

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



**Annual Report
2022**

The Purpose of the Ontario Provincial Council

- To implement the Catholic Women's League objectives and policy in the province
- To represent the Catholic Women's League members of Ontario at the national level
- To coordinate the diocesan councils in the province
- To be a link between the diocesan councils in Ontario and the national council for reporting, for resolutions and for those matters requiring an instructed vote at the national convention
- To disseminate information and direction from the national council to the diocesan councils in the province
- To provide direction, inspiration and encouragement to Catholic Women's League members and councils in the province
- To submit resolutions and briefs on provincial matters as required
- To maintain contact with the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO)



NOTE: The reporting format has changed from previous years in response to the national office's use of the results from the national parish survey for its annual report. This Ontario Provincial Council annual report blends the former report format with the reporting of national survey results. The questions at the beginning of each standing committee reports correspond to the questions included in the 2022 national parish survey.

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The Catholic Women's League of Canada

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The Ontario Provincial Executive

2021-2024 Ontario Provincial Officers

Spiritual Advisor	Most Reverend Bishop Thomas Dowd
President	Linda Squarzolo
President-Elect/Organization	Colleen Martin
1 st Vice-Pres/Spiritual Development	Wilma Vanderzwaag
2 nd Vice-Pres/Resolutions	Mary Capobianco
Recording Secretary	Anna Tremblay
Administrative Assistant	Rebecca McCarrell
Treasurer	Marie-Theresa Lamphier
Past President/Historian	Colleen Perry
Christian Family Life	Betsy Currier
Communications	Emma Rose Rayburn
Education and Health	Hilarion Mitchell
Community Life	Karen McDonald
Legislation	Joanna Sisk

2022 Diocesan Presidents

Alexandria/Cornwall	Angela Gaudet
Hamilton	Joyce Cotter
Hearst	Liz McInnis
Kingston	Lyne Tuepah
London	Theresa Ryan
Ottawa	Claudette Langdon
Pembroke	Annette Chaplin
Peterborough	Helena Lessard
Sault Ste. Marie	Lisa Henry
St. Catharines	Lisa Fillingham
Thunder Bay	Judith Imbeault
Timmins	Shirley Gravel
Toronto	Sue Lubowitz

*** Mission Statement ***

The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.



**ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

Dear League Members,

As we read through the reports printed in this book, we can appreciate all that has been accomplished by the members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in the Province of Ontario. Members focused on the national theme of "Catholic and Living It!" and addressed the provincial theme of "Loneliness". In July, when the new provincial theme, "Go Make a Difference!" was introduced, members embraced it and found ways to adopt it in all their League programs.

The League plays an important role in the society of today. As the largest organization of Catholic women, members have made a difference in their parishes, communities and across the country. Councils strove to increase the faith of their members through prayer services and retreats, they provided services to others, including the marginalized and vulnerable, and they advocated for social justice by sending letters to government and writing resolutions. Members have become more knowledgeable about social issues, developed new skills and shared their faith through their attendance at the webinars which were offered by provincial officers. The reports printed in this book are a reflection of all these actions.

The members of the 2022-2024 provincial executive continue to promote the Objects of the League and I am impressed with their dedication and commitment to serve.

Appreciation and congratulations are sent to all members for your efforts to work *For God and Canada*. May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide you and hold you in her loving arms.

Blessings,

Linda



Linda Squarzolo, President

Linda Squarzolo

Inform the Membership of the League's Position on Current Issues, Priorities and New Programs

The following national priorities were introduced, discussed, and acted upon:

- Communiqués received from national officers were forwarded to their provincial counterparts. Members were encouraged to support suggestions, implement programs, and offer their services for working groups.
- Councils were informed about the Unity Outreach Project, and many looked forward to implementing it.
- Many councils participated in 12-Hours-of-Prayer for Palliative Care.

The following provincial priorities were introduced, discussed, and acted upon:

- Continued to focus on the theme "Loneliness" by encouraging outreach through phone calls and visits, the development of a resolution on the topic, sharing information about the causes and effects of loneliness with government officials.
- Following the installation of the newly elected executive, the theme "Go Make a Difference!" was introduced.
- Provincial officers and diocesan presidents developed webinars, projects, and initiatives to make a noticeable difference in society by providing service to the less fortunate, increasing the awareness of social justice issues and increasing the faith of members.
- Awareness of Indigenous issues was developed by wearing orange on Truth and Reconciliation Day, virtually praying reconciliation rosaries on that day and on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe as well as sharing information through directives and in the *ON-Line* Newsletter.

Foster Open Communication

- Attended an in-person meeting with the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO), informed them about the work being done by the League provincially and resolutions topics being studied.
- Communications from the Ontario Provincial Council were fostered through: The *ON-Line Newsletter*, the website and Facebook page.
- Oral and written reports at executive meetings.
- Directives from provincial officers to counterparts.
- In-person and virtual meetings for the whole executive but also virtual meetings between the provincial executive and their diocesan counterparts.

Preside at All Meetings of the Council

- The provincial convention was held in-person for the first time in several years, however the pre-convention and administrative committee meetings were virtual.
- Executive and administrative committee meetings were held both in-person and virtually.

Be a Signing Officer for All Official Documents

- Together with the treasurer and secretary, reviewed claim forms and signed cheques.
- Together with the resolutions chair, sent letters requesting visits with the Ontario premier and other government officials.

Initiate Policy, in Consultation with the Officers

- Provincial officers and diocesan presidents developed webinars, projects and initiatives to make a noticeable difference in society by providing service to the less fortunate, increasing the awareness of social justice issues and increasing the faith of members.
- Provincial manuals were reviewed and updated, as required.
- Directives from provincial officers were shared via email with diocesan counterparts and other executive members and posted on the provincial website.

Be an Advisory Member of Committees

- Chaired the Administrative Committee.
- Was a member, *ex officio*, of Policy and Guidelines Review, Resolutions Review, Social Justice, Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Memorial Bursary, Truth and Reconciliation, and Government Visitation committees.

Be the Official Spokesperson for the Council

- Represented the provincial council on the National Board.
- Made a presentation to the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO) with President-elect Colleen Martin.
- Sent certificates to councils and members celebrating milestone events.

Appoint Committees

- The following committees were in place:
- Administrative Committee
- Policy, Guidelines and Convention Guide Review Committee
- Resolutions Committees, including review, reading, archiving and government visitation
- Minutes Review Committee
- Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Memorial Bursary Committee
- Social Justice Award Committee
- Truth and Reconciliation Committee
- Annual Report Book Committee
- Convention Committee
- Nominations and Elections Committee
- All committee appointments were vetted by the president,

President's Activity Report

- Attended all provincial and national meetings, as required, and gave written and oral reports
- Together with the administrative assistant sent letters of congratulations, sympathy, and information.

- Wrote monthly “letters” and other articles for the *ON-Line* Newsletter, as well as directives and memos when required.
- Participated in webinars hosted by national officers, provincial officers, and other groups.
- Initiated monthly virtual meetings with diocesan presidents.
- Made presentations to diocesan and parish councils whenever invited to do so
- Assisted with the preparations for upcoming and future provincial conventions.

Recommendations

- Encourage the open communication of ideas between levels to foster the education of members and to develop leadership for the future.
- Offer regularly scheduled leadership courses to educate members who accept new executive positions.
- Ensure that mentorship is offered to members accepting executive positions

Spiritual Development Standing Committee Report 2022

Chairperson: Wilma Vanderzwaag

Sub-chairpersons:

Dioceses Reporting: / 13

For each of the following, describe ways parish and diocesan councils assisted members:

In their communal and personal prayer life in 2022?

- Each diocese reported that most parish councils shared information from Catholic sources.
- 11 diocesan councils used websites and virtual programs to enhance the spiritual growth of members.
- Diocesan and parish councils shared spiritual reflections and prayers via Facebook and their websites.
- 6 diocesan councils reported 50% of parish councils used resources from National website.
- All dioceses offered prayers/reflections or retreats to acknowledge the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation.
- 1 diocesan council created online monthly newsletter titled 'Catholic Connections'.
- Diocesan and parish council members participated in Rosary Sunday at Martyrs' Shrine in Midland, Ontario.

In their growth in Catholic faith?

- All diocesan councils and 60% of parish councils used virtual retreats/prayers/rosaries.
- 9 diocesan councils reported members attended spiritual book clubs organized by diocesan councils and parish councils.
- 10 diocesan councils reported that parish councils registered for online presentations from sources such as Novalis, National Catholic Broadcast Council, Ignatian Spirituality, Loyola Press and Formed.
- 1 diocesan spiritual chair and parish priest facilitated Formed course, "The Sanctuary Course for Catholics"

In being up to date on the role of women in the church?

- Approximately 2/3 of parish councils reported studying documents from the Vatican regarding the role of women in the church.
- A small number invited guest speakers to speak on this topic.

Describe ways, parish and diocesan councils supported women and men discerning their vocation.

- 95% of parish councils gave monetary gifts to seminarians directly or through the Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Memorial Bursary.
- All councils offered prayer services, Masses and/or Living Rosary.
- Many councils supported through the Serra Club.

- Members in 2 dioceses attended ordinations and liturgies of person(s) taking religious vows.
- Vocation cross prayers and Travelling Crucifix were used in one diocese.
- Daisy and Trillium prayers.
- Advent Rosary chain, rosary prayed daily throughout Advent for vocations.

Chairperson's Activities Report

- Prepared prayers and prayer services for administration and executive meetings.
- Hosted virtual meetings with diocesan chairpersons.
- Prepared reports, monthly newsletter articles, and directives.
- Forwarded information received from National chairperson.
- Created 'Go Make a Difference' initiative-CWL Synodality.
- Attended in-person and virtual administration and executive meetings.

Recommendations

- Provide on national website step by step tutorial detailing instructions for parish councils on how to report deceased members.
- Continue to use virtual meetings to stay connected to counterparts and assist with any issues discussed.
- Continue to encourage variety of communication platforms at all levels to advise and engage members.
- All councils recommended the League create various tools and events to enhance spiritual life of members.
- All councils encouraged asking Spiritual Advisors to act as a resource for spiritual activities.

Organization Standing Committee Report

2022

Chairperson: Colleen Martin
Dioceses Reporting: 13 / 13

Subcommittee: Glenda Klein
Joleene Kemp

For each of the following, describe ways parish councils and diocesan council supported recruitment and retention of members:

Annual Membership Drive

- Parish councils from all 13 dioceses reported engaging in an annual membership drive most at the expected November timeline.
- Many and varied activities were undertaken to recruit members including:

Personal calls	Parish bulletin inserts	Spiritual Advisor spoke
Email reminders	Mass announcements	Allowed E-transfers
Social media	CWL envelope inserted	Draw for free membership
Letters	Membership Sundays	Wine and cheese night
Word of mouth	Potluck suppers	Use of the welcome program
Brochures out	In person invites	Display banner

Info sessions for members

- Councils note that the regular monthly meetings are the main information session hosted for members, and minutes are circulated for reference.
- Many councils offered specific sessions on topics shared by standing chairs or officers.
- Annual letter circulated with activities and accomplishments.
- Members are also kept up to date with bulleting inserts, bulletin board postings, social media posts and emails.

Info session for prospective members

- Eleven councils reported hosting information sessions for non-members.
- It is noted that one to one personal contact is most effective to share information about the League.
- Welcome kits, CWL pin, scarf, Constitution & Bu-laws, League Prayer card, and Catholic & Living It! cards were used by various councils to welcome new members.

What resources/assistance would parish councils like to have?

- Many councils indicated they would like to have additional resources and assistance without specifics.
- Membership recruitment is a recurring theme for needed resources and assistance particularly for younger future members.
- New ideas for prayer services and spiritual development.
- The national, provincial, and diocesan websites are cited as places to access reference materials so continue to update regularly.
- More regular communication to the parish level from national.
- Would like a tool to use for planning a retreat.

Were there frequently asked questions (FAQs) on the duties of President-Elect/ Organization? Describe the FAQs and how you answered or assisted with obtaining an answer.

- There was confusion because of the changes in communication channels and timing of the launch of the realigned annual reporting process.
- A lot of questions were asked regarding the membership fee increase.

Chairperson's Activity Report

- Invited diocesan counterparts to participate in zoom planning meetings to discuss tools and process to support parishes in recruitment and retention.
- Established monthly league development zooms on various topics open to all members.
- Prepared directives, reports, newsletter contributions as necessary.
- Began the process for review and revision of provincial policy, procedure, and guidelines to reflect the new three pillar structure: faith, service, and social justice.

Recommendations

- Future amendment of policy to include zoom vote option for Life membership nomination.
- Provide access for diocesan organization/membership person to the membership database for the diocesan members to allow analysis and resulting strategy to retain membership, report on renewal rates, and celebrate new recruits.
- Reschedule the timing for completion of annual reports by parish councils given holiday timeframe - consider January timing as a project timeline for councils.
- Share information with the membership on what the results of the annual survey are used for; how they can be used to determine when new strategies may be required for marketing initiatives, tools and/or membership.
- Step-by-step instructions with screen shots for new membership coordinators and those switching from paper to online.
- Large, printed posters and colour pamphlets to hand out.
- When providing new resources, host a webinar to explain how each is laid out and suggestions on how to make use of them effectively,

Life Member Liaison Report

2022

Life Member Liaison: Shelley Tamas

Assistant: not applicable

Honorary Life Members: 3

Dioceses Reporting: 13/13

Life Members: 131

No New Life Members

Deceased Life Members

We are deeply saddened by the loss of five life members:

- o Gladys Gillissie – December 20 – Hearst-Moosonee Diocese
- o Mary Jean Horne – October 26 – London Diocese
- o Dorothy McGuigan – July 18 – Toronto Archdiocese - PPP
- o Dorothy Meehan – June 15 – Kingston Archdiocese
- o Erica Perk – August 24 – Peterborough Diocese

Life Members Across the Province

- Contributed to the life of their parishes and to the League at all levels.
- Showed their commitment and love of the League by serving in various executive positions within parish, diocesan, provincial and national councils, some to ensure that the League remains sustainable.
- Mentored those members seeking advice, at all levels of the League, offering encouragement, knowledge, and support.
- Co-chaired the Provincial Annual Meeting of Members.
- Served as member of the provincial social justice review committee.
- Served as parliamentarian at diocesan AMM/conventions.
- Appointed to help mediate amalgamation of two dioceses.
- Supported members with prayers individually and as prayer partners, phone calls, emails, cards, etc.
- Connected with life members by sending birthday, Christmas, get well, and sympathy cards.
- Met with other life members and members for social gatherings.
- Paid respect and final farewell, as honour guards to late life members.
- Attended virtual and in-person meetings and the Annual Meetings of Members.
- Engaged in their parish councils, planned significant parish anniversaries, and assisted in various ministries in the parish and with coordinating special events.
- Facilitated workshops and presentations.
- Prepared briefs and resolutions, wrote letters, and contributed articles to local newspapers to advocate for issues of concern to Catholic women.
- Assisted with the various requirements of the election process.
- Prayed the Rosary daily for the intentions of family and CWL members.
- Worked on the production of CWL newsletters at various levels.
- Prepared a newsletter to update members on activities reinstated following the restrictions of the pandemic.

- Fundraised and contributed to help replenish depleted funds due to the pandemic.
- Attended retreats, workshops, and social outings.
- Provided transportation to and from church for attendance at Mass and meetings.
- Served as Altar Servers for Funerals, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, members of Finance and Property Committees, Ministers of Hospitality, Lectors, members of Pastoral Councils, Sacristans, Ushers, and Offertory Collection Counters in their parishes.
- Completed training for and served as Synod Parish Facilitators.
- Organized and participated in the Divine Mercy Chaplet offering prayer for peace in Ukraine.
- Chaired the Diocesan Council for the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, and the national Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle, and chaired and acted as treasurer for Our Lady of the Rosary Shine.
- Chaired and helped in food banks and food kitchens for the needy.
- Chaired groups who prepared Christmas hampers for those in need.
- Assisted with the preparation and delivery of gratitude bags in the parish community.
- Volunteered with palliative care and hospice organizations.
- Led and participated in Parish Listening Sessions.
- Completed online course and received certificate for the 4 Seasons of Reconciliation presented by The First Nations University of Canada.
- Assisted at Canon Law Conference as greeters.
- Worked at the Municipal elections.

Life Member Liaison's activities

- Requested Mass for the intentions of Life Members & Provincial Council.
- Updated the Life Member Directory as necessary.
- Updated the deceased life member binders.
- Forwarded communications to diocesan and national counterparts to relay to the life members across Canada.
- Encouraged and joined with prayer warriors to bring to our Lord, with intercessory prayer, many life members, and their loved ones.
- Extended birthday wishes to life members either by email, phone, or post.
- Forwarded the national life member and provincial liaison communications to all diocesan life member liaisons, honorary life members and the provincial executive.
- Emailed birthday celebrants list to the national life member liaison, diocesan life member liaisons, and provincial executive with the date of their celebration and a request for prayers for each celebrant.
- Sent sympathy and get-well cards to life members.
- Sent Christmas cards to national and diocesan life member liaisons.

Biggest Challenges

- Filling the position of life member liaison.
- Connecting with life members in nursing homes and those with dementia.
- Motivating capable members to accept leadership positions.
- Engaging new and younger women to fill the void.
- Supporting Life Members faced with suffering due to illness and loss of loved ones.
- Lack of support from clergy.
- Use of technology when members lack access to computers to receive information.
- Mentoring officers in the new format and structure from strategic initiatives.
- Mentoring members through an amalgamation process.

Greatest Accomplishments

- Fulfilled duties and was supportive even under great adversity.
- Achieved success in keeping parish councils operating with many challenges.
- Filled the position of council president due to mentoring of life members.
- Collaborated to complete parish council and diocesan council history books.
- Provided educational opportunities for members to learn more about our Indigenous sisters and brothers.
- Participated in the Gratitude Project, Fireside Chat, and a living rosary on Our Lady's feasts days, all projects beneficial to members spiritual development.
- Held a luncheon to communicate and answer questions regarding amalgamation, participated in preparations for related archiving and setting up of committees, and established a policy and procedure for the amalgamation of two diocesan councils.

Recommendations

- Consider continuing weekly contact from the provincial life member liaison rather than several throughout the week.
- Offer more information sessions in preparation for the coming changes to enhance Life Members' ability to mentor members through the change.

Christian Family Life Standing Committee Report 2022

Chairperson: Betsy Currier

Sub-chairpersons: Angela Pellerin and Audrey Shelton

Dioceses Reporting: 12 / 13

For each of the following, list actions by parish and diocesan councils:

Support for Marriage and Families

- Participated in parish Ministry for Marriage and Family courses, “nana programs” to assist new moms, and children’s liturgy
- Provided sacramental preparation and gifts, monetary aid, food baskets, clothing donations for families in need.
- Shared family life information and had guest speakers at meetings.
- Hosted events, luncheons, potlucks, ice cream Sundays, hospitality after masses, funeral luncheons, card parties, Christian based movie nights, children’s parties, family day retreats.
- Sent cards/gifts for special occasions: thinking of you, get well, and sympathy.
- Promoted National Week for Life and Family, World Day for Grandparents, 10th World Meeting of Families in Rome.
- Offered prayers specifically for members’ concerns regarding families.
- Supported a family in India and a girl in Kenya.

Uphold or Advocate for the Sanctity of Life

- Informed/educated members; attended workshops, Life Chain, Walk for Life, 40 Days for Life; and, participated in 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care, TAD-CCAT Palliative Project to distribute the CCCB Horizons of Hope 4-part module program, rally for the unborn child in October 2022.
- Studied legislations regarding euthanasia, protection from coercion of conscience for healthcare workers, palliative care, and abortion issues.
- Communicated to all levels of government both in person and through letters, postcards, and petitions for pro-life, end of life, and palliative care issues.
- Donated to pro-life charities, Birthright, Right to Life, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Campaign Life Coalition, local hospices, local pregnancy centres, Gianna Home for Unwed Mothers, Rose of Sharon.
- Hosted the DVD “Unplanned” and baby showers.
- Planted a garden for sanctity of life with memorial cross for the unborn child.
- Offered prayers, rosary recitations, Masses for sanctity of life.

Support of Youth

- Provided annual graduation awards, bursaries, scholarships, financial assistance, winter clothing, food supplies to a youth centre, weekly bulletins for children’s liturgy, and purchased children’s books of faith.
- Supported the elementary breakfast/lunch programs.
- Participated in sacramental preparations and provided receptions and gifts.
- Supported Squires, NET program, hosted/supported summer youth camps.

- Provided financial assistance for a youth to attend a diocesan Young Adult Retreat, youth to attend World Youth Day, to an orphan in a third world country through Chalice, to a youth in Kenya.
- Started and/or volunteered at children's liturgy RCIA programs.
- Hosted events, parties, rallies, baseball games, and games night.
- Invited members of the Catholic Girls League to join CWL events.
- Helped secondary students get community service hours.
- Hosted presentations and discussions related to youth issues.

Reach Out and Provide Ministry to Others

- Made phone calls, sent emails and cards, carolled at seniors' residences, provided rides, and made personal visits to lonely, elderly, and sick.
- Offered masses, prayer services, and delivered Eucharist to home bound.
- Provided financial donations to D&P, Ukraine relief, Save a Family, Mater Care International, Madonna House, St. Vincent de Paul, and Salvation Army.
- Participated in preparation and distribution of care kits, preparation of Christmas hampers, provision of winter clothing to homeless, prayer shawls, lunch programs, Christmas Cheer, Out of the Cold programs, computer classes, soup kitchens, food banks, Meals on Wheels, funeral luncheons, community lunch programs, toy drives, women in crisis centres, and CWL honour guards.
- Donated time and services to seniors' organizations.
- Provided bereavement support, grief seminar information.

Support and/or Promote Religious Vocations

- Offered prayers, spiritual bouquets, mass intentions, and masses.
- Donated to the Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Memorial Bursary and other funds supporting seminaries, diaconate, and women religious.
- Sent Christmas, birthday, and anniversary cards, gave gifts, and hosted appreciation dinners.

Chairperson's Activities Report

- Sent directives, newsletter submissions, submitted activity reports for executive meetings and attended Spiritual Development and Christian Family Life Zoom meetings
- Communicated with diocesan chairpersons via email and ZOOM meeting
- Viewed the Salt & Light production of "Walking Together"
- Attended Creation as a Source of Life and our Call to Care for It, and the "Special Topics in Evangelization and Catechesis" Webinar series presented by CCCB
- Prepared and sent out packages for the Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Memorial Bursary – to all 12 bishops and rectors of 2 seminaries

Recommendations

- Provide information/education regarding the location and the process to access new resources on www.cwl.ca.
- Encourage councils to use the resources available to them.

Communications Standing Committee Report 2022

Chairperson: Emma Rose Rayburn

Sub-chairpersons to July 2022: Lisa Fillingham and Paddy Fitzgerald Nolan

Dioceses Reporting: 10 / 13

Did parish and diocesan councils use the following methods or tools:

(Indicate # of parishes and X # if diocesan)

Social Media: twitter, Instagram, Facebook – The majority of councils and dioceses did.

Website available in 2022	Parish 32	Diocese 7
Use national website in 2022	Parish 99	Diocese 10
Used a newsletter in 2022	Parish 57	Diocese 5
Aware of resolutions related to inappropriate Internet use and the behaviour associated with it?	Parish 100	Diocese 5
Distributed the “pornography hurts” postcard	Parish 64	Diocese 0

Chairperson’s Activities Report

- Prepare a prayer calendar monthly
- New learning curve on learning to use their website
- First newsletter challenge – featured in OPC newsletter
- Submitted articles to Diocesan newspaper on how our Diocesan CWL was living out new National theme Catholic & Living It!
- Website being used to support Diocesan communications, sharing of resources and special events.

Recommendations

- Newsletter template from National is great; however, a workshop on how to create with it would be helpful as most councils are not making use of it.
- Social media workshops as this appears to be “the way” going forward.
- Clarification on role of communications especially under the new structure.
- Important for National to develop a meaningful Annual Report process.
- We all remember person to person is our most vital means of relating.
- Important for all levels to remember & respect all member’s communication means & limitations and to encourage additional methods to reach out in a caring manner.
- To encourage a greater involvement of Spiritual Advisors to assist with promotion of the CWL and the League’s benefits.
- Provincial: Consider designating each diocese a specific month to send Pornography Hurts cards.
- National: Costly to produce post cards – could something be designed to be sent by email.

Community Life Standing Committee Report

2022

Chairperson: Karen McDonald

Sub-chairpersons: Pat Weller, Kathleen Niro

Dioceses Reporting: 13/13

2nd National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – September 30, 2022

150 parishes participated by attending mass, prayer services, Indigenous ceremonies, retreats, walks, information session on Circle of Turtle Lodge, Healing Circles, Hamilton Diocesan Indigenous 8-week series, ceremony for *children's shoes* displayed before altar, Ottawa national ceremony, Diocesan Landscape of Nations Event, by joining Reconciliation Rosary; wearing orange, presenting *World Views on Language Loss: The Impact on Indigenous Peoples*, enrolling in Indigenous courses/parish dialogue circles, purchasing Indigenous goods, planting a garden; focusing on Indigenous concerns and including land acknowledgment at meetings; hosting presentations by Indigenous leaders; and holding a prayer service focusing Our Lady of Guadalupe icon and a statue of St. Kateri Tekakwitha.

National Food Bank Project

186 parishes participated. Majority felt the project was helpful in building community. Councils continued to collect goods for food banks, St. Vincent de Paul Society, and Christmas food hampers; supported Children's Christmas Basket Fund, Mary's Meals, Canadian Children for Food; donated cash/vouchers; members volunteered at food banks; one council financially supported Sr. Kathryn's Pantry, another council supported Dr. Simone's Food for Children Charity, and a parish supported snack and breakfast programs at two Catholic schools. One diocese collected 6,000 pounds of food in collaboration with the Knights of Columbus.

National Webinar on Human Trafficking by Joy Smith

42 parishes participated. Councils learned the extent of human trafficking, how it exploits the person, the difficulty in legislating it, ways to prevent it, how to be aware of suspicious activity and to recognize victims, of victim resources available, and how to use the anti-human trafficking study guide. Councils prayed to St. Josephine Bakhita to intercede for victims. One council is determined to do more to protect all grandchildren. Councils were surprised at the number of people trafficked and how many young, homeless children are targeted. Councils also participated in local presentations and invited guest speakers on the topic.

Assisting Ukrainian refugees in transition to their new life in Canada?

124 parishes participated through prayer, financial assistance, clothing/household donations; donating to New Canadian Centre, sponsoring a child, supporting a medical team going to Ukraine, hosting Good Friday Hunger Meal with proceeds to Ukrainian Refugees Fund. Quilted banner was created to honor refugees. Quilts were donated to families. A member hosted a refugee family of 6 and the council donated food/clothing. A council prayed for a refugee family sponsored by a school. Members wore blue/yellow ribbons, participated in Prayer Day for Peace in Ukraine. Councils offered support through transportation, translation and school enrollment.

Did parish councils use the:

Development and Peace/Caritas Canada brochure

to promote projects supported by the League? Very few councils used this resource.

Catholic Near East Welfare Association brochure

to promote projects supported by the League? Very few councils used this resource.

Chairperson's Activities Report

- Shared information concerning Resolution 2022.01 (Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste); Food Bank Project; Domestic Violence Awareness Month; new Faith, Service, Social Justice guidelines, new Catholic Near East Welfare Association and Development & Peace – Caritas Canada brochures; current national resolutions under Community Life standing committee
- Completed 4 Seasons of Reconciliation course
- Attended virtual webinars: Dignity Conserving Care, Human Trafficking: Canada's Secret Shame; and Honouring our Learning Path towards Truth & Reconciliation
- Viewed Salt + Light video, "Unbound: A Conversation Against Human Trafficking"
- reviewed Share the Words Resource from national office
- Attended virtual Saints of Advent retreat
- Participated in Reconciliation Rosaries hosted by provincial council
- Attended monthly virtual meetings with national and provincial chairpersons
- Shared four pastoral letters, "That We May Walk Together", issued by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops to the First Nations; the Inuit in Canada; the Métis; the People of God in Canada, on Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples
- Provided updates for provincial website as chairperson of OPC Truth and Reconciliation Working Group
- Highlighted National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th and National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples on December 12th

Recommendations

- Encourage members to learn more about Truth and Reconciliation ('T&R') and to discuss healing and reconciliation initiatives at their meetings. Councils should consider the KAIROS Blanket Exercise as a T&R teaching tool.
- Consider a T&R sub-committee (and chairperson) for parish and diocesan councils.
- Try to send time sensitive information earlier to allow councils time to act.

Education and Health Standing Committee Report 2022

Chairperson: Hilarion Mitchell

Sub-chairpersons: Angela Pellerin and Audrey Shelton

Dioceses Reporting: 12 / 13

Promoted/Assisted Catholic Education

190 Councils actively promoted Catholic education in the following ways.

- Supported Catholic Education Week, offered prayers for students and teachers, engaged in prayer partners for elementary and high schools.
- Purchased bibles for students, held pro-life essay and poetry contests for intermediate and senior level students.
- Donated cash, contributed bibles, baked treats, gifts for the communion and confirmation candidates and their teachers, held and sponsored breakfasts and luncheons programs.
- One council president who is also the regional Education and Health Chair was newly elected Trustee for their Catholic school Board.

Bursaries or Scholarships

247 Councils provided Bursaries or Scholarships at all levels of education. In addition, funds were used to assist League members or potential lay leaders within and beyond their parish communities through endeavours below:

- Supported Catholic Christian Outreach, Bishop Bernard F Pappin Memorial Bursary, Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation, Coady International Institute, Catholic Near East Welfare Association financially.
- Provided other awards such as the Christian Spirit Award and the St. Michael's Scholarship Fund.

Blood Services Canada National League Partnership

141 Councils participated in the blood services national project to increase the number of blood donors and assist in replenishing blood supplies diminished during the COVID pandemic.

Participation in Other National Initiatives

Mental health post card campaign	<u>14</u>	YES	<u>162</u>	NO	<u>65</u>	UNAWARE
Palliative care post card campaign	<u>35</u>	YES	<u>149</u>	NO	<u>57</u>	UNAWARE
Webinar on palliative care May 7	<u>67</u>	YES	<u>132</u>	NO	<u>42</u>	UNAWARE
12 hours of prayer for palliative care	<u>131</u>	YES	<u>87</u>	NO	<u>23</u>	UNAWARE
World Water Day, March 22	<u>23</u>	YES	<u>218</u>	NO	<u>0</u>	UNAWARE
Earth Day, April 22	<u>40</u>	YES	<u>202</u>	NO	<u>0</u>	UNAWARE
Earth Action Initiative, September 20	<u>8</u>	YES	<u>225</u>	NO	<u>2</u>	UNAWARE

Unusual Diocesan Activities Reported

- Encouraged a member to run for trustee for local Catholic school board and she was elected.
- Participated in the Rosary Apostolate. (www.rosaryapostolate.com)
- Purchased books for a local shelter for a Literacy Day.
- Planted trees in commemoration of Indigenous children.
- Created a Marian Garden.

Chairperson's Activities Report

- Responded to questions around current duties and the new League structure
- Prepared directives, newsletter articles and reporting as required.
- Held virtual introduction meeting and requested Go Make a Difference project ideas from diocesan counterparts
- Followed-up on the Blood Services Canada national League partnership.

Recommendations

- Provide frequent timely Education and Health provincial directives and request same for national communiqués for better council response on follow-up items.
- Promote genetics, the League Canadian Blood Services 200 units annual donation from member family and friends, environmental and health initiatives.
- Study and action national and provincial Education and Health resolutions.
- Continue to include the Service and Social Justice committees in Education and Health directives during the new League structure transition.
- Promote knowledge about the advantages and disadvantages of genetics from a Catholic perspective as no councils reported this activity.

Past-President/Historian Standing Committee Report 2022

Chairperson: Colleen Perry

Sub-committee members:

Dioceses Reporting: 12 / 13

Describe options for where parish councils kept their archives in bullet one and any items archived in 2022 beyond those described in policy in following bullets.

- Approximately eighty percent (80%) of archives are stored on church property in locked storage facilities. The remainder (20%) are stored at the home of the president or a long serving member.
- Minutes, financial reports, including budgets, election registers, photos of events, deceased members lists (Book of Life) were all archived successfully.

Do parish councils have a history book? A policy manual?

YES 41% NO 59% YES 60% NO 40%

Did parish councils use the Constitution and Bylaws at meetings?

- YES 50% NO 50%

Did parish councils indicate they have council policy manuals?

- YES 61% NO 39%

Describe below any strategies or tools, not available from national, diocesan council used to assist parishes with developing policies.

- Using other councils' policy manuals as a guide to help the process.

Chairperson's Activities Report

- Attended all meetings and completed reports as required.
- Facilitated diocesan past president virtual gatherings to encourage discussion on relevant issues pertaining to this standing committee.
- Continued the work of the previous past president in gathering materials for archiving.
- Continued to research effective ways to archive materials keeping in mind the limited space availability of both the provincial and diocesan councils.

Recommendations

- Continue to seek the support and mentorship of past presidents at all levels.
- Encourage all members to use the Constitution and Bylaws 2022 and the National Manual of Policy and Procedure for education and inspiration.
- Maintain the meeting structure of 1/3 prayer, 1/3 business, 1/3 fun.
- Encourage members to be the best they can be as individuals and as council members.
- Have fun! Spread joy! Make a Difference!

Legislation Standing Committee Report

2022

Chairperson: Joanna Sisk

Previous standing chair: Betsy Currier

Present sub-committee members: Onagh Dooley, Donna Provost, Anne Vincelli

Dioceses Reporting: 12 / 13

Provide the number of councils indicating use of each of the following:

128 Workshop 'Faith in Action' 64 federal department of justice website
276 mailings from government reps 62 in person/online gov't forums at any level
66 Hansard, printed recording of gov't proceedings
230 LEGISinfo website 230 Other

List any government bills/legislation/laws studied, mentioned by parishes in the annual survey or acted upon by councils in 2022 and indicate at what level of the League or government, as applicable, (indicate with P) or addressed by the diocesan councils (indicate with D).

Provincial

- Bill 7- - Long term care homes (P&D)
- Bill C2 & C4 Response to COVID (P&D)
- Lack of Doctors (P&D)

Federal

- Bill S248 Maid (P&D)
- Bill C230-Conscience rights for medical practitioners (P&D)
- Truth and Reconciliation (P&D)
- Indigenous equality (P&D)
- Bill 67- Palliative Care
- Equal access to water (P&D)
- One large diocese (Toronto) submitted over 40 legislations mentioned by their parishes. (available on request)

Chairperson's Activities Report

- Attended three ZOOM meetings with subcommittee to review three CWL position papers.
- Prepared legislation reports for, and attended, Executive and annual meetings.
- Sent letter to Premier Doug Ford and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care Merilee Fullerton re: the state of Long-Term Care Homes in Ontario.
- Sent Newsletter submissions and prepared Legislation annual report.
- Reviewed proposed Ontario diocesan resolutions & attended resolution committee meeting.
- Monitored communication from national and bills at Federal and Provincial levels of government then prepared two directives to forward relative information.
- Prepared a sample letter to premier, and opposition leaders on the topic of our resolution ON2022-1 Improve Long term care homes in Ontario; and, distributed to all diocesan legislation chairpersons for use of members throughout the province.

- Attended a virtual meeting on the topic of long-term care homes hosted by inner Faith communities of Toronto.

Recommendations

- Encourage use of National website for workshop preparation and delivery.
- Although 70% of respondents, to the national parish survey, had knowledge of Federal and provincial bills many would like training/workshops on legislation.
- Remind members they are free to act on bills, but as a private or concerned citizen and not on behalf of the Catholic Women's League of Canada.
- Continue to provide updates concerning current resolutions and have members write personal letters and telephone their local member of parliament.
- Provide the brief and action plan when sending out resolutions.
- Continue to reach out to members through the League magazine.
- Ask experienced and non-experienced members to participate in a committee specific to legislation as it is important work of the League.
- Provincial Chair to continue to dialogue directly with counterparts in dioceses to encourage working as a team, learning from each other and networking.
- Engage members who do not attend meetings to monitor current events.
- Encourage all councils to have a legislation committee as with smaller councils without a legislation chair very little response or action is taken.
- Provide summaries to members on resolutions and/or campaigns resulting in new or revised legislation to show the importance of action in influencing legislation.

Resolutions Standing Committee Report

2022

Chairperson: Mary Capobianco

Resolutions Reading Committee: Debbie Bates, Joleene Kemp, Anne Madden

Resolutions Review Committee: Mary Capobianco, Linda Squarzolo, Colleen Martin, Joanna Sisk, Colleen Perry, Wilma Vanderzwaag, Anne Madden (Secretary)

Government Visit: Mary Capobianco, Linda Squarzolo, Colleen Martin, Joanna Sisk, Colleen Perry

Dioceses Reporting: 13 / 13

The following tools were used by councils in the last three years to develop a resolution.

- 19% Workshops- diocesan/provincial
- 25% National resolutions communication
- 19% Resolutions supplement to Exec handbook
- 14% Actual resolution posted on website
- 18% Resolutions guide
- 20% Mentoring by another member
- 1% Other

Councils also reported using the following:

- 4% Workshop 'Faith in Action'
- 5% Federal department of justice website
- 16% Mailings from government reps
- 7% In-person/online government forums at any level
- 2% Hansard, printed recording of government proceedings
- 5% LEGISinfo website
- 13% Other

63% of parishes councils submitted a resolution standing committee report.

21% of parish councils reported having a resolutions committee chair.

76% of the diocesan councils had combined resolutions and legislation chair.

Research and Preparation of Resolutions and Briefs

This year two resolutions were brought forward to the 75th Annual Ontario Provincial Convention.

ON.22.01 Improve Long-term Care Homes in Ontario

ON.22.02 National Strategy to Address Loneliness

Several councils studied topics with intent to prepare resolutions including the definition of human remains in the Canada Criminal Code, palliative care, Indigenous equality, and the lack of doctors.

Study and Implementation of Resolutions Passed by Other Level

- One diocese successfully worked on a resolution to bring the Nativity Scene back to City Hall.
- Another diocese worked on a resolution to keep outdoor washroom facilities open all year round.
- Councils also reported studying and raising awareness of National Resolutions:
 - 2022.01 Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste
 - 2015.01 Increased Early Access and Intervention to Children and Youth Mental Health Services
- Most councils studied the 2022 and previous resolutions passed to take

recommended action and/or share information provided in communiques from counterparts at other levels.

- Actions included the education of members, open discussions, writing letters and circulating petitions on several issues and inviting guest speakers on several topics.
- 24 parish councils indicated they had members interested in receiving specialized training in resolution development.

Chairperson's Activities Report

- Prepared directives, bulletins and reports as required by provincial guidelines.
- Attended all Ontario Provincial Council (OPC) meetings.
- Attended 2022 National AGM as an accredited delegate for OPC.
- Supported diocesan resolution chairs through email and phone calls.
- Chaired two virtual meetings with diocesan resolution chairs.
- Attended virtual meetings for provincial resolution chairs hosted by the national resolution chair.
- Submitted articles for the *ON-Line Newsletter*.
- Participated as a sub-committee member on initiative led by national resolutions chair to review previous resolutions for the purpose of archiving.
- Collected and compiled results from national resolution chairperson survey regarding willingness to participate on teams to do resolution work.
- Prepared an information package of the 2022 resolutions passed at provincial and national conventions and forwarded them to the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO) for the presentation by the provincial president and president-elect.
- Created, communicated, and promoted the *Faith in Action-Go Make a Difference* initiative.

Recommendations

- That resolution workshops continue to be offered to stimulate a greater knowledge and interest in resolutions.
- That members continue to be aware of the resolutions approved by the League at all levels and implement the action plans.
- That councils without a resolution chairperson share information with members through other committees.
- Utilize the many resources available at all levels of the league.

Administrative Assistant Report

2022

Administrative Assistant: Rebecca McCarroll

Dioceses Reporting: not applicable

Duties

- Attended all Ontario Provincial Council (OPC) meetings.
- Prepared reports and summary reports as required.
- Forwarded executive reports prior to OPC meetings.
- Prepared and sent correspondence as required/requested.
- Attended to OPC correspondence including: sympathy and get-well cards, congratulatory certificates and letters, thank you cards, thinking of you cards and "years of service" and/or anniversary certificates as requested.
- Prepared and mailed or emailed Christmas and Easter greetings to all arch/bishops in Ontario.
- Maintained and circulated updated committee lists for provincial officers, diocesan presidents, and spiritual advisors.
- Sent invitation letters to 2023 OPC convention to all arch/bishops in Ontario.
- Sent letters of invitation to prospective vendors for 2023 OPC convention.
- Kept "Correspondence Received" and "Correspondence Sent" binders updated.
- Prepared and submitted annual report for *OPC Annual Report 2022*.

Recommendations

- That the position of Administrative Assistant to the Ontario Provincial Council be maintained as a position when developing new guidelines to reflect the new three pillar structure of executives.

Recording Secretary Report

2022

Recording Secretary: Anna Tremblay

Dioceses Reporting: 12 /13

292 Councils in Ontario completed the Parish Council Annual Report Survey and answered the questions related to secretary as follows:

Do you read your monthly minutes at each meeting? Yes 168 No 124

Do you keep your membership up to date with special events?
Yes 252 No 40

Do you prepare and send to members a quarterly report of all activities of the Council?
Yes 224 No 68

Comments Provided on the Position of Secretary

- Most councils distribute minutes in some way while those who email make copies available for members who need them.
- There were many comments that this position is difficult to fill, with the additional duties of the new structure, now even more so.
- Some councils commented they assign pieces of the secretary's duties to others; particularly, communication and correspondence.

Recording Secretary's Activities

- Attended OPC administration committee and executive meetings.
- Communicated with diocesan secretaries through directives.
- Prepared and distributed the Notices of Meetings.
- Prepared a template based on the agenda of the meeting.
- Distributed minutes of previous meetings and agendas for the administrative and executive meetings.
- Received and formatted summary reports for executive members.
- Prepared minutes of each executive meeting.
- Prepared notes of virtual meetings and administrative meetings.
- Recommended review committee members for each meeting to the president.
- Maintained an archive copy of the OPC minutes and relevant reports.
- Recorded the roll call for each meeting.
- Maintained the motions book for the Ontario Provincial Council.
- Carried out responsibilities as a signing officer.

Recommendations

- Consider providing a model for parish councils that provides suggestions for distributing the responsibilities of the Secretary under the new three pillar structure.

Treasurer Report

2022

Chairperson: Marie-Theresa Lamphier

Sub-chairpersons for previous standing chair: Patricia Rivest

Dioceses Reporting: 12 / 13

What did parishes donate to national voluntary funds in 2022?

	Per Annual Survey	Per Annual Report
Catholic Missions in Canada	<u>14,418</u>	<u>22,139</u>
Catholic Near East Welfare Association	<u>10,628</u>	<u>10,659</u>
CCCB Palliative Care Kit	<u>800</u>	<u>150</u>
Coady International Institute	<u>3,496</u>	<u>4,037</u>
Development and Peace-Caritas Canada	<u>13,715</u>	<u>11,390</u>
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition	<u>3,414</u>	<u>4,320</u>

Parish councils donated the following total to all charities in 2022.

	<u>616,260</u>	<u>999,185</u>
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The amounts noted in the survey were substantially less than what was reported directly to the treasurer. It is believed that this is because some parish councils did not complete the surveys. Regardless, the parish councils were generous indeed!

Additional Comments by Councils

- One council supported the Safe & Secure Child Initiative in Nigeria as suggested by a parish priest.
- A parish council using pre-authorized debit plan to pay their membership dues found it difficult national only took one withdrawal and the membership coordinator did not receive an email with the amount due/withdrawn. Treasurer was only alerted to the amount removed when she received her bank statement. They have 104 members but National only withdrew money for 78. Although the council tried to contact National no response was received.
- A big challenge, due to Covid was access to banks. In some cases, local branch was closed which increased travel distance.
- Covid impacted the ability to donate to charities due to lack of funds.
- Councils in Ontario were invited to donate to assist Ukrainians. In Toronto, a total of \$13,155.45 was collected across the diocese as well as \$1500 donated directly by Toronto Diocesan council.
- Ensured that all donations towards the Voluntary Funds were acknowledged through emails.
- One diocese collects an annual donation from each parish but did not collect in 2022 to relieve some of the financial pressure of COVID.

Chairperson's Activities Report

- I completed all the duties associated with the Treasurer, including posting entries, reconciling the books, preparing budgets, booking reservations, and keeping membership reports up to date.

- I completed the 3 hr. On-Line course at the First Nations University of Canada - 4 Seasons of Reconciliation.
- I attended all meetings and conventions in person or via Zoom.
- Kept everyone apprised of the GICs that came due and renewed them as directed.

Recommendations

- Some new Treasurers reported not receiving guidance from previous Treasurers, so it is recommended training sessions be offered to provide guidance on the responsibilities including:
 - Clarification on any concerns with the use of e-transfer to receive payments.
 - Instruction on a safe website to convert PDF documents to Word to complete forms received in a PDF format.
 - Specific instruction on completing forms required by diocesan, provincial and/or national.
 - Providing general information on lottery accounts and the use of funds for parish needs versus donation to registered charities.
 - Providing clarification on the new Policy and Procedure "Amalgamating a Diocesan Council" for those experiencing that situation.
- On both parish and diocesan councils, the position of Treasurer should be held by someone with at least a basic accounting knowledge to track income and expenses, reconcile accounts, prepare a budget and report to members in a format that members can understand.
- There should be notes at all levels as to what, where and when activities happen and how they are recorded so that there is consistency in record keeping and timelines.
- Develop policy and procedure for use of e-transfer as this option becomes more accepted.
- Review guidelines for treasurer regularly to ensure policy and procedures remain clear, concise not open to subjective interpretation.

Alexandria-Cornwall Diocesan Council Report 2022

President: Angela Gaudet
Members: 586
Councils: 8/9 Reported

Spiritual Advisor: Father Augustine Obago
Life Members: 10

After COVID, parishes began to return to pre-pandemic activity. Parishes perceived their openness as a percentage in the parish annual survey as follows:

13% 100% 38% 75% 25% 50% 25% 25% - %

Describe how parishes in your diocese approached the changes to the League's structure, how your diocesan executive has supported the parishes to prepare and the response of parishes to that support in the year 2022:

- Councils were cautious about the new structure, happy with less positions and prayed that positions would be filled more easily.
- Some councils were waiting until their next election to change structure.
- Some councils waited on direction from diocesan and some visited the website for information.
- Diocesan informed councils through Executive and General meetings but did not yet host a workshop.
- Of the respondents that asked diocesan or provincial for help, 38% asked for more guidance and 63% had not asked.

Describe how your diocese collectively and parishes individually worked with the national theme *Catholic and Living It!!* in 2022.

- Diocesan Council held a Spring Retreat in April with a guest speaker who spoke on how we could incorporate Catholic and Living It in our daily lives.
- Councils supported food banks in their community, reached out to shut-ins and parishioners, and helped new Moms by offering baby blankets when babies were baptized.
- One Council made a banner with the theme and all activities stemmed from it.

Describe how parish spiritual advisors, and your diocesan spiritual advisor, showed support for the League in your diocese and provide any recommendation(s) you may have for future relationships between councils and spiritual advisors.

- Parish spiritual advisors supported the League by offering mass, leading rosary, giving advice, and suggesting ideas for how the Catholic Women's League of Canada parish council could assist the church.
- Some spiritual advisors supported councils; however, many were not available to be at any meetings and the others only attended a few.

In point form below, describe any unusual initiatives facilitated by the Diocesan council in 2022 not specific to any standing committee.

- Diocesan council hosted diocesan convention at the Ramada Inn in Cornwall on May 29th. A Misconceptions Workshop was presented by the provincial president and national representative, and Archbishop Marcel Damphousse expanded on the Papal Synod.

- Arranged bus for members to attend a day at the provincial convention and to go out for dinner as a diocesan group.
- Participated in rosary rallies.

List any recommendations for improvements in policy, guidelines, or reporting arising from your 2022 experiences including identifying at what level of the League.

- Developing a tool for detecting how local parish councils are doing and what can be done to assist them.
- Recommendation is to have presidents meet with their Spiritual Advisors at the beginning of their term to discuss roles and expectations and to keep an open dialogue as the term unfolds.

Hamilton Diocesan Council Report

2022

President: Joyce Cotter

Spiritual Advisor: Father Larry Parent &
Father Ranjan D'Sa

Members: 5,842

Life Members: 10

Councils: 92/92 reported

Regions: 4

After COVID, parishes began to return to pre-pandemic activity. Parishes perceived their openness as a percentage in the parish annual survey as follows:

12% - 100% 40% - 75% 40% - 50% 8% - 25% - 0%

Describe how parishes in your diocese approached the changes to the League's structure, how your diocesan executive has supported the parishes to prepare and the response of parishes to that support in the year 2022:

- Positive response to decrease in standing chairs; perceived it might be easier to fill officer positions and make for a stronger executive.
- Councils sought to learn about the new structure and applied what they learned including sharing the information with other councils.
- Communicated the new structure using email, Facebook, newsletters, general meetings
- The diocesan team included information in newsletters, at parish, regional convention gatherings and shared instructions to access relevant websites.
- Councils expressed uncertainty of new workloads, responsibilities of officers, and were concerned portions of former chair positions would be overlooked using the new structure.
- Diocesan council developed training tools for nominations and elections under the new structure.
- Most councils did not approach diocesan executive for further guidance.

Describe how your diocese collectively and parishes individually worked with the national theme *Catholic and Living It!!* In 2022.

- Recited prayer at general meetings, emphasized more spiritual activities, held theme related retreats, prayed a weekly rosary, hosted special guest speakers on synodality, participated in church hospitality, and special Masses.
- Welcomed members back after COVID, creating greater feeling of fellowship.
- Kept visible in the church and community through participation, donations, and volunteering.
- Councils engaged the youth in a community project for youth, cared for the needy, offered rides to events/church, engaged students in parish ministry.
- Diocesan executives addressed questions & emails, lent support to councils in need, provided inspirational messages in the diocesan newsletter.

Describe how parish spiritual advisors, and your diocesan spiritual advisor, showed support for the League in your diocese and provide any recommendation(s) you may have for future relationships between councils and spiritual advisors.

- Majority of parish spiritual advisors provided support; fulfilled requests, encouraged leadership involvement; attended meetings, convention, and special

- events, planned with executive, and wore the spiritual advisor pin.
- Many councils reported the spiritual advisor provided support and guidance, listened to and expressed concerns, celebrated the Eucharist, prepared mass programs and pamphlets slides, printed materials, offered prayers, guidance and consultations, and helped arrange guest speakers.
- Some councils reported a lack of support, limited notice space in parish bulletins, changed meeting dates, did not offer Mass before general meetings, rarely attended general meetings, and no retreats provided.
- Diocesan Spiritual Advisors listened and addressed concerns; offered gospel reflections at executive meetings, participated in regional meetings, convention, and outreach to pastoral colleagues.
- Recommendations: stress the importance of the role of Spiritual Advisor; make specific requests to Spiritual Advisor respecting their time and other commitments; highlight League core purpose & values.

In point form below, describe any unusual initiatives facilitated by the Diocesan council in 2022 not specific to any standing committee.

- Held eight virtual workshops on the Impacts of Colonization in Canada to strengthen and develop the understanding of Indigenous issues in Canada.
- Celebrated 100+ anniversary of the League with the Bishops of Hamilton diocese with tree blessing ceremony, Celebration of the Eucharist, anniversary dinner.
- Streamlined diocesan officer directives into diocesan newsletter that is produced every other month.
- Initiated "Community Service Project for the Youth" as the diocesan "Go Make a Difference" project. This created awareness and promoted the League among the youth, united members in dialogue, and connected through working together as a group.

List any recommendations for improvements in policy, guidelines, or reporting arising from your 2022 experiences including identifying at what level of the League.

- Any national council communiques, surveys, member participation, and other parish specific initiatives should be sent to the parish councils directly instead of going through the different levels of the League.

Hearst-Moosonee Diocesan Council Report 2022

President: Liz McInnis

Spiritual Advisor: Father Herve Suave

Members: 236

Life Members: 4

Councils: 5 of 6 reported

After COVID, parishes began to return to pre-pandemic activity. Parishes perceived their openness as a percentage in the parish annual survey as follow:

 1 100% 3 75% 1 50% 25% - 0%

Describe how parishes in your diocese approached the changes to the League's structure, how your diocesan executive has supported the parishes to prepare and the response of parishes to that support in the year 2022:

- Presented at the diocesan meeting to executive, parish presidents presented to their councils.
- Positive response to the new structure, i.e. more streamlined, less overlap, and smaller executive.

Describe how your diocese collectively and parishes individually worked with the national theme *Catholic and Living It!!* In 2022.

- Helping the poor, getting involved whenever needed in community and in our schools, sponsor new members
- Reaching out to our indigenous sisters

Describe how parish spiritual advisors, and your diocesan spiritual advisor, showed support for the League in your diocese and provide any recommendation(s) you may have for future relationships between councils and spiritual advisors.

- Attend most meetings, provide reflections for newsletter.
- Participate in activities – makes suggestions.

In point form below, describe any unusual initiatives facilitated by the Diocesan council in 2022 not specific to any standing committee.

- Members have travelled to Moosonee to try and re-engage indigenous women into the league

List any recommendations for improvements in policy, guidelines, or reporting arising from your 2022 experiences including identifying at what level of the League.

- Education days for members who take a position on every level.

Kingston Diocesan Council Report

2022

President: Lyne Tuepah

Spiritual Advisor: Father Stéphane Pouliot

Members: 2,085

Honorary Life Members: 1

Councils: 28 of 41 reported

Life Members: 11

After COVID, parishes began to return to pre-pandemic activity. Parishes perceived their openness as a percentage in the parish annual survey as follow:

 5 100% 10 75% 7 50% 5 25% 1 0%

Describe how parishes in your diocese approached the changes to the League's structure, how your diocesan executive has supported the parishes to prepare and the response of parishes to that support in the year 2022.

- Presented at the diocesan meeting to executive, and at the development day to parish representatives.
- Responded on-on-one when questions or uncertainties were posed.
- Positive response to the new structure, i.e. more streamlined, less overlap, and smaller executive.

Describe how your diocese collectively and parishes individually worked with the national theme *Catholic and Living It!!* In 2022.

- Our diocesan them was "Let's reconnect" which offered numerous opportunities for living in community and developing relationships as God intended us to be. These opportunities included offering service, sharing faith, and speaking out for social injustice.

Describe how parish spiritual advisors, and your diocesan spiritual advisor, showed support for the League in your diocese and provide any recommendation(s) you may have for future relationships between councils and spiritual advisors.

- Attended most meetings, provided reflections for newsletter and at meetings when requested.
- Participated in activities – made suggestions.

In point form below, describe any unusual initiatives facilitated by the Diocesan council in 2022 not specific to any standing committee.

- Delivered portions of the 'Eliminating Misconceptions About the League' during the fall development day.
- It was our council's 100th diocesan convention in 2022 so a special prayer booklet assembled from favourite prayers of members and spiritual advisors was created and gifted to all members.
- A special history book was created 2012 – 2021.

List any recommendations for improvements in policy, guidelines, or reporting arising from your 2022 experiences including identifying at what level of the League.

- Continue offering suggestions and ideas on how to grow parish councils and expand the leadership pool as these were well received in 2022.

London Diocesan Council Report

2022

President: Theresa Ryan

Spiritual Advisor: Father Paul Kim

Members: 7,899

Life Members: 1

Councils: 67 of 92 reported

After COVID, parishes began to return to pre-pandemic activity. Parishes perceived their openness as a percentage in the parish annual survey as follows:

13 100% 40 75% 31 50% 15 25% 0 0%

Describe how parishes in your diocese approached the changes to the League's structure, how your diocesan executive has supported the parishes to prepare and the response of parishes to that support in the year 2022.

- With fewer executive positions, it was felt it might be easier to fill the slate.
- Thought it involved more women and shared the responsibilities through serving as committees.
- It could be more efficient, cost saving by eliminating overlap in some standing chairs and downsizing to fewer titles and less reporting at meetings.
- Parish councils were supported by:
 - Pillars were explained at the fall regional meetings (3) using a power point presentation developed by another diocese.
 - Handouts were provided for later reference.
 - A quiz followed, where the executive mingled with everyone to provide additional clarification.
 - Information about the three pillars was posted on our diocesan website.
 - Regional chairs further discussed the changes at their meetings.

Describe how your diocese collectively and parishes individually worked with the national theme *Catholic and Living It!!* In 2022.

- Used the theme prayer, hosted spiritual retreats and spiritual reflections based on the theme, welcomed others and included all members, identified gifts and strengths of members to encourage them; volunteered with events at church; took up offertory gifts so the Catholic Women's League of Canada members were visual to parish family, included "Catholic and Living It" tip of the month in newsletters and communiques, participated in Catholic spiritual prayers as community and individually.
- Put the theme on all correspondence, in the parish bulletin, news publication was identified as "Catholic and Living It"; wrote cards to long term care homes and prayed for them at meetings; visited or called members regularly; reached out to those that needed some connection and support, sent out Christ-centred Christmas cards; participated in a campaign to share the history of your life or a member's life with others especially elder members, and had members share what "Catholic and Living It" meant to them.
- Encouraged participation in activities out and among the community to be visually present as "Catholics and Living It!"

Describe how parish spiritual advisors, and your diocesan spiritual advisor, showed support for the League in your diocese and provide any

recommendation(s) you may have for future relationships between councils and spiritual advisors.

- Our diocese incorporates a model of “families of parishes” where one pastor is responsible for all the parishes in his family. If the priest is the spiritual advisor for all parishes, it is difficult to participate fully. A few pastors met with presidents of the parish councils in the family quarterly and made it clear that he would make himself available where needed but in others it was not made clear who or if they had a spiritual advisor.
- Some Spiritual advisors attended meetings, celebrated special masses, provided spiritual reflections, attended events, and contributed to newsletters and most were accessible through emails.
- Recommendations:
 - There needs to be more communication between the pastor (spiritual advisor) and the council president for greater understanding of expectations; and, where the pastor is too busy, consideration to appoint another person, an associate pastor, deacon, sister, or lay-person so councils always have a spiritual advisor.
 - Every council should download the handbook for Spiritual advisors from the national website and where needed ask the diocesan spiritual advisor to liaison with pastors to encourage communication.

In point form below, describe any unusual initiatives facilitated by the Diocesan council in 2022 not specific to any standing committee.

- Hosted an online Lenten retreat that was well attended.
- Presentation by Kathy Matusiak, new executive director of Community Compassionate Care (CCC) on the importance of this program during times of loneliness and separation; the-solution to euthanasia is human connections.
- “My Story”, an initiative between CCC and the London Diocesan members to help those we interviewed see they are valuable, they are heard, and are respected. It emphasized that human connections are crucial.
- One regional chair hosted an online diocesan fun night which consisted of skits, jokes, music and painting.
- Hosted a legislation and resolution workshop and later posted a recording to the diocesan website.
- Held Google training for executive members at an executive meeting.

List any recommendations for improvements in policy, guidelines, or reporting arising from your 2022 experiences including identifying at what level of the League.

- There is confusion between the national executive council and the national office. A distinction should be made when discussing so, at the parish council level, it is clear what body they are actually referring to.
- Amendment package sent out from national office with no notice to diocesan presidents so she could respond when questions came from parish councils.
- Amendment package directions need to clearly state what constitutes a quorum for each vote to avoid confusion.
- The shorter annual report should be an ongoing consideration.
- A longer turnaround time on directives is needed for larger dioceses with hundreds of parishes to inform.

Ottawa Diocesan Council Report

2022

President: Claudette Langdon
Members: 1,154
Councils: 17 of 24 reported

Spiritual Advisor: Father Gerard Plant
Honorary Life Members: 1
Life Members: 13

After COVID, parishes began to return to pre-pandemic activity. Parishes perceived their openness as a percentage in the parish annual survey as follows:

 1 100% 4 75% 4 50% 6 25% 2 0%

Describe how parishes in your diocese approached the changes to the League's structure, how your diocesan executive has supported the parishes to prepare and the response of parishes to that support in the year 2022.

- Parish councils mostly accepted the changes were coming, discussed the potential impact, distributed materials, educated members, commented on undertaking activities their council was interested in, and sought clarification where needed.
- Most commented the streamlining was positive and were excited for the future.
- Some councils wondered about how implementing the new structure with their next election would go.
- The most asked question "How can I manage all the activities under one "portfolio?"
- Diocesan President and executive shared information on the new structure, answered questions when needed, and worked with parish presidents to facilitate transfer of information with the changes.

Describe how your diocese collectively and parishes individually worked with the national theme *Catholic and Living It!!* In 2022

- The theme was discussed and the prayer used at meetings, the cards sent from National were distributed, focused on working joyfully in the community including supporting local food bank, elementary feeder school needs, participated in walks to fundraise for charities, participated in ministries at mass with scarves and pins worn, served at a single mother's lunch, collected and distributed items for the needy, participated in several public walks and prayer gatherings, and volunteered.
- Some of the resources were used in newsletters, shared with members at meetings, posted to bulletin boards and the phrase was used often.
- Spiritual advisors attended gatherings to speak on the theme, diocesan events included spiritual prayers some councils hosted themed spiritual gatherings or retreats.

Describe how parish spiritual advisors, and your diocesan spiritual advisor, showed support for the League in your diocese and provide any recommendation(s) you may have for future relationships between councils and spiritual advisors.

- Most spiritual advisors attended at least part of meetings, attended gatherings when schedule allowed, provided spiritual reflections, celebrated mass before

- meetings, and prepared articles for newsletters.
- Most spiritual advisors were very supportive of the League, often thanked the members for all their work, spoke at mass to encourage women to become members, allowed the use of the parish property for meetings and other events; however, there continued to be the few that do not support the League or allow use of the parish property without financial compensation.

In point form below, describe any unusual initiatives facilitated by the Diocesan council in 2022 not specific to any standing committee.

- In the beginning of 2022, COVID continued to be an issue and affected events and councils meeting. As the year progressed members began to feel comfortable to finally meet in person and attend in-person gatherings.
- Due to the new structure, diocesan provided information and dialogue to ensure that members understood the intent to bring members together under each pillar rather than have fewer executive do more work.
- Development Day was focused on 'Wisdom Tables' and a workshop on the new chairs of Faith, Service and Social Justice as well as Treasurer and Vice-President.

List any recommendations for improvements in policy, guidelines, or reporting arising from your 2022 experiences including identifying at what level of the League.

- Implementing the new structure will be assisted by the resources available on the National website provided councils are assisted in understanding how to use them.

Pembroke Diocesan Council Report

2022

President: Annette Chaplin

Spiritual Advisor: Father Michael Coyne

Members: 1,317

Councils: 18 of 27 reported

Life Members: 11

After COVID, parishes began to return to pre-pandemic activity. Parishes perceived their openness as a percentage in the parish annual survey as follows: (Reference Q5)

 7 100% 5 75% 2 50% 4 25% 0 0%

Describe how parishes in your diocese approached the changes to the League's structure, how your diocesan executive has supported the parishes to prepare and the response of parishes to that support in the year 20228)

- Councils expressed happiness with the reduction in the number of chairs, citing simplicity, ease of filling fewer positions, streamlining and that it encouraged working as a team.
- Others felt the structure would not make a big difference as former positions were rarely filled anyway, and some were unsure or worried about how to make the changes.
- Some mentioned waiting for more information and revised constitution and by-laws before implementation while others were prepared to conduct their next elections with the new structure based on information already received.
- Diocesan attended general meetings to discuss the new structure if requested and provided information through communication and at diocesan gatherings.
- Most councils reported they did not ask for guidance from the diocesan/provincial councils, 2 councils asked for help and found it very helpful, and 2 councils found it somewhat helpful.

Describe how your diocese collectively and parishes individually worked with the national theme *Catholic and Living It!!* In 2022.

- As a diocesan council, parish councils were informed of the new theme, and the theme was used for executive meetings and diocesan events.
- For the diocesan annual convention 2022, students at the host council Catholic school produced and displayed artwork with the theme, and councils were encouraged to report on activities related to the theme.
- Councils were visible in the community attending events such as DeVeber webinar on palliative care, 12 hours for Palliative Care, Right to Life, Life Chain, Rosary Rally, World Day of Prayer, Suppers, Bazaars, Diocesan Evangelization Initiative (Catherine's Star Flowers), online daily Divine Mercy Chaplet, Church ministries, Friendship Sundays after mass, and supported local, national, and international charities.
- Reached out to shut-ins through phone calls, visits, Christmas gifts, cards sent, supported 2 families impacted by loss of home to fire, and took up a pyjama collection for needy children.
- Councils reported use of the PowerPoint provided by national office, recited the prayer, encouraged members to view Barb Dowding's "the Art of Accompaniment," and supported postcard campaign to stop expansion of MAiD.
- Initiated Travelling Mary (suitcase containing a statue of Mary and prayers

which travels between classrooms at local catholic school). She is now shared between 3 Catholic schools.

Describe how parish spiritual advisors, and your diocesan spiritual advisor, showed support for the League in your diocese and provide any recommendation(s) you may have for future relationships between councils and spiritual advisors.

- The Diocesan Spiritual Advisor supported the theme Catholic and Living It! and incorporated it into his sharing and spiritual reflections for meetings and the Spiritual Day of Reflection (in person), and our Lenten and Advent Reflections (virtual).
- Strongly encouraged us to incorporate and inform members about our Bishops evangelization prayer campaign (Blessed Catherine's Starflowers).
- Offers advice on topics and prayers for meetings.
- It was reported that most parish spiritual advisors were supportive in some way.
- Many came to meetings, made announcements of events at mass, encouraged membership from the pulpit, provided access to parish facilities and one even supported purchase of Maple Leaf pins financially.
- However, it was reported that at least one parish spiritual advisor was not supportive at all and did not allow use of the parish resource.
- It is recommended that all councils, at every level, ask spiritual advisors for a wish list – what do they want and need from us? – to encourage reciprocal relationship.

In point form below, describe any unusual initiatives facilitated by the Diocesan council in 2022 not specific to any standing committee.

- Assisted councils to disband and reactivate.
- Attended 100th anniversary celebrations for several parish councils.
- Gave welcome program to parishes and by Zoom.
- Called presidents who were having health issues and encouraged them.

List any recommendations for improvements in policy, guidelines, or reporting arising from your 2022 experiences including identifying at what level of the League.

- Some councils do not understand the importance of surveys and reports should provide feedback on the results to assist in understanding the importance of the annual survey.
- Provide sessions to understand the national aspect of the League and to provide suggestions on how to use the website to support local parish activities.
- Computer technology and the internet have a profound effect on how organizations and individuals communicate, much like the printing press and the mail system had a profound effect on spreading Christianity. National should continue to work at incorporating new technologies but, at the same time, not leaving those without technology behind.
- Councils at all levels should have a dedicated committee for employing social media. Social Media is an effective tool for communication and can help councils with communications, and recruitment. National should provide guidance and training on how to incorporate this in a safe, effective, and Catholic way for all councils at all levels.

Peterborough Diocesan Council Report

2022

President: Helen Lessard

Spiritual Advisor: Reverend Roy Villas

Members: 1,361

Councils: 20 of 25 reported

Life Members: 9

After COVID, parishes began to return to pre-pandemic activity. Parishes perceived their openness as a percentage in the parish annual survey as follows: (Reference Q5)

 4 100% 7 75% 5 50% 4 25% 0 0%

Describe how parishes in your diocese approached the changes to the League's structure, how your diocesan executive has supported the parishes to prepare and the response of parishes to that support in the year 2022: (Reference Q6-8)

- Councils struggled with how to implement the new structure.
- Diocesan council provided information on the three pillars and suggestions on how to use the new structure to have more members involved in planning and coordinating activities.

Describe how your diocese collectively and parishes individually worked with the national theme *Catholic and Living It!!* In 2022.

- Councils blended the national theme with the provincial Go Make a Difference! and diocesan One Step, One Day, One Prayer at a time and used that to create spiritual activities, activities to serve in the community and to invite new members to join.
- Diocesan council organized an indigenous Go Make a Difference! project to twin parish councils with Indigenous councils or communities. The project also fulfilled the theme of Catholic and Living It! by reaching out to understand and walk with Indigenous peoples.

Describe how parish spiritual advisors, and your diocesan spiritual advisor, showed support for the League in your diocese and provide any recommendation(s) you may have for future relationships between councils and spiritual advisors.

- Parish and diocesan spiritual advisors were supportive of the League, assisted with spiritual reflections and attended events as they were able.
- At the diocesan level, open communication was maintained with Bishop Miehm and the diocesan spiritual advisor Father Roy Villas.

In point form below, describe any unusual initiatives facilitated by the Diocesan council in 2022 not specific to any standing committee.

- The diocesan council delivered the balance of planned Welcome Program presentations.
- The diocesan president participated in Peterborough Diocese Pastoral Planning.

List any recommendations for improvements in policy, guidelines, or reporting arising from your 2022 experiences including identifying at what level of the League.

- Not at this time.

St. Catharines Diocesan Council Report

2022

President: Lisa Fillingham

Spiritual Advisor: Father Richard Kowalchuk

Members: 1,968

Regions: 4

Councils: 20 of 30 reported

Life Members: 13

After COVID, parishes began to return to pre-pandemic activity. Parishes perceived their openness as a percentage in the parish annual survey as follows:

10% 100% 45% 75% 10% 50% 25% 25% 10% 0%

Describe how parishes in your diocese approached the changes to the League's structure, how your diocesan executive has supported the parishes to prepare and the response of parishes to that support in the year 2022:

- Many parishes were excited to implement the changes and looked forward to working more closely together focused on intentional actions.
- For parishes with elections, it was easier to fill chairs than in the past.
- Some parishes found the three pillars offered more structure and the opportunity to offer streamlined actions.
- Diocesan moved to the 3 pillar structure with their elections and then tried to assist parishes in any way they could.
- Councils read all that was available from national, provincial and diocesan councils.

Describe how your diocese collectively and parishes individually worked with the national theme *Catholic and Living It!!* In 2022.

- Councils used the theme as a part of meetings and gave examples to members on how current activities reflected the theme.
- Some councils changed the structure of the meeting so 1/3 was spiritual and based on Catholic teachings.
- Once council focused specifically on corporal works of mercy to reflect the theme within the community.
- Diocesan council took the national theme, aligned it with the 3 pillars and talked about what the League does and could do to represent the theme and pillars in the community.

Describe how parish spiritual advisors, and your diocesan spiritual advisor, showed support for the League in your diocese and provide any recommendation(s) you may have for future relationships between councils and spiritual advisors.

- Father Richard Kowalchuk was/is heavily involved and fully supports the League as Diocesan Spiritual Adviser
- Most respondents reported supportive parish priests who participated.
- There are some parishes whose parish priest did not attend meetings or actively participate.

In point form below, describe any unusual initiatives facilitated by the Diocesan council in 2022 not specific to any standing committee.

- Some Councils had a hard time continuing and some considered becoming

inactive.

- To avoid councils becoming inactive, the diocesan council stayed within policy but was creative at the parish level in how to fulfill the roles of the 3 pillar standing committees; for no one wanted to take on the new chairs so instead sub-committees were formed, and many stepped forward to chair those smaller committees.
- Online book club was started by the diocesan Spiritual Development Chair
- The Diocesan Chairs met 4 times per year and worked together on planning, ideas, themes, events, and the budget. Prior to this, it was not done as a group sharing ideas but rather a quick update at Executive meeting as to what was planned and response to any completed activities.

List any recommendations for improvements in policy, guidelines, or reporting arising from your 2022 experiences including identifying at what level of the League.

- Every diocesan president should create an information package to pass to the incoming president including month by month calendar of events and responsibilities. Example – January – OPC meeting; what is the time needed, what to do, what to expect with copies of materials as a reference.
- Recommend national encourage flexibility at the parish council level with some of the policy and procedure needed for the national level but not necessarily required at the local parish level. Long-time members require the policy and procedure be followed word for word but flexibility, for instance with required positions, is better than councils folding due to not having a president.

Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan Council Report

2022

President: Lisa Henry

Spiritual Advisor: Father Patrick Woods

Members: 1,965

Councils: 19 of 30 reported

Life Members: 12

After COVID, parishes began to return to pre-pandemic activity. Parishes perceived their openness as a percentage in the parish annual survey as follows:

37% 100% 16% 75% 26% 50% 21% 25% - 0%

Describe how parishes in your diocese approached the changes to the League's structure, how your diocesan executive has supported the parishes to prepare and the response of parishes to that support in the year 2022:

- Presidents responded positively to the reduced executive structure; they felt it was easier to fill positions and reduce duplication of effort taking place in committees.
- Presidents also responded positively to strategic planning resources such as Guide to Simplifying Meetings and Reporting Processes, The Welcome Program and The Joy of Leadership
- Presidents reported that they have incorporated less business/reports at general meetings and more focus on faith, service, and social justice activities.
- Some councils reported that with the new structure, they were finding it challenging with the scope of responsibility in each of the roles.
- Presidents communicated these changes through bulletins, bulletin boards, social media, and at council gatherings.
- Councils reached out to the diocesan level for support and guidance that resulted in diocesan developed workshops and individual meetings by phone and in person.

Describe how your diocese collectively and parishes individually worked with the national theme *Catholic and Living It!!* In 2022.

- Councils lived out the theme Catholic and Living It! by assisting with sacramental preparation, activities that supported their local food banks, worked with local service organizations to help with community Christmas baskets, increased spiritual elements, supported ministries within their parish, Coffee Sundays which facilitated community building within their parishes, collected 200 "Backpacks of Love", in addition to 150 supplemental bags, 6 trunk loads of donated warm winter wear as well as 50 pairs of new winter boots to support the various campaigns for the Compassionate Committee for the Homeless, donated handmade lap blankets and muffs for those with Alzheimer's at their local hospital, created a warm, welcome parish home for United Church members whose church had closed, holding living rosaries, outreach to shut-in and lonely members, shared their gift of time and talent for funeral luncheons, prayed the rosary for vocations to the priesthood, religious life and married life, the deceased, and children being exploited and abused.

Describe how parish spiritual advisors, and your diocesan spiritual advisor, showed support for the League in your diocese and provide any recommendation(s) you may have for future relationships between councils and spiritual advisors.

- Spiritual Advisors made announcements at masses, encouraged council activities and initiatives, hosted a CWL weekend at their parish highlighting the benefits of belonging to the CWL, attended all CWL gatherings, provided reflections, expressed appreciation at masses for the contributions of the CWL to their parish, provided reflections on CWL themes to inspire members, provided ideas to help recruit new members, prayed the mass for deceased members on Wednesdays, assisted with CWL ceremonies.

In point form below, describe any unusual initiatives facilitated by the Diocesan council in 2022 not specific to any standing committee.

- Travelled across the Diocese responding to requests from councils for assistance/guidance relating to new changes in the League.
- Proposed an initiative to establish an Indigenous “Elder in Residence” to work in partnership with our diocesan council to establish a relationship, programs, workshops, presentations, etc. in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation.

List any recommendations for improvements in policy, guidelines, or reporting arising from your 2022 experiences including identifying at what level of the League.

- Streamline the volume of communications flowing from National by reducing the communiqués containing suggestions for projects or initiatives. There are numerous resources available on the website to provide inspiration and guidance, in addition to the numerous initiatives councils respond to within their local communities.
- In addition to the existing criteria for Instructed Votes in Section 6 of the National Manual of Policy and Procedure, “The Constitution & Bylaws, Part XV, Section 3(c) requires that instructed votes be used for:
 - election of officers
 - increase in per capita fees
 - amendments to the Constitution & Bylaws”

Propose one additional situation to be added that would state: “any expenditure(s) at the National Level of \$200,000 or more, or 5% of the operating budget per year, whichever is lesser”.

Thunder Bay Diocesan Council Report

2022

President: Judy Imbeault

Spiritual Advisor: Rev. Michael Mahoney

Members: 1,711

Councils: 12 of 24 reported

Life Members: 7

After COVID, parishes began to return to pre-pandemic activity. Parishes perceived their openness as a percentage in the parish annual survey as follows:

 4 100% 7 75% 5 50% 4 25% 0 0%

Describe how parishes in your diocese approached the changes to the League's structure, how your diocesan executive has supported the parishes to prepare and the response of parishes to that support in the year 2022: (Reference Q6-8)

- Councils continued to experience some confusion with the new structure and were still challenged with seeking members willing to take on leadership roles.
- Provincial and diocesan councils continued to provide guidance to implement the new structure and attempted to address any confusion new communication.

Describe how your diocese collectively and parishes individually worked with the national theme *Catholic and Living It!! In 2022*. (Reference Q9)

- Councils and the diocesan executive found ways to use the Catholic and Living It! theme through spiritual programs, volunteer activities, Catholic social teaching, Joy of Leadership, and being vocal on the life and dignity of the human person from conception to death writing letters and emails.

Describe how parish spiritual advisors, and your diocesan spiritual advisor, showed support for the League in your diocese and provide any recommendation(s) you may have for future relationships between councils and spiritual advisors.

- There continued to be challenges with some spiritual advisors not wishing to be involved with the League; either too busy or just not interested.
- However, there remained those spiritual advisors who attend meetings, encourage membership in the League, provide spiritual reflections and generally support the League.

In point form below, describe any unusual initiatives facilitated by the Diocesan council in 2022 not specific to any standing committee.

- League development was held in person once again.
- The Diocesan President started a Coffee with the President one day a month to be more in touch with councils and members at large.

List any recommendations for improvements in policy, guidelines, or reporting arising from your 2022 experiences including identifying at what level of the League.

- Keep a focus on reducing paperwork and supporting executive members at the parish levels to reduce feeling overwhelmed and a lack of confidence.

Timmins Diocesan Council Report

2022

President: Shirley Gravel

Spiritual Advisor: Father John Lemire

Members: 381

Councils: 7 of 8 reported

Life Members: 3

After COVID, parishes began to return to pre-pandemic activity. Parishes perceived their openness as a percentage in the parish annual survey as follows:

 1 100% 3 75% 1 50% 2 25% 0%

Describe how parishes in your diocese approached the changes to the League's structure, how your diocesan executive has supported the parishes to prepare and the response of parishes to that support in the year 2022.

- Updated the Policy and Procedure Manual.
- Notified members, through the newsletter, about changes to the League.
- Discussed changes to the League at general meetings.
- Recruited members for the new executive.

Describe how your diocese collectively and parishes individually worked with the national theme *Catholic and Living It!!* In 2022. (Reference Q9)

- Added a prayer service for awards and certificates.
- Served community through donations, toiletries, mitts, sweaters, and hats.
- Reached out to non-active members; phone calls, visits, delivered Gratitude bag.
- Assisted with sacramental preparation.
- Brought communion to those unable to attend Mass.
- Sent a Christmas card to each member.
- Participated in Mass as Eucharistic minister, lecturer, leader of children's liturgy, choral ministry.
- Organized and worked at the Lord's Kitchen.

Describe how parish spiritual advisors, and your diocesan spiritual advisor, showed support for the League in your diocese and provide any recommendation(s) you may have for future relationships between councils and spiritual advisors.

- Celebrated Mass before the meetings.
- Provided a message at each meeting.
- Presided at the prayer services and at the installation of officers.
- Attends our functions and supports our activities.

In point form below, describe any unusual initiatives facilitated by the Diocesan council in 2022 not specific to any standing committee.

- No unusual initiatives undertaken.

List any recommendations for improvements in policy, guidelines, or reporting arising from your 2022 experiences including identifying at what level of the League.

- Continue to use one annual survey at the parish level.
- Distribute one newsletter per month containing directives from each of the provincial/national chairperson, rather than numerous emails throughout the month.

Toronto Diocesan Council Report

2022

President: Sue Lubowitz

Spiritual Advisor: Father Liborio Amaral

Members: 6,045

Councils: 79 of 99 reported

Life Members: 14

After COVID, parishes began to return to pre-pandemic activity. Parishes perceived their openness as a percentage in the parish annual survey as follows:

13 100% 26 75% 16 50% 19 25% 5 0%

Describe how parishes in your diocese approached the changes to the League's structure, how your diocesan executive has supported the parishes to prepare and the response of parishes to that support in the year 2022.

- Those councils that had elections (about 1/3) attended training sessions that were available, implemented themed meetings focused on one of the 3 standing chairs, and raised awareness at each meeting on new structure using resources from League websites.
- Councils described being excited about the stream-lined structure, that it enabled members to bring relevancy to current issues and should lead to more efficient meetings.
- Councils mentioned being hopeful the new structure would generate interest in members to run for executive positions and younger members to join the League.
- Some councils started looking at their previous activities and seeing how they would fit into the new format to determine needed changes.
- The Diocesan Council was proactive; it offered virtual training sessions and encouraged the use of League websites at all levels.
- Diocesan council provided parish executive training sessions in the fall as well as CWL Wednesday webinars throughout 2022, and updated councils monthly with information on resources available.
- The annual report asked about the new structure of the League which only came into effect in August. Most councils in this diocese were not yet in the structure so to ask their experience of it was premature.

Describe how your diocese collectively and parishes individually worked with the national theme *Catholic and Living It!!* in 2022.

- Diocesan development day title was Living Justice: A CWL Response to Catholic Social Teaching principles (Human Dignity, Solidarity and The Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers) were presented by Development and Peace and then applied to the standing committees.
- Diocesan held special events reflecting the theme: Prayer Service and Rosary for Ukraine, June 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day, Sept. 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Education Forum
- Parish councils held retreats based on the theme, fundraised for organizations in the local community that address needs, placed the logo on correspondence as a reminder, held weekly zoom rosary, hosted advocacy awareness events, some councils cooperated with nearby councils on efforts, the theme prayer

card was distributed to members, and planned more advocacy awareness events to engage the parish.

- Many councils reported still not meeting in the first part of 2022 which was a struggle, but they continued to reach out and raise funds for their causes.
- One council suggested a spiritual theme be maintained in the future.

Describe how parish spiritual advisors, and your diocesan spiritual advisor, showed support for the League in your diocese and provide any recommendation(s) you may have for future relationships between councils and spiritual advisors.

- Some councils reported a change in clergy during the COVID period which affected to a certain extent availability of spiritual advisor but for the most part councils indicated he supported their work even if he had not attended all meetings.
- Many spiritual advisors allowed the use of bulletins, bulletin boards and announcements at mass to promote the League.
- Numerous spiritual advisors were mentioned by name in annual reports for their support of the members and the League.
- Diocesan spiritual advisor changed during 2022.

In point form below, describe any unusual initiatives facilitated by the Diocesan council in 2022 not specific to any standing committee.

- New year wellness virtual spa (music, personal wellness, realistic resolutions)
- Prayer Service for Peace in Ukraine and funds were raised.
- Coffee and Chat outreach to parish council presidents and councils.
- Evening of reflection for executive, sub-committee members and Life Members.
- More than usual number of requests for attendance at anniversary celebrations.
- Appreciation dinner for outgoing diocesan spiritual advisor.
- Virtual advent reflection with guest speaker Christine Way-Skinner, Novalis author(open to all dioceses).

List any recommendations for improvements in policy, guidelines, or reporting arising from your 2022 experiences including identifying at what level of the League.

- Coordinate communications from parish and national to reduce number of directives and timing.
- Ensure any communication from national and provincial is copied to the diocesan president, so she is aware if asked questions.
- The lack of numbers made it difficult to ascertain the degree to which councils participated in various programs from the national level.

Recognition

**The Ontario Provincial Council
2022 Social Justice Award**

was presented to

Sr. Pat Carter

St. Jerome Parish, Sault Ste. Marie
Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie

CONGRATULATIONS!



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