



# CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE SOUTHERN AFRICA NEWSLETTER



*Through the bonds of Peace*

November/December 2022

# ISSUE 159



*“...the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said “Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.”*

*(Matthew 2:13)*



# CHARITY, WORK AND LOYALTY IN ACTION



*CWL Bloemfontein visiting Lesotho*



*St Mark's CWL, Bloemfontein*



*CWL Retreat, Cape Town, with toiletry bags for Phoenix Burns Unit*



*CWL Bellair-Queensburgh, Durban, "Party in Pink"*



*CWL Elsies River, Cape Town*



*CWL Okiep with a wool donation from Spar Bakery*



*CWL Prieska, Keimoes-Upington*

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



As yet another year draws to a close the Christmas season is almost upon us. People will start planning trips to their home towns and villages to visit family and friends they may not have seen since last Christmas. Those who can afford it will buy food and gifts to take with them. Christmas can be a sad time for many – those who have lost a family member in the past year, those who have no family left, those whose families may be divided by feuds. Under those circumstances it may be difficult to experience the real joy of Christmas, the birth of the baby who came to save us all, the appearance of the divine in a human body just like ours.

The cover picture of the Flight into Egypt is a reminder that the joy of the Christ child's birth was followed by the fear of harm coming to the little family. Warned in a dream to escape to Egypt, Joseph set out with his precious loved ones on a journey into the unknown. You could call them refugees, forced to leave their homeland and flee to a different country and

continent. They must have relied on the kindness of strangers to help them on their way, to provide them with food and shelter and eventually, once they had settled, with work to earn an income and support themselves until it was safe to return to the Holy Land. There are no documented accounts of their time in exile, although the Coptic Church in Egypt identifies sites where tradition has it the family stayed. Did Joseph have to get permits for all of them? Did he need permission to stay and to work? Did local residents reject them or treat them badly? In our country today there are many who have left their homes for various reasons, and who are often treated with suspicion and unkindness. It is largely foreigners who bear the brunt of this kind of treatment but the same may apply to our own citizens who have left their home villages and towns to seek work or better living conditions elsewhere in South Africa. We are quick to be suspicious of others on the grounds of race or tribe or religious belief. The next time we are tempted to react with hostility to strangers or to those who differ from us in one way or another, perhaps especially those who come from outside our borders, let us remember the Holy Family who were once refugees themselves, reliant for their survival on the goodwill of complete strangers in a strange land.

I wish you and your families joy and peace during the Christmas season. And let us keep in our prayers those for whom this Christmas may be a difficult time.

Michaela

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The closing date for submission for articles for the next issue of the newsletter is the 10th of February 2023.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Over the past few months, members of the National Team have had the pleasure of visiting three of our Diocese. At the end of July, we attended the AGM in Pretoria which commenced with Holy Mass, celebrated by his Grace, Archbishop Dabula Mpako. What a privilege it was to meet the members of Pretoria and participate in their deliberations.

In October we were invited to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the CWL in the Archdiocese of Johannesburg. It was wonderful to be part of the celebrations. What an awesome achievement Johannesburg, congratulations!

Later in October we travelled to Vredendal to visit the Diocese of Keimoes-Upington. Since their Diocesan office is in Vredendal, their members came from all over the diocese. Some members came from as far as Port Nolloth, Okiep, Pela and Upington. The Bishop of Keimoes-Upington, Bishop Risi, celebrated Holy Mass specially for the CWL. Holy Mass was followed by their AGM. Detailed reports of these visits are printed in this newsletter. We look forward to many more visits in the new year. Please let us know, timeously, when it will be convenient for the National Team to visit your Diocese.

As we approach the Christmas season and the new year, I take this opportunity to thank all of you wonderful ladies of the CWL for pulling together this year, especially after the pandemic, and for your cooperation in getting the Catholic Women's League back to the wonderful organisation it is. Personally, I look forward to meeting more of our members in the new year.

On behalf of the National Team, I wish you all a blessed, happy and peaceful Christmas with your families and friends. May Our Lord bring peace, love and happiness to our country, our beloved CWL and to each one of us.

Anne



# MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL CHAPLAIN



This year in early September I had the joy and privilege of celebrating Mass in English in the Holy Land with a group of pilgrims.

The congregation sometimes became international. It is interesting how our circles of familiarity broaden when we travel, people from many nations joining us for Mass or just looking on.

In Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Tiberias etc we enjoyed the awesome experience of the global Catholic family.

In that context, I was struck afresh by the words we pray in the third Eucharistic Prayer: "Listen graciously....to this family you have gathered here before you".

Perhaps we have become so familiar with these words that the awe they evoke begins to fade. In Christ we are one family, brothers and sisters in faith. So, anything that divides that unity – prejudice, exaggerated nationalism or tribalism, every form of exploitation or manipulation etc – wounds our Christian identity.

The Christ child born in Bethlehem is the universal saviour of the world. God enters human history to make of us one human family.

This wondrous truth of Christmas is the foundation of our hope. Jesus reveals the purpose of our being made in the image and likeness of God. Peace and goodwill are possible. They are not so much achievements or goals, but fruits or effects of who we are in Jesus.

God bless you and your families, including the sick or troubled wherever they may be. May we strengthen our resolve as members of the CWL to be peacemakers in our families, parishes, communities and world.

Thank you for what you do to make our CWL a vibrant family of faith.  
Fr Kevin

## COVER PICTURE

The painting on the cover of this issue is the “Flight into Egypt” by African-American painter Henry Ossewa Tanner, painted in 1923. Tanner was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1859. His father, Joseph Tanner, was a bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. His mother, Sarah, had been born a slave but was sent north to Pittsburgh on the Underground Railroad by her mother.

Henry’s artistic endeavours were initially frowned upon by his parents, but he returned to them with his parents’ support during a lengthy convalescence following a serious illness. In 1880 he attended the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts for two years, where he was the only African-American student. In 1891, thanks to the generosity of a benefactor, he was able to study at the Académie Julian in Paris. He returned to the United States for a few months in 1893 but found the racial prejudice too difficult to deal with and returned to France, which was to be his home until his death in 1937. He developed an interest in religious art and became recognised for his work in France as well as in his home country. He was the first African-American artist to achieve international acclaim for his work.

Like the Holy Family in the painting, he too experienced life in exile, though unlike them he was never to return permanently to the land of his birth. The story of the flight into Egypt was apparently his favourite Biblical story and he painted it several times. This version is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

There are 4 human figures in the painting – Mary with the child Jesus, Joseph behind them and a guide leading the way. This depiction of movement, in this case away from a threat, is perhaps reflective of Tanner’s own life, and certainly of his mother’s experience of escaping from slavery. The guide could be seen as representing those who aided the Holy Family on their journey, helping them to safety. Mary, Jesus and Joseph are emerging from the darkness into the light cast by the guide’s lantern, just as the birth of Christ set humanity on the path out of darkness.

## REPORTS ON NATIONAL COUNCIL VISITS

### VISITS TO: PRETORIA, JOHANNESBURG AND KEIMOOES-UPINGTON

#### PRETORIA



*Pretoria CWL chaplain Fr Thomas Vanderkunnel and diocesan and national council members during the opening prayers*

An invitation was extended to the CWL National Council to attend Pretoria’s diocesan AGM held on Saturday 30 July. Anne Deary, Pat McEwen, Sue van der Valk and Michaela Peart accepted the request and travelled north to meet their fellow CWL members.

The AGM began at 9am on Saturday with Mass at the parish of Maria Regina in Lyttelton, celebrated by Archbishop Mpako, parish priest Fr Joseph Puliyilakat and CWL chaplain Fr Thomas Vanderkunnel. The CWL members in attendance raised the roof with their joyful and exuberant singing, and Archbishop Mpako preached eloquently about the importance of all parishes forming part of a community. All the ladies present renewed their CWL vows.

The business part of the morning got underway in the parish hall and was efficiently run by Nthabiseng Chipane. Nkuli Shinga, who had served as the interim president since the resignation of the elected president due to ill-health, presented the annual diocesan report. As has been the case countrywide, the Covid restrictions had severely hampered their activities but despite this, they have managed to continue with works of charity. Pretoria CWL provides support to the Family Life Centre, which is also funded by the Department of Social Development.



# REPORTS ON NATIONAL COUNCIL VISITS

The Centre renders services in several areas in and around Pretoria, including to refugees, children and youth and HIV patients. Anne Deary was asked to speak on the theme chosen by Cape Town for their three-year stint as the national management committee – “Unity in the Spirit through the Bonds of Peace” (Eph 4:3). She was given a rousing welcome by the meeting, with singing to raise the roof again. In her talk she stressed that as members of the League we are united in prayer, in work and in spirit. We all long for peace in our daily lives, in our families and communities, in the wider world. We are much more than the CWL motto of charity, work and loyalty; we stand for commitment, communication and compassion; for willingness, worthiness and warmth; and above all, for love. She urged us to concentrate on what unites us, not what divides us and in doing so, to remain united in peace, prayer and faith.

Then it was time for the election of a new president and vice-president for the diocesan council, and it was here that we visitors from Cape Town earned our keep, so to speak, by counting the votes.

The new office-bearers were greeted with more wonderful singing and the business part of the day came to a joyous conclusion. We were all treated to a delicious finger lunch, and cheerful conversation replaced the singing.

Our grateful thanks go to Pretoria diocesan council for the invitation to join them, for their warm and friendly welcome and for the gifts presented to us. We wish them every success in their term of office and may God bless them and all their branches in their endeavours to serve their communities.

## JOHANNESBURG



*Bernice Cocci, Fr Kirba, Papal Nuncio Archbishop Wells, Anne Deary, Fr Pienaar, Fr Shiya*

On Saturday the 1st of October the Archdiocese of Johannesburg celebrated 90 years of the Catholic Women's League. Anne Deary (National President), Pat McEwen (2nd Vice-President) and Karena Colley (National Secretary) attended the event.

Mass was celebrated in Our Lady of the Cedars of Lebanon Catholic Church. The Apostolic Nuncio, His Excellency Archbishop Peter Wells, officiated, assisted by the Diocesan Chaplain Fr Vincent Pienaar. Also concelebrating were Fr Kifle Kirba (Comboni Missionaries, MCCJ), Fr Bafana Ndlovu (OMI) and Fr Petrus Shiya (Soweto Deanery).

Archbishop Wells' homily was all about our Lady and was most inspiring. He spoke about the spiritual value of reciting the rosary and explained how he personalises every decade and encouraged us to do the same. After Mass, 650 of us made our way to the hall for lunch. The tables were beautifully decorated and the food was plentiful. It was so lovely to be able to be with so many members again after such a long time of not

connecting personally with others. Bernice Cocci, the Diocesan President, spoke on the history of the League in Johannesburg. It was interesting to hear how 132 ladies attended the first meeting and they now have over 2 000 members. She recounted how, during the war years, the CWL assisted in Red Cross activities by donating ambulances and food parcels and ensuring that those Catholic servicemen who lost their lives were given proper Catholic funerals.

In 1951 the Adoption Society was founded and in 1952 CWL opened the St Anne's Old Age Home which, because of lack of government funding, has recently had to close. In 1973 Margaret House was established to house mothers and children in crisis. This is now the headquarters for the CWL Adoption Society. In 1984 a school (Mary Immaculate Queen) was established in El Dorado Park and in 1989 the CWL bought the land on which the school is situated. It is run by a retired teacher who is a member of the CWL. She receives a stipend to cover her petrol costs but does the job because of her passion for education and the belief that it is God's plan for her. In 1986, the Harry Baxter Bursary Foundation was established and over the years 11 young women have benefited and trained as social workers. It was in 1962 that the CWL was affiliated to WUCWO (the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations). Bernice mentioned all the past Diocesan Presidents of Johannesburg and spoke about the influence they had on the growth of the League. She reminded us of the themes chosen by each of the National committees when Johannesburg held national office and how relevant they still are today. Anne Deary then addressed us, congratulating Johannesburg on their amazing achievements and mentioned how wonderful it was that so many of their initiatives and projects were continuing today. She thanked the ladies for their hard work, dedication, compassion for others and for the support of the clergy.

She asked us to be humble and gentle in our dealings with others, to be patient with one another and show sisterly love for one another. She also asked us to reflect on the service and sacrifices made for us by our Holy Mother, Mary. Keep praying for one another and keep remembering to live up to Unity of the Spirit through the Bonds of Peace.

# REPORTS ON NATIONAL COUNCIL VISITS



Fikile Motsa, who represents both St Anne's Sodality and CWL at WUCWO was asked to tell us a little of what is happening amongst Catholic organisations around the world. She explained that because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many activities had been halted and consequently she did not have too much to tell us! They did connect on Zoom, but it was not an ideal situation. One question she posed – she asked if we are bringing change to the women of Southern Africa. (Something to ponder on). We then toasted the Pope and CWL and the cake was cut. In the afternoon, one of the ladies from Soweto hired a taxi and ten of us went off on a tour. The tour took in the MIQ pre-school that caters for 85 children aged from 3 to pre-primary, mostly from the nearby informal settlement. They do amazing work with these children and certainly send them off to primary school well-prepared! After that we were taken to the Regina Mundi Catholic Church in Soweto and given a brief history of the church. During the apartheid years it was used as a place for the community to gather. Police frequently stormed the church and bullets were fired. The marble altar was smashed with batons. Bullet holes have not been filled in

and the altar remains cracked as a reminder of those dark years. An emotional experience for us all.

Thereafter, we visited the Hector Petersen Memorial where an enterprising tour guide proceeded to fill us in on the history of the memorial and showed us a touching, brief letter etched into the marble, written by the mother of the young man who carried Hector Petersen when he was shot – the picture which captured the world's attention. This man has seemingly disappeared and at the time his mother wrote the note, she was not sure whether he was alive or dead. All she knew was that he had had to leave South Africa because his life was being threatened. A tragic story indeed. We passed Winnie Mandela's home on our way to Mandela House in Vilikazi Street. Vilikazi Street was buzzing with music and throngs of people. We had supper at the quieter Vilikazi Restaurant. A memorable day for all of us and on being returned to our guest house, we were totally exhausted but so very grateful to have been part of such an occasion. The ladies of Johannesburg could not have been kinder, and we thank them for having made the day so special for all of us

## KEIMOES-UPINGTON



Anne Deary, Anna-Marie Landsberg, Pat McEwen, Karena Colley and Sue van der Valk of the National Council accepted the invitation to attend the Keimoes-Upington Diocesan Annual General Meeting (Bisdom Vergadering) on the 15th of October 2022. St Thomas Catholic Church in Vredendal, Northern Cape, was the beautiful setting for the gathering of the four regions of the Keimoes-Upington Diocese, namely Oranje Rivier Streek, Boesmanland, Namaqualand and Olifantsrivier. Bishop Risi and Father Neville Brandt presided at Holy Mass. It was a time of reflection and thanksgiving, made all the more special because it coincided with the Feast Day of St. Teresa of Avila, otherwise known as St. Teresa of Jesus. In his homily, Bishop Risi encouraged the League to follow the example of St. Teresa, who after living some years as a mediocre religious, resolved with the grace of God to pursue a life of intense holiness. The Lord blessed her with mystical revelations and great faith to overcome

the many trials and difficulties that she encountered. With the awarding of long service badges to a large contingent of members, it was also a time for looking ahead to the future, and our unity in pursuing the fulfilment of our mission of Charity, Work and Loyalty. Mass was followed by the official AGM. The Diocesan President, Wendy van Den Heever, welcomed the National Executive Committee and all members present as representation of the four regions, to the meeting. All four regions presented their reports with a spirit of robust enthusiasm, evidence that much work has been accomplished by the League during the most trying times of the Covid-19 pandemic period and its immediate aftermath. National Management Committee President Anne Deary then addressed the meeting, beginning with a formal introduction of her team members. She spoke on the theme chosen for our term of office, "UNITY IN THE SPIRIT THROUGH THE BONDS OF PEACE." Eph: 4:3. In this scripture, we are called to unity, with humility, gentleness and patience, thereby making every effort to maintain that unity of the Spirit. As we live out the gospel by loving and serving others, there is a spiritual union between God and us, his people. When we feel united in the Spirit, in the bonds of peace, we are reminded that there is only one body, one spirit and one Lord. The simple message in the scripture speaks to the qualities of a committed member of the Catholic Women's League. Anne Deary urged members to continue praying for each other, and to keep the bonds of peace alive in Unity with the Holy Spirit.



# ARCHDIOCESE OF BLOEMFONTEIN

## DIOCESAN



The Annual General Meeting was held at Kriste Lesedi La Ditjhaba in Turflaagte on the 25th of June 2022. After a discussion of issues relating to the charity, work and loyalty of the League amongst all branches, we had the honour of celebrating holy Mass with Archbishop Zolile Mpambani.

## VISIT TO LESOTHO – 16 TO 17 SEPTEMBER 2022



The Archdiocese planned a trip to St Patrick's Cathedral in Mohale's Hoek, Lesotho. The plans were challenging with regards to "facts" vs "needs". The visit was to introduce the Catholic Women's League in Lesotho. The Executive Committee and members of the League were received well and managed to "sell" CWL in Lesotho. As to whether CWL in Lesotho will be the hanging fruits of the Archdiocese of Bloemfontein, it is in the hands of the Bloemfontein and National Chaplains, as well as the general hierarchy of the church. Ladies in Lesotho were encouraged to visit Bloemfontein, and branches were requested to announce their activities in good time to give the ladies in Lesotho the chance to come and observe.

## CORPUS CHRISTI



During the month of July, Corpus Christi welcomed another new member, Mme Nthabiseng Rakgosi, who was introduced to the church. We are also looking forward to the Women's Month celebration which will take place on the 21st of August 2022.

## SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL



In an attempt to build a sustainable revenue stream for charity and work, members have shown an outstanding commitment through participating in the project of cake and soup sales which we normally do once a month on Sundays at Sacred Heart Cathedral premises after the Masses. So far, three successful sales have been executed, of which the last was held on the 31st of July 2022. Special thanks to all our fellow parishioners for your support.

Phahamisang Children's Home was provided with soup and cakes as part of our charity outreach. In celebration of this beautiful day the SHC CWL organised a High Tea on the 9th of August 2022 at Donovan Hall, SHC. The programme covered spiritual fulfilment, the importance of the Rosary, the meaning of CWL, as well as financial matters. The spiritual activity was led by Dr Nikkie Fitz in the form of prayer and meditation. Mme Laurantia Mohapi spoke about the importance of the Rosary, and the meaning of CWL was dealt with by Diocesan President Mme Mpho Ntema who explained to the guests what CWL is and what it stands for within the church. She further encouraged the guests present to join the League. The final speaker, Mme Tshidi Mfanta, educated the guests on financial wellbeing. Thanks to all who made this day possible. It was indeed a successful day graced by the Holy Spirit.

# ARCHDIOCESE OF BLOEMFONTEIN



On the 27th of August 2022 our parish held a retreat led by Fr Gracious with the theme "WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THE BLESSING TIME". He touched on the importance of being humble and having hope in the journey of Christianity. He encouraged us to learn from our patron Mother Mary, who humbled herself. Her humility was so remarkable that God exalted her to be the Mother of his Son.

It is with great pleasure that we announce we welcomed three new members into our CWL family. They were enrolled on the 28th of August 2022. Congratulations to the ladies, may our Good Lord guide them and give them strength and wisdom in their new journey. It was on this day too, that the renewal of commitment and the awarding of long service badges (10 years) to members was conducted.

## ST MARK, BLOEMFONTEIN

On the 27th of August 2022 a retreat was held at St Mark's, led by Fr Tshidiso Molkeo O.M.I. The themes were: Through the Bonds of Peace, Commitment and Loyalty to CWL and Instructions for Christian Living.

Ephesians 4 calls us to unity. With humility and gentleness, patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace, we are called to remember that there is one body ... one Spirit ... one Lord, one faith, one baptism ... one God. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bonds of peace. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

Loyalty is variously described as: a devotion and faithfulness to a cause, country, group, or person; the state of being loyal to commitments or obligations. Loyal team members will have a genuine understanding of and interest in the team's and League's needs and challenges and may even anticipate them. They are team players and consider themselves part of the fabric. They will also demonstrate a commitment to their own professional development within the League. Loyalty impacts on our lives in many ways and demonstrates consideration, responsibility, and decency. If you want a strong, cohesive team, capable of pulling together through thick and thin, you need loyalty. Loyalty helps people become followers, who are willing and able to learn, respect and take advice from their leader and from one another, and demonstrate total commitment towards the team and its goals. Loyalty is found in teams where members identify strongly with the group's vision, values, and culture, where people rely on and support each other, and where effort and commitment are rewarded with long-term personal development and individual and team recognition. When trust breaks down it can sound the death knell in a relationship, whether personal or business. Leaders who inspire loyalty in their teams tend to share certain characteristics. They trust their team members, giving them responsibilities and encouraging accountability. They also win the trust and respect of their team, being consistent in their expectations, rewards and discipline, creating an open, honest culture and getting stuck in whenever necessary to help the team get through tough times. The reality may simply be that people do not like change or that an alternative is not readily available. When circumstances change or you make one too many mistakes, it is likely people's loyalty, or lack thereof, will be laid bare. Making your support and communication as personal as possible increases the likelihood that it will be remembered in a positive light when someone considers where to turn for help. Treat people in a way that makes them feel like valued and respected individuals, and they are more likely to remain loyal. "If God is for us, who can be against us?" That is why God is a loving, perfect heavenly Father. Just like your child never needs to worry about your love for them, so you never need to waste another moment in guilt and shame. God loves you, so live like it! When God begins to transform us, He starts with our minds. If you can change the way you think, you can change the way you live. But to change the way you think, you've got to put something in.

God gave us the Bible to teach us the best way to live and to give us the examples of others to learn from. The good and bad examples in the Bible can make what may seem to be abstract principles come to life. By practising Christian living, we will demonstrate the values that Christ has and the love He shows.



# ARCHDIOCESE OF BLOEMFONTEIN

Re be bomme ba THAPELO, bomme ba TUMELO bomme ba MATLA .  
Know the reason why you are here  
O hloka ho sokoloha ha o tla retreating  
E thapelle wena 'me ditholwana tsa teng di tla fetela baneng le molekane wa hao  
We need to confront the situation re tle re lokolohe ho Ntate Modimo  
We doubt ourselves because of what was communicated to us.  
Women of courage  
Re dumella dintho hore di etsahale  
We see things possible  
Re bopetswe ho tlisa Tshepo  
Re Baapostola le Baprofeta, Re tlisa bophelo  
We know the power of knowing God  
Lentswe la mme le na le matla. Re tlamehile ho tshwarana matsoho  
Bomme ba tseba ho mamela  
Bomme ba fuwe mpho yahoo RATA  
Mosadi o solafallwa ke bophelo ka baka la Mosadi emong  
Bomme ha ba tsheetsane.  
We are capable of destroying other women - don't have a pull- down syndrome.  
Don't compromise because o batla ho ratwa  
We were also joined by CWL members from Corpus Christi parish for the retreat.



Twenty members of St Mark's CWL received 10-year service badges on the 28th of August 2022. The service was graced and blessed by Fr Tshidiso Moleko O.M.I. The badges were handed over by Bloemfontein Diocesan CWL President, Me Mpho Ntema. The committee members were introduced to the parish at the Mass, and their badges of office were given to them. Our ladies were involved in the readings and the prayers of the faithful. We remembered our departed members, Me Vuyiswa Mooki (11 July 2013) and Me Maria Khalaki (28 December 2020). We also renewed our vows.



St Joseph's and St Mark's parishes arranged for their parish groups to plant trees on the 4th of September for Arbour Day. Each group was given one tree to plant and is responsible for looking after it.

## ALL SAINTS, BLOEMFONTEIN



On the 3rd of July 2022, All Saints fed the whole congregation with bread, soup and apples during their parish Mojekelo.  
On the 9th of July All Saints CWL organized a speaker from the psychiatric hospital to address the youth of the parish on the dangers of substance abuse.

# ARCHDIOCESE OF BLOEMFONTEIN

## CHRIST OUR LIFE, BLOEMFONTEIN



On 28 August 2022, Christ Our Life together with sister parish St Rose of Lima, held their annual member enrolment at the parish of Christ our Life. St Rose enrolled 2 new members, Miss Pontšeng Monnane and Mrs. Tshegofatso Mmetseng, and 4 members from the two branches received their long service badges. One member from Christ Our Life, Mrs. Lesego Semphe, received a ten-year badge, while three ladies from St Rose of Lima received their twenty-year badges: Mrs. Flora Nkhatho, Mrs. Johanna Dingaen, and Mrs. Julia Monnane.

Ladies from Christ our Life donated an amount of R5000.00 to the church.

## ST ROSE OF LIMA, BLOEMFONTEIN



On 5th December 2021 the branch donated R1500.00 to Saint Vincent De Paul. Money was also taken from the branch's savings account to help the branch buy warm winter clothes for Franciscan nuns in the Bloemfontein archdiocese.

The parish priest of St Rose of Lima, Fr Thabo Mmolaoa O.M.I, had his lounge brightened with a lovely lounge suite on 21 January 2022. All these were done under one aspect of the league's motto, "Charity".

Members of the CWL gathered at St Rose of Lima on the 24th of July 2022 for their annual fundraising event. The Mojekelo is one of the ways in which we raise money. On the day, branches that were present managed to raise funds from R2000 to about R4000 per branch. All monies raised came to approximately R23 000.00. On the 20th of August the parish priest

for both St Rose and Christ of Life parishes held a retreat for the ladies before enrolment on the 28th of August 2022. Fr Mmolaoa O.M.I. read from the gospel of Matthew 16:13-16, Peter's declaration about Jesus. Father emphasized that every member of the Catholic Women's League must know who Jesus is in their lives. The enrolment was held at St Rose of Lima's sister parish, Christ our Life, in Laurier Park. Our ladies who received their 20-year service badges are those who started the League and who strive to see it grow in Bloemfontein. Clearly, they take loyalty to the League seriously.

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN



To celebrate Mandela Day (18 July), members of the Cape Town CWL branches put together toiletry bags to be given to those mothers/fathers who rush their children to the Burns Unit at the Red Cross Children's Hospital. Often they do not have time to even pack an overnight bag and so are extremely grateful to receive the toiletries. Some branches contributed the full 67 bags and others gave what they could.

All in all, almost 300 bags were given to Sean Defty (Vice-President of the Unit) and he was speechless at the generosity of all our women and expressed his grateful thanks for our care of others in need. This is an ongoing project but at least the unit now has reserves.

Pictured is Rondebosch branch with Sean Defty.



Many happy returns to our Diocesan Chaplain, Father Nkululeko, who celebrated his birthday in August. God's richest blessings for the coming year, Father, and thank you for your spiritual guidance and uplifting messages.



# ARCHDIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN

## A message from our Diocesan President, Rebecca Weir



A Spiritual Woman – be the best you can be.

To be a spiritual woman requires one to listen. To be quiet is the way to hear God's voice speaking to our hearts and minds. God made us in His image, the Bible tells us, and that means we can be spiritual and come close to Him. He has invited us to do this. God has invited us to come close by reading His Word, then listening to His small voice and talking to Him via the avenue of prayer. Many women in the past have experienced His closeness because they have done just that – read and prayed. When we do this we will know the direction to take our lives in, and we will have compassion for those around us. To be spiritual is really the way God wants us to be. This reminds me of my favourite verse: Be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46, verse 10). Be blessed and be a blessing to others.

## BOTHASIG



The CWL of the Good Shepherd Parish in Bothasig renewed their commitment to the League at the 10am Holy Mass on Sunday 21 August. 20-year long service badges were awarded to Hilda James and Joan Ryan, and Bernice Ranier was inducted. We were privileged to share our special day with our parish priest, Father Ivanhoe, as it was his birthday. Delicious plates of eats were brought by parishioners to share with the tea that we provided in the hall after the Mass. CWL Bothasig, along with the Cape Town Motorcycle Club, donated groceries, cleaning materials and R1200 to Hope Farm in Hopefield. Hope Farm, run by Pastor Izette Carroll, is a restoration home for addicts in serious need of changing their lives. They are offered a safe, encouraging environment to build up their self-esteem and faith so

that they can be reintegrated back into the world. We were warmly welcomed and humbled by the gratitude shown to us by Izette and the young men living on the farm. The Cape Town Motorcycle Club's motto of 'the more you give the more you get' certainly rang true with us as we left feeling all the better for having been to the farm and meeting Izette and the young men for whom she is caring. A charity well worth supporting in the future. A very successful Spring Dance was held at Bothasig on 26th September. This was the first time that the parish has had such a large social get-together in recent years. Grateful thanks to Gloria Bruce who was the main initiator and organiser, and who worked tirelessly to get donations and promote ticket sales. Thank you to our president, Claudia Kets, who had a small team of CWL members assisting her. Thank you, ladies, for all your hard work that enabled us to have such a wonderfully successful social event.

## ELSIES RIVER

Huge congratulations to our newest CWL branch, St Claire's, Elsie's River. After being active in the parish for 3 years, the ladies of St Clare's Elsie's River were finally enrolled at the 8am Mass on Sunday 21 August. Anne Deary (National President), Rebecca Weir (Diocesan President) and Ruth Serelina (Diocesan Vice President) did the honours. They were joined by a few fellow-parishioners from their respective parishes. It was especially beautiful and so fitting that it happened on the feast day of our patron saint, Mary Assumed into Heaven. They celebrated this very special and long-awaited milestone in their parish with refreshments in the hall after Mass. They have waited long for this day to arrive and were very excited and overjoyed that it had finally come. They started out in 2019 with 24 members, all trying to find themselves in this new ministry in the parish. In the following year Covid hit and put a damper on everything they had set out to do. Most of the ladies stayed connected and committed on WhatsApp with words of encouragement and prayers. In the end fourteen ladies were enrolled. Another five ladies have shown interest in joining and they are hopeful that more will join once they see how well the group works together. Their first big event as an official ministry in the parish will be a high tea on 30 October 2022. Funds raised will go towards fixing up their church hall. Thanks to Father Job for allowing the CWL to start in the parish and for his guidance, help and support. Deacon Arulandu will be their spiritual director. A huge thanks to the ladies of the wider CWL community who interceded on their behalf.

## GOODWOOD



Goodwood CWL held a cake sale after Mass to raise money to buy ingredients in order to make breyani for the gentlemen waiting for work opportunities on the street corners in the area. Winter clothing was donated by the parishioners to be handed out in conjunction with the hot food. Over 200 items were collected and distributed to the extremely grateful gentlemen. On Saturday, 13 August, Goodwood CWL had their recommitment and enrolment of five new ladies. Congratulations and welcome ladies.

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN

## LANGA



A Prayer breakfast was held on the 20th of August by CWL Langa, the theme being 'We Have Come This Far by Faith'. It was wonderful enjoying the fellowship with the ladies, and the talk was very meaningful and inspiring. The event was well attended by their members and some parishioners, and they were joined by ladies from CWL Khayelitsha, Macassar, Rocklands and Table View Evening group. Delicious snacks were provided after the talks.

## KHAYELITSHA



The ladies from Khayelitsha branch enjoyed a retreat before a renewal of their vows and the enrolment of a new member. The weekend had some team building activities and spiritual upliftment led by Father Nkululeko Meyiwa. The weekend ended with Mass.

In celebration of our Immaculate Mother Mary's birthday on the 8th of September, the Khayelitsha branch ladies renewed their vows and enrolled a new member, Monica Sopeni, on the 11th of September 2022. The celebration was followed by a delicious lunch. A beautiful cake was made to mark the occasion. Well done ladies. May God bless you in all you do.

## PAROW



Valerie Rensburg, President of Parow branch, recently celebrated her 90th birthday. She had the pleasure of celebrating this milestone with her son, daughter-in-law and two grandsons in America. We wish her all God's blessings.

## PLUMSTEAD



A meeting of interfaith leaders was held at St Pius X, Plumstead, on the 6th of October. Bishop Sylvester David asked Plumstead to host the meeting. Fr Mark Foster, our parish priest, called on the CWL for assistance with catering. As there were people from different faiths attending, we were mindful of their dietary requirements and catered accordingly. Tea and coffee were served on arrival, along with biscuits which were Halaal and Kosher, with the respective stamps of approval on the packaging. There were vegetable samosas, spinach and feta quiches, sandwiches and even a specially ordered Kosher platter for the Rabbi. Our president, Rita Hayes, baked a beautiful chocolate cake to round off the morning. Our guests were very grateful and thanked us for our hospitality. Among the guests were representatives from a few Mosques, a Rabbi, someone from the Hindu community and even a gentleman representing the Khoisan community.

## ROCKLANDS



St. Stephens in Rocklands recently celebrated their 41st anniversary and the CWL ladies assisted in setting up the 'Bring and Share' at the parish. The ladies also renewed their commitment on the feast of the Assumption of our Lady. A proud parish priest Fr Ndodana Tshuma officiated at the event. On Saturday 17th September, CWL Rocklands held a Ladies' Morning with guest speakers. Father Ndodana and some of the Sisters of Charity in Khayelitsha also attended. A parish youth member did some belly dancing to entertain the ladies. They were very blessed to be joined by some CWL members from Retreat and Khayelitsha. A very blessed morning was had by all.



# ARCHDIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN

## RONDEBOSCH



On Saturday, 13 August at the 5pm Mass at Rondebosch, three new members were enrolled (Linda Ogden, Beryl Lategan and Josee Uwamwiza). Janet Parkhurst received her 25-year badge.

The ladies then renewed their commitment to the League. This is usually done at this time after our 9-day Novena. Each year, the National Management Committee asks all the branches throughout the country to pray for a specific cause. This year our Novena was dedicated to those affected by gender-based violence, abuse and crime.

The Rondebosch ladies packed special gift bags for the nursing staff at the Phoenix Burns Unit. They were well received and the staff were most appreciative of the fact that they have been acknowledged for all their hard

work in the unit. We also received a couple of pictures of the parents receiving their toiletry bags so generously donated by all our ladies. We were thanked for our ongoing support. On Friday, 30th September, the Rondebosch ladies assisted at an International Food Fair, their first parish fundraiser in over two years. The CWL ladies were responsible for making and selling desserts. This popular evening with gentle live music saw the delicious fare selling quickly and all ages thoroughly enjoying themselves. A wonderful joyous spirit was abundantly clear amongst those supporting the event.

## TABLE VIEW



Some of the ladies from the Table View morning and evening groups served soup and rolls to the parishioners after 5pm Mass on Saturday the 9th of July. Unfortunately the bad weather and sport on the TV resulted in a small crowd, but those who did stop in enjoyed every mouthful.

The morning and evening groups renewed their vows at a recommitment Mass at the Parish of the Resurrection. The morning group was blessed to enrol a new member, Sabrina Wolmarans. The draw for the Table View Evening Group Winter Warmer raffle was done after Mass on a Saturday night and was won by Virginia Adriaans. The second prize was won by Angela Sokolic. A total of R4070 was raised. Thank you so much to everyone who supported our fundraiser.



CWL Table View Evening Group enrolled their newest member, Winnie Knight at Mass on Saturday the 24th of September. Welcome Winnie and may God richly bless you in your work with the CWL Table View.

## VREDENBURG



The ladies of CWL Vredenburg renewed their vows at Mass on Sunday the 28th of August. Helena Engelsman and Maria Arendse received their 25-year badges and Susanna Stewe received her 10-year badge on the day. Congratulations ladies and may God bless you in the work you do.

The ladies held a fundraising event on Saturday 10 September. Susanna Stewe will bid them a sad farewell as she is moving to the Northern Cape. May God bless you in this new chapter of your life.

# ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

## OUR LADY OF FATIMA, DURBAN NORTH

On the 8th of June we bade farewell to our member Jenny Davis who has relocated to the UK with her husband.

Fifty-eight women and girls living in a church community hall were supplied with soaps and toothpaste.

Wylie House Home for Girls (thirty three girls) was blessed with pyjamas, which were all made by one of our members who has a clothing factory. Mums in the maternity ward at King Dinizulu hospital each received a hamper made up with various items. We do this annually.

Marj Olivier and Lise Bernon received their 20-year and 30-year service badges respectively.

We continue to collect bottle tops and bread tags for wheelchairs. On the 30th of August the Quadriplegic Association collected 8 kilos of bread tags and 98 kilos of bottle tops from our parish office.

At our August meeting we celebrated three birthdays, a 70th, 60th and the birthday of our own parish priest Father Justin. We spoilt him with a voucher from Gateway shopping centre.

We are looking forward to inducting two new members at our next monthly meeting.

## HOLY TRINITY



After having been in recess for two years, the 25th of June 2022 was a significant day for our branch when we were finally able to elect a new Executive Committee. Our parish priest, Fr Francis Cibane, was present together with Linda Melson, the Diocesan President, to oversee the voting and thereafter to pin badges on the following members:

President - Lesley Canter; Vice President - Cheryl Fuller; Secretary - Rea Mina; Treasurer - Fiona Gilbert; News Correspondent - Sybil Hamilton; Co-Opted member - Joan Gwabeni. We celebrated afterwards with a lovely tea and delicious cakes. Fellowship time was enjoyed by all the members. It was very special to share this celebration with Diocesan Executive members, Linda Melson, Lynne Manica and Devi Thompson.

Another special day for us was the 21st of August 2022 when three new members were inducted, current members renewed their vows, and several long service badges were presented during the 08h00 Mass. The highlight was the presentation of a 50-year badge to Joan Shannon, who is the longest serving member of the Holy Trinity branch. Joan has been a stalwart of the branch for many years in various capacities and is renowned for her cooking prowess. The outreach project for our branch is the Sukumawenze Care Centre ("Stand up and do") in Inanda, which is a home for the disabled. To date collections of various food items have been donated by our members to support this

organisation. On the 23rd of July 2022 we assisted at a Seniors' and Grandparents' Tea which had been organised by our parish. It was a great success and well attended. In August and September, we bade a sad farewell to our two long serving members, Elena Oliva and Michelle Mouline. Elena is returning to Italy to live with her daughter and Michelle is moving to the Seychelles to live with her son. Our branch gifted Elena and Michelle with beautiful Mother of Mary keyrings and we shared a lovely tea together to wish them happiness with their families. We are on a recruitment drive to encourage ladies to join our CWL branch. To date the response has been encouraging which bodes well for the future of our branch. We are now preparing to celebrate our 70th anniversary this year.

## KWAKRISTO UMSINDISI, KWAMASHU



On Saturday the 20th of August 2022 we had an annual CWL reflection day. Our theme this year was "Ukuthembeka" (Loyalty) which is part of the League's motto of Charity, Work and Loyalty.

We were blessed to have Fr Malusi Ngcobo as our master for the day. It would not be justice if we fail to mention that Fr Malusi is one of our own, he is the son of the parish - KGU. He revived our faith in God and revealed to us the importance of our Lady in our spiritual life. The day closed with Mass.

Then on Sunday four members received their 10-year service badges. The badges were blessed and presented to them in the amazing spirit-fulfilling mass led by the parish priest Fr Nzama. Members also renewed their membership.

The recipients were, from left to right, Phumzile Khanye, Nohlanhla Matsakopane, Lindiwe Khanyile and Phindile Lamula.



# ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

## KWAMAME WASE LOURDES



On Mother's and Father's Days mums received kitchen swabs, and socks and sweets were given to the dads. We gifted Father Sithole with a hamper. Our soup kitchen is doing very well, serving people from the clinic and the community as well, especially during school holidays.

## ST CLEMENT'S



Sunday the 21st of August 2022 was a very special day at St Clement's parish, when four new members were welcomed into the Catholic Woman's League. CWL also celebrated the awarding of 10, 20, 25 and 40-year service badges to those members who continue to be role models in implementing the motto "Charity, Work and Loyalty". The League donated a priest's chair to the parish.

## PINETOWN



The following are our current executive members: Lynne Manica (President), Jeanette Jones (Vice-President), Pat Govender (Treasurer), Dominique Thompson (News Correspondent), Nomusa Zulu (Secretary)

The following birthdays were celebrated from June to September:

JUNE: 10th - Thandeka Bhengu; 29th - Thabiso Hlongwa (seminarian).

JULY: 3rd - Nomusa Zulu; 5th - Dominique Thompson; 6th - Fr Sifiso Ndlovu; 14th - Lynne Manica; 22nd - Cynthia Giraudo.

AUGUST: 1st - Gloria Mwenye; 8th - Del Addis (80th); 12th - Caroline Dube.

SEPTEMBER: 7th - Lungile Hlophe; 9th - Ningi Ngubane; 28th - Sylvia van der Valk.

We said a big thank you to Delise Addis for outdoing herself with the beautiful birthday cards she made for the ladies, and we pray that God continues to bless all our beautiful women with many more fruitful and healthy years to come. Spiritual Guidance: We are so grateful to have Fr Sifiso at our monthly meetings for our spiritual guidance, giving us the gospel and fruitful talks. It is really motivating and inspiring for us ladies and it gives

us the strength we need to carry out our work at the CWL. We pray God blesses Fr Sifiso and keeps him in good health so that he may continue to uplift us at our meetings. On the 4th of September the CWL participated in the spring walk to raise funds. It was a fun-filled sunny day and the CWL had a food stall where we prepared and sold various eats. At the end of the event the women raised a good sum of money and donated it to the church, and also bought a brick in memory of the 70th Anniversary. The 70th Anniversary Mass and Celebration took place on the 20th of August 2022. After a great deal of preparation, the big day finally arrived and all our hard work paid off. It was surely a day to remember in the year of 2022. Many thanks to our team who put in all the effort. The day began with Mass, and Father inducted new member Sibongile Ndlovu and then the long serving members were given badges to honour their dedication; a 25-year badge for Edie Pillay, a 30-year badge for Cynthia Giraudo and all members renewed their commitment to the League. After Mass the ladies went into the hall where there was an elegant high tea celebration; there were various eats and drinks and our host was our president Lynne Manica who did not disappoint us one bit with the activities she had lined up. Father gave us a brief talk and then he left as we joked to him this event was strictly for women! We then had our guest speaker Janet, and her inspiring talk left a lot of women motivated. Afterwards we cut the beautiful cake that had been donated to us, and was it delicious...

The afternoon then took a joyous turn with fun and games. Some ladies won great gifts... it ended with all women young and old dancing to the good music being played by Olivia Swardling. It was truly a day to remember.

# ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

## BELLAIR-QUEENSBURGH

As with many other branches, a slow start was made getting things back to 'normal' in the community of Bellair-Queensburgh. Mothers' Day remembered mothers both past and present as flowers floated in the glass bowls of water, invoking the Mother of Jesus' help to strengthen and bless all our mothers.

Fathers' Day was not quite as successful as life rushed us off our feet. Sorry Dads!

Finally, as the members of our branch and parish started feeling freedom from the entrapment of those dreaded masks, a surprising crowd gathered to test the soup-making skills of our ladies, with many stories of the two years' Covid incarceration which just had to be shared. What a relief to touch, love and share once again.

This was followed once again by a very rowdy crowd, goading and jeering the caller on, as they desperately needed the acclaim of a winning game of BINGO! Once again, an enjoyable annual Winter Celebration.

This was followed by an International "Taste and Tell" evening, with tables decorated in the countries of choice: America, India, Portugal, South Africa, China, Italy and Mauritius. Five tastes of these chosen meals were such a hit that the lively crowd who supported this effort are demanding another round of this function be held again, later in the year.

Our latest effort to reunite the parishioners again as a community was a cocktail party, "In the Pink".

As our guests arrived suitably attired in pink, they were all welcomed with a 'Pink Gin', getting the function off to a good start, 'In the Pink!' Delectable savouries and cheese boards were the order of the evening with Sharon, a local entertainer, keeping large numbers of our guests dancing and singing the night away.

We are grateful to welcome two new ladies into the branch with one induction and an 80th birthday to celebrate soon. This celebration will include tea and cake after Mass and a recruitment drive. Watch this space for positive news of our success.

We, the ladies of Bellair-Queensburgh, gratefully thank our living Lord for the many who survived the last two years, both physically and emotionally, and pray sincerely for the many friends and family members who died. We also pray for their families who are left behind.

May those precious souls rest in the peace and love of our Lord and Master.

## DIOCESAN

Durban Diocesan has continued to serve in Charity, Work and Loyalty within all our branches. We are happy to be able to meet once a month, starting with Mass. Fr Sifiso keeps us encouraged and uplifted with his spiritual guidance. Sadly, three of our branches have closed their doors. On a positive note, it was encouraging to see branches inducting new members and renewing their annual commitment to the League at the recent Assumption of Mary Feast Day Masses held in different parishes. The Executive Committee is working at encouraging, uplifting and helping all branches. The Caring Fund, although supported by branches, has been stretched to its limits. We thank Loretta Ndelu, who heads up the Fund, for all her hard work ensuring pleas for help are answered. The ladies from branches answered the call, made by a mother and daughter, for adult diapers and soft food. Groceries have been supplied to a blind lady and her family. Several crèches and families have been given support in the form of groceries. The latest project is to support fifteen child-headed families. Clothing has been donated and groceries will be delivered shortly. Members donate "Brown Money" (coins/ change) to a 'Baker Lady' who exchanges the coins for baking supplies. She then bakes cakes, cookies etc which she sells, and in that way supports her family. The Executive Committee had tea with the ex-Diocesan Chaplain, Fr Michael, who was 'home for the holidays' from his studies in Rome. It was very interesting hearing about his life as a student, having to speak only Italian. The Executive Committee sends condolences to all branches who have sadly lost members. We look forward to moving onward and upward as a Diocese of Hope, hope that we will be able to continue all the good work we do as we Serve the Lord.

## ST JAMES, LAMONTVILLE

Our visit to Issy Gasher Old Age Home was a fulfilling experience. We bought eats, and gifted our elderly with throws, towels and toiletries. Although they were very happy with our gifts, we could still feel their pain from not being able to live with their dear ones. But still, they seemed to be a big joint family. Showing love to older and needy people in assisted living communities is so important and best done through visiting them often, which stops them from feeling isolated and depressed. Thank you to CWL for going above and beyond to fulfil the League's motto. We also bought a new bed and bedlinen for the spare room in the parish house which is used by visiting priests.

We were truly honoured and blessed by the bishop's visits. We thank him for being such a great example of living a life of faith. CWL members catered, and served tea, lunch and dinner for our Bishop Jwara.

In July we celebrated Father's Day and Father's ordination. As part of "Spoil the Priest" Father Zondi was showered with gifts. His generosity and kindness are a blessing to everyone.

We started the Holy Spirit Novena, and we prayed the Novena for Peace which was led by Father Zondi. We thank him for his continued commitment to our congregation. May God bless him for his life of dedicated service.

CWL members donated clothes, shoes, toiletries, blankets and other items to assist the KZN flood victims. We did this with kindness and generosity. Thank you to our ladies for this assistance.

Thank you to Titi and all members for sharing the gospel on social media. We give thanks with grateful hearts. We also pray for our elderly and sick members. We ask that they may find comfort in your Word Lord, because in it there is healing and wholeness. Never forget the three most powerful resources we always have available to us – love, prayer, forgiveness.



# ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

## ST FRANCIS, THE BLUFF



A very happy 94th birthday to Lucy Lawlor (8.08.22). Lucy is one of our Honorary Life members who has been a dedicated member of the CWL Bluff, giving a lot of time to helping our community and service to the League in her younger days. Lucy has a wonderful sense of humor and always had a joke to share with us. We are truly honoured to have her as a very valued and important member who helped make the Bluff CWL the successful branch it is today.

# ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

## DIOCESAN



The 90th AGM of the Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League in the Archdiocese of Johannesburg was held at the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Krugersdorp on Saturday the 27th of August 2022 at 10am. The main celebrant was His Grace Archbishop Buti Tlagale, assisted by Father Vincent Pienaar, Chaplain of the CWL of the Archdiocese of Johannesburg. The bishop's homily mentioned the division of the races, and how we should all work together irrespective of our race. His Grace mentioned the contributions of the Council of the Catholic Women's League towards the building of the Marian Shrine in Magaliesburg. Unfortunately, the Archbishop had another appointment and wished us well with our celebrations.

After Mass, the AGM meeting was held in the parish hall, preceded by the League Prayers. First Vice President, Khosi Maloka, welcomed all present and acknowledged parish priest Fr Fidgeon of Holy Rosary Parish. West Rand President

Matumelo Matsasa welcomed members to this auspicious Annual General Meeting. Diocesan President Bernice Cocci complimented members on the singing at Mass.

Fr Vincent Pienaar has served as Chaplain of the Catholic Women's League in Johannesburg for the last 33 years. He also congratulated the Carmelites on achieving 91 years in South Africa. Fr Vincent spoke about St Monica (her Feast Day was today) and her constant prayers for her son St Augustine who became a priest (his feast day was the 28th of August). Fr Vincent mentioned that St Monica said "you cannot take anything with you, except your relationship with God".

Diocesan President Bernice Cocci gave an in-depth report for the period 2021 and 2022. She mentioned how the two years of Covid changed our lives, and how last year at the Margaret House Extraordinary Meeting, we all sat under a tree, keeping social distance and wearing masks, to vote in a new Diocesan President and Council. Members of the Diocesan Council are: 1st Vice President – Khosi Maloka; 2nd Vice President – Beverley Phalle; News Correspondent – Ida Steyn, Presidents of the five Regional Councils and their representatives. Also included are Jill McPhail (Adoption), Elaine Phillips (Mary Immaculate Queen Pre-school), Matilda Dube (Kopanong Soup Kitchen).

Our membership during this period is:

East Rand	329 members	Johannesburg	265 members
South West Rand	732 members	West Rand	299 members
Vaal	221 members		

Total membership stands at 1 846.

The Treasurer's report from Eleanor de Klerk gave a broad overview which included levies collected, expenses incurred, auditors' fees, salaries paid and investments. After all protocol was observed the meeting closed with League prayers and Father Vincent's blessing and wishes to everyone for a safe journey. Tea and treats were enjoyed, and friendships rekindled.

# ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

## Mary Immaculate Queen Pre-school receiving a cheque from Radio Veritas



The Catholic Women's League won the Telethon Competition having received the most donations paid into Radio Veritas, and their nominated charity was Mary Immaculate Queen Pre-School in Eldorado Park.

Left to Right: Elaine Phillips (chair, Mary Immaculate Queen Preschool)  
Centre: Kanye (Radio Veritas representative)  
Brenda Motseare (MIQ administrator /principal)

## A Re Rapeleng



The CWL of the Johannesburg region took part in a Radio Veritas themed Scripture programme in September 2022. There is a main presenter, and each lady taking part speaks to the theme and their interpretation thereof.

## WUCWO

A talk on WUCWO was given by Elaine Phillips

WUCWO stands for WORLD UNION OF CATHOLIC WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS. First, a little background on the formation of WUCWO. It was in 1910 that Madame de Velard, President of the Patriotic League of French Women, suggested uniting the Leagues of Catholic Women throughout the world. This meeting took place in Brussels and brought together Leagues from Germany, England, Austria, Belgium, Spain, France, Lorraine, Switzerland and Uruguay.

In her address, Madame de Velard outlined the aims of this meeting, the first step in the process of instituting the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues and which later became WUCWO in 1952. She said: "We have met because we want to enlarge our horizons...study the obstacles and the way to overcome them, and to arm ourselves better for Catholic Social Action.....Let us not dream! We have no time to do so; besides dreams are fatal; they waste our energy on imagining difficulties which may perhaps never materialize... Let us prepare for the future; to do so let us share serious and well-organized action." Another delegate at this meeting stated: "This has come for Catholic women to understand that changing times demand changing duties. When we can no longer content ourselves with small, narrow, enclosed associations, the time has come to have a broader outlook, to widen our arena, to bring together all the works and goodwill into strong federations, capable of being an active force in the service of Christian renewal throughout the world." This is still true today, 112 years later, and we, the Catholic Women's League of South Africa, as a full rights member organization of WUCWO, need to lead the way here in our country with the new challenges facing us, such as the priority of eliminating violence against women, ending the scourge of the trafficking of women, fighting corruption and doing all we can to offer care and support to HIV /Aids patients and their families, as well as those suffering Covid-related traumas. Madame de Velard remained President General for 23 years, including the period of the First World War when the Union ceased to function, only resuming activities in 1921. Nevertheless, the President managed to keep in touch with the Vatican as well as with several National Leagues. There have now been 16 Presidents-General in the 112-year history of WUCWO, and today WUCWO represents about 175 Catholic Women's Organizations in over 100 countries, numbering 36 million women from all continents.

Our current President- General, Maria Lia Zervino Servidora, has recently been appointed by His Holiness Pope Francis as a member of the Vatican's Dicastery for Bishops, together with two nuns, the first time in history women have been granted a voice in advising the pontiff on which priests to appoint as Bishops across the world.



# ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

A General Assembly is held for all member organizations every four years, and I have had the privilege of attending five of these over the years; in Guadalajara, Mexico; Canberra, Australia; Rome, Italy; Washington, USA; and Jerusalem in the Holy Land. I was elected to the Board of WUCWO in Washington in 2005 to represent South Africa for a 4-year term, and it was a great experience for me to work with the other 26 board members from all around the world. All the meetings are conducted in three languages, English, French and Spanish. We share our board membership with St Anne's Sodality here in South Africa, taking alternate 4-year periods.

Since 1963 the Board has been split into five Regions, each with its own Vice President – Asia Pacific, Latin America and Caribbean, North America, Africa and Europe. WUCWO has consultative status with the United Nations in New York and Geneva and is present at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. In 2006 WUCWO was elected by the Holy See as a Public International Association of the Faithful.

What we are all most familiar with here in South Africa is WUCWO Day held every year around the 13th of May. A different country is allocated the preparation of the Liturgy every year and the same to implement the Resolutions taken at the General Assembly such as: 'A healthy planet for all of us,' taking care of families and the most vulnerable, educating to respond to the call to holiness and educating and promoting the responsible use of technologies. How similar the problems are all over the world! This basically is the essence of WUCWO – it examines the critical issues that have an impact on the lives of women internationally, coordinates the activities of Women's Organizations worldwide and encourages us to be brave and do something about it to fulfil our mission of evangelization and to work for human development. We can be proud to be a member of such a huge organization of so many millions of Catholic women, and to know that in our small part of the world we can make a difference. I want to encourage all of you to feel that you are a fundamental piece of the beautiful mosaic that is WUCWO and all that we can achieve.

May Mary Queen of Peace, Patroness of WUCWO pray for us.

## JOHANNESBURG REGIONAL COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Left to Right: Elaine Phillips (Mary Immaculate Queen Pre-school Chairman), Fr Vincent Pienaar (Diocesan Chaplain), Renilde Walton (Johannesburg Regional Council President)

## JOHANNESBURG REGIONAL COUNCIL Day of Recollection



In the tranquil setting of the Schoenstatt Shrine in Bedfordview, the Johannesburg Regional Council held a morning of Recollection (retreat). After a two-year absence due to the pandemic, members gathered on a beautiful Thursday morning on the 22nd of September to listen, pray and meditate.

Fr Thabo, of St Benedict's College, was the Retreat Master. Father inspired us with his wit, his energy and who he is as a priest, incorporating our theme, "Unity in the Spirit through the Bonds of Peace." Father Thabo said that God had something special in mind when he created woman. He spoke passionately about Mary saying yes and her life. Father then spoke about the prostitute who washed Jesus' feet with her tears and asked us to put ourselves in her place, especially the silence of the room when she faced Jesus. Father asked us as mothers, grandmothers and sisters to make our children feel that they are worthy. Let us know Christ through

our actions, said Father. Father Thabo concluded that when you look in the mirror remember: God created you, you are perfect in God's eyes and God makes no junk!" Holy Mass was celebrated after quiet time spent in the chapel and gardens. A fitting tribute that lifted our spirits.

# ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

## Regional Training Workshop

A Training Workshop for Office Bearers was held at the Church of the Resurrection in Bryanston. Johannesburg Regional President Renilde Walton opened the Training Workshop with the League prayers. She explained the origins of the Catholic Women's League in the Diocese of Johannesburg. It was an informative and detailed report of the Catholic Women's League. All branches within the Johannesburg Regional Council attended.

Elaine Phillips gave a talk on the background of WUCWO – World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations. Elaine was the South African representative at WUCWO and gave an in-depth explanation of the workings of WUCWO. She reminded us that the Catholic Women's League is affiliated to this international organisation.

Sections were demarcated for President, Treasurer, News Correspondent / Secretary. Members were requested to proceed to their chosen section. An informative and well-run workshop/training session.

Thanks to Bryanston CWL for hosting the venue.

## BRYANSTON

Our Parish held a Caritas Winter Market in early August where we manned the bric-a-brac stall. It was a very successful event and a good fundraiser for all.

We held our recommitment Sunday and welcomed a new member, Carol Lopes. We also handed out a 30-year, two 25-year and two 10-year badges. CWL training was an absolute winner. There was good feedback from the different branches and a sharing of experiences. Our book sale went well, and this has become a regular fundraiser. We also assisted with the Diocesan Priests' lunch at our parish. Our overwhelming success was our CWL Heritage Day Food Fair and entertainment. The tickets were all sold out before lunch, all the food was consumed, and the entertainment was amazing. Everyone who participated enjoyed themselves and this was a lovely family day for our parish. A big thank you to our member, Gugu Sekonya, who organized the event and to all our members who worked tirelessly.



Honorary Life Member Nora Derbyshire turned 97 on 1 September.  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY NORA.

Left to Right: Grace da Silva, Nora and Caroline Hugo

## ST MARTIN DE PORRES, CRAIGHALL PARK



On Sunday the 25th of September members attended the annual CWL Mass held in the parish church which was celebrated by our pastor, Fr. Shaun Mary von Lillienfeld. It was a blessed co-incidence that the Liturgy of the Word at that Mass presented us with God's call to remember the poor, and to act with love and justice to others who are suffering and in want. After the list of deceased members had been read, members performed their Annual Renewal Commitment. New members were then enrolled and presented with badges. Several members were also honoured with long service badges. We gave thanks that we have so many members who have served for 10, 25 and 30 years. After Mass, members joined with other parishioners to celebrate with refreshments.

## EDENVALE



Edenvale CWL held a "Christmas in July" high tea. The hall was beautifully decorated, and delicious Christmas eats were enjoyed by all.

On Sunday the 28th of August 2022 we held our recommitment Mass, with thirty-two ladies attending. Father Jonathan Petersen, our parish priest, enrolled three new ladies and awarded two long service badges along with a blessing for all CWL members present. Long service badges were awarded to Madge Handgraaf (30 years) and Eugenie Del Paul (10 years).



# ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

## ELDORADO PARK



At Eldorado Park's CWL branch recommitment day, three ladies received their 10-year badges, and one 20-year badge was awarded.

## LA ROCHELLE



La Rochelle and South Hills branches of the Johannesburg Region had their annual recommitment together at St. Patrick's church on August 14th. Three new members, Agnes Nicelato, Grace Chimwaza and Jacinta Ugo were enrolled from the La Rochelle branch, and one new member, Christina Hill, from the South Hills branch. There were two long service awards from La Rochelle with Rosa Sorban receiving her 20-year badge and Branch President June Middleton her 25-year one. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Jorge Guerra and Deacon Walter Middleton. La Rochelle held their Christmas in July dinner/ dance which was a resounding success. There were about 270 guests, a lovely dinner, great dance music provided by the DJ who kept the party going until after midnight. It was a fun-filled evening and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. CWL members went home after 1am, exhausted but happy!

## VICTORY PARK (TUESDAY)



A Heritage Day Rosary took place at the Grotto, organized by CWL member Angel Kata. Members of the CWL spoke to the parish on the works of the League. A second collection was taken up for the CWL at both masses on the weekend of 13 and 14 August. The cross on the top of St Charles Borromeo church was struck by lightning, and a replacement one was installed with a hoist. A sale was held with the assistance of pupils from the De La Salle college.

## EAST RAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

ERRC parishes celebrating the Feast of Assumption and renewing their vows:

## ST PAUL THE APOSTLE



## ST NICHOLAS



# ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

**MOUNT CARMEL, THOKOZA**



**HOLY FAMILY**



**ST JOSEPH, ACTONVILLE**



**OUR LADY OF LORETO, KEMPTON PARK**



**SAN SALVADOR**



**SOUTH WEST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**OUR LADY OF FATIMA, DUBE**



In July CWL members of Our Lady of Fatima, Dube, celebrated Mandela Day at Ithemba Recovery Centre. A follow up visit took place on the 3rd of September to celebrate Spring Day, and provide the needed support as previously indicated by the CEO of the centre. One of our parishioners donated a gym machine for the boys. The young men entertained us with gospel music. There was also a competition with prizes to be won. Most of our participants won prizes. Braai meat, chakalaka and pap were served for lunch. The young men were left with a box of scones to enjoy with their breakfast the following day.

Group 3 CWL members of Our Lady of Fatima Dube, delivered their quarterly grocery parcel to their adopted family. The items are always received with great excitement and joy.



# ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG



Our Lady of Fatima Dube celebrated their Heritage Day on Sunday the 25th of September 2022. The priest and parishioners were beautiful in their African attire. Our member Smangele Pambo won the first prize for the best African attire. Halala!!! Mafatima for a day well celebrated.

## REGINA MUNDI-MOROKA



Regina Mundi parish priest Father Nqobile Mzolo organised Mass for Woman's Day together with other priests. Readings were taken from Psalm 116:12: What shall I render unto the lord for all his benefits towards me. The day concluded with a prayer to Mary, Queen of Peace.

## VAAL REGIONAL COUNCIL



On the 17th of September 2022 VRC celebrated the 10-year anniversary of forty-four ladies, as well as the enrolments of four new members. The event took place at Emmanuel parish, Zone 14, Sebokeng. The main celebrant was Fr Nkosinathi together with Fr Kifle, Vaal Regional Spiritual Chaplain.



On the 20th of August VRC hosted a career expo for the youth of the Vaal region. The youth from various schools came in numbers to hear presentations from the various institutions of higher learning that were invited. All the learners were served breakfast and lunch which were prepared by VRC.

# ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

## ST BENEDICT THE BLACK



On the 28th of August 2022 the branch visited the children's home in De Dear, where they prepared lunch for the children and also gave them party packets. The children were happy as they were entertained by the ladies.

## BISDOM VAN KEIMOES-UPINGTON

### PRIESKA

Die tema van ons oorweging was "Ons is die Solidariteit". Vader het 'n voorbeeld gemaak van die tong. Ons moet ons tonge tem nie afbreek mekaar nie, maar bid vir mekaar en opbou mekaar. Nie een van ons is heilig nie, ons strewe om goed te doen. Wees lief vir mekaar, moenie afbreek mekaar nie. Lewe sodat andere ook sal begeer om by die vrouebond wil aan te sluit. Na die oorweging het ons afgesluit met die novene en biegtedoen. Dit was 'n baie aangename middag. Sondag het ons ons gelofte hernu. Ses lede was teenwoordig, een afwesig as gevolg van 'n familie begrafnis.

Groete in Christus

### UPINGTON



Upington tak het hulle novene vir roepinge vanaf 13 Augustus 2022 gebid. Die susters wie nie werksaam is nie, het namiddag 15h00 bymekaar gekom en gebid. Elke vrou het Sondag oggend by haar huis die laaste gebed gedoen. Die geloftes het ons hernu gedurende die Heilige Mis, gehou deur Vader Roman. Dit was geestelike treffend. Vader het die openings gebed in Latyns begin. Dit was net spesiaal mooi, as ek dit so kan stel. Ons het een lid ingeseën, Sr Lelecia Prins, en haar woorde was 'Dit was asof die vrouens spesiaal in 'n half maan agter my gestaan het om my te beskerm teen vyehandigheid'. Die vrouens het offers gebring en na die verrigtinge genoem hoe hulle die Gees van God ervaar het. Upington groete.

### KAKAMAS

Ons het die Woensdag aand in Augustus met biegtedoen by die kerk begin.

Daarna het ons parogie priester, Vader Smith, Saterdag 'n Heilige Mis om 09h00 die oggend gehou, veral vir die families wat geliefdes aan die dood afgestaan het tydens die Covid pandemie.

Daar kon ons enige item van die afgestorwenes neem kerk toe, soos by voorbeeld, foto, kers, program. Vader het dan die gebede opgedra vir hulle sielrus en al die name genome; dan moes ons 'n kers gaan aansteek vir daardie geliefdes. Dit was baie hartseer maar 'n baie mooi gebaar. Ons as die Vrouebond het dan na die Heilige Mis by mekaar gekom en so 'n kort sessie gehad. Daar het ons lofliedere gesing, en aanbiddings koortjies gesing. Elke suster het dan die geleentheid gehad om haar probleme op 'n papier te skryf en dit in 'n blik te gooi. Daarna het ons smeek gebede gebid, en daar het 'n gees rond beweeg wat ongelooflik was. Ons kon alles by die voete van die Here los, op ons knieë, terwyl ons die probleem uitbrand as 'n teken dat die Here alreeds vooruit gegaan het. Dit was 'n gees vervullende Saterdag. Ons het dan die Sondag afgesluit om ons gelofte te hernu. Baie dankie Susters.



# BISDOM VAN KEIMOES-UPINGTON

## KEIMOES



Op 15 Augustus, die feesdag van Maria ten Hemelopneming, het Vader Alex Beukes met ons praatjie gehad oor Maria ten Hemelopneming.

Op 19 Augustus het ons biege geleentheid gehad. Die geleentheid het vooraf gegaan met 'n praatjie deur Sr Elma Basson, ons president. Die tema was "Wat dra ek saam met my as Katolieke Vrouebond". Sy het 2 bome gehad om dit uit te beeld. Boom 1, vrugte van Gees ..boom 2, vrugte van vlees. Elkeen moes haar self ondersoek terwyl daar agter grond musiek was, en daarna het biege plaasgevind deur Vader Alex Beukes. Saterdag namiddag om 5 uur het ons oorweging gehad, aangebied deur Sr Elma. Die tema was "Elkeen van ons is uniek maar tog is ons almal deel van God se skepping". Sy het 'n pakkie Smarties as voorbeeld gebruik. Die pakkie was geledig in 'n poeding gebak, en elke suster moes 'n kleur smartie trek. Die gedagte was ons verskille en ons ooreenstemming.

1 God se skepping ...alle smarties uit dieselfde pakkie.

2 Smarties smaak dieselfde maar die kleur verskil...elkeen is uniek.

Susters moes iets ooreenstemmend met die kleur van die Smartie wat sy getrek het, deel. Voorbeeld:

Rooi vertel vir ons van enige pyn of lyding wat u al verduur het en hoe u daaruit gekom het.

Blou vertel wie is daar wat u altyd kan vra vir raad of bystand.

Groen - wat is u gunsteling bybel vers en hoekom.

Geel - wie of wat u na die bond toe gebring het.

Pienk - vir wie mis u die meeste en hoekom.

Hierdie is net slegs voorbeelde maar elke kleur het iets gehad om te vertel.

Susters het hul ervaring gedeel en dit was so 'n emosionele oomblik. Maar die hoogtepunt was hoe susters getuig het hoe die Here vir hul deur gekom het, deur gebed.

Sondag het ons saam met Friersdale ons gelofte afgelê in Friersdale. Twee van ons susters het 20-jaar wapens ontvang en twee susters het 25-jaar wapens ontvang. Alle eer aan ons Meester.

## OLIFANTSTREEK



Ons het ons kamp te Strandfontein op Vrydag aangebegin om die novene te bid. Sr Willa het die vroue met 1 Sam 12 bemoedig. Sr Wendy het die Rosekrans geneem. Daarna het ons steekvergadering begin. Ons was 23 lede teenwoordig. Saterdag oggend 20 Augustus om 8h30 het ons afgeskop met 'n Heilige Mis. 13h30 bid ons weer novene. Die oorweging het om 14h00 begin. Streekspresident Tina Whyte het die tema "Hawelose in ons Midde" aangebied. Die vroue se grimering, juwele, hoed, handsak en skoene was uitgebeeld. Dis maar 'n paar van die goed wat ons as vroue gebruik om ons weerloosheid en haweloosheid te verberg. Die woord sal kom soos jy is. Moenie jou make up en juwele gebruik om jou seer te verberg nie, maar gebruik dit eerder om jou mooi te maak. Soms sit ons met klippe in ons handsakke, om mekaar te stenig. Maak leeg jou handsak met onbenullighede in en vul dit met Gal 5:22-23. Elke vrou het 'n klein papier ontvang om dit waarvoor sy die Here te vertrou, daarop te skryf, en ook 'n gebed om vir 'n hawelose te bid. Die vroue was in vervoering en baie emosioneel. Een

van ons takke se priester, Vader Edward, het dit net alles bevestig. Hy het aan ons verduidelik en uitgelê wie die hawelose regtig was en hoe ons moet te werk gaan. Dit is goed om in groepe te werk, maar wat doen jy as 'n individu vir die bond. Een van die punte wat hy aangehaal het was dat dit 'n elke dag ding is, en nie wanneer die vroue 'n program aan het nie. 'n Jaar het 365 dae, so ons moet elke dag van die jaar gebruik om 'n verskil te maak. Ons vroue kon toe ons werksaamhede deur 'n ander oog sien. 21 Augustus het Olifantstreek geloftes in Koekenaap afgelê. Lutzville het 3 nuwe lede voorgestel en Vredendal 1. Agt-en-twintig lede het geloftes afgelê en sluit sodoende weer opnuut 'n verbond met God. Wat 'n wonderlike geesvervulde naweek.

## OKIEP



Ons is die Heilige Rosekrans Okiep Katolieke Vrouebond en is in Namakwa Streek wat in Keimoes-Upington Bisdom val. Ons tak bestaan uit 13 aktiewe lede, 3 meegaande lede en 6 hulplede wat in 2023 na 8 lede sal opskuif. Ons president is Anne Mostert, ons visepresident is Priscilla Ventura, ons sekretaresse is Cecilia Cloete, ons visesekretaresse is Astrid Oppel en ons tesourier is Vera Osborne. Okiep tak is in volle swang met al die werksaamhede wat op ons toegerus is. Tot dusver het ons 'n baie suksesvolle jaar beleef en ons kan net die Here loof, eer en prys.

# BISDOM VAN KEIMOES-UPINGTON

Die noewen vir Roeping was by die Grotto van ons kerk in samewerking van die parogie gebid van 1 Junie 2022 tot 09 Junie 2022. Maria ten Hemel Opneming was gebid vanaf 11 Augustus 2022 tot 19 Augustus 2022 en het ons dan ook 'n oorweging-sessie en biegeleentheid gehad op 19 Augustus 2022. Die tema van die oorweging was "Wie is ek?" en die biege was waargeneem deur Vader Gerald Ssemakula, ons parogie priester. Ons het op 20 Augustus 2022 ons streeksvergadering te Port Nolloth bygewoon en op 21 Augustus het ons ons beloftes hernu onder leiding van Vader Gerald Ssemakula.

Ons tak het 'n bedsokkie en mussie breiprojek geloods en dit aan ons bejaardes en siekes in die gemeenskap oorhandig. Spar Bakkery het ook aan ons wol geskenk. Die deernis en dankbaarheid asook die glimlagte op die ontvangers se gesigte was vir ons goud werd en het ons net meer aangemoedig om aan te hou met brei. Op 09 Augustus 2022 het die uitdeling van die bedsokkies en mussies afgesluit maar ons breiwerk gaan steeds voort.

Vrouemaand was afgesluit by die Methodiste kerk en was dit 'n wonderlike samesyn. Wêreldbiddag vir vroue was ook goed ondersteun. Op 09 September 2022 het ons ook 'n baie suksesvolle dansfunksie met die tema "Denim en Wit met jou Tekkies" gehad, en dit het ons bemagtig om die volgende skenkings te kon maak: Priesterfonds - R5000,00 en St. Vincent de Paul - R1000,00.

## SESBRUGGE

Op Saterdag 20 Augustus het ons 'n oorweging vir gelofte hernuwing gehou. Ons het om 10 uur die oggend begin. Die Vrouebondslede, tesame met 3 nuwe lede, het tydens die bid van noewen vir die 9 dae, opdrag gekry om vir haarself 'n vrou uit die Bybel te kies. Ons het saam geneem ons Bybel, kers, boek, pen en ons ontbyt/middagete. Elke suster moes die vrou voorstel en 'n kort verduideliking gee waarom dit gegaan het, en watter rol daardie bybelse vrou in haar lewe speel. Die geloof wanner ons iets by die Here vra moet nie moedeloos word nie, maar dat ons kan vra tot iets gebeur. Abigaïal in 1 Sam 25:38 kan ons soos die eienskappe van vredemaak en wysheid voorbring; wees altyd 'n vredemaker en hanteer 'n saak met wysheid ontvang van God.

Wat sien jy? Luke 11:34. Die lamp van jou liggaam is die oog. By die geleentheid het ons almal saam ons kerse by een kers brand gestee. God het vir eenheid onder ons Vrouebondslede gevra. Ons het dan ook die Here gesmeek deur gebed en gevra om met hierdie lig die duisternis uit ons lewens te verdryf. Ons het 'n oomblik oor die duisternis gemediteer en die lig van God gewerf.

Die sessie is afgesluit met Luke 6:43-45: 'n Boom word aan sy vrugte geken. Wat will God in die lewe van sy dissipels sien? Elkeen teenwoordig het 'n eienskap van God ontvang en dan moes sy dit as wagwoord vir die jaar gebruik.

Die volgende was ook behandel: God is rein; God is vriendelik; God is vredeliewend; God is barmhartig; God is insiklik.

Ons het afgesluit met Matthew 52:3-12 en ons afsonder vir die biege.

Op Sondag het 7 Vrouebondslede hul geloftes hernu, met die 3 nuwe lede wat rondom ons gestaan het. Die gelofte hernuwing was vir ons almal 'n teken dat ons by die Vrouebond sal bly.

## NAMAKWA

Op 20 Augustus het Namakwa Vrouebond hul streek vergadering te Port Nolloth gehad. Al die takke was daar en gesamentlik na jare het hulle hul gelofte hernu. Die gees was baie goed, en die warmte van eenheid in die gees kon regtig aanvoel word. Oorwegings is gehou gelang van die beskikbaarheid van betrokke rolspelers. Een van die hoogste punte was dat selfs rustende lede ook hul gelofte hernu het in Namakwa streek. Daar was 46 lede teenwoordig.

# DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY

## DIOCESAN

The Kimberley diocese had its first diocesan meeting after the Covid 19 pandemic on the 18th of September 2022.

Activities were held at a very minimal level, and some Deaneries and/or branches were inactive, because of some members with co-morbidities, the aged, those who were hesitant, and those who tested positive.

We are delighted that Fr. Medupe Motshwari has been allocated to us as our Chaplain.

## ST PETER THE APOSTLE

Our charity work:

The ladies cooked lunch for the confirmation class of 2022.

On Father's Day the ladies made soup for the fathers of the parish. They also gave a gift to Father on Father's Day and for his priestly anniversary.

On the same day, after church, the ladies proceeded to visit and pray with the ill and elderly.

On the 6th of August we bade farewell to our priest.

Our annual novena started in August. We renewed our vows after the novena and celebrated by having lunch together.



# DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY

## ST BONIFACE



We adopted a young boy who lives with both his unemployed parents. School uniform was bought for him, and members in their own capacities are also providing them with meals and clothing.

## ST. CHARLES LWANGA

On the eve of the Feast of the Assumption we carried out charity work by assisting an elderly lady who has turned 100 years old. On the 21st of August 2022 we renewed our commitment after the Novena that took place for nine days. Eleven League members took part in the renewal, and two new recruits were blessed. Resident priest, Reverend Father Jeremiah Mahatlheng, conducted the ceremony.

On Sunday 9 October we gave food parcels to one of our elderly parishioners, Mrs Matlhootlhoru. She is 86 years old and lives with a helper and her grandchildren. They were all very happy to receive the well-prepared package which was put together and given with love.

We are still mourning the death of our veteran Emily Counyane, former diocesan president. May her dear soul rest in peace.

# DIOCESE OF KLERKSDORP

## ST MICHAEL'S, POTCHEFSTROOM



Tough economic times have hit many in the pocket. This has in many ways affected the level at which CWL members have been charitable as some have lost their jobs or sources of income during the past two years. To address this challenge, CWL women stripped their wardrobes of their pre-loved clothes to sell and raise some funds to carry out their charity work.

The morning of Saturday 7th of May saw the women waking up and braving the cold morning to go and sell the clothes. The funds raised were aimed at running the soup kitchen during the winter months. The fundraising event was a great success, and it was pleasing knowing that the things we take for granted can turn out to bring joy for someone else; this was proven by the smiles of the buyers when getting value for money!! No doubt the funds generated will yield a successful upcoming "Meals on Wheels" project.



Spearheaded by Mrs Patricia Kgomoetsane and Mrs Tlaki Ditlhobolo, St. Michael's CWL ladies woke up on Saturday the 14th of May 2022 to serve soup to the needy and job seekers on the streets of Potchefstroom and Ikageng township. The cold morning did not deter the women from carrying out their duties. They prepared a meaty soup in two extra-large pots and loaded it in their cars. The determined ladies went out to serve the soup and bread to the unemployed gentlemen who stand on street corners waiting for potential employers for piece jobs. More than sixty people were fed on the day, and they were happy to have their breakfast while they waited for potential employers. In less than two hours, the ladies went back home with empty pots, happy faces and fulfilled hearts. The soup project is intended to be carried out once in a month for the duration of winter. Lending a helping hand - "Bana ba motho ba kgaogana tlhogwana ya tsie" is a Setswana proverb loosely translated as siblings share everything, however little. This is the approach that St. Michael's CWL women took when they heard about the devastating floods that affected the community of Deelpan village in the North West during the month of April.

# DIOCESE OF KLERKSDORP

The village was water-locked, which made it difficult for the community to go in and out the village. Accessing basic services, including medical help, was near impossible. Owing to this situation, St Michael's CWL and the parish community saw fit to lend a helping hand by donating food to those who were in need. Despite their few numbers, they put together a considerable amount of non-perishable items, mostly tinned food, to donate to those who may have been in need in the said community. This was done with the assistance of the parish priest of Delareyville, Fr Ekpe, who identified those affected in his parish. On the 8th of June 2022, the CWL of St. Michael's officially had a new leadership for the first time since its inception in 2016 following the executive elections that were held earlier in the month.

The day started with a short service led by the parish priest, Fr Don Bohé, who quoted from Matthew 5:16 and the letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians 1:11, whose message is "We are ALL called to serve in the Kingdom of God", and to be able to do so we require discipline and maturity. The priest also encouraged us to always remain and carry out our duties with holiness and prayer, for without prayer we will be just like a group of trade unionists. We need to keep on always praying and serve with humility. The incoming chairperson Mme Siko also encouraged members to continue to work together, to pray together and to always be in unity, to fulfil the objectives and mission of the League of Charity, Work and Loyalty. The evening ended in high spirits when we were honoured to share a delicious meal with Fr Don Bohé, prepared by Philly our parish secretary. In conclusion, below are some words from the song, "Send me" by worship band Bethel Music, which must always be encouragement to carry on despite challenges.

## **SEND ME**

**If it's bandaging the broken**

**Or washing filthy feet**

**Here I am Lord, send me.**

**If it's loving one another**

**Even when we don't agree**

**Here I am Lord, send me.**

One of the League's objectives is to assist with parish work under the guidance of the parish priest, and that is what the ladies fulfilled when a call for duty arose to prepare lunch for the installation of Mr Matebele and Mr Senyane as Lectors in preparation for their permanent Deaconate.

The Vicar-General of the Klerksdorp diocese, our parish priest Fr Don Bohé, was the main celebrant for this celebration that was held at St. Michael's on the 19th of June 2022. The ladies prepared a scrumptious lunch, proving their culinary skills for the candidates, their families and the parish council.

The day was indeed a success proving that we are able to achieve far more when we work together.

In the words of St. Theresa of Calcutta, "I CAN DO THINGS YOU CANNOT, YOU CAN DO THINGS I CANNOT, BUT TOGETHER WE CAN DO GREAT THINGS". May we always continue to serve the parish if and when the need arises.

A pair of new shoes can transform your body language and attitude, they can lift you physically and emotionally. No doubt most ladies can attest to this! That is how the children of Ourief Primary School felt when on the 5th of August 2022 the ladies from St. Michael's CWL donated 26 pairs of school shoes to them. School shoes are a basic need for any child and we at St. Michael's believe that the meeting of this need is a simple way to show God's grace to His precious little souls. As we are blessed, we in turn are able to bless others, and God will always be glorified.

The donation of these shoes restored pride, dignity and hope to the children in need from the farm school just on the outskirts of Parys; this was proved by the happiness and the smiles on the little faces. We believe in the need to show love to people, as much as we believe that a simple sole of a new shoe can give hope. The children were treated to sweet and succulent oranges and snacks. These little acts warmed their appreciative little hearts.

## **CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER**

In May, just in time for the bitter winter, the CWL ladies of Christ the Redeemer gathered their soup mega pots and got ready to serve. This annual event, known as the Winter Drive, is meant to source donations from the community. Donations are in the form of winter clothing, blankets and anything that can keep the cold at bay. The gathered clothing is then distributed to charity homes in and around Klerksdorp. These items have been of great help to the less fortunate as they could then face the cold winter in warm clothes.

The event was preceded by holy Mass. After donations were handed in the parishioners were spoiled with delicious warm soup and bread. This was also a way for CWL ladies to bring the community of Christ the Redeemer to break bread together.

Talk about killing more than one bird with one stone: Celebrating holy Mass, bringing community together, carrying out acts of charity, enjoying a meal together. All these in the name of Charity, Work and Loyalty.

Home. What is home? Home is our Church. Home is within us and amongst ourselves. Quite often we look outside the church to do acts of charity. We often overlook the needs of those who pray with, and for, us. The acts of charity need not only be based outside the church. Outreach to the community should start first in the church. When the church is stronger, everyone can jointly reach out to the broader community.



# DIOCESE OF KLERKSDORP



This is the approach that the ladies of CWL Cathedral of Christ the Redeemer in Klerksdorp took. What started off as a social visit to the nuns in the Diocese, ended up with the ladies challenged to do more to live up to the motto Charity, Work and Loyalty. It was during the visit that they identified a range of needs that the nuns have and how they could assist to make their lives better. After identifying the plight of nuns in the Diocese, the ladies promptly dug deep in their pockets and bought some basic needs including toiletries and food for the nuns. While they keep their exquisite hats on, we shall take our hats off for the CWL ladies of Christ the Redeemer. Their charitable acts didn't look any further than our very own. On the 3rd of September, the branch hosted a High Tea fundraising event. It was a glamorous event which was aimed at raising funds. The proceeds of the event were donated to the Catholic nuns in the Diocese. The nuns are based at various convents in the parish, amongst others Itsoseng, Schweizer Reneke and Jou-

berton. The thankful recipients expressed their heartfelt gratitude as their faces glowed with happiness. Donations in the form of toiletries and non-perishable food were sourced and received. The event was graced by ladies from all walks of life and nearby CWL branches. Some attendees pledged monthly support to the Convents. Amongst the speakers at the event were Mme Pinky Moloi, former Executive Mayor of the Matlosana Local Municipality, and Sister Olivia Jani.

## ST PETER'S AND ST MICHAEL'S



Just like the province of KwaZulu Natal, Deelpan village also experienced devastating floods. Although this did not receive much media coverage, the community members lost a lot of their belongings including, among others, furniture, houses and stock. The village was cut off by the water with difficulty accessing health services and other amenities. The provincial government departments were also having difficulty in reaching the community. When everyone was putting their heads together to see how to assist, the spirit of Charity, Work and Loyalty prevailed amongst two parishes. Coincidentally, both St Michael's CWL (Potchefstroom) and St Peter (Boikhutso), unbeknown to each other, aided those in need. A considerable consignment of goods in the form of non-perishable food, clothing, shoes, blankets and toiletries was donated to the community through the parish priest Fr Ekpeme. Donations were sourced from the parishioners and as usual, they were more than willing to assist. All thanks to the two parishes for giving assistance when it was needed the most.

## DIOCESAN



North West Province is largely rural and vast, with parishes a great distance from each other, some lying in far-flung areas. Over the past two years, due to Covid -19 related challenges and other dynamics at that time, some of the parishes in the far-flung areas felt neglected, demoralised and left out of the larger unit. Their morale was low and eventually the CWL activities were negatively affected.

Upon the inception of the new Executive Committee, the first and most important priority for them was to reach out to the parishes/deaneries that were demotivated and inactive. This was aimed at resuscitating and motivating the parishes to resume their good deeds for the church and the community.

The first visit was to Zone three which covers parishes in and around Wolmaransstad. This was on the 30th of July 2022 at Our Lady of Lourdes. During

this visit, five parishes in Zone 3 were in attendance. All problems, concerns and frustrations were raised. The Executive, with the guidance of the spiritual director Fr Tshidiso Moleko, assisted in addressing them. It was a fruitful day that ended with all parishes satisfied and looking forward to more acts of charity and remaining loyal to the league.

A further visit was made to Ditsobotla Deanery on the 18th of September at Boikhutso. This was also aimed at resuscitating the branches and unifying them to work together closely. A meeting with three parishes was held, preceded by a beautiful Mass celebration. New members were given their badges and welcomed into the CWL. Present were the parishes of St. Peter, St Francis and Movirigo wa Bahumanegi. Members of two branches, St Francis and Movirigo wa Bahumanegi, renewed their commitments to the CWL.

## DIOCESE OF MTHATHA



We celebrated the WUCWO Day of Prayer on the 24th of September, as well as Heritage Day. This day was graced by the involvement of parishioners from different sodalities. Their input and participation were motivating. There were St Anne's Sodality, Sacred Heart, Catholic Women's League, non-aligned groups and religious groups.

It was quite a busy weekend, and we must give our parishioners a special thumbs up for making it a success. We are also grateful to our spiritual leader who afforded us the opportunity to pray together, especially during these trying times. Unity is strength and let us remain loyal to faith.

CWL visited Themba Hospice on the 17th of July. The ladies prepared, cooked and served lunch for this community. We also donated fruit and bowls. We spent some time there and we also prayed together. The entire community had a wonderful time.

## DIOCESE OF OUDTSHOORN

### ST MARIA GORETTI

On Sunday, 14th August 2022, a new branch of the Catholic Women's League in our diocese was established in the parish of St. Maria Goretti in Worcester. The proceedings started on Saturday as members of the CWL arrived from all over our diocese and were heartily welcomed by the local parishioners who went out of their way to make them feel at home.

On Sunday, during Holy Mass, the establishment of the new branch was undertaken by the Diocesan President, Mrs. Nellie Reimann and the Diocesan Chaplain, Fr. Leon Mostert C.O.

The new branch has fourteen members and during their inauguration new members from other branches were also admitted: two from St Blaize, two from St Vincent Palotti, two from St Nicholas and one from St Conrad.

This is the first time in many decades that a new branch of the CWL has been founded in our diocese and we have good reason to celebrate.

## DIOCESE OF PORT ELIZABETH (GQEBERHA)

### MATER DEI

Our Corporate Mass was held on the 24th of June; Father Ludwe was the celebrant and we thank him for this.

In a further attempt to increase our funds, we decided to hold a 'Breakfast Fundraiser' in the parish hall after Mass on the 3rd of July. We advertised widely, printed very attractive tickets and made bookings on the Sundays prior to the event. Our ladies worked very hard preparing and setting up the hall on Saturday, arriving at sunrise on Sunday. We appreciated the excellent support, especially from St. Patrick's CWL who booked a table for 8 and joined us in the friendly informal atmosphere. We received many compliments and requests for us to repeat the event. We congratulate our members for their hard work.

We arranged a display table of knitted and other goods showing some of the work which our CWL members do to donate to charity, clarifying that the funds we make from the breakfast will go towards the cost of materials purchased to make the garments. This also showcased some of the unknown work done by the CWL.

On the 7th of June a Priests' Day of Recollection took place at Mater Dei with Chrystal and Pam providing the tea for the priests and deacons. Our new CWL Diocesan Chaplain is Father Eldridge Davids who has taken over from Father Jerry Browne after his many years of spiritual guidance for us. We welcome Father Eldridge and hope he will be happy to guide us for a long time.

Chrystal attended to the group at the Diaconate meeting, and we were told that a Unity Mass will take place on the 9th of August at St. Augustine's at 10 am. We were requested to supply sandwiches and a gift.

The Priests' Deanery tea was held at Mater Dei on the 2nd of August and Laura assisted with the tea.

We are still selling tickets for our future fundraisers, and this appears to be a popular idea. At present, with our novena due to start, and preparations for all the planned events, we are quietly continuing with our efforts to collect knitted goods etc. for the poor, as we remember them in this cold weather.

We joined with priests, deacons, religious, parishioners and other sodalities for the Bishop's Unity Mass at St. Augustine's Cathedral on National Women's Day, the 9th of August. The cathedral was packed with banners with a wonderful turnout to honour our bishop on his anniversary, to celebrate Women's Day, and to present the bishop with gifts for the poor.



# DIOCESE OF PORT ELIZABETH (GQEBERIA)

The theme of the Mass was "We are the Church -Journeying Together as the Evangelizing Community Serving God, Humanity and all Creation". We supplied sandwiches and helped clean up after this impressive event.

We started our Novena privately on the 13th of August and completed it, also privately, on the Feast of the Assumption, the 21st of August. Mass was offered by Father Ludwe for the Catholic Women's League on that day.

With restrictions having been lifted, we catered for two funerals in August, and we pray for the souls of the departed, that they may rest in peace, and for comfort for the families.

We welcomed two prospective new members to our branch, and to encourage and inform them of CWL proceedings, we have given them each a typed copy of the foundation of the League as well as an outline of normal regulations. We have found that for a new member to just listen to others at a meeting for three months means they are still not sure of what the League is about when they are enrolled.

We joined with other women to celebrate "Women's Month" at a women's retreat led by Father Ludwe Jayiya on the 20th of August. This was a refreshingly different retreat and much appreciated - our grateful thanks to Father Ludwe. We ended the retreat with a welcome 'Bring and Share' lunch.

At the Diocesan AGM in Grahamstown Father Jerry Browne, our retiring chaplain, made a request to all CWL members to please pray one decade of the Rosary daily for Pope Francis and the Missions. This was his request as the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies.

On the 4th of September, we held a fundraiser "Spring Breakfast" (our second breakfast, as the first one was so well attended).

The parish hall was full and very lively with people commenting on the food (and second helpings) and the joy of mingling once again. This has proved to be a very popular fundraiser.

As requested, on the 25th of September several of our CWL members helped serve tea for the First Communicants, who were so well prepared for the beautiful ceremony that morning at Mater Dei.

On the 2nd of October, we held another fundraiser, this time "Egg and Bacon Rolls" after Mass.

Mavis Hutchison was once again welcomed at our parish for a short visit and will be returning to Cape Town after our CWL meeting on the 8th of October.

## SAN FRANCISCO

A thank you letter was received from Faniswa Mpendu, secretary of Silithemba Labadala Organization at Forest Hill, in grateful thanks for the donation of bags of soup for their soup kitchen.

We received an acknowledgement of our letter from Saprotex requesting our name to be added to the list for donation of wool. The Diocesan Christmas party will be held on Monday 5th December at the Italian Club.

St Anthony's expressed sincere thanks to Nora for the soup powder they received.

Nora arranged for soup powder to be delivered to Fort Beaufort/CWL Uitenhage/Cheshire Homes at Cleary Park and the Northern Areas.

Nora's brother was very appreciative of the Mass offered in thanksgiving of his kindness and generosity to our League.

We held our Bingo evening and once again it was a great success. Thanks to Elaine for all her hard work.

Father Max popped into our July meeting at our request and gave us some encouraging and inspirational words for us to carry on with the good works that we are doing.

We had a number of functions coming up:

- Priests' Caravan lunch to be held in October
- International Food Evening to be held on 26 November; the CWL and Care Group will be manning the Cake Stall
- Senior citizens' Christmas party to be held in December
- Diocesan Christmas party to be held on 5 December which is an enormous task with lots of pre-preparation required, therefore plans need to be made to possibly ask for help from our parishioners.

Once again our Bingo evening, held on the 4th of August at the Italian Club, was a great success and an amount of R11347 was made which will go towards church funds. A big thank you to Elaine for all her hard work. The next Bingo evening will be held early in November.

We will be doing the cooking for the Priests' Caravan lunch which will be held on the 3rd of October for 35-40 people. Thank you to all the ladies who offered to do the cooking.

We offered tea and coffee to those candidates who were confirmed on the 17th of September.

As mentioned, our international food evening is going to be held on the 26th of November and we will be doing the cake stall with the theme name "Old Ducks' Bakery".

Booklets and tickets need to be sold after Mass.

Packages for Cuylerhome and Buffelsfontein will no longer be put together as the social workers for both institutions feel that is fairer to give the supplies to those who are really in need of assistance.

Nora sent porridge to Cuylerhome and soup powder and porridge to Buffelsfontein.

# DIOCESE OF PORT ELIZABETH (GQEBERHA)

## SACRED HEART



Our Jubilee year is in full swing. The CWL has been involved in many of the events by way of service to the parish. The 16th of June was Youth Day in South Africa and to mark the occasion Sacred Heart hosted the youth from the diocese to celebrate as part of our Jubilee year. Youth from all over Port Elizabeth gathered for Mass and our branch prepared and served sandwiches after Mass and the ladies then made burgers for lunch. It was a very successful event judging by the positive feedback.

On Father's Day, the 19th of June, the parish's fundraising committee aimed to sell koeksisters as part of the Jubilee fundraising efforts. CWL were tasked with preparing and frying the koeksisters which some of the ladies did on the 11th of June. As usual it was a morning of fun and fellowship.

On the 27th of June Sacred Heart hosted the Jubilee year Caravan lunch for about 40 clergy and religious of the diocese. Bishop Zungu celebrated Mass at 11am. The CWL ladies met at 8am in the morning to prepare and set up for the lunch to be served after mass. The buffet consisted of a spicy butter-nut soup starter, mutton curry and rice, baked chicken thighs, tenderized steak with gravy and onions and a selection of veggies. Dessert was a decadent chocolate malva pudding and custard. The event was a great success.

The CWL set up and served tea and eats provided by the family of Des Adams following his requiem funeral mass on 2nd July. May his dear soul rest in peace.

CWL served soup on 25th June to the needy in the community from the parish hall. It was a morning of fellowship and outreach well spent.

Our outreach efforts continue with the veggie packs donated to families in the parish and to Little Sparrow School for autistic children in New Brighton. The school expressed their deep gratitude for the donation.

On the 27th of August CWL set up and served tea and eats provided by the confirmation candidates' parents following the mass presided over by Bishop Zungu.

Our League Annual Novena commenced on the 12th of August. The members joined together in prayer each evening in their homes and connected via WhatsApp in communion together. It concluded on the evening of the 20th of August.

On the 21st of August the church observed the Feast of the Assumption. Our members declared their recommitment to the League at the 8am Mass. Fr Runaine celebrated the mass and made the occasion very special.

On the 19th of August we hosted our fundraiser in aid of the upcoming 60th Jubilee Lunch function. It was a great success with a packed venue dancing the night away to music by Mano Zay. The committee outdid themselves in organizing the function on short notice.

The highlight of the year was our Jubilee Celebration on the 10th of September. The occasion started with Mass concelebrated by our resident priests with Fr Runaine the main celebrant and Fr Lubabalo, our parish priest, and Fr Eldridge, the new CWL chaplain, assisting. The guests from other CWL branches as well as some parishioners shared in the beautiful celebration of Holy Mass. Fr Runaine's homily reflected on 60 years of CWL presence in the parish of the Sacred Heart and emphasized the role of the CWL women within the parish over the years. Mass was followed by a reception in the parish hall. Lunch was served to 70 guests and the formalities in terms of speeches were taken care of by our President Munieba who thanked the clergy, the organizers of the event and all our members and Diocesan in attendance. The resident priests and CWL chaplain also spoke some words of encouragement and blessing before the food was blessed and the festivities began. The guests were treated to a lamb and chicken spit braai and salad, with a cake table and coffee for afters. It was wonderful to see our auxiliary and lifetime members in attendance. Hundreds of years of service to the Sacred Heart Branch of CWL contained under one roof. To God be the glory!

## CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION



Things are gradually getting back to normal after the pandemic. Our branch lost 6 members during that period.

We started the annual Novena on Saturday the 6th of August 2022 at our church together, to be continued individually at home.

Our last branch meeting was held at the place of our honorary member, Sis Florance Macanda, who is now 83 years old. Here we continued the Novena together.

On August the 14th, we welcomed a new member, Nomkhitha Manqola, who was enrolled by our priest Father Eldridge Davids.

We closed the Novena together which was followed by a lovely tea, served by Nomkhitha. This is the enrollment of Nomkhitha Mangxola (on the left), with our President Maureen Methula and our priest Father Elridge Davids.



# DIOCESE OF PORT ELIZABETH (GQEBERHA)

## CORPUS CHRISTI



For Easter this year, we organized and delivered doughnuts to the fifty four residents and six carers at Cheshire Homes in Summerstrand. Those living there always look forward to and enjoy these treats from our committee. It has become an annual work of love that I am sure will remain on our calendar for years to come. April also saw a few of our members attend the Diocesan AGM which they enjoyed.

Over the weekend of 29 – 31 April, our ladies catered for and served at the Retrouvaille weekend at St Luke's Retreat Centre (Nazareth House). There were 22 participants this time and all seemed happy with their meals over the course of the weekend.

The Cheshire Homes annual fete, held on the 4th of June, had us on our toes again with the coordinating and running of the cake stall at the fete. It is always incredible to see just how generous the ladies are when it comes to donating and baking for this fete. It turns out that this year we delivered record takings which were handed over to the fete organizers. They were over the moon with the help and the donations.

Since there was a great deal going on at the time of the Annual Novena in August, it was unanimously decided by all our ladies to carry out the Novena in the quiet of our homes by

ourselves this year and the prayers said were for the victims of gender-based violence. As mentioned in our previous report, a great deal of refurbishment and general maintenance has been taking place at Corpus Christi over the course of the year and this being our 60th Jubilee year, we wanted it all to be special for our Jubilee celebrations in September. The week of 14 – 18 September was marked on our calendar for the celebrations which included a 12-hour devotion on the Wednesday, a fun family braai on the Friday, a musical evening in the church on the Saturday where we were entertained by the well-known Prof Troskie and Dr Bothma, and the culmination of the events was the Mass celebrated by our Bishop Vincent Zungu followed by a delightful Sunday lunch. No celebration of this nature occurs without the hours of planning and organizing of a committee and once again several of our members were part of this committee as well as the helping hands behind it. Of course, none of the renovations could have been done without raising funds and for this, once again, our CWL committee was part of a number of fundraising events. To mention a few, the selling of bacon and egg rolls (on 2 occasions), a bingo evening, a mini fete and then of course the highlight – the high tea held in our Jubilee Hall which saw a couple of our members parading the catwalk at a fashion show. Great fun was had by approximately 90 ladies who attended.

It must be mentioned that amidst all the fundraising done for our parish we as a committee have not shirked our other commitments of visiting the lonely and providing for the various other charities that require our help. We provide continued support to St Anne's Pre-primary by delivering bread, peanut butter and jam for them every Tuesday, we provide financial assistance for the Forest Hill soup kitchen, and we have also provided some ingredients for one of our parishioners who has started providing meals for the homeless around Gqeberha. One of our members, Joan Villinger, received her 10-yr badge in July and we as a committee had our annual recommissioning at a mass held on the 7th of September. Now, we are all recommitted to our pledge of Charity, Work and Loyalty for yet another year.

## ST AUGUSTINE



The ladies of St Augustine's CWL have in all earnest made a valiant effort with all our fundraising endeavours over the last 3 months. Our soup sale at the end of July was well received and well supported by our parishioners. Father Jerry's mushroom soup was a firm favorite among the bean, vegetable, chicken and butternut soups on offer. On the 9th of August, St Augustine's held a Unity Mass for our Diocese. All the CWL branches assisted by bringing platters of sandwiches and juices for a celebratory afternoon tea in the MacSherry Hall. This also coincided with our Bishop Zungu's Silver Jubilee celebration. Our Annual Novena's prayer intention, from the 13th till the 21st of August, was for the end of gender-based violence and for peace. A Corporate Mass on the 21st of August, where we renewed our vows as CWL members, saw the enrolment of two of our newest and youngest members, Adelaide and Sandra. We are indeed blessed to have these two young ladies committing themselves to our League. Our vetkoek sale on the weekend of the 1st and 2nd of October once again was well supported and indeed a tremendous success.

# DIOCESE OF PORT ELIZABETH (GQEBERIA)

## ST MARTIN DE PORRES



On the 18th of September six new members made their commitment to the CWL at our 8.00am Mass. Esther Thandi (Diocesan President) and Jolin Ellis (Liaison Officer) graced us with their presence at this celebration. After Mass we all had a lovely cup of coffee, koeksisters and cake.

In the photo from left to right: Gail Forbes, Diane Plaatjies, Sharon Boggenpoel, Fr Davis, Glynis Baatjies, Michelle Meyer and Destiny Adams.

## ST. MARY'S, GRAHAMSTOWN



Congratulations to Mathilda Williams and Helen Stevens who celebrated their 40th anniversaries as faithful members of the CWL. They received their badges at the AGM that was held at St Patrick's in Grahamstown on the 24th of April. Well done faithful servants, may God continue to bless you in your good service towards the CWL. Veronica Bosman, our vice president celebrated her 60th birthday and we surprised her with a small celebration after our meeting. We had a blessed and joyous occasion. We do our spiritual duties by visiting the sick and those in need of prayers. Currently we are collecting toiletries from our CWL members to be donated to the under privileged in December. Some of our ladies also do the catering for the Diocesan Council of Priests' meetings that are regularly held at St. Patrick's church, Grahamstown.

# DIOCESE OF POLOKWANE

## MATER DEI



Every day when we pray, we are reminded of the Bible scripture from Matthew 9:37. We ask God to bless us with more priests. Polokwane diocese has been blessed once again. We gathered at Mater Dei on the 16th of June 2022 for the ordination of Fr John Legodi and Fr Noah. The ordination ceremony was graced by the St John Vianney graduates and lecturers, as well as priests from all corners of South Africa and our neighbouring countries. It was a blessed, joyful day indeed.

After two years without gatherings, this year from the 19th to the 21st of August, we were lucky as CWL Polokwane diocese to gather once again at Mater Dei Pastoral Centre for reflection and prayer. We were led in prayer and reflections by newly ordained Fr Noah under our theme of Unity in the Spirit. We prayed for the spirit of Unity among ourselves, and I hope each of us took it to our local parishes.

## REGINA PACIS, SESHEGO



Among us we had CWL aspirants, six of whom were enrolled as full members of CWL at Regina Pacis on the 28th of August 2022.



# DIOCESE OF POLOKWANE

## CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART

The CWL members had a fruitful meeting with the new parish priest, Rev Fr Boniface Mashiane, to introduce themselves. They shared a meal with him and exchanged some gifts.

The Diocesan President Ms Lestrina Modiba went on a pilgrimage to Egypt and the Holy Land from the 5th to the 16th of October 2022. She visited many places in Israel, including the Basilica of the Annunciation and the Church of the Visitation, and had the opportunity to celebrate Mass in the Tomb of our Lord Jesus Christ. The pilgrimage was led by Rev Fr Bernard Madiba and Fr Godfrey Sekhaolelo. In Egypt Ms Modiba climbed on Mount Sinai from 11 pm to 7.30 am and prayed in the church where Moses received the Ten Commandments from God. What an experience!

## ST GREGORY THE GREAT



Besides continuing with our charity work, we joined the congregants at our parish for a Rosary rally that took place on the 15th of October 2022.

On the 16th of October we celebrated the welcome and birthday of our new chief catechist, Fr Mabitsela. CWL was loyal to their motto by donating gifts and a cake to the priest.

Then when we thought we were done with the celebrations, we heard of the homecoming Thanksgiving Mass of Bishop John Selemela at Lenyenye, Tzaneen diocese. It was a blessed day with a perfect weather on a Mission Sunday. Bishop Selemela reminded us that we are all called to spread the gospel of God.

## EMMANUEL, BELA BELA



On the 15th of October CWL members participated in the Rosary rally at Bela Bela.

The first station was in ward 3 Mandela village, where most of the young people are victims of nyaope and drug abuse, and we prayed for them.

The second station was at Lehlabile complex where young and old people like to gather. We stopped and prayed for love and peace amongst the community members.

The last station was inside Emmanuel Church where all congregants were appreciated for honouring the day of public prayer.

## ST THERESIA

CWL members met on the 15th of October 2022 for a Rosary rally.

# ARCHDIOCESE OF PRETORIA

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



It has been nearly three years since Covid-19 first emerged and we can thankfully say that the end of the pandemic is in sight. The aftermath of the pandemic and lockdown continues to pose a threat to the livelihoods of many as millions lost their businesses, jobs and/or breadwinners. We forever give praise to God Almighty for protecting and healing many of us as we lost only one member through Covid-19.

Currently, all the branches in Pretoria are doing their best to resume the momentum they had before the pandemic. The charity activities are progressing well. In honour of the Rosary month, branches held Rosary rallies and prayers, including a marathon of 1000 Hail Marys, which was spiritually uplifting. The Archdiocese of Pretoria has been collectively supporting the Family Life and Community Centre (FLC) which is a welfare office and social work arm of the Catholic Women's League. The FLC was established in 1953 and has grown into a recognised provider of a non-discriminatory, profession-

al developmental welfare and generic social work service. The Centre provides services to more than 1000 beneficiaries every month. It addresses the barriers, inequities and injustices that exist in society through the provision of services like counselling, asylum seeking, food security, shelter etc. Sadly, the FLC will officially close in March 2024 as the government has decided to withdraw its financial support and take over all statutory services. We pray for the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us through this process as we seek out new ways to support the beneficiaries who will be left destitute.

# ARCHDIOCESE OF PRETORIA

## DIOCESAN COUNCIL ELECTIVE AGM



The diocese held its elective Annual General Meeting on the 30th of July 2022 which was well-attended by over 100 members. Archbishop Dabula Mpako and our National President, Mrs Anne Deary together with members of her executive, graced the occasion with their presence. The archbishop presided over the Holy Mass and he was supported by our chaplain Fr Thomas Vanderkunnel and the host priest, Fr Joseph Puliylakat. Anne Deary unpacked for us the national theme; she emphasised that “we are called to unity, with humbleness, gentleness and patience, thereby making every effort to maintain that unity of the Spirit”. She further explained that “when we feel united in the Spirit, in the bond of peace, we are reminded that there is only one body, one Spirit and one Lord.” Before she addressed us, the ladies welcomed her with a song: “Ziyamaz’ umelusi. Nguye oziholayo”. The Pretoria flock indeed know the shepherd. What a joyous occasion it was! In the picture, Archbishop Dabula Mpako is flanked by members of the National and Diocesan councils.

## CHURCH OF THE PRESENTATION, MONTANA



The Montana CWL members renewed their vows in August and immediately thereafter hit the streets to feed the homeless around the suburb with soup. The group also visited the Holy Cross Home of the Aged and donated laundry soaps.

## CHURCH OF THE BEATITUDES, ZWAVELPOORT



At the end of August, Zwavelpoort members renewed their commitment to God, the parish, the community and the CWL. The branch also celebrated a momentous milestone with Lynette Adams, who received her 25th anniversary badge. On the 4th of September Zwavelpoort hosted the newly ordained Auxiliary Bishop Rev Dr Masilo Selemela for his Thanksgiving Mass. The members again took on the monumental task of catering for the event, with great success. After the luncheon the bishop took time out to chat and bless members and parishioners. The picture shows CWL members with Auxiliary Bishop Selemela. With the end of the year fast approaching, the branch is earnestly planning for the last few fund-raising events, as well as our charity drives. We are also liaising with our sponsors to assist with the annual Santa boxes, and we trust and pray that they will be as generous this year as they have been in the past. Best wishes to all branches as we head to the end of 2022. God bless.

## CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART



In August the Cathedral CWL held a Renewal of Vows and a ten-year anniversary celebration for sisters who have been loyal through their charity and work for the CWL. The badge recipients were Dipuo Makoloi, Prudence Maloka, Prudence Tsamaisi and Onica Phayane. The branch is grateful to God for these sisters who walked tall and reached a milestone of ten years in service. The cherry on the top was that the badges were pinned on by fellow parishioner, Sis Nonkululeko Shinga who is now also Diocesan CWL President! This special mass, led by the CWL members, also honoured Mom Vuyelwa, the second oldest member and an auxiliary member of the CWL. She was honoured with a collage of her own pictures that were donated by sisters of the CWL, who had no knowledge that the leadership was intending to honour her. It was truly a beautiful surprise.



# ARCHDIOCESE OF PRETORIA

## RENEWAL OF VOWS

Other branches throughout the diocese also came out in full force to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. They all underwent spiritual revivals through retreats and renewal of their vows, recommitting to serve the church and the CWL.

### Maria Regina, Lyttelton



### Holy Trinity, Olifantsfontein



## CHARITY, WORK AND LOYALTY IN ACTION



The branches put the CWL motto into practice with various charitable activities. These included:

Mandela Day goodie bags for children handed out by the Cathedral branch.

Eersterus celebrated their renewal of their vows by serving food to the community, shown here in the photograph.

Zwavelpoort delivered sanitary towels.

Pretoria North honoured Mandela Day by spending the day with the elderly and infirm at Ten Morgan Centre, donating comfy goodies and food items.

## REMEMBER TO FORGET

Forget about how we look.  
Remember what's in our hearts.  
Forget that we speak different languages.  
Remember the Lord's prayer is the same.  
Forget that we have different cultures.  
Remember God made us that way.  
Forget about where we live.  
Remember we're under God's roof.  
Forget about our diversity.  
Remember we are Sisters in Christ.  
Please don't forget to remember.  
To God be the glory for ever and ever!  
Jenny Parent (CWL, Durban)

## OBITUARIES

### Edith Abrahams, Cape Town



Edith was born on the 9th of May 1962 and died on the 6th of September 2022. She joined the Macassar branch in 2021 and was very supportive and helpful as an auxiliary member.  
MHDSRIP

# OBITUARIES

## **Jean Carswell, Cape Town**



Jean Carswell was born on the 12th of May 1941 and died on the 18th of September 2022. She was a valued member of the Somerset West CWL for many years and was secretary for some time. She will particularly be remembered for her beautiful floral arrangements which decorated the church every weekend and on special occasions, such as the annual Advent wreath in front of the altar. She was an active member of the craft group which meets every week to make items to be sold to raise funds. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

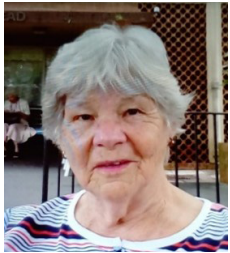
MHDS RIP

## **Lorraine Isobel Smith, Durban**



Lorraine was born on the 16th of April 1932 and died on the 26th of September 2022. She was a long-serving member of the CWL and ran the repository at St Michael's, Red Hill, until she became home-bound. She served the community and parish with charity, work and loyalty. She also helped schools to sew outfits for their concerts. She will be sorely missed by parish and the community.

## **Doris Dawn Joubert, Durban**



Dawn was born on the 17th of January 1943 and died on the 4th of July 2022. She was the middle child in a family of 16 children. She was married and the mother of three sons, who were her very reason for breathing. She lived in the area of Hillary for many years before coming to Queensburgh where she became a member of the Bellair-Queensburgh Branch of the CWL in 2009.

She was a very lively and committed member of the branch, not ever taking office, but taking part in all aspects and events in the life of our branch of the League. Dawn always had a very definite and commanding opinion on anything and everything that took her fancy. Her love of her Lord and Saviour, and His Mother Mary was so evident, reducing her often to tears at the thought of how much They meant to her, the Rosary always her weapon against all evil.

She led the Catholic Group of Flame Lily Park, where she spent the last happy years of her life, with enthusiasm, chastising Catholic friends for not attending the monthly mass for residents, or Sunday's Communion to the sick in the Frail Care, without a care of how it would be received.

Dawn, we will miss your enthusiasm for life as you found it, as well as how life found you. We will miss the mischievous audible complaints at bingo which of course never went her way, or the grumblings at meetings, always from the back row.

Rest now in perfect peace Dawn. You will be sorely missed.

## **Muriel (Queenie) Newton-Barker, Durban**

Muriel was born on the 3rd of March 1935 and died on the 1st of June 2021. She was a dedicated member of St Michael's, Red Hill, for many years. She was a keen gardener and had a beautiful garden. Muriel is sorely missed by the members of the CWL.

MHS RIP

## **Barbara Imelda Bremner, Durban**

Barbara was born on the 16th of March 1936 and died on the 20th of May 2021. She belonged to the CWL at St Michael's, Red Hill, and was a dedicated member of many years. She participated in fund-raising events and was also a Minister of Holy Communion. She was a seamstress and sewed curtains for the church. Her presence is sorely missed.

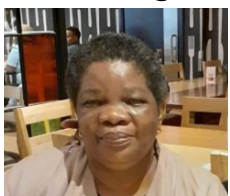
MHS RIP

## **Yvonne Chateau, Durban**

Yvonne was a CWL member at St Michael's, Red Hill. She was a dedicated member and served as branch treasurer for many years. She was very active and loved baking, cooking and knitting. She relocated to Swaziland with her husband to be with their family. She died in Cape Town in 2020, in peak Covid time.

MHS RIP

## **Grace Bongi Khoza, Durban**



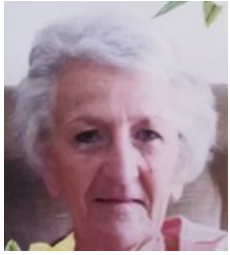
The members of the Catholic Women's League of Sacred Heart Parish at Montclair, Durban, are mourning the passing of Mrs Grace Bongi Khoza. She was born on the 5th of March 1956, joined the League in August 2016 and was called to rest on the 29th of September 2022.

May her soul rest in peace.



# OBITUARIES

## **Audrey Henry, Johannesburg**



Audrey Henry, an Honorary Life member, was a dedicated CWL member (Tuesday group) of St Charles Parish in Victory Park. She was born on the 20th of September 1940 and died on the 28th of June 2022. She served as Branch President, Johannesburg Regional President, Johannesburg Diocesan President and Chairman of St Anne's Home for Aged Women. She was an accomplished caterer, cook and baker, with computer skills which she used to produce attractive cards, posters and decorations on many occasions. She will be greatly missed by all.  
May she rest in peace.

## **Rose Penkler, Johannesburg**



Rose Penkler was an Honorary Life member of the St Charles parish in Victory Park where she served as Branch President. She was an accomplished needlewoman and worked tirelessly for many years making vestments and banners, particularly for the needy parishes. For some time she ran a soup kitchen from the parish and was also dedicated to the St Vincent de Paul's work within the parish. She will be greatly missed.  
May she rest in peace.

## **Therese McDonald, Johannesburg**



Therese McDonald was born on the 26th of February 1930 and died on the 16th of September 2022. She was a member of the CWL group at St Charles in Victory Park.  
May she rest in peace.

## **Avril Robinson, Johannesburg**



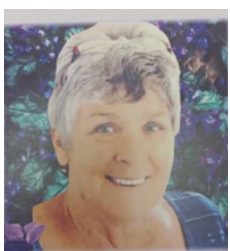
Avril was born on the 26th of September 1943 and died on the 10th of May 2022. She joined the League in 2004 and celebrated 18 years as a member in the League. She was a past President of Craighall Park. Avril will be fondly remembered for her enthusiasm and support with all our fundraising events. She was always the first to volunteer and carried out all her tasks with her unique sense of humour.  
May she rest in peace.

## **Lucy Ann Ferguson, Johannesburg**



Lucy joined the League in 1963, and throughout her time with the League was an active model of what a CWL member ought to be. She took part in all activities, and most ladies got to know her when the Edenvale Saturday group closed and she joined the Wednesday group. Lucy was admired also for her heritage. Her father and brother donated the land on which Edenvale Catholic Church is built, as well as the land for the Holy Rosary School. In addition to that they donated the land for the Diocesan Project of St Annes for Aged Women, which was run by the CWL for many years and where many elderly ladies were lovingly cared for. Her humility was evident when she was to be bestowed with a 50-year badge – a milestone of significance – as she did not want any fuss or fanfare. It was typical of her gentle, quiet nature. She did not want to fuss about things, her heritage or about how much her family had done within the community. She just got on with things, took part in the work of the League and any projects. She was always there. Her loss is a great sadness to all of us in the Edenvale Branch.

## **Gail Theresa Yates, Johannesburg**



Gail was born on the 24th of July 1949 and passed away on the 13th of July 2022. She joined the Edenvale CWL group in October 2014. She was an involved, active member of the group. Gail loved baking and made the most delicious lemon meringue pies, shortbread and marmite cake, to name a few of her specialties, which she always made for our cake sales and other functions. She knitted many squares for our blanket drives over the years. Gail was part of our outreach program and also regularly visited the ladies of St Anne's, taking home-made treats for them – an activity she continued when some of the ladies were moved to Eden Haven. She was always friendly and seldom complained even during her illness; she remained rooted in her faith and participated in our online Rosary Novena offered for her. She was loved dearly by her two daughters Shelly and Meryn and her grandchildren and was also actively involved in their lives. An incredibly brave lady who accepted her illness with courage, hope and faith in her Lord and Saviour. She will be fondly remembered for her beautiful smile and her gentle caring disposition. RIP dear CWL friend.

# OBITUARIES

## **Maud Nkosi, Johannesburg**



Maud, who died at the age of 92, was a member of the CWL branch at St Nicholas on the East Rand. May she rest in peace.

## **Sibongile Janet Mguni, Johannesburg**

Sibongile was born on the 8th of August 1948 and died on the 20th of July 2022. She was a member of the CWL group at Sacred Heart parish in Katlehong on the East Rand. May she rest in peace.

## **Elizabeth (Lizzy) Motlafi, Johannesburg**



Elizabeth was born on the 20th of February 1952 and died on the 8th of September 2022. She joined the CWL at the parish of Blessed Isidore Bakanja in Protea in 2002. She served as branch treasurer from 2013 to 2015.

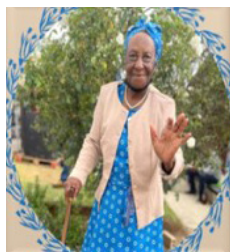
RIP

## **Thoko Sheila Mashego, Johannesburg**



Thoko was born on the 28th of May 1943 and died on the 30th of August 2022. She joined the CWL at the parish of St Pius X, Mofolo, in 2000. She served in the church choir and on the finance committee. She served the church community by establishing relations with various charitable organisations that provided food parcels within the parish and community.

## **Deborah (Debra) Motshwane, Johannesburg**



Deborah was born on the 22nd of September 1945 and died on the 27th of August 2022. She joined the CWL branch at Regina Mundi-Moroka in 1985. She was an active member of the CWL soup kitchen at the parish.

## **Dinah Mohapi, Johannesburg**

Dinah was born on the 10th of March 1942 and died on the 12th of August 2022. In 2001 she joined the CWL group at Christ the King parish in Orlando.

## **Agnes Kakueng, Kimberley**

Agnes was born on the 1st of August 1956 and died on the 9th of September 2022. She joined the CWL in 1986.

## **Malebogo Thankane, Kimberley**

Malebogo joined the CWL in 2017.

## **Yvonne Bonokwane, Kimberley**

Yvonne was born on the 1st of December 1945 and died on the 10th of June 2022. She had been a member of the CWL since the 18th of September 2005.

## **Locricia Kehitlhetseng Matwe, Kimberley**



Locricia was born on the 1st of October 1954 and died on the 28th of August 2022. She became a member of the CWL in 1986.

## **Betty Mosela Tlhabanelo, Kimberley**

Betty was born on the 26th of February 1960 and died on the 17th of May 2022. She became a member of the CWL in September 1999.

## **Emily Sepelung COUNYANE, Kimberley**



Emily was born on the 26th of August 1937 and died on the 11th of July 2022. She was enrolled in the CWL in 1992 and was a member of the League for 30 years. She served the branch diligently with pride and dignity, never forgetting the motto of the league: **CHARITY, WORK AND LOYALTY**. She was laid to rest on the 16th of July at St Charles Lwanga.

## **Miriam Moseki, Kimberley**

Miriam was born on the 7th of October 1952 and died on the 1st of July 2022. She joined the CWL in 2015.



# CHARITY, WORK AND LOYALTY IN ACTION



*St Peter the Apostle CWL, Kimberley, giving soup to fathers on Father's Day*



*Christ the Redeemer CWL, Klerksdorp, visiting nuns in their diocese*



*St Michael CWL, Klerksdorp, donating shoes to the children at Ourief Primary School*



*The new CWL branch at St Maria Goretti, Worcester*



*Sacred Heart CWL, Gqberha, celebrating their 60th anniversary*



*Rivonia CWL, Johannesburg, held a tea party and fundraiser in August*



*St Gregory the Great CWL, Polokwane, at the Rosary rally*



JOHANNESBURG'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

