

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
London Diocesan Annual Report Book  
January to December 2020**

**Annual Membership Meeting**

**April 19-21, 2021**

**Online**

**Due to covid 19**



We remember  
With great fondness  
Our deceased members

Of

The Catholic Women's League

Of Canada,

Whose lives are a tribute to

Womanhood,

In their devotion to the

Lord Jesus Christ

And to

Our Lady of Good Counsel

Whom they loved and served,

And in whose presence, they now rejoice.



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

**Diocese of London**

**Themes for 2020**

**National Theme "Care for our Common Home"**

**Provincial Theme "Loneliness"**

**Diocesan Theme " Educate, Engage & Empower"**



**League Prayer**

We humbly pray you O God our Father,  
To bless the Catholic Women's League of Canada.  
Bless our beloved country, our homes and families.  
Send your Holy Spirit upon us to give light to our minds  
And strength to our wills, that we may know and  
Fulfill your great law of charity.  
Teach us to share with others,  
At home and abroad,  
The good things you have given us.  
This we ask through Our Lord Jesus Christ  
And the intercession of our patroness,  
Our Lady of Good Counsel.

**AMEN.**

## **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.



## **Objects of the League**

shall be to unite Catholic women of Canada:

To achieve individual and collective spiritual development

To promote the teachings of the Catholic church

To exemplify the Christian ideal in home and family life

To protect the sanctity of life

To enhance the role of women in church and society

To recognize the human dignity of all people everywhere

To uphold and defend Christian education and values in the modern world

To contribute to the understanding and growth of religious freedom,  
social justice, peace and harmony

## Diocesan Executive

Position	Name
Spiritual Advisor	Father Greg Bonin
President	Rebecca McCarrell
President-Elect/Organization	Theresa Ryan
Life Member Liaison	Lucy Hendrikx
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President/Education & Health	Mary Bannon
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President/Spiritual Development	Mary Lappan
Recording Secretary	Wilhelmina Kole
Corresponding Secretary	Elizabeth Duggan
Treasurer	Cam Cadotte
Past President/Historian	Angela Pellerin

## Diocesan Standing Committees

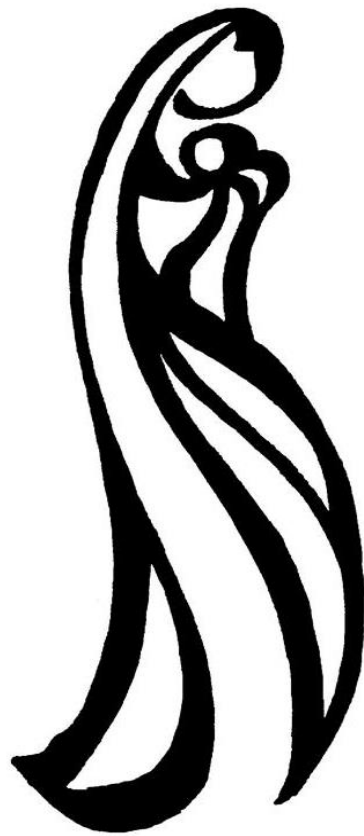
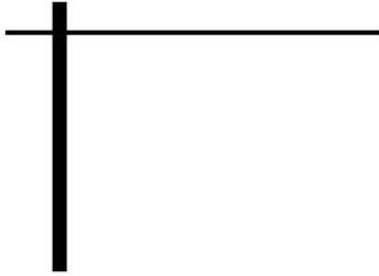
Position	Name
Christian Family Life	Denise Lalonde-Morris
Communication	Denise Masse
Community Life	Mary Ann Horne-White
Legislation	Helga Stuermer
Resolution	Joan Lobsinger

## Diocesan Regional Chairpersons

Region	Name
Chatham-Kent	Mary Clare Latimer
Essex	Rose Bénéteau/Jeanne Lauzon
Huron-Perth	Mary Barnes
Ingersoll	Fatima Cabral
London-Middlesex	Dianne Kehoe
Sarnia-Lambton	Patricia Sloan
Windsor	Caroline Ngui

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Letters  
Of  
Greetings





DIOCESE OF  
LONDON  
OFFICE OF THE AUXILIARY BISHOP

1070 WATERLOO STREET  
LONDON, ONTARIO N6A 3Y2  
CANADA  
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FAX: 519-433-0011

9 April 2021

Catholic Women's League of Canada  
London Diocesan Council

Dear Sisters in Christ,

It is a privilege for me, along with Bishop Ronald Fabbro, to send you our greetings as you reflect back on the year 2020.

In this past year, the COVID-19 pandemic caused the cancellation of many joyful celebrations planned in our diocese, not the least being the conference to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the London Diocesan Catholic Women's League. Bishop Fabbro and I share in your sadness and disappointment that this milestone year was not able to be celebrated to its fullest, however we rejoice in the legacy of the last 100 years and draw on the strength of the Holy Spirit as we expectantly anticipate better days ahead. The pandemic has highlighted the importance of community ties between families, a need to belong, and care for each other. Your ministry of service, care, and prayer is so timeless in these difficult times.

While you are unable to gather together in person again this year, may you be united spiritually as sisters in Christ. We look to the future with hope and optimism, trusting in the goodness of our Lord.

In this year dedicated to St. Joseph let us entrust our journey to him. May he inspire us to care for each other with tender love and compassionate service.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Joseph Dabrowski C.S.M.A.*

Most Rev. Joseph Dabrowski, C.S.M.A.  
Auxiliary Bishop of London





## The Catholic Women's League of Canada

My dear League sisters,

What a year it has been! As you prepare to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year, and yes, there were many, please take time to reflect upon the blessing and privilege of being part of an organization with more than 70,000 members—a sisterhood whose objects have formed the basis of every action members have taken individually and collectively over the last 100 years.

I am particularly thrilled that in spite of a global pandemic, you have planted trees, served your community in a multitude of ways, and performed the spiritual and corporal works of mercy that, as Christian Catholic women, we are called to continue. Whether behind the scenes or among your fellow citizens and parishioners, you have remained faithful to the calling which Jesus makes to us every day: follow me; be not afraid; love one another; whatever you do the least of your brother and sister, you do to me, for example.

Now you are gathering, perhaps in a unique manner this year, but you are gathering. Business will continue, reports will be shared, accomplishments and challenges will be discussed. Future plans will be anticipated with excitement. And I will be right there with you in spirit!

If ever there were a year in which you recall and collate the blessings that have arisen from the adversity of a global pandemic, this is it. Whether learning to communicate in new and unique ways, using technology that hitherto had been out of mind or out of reach, taking precious time to learn a new skill, reading documents that relate to the League's efficient running or learning to be in God's quiet presence more fully, you have done it. God is good, all the time.

On behalf of the national executive/board, composed of the 11 table officers and the 11 provincial presidents, it is my pleasure to bring greetings to your annual meeting of members on the occasion of London Diocesan Council's 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary. I continue to pray for the wellbeing of all members, the smooth transition of executives during an election year, and the strength of each of you to continue to be God's hands and feet on this beautiful earth.

God bless,

Anne

Anne-M Gorman  
National President





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

Greetings London Diocesan Members,

The year of our Lord 2020 will go down in history. Life, as we know it, changed dramatically. One main event changed it all. In March 2020, a worldwide pandemic was declared. The Coronavirus or COVID-19 came to stay for a while... or so we thought. From a Catholic Women's League perspective, we were unprepared to take on the challenges of not being able to meet and still stay in touch and work with our outreach projects. But we persevered and used any method we could to stay in touch. We called, texted, emailed and Zoomed. We even met in parking lots to say the rosary.

Congratulations to all of you as you continue to find new and unique ways of supporting members and our wider communities. I am so proud of how you have embraced both the provincial and national themes. You are truly inspirational!

Know that the prayers and best wishes of the almost 40,000 members across Ontario are with you as you gather to conduct the business of your diocesan council for 2020 and 2021.

You are well represented at the provincial table. Rebecca ensures that your diocese has a voice.

Congratulations as you celebrate the 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the League in your diocese.

May God bless you and Our Lady of Good Counsel watch over you as you continue your humble service in the League, *For God and Canada*.

Respectfully,

*Colleen Perry*

Ontario Provincial President





## The Catholic Women's League of Canada London Diocesan Council

April 2021

Dear Sisters in the League, and Spiritual Advisors

What a year we have had! Who would have ever guessed a year ago that the pandemic would still be putting us all in a survival mode! However, great accomplishments have been made throughout our diocese by the innovative ways you, the membership, have made work in each of your councils.

From outside meetings when it was allowed to virtual meetings and embracing technology, we have all learned patience, tolerance and have found skills and abilities that we did not know we had! Kudos to each of you.

As always, I am humbled by the great works of this diocese! It has been my utmost pleasure to represent you at the Provincial table! I have made London Diocese known at the National office. I have pushed for change when needed, I have questioned policies that seemed outdated and irrelevant in today's world. I have kept you the members at the forefront at all times trying to make decisions that may not have sat well with all but were in the best interest of safety. I have liaised with our Bishops, and with our health units to ensure our work, our councils, our memberships were always safe.

I have relied heavily on Fr. Greg Bonin through my tenure, especially this last year when I was unsure of what to do next. His wisdom, guidance and support will never be forgotten, and we have established a life-long friendship through these trying times. Thank you, Fr. Greg!

As I conclude my term plus a year, I am taking with me great memories, great experiences, and will sit back and wear beige to support Theresa Ryan and her executive into the next term.

To each of you, I say Well done, good and faithful servant! (Matthew 25:21)

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to walk with us, guide us and pray for all we do and for all whom we champion.

Blessings,

Rebecca McCarrell  
President 2018-2021





## The Catholic Women's League of Canada London Diocesan Council

April 2021

Dear Sisters in the League, Spiritual Advisors, delegates, and guests,

On behalf of the London Diocesan CWL Executive it gives me great pleasure to extend to you all a very warm welcome to the Annual Diocesan Conventions on virtual this year!

Without any doubt the last year has been a challenge for us all. Yet, with so many people facing the many challenges, Covid-19 never stopped the Catholic Women's League from moving forward into a future full of hope. Though we adjusted along with the rest of the world to Zoom and Go-To Meetings, we were all able to stay connected and carry on our ministry.

My sincere appreciation goes out to Rebecca McCarrell and all her Executive for doing a wonderful job through these unprecedented times. Kudos to each and every executive member for staying united through the pandemic.

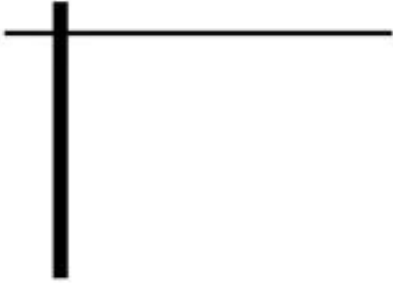
As we kick off our celebrations virtually, I wish you all every success in your noble endeavors to celebrate these days on Zoom. These will be two conventions that we will never forget! But the work will get done and the Spirit of the Catholic Women's League will keep on burning alive and well!

In closing, I wish to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed my last 5 years as your Spiritual Advisor and it gives me much comfort to know that you are in good and holy hands with your new spiritual advisor, Father Paul Kim.

May you all enjoy the Conventions this year from the comfort of your homes.

Happy Easter!

Regards,  
Father Greg Bonin  
London Diocesan Spiritual Advisor  
Catholic Women's League of Canada



Executive  
Reports



# Diocesan President's Annual Report 2020

Rebecca McCarrell

Members: 9,273

Life Members: 10

Councils: 95

Regions: 7

The members of the London Diocese continued to support the National Theme of Care for Our Common Home, the Provincial Theme of Loneliness and our Diocesan Theme of Educate, Engage and Empower. At the beginning of the year, it was not apparent how important the provincial theme would prove to be.

- Our annual Lenten Retreat encapsulated the Provincial theme with “Loneliness in Prayer” presented by Bernardine Ketelaars. She took us on a journey of peace, reflection and relaxation. We learned about St. Rita of Cascia, patron saint of loneliness and other biblical persons including Jesus who experienced doubt and loneliness.
- CoVID-19 restrictions hampered our celebration of 100 years. Our annual convention was cancelled, and national office instructions were followed by having a meeting called to order and adjourned at 3 am on April 1, 2020.
- London Diocese used self-isolation as a teaching tool...families home together, learning to live with each other, and facing the day-to-day struggles of the quarantine.
- Our churches were closed in March and all CWL activities were cancelled to adhere to our Bishop's recommendations and the public health departments recommendations. Little did we know at this time that these restrictions would not get lifted but continued to become stricter with each passing month.
- Virtual meetings were held by our Diocesan Council and by the fall many of our 95 councils were doing the same. During the nice weather, some councils met outside so proper social distancing could be practiced.
- Our membership continued to be creative in visiting the sick and lonely of their councils, parishes, and communities. Visits to residences by utilizing music, drama, etc. happened throughout the diocese. Persons were brought to the windows so they could see their visitors.
- Our membership continued their creative ideas by implementing various methods for membership drives including “drive-thru” collection of memberships.
- The standing committee chairpersons were paired together and were challenged to provide activities that could be done from home. Letter writing in support of resolutions and current government bills were encouraged.
- In November, we were able to have an in-person diocesan executive meeting by following the public health restrictions and meeting at a banquet hall.
- We continued to send out encouraging messages through directives, notes and on our website wishing everyone a healthy happy Christmas season and New Year.

- We ended the year in full lockdown restrictions to assist the spread on the pandemic virus named Covid-19.



**Planned and Cancelled**

A

big thank you

to

Chatham-Kent Region 2020

Ingersoll Region 2021

# **Diocesan President-Elect Report**

## **Organization Standing Committee**

**Theresa Ryan**

Parishes Reporting: 53/94

### **Recruit Members and Maintain Membership**

Of the councils reporting, the organization chair was filled 3/4 of the time although mostly by appointment. Our councils are almost half urban and half rural. I think generally the question about race or nationality was misunderstood or difficult to answer. The majority of councils believed that their membership reflected the diversity of their parish and community. Only about 20 % of members are aged 35 or under. Half the councils thought that this was representative of their parish, but not of their community. Parish announcements, bulletin boards, personal invitations were listed as the most popular ways of recruiting a diverse number of women by age and culture. Councils reported on average one new member per council with half of them under the age of forty. Most common methods used to attract new members were personal invitation, bulletin/bulletin board, social events (like membership teas, dinners, breakfasts) Members were recognized by service pins, cards/announcements, and maple leaf service pins. Councils engage new members by conversations, welcoming at meetings and by personal invitation. 83% of councils are using online membership.

### **Leadership Development**

Almost half of councils are not current on the latest activities of the Strategic Planning Implementation Committee. Two thirds of councils don't set any goals/plans that include members' input. Thirteen members are on the diocesan council, seven on regional and one on provincial council. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic meetings were not possible so many councils kept up to date with phone committees, emails, newsletters and even some online meetings.

### **Annual Reports**

About 60% of organization chairs reported not using any guidelines to assist executive members in completing their reports.

The vast majority of Organization chairs were happier with the shorter questionnaire and thought it reflected their activity.



## Life Membership

Only a few councils reported having assistance from Life members.

## Biggest Challenge

- Being knowledgeable about my job and trying to follow footsteps of president who held position for many years.
- Trying to attract new members especially younger ones
- Keeping up with request from diocesan, provincial & national levels
- Many of the women filling out the survey were put off by the questions about diversity of their parish and found the questions hard to answer.



Who would have thought how we could embrace technology and be able to meet and conduct business online? It shows us how adaptable we can be if necessary.

## **First Vice-President**

### **Education and Health Standing Committee Report**

**Mary Bannon**

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Parishes Reporting: 43

Sub-chairpersons: Dara Hartman, Mary Kennedy

More than half of the reporting councils replied they had no chairperson. Most were members for over 25 years but most had not chaired this committee before. More than half were between the ages of 55 to 74.

#### **Catholic Education**

##### **i) Catholic Schools and Catechesis**

A large majority have become informed about the quality of Catholic religious education in their parishes and have enquired how they may support the programs and have become informed about the quality of Catholic education in the schools. A little over half have encouraged parents to participate in all areas of their children's Catholic school education and activities. Less than half reported that they had investigated the needs that could be met by their council in the diocese. A large majority reported scholarships and bursaries as a need with a smaller number reporting a need for breakfast and/or lunch programs. Other specifics included bussing for Masses, First Communion and Confirmation gifts, mitts and socks and support for needy families. Over half reported an awareness of the family life programs in the schools.

##### **ii) Rites of Christian Initiation**

A large majority of councils reported no involvement in RCIA. In the minority were those who acted as sponsors, although mention was made of no RCIA due to Covid- 19.

#### **Literacy and Continuing Education**

Some have encouraged members to assist others in continuing their education. Most indicated that they were not aware of any Catholic universities or colleges in London diocese. There seems to be some misunderstanding here since there are 4: Assumption, Christ the King, Brescia and St. Peters Seminary which also has a lay formation program.

#### **Scholarships and Bursaries**

There seems to be an unawareness of National and Diocesan scholarships and bursaries although some reported awarding bursaries to high school students. As the diocesan chair for the last 3 years, I have sent directives to councils trying to make them aware of the J. L. Hennessey Bursary, the Spiritual Advisor's Bursary and the Social Justice Award awarded by our diocese.

### Wellness and Sickness/Disease

Actions taken on resolutions included assistance to local hospices, letters written to MPs and MPPs about Maid and euthanasia, discussions and postcard campaign about Mental Health issues. Some have supported national organizations such as the Alzheimer's Society, Canadian Cancer Society, Matercare, Canadian Mental Health Society and Heart and Stroke Foundation. More awareness is needed in the area of CWL support of the Canadian Blood Partners for Life. Despite the pandemic about half of the respondents participated in the "12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care". A majority provided information on advance care planning.

### Environment

Some councils participated in the national theme Care for our Common Home. Some councils participated in neighbourhood cleanup of plastic straws and bags but because of the pandemic they creatively shifted the focus to their own homes. Some focused on reducing garbage. The use of water was a focus in the diocese because of the resolution on the disposal of pharmaceuticals at drug stores rather than flushing them away in water since already we physically eliminate these from our bodies each and every day. Letters were written to MPs and MPPs about Nestle's use of water from springs and also bottled water. Some councils chose not to use styrofoam, instead using china at functions. A few planted trees in honour of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary but the pandemic threw roadblocks in the way of others.

### Genetics

A majority indicated excellent to good knowledge of the advantages and disadvantages of technology to alter genes in the light of Catholic moral teaching.



Are you aware of bursaries available?

We are all lifelong learners. Did you know that there is a **National Bursary** available for all members of more than 3 years to assist with education in spiritual and faith formation?

Application available at [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca)

Each year many members are awarded money towards their education.

In our diocese there is a **Spiritual Advisor's Bursary** available to assist members in pursuing education at any level, any institution. The **Rev. J. L. Hennessey Bursary** is available for members and/or their children to assist in education. Names of recipients are confidential.

Go to our website [www.cwllondon.ca](http://www.cwllondon.ca) and click on FORM.

## **Second Vice President**

### **Spiritual Development Standing Committee Report**

**Mary Lappan**

Parishes Reporting: 40 of 94

Sub-chairpersons: Jackie Detailleur

#### **Spiritual Growth of Members**

Due to the pandemic 100% of London Diocesan parish council meetings were cancelled starting in March 2020. Parish councils did their best to provide “virtual” spiritual growth for their members by using various websites (Pray More Novenas, Dynamic Catholic) and reciting the rosary at a specific time.

#### **Study of Catholic Teachings**

Parish councils did their best to promote Catholic teachings. Once again councils relied on Catholic websites, the National website and the Canadian League to expand their knowledge.

#### **Role of Women in the Church**

Most councils did not discuss the role of women in the church (77%); but over half of the members (58%) have taken leadership roles in their parish (pastoral council, finance, committee chair).

#### **Evangelization and Mission Assistance**

Catholic Missions in Canada is supported financially by approximately 40% of the London Diocesan councils. Many councils supported other missions such as Save a Family, Canadian Food for Children, Chalice, Eski-Omi Missions.

#### **Lay Ministries**

Over 75% of London Diocesan members participated in lay ministries including Eucharistic ministers, lector, hospitality, choir or sacristan. These ministries were chaired by 40% - 50% of the members.

#### **Ecumenism and Interfaith Endeavours**

Most councils were able to participate in the World Day of Prayer. The lockdown contributed to a lack of interaction with other faith groups.

## **Recording Secretary Report**

**Wilhelmina Kole**

Parishes Reporting: 52 of 94

London Diocese has 94 councils of which 52 responses were received. 31 ladies held the Recording Secretary position only. 26 had both a Recording Secretary and a Corresponding Secretary, while 12 stated that one person held both positions. 1 council stated that they did not have a Recording Secretary, but ladies in the council took turns doing the minutes when there were meetings.

When asked if they were elected or appointed 29 of the 52 reporting councils said they were elected while 21 said that they were appointed.

When asked if they took minutes the meetings, 50 Of the 52 reporting councils said yes. 36 recording secretaries were signing officers, 41 maintained a list of the executive with their contact information and 39 secretaries knew where the charter was.

When asked if their council had a motion book, only 37 said yes. As diocesan recording secretary, it is important to encourage every council to have a motion book to house all the motions made by the council.

When asked if their council had a copy of the Handbook for Secretaries from National office, only 37 councils had ne while 13 recording secretaries didn't know. A recommendation would be to encourage all councils to have a "Handbook for Secretaries" as it is a great help to anyone new to the position.

In this pandemic time, many councils were unable to meet after the first lockdown in March of 2020. Some had their executive meetings on zoom, but only a few had their general meeting in that venue. Every council reporting stated that the biggest challenge was Covid 19, not being able to meet in person. Several councils connected with their members in the phone, while others sent out a newsletter to members to keep them updated.

## Corresponding Secretary / Administrative Assistant Report

Elisabeth Duggan

### Duties

- The responsibility of corresponding secretary, is to provide a list of all correspondence

### Recommendations

- This year's annual survey indicated that many councils continue to not have an Administrative Assistant
- Survey indicated that only 2% of the London Diocesan councils have an Administrative Assistant and that 19% has one person holding both administrative and recording secretary. This year's survey indicates a 6% decrease for Administrative and 2% for Recording holding both from last year
- The responsibility of sending out occasion cards, sympathy continues and it was stated that it was very important especially this year with the isolation
- A copy of the CWL Personal Letter Writing Guide from our national office is in possession of 44%
- Many councils continue to not have Administrative Assistants, it is still very new and many councils are not aware of the duties.
- An updated Manual for Recording and Administrative Assistant would be helpful for councils.
- It was indicated that councils this year had difficulty due to COVID 19 and many did not hold meetings and for many councils it was indicated that many members are older and do have internet access.



## Treasurer

**Cam Cadotte**

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2020 Annual Disbursements as reported in the London Diocesan Parish Council Reports

FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2020 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Council: London Diocese

Council President: Rebecca McCarrell

Treasurer: Cam Cadotte

Donations Reported for the past calendar year

**\$ Totals (omit cents)**

		2019	2020
<b>National Voluntary Fund</b>			
Coady International Institute		\$ 1,020.00	\$3,205.00
Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace		5,166.00	6,260.00
Catholic Missions in Canada		6,687.00	9,234.00
Catholic Near East Welfare Association		210.00	3,164.00
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (until August 18, 2020)		1,575.00	250.00
National Bursary Fund		400.00	295.00
<b>National Voluntary Fund Sub-total</b>		<b>415,058.00</b>	<b>\$22,408.00</b>
<b>Standing Committees</b>			
Spiritual Development		\$ 25,989.00	\$22,972.00
Organization		15,511.00	17,027.00
Christian Family Life		38,989.00	40,355.00
Community Life		96,400.00	85,576.00
Education and Health		37,031.00	25,576.00
Communications		3,774.00	3,689.00
<b>Standing Committees Sub-total</b>		<b>\$217,694.00</b>	<b>\$195,195.00</b>
<b>All Donations</b>			
National Voluntary Fund Sub-total		\$ 14,658.00	\$ 22,408.00
Standing Committees Sub-total		217,694.00	\$195,195.00
Parish Donations		62,885.00	\$125,204.00
<b>Other Donations*</b>		900.00	\$ 1,070.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$296,137.00</b>	<b>\$343,877.00</b>

**\*Other Donations**

Bishop Pappin Bursary	\$ 375.00	\$495.00
National Family Planning (Billings)	125.00	350.00
Diocesan Reserve	-----	225.00

## **Past President /Historian's Report**

**Angela Pellerin**

Parishes Reporting:50/94

Sub-chairpersons: Pat Rivest,  
Lucy Hendrikx, Lee Levergood

### **Serve in a Consultative Capacity**

Although slightly more than half of the past presidents attend meetings, a little less than half are called upon for advice on a regular basis. However, 89% indicate their president feels supported and encouraged by them for help.

### **Be Responsible for Archives and History**

Approximately 64% indicate they are responsible for the archives in their councils and 52% keep the archives in a cupboard or filing cabinet at the church. Around 36% keep them in the church hall or office. Most historians know where their council charter is kept. Most councils keep photo albums and scrapbooks and use filing cabinets for storage. Half of the councils use banker boxes for storage. Only 18% use memory sticks. Less than half keep a copy of the annual reports indefinitely, but the majority keep their book of life indefinitely. Only 42% keep financial information indefinitely. Just over half of the councils keep the deceased members history and 32% do not keep it at all. A little less than half of councils keep the minutes of their executive meetings indefinitely with 60% keeping the minutes of general meetings indefinitely. Most councils keep a record of years of service along with records of pin and award recipients.

The archives are reviewed as needed by 84% of the councils. Slightly more than half keep a history book and a large number keep labelled photo albums.

### **Facilitate the Study and Implementation of the *Constitution & Bylaws 2013 (revised)***

Almost all councils have a copy of the Constitution & Bylaws however, 50% of them rarely if ever refer to them for help. They also have a copy of the National Manual of Policy & Procedure although most rarely, if ever, refer to it.

### **Diocesan Highlights**

Very few councils seek advise from the various levels of the League as a rule, however, have needed guidance due to the pandemic. The year created a challenge to the members as they had to start using electronic communications more. It was a problem for those who do not use a computer.

Only half of the councils in the diocese have supported the Strategic Planning by passing along the info and responding to surveys. Most have tried to keep up to date with the information



coming from national. Members have been encouraged to be patient and open to the new process.

A number of councils have planted trees in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the League. With the pandemic, councils have found various ways to keep in touch with their members. With the province locked down for many, it has hampered what they have been able to do. They have not been able to update their archives while the churches have been closed. Some have still found ways to collect items for those in need.

Past presidents are trying to find ways to encourage members to take on leadership roles in their councils. They are also working on bringing in new members to ensure their councils survive.



## **Christian Family Life Standing Committee**

**Denise Lalonde Morris**

Parishes Reporting:47/94

### **Marriage and Family**

A few councils did marriage preparation or held encounter weekends for marriage preparation or engages couples. Most councils concentrated on other topics. Domestic abuse was an area our membership had a hard time to support due to Covid-19. They prayed for the abused and made few financial donations. Seminars for family life and celebrating National Family Week was out of the question.

### **Sanctity of Life**

Over half of the membership prayed regularly for the protection of life. Two thirds of the councils held membership in a local pro-life organization. Over half of the members participated in life chains or march for life and pro-life walks. Some councils took part in the 40 days for life, pro-life masses or pro-life vigils Except for one council, no one attended a presentation on Pope John Paul all's Theology of the Body. Very few councils had the current pro-life brochure available from national office or have it available in their church. Few have met with pro-life legislators but over half of the councils have written letters to inform legislators about CWL resolutions on abortion and euthanasia. After the National council adopted the resolution to honour its commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child over half of the members wrote to the Prime Minister, while another group decided to educate their membership on the legal protection of life. Some decided to raise awareness with a day a prayer while some continuing to monitor the federal government's response

### **Ministry to Youth**

Only one council has a Catholic Girl's League and one council made plans to help a youth to go to Lisbon in 2022 for World Youth Day. Very few have participated in parish youth programmes. The ones a few councils took part in are: Sunday school, NET ministries, summer camps, leadership camps, Catholic Christian Outreach and Girl guides.

### **Ministry to the Disabled**

Very few organized or participated in support groups and respite for caregivers. Many councils sent cards, prayed, brought communion, visited or called and provided transportation.

### **Ministry to Seniors**

Councils cared for seniors by bringing communion, sent cards of encouragement, called, visited, gifted them with membership, included them in CWL events such as meals and prayed for them and involved them in intercessory prayer.

### **Ministry to Widowed**

As for widows and widowers many groups sent cards, arranged memorials and/or funeral lunches, called, visited, invited them to meetings and socials and asked them to attend community events.

### **Ministry to Separated & Divorced**

Only two councils sponsored or attended any informal presentations on the annulment process. A few councils purchased copies the new brochure "Annulments Today-Merciful and Just"

### **Vocations**

About two thirds of the councils prayed for vocations. Half of them sent spiritual bouquets, adopted or supported seminarians or hosted luncheons for priests and religious. A few encouraged families to invite priests to their homes or to speak on vocations and one council supported discernment events for youth.



## **Communications Standing Committee Report**

**Denise Masse**

Parishes Reporting: 45/94

### **The Canadian League Magazine**

A little over a quarter of chairpersons reported that they did not read the Winter, Spring or Fall Editions. The Presidents Message was the most read in all three issues.

After that, the articles that were read the most in highest to least order were: Care for Our Common Home, Living with Alzheimer's, Our History filled with Faith, Fun & Fulfillment, Protection of Minors, Inappropriate Medication Prescribing for Older Adults, 100 years is Good 200 years is better, Looking Back Looking Forward, and We are Christ's hands and feet.

Suggestions for future articles were more teaching on the truth and greatness of our faith. Also, it would have been nice to see an article on dealing with the pandemic and lockdown.

### **Media: for Evangelization**

Less than half of councils promoted faith-oriented programs. Almost no councils knew about Communications Day. (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in June) Resolutions 1978.03 Catholic Press encouraged members to subscribe and promote Catholic media. Almost three quarters of councils did nothing. A small percentage subscribed to Salt & Light TV.

Almost three quarters of chairpersons shared with members the League sponsored Mass in honour of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

### **Media: to Promote the League**

Half of councils visit the C.W.L. site on Facebook or Twitter, while over three quarters of council were encouraged to visit cwl.ca for current information. One third of councils used local media to advertise their activities and events. Just over half of councils have a telephone committee to invite members to events. A small number of councils set aside a budget for publicity. A large majority used email to send out meeting agenda or minutes. Promoting council activities are done by church bulletins/inserts, e-mail, bulletin boards, telephone committees, parish websites and Facebook.

### **Media: Evaluation and Promotion of Good Content**

Just over a quarter of councils encouraged members to monitor media content. One council complained to Rogers about adult content too early in the day or evening, while children were watching.

### **Media: Newsletter and Bulletins**

Almost half of councils produce a newsletter prepared equally by the communications chair and/or the president and is distributed by e-mail or parish bulletin/insert.

### **Media: Relations**

The only method used to work with local media for the benefit of the league was about ten percent advertised with them.

### **Pornography**

Sixty per cent of councils read newspaper articles on the influence that pornography has on children and adults, while twenty-five per cent read up on current legislation. Almost everyone did not participate in the Pornography Hurts Campaign this year. Councils were not aware of the documentary "Over 18" or the film "Red Light Green Light". Resolution 2017.02, 2004.11 and 2002.11 saw very little action by councils.

### **Strategic Planning**

Over one third of members were made aware of the strategic planning and the monthly updates on the national website. Sixteen percent of councils recite the Renewal Prayer found on the website.

### **Summary and Final Thoughts**

Over half of chairpersons viewed the National website. Most thought it was very informative. Some found it difficult to find what they are looking for, saying it needs a major overhaul. Covid-19 caused problems for all councils. Some got brave and learned new methods such as Zoom meetings.



## **Community Life Standing Committee**

**MaryAnn Horne-White**

Parishes Reporting: 47/94

### **Dignity and Rights of Persons**

During this past year, councils donated to local homeless centres and foodbanks in their communities. Members supported the St. Vincent de Paul Society during the year. Some councils gave grocery gift cards for needy families at Christmas. Homeless and Street Youth were supported. Most councils provided donations to abused women's shelters. Members made masks for frontline workers, first responders, and nursing homes in their communities. Covid-19 didn't stop our councils from staying involved in their communities.

### **Social and Economic Justice**

Donations were given to Courage for Freedom Ontario to help girls who have been Human Trafficked. Some councils took part in the International Day of Prayer and Awareness to end Human Trafficking February 8<sup>th</sup>.

Councils kept in touch with their members. Any who lived alone were called often. Others emailed members to keep in touch. They offered assistance to pick up groceries or any supplies members might need. Other councils gave out gifts to shut-ins and sent thinking of you cards to those in retirement and extended care homes. Members emailed or hand-delivered newsletters to their members.

Canadian Missions in Canada were sent donations by some councils.

### **Refugees, Immigration and Citizenship**

Many councils worked with their parishes to welcome immigrant families to their communities. Others continued to monitor Resolution 2016-01, Equal Access to Permanent Residence Status.

A few councils wore red on Fridays to support Canadian troops. On Remembrance Day, instead of being part of parades, councils made donations to the Poppy Fund.

### **Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace (CCODP)**

Many councils set up donations in their yearly budget for the Development and Peace's 1% plan. Members attended Development and Peace workshops and shared the information. A few councils supported the Share Lent Campaign with their parishes. It was difficult to do with the churches closed.

## Developing Countries

Most councils gave to the Save a Family Plan and Canadian Food for Children. Small donations were made to Chalice, Canadian Red Cross, and Habitat for Humanity.

The National Council's theme was "Care for our Common Home" and worked with the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) to raise funds for the Pieta Bhavan India project. Councils donated funds towards the project to repair a well cover at the Women's Centre that was destroyed by a major storm.

A few councils had speakers and gave to developing countries before Covid-19 hit.



Did you know.....

**60% of all human trafficking in Canada is initiated along the 400 series highways?**

## Resolutions Standing Committee

Joan Lobsinger

Parishes Reporting: 39/94

Resolution committee: Rebecca McCarrell, Theresa Ryan, Angela Pellerin, Mary Bannon and Fr. Greg Bonin

### Research and Preparation of Resolutions and Briefs

Of the thirty-nine councils who reported, only one-third have a Resolutions Standing Committee Chairperson. Some of the chairpersons have previously attended workshops that outline the resolutions process either at convention or developmental days. The majority of the chairpersons refer to communiques and/or annual report forms from other levels.

Although the majority of the councils reported they had not considered and studied issues that might become a resolution, some of the councils did and two of those discussed these ideas with their council. Due to Covid-19 and the inability to meet, one council that had hoped to prepare a resolution on single use plastics, an issue they were concerned about, was unable to pursue it. Another council reviewed and updated their 2020 resolution, Prohibition of E-Cigarettes with Cannabis for consideration in 2021 due to the cancellation of the 2020 Convention.

It was reported that writing a resolution is perceived as a daunting task. It was suggested that a workshop be provided to guide members through the identification and prioritization of issues which can lead to resolutions. A council reported that media awareness and display boards are used to focus on current issues.

### Study and Implementation of Resolutions Passed by Other Levels

Euthanasia and Palliative Care were the two issues that councils were passionate about in 2020.

Just less than half of the councils reported becoming familiar with the resolutions that require action as listed on cwl.ca.

Members wrote to their MPs to reject Bill C-7, Medical Assistance in Dying.

- 56% (18) of the councils reported they contacted their federal government representative by letter, 40% (12) by email, 4% (1) by phone call and 8% (2) by an in person visit.

**ON.19.01 Long Term Care Beds** and **ON.09.06 Understanding Palliative Care** were the provincial resolutions councils acted on in 2020.



- 45% (14) of the councils reported they contacted their provincial government representative by letter, 45% (14) by email, 8% (2) by phone calls and 8% (2) by an in person visit.

One council reported their members contacted their city council members to voice support of passing a mandate to wear masks.

- 33% (11) of the councils reported they contacted their local government by letter, 21% (7) by email, 11% (3) by phone calls and 7% (2) by an in person visit.

To support resolutions adopted at any level, most councils reporting made members aware through virtual meetings, e-mails or newsletters. A new initiative for one council was to create a bi-monthly newsletter to highlight areas of concern. It was emailed to members and posted on the parish website.

Covid-19 posed a challenge for members who did not have access to technology as emails and zoom meetings were how issues were presented to members who in turn responded to the government with emails, letters and on-line petitions.



***Resolutions play a major part in the League's work. Through them, policy may be established, programs planned, or concerns and views expressed to governments.***

## Legislation Standing Committee

Helga Stuermer

Parishes Reporting:38/94

### Monitor and Study Legislation at All Levels of Government

Of the councils that had a legislation chairperson (which was less than half) they all reported knowing who their municipal, provincial or federal government representatives were. 60-73% of these councils reported getting mailings from all three levels of government. Only two councils reported attending a forum sponsored by government, one on Human Trafficking and another on a town hall meeting concerning safe re-opening of schools. Members felt more knowledgeable about municipal issues and less so of each higher level. Only one council accessed Hansard this year.

Councils were most informed about:

- Bill C-7 the MaiD bill,
- Bill C-13 Covid-19 Emergency Response Act,
- Bill C-14 Covid-19 Emergency Response Act, No. 2

Markedly less about:

- Bill C-15 Canada Emergency Student Benefit Act
- Bill C-71 an Act to Amend Certain Acts and Regulations about Firearms

On the federal level, one council did a resolution on cannabis edibles asking for their prohibition until more research is done.

On the provincial level:

Private Members Bill C-233 The Sex Selection Abortion Act (provincial)

Bill 218 which denies the families of Covid-19 patients to sue long term care homes

Bill 126 La Francophonie Act

Other areas of concern include: more funding for nursing homes, selling water rights to private bottling companies, encouraged government to ban single use plastic bottles

Other activities not previously mentioned:

- Created a bi-monthly newsletter to highlight activities and areas of concern
- Studied long term care guidelines

Biggest challenges for legislation chairperson:

- Finding time to research legislation and finding information to act on before it is passed.
- How to communicate to everyone and keep them posted as not everyone has access to the internet
- No meeting because of Covid-19

Recommendations for Legislation committee:

- Where to go for information on legislation could be included in a communique
- Recommend combining legislation and resolution committee

Biggest challenge on completing survey:

- Logging on difficulty, i.e.: numbers, finding the link
- Looking up the bills mentioned in survey
- No chairperson
- Not able to print/ would like to store electronically





Regional &  
Parish  
Reports



## **Chatham-Kent Region**

**Mary Clare Latimer**

**Regional Chairperson**

12 Councils

Despite ever changing difficult pandemic conditions, throughout this past year, members of the Chatham-Kent region continued to grow in faith and witness to the love of God through ministry and service to both one another and their communities.

Members continued to assist their parishes when church re-opened, hosting Sunday masses under strict Covid protocols.

Disappointed we could not host the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention, many parishes still celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by tree planting and celebrating member milestone birthdays/anniversaries gathering outdoors, under distancing restrictions.

Holidays were creatively observed via photo contests, virtual auctions/parties; some councils delivered meals or covered the cost of holiday meals for their Parish Family priests and/or community members who regularly received Meals on Wheels.

Council phone calls and newsletters became an important regular communication tool, especially for those councils with so many members who were older and/or not connected online. Many council's members shared stories, notes of encouragement, love letters, sent birthday cards, Valentine cards, spiritual bouquets, Christmas chocolate and poinsettias; all of these considerate, faith filled gestures treasured upon receipt, especially during this "often lonely" pandemic time.

All councils also continued to pray for and support the aged, the poor, the vulnerable and/or homeless across our communities, avidly participating in the Chatham-Kent wide "May Miracle" and December "Gift" food and toy drives.

All parishes were introduced to the Compassionate Community Care program with designated members looking forward to further education in 2021. Chatham-Kent Region is also pleased to welcome our newest parish member Visitation, Comber in January 2021.

**Blessed Sacrament, Chatham**

**President: Patti Johnson**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Jim Higgins**

**Number of Members: 212**

**Life Members: 0**

Blessed Sacrament CWL has tried to have a semi productive year. With the great assistance of our executive and members we have had a monthly Newsletter. It has expanded from 2 pages to 16-18 pages a month. This has been a wonderful asset to us all. We put everything we possibly can into it. We ask the church office to print 25 copies for us and one of our members delivers them to our members who don't use the internet. Everything else is emailed. We also have a prayer email line for our members with special requests. We are attempting to stay connected and minister to each other through phone calls and birthday greetings.

**St Joseph (City) Chatham**

**President: Sharon Thieven**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Jim Higgins**

**Number of Members: 105**

**Life Members: 0**

This past year has been challenging, but much time has been spent in Prayer, attending Mass or attending online, and listening to my favorite radio station "UCB". Music is very beneficial and sometimes brings clarity to what is going on in our WORLD.

As Past President I have been part of the phone committee for our Council. We have reached out to our ENTIRE membership two or three times to touch base and reassure them they have an ear to listen to. They have been deeply touched by this ACT of KINDNESS. It has touched my heart and made me appreciate more daily our FAITH and what our Council can do to bring joy in this way.

As we continue to carry on, we have helped our local charities through meager donations in whatever capacity that we can contribute.

Many members reach out through letters and Prayers and taking or bringing items that some people may need delivered to those in need to their homes, with safety conditions in place. Everything is always with care.

I had the opportunity to read "Saint Joseph His Life and His Role in the Church Today". If you have a chance, I suggest this as a book to read. Although we have limited information about St. Joseph, this book will fill in the empty spaces of his life and work in raising his foster child Jesus.

**St. Joseph's Harwich, Chatham,  
President: Clara T. Roesch  
Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Jim Higgins  
Number of Members: 86**

**Life members: 0**

Members of St. Joseph's Harwich CWL Council hosted a bake sale in conjunction with the K of C breakfast in February. They volunteered at Soup's On, a CWL and K of C sponsored project, to raise funds to support Chatham Hope Haven, a local men's overnight shelter, and Salvation Army Chatham-Kent Ministries.

We co-hosted the World Day of Prayer on March 6<sup>th</sup>. And then the world as we knew it changed. We were able to still meet our financial obligations as set out in our budget. Some members returned to Sunday mass while others livestreamed on their televisions. All our members have stayed safe and well. We were able to send out cards, poinsettias and treats to our shut-ins at year end.

**St. Ursula, Chatham  
President: Sandra Mailloux  
Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Jim Higgins  
Number of Members: 137**

**Life Members: 0**

What a difficult and challenging year 2020 brought to the Catholic Women's League of Canada. No one could have predicted the many challenges we have faced over the past year and continue to face today. Live streaming mass during the Easter season was a difficult process. I am SO GLAD that we have been able to return to mass on a regular basis. With John and I being part of the team for St. Ursula Parish we are fortunate to be able to attend on a weekly basis. When we were able to return to our church, it was wonderful to be able to see so many of our members again. Wonderful to say WELCOME BACK!

Many of our CWL activities have been on hold for a year now, Unfortunately, our fundraising projects were not able to be held. Unfortunately, this has impacted the donations we normally give. Some donations were still given - just a much lesser amount.

Instead of monthly regular CWL meetings I tried to increase my email correspondence to our membership in order to keep in touch. Phone calls were made to members not on our email list. It was always a special bonus to meet a member at the grocery store - or even the street corner and have an opportunity for a short visit.

**Visitation Parish, Comber**  
**President: Nancy Sylvester**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Father Mukucha**  
**Number of Members: 150**

**Life Members: 0**

During this pandemic year in 2020, it was very difficult to see our ladies so starting in February before we closed in March, our ladies enjoyed a very short meeting. Later, we had a brown paper bag auction which our ladies really enjoyed and had lots of fun. With the money raised we are planning to plant a tree, in the spring, in honour of National's 100th anniversary. We had to wait since we didn't have our new priest until November.

During the many months that passed our Executive still had our meeting on zoom, and whatever was discussed, our secretary put together a beautiful flyer which was sent to all our member either by email or by mail. In this way our members always knew what was happening in the League. When directives came out from Diocesan, I emailed them to all our executive so they could read what was happening.

We finished the Annual Reports in November. That was done at my house as usual with the help of Kathy Levesque. A draft budget was also finished in October by our executive, and presented to our membership in November in our church hall and it was passed. We had around 15 ladies including the executive. I know National didn't want us to get together but it had to be passed.

So, we did all what we could this year. All in all, we did a great job!!!! Our ladies of Visitation Parish are amazing women, who share in their faith each day, and help when they can.

**St. Michael's, Dresden**  
**President: Lisa Camillo**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Chris Gillespie**  
**Number of Members: 59**

**Life Members: 0**

We started out the year 2020 with a healthy budget and many plans- guest speakers were scheduled until the summer- and then COVID 19 hit.

We had a newsletter that we mailed to our members already in place. Who knew that two years later, that initiative would keep us informed in the early days of our church closures and how to view our parish Mass on YouTube. Our Communications Chairperson distributed pictures of Easter Decorations that our members had sent in, including the outside of our parish that was also decorated by CWL members. We even did a Food bank challenge in co-operation with our municipality online. CWL members donated a total of \$825.00 to the food bank in Dresden.

Instead of a newsletter, we had an "e-meeting". Our chairpersons submitted reports and we formatted it into a meeting which was sent out to all our members. Part of that meeting was the



call for our annual 12 hours of Adoration for Palliative Care. As a result of our Spiritual Chairperson's creative thinking, our members chose an hour during the specified day and sat in Adoration of a crucifix or picture of Jesus.

**St. Patrick's, Merlin**

**President: Christine Drew**

**Spiritual Advisor: Rev. Christopher Bourdeau**

**Number of Members: 40**

**Life Members :0**

Shortly after attending World Day of Prayer our Council was basically shut down because of the pandemic. Plans to attend and participate in the Annual Convention being held in Chatham and the celebration of CWL's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary were put on hold and then eventually cancelled.

Our major Annual fundraiser a "Soup, Sandwich and Something Sweet" luncheon offered to the whole community was put on hold and eventually cancelled. As President I attempted to keep members up to date via e-mail whenever possible and when masses resumed through the church's online bulletin.

We had already donated to our charities since our budget was passed in February but not having any funds raised in 2020 our council is looking at greatly reducing those charitable donations for 2021.

We did manage to have an outside socially distanced meeting on a beautiful day in November and did hold a mass for all of our deceased members in that month.

In December we sent out cards to our sick and shut-ins of the parish and purchased Christmas gifts for the Rosarian Fathers and our Spiritual Advisor.

That sums up what our Councils activities were for the year. We are praying for a time in the future when we will be able to meet in person and continue our work for God and the Church.

**St. Michael's, Ridgetown**

**President: Susan Martens**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. John Juhl**

**Number of members: 67**

**Life Members: 0**

Members of St. Michael's have responded to God's call, in various ways of service throughout the year 2020. Due to the pandemic, members focused more on helping others in their need, especially since many members and parishioners experienced more loneliness and isolation.

Our council supported the same charities that we normally support annually. We gave monetary donations to organizations such as "Save a Family Plan, the Salvation Army Christmas Hamper Program, Canadian Food for Children, St. Vincent de Paul Society" as well as many others in our community. We provided further donations to emergency needs for the St. Vincent de Paul Camp

and Holy family Retreat House. The gift cards that we had purchased for the Annual Diocesan Convention in 2020, which didn't take place, were donated to our local Salvation Army in Ridgetown for the needy. Since the regular ceremony did not occur at the Cenotaph for Remembrance Day, our CWL council donated money for the poppy fund instead of placing a wreath. We also donated money to a parishioner whose husband passed away during the pandemic after she requested financial help for the funeral.

As president, I was in contact with members via email and telephone to remind members to remember to contact others experiencing loneliness and isolation. Many of our members contacted members and others on a regular basis. Extra cards and notes were also sent to them.

We held a "Right to Life" baby shower in the month of September. Even with all of the restraints of the pandemic, and fewer parishioners attending Mass, we collected just as many articles for "Right to Life" as in previous years. This year, we had far more monetary donations for the baby shower.

Since we could not hold our annual cabbage roll sale and bazaar, one member made cabbage rolls for three different needy families. Food items and baked goods were also donated to a family in need from our parish.

There were many ways during this pandemic year whereby members kept in closer contact with others, answering the call to love one another and pray for one another. We shared ways of growing in our faith journey by praying the Rosary and praying novenas. I have felt strong support from our members in our council at St. Michael's.

**St. Francis Xavier, Tilbury**

**Co-Presidents: Donna Bourdeau/ Liz Trudell**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Chris Bourdeau**

**Number of Members:**

**Life Members: 0**

It has been a challenging year for all CWL members especially with few opportunities to meet and plan and/or meet our financial obligations.

At the beginning of the pandemic members were invited to join a telephone call ministry to house bound parishioners, keeping them in touch with parish news and events.

At CWL members funerals, the ladies showed their support by being greeters, ushers and lectors, always wearing our blue scarfs for identification.

Although it rained on Life Chain Sunday a dozen members persevered in showing our support for Right- to-Life for one hour. We were joined by a K of C man and another pastor from town.

And finally, membership collection meant being creative in contacting and collecting. Many house calls were made this year and members were welcomed joyfully. We were able to renew all members and add some new ones. Well done ladies.

**Our Lady Help of Christians, Wallaceburg**

**President: Margaret Cushman**

**Spiritual Advisor: Rev. Chris Gillespie**

**Number of Members: 187**

**Life Members: 0**

The year 2020 was certainly a challenge. This report will be considerably shorter than the previous year due to the influence of COVID 19 on our Councils' activities. Lock-downs and meeting restrictions caused the cancellation of planning for the year and fundraising activities, but we rose to the challenge and did what we could. Here is how we were able to respond to God's call in 2020:

**Humanitarian Aid**

Thanks to a fundraiser held in March before the shut-down of activities, we were able to give financial support to international causes such as Save A Family Plan, Canadian Food for Children, Development and Peace, and Homes for Hope El Salvador.

**Locally**

Financial support was given to Community Meals and St. Vincent de Paul. Gifts were provided to children receiving First Communion, Confirmation and Grade 8 graduation awards were given and a donation to Muskoka Woods Leadership Camp for the school.

Our Council also provided the following services to our parish and community:

- Sympathy cards to bereaved families of deceased members. Get Well cards and "Thinking of You" cards were also sent to members as requested.
- Honor Guard was provided at members' funeral (where restrictions allowed).
- When Masses resumed, volunteers were provided from June to December to cover Sign-In tables, as ushers, and to disinfect pews after all Masses.
- Members continued visits to shut-ins by telephone, some visited in nursing homes, as permitted.
- Members continued to serve as needed as Lectors/musicians, with St. Vincent de Paul, preparation of Community Meals, and with Ministry of Care.

We sincerely hope that 2021 will be a better year for all. God bless.

**Holy Family Church, Wallaceburg,  
President's name: Delina Bogaert  
Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Chris Gillespie  
Number of Members: 99**

**Life Members: 0**

*Our Parish Council fulfilled our mission statement by:*

- Paying memberships for seniors in Nursing Homes
- Visiting elderly parishioners
- Delivered a 75-year pin to a C.W.L. member
- Delivering C.W.L. candles in memory of deceased members
- Sending out sympathy cards, get well cards, Christmas cards, thinking of you cards and birthday cards to parishioners.
- Collecting money for the least of the coins
- Supporting a child through Chalice.
- Supporting Canadian Food for Children
- Gave Congratulation, with small gift presentation, to school children for First Communion, Confirmation, First Reconciliation and Graduation.
- Have mass said for deceased C.W.L. members.
- Attended World Day of Prayer early in the year.
- Save a Family Plan.
- We tried planning other projects but because the Pandemic are plans were not possible.



**Phone trees were back in style for 2020**

## **Essex Region**

**Jeanne Lauzon**

**Regional Chairperson**

10 councils

Do you pray? I love this interpretation of prayer. What is a prayer? Prayer doesn't only happen when we kneel or put our hands together and focus and expect things from God. Thinking positive and wishing good for others is a prayer. When you hug a friend. That's a prayer. When you cook something to nourish family and friends. That's a prayer. When we send off our near and dear ones and say, "drive carefully" or "be safe". That is a prayer. When you are helping someone in need by giving your time and energy, you are praying. When you forgive someone, that is prayer. Prayer is a vibration. A feeling. A thought. Prayer is the voice of love, friendship, genuine relationships. Prayer is an expression of your silent being. Keep praying...( thanks to Facebook)

The ladies of Essex Region are a wonderful example of prayer. Despite a pandemic, they continue to reach out to their members, their parish and their communities by phone calls, emails, cards, donations and countless contributions to so many charities. I feel so blessed to know them.

I selected an example from each parish:

- Marian Day of Reflection, 2000 medical hats
- starting a recipe book project
- Friendship Luncheon making and taking Valentines to LaChaumiere and Seasons
- Gifts for sacrament recipients
- Volunteering at Gleaners where they chop vegetables for dry soup mix which is sent around the world to feed the hungry
- Inviting the V.O.N. to speak on the prevention of slips and falls
- Inviting Sister Linda Dube to speak about the work done at Guadeloupe House
- Baby Bottle drive for Guadeloupe House
- A surprise birthday greeting for a Spiritual Advisor in the church parking lot
- Two members from our region have attended the Compassionate Care workshops
- Ecumenical, interfaith & multilingual Rosary prayer service

This year has also been a sad year as so many of us have lost treasured members. My parish in Belle River lost one of our beautiful Past-Presidents, Pat Preston. Although we were unable to say prayers at the funeral home or form an Honour Guard, many members came out to give her a wonderful send off at mass. Essex Region had to say goodbye to our amazing sisters at Visitation Parish in Comber as they are now with the Chatham Region. Chatham had gained a great group of ladies.

As I complete my first year as a Regional Chairperson, I am so glad I accepted this position. I am learning so much from and about my fellow sisters in the League. They are a group of loving, compassionate and very patient ladies who give so generously of their time. This has given me a great opportunity to grow in my knowledge and appreciation of all the work done by the League across Canada.



### Welcome Silence

Most of us are very uncomfortable with silence. But you must have some quiet in your life in order to be attuned to what the Holy Spirit is doing and to be able to recognize God's voice when He speaks to you. Get comfortable with silence and start to pray, because it can change your life.

**St. John the Baptist Council, Amherstburg**

**President: Mary Verstick**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Matt Kucharski**

**Number of Members: 66**

**Life Members: 0**

Some of our members attended mass which was partly for us, before the current shutdown, just to keep in touch. Since we haven't been too active in the past year, it was a chance, even just to say, "HELLO".

This past year we lost three of our members. Eileen Beneteau, Betty Bezaire, and Lynda Cote. Lynda was part of our executive. (Community Life Chair) She will be greatly missed. Her funeral was live-streamed to our parish's website.

Last Oct. 20th , we had an executive meeting. We discussed the elections of a new executive, which was to take place in November, but did not happen.

During last summer, our secretary, Bonnie Reeves, suggested collecting recipes so we can start a cookbook. It sounded very interesting, so she is still working on that project, which will be ready for print soon.

**St. Simon & St. Jude, Belle River**

**President: Jackie Gomes**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Antony Kolenchery**

**Number of Members: 216**

**Life Members: 0**

As our monthly meetings ended after March and have not resumed to date, our usual activities have been curtailed. We were able to do our annual Valentine workshop after our Feb. general meeting where we create valentines as a group to be given to residents of a local retirement home during a Valentine's day visit.

We were able to distribute our budgeted donations to the vulnerable agencies we support in April 2020 in order to assist those agencies for the homeless, food bank and other local agencies who support the vulnerable. This was a priority. As parishes began to struggle with the pandemic restrictions and lack of usual weekly collection funds, we also gave the monies budgeted toward our church and parish programs.

Our council executive and some general members participated in an effort to reach out to members during this time of isolation with friendship phone calls. These were well received and appreciated. Members were also encouraged to contact elective officials regarding anti-life bills.

Our annual membership drive was a real group effort. Overall, it was successful.

As no in person meetings could take place, there were some attempts at executive meetings by email, usually to deal with any issues that needed attention.

We continue to have a presence in the weekly online parish bulletin and parish website.

**Holy Name of Jesus, Essex**  
**President: Janice Rounding**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Seejo John**  
**Number of Members: 148**

**Life Members: 0**

We donated to Essex Food Bank, Esk-Omi Missions, Moosonee Mission, Trappers Lake Spiritual Centre and Essex Region Goodfellows, Holy Name of Jesus Mission Group, St. Vincent DePaul, Our Lady of Guadalupe House, Right to Life, Windsor, Windsor Hospice, and Save a Family Plan. (in which we sponsor a Family in India)

We provided gifts to the newly Baptized, First Communicants, Confirmation students, and couples being married. We gave money to Grade 8 classes towards their awards.

We participated in CWL/Parish Prayers for our deceased members and honour guards at their funerals, as permitted in 2020. We also offer a Mass Intention for them.

We called all of our members in the spring, to see how they were doing and to offer words of encouragement in these trying times. We gave a Christmas card and ornament to all of our housebound, shut-ins and nursing home members.

We continue to work on the Corporal Works of Mercy, with God's help. COVID 19 drastically limited what we were able to do, when we were able to meet, and cut off all fundraising efforts and events in 2020.

We pray and hope that our members stay healthy and strong this year.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide us and bless us.

**St. Anthony of Padua, Harrow**  
**President: Marg Noel**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Matt Kucharski**  
**Number of Members: 45**

**Life Members: 0**

We started off the year in good spirits. After our New Years' greeting, it was reported that our Christmas basket fundraiser was a huge success.

We discussed and revamped our annual budget. We arranged for two members to host the confirmation class after the confirmation.

After February, things began to change as the corona virus came in to take over our lives. Our plans to attend the convention in Chatham were cancelled. The convention itself was cancelled.



We started a "baby bottle" campaign to raise funds for Our Lady of Guadalupe Home in Windsor. Since the campaign started near the beginning of Lent, it ended badly. We sent bottles home with parishioners, close to 100 bottles. The next Sunday, our churches were shut down due to the pandemic. We received only about 4 bottles back. We don't even know where all the bottles are now. The draw for our Easter basket was delayed until long after Easter when our churches opened up for a short time. Our council has not been able to meet during this time of covid-19, and we do not even have a place to meet anymore. At our last meeting we discussed the "poverty of loneliness" and we shared ways to make a difference. We shared that we may be lonely, but that we are never "alone". We know that God is always with us.

We pray that our members are safe and healthy. We now have lots of time to pray and to make phone calls to members who need to have a little human contact.

### **St. John de Brebeuf and Companions, Kingsville**

**President: Rose Jones**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Tom Ferrera**

**Number of Members: 106**

**Life Members: 0**

- Senior lunch is provided once a month, proceeds, which are by donation, are shared with the SSVP.
- Members rough chop vegetables at Gleaners for dry soup mix, which is sent around the world and Canada to feed the hungry. As well apple snacks are done for local uses in school and Christmas hampers.
- Shrove Tuesday pancakes are prepared and served, along with a bottle of water and an orange to the St John de Brebeuf students (513). Sick
- Do hospital visitations and phone calls
- Long term care, (4) nursing homes and the homebound; reach out in the form of appropriate cards, visits and phone calls.
- Volunteer at Erie Shores Hospice. Homeless and Clothing;
- Provide socks and other necessities to Bridge Youth Centre (centre for troubled youth, ages 16-24).
- Conducted a baby bottle campaign for donations for Our Lady of Guadalupe Home, (shelter and support for new mothers and pregnant women in crisis) \$2000 was collected.
- Once a month, members participate in all ministries of a Sunday Mass (lectors, altar servers, collection and offertory , greeters and Eucharistic ministers.)
- Host reception for Confirmation candidates and family, they also received a pin from us.
- Members serve as catechist for other sacraments.
- Several members attended and participated in World Day of Prayer 2020 at Olinda United Church in Ruthven.

As of June 2020, our parish has become a family of parishes, which includes Leamington, Kingsville, Wheatly and Pelee Island.

**St. Michael, Leamington**  
**President: Mary DiMilo**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Tom Ferrera**  
**Number of Members: 158**

**Life Members: 1**

Our members hosted/provided meals on alternate evenings for the Alpha program at our church. We also prepared and served a meal for the Alpha Retreat Day on Feb. 15. Jan. 25 CWL members were ministers at 5:00 pm Mass

We presented crosses and certificates to First Communicants, by placing them in envelopes, due to covid, as there was no opportunity to present them. CWL members provided desserts and help serving meals for the K. of C. Lenten Fish Fry.

Several members attended and participated in the World Day of Prayer.

Then on March 14<sup>th</sup> the CORONA VIRUS LOCKDOWN BEGAN

Letters to MP's and Doug Ford regarding Bill C-7 and Long-Term Care were sent. Replies received by all.

High School Bursaries were presented.

We became part of the "Erie Shores South Catholic Family of Parishes" joining with Kingsville, Pelee Island and Wheatley. Good relations already exist with Kingsville CWL.

An ecumenical and interfaith multilingual Rosary prayer service was held at the Our Lady of Lebanon Shrine in Leamington, Ontario on Sun. Aug.30. A picture was sent to our diocesan newsletter.

Our CWL showed parish support for teachers, staff at all the Leamington/Kingsville Catholic Schools in the days, weeks and months ahead by gathering in front of the 4 schools to pray the rosary.

Members were encouraged to participate in the Windsor/ Essex County Right to Life Annual Walkathon on Sept.17. Support could be shown with pledges or walking/pledges on whatever route they personally chose. A "Calling tree" was used to ask members to renew. Members could also renew at the office. Catholic Missions in Canada Calendars were sold in Narthex or church office until lockdown.

The Annual Potluck and White Elephant Auction for Society of St. Vincent de Paul was cancelled. Members were encouraged to donate gift cards to Society of St. Vincent de Paul. instead. A couple of members personally delivered a Calendar and homemade Christmas card to shut-ins' doorstep.

**St. Clement, McGregor**  
**President: Diana Coyle**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Seejo John**  
**Number of Members: 106**

**Life Members: 0**

This year was like no other because of the Coronavirus Pandemic. Most of the year we were self-isolating because of a government “Stay-at-Home” Order. We were restricted from holding in-person meetings, and celebrating many events, one being our 85th Anniversary as a Council.

Before the lockdown we did hold a “bake sale” fundraiser and with some of those funds we supported a family in India through the Save-a-Family Plan; as well as helping out with the restoration of a water well at the Pieta Bhavan in India. We financially supported the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Street Help Homeless Centre.

Our Phone Committee helped to keep us connected; as well as many emails were circulated to keep our members informed as to who needed prayers.

For the short time the Church was open, it was the CWL ladies that were in charge of taking attendance for contact tracing and keeping the pews sanitized.

Our Spiritual Development Chairperson sent monthly Communiqués; and rosary processions were held on All Saints Day and the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception. We were also able to hold a Memorial Rose Ceremony for our deceased members in November.

A surprise “COVID” birthday greeting was held in our church parking lot for our priest, Fr. Seejo; which was a joyful, memorable occasion for all of us.

Our 2021 Membership Drive was completed by mail.

Christmas cards were sent to our shut-ins. To date, we continue to support one another with emails, phone calls and greeting cards

**Good Shepherd Parish, Lakeshore**  
**Interim President: Audrey Rychel**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Patrick Beneteau**  
**Number of Members:87**

**Life Members: 0**

We enjoyed a speaker from V.O.N. in February who gave us tips on how to prevent falls. Several members attended World Day of Prayer in March. Toiletries were collected for Hiatus House.

After lockdown, we sent out all updates from Diocesan and directives to the appropriate executive members, requested letters to be written to the respective Members of Parliament re

Bill C-7, re adding plastic bottles to the list of items to be banned, re Long Term Care Homes and palliative Care.

Several of our members participated either by collecting or sorting non-perishable food items for Windsor/Essex Miracle Food Drive on June 27<sup>th</sup>. As our budget was passed in January, we were able to fulfil our commitment to the community by sending financial donations to a local food bank, Street Help, Second Chance Ministry and Holy Family Retreat House. Christmas gifts were given to each of our priests and deacons.

Annual reports were completed. Masses were arranged for three of our members who passed away. CWL pins were delivered to all new, 10 year and 25-year recipients. E-mails were sent to our members notifying them that it was time to renew their membership for 2021 as well as putting a notice in our bulletins.

Although it was a trying year for all of us, through Our Lady of Good Counsel, our faith, our priests and technology we continue to grow together and pray for a better 2021.

**St. Anne, Tecumseh**

**President: Annette Marier**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Patrick Beneteau**

**Number of Members: 238**

**Life Members: 0**

We set up boxes for donations to help the Women's Help Centre. We did really well, we collected clothes mainly jackets, socks, hats and scarves.

Mary Lappan gave us form letters to send to our MP regarding post abortion emotional trauma. All members were invited to attend a movie and speaker Alex Shadenberg on Loneliness in Essex, 10 attended.

Marcotte Funeral Home sponsored our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Looked into a tree planting. Purchased CWL aprons specially made for us. Donation made to Vincent de Paul Society \$400 We had a Speaker from VON Katherine Bortolin who spoke on Hospice we donated \$100.

Sr. Linda Dube spoke on Our Lady of Guadalupe Home donated \$100. Elections were held for Diocesan Executive the results sent in.

After March, no member meetings allowed. Sent emails to members to give them updates.

Donation was made to Ghana for help with the COVID-19

Donation to the Relief Fund in Lebanon at request of Fr. Patrick.

Flowers purchased for 2 members who passed away.

Membership Drive was started in October. We sent emails to all members. We had an Executive Meeting in October, only 5 attended at my home. Sent Christmas cards with a tea bag to all members to ask them to commemorate our Advent Tea.

**St. John the Evangelist, Woodslee**

**President: Angelle Bisson**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Seejo John**

**Number of Members: 71**

**Life Members: 0**

2020 was a very different year to be remembered by all with this virus getting worse and worse. The stay at home for everyone was one of the hardest to do. We don't realize what we do with all our time until we are told to stay put and not to go anywhere. But even with the lockdown some were busy sending flowers or cards or calling people just to let them know that they are thought about. Prayers are always being said for the sick and dying and also for those who are right there working.

We started our year with our Marian Day of Reflection with Father Vincent. Then we had to say farewell to Father Vincent with an outdoor gathering. Then we welcomed Our New Family of Parishes St. Clement, St. Mary, and Holy Name of Jesus with Father Seejo John and Father Paul Kim. Through the year we sent donations to our Charities, Bursaries were mailed. We shared making 2000 medical hats for the nurses and doctors for our hospitals which kept us busy for at least a couple of months. We worked with the Decorating Committee and Coordinated a Christmas gift drive for needy families. When we received information from London Diocesan C.W.L., I sent it to all our members and kept them informed with updates.

All in all, I think with all our emails and phone calls and even some Skype it could have been much worse. They have vaccines and hopefully by the end of this year we will be back to normal whatever our normal is. God is always with us no matter what. God bless everyone, Love always.

## **Huron-Perth Region**

**Mary Barnes**

**Regional Chairperson**

16 Councils

This is my third year as Regional Chairperson for Huron Perth. A year ago, we all looked forward to celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Catholic Women's League in Canada as well as the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the London Diocesan Council. Well things changed dramatically and quickly within a few months.

Huron Perth had been planning a Fun Night in Mitchell hosted by the Perth Huron Crossroads Catholic Family of Parishes (St. Patrick's Kinkora, St. Vincent de Paul Mitchell, St. Patrick's Dublin and St. James Seaforth).

Councils were able to participate in the World Day of Prayer as well as the beginning of Lenten Luncheon series.

Many councils kept in touch with their members through newsletters, cards, phone calls, and emails.

We used Zoom in order to meet virtually and opened these meetings to anyone who wanted to participate which has been well received.

At the end of the year, we said good bye to Sacred Heart Parkhill as they move to the London Region leaving us with 15 councils.

We look forward to resuming in person meetings in the future as we continue to pray for an end to the pandemic.



**Lord, I Love You, but...**

Most of us are quick to declare our love for God, but at times our reluctance to serve Him tells a different story. Honestly consider whether you have ever found yourself saying or thinking, I love you, Lord, but don't call me to do that! Or perhaps you served Him, but with a flawed attitude: If no one else will do it, then I guess I will. What causes us to be reluctant servants?

**St. Patrick's CWL, Dublin**

**President: Mrs. Kathy Rowland**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Philip Joseph**

**Number of Members: 57**

**Life Members: 0**

The year 2020 was like no other. Everyone has felt the impact, and continues to feel the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic in some way. As community members and Canadian citizens, it is our responsibility to make daily choices to protect our own safety and the safety of others. A large part of protecting others is to "social distance." This term is contradictory to so much of what we know and practice. As members of the "Catholic Women's League of Canada," it is our instinct to "socially gather" and support one another in faith. Since this is not possible in the way we are accustomed, we have had to find ways to reach out to serve one another.

Just before the first wave and lockdown, our unit had the privilege of being part of a Family of Parishes Lenten Retreat, that is now our new cluster of parishes, Perth-Huron Crossroads Catholic Family of Parishes. All CWL units (St. James Seaforth, St. Patrick's Dublin, St. Patrick's Kinkora and St. Vincent de Paul Mitchell) participated. We cooperatively prepared refreshments and food at St. Patrick's Church in Dublin. Our guest speaker was, Fr. John Comiskey, Diocesan Priest and Professor at St. Peter's Seminary, London. The theme was, The Year of Prayer. It provided an opportunity to work together, get to know one another and deepen our faith. Another highlight, before lockdown, happened when members from our league co-hosted the annual World Day of Prayer, with St. Vincent de Paul Mitchell, CWL joining other faith parishes in the local community, and around the world, to pray for world peace. At that time, we had no idea of what was to lay ahead. We also began a regional focus on care for the lonely, through compassionate community care. Little did we know how much we would have to work together to find ways to reach out and put our faith and prayer into action.

Since the pandemic, it has been challenging to say the least. We have reached out to members at large, as well as shut ins, through phone calls, cards and prayers. We have offered Masses for students and families as well as members who are lonely, or have lost a loved one. We have donated to families in need. We continue to provide sacramental gifts within health protocols. Virtual Regional meetings have provided support by providing opportunities to gather, to pray and to share ideas of how to help others during the pandemic. Care for the lonely is a priority. As we all know, the pandemic is far from over, so we must continue to find ways to support and serve one another, in 2021 and beyond. Together in faith, we must believe, if we all do our part, no matter how small it may seem, we can make a difference in the lives of others.

*"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."*

*- Francis of Assisi*

**Precious Blood, Exeter**  
**President: Pauline Hogan**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Ben Huyge**  
**Number of Members: 77**

**Life Members: 0**

I presented a 70-year pin to Doreen Regier, one of our members.

We had a pot luck dinner on January 14<sup>th</sup> to replace our regular December one.

We hosted the World Day of Prayer celebration for South Huron and area on March 6<sup>th</sup> with approximately 50 people present.

I sent a plant and card to Catherine Maas, one of our members, who celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in April.

I sent Christmas cards to all of our shut-ins.

We paid the membership dues for all of our members in nursing and retirement homes and for our 100-year-old member.

We hosted the Christmas Bureau between November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 10<sup>th</sup> for needy families in South Huron and Area. We accepted financial donations during the first week and gave out gift cards to registered families, by appointment, during the second week.

**St. Peter's, Goderich**  
**President: Joyce Essery**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Father Tony Laforet**  
**Current Number of Members: 131**

**Life Members: 1**

"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."

Donations made to St. Vincent de Paul (STVDP) and Huron Hospice. We support a Sponsor Child through Chalice. Monetary donations to Catholic Missions, Matercare, Development and Peace, Christmas Bureau.

Mass for Deceased Loved Ones of CWL Members on the first Friday of the month. Following Mass, snacks and refreshments are available and a time of fellowship enjoyed. We honor the deceased, pray for their souls, and allow those attending to begin to heal from their grief and loneliness. (Due to Covid, only done in Feb.) Funeral lunches were not provided due to Covid. Following the death of a CWL member, they are remembered in prayer at our general meeting, their names provided to National office, and their name entered into our League Book of Life. This handwritten Book of Life is displayed during Mass on All Souls Day, and CWL Masses offered



for Deceased (this not allowed this year due to Covid). Cards are sent to family members suffering a bereavement. Also, Mass is offered for all deceased CWL members in November.

Cards are sent to those sick or recovering from surgery. CWL members, through the church, bring communion to the homebound, conduct weekly communion service at a nursing home until March when Covid hit. Coordinate parish prayer line requests, and distribute bulletins and prayer lists to retirement homes when not under Covid restrictions.

Hosted World Day of Prayer in Huronview Home for the Aged and local community prayer service and refreshments arranged. Advocated Compassionate Community Care workshop to provide advice and support for end-of-life treatment and issues. Donation to Euthanasia Prevention.

Showed video about water management and encouraged action be taken to Environment Canada and discontinue contract with Nestle in selling water for billions while First Nations people do not have access to safe drinking water.

Supported youth through local schools, monetary donations for grads, awards, and supported a young CWL member with funding for International Student Exchange in Brazil (program put on hold due to Covid).

### **Immaculate Heart of Mary, Grand Bend**

**President: Joanne Vandenberg**

**Spiritual Advisors: Rev. Father Antoine Laforet & Deacon John Lammers**

**Number of Members: 82**

**Life Members: 0**

- before the coronavirus arrived, we held 2 regular CWL meetings
- Angelina Backx, one of our charter members who'd maintained her CWL membership ever since 1956, passed away in February
- many CWL members coordinated and attended the 2020 "World Day of Prayer", hosted by our parish, for four area faith communities
- when the pandemic was declared, CWL members found new ways to pray (outdoor Rosary circle; over the phone with others; at home with their families; during live-streamed Masses from All Saints, Strathroy, and from around the world
- once churches opened again in June, many CWL members and their spouses volunteered for all the duties required for Mass attendance under the COVID-19 restrictions
- members were kept informed of CWL and parish happenings via emails, by our "Matters of the Heart" newsletter, the church bulletin, the Diocesan website, as well as by phone and distanced conversations
- in lieu of attending the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual National CWL Convention in Montreal, many members tuned into the live-streamed Webinars, featuring various speakers

- in September, our parish joined 5 other Huron County parishes to form the “Lake Huron Catholic Family of Parishes” and Deacon John Lammers was appointed as our CWL Spiritual Advisor
- an informal, socially-distanced Executive Meeting was held outdoors in September
- our Corresponding Secretary sent cards (Valentine’s, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas) to members out-of-town and/or in long-term care, as well as cards for others as requested (baptisms, deaths, weddings, illness, etc.) for a total of 130 cards this year
- our Organization Chairperson compiled the 2021 memberships online by the year-end deadline; the \$25.00 “early bird” membership incentive works well
- members will continue to participate in Huron-Perth Regional Zoom meetings, virtual retreats, CWL workshops
- when allowed, we’ll sing at Mass, have in-person gatherings, hold elections, plan our annual CWL events and fund raisers, allocate donations, plant a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary CWL tree, pray for those who’ve died from the virus and for their families and friends

**St Patrick’s, Kinkora**

**President: Linda Donkers**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Ronnie Tagnines**

**Number of Members: 95**

**Life Members: 0**

Our council- St. Patrick’s Kinkora, have called its members to grow in faith, and to witness the love of God through ministry and service in the following ways...

- Before COVID - We had an Honour Guard for a Deceased member and prepared and served at a couple of funerals.
- Throughout COVID, we’ve periodically sent prayers and messages VIA email to our CWL Members to remind them that they are not alone, that we care and are looking out for them. We also shared links to our new Parish Family website to get access to our weekly bulletin, on-line services or the latest updates regarding the effects the pandemic has had on the church
- We’ve had several members assist in added measures taken to keep all safe while attending Mass during the pandemic
- We’ve sent sympathy, get well, and thinking of you cards to several of our members as well as offering Mass Cards for immediate deceased family of our CWL members
- We continue to give hope to our community by supporting our RESTORATION 2020 committee working faithfully to rebuild the steeple of our Church
- We donated to many local Charites
- At Christmas we reached out to all members with personal phone calls to Wish them a Merry Christmas and offered support to anyone who was struggling or in need, we also sent several Christmas Cards to those who we normally would have visited
- A few ladies helped decorate the Church for Christmas

The Pandemic has made this a challenging year, but we definitely witnessed love in how our church community supported, followed COVID guidelines, served and reached out to each other to keep the members of our Parish safe in these unprecedented times!

**St Joseph's Listowel**

**Co Presidents: Theresa Redpath/Gloria Sebastian**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Keith Morrison**

**Number of Members: 88**

**Life Members: 0**

This year two of our ladies made 42 Christmas arrangements. They made them at home, brought them to Church and sold all from outside.

In December we bought coffee, tea, and hot chocolate for the teachers at St. Mary's School. We also gave poinsettias to our members in nursing homes.

With the social distance we will not be doing anything until all is over

**St. Vincent de Paul, Mitchell**

**President: Mary Sanders**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Ronnie Tagnines**

**Number of Members: 63**

**Life Members: 0**

This year has been very strange and different due to the COVID 19 Virus.

We hosted the World Day of Prayer service on Friday March 6, 2020.

Then the world changed after that, as the COVID 19 happened to spread around the world. Our parish and way of life was shut down. No physical meetings were held this year. We were quarantined to our homes and were unable to see other people. I believe prayers were prayed more than ever this year to keep everyone safe and healthy. Phone calls were done to keep in touch with one another and to do necessary CWL business.

Christmas cards were sent out to each member which was a first and the members really appreciated that. We have secret sisters in the parish and that was interesting, since we could not bring our gifts and cards to them at the church for drop off or pick up. We usually have a secret sister reveal in the spring but since COVID 19 is still here we will do something in the summer outside, if safe to do so. We look forward to being in some form of normality soon God willing.

May God Bless us and keep us safe and healthy.

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Mount Carmel**  
**Co-Presidents: Elisabeth McFalls/Clasina Geurts**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Deacon Fred Truchon**  
**Number of Members: 61**

**Life members: 0**

Members of our council prepared two luncheons and sang in the choir for the funerals. We participated in World Day of Prayer. Plans for a St. Patrick's Day luncheon for widows, widowers and seniors was cancelled at the last minute. Cards which had been made at the March meeting were mailed out along with small gift cards that had been purchased.

A group of ladies put together and sewed nearly one hundred baptismal stoles. Members ushered in church for Confirmation Masses and at weekend Masses after that.

Four members who are also in the choir, baked and filled boxes with Christmas goodies and then sang Christmas carols outdoors for about sixteen parishioners at their homes.

Phone calls were made to parishioners, and cards were sent for sympathy, birthdays, anniversaries and thank yous.

**St. Peter's CWL, St Joseph, ON**  
**President: Carrie Van Osch**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Matthew George/Deacon Brian McDonald**  
**Number of Members: 48**

**Life Members: 0**

How did our council fulfilled the 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."?

When I look back to March 2020, I remember thinking... WOW, 2 whole weeks off for March Break because of the world-wide pandemic of COVID-19. How will folks and families cope?

By April 28th, 2020 we were still in lockdown but by now the coronavirus had hit close to home as we received a prayer request for a covid patient in our local Long Term Health Unit. Within 24 hours we had arranged for a daily rosary to be said outside on the lawn, where residents could look out their windows to see and hear our presence at the Bluewater Rest Home in Zurich.

With intentions for all patients and staff we kept to the guidelines and regulations, 6 feet apart & no more than 5 people to gather. How perfect with 5 decades to be said. 🙏. By mid May we received the news of recovery but decided to continue saying the daily rosary to Our Lady during the month of May. It was an amazing experience to be apart of and to grow in faith together.

It's has been a tough year and yet with lockdowns, health scares and not being able to meet, fundraise or attend mass on a regular schedule or basis, we together are doing our best to cope, learn, witness and pray in different ways and so will continue.

**Holy Name of Mary, St. Marys**

**President: Shirley Ann Beecroft**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Dick Bester/Fr. David Butler**

**Number of members: 101**

**Life Members: 0**

As we began 2020, the year of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Catholic Women's League in Canada, we had several plans to celebrate this momentous anniversary and we were also looking forward to begin planning for our own CWL Council 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2021.

Alas! Our first CWL meeting of the year had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. However, our meeting scheduled for March 4 was possible - We had discussed the nominations list for Diocesan Executive and prepared our instructed vote. We reviewed our 2019 year-end financial report, received our budget for 2020 and voted to file it. Then we discussed final plans for our major fundraiser coming up in two weeks time.

Ten days later a global pandemic changed everything! Our church was closed! Bulletins became available only electronically (and many of our senior members do not have or use computers or cell phones). Our major fundraiser "Pie Days" was cancelled. And then the cancellations just kept coming - the London Diocesan CWL Convention was cancelled, then the same fate befell all the Provincial conventions and the grand celebrations planned for the CWL 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Montreal!

Oh, how we longed for the reopening of our churches and the permission to once again attend Mass and to meet with our CWL sisters! New challenges continued to be presented at every turn, however we are members of the Catholic Women's League and we know that with God's help we can do anything.

We decided to re-establish a telephone tree and contact each of our members. Using a parish photo directory and our files we compiled a telephone list. This list was then divided and a portion of it was given to each executive member who called the ladies on her list. It was so good to be able to chat with our CWL sisters! We used these lists during our annual membership drive and were able to send our complete membership renewals and new memberships to the national office before the first of December – the earliest we have ever done this! We have also continued to use our lists to 'check in' with some of our members to offer friendship and encouragement. This re-established telephone tree, I think, was one of the best highlights of 2020.

**St. James, Seaforth**

**President: Mary Barnes**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Philip Joseph**

**Number of Members: 91**

**Life Members:0**

The year is 2020 with big hopes and dreams for our council. We at least started out the year that way having been able to hold one meeting prior to the Covid pandemic and all the restrictions that have come with it.

We were able to participate in the World Day of Prayer and the beginning of the Lenten Luncheons as St. James was the second church presenting with our speaker being Fr. Philip Joseph, our Spiritual Advisor. His topic was Prayer which definitely was timely. We do not have a Parish Hall so are thankful to Northside United Church for their hospitality in the use of their hall and kitchen for our lunch.

We were able to supply Rosaries for our First Communicants, Crucifixes for our Grade 8 graduates and a Bursary to St. Anne's High School in Clinton to a recipient from St. James Parish. We were also able to fulfil our commitment to Save a Family Plan which is supporting families in India.

In August Fr. Steven Eckert originally from our parish and went to our local schools, was ordained at St. Peter's Cathedral in London with his First Mass being celebrated in St. James Church the following day. Members of our Council participated in various ways on this special occasion.

We were not able to visit with our parish and community shut ins after early March.

We look forward to 2021 with the hopes of being able to meet again and to visit our nursing home and retirement home.

**Immaculate Conception, Stratford**

**President: Marjorie Skinner,**

**Spiritual Advisor: Pastor Fr. David Butler**

**Number of members: 90**

**Life members: 0**

The COVID-19 PANDEMIC greatly curtailed all aspects of our CWL plans and meetings for 2020. Our first 2 General Meetings took place in February and March. To start February off on a social vein, we had Katie Jewelry & Accessories show their wares and new fashion ideas. Extra time was given to socialize and meet new and old members in the new year and enjoy snacks.

One bright spot was special long time member Marg Hilcox celebrated her 100th birthday on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>. Executive members had a visit with gifts, cards at her Retirement Home and she shared many of her CWL memories over the years.

Our March 9, 2020 General Meeting we hosted speaker Dr. Leanne Burgin Ball, Chiropractor & Doctor of Sunshine Clinic. She did demonstrations and had members take part in various

exercises. At that time, unbeknown, this was our last General Meeting until November. Many had signed up to prepare and host the six Lenten Luncheons for the community but only three could be held before the lockdown. Two members took part in the citywide World Day of Prayer on March 6.

During the Pandemic, our Visitation team and members kept in touch with our members in Retirement Homes. Phone calls, cards and email newsletters were sent out and prayers offered regularly including the Divine Mercy Chaplet. We became more aware what our seniors were going through. We already had nearly \$1500.00 in prizes donated for our Annual fundraiser and the draw was so far away until Jan 16, 2021 there should be no problem. However, the pandemic carried on and we had our licence and tickets done so we had to go ahead. We could not take tickets into the church, malls, stores or market to sell as we did in the past. We phoned all our members and they agreed to take books to buy or sell, which they generously did, and we came close to same revenue raised as last year. A benefit that was realized is the Executive got to know and talk to most of our members, new and inactive, and communication improved. Memberships were renewed earlier for 2021 because of the ongoing contacts with members.

Our last meeting was in November with limited numbers allowed. Our speaker, Nancy Bomasuit, the new Business Manager for the three parishes, gave an informative insight to all the changes and the reasons. She was warmly received and assured us she was pleased to assist in any way with our Councils. We also held a Memorial service for our deceased members.

Our 2-year Executive term ended for 2019 – 2020. Our Executive meetings took place outdoors during the pandemic. It was a wonderful Executive who were committed and dedicated and did not let the Pandemic defer their duties. Blessings to all. God is always with us.

**St. Joseph's, Stratford**

**President: Mary Cobb**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. David Butler**

**Number of members: 189**

**Life Members: 0**

2020 is like no other year, that none of us have never seen. In 2019 we started holding a half hour Executive meeting before having the General Meeting, which was much better use of our time, instead of having 2 meetings a month.

We were able to have a combined meeting in February 2020, where 17 members attended before the three-month lock-down. We had to hold off on our Raffle draw 2019/2020, that would have normally taken place in April of 2020. Once the re-opening happened, we held the draw on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 at the Parish Hall. The previous years of 2018/2019, & 2019/2020 Raffles were held to fund-raise for the CWL charities we support.

Many of our members were able to attend the “World Day of Prayer “March 6<sup>th</sup> 2020 held in Stratford at Communion of Christ Church. What a blessing that day was, being together and having fellowship afterward. As of the March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 weekend, the lock-down began.

Once we reopened, we held an executive meeting outside, where we wore masks and practiced social distancing. We did a review of cards sent out, and discussed how we would deal with the Raffle draw. Our next meeting was in October 2020 at the parish hall. It was great to see people after the time away. We talked about new ways of fund-raising. We came up with a “No contact in person” with Epicure meal kit. We started as Father gave the OK but then had to put back on hold.

At the beginning of the lock-down in April 2020 I sent out about 60 cards to many of our members. We are looking forward to May 2021 as it will be our council’s 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**Sacred Heart, Wingham**

**Co-President: Susan Hotchkiss**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Devas Varghese, Ph.D**

**Number of Members: 74**

**Life Members: 0**

Sacred Heart fulfilled the League’s mission statement by creating a “Loneliness Project” coordinator position. This member contacted the sick, shut-ins, bereaved and senior league members and various community members. Monthly cards, candies, spiritual bouquets and visits when allowed, were completed. Periodic newsletters by snail and e-mail were sent. The co-presidents took a road trip, in the summer, to visit our rural league members. Telephone calls are made at other times. Financial donations, to most charitable organizations, were achieved. We were able to help a family that lost everything in a fire.

**St. Boniface C.W.L., Zurich, Ontario**

**President: Kathleen Roulston**

**Spiritual Advisor: Father Vince Gulikers**

**Number of Members: 88**

**Life members: 0**

In January 2020 we started the year with our new executive. Kathleen Roulston as President, Julie Becker as Treasurer, Recording Secretary Janet Soudant, Corresponding Secretary Karen Mathonia, Membership Joan Regier, Spiritual Carmel Sweeney, Education & Health Debbie Pennings, Community Life Elaine Beauchamp and Parish Activities Patti Hunt.

We held our annual Brother Bob’s Bake Sale in support of Jesu Ashram in India in February which was a huge success. The World Day of Prayer was held on March 6 and then we were in shutdown due to COVID-19 on March 14, 2020 as the world experienced another pandemic. Our parish Mass was streamlined and Easter was celebrated online and isolated. Since some members of our executive were front line and essential workers we were communicating by text, telephone messages and emails. Thank-you’s, prayers, acts of kindness and support were given during these challenging times.

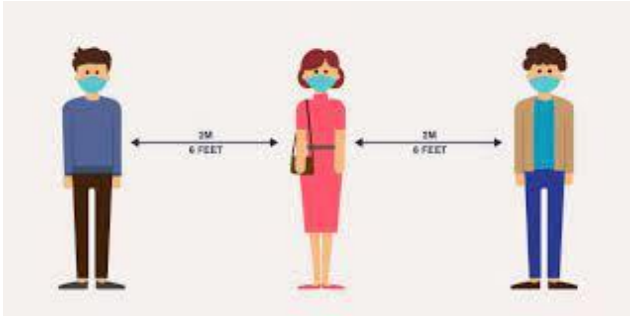


Graduations were celebrated virtually and Mass intentions were given to our shut-ins. First Communicants celebrated individually and we were able to continue to support our Save the Family Plan and provide donations to most of our charities.

Our annual bazaar and funeral luncheons have been put on hold and we look forward to the day we can join together with family and friends.



**Show your love for one another, WEAR A MASK!**



## **Ingersoll Region**

**Fatima Cabral**

**Regional Chairperson**

11 councils

One of the most fitting signs I have seen in 2020 was “The most useless thing I purchased in 2020 was a day planner”. We can all relate to this statement when we think back to all the events planned for 2020 including bazaars, rummage sales, bake sales, general meetings and 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebrations that never came to fruition. As 2020 started many of our region’s members had the opportunity to begin the year attending or hosting the World Day of Prayer and even leading a Stations of the Cross event at their church. Then in March 2020 the world came to a halt. The fear of this unknown virus kept us all in the safety of our homes. However soon it was clear life would not return to normal so we needed to start exploring what we could do to be compliant with the Bishop’s directives but also stay connected with our members.

Donations that were committed to were fulfilled especially to those organizations in our community that serve the poor and vulnerable. They needed our financial support more than ever in 2020 as the need was great and fundraising opportunities were limited. Councils in Ingersoll region quickly realized that wellness checks with members were vital. Reaching out by phone, email or mailing cards were important to remind members that the CWL still cared and were thinking of them. Several councils still published a newsletter for their members filled with inspirational poems, quotes and pictures. Many councils looked for safe opportunities in the summer and fall to prepare goody bags with comfort items for their shut-ins and elderly members. This brought joy to so many that were starting to feel the isolation of this prolonged pandemic especially since churches were still closed. A number of Ingersoll region CWL councils would have celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary in 2020 so commemorative tree planting still occurred to celebrate the event for the League and councils.

Although funeral luncheon committees were paused during the pandemic, councils still found ways to honour their deceased members by forming honour guards outside funeral homes or at cemeteries if allowed, sending sympathy cards to family members and requesting masses in memory of deceased members. In these difficult times, the sisterhood remained faithful and strong.

One of the things that I am most proud of in Ingersoll region this year has been the embracing of new technology to stay connected by councils. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 we had 12 members participate in an online recitation of the rosary for the 12 hours of prayer for Palliative Care. Our regional meetings have been online which allows smiling faces to greet each other and remind us that we have to stay strong and weather this storm united.

**Our Lady Queen of Marty, Delhi**

**President: Vacant**

**Spiritual Advisor: Rev. Fr. Alan Dufraimont**

**Number of Members: 150**

**Life Member : 1**

This past year has been compromised as ALL Leagues & people have been with the pandemic. 2020 was an election year with an inability to elect a full slate of officials. There was one position exchanged, all convenors and executive sworn in, at the January Meeting.

Treasurer Beth McGahey has willingly accepted the position and continues managing 'the books'. Our League has been fortunate to have been successful in fund raising over the years.

Financially we support many organizations with donations throughout the year. Our membership has declined with 150 members paid at years end. In February we presented Maple Leaf Service Awards to three CWL Members: Susan Gaal, (membership Convenor & Pastoral helper with Baptisms and Confirmations); Glenda Vankerrebroek, (funeral luncheon convenor, Eucharistic Minister & lector); and Betty Dertinger, Bazaar white elephant convenor and helper at ALL CWL & Church functions.

Each year the CWL prepares Pancakes and feeds all of the students & staff of St. Francis Cabrini Elementary School on Shrove Tuesday. There were over 326 enjoying the luncheon.

The League also presided over one Stations of the Cross during Lent. The March meeting and World day of Prayer was well attended by our members. A birthday party was held for residents of LTC Caressant Care home in Courtland with a game of bingo played for all .

All plans for ongoing fund raising & activities for the year came to an abrupt HALT!

Members were notified by phone of ongoing prayers during Lent. There were NO meetings. Membership drive was done by phone with ALL past members or family called. Each call was relayed and appreciated by many elderly members.

As the church opened, a Memorial Mass in November was assisted by CWL member volunteers with limited attendance.

CWL Prayer line, is an ongoing activity. Any parishioner or family member notifies the prayer line, and it is VERY active.

As the year evolved all donations continued to be fulfilled. A virtual meeting to review and assess a budget for 2021 was completed with adjustments.

It is our HOPE & PRAYER the pandemic will end and we will continue to find our way in doing Corporal Works of Mercy in the community.

**Sacred Heart, Ingersoll****President: Joanne Schoenmaker****Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Gilbert Simard****Number of Members: 127**

This year 2020 has been a memorable and very challenging one for the record books. The Covid 19 pandemic has impacted our CWL routine and restricted most of our activities for the year. Our year started off with passing our annual budget and starting to plan our activities for the year; hosting World day of Prayer, nursing home visits, yard sale, guest speakers, annual dinner, fashion show and our bazaar.

We hosted a very successful World Day of Prayer. It was lovely to connect with fellow worshipers from other Churches in the Ingersoll area. Our nursing home residents enjoyed having us lead them in a worship service.

As we lock down during the spring and less restrictions during the summer, we had hoped to be able to meet again in the fall, but the virus had other ideas. Virtual meetings, online prayer services, virtual mass or limited capacity at mass has challenged us to adapt to new ways. Many charities we normally supported during the year were put on pause until the pandemic is over. This year's themes of helping the lonely and supporting a more compassionate society have been a very big challenge.

This pandemic has challenged us to communicate and keep in touch in a different way. It was a great success to be able to communicate via newsletters, by emails or our buddy system to **all** our members. Many thanks to Martha for organizing and sending out these inspirational newsletters.

As we say goodbye to 2020 our prayers and thoughts are with our members who passed away this year. Hoping and praying this pandemic will soon be a memory only and we can resume meeting and planning many activities together. 2021 will mark our 100<sup>th</sup> year as a council and planning is underway to celebrate in the fall.

May God bless us and keep us safe until we can meet again.

**Sacred Heart, Langton****President: Linda Vandendriessche****Spiritual Advisor: Fr Thomas Kuriacko****Number of Members: 170**

The Langton CWL had a difficult year as everyone else . We incurred a net loss due to covid restrictions and lockdowns. Hopefully 2021 can make a turn around and we can return to normal operations, but we were able to make all of our donations for 2020

We found it difficult to reach out to membership, we have an on-line presence with face book page, but most of the members do not have a computer and rely on word of mouth to communicate. We still try to keep in contact with phone calls, flowers delivered for special occasions, cards.

We did do a parish phone tree to ask if there was anything they needed, which was a success, people were happy to hear from us

**Our Lady of LaSalette, LaSalette**

**President: Edith Heleniak.**

**Spiritual Advisor: Father Alan Dufraimont.**

**Number of Members: 80**

**Life Members: 0**

Last year was very difficult for us due to covid 19 restrictions .We were unable to carry out our regular meetings and charitable work. We were able to support our local food bank, which was in need, by contacting our members .

Our council is one of the oldest councils. We will be celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on September 18, 2021. We are taking life day by day and hoping to be allowed to have an opportunity to celebrate our 100 years. We make this prayer through the intercession of Our Lady of LaSalette.

May you all be blessed and keep safe.

**St. Peter's CWL, Norwich**

**President: Mary Ellen DeKlerck**

**Spiritual Advisor:**

**Number of Members: 12**

**Life Members: 0**

In the year of 2020, we had no in-person meetings. I did call 10 of my members by phone every month. In April we did a meeting by phone starting with the Executive first. I encouraged them all to stay home, to watch mass on television and provided my members with different times of the day when mass was on. Then I talked to the rest of the members and called everyone back and reassured them that we were all well and staying safe.

I continued to call all my members each month. I reminded them of who had a birthday each month and encouraged them to call and wish them a Happy Birthday or send a card if possible. We had a member who celebrated 60 years of marriage.

We also lost a member on Sept 8, 2020 (Donna McNally). So, we only have 11 members now in our council. We had a socially distanced gathering at the park on Sept 28, 2020 and collected our

membership fee from 9 members and received the other 2 dues at a later date. So, all 11 members have paid their 2021 per capita dues.

I have not filled in much on my council's yearly report because of COVID restrictions since we had no activities. I had 4 phone calls with our Spiritual Advisor. One of our Spiritual Advisors was Father John Pirt and now we have Fr. Ben Huyge.

We will not be gathering until it is very safe due to the fact that we hold our meetings in each other's home.

**St. Cecilia's Port Dover,**

**President: Evelyn Hudecki**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr Alan Dufraimont**

**Number of Members: 78**

**Life Members: 0**

St. Cecilia's Catholic Women's League Activities in the parish & community:

Although we were unable to have any fundraisers, we were able to continue donating to various community organizations, such as:

- the local Food Bank, Save a Family, St. Cecilia's school, Simcoe District Voice for Life, to the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas baskets, the Cancer Society & the Catholic Missions
- hand out bursaries to the local elementary & high school
- contribute to the local hospital's fund drive
- lay the wreath at the town Remembrance Day ceremony.
- donate monetary gifts to our pastor & deacons
- act as Eucharistic ministers & lectors
- are members of the board at the local food bank - volunteer at the local food bank - in honour of the 100th anniversary of the CWL of Canada, we planted a tree in a local park
- contributed towards the repair of the vandalized church sign

We are all looking forward to the time when our normal activities can resume

**Sacred Heart Princeton**

**President: Debbie Randall**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Darius Jadozinski**

**Number of Members: 15**

**Life Members: 0**

*(final report as they are disbanding)*

I will start by saying this is a daunting task.

It has definitely been a year no one could have predicted with Covid 19 changing all our lives. We have been a council of close friends, and not being able to meet was difficult for us. A year of

solitude, and for some, loneliness, so I phoned members to let them know I was there to talk. As it turned out this was a great opportunity for reflection on our league's years of service.

Our Charter started out in 1952 with a small group of ladies whose primary goal was to help immigrant families with clothing, food, faith and giving them a sense of belonging, while helping build a strong community. They held picnics and dinners so they very poor would not go hungry but no one knew who paid for tickets and who didn't. Most of the food was donated by local farmers. Strawberry socials, turkey dinners and our annual bazaar that was held at the school so the whole community was included, as well as cabbage rolls which near the end had increased to as many as 600 dozen being made for sale. Breakfasts were made for all after Palm Sunday. Enjoying coffee and home baking during a social time after the first Sunday of the month was a way to meet new parishioners and catch up on family news. We donated money for trophies to grade 8 students of our local St. Francis School, bibles for grade four students, and giving rosaries to first communicants. In later years we went through each grade teaching the children how to pray the rosary.

We were especially blessed at certain points over the years to have had 3 generations of a family in our membership. Our main charities to give donations were Operation Eyesight, Arc Industries, Right to Life, Can Save, Covenant House, Father Keena Memorial Fund, St. Peter's Seminary, and Beginnings Woodstock. These charities grew as fundraising grew.

The ladies of our council had become good friends and had, over the years shared many stories of their lives, the hardships, sorrows and joys. My life has been so enriched by their wisdom, patience, fortitude and drive even though I'm sure they never looked at it in that way. Through them I saw how very important prayer is. That praying for others can give my own heart peace. They introduced me to CWL Convention. It will lift your spirit to be in the presence of so many members and they were right. Our council worked very hard to ensure we could send members to Convention by paying part cost.

Watching members over the years that had specific directives they were involved with and the dedication they put into them was inspiring to many. Set your mind to a task....give it your full attention and time. Again, without knowing they were instilling another life lesson.

We cooked cabbage rolls, make cakes and cookies, pies, quilted, crocheted, knit, made many a luncheon for various functions, and worked closely with St. Francis school to ensure our faith was passed on to younger generations. We did it all with friendship, grace and prayer.

It has been a true honour to be part of this wonderful group of ladies for this great Catholic Women's League of Canada! Closing our Chapter has been a heart wrenching decision. With the closure of our school in 2009/2010 then our church in 2006 and our members now going to 3 separate churches, our members still wanted to stay together. This is proof of the dedicated ladies we have. Even though we will no longer have a Princeton Charter we will remain friends. The League has shown us all that the light of God will remain forever in our hearts and in our friendship, and that giving what you can to others will always be a part of us.

**St. Mary's Parish, Tillsonburg**  
**President: Darlene Papaioannou**  
**Spiritual Advisors: Father John Pirt / Father Ben Huyge**  
**Number of members: 260**

**Life Members: 0**

In the year 2020,

A Community Valentine Tea was held in February. C.W.L. members held a bake sale, with proceeds going to Community Life

Our members held a Station Arts Pottery Fun Day in February and proceeds went to Fresh Start (home for unwed mothers and their babies)

Many cards were sent to members of our C.W.L. (Get Well, Sympathy, Thinking of You, and wishes at Christmas)

Many members contacted members by phone also.

A general meeting was held in Sept. with 26 members attending with the Covid -19 protocol. During this meeting we had a lengthy report on St. Vincent de Paul needs, within our parish, especially during the pandemic. Many C.W.L. members volunteered to keep the ministry going. Our council provided an enormous donation toward this cause.

One member was represented at the funeral mass of our deceased members during the pandemic.

Our council purchased 22 C.W.L. aprons to support the Annual C.W.L. National Convention in 2021.

**St Michael's, Walsh**  
**President: Mireille Braun**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Thomas Kuriacko/ Fr. Ben Huyge**  
**Number of Members: 64**

**Life Members: 0**

Like everyone else, Covid-19 changed so many things. Our annual cabbage roll making fund raiser was to precede Easter. This is our only fund raiser each year. We tentatively rescheduled for the fall after cabbage harvest. Again, a bust. We still have funds for our regular charities. Tempered now by the lack of a money maker. Graduation bursaries for top female student in our local Catholic high school from our parish grade school. The fall was better with St Michael's opening up. Most of our executives were involved in the cleaning of the church, prior to its sanitation. We exchanged news, that was old and did our work. Unfortunately, the church did not open then, in July. Thank the Lord we did open on the first Sunday in Sept. with a new pastor Rev. Ben Huyge. Still no cabbage rolls but we did do an adjusted Christmas visit to our seniors with a token gift at



Christmas. The membership drive was a challenge too with envelopes with member name(s) and funds inside, into a collection bag X-72 hours before opening. Phone calls were many but they also gave us a chance to catch up. The pastor and his outreach got in touch and asked for help to do a "wellness" check of the parishioners with info about the reopening again after Christmas and helped with bulletin info. Many of our parishioners are older and not computer savvy, they were helped to get it delivered. Volunteering at Mass is the norm again and we long for the time for this too to pass. God Bless and onward.

**St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Waterford**

**President: Tinie Klunder**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Alan Dufraimont**

**Number of Members: 67**

**Life Members:0**

The year when the world stood still.

We started 2020 with lots of plans. We held our last meeting in March.

Members attended the World Day of Prayer service and social, not realizing that was the last we would be able to congregate with our friends and neighbours.

Within a week, churches and schools were closed.

The only church service available to our members was watched on television every Sunday.

Members tried to stay in touch. Cards were mailed to shut ins at Christmas time. Some members worked in the soup kitchen when needed. We attended virtual meetings. It is amazing what we all learned in the past year. We learned what six feet distance looks like, how to wear a mask properly and the word Zoom is how you stay in touch. Most of all, we miss hugging our families.

**Holy Trinity, Woodstock**

**President: Frances Moxon**

**Spiritual Advisor Father Darius**

**Number of Members: 180**

**Life Members: 1**

Unfortunately, COVID 19 separated us this year. Last March we attended World Day of Prayer, CWL met for Rosary and the last time we met was for our CWL Stations of the Cross.

In July our funeral ladies made 70 gift bags and delivered them to our Senior members containing essentials, goodies, prayers, jokes & a card.

Funeral committee donated \$500 worth of food to our local food bank for the less fortunate.

Once again, our CWL sponsored 5 Scholarships to our High School Students. We also had our Grade 8 Essay Contest, where 3 students received a plaque and certificate and the schools received a large plaque with students' name engraved.

Our community life chairperson sent out 9 birthday greetings to Seniors ,9 Get Well messages and at Christmas 60 cards with a prayer card enclosed to Senior members.

Our Historian was constantly calling our members, shut-ins, care homes and lonely to keep in touch during this unsettling time.

Our members following rules and permission, were honour guards outside funeral homes and the Cemetery for our CWL Deceased members.

These and many other activities I may have missed.



**Councils celebrated by planting a tree for the  
*100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Catholic Women's League***

## London Region

Dianne Kehoe

Regional Chairperson

20 Councils

An extraordinary year has ended. We were not able to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as we had planned. We were not able to hold elections. Our two-year terms became three-year terms. Despite all that we were not able to do as planned, God gave us the opportunity to really examine our Catholic Women's League mission. *"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."*

The councils found creative ways to be of service not only to their communities, but to each other. The focus was not on what we could not do, but how we could be of service. Councils met virtually, in nicer weather they met socially distanced outside. They held retreats, virtually and socially distanced in the churches when they could open. They found ways to serve the homeless, to have membership drives, to value and care for our common home, the environment. Call trees were set in motion. We continued with the centenary project and many councils planted trees.

The London Region expanded from 19 councils to 20 councils. Family of Parishes brought Sacred Heart, Parkhill back to the London Region. We are incredibly happy to welcome them.

In many ways this was a banner year for the Catholic Women's League as we came back to our mission call, to grow in faith and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service!



**Our Lady of Sorrows, Aylmer**  
**President - Sue Zimmer**  
**Spiritual Advisor - Fr. Graham Keep**  
**Number of Members – 150**

**Life Members: 0**

Like all other councils in 2020 our activities were curtailed due to the Co-Vid pandemic and our focus as suggested changed from fundraising to staying safe.

This was to be our 70th Anniversary at OLOS and we had special events planned to celebrate the occasion. Our council contacted the local Catfish Authority at Springwater Park and had 2 trees planted on site - one for our League and the other for the 100th Anniversary for National.

We managed to hold CWL prayer service at the funeral home following restrictions for a long-time member who passed away. Members were encouraged to call and do wellness checks on older members or shut-ins. Our Christmas Card program for the local nursing home residents was accomplished and they received their Christmas message on time.

Our council like many are anxious to resume normal activities and fellowship.

**Sacred Heart, Delaware**  
**President: Rose Bujnowski**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Thomas Blondin**  
**Number of Members: 68**

**Life Members: 0**

As with every council, 2020 was one for the books. As per direction, meetings were suspended. We did plant a tree, lovingly donated by a farmer in our family of parishes, in our cemetery to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the CWL. We continue to reach out to younger women to build our membership.

**St. Charles Garnier, Glencoe**  
**President: Teresa O’Leary**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Thom Blondin**  
**Number of Members: 47      Life Members: 0**

We are all experiencing the most unusual days of our lives and are all praying for an end to the limitations and deprivations we have experienced, not to mention an end to the continued bad news of sickness and death, or rising case numbers and increasing stressors to frontline staff and those who suffer with mental health issues.

Prior to the initial lockdown we had plans for a busy year which should have included our annual penny auction and bake sale, other fund-raising activities like meat pie making, and our Fall Potluck dinner and trivia quiz, to mention but a few. Well, as we have all come to learn firsthand, “Man proposes, and God disposes”. None of our plans came to fruition.

The ladies of St Charles have spent the year exchanging words of encouragement, praying for the continued health and safety of our families, friends, and our sisters in CWL, and praying fervently for an end to this pandemic and a return to normalcy.

**Holy Cross Council, London**

**President: Maria Marques Di Cicco**

**Spiritual Advisor: Rev. Fr. Nelson Cabral**

**Number of Members: 54**

**Life Members: 0**

- Palliative Care: Our members participated in the 12 hours of prayer from their homes. The Parish website posted each hour’s prayers in both English and Portuguese, which allowed the parish community to pray with us. With help from a local restaurant, we were able to provide lunch for the staff and volunteers at St. Joseph’s hospice on that same day.
- Lockdown communication: When we realized that the lockdown was going to be much longer than the original two weeks, we had various members of the CWL who began to call the shut-ins from our council. This then evolved and our members reached out to others in our parish, who might not have social media, internet to keep them up to date on all the changes as they happened. Even when things re-opened, our members have continued to call and check in with the parishioners on their list.
- Outside of our parish: We partnered with a community group who help the homeless as part of our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary mass. “519Pursuit” were collecting socks with a goal of 55,000 pairs. With a very limited number of members able to attend mass, we set a goal of 50 pairs from those who would be attending that mass. We received 197 pairs. The organization, “519Pursuit” surpassed their goal and collected 56,197 pairs of socks.

**Mary Immaculate, London**

**President: Mandy Bossuyt**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Augustine Ogundele**

**Number of Members: 144**

**Life members: 0**

No report

**St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, London**

**Co-Presidents: Anna Vandendries-Barr, Maureen Littleton**

**Spiritual Advisor: Brother Arockiadoss Velanganni**

**Number of Members: 53**

**Life Members: 0**

This year has been a very difficult one for all. Despite this, we have been able to grow in our faith and witness God's love through ministry and service.

Our council has always provided an honour guard during funerals. In addition, they volunteered to provide funeral lunches for the families.

We have been a long-time supporter of the women's shelter Anova. Currently they are not accepting donations but we will continue our support once this opens up.

Last February volunteers from our council made pancakes on Shrove Tuesday for the children at St. Anne's School for their celebration.

In March St. Andrew the Apostle Council hosted the World Day of Prayer. Many of our council were involved in this Ecumenical Celebration.

Many ladies are lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, members of many parish committees. During the time we were allowed to open our churches they stepped forward as providing hand sanitizing, ushers, greeters, sanitizing the church after Mass, etc.

They were also involved in phone calls to our ladies as well as parishioners to help dispel the sense of isolation.

Our council, in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus supplied gifts to our children receiving sacraments. Sacramental preparation was also carried out in new ways.

**St. George, London**

**Co-presidents - Rita MacIntyre and Lynne Tomchuk**

**Spiritual Advisor - Father John Jasica**

**Number of Members: 151,**

**Life Members: 0**

Due to Covid St George's CWL had no physical meetings nor any social events for 2020. However, we did have monthly zoom meeting for the executive and one zoom meeting with entertainment for the CWL members who were able to attend.

To stay in touch with all members we provided an electronic quarterly newsletter. For those who do not have email the newsletter is mailed to them (approximately 20 members).

We have also set up social phones calls for members who live along or feel isolated. The feedback

received indicated that the calls have been greatly appreciated

We were able to meet all our 2020 budgeted donations due to GIC investments that were made in previous years.

For 2021 no definitive plans have been made however St George will become a family of parishes with St John the Divine in July. Father John Jasica will be moving to Chatham and Father Michael Bechard will be pastor for the family parish.

We will continue with zoom meetings for both the CWL executives and all CWL members

**St. John the Divine, London**

**President: Colleen Kelly**

**Spiritual advisor: Fr. Don Pumputis**

**Number of Members: 158**

**Life Members: 0**

In this year of the pandemic, the CWL, along with other talented sewers, made hundreds of masks (509 for Christmas alone) and head bands which were distributed to two senior residences (Glendale & McCormick), My Sister's Place, the St. Vincent DePaul for Christmas distribution and parishioners and friends. Also, many knitted/crocheted hats for teens and adults, to support the St. Vincent de Paul with their Christmas 2020 giving. January saw the collection of 'Undie Sunday' (underwear) given to St. Vincent DePaul for the 'Cover Me with Love' campaign.

Due to the pandemic challenges experienced by St. Joseph's Hospitality, an initiative provided additional funding, as well as the collection of plastic containers and utensils, to support this important organization in its service to the poor / homeless.

Two programs with 7 days of information leading up to the celebrated day were held on the themes of Palliative Care and Canadian Missions in Canada. Educational material, prayer and support (letter writing and/or monetary) suggestions were emailed to the online membership.

The Loneliness committee developed an educational series entitled "Reach out" which is published via email and in the parish bulletin.

The Environment committee continues to educate members and parishioners regarding the challenges identified in "Our Common Home". This ministry completed a petition regarding water as a human right/need, along with activities focused on the Faith in Action Teams (FIAT) in our schools. Enviro tips and Tree Talk tips were published in the Parish bulletin. Public resource videos, from sources such as The Water Brothers, TVO, CBC highlighting environmental issues, were shared with the members. Younger members of our council created YouTube videos that speak to us about the challenges of Earth stewardship, and the actions we need to consider, to sustain our world for generations to come.

**St. Justin Parish, London**  
**President: Maureen Duncan**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Charles Akinloye**  
**Number of members: 118**

**Life Members: 0**

At St. Justin's we were lucky enough to be able to meet for our first two meetings of the year in February and March. We were able to pass our budget for 2020 and met most of those obligations over the course of the year. In March we prepared for the upcoming convention and were able to submit our recorded vote for the new executive. On March 7th, St. Justin's hosted the World Day of Prayer for our area. And then the world as we know it came to a halt, with the announcement of the world pandemic and the drastic restrictions to combat COVID 19.

We have been in the same boat as everyone else since then with no face-to-face meetings. We have tried to keep in touch with members using email and telephone, and were able to pass a motion for an additional donation to SVDP and St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre. When it came time to renew memberships, the members of the executive called each member and asked that they drop their dues off at the church or parish office or mail them in, and just about everyone responded promptly. Two of us spoke at Mass as well, and two new members were recruited that way.

I have been able to keep in touch with regional meetings through Zoom, and attended the organization workshop with Rebecca McCarrell and Theresa Ryan through the Go to Meeting App., but as most of our members are not overly well versed with the internet, myself included, we continue to reach out to each other through email and telephone. We are keeping each other and all our sisters in the league in our prayers.

**St. Martin of Tours, London**  
**President: Linda Sheridan**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Father Jose Lopez F.M.M.**  
**Number of Members: 67**

**Life members: 0**

Such a difficult year to reflect on but saying that our phone/card chain for all our members has been very successful, not just for our older members, but the younger ones were very glad to be acknowledged.

In March before lock-down we were able to host our Birthright Shower with an even more than normal collection of baby goods and cash donations.

Seven ladies attended World Day of Prayer at Calvary United Church.

We also had a drive-by collection for St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre collecting drink boxes, water, snacks: everything that could be put in a lunch bag.

No bazaar this year due to COVID 19 but for Christmas we collected 544 pairs of socks for the shelters and 144 pairs of pajamas for Merrymount Children's Centre.



It has been hard for all of us but our faith will get us through these difficult times.

Let us all pray for the essential workers: doctors, nurse, paramedics, grocery workers and of course, truck drivers.

**St. Michael's Council**

**President: Dorothy Solomon**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Murray Sample**

**Number of members: 161**

**Life members: 0**

St. Michael's C.W.L. lived out the mission prior to covid 19 and once our parish reopened by acting as ushers, greeters, lectors, cantors, altar servers, pew cleaners, children's liturgy leaders, sacristan, and Eucharistic ministers at Mass and to parishioners who were not able to attend Mass. Members also served by assisting with Hospitality North, who during the pandemic provided bagged meals to the homeless and any in need, S.V.D.P., prayer line, and through Yarning With Love a group who knit warm accessories for the needy. When our parish reopened, we were able to provide an Honour Guard for four members who passed away. We hosted an on-line Christmas fun night with worship, prayer and games. We created and donated valentines to Hospice London and bookmarks for First Communion and Confirmation children.

Five members attended the Lenten Retreat at which guest speaker Bernadine Ketelaars spoke on 'Spiritual Loneliness'. President Dorothy Solomon wrote a summary article which was published in the Ontario Provincial Council on-line newsletter. Another group of five members attended the Compassionate Care workshop which was followed up by encouraging all members to write to their MP's with regards to bill C-7 opposing euthanasia. Others wrote to M.P.P.'s with concerns over Long-Term Care. Sample letters were provided electronically for their convenience.

We have members on Parish council, and these committees: Social Justice, Finance, Refugee and Parish Newsletter; all of whom continue to meet virtually. Some of our members are leaders in (YANA) You Are Not Alone, a peer faith-based support group open to anyone who deals with a loved one who suffers from mental illness. Other members are leaders in 'New Day' a peer faith-based support group for persons who suffer from mental illness. The on-line parish bulletin was used to keep parishioners informed of ANOVA women's Shelter needs as well as our monthly prayer intentions. Another method to keep members informed was to create our first C.W.L. newsletter, "The St. Michael's League". It was made available via email and posted on our website. Sending sympathy, get well, and thinking of you cards plus two check in calls to all members are ways we remain present prayerfully.

**St. Patrick's, London**

**President: Mary Paradine**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Adam Gabriel**

**Number of Members: 130**

**Life Members: 0**

At the eleventh hour of preparations for our Annual St. Patrick's Bazaar, the March social event of the community and our fund-raising activity, the Coronavirus pre-empted our plans.

We were able to partially conclude our Lottery sales and raised some funds to distribute to 10 of our selected charities. We were grateful to have accomplished this part of our community work. Throughout the year, thanks to our Christian Family Life convenor, Maria, we have continued our project of sending a monthly fun communication to all our shut-in and long-term care members. This is done so they will know we are thinking of them and keeping them in our prayers. Many of these members have told someone how much they look forward to this monthly letter.

Members have been wonderful at reaching out to others with a phone call and emails, wanting to be a bright light in each others day. As president, I have tried to keep members up to date on the health of our ladies and all our parishioners. Emails have been sent with spiritual readings and other ways to help with our mission to be the hands of Jesus to others. Several of our faithful members passed away this year and although no honour guards, etc. were possible we requested memorial masses to be celebrated along with the monthly masses we have for our membership, past and present.

Looking forward to a new normal (hopefully before the end of 2021) when we can once again be together for faith building and fellowship.

**St. Peter's Basilica. London**

**President: Julie Sans**

**Spiritual Advisor: Father Jim Mockler**

**Number of members: 131**

**Life Members: 0**

Welcome to the virtual world CWL, were we ready for it?

Prior to the pandemic, St. Peter's CWL developed a survey to assess current needs and feedback from our membership to identify any gaps, areas of improvement, spiritual topics, what we are doing well! This will assist with strategizing on how we can do better, how we will increase attendance at monthly meetings, enroll volunteers to assist with chairperson responsibilities and recruit new members. January/February our council was able to hold a celebration with our new members, guest speakers (City of London and update 519 Pursuit) on how to assist the homeless and the spiritual reflections allowed for member participation in reading and discussion. We sponsored, "A Night Before the Oscars" which was an outstanding success and a positive impact on the parish community. Our council in collaboration with other organizations participated in

the Winter Welcome providing a hot meal for the St. Vincent de Paul recipients and World Day of Prayer, recognizing the women of Zimbabwe, Rise, take up your mat and walk. As we live through the pandemic, communication is so vital and recognizing 1/4 of the membership including those in retirement and long-term care facilities do not have access to the internet. February and October, newsletters were mailed out, containing updates, directives, service recognition, activities and distribution of discretionary donations to our community, regional and national organizations. Followed by emailing communiques providing resources, webinars, virtual rosaries and initiated 2021 membership renewal. Volunteers were solicited to become a Webfam, where they are assigned a CWL member that does not have computer access. Their responsibility is once an email is received, they are to contact them with the updates and if required provide instructions on attending sessions by connecting with their telephone. Many members during this time have volunteered, donated, to ensure there were no shortages of face masks, head coverings etc. and distributed to those in need. Our members shop local, eat local and provide service when called. St. Peter's CWL council has grown in countless ways to adapt to God's call.

#### **Holy Family, London**

**President: Francis Bennett**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Bob Remark**

**Number of Members: 124**

**Life Members: 1**

We started off the year doing baking for our annual bake sale to support Brother Blaise in his work in Peru. Once things closed down due to co-vid, the baked goods we had stored in the freezer were donated locally to various charities.

Our council was in a reasonably good financial position that we were still able to support those charities in our budget, without being able to fundraise.

As we have been unable to meet in person for most of the year, we have kept in touch with our members by means of email and provided them with information regarding various retreats, speakers, etc. that they could access via zoom. We have also sent out prayer requests for those in need of prayer. Several members have been participating in and/or facilitating bible study courses offered by the parish, via zoom.

#### **St Patrick's Lucan Council**

**Spiritual Advisor- Father Ross Bartley**

**President Nancy Hess**

**Number of Members-100**

**Life Members: 1**

What a year! This pandemic affected everyone and also the work of our CWL. We were able to have an executive meeting in January and general meetings on Feb 4 and March 3, 2020. The only other time we gathered for a meeting last year was virtually on Nov 3, 2020. We were able

to decide which local charities would receive 100% of the monies raised at our annual bazaar in 2019. We worked on catering plans for funeral lunches. This is a service to the community whereby the minimal profits are primarily used to purchase sacramental gifts and receptions. Likewise, for all of CWL, so many of the wonderful services and events were canceled due to limitations. We were able to have an outdoors COVID friendly service for a tree planting in front of St Patrick's church to commemorate the 2020 Centenary Project. A beautiful rock was donated and we had a plaque installed. This year, a member's husband built a beautiful cupboard to display CWL memorabilia. The Knights of Columbus and a parishioner also supported this project. It was mounted in St Patrick's mini hall where we had always held meetings prior to pandemic. Finally, a couple members gathered a social distance to prepare Christmas greetings for our parish "shut ins" and gifts for Father and staff.

**Sacred Heart, Bornish Parkhill**

**President: Tammy Vandersanden**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Tony Laforet**

**Number of Members: 65**

**Life Members: 1**

No report

**Holy Angels, St. Thomas**

**President: Terry Collins**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Graham Keep**

**Number of Members: 121**

**Life Members: 0**

Looking back on 2020, we see that although we could not meet and do the many things which we would normally have done, we were still able to be of service to each other, our Church and our community.

As many of our members are seniors, the impact of isolation from family and friends was greatly felt. We kept in touch through phone calls and on two occasions we were able to gather at the park for a brown bag lunch while still following Public Health guidelines. As we listened to each other's chatter, we were made aware of the bonds that have been made by our members through the league.

When PPE were in short supply, our members joined a local sewing group and made over 3000 masks. They were donated to the hospital, nursing homes and the police department. When our churches were opened, they were made available to parishioners.

We were able to help our Catholic elementary school by donating to their Giving Tree at Christmas and by providing grocery cards for needy families. We also supported our Knight of Columbus soup program.

When two of our members passed away and we were not allowed to attend the funeral, we formed a “social distanced honour guard outside the church.

When our church was allowed to open, members answered the call by volunteering to be on cleaning and hospitality committees.

Our Spiritual convener, with the help of our president-elect and our pastor, held an in person and virtual Morning of Reflection on the topic of isolation during Covid.

**St. Anne’s CWL 2020 Annual Report**

**Acting President(s): Michele Harris, Katie Kelly**

**Number of Council Members: 196**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Graham Keep**

**Life members: 0**

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Anne’s CWL members found ways to stay actively involved and engaged in community and spiritual works. Some of the 2020 examples include:

- In March, members assisted with the World Day of Prayer arrangements
- Members arranged for a virtual living rosary and assisted with arrangements for prayers for palliative care in May 2020
- Outreach lunches and dinner assistance occurred regularly pre-pandemic
- Donations from our members to the Caring Cupboard food bank and toy drive continued despite the pandemic
- Some of our members put their phenomenal sewing skills to use and sewed hundreds of masks and gowns for our local hospital and nursing homes
- And, of course, virtual celebrations of mass!

Although we had to cancel/postpone many social events, virtual “get togethers” were arranged and, in the warmer weather, within public health guidelines, a few members met in a local park to support safe socialization!

Like most organizations, fundraising is a big part of the work that we do. Thankfully the 51st Wine and Cheese Show was scheduled pre-pandemic and was a huge success in 2020. Although the annual Holly Berry Bazaar in November was postponed, the success of the Wine and Cheese will allow St. Anne’s CWL to provide support to many worthy causes.

We look forward to a brighter 2021 and the opportunity to lead members to fulfill the league prayer where we ask the Lord to: “Send Your Holy Spirit upon us to give light to our minds and strength to our wills that we may know and fulfil Your great law of charity”.

**All Saints, Strathroy**

**President: Pat Buren**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Thom Blondin**

**Number of Members: 213**

**Life Members: 1**

Like every council, our activities were cut short by the Covid-19 virus. Several of our ladies got busy and made stacks of face masks and caps in all sorts of fabrics styles and colours.

Some of our ladies became ushers at Mass directing the faithful to their assigned seats. and after Mass cleaning the pews.

We definitely missed being able to put on a nice lunch for the bereaved families after the funeral Masses.

Our members who were Ministers of Communion and readers were able to continue until lockdown.

On a nice sunny Sunday afternoon our pastor Father Thom helped us to plant a tree in memory of our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the national C.W.L. We sure hope to celebrate this great occasion in style as soon as it is allowed. The year 2021 will mark our council's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Our members are calling each other to keep in touch, and sending card to those in need. Hopefully we can get back to normal soon.

**St. Helen's: Wallacetown**

**President: Mary Lou McMillan**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Graham Keep**

**Number of Members: 51**

**Life Members: 0**

The doors to St. Helen's Church closed in March and have not reopened. Our CWL members continue to serve our church and community despite the limitations caused by the pandemic. We decorate the front porch of the church to celebrate the liturgical seasons and tend the gardens.

Our skilled seamstresses sewed more than 200 cloth masks. Members donated gently used handbags and toiletries. My granddaughter helped me stuff 25 bags which were donated to a woman's shelter.

Donations of cash, food and toys were given to the local food banks.

Members contacted others who needed to hear a friendly voice or receive a card of encouragement. We offered our prayers for each other, the pastoral team, our family of parishes and the whole world. We assisted with hospitality and cleaning at St. Mary's.

Members received a monthly newsletter by e-mail or snail mail. Our hearts and hands reached out to offer faith, hope, and love during this time of isolation.

## Sarnia- Lambton Region

Patricia Sloan

Regional Chairperson

12 Councils  
(1 inactive)

The year 2020 has certainly had many challenges on how our Councils participated in our parishes and communities. Since we could not meet in person and could not fund-raise, we had to go back to the basics of our Mission Statement to call our members to grow in faith and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

In order to do this, above all, we needed to pray, not only for our loved ones but the entire world as the pandemic spread, rapidly and deadly.

All my Councils reached out to our members, by telephone, emails, cards and letters. Some members became caregivers to ill or aging family members. One Council sent flowers to members in nursing homes. Many members supported their parishes by volunteering for safe attendance at Masses, that is, ushering, taking temperatures and collecting names and phone numbers and cleaning the Church. One Council helped their parish financially as collections were less but bills stayed the same. Most Councils supported St. Vincent de Paul at Christmas with donations of new PJ's and distribution of Christmas hampers. One Council donated knitting to local charities and made lap quilts for Hospice. Another Council helped the Knights of Columbus make and distribute meals. One Council stayed in touch with members by a weekly newsletter to keep everyone informed. One Council covered a day of silent witness for 40 Days of Life.

I am very proud of my Councils and all that they do. This last year has proven that we are not all about bazaars and funeral lunches. We are much more. Thank you to all my Sisters in the League.



**St. Michael's, Bright's Grove**

**President: Nelly Kelders**

**Spiritual Advisor: Father Matthew Bedard**

**Number of Members: 136**

**Life Members: 0**

The St. Michael CWL Council entered 2020 with a great deal of hope and ambitious plans. Our first general meeting took place in February, 2020, at which time our budget was passed and plans were under way to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our League. With the arrival of COVID-19 and the ensuing lockdown, those plans come to an abrupt halt.

One of the main avenues of communication with our members had always been through the Church bulletin and a monthly newsletter, distributed in the bulletin. With the closing of the churches, we needed a new plan. The solution was a weekly communiqué, *CWL Updates*, sent out through email, as we have the email addresses of the majority of our members. *CWL Updates* includes: requests for prayers; updates on what the executive continues to do on behalf of members; information on COVID-19; warnings about potential threats by scammers; recognition of good works; feast days to celebrate; and any other information pertinent or of interest to our members. The newsletter was well received as members felt it kept them connected to the League and to the community.

As soon as it became apparent that masks were in short supply in the community, the sewing ladies in our Council got busy creating masks that were distributed to our hospital, hospice, and nursing homes. Then the masks were made available to our members, their families and friends. Instead of charging for the masks, people were asked to *pay it forward* by donating to St. Vincent de Paul, the local food bank or a charity of their choice. Members also emailed our city council members, urging them to vote in favour of mandatory mask wearing in public places.

We donated a pizza lunch to the staff of Sumac Lodge, the nursing home in our parish. We donated extra money to the Inn of the Good Shepherd as their food bank was overwhelmed. We also increased our Christmas donations for food and toys to SVDP and the Inn.

Since we were not able to present members with their service pins at our annual May meeting, President-elect Mary Van Delft and I delivered the pins to those eligible. Each member was notified beforehand and met us outside their homes as we adhered to the rules of social distancing. This was truly an inspirational day for us as we thanked our members for their participation in our Council.

Our parochial vicar, Father Ray Masse was diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus in November. The CWL requested contributions for a spiritual bouquet, which was given to him prior to Christmas. We continue to pray for his full recovery.



**St. Joseph, Corunna**  
**President: Susan Morphew**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Rev. D. Vere**  
**Number of Members: 62**

**Life Members: 0**

How do you describe a year that started out with joyful anticipation for celebrating 100 years of the sisterhood that is the Catholic Women's League and ended with us all in our separate spaces mourning the loss of our daily routines and usual interactions? St. Joseph council members were looking forward to celebrating 100 years of the League in 2020 and 100 years of our council in 2021. 2020 started with several members hoping to attend at least one day of the convention in nearby Chatham-Kent.

We participated in the World Day of Prayer hosted by our local Anglican parish and then the first lockdown began. With Masses discontinued we realized that we had to make a real effort to keep in touch with members, especially those who cannot be reached electronically. This is approximately one-third of our membership. Throughout the rest of the year, we upped our game with phone calls, wellness checks, e-mails and cards to let members know they were being remembered and help was available if needed. All members received an Easter and a Christmas card; our card secretary has been busy remembering people who are ill, bereaved or lonely.

When Masses returned, members of both parish councils were among the volunteer ushers, greeters, sanitizers, lectors, camera operator and musician.

The prohibition on fundraising has made us realize how much of the "busyness" of the League was associated with raising money for our own projects or bigger parish wide events. This "found" time paired with information on the restructuring of the League will likely lead to a more balanced agenda in the future as we address the new "pillars". Keeping members informed about the work of the implementation committees has been a priority of this President so that members will remain involved and positive about changes as they occur. The refreshing of the League brings hope for our future and something to look forward to after our year (or more) of restricted activity.

**St Charles, Courtright**  
**President: Elizabeth Bainbridge**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Dan Vere**  
**Number of Members: 25**

**Life Members: 0**

No report

**St. Christopher, Forest**  
**President: Judith DeWitt**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Mark Maloney**  
**Number of Members: 14**

**Life Members: 0**

No report/ inactive

**St. Philip's, Petrolia**  
**President: Ann Selman-Wade**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Francis Thekkumkattil**  
**Number of members: 70**

**Life Members: 0**

This past year has been very stressful for all of us. I decided to retire at the beginning of the covid virus because I couldn't handle the stress any longer. My husband was in the States with health issues ,so that didn't help matters. There were many visits at my door with excuses of dropping things off or picking things up. There were phone calls. Then I found myself doing the same and realized it was our witness to God's love.

During Covid- 19 we were baking, sewing, donating to one another or supporting fundraisers that were popping up, trying to support needs of others.

After many months of watching Sunday Mass online, we sure appreciated the warm greetings and smiling faces once church opened up again! Our faith is what kept the depression, loneliness, fear and worry down.

**Our Lady of Mercy, Sarnia**  
**President: Phyllis Vanoverbeke**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Deacon Lyle LaLonge**  
**Number of Members: 41**

**Life Members: 0**

It has a been a very sad year with COVID-19

It was especially sad the convention with cancellation of 100 years celebration of CWL as a league. February 2020 flowers were delivered to some shut Ins

We were able to attend the World Day of Prayer

June, we made our financial commitment to Capitol Campaign.

October, we offered a mass to Canadian Catholic Missions -for years we've always had a major fund raiser for them.

December 2020 under Deacon Lyle he took orders for Spring rolls – thus these sales help the league to maintain a bank balance.

**Queen of Peace, Sarnia****President: Joanna Kazanecki****Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Jan Burczyk****Number of Members: 37****Life Members: 0**

Many of our ladies serve in the music ministry and various liturgical ministries.

In the beginning of the pandemic, we made and donated masks to our local hospital and parishioners.

During this difficult period, we kept in contact with our members making certain they were O.K. Prior to Christmas we purchased a number of Poinsettias and delivered them to the older parishioners.

Without the annual Fall Bazaar, we were unable to support the usual charities but still managed to support the Sarnia Hospice and our parish.

Last year three First Communion children were presented with a gift.

We collected and donated children's clothing and diapers to the Sarnia Pregnancy Center

**Sacred Heart, Sarnia****President: Rotating members****Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Matthew Bedard****Number of Members: 104****Life Members: 0**

This has been a year to remember. Even though we were not able to continue to meet in person we continued our various service projects and ministries through the use of the internet. Here is a list of the activities we have participated in their year.

- We held a Children's pyjama Christmas drive for St. Vincent de Paul Society.
- We participated in monthly Meals on Wheels delivery, partnered with the Red Cross.
- We donated funds towards the purchase of a video camera for our parish for the recording of weekly masses to be emailed out to parishioners. The video camera is also used to provide online instruction for the youngsters of our parish to prepare them for First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation.
- We purchased two large poinsettia plants to be placed in Sacred Heart Church in memory of those who have died in 2020.
- We made and sold Christmas planters to raise extra funds for immediate community pandemic relief, an activity done outdoors following Covid-19 regulations.
- We partnered with Prails Nurseries for a Christmas poinsettia fundraiser.
- Masses, cards, messages and prayers were sent to members and their families for illness and death.
- There was a rapid disbursement of budgeted funds for 2020 to the many charities funded by our Sacred Heart CWL.

- Our CWL's knitting and crochet affiliate group has made articles for charitable donations.
- One of our members has helped with mask making with St. Michael's CWL.
- Another member has been assisting at funerals at both Sacred Heart and St. Michael's and with the annual memorial service.

We are looking forward to being able to meet in person when the pandemic is over but until then we will continue to support our parish as we have done the past year.

**St. Benedict's, Sarnia**

**President: Carol Hall**

**Spiritual Advisor: Deacon Lyle Lalonge**

**Members: 229**

**Life Members: 0**

On March 10, 2020, members of St. Benedict's CWL met for their last monthly meeting and to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with our annual soup lunch. Ironically, during that meeting we solidified our plans for reaching out to our members who are homebound or in nursing homes. We had a presentation about police check procedures that needed to be put in place before initiating this program. Many members left with the paperwork to start this process.

Unfortunately, within two weeks, we were shut down. Over the last many months of social isolation, members have continued to reach out. Many phone calls have been made. Twice cards have been sent out to all our members who are homebound or in nursing homes. At Christmas, with the permission and with directions from our church, we continued with our mission of reaching out to the homebound in our parish who receive home communion. Bags and cards were prepared and "isolated" for several days before they were dropped off at doors without entering.

A site on Facebook Messenger has been organized for CWL members and a separate one for the executive only. This has been an excellent way to reach out when prayers are requested or information needs to be passed on. Several times a newsletter was sent out by the president to all members who have email. This was also published in the church bulletin and on our website. Members were encouraged to pass on information if they knew there was a death in a member's family or a member had died.

Unfortunately, in the spring, our longest standing member passed away due to Covid. As we couldn't have honour guards, to show our support, members attended a mass for the member and wore their scarves. The readers at these masses, who were members, also wore their scarves. A small thing but very much appreciated by the families. Our members were informed about how they could participate in mass using the TV and the Internet. Our parish now is live streaming daily mass from St. Benedict's Church.

We look forward to being able to get together once we can. In the meantime, we all do the best we can to reach out and be there for each other.

**St Joseph's, Sarnia**

**President: Laura Hardy/ Charlene Hummel**

**Spiritual Advisor: Deacon Lyle La Longe**

**Number of Members:35**

**Life Members: 0**

From the restrictions from Covid-19 virus and the passing of Laura Hardy May 24, 2020 our council has experience a difficult year. Laurie (Laura Hardy) was a fierce leader for us and advocated for our parish in many ways as our acting president as a well as giving of herself to the parish by way of a reader and as a voice for representing the needs and wishes of our parish. She was actively involved in our quest to assist in the updating of our church hall. With her passing, in her memory, financial donations were received from many, to support the efforts to continue her quest, to see this update accomplished as it has. She would be so pleased with the support of her family, friends and parishioners to make this happen.

Our League as well, provided our parish financially with a 500.00 and 1000.00 donation to support the day-to-day expenses in part due to lower offertory giving.

We supported our new Save A Family in India and received a beautiful Christmas Greeting with update on their progress. It certainly is a wonderful feeling to know we are helping others in need.

Members throughout the pandemic have engaged in reaching out by phone connection to support our isolation at times and to see that people are ok.

We have also supported and acknowledged the passing of members and parishioners through Mass cards being said in their memory.

As well during the pandemic we, Donna Greenwood and myself who normally decorate the interior of the church seasonally did so more outside to bring comfort to parishioners who felt and appreciated when they drove by that the celebrations of Easter, Month of May for Mary, Thanksgiving and Christmas were being acknowledged.

We continue to pray for the safety and comfort to all and an end to this pandemic.

**Our Lady Help of Christians, Watford**

**President: Joanne Rombouts**

**Spiritual Advisor: Deacon John Lammers**

**Number of Members: 130**

**Life Members: 0**

We started off in January in a good position financially as our annual Dinner and Skit Night in December was very successful. This is always basically our only fundraiser. We had a regular meeting in January, a potluck fun night in February and then our regular March meeting. Then the pandemic put everything to a halt.

In the fall were able to go ahead with gifts for the school children making their sacraments and with our CWL awards for a grade eight graduate.

We held one COVID friendly outdoor Coffee Sunday in the summer which was really great and much needed by many. Here we said goodbye to our good Deacon John Lammers who was leaving us to work in another parish cluster.

**Holy Rosary, Wyoming**

**President: Joan Fournier**

**Spiritual Advisor: Father Francis Thekkumkattil**

**Number of members: 47**

**Life Members: 0**

COVID-19 started the day after we hosted a birthday party at Fiddick's nursing home. We do this every year. We've had no fundraisers this year, and no income. We continued to prepare meals for the Inn of the Good Shepherd when there are 5 Saturdays in the month. We prepared the meal and took it to the Inn and placed the meals in take-out containers and other staff packaged the whole meal into takeout and distributed them to the clients so we had no contact with the recipients of the meals. We continued to keep in touch with our members through phone calls, cards, and social distancing measuring. There is something to be said about small town environments in situations such as COVID-19. We are more than a CWL group, we are a family of sisters who care about each other. We pray for each other, and do whatever we can to help each other when there is a need, and we celebrate special events, not so much with parties this year, but cards and flowers and phone calls and most of us have 1 member in our bubble for moral support. I can't wait for the day we can shake hands in church, give each other a hug, stop and chat etc., and it will be so nice to be able to start having meetings again. May God bless us all and keep us healthy and free from COVID-19.



## **Windsor Region**

**Caroline Ngui,  
Regional Chairperson**

13 active CWL Councils

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

2020 will go down in the history of the Windsor region and the whole world as an extremely unusual year due to a viral epidemic that caused illness and death in many people, mostly seniors.

The Windsor CWL members attended a January 2020 meeting to hear Alex Schadenberg outline his plans for the Compassionate Community Care program that he had asked the CWL to support. This is a program of empowering volunteers with the tools to contact and visit seniors, those with disabilities and serious health issues who may be lonely and lack companionship. Our Windsor members enthusiastically endorsed this program and committed to host a Training Session in the near future. The training sessions were eventually planned to be held virtually in January 2021.

Many members attended the local 2020 World Day of Prayer Service in March just before the community was lockdown due to Covid-19. The pandemic closed all our Churches and CWL Council activities and unfortunately our council activities remained closed for the rest of the year.

During those months, most councils endeavored to keep in touch with their members via cards, telephone, email, online meetings and newsletters. I feel they have done their best to encourage their members and friends to have faith and pray that the end will come soon and we can get back to meeting with our families, friends and CWL members.



**St. Paul's, LaSalle****President: Judith Benn****Spiritual Advisor: Father Dwyane Adam****Number of Members: 34****Life Member: 0**

We had our Installation of Executives in January 2020 and my first year as President has been a very challenging one. We tried to incorporate many of the Corporal Works of Mercy in our daily lives. We donated baked goods to the Centre for Young Men, sent out "Thinking of You" cards to members, shut-ins, and nursing homes. We also sent Christmas cards to our members in nursing homes and donated the gift cards that had been collected for the 2020 convention to the Christmas Giving Tree St Paul's Parish. We purchased and distributed Prayer Cards for the 21 Confirmation candidates and assisted with set up and serving the refreshments following the Confirmation Mass. Four members attended the World Day of Prayer on Zimbabwe, hosted by Roseland United Church in Windsor. I sent out copies of the Devotion prayers for Feast of Our Lady of Good Council and our members participated from home.

Once Covid 19 came into play and we were no longer able to gather, we kept in touch by e-mails, phone calls, reminders, and prayers.

**Corpus Christi, Windsor****President: Debrah Parent****Name of Spiritual Advisor: Rev. John Pirt****Number of Members: 176****Life Members: 0**

- President sits on The Family of Parishes Development Team and attends regional meetings as requested. All members assist in Parish Receptions for Rev. James Roche, who retired August 31, 2020. These receptions followed the existing COVID-19 rules at the time.
- A reception was also held for Pam Daganais, Corpus Christi's long time Custodian and supporter of the CWL and a farewell reception was also held for Father Christian Amogu. These receptions also followed the existing COVID-19 rules at the time.
- Members continued to donate dry goods to the parish St. Vincent de Paul that continued to deliver food to those in need in our area, following all COVID-19 rules.
- Members have been making masks and caps for health care workers in our area.
- The Parish welcomed Rev. John Pirt September 1, 2020.
- The membership was fortunate to have our Pasta Dinner Fundraiser in February giving us the ability to make donations to some of our charities.
- Celebrated the life for our eleven deceased members with a socially distanced service in November 2020. Celebrated by Rev. John Pirt.



- The Corresponding Secretary presented the membership with handmade cards, cheering those during a time of lockdown. These cards were also hand delivered.
- The Recording Secretary continued to keep the membership informed with emails, plus the phone committee kept in contact with the membership.
- Recruiting efforts continued through 2020 recruiting 7 new members of which 3 were returning members.
- Members attended virtual events such as – Community Care, Online Membership maintenance and the Lenten Retreat.

**Holy Trinity, Windsor**

**President: Bertha Onuch**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Z Sawicki**

**Number of Members: 14**

**Life Members: 0**

No report

**Most Precious Blood, Windsor**

**President: Joan Jakubo**

**Spiritual Advisor: Father Greg Bonin**

**Number of Members:144**

**Life Members: 0**

Our council made monetary donations to two community food banks, and our 6 community partners. In January, we honoured members for their years (10, 20, 30, 40, 65) of service to our council. Our members assisted the coordinator of youth ministry with the sacramental formation programs for children and youth and led small group discussions for the alpha and bible study programs for our family of parishes, both virtually and in-person prior to lockdown. We supported families who have lost loved ones by funeral home visits, honour guard, resurrection choir, and prayers. Our friendly phone call campaign, Reach Out, helped to address members who are experiencing loneliness. Our phone committee made monthly phone calls to members and to keep members informed during the lockdown monthly newsletters were sent to all members via mail, and emails. Ten Members have been trained for the program for Community Compassionate Care. Letters were written and sent to MP and MPP regarding Bill C-7, sale of water to Nestle Foods company. Our celebration of our 60th anniversary sadly had to be cancelled.

**Our Lady of the Assumption, Windsor**

**President: Marilyn Morrison**

**Spiritual Advisor:**

**Number of Members: 18**

**Life Members: 0**

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Women's League was re-activated January 1, 2020 and we were enthusiastic and prepared to undertake our roles and responsibilities as C.W.L. members.

Unfortunately, as plans were underway to begin, starting with plans for a Retreat, COVID brought everything to a "screeching halt" and shut down our plans, hopes and dreams to support our Parish Community and the many charities in need of our help and witness. Prior to the shut down and church closures, our League members were able to collect winter hats, gloves, scarfs, under wear and toiletries for those less fortunate than ourselves. We were able to deliver these goods to the St. Vincent de Paul, the Unemployed Help Centre, the Salvation Army, and our Assumption Cares Community Outreach Program. Although our enthusiasm and interest in our League may have waned because of the virus, I have encouraged our members to have "hope." During this past year, our members have been guided by the Spirit to answer God's call to serve our community "silently and in isolation" through prayer, keeping in touch with not only family, but with friends, parishioners, sisters in the League and as well to continue to support our Parish and other charities.

Through our Parish web site and face book page, the "Assumption Cares Outreach Program" offers many online programs that League members, and all parishioners are invited to participate in. These free online programs include but are not limited to, Lectio Divina, Foodies Cooking Club, Online Health Screening and Mental Health Mondays, Exercise for Chronic Pain, and on Friday's Forgotten Harvest to name a few.

Membership recruitment has been very difficult, but members are encouraged to persevere and prepare for a better future, one filled with hope when we can once again meet our goals and objectives as members of the League and fulfill our mandate to financially support our Parish Community and the many charities in need especially now in this difficult time of our lives.

In conclusion, with spring slowly but surely approaching I would like to share with you a reflection on Mark's Gospel – Mark 4:3-4,8 "A man...went out to sow grain. As he scattered the seed fell, some on the path and some in good soil...and bore grain." Mark is telling us to:

Sow seed that will yield a joyful harvest.

First, sow three rows of pea seed: Patience, Perseverance, Prayerfulness

Second, plant three rows of squash seed: Squash anger, squash criticism, squash gossip

Third, plant three rows of lettuce seed: Let us be unselfish, let us be forgiving, let us be loving

Finally, you've got to sow turnip seed! Turn up with a ready hand, turn up with a gentle smile, turn up a listening heart.

Pick a vegetable from each row that you need to eat more of for better health.

"Who has health has hope; who has hope has everything" Arab proverb

May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide us through this very difficult time in our lives.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Council, Windsor**

**President: Brigitte McFadden**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Greg Bonin**

**Number of Members: 64**

**Life Members: 0**

We have moved through a very challenging year and 2020 will be remembered for a long time. Our hall has finally been completed and is ready to be used. Many breakfasts, lunches, dinners and fundraisers have been planned and ready to be implemented as soon as we get permission to open.

Since 2020 has seen very little activity, we were limited to only what could be accomplished during the pandemic. We have sent out a monthly report by e-mail to keep members up to date on current items. We are also making phone calls and sending cards so our members don't feel so isolated. We are currently involved in selling plaques for a Memorial Wall in the new hall and our Catholic Women's League will be included.

We continue to pray for all our members and their families that God will guide us through this difficult time.

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Windsor**

**President: Diane Miller**

**Spiritual Adviser Fr. Anthony Del Ciancio**

**Number of Members: 36**

**Life members: 0**

In January 2020 we gathered and visited the Art Gallery of Windsor and the permanent exhibits of the Chimczuk Museum where we learned the history of the Windsor area, the Original People's Culture and Legacy, and the development of The City of Windsor. We were then taken to the craft room where we participated in making little trinkets out of Deer Hide, we were taught how every piece of scrap is used and not discarded.

After we went to a local diner and had dinner and drinks.

We held the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner with the K of C on February 25. We had a bake sale in which the members brought in baked goods. All proceeds from that night went to Our Lady of Guadeloupe Home.

Installation of Officers & 20-year pins were awarded to 6 members and 1 member was awarded her 55-year pin at the mass before our meeting in February

The CWL led the Stations of the Cross for the parish on March 13, 2020 just before the shut down. Masses were cancelled until further notice as of March 14 & 15

We planned on a “Fun in the Sun” theme where we asked our members to wear their beach/sun hats and sunglasses to the meeting, and bring green dessert, for our March meeting, but the church had to close due to the Covid-19 pandemic, therefore our meeting was cancelled.

We were pleased to announce that we had two candidates apply for our bursary and we awarded both candidates for the bursary.

Reached out to members via phone calls, email during the shut down, also a newsletter was mailed out in 2020 to members to keep their spirits up.

In 2019 we sponsored a girl, her name is Linda, at Kay Nou (Haiti) and again in 2020 Sadly 2 of our members passed away in 2020

**Our Lady of Atonement, Windsor**

**President: Penny Craig**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr Rob Rocheleau**

**Number of Members: 165**

**Life Members: 0**

Without a doubt, this has been a most challenging year for all of us. However, our council has managed to accomplish some things throughout the past year even though we have not met in person since March of 2020. In February 2020, we held a joint executive meeting with our sister Council of St. John Vianney. We had identified several areas throughout the coming year that would have enabled us to conduct joint events.

OLA Council participated in the World Day of Prayer in early March before the close-down. The executive has been meeting virtually to continue conducting business; we have circulated all directives received; communicated to all members via council newsletter; calling members to touch base and let them know we were all thinking about them and praying, especially the elderly ad those living alone. This was so well appreciated by all of them.

We have continued to provide bursaries for school; gifts for grade 8 graduation classes; supported the parish Giving Tree efforts; supported our Save A Family Plan; revised our local council policy and procedures manual.

Thanks to all the members of our executive of our council, region and diocese for all the work they have done, and will continue to do on our behalf. God Bless and We look forward to another challenging year in 2021.

**Immaculate Heart, Windsor**  
**President: Anna St. Antoine**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Michael Dwyer**  
**Number of Members: 42**

**Life Members: 0**

No report

**St. Alphonsus, Windsor**  
**President: Kraith Bolton**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Maurice Restivo CSB**  
**Number of Members: 15**

**Life Members: 0**

No report

**St. Angela Merici, Windsor**  
**President: Lucia Truant**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Vincent Gennardo**  
**Number of Members: 44**

**Life Members: 0**

Prior to the lockdown in March, 2020, our Council was able to make and sell Crostoli (angel wings). From the proceeds received, we were able to make a donation to our Parish in the amount of \$500.00.

At Confirmation, we gave all the confirmands a personalized bookmark and made a donation in their name to St. Vincent de Paul Society in the amount of \$200.00. Since then, the St. Vincent de Paul at our Parish has ceased to exist.

In late summer, we held a socially distant farewell to our Pastor and Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Vincent Gennardo, and our Associate Pastor, Fr. Adriano Barbiero, as they were transferred to Chicago, Illinois. We were blessed to have Fr. Maurice Restivo assigned as our Pastor, and Fr. Steven Huber and Fr. Christian Amogu as our Associate Pastors as we joined the Windsor Heritage Catholic Family of Parishes.

At the present time, our Council does not have a Spiritual Advisor.

On December 8, 2020, we had a special mass for the C.W.L. members with Fr. Maurice Restivo officiating, and Darren Dupuis on organ. At the end of the mass, service pins were given out to those in attendance. This year, we had 22 members receiving service pins from 5 years all the way up to 45 years.

After the mass, we collected dues and donations. In the past, the donations were given to a food bank or homeless shelter and, in addition, poinsettias were purchased for our Church for

Christmas. However, as this year we were back on lockdown for Christmas, we donated half of the donation monies received to St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Alphonsus Church and the remaining half to our Church in lieu of the poinsettias.

We hope everyone stays safe and we are able to again meet as a Council some time in 2021! God bless us all!

**St. John Vianney, Windsor**

**President: Helen Biales**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Rob Rocheleau**

**Number of Members: 81**

**Life Members: 1**

What a year it has been! I couldn't have imagined in my wildest dreams that we would be in a lock-down which keeps being extended. The year started out as usual with our Council planning several fund-raising activities as well as programs which we thought would be of interest to our members. We led the Stations of the cross at St. John Vianney on March 13th prior to the pandemic rules setting in. That was our last activity as a group. E-mails with an attachment with some type of encouragement poem or video are sent to the members with e-mails. Those without e-mails receive a mailed update monthly to let them know we are thinking of them. As well several of the council do call one another just chat. Our honorary members, those in Long Term Care Homes or Retirement Homes, receive a card on special occasions such as Christmas, Easter, Birthdays, etc. Many of these ladies no longer pay their dues but we feel it is important to keep in touch with them. They are the history of our Council. We did manage to have one activity during this time. We planted a small tree in October at St. John Vianney Church. Only four members and Fr. Rob were allowed to attend. Fr. Rob did bless our little tree. Hopefully in the spring/summer we can have the celebration that was planned with more members attending. In the meantime, let's all mask up, social distance and avoid unnecessary travel to help curb the spread of this disease.

**St Michael's, Windsor**

**President: Anne Their**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Z Sawicki**

**Number of Members: 22**

**Life Members: 0**

No report (German council)

## **Life Members & Past President Report**

**Lucy Hendrikx**

**Life Member Liaison**

**Honorary Life Members: 0**

**Life Members: 10**

### **Life Member Liaison's Activity Report**

- Presently we have 10 life members in our diocese
- 2020 was not a very good year as 2 of our Life Members lost their spouses, may their souls rest in peace.
- You will note that we are all still very active in CWL and our parish communities
- We were able to get together for 1 History Book meeting in March, just one week before everything was shut down.
- We all enjoy the times we've spent working with CWL members in our parishes, the diocese, the province and across Canada
- Every project is more fun with the support of the friends we've made in the Catholic Women's League
- I think we can all agree that the Catholic Women's League has enhanced our lives with new friendships

#### **Shirley George**

- No Report

#### **Muriel Murphy**

- Living in Vancouver at present
- Attempting to stay ahead of the Covid
- Have not been to any meetings although Denise Lalonde Morris tries to keep me well informed
- Thanks for all the messages posted on the emails; I am kept up to date with what is going on
- Don't have any news for you, I am well and will be in Goderich for Easter
- God Bless

### **Mary Van Dyk**

- Covid 19 stopped all CWL activities
- Had to retire from active volunteering because of health issues
- Was able to have a hip replacement on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and can become active again but not as we are in lock down because of Covid 19
- Got a good report from my doctor and am only using a cane when I leave the apartment which is not happening because of the lock down and the stay home order

### **Trucy Cornelis**

- Quite a year this has been. Hopefully no other like it.
- Volunteered at St. Patrick Church in Lucan so that we may attend masses on Sunday and Wednesday, as long as we were able to stay open
- Pray the rosary every day, followed by watching the mass on Vision, prayed for all who asked for prayers as well as all our Life Member and members of the Catholic Women's League across Canada
- Attended a CWL honour guard for Jeannine Damens' funeral at the church, by standing outside the car on parking lot.
- May this New Year prosper for the CWL with good health for all of us. Stay Safe

### **Maria Odumodu**

- Covid 19 brought in its wake changes to our life in a way not known before. Parish activities including CWL were disrupted.
- Member Parish Advisory Board in charge of Fund raising
- Advice given as needed by President
- Mentoring young people
- As part of work, we went to Japan and China
- For the first time in 266 years there was no Christmas Pageant
- Read directives and prayed for CWL members
- Called Parishioners to assure them that they are not alone
- Joe and I were recognized for 50 years membership of marriage.

### **Bev Weiler**

- Have been supportive of my local council nothing else really.
- Kind of been a slow year.
- We were blessed with 3 beautiful new grandchildren in 2020.
- Just waiting to be able to be with them again. That's the hardest part of this pandemic.



### **Patricia M Rivest**

- Involved in my parish of St. Michael's Council in Leamington
- Assisted and answered questions from my council
- Member of the History Book Committee
- Attended luncheon meeting with History Book Committee members
- Sub-committee member of the OPC Treasury
- There are no words to express my gratitude to all my sisters in the League, my parish, Diocesan, Provincial and members across Canada at the passing of the love of my life, my dear Vic, in February 2020 for prayers, cards, mass intentions, support, telephone calls, emails, love and kindness. It has been a difficult year without Vic as well as dealing with the pandemic. Every one of you have been a gift in my life- and I am ever so grateful. All of you continue to be in my prayers. May God and Our Lady of Good Counsel guide you and give you peace.
- When we can finally meet, I can't wait to give everyone a great big HUG!

### **Lucy Hendrikx**

- As Life Member Liaison, I sent out cards and forwarded prayer requests from Provincial Life Member Liaison Jeannie Coleman
- I forwarded National Communiques to our Life Members
- Member of the History Book Committee
- Did the typing of our History Book
- Attended luncheon meeting with History Book Committee members
- Do the online registration for our membership at Sacred Heart CWL
- Mentoring members of our parish CWL council
- Am recording secretary for Sacred Heart CWL council
- Am head of fundraising for our parish CWL council
- Involved in ministries at my parish of Sacred Heart in Parkhill
- Actively involved on committees in our community
- Was able to enjoy our oldest granddaughter's Wedding in September
- Enjoying retirement

### **Mary Jean Horne**

- Acted as Resolution and Legislation chair for St. Ursula Council
- Attended Victor Rivest's Funeral Celebration along with many of our members
- Met March 13, 2020 just before the Province was closed down with Pat, Lucy, and Marie Theresa for a luncheon to go over our history book (Alive and Well), at my home

- Gave an outside luncheon information talk about the beginning of the Catholic Women's League in 1920 for five members of Blessed Sacrament Council. It was a wonderful gathering.
- Mentored members of the CWL Councils across the Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes
- Helped a council with a request for financial assistance for a young man taking a spiritual course. With emails we were able to make a motion get a seconder and send it out to all the members' emails over 15% voted and the motion was carried.
- 2020 brought many joys with the arrival of 3 new great grandchildren. I would like to say thank you for all the prayers for our grandson and granddaughter that they would be able to go back to Korea and bring home their son Leo October 27<sup>th</sup> at the age of 2. We now have 2 great granddaughters & 5 great grandsons.
- Wilbert and I celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary the end of January very quietly, we are truly blessed.
- In closing I would like to leave you with these words "So we are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another" Romans 12 -5

### **Marie Theresa Lamphier**

- 2020 was a year of change, fear, caution, isolation and loneliness for many people
- I was able to attend the parish meetings up until the lockdown orders in early March.
- I purchased Mums as a fundraiser for the council while still following Health Ministry guidelines.
- At the Provincial level, as Treasurer I attended our Winter Meeting in Toronto and completed reports, made reservations, issued cheques etc.
- As Treasurer I also attended the Resolution workshop in February where again I made reservations, issued cheques and assisted in any way required.
- Due to a snow storm, my flight was cancelled and I had to quickly make train reservations to get to my destination in Toronto. I was fortunate to be able to claim the additional cost from insurance and to reimburse Provincial Council.
- Covid resulted in the cancellation of a two-week vacation to Cuba at the end of March...I was so looking forward to it. As of this time of writing still not sure if we will be able to take it as Covid numbers are still high and we have not had our vaccine yet.
- We mourned the loss of two of our Life Member's husbands this pass year. – Vic Rivest and Dan Murphy...may they rest in peace.
- I was involved in the proof-reading of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History Book for the London Diocese.
- Met with other members one week prior to the lockdown to discuss this special project
- Worked on the names of past Spiritual Advisors for the history book as well as providing history on CWL Crest/logo, Resolution titles etc. and provided info on Shirley George and her Bene Meranti Medal
- Provided history on myself for inclusion of the history book

- The pandemic slowed down over the summer and it was nice to be able to go outside and do a few things with friends...even to go dine.
- Masses resumed based on some limitations – 30% of church capacity
- Looking forward to a vaccine and better time in 2021

## **Past President's Report**

### **Angela Pellerin**

- The year 2020 was definitely a challenge for all of us
- All diocesan meetings were done via “Go to Meeting”, starting with the January meeting due to inclement weather. Some members did have an in-person meeting in November however, due to co-vid I chose to participate virtually. I have also continued to mentor councils along with Dianne Kehoe, London Regional Chair
- honored to be part of the Provincial Social Justice Award Committee
- Early 2020 was spent sending and receiving election information for the convention, which was subsequently postponed due to the virus. It was great to receive nominees for every position on the executive. We are truly blessed to have members willing to give of their time to this important function, not all dioceses are so lucky
- As my council president has had problems with her eyes, I basically took over a lot of her duties. Sending out emails to those who have provided us with their email address has allowed us to keep in touch while we could not be together in person. The pastor in our parish had told us from the outset that there would be no in-person meetings in the building until June 2021
- Missed spending time with everyone at conventions and at our usual retreat days
- One good thing about the lockdown has been the opportunity to do online bible studies. In the last session, I co-facilitated the study on Ephesians
- Hoping 2021 will be a better year although mine has started with a hiccup, following a fall resulting in surgery to fix the 2 broken bones in my wrist
- Hope to see you all soon

- **Recommendations**

- Invite your Life Members to your meetings as guest speakers and mentors.



## Presidents, London Diocesan Council

1921-1922	Mrs. B. C. McCann	London
1923-1924	Mrs. J. J. P. Dunn	Chatham
1925-1926	Mrs. G. B. Dawson	Sarnia
1927-1928	Mrs. W. Kirwin	Ingersoll
1929	Mrs. J. Bohan	Monkton
1930	Miss K. Casey	LaSalette
1931-1932	Mrs. J. A. Horricks	Windsor
1933-1934	Mrs. J. A. Frezell	London
1935-1936	Miss Catherine Toal	Strathroy
1937-1938	Mrs. T. E. Durocher	Windsor
1939-1940	Mrs. Wm. McMahon	LaSalette
1941-1942	Mrs. Jos. Coveny	Electric
1943-1944	Mrs. Jos. Freeman	Riverside
1945-1946	Mrs. P. M. Dewan	Ingersoll
1947-1948	Mrs. R. S. Saigeon	Sarnia
1949-1950	Mrs. Alice Daly	Seaforth
1950-1952	Mrs. E. G. Marnell	Tilbury
1952-1954	Mrs. Mel Walters	London
1954-1956	Mrs. J. M. Fitzpatrick	Windsor
1956-1958	Mrs. T. M. Kelly	Kinkora
1958-1960	Mrs. P. L. McManus	Windsor
1960-1962	Mrs. R. E. Doyle	Chatham
1962-1964	Mrs. W. J. Farrell	London
1964-1966	Mrs. Fred McDermott	Ingersoll
1966-1968	Mrs. H. R. Ferris	London
1968-1970	Mrs. G. O. Rutherford	Windsor
1970-1972	Mrs. Lawrence Howard	London
1972-1974	Mrs. J. J. Gardiner	London
1974-1976	Mrs. T. A. Gorski	Harrow
1976-1978	Mrs. P. J. Belanger	Windsor
1978-1980	Mrs. R. M. Bingham	Amherstburg
1980-1982	Mrs. Rita Ouellette	Windsor
1982-1984	Mrs. Wm. Regier	Mt Carmel
1984-1986	Mrs. Don Vrooman	St. Thomas
1986-1988	Mrs. Max Mousseau	Belle River
1988-1990	Mrs. Angela DeBruyn	Blenheim
1990-1992	Mrs. Eva Mitchell	London
1992-1994	Mrs. Theresa Loebach	Windsor
1994-1996	Mrs. Shirley George	Delhi
1996-1998	Mrs. Muriel Murphy	Goderich
1998-2000	Mrs. Gladys W. Dewey	Forest
2000-2002	Mrs. Marie Coughlan	Sarnia
2002-2004	Mrs. Trucy Cornelis	Parkhill
2004-2006	Mrs. Maria S. Odumodu	Woodstock
2006-2008	Mrs. Bev Weiler	Watford
2008-2010	Mrs. Patricia Rivest	Leamington
2010-2012	Mrs. Lucy Hendrikx	Parkhill
2012-2014	Mrs. Mary Jean Horne	Chatham
2014-2016	Mrs. Marie-Theresa Lamphier	Stoney Point
2016-2018	Mrs. Angela Pellerin	London
2018-2020	Mrs. Rebecca McCarrell	Tilbury

## 2020 Member Councils

Amherstburg	St. John the Baptist	Sarnia	Our Lady of Mercy
Aylmer	Our Lady of Sorrows		Queen of Peace
Belle River	St. Simon & St. Jude		Sacred Heart
Bornish/Parkhill	Sacred Heart		St. Benedict
Bright's Grove	St. Michael	St. Joseph	St. Joseph
Chatham	Blessed Sacrament	St. Peter	Holy Name of Mary
	St. Joseph (City)	St. Thomas	Holy Angels
	St. Joseph (Harwich)		St. Anne
	St. Ursula	Seaforth	St. James
Comber	Visitation	Stratford	Immaculate Conception
Corunna	St. Joseph		St. Joseph
Courtright	St. Charles	Strathroy	All Saints
Delaware	Sacred Heart	Tecumseh	Good Shepherd
Delhi	Our Lady Queen of Martyrs		St. Anne
Dresden	St. Michael	Thamesville	St. Paul
Dublin	St. Patrick	Tilbury	St. Francis Xavier
Essex	Holy Name of Jesus	Tillsonburg	St. Mary
Exeter	Precious Blood	Wallaceburg	Holy Family
Forest	St. Christopher		Our Lady Help of Christians
Glencoe	St. Charles Garnier	Wallacetown	St. Helen
Goderich	St. Peter	Walsh	St. Michael
Grand Bend	Immaculate Heart of Mary	Waterford	St. Bernard of Clairvaux
Harrow	St. Anthony of Padua	Watford	Our Lady Help of Christians
Ingersoll	Sacred Heart	Windsor	Corpus Christi
Kingsville	St. John de Brebeuf		Holy Trinity
Kinkora	St. Patrick		Immaculate Heart
Langton	Sacred Heart		Most Precious Blood
LaSalette	Our Lady of LaSalette		Our Lady of Guadalupe
LaSalle	St. Paul		Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Leamington	St. Michael		Our Lady of the Atonement
Listowel	St. Joseph		St. Alphonsus
London	Holy Cross		St. Angela Merici
	Holy Family		St. John Vianney
	Mary Immaculate		St. Michael
	St. Andrew the Apostle	Wingham	Sacred Heart
	St. George	Woodslee	St. John the Evangelist
	St. John the Divine	Woodstock	Holy Trinity
	St. Justin	Wyoming	Holy Rosary
	St. Martin of Tours	Zurich	St. Boniface
	St. Michael		
	St. Patrick		
	St. Peter's Cathedral		
Lucan	St. Patrick		
McGregor	St. Clement		
Merlin	St. Patrick		
Mitchell	St. Vincent de Paul		
Mount Carmel	Our Lady of Mount Carmel		
Norwich	St. Peter		
Petrolia	St. Philip		
Port Dover	St. Cecilia		
Port Lambton	Sacred Heart		
Princeton	Sacred Heart		
Ridgetown	St. Michael		