



Timmins Diocesan Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada Report to Virtual Provincial AMM July 10 – 13, 2021

The Pandemic with its lockdowns made life simpler in some aspects as it brought everything to a screeching halt for many of us. Our lives can be very hectic and sometimes overwhelming, so a reprieve gave us time to breathe and re-evaluate what we are doing and how we are doing it. At the same time, we were losing contact with our executive members and parish presidents because we could not gather together as usual. At times, we were losing momentum, finding it hard to keep on track without the regular meetings taking place.

Parishes had difficulty doing action items that required group work. In some cases, members chose not to renew their memberships since 'nothing' was happening, while other councils actually gained new members. The telephone, mail and e-mail were used more frequently to keep in touch. A few councils began to communicate and hold meetings through Zoom and other such forums. At the same time we are missing being physically present to each other.

Virtual meetings have saved our councils both time and monies on travel, accommodation, and meals, etc., and during the winter, it was safer to meet this way. We also had more meetings than usual because of this convenience, and will definitely consider having a mid-winter meeting now that we can do so from both a monetary and safety aspect.

As great as virtual meetings are, watching a computer screen for too long is boring, so we still need to learn how to make it more inter-active and interesting; perhaps, breakout rooms will help facilitate this. We also realize that not all members have computers and some live in areas where Internet is spotty at the best of times.

Other dioceses have opened up their webinars to everyone and that has been a blessing, to see everyone and to share in the message of the speakers.

We have missed being able to hold our annual Spiritual Retreat Day

but have decided to do this virtually in the fall of this year, even if only for a morning session.

I have learned that I am not too old to learn new technologies; I can now host a Zoom meeting and incorporate various features.

I have learned to be flexible, i.e. constantly changing the dates and plans of our diocesan AGM, going from excitement about different aspects only to then be disappointed and have to accept what could not be changed. The lockdown rules were sometimes confusing as each district was dealing with a different scenario.

I appreciate the support of the diocesan team and everyone's patience with my efforts as I sometimes fumbled my way through. Everyone is doing the best they can under the circumstances, and I am looking forward to giving everyone a big hug in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Kelly

Timmins Diocesan CWL President 2019-2022