



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE SOUTHERN AFRICA NEWSLETTER



Through the bonds of Peace

MARCH/APRIL 2023

#ISSUE 160



"...at daybreak on the first day of the week [the women} took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them."

(Luke 24: 1-4)

CHARITY, WORK AND LOYALTY IN ACTION



CWL Montana, Pretoria, celebrating Priesthood Sunday with Fr Patrick Rakeketsi.



Ladies of Corpus Christi, Bloemfontein, enjoying their first meeting of 2023.



New members of St Boniface, Kimberley: Nyawata Cecilia, Hammer Masego, Mat-sime Sandra, Bok Shadile.



CWL Wentworth, Durban, held a seniors' Christmas function.



Ladies from Fatima Shrine, Kimberley, spoiling their priest.



Ladies from Westville, Durban, treating their seminarian to a send-off lunch.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



Thank you to all the diocese who have sent in submissions for this newsletter, especially those who have not done so before. It is very encouraging to read how branches across the country live their faith by serving others.

Christmas seems such a short time ago and here we are approaching Easter, that great feast of hope and new life. The despair and sorrow of Good Friday, when the disciples of Jesus must have thought it was all over, is followed by the hope and joy of Easter Sunday. They did not know, on Good Friday, how the story ended and for us, with the benefit of two thousand years of knowledge, the misery and terror of that day is almost impossible to imagine.

We have to live that hope, even when things seem hopeless, and we need to be that hope to others. Hope is in short supply at the moment in our country, in our communities and perhaps even in our families but we cannot

give in to despair. We must be like the three Marys in the cover picture and radiate hope to those around us.

Reading the accounts of your activities in your branches and communities gives us all a reason to be hopeful. In the most practical of ways we can, and do, bring hope to those who may have lost it. We hold one another up in hope, in the knowledge and certainty of Easter Sunday.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish bon voyage to the four ladies who will be attending the WUCWO conference in Assisi. They are Pat McEwen from Cape Town, Nkuli Shinga and Veronica Malan-Lebona from Pretoria and Maria Seleke from Klerksdorp.

Michaela

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The closing date for submissions for the next issue of the newsletter is the 25th of May 2023.

Email to: cwlsanews@gmail.com
Michaela: 082 8078754

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT



We are now well into the new year of 2023, and I can see from the news reports that you are well into the work of the League. Thank you to all the Diocese who have sent in their news reports. It is so good to read all about your projects and the work you are doing in keeping our CWL aims and objectives alive.

There is ever greater need for assistance all around us today and it is a privilege to be able to help those less fortunate than ourselves, even if it means just listening, visiting the elderly and lonely or handing out a food parcel.

By now you should be aware that the newsletter is also available in digital format. If you have not seen this version, please ask your president to show you a copy. This way all the photos can be seen in colour, which makes a big difference.

Easter 2023 is almost upon us, and I trust that the period of Lent will be a special time of reflection and reconciliation and a time to renew our faith.

A reflection on Easter... We celebrate Easter each year and it serves to remind us of the love of a perfect God for flawed mankind. Jesus Christ died on the cross, He was buried and on the third day He rose again to bring hope to the world. As we celebrate this wonderful time, let us remember that Christ gave His life for us willingly and unconditionally and so we should extend the same love to family, friends and others around us.

Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die". (John 11: 25-26).

I wish every one of you and your families a blessed and happy Easter.

Yours in the "unity in the Spirit, through the bonds of peace".

Anne

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL CHAPLAIN



There is a tomb in Westminster Abbey on which the following inscription is written: "When I was young, I tried to change the world. The world did not budge. As I grew older, I thought I could change my country. My country did not cooperate. As I approached retirement, I attempted to change my family. They would have none of it. Now as I lie dying, I realize the only thing I can change is myself. Had I done that sooner, perhaps the rest would have followed."

This inscription is not far from the teaching of Jesus. Jesus' mission was to announce the gospel, the kingdom of God. Jesus uses images to tell the disciples what role they are to play in the kingdom. The images that He uses are important. Jesus tells us we are "the light of the world" and we should let our light shine (Matthew 5: 13-16).

Our Lord does not say we are "the hammer of the world" by which to build the kingdom. He does not say we are "the engine of the world" by which to power the kingdom. He does not even say that we are "the voice of the world" by which to describe the kingdom. He says we are "the light of the world," and our job is to let our light fall on others, to illumine them by the good things that we do. This is how Jesus expects the kingdom to come about.

This is especially true for us who belong to the CWL. Our mission is not to change people but to change ourselves so that our lives can radiate a goodness that others can see. So in small things we radiate love by the way we serve others.

When we examine light we find its essence is also in its action. Light on its own has no value or use. Light should be there to transform the cold of night into the warm safety of day. If the value of light is in action so too the value of our discipleship is in our actions. We are called to add Christian value to the lives of others.

When Jesus tells us that we are the light of the world, He is reminding us that our job is not to change people but to illumine them. Then, as they stand in the light that our simple acts of kindness emit, God can change them. That is why we are the light of the world. That is why we are asked to let our light shine.

Fr Kevin

COVER PICTURE

The picture on the cover of this edition of the newsletter is a painting by Henry Ossawa Tanner (whose *Flight into Egypt* was the cover of the December issue) titled "The Three Marys". Down on the bottom of the picture on the left-hand side there is just the faintest outline of Jerusalem's walls. The three women hastening with their jars of ointment at the break of day look surprised and amazed – instead of the dark and closed tomb they expected to see, they are bathed in a glorious light.

The gospel writers variously describe "an angel of the Lord {whose} appearance was like lightning" (Matthew), "a young man... clothed in a white robe" (Mark), "two men in dazzling garments" (Luke) and "two angels in white sitting there" (John). Religious writer Rick Hamlin found the most satisfying answer to the question, "What does an angel look like?" in this painting. There is no angel to be seen, but the reality is there in the light that bathes the women, and their expressions of wonder. Jesus referred to himself as "the light of the world" and the three Marys are witnesses to that reality; no longer are we walking in darkness but in the light of the risen Christ.

LENT AND EASTER TRADITIONS



Mardi Gras (literally, fat Tuesday) is the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. Its name came from the excessive eating people engaged in to clear their homes of all the foods not permitted during Lent – butter, eggs, all dairy products and meat. In some countries and cities it became an excuse for mad parties before the sober days of Lent. To this day Venice continues its tradition of masked revels, Rio de Janeiro has its famed street carnival, New Orleans in the USA claims to have the oldest Mardi Gras in the country (dating back to 1699) and Lucerne in Switzerland has a few crazy days of loud parades and very inharmonious bands parading through streets decorated with grotesque masks (pictured above).

After Mardi Gras comes the sobering reality of Lent.... It seems that fasting during the period preceding Easter has been practised since the very early days of the church. St Irenaeus spoke about a dispute regarding the length of the fasting period in a letter written in the 2nd century. Pope Gregory the First, who died in 604, ruled that "We abstain from flesh, meat, and from all things that come from flesh, as milk, cheese and eggs". Initially the fasting was very strict – only 1 meal a day and that was after 3pm. Over the centuries it became much less onerous and the restrictions on the foods one could eat were largely relaxed.

Hot Cross buns are a traditional treat, particularly associated with Good Friday. Myths about these fruit buns abound. One of these claimed that if you hung a bun from your kitchen rafters it would remain fresh throughout the year. It would also ward off evil spirits and prevent your kitchen catching fire. Queen Elizabeth the First of England allegedly banned the sale of the buns other than at Easter, Christmas and for funerals, as they were too special to be eaten on just any day of the year.

Simnel cake is an Easter treat, a fruit cake baked with a marzipan layer in the middle and then covered with plain marzipan and topped by 12 marzipan balls representing Christ and his 11 faithful disciples.

These are just some of the many traditions surrounding the most important feast in the church calendar, and the days that lead up to it.

DIOCESE OF ALIWAL NORTH

ST NICHOLAS, ROUXVILLE

On the 22nd of January 2023 we, as the CWL members of St Nicholas, handed a food parcel to one family that was identified by us as the neediest. We collected money amongst ourselves and bought goodies for the family. We presented this parcel during our mass celebration. The family was glowing with joy to have this parcel during the very difficult month of January. As our motto says, charity begins at home.

ST FRANCIS, ALIWAL NORTH



On the 27th of November 2022 the CWL members celebrated mass in a special way with our parish priest.

We celebrated "Spoil the Priest Sunday" with a very special prayer for the occasion. At the end of mass our Parish Priest was presented with a gift voucher to spoil himself. He expressed gratitude and appreciation for this gesture from the CWL Ladies.

At the same occasion a new banner for the CWL was unveiled and blessed by the priest.

Mme Malerato Potlaki re-committed herself as a full member of the CWL.

On the 29th of January 2023 the CWL arranged that the school children be blessed by our parish priest, and the students were informed a week before to come to church dressed in their school uniforms. The priest invited us as the congregation to pray together with him for the children. This was a great day for the students as they prepared themselves for the new academic year.

ARCHDIOCESE OF BLOEMFONTEIN

On the 11th of September 2022, Free Staters woke up to the sad news of a dam that had collapsed at a diamond mine in Jagersfontein, Free State. Its contents poured across the landscape destroying homes and roads and injuring people. At least one person died. After this disaster, CWL identified a school that could be assisted with school uniforms for learners who had suffered due to the flood. CWL branches have been given tasks to purchase complete school uniforms. It also came to light that schools and Jagersfontein residents at large struggle with access to water. CWL has organized for schools get JoJo tanks installed for access to water. The delivery is set to be the 19th of February 2023

ST MARK'S, BLOEMFONTEIN

St Mark's church has a project of building a mission house. The project has begun and we have contributed approximately R4 600.00 towards this work.

As the year came to an end we hosted a function to celebrate our achievements and to thank God for guiding us. We had a closing party on the 17th of December 2023.

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL



Lesedi Centre of Hope is situated opposite the Kriste Lesedi La Ditjhaba Catholic church in Turflaagte, Bloemfontein. It is run by Franciscan Sisters under the leadership of Sister Electa. Its vision is to provide a quality health care service to the Mangaung community, especially to the poor and marginalized. It is a haven for the sick who cannot be taken care of at home. These patients are taken to clinics and hospitals and fed by the Centre.

The Centre uses trained care givers to tend to the sick, retired nurses to manage the health department, as well as doctors, mostly from our church. The Sisters also take care of orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) in the surrounding area. In the past the centre was funded by overseas donors but as has happened with many of our churches, the funds have run dry due to economic challenges and many other factors. It is against this background that the Catholic Women's League

felt it necessary to offer support by helping the children identified by the centre to celebrate Christmas in a special way. CWL bought Christmas clothes and school shoes and on the 3rd of December threw a party for the children. They were treated to a delicious lunch and party packs. Thanks to all members who made this day possible by spreading joy, love and giving hope to those who are less fortunate.

"A joyful heart is the normal result of a heart burning with love. She gives most who gives with joy". (Mother Teresa)

On the 10th of December CWL attended a year-end function organised by the parish committee.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN

DIOCESAN

EASTER GREETING

As this is the day when our Lord rose from the dead let us remind ourselves that Easter is also a time of love and hope. Easter reminds us that hope should never be lost for as dark as the road may seem, light always lies at the end of it. May all your prayers be fulfilled and may wonderful blessings be upon you and all your loved ones on this very special day.

Happy Easter to all our members and families.

Rebecca Weir, Diocesan President, Cape Town

DAY OF REFLECTION



An extremely spiritually uplifting Day of Reflection was held at Rondebosch on Saturday the 22nd of October 2022. Our guest speaker was our Diocesan Chaplain, Father Nkululeko, who had everyone spellbound by his exceptionally motivational message. It was such a blessing to be together as CWL sisters, some of whom had travelled quite a distance to be with us. A picnic lunch enabled everyone to catch up and socialise. A huge thank you to Rebecca Weir, our Diocesan President for organising the day and to everyone who attended.

END OF YEAR THANKSGIVING MASS

A special end of year Thanksgiving Mass was held at the very beautiful Immaculate Conception church in Parow in December. Father Nkululeku's message was spiritually uplifting, as always, and the service was enjoyed by all. It was followed by a 'bring and share' tea in the hall. Our last big get together was in 2019 and it was wonderful to enjoy the fellowship of being together again.

ELSIES RIVER

The ladies from Elsies River CWL recently held a very successful High Tea as a fund-raising event. It was a huge success. Thank you to all the ladies who put in so much effort to make this occasion so very special. It was Elsies River's first event and will definitely not be our last. Well done ladies.

GOODWOOD



Goodwood CWL ladies paid a visit to housebound residents at Libertas Retirement Centre where they chatted and interacted with the residents. Each resident was given a handmade decade of the rosary, a candle and a prayer card. We said the rosary with the residents in the frail care centre, who were very appreciative of the time we spent with them.

With the help of some parishioners we packed 128 food parcels for the needy to be distributed in time for Christmas. The food items were generously donated by the parishioners.

KUILSRIVER

The ladies of Kuilsriver CWL held a successful High Tea as a fundraising event for their seniors on the 6th of November. It was very well attended by parishioners, family and friends. Their priest and deacons were also there. Everyone received a gift of a lovely plant. A wonderful time was had by all.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN

MACASSAR



Elizabeth Mitchell (2nd from left) celebrated her 70th birthday on our Day of Recollection, pictured here with her CWL sisters from Macassar. Happy birthday Elizabeth and may God bless you abundantly in the coming year. Macassar held a Rosary Rally recently, followed by a get-together of the ladies. A wonderful day was had by all.

PLUMSTEAD



CWL Plumstead held a bingo afternoon to raise funds for their parish. Great fun was had by all.

We sponsored goodie boxes for 40 children from the Naruna Estate Feeding Scheme in Plumstead. The red and green boxes were all hand decorated by the daughter of one of our CWL members. The lady who runs this scheme, Beverley Strong, is in the middle of the photograph. She arranged a Christmas party and lunch for about 80 people, including children, on the 17th of December. She feeds these people on a regular basis and has been doing it since lockdown.

Plumstead CWL supports her where we can.

We donated stationery items to St Anthony's School in Heathfield on the 26th of January. Items included pens, pencils, pencil crayons, maths sets, rulers, glue sticks to name but a few. This is the third year that Plumstead CWL has been able to do this.

RETREAT



Retreat celebrated Priesthood Sunday at the 10:30am Mass on Sunday the 23rd of October.

CWL honoured their priests and deacon with a little gift to say thank you for everything they do for the parish. Deacon Prince bestowed a blessing on them and asked our Lord to always be with them.

Some of the CWL ladies visited Nazareth House. The seniors enjoyed their company and the chats immensely, and the ladies were invited to come and visit again. They were so excited about the toiletries which CWL presented to them. The ladies also had fun with the children who are cared for there. A great time was had by all.

ROCKLANDS

CWL Rocklands spent a Friday morning at a safehouse in Rocklands, spoiling the children with a Christmas party and gifts, and they also took them some groceries. The children were so happy to have Father Christmas there. The CWL ladies had a lovely morning with them.

TABLE VIEW



The Table View evening group visited Du Noon Clinic in November to hand over a batch of 27 teddies made by their group. Mrs Mhaka, the social worker, was absolutely delighted to receive them. These will be given to comfort traumatised kiddies who are brought into the Clinic.

The ladies from the Table View evening group packed 20 beautiful Christmas boxes of goodies for the elderly, to be given to Nazareth Care. Thank you for your generosity and commitment ladies. There will be some very happy elderly folk this Christmas thanks to you. Nazareth Care was delighted to be receiving them.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN

The ladies of the morning group had an 'end of year' lunch on the 23rd of November. Thank you for all your hard work and commitment, ladies.



The morning and evening groups got together for a year end breakfast at The Village Place Café. It was a lovely end to the year. Our parish secretary, Melanie Pisanello, also joined us. Thank you to all the ladies for their hard work during the year and to Melanie for all your assistance. They wished all CWL members a very blessed Christmas.

VREDENBURG

The ladies from Vredenburg CWL handed out sanitary towels to the girls at Caritas School in Vredenburg on Wednesday the 30th of November. The ladies had a wonderful morning spending time with the girls, and their donation was most welcome.

WYNBERG

Wynberg CWL celebrated Priesthood Sunday lunch with their amazing spiritual priests, Fr Manuel and Fr Jackson.

ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

DIOCESAN

The executive committee of Durban Diocesan continues to meet once a month, followed two weeks later by the Diocesan Council meeting and Mass on the second Tuesday of each month. Council meetings are now open to all members. At the suggestion of our Spiritual Director, Father Sifiso, Durban Diocesan has adopted the Motto "OUR LEAGUE OF HOPE" for 2023. Loretta Ndalu continues to be the driving force of our Caring Fund, ensuring the monies are used effectively. Many worthy recipients have benefitted from donations of food, adult diapers and clothing. A collection for 'Cuppa for Cansa' was taken up at the October meeting.

All branches were encouraged to meet and support the seminarian they have been assigned during his Christmas break from college and his holiday time. The executive committee ended 2022 with a Bring and Share Christmas lunch. The caretakers and secretaries of Pinetown Parish (Durban Diocesan's home) and Fr Sifiso were thanked for all they do and gifted with special treats. The year 2023 got off to a good start with executive committee members from all branches attending a workshop. The duties of all portfolios were explained in detail and members left feeling more knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the roles they carry out in their branches of the League. We look forward to a fruitful year for everyone

ST FRANCIS XAVIER, BLUFF



On Saturday 22nd October we inducted our youngest member, Brianne Frankson, seen here with Merryse Ahrens and Fr Mike Folly. Brianne is in Matric and is the daughter of our former Vice-President Cathy Frankson. Brianne has been helping at CWL events and projects since she was in primary school. We are so happy that she has made the choice to become a full-time member of CWL and we look forward to her introducing the next generation of members to the League. We wish her many happy years of Charity, Work and Loyalty.

ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, PINETOWN



The last quarter of our year in Pinetown branch saw everything go according to our year plan.

Our AGM took place on the 1st of October and the following were elected: Lynne Manica, President; Dominique Thompson, Vice-President; Gloria Mwenye, Secretary; Theresa Matsvei, Treasurer; Lungile Mchunu, News Correspondent; Delise Addis, co-opted member.

Special prayers were said for Fr Sfiso on Priesthood Sunday, and he was given a gift (chocolates and card) and taken out for lunch on the 3rd of November. He was delighted with the choice of restaurant as he seldom gets the opportunity to dine out.

Our Christmas hamper was a very successful fundraiser, as was our cake sale in October. We are continuing with funeral teas and are grateful for donations received from these. We were able to donate 30 goodie bags of toiletries to the Open Door Crisis Centre (a place of safety for abused women). Nomusa Zulu continues with her feeding scheme.

We held our end-of-year function on the 3rd of December, wonderfully organized by Dina Ndlovu and her family. Amazing food, impeccable decorations, much laughter and joy which will echo in our hearts all year through. Fr Sfiso and two seminarians joined us. We all went home with wonderful gifts. We thank Lynne our branch president for being the mother to us all, and Delise for making us special on our birthdays with beautiful cards. With God on our side we are ready for 2023.

WENTWORTH



In August 2022 the following members received long service awards: 10 years – Priscilla Jettoo, Desiree Aliphon, Flo Manto, Theresa Samuels and Michelle Arnold; 25 years - Rita Parker, Katy Ferrer and Betty Parker; 30 years – Pat Parker; 40 years - Mavis July and Colette Wyngardt. In October we conducted a membership drive after all the weekend masses. We made a donation in thanksgiving towards the ordination of Deacon Quinton Manto, the husband of our treasurer Flo. For Priest's Day, we visited our 2 parish priests with a donation, delicious lunch and a beautiful cake.

We also said goodbye to our parish priest, Fr Sithabiso Sisithole, who guided our community through the difficult time when Covid 19 was ravaging our community. He has gone on to work at the office of the OMI Provincial in JHB.

Donations from all our members enabled us to serve an amazing Christmas lunch to the elderly in our Wentworth community. This was a beautiful day, with music and entertainment,

and great fun was had by all. In January our parish welcomed our new priest, Fr Musi Madladla. We pray that we continue to grow in our relationship with God under Fr Musi's leadership.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA, DURBAN NORTH



On the 4th of October we received two wheelchairs from Quasa in exchange for our collection of bottle caps and bread tags. We donated one to Cansa for their day clinic and the other to a parishioner at the mission station of Corpus Christi (upper Tongaat), who is paralyzed. Natasha from Cansa delivered a full black bag of tags to us for our wheelchair project.

Andile and Ingrid handed out sanitary towels to the Chesterville informal settlement. We continue to support the Grow Project by collecting jars of any size. At our monthly meeting in October the ladies sewed up knitted squares - many hands make light work! These squares are now blankets for the ongoing SVDP winter project. We are happy to have two new members, Jeslain Savey and Margaret Beechy.

Our parish priest Father Justin received a gift from us for Priesthood Sunday which was on the 30th of October. Our annual Christmas party for the children at King Dinizulu hospital (TB Ward) was held on the 22nd of November. We played with the children and did face painting, and we provided eats and Christmas gifts for each child. It was a special morning enjoyed by all including the staff.

During the second week of December our nativity was displayed in Durban North. We also donated biscuits for the SVDP Christmas gift project. Father Justin received a Christmas hamper from us for Christmas. Wylie House needed help with funding of stationery for the children. R5500.00 was received from various donors and was paid directly to the supplier for the stationery.

ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION



Our parish priest Fr Callistus celebrated the silver jubilee of his ordination. It was a very special occasion with Archbishop Jwara, the bishop of Marianhill and 20 priests attending the beautiful Mass. Congratulations Fr Callistus, we are privileged to have you as our parish priest.

ST CLEMENT

St Clement CWL members, together with other church leaders, were joined by the whole congregation in praying for our priest.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES, WESTVILLE



It is the tradition of the Westville branch to have an annual lunch every year. As most members have been housebound due to Covid 19 it was decided to re-convene and have the lunch in the parish hall with outside catering. Included at our gathering were parish priest Fr Desmond Nair, assistant priest Fr Wandile Cagwe and deacon Mark Wardell. CWL members decorated the tables. The branch prepared a toiletry hamper for our seminarian, Nkazumulo Shange, before he was due to return to Pretoria. The branch president, treasurer and news correspondent had lunch with the seminarian and presented the goodies from the members. We continue to pray for him and support him to be steadfast in his calling.

KWAMAME WASE LOURDES, KWAMASHU

To celebrate the day that Jesus was born, the CWL organized a Christmas party for the children. Excitement was all over their faces, and every child received a party pack with a toy inside.

SACRED HEART, TONGAAT



The CWL hosted a back-to-school drive and donated school uniforms to 6 students in church from different schools. Each student received a packet which included school shoes, socks, trousers, shirts, pullovers, school jersey and a school bag. Hebrews 13:16 states "Don't forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices."

ST MICHAEL'S, RED HILL

We hope all had a joyous and blessed Christmas. We are delighted that Gloria Chateau has become our President and we welcome Barbara Isaacs as our Vice President. We thank our treasurer, Natalie Clothier, and Cynthia Rai our secretary, for doing a sterling job for our branch. We also thank members who attend meetings regularly.

Marlene Abrahams (news correspondent) with CWL spiritual director Fr Julian Davey.



ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

MARY IMMACULATE QUEEN PRE-SCHOOL VISIT TO THE ZOO



On the 27th of October children from MIQ had their first visit to the Zoo since Covid. The excitement of the children was a sight to behold, according to CWL members Busi Mhlangu and Ann Blower. Branches contribute to the cost of the bus and eats. It is an educational and year-end outing which is so important for their pre-school learning. Lunch brought quiet time for teachers and children. A big thank you to all the teachers and especially Bryanston branch, for a successful outing.

EAST RAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



ERRC held their last executive meeting of 2022 at St Paul the Apostle.

The ladies of St Francis Assisi prepared to welcome their new priest.

Sacred Heart members prepared cosmetic bags for young girls.

St Lambert's CWL hosted a lunch for the physically disabled at Cheshire House in Daveyton.

The members of St Joseph, Primrose, had a breakfast meeting.

San Salvador ladies enjoyed a Christmas lunch together.



ST DOMINIC'S, BOKSBURG



CWL President Sophia Dooley presented a hamper on behalf of the branch to their parish priest, Fr Graham Bouwer, who was overjoyed at their thoughtful gift.

ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

JOHANNESBURG REGIONAL COUNCIL

Members of St Theresa's, Edenvale, gathered for the Rotating Rosary Crusade. They held their Christmas lunch on the 7th of December at the Dros.

Twenty members attended Victory Park Tuesday Group's lunch held at Anne Oberholzer's home in Craighall Park. Father Tony Daniels, the parish priest, was invited. A scrumptious lunch was enjoyed, followed by decadent desserts. Secret Santa gifts were most welcome with whoops of joy from members. Father Tony was also included. The afternoon ended with wine, coffee, tea and Christmas Cake and mince pies. A fitting end to a year of commitment and charitable works within our communities.



BRYANSTON



Bryanston CWL held a High Tea fundraiser in October 2022. Members dressed in their finery, with hats and glamorous outfits the order of the day. Spanish dancers had all cheering and clapping. A singer with a strong baritone voice kept members dancing between tables with renditions of tunes which included well known operatic songs. A motivational speaker gave us lots to think about. The High Tea spread was a feast to behold. An afternoon well spent with laughter, dancing, food and camaraderie! Pictured are "The Priest, The President and The Pooch".

(Parish priest Father Keith with Bryanston CWL President Di Watson and Fr's dog Portos).

SOUTH WEST RAND REGIONAL COUNCIL ST PETER CLAVER, PIMVILLE



Members of St Peter Claver, Pimville, gave groceries to underprivileged parishioners so they could enjoy the Christmas festivities with their families. The hand that gives is joy forever in God's paradise.

The parish had a workshop on vegetable farming in December, facilitated by Grace Pule from the Department of Agriculture. The workshop was attended by 49 people. The following topics were addressed: Soil management, seasons of planting, benefits of planting vegetables in your own yard, and information about a competition which the best 3 gardens would win.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA, DUBE

On the 21st of December four groups of Our Lady of Fatima Dube CWL members visited their adopted families to wish them a merry Christmas and donated food hampers to them.



ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

OUR LADY OF MERCY, EMDENI



Lenasia South shopped till they dropped, and their Christmas was made.

Summer comes with a lot of rain and that means the growth of vegetation is fast and can look untidy. With that in mind, we took it upon ourselves to clean the parish yard. Though it seemed a daunting task, we ladies tackled it head on. We were later joined by the men in our parish.

Charity begins at home, and on the 18th of December the meaning of the word CHARITY, resonated loudly in our hearts as a branch. Three of our members received food parcels so that they too can have a wonderful Christmas with their families. This was not the end of the charitable spirit of our group. On the 21st of December the branch extended the Christmas food parcel drive to the community, regardless of their denomination. Each member was asked to come with people they know in their respective community who are in need. Fifty people benefited from the projects. The 20th of December was a remarkable day as it saw an event that was simply out of this world. It was a free street Christmas Shop called AS GOOD AS NEW. There were clothes from babies to adults. Community members of

ST. PHILLIP NERI, MOLETSANE



The Moletsane branch handed out a variety of vegetables to 75 elderly parishioners on the 18th of December. This was to encourage them to eat well to age gracefully. Also, and more importantly, to suggest clever ways to encourage young children in their homes to eat more veggies and get the same benefits.

We also donated R2500 to MANESA home-based care, which aims to assist caregivers in purchasing daily basic needs to provide good service in helping the sick. They take good care of the elderly in the parish and the surrounding areas. They are experienced, well trained and are passionate about doing this at no cost to the families. We also managed to individually donate the following equipment: high blood pressure machine, bed sore creams, First Aid kit, bandages, blood sugar monitor, surgical gloves and disposable aprons.

SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES, ORLANDO WEST



Every year in December CWL members buy vegetable hampers for needy families and deliver them before Christmas Day. On the 23rd of December twenty families from the community of Orlando West enjoyed their Christmas with seven colours.

BLESSED JOSEPH GERARD, FREEDOM PARK

At the first meeting for 2023, our branch members handed out stationery to children in the parish from grade R to grade 3

ST PIUS X, MOFOLO



Our little ones at the Wonke-Wonke Day Care Centre had their graduation party on the 10th of December at St Pius X, Mofolo. Parents were invited for the day. It was exciting to see children participating in different activities. Thanks to the teachers for their hard work. Fr. Monwabisi Ntshudu's ordination celebration took place on the 17th of December at the cathedral. A thanksgiving Mass was celebrated on the 18th of December at St Pius X. CWL members gave Fr. Ntshudu a beautiful vestment as a gift.

ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

ST MARTIN, ORLANDO WEST



Members attended the SWR thanksgiving mass at Regina Mundi on the 21st of January 2023.

The South West Region spiritual director, Father Petrus Shiya, encouraged members with readings from Luke 2:16-21 and Colossians 3:12-21. CWL members must be ready and hasten to serve God. They must be willing servants like Joseph. We are God's chosen ones and are called to evangelise, to work together with love as a team in promoting the spirit of togetherness.

Vaal Regional Council



Long Service awards were given to Annie Dierx (on the left) for 30 years in the League, and to Isabel Mendes (on the right) for 20 years, at Saint Francis of Assisi in Vanderbijlpark. The awards were held on the 17th of September 2022.

VRC held a leadership workshop at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Vereeniging on the 28th of January 2023. The main purpose of the workshop was to uplift and encourage members of the League to not be afraid of taking on positions at their respective branches. It has come to the attention of the VRC that most ladies do not want the responsibility of serving on committees because of the fear of failure. The workshop was a success; it was well attended and members who were there gained insight into leadership roles.

ST BENEDICT THE BLACK, SEBOKENG



St Benedict the Black re-visited the orphanage at De Deur on the 5th of February 2023. They presented the children with food parcels and warm clothes for winter. The children were very happy to see the ladies and they also enjoyed the snacks that were served to them. The ladies had taken on this project to support Fr Henry, who has since been re-assigned elsewhere, and they feel it must be an ongoing effort. Fr Henry's good work continues in his absence.

WEST RAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

The ladies of Victory Park donated lovely warm and colourful children's beanies to the CWL project on the West Rand.

DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY

DIOCESAN



The diocese had its handover meeting in November 2022 in Mafikeng. The office will be run by the Taung Deanery. The following were elected to the committee: Alexandria Seodigeng, President; Lydia Seoposengwe, Vice-President; Martha Mothupi, Secretary; Gloria Gaothuse, Treasurer; Brenda Majaki, News Correspondent. Eva Kaekae and Vivian Mosiwane were elected as additional members. Our ladies also participated in the Radio Veritas "A Re Rapeleing" programme in November.

DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY

KIMBERLEY DEANERY

ST BONIFACE



We hold a prayer meeting every first Thursday of the month and monthly meetings are held every 3rd Saturday of the month. We also accommodate the sick and elderly by holding meetings at their homes as per requests from members, to keep them up to date with events and decisions.

The following new members were enrolled on the 6th of November 2022 at the 08:00am Mass: Nyawata Cecilia, Hammer Masego, Matsime Sandra, Bok Shadile.

On the same day, a 30-year long service award was presented to Mme Thammy Selebogo for her commitment and dedication to living out the motto of the CWL.

FATIMA SHRINE



On the 17th of December the ladies had a "Spoil your Priest" bring and share with parish priest Fr Molefe Koloi at his presbytery. Fr Koloi discussed with the ladies the diocesan intentions for the church in 2023.

On the 23rd of October 2022, two ladies were enrolled, one recruit was blessed and branches within the deanery joined the celebration.

Mass was conducted by a guest priest from the Diocese of Gaborone, Fr Akofang Mantu, who gave a spiritual reflection before Mass.

We are delighted to announce the marriage of one of our members, Ms Beverley Namisa, on the 30th of December.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Ladies raised funds to be able to undertake various charity ventures as well supporting the Cathedral in performing routine maintenance work. In the year 2022, they were able to replace the old kitchen tiles with new porcelain floor tiles. They also provided the new priest with linen.

From the beginning of December 2022 up to January 2023, the ladies embarked on a project of collecting new school shoes for distribution to a school to be identified. These are some of the pairs of school shoes that they have been collecting. The ladies bade farewell to Fr Victor and presented him with a framed picture.

On the 18th of December 2022, Fr Kopano Mosala was presented with a gift from the CWL members after he celebrated his first mass in the cathedral following his ordination.

Ladies treated Fr Sakhia in October when they invited him to the Batsumi Guest house.

ST. PETER THE APOSTLE



The branch holds meetings every second Sunday of the month.

In October the ladies celebrated Priesthood Sunday, where they prayed for their parish priest and gifted him a spa voucher. They then held a Cancer Awareness talk conducted by a medical professional to inform the male congregants about prostate cancer and they served lunch after the talk.

The ladies born in October gifted the church tiles for their birth month. One of the ladies also sold bandanas and used the profit made to purchase an iron and an ironing board for the church. In November, the ladies continued to visit and pray for the elderly, and in December 2022 hosted a Christmas lunch in the church.

DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY

ST. CHARLES LWANGA



On the 4th of December the ladies paid a surprise visit to one of their sick parishioners, Mme Eva. They prayed the rosary and then the chairperson wished her well and food parcels were given to her. The family was very happy and thanked the branch for the groceries.

On the 16th of December the ladies prepared dinner for the aged and sick. Before the meal was served, holy Mass was celebrated by our parish priest Fr Jeremiah Mahatlheng. Afterwards all the parishioners were invited to the hall and dinner was served. Although the dinner was for the aged and sick everyone who was in church was served with food and dessert. Food parcels were also given to the needy and unemployed parishioners. On the 21st of December the League, accompanied by the Catholic Men's Association, visited the Resthaven Old Age home. Holy Mass was conducted by Fr Jeremiah Mahatlheng. He anointed the residents with holy oil and blessed them individually. They were then treated with refreshments prepared by the branch and all the care workers were showered with gifts. Juice bottles were also donated to the residents.

One of our auxiliary members, Mrs Nompitizelo Sekate, passed away at the age of 82 and was laid to rest on the 28th of January. Mrs Sekate was one of our active elders in the League and was living at the Resthaven Home for the Aged. May perpetual light shine upon her and all the departed souls of the League.

DIOCESE OF KLERKSDORP



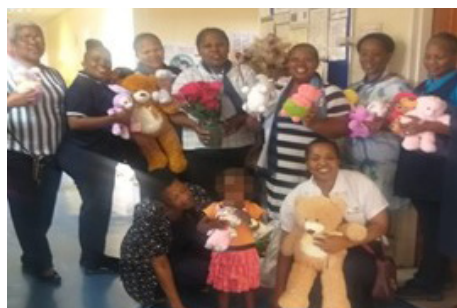
The blazing African sun could not stop them, nor the soaring temperatures. The bishop had called, and the call had to be heeded by all, including CWL. The day was of prayer, of unity, and of joy. All sodalities of the young and old came together for holy Mass, which was preceded by introductions of all sodalities and their leadership, Holy Rosary led by different sodalities including CWL, and confessions. The aim of this gathering was to bring all sodalities together and is set to be an annual event. After the Mass, Bishop Phalana encouraged everyone to stay and serve in their sodalities. He emphasized the importance of being loyal to the church. We are members of the church before we become members of sodalities. He stressed

that we must pay our dues to the church, then to the sodalities. He encouraged members of sodalities to work together, to remain united and to have clear lines in terms of the do's and don'ts. The bishop advised those in attendance to avoid hopping from one sodality to another. He indicated that such people usually are a problem and tend to sow divisions in sodalities. He thanked everyone for heeding his call to come together.

CALVARY, IKAGENG

Too often the work of members of the church, their commitment and their selflessness in working for the church go unnoticed. Not so at Calvary parish, where Fr Gaone Ngwenya took the time to acknowledge elderly members of the church (including CWL members) who have over the years selflessly served the church in various ways. 6 CWL members, Bo Mme Kedibone Mothea, Odwa Ndayi, Olga Rakomane, Moipone Sebidi, Ikobeng Moloantsoa and Tshidi Mothudi, were awarded certificates alongside other members of the church on the 8th of January. We congratulate them and wish them good health and strength to continue with the Lord's work. Fr Ngwenya hopes the awards will encourage others to be devoted and to serve the Lord with loyalty and charitable deeds.

ST MICHAEL



Santa Claus came in the form of St Michael CWL ladies, who never fail to keep their annual appointment with the little patients at Potchefstroom Hospital. In 2022 the visit took place on the 11th of December. Since its inception in 2016, the ladies have never missed what they see as their obligation to put smiles on the faces of the children at the hospital. Not even Covid 19 could stop this annual gesture. On this visit they donated teddy bears to the children, whose little faces lit up upon receipt of the teddies, and in their little hearts gratitude was overflowing.

DIOCESE OF KLERKSDORP

CALVARY AND ST MICHAEL ON A RECRUITMENT DRIVE



The growth of CWL in the diocese is of utmost importance, not only in numbers but in deeds as well. For this reason, the League often embarks on a recruitment drive to help other women to find a "home" in the church, in the form of CWL. The aim is also to grow the seed of Charity amongst women.

On the 20th of November 2022, CWL ladies of Calvary and St. Michael visited Extension 11 in Ikageng and the beautiful church of St Louis Bertrand where Fr Mphosho is the parish priest. The ladies were welcomed with open arms and a beautiful holy Mass was celebrated for the feast of Christ the King.

After Mass, Fr Mphosho gave CWL president Mrs Monama a platform to present the purpose of the visit. After her skillful oratory and informative

presentation, 8 ladies declared an interest in joining the CWL. They are currently novices and are being guided by both the president and her deputy through the League and its processes. They are Manki Mabe, Gloria Lekgetho, Puseletso Selebogo, Esther Marekwa, Tshidi Kobue, Emelia Tatai, Alice Johnson and Emmah Bobi.

We wish the ladies a pleasant journey in CWL and a positive contribution to charitable activities.

DIOCESE OF MARIANHILL



St Wendolin's CWL visited the Mother Teresa Old Age Home at Chatsworth on the 24th of July 2022.



CWL members from St Murumba's parish with food parcels for the community affected by floods. We celebrated Priesthood Sunday with our parish priest Fr Makhaye on the 30th of October.



CWL members from St Charles Lwanga Parish, Umhlathuzana deanery, serving people who were affected by the floods.



CWL members of Sts Mary and Anne prepared food parcels for senior citizens after the lunch they had served them. On the 25th of September they honoured those members who had been in the League for more than 10 years.

On the 11th of September the Uganda Martyrs' CWL branch in the uMlazi deanery honoured their members who had 20 and 40 years of service in the League.

Our Lady of Sorrows' branch, uMlazi deanery, welcomed new members into the League.



St Alphonse's CWL members celebrated Priesthood Sunday with their parish priest Fr Mbhele on the 30th of October 2022.

DIOCESE OF OUDTSHOORN

STS PETER & PAUL, GEORGE



We visited the Phambili Shelter in September with donations of clothing, household goods and stationery. We also made our usual Christmas visit with individual gifts for the children and mothers as well as lots of sweet goodies. Our "Luxury Basket Raffle" was generously supported, and we were able to make donations to our St. Vincent de Paul branch as well as towards the charitable work done at the Oratory in Oudtshoorn. We also continue to help with their feeding scheme by supplying soup ingredients on a regular basis. Our services were again required to serve tea after a funeral of one of our parishioners.

ST VINCENT PALLOTTI, PACALTS DORP



We celebrated our year end with our parish priest, Fr Charles. It was a lot of fun as we exchanged gifts. We also handed out Love Baskets to the needy in our parish. We bought school and sports uniforms for two high school students. We are looking forward to exciting new projects for 2023.

DIOCESE OF POLOKWANE

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL



The CWL presented a 45-litre microwave to Rev. Fr. Boniface Mashiane on the 16th of December 2022, when he celebrated the 35th anniversary of his priesthood. On the 30th of October 2022 a new branch was launched at Our Lady of Fatima Mission. In the picture are the parish priest Rev. Fr. Godfrey Sekhaolelo and new member, Elizabeth Matabane.

DIOCESE OF PORT ELIZABETH (GQEBERHA)

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, SOMERSET EAST

The past couple of years have had so many challenges, tears and heartache. The world we knew has changed, things were overwhelming, but our branch members did not despair. We heard that voice calling, "Whom shall I send?" And we answered with certainty, "Here we are, send us."

We managed to support various families with food parcels, not only focusing on Catholics. Prayers and spiritual support played the biggest role in bringing hope in the very hopeless situation. We took care of our parish priest, Fr Ken Jones, where required. We prayed the Rosary in our own homes due to the restrictions. We learnt so much in this time of emptiness; not to slow down but to cling to Jesus who can make us whole to help others. So come on trailblazers, let's do it!

ST JOHN'S, BEDFORD

In September we had a fundraiser to fix the guttering of the church. This October we offered the Joyful Mysteries every Sunday morning before mass, especially for Fr Ken, our parish priest and the members of the church.

We received two bags of clothing from an Anglican priest in Port Elizabeth, and this helped us with our fundraising for the guttering of the church.

MATER DEI

As our branch membership was depleted with our treasurer being in New Zealand and several others unavailable through family responsibilities and illness, we unfortunately had to cancel a fundraiser planned for the 6th of November.

Two of our branch members attended the Jubilee Lunch at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Kabega.

Our Corporate Mass was held on the 28th of October with Fr. Ludwe officiating.

Sadly, our member Dorothy's daughter Glynnis passed away in October after many years of suffering. Her funeral took place on the 31st of October.

Yvonne Wong will be leaving our branch in Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth) to settle in Cape Town. We will miss her very much. She is a hard-working, cheerful and very reliable CWL Member, and losing her is like a broken link in a chain. With heavy hearts we say, "farewell Yvonne" and we wish you a wonderful future in Cape Town.

To end 2022 we celebrated our corporate Mass on the 26th November with Fr. Eldred Davis officiating. We then attended the Diocesan Mass at Mater Dei also with Fr. Eldred (as our Diocesan Chaplain) on the 30th of November, and we thank him for this. Our very popular parish priest, Fr. Ludwe Jayiya is so busy that we were unable to arrange a date to spoil him for Priesthood Sunday. We gave him a monetary gift instead and combined it with a birthday gift. We thank him for all he does for us, and for the love he shows us in his caring.

Our much-anticipated diocesan CWL Christmas Party was hit by load shedding which delayed the start. However, with a dancing group to give us an exhibition, followed by an excellent DJ, our lively CWL Ladies got the atmosphere going as usual, and we had a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Thank you to our hosts.

Our president celebrated a birthday and our oldest member, Maud Tucker, still active at 94, received a birthday blessing.

We welcomed two new members, Veronica Spiers-Daya and Gloria Meyer. They have already proved themselves as reliable hard workers and we are delighted to have them join us in the League.

Before summer ends, we will sort our winter clothing (and any blankets we have) for our next distribution when the weather becomes cooler.

SACRED HEART



On the 16th of October the parish bade farewell to Fr Runaine at a function after the 8am mass. The parishioners gathered in the hall and all sodalities had an opportunity to wish him well. CWL set up and served tea to all the guests and contributed koeksisters and muffins as part of the eats. It was a very emotional and blessed event and a fitting way to say goodbye to a much-loved priest who has left his mark on Sacred Heart. A donation to charity made by Doreen and James Forlee through the family business, Hunters Spar, was delivered on Friday the 21st of October. In the evening members gathered to apportion the goods to various charities. This was by far the most generous donation this year and the CWL was able to assist 10 different charities as well as 13 families in need. We also supplied 2 animal shelters with bags of dog and cat food. Thank you to the Forlee family for this very kind and generous donation. May

God continue to bless them abundantly. Our ladies in group 2 served sandwiches and cooldrink to the needy on the 22nd of October.

Priesthood Sunday took place on the 30th of October. The League blessed Fr Lubabalo with a monetary gift as a small token of thanks and appreciation to mark the special day.

Following our last meeting for 2022 in November last year, we had a very eventful festive season. It started with the parish senior citizens' breakfast on 8 December. Our ladies prepared and served the eats for 70 plus guests. The hall was decorated with Christmas trimmings and the guests received party favours to take home. It was a blessed and beautiful celebration.

The annual CWL Christmas party was held at The Italian Club on the 5th of December and hosted by San Francesco CWL. It was an Italian affair and the ladies enjoyed spending the evening together with our parish priest and all the other branches to end off the 2022 year of ministry.

The Love Box outreach went ahead again this year. The members chose a child from The Sparrow home and filled shoe boxes with essentials and a gift and treats. An anonymous donor graciously gifted CWL with essentials such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, face clothes and much more for all the boxes. The outreach was extended to parishioners who could fill a love box for pupils from 2 schools identified for the programme. The boxes were very well received and every recipient was delighted at their gift. Thank you to everyone involved.

Beverley identified a crèche in Kuyga where there is a great need of assistance. Valerie the house mother takes care of 18 little ones daily. We donated food items and knitted items which were very well received. Hopefully we can continue with this outreach.

We prepared festive packs for the needy families of the parish. Six families received packs containing luxury items such as chips, sweets, cool drink, custard and jelly etc. Hopefully it went some way to make the festive holidays more enjoyable.

Our Jubilee family day on the 22nd of January 2023 was themed "Carnival". Our ladies helped to prepare salads and served coffee and koeksisters on the morning after mass. The day was a huge success and lots of fun was had by all.

We extend our condolences to Ros whose brother-in-law Ronnie passed away this month after a short illness. We also remember in our prayers Janet's brother-in-law who is ill at the moment.

First Holy Communion for 6 communicants took place on the 13th of November and Sandra purchased cakes, cooldrinks and treats.

The International Food Evening was held in our San Francesco church grounds on Saturday the 26th of November. All of us "old ducks" baked up a storm for our cake and pudding stall.

Unfortunately the senior citizen's function which was due to take place on the 10th December had to be cancelled, but all members contributed Christmas pies which were handed out to them 2 weeks before Christmas.



The year 2022 ended off well for us. Nine members and Fr Davis attended the Christmas party at the Italian Club hosted by San Francesco's CWL. The music was great and we had a wonderful time.

On the 18th of December a healing service was held for the sick and the elderly. We served them refreshments after the service and handed out a small gift bag to each one.

ARCHDIOCESE OF PRETORIA

PARTICIPATION IN THE RADIO VERITAS PROGRAMME



On the 2nd of February 2023 we were invited by Mme Khosi Maloka of the Archdiocese of Johannesburg to participate in the Radio Veritas A Re Rapeleng program. The theme chosen by the main presenter, Mme Dudu Ngidi, was: Are We Ready to Encounter God in our Lives?

The theme linked well with the Gospel which focused on the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. We celebrated this important feast of personal encounters with sisters from different branches of the Archdiocese, reflecting on the Scripture readings and unpacking the theme.

This theme required soul searching and deeper understanding of one's relationship with God. We acknowledge that God meets us in different ways, anywhere and at any time and these are life-changing encounters. Malachi speaks to us about the coming of the Lord.

Who can stand firm when the Lord appears? We are challenged to think of the beauty of the coming of our Lord. Are we ready to be refined everyday of our lives? Will the Lord find us ready?

From the Gospel, we see two elderly faithful people, Simeon and Anna, encountering Jesus. Mary also encountered Simeon. We learnt about our Lady's obedience, purity, and humility. Even though Mary was born without sin and did not commit sin, in humility she still goes through the ceremony and provides offerings for her purification and forgiveness of sins. Would you have submitted yourself knowing very well that you are pure?

We observed that Mary and Joseph only brought 2 pigeons as their offerings. Clearly, the Lord of Hosts became human in a materially poor family and lived among the poor. God commands us to give generously to the less fortunate and to speak up on their behalf. This is at the very core of our existence as Christians and as the CWL. God needs individuals who will avail themselves to do His will and do it cheerfully, willingly, and generously. Are you that individual?



It has become the norm in the Archdiocese for the CWL to hold its pre-Lenten retreat early in the year. It offers us an opportunity to consecrate ourselves to prayer and penance in preparation for the Lent season. This year's retreat, held on the 4th of February, was facilitated by our chaplain Fr Thomas Vanderkunnel under the theme: Body of Christ. We were reminded that the Church is the Body of Christ. We become the Body of Christ by receiving the Body of Christ. Fr Thomas asked us: Do we go to church to receive the Body of Christ or to ask for miracles?

We know that prayer and devotion are the gifts that nourish us. As women of faith, we must pray constantly because as we go down on our knees, God will stand up for us. Like the woman with a haemorrhage, the Church is bleeding with lack of true devotion to the Word of God. CWL is bleeding with unhappiness, disloyalty, lack of commitment and trust. Let us allow the Church to touch Jesus. It was indeed a wonderful day spent praying, reflecting and pondering on the questions posed to us by Fr Thomas. We are grateful to the Evangelism Committee that put together a very spiritually nurturing programme which included confession, adoration and holy Mass.

CHURCH OF THE PRESENTATION, MONTANA

Montana CWL took advantage of Priesthood Sunday to welcome their new priest, Fr Patrick Rakeketsi, to the Church of the Presentation with a sumptuous lunch. Montana branch members kicked off 2023 with a retreat to reflect and to recharge for the year ahead.

HOLY TRINITY, OLIFANTSFONTEIN



CWL made a donation of food on the 16th of December 2022 to a family whose house was destroyed by fire.

We attended the Diocesan retreat on the 4th of February 2023 in Pretoria North. We held an induction ceremony for two of our new members, Zandi and Bertha, on the 5th of February 2023. The branch hosted fellow CWL sisters of Our Lady of The Sacred Heart to celebrate with the newly inducted members, following a beautiful homily by Fr. Julius Katjipa entitled 'Be like salt that is bitter but when added to food it brings good taste. Be the light that will shine to our League and community as a whole.'

ARCHDIOCESE OF PRETORIA

CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART



The CWL Cathedral branch supports the retired nuns of the Handmaids of Christ the Priest Order. During the festive season we spent some quality time with the retired nuns. We bought groceries, prepared special meals for them and brought special gifts for all, including Fr Tshepang and Brother. One of the CWL sisters was generous with her resources and bought special shoes for them all. The nuns were singing, laughing, dancing to the music. They are always happy to see CWL sisters visiting and spending time with them, and they love sitting under the tree and giving us words of wisdom and encouragement.

We hosted a breakfast farewell for Fr Morweng at The Blue Crane Restaurant in Muckleneuk. He had served the Cathedral from 2020 during the outbreak of Covid19 and lockdown. We met him through his voice notes on WhatsApp delivering his homilies to parishioners. A loving person, supportive and hardworking, he did a lot for the Cathedral in the short period of time he served us. Amongst those present were Rev Deacon Thulani and two special guests from Botswana, Sr Gaone and Sr Bame, who belong to the Congregation of the Sisters of Calvary. Father has been posted back home to Botswana and we wish him God's blessings in his new parish. He will be dearly missed and as sisters we plan to pay him a visit in his home country. We adopted Relebogile Primary School in Themba in 2022. We started by giving them toiletries. During that visit we realized that most of the children's shoes were torn, and during the report back at our monthly meeting we resolved to undertake a project, School Shoe Drive. We managed to get sponsorship and donations from members to make this project a success. We bought shoes for the whole school from grade 1 to grade 7, a total number of 292 children. We delivered the shoes to the school on Friday the 3rd of February 2023 and surprised the kids, who were delighted to receive brand new pairs of shoes. The principal reported that some of them were so excited they mentioned that they would be wearing their new shoes to church!

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, PRETORIA NORTH



St John the Baptist Parish and CWL Pretoria North Branch celebrated double blessings on Priesthood Sunday as this also fell on the day Fr Jeremiah (current parish priest) marked his 10-year anniversary as a priest. This was an opportune moment for the ladies of the League to meditate on commitment and fellowship in the church, taking the lead from their spiritual leader. This was a time to come together in thanksgiving for the beautiful sacraments and the privilege to partake in them as part of the Catholic family. Vocations can only thrive with the support of the entire Catholic family and the CWL.

A new branch executive was elected in November 2022. They are: Nomaxabiso Tat, President; Refiloe Moropola, Vice-President; Nancy Sono, Treasurer; Lerato Moshoeite, Vice-Treasurer; Denise Mokgoko, Secretary; Lerato Binca, News Correspondent.

We hosted the Pretoria Diocesan Council Pre-Lenten Retreat at St John the Baptist on the 4th of February 2023. CWL members across the Diocese gathered to ponder on their own meaning of the Body of Christ, their role in the church as individuals and as a League, their contribution to the journey of faith and their dedication to the Christian community.

Coming from the Christmas season where Jesus is born, walking through the passage of His uncomfortable growth pains, sacrifice and surrender to the will of God, it is important that we actively and continuously ask ourselves about our contribution to the Body of Christ, whether our willingness to sacrifice is influenced by our personal desires?

As we voyage towards Lent, how do we prepare our hearts to champion faith in action, or to action faith in our lives? So often it is extremely easy to expect rather than to do, to receive than to give, and again the CWL Chaplain reminded ladies who have committed and pledged to be members of the League to find their why; as they walk on thorns, what is it that they deeply stand for as discomfort is part of the Christian faith. Therefore, when all is said and done, if you had to be on trial for being a Christian, would you be found guilty?

CHURCH OF THE BEATITUDES, ZWAVELPOORT



On the 4th of December we held a Christmas party for the orphans of St John Convent in Bronkhorstspuit. We managed to do this through our partnerships with St Paulus Primary school and Christian Brothers College Mount Edmund (CBC). St Paulus has been supporting us for some time now and they assisted us by supplying the children with beautifully wrapped gifts and school bags. CBC provided them with goodie bags and lunch (boerewors rolls). Our first Holy Communion class children from Zwavelpoort supplied the school shoes. One of our parishioners, Nkele Temane, baked a beautiful big cake for the party. We then went out for our own Christmas party where we exchanged gifts among ourselves. What an awesome evening it was, filled with joy and laughter.

ARCHDIOCESE OF PRETORIA

ST AUGUSTINE, SILVERTON BRANCH



Although 2022 got off to a slow start because of COVID our year ended with a bang. In November we held two fundraising activities, the Jumble Sale and, the highlight, our High Tea for Ladies. The theme was "Women, what fills your cup..." We had different speakers advising women how to fill their cup with the beauty of God. Our committed team was led by our current Deputy President. All the ladies put a lot of effort into the activity. Those who attended described it as a fun-filled and unforgettable day. The dress code was "Hats and Heels". The ladies really looked stunning! In November we celebrated Priesthood Sunday and our parish priest's birthday combined. We treated our parish priest, two of his fellow Comboni Order priests and two seminarians to a sumptuous meal. The cutting of the cake was the highlight of the day. In

December we visited St Alphonso's, an orphanage in Bronkhorstspuit, to do a needs analysis. We donated sanitary pads as well as books and toys for the children. We grieved and supported our fellow sisters in Pretoria North Branch during the loss of their fellow sister at St John the Baptist. In January we attended our first retreat of the year and invited other ladies in the parish. The retreat was directed by Fr Jerome, a Comboni priest. Our members came out energised, committed, and fulfilled for the year. We also continued with our weekly prayers and Novenas. We participated in the "A re Rapeleng" programme on Radio Veritas. We visited St Alphonso to donate school shoes for 36 children, and it was a spirit-filled experience. We continue to support the parish by serving in different ministries. We serve tea and goodies every 1st Sunday of the month. It brings a spirit of joy as we celebrate all the people who have birthdays that month.

ST JOHN FISHER, LYNNWOOD



The last branch meeting for the year was held on Saturday the 8th of October, in the form of a Christmas Tea, as our President Delene Holt was to undergo a major operation on the 8th of November. So, instead of our monthly meeting, we gathered in Our Lady's Chapel at 10:00am to pray for the success of Delene's operation.

The repository is manned by CWL members at the 4 Sunday Masses. CWL Members' Mass was held on Sunday, the 20th of November at the 6 pm mass. It was well attended, and members officiated with various duties, reading, minister of the eucharist and collection.

We continue to support Paul Jungnickel home, Keeping Girls at School and the Handbag Project.

Members and friends continue to supply us with Teddies, and Sandra will make little labels reading 'Jesus Loves You' to be tied around the teddys' necks.

Finally, we are able to assist at funerals again, which is our main source of income. To date we have had 5 funerals at our parish.

Food parcels have been delivered to both the Family Life Centre and

Eersterust. The Christmas parcels were delivered in January with additional sweets and biscuits.

We welcome Chantelle Howlett-Downing, Sharon Forrester and Charlotte Chellan as new members.

The Rosary will continue to be prayed on the 4th Tuesday of every month.

GIVING THANKS

I walk in thanksgiving for my life, for every heartbeat and every breath I take.

I walk in thanksgiving because I have so much to be thankful for –

My family, my brothers and sisters, their offspring and the parents we had who taught us about God, honesty, generosity and integrity. I walk in thanksgiving for the roof I have over my head when many people have not. Cars that transport us where we want to go, and our animals who give us so much joy. I walk in thanksgiving for the beauty of trees, flowers, the sea, the sky, the sun the moon, my church family and my community. For all this and more, I thank you God.

I walk in thanksgiving for the many blessings I receive every day of my life, especially those that I sometimes take for granted.

Forgive me Lord and forgive all my sins. Please give me the strength, health, courage, guidance, tenacity and good sense to continue to serve others as You have chosen me to do. Help me not to disappoint You but to be the person You want me to be.

I ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen. Jenny Parent, Archdiocese of Durban, 13 January 2023.

OBITUARIES

Adele Dawson, Cape Town



It is with great sadness that we inform you that Adele Dawson, a member of the League in Cape Town, passed away peacefully on the 9th of November.

Adele originally joined the CWL in Durban 33 years ago. In 2005 she moved back to Cape Town where she had grown up and joined the Bothasig branch as there was no branch in her parish at the time. A few months later, Adele took over as Bothasig Branch President.

Adele also served on the Diocesan Committee as news correspondent and was very active with her posts on CWL activities, keeping the National newsletter and the Southern Cross updated on League activities. When the CWL opened two branches in Table View (a morning and an evening group), Adele transferred her membership since it was closer to home and where she could also help in getting the morning group off the ground.

Adele was an accomplished seamstress, a hobby she loved and excelled at. She made many items of clothing for the Clothing Guild in Cape Town. Every item had her personal touch, and each was different. She also sewed for other charities in other parts of the country and just before she passed away, she had sent 47 appliquéd bags to her previous branch in Durban, to assist them with a project they were running. In 2014, at the National Conference in Port Elizabeth, Adele received an Honorary Life Membership award for going over and above her normal duties.

May the soul of our dear friend and League member, Adele, rest in eternal peace. Adele will be sorely missed.

Elizabeth Williams, Cape Town



It is with great sadness that we announce that Elizabeth Williams, one of the ladies who was newly enrolled at Elsie's River, has passed away. She was one of only 5 ladies who attended their very first meeting back in May 2019. She diligently attended all meetings without fail and she proudly wore her CWL badge to mass every Sunday. It is a profound and sad loss for the Elsie's River CWL and parishioners. She was a deeply spiritual person. She will be greatly missed. MHDSRIP.

Elizabeth Keane-Murphy, Durban



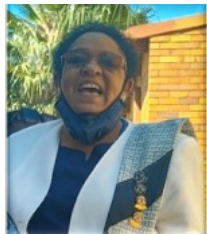
Elizabeth, known as Liz, Keane-Murphy had been a dedicated, hardworking member since 2011. In her quiet and unassuming manner she always exercised her Christian values and was such an asset to our branch. Not only was she our treasurer but a very dear friend to all of us. There is no doubt that her gentle soul has been lovingly received into our Father's house. She will be greatly missed.

Rose Penkler, Johannesburg



A correction to the entry in the previous issue of the newsletter: Rose Penkler (centre in the photo) was an Honorary Life member of the St Charles Parish in Victory Park where she served as branch president. She was an accomplished needlewoman and worked tirelessly making vestments and banners, particularly for the needy parishes, for many years. For some time she ran a soup kitchen from the Parish and was also dedicated to the St Vincent de Paul's work within the parish. She will be greatly missed. May she rest in peace.

Zandi Nkaiseng, Johannesburg



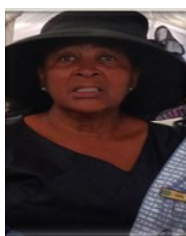
Zandi joined the League at St Margaret's in Diepkloof in 1996. She passed away on the 11th of December 2022.

Mary Bridger, Johannesburg



A senior member of St Francis of Assisi in Reiger Park, Ms Mary Bridger sadly passed away on the 8th of February 2023 aged 82 years old. She joined the League in 1984 and despite her age was willing to participate in activities to contribute to the betterment of the League. She will be greatly missed.

Irene Siwedi, Johannesburg



Irene joined the League at St Peter Claver in Pimville in 2015. She passed away on the 24th of December 2022.

CHARITY, LOYALTY AND WORK IN ACTION



Fr Mphosho and ladies from Calvary and St Michael, Klerksdorp, on a recruitment drive.



Ladies from St Martin's, Orlando West, waiting for the offertory at the SWRC Mass.



Ladies enjoying the Johannesburg diocesan year end lunch



Festive cheer at the Johannesburg year end lunch.



Uganda Martyrs' CWL branch in the uMlazi deanery, Marianhill, honoured their members who had 20 and 40 years of service in the League.

CHARITY, WORK AND LOYALTY IN ACTION

CAPE TOWN

