

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
SAULT STE. MARIE DIOCESAN COUNCIL



Prayer to Our Lady
of Good Council

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

Mary, Our Lady of Good
Counsel: filled with the
Holy Spirit, you were a
faithful disciple of Jesus, your
Son.

Intercede with your son
for us that we may be faithful
to our baptism, fervent in
prayer, and generous in the
service we give to our sisters
and brothers.

May the spirit of the living
God, who graced you with the
gift of counsel, lead us in the
way of truth and love.
With the help of your prayers,
may we come to rejoice
forever with you and the great
company of saints in the
kingdom of heaven.

Amen

Spring Newsletter 2020

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.

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

Pope Francis's Prayer to Mary during Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

(Adapted from [Vatican News](#).)





Care for our

Common Home



SERVICE – FAITH – JUSTICE



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan Council**

**Rev. Rex Lumine
Diocesan Spiritual Advisor**



Hi, Everyone

I am Fr. Rex Lumine, a priest originally from the diocese of Tuticorin, India. It is a great honor and privilege to be your spiritual advisor. I thank Bishop Marcel for giving me this opportunity to become part of this great movement that genuinely believes and works for social justice.

I was ordained priest on 24 April, 1987. After my ordination I worked as associate priest and pastor in my diocese. Other than my parish ministry I served as Formator and Rector of two major seminaries for six years. After ministering in United States for a year I returned to my diocese and I was appointed as the diocesan director for social services. I was doing this ministry for seven years. In 2012 I opted to come to Canada and I was fortunate to have come to the diocese of Sault Ste. Marie and I am serving now as associate pastor at pro-cathedral of Assumption, North Bay.

I wish all the members of CWL peace and joy of Christ; and am very excited to work with you.

Fr. Rex Lumine



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan Council**

**Rev. Fr. Rex Lumine
Diocesan Spiritual Advisor**



We shall embrace God's Vision---For a better world

The words of Matthew Kelly deserve some serious attention. Quote: "Today's culture doesn't want you to think too much about life. It doesn't want you to become hungry for the truth. It doesn't want you to develop your spiritual self. It doesn't want you to have any relationship with God. Today's culture will do everything to make it impossible for you to become the best version of yourself".

Matthew offers also a solution to this modern problem. "Reject the world's vision for your life, because it leads to emptiness and misery, total disappointment and depression in the end. Embrace and celebrate God's vision for your life, it leads to joy, peace and fullness, now and forever." God's vision for a better world that leads to fullness of joy is to protect the nature and the poor.

Pope Francis calls this as protecting our common home. He says, "The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development".

By taking a closer and an unbiased look at our world, the financial system that runs our world.....we can discern God's vision today. One among the Global Goals, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action is to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. But we need not wait till 2030 to enjoy the peace and prosperity. Catholic Women's League of Canada has been working for many years already to achieve this very dream/vision. Today let us renew our resolve through the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

Together we create a better world!



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Dioceses of Sault Ste. Marie

"Care for our Common Home"



My Sisters in the League;

The Holy Father spoke to us about our Lenten journey in a Homily given January of 2016. In it he states;

"Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death. This season urgently calls us to conversion. Christians are asked to return to God "with all their hearts" (Joel 2:12), to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord. Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us. Even when we sin, he patiently awaits our return; by that patient expectation, he shows us his readiness to forgive.

We are called to conversion during this time of Lent and to grow our relationships with God and others around us. Through this conversion, we are able to live out our Baptismal promise. As League members, we do everything "with all our hearts". Living out Laudato Si, and Care for Our Common Home asks us to become better stewards of our beautiful earth.

This newsletter is a conduit for all members from across the diocese of Sault Ste. Marie to connect with one another and to grow in friendship with each other and the Lord. Enjoy this edition of the Spring newsletter as we explore the good things happening in the councils in the diocese while living out Laudato Si.

With Blessings,

Cathy McKinney

Cathy McKinney

President

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"Remember...the only thing more contagious than a virus is hope."

~~William Mcraven~~

Dear Sisters in the League,

We all long for a normalcy that is familiar-and is likely not to return in the near future. We need to heal. Our world needs to heal. We are restless and are asked to stay home - to fight the unseen-to have faith ... and hope.

Mark 4:35-41 reminds us that Jesus calms the storm and we have to trust him. Pope Francis' Urbi and Orbi prayers were truly so extraordinary and so urgently needed.

I invite you to take this time of slow down, as I have, to discover and learn new ways to pray. Many online resources are now available including from our own Diocese —bringing us together as we are staying apart.



We are reminded more than ever that Church is not a building. Those Churches are closed. Our Church is OPEN ... and is filled with hearts and people who are checking in with each other - bringing and sharing food, offering a friendly ear and still finding ways to pray together. Perhaps in all of this - we are called to be more than parishioners and friends in the pews. We in fact are all disciples called to action now more than ever to spread Jesus word and love. Let's make that more contagious than a Virus!

We are responding and learning to trust again - Jesus is steering the ship - and we are adjusting our sails.

See you on the waters! Don't be afraid - Jesus is in our boat!

Be safe, be well.

Patricia



Debbie Mattiazzi
Community Life Chairperson



"Spring will come and so will happiness. Hold on. Life will get warmer."

Anita Krizzan

I'm sure we are all looking forward to Spring and warmer weather.

Our Diocesan Council is planning a Beautification Day in May. In keeping with the 2020 Centenary Project commemorating the League's 100th Anniversary and the National Theme, our diocese is planting an oak tree along with a plaque commemorating this event. The hospices in all three regions will have the oak tree and plaque as well as planting of flowers and a clean-up of the flower bed area. This project is still in the planning stage. More details to follow.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Mattiazzi





Colleen Murphy
Education and Health Chairperson



Education and Health - *Colleen Murphy*

Wellness and Sickness/Disease

Front and center in my mind as the urgent issue is the proposed legislation, Bill C-7, to increase access to Medical Assistance in Dying.

A summary of the bill can be found here:

<https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-1/bill/C-7/first-reading#ID0EBCBA>

The bill has only passed First Reading, so has a way to go to be passed.

Given the suspension of parliament until April 20 because of COVID-19, there is still time to voice your concern and objections to expanding MAiD.

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition has created a petition to oppose euthanasia for incompetent people, for mental illness and to oppose eliminating the waiting period: <https://citizengo.org/en/177328-reject-bill-c-7>

The petition will be sent to the Minister of Justice in Ottawa.

Environment

Continued Care for our Common Home requires vigilance in many aspects of our lives. As far as shopping goes, these are things to consider, along with the price of an item:

- Does this item have excessive packaging – are there alternatives with less packaging, such as bulk buying using your own containers?
- Where has this item come from – are there alternatives that are more local, therefore with less travel involved in arriving at your door?
- Do I really need this item? Are the alternatives that I could use (or re-use, or repair) to avoid purchasing this?
- For appliances, large and small, is this item as energy-efficient as possible? Sometimes, purchasing a quality product saves money in the long run, if it lasts longer, or is of better quality.
- Is this item healthy for you – i.e. less processed food, less hazardous cleaning products, not 'disposable' even it is carries that label?

Yes, there are many factors that can be considered in purchasing something, from groceries to big ticket items. Not an easy task, for sure!

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy ... but store up treasures in heaven ... for where your treasure is, there also will your heart be". Matthew 6:19-21

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Murphy

USED STAMPS TO HELP DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Did you know that used stamps can help raise funds for countries who are suffering in the Global South? The collection and sale of stamps started in 1984, before e-mail and faxes, when most communications were sent by mail. In the early years, approximately \$1000.00 was raised annually. Now this country wide fundraiser makes an average of \$30,000.00 per year for Development and Peace. The monies raised support agriculture, education and human rights programs in seventy countries in the Global South. Members of the Catholic Women's League of Canada are big supporters of this initiative. In our region of North Bay, member Shirley Marcotte has made it her goal to collect, sort and mail used stamps to the Montreal Office of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace. Once these stamps are received in Montreal, they are sold at auction for pennies, but a few have sold for as much as \$40.00.

In our parish of St. Peter the Apostle Church in North Bay, a special box is always placed at the back of the church and Shirley empties it on a regular basis. She accumulates the stamps and mails them out periodically. The picture shows only a portion of the many bags filled with stamps.

Please feel free to send your stamps directly to Development and Peace or organize your own collection box. A used stamp isn't worth much but many stamps can make a difference in peoples' lives.

Submitted by Marcelle Beaulieu

CWL President of St. Peter the Apostle Council

North Bay



REGIONAL NEWS

We asked our councils to share pictures and stories of their celebrations, ceremonies, birthdays, anniversaries, teas, luncheons, suppers, social gatherings, and other activities held. Here is what you sent in.

Keep your cameras handy and be sure to submit your pictures and articles to me for the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 Newsletters.

North Bay Region

Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption

Sunny skies matched the bright smiles of countless volunteers that welcomed hundreds of people to the Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption's Parish Hall on Saturday, November 16th, 2019, in support of the Catholic Women's League of Canada (CWL) of the Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption's annual Christmas Bazaar & Tea. With this year's theme: 'Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow,' a record \$11 000 was raised in support of numerous charities including: School Breakfast Programs, Meals on Wheels, the North Bay Food Bank and the Gathering Place,

"Our volunteers have created a warm and welcoming atmosphere, and I am blessed to be surrounded by a team of experienced, dedicated and hard-working women whose efforts produced another successful Christmas Bazaar," stated Leah Pierce, Pro-

Cathedral CWL Bazaar & Tea convener. "The support of the church community never fails to bring hope to those who need it the most in North Bay." With over 200 members, the Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption CWL is part of the larger national CWL of 78 000 members each called to grow in faith, and to witness the love of God through ministry, service and social justice.



Article by: Leah Pierce,

Co-Convener and Publicity Chairpersonoto by: Mary Louise Delarosbel

HOLY NAME OF JESUS

Members of Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Women's League have been very busy in assisting, hosting and volunteering in our city and within our parish community.

In the fall, we hosted a Craft Sale in support of Pregnancy Help and Resource Centre. At our meetings, we handed out baby bottles and asked members and families to fill them with change and return them to assist the Pregnancy Help and Resource Centre.

In December, our Council hosted a Christmas Concert in our parish. The talent was truly amazing and enjoyed by many.

Our annual Christmas Dinner for members was an opportunity to collect socks and mittens for our warming centres and The Gathering Place.

A "Family Fun Day" was held in January, hosted by our Parish. Many members of the Catholic Women's League were there to volunteer their time in hostessing, cooking and providing assistance for

this amazing event. On this occasion, Salt and Light Television was present to film this wonderful family day.

Many of our members continue to volunteer their time at The Gathering Place, the two warming centres and Catholic Charities.

We continue to "Care for our Common Home" by promoting recycling and reducing waste.

Respectfully Submitted,
Frances Malette

St. Alphonsus Liguori

Since taking our positions as the new executive we have been very busy.

We have hosted several meals, they include: Christ Life, The Callander Horticulture Society, the Grade 8 Graduation Class from St. Theresa's School, a Valentine's lunch for seniors and shut-ins, and held a community meal to raise funds for the homeless.

We have also provided receptions for the First Communion candidates and Bishop Damphouse's visit.

We have also have an on-going collection of items for the North Bay Crisis Center under the H.U.G. directive.

Some of our members visit those who are shut-in, several attended the Take Time for Life=Dying Healed workshop. We donate to several organizations, participate in the Pornography Hurts campaign and took part in the 12 Hours of Adoration.

We had the privilege this year in presenting one member, Sandra Larochelle with her Maple Leaf Pin and presenting a 65 year pin to Ellen Wilcox (pictured here) who has been a member for 69 years and is a staunch Catholic Women's League supporter!! Ellen turned 100 in January 2020.

The high lite of this year has been our garage sale where we earned

substantial funds to assist as many members as possible to attend the 100th Anniversary Convention.

Respectfully submitted
Maureen Carriere
St. Alphonsus Liguori
Callander



St. Peter the Apostle

The Catholic Women's League members of Saint Peter the Apostle Parish Council in North Bay collected and distributed numerous items to needy charities. It is through the generosity of our parishioners that we are able to give to the less fortunate. We collected mitts, socks, scarves, toiletries, men's thermal underwear, slippers, blankets and much more. On December 15th, 2019, members gathered to sort items collected. Bags of donated items were delivered to Catholic Charities, the Gathering Place, Hope Awaits, Transition House, Crisis Centre and the Warming Centre. We have the most caring people at St. Peter's!



Pictured : June Nunner, Louise Cazabon, Marcelle Beaulieu and Lorena Armellini



Lenora Commerford is a 46 year member of the CWL of Saint Peter the Apostle Parish Council in North Bay. On November 30th, 2019 Lenora celebrated her 80th birthday.

Pictured are Lenora and Council president Marcelle Beaulieu.

Happy Birthday, Lenora!



At our annual Presentation of Service Pins held June 12th, 2019, many of our members were honoured for their years of service.

Seven members received a 5 year pin.
Six members received a 10 year pin.
Seven members received a 15 year pin.
Two members received a 20 year pin.
Four members received a 25 year pin.
Four members received a 30 year pin.
Three members received a 35 year pin.
Three members received a 40 year pin.
One member received a 45 year pin.
Three members received a 50 year pin.

Our last recipient is Arlene Maunsel pictured, receiving her 55 year pin from Council President Marcelle Beaulieu. Also pictured is our Spiritual Advisor, Father Francis Ezenezi.

All these wonderful ladies are to be commended for their continued service to God and Canada.

Sault Ste. Marie Region

Precious Blood



Precious Blood CWL added a tea to our annual Snowflake Bazaar and Bake Sale this year. The first tea in our new Gathering Place hall took place on Sunday November 3rd. The tea was a huge success with 200 people at each of the two seatings. Many CWL and parish members helped to prepare sandwiches, baking, and bazaar items contributing to the huge success of our first tea.



Past President
Maureen Gooderham
pinning the Maple Leaf
pin on Geri Chateau

Our elections were held in December and we are pleased to announce that Louise Bichler is now our new president. She comes with lots of experience having been a president before.



Sudbury Region

St. Alexander's Parish



Jackie LeDrew, CWL President, presents 50 year pin to Diane Jacques. Thank you, Diane for your dedicated service.

Before our CWL September meeting, Father Ken blessed Our Lady of The Grotto which is in our inner court. We said a decade of The Rosary before beginning our meeting.



Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers performed at our Christmas Party. It ended with the song The Greatest Gift of All with more CWL members as part of The Christmas Story.



The St. Alexander's CWL had a Weaving Workshop on April 10th. We learned from Anne Sloat how to weave palms and make crosses. Woven palms were used to decorate the altar area. Individual crosses, once blessed, were offered to parishioners.

St. Alexander's Parish Cont'd

St. Alexander's Knitting and Crocheting Circle was formed in March 2017 when a challenge was issued to create an afghan which was to be blessed and given to someone in need. At that point we realized that there were many needs in our own parish and the broader community. These included the homebound, the Cancer Center, Long-term Care Centers, individuals with special needs and other projects/ventures that we were made aware of i.e. - The Purple Hats, Knitted Knockers and Twittle Muffs.

Originally it began with ladies in our own St. Alexander Parish and then others from the community joined us. There is a wide range of ages, from 50 to 96, and of abilities, from not knowing to the very experienced knitters. These weekly sessions are a form of socializing to alleviate loneliness, of learning new skills and of increasing self-esteem which ties in with promoting individual health and well-being.



As one can see our group has been busy. To date we created and have given out the following - 115 large afghans, 160 lap afghans, 128 shawls, 53 pairs of Knitted Knockers, 24 pairs of socks, 35 crocheted angels, 596 baby toques, 33 adult toques, 9 pairs of slippers and 1 neck warmer.

In the past year we have also had raffles and sales of our creations to raise money for our parish church roof repair fund. These will always be a part of the contributions from our members.

We will remain open to the needs of any other projects where we can share our talents.



Our Lady of Hope Parish

This fall/winter Our Lady of Hope council has continued with acts of service new and old to support the Catholic Women's League 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"*.



Our Blessings in a Bag was a successful project organized in the spring by our Community Life Standing Committee. Throughout the summer we collected toiletries and hygiene items for homeless women, which were donated by the parishioners of Our Lady of Hope and St. Anthony's.

Members of the C.W.L made reusable cloth bags and the items were placed in the bags and brought to the Sudbury Women's Centre to be distributed to ladies in need. We were able to make up 63 bags, plus donate two large boxes of loose toiletries. The centre was very grateful for the donation.

Reported by; *Mary Ronchin, Community Life Standing Committee.*

At our Christmas social, an in-meeting collection was taken for 'No One Eats Alone on Christmas Day'. This is a communal dinner in its fifth year is organized by Ward 2 Councillor since 2015 to alleviate loneliness in our community at Christmas time. Members were generous with their donations; we gave \$422.95 to this dinner in response to our Provincial theme, 'Loneliness'.

We continued our work into the winter focusing on the Provincial theme of 'Loneliness'. At our February general membership

meeting we asked members to write a message in blank cards to send to C.W.L past & present members who are home bound or in long term care facilities. Our members were enthusiastic about this task and we were able to send out 13 cards.

Our annual Valentine Tea presented us with an opportunity to share the wealth. We decided to donate to the Maison McCulloch Hospice, the new children's wing, the proceeds from our penny sale table.

We look forward to many more opportunities that we can share with our parish community and members to live a faith in action in accordance with the Gospels.

On behalf of Dorothy Boyer,
President
Kathleen Niro
Communication standing
committee chairperson
Our Lady of Hope.



St. John the Evangelist Parish



The Installation of Officers
Sunday May 5, 2019 - 10:30 am.mass.

Lead by our President, Suzanne Quackenbush, we processed in and were seated. After the homily we proceeded to base of the Altar where we made our promises to serve the Catholic Women's League.

After mass we processed out and all enjoyed a brunch in the Church Hall

Submitted by; Marie Bardswich,
Communication Chairperson
St. John the Evangelist Parish

Holy Redeemer Parish



We have our own CWL Facebook page up and running!

PRESENTATIONS: Elaine McDonald the most recent President at Holy Redeemer Council Sudbury, presented long time CWL member and mother, Monica Conrad with a 60 Year CWL service pin.

It was a great privilege and personally a very special moment as the new President of Holy Redeemer Catholic Women's League to make this presentation to Monica. Monica served twice as Holy Redeemer CWL Council President. One of Monica's terms she was pregnant with her ninth child! Too busy to join? Hmmm, it's hard to top that kind of busy.



NEW MEMBERS Welcome packages and CWL pins were presented to my sister-in-law Vicki and two of my beautiful nieces, Olivia and Hannah. It was coordinated with 89th Birthday Celebration for Monica, at in the Chapel at St. Joseph's Villa, Sudbury. Cake, ice cream and a dozen other close family members were present, I cried, I was definitely a bit emotional. Feel so very blessed. □

FINLANDIA VILLAGE VISIT and CWL MEMBERSHIP-SERVICE PIN PRESENTATIONS

Marie DeBlois (left) former Hearst Diocese CWL President, (now living in Sudbury) with Connie Bennett, 60 years of service deserves some recognition from a very appreciative long time friend and Holy Redeemer CWL Council president Elaine McDonald. (Not in this photo, another 60 year pin recipient Phyllis McNichol who was a very active member of our council)

A group of Finlandia residents, all members of The CWL, gathered and created a beautiful, warm celebration for some very special Holy Redeemer Council Catholic Women's League members. Two 60 year service pins and one 10 year service pin were awarded. We sang and visited and had a lovely afternoon.



Holy Redeemer Parish (cont'd)



Holy Redeemer Catholic Women's League, Sudbury makes a \$1,000.00 donation to the Maison McCulloch Hospice "STAND BY ME" Capital Campaign.

Gaston Lavigne, Executive Director of Maison McCulloch Hospice Sudbury gratefully accepts a check from CWL members: Patricia Delorme, Anne MacDonald, and Hedvika Zupan.

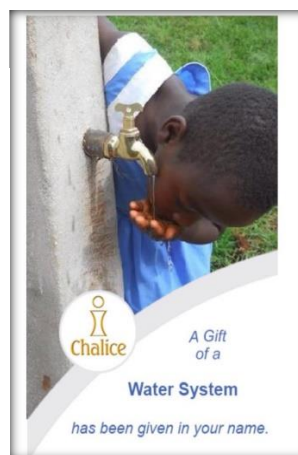


FEEDING THE HUNGRY: At the Holy Redeemer Catholic Women's League "Pre-Christmas Meat Pie Fundraiser" profits were divided between our Parish, Holy Redeemer and another very worthy cause. a multi-location "Feeding Program in the Philippines". The feeding program is run by Fr. Jeffrey Shannon, a former elementary school student of our very own CWL member Lorraine Greasley. Fr. Jeff is a member of Mary Mother of the Poor Missionaries. \$1,100.00 was donated to feed the needy of the Philippines.



Care for our Common Home:

This past year we chose to create and promote very handy reusable, light weight, washable, durable produce bags in order to help reduce the single use plastic bags at the grocery store.



Care for Our Common Home

definitely inspired our CWL council at Holy Redeemer, Sudbury. Our goal was to provide sanitation and clean water to a location desperate for help. After our research was done we settled on donating \$1,000.00 to Chalice Canada in order to fund a WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) program in India, only to find out it had already been fully funded. Awesome! We could instead direct our \$1,000. donation to a similar Water System program for the very deserving people of Haiti. Latrines and clean water for schools in Haiti was where Chalice Canada will direct our donation.

St. Jude's Parish



PIN PRESENTATION:

Helen Germain receives her 60 Year Pin from Valarie Vondette, President of St. Jude's in Espanola.

Valarie Vondette, President and Joanne Arbour of St. Jude's Parish, Espanola, visited with member Helen Germain at her Nursing Home in Espanola to present Helen with her 60 year pin. In her younger years Helen was active in the League and served as secretary on and off for several terms.



Feeding the Hungry. Some of the CWL members as well as many local citizens volunteer a great part of their time helping those less fortunate. On a busy month, we serve approximately 120 or more individuals, which can amount to two or three hundred people. The clients are greeted with beverages and snacks, before being interviewed and shown different ways to prepare healthy meals to fit within their budget. Once they have chosen and received all their food, they can take advantage of a free ride home that one of our local taxi provides for them.



Our Lady of Peace



In October, the CWL of Our Lady of Peace in Capreol filled 40 purses with articles collected for women in need and delivered them to Samaritan center in Sudbury.

President Marylen Paul and CWL member, Laura lee McKee display the collected hygiene products, articles of clothing, warm socks, etc. for men that were collected and delivered in January to the Samaritan center



Our Lady of Peace (cont'd)



Our Lady of Peace CWL Christmas dinner was held at the Mand R. Restaurant. It was a very enjoyable evening. Good food and plenty of fun.



St. Pius X Parish



In December our Council held our annual Snowflake Tea. This event is our main fundraiser for the year. Many of our CWL members and

St. Pius X parishioners participated with preparing and serving lunch, baking, crafts, hard work and cooperation for a successful event. We are able to support many parish initiatives and support charities with the funds raised.

Submitted by President: Kathy Smorhay

National Strategic Plan

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD - National Strategic Plan Update

“Be bold, speak out, have courage, leave your mark! Do not be afraid, shine like a bright torch in the dark. Point the way to Christ, follow where he leads, live as a joyful disciple, on your mission, you will succeed!”

*Do justice, create hope. Be Christs’ hands and feet. Put your faith in action serve everyone you meet.
Journeying together hand in hand, side by side. It’s time to live our story, share it far and wide.”
Living As Joyful Disciples (Song by Nancy Bodsworth)*

It has been about a year and a half since the journey began to implement the Strategic Plan. It started with four women of the Implementation Committee and has blossomed into a multitude of women responding to the call for change. In the fall, we were pleased to present the Strategic Plan update at each Regional Meeting. This past year, there have been many highlights which I am excited to share with you now:

Goal 1 – Marketing & Reorganization the League Working Groups by Lisa Henry, Goal 1 Lead

Marketing Working Group – Cathy McKinney, Connie Crichton, Kathy Dahl, Lisa Fillingham, Christa Grillmair, Jessie Parkinson and Terry Mae Sinclair

This charismatic group has conducted an incredible amount of research to provide a comprehensive package of information to a marketing agency. Information such as defining marketing goals, what is working well and not working well, sources of apathy, what makes the League unique, identifying a target audience, strengths and weaknesses, etc. A branding review has been conducted, and the group is currently working on developing a “big idea” that captures the essence of this beloved organization.



Additionally, the working group researched potential marketing agencies, developed a Request for Proposal (RFP), distributed the RFP to agencies selected through a strict review and assessment process, and formed a selection committee led by Sr. Susan Scott to interview and assess the agencies. Using the comprehensive grading criteria, a recommendation of a marketing agency to work with the League in this capacity was made. Currently, a contract is being reviewed by both the League and the marketing agency. Once this step is complete, the name of the selected agency will be shared.

Reorganization Working Group (Broken down into 3 Sub-Committees) – Linda Squarzolo, Jean Ashdown, Marilyn Blew, Margot de la Gorgendiere, Barbara Dowding, Irene Gallant, Nelly Kelders, Sue Lubowitz, Christine Mason, Mary Lou Watson



This group of dynamic women have also worked tremendously hard and accomplished so much given its mandates and the scope of responsibilities. There are three sub-committees within the reorganization working group, and each has produced an impressive amount of research and information.

Sub-committee #1 (Linda Squarzolo, Sue Lubowitz and Christine Mason) is responsible for reviewing existing standing committees and consolidating them to three standing committees to align with the core values of faith, service and social justice. The work involved examining existing committees and assessing what was effective and why, what committee work is reasonable and attainable by members, what is not working well or no longer relevant, and evaluating what work will transition into the three new standing committees. This has involved a lot of review and research. The sub-committee is distilling the research and information to ensure the goals and objectives are being met.

Sub-committee #2 (Marilyn Blew, Jean Ashdown, Margot de la Gorgendiere and Barbara Dowding) is responsible for examining the current levels of the League, streamlining executive offices and creating distinctive roles for each level. No small task to be sure! These particular tasks have been quite an undertaking with an incredible amount of time and effort invested into ensuring it captures the intent and spirit of the strategies. To date, the sub-committee has reviewed the League's current structure and conducted a comparison of similar organizations and governance models to evaluate if there would be a model suitable for the League's purposes. An interview process was developed with a goal of diocesan and provincial presidents gathering research to support a thorough examination of the levels. There is much more work to complete to feel confident about the recommendations that will arise from the fruit of its efforts.

Sub-committee #3 (Irene Gallant, Nelly Kelders and Mary Lou Watson) is responsible for simplifying procedures and reporting processes. The subcommittee conducted current meeting procedures and reporting processes, researched and identified best practices for streamlining procedures and developed and distributed a survey to members to gather research to support the efforts. Currently, the sub-committee is distilling data from the survey and will use it in future recommendations.

Goal 4 – Affirmation Working Group By Sharon Ciebin, Goal 4 Lead

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).

What a pleasure it is to share a second update on the affirmation working group's progress! Seven women from across Canada continue to trust the Lord and have the utmost faith and hope that He will guide their efforts as new processes for a welcoming, inclusive and affirming environment are created. These members have continued to research groups and resources. While all materials have provided beneficial information to the overall plan, the overwhelming responses received from parish council presidents on best practices and member engagement has been both a lesson in the faith of members and a humbling experience for us all.



Submitted by,

Lisa Henry,
National Strategic Plan
Implementation Committee

"Remember...the only thing more contagious than a virus is hope."

~~William Mcraven~~



Some Gentle-zen of Corona

'Twas the night before quarantine and all
through the town,
not a restaurant was open,
not a school-bus was found.

Hand sanitizers were placed by
all doorposts with care,
in hopes that Corona would
never come there.

The children were swinging from
the crystal chandeliers, and
the stir-crazy babies were
constant in tears.

With everyone in masks and
TV updates on their screens,
we hunkered down and
waited for COVID-19.

For into our lives with
a sneeze and a cough
came a global pandemic and
a crash of the stocks.

To the grocery stores
we all flew like a flash, and
bought all the toilet paper
for our personal stash.

As the moon slowly rose on
our fates and our fears,
what to my wandering mind
should appear?

In the absence of busyness,
a new life taking form: in
the stillness of solitude, in
the silence of the storm.

In the magic of together and
home-bound company,
rediscovering connection in
our family.

So with the pup in her kennel and
the children in their beds,
new visions of adventures
now danced in my head!

The checklists could wait and
the bank accounts would be fine, for
we had been given the most
sacred gift of time.

So I gathered the markers and
crayons and paints,
I collected the nerf guns and
assembled board games.

With a wink and a smile I
moved on to schoolwork:
math facts and science and
vocabulary words.

I laughed as I thought it,
in spite of myself,
"what if quarantine can heal our
emotional health?"

If the birds are still singing and
if the flowers still bloom,
surely the sunshine can
overcome our gloom.

If we set aside fear and
choose kindness instead,
maybe we'll all begin to realize
we have nothing to dread.

I tucked back into bed and
smiled up at the moon, for
a peace had replaced the
impending doom.

So take heart and take hope
through this curious plight,
"Safe quarantine to all", and
our prayers to re-unite.



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Sault Ste Marie Diocesan Council

Care For our Common Home

April 6, 2020

My Dear Sisters in the League;

Life is certainly different in these days of covid-19. We privately celebrate the Eucharist in our homes and we physically distance ourselves from many of our family members. Many of our lives and activities are on hold during this time of isolation.

As you know, I have postponed our 100th anniversary diocesan convention. Sadly, I must cancel this years celebration entirely. We will, however, celebrate our 100th anniversary next April 16-18, 2021 in North Bay. You can look forward to Ken Yasinski, the surprises we had planned for this year as well as some new ideas coming in the year ahead.

Know that this decision was not taken lightly and I feel that it is the best course of action at this time.

Thank you for your understanding at this very difficult time.

Sincerely,

Cathy McKinney

President

Cathy McKinney
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Spiritual Advisor

Rev. Rex Lumine
Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption
480 McIntyre Street W
North Bay, ON, P1B 2Z4



**One hundred years of faith,
service and sisterhood.**

Rescheduled to

April 16 to 18, 2021

**100th Diocesan Convention
North Bay, ON**



Fundraising efforts continue for the 100th Anniversary Convention to now take place April 16 – 18, 2021

SAULT STE MARIE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA



T-SHIRT FUNDRAISER IN SUPPORT OF OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION – NORTH BAY 2020



We are excited to offer the following T-Shirts to fundraise in support of our 100th Annual Diocesan Convention to be held in North Bay in April 2020.

Through this fundraising effort we hope to provide special programming and special surprises for our members to highlight this remarkable milestone.



T-Shirts are:

\$30.00 each

Navy Blue in colour



Have Diocese of Sault Ste Marie on the front and the CWL crest on the back

Sizes: Women's – S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL

Men's – S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL

NOTE: *Women's sizes run small.* Might be best to order one size up from your normal size.

ORDER YOURS NOW THROUGH YOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT!



Note: T-shirt colour in photo is black.

T-shirts will be navy in colour

Your support is truly appreciated!

SAULT STE MARIE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA FUNDRAISER IN SUPPORT OF OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION – NORTH BAY 2020

We are excited to offer the following items to fundraise in support of our 100th Annual Diocesan Convention to be held in North Bay in April 2020. Through this fundraising effort we hope to provide special programming and surprises for our members to highlight this remarkable milestone.

ORDER YOURS THROUGH YOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT!



Get all 3 for only \$25!



CWL TOTE BAG WITH BOTTLE COMPARTMENTS

\$10.00 ea.

Great for carrying bottles!

11" W x 11" H x 7.5" D

- **Two bottle/carton dividers on each side!**
- Use the main compartment for other items
- Inside of tote is laminated for easy cleaning
- Two webbed carry handles

POLAR STAR SPIRAL JOURNAL WITH 175 STICKY NOTES

\$10.00 ea.

5.5" W x 7" H x 0.5" D

- **Matching coloured blue ink pen!**
- 70 sheets of 70 GSM lined paper
- 25 sheets of 4" x 3" yellow sticky notes
- 25 sheets of 2" x 1.75" yellow sticky notes
- Five sets of coloured sticky flags (25 each of orange, pink, yellow, green, light pink)



BRAXTON SILICONE CELL PHONE WALLET WITH RING

\$5.00 ea.

- Silicone
- Smart wallet with 3M adhesive tape on the back
- **Use to hold up to two credit cards, ID, hotel cards and debit cards!**
- **Will not demagnetize your cards!**
- Apply to the back of your phone or case
- Fits most flat backed Smartphones
- **Use this wallet so you don't have to carry your entire wallet or purse!**
- **Full-motion metal ring to hold while you are operating your phone or taking a picture!**
- Instruction card included

Your support is truly appreciated!

CWL Prayer for Renewal

God of new beginnings, ever faithful God,
we thank You for your constant care for the women of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

We have sought to serve You in faith by
service to your people.

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and with the
help of Our Lady of Good Counsel,
we continue to discern Your call to seek justice
and build Your Kingdom on earth each day.
We ask your guidance as we plan the evolution of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada.
Grant us wisdom, the grace of discernment, and strength.
May each of us open her heart and mind to
Your will and welcome the new life
You bring to the League.

We ask this through Jesus, Your beloved Son
and Our Lord, Who lives and reigns with
You and the Holy Spirit,
God forever and ever.

AMEN

Sr. Susan Scott, CAF