



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE SOUTHERN AFRICA NEWSLETTER



Through the bonds of Peace

JULY/AUGUST 2023

#ISSUE 161



The apostle St. James and his disciples adoring the Virgin of the Pillar

CHARITY, WORK AND LOYALTY IN ACTION



Victory Park CWL welcoming ladies to the WWDP



*Johannesburg Regional Council President
Renilde Walton thanking Chaplain Fr. Vincent Pienaar
after the regional WUCWO Mass*



*CWL at St. Francis of Assisi, Polokwane,
celebrating Palm Sunday*



*CWL ladies from Keimoes-Upington celebrating
Ennie Reynold's 90th birthday.*



CWL at St. Konrad's, Dysselsdorp, preparing for a function.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



It is hard to believe that this is already the fifth issue of the newsletter produced by the Cape Town team. We are now more than halfway through our term of office!

Thank you to all those branches who have sent in their news. This edition includes news from branches who have not submitted anything before, which is encouraging to see.

The cover picture of St. James in rapture before an apparition of the Virgin Mary is not going to be most people's experience of their faith. Most of us will quietly live out our Christian lives without any moments of dramatic revelation. And as women, that is probably even more true. We are frequently in the background, doing the non-glamorous work of caring for children or elderly parents, serving others in different roles. In recent times many more career paths have opened up for us, paths that our mothers

and grandmothers could never have imagined. But even with these new opportunities, the centuries-old work of care and service still largely falls to women. Although this may seem a humble task, if not downright drudgery, there is immense power and privilege in it. We may not all be called to do great things but as St Teresa of Calcutta said, "...we can do small things with great love." And surely great love is the essence of our Christian faith. We are privileged as members of the Catholic Women's League to belong to an organisation that encourages us to act in service to others, and we hold one another up in love as we do so.

Sr Linda Pocher, in her address at the WUCWO assembly reported on in this newsletter, said that service and care go together. If we live our lives in this way, we will reflect our Christian faith to those around us.

Michaela

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The closing date for submissions for the next newsletter is the 30th of September 2023.

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MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT



I hope this newsletter finds you well and bearing up under the inconvenience of load shedding. It certainly takes its toll, especially now in the winter months.

It was interesting to see the photos from the various WUCWO Day Mass celebrations. Thank you for sharing them. I was encouraged by the active participation of the different branches.

Four of our members have returned from attending the WUCWO General Assembly held in Assisi, Italy. We will read all about their experiences at the conference in this edition of the newsletter.

Veronica Malan-Lebona, from the archdiocese of Pretoria, was nominated as the CWL WUCWO representative. She has taken over from the St Anne's Sodality representative who held the position for the last four years. At the conference Veronica, along with representatives from 24 other countries, was elected to the WUCWO board. She will hold the position for the next four years. On behalf of all our members, I wish Veronica a happy and fruitful term in office. We look forward to hearing all the news and updates from WUCWO meetings Veronica will attend in the future. These will be published in the newsletter from time to time.

I know that I do not have to remind any of our members about how proud we all are of being part of such a beautiful organization as ours - the sisterhood of the League, our meetings, fund raising and serving the less fortunate in whichever way we can. It is also important to be seen as a sisterhood filled with the Holy Spirit, a spirit of love and support of one another. Most importantly, we need to continue to grow in our spirituality.

Apart from making us all happier ladies, hopefully, when ladies of our parishes see the fellowship and camaraderie we have, they will aspire to become members of our League, and in this way we may attract new members to our branches. I am sure we can all agree that our branches need new members to join us in our endeavours in the service of our Lord. New members, I am sure, will bring fresh and inspiring ideas to the League and its branches, and this in turn will re-inspire us in our spiritual growth as well as to put in that little extra into all we do. In this way we will grow spiritually in faith, love and contentment in the Holy Spirit.

I wish you all a warm winter and we look forward to praying the Annual Novena before the Feast of the Assumption in August.

God Bless you all
Anne

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL CHAPLAIN



As children, many of us were afraid of the dark. Are you perhaps even now? In our country, with rolling blackouts, darkness is something with which we are all so familiar.

Even for those who have never had to deal with blindness, the images of blindness and recovery of sight, as well as light and darkness, so present in the Scriptures, touch close to the heart.

In Lent we had the Gospel read to us of the healing of the man born blind. Perhaps these readings in Scripture of darkness/light, sight/blindness could be summarized in a few words: Jesus opens our eyes so that we might see who he really is, the Son of Man, and in seeing him may believe in him and follow him.

With our eyes open, we can see others as God sees them and we can have the light to walk as God wants us to walk.

The moment when the blind man's physical vision became clear, spiritual vision comes in his final discussion with Jesus, after the Pharisees have thrown him out of their gathering. "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" The blind man answered and said, "Who is he sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, the one speaking with you is he". He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshipped him (John 9).

When we can truly see Jesus, recognise him, and worship him, then we can not only see the truth about him, but we can see the truth about ourselves.

Then we can follow the advice of the Letter to the Ephesians 5: "Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord."

Fr Kevin

COVER PICTURE

The painting on the cover of this issue of the newsletter is by Spanish artist Francisco Goya and was created between 1775 and 1780. It shows the apostle Saint James (Santiago in Spanish) and some of his followers adoring an apparition of the Virgin Mary. St James is on the right of the picture, in the red cloak. You can see the scallop shells on his cloak, a symbol of the pilgrimage, and he holds a pilgrim's staff in his hand. According to tradition, when his remains were discovered in northern Spain, the grave was covered with scallop shells.

The story is based on pious tradition, which has St James the Greater in modern-day Spain (then ruled by the Romans and known as Hispania) attempting to convert the local tribes. The year was AD40. His efforts were not going well and thoroughly discouraged, he sat down along the banks of the Ebro River in modern Zaragoza (then called Caesaraugusta). The Virgin Mary appeared to him on a pillar, holding the infant Jesus and surrounded by thousands of angels, encouraging him to continue. She asked that he and his followers build a church on the site that would "stand from that moment until the end of time in order that God may work miracles and wonders through my intercession for all those who place themselves under my patronage." According to the tradition a church was indeed built on the site. In 1730 Pope Innocent XIII authorized veneration to Our Lady of the Pillar throughout the entire Spanish Empire, and her feast day is the 12th of October. Pilar (Spanish for pillar) is a popular girl's name in the Spanish-speaking world. (See the WUCWO article in this issue – a previous WUCWO president was named Pilar).

Today's basilica was built in the 17th century and contains the pillar and a statue of the Virgin which, again according to tradition, she left with St James. The basilica is the second largest in Spain. During the Spanish Civil War, in the 1930s, 3 bombs dropped on the basilica by Republican forces fell through the roof and damaged the floor but did not explode. You can see them (deactivated of course) on one of the walls inside the basilica.

It is believed that Mary was still alive at the time of her appearance to St James in Spain, and this is known as bilocation, being in 2 places at the same time. It is also the very first Marian apparition and the church is the very first one ever dedicated to Mary.

We know that St James was martyred in the Holy Land in AD44, and legends abound about how his remains were taken to Spain and were moved to Santiago de Compostela. What is certain is that in early medieval Europe only Rome and Jerusalem eclipsed Santiago de Compostela as pilgrimage routes for devout Christians. The incidence of wars, epidemics and the Reformation led to a decline in traditional routes like this, but recent years have seen renewed interest in the pilgrimage route. Travelling with modern conveniences, although still on foot, today's pilgrims must find it hard to imagine the perils those early pilgrims faced – wolves, brigands, disease to mention only a few, with no certainty of return to their homes. Well known historical figures, including St Francis of Assisi, undertook the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela.

REPORT ON WUCWO: 13 – 20 MAY 2023

13 MAY 2023

We were up bright and early to get through two levels of security for the Papal Audience in the Paul VI Hall at the Vatican City. Processing started at 08:00 and we arrived just before 08:00 to find hordes of women already there. We were all asked to wear a WUCWO scarf so that we were easily identifiable. Not having one, we had to pay 10 Euros for the privilege of owning a scarf! However, nothing could deter the ladies from feeling excited at the prospect of seeing His Holiness.

When we entered the hall, we noticed the South African flag being waved and the delegation from St Anne's had kept seats for all of us. It was a good start to the day.

Videos of work done around the world were shown on the big screens before the audience and it was very interesting to see how much emphasis was being put on the World Women's Observatory. This was true throughout the entire time we were there.

What a humbling and phenomenal experience to be in the same room as the Holy Father. He walked unaided onto the stage and was seated prominently in the centre of it, flanked by two of his inner circle as well as by members of the Swiss Guard. A few women from the International Relations branch of WUCWO delivered reports expressing their sentiments on the issues and challenges encountered by women from different countries and requested that His Holiness keep us in his prayers.

The Holy Father's response and advice to all the women was that we are strong and should continue to do what is right in our hearts. He spoke about evangelisation and expressed a wish that we spread the word of God. The audience itself was only about 20 minutes long and then the Holy Father was taken around the hall in a wheelchair, greeting and smiling at the women in attendance. We were so close to him and could feel the goodness emanating from him.

In the afternoon we lined up again to go through security before attending a special Mass held for us in the Basilica, presided over by H.E. Cardinal Mauro Gambetti, Archpriest of the Papal Basilica of St Peter. Afterwards we wandered around St Peter's before going back to our respective hotels.

REPORT ON WUCWO: 13 – 20 MAY 2023

14 May 2023

We had all received times to meet one of the 15 buses at a central point. Nkuli was on bus number 11 as she was staying at a different hotel to the one assigned to Veronica and me. Our bus was number 15 and was due to leave at 09:10. However, sorting out the women and their luggage was challenging, and we waved everyone else off before eventually leaving ourselves at 11:30.

The bus trip took over two hours and by the time we were served lunch and boarded another bus to take us to the opening Mass at the Santa Maria degli Angeli Basilica, we were late for the 16:00 service, presided over by Fr Lucio A Ruiz, secretary for the Dicastery for Communication. A chapel in the centre of the Basilica hid the altar from view but we were able to observe on a big screen until the streaming stopped! However, we still had audio so were able to follow.

At 18:00 we had the opening ceremony. We were split across three different venues which all had audio and visual feeds, so everyone was able to see what was taking place.

Assisi mayor Dr Stefania Proietti welcomed us all. A dynamic woman, she explained all her plans for Assisi including those already in place. She was delighted that we had chosen her town for our conference.

We then heard from an interreligious group serving the community of Assisi. Later the President-General, Maria Lia Zervino, addressed us, followed by Sr Nathalie Becquart, Under-Secretary of the Synod Secretariat, on "Women on the road to a synodal church".

Lunch (13:00) and dinner (20:00) were always served at Domus Pacis Hotel, where the conference was taking place. Not all the ladies appreciated that the first course at every meal was some form of pasta! The meals were interesting but always tasty!

After dinner every evening, there was some form of prayer or entertainment. On the first night, however, the outdoor rosary was cancelled because of the rain (which was continuous throughout our stay).

15 May 2023

Panel 1

After an opening prayer, our first speaker for the day was Prof Anne Marie Pelletier: "For a new approach to the question of women in ecclesiology".

Women's issues are always pushed aside. In the magisterium of women there is a risk of specificity – a cliché of masculine identity being challenged. Certain countries assert that women are too sensitive, are vulnerable and too emotional (which is viewed as dangerous). They must be controlled.

There is constant reluctance to admit or promote women in the functioning of the church. We have to work to overcome this distrust of women as many men are scared that women will have more power over them, which is nonsense. We should have an inclusive, apostolic church as a community of Christians.

We should begin with the common, find the reality of diversity and acknowledge the different ways of living our relationships. Every relationship has its shadows, but God is for everybody. We need to find the commonalities in the church and a strong link between the promotion of women through synodality. We need to put synodality into practice.

Our second speaker was Sr Anne-Beatrice Faye from Senegal: "Challenges of women in a synodal church for reconciliation, justice and peace."

She started off by saying that we could use music as theological thinking and promotion, especially for the promotion of the youth and women in a communal church. We can identify women who need guidance and reassurance by making each woman visible.

Women can contribute to humanity in relationships which cannot be healed by violence and atrocities. You just need to look at the side effects of war and the victims of terrorism.

We are all responsible for each other. Women have an irreplaceable role in the forming of peace and reconciliation. We need to have a say in governmental and religious structures to give the perspectives of women. This is just common sense.

Panel 2

After a break, we resumed to listen to the rest of the speakers.

Laura Moreno Marrocos (from Argentina) spoke on: "Women and youth ministry in a synodal church".

It is important for young people in the church to have a voice. Allow them to have an opportunity to advance change in the church. As you thread the needle to make a garment, so we should do this in the church. How can we find meaning in life and raise our children without faith?

The youth concentrate on themselves and have little interest in the church, so youth ministry is necessary to embrace the teachings of the church. They want to be able to express themselves without being expected to follow traditions. They are constantly forced to justify their actions to achieve their goals.

REPORT ON WUCWO: 13 – 20 MAY 2023

Women being appointed to the Vatican has not filtered down to the diocese and so men are still making the decisions. The dignity of service to the church is being ignored so we need to have a change in attitude. Stop using the Bible to justify all actions. We should focus on the plurality of society. We need to be able to work in sections totally made up of men.

In our commitment to social justice we must meet the needs of all. We need a church that allows itself to be challenged. That is why the World Youth Conference is so important. We must promote new structures within the church and learn teamwork as the synodal mission takes off. We need to move forward without having to force the issue.

Christine Murray: "Speaking and listening with the heart to promote a language of peace".

Reflect on listening and speaking from the heart. Torrents of words drown out the words of Christ. Being able to listen is important. Listen to what the Pope has said – listen with the heart.

It is learning to listen that makes one ready to moderate one's assumptions. Assimilation of the Pope's words is essential for a working community that is involved. The hard work of communication can be improved if we learn to collaborate through listening and sharing, and this should have a domino effect.

Recognising and learning about other communities will lead to a different way of looking at others. Awareness of others leads us to overcome difficulties and creates a communal vision. Make an examination of conscience and open up to becoming members of community. Build a true network by listening. Paying attention and listening saves us from isolation.

Sr Linda Pocher: "What if the Church were really a Mother?"

Bring Mary back into the church. The mother is the one who teaches the child in the home. Discernment and discipleship – Mary as a disciple is learning to follow. Mary allowed herself to be questioned. She was not afraid of confrontation, and we see the same in Jesus. She had the capacity for discernment but there were contradictions in her life.

Mary was fully aware that her son did not belong to her. She loved him but knew she couldn't protect him. When He chose His disciples she withdrew and allowed Him to follow God's demands.

The discipleship of Mary in the Church is a lesson for us. We should follow her actions as part of our evangelisation. Service and care go together.

After lunch we had an exhibition of the activities of the organisations and of national products. Most of the exhibits were items for sale such as blankets, beads, material, books and what one could find at a market.

At 17:00 we had parallel sessions on different dimensions of women in the church. We were divided according to language (bearing in mind that we had headphones and translators for all plenary sessions which were in Spanish, French and English).

We were split into groups of 20 and asked to discuss what we had gained from the two panel discussions in the morning. What came out was that we are called upon to take a place in the church, to bring people back to the church and, talking of family life, to teach our children first, then change the community.

Communication is important as we are at the centre of reconciliation. Women suffer because of poverty, and we need to make women confident enough and empower them to take their rightful place in the community.

Create awareness for people to fulfil roles in the church. Support each other and promote self-esteem. We need to do more to uplift ourselves.

Look at mothers in the family. Try to have spiritual time. Bridge the age gap and do not hold onto power. Put words into actions and be visible in the church. Be self-reliant and use your talents.

Embrace synodality in all aspects and create instances of experiences. Have the right information to manage issues and influence the information disseminated. Be prayerful and protect our dignity as women.

At 19:00 we celebrated Mass presided over by H.E. Mgr Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop of Assisi.

16 May 2023

Session 1: Opening of the Statutory Assembly

After the morning prayer the President-General opened the assembly.

Voting accreditation was confirmed and then the Agenda, Rules of Procedure and Minutes of the 2018 General Assembly were adopted. After that we ratified the new member organisations. It was interesting to note that 4 groups from Italy alone were ratified.

Session 2: Reports

Reports on activities over their term of office were given by:

President-General

Vice-President General

Secretary-General

Ecclesiastical Assistant

These reports will be sent to all member organisations. We then had to accept and ratify the reports.

REPORT ON WUCWO: 13 – 20 MAY 2023

Session 3: Regional Meetings

These took place after lunch. The general idea was that the Africa report be given to us so that we were aware of what had been achieved over the term of office. However, things did not go smoothly and we wasted 2 hours changing the order of the resolutions, a pointless exercise as there were only 6 resolutions, all of which were to be discussed, making the order irrelevant.

Mass at 17:00 was presided over by H.E. Cardinal Michael Czerny SJ, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Service of Integral Human Development.

Session 4

Reports from Regional Vice-Presidents were given and took the form of "Echoes of young people from different countries."

17 May 2023

Session 5: Statutes and By-laws Amendment

After the morning prayer, the changes to the statutes and by-laws were discussed. No content was to be changed but they had to be aligned with the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life as WUCWO is governed by the General Decree issued by this Dicastery which was promulgated on the 11th of June 2021. The statutes have to be recognised by the Dicastery. Basically, the name of the Dicastery was changed and the Apostolic constitution was now registered in Italy in order to co-operate with the functioning of the Roman curia.

Other changes were:

Financial audit to be circulated every two years.

President-General can only serve two consecutive terms of office and after that can no longer be appointed to the board in any capacity (changed from a maximum of 12 years on the board to 10).

All these were accepted and adopted as it was logical to do so.

As this session was over by lunch time, we were given the afternoon off. An open-air Mass was due to be celebrated at the Basilica of San Francesco in Assisi. Because of the rain, Mass was moved upstairs in the Basilica. Buses took us up to the mediaeval centre of Assisi and we wandered around taking in the sights before Mass. The road up to the Basilica is lined with little shops and all of us took great pleasure in spending money!

Mass "Laudate Si" was presided over by Fr Joshtrom Kureethadam, Dicastery for the Service of Integral Human Development.

18 May 2023

After the morning prayers we had to vote on whether we could change the agenda to have session 10 before 9! A two-thirds majority is required for this. Before each session, the voting strength was confirmed and anyone coming in late was not allowed to vote.

Session 10: New Projects

First project: Laudato Si Platform

Messages from the scientists are alarming after a scrutinizing a picture taken from an Apollo mission. We need to address the ecological disaster. There is an online site for participants to share actions on responding to the cry of the earth, the cry of the poor and eco lifestyles.

WUCWO has sponsored videos on eco education and has a working group doing workshops and webinars. There are also study guides for Laudato Si.

Website laudatosiplatform.org

Read it, spread the word, sign up, prepare an action plan.

Second project: Beatification of Pilar Bellosillo Garcia Verde (1913-2006, Spain).

Past president of WUCWO, she promoted empowering women. Regina Heyder wrote a book about Pilar and spoke to us about how she went about gathering testimonies.

Third project: World Women's Observatory

Much has been said about this throughout the months leading up to the assembly and at the assembly itself.

Fourth project: Synodality and women

Women who participated in the synod were mostly at the diocesan or national level. 41% of women said that their opinions were taken into account. 60% said that their involvement in decision making was taken into account.

REPORT ON WUCWO: 13 – 20 MAY 2023

Session 9: Financial Issues

The Treasurer-General, who is Spanish-speaking, reported on the financial issues in English. She spoke about the Endowment Fund and also mentioned that funds were tight and this needed to be addressed.

CPI increase was 16.3% in Italy and we need to increase our dues by at least 16% to keep the basic services continuing. Most of the costs are in euros and previously had to be converted from dollars to euros and this was expensive, depending on the exchange rate.

A minimum of 16% was approved for 2024 and 2025, with an additional 4% requested for 2026. This is all based on the 2023 dues. Reclassification based on GDP was also proposed.

Because everything was over by lunchtime, we decided to walk to Assisi. Nkuli, Veronica and I set off following the red bricks all the way to Assisi and the Basilica. It was cold and windy and for the most part, the rain held off. The last part of the road was VERY steep and we could feel every one of our muscles, but it was worth it!

We were able to have a proper look around and then caught a bus back to the church at the hotel for Mass, which was celebrated by Fr Marcelo Gidi SJ, Ecclesiastical Assistant of WUCWO.

19 May 2023

Session 11: Resolutions

After the morning prayers, the resolutions were put forward one by one and discussions took place.

A couple had amendments put forward, but only one of them was adopted.

1. WUCWO will consolidate, develop and extend the World Women's Observatory.
Accepted as is.
2. Religious Freedom: A foundation for the path of brotherhood and peace.
(FT 279). Accepted as is.
3. Global food crisis, care of our common home. Call to ecological conversion.
Accepted as is.
4. Let us take, with renewed conviction, the joyful journey of family love, motherhood and fatherhood. Accepted as is.
5. Building the future with migrants and refugees. Amendment not passed.
Accepted as is.
6. Enabling everyone to participate is an essential ecclesial duty (Pope Francis): Synodality, formation and participation of women. Amended to include consecrated men and women. Adopted.

It was interesting to note that these were not all unanimous, however the majority ruled!

Session 12: New board

All candidates for the board were presented and then voting took place. In a very short time, the scrutineers were back with the results. All 25 candidates were elected to the board. A minimum of 9 votes was needed for a candidate to be successful.

After lunch, the candidates for the President-General were presented and each gave a summary of her vision for WUCWO.

The treasurer of the old board was one of the candidates and in the end, she was voted in. However, only the new board was allowed to vote. Board members then voted for their regional representative.

This took much longer than expected and we waited for nearly an hour.

The new President-General then made her speech (very quickly) and introduced her new executive to us.

The assembly was then closed, and we all went off to Mass for the final time in Santa Maria degli Angeli, celebrated by H.E. Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Pro-Prefect for the Dicastery for Evangelisation.

A nun representing Vatican News approached the different groups, videoing them and allowing them a minute to explain what the objectives of their group are and exactly what they do. I was the spokesperson for South Africa and gave them a brief overview of the charity work we do as CWL.

REPORT ON WUCWO: 13 – 20 MAY 2023

20 May 2023

Our bus collected us at 08:00 from Villa Verdi and went via Domus Pacis to drop off Veronica who had a meeting at 08:30 with the new board (needless to say, our bus was late!) and we picked up Nkuli so we could travel together.

We eventually left just after 09:00 and were taken to Roma Termini, the central station in Rome. From there we all dispersed to make our way to our next destination.

A very jam-packed time in Italy, but a wonderful experience.

I hope I have captured a little of the essence of the Conference.

I would imagine that the minutes will be circulated to all member organisations.

Written by Pat McEwen, Veronica Malan-Lebona and Nkuli Shinga

REPORT BACK ON RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 2021

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1 - Improvement of postal services

Action: Letters have been sent to the Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services requesting an improvement of postal services. Our initial letter was acknowledged. No further response has been received to date. The South African Post Office has recently closed another 92 post offices so no response will be forthcoming.

Resolution No. 2 - Radio Veritas to broadcast on FM/MW throughout South Africa

Action: Letters were sent to Radio Veritas to request that they broadcast on FM/MW in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. They advised that they are not able to be on the radio in any parts of the country besides the area that their licence conditions stipulate. They advised that Radio Veritas is available on the lowest DSTV plan – Eazyview, which costs R100 and that was how most people in the rural areas are able to listen to them. It would be a lengthy and costly exercise to support studios in KwaZulu Natal. We advised all the Diocese about connecting with Radio Veritas via Eazyview.

Resolution No. 3 – Improvement of the quality of services at Home Affairs

Action: Letters were sent to the Minister of Home Affairs requesting an improvement in the quality of services in Home Affairs offices. Our initial letter was acknowledged but no further response has been received to date.

Resolution No. 4 – Reduction in the cost of data

Action: Letters have been sent to the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies requesting a reduction in the cost of purchasing data. Our initial letter was acknowledged but no further response has been received to date.

Resolution No. 5 – Removal of VAT on adult nappies

Action: Letters have been sent to the Ministers of Health and National Treasury to remove the VAT charge on adult nappies. No response has been received to date.

Resolution No. 7 - CWL website in Southern Africa

Action: The National Management Team was requested to set up a website for CWL in Southern Africa. This is in progress and the address will be circulated as soon as it is available.

Resolution No. 8 – Improvement of ageing sewer infrastructures

Action: Letters were sent to the Minister of Water and Sanitation requesting the upgrading of the ageing sewer system infrastructure and non-functional sewer pump stations. No response has been received to date.

Resolution No. 9 – Improvement of ambulance services

Action: Letters sent to the Minister of Health requesting an improvement of the ambulance services. No response has been received to date.

Resolution No. 10 - Curb steel and metal theft

Action: Letters sent to the Ministers of Police and Small Business Development to curb steel and metal theft. A response was received advising that our letter would be brought to the attention of the Minister of Police. No further response has been received to date.

Resolution No. 11 – Establishment of drug rehabilitation centres in urban areas

Action: Letters sent to the Minister of Social Development with the request to establish and fund drug rehabilitation centres in urban areas. No response has been received to date.

REPORT ON WUCWO: 13 – 20 MAY 2023

Resolution No. 12 – Establishment of more homes for the elderly and homeless

Action: Letters sent to the Minister of Social Development to establish and fund more homes for the elderly and homeless. No response has been received to date.

Resolution No. 13 – Establishment of short- and long-term mental health community centres

Letters sent to the Ministers of Social Development and Health to establish short-and long-term mental health community centres. No response has been received to date.

Resolution No. 15 – Establishment of satellite magistrate courts.

Action: Letters sent to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development to establish satellite magistrate courts. No response has been received to date.

Resolution No. 16 – Employment of more counsellors for school learners

Action: A letter was sent to the Minister of Basic Education with the request to increase the number of counsellors at schools to assist learners with bullying etc. We received a response advising us that they employed a limited number of social workers, psychiatrists and registered counsellors at district level and in schools. In addition to this, learner support agents are also employed to facilitate access to health and care and support services. They continue to upskill learner support agents to ensure that they provide first line response.

To date the response from the government departments is not satisfactory but we will continue to communicate with them and keep you informed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation No. 1 – Provision of the Newsletter digitally or in print

It was recommended that each Diocese be offered the choice to receive the Newsletter electronically or in print.

Action: This has been attended to.

Recommendation No. 3 – Honorary Life Membership

It was recommended that guidelines be provided for the nomination of honorary life membership.

Action: These guidelines have been inserted into the Blue Handbook on page 30.

Recommendation No. 4 – Sale of CWL Merchandise

It was recommended that regulations be put in place regarding the sale of CWL merchandise.

Action: These regulations have been inserted into the Blue Handbook on page 30.

Recommendation No. 5 - Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements

It was recommended that an Annual report with an Audited Financial Statement be submitted by the Regional Councils and the Diocesan Council at the AGM.

Action: This recommendation has been inserted on page 31 amending the section "Treasurer" on page 8.

Recommendation No. 6 – Bequests to CWL

It was recommended that regulations regarding bequests to the CWL are put in place.

Action: These regulations have been inserted into the Blue Handbook on page 31.

Recommendation No. 7 – Handbook and Constitution in electronic format

It was recommended to make the Handbook and Constitution available in electronic format.

Action: These are now available.

ARCHDIOCESE OF BLOEMFONTEIN

DIOCESAN



On the 31st of January 2023 the 3-year term of office of the CWL chaplain came to an end. We submitted 3 nominations, and it is with great pleasure that we announce the new Bloemfontein Archdiocesan Chaplain for the next 3 years is Rev Fr Thabo Edward Kenke. A diocesan priest, he was born on the 24th of January 1983 in Bloemfontein. He joined the Archdiocese of Bloemfontein in 2003 and was ordained a deacon on the 16th of May 2013 in Rome, Italy. He was later ordained a priest on the 16th of December 2014 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bloemfontein. He holds multiple degrees and licentiates from the Pontifical Urbaniana University. He has served as a priest in several Free State parishes and is currently a parish priest at All Saints Mission and administrator at Christ the King Mission, a chancellor and member of the College of Consulters in the Archdiocese of Bloemfontein, and a Judicial Vicar on the Inter-Diocesan Tribunal of Bloemfontein.

JAGERSFONTEIN DISASTER



Since the collapse of a dam at a diamond mine in Jagersfontein, people far and wide have offered assistance to the residents. CWL identified a school where some learners needed help with school uniforms. On the 19th of February, we visited Jagersfontein to present the learners with their uniforms. A big thank you goes out to the ladies from Lady of Fatima Catholic church in Bloemfontein, who extended a helping hand and donated clothes, sanitary pads and stationery. Kriste Morena Catholic Church welcomed CWL with open arms and was grateful for the donations made. The CWL motto, CHARITY, WORK, LOYALTY is what we live by and carry out at all times.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES' WORKSHOP



On the 22nd of April, CWL held an executive workshop at Lady of Fatima parish with all the branch executive committees. The workshop was led by our newly appointed chaplain, Fr Thabo Edward Kenke.

The theme of the workshop was "Self-Awareness – the better you understand yourself and recognize your strength and weakness, the more effective you can be as a leader". The introduction highlighted the main reason why the Church exists, for the salvation of the human soul (*Salus animarum*). Fr Kenke also made reference to the "four marks of the church" namely: One (the church is one and not divided); Holy (even though we are not holy, we strive for holiness, we are called to holiness); Apostolic (it was built on the apostle, you are Peter and on this rock I will build my church); Universal. Just like a tree needs sunlight, water and a healthy root system to thrive, a leader in the church needs prayer and faith to form that foundation. Trees produce fruit, whether seeds, leaves or cones that help the species continue.

Leaders should strive for the three outcomes: learning continuously, growing in faith and seeking God's wisdom in discerning daily decisions. Some of the elements of good leadership include: the one who leads in church is a servant; leadership in a church is for service; the one who leads is called to seek not her own will but the will of God under the influence of the Holy Spirit; the driving force for the one who leads in the church is to achieve the highest goal which is the salvation of souls. The importance of respect was also stressed, as respect and leadership go hand in hand. It is a fundamental principle: to lead others you have to earn their respect. Respect is circular. To earn it, you have to give it. The respect you show to others not only models how you would like them to treat you and each other, but also reflects your own self-respect.

WUCWO DAY

Ladies from different sodalities and leagues in the Archdiocese of Bloemfontein united in prayer to celebrate WUCWO Day on the 20th May 2023 at St Rose of Lima Catholic Church under the theme of "Living Synodality". On the 10th October 2021, His Holiness, Pope Francis invited the whole church to reflect on a decisive theme for its life and mission through the convocation of a synod entitled: "For a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission". The Greek word 'synodos' is a fusion of two words, syn meaning "together", and hodos meaning "way", which basically translates as "together on the way". We celebrated holy Mass with Fr Thabo Kenke (CWL chaplain) and Fr Thoabala, who gave a powerful homily and made us realize that we as humans tend to look at people from outside the window (which is made of glass) and point fingers at others; however, the glass one needs to look at is the one that shows yourself, the mirror. We must do introspection and fix ourselves before we start pointing fingers at others. During the prayer intercessions ladies prayed for the synod process, the church, those responsible for the process and all those that gathered for the celebration. We completed the prayers with the prayer to Mary, Mary Queen of prayer.

ARCHDIOCESE OF BLOEMFONTEIN

CHARITY, WORK AND LOYALTY



On the 23rd of April, the Archdiocese Executive Committee visited Mofumahadi Mamohau Parish in Botshabelo, and the ladies were warmly received by Fr Lekhema and the congregation. The visit was to introduce CWL to the parish in the hope of establishing a branch there. We are proud and happy to announce that we have found 8 recruits, who will be guided by the Archdiocese Committee on this journey as they join the League and form a new branch. Some of them are pictured here. We also had the pleasure of visiting St Peter and Paul in Botshabelo on the 21st of May to present the prospective members to the church. Ladies from St Peter and Paul were recruited by Emmaus branch in Botshabelo on the 12th of March this year. Emmaus also welcomed a new member Me. Hlohlolongwane, and two members who had not been active for some time were welcomed back to the branch.

ST ROSE OF LIMA, BLOEMFONTEIN



We pride ourselves on our motto of CHARITY, WORK AND LOYALTY, and we aim to live it. Charity first begins at home. St Rose of Lima made a commitment to assist St Vincent de Paul with the needs of the families for whom they are responsible. In December 2022 we donated R5000 to St Vincent de Paul, on top of the quarterly donations which are done. Since the beginning of 2023, on every fourth Sunday food parcels are donated by CWL members to these needy families. We also made a donation to the parish priest, Fr Thabo Mmolaoa as a "spoil the priest" gift. Continuous work is done by members who have committed to cleaning the church on a quarterly basis. On the 26th of March we elected a new executive committee, with the assistance of two representatives from the Parish Pastoral Council in conducting the elections. The following candidates were elected as the Executive Committee: President Me. Ntsatsi

Dingaane-Mokushane; Deputy President Me. Joy Maema; Secretary Me. Tshegofatso Mmetseng; Deputy Secretary Me. Thandi Labase; Treasurer Me. Lillian Nogabe; News Correspondent Me. Motsheoa Finger (all shown above).

ALL SAINTS, BLOEMFONTEIN

On the 28th of January Fr Thabo Kenke hosted a retreat for the branch under the theme: "We as CWL, we are the salt. Let us add value to the people as salt adds taste to food".

ARCHDIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN

DIOCESAN

Our diocesan day of recollection was held at the very beautiful Schoenstatt in Constantia on Saturday the 13th of May. Fr Cebe-lhle Cibane OMI led the proceedings for us and celebrated Mass. His inspirational talks gave us much food for thought. It was wonderful to interact with our CWL sisters from all around our Diocese. A spiritually uplifting day was had by all.

CLOTHING GUILD

Barron's Estate in Ottery was a hive of activity on the 17th of May with ladies, including our CWL members, sorting through a bumper load of donations of new clothing received for distribution to a variety of charities and institutions. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed! Thank you to our Ruth Serelina for spearheading this project at Diocesan and tackling it with such enthusiasm.

BOTHASIG

In August 2022 the Bothasig CWL had a healthy bank balance and so they decided to help young women in their community. They visited the local schools and 3 of them expressed a great need for sanitary towels. The ladies decided to help the 3 schools and donate 30 packets of sanitary towels to a different school every month. Each school receives a donation every 3 months. The schools are very appreciative of this donation.

GOODWOOD

CWL Goodwood handed out sandwiches to the homeless at the side of the road.

KHAYELITSHA

The Khayelitsha branch donated beautiful Christmas hampers to 5 deserving families - one family from each of the 5 parishes. Tshidi Mphosi handed the hamper to one of the recipients in December 2022.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN

KUILSRIVER



CWL St Ninians Kuilsrivier started a campaign to collect sanitary pads from our members and other parishioners in Kuilsrivier in February. We donated our first 165 packs of sanitary towels to Fairdale High School, handing them over to Ms Sonti and Ms Diamond at the school. To date we have donated to several schools in the Kuilsrivier area. Donations of sanitary pads and flowers were made to Hope House Counselling Centre in March. Collections and donations of these items will be done on a continuous basis.

We hosted a dinner for 8 priests on the 29th of March after the Penitential service held at St Ninians. Fr Joseph was the proud host. A delicious meal was enjoyed by all.

On Friday the 31st of March we held a fundraising drive, selling delicious fried snoek, spiced rice, salad, onion rings and a cooldrink to our parishioners for only R50. We were expecting to sell 100 tickets but all 150 tickets sold out like hot cakes! What a great effort ladies!!

At our parish food fair in May we manned a table with goodies for children which we had made. We raised over R6000! The event was a great success.

LANGA



The ladies of CWL Langa held a boerewors roll sale after Mass on Sunday 7th May, which was well supported by our parishioners.

We thrilled the residents of Cheshire Homes, Langa, with gifts of clothing.

PAROW



The ladies from Parow branch attended a very inspirational morning at St. Margaret's Anglican church in Parow for the Women's World Day of Prayer.

We thoroughly enjoyed our year-end breakfast in December, which was held at Meerendal.

We had an Open Day on the 25th of March at St Pio Centre. We started with the CWL prayer followed by the Women's Creed. Our own Michelle gave us interesting questions, each in a different format. She guided the ladies in their responses, which resulted in spontaneous and light-hearted answers. Our exercise was The Electric Slide (the Bart) which was fun. We ended the morning with the Angelus prayer. This was followed by packing bags for the Red Cross Phoenix Burns Unit. Michelle was commended for an innovative programme which brought out the best in us and laughter all around.

ROCKLANDS



CWL Rocklands attended the Women's World Day of Prayer in Westridge, Mitchell's Plain. They had a blessed morning worshipping and praising God.

RONDEBOSCH

CWL Rondebosch ladies assisted Simunye with cooking meals for street people in the area on Mother's Day. Simunye cook every week and serve the meals to the homeless at Fountain Circle at Pick n Pay in Rondebosch. Well done ladies!

ARCHDIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN

PLUMSTEAD



We continue with our monthly donation of a Pick n Pay voucher to CHOC House in Plumstead, and we also support a local resident who runs a feeding scheme from her home in the suburb.

We held a very successful bingo fundraiser which was well attended by our parishioners. Special thanks go (again) to our "honorary" member Mike Roman, husband of our treasurer, for calling the numbers with great aplomb! Well done ladies!

TABLE VIEW



The ladies of the Table View evening group packed 15 hampers of love for new moms at the Du Noon Clinic. Carol Thomas made 30 beautiful teddies for us as well as a beautiful knitted blanket and Jen crocheted 3 blankets. These bags are aimed at moms who come in to have their babies with absolutely nothing, and provide a welcome start to their little one's life. The bag also contains a beautiful prayer for the moms. Well done ladies and thank you all for your generous contributions. Virginia Adriaans (president of the evening group) and Angela Carretoni went to deliver the baby bags to the Du Noon CHC maternity unit. Mrs Mhaka (the clinic's social worker) and nursing staff were very grateful and happy to receive them. The CWL Table View morning and evening groups got together to provide delicious homemade soup and rolls to parishioners who came to make palm crosses for Palm Sunday. Thank you and well done ladies.

CWL Table View evening group's Jen Henrick and Virginia Adriaans visited Sam's Education Centre in Table View with gifts of clothing, toys, beautiful hand knitted blankets, educational aids and sandwiches. The children had a wonderful time enjoying all the new activities and owner Sam, a wonderful man who provides this safe space for the children, was thrilled with the donations. We made a second visit to the school, this time with a delicious pot of food for the children, grocery supplies and a microwave, which had been donated to us. Sam was absolutely delighted and very thankful.

A seniors' tea party was held by the CWL morning group for the seniors of the parish. A wonderful time was had by all, the highlight of which was Mass where Father Jan anointed all who attended.

WYNBERG



We held a Mother's Day cake sale on 14 May 2023. The delicious treats on sale were enjoyed by all and the event was a great success.

DIOCESE OF DE AAR

ST. JOHN, DE AAR



A new member was enrolled in the League, bringing our number up to 9.

ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

DIOCESAN

The Diocesan President, Linda Melson, encouraged all branches to attend the Women's World Day of Prayer services in their areas, which were held on the 3rd of March. Various churches in the greater Durban area held services with several being hosted by Catholic parishes and CWL branches. It was pleasing to note the involvement of all groups in planning the service, which was prepared by the women of Taiwan. Members have reported that very spiritual and uplifting events were enjoyed by all who attended, and it is pleasing to note women of different faiths interacting in the name of our Lord.

At the first council meeting, in February, Fr Sifiso celebrated Mass and the executive committee introduced the theme for 2023, The League of Hope. Each committee member read out a message of hope, members received little white ribbons of hope and Devi Thompson donated a banner of hope.

Attendance at council meetings is improving steadily as we recover from the Covid pandemic.

Branches continue to honour requests made of them to support the Caring Fund. They have donated toiletries for hampers for all the Durban diocesan seminarians and continue to support each other in requests made. Loretta Ndelu continues to manage the Caring Fund with monies spent wisely. Purchases of supplies were made to support the Sisters of Charity in Shallcross.

Durban Diocesan AGM was held at St Joseph's Parish on Saturday 6 May. Archbishop Gwara, Fr Sifiso and Fr Mulusi were in attendance. During the beautiful Mass, candles were lit to honour deceased members and the archbishop gave a special blessing to newly inducted members and the executive committee. The AGM was most successful, with the present executive committee remaining in office.

OUR HOPE IS IN JESUS CHRIST, WHO LIVES FOREVER.

THE BLUFF

On the 3rd of March it was our parish's turn to host the Women's World Day of Prayer. Ladies from the Methodist and Baptist Church participated with us. It was a beautiful morning and we had around 70 ladies, young and old, who joined us in prayer and song. The ladies then had a lovely tea and snacks to end off a beautiful day.

ST. MARY'S, PIETERMARITZBURG



Sr Marie (94) stands beside Kay (92)

Thanks to the great effort that Leigh Woolridge, our President, puts into keeping us alive and busy our group has grown to 24 members. As our meetings are now held on Saturday mornings, those who are still working can attend and contribute to achieving our goals of spiritual growth, charitable works and ecumenical projects. Through our WhatsApp group, we wake to spiritual reflections and prayer intentions faithfully posted every morning by Kay Temple, and the daily Mass video from Fr Marie Joe OCD forwarded to us by Palesa Madondo. This WhatsApp group keeps us in touch with one another, allowing us to share our joys and sorrows, even for those who have left our parish but who remain connected to us in faith and fellowship. Our charitable work continues through monthly jumble sales that bring in funds to assist those in need. The parish soup kitchen (that had virtually ceased to function) has been taken up by a few dedicated CWL members who are now providing meals to about 100 people on Wednesday mornings. Assistance is also given to a few individuals, as well as to a school serving one of the city's poorest areas, and to the NCCVV home for the aged. We have contributed to much-needed funds for our church maintenance by holding a pancake sale and selling tea and cakes at our Family Day. On a more sociable note, we provided a farewell tea for our much-

loved assistant priest, Fr Tom Zondi. A birthday tea was given for Sr Marie of the Holy Family whose convent across the road from our church has always had a close relationship with us. We will be celebrating the 70th anniversary of our founding on the 27th of May by starting with Mass at 9.00 am, followed by tea in the hall with a motivational speaker and entertainment.

ST. VINCENT, PELHAM

On the 15th of April, CWL members visited 11 identified children who live in child-headed households and donated food parcels and second-hand clothes to them. Some of these children live in a child-headed household because they have no identifiable, extended family to take them. Others have lost parents or care givers and wish to remain together in a child-headed household.

ST. JAMES, LAMONTVILLE

We contributed towards purchasing flowers for the decoration of the cross on Good Friday. We had online prayer sessions during Lent each week and had a theme to reflect on up to Good Friday. After that we began the Divine Mercy Novena. We are raising funds by celebrating birthdays; each member contributes R100 in their birth month and other members contribute R20 each, and the money is deposited into our account. We are so grateful to have our CWL members at our monthly meeting, giving us the gospel and fruitful talks. CWL members keep in touch with our seminarian. A big thank you to the ladies who are taking good care of our parish priest. We still provide help for Asiphile soup kitchen even though there are ongoing challenges due to looting. We also honoured those members of the League and parishioners who had passed away at a special Mass celebrated by Fr Zondi. Their families were invited in memory of their loved ones.

ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

Our farewell for Fr Zondi on the 30th of April went well. We thank the catering team from the CWL for assisting, as well as parishioners. Father Zondi is to be ordained as an auxiliary bishop of Durban diocese and as excited as we are for him, it is sad to see him go. We will greatly miss him, and our prayers are with him as he embarks on his new journey. May the Holy Spirit guide and protect him. Fr Zondi gave generously of his time and insight and shared the spiritual and moral vision of the church with enthusiasm. May we all, together, give our God thanks for the many blessings he has given to him, and us too during his caring ministry amongst us.

May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you, may the Lord turn His face towards you and give you peace
Monsignor Ellias Kwenzakufani Zondi.

We welcome Fr Marcel to St. James and hope you will be happy here with us.

ST. CATHERINE, QUEENSBURGH



Beautiful Mother's Day flower arrangement done by Michelle Crawley and Clare Alexandra.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, PINETOWN



Seminarian Thabiso went back to the seminary on the 1st of February and CWL members contributed towards his bus ticket and provisions. A few days later the Durban diocesan workshop for branches' executive committee members took place, and the focus was on the roles and responsibilities of office bearers.

On the 11th of February we inducted 3 ladies during our branch meeting. It was wonderful to see mother and daughter Dina and Sne Ndlovu committing to serve the League. Stephanie Govender joined her mother Pat Govender who is already a member of the CWL. We are reminded of Joshua 24:15, "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord".

Left to right: branch president Lynne Manica, Dina Ndlovu, Fr Sfiso Ndlovu, Sne Ndlovu, Stephanie Govender and diocesan president Linda Melson.

Our tasty treat sale, a mixture of something salty, spicy and sweet, raised R2000.

The Women's World Day of Prayer was held on the 3rd of March at the Anglican church. It was attended by different denominations and preceded by praise and worship. The theme was "I heard about your faith", and it was a beautiful and uplifting day.

Our branch meeting on the 1st of April was preceded by "Mary's Way" stations of the cross.

The Easter hamper lucky draw was won by Charmaine Swardling, a loyal supporter of CWL. The Mother's Day hamper drawn on the 9th of May was won by parishioner Pam Madide.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA, DURBAN NORTH

We started the year with a lovely lunch at our first meeting on the 21st of January. We celebrated Maryse Wardell's 70th birthday at the same time.

We sold bags, scarves and shoes at the Diocesan monthly meeting on the 14th of February as a fundraiser and were well supported.

Lucy, the widow of late deacon Peter Venter, donated his wheelchair to a disabled lady in the Kwangolos area.

Our Shrove Tuesday evening was successful once again, and we sold approximately 350 pancakes.

Seven of our members attended WWDP at the Durban North Community church, a beautiful morning of prayer and reflection. Three of our members were readers at this service.

The requiem Mass for CWL member Milly van Gogh was held on the 28th of March and we assisted at the tea after the service.

On the 5th of April Eve, one of our members delivered new pyjamas, slippers and panties for each girl at Wylie House Home, which we support on an ongoing basis. Easter eggs and hot cross buns were delivered just in time for the Easter holidays. Two members, along with their husbands, installed curtain rails and curtains in the girls' bedrooms. There are many more rooms to be attended to.

Many bags of knitted items, including knee rugs, children and adult beanies, jerseys and many more items knitted by our dedicated CWL knitters were delivered to Estcourt via the SVDP for distribution to parishes and hospices.

ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION, BEREA



Three members were inducted at Mass by our Spiritual director Fr Joe Money. Those attending mass could witness the effort our CWL makes to encourage new members.

HOLY TRINITY

Our new members have been working very hard and are proving to be very valuable to our group.

At the beginning of the year we were sad to bid farewell to Fr Francis, our parish priest. However, we have been blessed with the appointment of Fr Sfiso Mpanza, who has fitted in very well to our parish and already has won the hearts of the parishioners. Our Shrove Tuesday pancake event was a great success, due to Rosalie Donachie and her band of ladies who worked so hard organising everything, and to Gloria Abrahams and her ladies who organised all the food. The hall was packed and no one went home hungry. Fr Henriques opened with a Lenten Reflection which went down very well and was even on the humorous side in parts. He shared the following with us – in preparing the reflection he used the Southern Cross magazine and the internet. The Southern Cross cover picture was of a young person ready for carnival. A carnival is like a pilgrimage. A young woman went on pilgrimage to Lourdes, where she bought some expensive gin and placed it in the water bottle. On leaving France she was stopped at customs and asked about the contents of the bottle. She said “holy water” of course! The customs officer opened the bottle and retorted that it smelt like gin. To which the women responded, “a miracle”. Fr Henriques then spoke of Shrove Tuesday which was the last opportunity to use up eggs and fats before embarking on the Lenten fast, and pancakes are the perfect way of using up these ingredients.

We celebrated the 90th birthday of our CWL stalwart of 50 years, Joan Shannon, with plenty of eats and a delicious carrot cake. She was presented with an orchid and chocolates. We also celebrated the 70th birthday of our dear secretary, Rea Mina.

This year we organised the Paschal meal together with the PPC, and it was held on the 5th of April.

A group of willing CWL ladies, led by our knowledgeable and efficient Rosalie Donachie, set up the hall and all the various accessories required for the Paschal Meal. There was great parish involvement, with the CWL, parishioners and our youth all playing a role in ensuring the success of the event. Even Fr Sfiso helped with serving the food! The leftover food was donated to the Denis Hurley Centre.

Our annual Mother's Day raffle was held during May. The hamper included items donated by all our members, as well as vouchers from a restaurant and a beauty salon. The lucky winner, Claudia la Cave, was delighted with her prize. The funds raised from the raffle have been donated to our CWL Caring Fund to specifically help the Sisters of Charity, Shallcross.

ST. JOSEPH, AMATIKWE

After Mass on the 16th of April we visited Amatikwe Convent in our parish at St Joseph Mission. We gave the sisters food parcels and cleaning materials. We spent time with them, and they were very happy to see the love we showed them.

KWAMAME WASE LOURDES, KWAMASHU

On the 21st of March our branch visited Sukumawenze Place of Care (hospice) at Inanda. The aim of the visit was to donate food parcels and diapers and to pray for the sick. We met sister Noluncedo Ndala and she gave us a warm welcome.

DIOCESE OF ESHOWE

KWAMAME WASE LOURDES, KWAMASHU

On Sunday the 5th of February Eshowe CWL had their first meeting with the old and new members of the CWL executive. The meeting was chaired by chaplain Fr Macuacua at St Benedict's Cathedral. The members attended Mass and thereafter they proceeded with their meeting, which was the handover from the outgoing members of the executive to the new members. Workshops and updates were followed by lunch.

ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

DIOCESAN

Our diocesan chaplain, Fr Vincent Pienaar, shared his pilgrimage to Jerusalem in May with us, and sent some pictures of his travels.

"A very busy time it was, climbing up hills, down hills, up steps (a lot of steps) and down. We visited the beautiful and very spiritual Church of All Nations Gethsemane, as well as the church of Dominus Flevit. We spent time looking at the burial grounds of the Jews and praying for their souls, the souls of our families and friends and especially for those souls who are seldom or never prayed for.

The Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre and the rest of us had a meeting with Bishop Shomali of Jerusalem. At 19h00 the Knights, Dames and the rest of us were welcomed by the Franciscans in the Holy Sepulchre and entered the Holy Sepulchre in Solemn Procession".



ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

EAST RAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

Mt Carmel branch in Benoni put on a lunch for the elderly, as did St Nicholas. St. Joseph in Actonville treated the elderly to a Christmas lunch. CWL in Dawn Park contributed towards the benches in their newly built church.



East Rand Executive

JOHANNESBURG REGIONAL COUNCIL

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (WWDP)

The Women's World Day of Prayer, held on the 3rd of March, was hosted by the Victory Park branches in the Archdiocese of Johannesburg. The theme, prepared by the women of Taiwan, was "I have Heard About Your Faith". (Ephesians 1: 15-19) Christian communities from Anglican, Methodist and Catholic churches were present. As the ladies entered the chapel, crocheted crosses were handed out. Once the welcomes were done, the Taiwanese map – a magnetic puzzle in five sections - was completed by five women who also did the readings, which were interspersed with songs of praise. Cards with inspirational messages were handed out to all present.

Guest speaker, Mary Anne Ter Brugge, used "FAITH" from the theme to speak about her mother Hilda, who was the epitome of faith.

F – Faith is like a mustard seed; A – Attitude, is an antidote in our armour; I – Impact - the impact we make by our faith; T – Truth - seek to understand; H – Hope - Handing it on.

Mary Anne gave all an insight into her life and the impact her mother made on the family.

An amount of R2 370 was collected for WWDP.

Refreshments were served in the Catechism Centre after the service. Truly a morning of community coming together in faith.



WORLD UNION OF CATHOLIC WOMEN



Elaine Phillips addressing ladies at the WUCWO Mass held at St Charles Borromeo, Victory Park, Johannesburg.

ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG



CWL Maryvale ladies enjoying refreshments after the Mass.

VICTORY PARK



The ladies of Victory Park have been hard at work. They manned the St Patrick's Day Irish coffee and biscuit stall, and also held a Mother's Day sale of cakes, biscuits and handmade blankets.

The Tuesday branch celebrated long service awards to the following members, presented by Elaine Phillips (past national president and branch member): Ida Steyn (past national secretary & present diocesan news correspondent), 40 year badge; Melanie Greenall (Victory Park Tuesday branch president), 40 year badge; Luisa da Silva, 10 year badge; Anne Brebnor (past national treasurer & branch member), 40year badge. The following ladies were enrolled as new members: Keitumetse Moketsi, Michelle Coopmans and Pulane Tlebere. Congratulations to all.

ELDORADO PARK



Mavis Sarjoo receiving her papal certificate.

On the 16th of March one of our members, Mavis Sarjoo, celebrated her 91st birthday. She received a papal certificate which was presented to her by Fr Patrick on the 19th of March during the 7:30am Mass at St Catherine's Catholic church.

Clara Williams received a papal certificate on the 23rd of April, presented to her by Fr Joseph during the 11:00am Mass. This is to mark her 94th birthday on the 12th of July.

May both ladies stay blessed.

Archbishop Tlhagale at the South Deanery Mass: Praying for the Hyams' beatification and canonization.



The Archdiocese of Johannesburg's campaign committee of the cause of beatification of the founders of the Little Eden Society visited St Patrick's parish in La Rochelle to pray for and promote Domitilla and Danny Hyams' journey to holiness. In his address at the South Deanery on Saturday the 20th of May, Archbishop Buti Tlhagale made a call to all Catholics to pray for the beatification and canonization of the couple. He also encouraged visits to the Little Eden residential facilities in Edenglen and Bapsfontein to meet and spend time with "the children and adults with profound intellectual disability".

The archbishop bemoaned some "African families" stigma towards children born with a disability". He said, "Some families feel ashamed of children born with disabilities..... some families don't give them the necessary treatment that they deserve". He proceeded to recount the lives of Domitilla and Danny Hyams and their passion to care for children born with disabilities "often dumped at their doorstep". He said, "the Hyams have, in an extraordinary way,

institutionalised love in the care offered to intellectually disabled children".

Archbishop Tlhagale also praised the late couple's devotion to Our Lady, saying "Domitilla and Danny prayed the rosary every day... They led exemplary holy lives in marriage." Speaking to the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference (SACBC) communications office, Archbishop Tlhagale said the eucharistic celebration "is part of the campaign we are doing in the archdiocese to make sure that every single Catholic hears and knows at least some background of Domitilla and Danny Hyams".

ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

"This couple from Edenvale has been proposed to the Holy See as to whether they can be considered worthy of being saints. And the committee is making sure that Catholics know about this campaign and pray for it and also pray for their own needs," said Archbishop Tlhagale.

Archbishop Tlhagale further said, "By referring to the intervention of Domitilla and Danny Hyams, hopefully in so doing, they'll come to know more about this couple, about how they lived their faith and why they are being proposed to be considered for sainthood."

"This is the reason why we've gathered, but also to pray, to bring the people of the deanery together in celebrating their life as a deanery under the auspices of Domitilla and Danny Hyams," he added.

Also present at mass on Saturday May the 20th was the promoter of the cause, Fr Phuti Makgoba, who called on parishioners to identify "at least two cause champions" to represent the parish at the campaign committee meetings which are held on the last Saturday of each month.

Saturday's celebration also saw the planting and blessing of the trees and the rosary garden of St Patrick's Catholic Church to mark Laudato Si Week observed from the May 21-28 to celebrate the seventh anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical on the care of creation.

According to the chairperson of St Patrick's Catholic Church parish council Samantha Meyers, the Justice and Peace Commission will also start a clean-up campaign in the next months which will see the participation of parishioners from the South Deanery.

SOUTH WEST REGIONAL COUNCIL

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



St Frances de Sales CWL members had a retreat on the 4th of February 2023. The dress code was CWL T- shirt with navy skirts. Our spiritual director was Fr Emmanuel. The topics were angelic assistance, the Holy Rosary, and Our Lady. Scripture readings were from Isaiah 7:4, Luke 1: 26-28, 39-45 and John 2: 1-12. Members participated in the scripture readings, singing, and question and answer sessions. Refreshments, donated by members, were served at the end of the service.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



A day of scripture readings, prayers by different denominations and sodalities, singing, and candle lighting and sharing was celebrated at the Good Shepherd parish in Protea North on the 3 March. It was a day dedicated to women from all walks of life and different denominations. The SWR spiritual director, Fr. Petrus Shiya, opened with a prayer and scripture readings from Matt 7:7-12. He also spoke about Esther's prayer. Fr. Karpati Laszlo parish priest of Good Shepherd focused on the Magnificat in Luke. Elizabeth Maepa opened the session by introducing the history of the Women's World Day of Prayer and the 2023 theme. The programme was superbly directed by Mme Nonhlanhla Ndaba. She concisely summarised the messages and prayers of the twelve presenters. The day ended with blessings of the candles by Fr. Shiya and Fr. Laszlo.

ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

REGINA MUNDI



The CWL organised a raffle to raise funds. The tickets were sold for R50 each, and the prizes were a cellphone, a spa voucher and a fruit basket. Many thanks to our parish for supporting us and to our ladies who sold the tickets.

On the 22nd of February the Regina Mundi Mmamohau Garden Workshop took place, facilitated by the Department of Agriculture. They donated starter packs which included garden tools. The very good presentation was well attended.

The winner of the 2nd prize spa voucher.

OUR LADY OF MERCY, EMNDENI

CWL donated stationery packs to learners in our parish. Our new parish priest, Fr Monwabisi Ntshudu, blessed the packs, and they were given to learners after Mass. There was much jubilation as the learners left the parish.

ST. PETER CLAVER, PIMVILLE



Laetare Sunday, the 19th of March, was celebrated in style in our parish. We honoured married couples, those formally engaged and those who were divorced or widowed, acknowledging the various stages of couple life. A rose, a small token of appreciation, was handed to all celebrants by parish priest Fr Bonga Mkhize.

CHRIST THE KING, ORLANDO

Christ the King CWL members gave socks to 100 children and 15 pairs of shoes to those who were identified. Twenty teenage girls received sanitary pads in addition to the socks. Other goodies such as sweets were also added.

ST. MARGARET, DOBSONVILLE

CWL members visited Fr. Monwabisi at home at Mofolo, to prepare for his ordination lunch.

ST. PHILLIP NERI, MOLETSANE

St. Phillip Neri CWL celebrated a very special day for "Ntate wa rona, Rev. Deacon John Magata", on the 19th of March. We honoured him for his 83rd birthday, and for the great work he does for the Catholic family. The day started with Holy Mass with Fr. Limpho Maoela, concelebrating with Fr. Pheko Thinane OP, assisted by Deacon Magata.

In his homily Fr. Limpho Maoela spoke on the themes of sight and blindness, which included the story of David as God's anointed one. He emphasised that we must live in the light, not in darkness. He encouraged us to live as "children of the light, right and true".

The guests were treated to a scrumptious three course meal prepared by the ladies of the CWL. It really felt like a five-star hotel. From his heart Ntate thanked us for the surprise

VAAL REGIONAL COUNCIL

EMMANUEL, SEBOKENG



Emmanuel CWL visited the sick in Sharpeville and Boipatong on the 26th of March, calling on those who are being cared for in their own homes, to offer them support in their time of need. For example, one of their members was unable to attend church for a long time as she was caring for her sick mother. Support is not only about tangible things.

DIOCESE OF KEIMOOES-UPINGTON

NEWS FROM NAMAQUALAND



By the grace of our Lord and the help of our Lady, works are still going on in the Namaqua Region!!!

On February the 19th we visited a member of the League, Ennie Reynolds from Port Nolloth, who celebrated her 90th birthday. It was truly a joyous occasion. We prayed the rosary with her and sang some songs. She was very appreciative and thanked the Lord for adding another year to her life. She said that even though she is not active anymore she prays for the women of the Catholic Women's League every day.



Our regional meeting was held on the 25th of March in Okiep. Every time we come together we remember our loved ones who have passed away since the last meeting. There were candles to burn in memory of our loved ones and some flowers that every bereaved sister could place in a holder. Soft music played in the background and one of the sisters, Maggie Swartbooi, said a prayer over every person who lost a loved one. It was really very special.

A raffle draw took place at the meeting, and it was Sr Flora Gwegwe from Port Nolloth who was the lucky winner.

DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY

The Kimberley Deanery, comprising 6 active branches, meets 3 times a year on a rotational basis.

The March meeting endorsed this year's plan, thus enabling branches to complete theirs and submit them to their PPCs.

WUCWO

The WUCWO mass was held at St Boniface, and all the women's groups and women parishioners across the diocese were invited. The turnout was excellent, despite the bad weather.

HOLY TRINITY

Branch member Veronica Moreng lost her home and all her possessions in a fire while she was attending church on Good Friday. Various branches heeded the call for assistance and provided her with groceries, clothing and building materials. The Department of Social Development and the St Vincent de Paul society also assisted her.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL

On the 21st of February the 56 pairs of shoes collected by the CWL finally found their intended little feet when they were handed over at a primary school. The children and their teachers were delighted with the surprise, and the children expressed their gratitude with a harmonious rendering of "Thank you very much."

Our quarterly mass took place on the 16th of April and our members participated in the liturgy, reading, doing the collection and taking up the offertory. We presented a picture of the Divine Mercy to the cathedral.

Our members participate in parish life as readers and sacristans, and also serve on the PPC and various parish committees.

ST PETER THE APOSTLE

Our branch meets once a month after Sunday Mass, and we also hold a monthly prayer service after Mass on Sunday.

We celebrated our priest's birthday on the 18th of April and presented him with a Mass box the following Sunday at Mass.

DIOCESE OF MARIANNHILL



We held our 14th AGM on the 18th of March. Bishop Neil Frank and our CWL chaplain Fr Mzizi joined our group for the occasion.

A new CWL branch was launched at Maryhelp Mission in the Ixopo deanery on the 16th of April.

CWL members from Our Lady of Sorrow helped the community of Dakota in iSipingo after a fire caused devastation, with residents losing everything to the flames.

DIOCESE OF OUDTSHOORN



The branches of the Oudtshoorn diocese held a workshop on the handbook and constitution at St. Niklaas parish, Bridgeton, Oudtshoorn, on Saturday, 22nd April. The diocesan chaplain, Fr. Leon Mostert C.O., was the facilitator and it was well attended by 38 ladies representing nine different branches in the diocese. As always when our ladies get together, it was so much more than going through regulations and procedures. It turned out to be a Spirit-filled gathering, full of laughter and the joy of a shared mission and sisterly togetherness. God Bless.
Father Leon

ST. KONRAD, DYSELSDORP

Ons tak het op Saterdag, 6 Mei 'n suksesvolle funksie gehou met hoenderbraai, slaai en roosterbroodjies. Al die vroue het mooi saamgewerk om die funksie 'n sukses te maak. Dit was 'n baie gesellige dag.

ST. VINCENT PALLOTTI, PACALTSORP

Ons lede het na die Pinkster heilige Mis, sop en broodjies vir die gemeente bedien. Ons was so besig dat ons skoon vergeet het om fotos te vat!

ST. PETER & PAUL, GEORGE

We have again been able to supply soup ingredients and knitted items to the St. Luigi Scrosoppi Centre in Oudtshoorn.

DIOCESE OF POLOKWANE

DIOCESAN

Our Bishop Jeremiah Masela declared in December 2022 that the Sacred Heart Cathedral and the parishes of St. Martin de Porres, St. Peter and Paul and Regina Pacis will now be independent from each other.

On the 26th of February the members of the CWL Polokwane diocese met at Regina Pacis, one of the new parishes, for holy Mass and the AGM. Mass was led by the Polokwane diocesan CWL chaplain Fr. Mokgotho and the parish priest Rev. Fr. Galane. Among the matters discussed were the enrolment dates for new members, the annual project and financial matters of the League. Our chaplain gave a word of encouragement on unity and evangelization as stated in the pastoral plan, and on faith in action, especially with regard to the CWL motto of charity, work and loyalty.

DIOCESE OF POLOKWANE



After what seemed like a never-ending era of lockdowns and the COVID pandemic, it is always a joy when the Polokwane diocese disciples of Christ come together. The congregants at large attended the Chrism Mass at the Sacred Heart cathedral on the 4th of April 2023. The Mass was followed by the opening and blessing of the chancery by His Grace Bishop Jeremiah Masela together with the priests in the diocese.

The bishop extended an invitation to the DPC leadership workshop to all structures including CWL. Three members attended, namely Listerina Modiba (president), Hlahla Ntini (secretary) and Lerato Marokane (news correspondent).

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL



The CWL sisters from the Sacred Heart Cathedral still continue living our charity, work and loyalty motto by serving and sharing with the Benedictine Sisters at Sekutu.

REGINA PACIS

Regina Pacis as a new parish is now under the guidance of Fr Reuben Lesetja Galane. CWL held successful elections with the following results: Ms Maicy Ledwaba, president; Ms Mologadi Mothapo, vice-president; Ms Frida Pitjeng, secretary; Ms Rachel Mokwele, deputy secretary; Ms Salome Mothemele, treasurer; Ms Hlahla Ndini, news correspondent; additional members are Ms Molongwana, Ms Sekhaolelo and Ms Delly Shotolo.

We successfully hosted the Polokwane diocesan CWL AGM on the 26th of February. With the help of the members of Sacred Heart sodality, we prepared meals for all members in attendance.

We also had a meeting to prepare our year plan for 2023, which includes charity activities, our Thursday prayers, and many activities in the church. Our president Ms Ledwaba "Modimo a re fe maatla go re re kgone go rapela le go direla Modimo le kereke and to work together. Let us be united in our League".

This year we have three new aspirants, Ms Lamola, Ms Mothotwane and Ms Tshabusi who are happy to join our CWL family. We are really growing as a branch; some of our old members who were not active in recent years are back with a bang, ready to work and to pray with us. Our membership has gone from 25 to 32 members. All affiliated and very much more active and committed than ever before. Our parish priest always says: "Le se kgaotse go rapela" and we are more committed to live our motto of charity, work and loyalty.

CWL members demonstrated unity and cooperation with members of Sacred Heart sodality when they returned the favour by helping them with the cooking of food for their visitors.

One of our CWL members, Ms Delly Shotolo, was married in church and we celebrated her special day with her. We congratulate her and her husband and wish them all the best in their journey together.

The weekend of 13/14 May was a very busy one for our group. Some went to Our Lady of Fatima parish to celebrate Mary's apparition by praying the rosary. Mass followed and afterwards we donated a beautiful blanket to parishioner Ms Koko Setati, 83 years old. Others in our branch celebrated Mother's Day in our parish, while some ladies went to Mater Dei pastoral centre for the Life in the Spirit seminar led by Bishop Victor Phalana of Klerksdorp diocese, Fr Joel Skhosana and Fr Karabo Baloyi. The bishop celebrated the 35th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

DIOCESE OF POLOKWANE

ST. MARTIN DE PORRES

Our parish has a new priest, Rev Fr. SM Maboea, who was formerly based at St. John Vianney seminary in Pretoria. One of our CWL members donated clothes and shoes to a parishioner who is from Malawi. New brooms and mops were donated to assist in cleaning the church.

We celebrated WUCWO day at St Martins de Porres, Polokwane. The event was a success and indeed it was like the theme on the day "Living Synodality". It was attended by women from different sodalities.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

The CWL members joined other members of the congregation in celebrating Palm Sunday.

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT



We continue to work in faith, evangelizing the word of God by serving others. Earlier in the year we travelled with our parish priest, Fr. SD Mabitsela to one of the local churches, Martyrs of Uganda, to promote the CWL. One parishioner showed interest but informed us that she needs to pray about it. Our members joined in with the preparations and celebrations of Holy Childhood, the Chrism mass, the deaconate ordination of two brothers, Thomas and Moses, Palm Sunday, the DPC leadership course, the Life in the Spirit seminar and recently the WUCWO Mass. Fr W Maluleka was our guest speaker on the day of the WUCWO celebrations under the theme: Living Synodality. He led us from holy Mass until the end of the programme. As a means of showing synodality all women were encouraged to wear a colourful doek.

Fr Maluleka elaborated on the theme as outlined here - journeying together, stretching the tent and opening the windows of our Catholic church to welcome every member of the community. We were left feeling enriched and empowered to continue this journey of evangelizing.

We also invited one of our own social workers to give a talk on the social challenges facing everyone. We gave her a book and a bouquet of flowers as a token of our appreciation.

DIOCESE OF PORT ELIZABETH (GQEBERHA)

SACRED HEART

Following our last meeting and AGM, which were held simultaneously, the new Executive was elected: Incoming President Sophia Abrahams, Vice- President Clarissa Abrahams, Secretary Lindy Farmer, Treasurer Bernice Barends, News Reporter Munieba Fataar. We thank them for availing themselves and we pray for God's guidance as they take up their duties for their term of office. Outgoing president Munieba thanked her exec for their support and availability during their tenure. Incoming President Sophia thanked Munieba for her tireless commitment as president for the last 6 +years.

During Lent some of our members led the Stations of the Cross on Friday the 24th of March. This is always a very moving experience and very much part of the spiritual aspect of our ministry within the CWL. On the 29th of March the Lenten Penitential service was held with 6 priests assisting Fr Lubabalo with administering the sacrament of reconciliation. The CWL was tasked with preparing supper for the priests afterwards, which is always much enjoyed and appreciated by the priests in the Sacred Heart Presbytery.

Our CWL annual street collection took place for the first time following the Covid pandemic. Several members took part. Pick n Pay Linton Grange was the only venue this year.

On the 1st of April Heyley arranged a palm cross-making workshop to make crosses for Palm Sunday. It was a really fun morning attended by a few members and parishioners.

Fr Lubabalo's 46th birthday and 18th ordination anniversary took place on the 17th of April. In Sacred Heart style it was a weekend affair as we worthily celebrated him. CWL served the eats and tea at the bring and share in the hall after the 8am Mass on Sunday. It was an emotional and joyous event as Fr expressed his great appreciation to the parish family.

On the occasion of his birthday, on Monday, the caravan lunch was held at Sacred Heart. Following Mass, the clergy had lunch organized and prepared by CWL. A few members cooked and prepared all the meals and quite a few members turned up to help set up and serve the clergy on the day. Fr Lubabalo thanked the ladies for the scrumptious lunch and for all their efforts over his birthday weekend.

The soup kitchen is still going strong with ladies doing duty on 8 April by making sandwiches for distribution to the homeless and migrant workers in the church surrounds.

We continue to remember our homebound members and their families who have requested our prayers.

DIOCESE OF PORT ELIZABETH (GQEBERHA)

SAN FRANCESCO

Our services were beautiful, and we thank Fr Sonny for his time and all the preparation to make them so special. In preparation for Easter, the Stations of the Cross were led by parish groups every Friday evening in church, with the CWL leading the congregation in prayer and devotion on the 17th of March.

Our bingo evening was held on the 30th of March and was a great success as always. An amount of R4737 was raised and once again thanks to Elaine and Marilyn for their hard work.

The morning workshop was held at Haidee's home.

We will be distributing our funds/donations to the following organizations:

Cheshire Homes; Norwood Hospice R2000; Sisters of Mercy, Addo, R2000; CWL – in lieu of street collection R1000; donation of soup powder to Bedford Soup Kitchen; the collection of R300 will be given to St Vincent de Paul Society.

MATER DEI

As events in the Church appear to be speedily reverting to normal, meetings and dates for the whole year now fill our diaries.

We held our AGM on the 1st of February and there were no changes to our committee.

Our parish priest, Father Ludwe Jayiya celebrated the 17th anniversary of his ordination on the 18th of February, and we held a Bring & Share to congratulate him.

We welcomed a new member, Chrystal Moodley, to our group, and hope she will be happy with us.

Our member Claudette Adams celebrated her birthday on the 25th of February.

We celebrated our Corporate Mass on Shrove Tuesday with Father Ludwe, and we thank him for giving us and our departed sisters a warm mention in the Mass.

The Sisters of Addo led us in a very welcome retreat at Sacred Heart on the 25th of February. As usual the retreat was very good and well presented by the Sisters. At their request, all branches donated used clothing and tinned food, to which was added a generous collection during Mass which was celebrated by Father Eldridge Davids, our Diocesan Spiritual Director.

ST AUGUSTINE



The CWL Christmas party at the Italian Club was well attended by all our ladies. Val Collett again made the Christmas cake that was raffled at the party. She has done so for the last 16 years, and we are so grateful for her dedication. The money raised goes towards our Seminarian fund.

On the 16th of December we had a lunch in the McSherry Hall, along with the St Vincent de Paul Society. Our Shrove Tuesday pancake evening was the kick-start to our year of planned fundraisers.

We had a wonderful celebration of Father Jerry's 60th birthday at the McSherry Hall with all Father's siblings attending this milestone event. In true Irish tradition, we enjoyed the sing-alongs long after the band stopped playing. On Father's birthday, after Sunday mass, we all enjoyed cake and refreshments to our hearts' content.

Our first retreat, a morning of recollection led by Sister Martha, was held at Sacred Heart Kabe-ga.

Taiwan women of faith prepared the Women's World Day of Prayer, which took place on the 3rd of March. This event was open to all Christians.

CORPUS CHRISTI

The sisters of Addo once again started our year off with a beautiful morning of recollection in February. This always comes at a good time as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

Shrove Tuesday's traditional pancake and fellowship evening is something our parishioners have become accustomed to, and this year's event was another bumper one with all and sundry coming out for their supply and some making sure they did not miss out by placing orders in advance. There was a most convivial atmosphere at Corpus Christi on the 21st of February this year.

We again participated in our Christian Paschal Supper, or Seder Meal as it is also known. A tremendous amount of thought and organization went into planning and coordinating this event which was held on the Wednesday of Holy Week. Our Jubilee Hall was jam-packed with parishioners and friends. We even had the privilege of our very own Bishop Vincent Zungu joining us for the evening. A scrumptious meal was enjoyed, and it incorporated a deeper understanding of Our Lord's Supper in relation to the traditional Passover meal celebrated by Jewish families annually through the various scripture readings and stories. The Jewish Seder Plate with all its unique foods and meanings was explained and the traditional 4 cups of wine were consumed at various stages during the evening, symbolizing the Exodus story. It was the perfect way to begin the Easter Triduum and to fully understand the history as well as the fulfilment of the Christian faith. This is an event which is likely to become an annual event on our Corpus Christi calendar.

Our League had a relatively successful denim donation drive which assisted the SOS Children's Village and we also made sure we were represented at the annual Woman's World Day of Prayer held at St Margaret's Anglican Church in Summerstrand.

In addition to organizing a fair number of funeral teas since the beginning of the year, we participated in the CWL Street Collection held on the 25th of March.

DIOCESE OF PORT ELIZABETH (GQEBERHA)

Our 100 Club is without a doubt our greatest fundraiser for the year, and this has been going very well so far. We need the funds to carry out our duty of charity, work and loyalty as an active, hardworking League in Port Elizabeth.

With May being the month of our Lady, some of our members led the rosary before Mass every Friday morning. We also have 3 new members who will be inducted at Mass on the 18th of June.

The Cheshire Home's Annual Fete is scheduled for the 3rd of June, and we have our worker bees arranging cake donations for the cake stall which we always man. Our aim is to make this year's takings as lucrative as last year's, which was our biggest one yet.

MATER DEI

Activities are now back in full swing in the church, and we attended an excellent diocesan bingo fundraiser afternoon at Sacred Heart on the 22nd of April. This was followed on the 25th of April by a diocesan Mass and meeting at Mater Dei. Unfortunately, load shedding kicked in as we started the meeting, so it was a shortened business-only meeting.

The diocesan AGM will be held in Grahamstown on the 11th of June, and now the checking is being done to ascertain who is entitled to long-service badges.

A Mass for our CWL was celebrated by Father Ludwe on the 29th of April and Veronica was inducted into the League. We are very happy to have her join us.

The Deanery tea and meeting was held on the 9th of May, and Chrystal and Teresa served the priests (who kept remarking on how much they appreciated the sandwiches).

ARCHDIOCESE OF PRETORIA

DIOCESAN

The Pretoria Diocesan Council held a fruitful leadership workshop for all branch executive office holders and past branch presidents. The workshop, hosted by the Lynwood branch on the 18th of March 2023, aimed to encourage knowledge sharing as well as to improve performance and understanding of expectations for all office bearers of the various positions.

Guest motivational speaker Ms Margaret Magwaza shared pearls of leadership wisdom with those present. Under the theme "Leading Teams and Change", branch leadership was advised on how to successfully lead with compassion and conviction, especially in these challenging post-Covid times.

Ms Magwaza is a professional nurse and a member of the Presbyterian Church. She advised members in leadership to know their purpose as leaders, to forget self, but invest more in serving the interests of those they lead as well as their communities. Inspired by the teaching of Matthew 20: 26-28, she reminded the leadership that in Jesus's kingdom, greatness is not found in position or the exercise of power. It is not found in being served or in commanding others. It is neither found in wealth nor in intellect. However, the path of glory is found in serving God and by serving others. Much like our CWL motto of cheerfully, willingly, and generously doing for others what Jesus does for us.

Among the leadership gems Ms Magwaza imparted were the following:

That as a leader, one must be strong, be steadfast in prayer and let go of fear; make careful assessment before embarking on any project, to ensure effective use of the scarce resources at our disposal; it is imperative for a leader to have the necessary skills and expertise as well as to be goal oriented; communication, respect, and teamwork are very important; leadership must be empathetic and considerate of people with financial constraints, who are unable to fulfil the League's obligations. Lastly, the League leadership was encouraged to take care of themselves, especially their physical and emotional health. This is critical for impactful leadership, as one cannot pour out to others the much-needed compassion and service if they have no vitality. Make sure your cup is also full to fully give of yourself, your time and your talent.

Members attending the workshop formed breakaway groups to address specific needs and expectations, and shared best practice strategies for their specific leadership portfolios.



Treasurers' breakaway forum

ARCHDIOCESE OF PRETORIA

Diocesan Recruitment Drive

The Diocesan Council has embarked on a recruitment drive to expand the footprint of the CWL to the townships and peri-urban areas. Despite the CWL being in existence for 84 years, there are Deaneries who do not know about the League and its work. Diocesan Council is prioritising the need for CWL visibility while remaining humble, as we undertake this breakthrough effort. The DC, supported by various branch members, recently visited Siyabuswa and GaRankuwa parishes and remain hopeful that the seeds that have been sown will yield positive results. The endeavour is ongoing, and more areas have been identified to establish new branches in. This not only helps to extend the League's reach, but also eases facilitating services to the needy communities within these Deaneries.

HOLY TRINITY, OLIFANTSFONTEIN



CWL sisters of Holy Trinity Branch in Olifantsfontein visited Kopanong Welfare Home in Tembisa on 27 April 2023, bearing gifts including groceries, winter clothes and sanitary towels.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, PRETORIA NORTH



Members of St John the Baptist Parish, Pretoria North branch, proudly showing off their latest CWL magazines following a fruitful monthly meeting.

As part of their parish duties, CWL members helped with catering and décor for the recent priesthood ordinations of Rev Deacon Frederick Kavao CSS and Rev Deacon Luka Sitima CSS, hosted at St John the Baptist parish on the 25th of March.

The CWL held its monthly boerewors roll fundraising for the first time since Covid-19, on the 7th of May. The League has been operating with bi-monthly contributions donated by members and donations from other sources. Members and parishioners supported the initiative most generously. The fundraising was a huge success, and we are looking forward to the coming months' fundraising.

ST. JOSEPH, EERSTERUST

The Eersterust Association for Community Health (EACH) is a non-profit organisation established in 1992 and is situated in Pretoria. The Hospice was formed in response to an increasing need to provide health care to predominately terminally ill patients for Eersterust and the surrounding areas.

The initial service provided was home-based care which later expanded to hospice care when the facility was completed in 2002



The 1st of May marked the annual fund-raising fete hosted by EACH, in partnership with the various church communities and surrounding communities. Although they can cover most of their expenses, there is still has a sizeable shortfall to cover all operating expenses. They rely on fund raising events, such as the annual fete, as well as the "Friend of EACH" initiative to make up the remainder of the expenses. The day is not just about the funds being generated but also a chance for the community to come together and interact with each other. All the proceeds generated go directly into the hospice coffers. This year was no different and as the sun rose in the east, the fires were lit and stalls secured against the elements of nature. The members of the Catholic Women's League were ready to embrace the cold autumn winds, mist hindering their vision and grass covered in frost. The day was spent in good spirit, with laughter and hugs all round.

ARCHDIOCESE OF PRETORIA

We congratulate our former branch president, Prudence Ndlovu (nee Henderson) on her wedding, celebrated on the 29th of April 2023. Her journey to the altar began in August 2022 at the Comrades Marathon, with all eyes on this runner who lifted a banner written: 'Prudence, will you marry me?'. Mr Joey Ndlovu proposed, and the answer was a big 'YES'. Prudence and her husband are both parishioners in St. Joseph's Catholic church in Eersterust, and both highly involved in activities of the church.

We continue to pray for them and wish them many wonderful years together.



CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART

We had 17 extra pairs school shoes left from our project and on the 24th of March our former president Matshepo delivered the shoes to Mabogo Dinku Charity in Mmakau to the surprise and delight of Mme Madira, the caretaker and the children.

We continue to support the retired Nuns of the Handmaids of Christ the Priest order with groceries as well as taking care of their other needs. The quarterly groceries for our nuns were delivered after the Easter weekend. The sisters were happy to see our members after the Christmas holidays. On the 27th of April one of our ladies bought and delivered the following items: chalice, ciborium, wine, water cruets as well as altar linens on behalf our branch to the nuns in Hammanskraal. The reason for this donation was that Bishop Mpako was visiting and was going to celebrate mass with them.

On Sunday the 12th of March Fr Thabiso Ledwaba and PPC Chairperson Mr Tony Khumalo administered the nomination and voting process to fill the position of the deputy president. Edith Seabi was voted in, and Pinky Mongale took over as president. The secretary is Mothibi Motukisi, treasurer Motshidisi Moloi and news correspondent Busisiwe Mphuthi. The executive team honoured the invitation to attend the DC extended meeting on 18 March 2023 in Lynnwood, the purpose of the meeting being to transfer skills and help branch leaders get to know each other.

On Palm Sunday the 2nd of April, CWL members accompanied the DC executive on their visit to St Anthony of Egypt parish in Siyabuswa to introduce CWL to the parish. We were well received by the parish priest, deacon and parishioners.

The church celebrated the Passover Meal on the 5th of April 2023 at the Loreto School Hall, led by Fr Thabiso Ledwaba. Our CWL sisters and Fr were dressed up for the occasion to celebrate the night with other parishioners.

Cathedral branch members attended some ordinations earlier this year. On the 25th of March we went to the Bertoni Centre at St. John the Baptist in Pretoria North for the ordinations of Fr Frederick K Kavao and Fr Luka Sitima. Fr Frederick did his pastoral internship at the cathedral. On the 29th of April we travelled to the Church of the Beatitudes in Zwavelpoort for the ordinations of Fr Thulani Madinda, who also did his pastoral internship at the cathedral, and Fr Tlhologelo Rapule.



On Saturday the 13th of May Sacred Heart participated in the 1000 Hail Marys Super Rosary marathon, which was celebrated across the country. The programme started with holy Mass at 08h00 celebrated by Fr Thabiso Ledwaba, after which the rosary prayers started. On the 106th anniversary of the first apparition at Fatima, Mother Mary was honoured by many of our sisters together with other sodalities and communities praying the rosary until 18h00. We believe her when she says, "Do whatever he tells you". (John 2:5)

OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART, MIDRAND



The CWL in Midrand has been very active in the second quarter of the year. Through Mam Dolly, members have steadfastly supported the monthly food donations for the less fortunate in the parish and community. Additionally, we expanded our charitable efforts to a senior citizen who was in desperate need of adult diapers.

The CWL ladies participated in a variety of parish events, including one called "Praying a Public Rosary for South Africa." The event was well attended.

A successful Easter raffle and Mystery Jar challenge were held to raise funds. The Sisters who work for the parish were treated to Mother's Day treats thanks to the money raised from these events.

ARCHDIOCESE OF PRETORIA

ST. JOHN FISHER, LYNNWOOD

As a branch, we have been quite active. On Tuesday the 21st of February we hosted 20 priests at the Deanery lunch. Both tea and lunch were served and went down well.

Two monthly meetings were held on the 1st of April and the 13th of May. At both, Xavier Rowan, a grade 8 pupil at Edu Excellent, arrived and presented us with food parcels made up for the needy in Mamelodi. This initiative is to qualify for his community service project as required by his school. He encouraged his friends and family to dip into their pockets. This noble gesture by a teenager is to be commended.

In order to augment our funds, members supplied cupcakes for a Mother's Day cake sale. It was good to see the young members (who work during the week) so involved with the cake sale. A pleasing amount was raised.

To celebrate Prisca's birthday, our oldest member at 93 years of age, we said the rosary at her home on Tuesday the 25th of April. She is an incredible example to us.

We celebrated Fr Thomas' birthday on Sunday the 16th of April with tea and cake, and on the 29th of April it was the turn of our former parish priest, Fr Bogdan. He was en route from Australia to Poland. It was good to see him again.

We continue to support the following projects: handbags for rape victims; collection of secondhand clothing and support of the Bramley Home Orphanage; food parcels for Mamelodi and Eersterus.

We have catered for and served teas at a number of funerals.

On Saturday the 4th of March we held our bi-monthly breakfast at Stephanie's Restaurant at Lynnbridge. The camaraderie amongst the members was most friendly.



On Sunday 21 May, we held our quarterly Mass at the 7:30 service. It was a lovely autumn day and the church was almost full. Members, bedecked in their uniforms of navy and white with scarves, assisted with the readings and collections. The banner was displayed at the entrance and CWL pamphlets were handed out. We attracted at least one new member.

A big thank you to the national committee for compiling the newsletter.

DIOCESE OF UMZIMKULU

Greetings from Our Lady of Peace in Margate (KZN South Coast). We are the only CWL in our Diocese and we have 14 members, ranging in age from the 90's to the 60's. Recently, 5 new members were enrolled - truly a blessing!

On the 5th of February we held a Hot Dog Sunday breakfast, which was a great success. As well as a fundraising exercise, it was an opportunity for fellowship and camaraderie among our parishioners.

In February, we also attended the memorial service held at Our Lady of Fatima parish in Sea Park for 96-year-old Enid Bowker, who was an active member of our CWL for 44 years. A talented seamstress, she was responsible for all our beautiful Church banners.

We held our annual retreat on the 22nd of March. The day began with Adoration and a healing Mass. Deacon Rob Bothma was our Retreat Master and the day was a wonderful morning of spirituality, reflection and prayer, love and friendship. After a shared lunch, the retreat concluded with the opportunity for confession.

We donated two beautiful artificial palms to the Church, which were placed on either side of the altar. Father Andrew chose the palms and was delighted with the difference they made. We value being able to contribute in this way to the beauty of our Church building.

In May, each of our ladies collected various toiletry items in a gift bag to be donated to the patients of Pro Deo, an NGO based on the lower South Coast, which sees to the care of frail and cancer patients. We have also been collecting clothing on a regular basis, which we sell to finance our charitable work.

Our WUCWO Mass was the highlight of May. Father was most gracious and allowed us free rein to communicate to our parishioners the objectives of this year's conference in Assisi. It was a joyful Mass of prayer and unity.

In May, we also hosted our first funeral service since the advent of Covid. One of our own members lost her husband suddenly. He was much loved, and we were called to serve refreshments and desserts for 400 people. It was a daunting challenge arranging seating in the hall, decorating tables etc., but as only CWL ladies do, we managed to successfully host an occasion of both real sadness and a celebration of a life well lived.

Several members visit the sick on a regular basis, others serve as Proclaimers of the Word and Ministers of the Eucharist. Although we are only a very small band of CWL members, we do what we can to make a positive contribution to charitable activities, and we are ready and able to serve and live out the CWL motto of Charity, Work and Loyalty.

Blessings to you all from Margate!

OBITUARIES

Bernice Anne Cocci

5 NOVEMBER 1953 – 19 MARCH 2023



Throughout the country members of the Catholic Women's League were shocked and saddened by the unexpected death of Bernice. It is still hard to believe that our pillar of strength is no longer with us, and it feels as if the rug has been pulled from under us. For 34 years Bernice was actively involved in the League and held official positions for most of that time - as Benoni Branch President, East Rand Regional President, Johannesburg Diocesan President (2005-2008) and National President, a position she held for four years steering the League through the Covid pandemic. This was not an easy task, and her great disappointment was the cancellation of the National Conference due to Covid restrictions at the time. When this national responsibility was handed over to Cape Town in August 2021, Bernice did not take a well-deserved break but instead once again accepted the challenging position of Diocesan President and was still in office at the time of her death. During her term as National President she represented the League at the General Assembly of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO) in Dakar. She was actively involved in many parish activities; she was a Professed Secular Carmelite (OCDS) and gave valuable assistance to the Carmelite Sisters in their manufacture of altar breads.

Bernice was loved and respected for her kindness and quiet style of leadership; she led by example with an inner strength, she was modest, hardworking, compassionate, always caring for others before herself. She was incapable of saying no to anyone, whatever the request, which often meant she pushed herself to the limit. Over the years she attended numerous CWL meetings far and wide and would give lifts to others without complaint even when it was out of her way. Bernice had a strong work ethic and was never hesitant in helping in any capacity. She had worked for the same employers for over 45 years as well as frequently assisting in their family business at home.

Bernice was the first born of a family of seven children with a strong Catholic heritage from both parents and had a close bond with her aunt, Assumption Sister Fatima. She assisted her mom with cleaning and cooking from an early age which no doubt developed her prodigious cooking skills which were certainly put to frequent use in the League. As the eldest in the family Bernice had a strong maternal love for each of her siblings but had no hesitation in exercising her authority when she deemed it necessary. She loved each of her siblings and knew exactly what each was doing in their lives. Bernice would always assist any family member needing support or praise. She took a great interest in each family member including all her nieces and nephews. She delighted in arranging a traditional Sunday celebration and no one was ever excluded. The family is totally devastated at her passing and Bernice has left a massive void felt by all.

Bernice and Gian have three wonderful sons – Luigi, an airline pilot; Marco, an engineer; and Gianmario who is a highly skilled guitarist. Her daughters-in-law loved and cherished her and frequently went to her for advice and assistance. Her pride and joy were her six grandchildren whom she always made time for. Gian describes Bernice as his soulmate for 48 years and the love of his life; he and their family are totally heartbroken and devastated at their great loss. She was the matriarch of the family and the glue that held them together.

Hundreds of CWL ladies, family and friends attended a requiem mass for Bernice at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Benoni. The CWL ladies lined the driveway after the service to sing and wave a final goodbye to their beloved friend and mentor. She was loved by all who knew her and will be greatly missed. Our deepest sympathy goes to all her family and friends. Rest in peace dear Bernice. We will never forget you.

Jean Rother, Cape Town

12 MAY 1933 – 23 FEBRUARY 2023

Jean Rother started off in the CWL at St Ignatius, Claremont and then moved to Rondebosch before becoming an associate member after her husband retired and they moved from Claremont.

She served in various capacities in the League but was elected diocesan president just before Cape Town took over as the National Management Committee in 1990.

She was an outstanding leader, totally committed and able to make decisions decisively, which led to a very strong diocesan committee hosting the 1993 National Conference.

She made it part of her mission as diocesan president to visit as many branches as possible and showed understanding of the problems faced by many of the ladies. She was compassionate but strong and will be sorely missed by those who remember her.

She was constantly knitting and contributed many items to the Clothing Guild.

She was a good and faithful servant, and we pray that eternal rest is hers in the arms of our Lord.

OBITUARIES

Linda Lelong, Durban

12 APRIL 1932 – 3 MARCH 2023

We pass on our sincere and deepest condolences to Sharon Wright, our former Bluff CWL president, and family on the passing of Linda Lelong, a dedicated member of CWL and an honorary life member. Linda was a beautiful spirit who overcame many difficult tests of her faith, including breast cancer and Parkinson's. Linda was kind, full of life, and beyond a doubt her faith was her greatest strength. We have been truly honoured to spend treasured moments with her, dancing, laughing and sharing. Linda loved her Catholic faith and that love was felt by all who knew her. May Linda's beautiful soul rest in eternal peace safe in the arms of Jesus.

Jennifer Sneedon, Durban

17 MARCH 1941 – 19 APRIL 2023



Fondly known as Jenny, Jennifer led a full, busy and active life. She was a loving mother to Lianne and James, and a devoted wife to the late Des. Jenny joined the league in 1984 and was a member of the Pinetown branch. She worked tirelessly to uphold our motto of charity, work and loyalty. Her friendly, happy and positive disposition led her to being an excellent secretary at Pinetown parish, where she worked for many years. She was well known for her beautifully knitted beanies and love of jewellery. Her excellent beading skills resulted in her teaching many members how to make lovely items which were sold at fetes and fund-raising events. Unfortunately Jenny suffered many health issues, but her loyalty to the League never dwindled. As an auxiliary member in her later years, she prayed for our intentions and showed encouragement and interest in all our activities. She was a brave, courageous, faithful and prayerful lady. Rest in peace dear Jen.

Margaret Rose Blandin de Chalain, Durban

22 JANUARY 1938 – 11 DECEMBER 2022

Margaret was an active member of the CWL of Bellair-Queensburgh. She faithfully donated cooked soup to the parish soup kitchen for many years. She was young at heart, with a beautiful smile, adorable French accent and would put any 20-year-old to shame with her dancing skills. She was a sassy dresser and had a keen sense of humour. In 2019 she had no option but to relocate out of the parish, but she still kept in touch. Her family remained the centre of her life and she being the matriarch was loved and adored by them. Rest in eternal peace Margaret. You will be sorely missed.

Antonia Dymphna Maria (Van Rijsbergen) Preiss, Durban

30 JULY 1947 – 15 APRIL 2023



Toni Preiss was a dearly loved member of the Bellair-Queensburgh branch, with the funkiest coloured hair cuts, the loudest laugh, but at the same time, the biggest, kindest, softest heart we ever had the privilege to know, work with and call our friend.

She was born in Holland on 30 July 1949 and came to live in South Africa as a young girl. Toni married Peter Preiss in 1972 and unfortunately they were not able to have their own children. However, her role was to be that of the 'other mother' to many, the greatest aunt to all her nieces and nephews and best friend to all she met. Toni's many cats can testify to that one!

She was known by all the young men paying court to any young lady in our parish, as she proceeded to give them the once over, warning them of dire consequences if found to be ill-treating our young girls.

Toni joined the CWL in 1988 and was immediately immersed in all areas of its work. She worked tirelessly serving our motto of charity, work and loyalty as a member, then as president of our branch from 1990 to 1995 and again from 1997 to 1999. Nothing was too much

work or trouble, even though she held down a very demanding, busy and successful career as a hairdresser in Queensburgh for all her working life. Sadly, Toni retreated into her own little world, taken down by the crippling disease of Alzheimer's.

She was cared for at home by her husband until the last two years when she spent her remaining time being cared for by the staff of MOTHWA Haven in Durban.

She slipped away quietly to be with her Lord and Saviour in the early hours of the morning on the 15th of April, most appropriately on the same day as our April monthly meeting.

She will be missed for so much more than her last minute, fit-in haircuts, her delicious homemade Dutch butter biscuits or her signature dessert of meringues groaning with cream and chocolate.

She will be hugely missed for her caring work with people, her membership in the branch, the parish, its choir and her much loved ministry as sacristan; she really was part of the backbone of the parish of Bellair-Queensburgh.

Toni our friend, we love and will miss you so much. Rest now in the love and peace of Christ.

OBITUARIES

Milly van Gogh, Durban



Milly joined our branch in 1992 and although she was not a committee or executive person, she was always an active member, with a constant twinkle in her eyes and an ability to keep her fellow members laughing! Five years ago we celebrated Milly's 90th birthday at the home of one of our members. Milly has left behind a good solid family legacy as well as many happy memories for our CWL ladies to enjoy. She will long be remembered with love and laughter, and may she always rest in peace.

Jackie Allen, Johannesburg

24 SEPTEMBER 1964 – 8 APRIL 2023



Jackie joined CWL in Edenvale in 2015 and held the position of secretary and vice-president. Jackie was a true mentor and was happy to take charge of any event which was always a success. We miss her dearly. She assisted in the parish office, as well as doing sacristan duties at the church. Jackie and Julie, fondly known as the Cook Sisters, did all the flowers and catering for a number of functions. Jackie was well connected and very much loved in the Edenvale community. She was a committed wife, mother and grandmother. She was a true pillar of support, always empowering others. Jackie ran a modeling agency, and also the Miss Edenvale pageant for a number of years. She spent a great deal of her time helping others in advocating for awareness through organizations such as CWL, the Organ Donor Foundation, and was also a member of Rand Road Warriors Edenvale.

May Walker, Johannesburg

May Walker was a member of the Tuesday group at Victory Park.

Bella Radebe, Johannesburg

Victory Park Tuesday has lost another loyal member. Bella Radebe died on the 27th of February.

May her dear soul rest in eternal peace.

Anna Ncube, Johannesburg



Anna Ncube joined the CWL at the parish of Our Lady of Fatima in Dube. She died on the 6th of February 2023.

Elisa Mahange, Johannesburg

Elisa Mahange joined the CWL at the parish of St. Phillip Neri, Moletsane. She joined the League in 2016 and passed away on the 12th of February 2023

OBITUARIES

Theresa Mawela, Johannesburg

Theresa Mawala joined the CWL at the parish of St. Peter Claver, Pimville in 2009. She passed away on the 6th of February 2023.

Elizabeth Mokobung, Johannesburg

14 SEPTEMBER 1954 – 6 APRIL 2023



Elizabeth Mokobung joined the CWL at the parish of St Benedict the Black, Sebokeng Zone 3 in 2010. She was married to Simon Mokobung and they were blessed with three sons, two whom have passed on, and 7 grandchildren.

She was an active member of the League and received her 10-years badge in 2020. She was also an active member of the St. Cecelia Sodality. She was passionate about music and giving back to her community. She served the League in full, cheerfully, willingly & generously until God called her to His heavenly kingdom.

Anna Mncube, Johannesburg

25 FEBRUARY 1940 – 15 FEBRUARY 2023

Anna Mncube joined the CWL in 2001 at the parish of Blessed Gerard, Orange Farm. She was married with 2 children. She was an active member for St Ann Sodality. When she died she was due to receive her 20-year badge.

May her soul rest in peace and the light of God shine upon her.

Miriam Buthelezi, Pretoria



We are very sad to announce the death of Miriam Buthelezi, one of our ardent CWL members, who passed away on the 20th of March 2023. She was a dedicated nursing sister for many years, fulfilling her vocation of healing and caring for others. She was a devout Catholic and joined the CWL in Lynnwood, where she was an active member. Her hobbies were sewing and gardening. She leaves behind a mother of 102, a loving husband, two children, a grandchild and her two brothers. The church was packed for her funeral and the CWL members present said the League prayers over her coffin. MHDSRIP.

LITTLE WORDS THAT MEAN SO MUCH

Get up.
Go on.
Chin up.
Come on!

Smile please.
Don't frown.
'I can't
I'm down'!

Buck up.
Be strong.
Be brave.
Come along!

I'll smile.
Let me be!
Another time
You'll see.

Another day.
Another chance.
I'm grateful.
Even dance.

God's good.
Answers prayers.
No doubt.
HE CARES!

Jenny Parent – Archdiocese of Durban

CHARITY, LOYALTY AND WORK IN ACTION



Pretoria diocesan members on a recruitment drive in Zone 4 GaRankuwa on 7 May 2023.



Sacred Heart Cathedral, Pretoria at their Paschal meal.



Blankets knitted by CWL members of Our Lady of Fatima, Durban North.



Cape Town ladies enjoying lunch at their Day of Reflection.



CWL Kuilsriver, Cape Town at their food fair

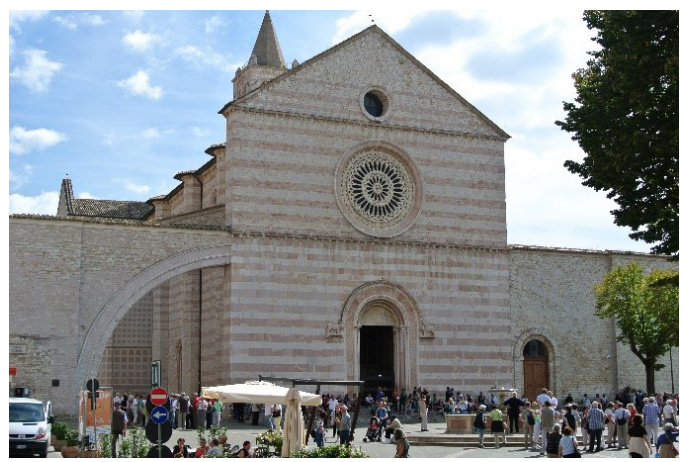
CHARITY, WORK AND LOYALTY IN ACTION



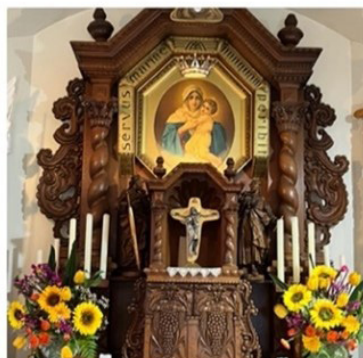
Veronica Malan-Lebona, Maria Seleke, Pat Mcewen and Nkuli Shinga, CWL delegates to the WUCWO assembly.



Basilica of St Francis, Assisi



Basilica of St Clare, Assisi



Beautiful Schoenstatt, Cape Town