshops, completing surveys, as members of sub-committee.

## **Diocesan Highlights**

- Supported *Planning Strategically* by facilitating information sessions at parish, regional and diocesan levels.
- Supported projects re provincial sub-theme of homelessness.
- Oversaw elections as per policy and procedure; encouraged members to step up into leadership positions; mentored them as requested.
- Planned and supported fund-raising events for a variety of purposes.
- Some diocesan historians have researched ways to best keep archived materials secure. Some scanned and kept records in digital format, some used the "cloud"; most strove to keep history current.
- One diocese created an Archives Retention Summary Guide for diocesan and parish councils as well as a handbook for new presidents.
- Past presidents in one newly amalgamated diocese have connected with women in Moosonee, the most northern region of their diocese and continue to support them in a variety of ways.

## **Historian's Activities Report**

- Attended meetings and completed reports and directives as required.
- Attended diocesan, provincial and national conventions.
- Facilitated workshops at diocesan and provincial levels as requested.
- Provided help and responded to questions when asked.
- Visited archives to plan next steps; presentation made to administration committee outlining plans and budget moving forward.
- Set up an archiving committee to assist with archival process.
- Worked with the committee on two occasions for five days on site to cull and update files; now stored in approved archival boxes.
- Began process for provincial elections 2019 (on-going).
- Completed term of Planning Strategically Steering Committee with final presentation at national convention (2018).
- Prepared a workshop for national office entitled *Guiding Principles to Our Envisioned Future*.

## **Recommendations**

- Keep members current with the implantation stage of the strategic plan. Do not allow members to be discouraged ... keep positive!
- Set up a committee to review archival materials. Ask the question, "Is this necessary to tell our story?" If yes, store it appropriately. If no, recycle.
- As mentor, encourage and support your future leaders.

## **Administrative Assistant Report 2018**

Administrative Assistant: Stephanie Spinelli

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### **Joint Secretaries Annual Report Survey**

- Of the 531 parish councils in Ontario, 375 (70.62%) completed the On-line Annual Report Survey 2018.
- Almost 71% or 264 of these parishes participated in the Joint Secretaries Annual Report Summary.
- Approximately 32% of the reporting councils have a corresponding secretary.
- In 28% one person assumes both recording and corresponding secretary responsibilities.
- In 3% of the parishes the position is vacant.
- Less than half (38%) of parishes have both a recording and corresponding secretary.
- Most (76%) parishes have a copy of the *Handbook for Secretaries* on hand.
- About half of corresponding secretaries (51%) have a copy of the *CWL Personal Letter Writing Guide*.
- Nearly 60% notify membership of upcoming meetings and events... by parish bulletin (71%), email (54%), telephone (39%), other methods (9.71%).
- Almost 76% provide a list of all incoming and outgoing correspondence for each meeting.
- At each meeting 83% of corresponding secretaries read the correspondence.
- Nearly 60% of secretaries sent out occasion cards such as anniversary, sympathy cards, etc., (assumed by a variety of others in remaining councils).

### **Administrative Assistant's Activities Report**

- Attended to OPC correspondence...sympathy and get-well cards, congratulatory letters, thank you cards, anniversary certificates, birthday certificates as requested by the provincial president.
- Attended all executive meetings of the Ontario Provincial Council and prepared a written report and a report summary for each meeting.
- Prepared binder of all correspondence sent and received for circulation at executive meetings.
- Forwarded executive reports and pertinent information to members of the executive prior to meetings.
- Prepared folders for each executive member for supplementary meeting reports.
- Prepared meeting space with updated name plates and seating plan for executive meetings.

- Maintained and circulated updated committee lists for provincial officers, diocesan presidents, spiritual advisors, life members and national officers.
- Sent letters of invitation to provincial convention, on behalf of provincial president, to honorary life members, past provincial presidents, life members, Ontario bishops, speakers, dignitaries and vendors.
- Prepared and submitted annual report.
- Prepared the *Call to Convention 2018*.
- Mailed or emailed the *OPC Annual Report 2017* as per provincial policy.
- Attended diocesan, provincial and national conventions.
- Prepared two directives for diocesan corresponding secretaries.
- Sent OPC Christmas greetings to honorary life members, past provincial presidents, life members, bishops of Ontario and the national office staff.
- Responded to numerous requests by telephone and email.
- Reviewed material in *OPC Manual of Policy and Procedure*, *OPC Guidelines* and *Guide to Hosting a Provincial Convention*. Submitted suggested amendments.

## **Recommendations**

- That the *Handbook for Secretaries* be updated to reflect greater focus on the use of technology and social media for distribution of news/information.
- That councils provide the resource material required for this position. Materials may be obtained from the provincial and national websites.
- That consideration be given to providing information/workshops for parish corresponding secretaries re: a) personal letter writing b) developing and maintaining an electronic distribution list c) use of electronic greeting cards.

## **Recording Secretary's Report 2018**

Recording Secretary: Mary Capobianco

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### **Recording Secretary's Activities Report**

As recording secretaries, we have the privilege of preserving our council's history and retaining a permanent record of all meetings, acting as signing authority for all official documents and being responsible for preparing reports and directives as required.

The following activities have been performed in fulfilling these duties in 2018:

- Attended administration committee and executive meetings of the Ontario Provincial Council.
- Prepared and distributed notes pertaining to administration committee meetings.
- Recorded, prepared and distributed minutes of the pre-convention meeting, the 71st annual provincial convention and the post-convention meeting.
- Recorded, prepared and distributed minutes and motions for all Ontario Provincial Council executive meetings.
- Appointed minute review committee members in consultation with the president for all executive meetings and the convention.
- Distributed notice of meetings and meeting agendas to Ontario Provincial Council executive members prior to all executive meetings.
- Requested summary reports from the executive members.
- Responded to requests from diocesan counterparts for information relating to the role of the recording secretary.
- Prepared two directives for the diocesan recording secretaries.
- In anticipation of the national theme *Care for Our Common Home* –researched the impact of ink and toner printer cartridges on the environment.
- Updated the provincial elections register, prepared mailing labels and forwarded to the chairperson of elections.
- Reviewed materials and signed cheques as required.

### **Recommendations**

- That secretaries become familiar with *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 11<sup>th</sup> Edition* and *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised In Brief*.
- That councils at all levels have a motions book where all motion lists are stored. This book should be brought to all meetings for reference.
- That diocesan councils offer a workshop for recording secretaries based on information contained in the *Handbook for Secretaries, the National Manual of Policy and Procedure* and *Robert's Rules of Order - The Role of the Secretary*.



## **Treasurer's Report 2018**

Treasurer: Patricia M. Rivest

Diocesan Councils Reporting: 13/13

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### **Annual Report Survey**

Information gathered from reporting forms:

- Three hundred and seventy-six (376) councils reported.
- Four (4) councils more reported than 2017 report.
- Almost all (91%) councils had a copy of the *Guidelines for Treasurers* in their files.
- Councils used cheque books, deposit books, receipts, computer software, accounting ledgers, Excel spreadsheets as recording means of the council finances.
- The bulk of membership fees were paid in November, December, January and February.
- Most (81%) council treasurers assisted the organization chairperson in remitting the membership fees to national.
- Bake sales, lottery/raffle, funeral luncheons, dinners, fashion shows, various seasonal bazaars, craft shows, etc., were undertaken as fundraising initiatives.
- Fundraising money was donated to local parishes, local charities, subsidies for conventions, subsidies for members to attend workshops, as well as other numerous organizations where the money was generously donated.
- Several councils had a petty cash fund.
- Ninety-four percent of councils paid all accounts by cheque. If a small amount was required, it was paid by petty cash.
- Almost 100% of councils required two of three signatures on every cheque.
- Many (66%) councils prepared an annual budget that was presented to the membership for approval in January and/or February – increase of 4%.
- Almost all (95%) councils reconciled accounts to bank statements monthly.
- Most (94%) councils presented a financial statement at general meetings.
- Many (57%) councils had their financial books examined annually by someone with a financial/accounting background.
- Almost all (98%) councils retained all financial records for five years.

### **Treasurer's Activities Report**

The following activities were performed:

- Prepared and presented the 2019 budget.
- Processed cheques, deposits and correspondence to acknowledge receipt of all donations.
- Maintained the financial ledger.
- Prepared annual report for national secretary-treasurer.
- Prepared directives and reports as well as articles for the *ON-Line Newsletter*.
- Attended financial institutions to review GICs.
- Prepared updated financial reports for all executive meetings.
- Reconciled CWL membership for the province of Ontario.
- Arranged travel, accommodations and meals for the executive to attend executive meetings, workshops, special meetings, provincial and national conventions.

- Prepared all financial information to be delivered to the auditing firm.
- Met with auditing firm to review the financial annual report.
- Ensured that financial statements were forwarded to the voting and accredited delegates 21 days prior to the annual convention.

## **Recommendations**

- That emphasis be placed on the preparation and managing of a yearly budget.
- That all councils are encouraged to participate and/or plan a treasurer's workshop, every two (2) years.
- That diocesan and parish councils should apply for provincial and national development funds to promote leadership training to all members.
- That all councils ensure that treasurers (parish and diocesan) have resource material required for their position. Resource material may be obtained by accessing the national website.

## **HOMELESSNESS**

- All provincial officers promoted the provincial homelessness project through their directives and the ON-Line Newsletter.
- At provincial convention members listened to speakers from Palliative Education and Care for the Homeless (PEACH) and were invited to attend two workshops:
  - Covenant House - A homeless youth shelter that provides a range of services including education, counselling, health care and employment assistance.
  - Homeshare - A home provider offers accommodation to a housemate in exchange for an agreed level of help.
  - Ontario 211 - A telephone helpline (2-1-1) and website which provides a gateway to community, social, non-clinical health and related government services
  - Saint Elizabeth Homecare - "Journey Home Hospice" - a new hospice offering flexible care suited to the unique and complex needs of the homeless.
  - Sistering - Provides information and referrals to housing, education, health care, therapists and much more.
  - St. Vincent de Paul - An organization whose mission is to live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.
- At the provincial convention, members brought \$15,154.50 in \$5 Tim Horton and McDonald cards to be distributed to the homeless throughout the province.
- Many dioceses and parishes had projects and speakers on various aspects of being homeless.
- The Ontario Comfort and Warmth Project resulted in the collection of 2,812 jars of peanut butter, 2,896 boxes/packages of crackers and 37,465 pairs of socks.

*~ Congratulations for the compassion each one of you showed for the homeless. ~*



**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA**  
**ONTARIO DONATIONS SUMMARY 2018**

Treasurer: Patricia M Rivest  
 Dioceses Reporting: 13/13

The members in Ontario have willingly and generously donated to many causes and organizations as listed in the various committee reports. Roughly one-third of your donations went to local parishes. Thank you for these donations that glorify God and show your love and compassion for others.

<b>DONATIONS RECEIVED</b>	<b>\$ Totals</b>
<b>National Voluntary Funds</b>	
Coady International Institute	<b>8,686.</b>
Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace	<b>20,539.</b>
Catholic Missions in Canada	<b>46,870.</b>
Catholic Near East Welfare Association	<b>7,270.</b>
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (until August 18, 2020)	<b>10,234.</b>
National Bursary Fund	<b>1,975.</b>
<b>National Voluntary Fund Sub-total</b>	<b>95,574.</b>
<b>Standing Committees</b>	
Spiritual Development	<b>135,146.</b>
Organization	<b>130,982.</b>
Christian Family Life	<b>152,336.</b>
Community Life	<b>400,032.</b>
Education and Health	<b>221,418.</b>
Communications	<b>23,085.</b>
<b>Standing Committees Sub-total</b>	<b>1,062,999</b>
<b>All Donations</b>	
National Voluntary Fund Sub-total	<b>95,574.</b>
Standing Committees Sub-total	<b>1,062,999.</b>
Parish Donations	<b>727,924.</b>
Other Donations	<b>23,041.</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,909,538.</b>

Signature: Patricia M. Rivest  
 Date: March 2019





















## **Alexandria-Cornwall Diocesan Council Report 2018**

President: Lynn Pomainville

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Dan Van Delst

Members: 623

Councils: 9

Life Members: 9

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- Being a proud member of the Cornwall Service Club and being chosen to host the annual banquet, this kicked off the year on an awesome note.
- Hosted a fund raiser called the Love of Chocolate which will now be a diocesan event to help cover the cost of future provincial convention.
- We sponsored meals at the Agora Centre which entitled us to recognition as Hunger Heroes!
- Each parish chose an hour to pray during "The 12 Hours of Prayer". Those members who were able for the last hour met at one location for a Mass for Hospice and Palliative Care.
- We invited a gentleman by the name of Stephen Thompson to our spring retreat, held in a beautiful retreat home called Shalom House. Stephen gave a testimony on his personal experiences on being homeless, a speech that was very emotion-filled and touching.
- All parishes reported individual fundraisers where donations were made to local food banks, nursing homes and shelters for the homeless.
- We had an essay contest again this year which involved the Grade 6 students of the diocese. This year the question asked was: "What does my (a) priest do outside of the church." What an amazing contest this turns out to be every year. The essays were simply amazing! The winner was invited to attend our annual diocesan convention to read the winning essay and received a plaque and \$100. One of the schools feeling that an essay was not their thing switched this up a bit and had an invite from the parish priest to spend an afternoon in the church talking and naming different parts of the church. The kids reported having such an awesome day!
- From Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) Canada, we invited members Melody Gabriel and Kristen Klein as guest speakers at our fall general meeting. What joy and enthusiasm they had.
- The year ended on an awesome note at our Advent retreat with our very own diocesan spiritual advisor as our guest speaker.
- In all, the diocese enjoys guidance from provincial and national directives with awesome themes!

## **Hamilton Diocesan Council Report 2018**

President: Joan Schurter  
Members: 8,547  
Life Members: 12

Spiritual Advisor: Rev. John Redmond  
Councils: 99  
Regions: 4

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- Members of Hamilton Diocesan CWL truly were Inspired by the Spirit, Women Responding to God's Call shown by their active participation in service to their parishes, the poor, the sick, the homeless and the needy.
- The members engaged in Ontario Provincial's Warmth and Comfort project and successfully collected 10,523 pairs of socks, 180 jars of peanut butter and 149 boxes of crackers.
- The 98<sup>th</sup> annual diocesan convention was held at the Delta, Guelph with keynote speakers Father Michael King, Hamilton Diocesan Vocations Director speaking on his response to God's Call and Joe Mancini from the Working Centre, a non-profit community-based venture that provides access to tools and opportunities to build community projects in Kitchener-Waterloo, in particular for the homeless. National President Margaret Ann Jacobs facilitated a presentation on Strategic Planning.
- Seven councils watched the 2018 national convention speakers on cwl.ca by live feed.
- Many councils held workshops on Strategic Planning to familiarize themselves with the goals and objectives planned over the next five years.
- We celebrated our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Vocations Mass at Immaculate Conception, Formosa in collaboration with the Serra Club and the Knights of Columbus. Four seminarians received bursaries from the Hamilton Diocesan Our Lady of Good Counsel Bursary Fund.
- Many parish councils celebrated significant anniversaries and the diocesan executive were honoured to participate in these celebrations.
- Hamilton Diocesan CWL continued to show leadership in promoting "Pornography Hurts" campaign reaching out to our partners, the Knights of Columbus to be more actively involved and supportive.
- Our four regions held spring and fall regional meetings at which time information was disseminated.
- Councils once again prayerfully embraced 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care in their parishes.

## **Hearst-Moosonee Diocesan Council Report 2018**

President: Lorraine Cusson Arnold    Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Praveen Sangabathuni

Members: 263

Councils: 6

Life Members: 9

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- Parish councils participated in the "12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care" on May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- A memorial service for deceased members was held in November.
- As this was an election year, a new executive with a full slate of officers was installed after the elections.
- Saint Patrick Council (Kapuskasung) and Holy Name of Jesus Council (Hornepayne) hosted the diocesan convention (May 2018) in Kapuskasing focusing on Mary, homelessness and the unborn.
- Colleen Perry, Ontario Provincial President-Elect/Organization Chair gave a testimonial on her Catholic Women's League journey and the reasons why we do what we do. Why Me? Pauline Krupa, Ontario Provincial Past President/Historian, presented a workshop on Strategic Planning where the members formed groups and had discussions. Keynote speaker Brenda Christie, Family Violence Counsellor, Habitat Interlude, explained the abuse and housing situation for families in her area.
- At our fall executive meeting Bishop Robert Bourgon spoke on different types of homelessness: real needs vs. wants, not just about having a roof over our head as you can have a roof but not feel at home. Father Praveen Sangabathuni spoke on homelessness in India where there are 10 million street children with no sense of belonging.
- A project was initiated under a committee called "Sisters Together in Christ". The project is directed at building friendship and a bond with the women in the Diocese of Moosonee which has been amalgamated with Hearst to form Hearst-Moosonee Diocese.
- Homelessness was embraced as councils collected clothing, provided monetary donations, donated perishable and non-perishable food to food banks in their communities, offered companionship and prayers.
- Five members attended Ontario provincial convention in Toronto.
- One member attended national convention in Winnipeg.
- Lynn Olenik and Genevieve Sexton of Saint Theresa's Council, Geraldton, became life members.

## **Kingston Diocesan Council Report 2018**

President: Maureen Vincentine

Spiritual Advisor: Rev. Dale Wright

Members: 2,963

Honorary Life Members: 1

Councils: 45

Life Members: 14

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- Our Development Day, in the spring of 2018, was a day devoted to preparing and updating parish council policy and procedure manuals.
- Councils again participated in the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care in May. Some councils joined with neighbouring councils.
- Members have continued to respond with enthusiasm to the provincial theme of homelessness. At both our winter and fall diocesan executive meetings, speakers presented on the issues of homelessness in our diocese and province. Councils initiated projects in their own communities to help the homeless and were very generous in their support of the provincial Comfort and Warmth initiative.
- At our convention, Providence Care, Kingston, sent a team of presenters who work with the homeless. They presented different views of the care needed in our community. Provincial President Anne Madden led a mentoring workshop which was very much appreciated. Stephanie Spinelli was awarded life membership.
- In the fall we enjoyed a workshop on Women in the Bible based on a quiz that was shared at the OPC meeting. Everyone brought a bible. Scripture references were used to promote discussion on favourite women, qualities and faith.
- A strategic planning workshop was presented by Nancy Richer, Margie Royle and Maureen Vincentine.
- We were saddened by the death of Life Member Mary Huffman.
- Preparations had begun for the provincial convention 2019 which will be held in Kingston.
- Members continued to value the friendships and support of the League. They appreciated working together, supporting each other in faith, fun and fulfilment.



## **London Diocesan Council Report 2018**

President: Rebecca McCarrell

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Gregory Bonin

Members: 10,600

Councils: 95

Life Members: 9

Regions: 7

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- London Diocesan CWL had a busy and exciting year supporting homelessness, and educating members on the Call for Conscience campaign, Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) legislation, and euthanasia prevention. Members were reminded that with these issues, our voice is brought to the legislature at the provincial level and parliament at the national level, and they can be used as a catalyst for recruiting younger membership as their interest is more focused on current issues facing families today.
- On February 17, 2018, Holy Trinity Parish Council in Woodstock hosted with style our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Lenten Retreat. This day of reflection was led by Deacon Don McCullough, permanent deacon at Holy Trinity, Woodstock.
- The 98<sup>th</sup> Annual London Diocesan Convention was held the end of April in London. Our theme centered on homelessness and was championed by “Chuck”, a passionate young lady who began working with the homeless while a student at the University of Western Ontario (2001). That summer, a group of youth activists and homeless individuals formed a tent city in a downtown park to raise public awareness of a desperate situation. This project is now called the Unity Project – a shelter service. Marianne Blonde spoke about “Women Initiating Change” and Development & Peace. Colleen Perry presented a wonderful workshop on membership. Elections took place, and our time closed with a beautiful Mass.
- Sister Joan Atkinson facilitated a two-day retreat on Pope Francis’ encyclical, *Laudato Si’*. All attendees were enriched with her presentation. This yearly retreat happens at the Holy Family Retreat House in Oxley, a most peaceful place.
- We brought our Tim Horton gift cards to the provincial convention in July and were humbled by the support of such a project. Many of the cards were given out within our own diocese.
- The CWL Day at the Shrine retreat was facilitated by our own Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Greg Bonin. Another place of peace within our diocese: Our Lady of the Rosary Diocesan Shrine at St. Patrick’s, Merlin.
- Our fall regional meetings were held in three areas of the diocese, having over 100 in attendance at each location. Presentations were made by Farmtown Canada, focusing on human trafficking along the 400 highways (Kelly Franklin). Several workshops were also presented.
- Our year ended with Advent teas being celebrated throughout the diocese.

## **Ottawa Diocesan Council Report 2018**

President: Onagh Dooley

Spiritual Advisors: Rev. Fr. Jessimar Cavan-Tapia, Msgr. Joseph Muldoon

Members: 1,479

Honorary Life Member: 1

Councils: 26

Life Members: 10

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- In February, members participated in a Lenten Morning of Reflection. The guest speaker, Father Walemar Podlasz, spoke about a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and tied his talk to our provincial theme of homelessness.
  - In April, we held our annual diocesan convention. Our National President Margaret Ann Jacobs was invited. She gave a workshop on the strategic planning of the future of the League. At this convention, Holy Spirit Council, Stittsville, gifted us with three resolutions which were adopted and passed on to the Ontario Provincial Resolutions Review Committee. Sharon St. Jean was awarded her life membership in national council.
  - In May, members participated in the March for Life Campaign.
  - In the spring, we held a seven-week CWL Leadership and Public Speaking course. All of the graduates are now in leadership roles in the League.
  - At the provincial convention held in July, one of our three resolutions was presented and passed on to national for their approval. Sixteen of our members attended the convention.
  - In September, a new council, Holy Redeemer, Kanata, was established.
  - In November centenarian Alice Arsenault was presented with a certificate at Resurrection of Our Lord Council, Ottawa.
  - At the fall executive meeting Ontario Provincial President-Elect and Organization Chair Colleen Perry gave us a workshop about our future steps to be taken in national's strategic plan.
  - Our Advent Retreat was held in December with almost 100 members in attendance. Our guest speaker, Father Mark Slatter, spoke on his experience and knowledge about homelessness.
  - In total we held four officers' meetings and three executive meetings.

## **Pembroke Diocesan Council Report 2018**

President: Carmel Rumleskie  
Councils: 30

Spiritual Advisor: Bishop Michael Mulhall  
Members: 1817

Life Members: 10

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- Members of Pembroke Diocesan CWL worked on the Ontario focus of Homelessness. They spent time learning about the causes of homelessness and the seriousness of this social problem. Members donated socks, food, gift cards, clothing, women's personal care products, winter coats and money to local charities, schools, food banks, Bernadette McCann House and Madonna House.
- Following the national theme: "Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call", members were very generous in their donations and took up the challenge to greet the homeless and show interest in them. A monetary donation was taken up at our convention for The Grind Pembroke, a social agency offering shelter and services to the homeless. A counsellor at The Grind gave us an informative talk about their programs and accepted our collection gratefully.
- Throughout our two-year term, the diocesan executive taught and reviewed the executive positions. In the spring, we studied resolutions and Christian family life, at convention past president/historian and secretary, and in the fall, legislation and organization.
- The annual diocesan convention was held May 26 at Our Lady of Lourdes hall in Pembroke. In respect for the Indigenous community, a smudging ceremony took place to start the day. Provincial President Anne Madden brought greetings from provincial council, presented a workshop on mentoring and explained the current status of the National Strategic Planning process aimed to renew and reinvigorate the League. Our Spiritual Advisor Bishop Michael Mulhall addressed the members, discussed issues with them and celebrated Mass. Music during the day and at the closing banquet was provided by the talented Kelly family.
- Our day of reflection, held on September 8 in Our Lady of Fatima, Renfrew, had the theme: The Call to Holiness: Rejoice and Be Glad, with guest speaker Fr. Ryan Holly. Reconciliation was offered as well as sharing a prayer service for all deceased members in the diocese who died over the year. Patricia Duggan spoke about her love of Mary and we celebrated Mary's birthday with cupcakes.
- At our fall meeting in Pembroke at St. Columbkille Cathedral, we shared our parish council books of life with each other to celebrate this historic document and gain ideas of how each council records their deceased members and spiritual advisors. The books were blessed by the spiritual advisor to end the ceremony. In the afternoon, we discussed "The Role and Responsibilities of Grandparents."
- We were saddened to lose a life member: Clare Flagler of Bancroft.
- The diocesan sub-theme: "Promote Leadership and Increase Membership" is one that continues to be a challenge. We are praying to our patroness to help us as we reach out to our sisters with faith and true charity.

## **Peterborough Diocesan Council Report 2018**

President: Paddy Fitzgerald Nolan

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Damian Smullen

Members: 1801

Life Members: 10

Councils: 29

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This year 22 out of 29 councils responded to national on-line reporting.

- At our diocesan convention in Bowmanville, a new executive was installed. National Vice-President Betty Colaneri introduced Strategic Planning. Provincial 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Linda Squarzolo delivered a workshop on "An Interesting Mix". Fr. Paul Massel shared his vocation story. Joanne Hough was awarded her life membership pin and certificate. Members gathered for a fun "Evening in Paris" with café songs, skits and costumes. Backpacks, clothing and personal care items were collected and transported to the provincial convention for distribution to the Indigenous youth in Ontario's north. Proceeds of the silent auction were donated to the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation while the convention mass collection was donated to A Place Called Home, Bethesda House, Chrysalis Social and Human Service Organization, and YES Shelter for Youth and Families.
- At our development day and fall meeting in Huntsville, we had a spiritual presentation, "In Thanksgiving"; the officers took the "Officers' Pledge" and were blessed; a workshop was held on "Mentoring" and discussion and survey taken for strategic planning.
- Mentoring by our officers, past presidents and members supported members with guidance and direction through phone calls, emails and visits. Officers were encouraged to visit their assigned councils.
- Subsequent to a meeting with the bishop, spiritual advisor and president from our twinned diocese of Keewatin Le Pas, MB, at national convention, our diocesan CWL appealed for funds to assist a mission parish with broken pipes in Brochet, MB. Several councils responded with donations.
- Fourteen members attended the annual Officers and Life Members Retreat in November in Peterborough. The program included an advent presentation by Donna Moore about the Jesse Tree and an advent wreath craft by Lillian O'Connell.
- Members and councils were encouraged to participate in the OPC Warmth and Comfort project collecting and sharing 524 pairs of socks; 105 jars of peanut butter and 113 boxes of crackers with the homeless. Peterborough Diocesan CWLs supported our homeless with dignity and respect.
- The diocesan president visited with parishes, attended retreats, presented pins and other awards, celebrated anniversaries, and offered support and advice when asked.
- The diocesan president coordinated efforts of committee members from 15/29 parishes for 2019 diocesan convention.

## **Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan Council Report 2018**

President: Betsy Currier

Spiritual Advisor: Father Trevor Scarfone

Members: 2,648

Life Members: 11

Councils: 30

Regions: 3

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- Our diocesan CWL workshop “Find Your Voice!”, a course to develop communication skills, increase self-confidence, provide a warm, supportive and fun learning experience, was revised in response to feedback from the initial cohort, presented in the spring and fall in all three regions and shared with all of the diocesan councils in Ontario.
- One hundred and fifty-two delegates attended the 98<sup>th</sup> diocesan convention in Sudbury. Bishop Marcel Damphousse, Margaret Ann Jacobs and Anne Madden brought greetings. Sleeping bags, brought by each council, were blessed and donated to an organization which offers assistance to persons without a home on cold Northern Ontario winter nights.
- Nineteen members attended the 71<sup>st</sup> provincial convention (Toronto) and nine attended the 98<sup>th</sup> national convention (Winnipeg).
- Diocesan activities focused on the provincial theme of “Homelessness”. Councils participated in a variety of collections to assist organizations that work with homeless persons: blessing bags, purses and backpacks stuffed with personal care products, Tim Horton’s cards, socks, mittens, scarves, peanut butter, crackers, and money. Our major diocese-wide initiative, a one-day food drive, collected over five tons of food (10,190 pounds) for food banks and soup kitchens throughout the diocese.
- Six councils celebrated significant anniversaries:
  - St. John the Evangelist, Garson (80<sup>th</sup>)
  - St. James the Greater, Blind River (90<sup>th</sup>)
  - St. Jude, Espanola (90<sup>th</sup>)
  - St. Francis of Assisi, Walford (90<sup>th</sup>)
  - St. Sebastian, Spanish (90<sup>th</sup>)
  - St. Patrick, Sudbury (60<sup>th</sup>)
  - Our Lady of Hope, Sudbury (60<sup>th</sup>)
- The top four national priorities which councils introduced, discussed or acted upon were:
  - excluding medical assistance in dying from palliative care/hospice facilities
  - protecting the conscience rights of healthcare professionals
  - removing Canada Summer Jobs program attestation
  - requiring age verification mechanisms for adult pornographic websites

## **St. Catharines Diocesan Council Report 2018**

President: Frances Murdaca  
Members: 2509  
Councils: 33

Spiritual Advisor: Rev. Richard Kowalchuk  
Life Members: 13  
Regions: 4

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- Held Diocesan 60th Annual Convention on May 22nd and 23rd. Theme "Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call". Speakers were Laura Stevenson who spoke on the topic "Following God's Will" and Deacon Maurice Prindiville who spoke on the topic "Ministry to People Without Homes".
- Diocesan council registered a team of members and participated in the nation-wide event, "The Coldest Night of the Year Walk", assisting the homeless in the community.
- Councils participated in "Soctober" event collecting socks to provide to organizations that assist the homeless and those less fortunate.
- Hosted annual League Development Day workshop entitled "Membership, More than Just Numbers".
- Held annual diocesan retreat at Gethsemane Ministries on the theme "Come Rest in Christ" with speaker Fr. Stephen Bruzzese.
- Held diocesan council's 60th Anniversary celebration with Mass at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria followed by a dinner dance at Club Roma.
- Held annual Mass for Deceased Members with the Knights of Columbus councils of the diocese.
- Scheduled a Holy Hour each month for members to gather in prayer from across the diocese. Holy Hours were offered for the sanctification of our priests.
- Provided active leadership and represented council at diocesan and provincial meetings and conventions, regional meetings, workshops, World Day of Prayer, pro-life events, funerals, conferences, retreats, council anniversaries and special masses.
- Subsidized conventions, conferences, retreats and workshops.
- Informed members of council activities through newsletter publications, bulletins, oral and written reports, email and websites.
- Informed members of communiques received from national, provincial and diocesan councils.

## **Thunder Bay Diocesan Council Report 2018**

President: Mary Wilson

Spiritual Advisor: Rev. Justin Eze

Councils: 25

Life Members: 10

Members: 2,544

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- Last year two League development days were presented in the east and west of the diocese. The Strategic Plan was presented by Past President Pauline Krupa and Mary Wilson, Diocesan President. Guest speaker, Msgr. Pat Stilla, presented a workshop on "The Challenges and Positives of Catholic Women's League". Another speaker presented on the legalities and reporting requirements of draws and lottery raffles held at bazaars, etc.
- The diocesan president traveled to six councils in the west to speak to members that do not attend general meetings and conventions, due to the vast size of the diocese, 780 km east to west.
- In June the executive met to set forth the activities for the year. A fall meeting following the Ontario Provincial Council meeting gave the councils the directives for the remaining activities for the remainder of the term.
- Western councils Kenora / Keewatin hosted the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention. Provincial representative Colleen Martin presented, in a working lunch, on the Strategic Plan. Workshops were presented on Opiates and two speakers on the Homeless. One workshop made tied quilts which were blessed at the closing mass and later distributed to a local organization dealing with the homeless.
- Councils continued working on Works of Mercy, concentrating on "Warmth and Comfort" projects. They collected peanut butter, crackers, handy snacks, winter wear, socks, and personal care items.
- Sacred Heart / St. Louis Council presented the Bellelle Guerin Award to Michelle Grafham at the December meeting.
- President M. Wilson attended a council that was considering closing. After discussion and encouragement, they decided to stay active.
- In September the president traveled to Toronto with provincial past-president for the Ontario Provincial Council meeting. She with several other CWL members, helped Pauline Krupa with organizing the provincial archives which are housed at the Hamilton Diocese.

## **Timmins Diocesan Council Report 2018**

President: Audrey Shelton

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Wayne Mills

Members: 487

Life Members: 3

Councils: 8

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- Six of our eight councils used the online surveys to file their annual reports
- The 84<sup>th</sup> Timmins Diocesan Convention was well attended with 80 members participating May 5 & 6<sup>th</sup>. A presentation from Living Space reported on the status of homeless people in Timmins and the work being done by Living Space towards their needs. Anna Tremblay, Ontario Provincial Council Spiritual Development Chair, led a workshop on spirituality that everyone enjoyed. A monetary collection was donated to the local women's shelter and participants brought socks and blessing bags to be distributed throughout the diocese.
- Shirley Gravel and her committee worked on a resolution asking the government to place qualified music and physical education teachers in schools as it has been proven that these subjects are beneficial to children's mental health. It will be presented at our 2019 convention.
- A spiritual retreat was held in Timmins in September and well attended. Father John Lemire, Chairman of Priests for Life Canada and pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Timmins, spoke on the theme of "Living in the Midst of a Culture of Death: The Challenge of End of Life Issues Today." His presentation was reported in the winter 2018 Priests for Life newsletter. Maureen Graham-Szewczyk gave a workshop on *Lectio Divina* which was very well received and enjoyed.
- Annette Kelly attended the Community Feedback Forum on Homelessness in Timmins October 10. It was a follow up to the Summit on Homelessness held in September 2017 that she and Audrey Shelton, Diocesan President, had attended. Annette gave a report on the forum at the diocesan fall meeting.
- Councils embraced the Homelessness theme and provided items and monetary help to those in need throughout the diocese as well as collecting and making items for Canadian Food for Children charity.



## **Toronto Diocesan Council Report 2018**

President: Ann D'Souza

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Patrick O'Dea

Members: 7,249

Honorary Life Member: 1

Life Members: 14

Councils: 98

Regions: 7

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- Eighty percent (79/98) responded to the national on-line survey.
  - St. Luke Council in North York was reactivated.
  - A second Catholic Girl's League (CGL) was opened in Peel Region at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish.
  - The Toronto Diocesan CWL held regular monthly executive meetings along with the regional chairs.
  - In March and September, each region held a regional general meeting, fourteen meetings in a year, allowing the officers to meet members across Toronto.
  - At the convention in May, the keynote speakers on the first day was Rev. Deacon Robert Kinghorn. He spoke on "The Many Faces of Homelessness" and interacted with members and youth in attendance to highlight ways in working together to bring more awareness. On day one we had a panel discussion on "Homelessness" with three speakers.
  - The diocesan newsletter had three issues and had a subscription of 860. It had important information and directives from the officers and helped council executives with information when doing their reports.
  - Our website had a face-lift. The site is helpful as it has regular updates on the activities in the diocese. Members used the website to register for convention. The average viewing visits each month were 2,392.
  - The annual development day held in February, had 320 members in attendance. The theme for the day was "*Responding to God's Call to Serve Joyfully*". Each year the attendance has been increasing tremendously.
  - Toronto Diocesan Resolution 2018.01 "Develop National Standards for Levels of Pharmaceuticals in Canada's Water Supply" was presented and passed at the provincial convention.
  - The following annual educational awards were presented:
    - Mary Matthews Public Speaking Award to Grade 7 and 8 students
    - Mary Dobell Pro-Life Essay and Poetry Award focused on awareness and positive attitude towards pro-life issues (Intermediate Level is for Grades 7, 8 and 9. Senior Level is for Grades 10, 11 and 12.)
    - Jean McCann Service Award for Catholic Youth (for ages 15-18), won by a student from Precious Blood Parish, Scarborough Region
    - Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Award, focused on mentoring at parish and diocesan level
    - St. Michael's College Scholarship, won by a graduate of Cardinal Carter Catholic High School in North York Region
    - Hope for Children Foundation Scholarship Award, won by a student attending Centennial College

## Recognition

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The Ontario Provincial Council 2018 Social Justice Award was awarded to Jan Sosiak from St. Joseph Parish, Belleville in the diocese of Kingston.

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National CWL President Margaret Ann Jacobs of Our Lady of Lourdes CWL, Elmvale, Ontario, received the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (Latin: "For Church and Pope") decoration, presented by His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto. It is also known as the "Decoration of Honour". The award, presented during the 2018 Ontario provincial convention, is conferred for distinguished service to the church by lay people and clergy.

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## **The Purpose of the Ontario Provincial Council**

- To implement the Catholic Women's League objectives and policy in the province
- To represent the Catholic Women's League members of Ontario at the national level
- To coordinate the diocesan councils in the province
- To be a link between the diocesan councils in Ontario and the national council for reporting, for resolutions and for those matters requiring an instructed vote at the national convention
- To disseminate information and direction from the national council to the diocesan councils in the province
- To provide direction, inspiration and encouragement to Catholic Women's League members and councils in the province
- To submit resolutions and briefs on provincial matters as required
- To maintain contact with the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO)



### **Annual Report Book Editing Committee**

Anne Madden – Colleen Perry  
Glenda Klein

## **LEAGUE PRAYER**

*We humbly pray You,  
O God our Father, to bless  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada.*

*Bless our beloved country, our homes and families.*

*Send Your Holy Spirit upon us to give light to our minds  
and strength to our wills  
that we may know and 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.*

