

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

Fall Newsletter 2021

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 our patroness
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Amen



Care for our **Common Home**



SERVICE – FAITH – JUSTICE



Diocesan Spiritual Advisor

Rev. Rex Lumine



Dear Sisters in Christ,

It is my pleasure to connect with you through this fall newsletter. During the month of November, pray for the deceased members of our families, our friends and our sisters in the league

As we approach year two of the globe's collective experience with the Covid-19 pandemic, it's fair to assume people the world over are asking themselves the same two questions: How will this end? And when? As the members of CWL we have one more question: what did we learn from this?

The learnings on change obtained during this pandemic are a result of action, rather than theories. While testing our limits, 2020 stood out as a master teacher on change responsiveness without preparedness. Change has challenged existing notions about our natural resistance to change. We saw the emergence of a new paradigm around change, highlighting our inner agility, innovative abilities and strength to seize opportunities for speedy personal and organizational transformation in crisis.

To find a solution for this challenge, the Pope's announcements on the year of St. Joseph and the year of family stand as encouraging factors.

The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* ("**With a Father's Heart**") against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

In this sense, St. Joseph is "the special patron of all those people who faced changes, especially of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty."

Pope Francis announced the year of Family and invoked the Blessed Mother, "May the Virgin Mary grant that families throughout the world be increasingly fascinated by the evangelical ideal of the Holy Family, so as to become a leaven of [a] new humanity and of a genuine and universal solidarity."

We are to accept the impacts of the current pandemic and follow St. Joseph to strengthen the joy of the family. So, let us support the family! Let us defend it from all that compromises its beauty.

I wish you all a fruitful advent season and a Merry Christmas. God bless you all.

Father Rex Lumine



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Sault Ste Marie Diocesan Council

Care For our Common Home

November 22, 2021

My Dear Sisters in the League;

Happy Advent everyone! This is the time of patience while we wait in hope for the birth of our Savior. We are also patiently waiting for the end of the Covid 19 pandemic. Our council's have struggled throughout the pandemic and many are feeling disconnected and a sense of loss. Our members need one another! We have missed celebrating milestones with one another as well as mourning with one another when losing a sister in the League.

This October, the diocesan executive met in person for the first time since February of 2020. We had some members in attendance virtually, and some in person at the Holiday Inn in Sudbury. It was a terrific celebration of a return to business and fellowship with our sisters. We realized that safe meetings can be done. I encourage all of you to attend a council meeting. Our presidents are committed to the safety of all members and will follow all health protocols in place.

We have some very important business to accomplish before March of 2022. The proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws and the proposed increase to per capita fees will greatly affect how we do business in our post-covid world. I encourage all of you to learn and listen to the information as it is presented and make an informed decision. The results of these votes at the parish level will be brought to the diocesan convention and in turn, to the provincial convention and then to the national convention where they will either be passed or defeated. The League needs you! Please consider the implications of your vote and listen to all of the information before your decision is made.

Enjoy reading the newsletter and the showcase of all of the work being done for God and Canada. As always, I encourage your comments at any time.

Respectfully,
Cathy McKinney

President

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Past President & Historian

Betsy Currier



It seems like such a long, long time ago that we were together. I have thought of you often and have kept my CWL sisters in my prayers through these trying times. I am hoping that we will be able to gather together once again for our Annual Meeting of Members (AMM) and to celebrate our overdue 100th anniversary next April 23 & 24, 2022.

As COVID restrictions lessen and we transition from fall to winter, members are anxious to get busy once again with League activities. Our terms as past presidents may soon be ending but we need to continue to be present and provide our knowledge and experience to mentor and guide. We also need to complete tasks that fall under our role like updating our Policy and Procedure manual and ensuring the archives and history of our council are up to date and in good order.

We will be holding elections for a new slate of diocesan officers at our diocesan convention/meeting this coming April. I encourage all past presidents to carefully discern your call and continue to be generous in your service.

1. What gifts and talents do I have to offer?
2. Am I called by God to offer my name for election to the Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan Council?
3. How can I best contribute to the Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan Council? What role would allow me to best share my talents?
4. Am I truly able to make this commitment?



A Prayer to Discern God's Plan for my Life

Dear Lord Jesus I know that you have a plan for each of your children for you scheduled each day of our lives before we were even conceived in our mother's womb. Help me, Lord, to discern that plan – the plan that you have chosen for me – for I desire to be in the centre of your will and not follow the empty desire of my heart.

I thank you that you have also given each of us a free will to choose the good and to reject the evil – help me, I pray to choose to do what is right in Your sight – to go where You are calling me.

Help me in my desire to serve you as a member of the League. Lead me to the best response in my call to service. Give me a discerning heart to know your will. Amen.

Adapted from: <https://prayer.knowing-jesus.com/Prayers-for-Discernment>

Blessings and hugs, Betsy



Spiritual Development Chairperson

Patricia Clizia



My dear sisters in the League,

The Advent season is upon us!

During this season of contemplation, hopeful preparation and giving, we too are like the inn keeper responding to a request to make room for the Christ child – in our hearts, our homes and our daily lives.

We contemplate too, what Mary must have felt as she was faced with a question that seemed 'out of this world.' Her humble, courageous and faith inspired yes indeed changed the world – and provides us all a gateway to God through Jesus her son.

There are times when we are all faced with questions and decisions that require prayer, courage and action. As League members, we find ourselves in a significant period of change, while holding fast to the pillars of faith, service and social justice to guide our collective action as women of faith united by a League that encompasses all women from coast to coast to coast over our great Canadian landscape.

There are many resources that are available to us to welcome the new birth of Jesus in our hearts this advent season. You're invited to mark your calendars and join in as we actively live out our faith in hope, with peace, love, joyful anticipation – and action!

I am sharing a few resources that have been made available for sharing.

Advent retreats have been planned for members. Visit cwl.ca or visit the Facebook page for links to the retreats posted on the day of the planned retreat.

1. Prepare your Heart, led by Susan Campbell, director of Mount St. Francis Retreat Centre (Cochrane, Alberta), will help members enter into the season of Advent – **November 28, 2021**

2. In Thy Dark Streets led by Friar Michael Perras OFM- **December 12, 2021**

"Hope and Joy at Advent" December 1, 2021-Simone Brosig
Registration is \$9.95 at en.novalis.ca/products/hope-and-joyatadvent?_pos=59&_sid=7656055dc&_ss=r.

-Creighton University Online Ministries'

onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/

-Stepping Beyond, an Advent retreat offered by Pray as You Go, inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical letter Fratelli Tutti, on fraternity and social friendship. Learn more: pray-as-yougo.org/article/advent-2021-stepping-beyond.

-My Catholic Life! Enjoy excellent materials for daily reflections, prayers, inspiring quotes and more that can be read independently or as a group from mycatholic.life/.

-A Lesson in Waiting Advent Retreat from **Busted Halo** is suitable for individuals or a parish council meeting using a handout. The resource can be found at drive.google.com/file/d/1uAnS6sgSN6bOuyi_bhq0UfKih010sD0u/view.

-Online Advent Book Discussion facilitated by the **Henri Nouwen Society**. The book selected for the Advent discussion that begins November 24th is the newly released *Community* by Henri Nouwen, edited by Stephen Lazarus. For more information, visit henrinouwen.org/resources/join-advent-book-discussion/.

-Prayers for Advent by Loyola Press. Download these resources from loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/prayers/

-Advent Stations: They can be prayed with a group of faithful, family or alone. For more information, visit liturgies.net/Advent/adventstations.htm.

"7 Advent and Christmas Carol Quotes that You Can Pray with this Season" is an excellent resource for a parish council Advent supper. It offers reflections connected to specific religious carols with visuals and audio. Available from Catholic Link at catholic-link.org/7-advent-christmas-carols-quotes-prayer/.

-Advent Examination of Conscience can be used for individual or reflection as a group. waterloocatholics.org/documents/2019/12/HO-Advent%20Exam%20of%20Conscience.pdf.

-Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe: December 4th - 12th catholic.org/prayers/novenas/novena.php?id=13. A novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe is also available-Pray Catholic Novenas application at pray.app.link/ourladyofguadalupenovena.

In these changing times, I am praying to Our Lady of Good Counsel to lead us in the way of truth and life. I am praying *also* to Our Lady of Guadalupe - for her intercession and guidance as we seek to protect life, reconcile in truth with our Indigenous brothers and sisters and evangelize a new generation of women and youth. We like Mary, are courageously answering yes to God's call – with humility, faithfulness, love and action during our journey through Advent to welcoming Christ at Christmas.

"The encounter with Jesus Christ happens in daily life, and in one's personal search in prayer, in the wise reading of the signs of the times (Mt 24:32, Lk 21:29) and in the midst of our brothers and sisters (Mt. 25:31-46, Lk 10:25-37)"

Taken from: A Year with Pope Francis – Daily reflections from his writings as the Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina and during his first year as pope.

Hope, peace, joy and love,



Patricia Clizia
First Vice President / Spiritual Development Chair
Sault Ste Marie Diocesan CWL



Chairperson of Organization

Lisa Henry



A Season of Renewal

As Advent is upon us, we enter into this sacred season with a beautiful longing for God for who are we without him? Renewal in the CWL is all around us especially in the hearts and hands of members as they persevere through the challenges of this pandemic, through the gifts shared by working group members who are implementing the strategic plan and the many creative ways councils are meeting and innovating to give back to our local communities. What an inspiration you all are! Your dedication and commitment are to be commended.

Here are some updates to share:

Recruit Members and Maintain Membership

Now is the time most councils should be talking about membership renewal and new membership drives. Membership is declining and one of the factors for this is lack of renewal. A good reminder for us to keep in mind is that retention of members is as important as recruiting new members. Personal contact is still found to be very effective. If COVID has taught us anything, it is that the human condition thrives on personal contact. Reach out with a friendly phone call, meet someone for coffee, ask them what would be of interest to them or an activity they would be interested in becoming involved in. Do they need spiritual nourishment or a social activity to bring them out? We have an excellent resource in the new Welcome Program found at: <https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/623-Embracing-Diversity-Tools-for-Council-Use.pdf> Become familiar with this valuable resource to connect with your existing members and women that have just joined!

Council and Leadership Development

For many councils, this may be an election year. It can be challenging to fill executive council positions and as changes through the five year strategic plan are being released, especially some on hold until the instructed vote has been completed, we wait with great anticipation.

How do we lead change during these times and find creative ways to function? I invite you to consider the following strategies:

1. Take some time to do an evaluation of what the current state of your council is right now. Use the core values of Faith, Service, and Social Justice to categorize your activities.
2. Determine activities you want to continue, quit doing, and start doing. Try to balance the columns.
3. Not a full executive? Maybe two would share a position. Rotate chairing meetings.
4. Consult with all members and your spiritual advisor and make a plan.
5. Communicate your changes to your parish.

Annual Reports

By now you have received your annual reporting packages. Please make every effort to report on your activities over the past year. Don't worry if you weren't as active as you normally were because of pandemic conditions. EVERY LITTLE BIT COUNTS and we need to celebrate our collective efforts! Your regional chairpersons are available to assist and so am I! Let's work together to have 100% of councils report!

We cultivate a very small field for Christ, but we love it, knowing that God does not require great achievements but a heart that holds back nothing for self ~ St Rose Phillipine Duchesne





Legislation Standing Committee

Geraldine Chateau



Dear Sisters in the League,

Legislation is social justice in action. It is the carrying out of League resolutions to influence government policy. From the CWL Executive Handbook (May 2014)

It is our role to monitor and study legislation at all levels of government, and to review ongoing and proposed legislation that pertains to League resolutions.

I will highlight two bills that have been put forward in the Ontario Legislature following findings that were brought to the forefront during the pandemic. The entirety of the Bills can be found at www.ola.org-click on "find bills" (or google Ontario legislation). I encourage you to take a few moments and read some of the ones that interest you.

Bill 14, Time to Care Act (Long-Term Care Homes Amendment, Minimum Standards of Daily Care), 2021

Armstrong, Teresa J.

Current status: First Reading Carried

The Bill amends the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007 so that so that a long-term care home will have to provide its residents with at least four hours a day of nursing and personal support services, averaged across the residents. The minimum hours may be increased by regulation.

Bill 48, Support Workers Pay Act, 2021.

West, Jamie

Current status: First Reading Carried

This Act provides minimum pay for every support worker including the temporary pandemic pay paid to support workers; provides travel payments per kilometre travelled between work sites; stipulates that the Minister of Long-Term Care develop programs to provide training, education and professional development for all support workers and long term care staff; recruit and retain the number of support workers required to deliver adequate and appropriate care; and ensure support workers are paid while learning on the job and that they can receive full-time jobs at the end of their apprenticeship.

Blessings, Gerri



Education and Health

Colleen Murphy



As many of us consider travelling somewhere warmer this winter, here are the **current** requirements for returning to Canada after being out of country.

Before leaving Canada, verify that you meet the entry requirements for your destination country: [Travel Advice and Advisories - Travel.gc.ca](https://travel.gc.ca)

These are the requirements for fully vaccinated travelers:

[COVID-19 vaccinated travellers entering Canada](#)

- Have received at least 2 doses of a Canada-accepted Covid-19 vaccine
- Have received your second dose at least 14 full days prior to the day you enter Canada
- Upload your proof of vaccination in ArriveCAN: [ArriveCAN \(canada.ca\)](https://arrivecan.ca)
- Have no sign or symptoms of Covid-19
- Have an ArriveCAN receipt with letter V or I beside your name
- Get a pre-entry test taken within 72 hours of arrival, or proof of a previous positive molecular test result taken between 14 and 180 days
 - Accepted types of tests: PCR, NAT, NAAT or RT-LAMP
 - **Rapid antigen tests** aren't accepted
- When you arrive at the border, you must present an accepted negative molecular test result or proof of a previous positive molecular test result taken between 14 and 180 days that includes:
 - Traveller name and date of birth
 - Name and civic address of the lab/clinic/facility of the test
 - The date on which the test was conducted
 - The type of test conducted
 - The test results
- Keep proof of your test results for the 14-day period that begins on the day you enter Canada

The good news is that if you meet all of the above requirements, you don't have to quarantine!!!

I hope this little bit of research helps you get on your way! Bon Voyage!!



May good and faithful friends be yours wherever you may roam!

Respectfully submitted, Colleen Murphy



Betsy Currier has been appointed to the Ontario Provincial Council as the Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson

Betsy Currier, Diocesan Past President, is honoured to have been appointed by Ontario provincial president Colleen Perry to the position of legislation standing committee chairperson of the Ontario Provincial Council (OPC).

Betsy joined the Catholic Women's League in 1993 to drive her aging mother to her parish CWL meetings and was immediately "hooked". She was elected president elect of her council at her second meeting and subsequently served 14 years on her parish executive in various positions. After a hiatus for a few years from council executive positions, she accepted an appointment to the Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan council where she served again in various positions over 10 years. She represented the Sault Ste. Marie diocesan council on the OPC from 2017 – 2019. Over the years she has been blessed to work, pray and play with many wonderful ladies who she feels privileged to call "friends and sisters".



Betsy is very excited to be the legislation chair. She admits it will be a learning experience and a challenge which she welcomes wholeheartedly. She is hopeful that together with the OPC, they will learn more about current provincial legislation and become more involved in whatever social action comes out of it. Her hope is that their excitement becomes contagious with all members and sparks them to write letters and / or call their provincial members of parliament to voice their concerns or suggestions. She prays that God will guide them as they move forward over the next few months.

HELP NEEDED

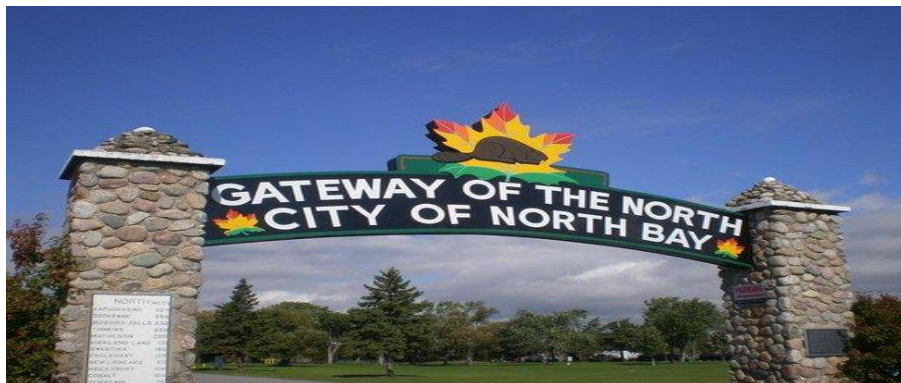
The Catholic Women's League in the diocese of Sault Ste. Marie is looking for help. A committee was struck in early 2020 to address the needs of the homeless population of the downtown core of North Bay.

I think we are all aware that the opioid crisis and homelessness are very prevalent throughout the diocese. I have asked the region of Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie to follow the amazing example of The Compassionate Committee for the homeless of North Bay. This group is led by Leah Pierce at the Pro Cathedral of the Assumption. Here is a brief description from North Bay;

The Compassionate Committee for the homeless of North Bay is a conduit between existing supports services and organizations that address the immediate needs of the near homeless and homeless, and the various church parishes and congregations.

@compassionatecommitteeofnorthbay

Check them out on Facebook!!!



I am thrilled to report that, in Sudbury, our group has begun the groundwork for the project! Diane Legault has taken the lead in forming this group. In her latest update she states;

“We are still in the process of gathering information on existing services for our Compassionate Committee for the Homeless of Sudbury. We constantly remind ourselves that we do not want to duplicate any services that are already being provided.

We discovered at our latest visit at the Blue Door Café and Grace Family Outreach, they are the only ones in the downtown core that provide daily meals. In our discussions we were told we can help with donations of hats, scarves, mittens, blankets. Both locations have plans for a Christmas meal and will be handing out Christmas Fun Packs, they suggest we could include a \$5.00 Tim Horton Gift. They have told us that the majority of

homeless are men with 20% women. Staff at the Blue Door suggested we hold a Thermos and Can Opener Drive. At times, the homeless are not able to get to the Blue Door to pick up a meal at the designated times, but they have canned goods from the food bank and many do not have can openers.

Grace Outreach has the same needs; they've included a need for Coffee Mate, sugar; they also need a large stand-up freezer.

We will continue to get in touch with the other churches in the city core to find out what they need. In the meantime, our CWL ladies in the parishes can start with these immediate needs."



In Sault Ste. Marie we are in need of a coordinator!! You can rely on the support of the other two regions and of course myself and the executive team. If this interests you, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at cathymckinney1965@gmail.com.

YOUR LEAGUE NEEDS YOU!





CWL Strategic Plan Update

Shaping the Future of the League





The implementation of the five year strategic plan is well under way with three Year One Working Groups being established.

Councils are encouraged to include the CWL Prayer for Renewal at all meetings and gatherings.

The renewal will be very important to in taking The Catholic Women's League into the next 100 years of existence.

The next few pages provide exciting resources developed by working groups tasked with implementing the strategic plan.

Members can also stay current on the latest by checking out the national website:
<https://cwl.ca/implementation-of-the-strategic-plan/>

POWERFUL STORIES FROM OUR FIRST 100 YEARS

From our grassroots fundraising and community initiatives to the diverse range of impactful resolutions we bring forward to government, our first one hundred years contain so many powerful stories we could only scratch the surface - but you can help. Share these stories with someone who may not know them and tell them your own stories as well!



A great deal of work has been developed by the working groups tasked with the implementation of the strategic plan. On the National website there's a page titled *"To Inspire"* which showcases inspirational stories and content.

**More resources like these
available at:**

<https://cwl.ca/to-inspire/>

Share the information on your personal Facebook page, your family, friends and members of your church.

WHAT'S YOUR CWL?

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is many things to many people. Whether it's faith, service, social justice or sisterhood, thousands of women have found fulfillment by becoming members.

Watch the videos below and click on the link above for even more videos, to see what our members are saying - Do they inspire you to tell your own story on social media? If so, we'd love for you to post your own video or comment with the hashtag #WhatsYourCWL.



WELCOME PROGRAM



Through the strategic plan, a new “Welcome Program” has been released to help councils in their recruitment of members.

This program can be found on the National website at:

https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/621-Affirmation-Welcome_Program.pdf

This program is to assist in welcoming members and encouraging involvement of the members. It is a five part program:

1. A guideline for welcoming members;
2. Membership information form;
3. Orientation;
4. Companionship; and
5. Validation.

Download a copy of the program and hold a workshop with your council workshop on this amazing resource!

Members still respond best to personal contact, so please continue reaching out to those members whose membership has lapsed. This job is not just for one person, but for all the members to participate in. Why not invite a friend to your next meeting. They might get some insight into the workings of the League.

SHARE THE MESSAGE WITH YOUR PARISH - PRINT THIS POSTER!

Tell your sisters how they can participate! Print this poster and put it up on your parish bulletin board! We all have inspirational stories to share, and by using the hashtag #WhatsYourCWL we can bring our stories together.

Get the poster by clicking on the link below!

https://cwl.ca/?smd_process_download=1&download_id=14450



A NATIONAL SISTERHOOD - SPREAD THE WORD!

The CWL means many things to many people. It's what ties us together from coast to coast. Share this map on social media or download and print a poster for your parish to inspire others! Use the hashtag #WhatsYourCWL in your post and tell everyone what you find most fulfilling about being a member, or tag a friend who you think would want to join!

Click on the following link to download posters of the map and social media posts:

<https://cwl.ca/to-inspire/>



EMBRACING DIVERSITY TOOLS

Embracing Diversity: Tools for Council Use

Increase participation of diverse
cultural and generational groups



GOAL: Through outreach and service, members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada foster a culture where all life is valued with dignity and respect.



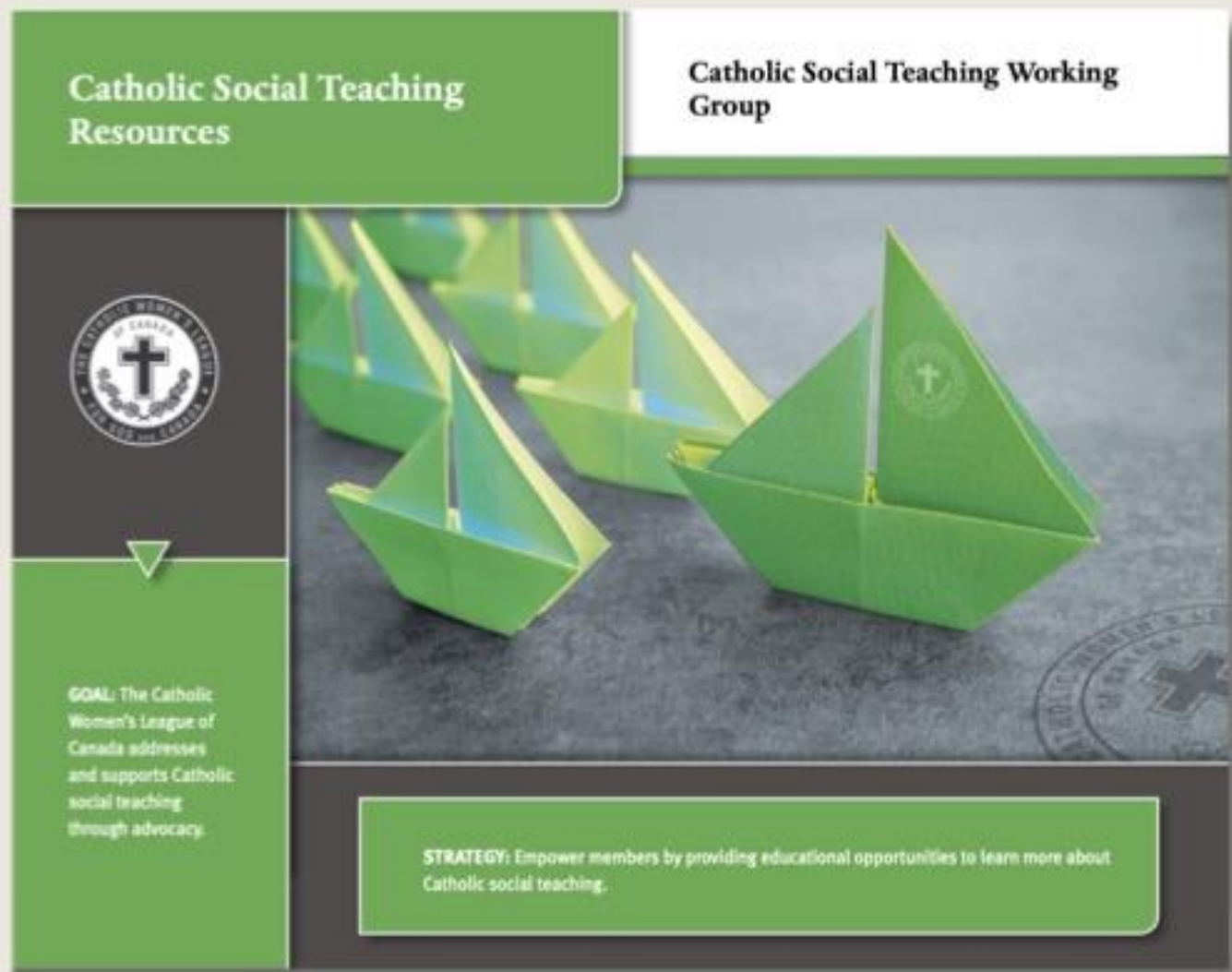
STRATEGY: Embrace diverse cultures and ages.

This is a resource with components that gives practical steps to nurture diversity and welcoming councils.

You can download the program here:

<https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/623-Embracing-Diversity-Tools-for-Council-Use.pdf>

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING RESOURCES



The League is pleased to provide members with the document Catholic Social Teaching Resources. It provides numerous resources that address social justice and Catholic social teachings (CST) under various headings with links and descriptions.

Included are "Prophets Among Us" of people who advocated or worked to make a change in the world. These prophets will inspire members' work for social justice.

The information in this document will lead the League into the future to continue the work of advocacy through social justice and Catholic social teachings.

Download the resource here:

<https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/624-Catholic-Social-Teaching-Resources.pdf>

CALENDAR OF SOCIAL JUSTICE/ CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING IN THE CHURCH



With the core value of social justice in members' minds, an annual calendar was developed that focuses on events relating to social justice.

The vision of the Catholic social teaching working group (Shelley De-Serres, Belinda Halbach and Linda Maddaford) is that this tool be used to assist councils at any level in their annual planning.

This resource provides many opportunities for self-education and an awareness that is broad in its perspective.

This resource may be found at:

<https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/622-CWL-Calendar-of-Social-Justice-Events-module.pdf>

THE EXECUTIVE ORIENTATION PROGRAM

SETTING YOU UP FOR SUCCESS!

This new training for your executive is now available!

It is a self-directed PowerPoint that includes the speaker's and an audio/visual recording.

You can download from the www.cwl.ca under
To Organize/800 series Workshops/#828 Executive Orientation

<https://cwl.ca/executive-orientation/>.



What's Your CWL?

I take great **pride** in saying that as a **family** both my mother and grandmother were sisters in the league and when I was nominated for a maple leaf service pin, I insisted on using my mother's pin.

Our council has shown both **service** to God and great **charity** during this pandemic. The pandemic committee made up of two CWL members, look after all of the contact tracing and sanitizing. It's their **good works** that make it possible to continue practicing our faith in-person. One of our members delivers 30 bags with water, granola bars etc. to the homeless each month and another delivers a case of coffee to the Samaritan center each month. We also have many members who have had the **courage** and **strength** to continue the work of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Belonging to the CWL has meant great **resilience** as many of us have grasped change whether by learning how to access zoom meetings or just meeting with other women under the awning of the church to outreach with those we haven't seen in quite some time.

It's the actions and **good works** of **70k+ women** in **1100+ parish councils** across Canada that have **inspired** the **sisterhood** that we call the **CWL**.

Pat Hinds St. Kevin CWL council

Belonging. I joined the League at a time in my life when I was desperate to belong as I was a recent widow and now, a single mother of a teenager. The job I had been doing was no longer there in the capacity that it had been. I still had a job but felt that I was an outsider and did not belong there.

At my very first CWL meeting, I felt **welcomed** and felt that I was a **part of something great**. I was **encouraged** to come back and enjoyed the social connections. One of my first meetings I was asked to read apart of the spiritual, which solidified the feeling that I belonged and could be an active participant. I have gained so much **confidence** that now am able speak in front of people, including the congregation, which says lot, as I am basically a very quiet and shy person. When I joined the League, never thought I would hold the position of President.

With the **encouragement** and **mentorship** of other members, I am the person who I am today.

Thank you to my sisters in the League from all levels.

Dorothy Boyer, Our Lady of Hope council

The CWL is a great organization to **belong** to. You can find **friendship** and **mentorship** at any level of the League. Workshops, such as "Catch the Fire" and "Find Your Voice", gave me the courage to take on roles that I thought I would never be able to do.

The Strategic Planning Committee is working very hard to bring the League to a better future by using social media and Facebook to let people know what the League is all about. Our **faith** helps us to find **compassion** for the homeless and poor and treat them with **dignity**. Through **prayers**, members **support** one other for whatever is going on in their lives. At meetings and Convention's members are **welcomed** with **respect** and **acceptance**. I am **proud** to be a member of the League.

Sue Quankenbush, St. John the Evangelist CWL council

I am truly **grateful** and **honoured** to be a member of the CWL for over 50 years. Through the years of being a league member, I have learned what it is to be a servant of God. Through the **good works** of the CWL, I have seen the **compassion** and **respect** for the less fortunate. I enjoy the **comradery** of getting together with my sisters to work on CWL events and projects. I try my best to be where I am needed as a member in our community.

Judy Callahan, St. Alexander's CWL council

The CWL has been a life line for me. I am finishing my fourth term as president of our council and have enjoyed every minute. I have enjoyed the challenges, the obstacles, the victories, small and big but mostly I have enjoyed the friends I have made in my 17 years as a member. The members who have shouldered me in my journey are amazing women of faith and hope. I can never thank them enough for having walked this path by my side.

The CWL helped me to grow in my faith and love of others. Our spiritual programs and retreats allowed the Holy Spirit to assist me in my role and grant me the support I needed to reach out to the less fortunate. Sister Linda MacIsaac and her reflections were instrumental in bringing the message of prayerful serenity to our meetings. I will always remember her words at the beginning of each gathering with: *Be still and know that I am God.*

We are all faced with new challenges as we try to keep our council moving forward. Again, the Holy Spirit will be there to guide us. I quote the words of Pope Francis: *"We must wake up Christ in our hearts and only then will we be able to contemplate things with His eyes for He sees beyond the storm. Do not grow tired of doing good. Let us, therefore, learn to invoke the Holy Spirit more often!"*

Marcelle Beaulieu, St. Peter the Apostle Parish Council

SAYING GOOBYE

Nora MacDonald was born February 23rd, 1921 and died November 14th, 2021. Nora was a Charter Member of Saint Peter the Apostle Parish Council in North Bay, Ontario and dedicated her life to the League. She was instrumental in organizing and setting up the CWL Council at St. Peter. A celebration of her life was held at St. Peter the Apostle Church on November 27th, 2021.

Nora will be remembered for her independent, strong will, kind heart and eagerness to help anyone in need. She assisted so many people over

the years and would not take credit for giving help. She would always say "Don't thank me, thank God".

She enjoyed singing especially in church choirs. She loved to knit and bake, always sharing her talents with others. She was the most giving, loving woman that anyone had the pleasure of knowing. It was the simple things in life that gave her the most joy.

Well done, good and faithful servant! Rest in the peace and love of the Father.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcelle Beaulieu



Per Capita Fee Increase

At the recent national fall meeting there was a reiteration of concerns for the need to increase national per capita fees. The following is a fact sheet prepared by National Secretary-Treasurer Marie Rackley.

FACTS:

1. It has been 10 years since the last increase National per capita fee increase.
2. 8 out of the past 10 years we have had an operating deficit.
3. Investment income and sale of investments have covered out operating deficit.
4. Increase in expenses have continued to affect our deficit: facility costs, supplies, conventions, travel, salaries, league promotion – magazine cost.
5. Decrease in membership over the last 3 years has been close to 12,000 for a variety of reasons.
6. Covid has made its mark on our League by distancing our members from one other but also from our parish, diocesan, and national councils.
7. The younger generation of Catholics are frustrated and upset with the church today and are not playing an active role in our church community.



Solutions

1. In 2017 – 2018 talks began to develop a Strategic Plan to revise and change the format of the Catholic Women's League of Canada. Motion was made to invest \$1,000,000 from the investments fund to cover this 5-year project. This would not affect the financial operation of the League
2. It is time for the League to invest in its membership at all levels. The Welcome Program was developed and needs to be promoted with the parish councils through the leadership of the Provincial Presidents. It is time for the National Executive to invest in their Provincial Counterparts so that they are informed of all information and changes and can pass it along to the Diocesan counterparts
3. The Board of Directors have already started to make the tough decisions and look at conserving expenses. The reduction of two printed copies of our League magazine and it is time to make another tough decision by having a in person National Convention every other year and having a virtual National convention the opposite year
4. Support is needed from our Spiritual Advisors. It is time for the Bishops in the various dioceses in the provinces to reach out and support the League by speaking to their parish pastors and asking them to be part of our great organization. We need to invite the ladies from our church community with our Parish Priest standing next to our Parish / Provincial President. We need to show that we are a strong spiritual organization rooted in gospel values and support God's

people. We the Catholic Women's League of Canada play a vital role in the Catholic church as confirmed by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

5. Expenses can be reduced but not affect the operations of an efficient office.
6. There is only one place to look and that is to increase revenue. The solution is per capita fees. The \$12 increase on 65,000 members would give us \$78,000 extra in fees for 2023. With this increase we would be able to:
 - a. Begin returning to investments the dollars that we have used to operate the league.
 - b. Continue to invest in leadership training within each province.
 - c. Encourage our Board to reach out to their counter parts within the provinces and have virtual meetings.
 - d. Increase grants to the provinces for provincial workshops.
 - e. Could we return to 3 copies of our magazine?

Responsibility

This is our responsibility, the Board members of the League, to provide the information to our members on why we need an increase in per capita fees. What is negative must become positive. We accepted this responsibility when we offered our name to service on National level and were elected by the membership to service and protect our League. There are ways we can work together to help with the \$12.00 increase, as was conveyed in my Communique.

We as a Board have to "Walk the Talk"

How can we walk away from the League who has given us a voice in our Church, a voice with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, a voice with the Federal government through our Resolutions, a voice with WUCWO (World Union of Catholic Women's Organization) and a voice to express our concerns in developing Countries?

Our new theme says it all "Catholic and Living It"

..... Submitted by Colleen Perry, Ontario Provincial President



This article was taken from the November 2021 ON-Line Newsletter with permission from Ontario Provincial President, Colleen Perry

2020 Centenary Project – North Bay Region

On Friday, July 3, 2020, Sault Ste Marie CWL Diocesan President, Cathy McKinney (centre), CWL Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Rex Lumine (right) and Pro-Cathedral Rector and Council Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Monsignor Dave Tramontini (left), planted a Red Oak tree on the grounds of the Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption Parish.



L to R: Pro-Cathedral Rector and CWL Council Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Monsignor Dave Tramontini, Sault Ste Marie CWL Diocesan President, Cathy McKinney and CWL Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Rex Lumine



L to R: Fr. Rex Lumine and Msgr Dave Tramontini bless the tree

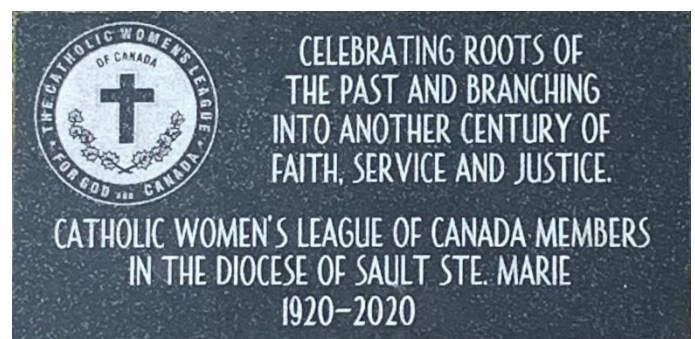
Mother Nature provided a beautiful, sunny day for Msgr. Dave Tramontini and Fr. Rex Lumine to deliver a special blessing upon the tree before it was planted near the Mary Garden on the grounds.

The tree planting is part of a 2020 centenary project to commemorate the Catholic Women's League of Canada 100th anniversary and it is also in keeping with the National theme, "Care for Our Common Home". As part of this project, it was suggested that every Diocesan Council plant a tree in a place of honour to help the environment and to be enjoyed by the community.

This tree planting was an incredibly special occasion for many reasons. The Sault Ste Marie Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year. Also celebrating its 100th Anniversary, is the Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption CWL Council and was the host site for the very first Diocesan Convention which is why Cathy chose this location for the tree planting.



Local CWL council Presidents and members were on hand to witness the tree planting, in a safely distanced manner, of course!



Tree Dedication - Plaque Inscription

2020 Centenary Project – Sudbury Region

On Sunday June 27, 2021 at 1:30 pm., Sault Ste Marie CWL Diocesan President, Cathy McKinney (left) and Bishop Dowd (right), planted an Oak tree at Our Lady of Hope Church in Sudbury.



Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan President, Cathy McKinney (left) and Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan Bishop Dowd (right)

Bishop Dowd and Fr. Larry Rymes, deliver a special blessing upon the oak tree after being planted in the grotto of Our Lady of Hope Church.



(Left) Fr. Larry Rymes, pastor of Our Lady of Hope (Right) Bishop Dowd

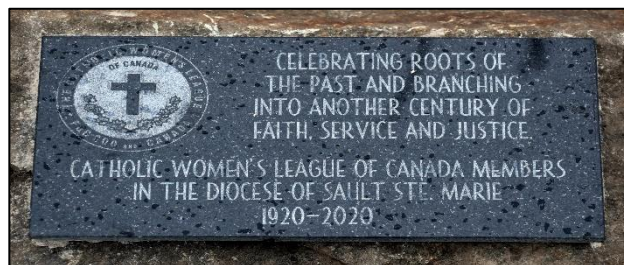
The torrential rain did not keep our members from taking part in the special dedication and blessing upon the tree.

The tree planting is part of a 2020 centenary project to commemorate The Catholic Women's League of Canada 100th anniversary and it is also in keeping with the National theme, "Care for Our Common Home". As part of this project, it was suggested that every Diocesan Council plant a tree in a place of honour to help the environment and to be enjoyed by the community.

This tree planting was an incredibly special occasion for many reasons but especially because the Sault Ste Marie Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada is celebrating its 102nd Anniversary this year.



Local CWL council Presidents and members were on hand to witness the tree planting, in a safely distanced manner, of course.



Tree Dedication - Plaque Inscription

2020 Centenary Project – Sault Ste. Marie Region

On Sunday, October 17, 2021, Sault Ste Marie CWL Diocesan President, Cathy McKinney (left), and St. Jerome's Pastor, Rev. Alex Saurianthadathil (right), planted a crimson maple tree on the grounds of St. Jerome's Parish.



L to R: Sault Ste Marie CWL Diocesan President, Cathy McKinney and CWL Council Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Alex Saurianthadathil



Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan President, Cathy McKinney opens with a special dedication and prayer.

It was a beautiful autumn day to deliver a special dedication and blessing upon the tree.

The tree planting is part of a 2020 centenary project to commemorate The Catholic Women's League of Canada 100th anniversary and it is also in keeping with the National theme, "Care for Our Common Home". As part of this project, it was suggested that every Diocesan Council plant a tree in a place of honour to help the environment and to be enjoyed by the community.

This tree planting was an incredibly special occasion for many reasons but especially because the Sault Ste Marie Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada is celebrating its 102nd Anniversary this year.

Local CWL council Presidents and members were on hand to witness the tree planting, in a safely distanced manner, of course!



Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan President, Cathy McKinney (left) and Sault Ste. Marie Regional Chairperson, Colleen Murphy (right)



Tree Dedication - Plaque Inscription



Mary's
yes

An Advent Reflection

We invite you to gather together from across the Diocese on the 3rd Sunday of Advent—Gaudete Sunday.

We will contemplate and explore Mary's yes encounter that changed the world. Music, prayer and a video presentation will guide our time together—in fellowship and with joy.

Plan to join us—and bring a friend!
December 12, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

ZOOM Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87435043672?pwd=Z0w5YnBSd0d0VIE0c2hwbjdxSzZpUT09>

BLOWOUT SALE!

FUNDRAISER ITEMS FOR THE 100TH
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3 BOOKS OR BAGS FOR \$20
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**One hundred years of faith,
service and sisterhood.**

April 22 – 24th, 2022

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



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