

Catholic and Living It – The Road Travelled by the CWL

The CWL council of Lindsay opened up for meetings in a cautious manner. Both the parish Council and the Peterborough Diocesan Council celebrated their 100th Anniversary. In December, an anniversary dinner was held at the Lindsay Golf Course with 60 members attending. Margaret Anne Jacobs was the guest speaker. The past president made dioramas that illustrated the topics of several resolutions. The MP, MPP, Town Councillor, Bishop and Pastor were all in attendance and praised the work of the League. A good time was had by all!

The Peterborough Diocesan Council was able to hold the AMM and Fall Meeting using a combination of in person/ virtual platforms. The Diocesan Council had three projects planned for the 100th Anniversary – a cookbook, a banquet and a booklet containing the history of the Diocesan Council over 100 years. Two of the three projects were completed in spite of COVID.

The 'A Cause for Applause' cookbook was a success with over 200 recipes and more than 800 copies sold throughout the diocese. Fortunately, the cookbooks were dispersed just before the shutdown. The gathering of the history of the diocese took more than two years with many interruptions along the way. Council and diocesan records had been lost. Churches had fires and floods, councils had periods of inactivity, records were incomplete due to a myriad of challenges along the way. I had the opportunity to chair this committee and had stored the records at my home just before the shutdown. With breaks due to loosening of regulations, parish council records helped to fill in the gaps. Lots of e-mails and phone calls helped to complete the records.

The booklet started out as a timeline. A history of the beginnings of the League was added. Each decade was so unique and a summary that highlighted the events of the times, the family and political events as well as the work of the league sisters was added and gave context for some of the resolutions. In the end the booklet filled 80 pages with close to 100 copies sold or gifted.

Some interesting facts:

- The largest group of immigrants that needed assistance in Edmonton in the 1920's were immigrants from the Ukraine. The aggressor who invaded Ukraine was Russia.
- The first business plan to build a hostel and provide services was rejected by the bankers. A call went out to women in 7 parishes in Edmonton. 20 women raised the funds to build Rosalie Hall within a year.
- The Knights of Columbus provided \$3000.00, a year's salary for Mrs. Kneil, Organizing Secretary for CWL, to travel by train to organize subdivisions of CWL.
- By 1922, The Catholic Women's League of Canada had 30,000 members.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada has a solid history to build upon! May we grow back not to what was, but instead towards what we can become!

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Hough, OPC Recording Secretary