



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE SOUTHERN AFRICA NEWSLETTER



Through the bonds of Peace

JULY/AUGUST 2024

#ISSUE 164



CHARITY, WORK AND LOYALTY IN ACTION



Cape Town ladies at Schoenstatt.



Members of Retreat, Cape Town, who received their long service badges.



Members of Regina Pacis, Polokwane, at their Day of Recollection.



CWL at St Michael's, Klerksdorp, bidding farewell to Fr Don Bohe.



CWL St Paul's, Jouberton, joining an anti-gangsterism march.



Umzimkulu president Dolores Jones presented a 25-year badge to Noreen Comte.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



Thank you for the articles submitted for the newsletter, the second-last one to be compiled by Cape Town. It is so encouraging to read about all the work that our sisters are doing, faithfully and without fanfare, to help those who need assistance. With all the noise and drama in our beloved country it is easy to lose sight of the kindnesses so many extend to one another each day. Sadly, good news does not grab the headlines. Having endured weeks of electioneering and then uncertainty about what our government will look like, we are all in need of good news.

We could do worse than turn to the Serenity prayer at this time. The first lines – “God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference”- are very well known. Perhaps less familiar is the line that exhorts us to trust “that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will”. No doubt this is frequently easier said than done, but it is certainly a goal worth pursuing.

I look forward to meeting those of you who will be attending the conference here in the “fairest Cape” in September.

Michaela

Contents

Editorial	1
Message from the National President	2
Message from the National Chaplain	3
Report on the NMC visit to Bloemfontein and Kroonstad	4
Cover picture article	4
Diocesan news	5-26
Obituaries	26-28

The closing date for the next issue of the newsletter is the 10th of October 2024.

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MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT



We have been experiencing the most beautiful autumn weather in Cape Town this year; however, winter is on its way, just a little slower to arrive this year. As we only have rain in winter in the Cape, we look forward to seeing our dams fill up again.

Three of us from the National team had a very successful and uplifting trip to Bloemfontein and Kroonstad in mid-May. We spent a day and evening with the Bloemfontein ladies, where we heard their reports, had some good discussions and joined them at holy Mass before enjoying a delicious supper in their company. The next day, after starting with Mass at Bloemfontein Cathedral, we travelled to Kroonstad to be greeted at the gate of the church by their members singing and dancing as we arrived. It was so special.

We enjoyed sharing time and lunch with the ladies. All the members are so proud to belong to this wonderful organization of ours and they work hard for their charities. We were so well received and so spoilt by both diocese. Thank you ladies.

Veronica Malan-Lebona, our CWL WUCWO representative, has just attended a WUCWO board meeting via Zoom and we look forward to hearing all the news and updates from the WUCWO meetings. She will address us at our conference in September.

I wish you all a warm winter, and we look forward to praying the Annual Novena together before the Feast of the Assumption. There is so much tragedy and war in the world today that I am sure the members of our League will unite in prayer for peace across the globe.

In the meantime, I leave you with a beautiful thought... "Life becomes easier and more beautiful when we can see the good in other people." (Roy T. Bennett)

God bless you all

Anne

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL CHAPLAIN



Keep your eyes open for little lessons from God in your everyday life.

So many of us have stories we love to tell of children who in their innocence have taught us something of God.

I vividly remember a parishioner carrying his special needs son up to Communion. He was still quite young and apt to dart away when left to his own devices. I remember his father receiving Communion and his son asking, "Daddy, medicine?"

I could not help but think what a wonderful image.

Isn't the Eucharist that we consume like the medicine that he had taken nearly every day for his behavioural needs?

In our search for fulfilment, or for love, or for meaning or for God, the Eucharist takes us towards something or someone outside of ourselves, beyond our present experiences. What a wonderful medicine the gift of the Eucharist is.

When you ask children to pray for something or someone, they just blurt out names and things and they mean it! This experience is pure joy. And isn't that how we ultimately spend much of our prayer time with God—in prayers of petition—letting God know what we want?

In Scripture, we hear Jesus say, "Let the children come to me ... for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Mk 10:14).

My point is that we all must be on watch constantly for little lessons from God in our everyday life.

What lesson did God prepare for you today?

Father Kevin

Anne, Pat and Susan met the Bloemfontein ladies at the Cathedral on Saturday the 18th of May to follow them to the Church of All Saints where our meeting was to be held. This is the oldest church in Manguang and used to serve 50 different parishes. About 30 ladies attended the meeting but they have 235 members overall. A detailed programme was followed. After introductions, each of the branch presidents or their representatives gave detailed reports on the activities in their branch. They followed the format set out: branch executive, number of members, good story in living the motto of the League, spirituality, challenges faced and their expectations.

The work being done by these branches includes projects such as supplying school uniforms to children, buying clothes for needy grade 7s, giving their priest a Peace basket every month with perishable and non-perishable items, giving a bicycle to a security guard, hosting a Christmas party for children and helping a matric student whose mother was unemployed, and many other activities.

Many face the same challenges as most other branches throughout Southern Africa.

The Diocesan President, Mme Mpho Ntema, then gave an overall diocesan report on the activities in the diocese.

After a short refreshment break, Anne addressed the ladies and spoke about our role as members of the League and the meaning of our theme.

Susan addressed them and gave clarity on the meaning of an NPO and how the treasurers should manage the finances.

The floor was then opened to questions, and these came thick and fast. Most of the questions were asking for clarity on procedures and the role and responsibilities of office bearers and how to build a strong brand. Most interesting was the request as to how the Free State could take on the responsibility of the National Office and subsequently host a conference.

On Sunday the 19th of May we attended Mass in the cathedral in Bloemfontein and then left to make our way to Kroonstad which is 218 km away. We were asked to meet the Kroonstad ladies in the centre of town so they could direct us to the church where our meeting was to be held.

In the car in front of us a young man was leaning out of the window, filming our progress. As we turned off to go into the area of the church, a traffic cop arrived and stopped the car. We thought the young man was in deep trouble, but it turned out that the ladies had arranged for the traffic officials to lead us to the church and make sure that no other cars were in the way!

The ladies lined the way into the church grounds of St Albert the Great and we were totally overwhelmed by the welcome we received. We danced our way into the hall where tables had been set for a delicious lunch.

Before lunch we heard from the diocesan president about all the work and projects they are engaged in, and it is humbling to note that 7 original branches have now become 18. Fantastic!

Anne and Susan once again addressed the ladies and then we took questions. However, the ladies there have a good understanding of what it means to belong to the CWL.

We enjoyed lunch with the ladies and priests and before returning to Bloemfontein, the diocesan chaplain took us to see the Cathedral where he is based.

We had the most amazing weekend with the members of both Bloemfontein and Kroonstad, who were warm, welcoming and such fun to be with.

Congratulations to the ladies – we are proud to know you and are delighted that we were able to visit.

COVER PICTURE

The picture on the cover of this issue is an Annunciation, known as the Virgin Anunciate, by Italian Renaissance painter Antonello da Messina, painted around 1476. Born in Messina, Sicily, in about 1425, da Messina received his early artistic training from his father who was a sculptor. He may have served an apprenticeship in Rome after that, but he certainly spent time in Naples in the 1450s. It is there that he is believed to have first come across Netherlandish paintings done in oil. Oil paints offered many advantages over the water-based paints widely in use in Italy at the time. Da Messina is generally regarded as the first Italian painter to have started using oil paints. The style of his portrait-like paintings, including this Annunciation, was also influenced by early Netherlandish painters like Van Eyck. Certainly the serene expression on Mary's face is typical of such works.

In this picture Mary is looking past us, in the direction of the angel Gabriel. She has been surprised at her reading and her free hand seems to come out of the picture towards the viewer. Her other hand holds her veil modestly around her face. Certainly the Mary in this picture seems more like the young Jewish girl from a simple background whom we know from the gospel accounts, compared to the lavishly-dressed Madonna of the previous issue's cover.

ARCHDIOCESE OF BLOEMFONTEIN

DIOCESAN

On the 23rd of March a Day of Recollection was held at St Francis in Thaba Nchu and was attended by most of the parishes. The theme for the day was "The Power of Silence, the Healing Power of the Sacrament of Reconciliation". The importance of the sacrament was considered in the following ways: communal healing, psychological healing, spiritual healing, emotional healing. Obstacles for not confessing were discussed, as were abuse of the sacrament and the repetition of one sin time and again. The Recollection session included looking at the following benefits: inner reflection, active listening, spiritual growth, mindfulness, connection with nature. Frequently we talk and share too much, but there is growth in silence. The day made us think of how the power of silence can be effective in growing. It also let us consider how to prepare ourselves before the start of Holy Week. During Lent, CWL ladies took turns to present the Stations of the Cross and participated in different liturgical celebrations as part of their work in their parishes.

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL

CWL at Sacred Heart Cathedral celebrated a Passover meal with the entire parish. The event was blessed by Archbishop Zolile Mpambane and he was accompanied by parish administrator Fr Gracious Lombe and by Fr Simon.

CHRIST OUR LIFE

On the 6th of April we celebrated World Health Day. The theme was "Save money, live healthily". Topics discussed included the following:

Accumulation of wealth – teach our children from an early age to respect finances; be bold in our decisions; learn to give to God.

The importance of "me" time; avoid being subjective; learn to listen.

Healthy lifestyle: eat more vegetables and fruits than meat; exercise; sleep; be aware of your mental health and seek help if necessary.

ST ANTHONY



The CWL members served a meal to Fr Didus and his altar servers.

We celebrated Human Rights Day, which served as a reminder to the ladies of the work that the women in our country did to get us to where we are now. Women are the rock.

NATIONAL OFFICE VISIT



National president Anne Deary, her deputy Pat McEwen and national treasurer Susan van der Valk paid a visit to Bloemfontein and Kroonstad on the 18th and 19th of May. An information session was held with them at All Saints on the 18th of May. What a privilege and honour to share time with all the ladies on the day.

Our archdiocesan president emphasised the importance of togetherness as the League. She reminded us of taking our society and country forward, by taking part in voting. Let's join hands together and ask the good Lord to be for us.

WUCWO



WUCWO Day was celebrated by CWL on the 25th of May. All branches of CWL were invited to attend the day to pray together, in particular for peace in the world, in our country and for the upcoming national elections in our country. Mass was celebrated by CWL chaplain Fr Thabo Kenke and Fr Felix in the church of Mamohau in Botshabelo. The theme for the day was "Let us respond to the call to godliness joining the whole world". All the intentions for the day were for the things that are happening in our country and around the world.

SS PETER & PAUL AND MAMOHAU

Our members visited the Setshabelo Centre. The ladies who were enrolled in 2023 donated toiletry items including sanitary towels to the young women there.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN

DIOCESAN



A spiritually uplifting Day of Reflection was held at Schoenstatt on Saturday the 18th of May. Father Mark Foster from Plumstead provided us with two very thought-provoking talks and as usual we enjoyed the time connecting with each other at this beautiful venue. The day was enjoyed by all.

Fr Mark Foster and Rebecca Weir, diocesan president

The Cape Town diocesan executive paid a lovely visit to Vredenburg branch on Saturday the 20th of April. A huge thank you to Helena Engelsman for hosting us and for the delicious tea and lunch. Thank you to all the ladies for giving up their time to meet with us. We felt very blessed to share the day with you.



CWL members once again helped at the annual handover of items to the Clothing Guild at Baron's Estate.

BOTHASIG



After speaking to the social worker at Bothasig Gardens, our branch decided to donate bags of school items to 10 children who started school this year. The bags contained a lunch box and cooldrink bottle, a glue stick, a box of pencil crayons, a ruler, pencil and eraser. The children were delighted as their parents were not able to afford these items. CWL and the parish choir Love in Action were privileged to lead the Stations of the Cross on the 29th of February. What a beautiful way to serve alongside fellow parishioners on our Lenten journey.

On Friday evening the 19th of April our parish hosted a welcome party for all new parishioners. We had not been able to do this for 2 years. CWL provided the tea and coffee. Twenty-six parish organisations, including the CWL, were able to advertise for new members.

GOODWOOD

The CWL members assisted with St Joseph's Goodwood Lenten Food drive and thanks to the generosity of parishioners 74 food parcels were packed.

KUILSRIVER



St Ninian's CWL had our first meeting of the year with two new additional members being introduced and welcomed to the group. Members were shown a beautiful blanket donated by a parishioner which will be raffled at R10 a ticket.

Members brought gifts for the needy and senior citizens in 2023.

We attended the Women's World Day of Prayer hosted by the Anglican Church in Serepta, Kuilsrivier. Special prayers were said for the women of Palestine.

Our branch participated in our parish Food Fair on the 5th of May 2024. The CWL participation was well noted by all, and the ladies helped some of the other food stands. Mothers transferred knowledge on how to cook pap the African way. A great time was had by all.

Our second visit to St Mary's House of Hope in Parow on the 13th of April was very well received by the children and their guardian. We took goodies for the children and played games with them as well as praying together with them. A lot of work still needs to be done at the home. Plans to do hair washing, wardrobe packing and cleaning are on their Charity Calendar for this year.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN

LANGA



We visited Cheshire Homes in Langa where we distributed toiletries, drinks, Easter eggs and men's and ladies' clothing. Our branch hosted a Prayer Breakfast on the 13th of April. The theme was, 'It is I, do not be afraid', John 6: 20. The guest speaker was PPC chairperson, Nikki Ngcukana. The morning was well attended and enjoyed by all. Our branch AGM took place on Saturday the 20th of April.

RETREAT



We attended the Women's World Day of Prayer service at Retreat Methodist church where 22 different churches were represented. Our branch celebrated its 20th anniversary on Sunday the 5th of May with Father Cecil and members of the diocesan executive. Patsy Prince, Charmain Ray, Sharon Andrews and Ruth Seralena who were all inducted in May 2004, received their 20-year badges. Pat Petersen received her 10-year badge. They had a blessed day with all who attended.

ROCKLANDS

CWL Rocklands had their Paschal meal on Palm Sunday. Everyone had a wonderful time and enjoyed the eats.

RONDEBOSCH



On Saturday, 24th February, two new members were welcomed into our branch. They are Mmaphuti Langa (right) and Nchangwi Syntia (left). The members who attended look forward to many more such happy occasions. St Michael's in Rondebosch hosted the World Day of Prayer on Friday the 1st of March. Fr Chiedza gave a reflection on the scripture reading from Ephesians 4. The service was moving and even more meaningful as our National CWL theme was taken from the same reading. The tea afterwards gave us all an opportunity to mix with others from the different churches in Rondebosch. CWL hosted a Paschal meal on Tuesday in Holy Week. All commented on what a beautiful, spiritual experience it was and of course the meal, mostly catered for by the ladies, went down a treat. A wonderful way to begin the Easter prayers and celebrations.

TABLE VIEW



The CWL morning group ladies had a cake stand at the parish Easter Market on Saturday the 23rd of March. Their delicious offerings were enjoyed by all. The group delivered 10 boxes of Easter eggs to TLC. They were very gratefully received. We donated 17 crocheted blankets to Eikehof Care Home, which looks after patients who are undergoing cancer treatment at Groote Schuur hospital. The blankets were donated by a kind parishioner. Jenny Henrick from the evening group delivered 20 boxes of Easter eggs to Karen D'Oliviera from Mothers That Care for distribution to the various schools they support. The eggs were gratefully received as they were aiming to collect 2500 Easter eggs.



The ladies from the evening group packed 10 baby bags for new moms at the Du Noon Clinic. These are given to moms who have nothing when they come in to have their babies. In addition, we were blessed to receive a donation of 22 blankets, 48 baby beanies and booties. Ten beautiful crocheted blankets were made by one of our parishioners, who is in her 90s! May God bless her. Virginia Adriaans and Jenny Henrick delivered the bumper baby bags to Du Noon along with some adult clothing. Everything was very gratefully received by the social worker, Mrs Mhaka, and the sister in charge of the maternity section.

WYNBERG

CWL Wynberg branch held a Mother's Day cake sale which was a great success.

ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

DIOCESAN

The year seems to be whizzing by, with ups and downs, but most importantly, lots of good charity work in our branches. Participation in the Women's World Day of Prayer, on the first Friday of March, was encouraged by diocesan president, Linda Melson. Janice Mossop, Durban North branch president, offered help to any branch interested in hosting. As WWDP in most areas in Durban and districts is organised on a roster basis, only two branches hosted the morning. Bellair/ Queensburgh held a service at Flame Lily Retirement Home organised by their president, Michelle Crawley, and Pietermaritzburg also hosted a well-attended service. Assumption, Ballito, Bluff, Durban North, Pinetown and Wentworth branches all attended lovely services hosted by churches in their areas. Several branches participated in the preparation and presentation, which helped to build camaraderie amongst the ladies. A very powerful message was delivered by the Christian women of Palestine who were responsible for writing this year's service: "I beg you..bear with one another in love." (Eph4:2)

Our monthly council meeting on the 14th of May commenced with a lovely WUWCO Mass. A collection was taken up and forwarded to WUWCO via the national CWL office. To mark the occasion, members enjoyed a 'cuppa' and scones, served by the former committee, before the meeting.

Our Caring Fund, organised by Loretta Ndele, has adopted 'The Journey of Hope' as one of its charities for this year. With the guidance and help of Bluff branch president Merryse Arhens, toiletries and baby food were purchased and delivered to help care for the abandoned babies in their care. Beanies, hats, socks, soft toys and blankets were donated to King Edward children's ward.

Branches have donated towards toiletry hampers which will be handed to all our seminarians whom we support with love, prayer and little gifts.

Several ladies from Durban will be travelling to the National Conference in September and excitement is rising as airtickets are purchased. Caritas Durban will be the beneficiary for our donations suggested for the National Conference. Caritas is a world-wide organisation and the Durban branch is very active in identifying and attending to crisis needs, especially flood and fire victims. Our first donation of clothing has been collected, with thanks, by Caritas.

We look forward to continuing serving in Charity, Work and Loyalty.

CLERMONT



The CWL branch in Clermont organized a Mother's Day fundraising breakfast at the Butcher Block restaurant on the 14th of April. This event aimed to celebrate and recognize the invaluable work of mothers while raising funds to support CWL initiatives.

The event was attended by all 90 CWL members. Additionally, many members brought their families, enhancing the community spirit and overall attendance. Our president Ms Thembani Langa welcomed everyone and emphasized the importance of mothers in our lives and the community. Guests enjoyed a delicious breakfast. Various fundraising activities took place including 3 raffles (a knife set, a beautiful throw blanket and a Tupperware hamper). Mothers were acknowledged for their hard work and dedication. Several members shared heartfelt stories and experiences.

The fundraising breakfast was a remarkable success. It not only achieved its fundraising goals but also brought together the team to honour the vital role of mothers. We look forward to organizing more such events in the future.

We organized a heartwarming Mother's Day celebration, honouring 500 mothers in the parish. The event, filled with handmade carnations and sweet goodies, aimed to express gratitude and appreciation for the invaluable role mothers play. The carnations, meticulously crafted by members of the CWL, symbolized love, admiration, and appreciation for every mother in the parish. The effort and care put into creating these tokens of appreciation added a personal touch to the celebration, resonating deeply with every recipient. In addition to the handmade carnations, sweet goodies were also provided to the mothers as a delightful treat creating a festive atmosphere filled with laughter and shared moments of happiness. The celebration organized by our branch had a profound impact on the community. Beyond the tangible gifts of carnations and sweet goodies, the morning served as a reminder of the importance of acknowledging and cherishing the maternal figures in our lives. It fostered a sense of unity and gratitude, bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds to celebrate a common bond: the love for mothers, our motive of Charity, Work and Loyalty. The morning exemplified the spirit of love, appreciation, and community outreach championed by the CWL.

ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

BLUFF



A living tribute to our longest serving member, Betty Williams, who turned 95 on the 11th of March 2024. She is the oldest, wisest, and most hilarious lady I have met. Betty has been a member of the CWL Bluff branch for 66 years and counting. She served as branch president for 5 terms, 1969-1970, 1971-1972, 1975-1976, 2003-2005, and was also branch vice-president several times. In addition, she has been an active member in the parish of St Francis Xavier, Bluff, since about 1952. She has been a long-serving participant in many parish groups - the general choir, the flower arrangers' team (and its co-ordinator for many years), a sacristan, a reader, a Minister of the Eucharist, in charge of the small repository team, sold the weekly Southern Cross and the monthly Living Faith issues, helped convene parish fetes, was president of the kiosk at the Botanic Gardens, delivered Meals on Wheels for TAFTA, baked thousands of raisin bread loaves for the monthly CWL cake sales and the senior citizens' teas, spent many hours shaking a collection box in Durban city for different charities, prepared funeral teas at the parish, went to CWL National conferences, diocesan AGMs, meetings and retreats, all whilst raising her children. She is the mother of 6, grandmother of 12 and great-grandmother of 18 - a true matriarch of her family, with a wicked sense of humour, and a love of her fellow man and woman, always ready to help with a smile and a kind word. Betty is a true example of CHARITY, WORK AND LOYALTY. Brianne Franckson, the youngest member of the CWL Bluff branch, has been chosen to go to Atlanta Georgia, USA, for a 1-year spell as a culinary intern, and she left on the 5th of March. Please remember her in prayer.

BELLAIR/QUEENSBURGH

The ladies of CWL Bellair/ Queensburgh provided all the mothers of our parish with delicious cakes which Father Lindelwe handed out after each mass. They were greatly enjoyed.

A lunch was prepared by all the CWL ladies for the pensioners of our parish. Everyone was given gift packs of homemade biscuits and other treats.

RED HILL



Our CWL member Molly Tomlinson celebrated her 80th birthday on the 29th of April 2024. We wish Molly God's blessings, good health and happiness

PELHAM

Four branches - St Helen from kwa- Ngcolose, St Vincent from Pelham (Pietermaritzburg), Albine from Ntshongweni and Umndeni Oyingwele from Hammarsdale, came together at a spiritual retreat which was held at Albine parish on the 17th of February. The purpose of the retreat was to spend time together in prayer and contemplation and rekindle and deepen our relationship with God. The retreat was facilitated by Fr. Hadebe from Albine mission and Fr. S Ndlovu from the parish of the Immaculate Conception.

On the 2nd of March CWL visited the Sekunjalo Community Project situated at Imbali Township.

We adopted this project in 2020. It is run by local women, all volunteers, who prepare and provide cooked food/ hot meals, sandwiches, tea/coffee to the hungry, destitute people from the community, including school children and adults. They provide breakfast and lunch every day.

ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

OUR LADY OF FATIMA, DURBAN NORTH



Mid-January 2024 to mid-May 2024 have been four full months of charity, work and loyalty. We are humble in what we do for others and strive to achieve more each day. We were blessed with five new members in March.

Our year began with helping Wylie House Home for Girls with a monetary donation for the yearly school stationery. At our first meeting of 2024 three ladies visited us to see what CWL is all about. During our meetings ladies keep their hands occupied with either knitting or sewing up beanies. We celebrated Rosmary's 80th birthday with a delicious cake and eats.

CWL members worked hard at the Shrove Tuesday event, setting up the tables and getting an ample supply of pancakes. It is always a success. We held our CWL Paschal meal on Saturday the 23rd of March. All members were involved in either preparing the meal, reading or washing up. This event is always a very special time to reflect on the meaning of what is to come on Easter Sunday.

We managed to send off thirty-nine boxes of tops and tags to the Sweethearts Foundation for wheelchairs. Our president Janice has a boot full of tops and tags from the monthly diocesan meeting she attends. Heartfelt thanks to the other branches who contribute to our collection.

Without fail a number of our ladies attend the WWDP each year. Two of our members were involved in the readings. It is lovely to see fellowship between different denominations. Four days before Easter one of our members delivered Easter eggs and hot cross buns to the girls at Wylie House.

In April we filled up a further 21 boxes of bottle tops and tags for the Sweethearts Foundation. Sue Martin, the ambassador for the foundation, was invited to our April meeting to speak about the reason we collect these tops and tags. We have new members, and it was good for them to meet Sue and hear about her involvement with the Sweethearts Foundation.

On Saturday the 4th of May SVDP together with one of our members delivered our knitted items to Estcourt. This annual project provides items knitted by our members, and includes beanies, jerseys, blankets etc to keep the underprivileged warm.

On Saturday the 18th of May Dr Raymond Perrier from the Denis Hurley Centre enriched our lives at a prayerful retreat at our parish in Durban North. Twenty years on, how can the life of Hurley inform Catholics today? CWL members of St Michael's parish and some of our parishioners joined us for the morning retreat.

HOLY TRINITY



Our CWL began the year on a high note. The committee members were eager and motivated as we kicked off the year with various events.

On the 10th of February the committee members attended the diocesan workshop in Pinetown. It was a great opportunity for us to enhance our knowledge and skills in our roles within the CWL. For those who were already serving in office, it was a good refresher, while for the new office bearers it was a valuable learning experience. We were able to exchange ideas and network with other members from different branches.

Shrove Tuesday pancake evening on the 13th of February marked the start of the Lenten season. On the 27th of March the Paschal meal was held and was attended by parishioners. Our CWL members worked tirelessly to ensure that every aspect of the commemoration of the Old Testament Passover and miracles of the past deliverance from Egypt into the present was perfect. We are grateful to the Holy Trinity parishioners for their overwhelming support and participation in both the Shrove Tuesday evening and the Paschal meal (pictured above).

In March, we also had the pleasure of celebrating six members' birthdays, including those of our president Lesley Canter and Meredith Karcz who celebrated special milestone birthdays. It was heart-warming to see how our members came together to celebrate these ladies at the tea held after our March meeting to show their love and appreciation.

As we reflect on the events of the past few months, we are filled with gratitude for the support and dedication of our members, parishioners, and community. We look forward to the next quarter of the year with renewed enthusiasm and optimism, knowing that together we can continue to make a positive impact on the lives of those around us. The CWL is more than just a group of women; we are a family united in faith, service, and love. Let us carry this spirit forward as we embark on the rest of our journey together.

ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

ST MARY, PIETERMARITZBURG



"Catholics with love", so named by our chaplain at the time, we have had lean times, joyful times, working together to love and serve our Lord. We have visited old age homes, children's orphanages and raised funds for projects to help all sections of our city and further afield.

We have a well-established branch founded in 1953, a very integrated branch with many members of different backgrounds, and we just keep growing. On the 1st of June 7 new members will be inducted.

Functions to raise funds for our charities are ongoing, and we also find the time to socialise and bond with each other. We have members with many disparate talents, some with amazing and graceful singing voices, others are masters of the English

language. Our members are always willing to go that extra mile to garner new ideas and projects.

The spirituality of the branch is a very important part of the lives of our members. Every morning our very dear Kay Temple (92 years old) sends us the most uplifting food for the soul, messages to encourage our prayer life and to thank our heavenly Father for prayers answered. We continue to serve our Lord with charity, work and loyalty.

Pictured are our ladies and 2 of our past priests enjoying a morning tea together.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, PINETOWN



Our branch has done the following activities during this quarter:

We continue to celebrate members' birthdays and each member receives a personalised beautiful birthday card on her birthday. We thank Del for organising these inspirational cards for us.

As a branch we meet every month and our priest Fr Sfiso feeds our souls with powerful spiritual input.

In March we had an Easter hamper raffle and ticket sales went very well. Parishioners supported the League very generously and a considerable amount was raised. The

winner of the hamper was our member Nola Meth. We also made a cash donation to the Caring Fund.

During Lent our members participated in different parish activities eg leading the Stations of the Cross.

On the 18th of May parishioners Caitlin and Travis, both choir members, tied the knot. They asked CWL to serve tea after the wedding ceremony. It was very exciting and we worked tirelessly serving the guests with tasty treats and tidying up afterwards. Congratulations Caitlin and Travis, may your marriage be a beautiful blend of love, respect and peace.

Newly weds Caitlyn and Travis are pictured with members of the CWL.

ST JAMES, LAMONTVILLE

We were deeply saddened by the loss of our active CWL member Khethani Mdluli in February 2024. We extend condolences to all members who have lost loved ones. May their souls rest in peace.

After Bishop Elias Zondi left St James, we had different priests who temporarily helped run the parish, including Father Marcel. We are delighted to announce that after a long search, God answered our prayers for a new parish priest. At the end of July 2023 we welcomed Father Zithulele Mkhize with open arms and we look forward to his ministry with our parish. In December CWL and parishioners spoilt our priest with gifts.

A plenary meeting was held in December to prepare the year plan for 2024, and these are some of the activities in that plan:

On the 1st Sunday of each month, dedicated to honour Mother Mary, we come together for prayers and holy Mass, and thereafter we have our CWL meeting.

On the 3rd Saturday we buy cleaning chemicals and clean the church and all facilities.

On the 3rd Sunday after Mass we visit our sick and elderly members, remembering them in our love and prayers.

In 2023 we prayed for our beloved parish priest who celebrated his 21st anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. After working hard during Lent, we gave him a voucher to spoil himself. Father Mkhize through his ministry and service has been a blessing and inspiration to our parish. He is a great example of living a life of faith. May he always strive to do the will of the Father and bring more souls to Christ. Thank you for all he has done and he is still going to do to make our church the encouraging and faith-building place it is. We are grateful for his leadership and vision that have propelled our parish into new and exciting times. We are still working on our parish house project. Thank you all for the beautiful chancel flower arrangement paid for by CWL as an offering of thanksgiving to God. The altar looked beautiful for the Easter service.

Well done ladies and thank you to everyone who contributed clothing and items for new-born abandoned babies. Your assistance was much appreciated. Our motto is CHARITY, WORK AND LOYALTY and that very much encompasses what we stand for. Ladies, thank you for all you do for our church, thank you for being invaluable members of our church community, thank you for your dedication and commitment to serving others in our church.

Thanks go to the members who give of their time visiting the sick and the elderly. May God's grace surround them and bring comfort and healing to their body, mind and spirit. We wish them happiness and good health for the future.

ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

On Good Friday Deacon Allister and our president prayed the Stations of the Cross in church. Fr Callistus, altar servers and the choir walked a pre-planned route around the area in the church vicinity, praying and singing. The group of walkers grows each year.

ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

JOHANNESBURG REGIONAL COUNCIL

Branch Rotating Rosary Crusade



From Edenvale Branch to Victory Park (Tuesday), thenRobertsham to Rivonia and ontoAlexander and so on the rosaries keep circulating to Our Lady!

ST CHARLES, VICTORY PARK



The Tuesday group had a St Patrick's Day fundraiser and sold Irish coffees and biscuits. Trinity Methodist Church in Linden hosted the WWDP (Women's World Day of Prayer) on the 1st of March. On entering the chapel all were presented with embroidered beaded felt hearts. The theme was "I beg you ... bear with one another in love". Women from surrounding Christian churches participated in the readings. Pastor Londeka used the Bible study of St Paul's letter to the Ephesians 1-12 and spoke passionately about the letter "to strengthen the community of faith in Christ". Refreshments were served in the hall, where friendships were rekindled, and a feeling of love filled the

air. A collection was taken up for distribution to the worthy cause of the WWDP.

Audrey Truda and Denise Hart were enrolled in the Tuesday group by Father Tony Daniels and president Melanie Greenall. The Tuesday group donated Easter eggs to Frederick Place in Coronation.

HOLY TRINITY, BRAAMFONTEIN



A CWL recruitment drive took place at the parish, in response to Fr Bruce's invitation. Pictured from left to right are Monica Dube, Craighall president, Regina Pooe JRC president, Fr Bruce Botha and Nomalungelo Faku, Victory Park Saturday president.

BLESSED SACRAMENT, MALVERN

Our newly inaugurated branch held our first fundraiser, a jumble sale which went off well and was a success! Here's to bigger and even better fundraising events!

ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

CWL JOHANNESBURG DIOCESAN RETREAT



The diocesan retreat held at San Salvador, Leondale, was well attended by members of the League. Also there was the diocesan chaplain. Father Michael Seheri was the Mass celebrant and retreat master.

The principal reflection of the diocesan retreat was taken from 1 Peter 3: 8-12. A 9-point profile for Christian unity was outlined as follows:

Be like minded; be sympathetic; love one another; be compassionate; be humble; lead a moral life; seek peace; keep your tongue from evil; keep your lips from deceitful speech.

Why we should be united: unity is strength; unity is a reflection of God; unity is important for the spread of the gospel/evangelizing; unity is a sign of Christian maturity; unity is a sign of obedience to the will of God.

Practical ways to achieve unity: pray for the will of God to be done; listen more than you speak; seek rather to understand than to be understood; extend grace to others; speak the truth in love; resist the temptation to be right all the time; resist the temptation to always have the last word; avoid gossip; forgive those who have wronged you; stand firm on the word of God.

WEST RAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



On the 13th of January the West Rand Region held a retreat and thanksgiving Mass to start off the new year, giving thanks to God for everything that He did throughout 2023. It was a beautiful celebration conducted by CWL chaplain Fr Bafana Ndlovu, who spoke about the gift of the Eucharist we receive every time we come to Mass. Father gave us three reflections to think about, as disciples of God. How do I present myself to others? What is the importance in giving to others? And what do I show to encourage others to join the Catholic Women's League? Fr Abie also spoke about the three parts of prayer. Praying together when we come to celebrate Mass, praying in our section or block with each other, and also praying for ourselves as individuals.

Prayer is communication with God, where we fully connect.

The West Rand region held its first executive meeting on the 20th of January at Our Lady of Peace in Roodepoort. It was a very fruitful opening meeting, and we were honoured by the attendance of our chaplain Fr Bafana Ndlovu.

On the 3rd of February St Peter's CWL members supported Sr Kgomotso Moloto as she celebrated her profession of Perpetual Vows at Blessed Sacrament parish in Malvern.

The League supports vocations in the parish. They also give guidance to the Children of Mary.

It was a beautiful celebration, and the main celebrant was His Grace, Archbishop Buti Tlhagale.

ST JOHN, NORTHRIDING



On the 7th of April our branch enrolled five new members, Yvonne Molusi, Patricia Makete, Relopile Dlalisa, Relopile Mwelwa and Boitumelo Mukwevho. The celebration was conducted by West-Rand Regional chaplain Fr Bafana Ndlovu, who was assisted by his brother Thato.

WUWCO DAY

The WUCWO celebration was held at St James parish in Magaliesburg. The day was celebrated on the 11th of May and the programme was conducted by Fr Nkosinathi Nkabinde.

EAST RAND



East Rand council executives handed over 320 packets of sanitary towels to Father and his assistants for distribution at the local schools.

Left to right (seated): East Rand Regional Council Executive Mesdames V Zulu, (vice-president), D Ngidi (regional president), T Ngidlana (vice-president) and M Chiloe Smith.

ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

WUCWO



East Rand celebrated the WUCWO theme, "Communion – Participation – Mission: A Synodal Church in the Light of Laudato Si" at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Benoni on Saturday the 11th of May. "Together we are the light of the world, and the salt of the earth" Matt 5: 14-15.

Father Arvin celebrated Mass in the beautiful Carmelite chapel and based his homily on the Mass readings of the day from the Acts of the Apostles 18: 23-28, highlights of which were as follows: The apostles showed their conviction with their bold, unafraid peaching. Because the Jews rejected this newfound faith and belief, this rejection and persecution made the apostles go out and preach to the pagans within the different regions. The blood of early martyrs was the seed of Christianity. They were ready to die for what they preached about, which showed that their belief was not human in origin. Challenges in our faith, whether through difficulties in daily life or through sickness, bring blessings in abundance. Our faith grows through suffering and difficulties. We are called to learn from one woman – Mary the central figure, who united the apostles until the Holy Spirit descended. This shows the value of the role of women in the Church, family life and in the lives of children.

ST DOMINIC, BOKSBURG



The League at St Dominic's celebrated their 90th anniversary, with a special function held to mark the occasion. Members of the Johannesburg past National office were among the guests.

Johannesburg past National team at the celebrations. Left to Right: Mesdames Elaine Phillips (vice-president), Gabriella Marcella (treasurer), Mavis Ngwenya (vice-president) and Barbara Hayward (secretary). Pictured on the right: Fr Vincent Pienaar, former diocesan chaplain, with CWL branch president Sophia Dooley.



SOUTH WEST REGIONAL COUNCIL



South-West Rand Region hosted a thanksgiving mass at St Joseph parish in Meadowlands. The Mass was presided over by Father Petrus Shiya, the SWRR spiritual director and Father Karabo Lephuthing, St Joseph's parish priest. Fr. Shiya encouraged members to be disciples as they are called to be CWL members. They were also encouraged to love and respect each other.

WWDP

The service was held at St Andrew's parish in Noordgesig on the 2nd of March. The theme of the day was from Ephesians 4:1-7 "I beg you love one another." The regional president read from another version which said, "I beg you.... bear with another in love". She explained that to bear with another means forgiving each other as God forgave us. She added that begging is not asking or telling, but it is a position of humility that we must practise. There were speakers from different denominations who spoke about mental health, broken families, the role of parents in schools, the power of women in the church and in the world. The lives of the following women in the Bible were also shared by different speakers - Esther, Sarah, Dorcas and Ruth.

ST. MARTIN, ORLANDO WEST



Our CWL members organised a branch retreat on the 23rd of March. Held in the church, it was led by parish priest Father Norbert Munekani. The theme was "Walk by faith not by sight". Genesis 16 :1-10 and Genesis 17:15- 17 were read and discussed to encourage members to walk by faith. Members were also advised to take note of the following points: Start moving in faith when the way is not clear; you can be godly and wealthy, you can be godly and intelligent; be careful who you take advice from; the impossible is not always impossible.

ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

OUR LADY OF FATIMA, DUBE



On the 24th of March 2024 parishioners from Our Lady of Fatima in Dube met at Baby Jake Boxing Club for the blessing of the palms. All sodalities were there with their flags. The CWL led the procession singing hymns in the streets of Dube. CWL members bought groceries and delivered them to their adopted families during the festive season. This is part of Our Lady of Fatima "Adopt a Family" annual project.

BLESSED JOSEPH GERARD, FREEDOM PARK

We started an annual drive in 2023 to assist learners from the parish with Back-to-School stationery. This year was once again a success.

ST PHILIP NERI, MOLETSANE



Our CWL branch handed out a variety of vegetable to 95 elders in the parish. We believe the little that they received made a difference in their daily lives in this difficult period. What one might take for granted, the other would appreciate.

ST MICHAEL

We visited the Boys' Home in Krugersdorp. We chose this home as we realised that boys are often forgotten. 2023 was our 3rd visit. During the past two years the boys had made their own wish lists but this year they were all bought jeans and T-shirts for Christmas. A Christmas tree was put up and Christmas carols were joyously sung. One of the boys, Yanga Malindi, made us proud by passing matric with a bachelor's pass in 2021. He was also selected to play abroad in a club in Europe.

We took our priest to Elevation Experience in Rockville to show our appreciation for all the work he does. Transport was organised to the venue. Not all members could attend but those who could enjoyed their time spent with our priest. There was singing and dancing and scrumptious food. What a day it was!

REGINA MUNDI MAMOHAU

Mme Thabile's home vegetable garden is used to donate spinach served at Mamohau. Mr. Sphiwe Ngxeke, our previous green beans donor, also donated spinach served.

ST MARGARET, DIEPKLOOF



Our members ran a Back to School initiative and donated school uniforms to parish children who were in need of financial assistance. This included shoes, skirts, jerseys and socks, and the items were handed over on the 16th of January just before schools opened for the new academic year. The children were very grateful and appreciated the thoughtful and much needed gifts from the League.

We set up a food kitchen serving hot meals to the community in need. This was part of our Lenten journey in line with the League's charity and work commitments.

ST PETER CLAVER, PIMVILLE

To begin the year on a positive note our branch conducted a workshop on the 3rd of February. The purpose was to clarify what the League is all about and what is expected from members, as well as to highlight the behaviour of members inside and outside the League. We considered how Margaret Fletcher formed the League, its purpose and the charity work she did at that time, cheerfully, generously and willingly.

VAAL REGIONAL COUNCIL

On the 6th of April VRC hosted their very first Women's Seminar, which was held at Groenpunt Correction Facility. The seminar was designed to empower women and also to have members of the Vaal region get together and enjoy each other's company. Various speakers were invited to attend and give words of encouragement to empower all women who attended the seminar.

ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

ST KIZITO



On the 10th of February we enrolled 6 new members. The presiding priest was Fr Kefil, the League's chaplain. Also present was parish priest Fr Kgaogelo Ntsie and Deacon Mashinini.

Pictured are VRC Leaders and St Kizito members. From left to right (back row) Mamojaki Ramatsebe, Addelaide Masemola, Lerato Temeki, Fr Kefil, Mamokete Zwane, Cynthia Thoko Malinga and Bongzi Mkhwanazi.

ARCHDIOCESAN EVENT: OPENING OF THE MOTHER OF MERCY SHRINE



All roads led to the blessing and opening of the Mother of Mercy Shrine on Saturday 27th of April with the Catholic Women's League supporting this momentous achievement by assisting towards the fundraising to complete this outstanding Shrine.

DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY

MAHIKENG DEANERY



One of the CWL members made a very generous contribution towards Mass kit for the ordination of Rev D.C Keorapetse Sechogela in July 2023.

The Catholic Women's League built the Grotto at Lebogang parish in accordance with their motto of Charity, Work and Loyalty to the church. It was officially opened and blessed by the bishop.

Ladies from St Mary's cleaned the premises near their priest's residence.

The Grotto at Lebogang parish.

DIOCESE OF KLERKSDORP

OUR LORD KING OF PEACE



Many of us are guaranteed a plate of food every day. Not only a plate of food, but 3 meals a day. We even have the luxury to choose what we want to eat and what we don't. Sadly, we at times forget to give thanks to the Lord for these gifts we receive from His bounty. We also forget that not everyone is afforded this luxury on a daily basis.

Our CWL members took time to share this daily luxury with the less fortunate in our community. On the 18th of May, we cooked and shared meals with 3 families in the community of Jouberton Extensions 19 and 21. Those on the receiving end were delighted to receive a hearty meal. It is acts like these that should remind us to be thankful for what God has given us and to share with those who lack. The ladies were motivated by WUCWO resolution 3 of 2023/26 to fight the Global Food Crisis.

Trust the ladies of Our Lord King of Peace to reach out to those not well. At times our members get afflicted by illnesses which sadly do not allow them to be as social as before. Going to church also becomes difficult. They therefore become home bound and lonely. It is our responsibility to reach out to them and show them love. This is what the ladies diligently do. They visited Mrs Helen Beukes at Klerksdorp Old Age Home. Mma Helen was delighted to spend the day with her fellow CWL members.

DIOCESE OF KLERKSDORP

CALVARY



Mothers take care of everyone, but who takes care of mothers? They carry out their responsibilities with love and grace. They even at times forget about themselves while their attention is on everybody around them. CWL Calvary ladies spoiled the mothers of their parish with bread and a hearty soup after Mass on Mother's Day. The mothers were delighted by this gesture.

CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER



When Church becomes family, happiness must prevail. CWL at Christ the Redeemer advocates for family, sisterhood, brotherhood, love, unity and everything that makes our Lord God happy. For this reason we planned a beautiful family day celebration for all the congregation. The gardens of Rabbuni Centre were splashed with colour, laughter and happiness as everyone gathered to picnic and braai. Children were delighted to have food and games while adults used the time to rest and interact with each other. Our branch used this event as a fund raiser. Many thanks to the cathedral brethren who supported this initiative so generously.

The ladies of the cathedral have wholeheartedly responded to the call to serve. They remain steadfast in their charitable acts. Very close to their hearts are the nuns in the diocese. Driven by their insatiable quest to serve, our branch continues to share the little that they gather amongst the three convents in the diocese. The Sisters are forever grateful for the generous gesture by the ladies.

ST PAUL, JOUBERTON



Immaculate Conception parish in Orkney was honoured by the visit of St Paul's ladies on the 14th of March. Amongst others, the visit was aimed at spending the day with Mrs Beauty Mosena who has been suffering ill health over the past months and to give support to the two other CWL members in the parish. As a devoted CWL member, Mrs Mosena continues to attend mass and where possible to take part in CWL activities albeit with a lot of difficulty.

She was presented with a package of goodies and a Bonsai tree as a symbol of good health wishes. With so many bad or unpleasant things happening in the world and around us, St Paul's ladies serve as a beacon of hope. They reached out and touched a hand that needed warmth and love. Doesn't that make this world a better place?

Our branch members participated in the interdenominational march against gangster-

ism in the community. Jouberton is a large township that is marred by incidents of gangsterism. This has caused a high number of crimes committed against women and children, robberies and burglaries. Sadly churches are not spared from these gang activities. They get broken into and their members get robbed during church services. This scourge prompted different churches to come together to march against gangs and to raise awareness about the devastating effects these gang activities cause in the community. The march was held on the 1st of May and all women in their church/ sodality regalia participated in the march.

DIOCESAN VISIT TO IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, ORKNEY



With all responsibilities bestowed upon her, the CWL president of the diocese still makes time to get in touch with members at branch level. The diocese is vast, with branches far apart.

One branch that had the privilege of hosting the president is Immaculate Conception. The branch has only three steadfast members. Their small number does not deter them from serving in their parish and their community and to care for one another. They live up to Matthew 18:20 "for when two or three are assembled in my name, there I am in the midst of them".

On Palm Sunday, Mrs Monama went to Orkney to attend Mass with the members. It was a joyous day for the members and the parish priest. This has set an example for other members and branches to follow, to visit one another and form strong relations that will assist in treading the Charity, Work and Loyalty road with ease.

DIOCESE OF KLERKSDORP

ST MICHAEL



Ladies of St Michael dressed to the nines and joined everyone in bidding their beloved Father Don Bohe farewell. The august occasion was held at Christa Galli in Potchefstroom on the 13th of January. Father Bohe's unwavering care and support played a pivotal role in the existence of CWL at St. Michael's parish. From the inception of the branch he walked the journey with the members until they were strong enough to only require minimal help. It was in 2016 when the then CWL president Mme Liziwe Segone, her deputy Mme Maria Seleke and Father Bohe established a CWL branch in the parish. A group of ladies wholeheartedly joined and never looked back. With so much zeal they started serving at church, community and diocesan level. With a little less than 10 years in the League, the branch prides itself on achieving several milestones including having the current diocesan president (Mrs Clauntina Monama) and news correspondent (Ms Jeanette

Ntshabele) coming from it. Father Bohe will always occupy a special place in the hearts of St Michael's CWL ladies. Who said you can't raise funds and be charitable at the same time? St Michael's ladies have a formula. As a way of raising funds to be able to carry out CWL obligations and the annual plan, quite often the ladies make their way to Potchefstroom taxi rank to sell pre-loved clothes. They share the following tips for running a successful taxi rank boutique:-

Gather used / second hand clothes (from fellow parishioners, friends and family members). Wash and iron them well.

Approach the local taxi rank management for a spot to sell (business people at the taxi rank can be very territorial, so it is advisable to follow the right procedures). Or you can approach anyone you know at the taxi rank to assist. Make sure they understand that you are from church and your "business" is going to be once in a while and what its purpose is. Be truthful and honest. Once you have secured a spot at which you can sell, come together for pricing of the clothing. Choose a date to go sell (month-end never disappoints or a day after the payment of social grants). Wake up early to set up at your selling spot, the earlier the better. Ensure that your clothes are attractive to the buyers. Don't forget to don your CWL t-shirt for identification. Scream your lungs out to attract customers (you will need special talent for this!).

3 to 4 hours should give you a handsome amount of money that you would never have raised while sitting at home.

DIOCESE OF MANZINI

DIOCESAN



CWL continues to be actively involved in the life of the church in Eswatini. The Diocese is celebrating 110 years of existence in the Kingdom of Eswatini. Bishop Jose Luis Ponce de Leon officially opened the Diocesan Jubilee year 2024 with the theme "Lazarus Come Out". The bishop has tasked all sodalities in the Diocese to be part of this theme and CWL has enthusiastically embraced this by coming out and visiting almost all the parishes in the Diocese.

We continue to assist the seminarians in the diocese through financial, emotional and social support. Besides the send-off that we usually host for them and the yearly financial contribution to the Bishop's Seminarians' Fund, this year the bishop introduced a seminarians' fund-raising initiative of selling T-shirts for Lent and this was supported by CWL members.

At the beginning of the year the bishop of Manzini appointed new chaplains to organisations and sodalities in our diocese. Fr. Antony Mulwa IMC was appointed as our chaplain. Our diocesan executive committee had the pleasure of visiting his parish, the Annunciation of the Lord. This visitation also served to increase the visibility of CWL for recruitment. The visit was particularly special because it was Fr Mulwa's birthday that day and we celebrated with him.

Shown are the executive committee members with Fr Samuel-Francis IMC and Fr. Antony Mulwa IMC.

ESWATINI COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN



CWL members participated in the Eswatini Council of Catholic Women (ECCW) annual conference held from the 9th to the 12th of May at the Catholic Centre. It concluded on a high note with the celebration of Mass by spiritual advisor Fr Ncamiso Vilakati at the cathedral of Our Lady of Assumption.

DIOCESE OF MANZINI

MATER DOLOROSA

Our members from Mater Dolorosa parish hosted a fund-raising initiative by selling cakes on Mother's Day and it was a great success. This initiative relieves the ladies from financial strain as they pursue their charity work.

CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION



A retreat with the theme of "Come Out Lazarus" was held. Afterwards 5 new members received their badges (pictured). Four of our members received their 10-year badges, and one received a 20-year badge. On the same day our oldest member Make Mpho Mhlanga celebrated her 93rd birthday. Our ladies made time to visit her with parish priest Fr Thokozani Mkhonta for a birthday prayer and blessing.

CHARITY WORK



Charity work continues with the distribution of food hampers, visitations to other parishes, to bereaved families and to those in need. St Joseph's parish with hampers to be distributed to the needy.

SS PETER AND PAUL



Our parish also had a retreat which was followed by the enrolment of 1 new member. A 10-year badge and a 20-year badge were awarded to 2 of our members. The pinning was a historic event as it was celebrated by our bishop.

Presentation of a 10-year badge by President Mrs Lindiwe Bembe.

DIOCESE OF MARIANNHILL

Mariannhill diocese launched a new branch in Kevelear Mission and welcomed 5 members to the League on the 18th of June 2023.

A Mariannhill executive member visited Durban to meet the CWL National team in September 2023.

Diocesan CWL paid a visit to St Alphonse parish to honour members of the League who had achieved their 10-year anniversary as members, working hard and supporting one another.



Members of CWL from Fatima (an out-station of St Joseph's Cathedral) visited an elderly parishioner to give her love, prayer and a gift since she cannot get to church any longer because of her age.

Pictured are ladies from the Umlazi deanery celebrating WUWCO day. It was also celebrated by the Umhlathuzana deanery.



DIOCESE OF POLOKWANE

DIOCESAN



2024 started in a relaxed mood with the executive committee having their first meeting of the year on the 3rd of March at Emmanuel Catholic church at Be-la-Bela. It was crucial for the committee to give a support visit to this branch that had been experiencing some challenges. The committee continues to give them support through prayer and constant communication.

The executive meeting was followed by the AGM on the 17th of March at St Gregory the Great parish. At both meetings we were blessed to have our chaplain Rev. Fr. Mokgotho leading us through holy Mass and supporting us in the meetings.

REGINA PACIS



Regina Pacis parish celebrated Our Lady of Peace after whom we are named. All 5 branches joined in the celebration. What a lovely day it was. We started with holy Mass with our parish priest Father Galane and Deacon Thomas. After Mass we had a procession to honour our Lady of Peace at her grotto in front of our church. We started with praying the Rosary and all the sodalities and parishioners participated. CWL's Sesi Lucia represented us. Father Galane and Deacon Thomas blessed Mary's statue in our grotto, which was decorated with lots of flowers and candles. After we were finished we shared fruits with everyone.

We celebrated Holy Childhood at our parish, and donated chicken, bottled water and cases of cooldrink. Bishop Jeremiah Masela blessed us with his presence and we had lunch with everyone at our parish.

This year we are going to enrol 3 aspirants, Tshepiso Gafane, Manteke Maruma and Olebongeng Makgoba. We prepared breakfast and lunch for the priests' meeting at the parish. Those

attending the meeting enjoyed an English breakfast and delicious lunch and expressed their thanks for the meals.

We were honoured to send off Refiloe Maropalo, a CWL member from St John the Baptist Pretoria North branch who passed away. She lived in Pretoria but Seshego was her birth place and her home. Their parish priest asked our priest if we could send her off in the CWL way in her home parish. We cooperated with our parish to ensure we honoured her and buried her with dignity. Parishioners from St John the Baptist came in numbers too. Their president Ms Nomaxabiso Tata thanked us for the warm welcome we extended to them. After the funeral we spent time together getting to know one another and developing new friendships. We held a day of Recollection with Father Galane on the 11th of May. We began at 09h00 and the day finished at 15h00. We started with confession and then began the programme. Luke 11 - 14. Morena re rute go Rapela bjalo ka ge Johane Mokolobetsi a rutile barutiwa ba gagwe. It is necessary to pause from our daily lives and tasks and go and pray. Prayer is very important in our lives. We must have time to recharge. We have to recharge our spiritual life or it will die. Communication with God is very important. We must have a relationship with God and to do this we must make time with Him, time alone with the Lord. We really had a wonderful, blessed day with him and when it was over you could see that we were spiritually full. It was exactly what we needed. We thank God for the gift of life and we wish to do His will at all times.

DIOCESE OF PORT ELIZABETH (GCEBERHA)

ST JUDE, ZWELITSHA



On the 25th of February our CWL branch had the honour of welcoming two new members, Nontuthuzelo Matyumza and Thobeka Fihlela, who joined the League early last year. It was a joyous occasion presided over by our chaplain Father Peter Chungu. After Mass we enjoyed some eats and the whole parish was invited.

DIOCESE OF PORT ELIZABETH (GCEBERHA)

MATER DEI

We started our Novena on the 11th of August and renewed our commitment to the CWL during Mass on the Feast of the Assumption, the 20th of August 2023.

First Communion was held at our parish on the 24th of September and we were asked to assist in serving breakfast and clearing up for the communicants and families on their special day.

An appeal was made for assistance by a teacher at the Hillcrest Primary School, a no-fee school, in the notorious gangster-ridden suburb of Helenvale. Five learners in the school achieved the extraordinary feat of being chosen to represent the Eastern Cape in the WOW Spelling Bee at Stellenbosch University from the 5th to the 7th of October. The assistance requested was for school clothes, jerseys and jackets for their bus trip to Stellenbosch in the cold weather. CWL branches pulled together in the hope of covering the cost of the expenses for this national competition and giving the school inspiration to strive even harder for the future of other learners.

SAN FRANCESCO

We welcomed and congratulated our new committee, namely Anne Anthony (president) and Joan Otto (vice-president). Our thanks to Sandra for a sterling job done these last few years.

Our first workshop was in February and began with the Rosary prayers. We donated 2 bags of soup powder to Bedford Soup Kitchen, Good Shepherd Sisters (Bethelsdorp), Missionvale, Kleinskool and Sr Margaret for Schauderville as well as donating money to Girls and Boys Town. We collected knitted beanies, squares and beautiful jerseys to be sent to Bedford.

Our first Bingo evening for the year was planned for the 29th of February. Our ladies led the Stations of the Cross on Friday the 8th of March. We did weekend tea duty on the 23rd and 24th of March, serving tea and biscuits to parishioners after Saturday evening Mass and again on Sunday morning. The deanery Stations of the Cross was held at our parish on the 21st of March and our CWL ladies provided tea and coffee. We also attended a workshop on the 22nd and 23rd of March to make palm crosses. We had a tea on the 23rd of March to bid farewell to our member Mary Greisiger, who has decided to go to England to be with her children. We catered for 2 funerals in April. We had a 2nd bingo evening to raise funds. It is always a popular event. Our thanks to Elaine for arranging these evenings and to the ladies who sell the tickets.

A Mother's Day High Tea was held on Saturday the 11th of May in the church hall.

SACRED HEART



We started the first Lenten Stations of the Cross with CWL leading the faithful in the reading of the stations.

Our diocesan retreat led by Sr Francis of the Sisters of Mercy was a very beautiful morning of reflection and prayer. Ladies from branches throughout the diocese attended. Fr Jerry celebrated Mass for us and a generous collection was taken up for Sr Francis in gratitude.

We provided 5 families with food packages. The families are extremely grateful for this kind and very welcome outreach which provides so much relief in these trying times.

During the time of Lent we had a number of funerals where we set up and served tea to the mourners. Apart from funerals in the parish we have had bereavements in the families of our members.

A few of our members formed part of the Jerusalem Joy choir which performed the very beautiful musical rendition of the journey of Christ to Jerusalem. The performance took place the week before Holy Week and was very well received by those in attendance.

CWL, on behalf of the parish, catered and set up supper for 8 priests following the Lenten penitential service. As always, the priests enjoyed the delicious meal.

We have provided food parcels to the family outreach programme, providing them with fresh fish for the Easter tradition of pickled fish preparation. The families expressed their deep gratitude for the ongoing assistance.

One of our members hosted a workshop to make crosses for Palm Sunday and quite a few of our members assisted in making the crosses.

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

Our parish held an Awareness Day on the 17th of March after Mass. We handed out sanitary towels to girls, socks to boys and sweets to children. It was a beautiful event and we had 3 ladies asking about the CWL.

ST MARY, GRAHAMSTOWN



We do our spiritual duties by visiting the sick, at home and in hospital. We also have prayer meetings with families who have lost their loved ones.

On Wednesdays we have house masses at the homes of our elderly in the community. We are blessed to have Fr. Khanyisani Shabalala celebrate the house Masses for us. Our elderly are very happy to have these opportunities to receive Holy Communion as they cannot attend church due to their ailments.

ARCHDIOCESE OF PRETORIA

DIOCESAN



As reported in our submission in the previous newsletter, we began our year with a retreat at St Augustine led by CWL chaplain Fr Thomas and parish priest Fr Tatu. Sadly Fr Tatu passed away in April. He was an ardent supporter of the CWL mainly because of the charity work we do. He was respectful, approachable, a good listener and of meek heart. He was a true shepherd always willing to serve his flock. Father worked hard, served well, and preached passionately. He will be dearly missed. May his soul rest in peace.

Radio Veritas Fun Share Relay

The CWL Pretoria archdiocese received an invitation from the archdiocese of Johannesburg to collaborate in planning and hosting the Radio Veritas Fun Share Relay held on the 21st of March to raise funds for the radio station.

It was a great experience to learn what goes on behind the scenes when planning a radio show. This experience ranged from naming the show, developing a theme, designing the poster and developing a promo to choosing the music and sitting behind a microphone. Collaborating with Johannesburg's Catholic Women's Association (CWA) was an eye-opener as one realized that there are so many similarities between CWL and CWA including our opening prayer i.e. 'Come Holy Spirit...'

One can proudly say that Catholic women are truly gifted and have so many hidden talents. These dedicated women invaded the radio studio with zeal and confidence and took on the microphones as if they had been doing this for years. We are indebted to our sister archdiocese of Johannesburg for bringing us on board and we must keep up the spirit of sisterhood and unity.

Diocesan Recruitment Drive

The membership recruitment drive to expand the footprint of the CWL to the townships and peri-urban areas moved in on St Raphael Parish in Mamelodi West in March. The ladies were introduced to the League and its work as part of the ongoing breakthrough programme of the Pretoria Diocesan Council, aimed at increasing CWL visibility and establishing new branches in identified areas.

Women Power Breakfast



We held a Women Power Breakfast on the 27th of April at The Swiss Restaurant in Midrand. This flagship fundraising and empowerment gathering brought together an inspiring group of women leaders, professionals, and advocates dedicated to fostering financial independence and promoting mental health awareness and resilience among women.

The morning featured a series of engaging talks from distinguished speakers, each with their own unique perspectives and expertise. Attendees had the opportunity to hear from financial advisor Phumelele Ndumo, who emphasised the importance of financial literacy and planning to achieve economic independence. Anastasia Tlhapane, a registered counsellor, life practitioner and life coach, discussed the critical aspects of women's mental health, sharing vital strategies to manage stress and promote emotional well-being.

The breakfast event also highlighted stories of resilience, with keynote speaker Sr Thao Phi (FMM) sharing her journey of overcoming personal and professional obstacles to achieve success. Her powerful narrative resonated deeply with the audience, reinforcing the event's theme of perseverance and empowerment.

Networking sessions following the talks allowed participants to connect, share experiences, and build supportive relationships, further enriching the sense of community. There was also a fashion show to entertain, a raffle with wonderful prizes and a scrumptious meal – indeed, a morning well spent.

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION



Maria Regina Branch in Lyttleton held a pampering session for elderly women on the 4th of May in commemoration of both Mother's Day and May month for Mother Mary.

The ladies were treated to a manicure, a pedicure, and light snacks. This was coupled with valuable conversations that not only brightened their day but met the objective of gathering Catholic women and creating unity in the works of the Lord.

ARCHDIOCESE OF PRETORIA

OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART, MIDRAND



On the 2nd of March we had our first induction workshop, where we were joined by Sr Shirley and Sr Bilha. Thereafter we proceeded to the convent for our spiritual reflection led by Sister Julie. Under the theme, 'Journeying with Jesus', we invoked Jesus to be our personal companion in a silent retreat. Here we were reminded that if we accept carrying the cross with Jesus we will receive, and live with, hope and joy!

On Mother's Day our fundraising and social committee prepared and served lunch to 9 sisters in our convent. A big thank you to all who made it possible.

ST ANTHONY, SOSHANGUVE



On the 7th of April our branch paid a visit to Boitumelo Home, which is our adopted charity home. We delighted the children with sanitary pads, boxes of secondhand clothes and Easter eggs. This brought joy to them, and they were grateful. We also gave our elderly in church and children Easter eggs.

On the 4th of May we had a 5km fun walk to raise funds for our charity projects. We managed to sell 380 tickets, and sold boerewors rolls, drinks, and snacks. We played various games and handed out gifts for our winners. We had a lot of fun.

ST JOSEPH, EERSTERUST

The Eersterust CWL recently marked a significant milestone with the celebration of their 37th anniversary. This event highlights the enduring dedication and service of the League within the Eersterust community. For nearly four decades, the league has been committed to various charitable activities, faith-based initiatives, and community support programs.

The celebration included a special Mass, social gatherings, and acknowledgments of the contributions made by members over the years. Such anniversaries are a testament to the League's sustained impact and the vital role it plays in fostering community spirit and support among the Catholic women of Eersterust.

As we reflect on the journey thus far, let us also look ahead with renewed zeal and determination, confident in the knowledge that the CWL will continue to shine as a beacon of hope and inspiration for generations to come.

There is an old saying: "It's never too late to start over, to pursue your dreams, or to change your life." To this we can also add: "Knowledge is Power" and "Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today". The Eersterust branch would like to congratulate our sister Jeanette Williams on her latest achievement. Jeanette graduated with a bachelor's degree in health science and social services on the 11th of April 2024.

ST JOHN FISHER, LYNNWOOD



It is good to report that Lynnwood Branch is looking up again. We have gained a few new members, particularly amongst the younger ladies, who are generating new ideas and energy.

Sadly, our treasurer, Cecilia Mascini, has decided to retire after many years of service, which we have greatly appreciated. Teresa de Canha has taken over her duties. During the past five months, our meetings have been held at St Peter's, under the leadership of Delene Holt.

On Tuesday the 30th of April, we celebrated the Rosary at the home of Prisca Molotsi who turned 94. There was a pleasing turnout and Prisca had a CWA guest from Cameroon who shared her experiences with us (pictured above).

The residents of Paul Jungnickel were very grateful for the groceries and toiletries received. One mother gratefully commented 'Happily we shall be able to eat pap at last tonight.'

We continue to supply monthly food parcels for the needy. Another of our services is collecting 2nd hand bags for rape victims. Denise from Johannesburg comes to collect our bags and these are filled with toiletries. Pupils in the Outreach Programme at St Mary's D.S.G. have collected bags which they present to our CWL.

Another of our projects is knitting teddies for the Abused Children's Clinic. Every time 100 of them are knitted, they are transported to Johannesburg. Research has been done and it found that children relate best to teddies. One of our parishioners, Marilyn McGee, has alone knitted 124 teddies.

After the monthly meeting on Saturday 11 May, the members packed 300 bags of chocolates to be handed out to mothers of the parish on Sunday 12 May. We continue to serve teas in the hall after funerals held at the parish. It is with regret that we have to report the deaths of Stella Kleb (an associate CWL member) and Rene D'Oliviera, former headmistress of Loreto Skinner.

Every two months, our members meet for breakfast as a social event. A High Tea is being planned for Women's Day in August.

ARCHDIOCESE OF PRETORIA

CHURCH OF THE BEATITUDES, ZWAVELPOORT



CWL Zwavelpoort saw it fit to give back to our community on Mother's Day because of the support that CWL always receives from our parishioners when we do fundraising for organisations in need. We organised cupcakes in conjunction with the PPC to make Mother's Day a special day for our parish mothers. The feedback we received from members of the church was positive and mothers expressed how they look forward to the CWL acknowledging them on Mother's Day.

CHURCH OF THE PRESENTATION, MONTANA



On Vocation Sunday the 21st of April our branch hosted seminarians and religious from the Pretoria archdiocese. They were invited specially to come and talk to the youth in our church about different vocations and the different orders in the Catholic church. The youth from the diocese attended this in great numbers and listened attentively. We hope this endeavour will encourage our youth to consider these vocations for the benefit of the church.

ST AUGUSTINE, SILVERTON



We started our charity work by getting involved with a back-to-school project. This year we decided to collect stationery items for our main charity, St Alphonso Children's Home in Bronkhorstspuit. The project entailed filling up school shoeboxes with stationery, a toy and some eats. The project was a success as we collected more boxes than anticipated. We are grateful for our parishioners' constant support. The children were delighted with their boxes.

"We meet to part...we part to meet" – we supported the family of one of our members, Nompumelelo Margaret Motubatse who passed away during COVID 19, at the unveiling of her tombstone. She is still missed in our branch. We remember her with love and affection. MHS RIP.

2024 started on a bittersweet note as we bade farewell to our beloved priest, Fr Robert. CWL members bought him a gift which was presented to him by our president Mrs Bridget Matlala (pictured above). On Mother's Day our branch members were presented with very thoughtful gifts by the men of the parish. On the day, our group took the opportunity to do some charity work. We packed gifts donated by our parishioners to take to St Alphonso's Children's Home. The gifts included books, toys, sweet treats, food, etc. The kids were jubilant as usual and competed to say a little thank you to us. We are looking forward to being with them again.

During May, the month of our Blessed Mother, our members met every week to pray the Rosary at home.

CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART



Good Friday is an important day in a Catholic woman's calendar. Emulating women who followed Jesus as He was carrying His heavy cross is a gift a CWL woman should cherish. Luke 23: 27-31 tells us that: "A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children'. Jesus is assuring us that He has everything under control. What's left for us is to work hard and to lead a life that will be exemplary to our children. He is doing His part of removing sin from humanity and we women should maintain a sinless life to be crowned righteous at the end of our lives and that our children will follow in our footsteps. Some of our members participated in the parish walk, the Way of the Cross.

The enactment of the celebration of the Passover feast by Sis Nomfundo and fellow parishioners during Holy Week afforded the opportunity to CWL members to grow spiritually. The Paschal meal teaches us that God can move for us in a mighty way as He did for the children of Israel. He can free women from struggles of this world.

On the 4th of May we celebrated Mother's Day. We were all smiles as we posed for photos with our gifts received from incognito fellow sisters. We enjoyed delicious sandwiches at this most needed bonding session. Our inductee Sis Ntombifuthi handed the gifts to all who attended.

DIOCESE OF UMZIMKULU



Greetings from Our Lady of Peace in Margate on the KZN South Coast. Our small group of CWL members has been kept busy in the last couple of months with fund-raising activities.

We have hosted 2 parish breakfasts, with bacon rolls and hot dogs on sale. We have begun selling second-hand books and clothes at our breakfasts, which is helping to boost our profits. Our breakfasts are not only fund-raisers but help to bring our parish together in fellowship.

In September 2023 we were delighted to have the opportunity to host the National committee from Cape Town for a bring-and-share lunch (pictured above). We celebrated Mass beforehand, and Noreen Comte received her 25-year badge for loyal service from our president, Dolores Jones.

At the end of 2023, we made 3 charitable donations from our fund-raising efforts, a donation to Hospice, a donation to Pro Deo (an organisation that focuses on home care for the infirm), and a donation to the bishop's fund for the seminarians.

We also used some of our funds to steam-clean the carpet surrounding the altar of our church, as our contribution to the upkeep of the parish.

We had a wonderful Christmas luncheon, full of festivity and fellowship, which in hindsight was a wonderful blessing to our group because just 2 months later, tragically, we lost our president Dolores Jones in a car accident. This has been a profound loss to our parish and to CWL, as she played such an important part in our lives. The memory of that happy occasion, and Dolores' joyous laughter will sustain us. She was the most wonderful inspiration to us all and we hope to emulate her life of service more fully in the coming months.

The CWL members were honoured to participate in Dolores' funeral and to host the funeral luncheon with well over 300 people in attendance.

An emergency meeting was called immediately thereafter to elect a new leadership team. Fortunately, we are blessed with experienced and capable members to step into these new positions.

Our traditional Easter Basket raffle was very popular and raised some more much-needed funds. We are busy assembling toilettries in care bags for those in need and will be distributing these to a worthy cause in the next months.

We held our annual retreat on the 10th of April. The day began with a Healing Mass. Deacon Rob Bothma was our retreat master. What an inspiring, spiritually enriching and nourishing experience it was! The retreat helped us to widen and deepen our experience of the Mass as 'the Sacrifice of the Lamb'. After a shared lunch, the retreat concluded with the opportunity for confession. Several members continue to visit the sick on a regular basis, others serve as Proclaimers of the Word and Ministers of the Eucharist. We are honoured to serve our parish in this way.

Our participation in our WUCWO Mass was the highlight of May, as we contemplated deeply on the themes and implication of the WUCWO objectives for the coming year.

Membership is slowly growing, as we welcomed 3 new members to our group in the past 12 months.

OBITUARIES

Me Ntswaki Tsubane, Bloemfontein



20 June 1967 – 11 April 2024

Mme Ntswaki Tsubane was a member of Our Lady of Fatima's CWL group.
May her soul rest in peace.

Mme Sekaledi, Bloemfontein

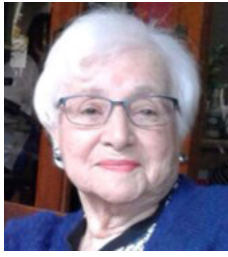


19 September 1950 – 12 January 2024

Mme Sekaledi was a member of the CWL at St Rose of Lima.
May her soul rest in peace.

OBITUARIES

Audrey Lindsay, Cape Town



Audrey Lindsay passed away peacefully on Thursday the 4th of April 2024. A founder member of CWL Parow, she was a member there for forty-one years. Whenever there was fund-raising, she was in the forefront, making sure that enough was raised for she knew this was a lifeline for the destitute. She never missed any occasion where Our Lady was given special honour, for she had great love for the Mother of Christ. She scarcely missed a meeting, and when discussions got somewhat heated, she just dropped one of her light-hearted comments and gone was the tension. She contributed her time and effort to make sure that the CWL succeeded in its goals.

She reached the ripe old age of 95, which we celebrated with her. For the past few months she could not attend meetings, for she had become frail and bedridden. She was blessed to be given the most tender and loving care by her devoted daughter.

May Almighty God grant her soul eternal rest. 'Into your hands O Lord, we commend her spirit.'

Khethani Favourite Mdluli, Durban

24 November 1968 – 8 February 2024



Khethani was born at Lamontville. She joined CWL in November 2021. She was a dedicated member, actively involved in all CWL duties. She was in the church choir, the Asiphile Soup Kitchen and a member of the St Simon prayer group. She was involved in the health care sector as a counsellor on HIV/AIDS and treatment, permanently employed by the Department of Health at Cetshwayo Hospital (formerly known as King George). She was laid to rest on the 17th of February. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Lindi Bhengu, Durban

10 March 1971 – 20 May 2024



Lindi was born on the 10th of March 1971. She joined CWL in August 2000 at Umndeni Oyingcwele parish in Hammarsdale. In 2018 she moved to Pietermaritzburg and joined the CWL at St. Vincent, Pelham. Lindi was a vibrant person who loved to sing and loved the League very much. On Monday the 20th of May she was called home to the Lord after a long illness. She was laid to rest on Saturday 25 May at her home in Lion Park, Pietermaritzburg after Mass celebrated at Umndeni Oyingcwele parish, Hammarsdale. Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual shine upon her, may her soul rest in peace.

Eileen York, Durban



On the 15th of March the longest-serving member of the CWL, Eileen York, passed away. In 2019 she received a 70-year badge of service, a first in the history of the League. Eileen was a humble, inspirational and insightful lady who treated everyone with love and respect. She always responded with a helping hand and prayers to League requests. Her presence, love and support will be truly missed.

Pat Binneman, Durban



Patricia Mary Binneman joined the CWL in 1973. She received a 50-year badge of service last year in 2023 in a hospital bed. She had been in frail care for the greater part of the year. Pat was a CWL Honorary life member who held several positions on the diocesan executive council for many years, and assisted with finance.

Enid Sandford, Durban



4 October 1931 – 24 December 2023

Enid was a longstanding and faithful member of CWL for 43 years from 1980. She delivered food to the needy as part of the Meals on Wheels outreach and was the cashier as part of the team involved in the TB Kiosk at the Botanical Gardens. She worked in the kitchen at funerals. She sold sheets of raffle tickets at fundraiser times. Her great faith was evident in the way she lived her life. We miss her as a dear and faithful member and friend.

OBITUARIES

Lise Bernon, Durban

23 April 1927 – 11 March 2024

Lise, a member of the CWL for 30 years, passed away peacefully on the 11th of March. RIP Lise, good and faithful servant

Khelinah Ndwandwe, Manzini



In 2014 Khelinah Ndwandwe was one of the first members to be enrolled at St Peregrine's parish. She served the parish diligently and was a loyal member of the CWL, serving honestly and with pride. May her soul and the souls of the faithful departed rest in eternal peace.

Theresa Tselane Dlamini, Manzini



Theresa Tselane Dlamini, a committed member of the League from the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption, passed away in May 2024. She was one of the longest serving members and worked honestly and quietly. She had a great love for music.

May her soul rest in eternal peace and perpetual light shine upon her.

Rachel Manaka-Lekitlane, Johannesburg (JRC)



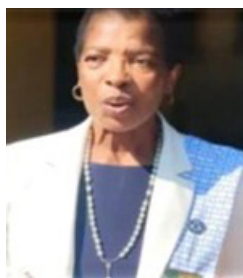
Rachel became a fully enrolled member of the CWL at Robertsham in 2019. She was an active member who cheerfully took part in the activities of the League. She loved and supported charity work and gave generously. She was unwavering in her support of our parish priest. Although gentle and soft spoken she impacted those she interacted with. She was prayerful and faithful, putting God first even at work. Even when she became ill, her love and commitment to the League continued and she still enthusiastically attended our events. We will sadly miss her and she will always be in our hearts. May Rachel's soul rest in peace

Ms Jemina Ngwenya, Johannesburg (SWRRC)



Ms. Jemina Ngwenya was a member at the parish of Regina Mundi-Moroka, where she joined the League in 1989. She passed away on the 4th of January 2024.

Ms Nhlanhla Mmoledi, Johannesburg (SWRRC)



Ms Nhlanhla Mmoledi joined the League at St Joseph, Meadowlands in 2012. She passed away on the 23rd of January 2024.

Ms Lindiwe Masilela, Johannesburg (SWRRC)

Ms Lindiwe Masilela joined the CWL at the parish of Our Lady of Fatima in Dube in 1994. She passed away on the 7th of January 2024.

OBITUARIES

Grace Mamabolo, Johannesburg (SWRRC)



February 1939 – May 2024

Grace was a member of the Catholic Women's League at Dobsonville from 1971. She started the CWL at Holy Rosary, Phiri in 1978 when she transferred there. Grace was National Management Committee's 1st Vice President from 2002 to 2005. She will be dearly missed by all members of the League in the Johannesburg Diocese.

Ms Nomvula Maseko, Johannesburg (SWRRC)



Ms Nomvula Maseko had been a member of the CWL at St Theresa in Zondi since 2001. She passed away on the 15th of February 2024.

Ms Elsie Mazazane, Johannesburg (SWRRC)



Ms Elsie Mazazane joined the CWL at the parish of St Peter Claver, Pimville in 1992. She passed away on the 23rd of March 2024.

Maud Tucker, Port Elizabeth



15 January 1929 – 2 February 2024

Maud was born in Johannesburg, one of 5 children. She married Frederick William Tucker on the 23rd of October 1948 and had 4 children, 3 boys and 1 daughter.

She became a CWL member in her early twenties and remained a committed member for 68 years until she passed away. She was extremely dedicated to the CWL and was one of our great knitters and bakers. During her time in CWL she must have knitted thousands of jerseys and blankets for the poor. At the age of 95 she was still participating in all our CWL duties as well as still baking etc. We will miss her fruitcake that she baked for funerals. There will never be another cake the same as Maud's special.

One of the highlights in her life was when she donated one of her kidneys to her sister, and she managed to live to the ripe age of 95 with one kidney.

She travelled to many places abroad and one of the highlights for her was when she went to Norway and saw the Northern Lights. By this time she was already well into her 80s. At Christmas 2023 she flew to the UK to be with her family and great grandchildren. Maud was a gentle lady with beautiful soft blue eyes who crept into everyone's hearts. She lived her life to the fullest. We will miss her dearly. RIP until we meet again dear Maud.

CHARITY, WORK AND LOYALTY IN ACTION



Members of St Mary's, Mahikeng deanery, cleaning up near their priest's residence.



CWL Pretoria DC members Yvonne & Hlezi at the Radio Veritas Fun Share Relay.



The Jesse tree at the WWDP hosted by Trinity Methodist church, Linden.



St Dominic's Boksburg CWL with parish priest Fr Solomon.



St Joseph's CWL at Eersterust, Pretoria, celebrated their 37th anniversary.

CHARITY, WORK AND LOYALTY IN ACTION

JUBILEE YEAR OF MANZINI DIOCESE – 110 YEARS IN ESWATINI



Visit to the parish of St Peter and St Paul.



Sacred Heart CWL visiting their elderly members.



At Our Lady of Assumption with Bishop Ponce de Leon, wearing our seminarians' Lenten shirts.



Members of St Joseph's CWL visiting an outstation.



CWL Mater Dolorosa's Mother's Day cake sale.