

**Ontario Provincial Council of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada
75th OPC Convention, July 12, 2022
Business Session Oral Report**

Claudette Langdon Ottawa Diocesan President

When asked to choose an event to highlight for the Ottawa Diocesan what came to mind was the dedication and resilience of our CWL Sisters!!

They share their gifts with parishes, communities and beyond...

The pandemic affected all council members, *but it did not stop* our members' spirits it has made everyone more determined! Pivoting was necessary and the CWL adapted.

The sisterhood emerged like a Spiritual Wave of Butterflies!!

The leadership and dedication of our members and their love for the League did not go unnoticed.

Our members not only continue to embrace the provincial theme of Loneliness, but it became a reality for many who had not known the feeling during the pandemic, and it increased awareness.

Members no longer take the simple things for granted and focus intently on helping each other. Our CWL women inspire others in faith, service, and social justice.

Their actions are contagious spreading from one member to another.

Our members are excited about the new national theme of CATHOLIC and LIVING IT.

Works of mercy are demonstrated: the hungry are fed by collect items and monetary donations for food banks (The Shepard's of Good Hope, Local Food Banks), provide meals to the lonely and shut ins, raise funds for non-profit organizations, help women's shelters with clothing drives and funding raising event (St Joe's Women's Centre, other women organizations) and call and visited sick members and those alone.

Connectivity became a passion. It's been difficult for some councils, but members ensure that connectivity with members is an ongoing priority.

Parishes take requests for Spiritual Bouquets, prayers, Mass intentions and Intersessions for big and/or small events: birthdays, births, marriages, sympathy, illness and loneliness.

Parish Councils work together to continue the work for The Reduce/Repair/Recycle Program, making sleeping mats and other items to help non-profit organizations.

Parishes encourage Reach Out Programs, more regular contact with members, especially for members who didn't have access to email. Special efforts are made to those in isolation. People living alone and the elderly were visited or called so they knew they have a friend.

One of our Councils get involved with the National Initiative and challenge, "The Gratitude Project". People were nominated by the CWL members. Spiritual Bouquets

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were sent to a Deacon, a married couple, a principal and five nurses from various hospitals. What a wonderful way to honour essential workers who battle through Covid!

Recognition and appreciation of our members has become even more important! There have been more special award ceremonies at Parish Councils, more certificates of appreciation and more service pins awarded.

Change is inevitable but our ladies are ready, the CWL Butterflies continue their work!