

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

**AMM, July 12, 2021
Oral Report – Short Form
Due: Prior to Meeting**

Spring/Summer 2021 Report: Nancy Richer, Kingston Diocesan President
(Name and Standing Chair or Diocesan President)

It has always amazed me to see the League in action, and during this pandemic even more so. They reach out to those in need, either delivering meals to shut-ins to supporting the local high school retreat program by providing hot lunches. Covid changed how things are done, we learned how to use technology and communicated through email, phone calls and zoom meetings. Kept our webpage and Facebook updated. Our councils have worked hard this year despite the pandemic. They have continued to help organizations such as Birthright, Outreach to Homeless, Morningstar Mission's initiative Coldest Night of the Year, and many more.

A group in Belleville began serving meals at an outdoor venue to the homeless population. Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Council, worked with *The Not Alone Team Quinte*, to help with this endeavour. Every Friday sandwiches, muffins, cookies and entrees were prepared and delivered to *The Not Alone Team Quinte*. This continued until food could no longer be served due to restrictions. Members continued to help with money, food cards and clothing donations.

With the restrictions that the pandemic brought, councils everywhere needed to rethink their fundraising activities. Blessed Sacrament Council in Amherstview held a Virtual Silent Auction to replace their annual bazaar. They proceeded to purchase gift cards through a program called FundScrip. A cheque was presented to Lionhearts, an organization that provides over 400 takeout meals three times a week in Amherstview. Blessed Sacrament council collected personal hygiene kits for men and women plus hand knitted toques and donated them to Kingston Street Mission and St Vincent de Paul Society in Kingston.

St Gregory the Great council in Picton showed there are many ways to continue our CWL mission. They held an outdoor Mary's Way of the Cross prayer session in support of persecuted Christians in the Middle East. They held a bake sale on the lawn of the church to support the parish's finances during Covid and for CMIC and CNEWA. They promoted a Light Chain in

memory of all the babies who died as a result of the lack of abortion laws in Canada. They sent Christmas cards and Valentine greetings to their parish shut-in ladies.

An officer's retreat was held with our Spiritual Advisor, Father Dale Wright, who led us in reflections on Hope. We celebrated Mass, recited the rosary, and found time for a little business. It was a much needed time with our sisters and deeply appreciated. There were planned events on Zoom, to pray the Rosary for palliative care and pray the Stations of the Cross. Diocesan council executive kept in touch with all their "prayer partners" by calling the presidents on a regular basis.