
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 2022

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

CATHOLIC and LIVING IT!

Loving Father, open our hearts to your infinite love
for all people, and to your presence with us
wherever we go in your name.

Lord Jesus, deepen the spiritual life of the
Catholic Women's League.
Strengthen the faith and good works of our members,
building-up life in the world by being
CATHOLIC and **LIVING IT!**

May we imitate you with works of mercy,
welcoming the forgotten, suffering or vulnerable
wherever we encounter them.

Holy Spirit, strengthen us to live our faith, witnessing to life,
peace and social justice daily wherever we are in Canada.

Through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel,
may we be joyful and responsive to our Christian calling,
by truly being **CATHOLIC** and **LIVING!**

We make this prayer through Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah,
who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
forever and ever.

Amen.



President – Lisa Henry

CATHOLIC and LIVING IT!



Dear Sisters in the League,

We have turned the corner from fall into winter and experience the sights, sounds and smells of the change in season. The sky turns dark earlier, the air feels fresh and crisp, and the first snowfall dresses the landscape in a beautiful bright white.

With winter comes the season of Advent. Every season, both in nature and liturgically in our church, represents a call to change; to pause, reflect and take stock. Advent invites us to embrace silence, winter darkness and cultivate new beginnings.

In the same way, the League has been journeying through seasons of change with the development and implementation of the strategic plan and the changes that flowed from the implementation that are changing the face of the League.

Throughout these past months of change in our League, and now entering into the season of Advent, we have had the great blessing of accepting change and how it has manifested throughout our diocese. It has been a powerful time to connect with councils, council presidents, build community and most importantly, make room for the Holy Spirit.

We have been inspired by the dedication and fidelity of members to their councils and to the League. Visiting and hearing the ways councils are embracing how JOY (Jesus – Others – Yourself) is being brought to life has been uplifting.

There are a number of stories and encounters to share, and I wish I could share them all but for now, I would like to share just a few.



We were warmly welcomed by Our Lady of Peace CWL President, Marlynn Paul and had the opportunity to connect with Jeannette Rainville, the council Spiritual Development Chairperson. She shared how much she loves her council, the League and especially creating spiritual programs for their council gatherings. Her passion was shining through!

FROM L-R: OUR LADY OF PEACE SPIRITUAL
DEVELOPMENT CHAIRPERSON, JEANNETTE
RAINVILLE AND PRESIDENT, MARLYNN PAUL



St. Ambrose CWL President, Leah Carson invited us to visit and discuss ways to tailor gatherings to meet the needs of their council.

FROM L-R: ST. AMBROSE CWL PRESIDENT, LEAH CARSON AND CWL MEMBERS, GABRIELLE AND SHEILA

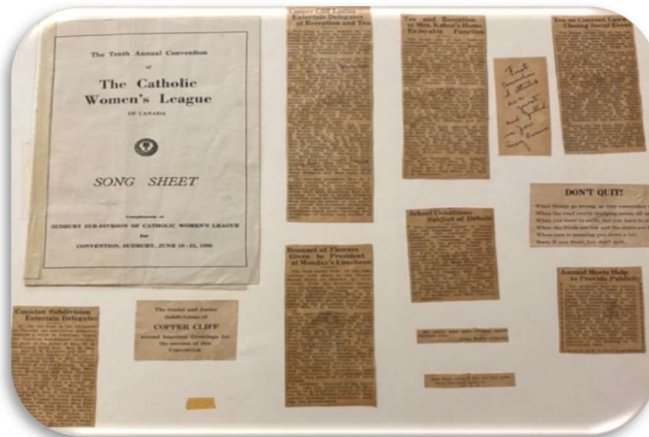


In October, we attended the fall gathering at St. John the Evangelist CWL Council. Their Council executive is pictured above. It is a vibrant council of women who create joy in many ways, one of which is to gather and craft all year long, making items for their annual bazaar.



FROM L-R: ST. STANISLAUS PRESIDENT, FAYE WAFER, SUDBURY REGIONAL CHAIR, DEBBIE MATTIAZZI, DIOCESAN PRESIDENT-ELECT/ORGANIZATION, PATRICIA CLIZIA

We met with Faye Wafer, President of St. Stanislaus CWL, Copper Cliff. Faye gave us a tour and proudly shared the rich history of her council.



Peace and Blessings,

Lisa Henry



Past President / Historian

Cathy McKinney

CATHOLIC and LIVING IT!



Who are we, and what is next?

As we all know, the Catholic Women's League is in flux. The crisis brought on by COVID-19 and the after effects has had a ripple effect on each and every one of our members. When we add the changes that are coming from the strategic planning initiative, our League seems to be turning upside down. As the mentors, the past president is very much an important part of the future of the Catholic Women's League in the diocese of Sault Ste. Marie. The past president role is very multi-dimensional at all levels of the League. Some past presidents feel that there is a void after all of the meetings, phone calls, directives, and general busyness of being the parish council president. As the past president, you have gained much knowledge of the League and have (hopefully) held several positions on the executive prior to becoming the president.

Our role is very specific according to page 23 of the Constitution and Bylaws, 2013;

Section 7: Past President

The past president shall:

- (a) serve in a consultative capacity
 - (b) be responsible for archives and history
 - (c) facilitate the study and implementation of the Constitution & Bylaws
 - (d) perform other duties as assigned by the president
 - (e) be chairperson of laws at national level (Part XIII, Section 1(10))
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- a) The past president is a valuable resource for others at the executive table. We have experiences that have taught us and helped us on our League journey. There is a very delicate balance between mentoring and being overbearing with our Sisters. We are there to serve as a consultant and are reminded that every president is different and has different ways of managing a meeting.
 - b) We are in charge of the archives for the parish. That is a very important task that must be taken seriously by the past-president. The job does not have to be done by one person, perhaps someone loves to put together photo albums, or scrapbooks. There is no reason why you cannot have a sub-committee to help with archiving. This is two-fold, it gives members a sense of purpose and pride in accomplishments, and it is a great hands-on teachable moment.
 - c) As the C&B is being reviewed and renewed, it is still our responsibility to ensure that any business portion of the meeting does not contravene our constitution. The format of our meetings is changing and we need to adapt to the change. As we are now encompassing our theme "JOY", Jesus, Others, Yourself, we need to embrace it! The attitude of the past president can be decisive for the tone of the meeting.

The role of the past president is about sharing your knowledge about the League to your sisters to help them grow and live out their Baptismal Promise. As I stated earlier, many past presidents think that once their term as president is complete, their time is done. To quote my

Mother, Life Member, Rita Souliere, on me becoming our parish council's past president;
"Honey, you are never done".

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy McKinney, Proud past president!



A National Sisterhood

Visit cwl.ca to join.





1st Vice President Communications Chairperson

Colleen Murphy

CATHOLIC and LIVING IT!



"Pride vs Joy"

In pondering things that have given me Joy in serving the Catholic Women's League, I may have just discovered one of my failings!

I was asked, shortly before our awesome 102nd Diocesan Convention, to organize the talks and PowerPoint presentations for our Technical Support person, Dave. Although I was a tad daunted by the task, I was also a tad excited to 'show off' my technical skills – after all, I had just retired as an Information Analyst for the City of Sault Ste. Marie, so what could be hard about this???

I dove in, with help from my predecessors. I was able to collect all the talks to be presented at the convention; I edited the PowerPoint presentations to be consistent; I arranged all the files in the appropriate folders in order of presentation; and voila – I was ready! I had the honour of meeting the Bishop and our National President to discuss their presentations at the social following the Opening Mass. Of course, that led to a bit more shuffling of the decks, but nothing that I couldn't handle! I met with Dave, and thought I had smoothed out all the lumps and bumps. Everything went well! Dave was able to use what I had prepared, and all of the presentations had their slide shows up on the screens. Such powerful talks everyone gave! Of course, the only hitch in the show was during my presentation – I had great slides prepared to go along with my talk, but (alas) they never showed up! To this day, I don't know what the problem was, but at least it was only my talk that missed out.

All of that leads to my point – I was proud to be able to help in a significant way for this momentous convention in which we celebrated our 100th Anniversary as a Diocesan Council. But, as they say, pride goeth before a fall!! Maybe that little bit of **Pride** was my downfall, although the crash was minor. Life has its ways of keeping you humble!

Now for the Joy part. I felt **Joy** (and a bit of trepidation), as I was installed to this Communications Chairperson position at the end of Convention. I was filled with Joy to stand shoulder to shoulder with my sisters in the League, especially those who are leading the way – Betsy, Cathy, Lisa, Patricia to name a few. Such dedicated women we have at the helm of our Diocesan Council! And being able to dance along with all the wonderful women of our League brought Joy to my heart!

Joy - A feeling of extreme happiness or cheerfulness, especially related to the acquisition or expectation of something good.

Pride - The quality or state of being proud; an unreasonable overestimation of one's own superiority in talents, which manifests itself in lofty airs, distance, reserve and often contempt of others.

Oooh! That stings a bit! God bless us all, in all our Pride and Joy!

And here are the rest of our Joy-filled Diocesan Executive members!!!!



Chairperson of Organization

Patricia Clizia

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Second Vice President

North Bay Regional

Chairperson

Treasurer

Deborah Hickey

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Spiritual Development

Betsy Currier

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Recording Secretary

Diane Gallupe

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Corresponding Secretary

Shirlene Condie-McVeigh

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Christian Family Life Chairperson

Kelly Langevin

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Community Life Chairperson

Debbie Mattiazi

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Education & Health Chairperson

Diane Carmichael

CATHOLIC and **LIVING IT!**



Resolutions/Legislation Chairperson

Mary-Lynn Truchon

CATHOLIC and **LIVING IT!**





St. Peter the Apostle Council North Bay

CATHOLIC and LIVING IT!

"It's the Little Things"

When challenged to come up with an event that brings JOY (Jesus, Others, Yourself) to our membership, the executive council of St. Peter's Church in North Bay could not come up with one specific example. We don't get many WOW moments but we do get a lot of small celebrations. We realized "It's the Little Things" that make our council strong.

Even before COVID, our council had a calling committee in place to advise members of upcoming events, and a corresponding secretary who sent out greeting cards to shut in members. But when COVID forced us all inside, more ladies got involved with 'checking in' on their three closest friends, and our calling captains (big thank you to Bev C. in particular) kept reaching out, even when there were no meetings to be had. Our council even prepared 'virtual Christmas cards' which were emailed out to our ever-growing email list so we could continue to share Christmas cheer without the gathering.

Our Annual Harvest Tea & Bazaar is quite popular and we took it virtual for two years in order to keep connected and sell those beautiful quilts and preserves. This past October, we were finally able to gather in person but some of our ladies could not be there; so we emailed photos and allowed them to shop that way, with their purchases being delivered right to their door. Even with the hustle and bustle of hosting the event, our house-bound ladies were not forgotten.

We were also lucky enough to have an indigenous artist (Pauline Sutherland) donate an aboriginal print to our silent auction table this past year and the highest bidder was a young aboriginal woman who was delighted with her win because the story behind "Chahkabesh Snared the Sun" is so important in her heritage and she proceeded to explain the story to us. We all learnt a little something that day.

We've gathered to say the Glorious Mysteries and we've gathered to pray for our deceased members. Whether it is a happy or a sad event, there is always a hum of sisterhood in the air; of women standing by one another to support one another. And that is what CWL is all about.

We are blessed to experience many small moments in our daily lives and we don't always recognize the significance or the impact that these acts of kindness can have on others. Remember, "It's the Little Things" that you do that make the Catholic Women's League.

Nicole Beaulieu, Organization Chairperson /Treasurer



Dear Sister in the League:

This card is directed to one specific person, Rose Johnson.

Rose, please accept a heartfelt thank you.

At our Council meetings, you've gone out of your way to provide us all with coffee (regular and decaf), tea, cookies (regular and gluten free), fruit... The menu never ends and yet you spend so little to do so.

In your own way, you've been taking care of all of us and that's no easy task.

So a big Thank You and Merry Christmas to you, Rose Johnson, from the executive and any member that has ever attended a meeting. You're the best!

St. Peter's CWL



"HONOURING OUR DECEASED MEMBERS"

The members of St. Peter the Apostle Parish CWL Council gathered on November 9, 2022 to remember their deceased sisters. Between November 1, 2021 and October 31, 2022, we said good bye to twelve of our League sisters. A rose for each of our deceased sisters was placed in a place of honour by Mary.

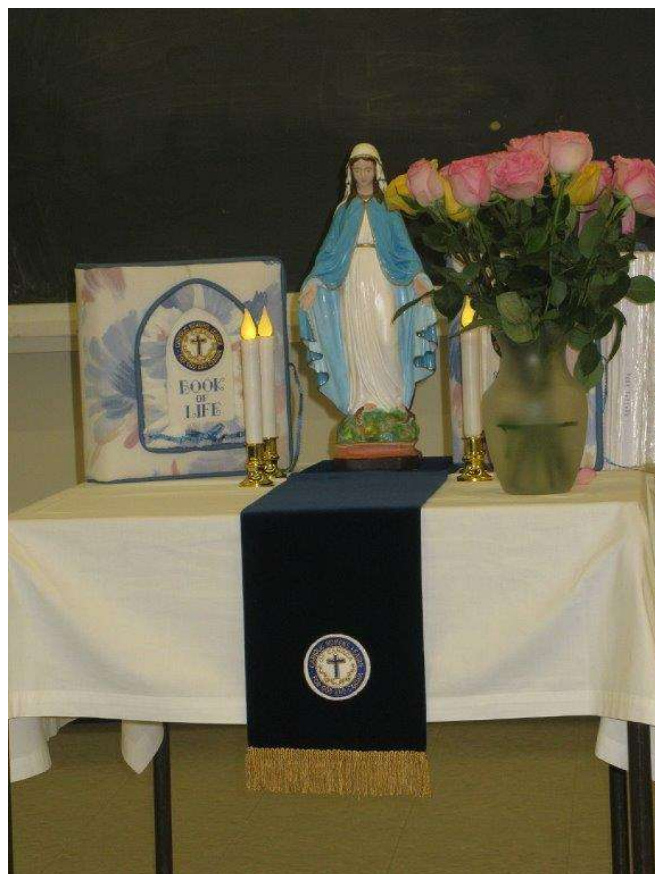
We remembered: Nora MacDonald, November 14, 2021, Vivianne Frankish, December 10, 2021, Lucille Pelletier, December 15, 2021, Rosellen King, December 23, 2021, Veronica Boivin, December 29, 2021, Muriel Cousineau, March 28, 2022, Ghislaine Reilly, March 31, 2022, Lenora Comerford, April 30, 2022, Shirley Radcliffe, June 2, 2022, Evelyn Chapesky, June 21, 2022, Sharon Gardiner, August 8, 2022 and finally Mary Ann Howards, October 5, 2022.

Father Francis read from the Wisdom of Solomon and shared a reflection on The Destiny of the Righteous.

These wonderful ladies have a combined total of 496 years of service. They have dedicated much of their lives to the League and are to be remembered for all their accomplishments and tireless effort in promoting the values and love of the League.

Eternal rest grant unto them and let perpetual light shine upon them!

Marcelle Beaulieu, Spiritual Chairperson





St. Alexander Council

Chelmsford

CATHOLIC and LIVING IT!

St Alexander's C.W.L. Brought JOY to Its Members

St. Alexander's C.W.L. had a Parish Christmas Party which included food, fun and live music.

All had a wonderful time. The duo of "Dolly" and "Kenny" (CWL members) brought tears of laughter and a standing ovation from the parishioners.

The duo also sang "The greatest Gift of All" with Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the Wise Men making an appearance (all CWL members).

Cathy Desjardins, Communications Convenor





St. Jerome Council

Sault Ste. Marie

CATHOLIC and LIVING IT!

October 12 this year St. Jerome Parish in Sault Ste. Marie celebrated their 65th anniversary of our Parish CWL Council with a fantastic evening in our Parish hall.

We enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner cooked by our own Vicky's Catering. Besides Father Alex, four of our past Spiritual Advisors and four members of the Sisters of St Joseph attended the Mass and the dinner. CWL dignitaries from both the Diocesan Council and the Provincial Council also attended.

President Sandra Punch received a congratulatory certificate from the Diocesan Council from Diocesan President Lisa Henry and a congratulatory certificate from the Provincial Council from Diocesan Past President Cathy McKinney. Sister Pat Carter received the prestigious Provincial Social Justice award from Provincial Council member Betsy Currier.

We are blessed to have Anne Scarfone, a founding member in 1957 still in our membership.

We played a really fun trivia game related to goings on in 1957 and many went home with a lovely door prize. It was a lovely evening of remembrance, recognition and friendship.

Marlene Sawko





St. Gerard Majella Council

Sault Ste. Marie

CATHOLIC and LIVING IT!

Just a few examples of how we've brought JOY to our meetings:

"A little food, a little wine and a lot of laughs!"

A number of years ago, one of our CWL members was attending the Culinary Arts program at our local Sault College. Following our General Meeting, we asked her to give us a cooking lesson for Bruschetta – well, she went above and beyond our request!

She demonstrated how to use fresh herbs and her own tomato sauce to create delicious appetizers. She used Basil on one pan, Oregano on another, and Thyme on a third. We were invited to sample her wares, and had a glass of wine to go with it! It was a fun, informative and sisterly way to wrap up our monthly meeting!



"A little Spice Girls to spice up our night!"

Following another meeting, our President, Secretary and Spiritual Development convenor disappeared for a few minutes. Then, three of the Spice Girls appeared to entertain us with a little song and dance! Laughter IS the best medicine – and although our entertainers may not have been as in-tune or ravishing as the originals, they definitely generated some laughs and a bit of a sing-along also!



Colleen Murphy, Organization



Our Lady of Hope Council

Sudbury

CATHOLIC and LIVING IT!



Here is some of what Our Lady of Hope has been doing and showing how we are doing it. Member faces, environments, tickets, food, announcements and inspiration for a League full of JOY!

Kathleen Niro

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