

Catholic Women's League of Canada

League Lingo Spring 2020 Edition

Diocese of London

By: Many marvellous ladies in our League!



INTRODUCTION

We truly are women on a mission as we move to share our story through a new lens. Please see inside this edition of the League Lingo for more details about what is to come and how you can be involved! Happy 100th Anniversary everyone.

Contents

Inside find exciting articles from our President, Spiritual Advisor, Diocesan Executive,

Regional News, Council News and more!





A Message From Our President, Rebecca McCarrell

My Dear Sisters in the League

Psalm 56:3 tells us “But when I’m afraid, I will put my trust in You!”

What a powerful statement that is in this changing world! Whenever we can’t see past the current circumstances, we **MUST** know that God can! So trusting in him to lead us through the desert is the only answer there is.

Thank you to all for not coming to my home on April 1, at 3 a.m., as I followed instructions from our National office on the convention. We will meet when the lockdown is lifted. We must **TRUST** in God that he will deliver us sooner rather than later.

Our self-isolation is a valuable teaching tool...families are home together, learning to live with each other and facing the day to day struggles of a quarantine. Communities are coming together caring for the sick, the lonely, the homeless in ways that just a few weeks ago were foreign to them. It is a time to pray together, for a common cause, and for each other.

Our executive team will continue to work together until we can meet again in convention. At that time, elections will happen and a new executive will be voted in. I hope each council sent their instructed votes in to Angela Pellerin.

Now is the perfect time to write letters to our MP’s and MPP’s on any of the many resolutions that have passed through the League. You can find a list of them on the National, Provincial and our own website. Until we see a change, the issues are still alive.

Our silent auction will continue as soon as we have word on when we can meet together. *Watch the website for a flash of items available.*



Please hold our essential workers close in prayer, as their exposure is keeping you safe! Prayers for each of you to remain safe, well and remember: [SOCIAL DISTANCING](#) is important to flatten the curve of this pandemic!

In you, O Lord, I put my trust! Amen

Rebecca McCarrell

President

A Bit of History on Conventions from Past President, Angela Pellerin

[As we are celebrating our 100th anniversary, I thought I would give you a bit of history.](#)

At the first national meeting in Montreal June 17, 1920, the late Most Reverend M.F. Fallon, Bishop of London was an attendee and on his return to London he prepared for organizing the Catholic Women's League throughout the Diocese of London. Bishop Fallon appointed the late Mrs. B.C. McCann of London to organize St. Peter's Cathedral subdivision. The first convention was held in London in October 1921 at which time Mrs. McCann was elected diocesan president by acclamation.

From 1920 to 1946 conventions were always held in October. In 1947 the convention was held in September and in 1948 it was held in June. They then changed to the month of May. The London diocese first hosted a national convention in Windsor in 1929. The first time our diocese held a provincial convention was 1949 in Chatham.

At one time the League had the following committees: Spiritual, Education, Citizenship, Immigration, Press, Organization, Social Action, Report Forms, Resolutions, Girl Guide Association and Radio, TV and Films.



I hope you have enjoyed this little bit of our history.

God bless,

Angela



A Bit of Inspiration from our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Greg Bonin

Dear Ladies of the CWL,

If you have heard it once you have heard it a million and one times, **KEEP YOUR FAITH AT ALL TIMES STRONG!** There is not an ounce of doubt in my mind we need to do this! When I take a quick glimpse at our present world, I see the Country literally "shut down", I see the Province in a state of emergency, I see municipalities and businesses suffering, I see our Church's closed and suffering financially, I see 22 innocent and loving people gunned down in Nova Scotia, and to top it all off woke up this morning (April 21st) to snow and hail!! On top of all this, people have been asking all the right questions and we need to remain calm and wait for the answers. The cancellation of our 100th anniversary was the right decision made by our Diocesan President with the support of her Diocesan Executive. So I say to each of you what someone recently said to me, **BREATHE DEEP! STAY CALM.** God will bring us back together again one day to celebrate together our faith and strong beliefs in the Catholic Women's League of Canada!

Father Greg Bonin, Spiritual Advisor



Organization-A Word on Reports and Elections from President-Elect, Theresa Ryan

Thank you to all the women who took the time to fill out the annual surveys. I was a little disappointed that only 68% of the surveys were completed. Each council was asked to answer every survey, whether or not they had a chairperson for that position. There were twenty councils that filled out all their surveys. Unfortunately, there were ten councils that didn't do any at all.

The online membership has been fraught with problems and delays this year. There has been new staff added at the National office and this is probably compounding the problem. We have contacted all councils and asked about any issues they are having with membership renewal. This information will be passed onto the C.W.L. provincial president, Colleen Perry, who will be looking into it for us. If you have not sent in your membership per capita please do so, as soon as possible.

Elections are happening this year. I am glad to see there will be a full executive as enough women, plus, have let their name stand for office. Please take time to discern who should be on your diocesan executive for the next term. Read the resumes & directives (if applicable), recall whether you have seen these women in action at fall regional days, conventions, or any C.W.L. events. If you are uncertain of who to vote for, ask around to people who do know, for some advice. Finally, send someone to convention so that your voice counts.

I have just returned from a weekend training course held by the provincial C.W.L. to do with the new method of Resolutions. It was very interesting and hands on, as we worked on an actual resolution for this year's convention. We also had a workshop on "Finding Your Voice", where we were able to practice speaking, in front of people. Believe it or not, some of us are still nervous about doing so.



The time is quickly approaching for our 100th convention in Chatham and the excitement is building, however we will have to wait until the fall. I hope to see many of you there! I am looking forward to what the future will hold for me, when I get to represent you as president! Woohoo! Please pray for me that I may do a good job in that role.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel watch over us and lead us to her Son. Amen.

Theresa

Education and Health News from Mary Bannon, First Vice-President

Does Jesus still use simple folks like us to change the world? You know, we suffer from such ordinariness. But God does not call the qualified. He qualifies the called. (Max Lucado)



EDUCATION: Looking back on the last two years that I have been the chairperson of Education and Health I cannot imagine a more interesting and challenging period of time for our children being educated in Ontario. As a retired teacher my focus had always been on “teaching children, meeting their individual needs and leading them to love and justice in Christ”. I look now at what is happening and I am so disappointed in a government

focussed on the dollar. Our children are our most precious asset whose needs now appear to be suffering on the altar of corporate greed. As adults, no matter our age, we are called to be lifelong learners. I hope reading my directives and acting on them has empowered you to engage in your own formation and education.



HEALTH: During my time as Education and Health chairperson I have tried to focus on issues concerning women's health.

Therefore, I have encouraged you to be proactive in your awareness of various types of cancer: breast, thyroid, and ovarian. I have also asked you to be aware of your own heart health. And finally there is mental illness with the stigma attached to it which we try to avoid recognizing. For example SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) is a depression which invades some people's mind during our sometimes dreary winter, leading them to avoid contact with others resulting in loneliness. I am grateful for and proud of those of you

who participated in Bell Let's Talk day held in January. The Catholic Women's League of Canada is a proud supporter of the Canadian Blood Services Partners for Life program. These organizations save lives by donating blood as a team to reach an annual "life saving goal." Canadian Blood Services then tracks and recognizes this contribution. New and regular blood donors are asked to consider registering for the Partners for Life program under the League's unique Partner ID. This will increase the profile of the League nationally and could help engage members in a worthy cause. To register for the Partners for Life program, please: 1. Visit: www.blood.ca/joinpartnersforlife 2. Complete the registration form (online or at clinic) using the League's unique partner ID number: **CATH011269**.



ENVIRONMENT: In "Laudato Si" Pope Francis tells us to ask what the great biblical narratives say about the relationship of human beings with the world. In the first creation account in the Book of Genesis, God's plan includes creating humanity. After the creation of man and woman, "God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was very good". The Bible



teaches that every man and woman is created out of love and made in God’s image and likeness. This shows us the immense dignity of each person, who is not just something, but someone. We are capable of self-knowledge, of self-possession and of freely giving ourselves and entering into communion with other persons. Saint John Paul II stated that the special love of the Creator for each human being “confers upon him or her an infinite dignity”. How wonderful is the certainty that each human life is not adrift in the midst of hopeless chaos, in a world ruled by pure chance or endlessly recurring cycles! The Creator can say to each one of us: “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you” (Jer 1:5). We were conceived in the heart of God, and for this reason “each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary”. The creation teachings indicate that human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with others and with the earth itself. According to the Bible, these three vital relationships have been broken, both outwardly and within us. This rupture is sin. The harmony between the Creator, humanity and creation was disrupted by our presumption to take the place of God and refusing to acknowledge our creaturely limitations. This in turn distorted our mandate to “have dominion” over the earth, to “till it and keep it”. As a result, the originally harmonious relationship between human beings and nature became conflictual. The harmony which Saint Francis of Assisi experienced with all creatures was seen as a healing of that rupture. Saint Bonaventure held that Saint Francis in some way returned to the state of original innocence. This is a far cry from our situation today, where sin is manifest in all its destructive power in wars, the various forms of violence and abuse, the abandonment of the most vulnerable, and attacks on nature. We are not God. The earth was here before us and it has been given to us as our common home for which God calls us to care.

A FINAL THOUGHT: The apostle Paul said, “Don’t compare yourself with others. Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life” (Galatians 6:4-5). Before Thomas Merton followed Christ, he followed money, fame and society. He shocked many of his colleagues when he exchanged it all for the life of a Trappist monk. Many



years later a friend visited the monastery and could see no important difference in him. “Tom, he said, “you haven’t changed at all.” “Why should I? “Here,” he said, “our duty is to be more like ourselves, not less.”

God never called you to be anyone other than you. But he does call you to be the best you that you can be. The big question is, at your best, who are you? (from Max Lucado)

Mary

Spiritual Inspiration from Mary Lappan, Second Vice-President and Spiritual Development

I just returned from our annual Lenten retreat. In keeping with our Provincial theme of loneliness, our theme for the day was “Loneliness in Prayer”. Despite the snowy weather the retreat was well attended. Our facilitator, Bernardine Ketelaars, took us on a journey of peace, reflection and relaxation. We learned about St. Rita of Cascia, patron saint of loneliness and various other biblical persons including Jesus who experienced doubt and loneliness. Many thanks to Dianne Kehoe and the St. John the Divine Council for their hospitality.

Our annual Diocesan convention as you now know is postponed. Each registered member however will receive a new prayer book made especially for the occasion. It is similar in size to the prayer book done for our 90th Anniversary, which was very popular.

This will be my last League Lingo article as I have chosen not to put my name forward for the elections in April. I would like to thank all the members for the love, support and friendship I have received over the last 10 years I spent on the Diocesan executive.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to support you in all your endeavors.

Blessings, *Mary Lappan*



Words from Christian Family Life Chair, Denise Lalonde-Morris

Celebrate, Celebrate, Celebrate!

How often in our lifetime will we be able to join our sisters' of the CWL for a 100th anniversary of the National CWL? Well that remains to be seen in the midst of COVID 19.

During the past months many of us have been taking part in H.-helping, U.-understanding, G.-giving. What a wonderful way to continue this project by partaking in our new project, Compassionate Community Care to those suffering with loneliness will not look at Euthanasia as a remedy. This programme is being promoted by Alex Schadenberg and his companions. Most of the regions will have had the initial talk and hopefully have started plans to receive the training component.

As our diocese proceeds into Bishop Fabro's new vision-formation of the Family of Parishes we will face many new challenges. What better way to get to know each other than to ask your new family and possibly other church groups to work together to combat Loneliness. Your programme could focus on many areas of loneliness. Seniors will be one focus but we have newly widowed, recently divorced, teenagers, new immigrants and people who are imprisoned due to wrong doing but also people who have mental health issues. Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and you will find a path to follow.

I hope all of you travelled through Lent and took part in all our Easter celebrations.

At this time I would like to thank you for your help and support over the past two years and I hope I helped Educate, Engage and Empower some of you.



Please remember: "Our Lord always has time for you, please make time for him!"

Denise Lalonde-Morris

A Message from our Community Life Chair, Mary Ann Horne-White

I'd like to thank all who sent in their 2019 annual reports. We continue to do amazing work in our councils; sharing, caring, and reaching out to those in need. Our theme is "loneliness" from now till 2021. Please think of more ways to connect with others in our neighbourhoods, councils, and church communities, especially now with the COVID-19 virus. Some of us have been on social media for most of our communications. Emailing, messaging, and texting has been normal. Now is the time to pick up the phone to keep in touch. Sharing conversation with friends and family keeps us close. Mail out a 'thinking of you' card to keep in touch.

Many of us were able to attend the Diocesan Lenten Retreat in London, Saturday February 29th. Starting with a snowy morning, we shared the day together in prayer and camaraderie. We continue through Lent in fasting and prayer to prepare for Easter.

I've had an amazing two years as the London Diocesan Community Life Chairperson. With your help, our diocese collected more than 18,000 pairs of socks for "Warmth and Comfort" in April 2019. We were a part of the Human Trafficking Awareness with Kelly Franklin, Farmtown Canada; and were on the 401 at ONroutes in July 2019 with other groups and dignitaries. The project went from Project ONroute to Project Maple Leaf sharing the initiative through Canada. I have been at regional days and met so many members through the diocese. Please consider sharing your talents and going forward on the diocesan executive. The experience has made me a stronger person, and I know I've felt the Holy Spirit work within me.

As we continue through Lent and beyond, please pray for an end to the COVID-19 Virus.



Looking forward to seeing you soon. Thoughts, prayers, and blessings to all.

Mary Ann Horne-White

What's the News on Legislation? From Legislation Chair, Helga Stuermer

As we are here in Toronto at the Resolution and Legislation Workshop, we are suddenly reminded that our League Lingo report is due. How are we to accomplish this? I know I will do it.

We really were looking forward to some Spring Weather; at the moment we have a lot of snow, and it is still snowing. However I was lucky when I attended the CWL Provincial Workshop from Feb.6th to 8th, 2020. It was truly an amazing event. Very well planned and we learned so much.

It was also a big bonus to reconnect with CWL sisters we had met at the Provincial Convention in Kingston.





It always amazes me how dedicated everyone is. Enthusiastic is the true keyword to describe those present. We are working in our own small way to help encourage and really try to make the world just a little better place to live in. “Taking Care Of Our Common Home” is important as we read more information about climate care and pollution. At the last 2019 convention I mentioned hearing about dead whales washing up on the beach; there was also 22 kg of plastic, a corrugated tube for electrical wire, plastic plates, fishing line, detergent and other items. It is so wrong that we allow this polluting to continue.

I also wrote an article, “Let’s talk about Water.” We are fortunate to live in Canada. We have more freshwater lakes than any other country in the world, and yet – not too far north some communities do not have safe water available. How is this possible? Where is the pollution coming from? Chemicals are found in our water that really shouldn’t be there. How did the chemicals get into the watershed? * The aforementioned article was meant to go into the Fall issue, but somehow it was missed by the League Lingo editor.

*You can find the article on the “League Lingo” page of our London Diocesan website: <http://www.cwllondon.ca/League%20Lingo.html> or: <http://www.cwllondon.ca/files/water.pdf> Here you can find many interesting published writings by my wonderful CWL sisters. We really need to be respectful of our water sources. Water is the most precious resource on Earth; water is very important in everyday living, and to every living thing. We need to make changes. We need to act now!

**If you ever miss the League Lingo, go to the website where there is a wealth of information available. All you have to do is click and read. <http://www.cwllondon.ca/>



Life-Saving Water-Keep it Clean!

But, today I need to write about other serious issues no doubt we are all living with the fall-out of the covid-19 virus. Also I know we are being sensible and following the directions of our Health Departments and we are trying to stay safe and not get infected, but also to make sure we are not endangering others. I stay at home, If I have to go out I am wearing a mask and gloves.

It has been a long time, and we don't know how long it will last. This brings me to Loneliness. So many of our elders are heartbroken. Not to be able to see their grandchildren or family. This could bring on Mental Health issues. There is help. There are phone numbers available. **Dial 211** Please do not hesitate and reach out and talk to someone. Keep busy, do exercise, talk to long lost friends. I am sure they love to hear from you.

- **Legislation Update:** Please make sure to write to your MPs & MPPs so many Legislation issues are being pushed through while we are busy surviving the virus.



- **Bill C-7:** The newest most dangerous Legislation in the M.A.iD. (Euthanasia) program. This certainly goes against our christian belief, and we should really vigorously protest about this. It deals with patients with mental illness, depressed, children, and otherwise healthy persons to request, or be advised of the availability of Euthansia. The list goes on. More info is available. Alex Schadenbergs website. www.epcc.ca; or email info@epcc.ca This Act decriminalizes any person assisting in dying. We need more caring and help for the mentally depressed and lonely individuals.
- **Bill C-5:** An act to amend the Judges Act & Criminal Code, Tablet the House of Commons. Feb. 7.2020;

There are many more Bills in LEGISinfo we need to keep our eyes on.
Please Write to our Government and voice our concerns.

May our Lady of good Counsel be with us and protect us. Until next time.

God Bless all of you and keep you in his care.

Yours in Christ,

Helga Stuermer
London Diocesan Legislation Chairperson



Resolutions Lead to Solutions from Resolutions Chair, Joan Lobsinger

Attending the Ontario Provincial Council Resolutions Workshop February 6th to 8th in Toronto gave me the opportunity to meet with Resolutions Chairpersons from across the Province. The sessions were very informative and guided us through the new format for writing resolutions. It was a great experience.

If your council is interested in writing a Resolution, please view pages 4 to 14 in the updated Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook (2019) found on National's website; go to Resources, 600 Series and it is 618.

Thank you to St. Michael's Council London for all your hard work in preparing the resolution, "Prohibition of E-Cigarettes with Cannabis". Due to Covid-19, the presentation of this resolution will be postponed until the 2021 Diocesan Convention as directed by the Provincial and National Councils.

I wish to thank all the councils who submitted their Resolutions Annual Report to National. Although the number of reports filed were down from last year it was encouraging to see how many resolutions councils acted upon. "Resolutions today become the law of tomorrow", Cathy Bouchard National Chairperson of Resolutions.

Keep yourselves safe and healthy!

May you find peace and love at the feet of the Lord.

Joan



Communication-A Vital Thread, from Communications Chair Denise Masse

I would like to begin this article with a video. Please click on the link below to watch first.

[The Great Realisation](#)

I had shared the video with my Confirmation group and my class. I am proud to say the part the students all found missing was God. We need to listen to him more and be good stewards of the Earth. The video is a great reminder of how we came to be in this mess in the first place. Zoonotic diseases are on the rise as we continue to further encroach onto lands that were once occupied by animals. As habitat loss continues to climb due to human activity, pollution, climate change and an increase in wildfires and floods, we have to ask ourselves when will this begin to change?

Please go to our website's homepage to the button entitled, "Resources for a Challenging Time" on the top right. This link will lead to various resources that will continue to be added to as we go along this journey with COVID-19. If you feel you have something to contribute please email me at: cwllondoncommunications@gmail.com. Now is the time to reach out to friends old and new, family and neighbours. Also directives continue to come out and are posted on our website. Keep the vital thread of communication alive!

[A Look At Our Recent Impacts](#)

Our London Diocesan Council has worked hard over the last two years to Educate, Engage and Empower others about the environment. A year has passed since our last convention, yet the inspiration and affect on people to make a change and have an impact has been seen in many parishes throughout our Diocese. As I visit different ones I see many informative bulletin boards, recycle bins, information pamphlets, strategies and tips that can be used in our homes,



parishes and schools. Continue to spread the word to care for our environment as this awakening through our three Es needs to continue.

Our speakers engaged us. Let us continue to bring forth their message. Our panelists, young and old, inspired and encouraged us as we learnt about our waterways, climate change, how to reduce, reuse, recycle, compost, connect with the wisdom of our indigenous peoples and how our schools have students trying to make a difference. I am proud to announce that the EcoSchools initiative that was in Ontario has gone Canada wide! You can look at their website here: <https://ecoschools.ca/>.

Many of the panelists have contacted me to say thank you for setting up the experience and asking them to be a part of our presentation and discussion. They were as inspired by you, as you were by them. Thank you to: Dr. Maria Cioppa, Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Windsor, Clair Sanders, ERCA Climate Change Specialist, Katie Stammler, ERCA Water Quality Scientist/Project Manager, Source Water Protection, Heather Taylor EWSWA, Waste Diversion Specialist, Dane Fader, Founder of Greener Bins Composting Company, Darlene Marshall, WECDSB Indigenous Curriculum Coordinator, Anishinaabe People, Mike St. Pierre, WECDSB, Outdoor Education and EcoSchools consultant. They all wish us a, “Happy 100th anniversary!”

No one was more inspired then the students from our EcoSchools team. These young men and women were so excited about our 100th anniversary. You inspired them, empowered them, listened to them and engaged them. The students were amazed at what the women of the Catholic Women’s League did as they listened to your reports, had warm and intriguing discussions with you and were left with an experience of a lifetime.

An update on where they are now, I am happy to report that Rebecca and I nominated four of the students for the leadership awards last year: Alexa G., Caleigh F., Camryn Y. and Sydney K.,



Alexa G. was the winner out of all of our elementary schools in the Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board for all grades. You can see a little blurb here:

<https://www.facebook.com/WECDSB/photos/a.530398463653873/2877486685611694/?type=3>

A blurb from Camryn Y. a runner-up can be found here:

<https://www.wecdsb.on.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=58453&pageId=21267016>

These young ladies are eager to join our ranks in a few years for further mentorship and opportunities to do good works. Thank you for your warm welcome to them and their families who were overwhelmed with your kindness. Have you reached out to your school? Working as a community partner with the school is part of the EcoSchool leadership model. Why not see if your local school is involved? Go here: <https://ecoschools.ca/about/map/>. Is your school not on the map? Why not put them there? Perhaps you could approach your local school to start one!

A Look To Our Future

When working on the communications reports from our Diocese (you can find the report book online at: <http://www.cwllondon.ca/files/2019%20Annual%20Report%20Book.pdf>

Communications pages 27-28), we had 59 councils reporting. Thank you to those councils that were able to report. *****Tip**: For all positions, use the reports from the previous year when planning out your next year, to guide you.

In many cases councils were not using the media to its fullest potential as a way to advertise who they are and their good deeds. As I am finding through emails to our website, the latter would be a great way to get new members. Be sure to include your contact information. I urge presidents if you cannot find a chairperson for your committee to consider creating a communications team. You no doubt have ladies in your council who may be too busy to attend,



or unable to attend meetings that have skills that would allow these ladies to become valuable communicators for your council.

Moving Forward, A Note About the League Lingo and New Newsletter

Our *League Lingo* has now moved online. This however will be the last edition. We have had a few farwell editorials from Sandra Cabbidu in past editions and I would like to thank her here for her dedicated service to spreading our good news!

Moving forward the London Diocese will be offering a bi-monthly online newsletter, similar to many other dioceses. The new newsletter format will allow for features such as those in this *League Lingo* edition: links to websites, videos, high resolution pictures and more! Please look for further details in my upcoming directive. Also keep an eye on the website as a contest to name this new newsletter is coming soon!

Regional chairs had put a call out for a focus group which was also in my January 2020 directive. If you are interested please send me an email to: cwllondoncommunications@gmail.com.

Thank You

As my family experienced many challenges this year I would like to thank you for your prayers. My husband will be the first to tell anyone that the ladies of the League and their countless prayers are what has kept him here on Earth with us. As we faced cancelled life saving surgery a few times and finally the surgery was done. Todd simply told his surgeon. I can feel the prayers and they make me calm. The many cards and prayer blankets do as well. When my son was in the midst of forest fires as an essential emergency room nurse in evacuated areas, and now facing COVID 19 you have been there. Thank you too for welcoming Amanda as the AV person at last year's convention, which piqued her curiosity about our faith and our League. God Bless you all, as you have been a blessing to me. Blessings, Denise



Words of Wisdom, from Recording Secretary Willi Kole

In this time of the Covid-19 Pandemic and social distancing, I pray that you are staying safe and healthy.

What great time to reorganize your CWL information. As the Recording Secretary it is your mandate to keep the history of what your council has accomplished over the years. Are your past minutes signed by the president and yourself (at least during your term)? Are the motions in a separate Motion Book?

It is hard to believe that the Catholic Women's League of Canada is turning 100 years old this year. We have learned so much from those who came before us in the League and I pray that we will give our knowledge to those who come after us.

Two years ago, when I was discerning what position to put my name forward for, I asked the Holy Spirit to guide me as to what position that should be. The word secretary kept popping into my head and that word wouldn't leave. Well, as you all know, I put my name forward and here I am.

The Holy Spirit has been with me as I fulfill my duties as Recording Secretary. It hasn't always been easy, but I have learned a lot and continue to do so. Trust in the Holy Spirit to guide you! Never be afraid to take on a position in your parish council or on the diocesan council. The Holy Spirit and Our Lady of Good Council have your back and the amazing ladies of the CWL will assist you in your position if you but ask.

This past two years we have been asked to "Care for Our Common Home", the earth and all its people. By educating you about recycling printer toner and printer ink, sending minutes and memos electronically, etcetera, I pray that you have become engaged in helping care for our common home. Another way we, as catholic women, can help is to stop using single use plastics, including bottled water or any form of Styrofoam at our meetings and at home. This will empower us to encourage others to do the same.



Remember *“Don’t put off until tomorrow what can be done today” (Benjamin Franklin)*

Yours in Christ,
Willi

Regional News from Essex, Rose Beneteau Regional Chair

Our fall regional day was well presented and attended. Our guest speaker promoted the importance of our being visible at 40 Days for Life, Right to Life, Life Chain, and sending letters to our government by making our stance against abortion noticed.

With our mission in sight to promote the works of mercy, turkey dinners were hosted and the homeless were invited. Many personal needs were donated to Street Help and the Mission. Dinner for the migrant workers was shared and hosted at Holy Family Retreat House.

For the Christmas season, many councils gave to the St. Vincent de Paul and other charities of choice by raffling off Christmas baskets, baking and selling pies, assisting at Gleaners and the Downtown Mission. To reach out to those that are homebound, cards and small gifts were brought to them to help overcome their loneliness.

I am proud to say that every council in our region did send in their annual report in order to share what they are accomplishing and to show where they need more direction.

Many councils are holding reflection days, leading the Stations of the Cross, and serving soup during the lenten season.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel lead us closer to her Son as we see Him in our neighbour.

Rose



Regional News from Huron-Perth, Mary M. Barnes Regional Chair

We began the Fall with our first meeting October 5, 2019 hosted by St. Patrick's, Kinkora. The Fall Regional hosted by Huron Perth in Wingham was well attended. Submissions for the special history book for the 100th Anniversary of our Diocesan CWL being done by the Life Members was encouraged. Attending were President Elect Theresa Ryan and Diocesan Christian Family Life Chair Denise Morris.

Our next November 23, 2019 meeting was hosted by Immaculate Heart of Mary, Grand Bend. We were honoured to have our Diocesan President Rebecca McCarrell attend this meeting along with Diocesan Christian Family Life Chair Denise Morris and Life Member Lucy Hendriks.

All were reminded to have membership payment by December 31, 2019 to ensure your council is registered to vote, and not to wait until all memberships have been collected.

Our January 25, 2020 meeting held at St. Vincent de Paul, Mitchell was well attended with a guest speaker from Compassionate Community Care. This was an introductory session with workshops in Huron Perth to be announced in the near future. This meeting was attended by President Elect Theresa Ryan as well as Diocesan Christian Family Life Chair Denise Morris.

Mary

Below is a picture from St. James, Seaforth





Regional News from Ingersoll, Fatima Cabral Regional Chair

Seven members of Holy Trinity Catholic Women's League in Woodstock attended the London Diocesan Lenten Retreat on Feb 29, 2020 hosted by St. John the Divine Church in London. Facilitator Dr. Bernadine Ketelaars offered insightful reflection on spiritual loneliness. She encouraged us to "live out your faith daily" through prayer, scripture reading and example. Lamenting over the guilt because your adult children and grandchildren have pulled away from the church and the Catholic faith is more common than we think. Keep praying for those family members and remember that God listens to our requests but we have to be patient. Name it and claim it. Fatima



Members of the Ingersoll Region at the Lenten Retreat 2020 Photo by: Denise Masse



Regional News from London, Dianne Kehoe Regional Chair

Time flies when you are having fun and when you are working hard. All the councils in the London Region have worked very hard this past fall and into the first quarter of 2020. Many successful bazaars have been held, annual reports completed, collections of items to help those who are homeless and lonely to keep warm during the cold winter.

We began advent at an Advent Tea held at St. Patrick's, London. Thank you, St. Patrick's, for hosting this year and for your very warm welcome. This is always a popular event and is well attended. It goes without saying that the food is delicious. Once again, Tony Nother was there to lead us in song. Our Advent Service was thoughtful and meaningful. It was a wonderful way to begin Advent and to remind us that, although this saying is somewhat cliché, it is our faith - "Jesus is the reason for the Season".

2020 – This promises to be an exciting year for the Catholic Women's League – our 100th Anniversary! Everyone is excited to celebrate in Chatham at the 100th Annual Diocesan Convention, hopefully in the fall. There is much to be proud of and we will be given the opportunity to celebrate the many accomplishments of the League in Chatham at our Diocesan Convention.

By the time you read this, our Diocesan Lenten Retreat will be over. The London Region looks forward to welcoming the other Regions of the Diocese for this Retreat. Lent is a time for us to prepare for Easter through prayer, repentance and almsgiving. Our facilitator Bernardine Ketelaars' focus is on "Spiritual Loneliness". Thank you to St. John the Divine Council for hosting.

Dianne Kehoe



In Loving Memory of Betty Worrall, St. John the Divine London



In the Merriam Webster dictionary, the definition of “Lady” is “a woman of refinement and gentle manners”. We could add Betty Worrall to that definition.

You would see Betty at our CWL meetings, and at every CWL event; there she would be perfectly coiffed, perfectly dressed and perfectly a “lady”. Betty would always greet you warmly with a beautiful smile. She was actively involved in the CWL until she moved into Extendicare and then she still maintained her membership and her interest in what was happening in the league at St. John the Divine.

In a DVD of our 2005 Christmas Bazaar, there was Betty working at one of the tables, smiling at everyone. She let us store gifts for the wheel in her basement. She loved shopping and often the bazaar was the recipient of her kindness and generosity. She would come on Monday’s to see the Crafty Ladies Group and what we were making. She was always beautifully dressed, had great style; and she liked to wear a little glitz, so we tried to make her a vest with a rhinestone zipper. We couldn’t quite get the fit right but as always, she wanted to show her support.

This is a special year for the Catholic Women’s League in Canada....it is the 100th Anniversary. It was our plan this year at our June dinner to present Betty with her 80th pin. Imagine, the league was only 20 years old when she joined. When I would look at her I would think she must have joined as an infant, but she told us and the records show that she joined when she was 16. How amazing is that! We remember Betty with great affection and presented to Betty’s family this Certificate of Merit in recognition and appreciation of her faithful and exceptional service.



Betty Worrall 80 year CWL Member

Betty died February 2020
80 years after she first joined
the CWL at the age of 16.
Betty's family received a
Certificate of Merit from
Dianne Kehoe in recognition
of their mother's 80 years of
service in the CWL

In Loving Memory,

Dianne



Regional News from Sarnia, Pat Sloan Regional Chair

This will be my last report for the League Lingo as Regional Chair from Sarnia Lambton. As I look back over the last 4 years, I am in awe of all my Sisters of the League. I have met some amazing women not only in Sarnia-Lambton but in the London Diocese. Sometimes we are quiet working behind the scenes, at food banks, at soup kitchens, visiting sick and the homebound. Sometimes we are out front and centre at rallies for Human Trafficking on the 401, lobbying for right to life and protesting for climate change. All of these things mean that the Catholic Women's League is alive and thriving in Sarnia-Lambton.

This past year we have tackled homelessness via our sock drives at Christmas and Convention. Our Councils all supported St. Vincent de Paul, both with money and time, Women's Interval Home with necessities such as diapers and toiletries, and the Inn of the Good Shepherd with money and time. This is ongoing every year. This past Christmas we tackled loneliness by supporting Mental Health at our hospital. The youth in crisis on our hospital's mental health ward were in need of arts and crafts supplies. Our ladies stepped up with money and boxes of supplies. Our voices are heard in government and at home. The power of prayer is noticeable and powerful in Sarnia-Lambton.

May our Lady of Good Counsel keep us in her loving arms as we go forward to the next 100 years.

Pat Sloan



Chatham-Kent Region-St. Michael's Ridgetown

Submitted by: Susan Martens, President

St. Michael's CWL council in Ridgetown presented service pins to the following members at our annual banquet held in 2019.

70 year pin- Mary Schmitchen

60 year pin- Lena Mazan

40 year pin- Margaret Carter

25 year pin- Lillian Libby

Congratulations to the recipients!



St. Michael's CWL member Margie Seliga, on the right, presents Mary Schmitchen with her 70 year service pin in 2019. Mary is presently in a nursing home, and was very active in her younger years helping out with the League wherever she could.



For many years, Mary sat at the table selling raffle tickets for the bazaar-always greeting visitors with her warm smile. Our council sends letters annually to all of our members who are unable to attend meetings to pray for our council activities. Mary often sends a letter to our members letting us know that she thinks of us fondly and prays for us. Susan

Chatham-Kent Region-Catholic Family of Parishes, St. Ursula Site **Submitted by Cathie Luxton- Communications**

Back from summer break, St. Ursula CWL members met on Sept. 10th with our annual Potluck dinner for members and into the sanctuary of the church for mass at 7pm and our general meeting followed. Starting this fall our CWL has 156 members strong.

The Sept. meeting hosted speaker Jerri Brown, co-chairperson of “Christmas in Muskoka” in Chatham Kent. Jerri explained how this event allows many young students the opportunity to go in May to Lake Rosseau for 4 days 3 nights. These 300 grade 7 students and 120 high school students from the St. Clair Catholic School Board receive faith filled leadership skills while participating in co-operative events gaining confidence in themselves. This fundraising event is held every November to offset the cost for the 420 students attending the following spring. This year Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes participated with a decorated tree with gifts. This was made possible with the generous financial support from all CWL’s and the Knights of Columbus in our family of parishes.

The October 8th meeting, as all our CWL meetings, opened with mass at 7pm and meeting following. The guest speaker this month was Grecia Alaniz from Radius Health. She spoke on pelvic physiotherapy and how it can improve incontinence, pelvic pain, bladder & bowel dysfunction and endometriosis. Stating how many women suffer from these conditions and are too embarrassed to seek help. She also informed us that this physio is often covered by many



private health insurance companies. The members attending this meeting, thought the subject was very informative!

The November speaker was Jeff Moco from C-K Public Health. He explained to us about vaping and the many different forms of vaping and the severe health issues related to vaping, and how easily our youth are getting hooked. Jeff is a youth engagement coordinator and he goes into every school including grade school to educate our children and the teachers on the dangers of this newer trending habit. Many of our members were unaware of the different ways to vape and how many vaping items are taken into the classroom. December Meeting was the annual Wine cheese party for all members and Service Pins were awarded to the following.

70 Year Pin: Ruth Nagle, Norma O'Rourke (deceased- her daughter accepted the award)

50 Year Pin: Pauline Holek, Ann Murphy, Angie Vandaele, Una Wilson, Alice Opavsky

60 Year Pin: Rose Buis, Marianne Emery

25 Year Pin: Anita Dodich, Irene Douglas, Debbie Laforet, Colleen O'Neill

10 year Pin: Sharon Reaume, Kelly Tetreault, Marie Woodall

This Christmas the CWL was informed of a family from within our parish who was in need of assistance. This was unanimously supported! Our members decided after the successful HUG campaign at CWL Fall convention, we should again support the Women's Centre with special toiletries. Instead of sharing gifts with each other they went to the local women's centre for Christmas gifts.

With 2019 ending, we recapped all our fundraising events and the proceeds of the financial aid that supported our youth, our parish and many groups within the community in which we live, such as the Shepherd's Way Inn (feeding daily the hungry in our city) The local Women's Centre, and the Chatham's 3rd World Poverty Awareness after their devastating earthquake in the Dominican Republic. These and many more were considered when deliberating the new



budget for 2020.

2020 is well underway, the CWL of St. Ursula Parish is trying to create more awareness at Sunday masses. So, 4 members once a month wearing their sashes are the gift barriers.

The love of God and neighbor is truly witnessed by our members with their prayers and service in our church and in the community we live. Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pray for us as we continue the work throughout the coming year!

Cathie Luxton

Chatham-Kent Region-Blessed Sacrament, Chatham Submitted by: Lorelei Arnold

Note: This article was originally to appear in the Fall League Lingo of 2019.

I always feel very blessed to be a part of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Women's League. The meetings I have been included in and the ladies that I have met are fun, faith filled and inspiring.

Think of your favorite story of Jesus' life. Now imagine actually being there—on that spot—where Jesus was born, or where he turned the water into wine at the wedding of Cana, or where Christ died for our sins. Father Don Pumputis, our associate pastor, joined us at our March meeting and told us about his pilgrimage to the Holy Land. He told us what it felt like to put his hand in the place where the cross stood. I was blessed to have been able to hear his stories and hopefully someday, will be blessed enough to go there myself.



President Patti Johnson with
Fr Danny Santos and Fr Don Pumputis



Over the course of the year, we worked on many projects. We sent 82 letters to relevant Federal and Provincial members of parliament requesting they remove the attestation of values from future Canadian Summer Jobs Programme. When our members toured our local Hospice, they were told the position of the Board re: MAID. We have withdrawn donations to that organization and presented letters to CWL's and K of C's. We requested the approval of the 5 CWLs in Chatham that a wreath be laid on Remembrance Day this year and in the future from the Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes to honour our veterans and those who gave their lives to protect our great Country. *Eleven prayer shawls were given out from Feb. 11 to May 14 to those in need.*

Although I was not able to attend the April meeting, and see -THE ROSARY, SPIRITUAL SWORD OF OUR LADY – when Fr. Donald Calloway explained the power of Our Lady's favourite devotion, the Rosary. He told the entire history of the rosary, including its greatest victories and champions, in such a way that it captivated the ladies for nearly 2 hours. Fr. Calloway makes you really appreciate the power in the prayers of the Rosary. We really recommend this DVD to anyone who wanted to learn more about the Rosary. Our members have organized praying the Rosary at our senior residences in the community and it is always well attended.

Our CWL council at Blessed Sacrament has been learning the many details of presenting a resolution through the League. Resolutions play a major part in the League's work, and can be used as a Christian witness to our culture. Pennie Vandenbroek, our Past President has worked very hard on a resolution about abortion. The League has submitted resolutions to government on abortion in the past, but ours will be the first one that has specifically addressed abortion since 1995. Abortion is the greatest human rights violation in our lifetime. The numbers of abortions are almost too staggering to comprehend. But something that needs to be acknowledged, 50 years into this tragedy, is the effect abortion has had on women's health, physical and mental. The topic chosen was "Abortion and the Effects on Mental Health". Mental health issues include things like depression, suicide, and drug abuse. In the 50 years since abortion was decriminalized in Canada, depression, suicide, and drug abuse among women have risen dramatically. Women





have a right to be made aware of this potential danger before an abortion is performed. Our resolution asks the government to require medical professionals to disclose this warning before abortions are performed. This resolution was presented at the CWL London Diocesan Convention in Windsor at the end of April and at the Provincial Convention in Kingston in July and passed at both. It will continue to national, councils all across Canada will be united in the action items called for in the resolution. The action points suggested are: Inviting guest speakers to educate members on this issue; sharing information learned by writing letters to the editor in local papers; contacting M.P.'s and sharing contents of the resolution and brief and asking their support; and writing to the Prime Minister and Minister of Health. Abortion hurts women both physically and mentally. These words on a prolife button say it well: "Abortion stops one heart, and breaks another!" Please pray with us that God will use our little pebble of a resolution to help bring down the Goliath of abortion in Canada. Abortion makes a mockery of all that is good and sacred in womanhood!



Our ladies always work so hard on our twice monthly card parties to create a warm and welcoming afternoon for many of the seniors in our community. They show their faith through their organizational skills, the work of their hands in preparing lunch, the warmth of their hugs.

In June, we were able to celebrate the upcoming marriage of one of our members. It is so wonderful to have a member of the marrying age. Hopefully, we will have many more such events to celebrate, for it is in our young members that we see the future of our Council. We welcomed new members and celebrated those members with special anniversaries. We presented Jean Christian Furaha Ishimwe a bursary for his education after high school.



Many of our members took time out of their summer to support an important cause. There were 13 of the 20 ONroutes that participated in a rally to expose the human trafficking that occurs along this route and the surrounding communities. Many of our members attended, including a member who brought her daughters. There was a great showing of CWL members from many other communities, as well as many other groups that support this effort. Through their attendance, they show the importance of standing up for what is right and for those who cannot stand up for themselves.



Many members volunteer as Readers, Lectors, Choir members, Altar Servers, Money counters, Eucharistic Ministers at mass and to shut-ins, St. Vincent de Paul vouchers, Leaders in the recent Alpha program, Prepare and proclaim funeral prayer services, and inside and outside Decorating at our church. For the CWL, members volunteer at the twice monthly card parties,



serve and bake for the funeral and other luncheons, pray the rosary prior to the funeral mass, and serve as Honour Guard. One member is on the team of the Catechesis program going into the Chatham Catholic schools, grades one and two, and on the post-baptismal team keeping contact with recently baptized and their families. Two members are on the PPC. One member heads the Vocation Committee.

In the community, members volunteer at: Canadian Food for Children warehouse, Hospice, Retirement Homes, the Active Lifestyle Centre, the Lois singers, porter residents to weekly mass at two nursing homes, and rosary is prayed with residents at one nursing home as well as at four other retirement homes. One member volunteers for “Hope Haven”, our city men’s shelter. One member is the President of the Board of Refuge at Right to Life Kent. One member volunteers at the St. Vincent de Paul store. Our members belong to the Optimists. Any our members support so many other causes and groups in our community.

The most amazing part of all of this is that our Blessed Sacrament Council is not unusual or different from any other council. Every Catholic Women’s League Council is filled with inspiring women who are living their own path of Faith and are gracious enough to share it with those around them. Thank you for letting me be a part of it.





Essex Region-St. Michael, Leamington

Submitted by: Mary Di Milo, President

In February, our CWL Council hosted a guest speaker from the Pregnancy Resource Centre in Leamington. Soup Day was hosted by St. Vincent de Paul. Members donated soup and time. Monies are donated to help feed the needy in the community.

Our annual December Potluck /White Elephant Sale/Election - The ladies enjoyed great food and the auction proceeds were donated to St. Vincent de Paul.

We provided 8 meals for Alpha Program alternating Mondays with K. Of C. and prepared/served many Funeral luncheons in Church Hall throughout the year.

Sadly we lost 8 members in 2019.

We donated \$1000 to "Out of the Cold" Project – Reaching out to 300 invisible **Homeless Individuals** in Leamington. This project will at least keep homeless more comfortable and dignified throughout the winter.

We collected backpacks, purses filled with items at June Potluck supper and distributed them to various homeless shelters, Hiatus House, Matthew House etc. in Windsor. Another member regularly collects and brings donated clothing and essentials etc. to The Inn (Women's Shelter) on Bridge St. in Windsor. Christmas Gift bags were distributed to Shut-in parishioners.

Some members are part of the hospitality committee providing refreshments and desserts to the Migrant Workers after 3:00 pm. Mass on Sunday afternoons.

Members visited/brought Communion to hospital and nursing homes and volunteered at Hospice Residential Home, Erie Shores. We also hosted birthday parties at 3 nursing homes in town. Members were encouraged to call or reach out to lonely members, living on their own, widowed etcetera.



We donated \$500 to the Refugee Committee - Several members helped organize the sponsorship of a refugee family of 8 from Tanzania. They found housing, furnished houses with donations and items bought. They supplied food for the first while and assistance with adjusting to new life is ongoing.





Essex Region-St. Simon and St. Jude, Belle River

Submitted By: Jackie Gomes, President

After a pleasant summer, our council returned to a full fall schedule of events which include another successful bazaar. Now having entered the new year with a newly appointed council, it was time to get to work.

In keeping with our theme focus on how to “Alleviate Loneliness”, members of the St Simon and St Jude council participated in our annual Valentines Day workshop program. Our general meeting in February was preceded by a friendship lunch where we could enjoy a little socialization before business. It was attended by 23 members and one guest. Following the meeting, we gathered to create valentines - complete with a sweet treat - for the residents of La Chaumière Retirement Residence, a local assisted living facility. They look forward to our annual visit. On the 14th, 9 members visited. The day started with the Rosary, followed by a Mass, and then distribution of the valentines to each resident. Their smiles were our reward.



Back row, our members, L to R: Gerry Lauzon, Dianne Quenneville, Betty Ann Kelly, Marguerite Tellier, Jeanne Lauzon, Mary Jean Ferriss, Jackie Gomes, Theresa Barrette, and Pamela Young (photographer). Bottom row, residents L to R: Betty Denomme, Lucille Sweeney, Joy Robinet.



We are also excited to begin work on a Community Life directed program being developed to engage more extensively and personally with our members who are homebound, ill, in care facilities. This is an effort to keep them all more connected and included to their CWL sisters. So stay tuned!!

God Bless you all,

Jackie

Essex Region-St. Anthony of Padua, Harrow Submitted By: Marg Noel, President

Although we are a small council, we try to accomplish our mission by visiting the lonely people in nursing homes and in assisted living homes. We prepared and served dinner for the migrant workers on the last Sunday of the months of May to October.

Several members went Christmas carolling at the Harwood Assisted Living Home. By delivering meals on wheels we get to visit the homebound.

We continually collect new and used rosaries and bibles to give to the patients at Hotel Dieu Grace Health Care.

To give to the needy we collect toiletries for Hiatus House and socks for the homeless. Can goods are sent to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank.

We host the receptions for the first reconciliation and the confirmation candidates.

To promote respect for life, we stand for Life Chain in our town and attend the Right to Life dinner at the Fogular Furlan Club.



Masses are offered in November for our deceased members and in April for our living members. On the first Friday of our lenten season, we will lead the stations of the cross. We arranged a lenten day of reflection at the Holy Family Retreat House, in Oxley. The theme was on The Poverty of Loneliness.

Marg

Essex Region-Good Shepherd Parish, Tecumseh **Submitted by: Marcie Hales, Communications Chair**

The gloomy days of winter are nearly over and spring is just around the corner. The ladies of our council continue to work hard, volunteering their talents, skills and time for the good of the League, our parish and our Community.

In September 2019, our members, along with members of the Ladies Auxiliary assisted the Knights of Columbus to host the parish picnic. This was our first official picnic on the grounds of our new church. It was a great success and our prayers were answered with good weather.

Following the Anointing Mass of October 22nd, 2019 our council hosted a luncheon. With the help of the Ladies Auxiliary we shared prayer, food and fellowship with 57 attendees. The “canned goods” table centrepieces at the luncheon were then donated to the Divine Mercy Group of St Vincent De Paul.

Four of our members attended the Fall Regional Meeting on Saturday October 26th, 2019 at Visitation Parish in Comber and reported back to the general membership of an enlightening presentation on abortion and the effects on mental health. A special screening of the movie “Unplanned” is scheduled to be shown in our church hall on February 21st, 2020 .



In November we hosted a fun social event. Twenty eight people attended a euchre tournament in our church hall. This proved to be so popular that another one is planned for March 5th, 2020.

All the gloves, scarves, hats, mitts and socks that we collected in the fall were donated to the Salvation Army. Our members were very generous, as always. At our November meeting, our spiritual convenor, Virginia led a very meaningful service for our deceased members. This annual solemn short service is always a special time of reflection for me in particular. As a charter member, I recall each of these ladies as their name is read aloud. These were amazing, spiritual, intelligent women who taught me that there was power in group prayer. My prayer life till then was always a very private one. Our CWL League members continue to support each other and empower each other.

After evening Mass in December we had a short business meeting and then we all got in the festive mode. We shared good food and then Tina and her sister Virginia became our Christmas gift “auctioneers” and the mystery auction began. This was Fr. Patrick Bénéteau’s first experience with this “outbidding” scene and as always it proved to be a fun and high energy event. The proceeds from this year’s auction were donated to M.O.S.T (Mobile Outreach and Support Team of Windsor) and to the Iris House of Windsor.

In January we assisted Street Help by donating McDonald’s gift cards.

In the last three months we have honoured 3 of our deceased members with CWL prayers and/or Honour Guard at their funerals. This act of kindness is very much appreciated by the families during their time of grief.

Members of our League participated in the World Day of Prayer 2020 on March 6th, held at the Tecumseh United Church. Marcie



Essex Region-Holy Name of Jesus, Essex

Submitted By: Janice Rounding, President

We have a new slate of Executive Members as of January 1st, 2020. I am again, president of our council. We welcomed a new recording secretary, and spiritual chairperson.

Our annual turkey dinner and bazaar in October was a success, selling just over 500 tickets for dinner. Most of the bazaar activities saw an increase in revenue. This allows us to continue to provide the parish, local grade school, various missions and other budgeted items and places with support.

We collected baby sleepers for the Ronald McDonald House in Windsor after a request went out for help.

Our Christmas social consisted of painting a Nativity scene on an 18 inch square of wood. We also decorated cookies. About 40 members enjoyed the evening which included cookies and squares brought in by our members.

A few of us took an ornament and Christmas card to our older, housebound, shut-in or nursing home members. They look forward to the visit, as do we.

We discussed and adopted our 2020 budget at the first meeting of the new year.

At our January meeting, we discussed ideas on how we can invite our fellow members and parishioners (St. Mary's in Maidstone does not have a council) to an event or social, once we have our Family of Parishes July 1.

Seven of our members and one husband attended the Day of Reflection-Mary the Mother of Jesus at St. John's in Woodslee.



We have set up a large box in our Gathering Space to collect personal hygiene items for the homeless in Windsor, as Our Lady of the Assumption Parish is doing for Street Help during Lent.

May our Lady of Good Counsel continue to bless and guide us.

Janice

Huron-Perth Region-Immaculate Conception, Stratford **Submitted By: Marjorie Skinner, President**

Our last CWL evening of the year ended with a delicious potluck along with cluster members from St. Josephs and Holy Name of Mary and members of the Cluster Men's Choir. They entertained us with the beautiful Christmas songs followed by a faith journey talk shared by Fr. Chris. Our CWL presented Fr. Bester with a cheque for \$13,000.00 from the profits of our church bazaar towards church maintenance. Thank you to CWL members and the parishioners and community who made our bazaar a success. In addition, 15 parish and community groups in the city and beyond were benefactors of donations.

Thank you to everyone who donated many personal items to Optimism Place for Abused Women the last few months in 2019. This completed our Hug Project.

Our first meeting of the year in February featured Katie Jewelry & Accessories from St. Marys. We hosted the Lenten Luncheons again starting on Ash Wednesday until churches closed. Speakers with a spiritual message are booked by the Stratford Council of Churches. We took part in the World Day of Prayer and the Stations of the Cross and visited the shut-in members.

Congratulations to Marg Hilcox, our special CWL member who turned 100 Feb 2, 2020!



Huron-Perth Region-St. Peter's, Goderich
Submitted By: Joyce Essery, President

To Our Dear Sisters in the League,

Just a note to bring you up to date on some of the news of St. Peter's CWL in Goderich. We were happy to lead another successful 'H.U.G.' campaign and with the generous support of our members we collected warm clothing, toiletries and gift cards for our local 'Out of the Cold' Program. Items were most appreciated.





A new endeavor we have started in our League, is to offer a monthly Mass for deceased relatives and friends. This is open to all parishioners. Refreshments and fresh muffins/croissants are served after Mass allowing a time of fellowship and outreach to the community. Members are encouraged to invite others experiencing loss, or a lonely neighbour, or shut-in.

This Lent we planned to lead the Stations of the Cross one Friday in March and looked forward to working together on a Compassionate Community Care project, perhaps with the five other local councils, which will form our Family of Parishes in July.

In 2019 our Council donated \$5,175.47 to support local, national and international organizations. We continue to help others 'at home and abroad' as stated in our League Prayer.

Joyce Essery

Huron-Perth Region-Immaculate Heart of Mary, Grand Bend

Submitted By: Joanne Vandenberg

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Grand Bend ~ 2019 Service Pins

75 years: Betty McTeer

35 years: Sharon Strong

15 years: Patricia Hlady
and Cathy McLennan

55 years: Marie Srokosz

30 years: Janet Willsie

10 years: Nell Smeekens

50 years: Brenda DeJong

25 years: Joanne
Vandenberg

5 years: Mary Feret and
Donna Hiuser and
Simonne MacLeod

45 years: Antoinette
Pachlarz

20 years: Corrie Dalton
and Regina Fischer



Huron-Perth Region-St. Joseph's, Listowel
Submitted By: Theresa Redpath, Co-President

Last November we held a very successful bazaar. We served a hot lunch. We had a main draw, grocery hampers, penny table and door prizes. A big hit every year is the hand-crafted evergreen arrangements! This event is always well attended by our community. Profit from this event and others is donated to the church mortgage. This year our contribution totalled \$10,000.00.

The season of Lent has passed. Our League led the parish in the Stations of the Cross every Tuesday evening during Lent, while churches were open.

Every Sunday after Mass throughout the year our parishioners enjoy coffee and cookies. The CWL prepares coffee the first Sunday of the month.

The June meeting may be our annual potluck supper, if parishes reopen. All the ladies of the parish are invited to enjoy a great meal with plenty of time to socialize.

Theresa



Huron-Perth Region-St. Joseph's, Stratford

Submitted by: Mary Cobbs, President and Neves Pereira, Past President

Life gets busy and we missed the fall edition so ...We started the year of 2019 by hosting world day of Prayer for the Stratford area and other church denominations. Next came the stations of the cross and of course Palm Sunday we held our annual Bazaar raffle tickets draw and bake sale. We were able to donate to St. Joseph's restoration fund \$3800.00 from this event. In June we held our annual Tea Social and Pin Presentation for years of service, celebrating 47 ladies from 65 years to 1 year, we had a great turn out. This year and we added a special thank you invitation to all our volunteers specially the funeral lunches, some of these ladies are not members of our CWL council but come out and help when needed. It was a very successful event this year. One of our member's made over 100 cookies with her teenage daughters for this event.



On July 30th, 2019, as part of the educating others and to bring awareness to the public about Human Trafficking from Kelly Franklin and her staff many of our members showed up to the 401 On Route, on the west side of Guelph, including our MP Randy Pettapiece for Project Maple Leaf.



St. Joseph's parishioners once again out did themselves, with donations of: water-proof bags with toiletries, energy bar, can opener, face cloth, toothbrush and paste, shampoo, socks, deodorant, gum/mints, scarf, gloves. Our team put together 29 bags in total for men and women for House of Blessing, Shelter-link and St Vincent de Paul.





Summer came and some of our members assisted with the Faith Alive Bible camp put on by our church committee.

September came real quick and we started back with our regular meetings. Sept. 17th, Sept. 22nd and Oct. 3rd, 2019 St. Joseph's CWL assisted receptions or workshops and other events.

After discussing at many meetings the dues have been raised to \$25.00 , to reflect the changes in the Diocese.

October we had a Guest speaker Nancy Telfer from Days for Girls. This Non-profit organization makes Feminine products for girls in Third World Countries. So they can go to school and work
November 2019, Christmas Market Parish event was held with funds going to the Registration fund of St. Joseph's Church.

In December the CWL held the 2nd Christmas Lunch with all the favourites. Even though the weather was not good, 70 parishioners came out and donated just over \$1000.00 for our restoration fund from the good will offerings.

The 2019 year was our voting year and we followed policy and guidelines, and in November we voted in our new executive for 2020 to 2022. Our council has a younger executive team and I'm very happy to announce that Mary Cobb will be our CWL president for the next two years.

Our New Executive Team is as follows:

President: Mary Cobb

Past President & Spiritual Convener: Neves Pereira

President Elect: Gisella Bennett

Treasurer: Michelle Dzijacky

Recording Secretary: Anne Hayes Corresponding Secretary & Bulletin: Raymonde Abboud



Left to right: Madeleine Visser (standing in for Neves Pereira) Michelle Dzijacky, Mary Cobb, Gisella Bennett, Anne Hayes, Raymonde Abboud

Happy New Year 2020! Our new Executive team had a quick meeting in January. Looking forward to meeting up in February at the General Meeting. Brainstorming about the great things we can do for new memberships, funding raising and Guest Speakers.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone in our council for letting me be their president and represent our council for the past four years.

May the Lady of Good Counsel bless each and everyone of you and your families.

Your sisters in Christ, Neves & Mary



Huron-Perth Region-Sacred Heart, Wingham Submitted by: Marjorie Claassen, Co-President

Here are the happenings at Sacred Heart CWL in Wingham.

In September our CWL sponsored and judged a category with several entries at the Local School Fall Fair. The entries were to make up shoe box gifts for various age groups, boys & girls.

Also, at the end of September we hosted the CWL Regional day with guest speaker Penny Vandebroek who spoke on her experience with Pro-life activism, include her witnessing while in jail. Father Morrison treated the ladies to a delicious Roast Beef lunch as a thank you for all the hard work the CWL does for their parishes and communities.

October saw us, along with our K. of C., put on a Benevolent Breakfast at the Sacred Heart church where we took donations towards the needs of local people who go to Father for help. Also, 11 members were able to participate in the Life Chain, in support of the local Right to Life.

Our annual Bazaar at the end of October was very successful. We were able to give out, over the next few months, donations to local & international charities, Clinton Hospice, our church and gifts for Father & Deacon Wayne.

In November some of our members helped organize the Community Breakfast of Hope along with the other churches in Wingham to help with youth mental health issues.

In December we organized giving a small gift and a visit to our church's shut-ins. Also, we enjoyed an Advent dinner with the K of C and along with all our spouses. In past years it was a potluck but this year the K of C treated us all to a wonderful Turkey dinner with all the fixings.

Marjorie



Huron-Perth Region-St. Jame's, Seaforth **Submitted By: Mary M. Barnes, President**

Meetings began again in September of 2019 with guest speakers for October, the Community Paramedicine Coordinator and in November, the Manager of Room to Grow, both very interesting presentations. Attendance at the Fall Regional in Wingham was encouraged with 2 members attending. In December our Council recognized 11 members with CWL pins or Spiritual Bouquets from the Carmel of St. Joseph's in St. Agatha. (See picture attached with those members that were able to attend). During the Advent Season we completed our HUG project which was very successful. (see also picture attached). Visits were made by myself and our Past President to shut-ins both at home and in the area nursing homes delivering Prayers again from the Carmel of St. Joseph. We are also fortunate to have another member who visits at the Mitchell Nursing Homes. As Lent approaches we will again be participating in Lenten Lunches with other Church Denominations in the area. Our Meetings will begin again in March as we do not hold meetings in January and February. Mary





Ingersoll Region-Holy Trinity, Woodstock

Submitted By: Carmen Velocci, Acting President

Christine Gable, Maple Leaf Service Pin Recipient

Christine Gable was awarded the Maple Leaf Pin at our General Meeting on December 4th, 2019 for her outstanding work at Holy Trinity Parish and in the community of Woodstock and Ingersoll. As a member of the CWL for 27 years she had served the council as Spiritual Convenor when the council was named St Rita and for the past 2 years under Holy Trinity Council. As Spiritual Convenor, she shared many memorable prayers and reflections. She also led us in saying the rosaries, devotions to Mary and the Stations of the Cross.

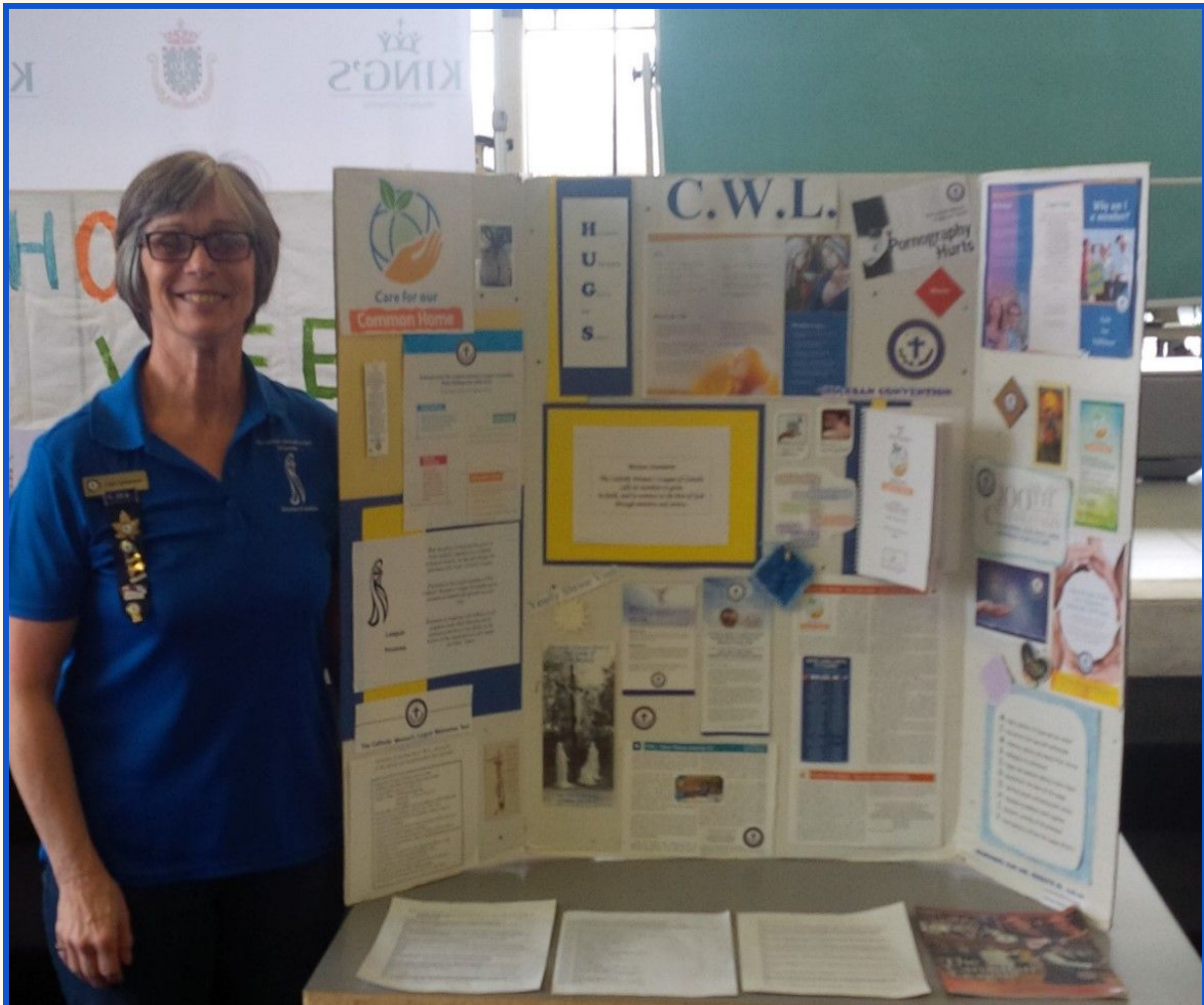
For 10 years, Christine has devoted her time in operating the Religious Goods Store for the CWL council for which she also did the Bookkeeping. She ordered many beautiful rosaries and other religious articles and displayed them for sale after masses during the Easter and Christmas Seasons, at the monthly Sunday Baptisms and First Communions. She also displayed them for sale during our annual Bazaar.

Christine also has volunteered in many ministries in our Parish. She regularly sings in one of the Choir groups at the church as well as volunteers to sing at funerals. She has helped out with registration at our summer K4J Bible Camp, has helped with Confirmation Prep, and at our Parish Mission. Christine used her gift of singing with the Ingersoll Choral Society for many years and has been performing the role as Stage Manager for the last few years.

She also has filled in the role of Receptionist at the church when needed.



London Region-King's College at the University of Western Ontario
 "Catholic Student Week" Display Submitted by: Joan Lobsinger



Joan has been doing this display for five years running-thanks Joan!



Essex Region-Bellelle Guerin Award for Kathy Levesque, Visitation Parish Submitted by: Nancy Sylvestre, President

Kathy Levesque has served 34 years with the CWL. She first joined the council at Annunciation Parish in Stoney Point and after it dissolved she joined the St. Joachim Council. Kathy helped to amalgamate the councils of 4 churches with other members of the St. Joachim Parish Council. The aforementioned council became Visitation Parish in 2005. Kathy was co-President with Yvette Gaudette. Kathy has served in various positions including President, Treasurer, Past President and the list continues. She served on the Diocesan Council for two terms and continues to help when asked and if able.

Kathy has a very strong faith, her beliefs in the Church and mainly in God and the Blessed Mother. She helps with the needy by driving them to the hospital especially members of the council who are sick. Kathy is on the funeral committee and is a lector at Sunday Mass. She also says CWL prayers at the funeral home for our dear sisters who have passed away. Along with Kathy's faith being so strong, she has a strong support and love of her family and her second family is the CWL. One can go on about her abilities but her actions speak for themselves.

Kathy's love of the League, demonstrated by her words and actions, is an inspiration to other council members. Visitation Parish Council is very proud of her and will continue to love her along her journey.

Continued on the next page.....



L to R: Denise Masse, London Diocesan Communications Chair with Kathy Levesque





L to R: Nancy Sylvestre, Visitation President, Rebecca McCarrell Diocesan President, Kathy Levesque and Marie-Theresa Ontario Provincial Council Treasurer





Sarnia Region-St. Joseph's Submitted by: Laura Hardy, Acting President

Members of the St. Joseph's CWL had a wonderful and busy year both spiritually and socially. Members of St. Joseph, St. Benedict and Our Lady of Mercy once again joined in hosting annual potluck dinners.

The landscaping project at St. Joseph is ongoing. This year the ladies of our council volunteered and provided lunches for all volunteers working to finish the new landscaping.

Ladies from our league organized and served several funeral luncheons at St. Joseph this past year. We also provided honour guards for deceased members of our council.

We once again hosted our annual February Valentine's/Birthday Party celebration at Vision Nursing Home, organized by Nan Docherty.

This past March our CWL was honoured to host the annual World Day of Prayer. A special thank you goes to Deacon Chuck Stevens for being our guest speaker.

This past year our CWL council partnered with the Knights of Columbus to help prepare and host luncheons and special fundraisers following Sunday Mass in our church hall.

Lynda Miller is our new membership convener.

Our major fundraiser this year was our Annual Fall Bazaar, convened by Lynda Miller and Charlene Hummel.

During the year asparagus, cabbage roll and meat pie workshops were organized to help prepare for our Fall Bazaar.



The Bazaar was well received and attended and it continues to be a popular bazaar for people to attend. Special thanks goes to Deacon Lyle for once again donating his delicious spring rolls.

With the money raised from the Fall Bazaar our league was able to:

- Give Christmas gifts to our Priests, Deacons and entire staff of our clustered parishes.
- Give gifts to choir director
- Support the men/women of the Wallace Home on Vidal Street, which is located in our Parish community
- Give a donation to the St. Joseph Hospice
- Financial support to the St. Vincent dePaul Society
- Donation to St. Joseph's Bell Restoration
- Pay for Masses for deceased members of our parish
- Donation to St. Patrick's High School

.....continue to the next page for more!



Our Executive for 2020

Acting President: Laura Hardy, Past Presidents: Donna Greenwood and Marlene Smith,
Spiritual Advisor: Deacon Lyle LaLonge, Membership: Lynda Miller, Secretary: Charlene
Hummell, Treasurer: Donna Greenwood

Presently, we have 40 paid members for 2020.

Laura Hardy



Sarnia Region-Sacred Heart

Submitted by: Barb Paul, Recording Secretary

In Loving Memory of Wilma McNeill

In February Sacred Heart Council lost an amazing lady. Wilma McNeill served CWL for 62 years in three provinces; Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Ontario. She held executive roles for the Sacred Heart Council until last year. Still, Wilma gave plenty of input at meetings. Her passions were Communications and Legislation. I think that she had local, provincial and federal legislators on speed dial and was not shy to make contact about issues. Wilma was a tireless promoter of our Sacred Heart council. Among other things she actively raised funds. She could sell you a ticket on a hockey sweater even if you were not a hockey fan or were not interested in a hockey sweater. After all, it was for the CWL.

In recognition of her outstanding contribution, Wilma was awarded with the Maple Leaf Service Award and the Bellelle Guerin Award, the highest honour in CWL. Bellelle Guerin was the first president of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. This award is presented to individuals who have worked tirelessly to keep the spirit of the League alive in the spirit of the first president. Wilma was particularly proud of this recognition.

Continued on the next page.....



The impact of Wilma's death is also felt in the community where she was involved with Sarnia city council, the Royal Canadian Legion and others. The impressive recognition and numerous awards she received included the 2014 Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteer Award, 2012 The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, 2008 The First Rose Hodgson Memorial Award. She will be mostly remembered for her relentless campaign to have Remembrance Day restored as a statutory holiday in Ontario. Wilma lobbied politicians, collected signatures on petitions and championed the cause for 30 years. She was successful in having the Holidays Act amended in 2018.

Wilma's favourite expression was "I'm in the pink!" As a tribute, her funeral Honour Guard wore large pink flowers on the CWL sash. You will be missed Wilma, but your CWL legacy lives on!

Barb



Wilma McNeill and Barb Paul



Windsor Region-St. John Vianney Council News, Submitted by: Past President AnneMarie Kozak

September :

- Cards were sent out to our honourees (11 members) in May. The cards let them know we are thinking of them. (send birthday, get well, thinking of you, etc cards throughout year)
- Prayer shawls (made by the prayer shawl group from Atonement) were given to two of our members.
- July 10th, 2 members attended the CWL diocesan retreat at the Shrine in Merlin. The retreat was faith building and had a good attendance of CWL members
- July 30th, several members attended the OnRoute project at Tilbury South OnRoute. This was a gathering of various community service groups, politicians and police departments to educate the public about human trafficking. It was well attended with CWL showing a good representation of members from Windsor, Essex and Chatham areas
- We sold 200 mums as a fundraiser this summer
- August 15th, the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, was celebrated at St. John Vianney with a Mass followed by the recitation of the living rosary in the garden. The event concluded with a social in the parish centre with many CWL members attending
- HUG (Helping, Understanding, Giving) Centenary project: Our CWL collected toiletries and packaged them to donate to Leone House, Guadalupe House and House of Sophrosyne



October:

- Doris Stillman, program director of the House of Sophrosyne, which has been in Windsor for 41 Years, spoke to us about their program. It offers a 5 week in house addictions and trauma treatment program as well as follow-up care and support for women.
- All leaders of the various groups in our Family of Parishes met together. In a spirit of tolerance, acceptance and understanding, all groups are to work together, while still retaining their own identities.
- In support of the Chatham/Kent Region, we purchased 2 tickets to their fund-raiser.

November:

- January & February general meetings will be held @ 2:00pm in 2020, rather than 6:45pm. We will then evaluate whether to enact this every year.
- Four of our members attended CWL Regional Day in Comber on Saturday, October 26th
- Membership drive was held on Saturday, November 16th and Sunday, November 17th after all masses. CWL members were in the parish committee room to collect completed forms & dues with a good response shown.

December:

- Mass was held on December 3rd with members assigned to various ministries, followed by our December social. We feasted and fellowshiped with a background of music supplied by Ron



Arkell. We conducted our semi-annual 'Prayer Partner Adventure' with all participating. It was a beautiful, enjoyable evening.

January:

- To encourage attendance at the Diocesan Convention in Chatham, April 27-29, 2020, our council was willing to pay the registration fee of all to attend. This has been postponed.
- Some suggestions offered to support the Ontario CWL theme of loneliness – acknowledging people; visiting people in long term care facilities/rest homes; calling members who are unable to attend meetings; continuing with our card outreach...
- Will donate to the J.L. Hennessy Education Bursary in 2020

February:

- The Canadian MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying) questionnaire was forwarded to members with emails. Members were encouraged to respond to the government's call to offer consultation on this issue.
- Members encouraged to attend a screening of "Unplanned" (film on abortion), this month.
- Some of our members will be participating in the World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 6th with all members encouraged to support them by attending the event.
- Donated a gift basket for the Diocesan Convention
- Our Birthright donations were collected the weekend of February 8/9, (rather than in May), in order to support a coordinated effort among our family of parishes. Our Birthright donation drive was very successful and many appreciated the information display, as well as the prayer



cards offered and the chance to join the Birthright email prayer chain. Thanks to all who participated.

AnneMarie Kozak

Until Next Time, Stay Safe and Know We Are All Praying For Each Other!



Look for a message on our website from our council to you coming soon!

Denise Masse, Communications Chair London Diocesan Council



Feedback is always welcome as we work to serve you the best we can!