

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

**OPC AMM Meeting July 12, 2021**

The impact of COVID-19 in 2020 will not soon be forgotten for many years to come. It brought variations and uncertainties to life as we know it and the only undeniable detail is that COVID-19 has changed the way we carry out almost everything. The CWL is no exception. Without regular meetings, church services, conventions and events, parish presidents and their executive have been creative in thinking of ways to stay connected with their members. They concentrated on what could be done instead of what couldn't be done. At the onset, when churches were closing, CWL members developed a regular routine of mass and daily prayer via live streaming and bulletins continued weekly to update members. The CWL presence previously seen at funerals, First Communion, Confirmations, senior's long-term care homes and city homeless shelters was notably missed. Gift packages were provided for First Communions, Confirmations and seniors in long-term care homes as well as blessing bags to homeless shelters. Instead of the usual Christmas gatherings, clothing drives were held to aid the needy in the community. Many councils prayed together in outdoor settings, phoned one another, wrote cards and delivered notes of encouragement, offered help to shut-ins and reached out just to say hello! Thanks to technology, we are able to promote the League, through the sharing of information which is vital in keeping our members involved and connected. Even council fundraisers took on a new and exciting technical twist. New technology has inspired us to share virtual Rosaries and many prayer services that we were able to experience from the comfort of our homes. All in all, many negative and also positive aspects of COVID-19 have been experienced by our CWL members, but we are relentless when it comes to moving forward. As we continue to work through the many hurdles and challenges, let us remember what St. Francis of Assisi said, "All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle." Together we can keep that candle burning.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to inspire and guide us, as we work together For God and Canada" and to "Care for Our Common Home" as we care for one another.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maria Bertoldo  
President,  
Diocese of Thunder Bay