

Hamilton Diocesan Oral Report, Provincial AGM 2021

I am honoured to represent the 7,000+ members from the Diocese of Hamilton. Our diocese includes 97 councils of dedicated, hard-working and loving members who give their service to God.

The face of The Catholic Women's League changed with the pandemic of COVID-19, not only did it show our strengths as a League but it also showcased our weaknesses as well. Communication being at the heart of these challenges. In some councils, the League simply shut down; no meetings, liturgies & special programs cancelled, no parish or community involvement and members experiencing feelings of loneliness.

While other councils, even through COVID restrictions and lockdowns discovered new ways to function and connect with their members. Zoom chats, newsletters, Facebook, emails, personal cards and resurrected phone trees became the norm.

Councils participated in live streamed Masses, virtual Rosary nights, candlelight vigils, 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care, Lenten prayers and retreats.

Many councils sewed masks, head coverings and protective gowns for healthcare centres. Homemade cards were distributed to members, shut-ins and local nursing and retirement homes. Food drives, school bursaries, and charitable donations were given.

In celebration of 100 years of the League, anniversary trees were planted, commemorative plaques were mounted on church grounds, and gifts were presented to long standing members. Membership pins were home delivered or mailed, and honour guards were stationed outside.

We said goodbye to 176 members including Life Member Georgina Bourke. Georgina embodied the spirit of the League and lived out her faith through her actions. In their memory, Hamilton Diocese will continue to encourage its members to make a sincere commitment to be witnesses of Christ, carrying out His mission at home, in their parish and community.