

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

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

Spring/Summer 2021 Report: Joanne Hough, Recording Secretary

By March 2020, all plans, personal and CWL business were halted as everyone battled a deadly virus that was spreading like wildfire throughout the world. Canada had *Stay-At-Home Order*, mask wearing and social distancing as vaccines were developed to fight the virus. Mass, prayer services and retreats were held, using a variety of software programs, on-line. Schools moved instruction to on-line programs.

Members went to work making and/or donating masks for hospitals and nursing homes. Residents of long-term care homes had many window visits. Cards and gifts of snacks and meals were donated to hospitals for health care workers. Grocery cards were donated to agencies that served those in need. Phone chains were established to contact members with news from the council and parish and a check-in as to the needs of families. By Christmas there had been many start-ups and closures of businesses, restaurants and group gatherings including Church services. From time to time, member could gather outside for brief occasions to remember deceased members, plant 100th Anniversary Trees, food drives for Food Cupboards and St. Vincent de Paul, pins and life membership presentations and toys and clothing for Christmas. In November, Christmas Masses were held with limited number of attendees. Families had to reserve a time to attend in many parishes. Gifts for senior CWL members and Christmas cards were distributed to shut-ins by several councils following COVID restrictions.

CWL meetings for Parish, Provincial and National Councils had been moved to electronic formats. By the spring of 2021, vaccines were being distributed in a variety of clinics. Ontario experienced a second and third spike in cases in January and April that were followed by shutdowns and stay at home orders. Councils continued to provide support to health care workers and those in need. By June, members were looking towards to the Fall when most members will have had access to the second shot of the vaccine and perhaps find things returning to some normalcy.

Learning to find creative strategies to problem-solve and respond to the needs of members and the community demonstrated the depth of commitment of CWL members. The learning curve for many members has increased in respect to use of technology. There is a greater appreciation of opportunities to meet face-to-face and a deep desire to share hugs and personal greetings.