

service

Sue Lubowitz

The Joy of Bake Sales: *Bake a Difference!*

"Hope is the door that opens onto the future. Hope is a humble, hidden seed of life that, with time, will develop into a large tree. It is like some invisible yeast that allows the whole dough to grow, that brings flavour to all aspects of life."

Pope Francis



Members of St. John Chrysostom, Newmarket making pies for their Christmas bazaar.

As we enter into the Advent Season and the Jubilee of Hope later this month, it seems a good time to reconsider the importance of our parish councils and by extension parish communities in the work of establishing the Kingdom of God on earth. Within the new structure of the League, parish activities now fall under the Service Committee umbrella. One of the mainstays of a council's events calendar is the Christmas Tea and Bazaar. It is essential to understand the importance of bake sales and how they can lead councils to "bake" a difference in their communities and to live life more liturgically.

Want to know more?

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We can and should live the Church year as a way of encountering God anew and praising him for all that is good. Over the centuries the Church (and the parish community) led the villages in living life liturgically. Church closures during COVID taught us that the ensuing isolation was difficult for most people. Now that parishes are fully open, we should be experiencing a lifestyle of appreciation and gratitude and this is a perfect role for the CWL.

Bake sales allow women of the parish to experience the sisterhood of the League in a relaxed way. Topics covered during a sandwich making session can range from health to children and everything in between. Connections are made that can last a lifetime.



The causes supported can also give the larger community a sense of what matters to us as members. Bake sales are organizational frameworks that can be used to draw attention to a cause or fundraise for something specific like disaster relief. Let your customers know where the money is going!

The bakers are not just taking on the responsibility of raising money for an organization they aren't employed by; they also take on the responsibility of representing the organization by sharing their mission and directing potential donors to more information. In the nonprofit world, money always matters, so I don't want to discount the amount of money raised. At a recent information evening hosted by the CWL on the topic of Human Trafficking with a guest speaker from BridgeNorth (<https://bridgenorth.org/>) more than \$800 in sales of cupcakes was donated to them in order to support their programs for those impacted by sex trafficking.

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As we go through the new liturgical year, councils are encouraged to use the histories, stories and examples of liturgical traditions that can help visualize what they would like to see in their homes, their parish, their extended family or friend group, and perhaps their neighbourhood. This way we can all become a more active and integral part of sacramentalizing the world. **This means that we can be the seed that the Holy Father speaks of and embrace the sacred in the ordinary and help them encounter Christ in the world.** How will you celebrate the next feastday on the Church calendar?

I recently purchased "Living the Seasons" by Erica Tighe Campbell from Novalis to help me in my journey. You can view and purchase at <https://en.novalis.ca/products/living-the-seasons>

