



February 2021 Edition

Featuring the Diocese of Thunder Bay and
OPC Resolution Chair, Wilma Vanderzwaag

"Care for our Common Home"



Colleen's Communications

For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:10-11

This Issue

Colleen's Communications	1-2
Thunder Bay Diocese	3-8
Resolution	9
Education & Health	10
Organization	11
A Beautiful Teacup	12
Food for Thought	13-15

As I write this latest communication, we are hunkering down for our first real snowstorm of 2021. The air here in Ottawa has been damp but mild and we have not experienced a bad winter at all. My hope is that you too have enjoyed the beauty of winter and been able to share in God's graces with those you live with. Stay safe, stay home, save lives.

On February 17th we will begin our Lenten journey. Like many of our sacred celebrations the last 11 months I am certain this one will be different. Please do all that you can to make your Lenten journey as fulfilling as it can be. Join a prayer circle, say the rosary... many parish councils have started meeting

virtually to pray together just to feel that connectedness we so desperately need.

Pre-registration for the 2021 Provincial Annual Meeting of Members is ongoing. The organizing committee is working diligently to ensure that everyone in attendance enjoys

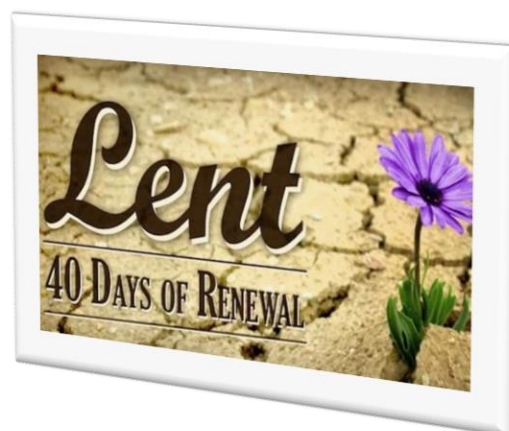
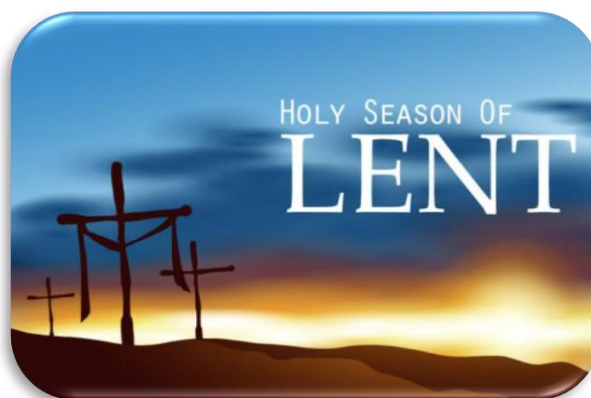
the experience, even if we really do not know what it looks like right now. I encourage you to consider purchasing one of the fundraising items that are for sale at <https://cwl.on.ca/sites/default/files/documents/2021%20Fundraiser%20OPC.pdf>.

I have both but I love my rosary bracelet (handmade by members in Ottawa).

The provincial executive will meet virtually February 4th to 6th to discuss business and to pray together. Please pray for them and all your elected officers who are working tirelessly through the noise and confusion of this pandemic.

Yours in faith,

Colleen Perry



Thunder Bay Diocesan Council

CWL Members tell their stories



Our lives have changed, drastically. Think back to Christmas 2019. We were able to attend mass, shake hands with families and friends, wish them peace, put arms around each other and partake in the Holy Communion and feel the bread and wine upon our tongues.

March 2020... gatherings are now frowned upon but just maybe the ban would be lifted for Easter 2020. No... the church doors were locked, no sounds of "The Lord is risen, Alleluia, Alleluia" and songs of praise coming from the choir loft, no gatherings, and even no Easter dinners with families.

This mandatory social distancing is to prevent the pandemic from blasting through our community puts us into isolation, and for many of us, this isolation is frustrating and depressing. In April 2020 Linda Bukovy contacted Beverly Page and David Ronchi to come over for an outside visit one Sunday afternoon. It was very impromptu, held in front of the garage, with a 6 feet pole to gauge distancing. Empty upended garbage cans stood in for tables and each person was encouraged to bring a chair to lessen the chances of contagion. A fun afternoon, and they were ready to do it again in two weeks' time. If they wanted to bring their church music and any songbooks, that would be fun for the three choir members. Turns out that voices, especially singing voices, travel quite well, and walkers were entertained,



some even stopping to chat at the end of the driveway, a fair distance away from the group. It turns out the trio were featured in an interview and their photo was in the Chronicle Journal newspaper. In discussion, Beverly thought that the group should visit some of the isolated CWL members, and they decided to put the show on the road, each person driving a vehicle and meeting at agreed locations. In



May there was no public crowning of Mary at the Cathedral. How do we honour Our Lady of Good Counsel, the patroness of our CWL? Linda checked around the Churches and the Internet to find an appropriate statue where the group could sing. She even thought of bringing her small Madonna statue, from place to place (a Mobile Mary?). But aha, a location was found... a stone grotto in front of St. Joseph's Manor on Carrie Street. The group went there for its first stop on May 31. Now, to crown the Queen of Heaven, suitable adornment must be arranged. Linda made the wreath using braided string and clusters of fresh baby's breath, apple blossoms and lily of the valley. With some climbing, scrambling and the use of a gripper, David placed it on Mary's head. Marian hymns were sung, acapella filled the air and several on-lookers joined to sing along, maintaining social distancing. On June 14, the trio sang old-time songs and some hymns outside of Chartwell Isabella Retirement Residence.



St. Mary's Counsel in Fort Frances found new ways to give out 2020 long term service pins to their members which was normally done at a gathering. With the assistance of executive members, long term service pins were presented to:
25-year pins to Patricia DeGagne and Kathy Lony.
40-year pin to Josephine Belluz
50-year pins to Lucille Botsford, Gertie Bujold and Renee Dumney.

Pictured receiving their pins are Renee Dumney, Mavis Dyck and Josephine Belluz.



A Celebration of Christmas! Despite COVID-19 restrictions, St. Mary's CWL Council managed in December to raise money and celebrate Christmas. The month started off with a CWL Christmas mass after which gifts of carnations and evergreens were given to members and sent out to shut-ins. Christmas greeting cards and gifts were delivered to the elderly and to the shut-ins. A 50/50 raffle was done, and the profits provided for many donations to the community organizations including the Salvation Army Christmas Program and to the food bank. Parish raffles and the white elephant sale provided funds for our council to carry on into the coming year. Through emailing, texting, phone calls and bulletin notices, the council members managed to stay connected. Although they were not able to celebrate and enjoy fellowship in the usual way, there were many activities done by the members and all enjoyed a sense of togetherness when they joined in prayers to God, for the gift of the sisters in the League!

"Two people are better than one, because they get more done by working together."
Ecclesiastes 4:9-11



Fr. Gino Mathias did the draws for the lucky 50/50 draw ticket. Mitzi Armstrong and wreath winner, Pearl Pidlubny.

Carnations which were presented to CWL members.

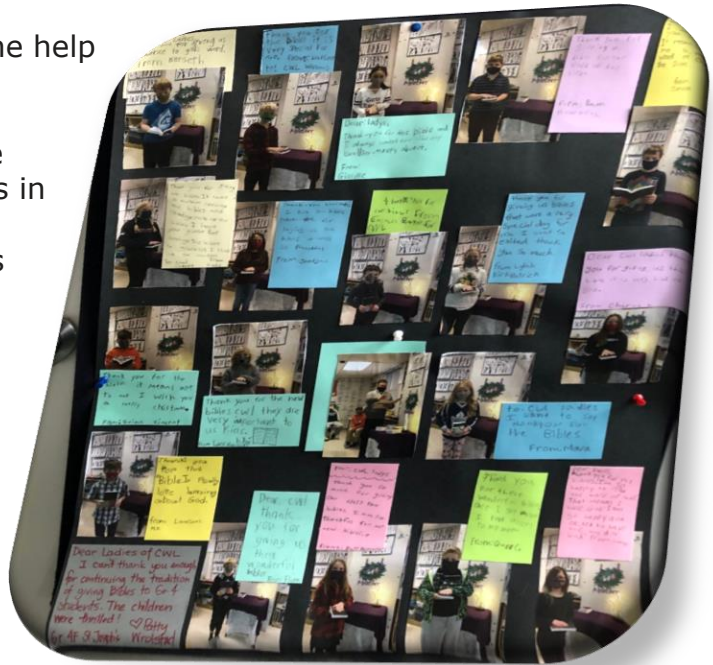


St. Joseph Council:

Following safe Covid protocol, and with the help of Fr. Al, the council was pleased to distribute Holy Spirit Pins to the newly confirmed students in November, and the Good News Bibles to the grade 4 students in December.

Two of the standing motion commitments that were done for several years.

Picture of the "Thank You" Card that were received from the children at St. Joseph School.



Loneliness Project: Our Lady of the Way Council got together in February to make homemade "Thinking of You" cards to send to members of the community as well as to members of the Canadian Armed Forces who also struggles with loneliness. One member pre-cut all parts of the cards and demonstrated different techniques that could be used in making the cards. Several embellishments were also made available, so each card was unique. Another day of card making was planned but due to Covid-19 restrictions, it hasn't been held yet.



St. Agnes Council:

The members had an unusual slow year in 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak, they did small things with great love.

In March as soon as the news came about to the shutdown, executives immediately offered to say the Rosary via live streaming to provide unity, comfort and hope to all during the uncharted times. Some of the members were involved on the parish Task Force Committee implementing new policies and procedures so they could eventually resume life once lockdown was completed.

The members were able to participate on 100th Anniversary by planting a tree in front of the Church. In the fall, the council did fundraise and supported to purchase a new roof for the Church through a successful 50/50 cash draw and a very popular online auction.



St. Patrick's Cathedral - 2020 Bizarre Bazaar

Memories are timeless treasures of the heart. Sometimes one wonders if history and the keeping of it is important. 2020 showed just how important it is...history – keepers carefully document memories so that they can come to life at any time...Bizarre Bazaar thanks all the history-keepers whose gentle touch have allowed this undertaking to come to life.

2020 Bizarre Bazaar was an opportunity to virtually connect with all in the parish to create a most amazing show...parishioners supplied craft ideas and delicious recipes...the history books provided the memories and a most fantastic videographer and producers created the finished product...To ensure as many as possible could enjoy the final product was uploaded to the internet for those who have the technology to view...for those who had a DVD player, copies were prepared for their use. Once it was completed everyone was invited to: *"Make yourself a cup of tea, enjoy something sweet, make some popcorn...put your feet up...let the show begin"*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQmRJYJzgkE>

Asked for those who could consider donating what they would have spent had there been an in-person bazaar. The proceeds were to be given to the parish for its use once the members could gather again. The video is available on the above link.

Holy Family Council:

The ladies at Holy Family (a small council of 55 members) have tried to keep busy this year. The pandemic slowed them down considerably but did not stop them from completing a few projects. Father Jerin came up with some interesting ways to keep everyone separate but together with technology. They hosted an on-line Mass each week. At Christmas, Father put together a Christmas play with children filming themselves at home portraying different parts of the Christmas story and presented it along with the Christmas Mass so that everyone could view it at home. Along with this the CWL members assisted with making up of 80 free packages which included a framed picture of Our Blessed Mother, a rosary, a booklet of prayers "Treasurers in Heaven", a pamphlet on "How to say the Rosary", a "Prayer card" and a candle so that people could follow along, pray the Rosary or learn to pray the Rosary when it was broadcasted live for 10 evenings in October, with a small group with Bishop Collie saying the Rosary live.



Photograph - how the council facilitated a candlelight display for All Soul's Day. Parishioners dropped off candles representing their families to be included in the display.



Picture of the mittens on the Tree that was put up in the Church and hoped for donations.



Council members making up packages of baking for older members as well as those who needed a little cheer this year.

Ladies putting together hampers for the less fortunate.



Holy Angels Council:

This has been a difficult year for all. Without mass, meetings, convention, bazaar, or even the annual Christmas parties. It was hard to feel connected to the rest council members. The council was blessed to have some virtual events, including several zoom rosaries. The parish priest, Father Terry, had done some outreach on Facebook and eventually started live mass on Facebook.

Despite this, the executives felt they needed to find a way to connect, and to secure some funds for the council since they were not able to have the annual fundraisers.

One of the yearly events was the bazaar, in making and selling gnocchi. The executives decided to take on this fundraiser and double the amount that was typically done. With the purchase of two hundred and fifty pounds of potatoes the task would have been daunting, but with the many willing participants to help - the potatoes were taken home, boiled and riced.

At the parish centre, abiding with the provincial guidelines, the members were able to make five hundred and twenty-one pounds of gnocchi. Covid-19 also made selling gnocchi challenging. They advertised on Facebook and it got sold surprisingly quick. Purchasers were from Schreiber, Terrace Bay, Rossport and Thunder Bay and all were very happy with the gnocchi. Many showed their appreciation by giving donations.

This project took two weeks and many members worked diligently together, enjoying every moment, this allowed them to gather with their sisters of the league, enjoying refreshments and camaraderie.

This year has been difficult, but the members continue to support and show love and support to the parish and community. A small committee made cookie bouquets for the communicants. Another committee put together gift bags for the shut-ins and for the long-term care members at the nearby hospital.

All this indicated that even though one could not gather, one could be united by prayer and love.



WHAT'S IN A RESOLUTION?

What is in a resolution? What makes a great resolution?

To start a resolution, it begins with one member who is **resolute**. By being **resolute**, this member is determined to her cause or purpose. **Resolute** comes from the same Latin verb as **resolved**—isn't that word in our resolutions? When you **resolve** a problem or issue, you come to a conclusion, and once you **resolve**-or make up your mind- you propose to do something-a resolution.

Other descriptive words that describe a **resolute** person are faithful, loyal, constant, and steadfast in adherence to one's own allegiance-isn't that members of the CWL? What do CWL members owe allegiance to? Our faith and what it calls us to be and do. Through living our faith, we see issues or problems that compel our members to act. What is the best way we can act and make a difference—through our resolutions! To most members resolutions are complex or difficult. To put a great resolution together does require effort and collaborative effort. One member must be determined and passionate enough to start and then other members come onboard to help with creating a resolution. Research and good briefs are the key. Research must come from reliable and credible Canadian sources not opinion.

A resolution must be strong enough that when presented to a level of government whether provincial or federal, they take notice. The government sees this is a resolution that has been crafted with proper research and purpose. Then this resolution and the backing of our members across the province and country show the government this must be taken seriously. What **resolve** we have and what good we can accomplish through our resolutions. Never underestimate what good can be done through resolutions. It starts with one **resolute** CWL member—is that you?



A resolution today leads to a better future tomorrow.

.....Submitted by Wilma Vanderzwaag, OPC Resolutions Chair





An Easy Way to Be Kind to Yourself in 2021

As a retired registered nurse and as a member of the Education and Health Standing Committee, I would like to share two personal stories from the year 2020 in hopes that either one, or both, will move you to ***be proactive with your health.***

Recently my husband was ordered a colonoscopy. Two malignant tumours were discovered. He has since started chemotherapy and radiation. The sad thing about this is that every year my husband receives a letter in the mail from Cancer Care Ontario recommending that he go for a colonoscopy to screen for colorectal cancer. Every year he ignored these letters. My husband is lucky though. The tumours were found early and his treatments, though difficult, are expected to be curative. BUT, it was preventable! His journey is just starting....

My daughter faithfully goes for her annual mammogram. In 2019, it was fine. In 2020, it showed tumours that were positive for malignancy. The cancer was caught very early. Her surgery was curative. Presently, she needs only to take an oral chemotherapeutic drug for a few years.

As women, we receive letters from Cancer Care Ontario reminding us to go for mammograms to screen for breast cancer, cervical PAP smears to screen for cervical cancer, and colonoscopies to screen for colorectal cancer.

Please do **not** ignore the standard screening tests available to you. They can make a difference in your well-being and in your future.

Respectfully Submitted,
Betsy Currier (Education and Health Sub-Committee Member)

ORGANIZATION

Membership

Membership fees are due on January 1st; however, councils must submit the per capita fees to the national office by February 28th each year.

Has your council found innovative ways to collect memberships during this COVID pandemic and the lockdown?

One council offered a “drive-in” membership collection one afternoon in the church parking lot. A couple of members of the executive greeted members, with a smile and a wave, while they dropped off their membership envelope into a container.

Another council had the telephone captains help with the membership. Each captain contacted her list and made arrangement for picking up or delivering the dues. The captain then gave the information and the dues to the membership chairperson.

The collection of memberships can be an onerous task, especially if it falls on the shoulders of only one person. This job could be shared by a committee, a group of enthusiastic individuals, who do not even need to be on the executive. Since membership is the responsibility of the organization chair, she could simply oversee the process.



During the lockdown, people are isolating to stay safe. It is a time for us to be in touch with our members and let them know how important they are.

"Never underestimate the difference you can make in the lives of others. Step forward, reach out to someone that might need a lift."

~ Pablo

.....Submitted by Linda Squarzolo, OPC President-Elect/Organization Chair



The Beautiful Teacup



The story is told of a couple who went to England to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary and shopped at a beautiful antique store. They both liked antiques and pottery and especially tea-cups, and so spotting an exceptional cup, they asked "May we see that? We've never seen a cup quite so beautiful."

As the lady handed it to them, suddenly the teacup spoke... "You don't understand." It said, "I have not always been a tea-cup. There was a time when I was just a lump of red clay. My master took me and rolled me pounded and patted me over and over and I yelled

out, don't do that. I don't like it! "Let me alone," but he only smiled, and gently said; "Not yet!!" "Then, WHAM! I was placed on a spinning wheel and suddenly I was spun around and around and around. "Stop it! I'm getting so dizzy! I'm going to be sick!" I screamed.

But the master only nodded and said, quietly; 'Not yet.'

He spun me and poked and prodded and bent me out of shape to suit himself and then...he put me in the oven. I never felt such heat. I yelled and knocked and pounded at the door.

"Help! Get me out of here!" 'Not yet.' When I thought I couldn't bear it another minute, the door opened. He carefully took me out and put me on the shelf, and I began to cool.

Oh, that felt so good! "Ah, this is much better," I thought. But after I cooled, he picked me up and he brushed and painted me all over. The fumes were horrible. "Oh, please, Stop it! Stop it!" I cried. He only shook his head and said "Not yet..."

Then suddenly he put me back into the oven. Only it was not like the first time. This time it was twice as hot, and I just knew I would suffocate. I begged... I pleaded... I screamed...I cried... I was convinced I would never make it. I was ready to give up and just then the door opened, and he took me out and again placed me on the shelf, where I cooled, waited, and waited, wondering "What's he going to do to me next?"

An hour later he handed me a mirror and said, "Look at yourself."

And I did... I said, "That's not me, that couldn't be me. It's beautiful. I'm beautiful!"

Quietly he spoke: "I want you to remember, then," he said, "I know it hurt to be rolled, pounded, and patted, but had I just left you alone, you'd have dried up. I know it made you dizzy to spin around on the wheel, but if I had stopped, you would have crumbled.

"I know it hurt and it was hot and disagreeable in the oven, but if I hadn't put you there, you would have cracked. I know the fumes were bad when I brushed and painted you all over, but if I hadn't done that, you never would have hardened. You would not have had any color in your life.

"And if I hadn't put you back in that second oven, you wouldn't have survived for long because the hardness would not have held. Now you are a finished product. Now you are what I had in mind when I first began with you."

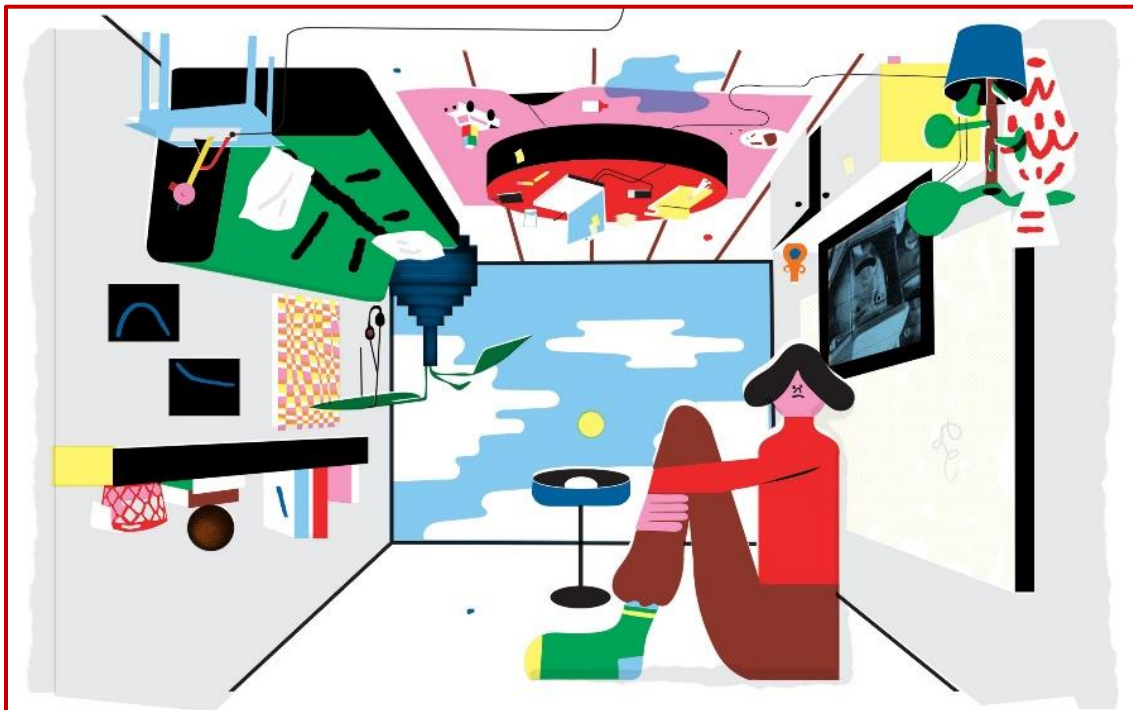
.....Submitted by Anna Tremblay, OPC Administrative Assistant



Food *for* Thought

A month in a new calendar year and after a year living in the pandemic, progress in our battle against the virus still feels mixed to most of us. And yet, we can have hope. Encouraging signs are not only here today but also on the horizon.

This picture upside down is how one feels during this pandemic time. Taken from the article written by *Tare Haele*, she is a science journalist and public speaker. In her article called ***Your surge capacity is depleted – It's why you feel so awful.***





Home is not so much a place on a map, as it is a place to belong. God gives us that place.

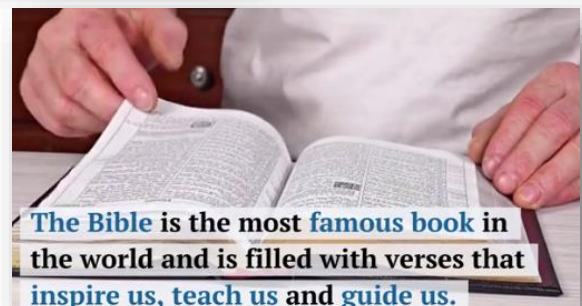
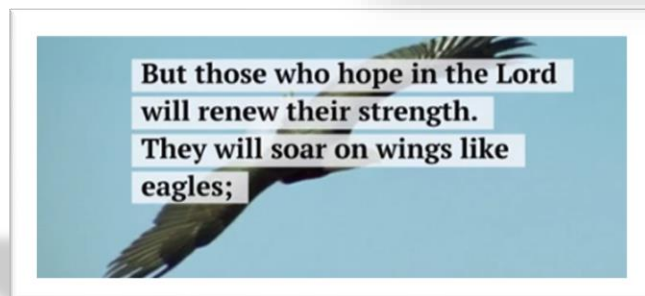


Home is where love resides....

WHAT I LOVE MOST ABOUT
STAYING HOME TO SELF-QUARANTINE
IS WHO I SHARE IT WITH.



"The magic thing about home is that it feels good to leave, and it feels even better to come back. Home is the safest place to be right now".



February 17th is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent....



Father, help me to see this holy season of Lent as a time of spiritual renewal, rather than a time of deprivation. Motivate me to reach a new level of experiencing your grace.

