

SAULT STE. MARIE DIOCESAN CWL NEWSLETTER

Issue 05/2023

WELCOME!



Thanks to our National Council for providing a template for creating newsletters. Please let us know what you think of the new format!

This newsletter is distributed by email to our Parish Presidents. We trust that it gets circulated to as many members in our Diocese as possible.

HOW DO YOU MAKE HOLY WATER?
Boil the hell out of it!



IN THIS ISSUE

Highlights of our inspiring 103rd Diocesan Convention, held in Sudbury from April 21-23, 2023.



National 1st Vice President and Chairperson of Communications, Betty Colaneri at the Opening Mass at Our Lady of Peace in Capreol.

Faith

Service

Social
Justice

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Coming in as President and over this past year. I have experienced feelings of emptiness and trepidation. How would I be able to help? There were no easy answers. Could I simply give you lip service and be motivational and tell you it was all going to be ok? No. But then, what? God provided the answer. Provide ministry of presence. So, I reached out to councils, asked if we can visit them and when we got there, Jesus didn't fail. We didn't have the answers going in, but He provided.

It was an honour this past year to spend time with you and help where we could. To see how we could meet you where you were at, and support in ways that worked for you. To share in your joys and witness your tenacity and perseverance. One member saying, I won't give in and close our council and I will do my best to rebuild, one council who held a vote to determine if they ought to stay open or close and the vote was to stay open. They lost some members in the process but the president demonstrated solid leadership and stayed the course. That council by the way, has contributed to their local community and parish community in huge ways. They are making a difference! That council hosted our opening mass last night. Another president calling to say I think we're going to have to close. We are struggling and things just aren't working out for our members. Can we come and visit I asked? The answer was yes. After hearing her concerns, we were able to strategize a plan and figure out what wasn't working and figure out a solution that would work better for them. It really embodied the hashtag the marketing team encouraged us to use #whatsyourcwl? To see councils rise above the challenge, embrace themes of JOY, Go Make a Difference and Catholic and Living It has demonstrated how incredible each and every one of you are! Yes, we struggled but we rose above in true CWL style. As Fr. Pat said, there is no resurrection without the cross.

I am committed to supporting you wherever and whenever you need. We have an incredibly gifted diocesan executive full of heart, who is also there for you. Thank you for your hearts of service and your faith in the CWL. You amaze, inspire and uplift me.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Henry

What's coming up?

**"Surrendering to God's Will
– If He calls, Holy Spirit is
there."**

OPC League Development
Zoom

Wednesday, June 14, 8pm

**Register at
preseeselectopc@tbaytel.net**

Send your name, CWL parish
council, and the date you
wish to register for.

Ontario Provincial Convention

Cornwall, ON

July 9-12, 2023

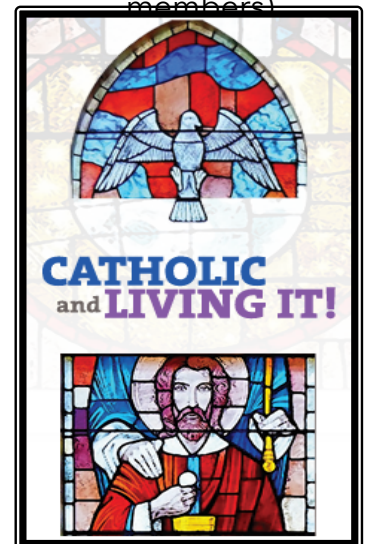
"Go Make a Difference"

National Annual Meeting

St. John, NB

August 13-16

(by invitation only with virtual
option for non-voting
members)



FAITH

Crowning of Mary

The Spiritual Opening of every Convention is the Crowning of Mary. We do this to honour Mary, Mother of God and Queen of Heaven and Earth. This year, each of the Parish Council Presidents was invited to process in with a flower, followed by our special guests. Our Diocesan President, Lisa Henry, placed the crown on our statue of Mary. Our Spiritual Development Chair, Betsy Currier presented a beautiful prayer service.



‘When the angel Gabriel conveyed God’s will to her that she become the mother of God’s Son, her response was a perfect fiat, a perfect “yes.” ’



Diocesan, Provincial and National websites:

Sault Ste. Marie CWL

Diocesan: ssmcwl.ca

Ontario CWL Provincial:

cwl.on.ca

CWL National: cwl.ca



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.

SERVICE

As at all of our Diocesan Conventions, a charity was chosen by the organizing committee in Sudbury as our social justice outreach organization. Inner City Home of Sudbury provides emergency food bank services to approximately 1,200 households a month throughout Greater Sudbury. They also offer life skills programs and resources to individuals requiring additional support.

Innercityhome.com

Monetary donations were accepted from the members attending convention, as well as an overwhelming amount of personal hygiene products and non-perishables. A total of \$1,850 was collected! We are a generous bunch, for sure!



A safe place for vulnerable
Sudburians.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

On Sunday, May 7th, The Catholic Women's League of Canada Diocese of Sault Ste Marie, sponsored a presentation of The Reconciliation Tapestry presented by Jackie Hookimaw-Witt and Norbert Witt at the Anishinabe Spiritual Centre in Espanola. The event was organized by People of Hope Seeking Reconciliation who are made up of Indigenous and non-indigenous Catholic Women.

anishinabespiritualcentre.ca

Jackie and Norbert are educators of the indigenous story, who are also Catholic, and have created a beautiful tapestry together with children from Attawapiskat with the hope of cultivating healing and dialogue between cultures. The tapestry was also developed as a teaching tool for younger children, dealing with the trauma of residential school, with the children being active in putting the story together, gluing felt figures and images on the textile banner.

The tapestry depicts three time periods: Before Contact, Stolen Children and A New Beginning.

Throughout the day, attendees were invited to reflect, share their stories, take part in a small creative activity and open a wider dialogue in the spirit of truth and reconciliation. The day ended with a Sharing Circle, a time of sacredness and holding one another in deep respect.

Our sincere thanks go out to Mary O'Donnell (Group Lead), Sr. Priscilla Solomon, all members of People of Hope Seeking Reconciliation, and most especially to Jackie Hookimaw-Witt and Norbert Witt for bringing people together to dialogue, to help us to Walk Together in a Good Way.

We first saw this tapestry and presentation at our 102nd Diocesan Convention in 2022. It is a powerful depiction of the injustices that the Indigenous peoples of Canada have faced. We pray that Jackie and Norbert's work can enable healing and reconciliation. God bless them in their efforts!



Diocesan Executive Report Summaries

At the Convention, Lisa asked her executive 2 questions:

When or where was Jesus present to me when I felt most empty in my work in the League?

and

As we go further into the deep of this year, how will I put forth my gifts and talents to build you, our members, up?

Here are condensed versions of some of the awesome reports that address these questions:

Spiritual Development:

Honestly, after years of commitment at the diocesan level, I was struggling with feeling uninvolved and empty. Jesus made himself present to me in the request from Madam President to return to the diocesan table. The chair of spiritual development has been both a challenge and a blessing. It has helped me grow personally in my spiritual life. My prayer life has become richer, my faith life has grown and I have become more reflective.

As women in our church we have a special role to play. Our parishes and pastors rely on their CWL members for assistance in a variety of areas. They also display a legacy of spiritual strength. The Lord taught Mary and Martha that women can participate spiritually in His work as disciples, whose faith, righteousness and charity shine. We each have gifts and talents and so much to offer. We do not have to be in high positions or do unusual things to help those around us make choices that will lead them closer to Jesus. As we rely on the Holy Spirit to guide our efforts, we will be given strength to live out His plans for our lives and we will feel joy.

In the remainder of my term through this year and into next year I hope to continue to offer some spiritual guidance through meaningful prayer services, my directives and newsletter submissions. I also commit to you the ministry of presence. I love spending time with you. Each and every encounter with my much loved CWL sisters touches my heart and brings me immeasurable joy!

Respectfully submitted, Betsy Currier



A priest, a minister and a rabbi are discussing when life begins.
The priests says, "It begins at conception".
The minister says, "Life begins at 24 weeks gestation".
The rabbi says, "You are both wrong, Life begins when the kids
move out of the house and the dog dies."

Treasurer:

"Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets."

There have been many times in my role as your Diocesan Treasurer and the Regional Chair for North Bay, that I have been totally overwhelmed and completely snowed under. Exhausted and feeling that I can't possibly deal with anything else. Then I check my email one last time before crawling into bed and there it is. An email from Madame President with the dreaded words

TIME SENSITIVE – URGENT!

and as I'm reading through the email, my brain is saying, "You want me to do what, by when?"

This is when I hear Simon's words. I know then it's time to pause, come to a quiet place, and in prayer, open myself to our Father. With His grace, and usually a very large, very strong cup of tea, it all gets done.

I came across a quote from Saint Mother Theresa, which I feel expresses the heart of each one of us here. "If we pray, we will believe, If we believe, we will love, If we love, we will serve."

That, I believe, is what we are all called to do. That is what we do as women, mothers, and sisters in Christ. As members of the Catholic Women's League, we have weathered many storms together, and I am sure there will be more to come, but as Pope Francis has said,

"Having faith does not mean having no difficulties, but having the strength to face them, knowing we are not alone."

I am excited about the changes happening in the CWL. I look forward to assisting all our Councils in any way I can, to plan gatherings, not meetings, to place the emphasis on our faith, our friendships and of course, a good dose of fun.

I love that, Madame President has adopted the theme of JOY – Jesus, Others, Yourself. This should be our mantra throughout our day. If we all did that, think of the amazing impact we could have on our families, our Parishes, and our communities.

Saint Mother Teresa so beautifully ties together the words of Jesus and how we live by JOY: "Joy is prayer; joy is strength; joy is love; joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls."

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Hickey



Education & Health:

I don't know if empty is the right word to use. I would say that I was floundering. I was always praying for guidance in this position as I didn't want to let our members down.

Now, 2 topics have concerned me this past year - palliative care and euthanasia.

A Quebec department store, Simons, was promoting Medical Assistance in Dying in its advertisements. After a month the ad was removed due to the backlash from people like you. Quebec wants to expand MAiD to include infants. There are people that are applying for MAiD who simply cannot afford appropriate housing. Now the federal government wants to include those suffering mentally. It's cheaper to kill someone than to help someone. We all must do what we can to prevent this from happening. Write to your MP in support of Bill C-314 which will prevent MAiD to be expanded to include the mentally ill. MAiD is murder no matter how it's spun. MAiD, in my opinion, is to avoid or replace palliative care.

Human life is precious. We are all created in God's image. Our souls are created the moment an egg is fertilized. When a baby is formed. Let us strive to protect the dignity of life for all.

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has a palliative care program available to all called Horizons of Hope. There is the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. Please sign up for emails at epcc.ca. While at their website you can learn about bills brought to our government, how euthanasia is spreading throughout the world and how to get help.

Respectfully Submitted, Diane Carmichael

Communication:

Daunted is how I felt as I started in this position. I've learned to manage our Sault Ste. Marie CWL website and our Diocesan newsletters, but I don't do Instagram or post much on Facebook. Jesus sent me Lisa and Patricia to fill in that big gap! This position also encompasses being a good communicator. I'm past-president for our St. Gerard Majella CWL parish council and am surrounded by new faces on our executive. I have to strike a balance as a mentor, between encouraging and guiding, and celebrating their ideas and the breath of fresh air they bring to our parish. Thank you to Jesus for sending us these enthusiastic women!

Jesus also sends us challenges along our journey. It's important to foster sisterhood in the League. I have to remind myself to step out of my comfort zone to welcome new members, mingle with women that may not be comfortable with mingling, and listen to those who need to share their stories.

In this second year of my term, I hope to be a good listener to what our diocesan and parish councils need to continue to flourish. Projects seem to be a good way to encourage women to become more involved in the League. If we can get more members to be active even in little ways, we are building the League.

National offers many resources, from videos, posters, Powerpoints and prayer cards to programs and workshops. Please make use of them in your parish councils. The League is forging forward into new directions. It's an exciting and challenging time to be a member at any level. Let's pray for God's majesty to inspire us as we travel forward with all of our sisters, hand-in-hand!

Respectfully submitted, Colleen Murphy

Community Life:

I reflected on “when I felt empty in my work for the League?” on one of my morning walks. It hit me, I realized just how empty I had been feeling all along! I called out Jesus! I need YOU! I realized just how much I needed Jesus His wisdom, courage and love. He was there all along I just needed Jesus to lead me into the boat the way Simon did, going out into the deep trusting in Him.

I cast out the net of reflection from last year. It didn’t take long to begin to feel filled by the works of our sisters. Feeding the poor, volunteering at Food Banks, Back Packs of Love for the homeless, visiting the lonely and the shut ins as well as preparing gifts at Christmas, praying the Rosary, sending cards, making phone calls and most of all bring the Eucharist, Jesus. The works continued outside the parish into the community supporting and welcoming Ukraine refugees, Helping Hands for Haiti, supporting National Truth & Reconciliation Day, reaching out to those in need no matter race or creed, inviting church members whose church closed during summer months, rebuilding community with our sisters, creating a more fun, inviting, JOYFUL atmosphere, taking time to celebrate with Pin Ceremonies, Service of Remembrance, celebrating each other’s gifts and talents recognizing the service to our sisterhood.

Overflowing with humility, respect and love I pray Jesus continues to give us the wisdom, courage and love to live up to our Baptism, LOVING and SERVING GOD BY OUR SERVICE AND LOVE TO EACH OTHER. As I look out into each of your faces, I see JESUS! As Father Pat would say: AWESOME!

Respectfully Submitted, Debbie Mattiazzi

Christian Family Life:

It wasn’t long after finally accepting the call to sit on the diocesan board that I felt the most discouraged.

I was asked to take the Communications position that I had little experience in and was out of my comfort zone. When I raised my concerns with Cathy McKinney, our diocesan president, she asked me to “pray on it”. I prayed and Jesus heard my cry. “You can do this, you have the skills and if you need help.... Ask someone!!” In reading past newsletters, I learned about the CWL and about the councils in our diocese. The information in the directives provided me with the knowledge for my standing committee.

Now as your Christian Family Life Chairperson, I see how much you care by showing your support with the March For Life rallies, participation in 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care, sending Pornography Hurts post cards to the government, and the support you give to our priests. Now, with this latest project of providing for the less fortunate with your donations of personal hygiene items, I am overwhelmed. I see Jesus in you, standing right before me.

With God’s help I will:

- Wear a smile and have a positive attitude: Because, it’s contagious!
- Be visible and approachable to the all members. Because, knowing where to find me and how to contact me opens the lines of communication.
- Listen to members’ suggestions: Because, everyone wants to be heard.
- Be open to change: Because, if I don’t change with the times, I may get left behind.

Respectfully submitted, Kelly Langevin

North Bay Regional Chair

Luke 5: 1-7 Everyone knows this story of Jesus finding Simon, and James and John. They are cleaning their nets after a long, unsuccessful day of fishing. These guys are exhausted, they just want to go home. Then Jesus steps into the boat and asks them to do the absolute last thing they want to be doing. They must have seen or felt something different about Jesus, because we all know the rest of that story.

I can absolutely relate to how they felt in that moment, I am sure we all have. There are days I am so tired that all I want is my spot on the couch, a mug of tea, a blanket, and my book. Then I remember I have a meeting to attend, or there is a ZOOM conference call, or emails to read or send. I take a breath, say a pray for peace and guidance, then get up and do it.

It is difficult when we are tired and feel that we have nothing else to give, then get asked to give more. We've all been struggling to find that new normal. Then we receive Directives regarding a per capita increase, restructuring the Council Executive and how we are to change our meetings. Take it one step at a time, meet with the Presidents, equip them with the necessary information regarding the per capita. Hold a Regional Gathering to introduce the new structure of the Council Executive and the emphasis of our meetings to faith and fellowship. Next, hold a workshop for executive members giving them the tools to embrace the new changes. We don't want you stressing. We want you to be excited, renewed and rejuvenated by the changes. Rather than writing and listening to reports, you will be spending time with Jesus Christ and Our Lady of Good Counsel in prayer and praise. Instead of another boring meeting, you'll enjoy the time in fellowship with your Sister's in the League, experience new things, learn something new, the sky is the limit!

Remember Simon, James, and John? When they were exhausted but asked to do one more thing, Jesus was there in the boat with them the same as **He is there for each one of us**. As members of the Diocesan Executive, we are all there in the boat with you, helping you to cast out the nets by faith.

When I stand in front of a group of people, I don't just have butterflies in my stomach, I have lunar moths. But I do it anyways because when I am at my weakest, or most nervous I know I can hand it over to Jesus. He knows all my fears and weaknesses, in that moment, I can feel Him saying, "I'm here, you aren't alone. I've got you. We can do this together."

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Hickey



CONVENTION REFLECTIONS

Here are some beautiful reflections by members that attended convention:

Our Lady of Hope, Sudbury

The members from Our Lady of Hope were well represented! They had 19 members attend of which seven were first time attendees! These members embraced their convention role of Hostesses. This photo below reveals life in the League, new members, first-time attendees, seasoned members, repeat attendees, parish executive, diocesan executive, provincial executive, current and past regional chairpersons, current convention co-chair and past convention (co)chairpersons, Life Member, Maple Leaf Service pin recipients and Certificate of Merit recipients. Members and mentors experiencing the diocesan convention together, provoking them to Bee Catholic and Living It in Faith, Service, and Social Justice, Bee-ing J.O.Y., and Making a Difference.

First-time attendees' experiences

As a first-time attendee at a CWL convention, I had no idea what to expect. I was excited to be able to participate in the opening Mass and watch all the dignitaries and executive process up the aisle. I recognized faces from CWL newsletters, FB posts and our local CWL functions. The convention was well organized, very informative and full of JOY. The generosity of our sisters in the League was evident from the donation to the Inner City Home. I made new friends and look forward to attending future conventions. I will BEE there!

Silvana St. Onge

My first CWL Convention is more than I imagined it to be! Every part of it was so special! From the beautiful ceremony of the Crowning of Mary, listening to speaker and meeting people with the same beliefs and hopes as me. But the highlight for me was the opening Mass at Our Lady of Peace Church! The Procession led by the Knights of Columbus Honor Guard, followed by three Flag Bearers, Executive Members, Priests and Bishop Dowd was so heart-warming! It was a beautiful, welcoming Mass for all our CWL Members that filled the Church. Thank you to all the organizers of this special weekend.

Donalda MacLeod



My thoughts...The opening Mass at Our Lady of Peace in Capreol was solemn and full of ceremony. The CWL members outdid themselves with the refreshments. I enjoyed the speeches, Bishop Dowd, Linda Squarzolo, Betty Colaneri and Lisa Henry, were very moving and inspirational. I got to interact with many people from different parishes and walks of life. I am very glad I went. I have been a member for 52 years and this was my first convention.

Rosalba Romeo

My experience as a first-time convention attendee began with a warm welcome from the CWL members Friday night. On Saturday, I really enjoyed the spirit-filled guest speakers and the wholehearted diocesan executive reports. Finally, Saturday night's banquet was a joyful celebration of sisterhood through lively conversations and dance.

Jennifer Michel

I was struck by the sense of love, faith and joy that filled the room. I found my spirit uplifted in the presence of the wonderful ladies in attendance. Bishop Dowd used a phrase in his presentation that resonated with me, he said that as a society "We do not have a crisis of faith, but a crisis of hope". That resonated with me. We need to bring people hope. There was no lack of hope present during the convention. We need to keep reaching out to others, as the ladies in my CWL reached out to me, to invite them to join us for fun and service and share that hope. I can write more, but this is the short version.

Nadine Ouellette

I was happy to meet CWL members from different levels of the executive. It was a wonderful experience to attend the mass and the presentations. The diverse age groups of those who share in the sisterhood was clearly visible.

Annette Vas

As a first attendee at a Catholic Women's League convention, I found that all of the Diocesan Convention was a great experience. However, my highlight of the convention was the opening Eucharistic celebration held at Our Lady of Peace parish in Capreol. The formal greeting by the Knight of Columbus honor guard and the procession of the Canadian flag, the Ontario flag and the Catholic Women's League flag made it all very solemn and official. The homily by Bishop Thomas Dowd was uplifting and touching and the music and singing from the choir contributed to making the mass engaging and joyful. I also really enjoyed the Anishinabe purification rite (smudging ceremony) at the beginning of the mass which helps in connecting us spiritually with our Creator.

Overall, the convention really gave me a sense of how strong a faith community the Catholic Women's League really is. To have the opportunity to share my faith, to listen to amazing keynote addresses and special guest presentation, to participate in workshops and to celebrate with so many remarkable women, was a privilege.

Aline Krause



Human Trafficking Storyboard and Presentation



Convention Highlights

147 registered for the convention. Our meeting emphasis – faith, sisterhood and fun as we serve.

Bishop Dowd said there is a crisis of loss of hope in the western world. Our diocesan challenge is to “Get down in the Weeds”. Bishop Thomas has a degree in economics so numbers are important to him. On the last census, there were 380,000+ people in the diocese, 40.1% identified as Catholic, 35.8% as no religious affiliation, 21.3% as other Christian denominations, and 2.8% as non-Christian. Only 10% of Catholics attend Mass, but even those with no affiliation believe in a higher power. He mentioned many of the things Jesus did on earth – preaching, healing the sick, forgiving sins, raising the dead, initiating the Eucharist, honouring Mary, dying and rising from the dead. We must flesh these out (except for raising the dead). Our mission is to bring people to the fullness of life by the Holy Spirit through our relationship with Jesus as we show it in serving one another.

Sister Bonnie McLellan, General Superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph, said they have 67 sisters left in their congregation, with an average age of 82. She wants us to look at reality through the eyes of faith. Live our faith in good and gad. God will never leave us. The world should be seen through the eyes of hope. Hope helps us to see outside ourselves to the needy. The Pope’s words “Women keep our faith alive.” Sister said “God kisses every soul before it enters the body and every body spends the rest of it’s life looking for the source of that kiss. Faith is seeing light in the darkness. She recommended a book “Graced Crosswords”.

Fr. Pat Woods, our Diocesan Spiritual Director said we should stop and reflect – life happens. Our direction is from Christ, find Him and find our direction. Recognize how blessed we are. Do not be afraid of change – Trust in God.

Betty Colaneri, National 1st Vice-President and Communications Chair reported that happiness is outwards – Joy is inner self, inner contentment. Joy is a choice. She then talked about what makes a good leader – vision, good listener, setting an example, uses power ethically, seeks consensus. She finished with an observation that her family runs a winery and during the pandemic they thought they would have to shut down, but the government decided they were an essential service!

Respectfully submitted, Norma Lutes, Holy Family CWL, Sault Ste. Marie



Musings of Convention 2023, Sudbury

Although this was my second time at the Diocesan Convention, it was a new experience of community and solidarity. When we gather together with a common purpose and a Christian perspective, we are re-energized to carry the gift of faith in all our activities. By being truly present in all of our interactions, we learn to respond to the needs of others with JOY! In creating hope for the hopeless, with the intercession of the Holy Spirit, we carry out our mission of service. I was very moved by the Crowning of Mary service as we place all our needs in her hands, knowing She is our intercessor with her Son. Service is sending cards, using our talents to help others, praying for family and friends and being present with them, inviting others to join the League or participating in letter writing campaigns and resolutions especially making use of on-line presentations. Each of our own Councils need to look at our present structure and create a new view (in small steps) so that we are fulfilling our call to faithfully serve, through witness celebration, outreach and presence.
Respectfully Submitted, Ellen Phillips, St. Francis of Assisi, Walford Station

Delegate Report

The three themes

Diocesan... JOY Jesus - Others - Yourself

Provincial... Go Make a Difference.

National... Catholic & Living It

were evident throughout the many committee reports and presentations at this convention.

I witnessed firsthand the enthusiasm and excitement of delegates from throughout our Sault Ste Marie diocese as these ladies rekindled their friendships and embraced their SISTERHOOD.

The three keynote speakers, Bishop Thomas Dowd, Sister Bonnie MacLellan and Betty Colaneri were exceptional, as their presentations "fed and nurtured our hearts, minds and souls." The opening and closing Masses provided the spiritual nourishment.

Thank you so much to St. Gerard Majella CWL for sponsoring me. As destiny would have it, I was the lucky recipient of the \$100.00 incentive program (a first time convention attendee). This monetary prize will be accredited to St. Gerard Majella's CWL to offset a portion of my expenses. Thank you also to Colleen Murphy and Pina Bennardo for making me feel welcome and included!

I look forward to the convention being hosted in Sault Ste Marie next year.

Respectfully submitted, Eileen Mitchell, St. Gerard Majella CWL, Sault Ste. Marie

A very special thank you and gratitude goes out to our Convention Convenors, Kelly Langevin and Kathleen Niro, and their awesome team in Sudbury for staging such a wonderful convention! Also, a huge tribute goes out to Lisa Henry for her first Diocesan Convention as President!

Although behind the scenes there may have been moments of panic and stress, know that for the majority of us attending, it appeared to be a smooth-running machine!

Thank you for your many hours of preparation. It's a big task - we really appreciate it!!! Think of it as good learning and practice as you prepare for Provincial Convention in 2024!

Invitation to 104th Diocesan Convention April 26-28 in Sault Ste. Marie in 2024! (To the tune of "I do, I do, I do, I do, I do" by Abba)

We can't conceal it, don't you see, can't you feel it? Next year's the Soo, the Soo, the Soo, the Soo, the Soo, the Soo!

Refrain: We'll pray, laugh, listen, it's not fun we'll be missin', in the Soo, the Soo, the Soo, the Soo, the Soo, the Soo!

Next year's convention, in the Soo's an election, The Holy Spirit is movin' oh yeah!

So, come fly, drive or bus there, it's good times that we will share. In the Soo, the Soo, the Soo, the Soo, the Soo, the Soo!

Refrain

We're planning, praying, over lunch we were saying, We've got lots to offer, our sisters to you. So come west for sharing, sisterhood we're preparing, in the Soo, the Soo, the Soo, the Soo, the Soo, the Soo!

Oh, we'll say some prayers, share, laugh, have some fun there, next year, in the Soo, the Soo, the Soo, the Soo, the Soo, the Soo!

Refrain

Inspiration by Cathy McKinney



NEWS TO SHARE

The Unity Outreach Program

Our National executive have launched a Unity Outreach program to have ALL councils at ALL levels visited by an executive member from the level above. The visits to our Parish councils by our Diocesan executive members have begun. The goal is to ask the councils how they are doing, what they are proud of, what suggestions for change they may have, and to listen to their concerns. We pray that blessings and good things will come from these dialogues!

Thank you to all of those that have shared their stories of their councils. There's powerful work being done every day in the League!



This picture depicts three generations of CWL members as they receive their service pins at Precious Blood Cathedral in Sault Ste. Marie with Father Jeff.

| | |
|--|----------|
| Life Member Evelyn Theriault | 65 Years |
| Evelyn's daughter Denise Colizza | 40 Years |
| Evelyn's Granddaughter Julia Neveau | 15 Years |
| Evelyn's Granddaughter Jennifer Manninos | 15 Years |

Another of Evelyn's daughters, Suzanne Yensen from St. James the Greater CWL Council in Blind River, has over 40 years with her Council. Another daughter, Nicole Shuurman from Chapleau, has 25 years of service to the League.

Submitted by Denise Moreau, Precious Blood Cathedral CWL Council, Sault Ste. Marie

Man: What is a million years like to you?

God: Like one second.

Man: What is a million dollars like to you?

God: Like one penny.

Man: Can I have a penny?

God: Just a second.

Helpful Information to assist with Directives, Communiques and New Executive Structure

As we go forward this year, many of you will be holding elections and some have asked that with the standing committees being reduced to three, how will all the work be addressed by fewer officers? *“A committee is defined as a group of people appointed for a specific function, typically consisting of members of a larger group”.*

We encourage all committee chairs to form a committee within their respective roles. For example, your Faith Chairperson can ask a few people to be on her committee and assist her with developing spiritual programs throughout the year. The same would apply for both the Service and Social Justice Chairpersons. It is a wonderful way to include members who have gifts in these areas and can assist us on these committees. We are not meant to be a committee of one and these gifted women can help the committee chairs and not have to attend executive meetings. It's a great succession planning model in the event they want to transition to a chair position one day.

[Faith, Service and Social Justice Guidelines PDF](#) A valuable resource for the transition to the 3 new committees.

I also encourage you to check out the new Welcome Program available on the National CWL website at <https://cwl.ca/resources/600-series-manuals/> It is a wonderful resource and an innovative way of welcoming new members but also a great exercise to use with existing members. Get to know one another and find out where members would like to share their God-given gifts and talents!

Helpful information from Provincial President, Linda Squarzolo from the March 2023 Provincial ON-Line Newsletter at: <https://cwl.on.ca/category/on-line-newsletter/>

My dear League sisters,

Over recent months members have reached out to me expressing their concerns. Two issues have come up many times across the province. The first involves the number of directives, communiques and messages people are receiving. The second relates to the number of standing committees being reduced to only three and how all the work can be addressed by fewer officers. These are valid issues.

Let me offer a way to address these concerns by using the following analogy. We have all gone to buffet restaurants, especially before COVID. The long tables are laid out with bins and bins of food, each looking delicious and tempting. So many choices! My approach is to take a generous portion of my favourite foods and then maybe a spoonful of something I never tried before. What do you do?

When we receive messages from officers at other levels, I suggest that you read them to be informed. Next, decide if you should share the information, act on it or file it away for future reference? Each council knows what they can and cannot do.

The same applies to the standing committees of Faith, Service and Social Justice. There is a whole smorgasbord of activities to choose from. What speaks to your members? What are their interests? What makes the best use of their gifts, talents and abilities? A council may choose only one activity under each pillar but may obtain spectacular results.

The buffet awaits but the choice is yours! Bee Creative!

