



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE SOUTHERN AFRICA NEWSLETTER



Through the bonds of Peace

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

#ISSUE 162



CHARITY, WORK AND LOYALTY IN ACTION



CWL Atlantis ladies at their recommitment Mass



CWL members of St Martin de Porres, Kanana, preparing soup for those on the street.



CWL Retreat ladies at their parish food fair Pasta and Pizza stall



Members of the new CWL branch at Our Lady of Fatima, Polokwane



New CWL members at Mater Dolorosa, Manzini

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The closing date for submissions for the next issue of the newsletter is the 31st of January.

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



As the end of the year approaches it is a good time to reflect on what we have achieved, or not achieved, as the case may be. Reading the reports submitted for publication I would say that CWL members have achieved a great deal. It is most encouraging to read of a growth in membership, with new enrolments in many branches. Across the country we are involved in works of charity to ease the burdens so many people bear, particularly the affliction of poverty and all the hardships it brings.

The season of Christmas reminds us of how Christianity began, with the birth of a helpless infant in a humble stable, to parents of no consequence. And yet what consequences there were to be from this seemingly unimportant event. Quite literally the world would never be the same again.

Two thousand years later we are still called to follow Christ, just as the very first disciples were, and to show Him to those we meet in the way we live our lives in service to others. CWL gives us many opportunities to do this in faith and in practice, supported by our sisters.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, let us be mindful of those for whom this Christmas may not be joyful, for a myriad of reasons. We keep them in our prayers and do what we can to help them.

I wish you and your families a joyful and peaceful Christmas.
Michaela

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT



I trust you are all well and enjoying the beautiful spring days.

This year, it certainly felt that winter was going to stay in the Cape forever. We are very grateful for all the wonderful rain and the fact that our dams are overflowing again. However, it was certainly a very long, cold and wet winter.

The National team has had a busy year. We visited Kimberley in July and KwaZulu-Natal in September. It was wonderful to meet the ladies of these areas and to see firsthand what they are doing. Their dedication to serving our Lord, the Church and their communities is wonderful to see.

Kimberley Diocese is spread over many towns with considerable distances between them. Examples are Kuruman, Mahikeng, Taung and Vryburg. Ladies from all these towns arrived to meet us and we shared in their holy Mass and meeting, which was followed by a delicious lunch. We also managed to take some time to visit the Big Hole and museum, which we found extremely interesting. We then joined some of the members to visit one

of their projects in the area.

In September we visited the Archdiocese of Durban. Ladies from Mariannhill Diocese also attended the holy Mass and the meeting which followed. Archbishop Siegfried Jwara celebrated Mass and attended the meeting with us. We had intended visiting the Eshowe Diocese, but unfortunately they had to cancel due to unforeseen circumstances. However, we did get to visit Margate in the uMzimkhulu Diocese. It was lovely to see how that branch has started to grow again after losing quite a few members during Covid.

In November, we will be visiting Polokwane. We are looking forward to meeting the members there and seeing what they are busy with.

By the time you get this newsletter we will be starting the season of Advent. I wish you a wonderful Advent as we prepare for the coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, I leave you with this Christmas Prayer.....

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. (Author Unknown)

Please, remember to prayer for each other, for peace in our country and the world. God bless you and your families.

Much love
Anne

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL CHAPLAIN



The birth of Jesus is the most powerful sign and message of hope in a world darkened by the shadows of fear and uncertainty.

The Gospel is always living, and it challenges us to grow in our love of Almighty God and to manifest that love in our concern for every human person.

We are invited to “go forth and tell others about Him who makes all things new.”

At this time let us pray “for authentic, lasting peace in Ukraine, the Middle East, Africa, and everywhere else where the Prince of Peace has not yet changed mentalities, fostered dialogue, and renewed relationships.”

In this season in which we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, “let us allow divine life in us to transform us.”

Christ is born. We rejoice in Emmanuel, God with us. The promise has been fulfilled, and we can rejoice in the faithfulness of Almighty God. Our annual celebration reminds us not to take divine gifts for granted.

However, the Gospel is always living and challenges us to grow in our love of Almighty God and to manifest that love in our concern and concrete dealings with every human person. The shepherds heard the announcement of the birth of the Saviour and went in haste to find the child Jesus.

That is the first lesson for us.

We pause in prayer before the manger, but we also move, go forth and tell others about Him who makes all things new. No authentic believer remains in the same place. Rather, he or she goes forth and shares the good news that has been revealed.

Certainly, we as members of the CWL share the good tidings through our generosity to those in need and those societies that help them. We reach out to those who might be alone at this time of year.

As Pope Francis reminds us in *Fratelli tutti*, Jesus Christ was born among us. To save us from sin. To show us an authentic way to live. And to call us to continual conversion and everlasting life.

As we rejoice in His birth, let us allow divine life in us to transform us.

I wish you a happy Christmas.

Fr Kevin

COVER PICTURE

This issue's front cover features a wreath and a nativity scene (also known as a crib or a crèche), both of which are associated with the Christmas season. Quite how the wreath became a Christmas symbol is not entirely clear. It was known in ancient times and long pre-dates Christianity. Its use during the Christmas period is often attributed to Lutherans in 16th century Germany, but the first recorded instance is in 1833. A Lutheran minister lit a candle in a wreath each Sunday in Advent and told the story of the birth of Jesus. A wreath with four candles, 3 purple and 1 pink, is often to be found in churches today during the Advent season.

St Francis of Assisi is usually credited with the first nativity scene when, according to his followers, he used an ox, a donkey and a manger filled with straw to recreate the stable where the infant Jesus was born. This took place in Greccio, Italy, in 1233. Art historian Felicity Harley-McGown said that St Francis was showing that "The divine did not have to be inside a structured church." However, there had been representations in art of the nativity before the time of St Francis.

The re-creation of the nativity gained in popularity across Europe. The city of Naples in Italy became famous for its nativity scenes, with elaborate scenery and figures that were covered in paint and gold leaf. To this day Naples is still renowned for nativity scenes. French citizens defied the ban on nativity scenes during the Revolution and made little "santon" figurines in secret. Portugal too, has a long history of nativity crèches.

St Pope John Paul II started the tradition of the Vatican Nativity in St Peter's Square in 1982. Initially the same figures were used, with the Vatican paying for a different scene each year. However, from 2012 a different Italian city donated the nativity scene. And yes, Naples has had a turn.

The nativity crib on the cover is at the Cathedral of St Vitus in Prague, Czech Republic. I can't help feeling that St Francis, who discarded the luxuries of his earlier life, would have felt that its simplicity, with figures made of straw, was just right.

REPORT ON NATIONAL COUNCIL VISITS

KIMBERLEY



Anne, Pat, and I flew up to Kimberley and arrived on the evening of Friday the 14th of July. We were glad to see that our accommodation was right next door to St Mary's Cathedral where the Kimberley Diocese was holding their meeting the next day.

We were warmly welcomed by Pulane, the president of the Kimberley Deanery, over coffee on the Saturday morning before the events of the day started. The proceedings began with Mass in the beautiful cathedral, led by Fr Medupi Motshwari. In his sermon he spoke about the fear that we frequently experience in our lives and how this may cause us to deny Christ. However, these times in our lives create opportunities for us to find God and serve him whole heartedly. We have re-

ceived this indelible mark through our baptism. We should not be afraid to express our faith as God will always give us the strength and courage we need.

After Mass, we all made our way into the church hall where we were warmly greeted by the ladies, which took the chill away. The joy and happiness were palpable. It once again reminded us how special it is to belong to the CWL. We learnt that the CWL Kimberley comprises of 4 deaneries (regions). These are Kimberley, Taung, Kuruman and Mahikeng. Many of the ladies travelled great distances to attend the meeting. The diocesan meeting is held every quarter in a different deanery.

The meeting was well run, and it was pleasing to see the interaction and debate between the members and the input from Fr Motshwari. We are realising that there are many shared issues and concerns among our members but nothing that cannot be overcome by support and working together.

Our national president, Anne, challenged the members to think why they love CWL so much and what it means to them. Anne went on to remind us of the empathy, love, and support that we can give to each other, the church and our communities. We are united in the work that we do and through our charitable works we show our loyalty. Speaking with Didi on Sunday, she shared that she loves the CWL because of the support she received, especially through a difficult time in her life. The CWL is her home in the church.

The meeting ended with much laughter and more singing. It was good to see how discussions were held over the meal shared together.

REPORT ON NATIONAL COUNCIL VISITS

On Sunday, we took the tour at the Big Hole, which was most interesting, and drove around some parts of Kimberley. Pulane then made contact as she and Didi wanted us to meet one of their members who had lost her home in a fire on Good Friday. We were told how the CWL members and branches rallied together to assist their member in various ways. She has now rebuilt her home and it was wonderful to see a picture of the Divine Mercy taking pride of place as we walked through her door. It was humbling to hear her story and how she has managed to start to rebuild her home with the support received from the ladies. We said a Hail Mary together and in that moment of prayer I could feel our Lord's presence.

We then made our way to the airport and bade a fond farewell to our new, dear friends and sisters in Christ. We pray that the ladies of the Kimberley diocese continue to grow from strength to strength, no matter the distances between them.

Susan van der Valk

KWAZULU NATAL



In September Anne, Pat, Sue and I travelled to Durban where we were joined by Karena. One of the purposes of the visit was to explain to the Durban branches what the role of the national committee is, and what would be expected of the ladies, both on the committee and in the branches, should Durban take over this function from Cape Town in 2024.

On Saturday the 16th of September we travelled to Pinetown for the meeting which was arranged by Durban's archdiocesan council. The morning began with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Jwara, assisted by Father Proud from Mariannhill, in the beautiful parish church. Afterwards we all went to the hall for the business part of the day. Archdiocesan president Linda Melson opened the meeting with the League prayers and after a short introduction handed over to Anne to speak on the role of the national committee. She gave a brief talk on the value and importance of CWL, and what it should mean to all of us who are privileged to belong to it. Sue then addressed the issue of prudent financial management and stressed the importance of maintaining the integrity of our NPO number. She outlined some of the statutory requirements, like producing annual financial statements, submitting an annual report to the Department of Social Development, and filing tax returns with SARS. Keeping accurate records is vital. A lively discussion from the floor ensued, and Sue was kept very busy answering questions.

Michaela spoke briefly about the role of the news correspondent. Each diocesan news correspondent is responsible for collating all the news received from her branches, and then forwards it to the national news correspondent. Ideally, the person appointed to the national council should have a reasonable knowledge of Word, as this is the simplest way to edit the news received for publication. After the meeting we were treated to a delicious lunch. We thank all our sisters in Durban for the very warm welcome they extended to us, and for the delightful gifts to take home with us.



On Monday we travelled to Margate on the South Coast to meet the CWL ladies at the parish of Our Lady Queen of Peace. Our visit began with Mass celebrated by parish priest Monsignor Andrew Pierzynski, who welcomed each of us by name. Afterwards we went to the hall where new CWL president Dolores Jones delivered a short report before we all tucked in to a delicious meal prepared by the branch members. After much cheerful chatter and repeat helpings of food, it was time to say goodbye and set off on our 2-hour journey back to Durban. We extend our grateful thanks to the CWL ladies at Margate for their warm welcome and delightful hospitality.

Michaela Peart

ARCHDIOCESE OF BLOEMFONTEIN

DIOCESAN

On the 27th of May 2023, CWL archdiocesan held its annual retreat at Emmaus Catholic Church in Botshabelo. The theme for the day was "Mosadi, mosadi itsebe". The spiritual revival started with a session from Fr. Thabang McDonald Ntsane who spoke of a woman's womb being a sanctuary, made to create life. God needed a woman to give birth to his son who saved the world. This goes to show the importance of a woman.

The second session was brought to us by Deacon Ranchoma Francis Hashatsi who spoke of the attributes that make a prayer woman.

We concluded with Adoration which was led by our chaplain, Fr. Thabo Kenke, who told us that a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. The message for the retreat which we were asked to meditate on was "The worth God placed on women" (Proverbs 31:30).

The branch executive committees met on the 1st of July at Our Lady of Fatima parish to prepare for the AGM. Archdiocesan president Me. Mpho Ntema gave her report. Some of the highlights included the charity work done by various branches in aid of the community of Jagersfontein which was hit by a disaster in September 2022. School uniforms, stationery, toiletries and clothes were donated to assist those affected by the mine disaster. She also discussed administrative matters like bank accounts and record keeping.

Every year we have a workshop to remind us of what is expected from all CWL members and what our motto stands for – CHARITY, WORK AND LOYALTY. This year the workshop took a different route and was coupled with a healing session which was intended to assist in doing self-introspection and recommitting ourselves to the League. We were asked to consider possible problems the League may be facing, as well as solutions. Some of the challenges that were highlighted included poor attendance at branch and archdiocesan activities, lack of commitment, lack of spiritual upliftment, lack of unity. Possible solutions were also recommended, including having fun activities to boost the morale of members, living our motto, treating all members as equals, supporting our executive committees and our priests.

Bloemfontein archdiocese has one big annual fundraising event which helps us to contribute towards the seminarians. This year the fundraising event was held at Christ the King Catholic Church, Heidedal, Bloemfontein. Most branches managed to attend and contribute. The collection came to a total of R24 470.00.

Branches in the archdiocese celebrated the awarding of 10, 20 and 30-year badges in August and September as well as the annual renewal of vows. We were honoured to have been invited to these events. The distribution of the badges is: Christ the King, one 10-year badge; Sacred Heart Cathedral, two 20-year badges and one 30-year badge; All Saints, one 20-year badge; Christ the Light, one 10-year badge; Lady of Fatima, fourteen 10-year badges; Corpus Christi, one 10-year badge; St Mark, three 10-year badges; St Rose of Lima, one 10-year badge.



There were also the following enrolments of new members: Sacred Heart Cathedral, 4; All Saints, 2; Christ the Light, 1; Lady of Fatima, 2; Corpus Christi, 2.

We had two special enrolment ceremonies in two parishes, Sts Peter and Paul, and Mofumahadi Mamohau. These ladies have formed the first CWL groups in their parishes. The archdiocesan executive committee has guided and walked this journey with them.

ST ROSE OF LIMA

CWL was asked by the parish to organize a Mother's Day event to help raise funds for the parish. It was a great success and well supported by parishioners from St Rose and other churches. Guest speaker Dr Tselane Khoarane motivated young ladies at the event to work hard as women to achieve their goals as well as to be exemplary to their children. Mme Puseletso Mosiea quoted from British novelist, William Golding: "Whatever you give to a woman, she will make greater. If you give her a house, she will give you a home. If you give her a smile, she will give you her heart. She multiplies and enlarges what is given to her". A moment was then dedicated to remembering mothers who are no longer with us.

As part of our charity outreach, we donated sanitary towels to St Mary's Primary School to assist their young girls with these necessities. The school appreciated the donations profoundly.

ARCHDIOCESE OF BLOEMFONTEIN



Each August CWL members renew their vows as members. This event is preceded by the annual Novena of the League. Upon completion of the Novena, we have a retreat and take time to reflect and introspect. Our parish priest, Fr Thabo Mmolaoa O.M.I., led the retreat under the theme "Recommitment". The ladies felt their spirits being uplifted and revived in preparation for our renewal of vows. On the 17th of September, we were honoured to award a 20-year badge to Me. Alette Molete. She has been a committed and loyal member and continues to serve and work for the League. We were joined for the celebration by members from the archdiocesan executive, as well as our sisters from Christ our Life parish.

ST MARK



The CWL participated in the "Life in the Spirit" seminar in the parish, which ran for 7 weeks and covered 7 different topics.

Fulfilling the charity part of our motto, on the 9th of August we donated clothes, soup, bread and fruit to the community of Caleb Motshabi, managing to reach approximately 110 people. Unfortunately, some community members came late and there was not enough left for them. We need to go back again sometime. "Charity is the great virtue, which speaks of our love of God, neighbour and self".

On the 26th of August we attended a retreat led by Fr Ramakatsa with the theme of "Spread the word of God to the people around you". God wants everyone to hear the Word and be saved, and we have a part in spreading that Word.

Three of our members received 10-year badges and two members renewed their commitment to CWL after not having not been active for some time. The service was led by our priest Fr Peter Ramakatsa. Afterwards we went out to celebrate with our sisters at Sunset resort.

The parish arranged to go and visit one of their outstation churches in Bultfontein and share what we have with them as there is poverty in that community and life is a struggle there. Transport was arranged and many parishioners, including CWL, went to help by giving out clothes and food, and also to pray with the members of the church there.

LADY OF FATIMA, BLOEMFONTEIN

On the 9th of July we had a soup kitchen as part of our 67 minutes for Mandela Day. We gave the children soup, bread, oranges and chips.

ST ANTHONY, KOFFIEFONTEIN

CWL members of St Anthony in Koffiefontein did some charity work on the 20th of August, serving soup and vetkoek to parishioners.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN



The Catholic Women's League of the Archdiocese of Cape Town wishes to congratulate His Grace, Archbishop Stephen Brislin, whom Pope Francis announced as one of 21 new Cardinals.

We pray for God's grace and favour over our Archbishop as he takes on his new responsibilities. What a joyful blessing on the Archdiocese of Cape Town!

Pictured here with Archbishop Brislin are Anne Deary, CWL National President (left) and Rebecca Weir, Diocesan President of Cape Town (right).

ARCHDIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN

DIOCESAN

The diocesan AGM was held on the 24th of June at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Retreat. We were blessed and honoured to have Archbishop Stephen Brislin in attendance. After Benediction in the very beautiful church, the following members received Long Service Awards:



10-YR BADGES:

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Retreat: Suzanne Barnes, Nabu Du Plessis.

Church of the Resurrection, Tableview am: Bernie Marques, Charlotte Mwenze, Corina Peddler.

Tableview pm: Ester Chiyangwa, Susan van der Valk, Virginia Adriaans, Patience Chipiti.

20-YR BADGES:

St Anne's, Steenberg: Sharon Loots.

Church of the Resurrection, Tableview am: Patricia Wensch, Gail Sebastian.

40-YR BADGES:

St Michael's, Rondebosch: Toni Ludwig.

The following new members were enrolled:

St Ninian's, Kuilsriver: Jacqueline Wessels, Virginia Combrinck. Our Lady Queen of Afrika, Khayelitsha: Abongile Mathafeni, Ditukelo Dywili, Zandili Mbombo. St Stephen the Martyr, Macassar: Elizabeth Hopley, Magdaline Smith. The AGM was well attended, and the finger lunch shared afterwards was greatly enjoyed by all. A huge thank you to Retreat branch for hosting the AGM and for all their hard work and dedication. Pictured are the badge recipients, with Archbishop Brislin and Rebecca Weir.

ATLANTIS

On the 20th of August the ladies of Atlantis CWL renewed their commitment at a service led by Fr Theo April. They also enrolled two new members, Lucy Taylor and Siyda Benson. Welcome ladies, and may you be richly blessed in your service to CWL.

BOTHASIG



Two new members, Carmel Peters and Paula Vieira, were enrolled during the 10am Mass on Sunday the 20th of August, at the Good Shepherd Parish in Bothasig. Welcome ladies, and may you continue to serve in our wonderful League for many years to come.

As part of our Good Shepherd parish's 50th Jubilee celebrations, a Women's Day High Tea was held in our hall on Wednesday the 9th of August. CWL donated and served the tea. It was a wonderful morning, filled with song, laughter, tears and chatter. On Saturday the 26th of August our CWL branch, along with the Cape Town Motorcycle Club, went to Hope Farm in Hopefield. Cash, clothing and groceries were donated by both groups to this worthy charity. Hope Farm is a restoration haven for addicts in serious need of changing their lives, building up their self-esteem and faith, and being re-integrated safely into society. This is the second year in a row that we have supported them. Hopefully we will be able to continue for many years to come.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN

KHAYELITSHA



The Khayelitsha branch joyfully celebrated the successful second year of the Pascal meal tradition. This time, the ladies took on the responsibility of organizing the Pascal meal for three parishes. Collaborating with the parish finance committee, they orchestrated a highly successful event.

We arranged a delightful Mother's Day fundraising event to honour the mothers of the parish. They were invited to dress up, and enjoyed a lovely high tea experience, complete with a cup of tea, a scone, and a virtual card to commemorate the occasion. We visited Masigcine, a children's home situated in Mfuleni, where we donated winter clothing and essential groceries.

The recipients of these heartfelt contributions were filled with delight and gratitude. Acknowledging the continuous need for assistance, the ladies have made arrangements to return to the home in a few months. On September the 9th we gathered for a retreat led by our spiritual advisor, Father Qokolo, as part of our preparations for the enrolment and renewal of our commitment to the League scheduled for September the 10th. During this special event, we also celebrated a significant milestone in the life of cherished member Maria Mtambo, who marked a decade of dedicated service within the CWL. Furthermore, the Mass provided an opportunity to pay a heartfelt tribute to our late sister, Ms Vuyiseka Zweni.

KUILSRIVER

On the 18th of July our CWL branch hosted a seniors' breakfast and treated 100 guests to a lovely spread. On the 10th of August our priest, Fr Joseph, celebrated the anniversary of his ordination and received gifts from our branch. Later that month it was the feast day of our parish, St Ninian's. On the 3rd of September we held a Holy Hour tea.

LANGA



Langa CWL had a wonderful day on Saturday the 11th of June with a meeting, thanksgiving and celebrating two June babies - Sheila Galo and Vuyiswa Tana. May God bless them in the coming year.

We celebrated Father's Day in style at St. Anthony's parish on the 18th of June. A great time was had by all.

We held a retreat on Saturday the 26th of August which was conducted by Fr Geoffrey, our parish priest. The theme was: Go out and Preach the Word of the Lord (Luke 10: 1-12). It was a very spiritually uplifting day.

On Friday the 1st of September, our member Sheila Galo handed over groceries to the grateful staff at Langa Cheshire Home.

MACASSAR

The ladies from CWL Macassar had their recommitment Mass on 20 August and they enrolled a new member, Maggie Smit.

PAROW

The Parow branch of CWL recently held a raffle and the 2 prizes were won by their own ladies, Sarah Walters and Matilda Mwamba.

PLUMSTEAD



Plumstead CWL held a very successful Bingo fundraiser on the afternoon of the 3rd of June. A fun time was had by all.

For the Mandela Day project the branch purchased 67 packets of sanitary pads to be donated to Parkwood Primary School and Zeekoevlei Secondary School.

We renewed our commitment to the League during Mass on Saturday the 26th of August. As a tribute to our president, Rita Hayes, who passed away during the week, we filled a vase with roses.

We hosted a Mad Hatters' Tea Party on Saturday the 9th of September. All were invited to wear a hat, quirky, pretty or fantastic. All the guests entered into the spirit of the event and what an array of hats was on display! There were prizes for the best hats. The hall looked beautiful, and so colourful. The guest speaker was Pippa Hudson from Cape Talk radio, who presented a slide show about her trip to Antarctica in December. A very interesting talk it was, keeping the guests enthralled.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN

RETREAT

Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Retreat had a food fair on Friday night the 2nd of June. The CWL ran the Pasta & Pizza stall, which was very successful.

ROCKLANDS



CWL Rocklands hosted a Father's Day breakfast on the 17th of June. The dads had a lovely morning! We held a Christmas in June event on Sunday the 25th of June. Our founder priest, Fr Telford Bray, spoke about how CWL Rocklands started and all the work that was done at the time. Diocesan President, Rebecca Weir, was in attendance. Everybody had a wonderful time.

We renewed our commitment to the League at the 8am Mass on Sunday the 20th of August. May God bless all our ladies and the work they do.

RONDEBOSCH



On Saturday the 12th of August, the Rondebosch CWL attended the 17:00 Mass to renew their commitment to the League.

After the homily Fr Chiedza, our parish priest, enrolled one new member (Michelle) and awarded Norma her 20-year badge and Toni her 40-year badge. We congratulate them and thank them for their service to the League.

TABLE VIEW



On Sunday the 18th of June the CWL Table View morning group enrolled a new member, Diane Botha, pictured on the left. Welcome Diane.

We donated 91 pairs of socks to the Lions which will be distributed to Brooklyn Chest Hospital, Cheshire Homes and other organizations.

Our group delivered 400 sanitary towels to Mothers that Care. We donated food to TLC in Tableview for the flood victims in June. Many hungry tummies were filled.

The Table View evening group delivered a delicious pot of food to the kiddies at Sam's Education Centre in Table View. Jen Henrick cooks a pot of food for them every Wednesday and spends time with them playing and reading a story. They also delivered 8 loaves of bread, margarine, porridge, milk, sugar, peanut butter, jam and toilet paper. These will go a long way in feeding the children in the coming week. Many of them arrive at school at 6:30 so a warm breakfast is very welcome.

In July we packed 10 beautiful winter baby bags for underprivileged moms at the Du Noon Clinic. The bags contained many beautiful handmade items such as 10 baby sleeping bags and 10 teddies made by Carol, and 4 crocheted and 10 sewed blankets made by Jen as well as a baby hat made by Angela. Donations of knitted items and

toiletries helped to make bumper bags for these moms who literally go in to have their babies with nothing. Each bag also contains an inspiring prayer for the mom. We delivered the beautiful baby bags to Du Noon Day Hospital and Clinic on the 18th of July. Clothing was also donated to assist those who lost everything in a recent fire.

We donated 20 toiletry bags and 70 beanies and pairs of booties to Diocesan to be given to Khayelitsha hospital.

The ladies of the morning and evening groups renewed their commitment at the 5:30 Mass on the 12th of August. May God bless our ladies in the work they do for CWL. It was followed by a soup and rolls evening, which was well attended.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN

VREDENBURG



The ladies from CWL Vredenburg renewed their commitment at Mass on Sunday the 20th of August. With them is their parish priest, Fr Rowan, and Sister Bonita.

WYNBERG

CWL Wynberg branch held a very successful Curry and Rice fundraiser on Saturday the 15th of July. Despite loadshedding and rain, they had an excellent turn out and everyone had a ball.

ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

DIOCESAN

The executive committee hosted the WUWCO Mass on the 13th of June, which was well attended by ladies from our branches. A good collection was taken up and forwarded to WUWCO. St Anne's ladies were invited and enjoyed a tea in the Pinetown parish hall after Mass, which was followed by the council meeting. New Durban auxiliary Archbishop Zondi was gifted with a beautiful red chasuble and clothing on the auspicious occasion of his episcopal ordination on the 27th of May. Loretta Ndela and her band of helpers once again worked tirelessly to prepare meals. Clementia Gambushe and Anna Maphanga along with CWL ladies from different branches attended the event which was held at Curries Foundation with well over 5000 people present. Fr Sifiso, our spiritual director, was wished for his birthday on the 6th of July and gifted with a lovely warm jersey. The highlight of the past few months has to be our "Refresh Your Enthusiasm in CWL High Tea." The executive committee prepared and hosted a most successful and enjoyable morning. Our very own Clem Gabushe delivered a most inspiring, amusing, spiritual and thought-provoking talk. Guests from all branches, dressed 'enthusiastically elegantly', enjoyed the tasty treats, prizes, games and loads of friendship and laughter. All proceeds went to the Caring Fund. All branches contributed towards hampers for our seminarians. Unfortunately we were not able to meet these young men in person, but in July our president Linda Melson, Anna Maphanga and Lynne Manica met with their team leader at the Pastoral Centre in Glenmore. Most of the Durban branches have been allocated a seminarian, whom they care for in prayer and communication, and with messages and gifts on special occasions. At the end of July, five executive committee members travelled to Ballito to attend Mass and give advice on opening a CWL branch in Ballito. We were warmly received and after Mass enjoyed tasty eats while engaging in talks to help set up a new branch. We wish Zee Cele well as she takes up the reins to hopefully open a fully functional branch in the new year. Throughout August members of the executive team visited branches and, in some instances, helped with inductions of new members. National Women's Day was celebrated at the cathedral with high Mass and interesting talks. Linda Melson organised a special Mass at Assumption parish to honour Durban diocesan's 72nd anniversary. The Durban Diocesan Caring Fund helps those in need, and this, like in the past few years, has been stretched to its limits. We rely on the generosity of our members, who always seem to make a plan, praise the Lord, even though times are very difficult financially for many. Food supplies, cleaning materials, a washing machine and a microwave have all been donated by our ladies. Loretta has also managed to procure the furniture and food supplies needed for a home which has recently been handed over to its new owner who was a victim of the floods. Our most recent news is the visit from the Cape Town national team. Archbishop Jwara and Fr Proud celebrated Mass and joined the national team, diocesan branch presidents and executive committee for tea and a most informative meeting. It was a very special day, putting faces to names, and hearing from our national leadership was indeed a pleasurable and memorable morning. We thank the national team for their time and valuable information.

ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

ST MARY, PIETERMARITZBURG



On the 27th of May, St Mary's proudly celebrated their 70th anniversary. This was an amazing achievement in view of the many trials and tribulations we have endured over the years. A beautiful Mass was celebrated by Fr Ewen Swart who blessed the CWL for all we do. The choir led by Michael Lambert added to the beauty of the Mass. Afterwards a celebration took place in the hall with well-known speaker Ingrid Roberts. There were also a few talks by various members and some singing by our juniors. This was followed by an amazing spread of delicious eats which was for once outsourced to give our ladies a well-deserved break. A wonderful afternoon was enjoyed by all.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA, DURBAN NORTH

We have been busy at our branch over the past months. We love what we do and what we achieve in helping others. On the 16th of May Carol, one of our members, handed over knitted prem items to her friend Vilma at the Broadway Methodist church to be added to their contribution. Vilma then delivered the items to RK Khan Hospital. At our May meeting we celebrated two of our members' "young" birthdays. On the 30th of May Quasa collected a van full of bread tags and bottle caps from us (the project for wheelchairs). Natasha from Cansa at Umbilo Rd Durban collected items knitted by our ladies. An old age home in Sydenham received an urn donated by one of our members. Our June meeting was fruitful, with knitting, sewing and song. Five of our members attended the CWL High Tea at the Pinetown parish on the 16th of July. We continue to collect bread tags and bottle caps from neighbours, coffee shops, parishioners, Glenashley Scouts and now from other CWL branches in our diocese. Three new members were welcomed at our August meeting. We are getting bigger and stronger. A much-needed spiritual morning was held. Thank you to Blessed Sacrament for inviting us. Father David Houbert gave us a very enlightening and soul-filled morning. I end on a happy note with a quote from one of our members. "CWL Durban North at Our Lady of Fatima parish is a vibrant and hard-working group of talented ladies, who give so much of themselves for all their works of charity and love. I am very honoured to be working with them all."

HOLY TRINITY

One cannot believe we are in the last semester of 2023! Where has the year gone...

We are happy to say that Holy Trinity's CWL branch has achieved so much spiritually and charitably. We have also heard many inspiring reflections from our own members, as well as talks from amazing people. We thank all our members for their hard work and dedication to CWL, and for their contributions to the various charities we support. One of our longstanding members, Heather Moore, gave an inspiring reflection on Our Lady from the Feast of Our Lady on the 13th of May 2023. Heather quoted the monthly message from Medjugorje on the 25th of May which exhorted all to go into nature and pray to the most High and feel the power of the Holy Spirit. On the 1st of July we were blessed to have two sisters, Sister Vikashini and Sister Maytri, from the Sisters of Charity at Shallcross give us a talk. The sisters prepared a very moving spiritual reflection on the "Precious Blood of Jesus". Sister Vikashini spoke very passionately about poverty, motherhood and abortion, and the protection of women, girls and the unborn child. Sister Maytri drew comparison between the Massacre of the Innocents orchestrated by Herod and the killing of children in the current Ukrainian war. Throughout the talk she stressed the importance of prayer in our lives, communities and the world over. She drew special attention to the power of the Rosary, describing it as a weapon that mothers need to protect their children. The Sisters ended their reflection by handing out daily devotional booklets and medals of Mother Theresa. When we asked the Sisters what they needed to help with their work, they said "Nothing, all we need is prayer". I don't think there was a dry eye amongst our members when they heard what the Sisters do to help the poor and sick in their community and all they asked for was our prayers! On the 15th of July, our committee attended the "Refresh your Enthusiasm" workshop organised by the CWL diocesan committee at Pinetown. It was a most enjoyable High Tea and an opportunity to meet with members from other CWL Branches. The guest speaker was CWL diocesan 2nd vice-president Clementia Gambushe. Clementia really inspired us to be enthusiastic and to encourage all our members to use their talents and gifts to build our League, as well as our communities. On the Feast of the Assumption of our Lady our acting parish priest, Father Sfiso Mpanza, enrolled five new members and presented long service awards to five of our group for their 10 years of service to the League. All our ladies renewed their vows. In the past few months our branch has made various donations to the projects we support, including the following: Sukumawenza Care Centre, Inanda (non-perishable items); Sisters of Charity (cleaning materials - the Sisters wash all their bed linen etc by hand. They do not want a washing machine as the time spent washing is time spent in prayer); St Vincent Children's Home, Mariannhill (20 pairs of new school shoes as well as children's clothing). We supported our SVdP members with refreshments while they worked on a project to renovate a classroom where the children who attend the Westridge Tennis Stadium for tennis coaching can be helped with reading skills. Our longstanding member, Rosalie Donachie, addressed us on WUCWO (World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations). An excellent presentation, it certainly provided all our members with a full insight as to exactly what WUCWO does. Our parish celebrated its 70th anniversary on the 27th of August. CWL helped to set up the hall for the Bring and Share function after the 10am Mass. We provided the tea, coffee, milk and sugar for the function, and our members helped with the serving of teas and cleaning up afterwards. Sadly, our longest serving member, Joan Shannon, who is also one of the longest serving parishioners, was not able to participate in the celebration due to ill health.

ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, PINETOWN



God has been good to us during these last five months, as we managed to accomplish the planned activities as per our year plan. On the 26th of May we had our first jumble sale since Covid and it was a huge success, with R2790 being raised within 2 and a half hours.

Our Tasty Treat sale on the 25th of June was less successful but we still managed to raise R1150.

On the 1st of July we celebrated the birthdays of Fr Sfiso (the 6th of July) and our seminarian Thabiso (the 29th of June). The celebration concluded with high tea and gifts, but unfortunately our seminarian could not join us due to other commitments.

As part of our motto, "Charity", monetary donations were made to charities that we support i.e. Cheshire and St Philomena's Chil-

dren's Home, and we believe that it will make a difference; as Mother Teresa once said, "It is not how much we give but how much love we put into giving".

On the Feast of the Assumption, we renewed our commitment to the League, enrolled two new members Devi Francis and Rita Swarts and gave Jeanette Jones a 30-year service badge. We are so grateful that we are increasing in numbers. Congratulations to Jeanette on her wonderful achievement.

We continue our different ministries i.e., funeral teas, feeding scheme, care and compassion, birthday cards, prayer group etc., believing that in unity we become a powerful force for good.

BELLAIR, QUEENSBURGH

We held a wonderful and successful Spring Tea which was attended by 110 ladies. Good food, good entertainment and lots of laughs and fun.

AMANZIMTOTI



We celebrated the ordination of Fr Thuthuka Junior Mtshali, who was ordained on the 22nd of July at Emmanuel Cathedral in Durban.

Shown from left to right: Fr Massimo, Fr Mtshali and Mr Mtshali (Fr Thuthuka's father).

ST MICHAEL'S, RED HILL, DURBAN.

On the 2nd of June, our president and some of our members received long-service badges during the celebration of Mass. They are as follows: Gloria Chateau (president's badge), Cynthia Rai (10 years), Jillian Dennis (30 years), Shireen Samynaden (10 years) and Natalie Clothier (10 years).

Congratulations to our president and members for their commitment and loyalty. May God bless them!

Our branch is doing quite well with a good attendance at our meetings. We had two raffles for our fund-raising towards the end of the year party that we host for the senior citizens in our parish. Lorraine Abrahams won the first prize grocery hamper, and the 2nd prize of a Sunday lunch was won by Geraldine Prinsloo. We enrolled new member Moly Van Wyk during Mass on the 18th of August during Mass. We had a reception afterwards and most of our members were present. We also visit the sick who are house-bound. We would like to thank our executive for the sterling job they do. May God bless all our CWL members as they carry on the good work of Charity, Work and Loyalty.

ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

ST PAUL, NTUZUMA



Pictured are our new members who have been enrolled in the League. Ten members received their 10-year badges.

THE BLUFF



On Sunday the 20th of August we celebrated Commitment Sunday. The Bluff CWL has continued to grow, and we are so blessed to have so many ladies from our parish wanting to be part of our sisterhood, serving the community and sharing their time and talents.

AMATIKWA BRANCH

On the 9th of August we spent a day in our parish cleaning the academic desk office. We did a really good job, and our parish priest Father Madlala was very impressed with our work.

WESTVILLE



On the 8th of September we held a musical Bingo evening fundraiser for food parcels for St Vincent de Paul. It was a very well attended event supported by our parishioners. Our parish priest was present and picked the draws for the adult and children hampers.

On the 22nd of September we presented a clerical shirt to our designated deacon at his new parish at St Josephs, Morningside. It was a very enriching moment to see him at work.

ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

DIOCESAN SPRING FAYRE

Members in the archdiocese of Johannesburg could not wait for the 3rd of September to arrive. Sunday dawned bright and sunny. Members arrived in their numbers to set up stalls of bric-a-brac, handmade knitted items, baby clothes, books, tempting foods like burgers and bacon and egg burgers. There was a MasterChef cooking competition, a tearoom, beer garden and so much more. Competitions got under way with dancing of many styles. Our Mary Immaculate Queen (MIQ) children, aged from 3 to 6 years, sang and danced in their bright red tops. The hat competition was won by an innovative yellow confection with the League logo as the focal point. Families gathered, League members rekindled friendships over food and drinks, and bargains that were bought were shown off with much appreciation. The beer garden was well supported, as was the popular pre-loved clothes aka Jumble. Vouchers were the mode of buying – no cash – and proved popular. The day ended with loving goodbyes and ideas to make our next Fete / Fayre even bigger and better!

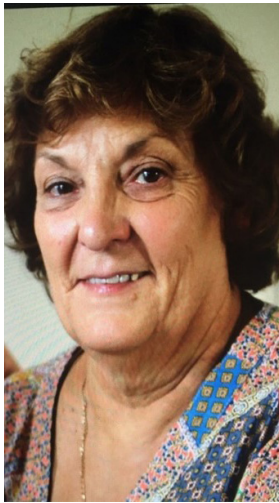
DIOCESAN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



League members from all around Johannesburg attended the AGM in Vereeniging. Elections were held before their monthly diocesan meeting on Tuesday the 5th of September. The elections were overseen and monitored by Father Vincent Pienaar, CWL diocesan chaplain. The results were counted by the Adoption secretary, Lebo Masilo and the Johannesburg regional secretary Patricia Chikhowa. Our congratulations to new president, Mme Khosi Maloka, 1st vice-president Josephine Mhlongo and 2nd vice-president, Thoko Khoali. We wish you all the best in your term of office.

Pictured: CWL chaplain Fr Vincent Pienaar blessing newly elected president Khosi Maloka.

MEMORIAL MASS FOR PAST NATIONAL CHAPLAIN FATHER ANTHONY SPENCER AND PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT BERNICE ANN COCCI



On the 1st of July a memorial service for past national chaplain Father Anthony Spencer OFM and past national president Bernice Cocci was held at the Church of the Resurrection in Bryanston. League members filled the church and family members of both Father Anthony and Bernice were present as our guests. A moving tribute by parish priest Fr Joe to a well-loved past national chaplain and past national president highlighted the special people they both were. Tears flowed freely when Fr Joe handed candles with images of Father Anthony and Bernice to their loved ones. The occasion was live streamed for those who could not be present, and the singing was a fitting end to a memorial to two special, kind and humble people. Refreshments were served in the courtyard to accommodate everyone who attended.

MARY IMMACULATE QUEEN PATRONAL FEAST DAY



The feast day of the Queenship of Our Lady was held at St Catherine's Church, Eldorado Park, on Tuesday the 22nd of August. The feast was celebrated with the children of Mary Immaculate Queen Pre-school and Wonke Wonke Pre-school in Soweto. After Mass, members and families gathered at the MIQ Pre-school for a tableau presented by both pre-schools. The children of MIQ were the presenters and introduced their friends. Wonke Wonke did a separate tableau. There was excitement aplenty and whoops of joy as the little people were presented with goodies and drinks donated by the League, while a lovely tea was held for the League members and families. The foundations of learning that the schools teach are priceless!

Pictured: MIQ chairperson Nkele Mokalaboni (3rd from the left) with Eldorado CWL branch members.

ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

East Rand Regional Council

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL



A well organised weekend retreat was held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel church where our enrolment and recommitment went extremely well. One new member, Mme Lungile, was enrolled, and two other members, Mme Pricilla and Mme Judy, received their 10-year service badges. The rest of the members renewed their commitment assisted by Fr Arvin. The retreat was spiritually uplifting, and the ladies had time together and shared their views on the tasks given by Fr Rayan.

ERRC branches celebrated the feast of the Assumption and renewed their commitment to the League.

Pictured are CWL members from Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Thokoza and St Paul the Apostle, Eden Park after celebrating the feast of the Assumption.

SAN SALVADOR

CWL at San Salvador organised a soup kitchen at the Woolf informal settlement.

JOHANNESBURG REGIONAL COUNCIL

Johannesburg Regional Council held a day of recollection at the Schoenstatt shrine in Bedfordview.

ST HUBERT, ALEXANDRA

On the 12th of May we held a wellness day for our elders from the Joseph Gerard Home and extended the invitation to elders from the Alex community. It took place at the Lombardy Golf course. One of our members, Ms Thoko Mokhuabane, came up with this initiative. Our events and catering team coordinated the event with the home's management and our guest Ms Cathy Mathebe, a fitness instructor from Thembisa. We received a few donations to ensure the event was a success and that food, fruit and drinks could be provided for our elders. The wellness day was announced at church and via our local community radio station a few days prior to the event. Our members were dressed in blue and white gym flair skirts.

The elders were shown how to exercise, be it sitting or standing, and how to be active and remain healthy. This was our first charitable event as new CWL members, and it was a great learning experience.

BRYANSTON

Our annual recommitment Sunday was on the 13th of August, and we welcomed new members Edna Malebye, Mutheu Kalenga and Maloto Phogole. Long service awards were presented to Joey Farrell and Jean Allen (30 years), Cheirel Qusted, Ann Blower and Maureen Bomvana (25 years), and Eunice Williams (10 years). We are currently preparing for our CWL Heritage Food fair with the slogan "Food, Entertainment and Diversity". This is a big undertaking and thoroughly appreciated by the parishioners. A big thanks to Gugu Sekonya who organizes this event each year. Our next big event will be our High Tea in November. We assisted Caritas with the Christmas in July bric-a-brac stall to raise funds for the pensioners' Christmas parcels. We continue to hold a home rosary every month and we cater for the funeral teas in our parish.

EDENVALE

The branch held a Christmas in July function. Matthew, who lives at Little Eden Home, knitted a beautiful blanket which was auctioned for over R1000 at the event!! Loads of delicious cakes, pastries and savories were enjoyed by everyone.

A commitment Mass was attended by the branch members.

At the St Therese parish sodality Sunday, CWL members showcased the League and were blessed to have 20 ladies sign up indicating their interest in the group.

CRAIGHALL PARK



Shown here are CWL members with Fr Lillianveld celebrating Grandparents' Sunday with tea and cake.

ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

LA ROCHELLE



The branch held its recommitment on the 20th of August and enrolled 6 new members. They distributed clothes to the needy within their parish.

MALVERN



Pictured are Father Andrew together with Johannesburg regional president, Regina Pooe, other CWL branch well-wishers and the newly inaugurated and enrolled members of the Malvern CWL.

MARYVALE

The CWL holds a soup kitchen every 1st Saturday of the month after the monthly meeting. The League feeds 60-plus homeless individuals from the surrounding areas (numbers have increased since the kitchen started in June). The feeding has been a great success so far with members being generous in their contributions of food items and labour. During winter, hearty soups were prepared and given out with bread and oranges. Summer menus will change monthly depending on what the ladies suggest. As we welcomed spring, briyani was served and it was greatly appreciated.

Mme Reggie, Sister Reggie, and Reggie as we would refer to you, our very own past branch president, a great definition of Charity, Loyalty, and Work, always available to perform your duties and assignments wholeheartedly. You have never let us down and have always encouraged us even when we saw no light at the end of the tunnel. Your enthusiasm and leadership brought out the best in all of us, and you have taught us to make good decisions and believe in ourselves. We, the women of the Maryvale CWL, would like to thank you for your awesome leadership. On Saturday the 3rd of June, we bade farewell to you as our branch president, but at the same time welcomed you as our regional president. We are honoured to have you as our regional president and are overjoyed that the love, enthusiasm, encouragement, and firmness of will you shared and taught us will now be spread throughout the League. May our Blessed Mother continue to guide you and shower you with love, wisdom, understanding and great leadership skills. Thank you and God bless.

RIVONIA



The celebration of women during August month remains an important event for the Rivonia CWL branch. To mark their 2023 celebration, they held a raffle fundraising initiative. They demonstrated their commitment to works of charity by reaching out to a special community of disadvantaged young black girls at the Kristo iNkosi parish in Vosloorus on Sunday 13 August. This outreach programme is part of the community's "She-reigns" project which aims at lessening the burden of poverty on young girls. The Rivonia CWL was represented by a delegation of seven members who were warmly welcomed by parish priest Fr Chaka and parishioners as they joined in the morning Mass. The post-Mass programme included a speech by one of the CWL delegates, the handing over of much-needed feminine toiletries and sanitary pads and a humbling speech of gratitude by a parish representative. It was followed by refreshments and networking. In pursuit of living up to their motto, CWL prioritized an important visit to one of the commonly marginalized groups in society. Inspired by the humility of their patron saint, the women visited the elderly at the Jabavu Old Age Home in Soweto on Sunday the 30th of July. Cognizant of the freezing winter weather,

coupled with the advanced age of this special group, the CWL women delivered some "winter warmers" consisting of beautiful beanies and cuddly scarves. The deep appreciation of both the gifts and the quality time spent with them was confirmed by the heartwarming smiles on our senior citizens' faces. The branch continues to grow, and 5 ladies were enrolled on Sunday the 10th of September. Parishioners also witnessed the awarding of a 10-year service badge, as well as a renewal of commitment by the ladies. Looking gracious in navy and white, the Rivonia branch was joined by members from St Hubert's and Northriding parishes. The parish priest read out the League's objectives for all parishioners to hear and reminded the League members of their vital role in society. He further challenged the women on their position as far as gender-based violence is concerned. After Mass, the fun began as jubilant members posed for pictures, sang, and enjoyed refreshments served by, and to, women who are proud to call themselves CWL members.

Pictured are new members Irene Mutooni, Mpumi Tsolekile, Zipho Mpotulo, Clara Mbaso and Linda Fekisi.

ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

VICTORY PARK (SATURDAY)



On Women's Day the Victory Park Saturday group held a retreat led by Sr. Mary Garetti.

The theme of the retreat was "The Cup of My Life". Each member was given a cup to reflect on their lives and later, playdough to reflect on the kind of vessels they are. The morning concluded with the CWL recommitment prayer.

SOUTH WEST REGIONAL COUNCIL ST. MARTIN, ORLANDO WEST



Orlando West CWL members in collaboration with the Sacred Heart, Kemolo and Daughters of Saint Anne visited Nazareth House on the 27th of June to spend a day with underprivileged children and the aged. The prayers were led by Father Sompane. At the Mamohau Motshehetsi Centre the CWL distributed peanut butter and jam according to numbers per family. It was all smiles for the children. Thank you for putting a smile on their faces and giving willingly and generously. The children continue collecting lids which are brought to Margaret House every first Tuesday of the month. This is done to motivate them to help others who benefit from their donation. This activity brings out the best in them.

The Orlando West CWL organised a youth development initiative to discuss the difference between the older generation and today's one and how it changes people's mindsets.

BLESSED JOSEPH GERARD

We celebrated Grandparents' Day on the 27th of July by giving out soup to all our senior citizens in the parish.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA, DUBE



Our CWL members celebrated Father's Day with the fathers of the parish. After Mass, the ladies were ready to serve hot soup and bread to all parish fathers and wish them a happy Father's Day. This was an enjoyable meal and much appreciated as it was a very cold day. Our priest was also spoiled with gifts at the end of Mass. Our branch decided that charity begins at home. Mandela day was spent honouring the parish priest and the parishioners over 80 years old while they are still alive. Thirty-five fleece blankets, book markers and cookies were presented to them. The presentation was led by branch vice president Ms Conny Chilwane with the help of Ms Nqabile Mothlakeng and Ms Sizakele Gumbi of the Mandela project team. The blankets arrived at the right time as it was a very cold day. The goodies were delivered to the elderly who could not come to church.

OUR LADY OF MERCY

An honour it was when our new parish priest Father Kgaugelo Ntsie asked us to prepare a "classy" family breakfast and lunch. We brought our A-game and served a spread fit for royalty.

ROBERTSHAM



Robertsham CWL enrolled a new member, and two ladies transferred to the branch from St Margaret's in Diepkloof.

ELDORADO PARK

The Eldorado Park branch held their annual recommitment Mass.

BISDOM VAN KEIMOEES-UPINGTON

AGGENEYS

Alhoewel uitdagings daar is, gaan Aggeneys tak redelik goed aan. Ons gaan voort met geestelike sessies weekliks.

Op 7 Mei het ons geloftes hernu te Aggeneys. Ons het op 22 Mei die Wêreldbiddag vir Vroue gehad in die kerk, maar die opkoms van die dames was baie swak. Ons het hulle vergas met koek en tee.

Op 31 Mei – 8 Junie het ons die Noveen vir Roeping gedoen. Vanaf Junie het ons ingegryp en besef ons sal meer bymekaar moet kom sodat ons onself geestelik weer kan verryk.

Novene vir Maria ten Hemelopneming het ons Srs elke dag bygewoon, en dit was een van ons geestelikste projekte vir die jaar. Vrouens het hul goed voorberei met hulle boodskappe.

Ons het in Augustus besluit om vir Vrouemaand, elke Sondag vir die vrouens, meisiekinders asook ons jeugdige dames ietsie te gee om elkeen spesiaal te laat voel.

Eerste Sondag: Ons het elkeen 'n bakkie koek gegee met 'n boodskap vir die vrou. Ons het ook deur gebede en gedigte vir hul voorgehou as 'n gedagte vir die week. Dit is gedoen deur meisiekinders.

Tweede Sondag: Ons het vir Vr. Osborne gevra om vir ons botteltjies water te seën, sodat ons vir elke vrou 'n bottel gewyde water kan gee; die gedagte is om ons vrouens bewus te maak van die werklike doel van wywater. Hoe kragtig dit is, vir onself, ons gesin, ons huise asook die gewyde sout wat in die kos gebruik kan word.

Derde Sondag: Ons het vir ons vrouens elkeen 'n Chomp of Kit Kat gegee. Die betekenis daarvan is die volgende:

CHOMP: C: Christus, H: Help, O: Ons, M: Met, P: Probleme KITKAT: K: Bly KALM, I: Jy IS 'n wenner, T: God is geTROU, K: Hou KOP, A: Bid ALTYD, T: Jou TOEKOMS is in God se Hand. Dit is maar net gebare om vrouens te laat besef dat hulle waardevol en spesiaal is, en as ons op die sjokolades kyk sal dit ons altyd bybly.

Vierde Sondag: Ons het vir elke vrou 'n sakkie lekkers gegee met die volgende bewoording:

Chewing On God's Word (God's word, unlike bubblegum, never loses its flavour. Once we've meditated or chewed on it awhile, we become more flexible and useful to God.) Die lekker is net soos gebed, hoe meer ons met ons Geestelike Meester praat, hoe nader beweeg ons na Hom.

Hierdie maand se Novene was vir ons ekstra spesiaal want die Gees kon ons ervaar, die opgewondenheid van die Srs vir die gedagtes wat uitgaan was 'n groot vreugde.

Ons het almal op Donderdag 17 Augustus gebieg, en het geloftes afgelê op Sondag 20 Augustus.

Ons wou ook vir Sr Marshallaine Waterboer en Sr Milly Jacobs terug verwelkom in die Bond, wat weens onvoorsiene omstandighede afgelê het. Hulle het 'n aansteeklike opgewondenheid in hulle vandat hulle terug is. Hulle leef hul passie uit soos ouds.

Ons vra ook gebede vir elke suster in hierdie organisasie vir gesondheid, omstandighede ens. Soms gaan ons dames deur moeilike tye en dan is dit daardie gebede wat ons dra. Ook het ons 'n nuwe dame in die Bond, Sr Nancia Daniëls-Cloete, sy stap al vir die afgelope jaar saam met die lede. Sy is baie getrou en woon alle sessies, geestelik of vergaderings by. Sy sal eers vir die jaar nog saam stap en dalk volgende jaar wapen ontvang. Ons wil ook vir haar 'n spesiale verwelkoming gee in hierdie liefdadigheidsorganisasie.

Ons bid vir meer jonger dames om in die Bond te kom aansluit. Sy het vir ons 'n pragtige gedagte nagelaat, ons het die tweede week in September 'n "Walk to Faith" op 'n Saterdag gehad, waar ons vrouens gaan uitnooi om vroeg saam met ons in die veld te gaan stap en in die natuur gaan vir oordenkinge en stille gebede. Ons het ook graag by verskillende punte tot stilstand gekom en bietjie gedagtes uitgeruil.

PELLA

Pella Vrouebond is regtig besig om te groei in geestelike volwassenheid. Die Bond is gesond in ons verhouding met mekaar en respek teenoor mekaar. Betrokkenheid in parogie: Vrouebond neem deel in dodehuis bidure en doen self huis besoeke aan siekes en bejaardes. Sr. Erika is Kommunie bedienaar, Sr Thersa is kategeet vir huwelike, Sr Rientjies, PPR, Sr Bernadette is wyksleier, Sr. Magrieta is PPR en begrafnisbedienaar. Die Wêreld biddag van Vroue was nie in Pella gehou nie, en 'n ander kerkgenootskap moes leiding geneem. Die Wêreld biddag van Katolieke vroue het ons gedoen. Ons het vroue uitgenooi, maar opkoms was swak en omtrent 22 vroue het dit bygewoon. 'n Silwerkollekte van R300 was gestuur aan die Bisdom. Die Noveen vir Roepinge was inspirerend, en ons het dit by die Grot gebid. Sr Marie Josepha het dit elke dag bygewoon. Ons tema vir die noveen was "Roepinge en beroepe van mans in die Bybel asook verskillende persone in ons gemeenskap". Die Godsmanne wat gebruik was, is Paulus, Josua, Elia, Abraham, Moses, Jesaja, Jacobus, Jona en Petrus. Die opsomming van roepinge en beroepe is dat in elke roeping of beroep is daar uitdagings, en hierdie uitdaging kan net oorkom word as jou verhouding met die Here reg is. Die Noveen vir Roepinge was afgesluit waar ons al die gassprekers van die week genooi het vir koek en tee. Ons het ook dan by die geleentheid na 'n "slide show" gekyk van Sr. Thersa en haar man se toer saam met Vader Osborne na die Heilige lande. Die Noveen vir Maria ten Hemel Opgeneem se tema was "Die Vroue in die Bybel". Elke suster het elke dag van die Noveen 'n boodskappie gegee oor die vrou wat sy gekies het. Die vroue wat gekies was is Eva, Sara, Rut, Ester, Moeder Maria en Hanna. Die 22ste Augustus het ons 'n Vrouedag event gehou, waar alle vroue uitgenooi was om te kom luister. Die gassprekers het gepraat oor dwelms soos tik, dagga, en drank. Hulle het vroue ingelig oor die tekens en optrede van die gebruik van die verskillende dwelms. Elke vrou moes net R5 saambring. Soetigheid is uitgedeel. Pella tak het 'n voedingskema projek waar ons eenkeer in die week op 'n Woensdag aan behoeftiges kos gee. Dit is 'n plesier om aan hulle die kos te gee en om die dankbaarheid op hul gesigte te sien. Die getal vermeerder elke week. Pella en Aggeneys het saam oorweging gehou in Pella, aangebied deur Mnr. Luwayne. Dit was 'n goeie kop skoonmaak vir ons. Ons streek vergadering was in Pella op Saterdag 19 Augustus gehou. Sterkte aan alle Vrouebondslede. Laat u lig skyn in u huis, by die werk, oral, want elkeen is geroep vir 'n tyd soos hierdie om 'n verskil te maak.

BISDOM VAN KEIMOEES-UPINGTON

ORANJE RIVIER STREEK

Die takke funksioneer goed, maar daar is nog baie leemtes vir verbetering veral ten opsigte van ons projek: Haweloses.

Die takke werk ook mooi saam in hulle parogies en is altyd daar om saam te werk in gemenskappe waar daar dood en siektes en bejaardes is.

Ons as die streek werk ook nou saam en daar is geen ongeruimdhede nie, elkeen gee sy samewerking en lewer wanneer daar moet beplan word.

PRIESKA

Ons tak is aktief en besig.

Op 29 April het ons die huweliksherdenking van ons suster Sanna Leche met 'n heilige Mis deur Vader Lebbogang gevier. Die vroue het haar besoek haar om op die pad te sit na haar suster se begrafnis in Windhoek. Ons het vir haar gaan bid.

Op 29 Mei het ons afskeid geneem van Vader Lebo. Dit was 'n heuglike maar ook emosionele dag. Ons het gebrui en gedans. Die Sondag het ons Katolieke Vroue Biddag gehou. Dit was goed, en die vroue was daar van die parogie. Ons het 'n bedrag van R600.00 ingekry vir die silwer kollekte.

Op 18 Junie, Vadersdag, het ons ons vaders bederf met koek en tee. Op die 27ste Junie was dit Vader Julie, ons parogie priester se verjaarsdag, waar ons die Mis saam met hom en die susters gevier het. Daarna het ons 'n Engelse ontbyt saam met hom geniet.

Ons het ook vir hom 'n koek gekoop.

Op 13 Julie het ons gegaan om ons sop vir die straat kinders uit te deel.

KAKAMAS

Kakamas en Lutzburg het baie nou saamgewerk vanaf Junie tot Augustus. Daar was baie besoeke afgelê by lede wat kerkloos was sowel as ongedoopte kinders by huis gesinne. Op 12 Junie het een van ons susters ook besoek gaan aflê en op 18 Junie met kinders wat nie betrokke by die kerk en die katigismus is nie gepraat, veral daar waar nie meer 'n moeder is nie. Sy het ook by een van die huise 'n kombes geskenk.

Gedurende Julie het een van die susters wat in die Bond was gesterwe. Die Vrouebond en die Mannebond het saam gesmelt en 'n troosdiens by haar huis gaan hou. Van die lede het ook 'n tydjie met een van ons rusende lede tyd spandeer. Ons susters het die 9 dae Novene gebid by ons huise, en uit beweeg na ons lede wat siek was om ook die Novene daar te bid. Die Novene is saam met die Mannebond afgesluit. Dit was baie geesdriftig. Ons het die geloftes op 20 Augustus hernu

UPINGTON

Upington tak het op 21 Mei Katolieke Biddag vir Vroue gevier en die bedrag wat ingesamel was is aan die Bisdom oorbetal. 'n Verslag was ook gestuur. Dit was 'n geseënde dag en die Gees van God was met ons. Junie maand het ons poeding verkope gehad. Vadersdag was ons teiken en ons kon ons Bisdom funksies betaal.

Die vrouens staan baie uitdagings in die gesig en is ons selde voltallig by vergaderings maar ons gaan voort en dié wat nie daar is nie val by alle besluite in. Op 9 Augustus het ons Vrouedag gevier. Vader Odilon het ons verrigtinge met gebed en 'n woord van bemoediging oopgemaak. Koek en tee was te koop en die program was een met jonk en oud oor vereenselwing. Ons projek het ons aangespreek deur enkel vrouens en getroudes uit te nooi, en die klem te laat val op die formidabiliteit wat in elke vrou is ten spyte van uitdagings. Sr Lecrecia Prins het die gedig "Phenomenal Woman" deur Maya Angelou voor gedra om dit uit te beeld. Die vroue was na die tyd pamperlang met manikuur en grimering kosteloos. Hulle het behoorlik in 'n ry gesit vir 'n beurt. Dit wys net ons vrouens wil mooi lyk. Daar was gelag dat die trane loop en 'n dogter het ons vermaak met 'n geestelike dans opvoering wat die vrouens se voete laat jeuk het. Op Saterdag 19 Augustus het ons gaan bieg en Vader Domkrag het ons tuiswerk gegee deur Lukas 2 te gaan lees, die gebede van Jesus. Ons moes 'n nota maak en op die altaar plaas waarin ons onself afvra hoe leef ons die bond se leuse, naamlik liefdadigheid, werk en lojaliteit, uit in ons eie lewe maar ook tussen ons as vrouebonds lede.

Ons het Sondag 20 Augustus saam met Sesbrue geloftes hernu en dit was wonderlik om in Sesbrue se kerk te sit met die lewendige sang wat hulle uit volle bors en met oorgawe gesing het.

MCTAGGERSKAMP & BLAAUSKOP

Die bondslede het op gebruikelike wyse voort gegaan met ons weeklikse bidure. Ons het besluit om bejaardes uit te sonder deur by hul huise te gaan bid. Daar was 'n groot waardering daarvoor getoon omdat van hulle glad nie meer by die kerk kon kom nie.

Een van hulle het in die tyd afgesterf en Sr Patricia het in samewerking met Sr Elizabeth en Sr Griet die nodige gebede by die afgestorwene gaan doen. Die twee susters was van baie groot hulp by die huis van die oorledene.

Op Mandela dag het ons weereens bejaardes besoek en aan elkeen 'n pakkie oorhandig. Dit was met dankbaarheid ontvang.

Mctaggerskamp Vrouebond het nog nie geloftes hernu nie omdat lede verskeie redes gehad het. St Peter Claver gemeente steun baie op die bondslede omdat Sr Michelle huidiglik die werk van die kloster doen. Selfs die tuin van die kerk word deur die bondslede versorg. Ons vertrou met die hulp van die Moeder Maria blymoedig voort te gaan met ons pligte en ons leuses uit te leef.

BISDOM VAN KEIMOOES-UPINGTON

FRIERSDALE

In die eerste plek wil ons as die Friersdale tak baie dankie sê vir die geleentheid wat ons gebied was om die Bisdom hier in Friersdale te kon ontvang. Dit was vir ons 'n naweek wat ons nie gou sal vergeet nie. Na die Bisdom vergadering het ons weg gespring met die Biddag vir Katolieke Vroue. Omdat van ons vroue werk het ons dit op die Saterdag 20 Mei gehou. Ons het van ons parogie se vrouens genooi. Dit was baie geseënd en ons het ook van die vrouens soos Verencia gebruik om as deelnemer te wees. 25 Junie was vir ons 'n baie geseënde dag toe 4 vroue by ons aangesluit het, nl. Cillist Swartz, Gertruida Loss, Wilhelmina Bosman en Lisbie Malgas. Op 29 Junie het ons 'n pragtige heilige Mis gehad ter viering van Vader Beukes se 26 jaar priesterfees. Vroue bond was verantwoordelik vir die skoonmaak van die kerk en die huis en gaste huis. Hulle was ook verantwoordelik vir voorbereiding van kos vir die priesters wat genooi was. 9 Augustus het ons nie Vrouedag gevier nie maar wel Vader Montgomery se lewe herdenk saam met biskop, priesters, nonne en die breë familie kring nl. die parogies en almal wat deel kon uitmaak van sy grafsteen legging. Dit het weer so baie herinneringe en trane gebring. Weereens het ons besef dat sy heengaan groot leemte en hartseer gelos het. Met Vader van Wegen se koms in Friersdale is Sr. Doreen saam met Vader besig om besoeke te doen in verskillende woonbuurte waarvan sy ook tyd en kans kry om Vrouebondslede te besoek wat afgedwaal het. Met Vader se motivering het hul ook beloop om terug te keer. Op 11 Augustus het ons begin met Noveen en het in die kerk begin waarna ons van daar tuis gebid het en die Saterdag die 19de afgesluit het nadat ons oorweging gehad het met Vader Beukes. Vader het ook weer ons pligte uit een gesit. Ons het toe oor geslaap op Sending en het die aand gebruik om peinsing te doen en so die dag af te sluit met Praise and Worship. So het ons ook Sondag ons geloftes hernu en 'n dag van samesyn gehad. Ons het saam met Vader middag ete genuttig en huiswaarts gekeer. 29 Julie het ons 'n heerlike partytjie gehad om Sr. Pop se 80ste verjaarsdag te vier. Sy is die oudste in die bond.

KEIMOOES

Na die bisdomsvergadering het ons op 16 Junie een van ons stigterslede Sr Lena Koopman verras op haar 85ste verjaarsdag deur 'n verrassingspartytjie vir haar te hou. Op daardie dag het Sr Lena aan ons genoem dat sy nog pastorale werk doen (besoeke). Op 9 Julie het die vrouebond sop en roosterbrood in Noodkamp uitgedeel. Op 6 Augustus was daar weereens sop en roosterbrood aan Hupstoot kinders uitgedeel. Besoeke aan siekes en bejaardes asook sterfgevälle word gereeld gedoen. Op 9 Augustus het van ons lede wyle Vader Montgomery se grafsteen bygewoon. Op 11 Augustus het ons net ons Novene begin bid. Ons het gevra vir liefde, ondersteuning, eensgesindheid en vrede vir die families en ons gemeenskappe. Ons het op 19 Augustus oorweeging gehad wat deur Vader Beukes aangebied was. Die tema van die dag was, "Die gewonde of kwesbare vrou". Sr Elma het 'n praatjie daaroor gelewer. Vader het gepraat oor wat ons tot by die Vrouebond bring. Tydens hierdie geleentheid was ons afgesonder. Daarna het ons die rosekrans gebid en bieggelentheid gehad, en dan het die vrouens die kerk skoongemaak. Sondag oggend het ons geloftes hernu, en 3 susters het vir die eerste keer speld (wapens) ontvang. Die raad was ingeseen en voorgestel aan die gemeente. Die heilige Mis was opgehelder deur musiek deur Br Losper. Boodskap van die dag was "Maria het sonder versuim gehaas". Na kerk het 'n suster by die Bond aangesluit en ons dank die Here daarvoor.



Pictured are the ladies from the four branches in the Olifantstreek renewing their commitment to the League

DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY



The Kimberley deanery held a fund-raising event in the form of a High Tea at the Tetlanyo High School hall. The funds raised were for the seminarian fund.

We had a speaker from the Disability Desk in the Northern Cape Premie's Office, Mrs Kenosi Sebico. She spoke about challenges faced by parents with children who live with disabilities, what government policies are in place and the organisations which can help them. The Milady's Clothing shop gave advice on clothes for people with a fuller figure and tips on beauty products. One lucky person won a prize courtesy of Milady's. The ladies had a chance to model some of the clothing sold at Milady's.

Three members of the national committee, Anne Deary, Pat McEwen and Sue van der Valk, paid a visit to Kimberley in July.

DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY

FATIMA

The ladies visited a sick member who belongs to the St. Anne Sodality after Mass on the 10th of September and prayed with her.

ST MICHAEL

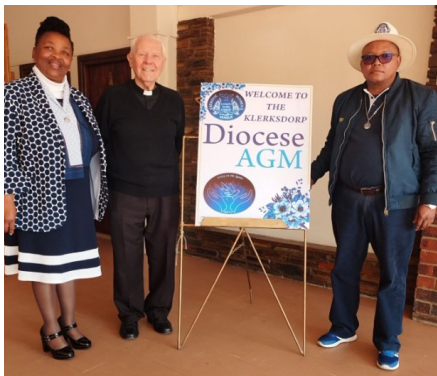
The ladies donated food parcels to children living with disabilities. They also bought an altar cloth and a monstrance for the parish.

HOLY FAMILY

On the 17th of April five ladies were enrolled in the League. They visited Mother Mary's statue for prayers and counsel.

DIOCESE OF KLERKSDORP

DIOCESAN



June 2023 marked a year since the inception of the new Klerksdorp diocesan executive committee and was a time for taking stock. On the 24th of June all CWL branches in Klerksdorp diocese gathered at St. Michael's for the AGM. This was after a full year of efforts to restore normality to CWL work and activities, following the disruption of COVID 19. All members were happy to come together and get reports from the executive about the milestones they have achieved since their installation in June 2022, to take note of their shortcomings and to pave the way for the future. Among other things, new members were welcomed. Reports were given from each desk of the executive committee. Although there was a general satisfaction about the milestones reached and the progress in general, members still pointed out some areas that needed improvement, which the committee accepted with open hearts. The League is looking forward to more growth and improvement as the year progresses. Upon conclusion of the AGM delegates were served a hearty meal prepared by the ladies of St Michael's CWL. In the photo are diocesan president Mrs Monama, St Michael's parish priest Fr Don Bohé and CWL chaplain Fr Tshidiso Moleko.

ST MARTIN DE PORRES, KANANA



A Father's Day celebration was arranged by CWL and St Anne ladies. It was held on the 18th of June 2023. The festivities started off with a celebration of a beautiful Mass. CWL arranged gifts for Father Raphael, Deacon Morapedi and Brother Winston, and small tokens of appreciation to all the fathers in the church. St Anne ladies prepared lunch for all who were in the church. This gesture was highly appreciated by the priest and all fathers in the church.

The cold never bothered anyone at Kanana this year, thanks to St Martin's CWL ladies. These ladies took their big pots off their shelves and cooked up a storm for the cold and underprivileged people on the streets. A hot hearty soup was prepared and served to them to warm up their day. With their vibrant and generous members, we can be sure that next winter will also be hot in Kanana. A big thank you to the ladies.

CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER, KLERKSDORP



"Bring something warm". So said the Cathedral CWL branch when they continued with their projects that were aimed at warming up the chilly winter days. July the 8th marked another soup evening with the Cathedral of Christ the Redeemer community. After 17:30 Mass, CWL members organised a warm soup for parishioners. The theme for the evening was "Bring something warm". A jersey, blanket, scarf or any donation for a charity drive. The project was a success and was carried over to the two Sunday Masses. The proceeds of the drive were aimed at charity organisations in and around Klerksdorp.

If it is not hosting and catering for Diocesan, Parish and CWL events at the Cathedral, it is charity work which often demands that they drive out of their "jurisdiction" to lend a helping hand. They are a good example of how all of us must have a "roll up your sleeve" approach to CWL activities and work. These ladies have continued with their project of providing the nuns in the diocese with their basic needs. They appeal to all the ladies to support their fund-raising projects, especially the high tea usually held in August/September, so that they can continue assisting the nuns with food and toiletry packages. Their helping hands extend to three convents and their wish is to be able to provide for them every quarter.

DIOCESE OF KLERKSDORP

ST PAUL, JOUBERTON



In one of their charity drives, the St Paul's CWL and CWA ladies took the time to visit a home for the elderly in Klerksdorp. They prayed and sang with them in a bid to turn their gloomy day to a blissful one. The ladies were happy and grateful for the visit and for the time spent with the visitors.

These simple acts of charity are always appreciated

ST MICHAEL, POTCHEFSTROOM



CWL's Taxi Rank Boutique is still up and running, and not even the biting cold Potchefstroom winter morning could stop the ladies from being there. Pushed by the trying economic times, St Michael's ladies have mastered the art of selling at the taxi rank. Their trade is in pre-loved clothes donated by the members themselves, as well as by the generous congregation of St Michael's. The clothes are sold to raise funds for CWL projects. On the 10th of June, the ladies braved the cold morning to go and sell clothes. Some of the clothes were donated to the community of Modderdam Farm just outside town. They were delighted to receive the garments, especially at this time of the year.

The relationship between St Michael CWL ladies and the neighbouring farm schools continues to grow. Just like the branch did last year, another shoe donation was done at Ourief Primary School in

July this year. More than 25 pairs of school shoes and socks were donated to under-privileged children. As usual their little faces lit up upon receiving the shoes and when they indulged in extra treats that the ladies brought along. The principal, Mr Jacob Ramotsoela, was also delighted to see his children's feet off the cold ground.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER, LICHTENBURG

St Francis ladies are "on steroids". Their "ship" made a stop at Welverdiene carrying a cargo of vegetable hampers, pre-loved clothes and cooked meals. This visit was necessitated by the dire straits in which the parish finds itself. A lot of assistance is required to fix the church, its ablution facilities and fencing, as well as to get children baptized as most of them are not.

The preloved clothes which were donated by the congregation of St Francis were sold to help raise funds for the church. With the leadership of Mme Mma Thulwe and the assistance of those ladies who donated food and vegetables, this was a successful drive which was welcomed by the priest, the children and adults who were in attendance. We can all learn valuable lessons from Mme Mma Thulwe, the captain of the ship, and her crew members. Their smiles take us directly to the Bible verse from 2Corinthians 9:7. "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver".

ST LOUIS BERTRAND, IKAGENG

We are the new kids on the block, under the tutelage of Calvary CWL, Ikageng, and this new branch is already ploughing seeds in our parish and spreading seeds around the diocese. The branch was established in November 2020 and is still taking baby steps into CWL. It has no more than 10 members who are already getting involved in charity work. The members collected sanitary towels which were donated to Masolenyana of Lesotho diocese, who were attending a retreat in Leeudoringstad. All our best wishes accompany the ladies of St Louis Bertrand, and we wish them a long and fulfilling journey in CWL.

DIOCESE OF MANZINI

DIOCESAN



Since CWL's inauguration in the diocese in 1980 at the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption (OLOA), the OLOA parish executive committee has been acting as the diocesan interim committee, and in 2022 the League prioritized electing a diocesan committee with representation from all the parishes.

The establishment of the diocesan executive committee has been a milestone achievement, and the committee was introduced to Bishop Jose Luis on the 22nd of July 2023.

The executive committee for the diocese of Manzini is made up of the following:

Lindiwe Bhembé, President (OLOA); Duduzile Nkambule, Vice-president (ST PETER AND PAUL); Thandwa Dlamini, Secretary (OLOA); Lovey Ndlovu, Vice-Secretary (ST PETER AND PAUL); Nomsa Vilakati, Treasurer (ST MARY'S); Sisana Mondlane, News Correspondent (OLOA); Zanele Chambers, Additional member (ST JOSEPH'S). On the 2nd of September the CWL Diocesan held a mini conference in preparation for the main conference to be held from the 13th to the 15th of October. The conference was an eye-opener for all the parish executive members, with Fr Mahazula presenting on the theme, "Love and support in our families and the community". CWL in Manzini has been continuing to follow its motto of Charity, Work and Loyalty. Charity works included the distribution of hampers, visitation of members and other people who are sick both in hospital and in homes.

CWL continues to support the bishop with fees for the seminarians. The "spoil your priest" initiative is done per parish at year end. During the 3 years of "Unity in the Spirit Through the Bonds of Peace" we are focused on raising the profile of CWL, nationally and internationally, through marketing and visits to other parishes to share information about CWL.

There are challenges facing the organisation, particularly the decline in membership due to the Covid-19 pandemic which resulted in some people being displaced to other locations due to job losses. This has led to serious financial challenges as some members are unable to pay their subscriptions, and so the League needs to engage in vigorous fund-raising initiatives.

MATER DOLOROSA

The recruitment initiative of members from other parishes has continued and CWL is now in 10 of the 17 parishes in the Manzini diocese. The first two ladies were enrolled at Mater Dolorosa church, the second biggest parish in the diocese. The enrolment began with a spiritually uplifting retreat, and the president spoke about the role and duties of members of the League. The ceremony was attended by members from other parishes.

ST JOSEPH

On the 22nd of September the St Joseph branch held their retreat to prepare for the enrolment of 6 ladies. The retreat was well attended with all parishes being represented. It was an uplifting event which covered the importance of the Novena, and also focused on social aspects of mental health. On Sunday the 23rd of September Fr Mazibuko celebrated a beautiful Mass and pinning of the 6 ladies was done by the president.

ST PETER AND ST PAUL

The ladies of the CWL collected items for hampers.

ESWATINI COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

CWL ladies participated in the Eswatini Council of Catholic Women (ECCW) annual conference which was held in June 2023.



DIOCESE OF MTHATHA



On the 13th of May we woke up to a cold and rainy day but despite this the WUCWO service at All Saints' Cathedral was well attended. We started the day with holy Mass celebrated by F Monwabisi Majingolo. After Mass the WUCWO programme began. Parishioners had been given the documents a week earlier so that they could read them before the day. St Anne's Sodality opened the programme and gave a brief review of what WUCWO stands for and what it does. People had prepared well for the day. We also gained an understanding of Synodality which was a fairly new concept for us. After a morning of listening to different speakers in the church, we finished off with tea and refreshments.

We paid a visit to Themba Hospice which usually has between 20 and 25 patients. We took along pots of food that we had cooked earlier, containing rice/samp and beans, a variety of vegetables and

chicken to be served to the patients. This was followed by fruit, although sometimes we also provide a dessert. We left a pot of soup and loaves of bread for the patients' supper. This is usually a very happy day for us all. We arrive at about midday and have a short prayer with the patients. We then split our group, with some ladies doing Bible readings and question and answer sessions with the residents, while others get on with preparing the lunch. We would like to visit more often but we are not a well-resourced branch, and we often fund most of what we do from our own pockets.

We renewed our commitment to the League on the 20th of August at the cathedral in Mthatha. We promised to seek God by serving His church, by living our Catholic faith to the full and by performing the tasks assigned to us cheerfully, willingly and generously. The ceremony went well, and there was much enthusiasm shown by our members and by the congregation at large.

DIOCESE OF OUDTSHOORN



The annual Day of Recollection for our diocesan CWL took place on Sunday the 13th of August 2023, at St. Blaize parish in Mossel Bay. It was presented by the diocesan CWL chaplain, Fr. Leon Mostert C.O. and more than fifty women from all over the diocese attended. The theme was 'Forgiveness and Respect'. It started with holy Mass and two spiritual conferences were given. It concluded with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and benediction. The St. Blaize branch provided us with a delicious lunch, and we were privileged to have our oldest member with us, Aunt Frieda Flemmer from St. Mary's in George, who celebrated her 90th birthday on the 6th of June this year.

DIOCESE OF OUDTSHOORN

ST. VINCENT PALOTTI, PACALTS DORP, GEORGE



Having become aware that many mothers in their community were having great difficulty in feeding their children, the CWL members of this parish recently held an outreach to help with feeding some hungry children.

ST. MARY'S, ROSEMORE, GEORGE

Members renewed their commitment on the Feast of the Assumption and five of them received their 10-year badges, pinned on by Diocesan president Nellie Reimann in the presence of parish priest Father Francis Malaka.

ST. LIBORIUS, PARKDENE, GEORGE



Mary Titus treur oor haar dogter wat skielik oorlede is. Hou haar asseblief in julle gebede. Sarah Jantjies, die oudste lid in die tak, het 28 Augustus haar 90ste verjaarsdag gevier. Ongelukkig is sy tans nie heeltemal gesond nie. Hou haar asseblief ook in julle gebede.

Een van ons lede voed baie mense met 'n sopkombuis.

Baie lede is besig met siekebesoek waar die rosekrans gebed word.

'n Loojie is aan die gang om fondse in te samel vir ons kerk wat op 27 Julie 40 jaar geword het. Dit is gevier met heilige Mis, en sop, koek en tee daarna. Die Bisdomlike Presidente en Vise Presidente was saam met ons.

Taklede het op 29 Augustus hul gelofte hernu.

Sarah Jantjies, van St Liborius, vier haar 90ste verjaarsdag.

DIOCESE OF POLOKWANE

DIOCESAN

We are already in the 4th quarter of the year - 2023 has gone by so quickly!

As CWL Polokwane we are happy because we are growing as the League, if not in numbers then spiritually. On the 30th of July a new branch in Our Lady of Fatima parish was inaugurated with enrolments of one full member and four aspirants. This beautiful moment was presided over by the parish priest, Rev Fr G Sekhaolelo, with witnesses from different parishes to support our sisters in Christ. We promise to always support them with our prayers.

We also feel blessed to be alive after the storm we experienced with COVID-19 that devastated a lot of us and took many lives. May their souls rest in peace.!



We could not afford to miss the moment of reflection and prayer offered by a retreat at Mater Dei pastoral centre from the 18th to the 20th of August. The retreat was led by Rev. Fr Galane. Looking at our prayer intention of the year "Love, support and unity in our families and community", Fr. Galane led the retreat with the theme "We are created in the image and likeness of God". He taught us many things and challenged us too.

We are encouraged to minimize noise; to spend time with the Lord; to love God and our neighbours; to read and observe the word of God that guides us like Exodus 34: 6-7, Joel 2: 12-13, etc; to make Christ the centre of our lives. Almost all the parishes attended the retreat except Emmanuel parish

in Bela-Bela and we keep them in our prayers.

As mentioned in the previous issue, the Polokwane diocese under the leadership of Bishop Jeremiah Masela is growing in leaps and bounds. He invited all of us to celebrate the centenary of one of the parishes, Our Lady of Good Counsel, on the 17th of September. In this same parish we have Motse Maria High School, known locally and internationally because of the quality of education it provides, and St Joseph hospital which sadly closed down due to lack of funding. In the coming months the CWL wishes to extend their work of charity towards the school by helping with renovation of a classroom.

DIOCESE OF POLOKWANE

REGINA PACIS



In June we celebrated the feast of Corpus Christi, and we bought hot dogs for our parish celebration. We gave blankets to several of our parishioners. In the same month the Ndini family suffered a great loss when their house and all their possessions were destroyed in a fire. Hlahla Ndini and Lesibana Ndini are both CWL members and Hlahla serves as diocesan secretary. Our parish visited them with donations of clothes, food and money. Sts Peter and Paul parish, under Fr Phuti Moabelo, also donated to the family and offered their support.

To mark Father's Day we donated socks to the fathers in the parish. We contributed funds towards a parish celebration in July. For Fr Muila's jubilee

in August we bought him a chasuble. Our contribution towards our parish Women's Day celebration was 6 dessert platters. We reached out to members of the League who were no longer active to encourage them to come back to us.

We began our Novena on the 6th of August with holy Mass. At Mass on the feast of the Assumption we welcomed back our old member Makkie Maomela.

We spoiled our secretary Fridah Pitjeng with flowers and cake, and she received a blessing from our priest.

We attended the retreat at Mater Dei which was led by our priest Fr Galane. We had a wonderful weekend with him and felt so blessed. We joined the centenary celebrations at Motse Maria along with the rest of the diocese. Bishop Masela was there with our priests.

STS PETER AND PAUL PARISH, SESHEGO

On the 23rd of July our CWL members gave gifts to our elderly parishioners, and after Mass they had lunch with them.

DIOCESE OF PORT ELIZABETH (GQEBERHA)

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION



We held two fundraisers in July, making pickled fish with steam bread as well as samp and beans. The R2500 we raised was used to re-sand the floors of our meeting rooms.

On Father's Day we bought our priest clerical shirts and suit covers.

On the 18th of July we donated sanitary pads to two schools in Zwide, Mngophiso and Sithembele. The sanitary pad drive is ongoing, and the parish is also involved.

In August we started our Novena at church and continued at home.

On the Feast of the Assumption, we enrolled a new member, Thandeka Budaza, and renewed our commitment to the League. It was a beautiful occasion and a day well planned.

DIOCESE OF PORT ELIZABETH (GQEBERHA)

CORPUS CHRISTI



May, the month of our Lady, was embraced by a number of our members who led the rosary meditation every Friday morning before our 09:30 mass. During the month of June, 3 events occupied the time and participation of our league.

Firstly, the Cheshire Homes Fete on the 3rd of June, which was a bumper affair. As usual, our branch handled the cake stall and this year our team of workers with Margie Lamont at the helm managed to bring in R14900 for Cheshire. This was truly an outstanding collection for a very worthy cause in the Port Elizabeth area.

Secondly, a most wonderful tea after mass on the 4th of June was prepared for our 1st Holy Communion catechumens and their families and friends. Our Jubilee hall was buzzing after a beautiful Mass during which 9 children received the Eucharist for the first time under the tutelage of one of our very own CWL Members, Elvira Mitchell.

The third and final event which indeed was a proud moment for many of our members was the DCWL AGM held in Grahamstown on the 11th of June. The following members received long service badges:

Maureen Prinsloo	-	40 years (Received in Grahamstown)
Pauline Potgieter	-	30 years (Received in Grahamstown)
Margie Lamont	-	20 years (Received in Port Elizabeth)
Wendy Forlee	-	20 years (Received in Port Elizabeth)
Jacky Hamlett	-	20 years (Received in Port Elizabeth)
Elvira Mitchell	-	20 years (Received in Port Elizabeth)

The International Food Fair held at St Augustine's Cathedral on the 27th of July was a resounding success. Our League decorated its pancake stall in the orange and white colours of the Netherlands, and we sold over 300 pancakes throughout the busy and festive evening.

Our branch was truly blessed at our annual CWL re-commitment Mass held on the 6th of August. During Mass 3 new ladies were enrolled in our branch as fully fledged members. We pray that their coming years of service of charity, work and loyalty will be fruitful and rewarding.

MATER DEI

We celebrated our corporate Mass on the 2nd of June. The following day there was a triple ordination at the Sacred Heart church. Our well-known Rev. Byron Bowers was ordained to the priesthood, and two deacons (one of whom originally had entered the seminary from our parish) were ordained.

Two weeks later, on the 16th of June, also at Sacred Heart, our much-loved, retired but very active Msg. Brendan Deenihan celebrated sixty years of priesthood, having served in the diocese of Port Elizabeth after being ordained at the age of 24 in Ireland. He is always warmly welcomed at Mater Dei.

Six of our members travelled to Grahamstown on the 11th of June for our diocesan AGM where three members received long service awards. The AGM was well attended, and the cold weather was very kind to us, holding off the welcome rain for the day.

We held a cake sale on the 25th of June, but the unpredictable weather was not in our favour on this occasion and people scurried home to keep warm.

On the 14th of July we celebrated our corporate Mass with our parish priest Fr. Ludwe officiating.

Our parish held a successful bingo event on the 29th of July and the League assisted in selling tickets for this.

SACRED HEART

Our report starts with the sad news of Thora Hempel's husband's passing. Our condolences and prayers are with the family. The CWL ladies served tea and provided eats for the Hempel family and mourners following the funeral mass on the 15th of May.

On the 3rd of June Sacred Heart had the great privilege and honour of hosting the ordination of 3 seminarians. Clint Weldschidt and Siphamandla Mpulo were ordained to the diaconate and Byron Bowers to the priesthood. It was a very well planned and executed event with CWL being involved in the serving of breakfast for the clergy and family prior to the event and preparing and handing out goodie boxes with savoury and sweet treats and refreshments following the ordination mass. Food parcels were distributed again to 3 families. It continues to be a very much needed outreach which is greatly appreciated by the families. On the 11th of June some members attended the CWL AGM in Grahamstown. Members from all over the diocese gathered in prayer and fellowship. Long service awards were handed out at the event and our own Margaret Ah Chong received her 50-year membership badge. Our CWL chaplain Fr Eldridge celebrated mass after which the day was memorialized with pictures being taken to share with those unable to attend.

On the 16th of June Sacred Heart hosted the diamond jubilee Mass of Monsignor Brendan Deenihan, marking 60 years in the priesthood, on the Feast of the Sacred Heart. CWL prepared breakfast for the clergy prior to the mass and set up and served tea at the bring and share afterwards where the parishioners joined the Monsignor in celebrating the momentous occasion.

It was CWL's turn for soup kitchen duty on Saturday the 17th of June. Hot soup was prepared for the needy outside the parish grounds. It was much welcomed on the very cold winter's morning.

DIOCESE OF PORT ELIZABETH (GQEBERHA)

Many were fed and the soup was completely distributed within an hour. Later that Saturday morning, some members gathered to fry koeksisters which were kindly made by Sophia in preparation for Father's Day the 18th of June. We welcome Rieta to our Sacred Heart CWL Family. She joined us having moved to Port Elizabeth from Cape Town where she was a member of the CWL branch of the Tableview parish.

On the 28th of June Beverley handed the beanie hats donated by Celie Barth to the Kuyga pre-school. They were very well received and appreciated. Frank Scholtz delivered food to The Sparrow school on behalf of CWL.

Eileen is teaching members the art of crochet as part of our ongoing and very successful outreach to the poor and needy in our community. Alvernia kindly took the knitted and crocheted items to Dora Nzinga where her son is a medical practitioner in the paediatric area. The items were received with much appreciation by the staff and will be distributed to the patients.

The funeral service for Thelma Trow, one of the very first parishioners of Sacred Heart and a woman who worked and served the parish faithfully for many years, was held at Sacred Heart on the 6th of July. CWL members prepared eats and served tea to the funeral attendees after the internment.

Five of our members embarked on the journey of a lifetime on the 9th of July when they went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land with the Sacred Heart group as part of their Jubilee celebration. From the feedback and updates received, they had a truly transformative experience. On the 9th of August some of our members attended the unity Mass at San Francesco parish in Charlo. The theme was marriage and family, and the married couples received certificates according to their years of marriage.

We wished Beverley and her husband John Swart well as they embarked upon their pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago in Spain.

SAN FRANCESCO

A donation of R5000 was given to the Diocesan Seminary Fund, and it was also suggested that we consider supporting the Franciscan Mission Fund and the Galvan Park Frail Care Centre.

A very big thank you to Margaret Zoetmulder and her group of ladies for a beautiful selection of knitted items for the poor.

Father Sonny celebrated his 50th birthday and we were happy to provide the eats and serve the tea for this special occasion.

The unity Mass took place on the 9th of August at our parish. Over 500 people attended. Our thanks to the ladies who helped serve the tea and coffee and of course not forgetting the washing up of the dishes!

Thanks to our once-a-month workshop ladies and to the generosity of our knitters, we were able to give a couple of bags of knitting as well as clothing to Sister Martha for the Kleinskool Community and she was so appreciative.

We will be supplying more soup to Bedford Community as they are continuing to struggle.

ST AUGUSTINE



On the 20th of August we had our corporate Mass. We renewed our vows and were blessed by Fr. Jerry. Long service awards were presented to Thami Zini (10 years); Beverley Jonas (20 years). Unfortunately, Christina Septoo, due to ill health, could not attend to receive her 20-year badge.

The International Food Evening on the 28th of July went well. CWL manned the South African cuisine stall.

Market Day on the 26th of August was a great success. Our members manned the book stall and the tea garden. We continue to work with the SVdP monthly soup kitchen for the needy.

On Sundays we sell muffins after Mass as part of our fundraising efforts.

ST BERNADETTE



Our members have enjoyed a busy and rewarding time. We have continued to support our regular charities and were pleased to be able to donate wool to St Martin de Porres CWL as well as much-needed blankets to the SVdP. We were represented at the diocesan AGM in Grahamstown where Angie Betz received her 50-year service badge and Maureen Bosch her 20-year service badge. We continue to assist our parish by providing tea and refreshments for funerals, and the donations we receive help us to support our monthly charities. Our knitters have been busy and lovely knitted garments were gratefully received by Missionvale, the Sisters of Addo and the new soup kitchen that has started operating in Despatch. Our monthly rosary and tea provided by the SVdP have been ongoing and we actively encourage other parishioners to join us on these mornings. Our members and other ladies of the parish spent the morning together at the Women's Day Morning of Recollection held at St Bernadette's on the 9th of August. A special time of prayer, reflection and fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended, and two new CWL members were inducted at the Mass on the day.

DIOCESE OF PORT ELIZABETH (GQEBERHA)

ST MARTIN DE PORRES

On the 31st of May the Interdom Service was held at St Martin de Porres. It was well attended by ladies from various congregations. They were warmly welcomed by Belinda Allie, one of our members, and thereafter Mass was offered by Fr Davis. In true CWL spirit, refreshments were served and enjoyed by all present. On Sunday the 4th of June, at the monthly CWL meeting, the ladies had the idea of spoiling the elderly in the parish as well as those at the old age homes in the surrounding areas. It was decided that, due to the cold weather conditions, knitted bed socks for the elderly would come in quite handy. Skeins of wool were purchased, and Belinda managed to call on quite a few sponsors for wool. This was a great team effort and by the next monthly meeting there were approximately 80 pairs of bed socks ready to be handed out to some of the parishioners as well as at the old age homes in the area. We attended the CWL AGM held in Grahamstown in June. On arrival we were welcomed with a warm cup of coffee/tea, koek-sisters and scones. Thereafter Mass was celebrated by Fr Eldridge. Two of our ladies were blessed with their badges for long service – Belinda Allie received her badge for 25 years of service and Sandra Rudlin received hers for 30 years. On the 19th of August, at the Saturday evening mass, Fr Davis prayed a special blessing over the ladies and then re-introduced them to the parish. On the 26th of July the diocesan CWL meeting was held at Mater Dei in Gqeberha. We were asked to cater, and all the ladies willingly agreed to prepare sandwiches, scones, muffins and coffee/tea. Fr Eldridge offered Mass and thereafter the refreshments were served and enjoyed by all. The meeting went well and great ideas for fundraising were shared. On the 20th of August the Divine Mercy Apostolate and the Legion of Mary Prayer Procession started at 12h30 at St Kevin's Catholic Church. Prayers were offered inside the church by Fr Henry and the procession was led by a band. The procession ended at St Martin de Porres with benediction, after which the ladies of the CWL assisted in serving the refreshments.

ST. MARY'S, GRAHAMSTOWN



Once again, we had a blessed AGM that was held in Grahamstown. Our vice-president, Veronica Bosman, received her 20-year badge and Sharon Abrahams, our secretary, received her 30-year badge.

Some of our members visited Aunty Gwen Baartman, one of our oldest members in our congregation, on her 96th birthday. What a blessing, reaching that age. We are still doing our spiritual activities, visiting the sick, the elderly, bereaved families, and all those in need of prayers. Our soup kitchen is still in operation, and we thank God for all those sponsoring us with any kind of donations. We also donated toiletries to the under-privileged children in our community. We pray for God's blessing upon all our League members as we walk through our journey called life.

ST JUDE, ZWELITSHA, KING WILLIAM'S TOWN



The diocesan team visited the parish of St Jude in Zwelitsha and enrolled eight ladies. Father Peter Chungu celebrated a vibrant Mass and three ladies from Sacred Heart in King William's Town joined us. The beautiful occasion was followed by lunch

ARCHDIOCESE OF PRETORIA

DIOCESAN WUCWO DAY



On the 27th of May Auxiliary Bishop, Masilo Selemela, supported by our chaplain, celebrated holy Mass, which was hosted by the Zwavelpoort branch. Previously, Archbishop Dabula Mpako had advised that as from this year, the WUCWO day celebration should be attended by all Catholic women and not be limited to only the CWL and St. Anne's members. As a result, almost all sodalities were represented, and they were afforded an opportunity to share their objectives, motto, and patrons. Furthermore, the archdiocese was deeply honoured to have one of our own elected to the WUCWO board during the General Assembly held in Assisi, Italy in May 2023. Ms Veronica Malan-Lebona of the Eersterust branch will serve on this board as a Southern African representative until 2027. Ms Malan-Lebona shared a brief

report on the WUCWO General Assembly with the attendees. There are a few sodalities that indicated interest in WUCWO projects, and we will get guidance from the national committee on how to collaborate with them. Pictured above are ladies from different branches at the WUCWO Day. The archdiocese held its non-elective AGM on the 29th of July and the meeting was well-attended by all branches. We started with holy Mass celebrated by our chaplain, Fr Thomas, who happened to be the parish priest of the host branch, Lynnwood. Each branch was afforded an opportunity to give a brief report on its activities and highlights. We are proud to report that on the 27th of August we launched our first branch in a township. On the 25th of June the DC members went to Soshanguve to conduct a workshop for 11 inductees who were enrolled in August. St Anthony's CWL in Soshanguve is also our first branch in the North-Western Deanery. CWL in Pretoria now exists in 4 out of 6 deaneries of the archdiocese. In response to the recently escalated water crisis in Hammanskraal, CWL members donated more than two hundred 5L bottles of water to the Holy Cross Catholic Church, convents in Kgomo-Kgomo, Dannhouser, and Marokolong, as well as retired nuns of the Handmaids of Christ the Priest.

CHURCH OF THE PRESENTATION, MONTANA



The Zama Zama Early Learning Centre, which caters mostly for children born to foreigners, has been our main charity project since 2018. We are proud to be able to wind down the project leaving it reasonably resourced and regarded as a place where early childhood development can take place. We bade the children and staff farewell on the 7th of July. We have adopted a new flagship project at St John the Baptist Old Age Home in Winterveld. On the 15th of July, as part of Mandela day celebrations, we spent the entire day helping the elderly residents clean their rooms. We supplied them with winter clothing and adult diapers as well. It was also heart-warming to be joined by other women from our parish. It was a day well spent and very fulfilling. We praise God, who continues to give us life so we can give others His love.

ST ANTHONY, SOSHANGUVE



The parish of St Anthony in Soshanguve made history on the 27th of August as the first township parish in Pretoria to launch the CWL. Following a year-long journey of induction, an impressive number of 11 sisters were welcomed to the CWL sisterhood on the day. We also had a fundraising (aka Mokolokotwane) activity which was aimed at generating start-up funds for the inaugural branch. Other Pretoria diocesan CWL sisters, as well as women and men of existing sodalities of St Anthony parish, enthusiastically joined in and generously supported the endeavour. Loads of fun was had and money was raised. Our inaugural charity act was to adopt an orphanage in Soshanguve, called Boitumelo Home. The home currently cares for 47 vulnerable children ranging in age from 4 to 18. We visited the home on the 23rd of July as a plough-back deed in celebration of Mandela Day. We managed to donate about 20 boxes of second-hand clothing to them. An impressive feat that we hope to multiply in future.

MARIA REGINA, LYTTTELTON

In July, the Lyttelton branch visited the orphanages of Tshwane Haven and Swallow's Nest to spend time with the little ones. We also donated children's necessities. On Father's Day, the CWL treated parish priest Fr Joseph, diocesan chaplain Fr Thomas and Fr Shady to a scrumptious lunch and presented them with gifts as our spiritual fathers. In July, our branch provided school jerseys to 30 school children at Oliewenhoutbosch Primary School. This was a very necessary intervention for needy children and their appreciation was clear from the big smiles on their angelic faces. On the 5th of August we cooked a warm meal for the homeless housed at Lyttelton Community Hall as part of our charity and outreach programme. In August we ran a campaign to collect sanitary pads and adult nappies from members of the parish community, with the assistance of the PPC. We delivered the collected items as follows: 42 packets of sanitary pads and clothing to the Mail Martin Polokegong Centre for abused women, 12 packets of adult nappies to Sizanani shelter for adults and children with special needs, 199 packets of sanitary pads to Irene Middle School and 228 packets of sanitary pads to Thakgalang School in Soshanguve.

ARCHDIOCESE OF PRETORIA

ST AUGUSTINE, SILVERTON



We celebrated the renewal of our vows during a vibrant Mass where we welcomed one new member to our growing community. Two of our members received their ten-year badges and we congratulate them for their commitment and service to the CWL. We celebrated with tea and eats after Mass and our parish priest Fr Robert gave a blessing to all the members. During Mass we also prayed and lit a candle for the dearly departed member of our branch. Her family joined in the celebration of her life at Mass.

The highlight of the CWL Silverton Branch during this season was the 80th birthday celebration of one of our oldest members, Auntie Martha. We had a thanksgiving Mass for her and took her out for breakfast on her special day. She was grateful for this gesture as all her immediate family members are out of the country. She appreciated the love and kindness from her CWL sisters. Our branch has adopted the Silversig Old Age Home, where our dearest Auntie Martha is housed. They care for 110 elderly residents and we provide them with toiletries quarterly, as they are in desperate need of these items.

CWL members celebrated the 75th birthday party of our visiting priest, Fr Manana. Fr Manana is the first South African black Comboni priest. He was our parish caretaker for two months whilst our parish priest was away. He thought he would be alone during this milestone in his life for he was away from his own community. We gifted him with presents from the heart. His gratitude extended to all members as we made his day very special.

We serve tea and eats every 1st Sunday of the month to the parish community. It is a special occasion in our parish as during Mass the priest blesses all those who celebrate their birthdays and their wedding anniversaries. As CWL members we contribute to the building of our parish community and contribute to the jovial camaraderie which brings the people of God together.

Each first Saturday of the month we hold a jumble sale at the Nelmapius Township in Pretoria East to raise funds.

In gratitude for all the hard work women do in the parish, the men of our community spoiled women on Mother's Day, pampering them with gifts of mugs full of sweet goodies.

The CWL Silverton branch extended their charity work to St Alphonso, a Catholic orphanage in Bronkhorstspuit run by nuns. We have made a commitment to supply the girls with sanitary pads each quarter.

ST JOHN FISHER, LYNNWOOD

The past three months have been a very active time for the Lynnwood branch. On the 29th of July we hosted the diocesan AGM. A total of 120 members attended, despite the chilly weather. After the Mass, tea, coffee, and muffins were served and then after the long meeting, soup and rolls were handed out. Non-perishable items given at offertory during the AGM Mass were collected for the UN refugees living on a farm near Bronkhorstspuit. The donations were more than generous and were collected by Fr Vincent the following day. This was organized by Sandra Payne, acting President.

On Sunday the 20th of August, the vow renewal of the CWL members took place. There was a good attendance and two new members, Charlotte Chellan and Chantalle Howlette-Dowling, were inducted. After photos were taken, the members retired to the hall for coffee and biscuits.

Our monthly meetings continue to be held on the second Saturday morning of the month. At the meeting on the 9th of September, another three new members were welcomed.

We hold our monthly rosary meetings on the last Tuesday afternoon of each month and the attendance has been most gratifying. We support the "Abused Childrens Clinic" in Johannesburg and continue to send over 100 teddies at a time. We are blessed with the support of non-members who knit for us as well. Our working members have taken it upon themselves to visit "Precious Blessings", a place of safety for babies and toddlers run by George and Heidi Versfeld in the Wilgers. It is a place where children learn that they are born to be blessed by tender care, love, and prayers. The members attend on a Saturday once a month to assist with taking care of the babies, feeding them, playing with them, donating baby clothes, and often take their own children to play with the toddlers. Such a charitable exercise. Catering for funerals has always been our major fundraising activity, done mainly to be able to support our various charities. Over the past six weeks we have been very busy catering for several funerals and the load has fallen on the non-working members. The funerals include those for member Dawn Hassett's husband Tony and Monika Myburgh, a past national treasurer (1973) and president of Lynnwood branch in 1976. CWL members enjoy socializing at the bi-monthly breakfast. On the past two occasions we met at Monaco Café, organized by Jenny Repton. Second-hand handbags are continuously collected for the "Rape Victims", and we continue to support the "Keeping Girls at School" project. Monsignor Marc de Muelenaere was our parish priest for a number of years and was instrumental, with the Lynnwood parishioners, in raising money to build the Church of the Beatitudes in Zwavelpoort. Sadly, he passed away recently. A number of our members attended the funeral at the Church of the Beatitudes, which was also attended by a large number of clergy. MHSRIP.



ARCHDIOCESE OF PRETORIA

HOLY TRINITY, OLIFANTSFONTEIN



We attended the 85th CWL Pretoria archdiocesan AGM on the 29th of July in Lynnwood, hosted by CWL Chaplain Fr Thomas. Attendance was great from all our branches. Our branch renewed our commitment on the 20th of August, the Feast of the Assumption. This is a day that is very important to us as Mary the mother of God is our model. We celebrated Heritage Day on the 24th of September by honouring the heritage of the many cultures that make up our beautiful nation.

ST PIUS X, WATERKLOOF

We welcomed two new executive members, Nthabi Theresa and Bongzi, and wish them well in their leadership roles. As part of our charity work, groceries were donated to 26 vulnerable families in Hammanskraal. Our branch, with the assistance of residents of the Nazareth House retirement home, did outstanding work in knitting winter blankets, jerseys, hats etc. These were donated to an NGO called Women Against Rape (WAR).

OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART (OLSH), MIDRAND



This was a very active period for the Midrand branch. One of our members, Cecilia Nkulika, was blessed with a baby boy, Gift Nkulika. We celebrated Father's Day with a gift for Father Jijesh. On the Feast of the Assumption we enrolled 5 new CWL members (pictured here), and existing members renewed their commitment. We hosted a fundraising at the parish on the 10th of September, where hotdogs were sold. We were pleased with how it went. Our CWL sisters participated in the "Water for Hammanskraal" initiative by donating a number of 5 litre bottles of water. We attended the launch of the new CWL branch in Soshanguve.

ST JOSEPH, EERSTERUST



On the 21st of August 2022, the Feast of Our Lady, we embarked on a new and exciting adventure. Canvassing for new members has always been a challenge, and we decided to use this feast day to create awareness of the CWL in the parish, hoping that like the fisherman, we would be able to catch a few, and this has paid off. After mass a few ladies showed interest. They took a few months to fast and pray for understanding of what and where it is that God needs them to be. In November 2022 they attended their first meeting and indicated that they were here to stay. These inductees have become very involved in all the League activities, both at diocesan and branch level. In February 2023 they attended the Lenten retreat, were present at the DC AGM and at the introduction of a new branch in Soshanguve. They are also actively involved in parish activities.

On the 20th of August this year Rachel Mapel, Chantel Bagley, Lorinda Mpofu and Raylene Perry were enrolled. We were also privileged to welcome back one of our old members, Ms Pearly Rogers, who renewed her vows. Some of the reasons the new members mentioned for joining include the value of belonging to a sisterhood, a love of their faith, the importance of living the CWL motto of charity, work and loyalty. The sense of unity among the members and the good work done by them in the church and the community are also an inspiration.

On the Feast of Our Lady, we also presented some members with long service badges.

Manei Letebele-Hartell described how much being a member of the League has meant to her since 1999, beginning with the warm welcome extended to her by a group of women she barely knew. Some of the charity activities she was involved in included visiting children's homes and orphanages to donate goods, visiting old age homes to cook for them, praying for the sick who are home bound. She also values the spiritual upliftment of the retreats she has attended, and attributes her growth in faith and commitment to God's work to her membership of the League.

On the 2nd of September our ladies were hard at work at the parish's annual chicken braai, cooking and dishing up for those who attended. Some of them are pictured above.

Later that month, on the 24th, the parish celebrated the priestly ordination of Deacon Andile Dlephu. It was a phenomenal day. The ladies were responsible for taking care of the visitors and for preparing the Sunday lunch for all the priests and visitors.

ARCHDIOCESE OF PRETORIA

CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART, PRETORIA



On the 15th of July CWL Cathedral branch celebrated Mandela Day. Parish priest Fr Thabiso Ledwaba requested the CWL to clean the parish house on Saturday. Our members obliged, and also invited other sodalities to join us in this project.

On the 16th of August fundraising for the year began. The money raised goes towards funding our charity projects. Pictured are some of our members at a fundraiser, with Fr Thabiso Ledwaba supporting us.

After praying our Novena for nine days, we were treated to a spiritual revival session on the 19th of August. We attended a retreat with Father Ledwaba, our spiritual director. He taught us a lesson about charity, that people in need should be taught how to fish. This meant that while interacting with them and addressing their needs we should teach them how to stave off poverty. The retreat was held in preparation for the renewal of vows and ten years of service celebrations the following day. Members attended the retreat in numbers clad in their beautiful blue T-shirts. On the Feast of the Assumption Sacred Heart CWL celebrated sisters who had reached a milestone of ten years of service. They are Masego Tsamaisi, Anadine Whitebooi, Stella Mathosa, Sally Toto and Busisiwe Mphuthi. Adelaide Kutumela received her ten-year badge in absentia. CWL donated She-Bins to Tsogo High School on the 28th of August. These bins are useful in the ladies' rooms and are used by girls to dispose of sanitary towels.

CHURCH OF THE BEATITUDES, ZWAVELPOORT



In May we celebrated Mother's Day with our parishioners by gifting each mom a wooden spoon in remembrance of their motherhood.

On the 16th of June CWL members together with the Sacred Heart Sodality braced the freezing weather to prepare soup and bread for general workers who gather on the side of the road looking for employment (pictured here).

We celebrated Father's Day by gifting fathers with screwdrivers and other tools and equipment that may be used when doing household chores. We received positive feedback from fathers, a sense of appreciation.

In July the home of one of our parishioners caught fire. In collaboration with Caritas we collected clothes and blankets for the family.

In August CWL sisters renewed their vows and welcomed four new members who had been through a thorough induction process directed by one of our members, Mme Hildah. On the same day members renewed their vows. Our inspirational sister Lulu received her 25-year membership badge.

On the 9th of September, the Zwavelpoort branch organised a Sip and Paint fundraising event to raise funds for our pads drive for Boitshepo Catholic School in Hammanskraal.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, PRETORIA NORTH



The months of July and August were particularly difficult for the branch as two of our members lost their husbands after short illnesses. The comfort, support and prayers offered by sisters within the branch, neighbouring branches and the DC leadership were extremely helpful in giving our branch strength during this period, assisting us to renew our faith. May the souls of the dearly departed rest in eternal peace.

We were asked to decorate the Bertoni Hall at our parish for the Diaconate Ordination of Deacon Tony Gumede.

During Mass for the Feast of the Assumption, our ladies renewed their commitment to the League. A new member was enrolled, and five ladies were presented with their 10-year service badges. As is customary, these renewals were preceded by a day of retreat.

To mark Mandela Day, we spent quality time at the Ten Morgan Home of the Frail and Aged, a home that is close to the heart of CWL Pretoria North. This year grocery items and bed linen were gifted to the home (pictured).

We attended the Soshanguve branch launch and the diocesan AGM at Lynwood. A sizeable number of CWL sisters were among a group of parishioners who visited the Ngome Marian Shrine in August, a retreat arranged by the Family Life Ministry of St John the Baptist parish.

OBITUARIES

Elizabeth Bowers, Cape Town

6 August 1938 – 23 April 2023

Elizabeth was a member of the Atlantis CWL branch.

Lauraine Pulford, Cape Town

31 July 1953 – 13 July 2023

Lauraine Pulford was an active member of the Somerset West CWL for many years. She managed the catering for church functions such as funerals and a weekly Wednesday morning tea after Mass known as "The King and I". She was a member of the Care Group, visiting the sick and those in need of spiritual support. She was secretary during the last year of her life until she was unable to perform that function after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer last year. She remained positive during treatment until the end. She is sorely missed by all at Somerset West parish and CWL.

Rita Maria Hayes, Cape Town



20 August 1951 – 22 August 2023

Rita joined the CWL in Plumstead in 2018. She bravely put up her hand to serve as president in 2021, despite being one of the newest members of the branch. In her calm, quiet and extremely capable way she successfully ran the group as we got back to normal following the severe disruption caused by the Covid pandemic. She had been an active member of the St Pius X parish for many years, and the lasagne she prepared for the annual parish food fair was legendary. She also ran the pancake stall at the same function and put this skill to good use for the CWL Shrove Tuesday pancake evenings. She was accomplished at so many things, including cooking, baking and sewing, and was a mean bowls player too. Rest in eternal peace, dear Rita.

Lucy Lawlor, Durban



It is with great sadness and with joy that we celebrate the life of Lucy Lawlor. She will be missed for her great sense of humour. She always had lots of jokes, she loved her wine and was always up for fun at our socials. First and foremost was her dedication to Charity, Work and Loyalty.

Lucy had been a member since 1958 and an Honorary Life member since 2002. In her younger years and until she could no longer participate due to age, Lucy did Meals on Wheels, worked at the TB Kiosk at the Botanical Gardens, helped with funeral teas, senior citizens, the parish soup kitchen, hospital visiting, and was a Minister of Communion. Lucy was also on the team for counting the parish pledge money for many years.

For those of us lucky enough to have spent time with Lucy, we will always remember that mischievous twinkle in her eye and her words of wisdom and encouragement, her devotion to serving the community and her love for the Catholic Women's League.

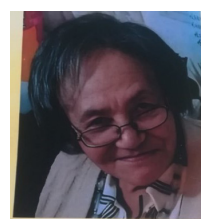
Margaret Frances Hoogstander, De Aar



20 April 1950 - 27 September 2023

Margaret Hoogstander joined the league on the 5th of October 1997 and was a member for 26 years. She was in the CWL branch at St John's parish in De Aar.

Irene Stafford, Durban



12 October 1945 – 13 June 2023

Irene was a loyal member of the Assumption Durban CWL branch for many years. She always made an effort to attend parish retreats and functions. She helped at our fetes and was involved with many of our church prayer groups. She will be missed by so many. Rest in peace dear sister.

Ann Cecilia Beckmann, Johannesburg



Ann Beckman, from Eldorado Park, was a member of the CWL for 37 years and served as president from 2012 to 2014. Her health had deteriorated since last year. She passed away on the 24th of August and was laid to rest on the 2nd of September. She will be sadly missed by the League members. May her soul rest in peace.

OBITUARIES

Cornelia Wilhemina Parsons, Johannesburg



15 November 1935 – 9 July 2023
Cornelia was born in Holland. Her parents emigrated to South Africa after the Second World War. She joined the League in Primrose in the 1990s. Shortly thereafter the family moved to Port Shepstone where she continued her active involvement in the CWL for almost twenty years before returning to Primrose in 2016 after her husband died.

She was a deeply religious woman and tirelessly encouraged everyone to pray. She was a hard worker, generous and kind, and an inspiration to all with whom she came in contact.

She is survived by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen

Masego Mocumi, Kimberley



Masego Mocumi was a member of the CWL branch at St. Mary's cathedral branch. She was enrolled in the League in 2017 and passed away on the 21st of August 2023.

Dimakatso Suzan Sekete, Johannesburg



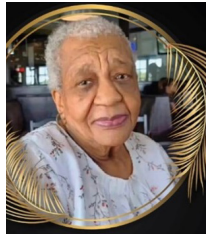
19 October 1959 – 24 June 2023
Mrs Winnie Sekete was enrolled on the 8th of November 2000 and served as the first secretary of the first executive committee of San Salvador's CWL. She was very diligent and efficient in her secretarial work and served two terms. She was a pleasant and friendly person by nature and a team player. She retired in 2022 due to ill health. At the beginning of the year, her health deteriorated. She was admitted to hospital for a long period. She passed away on the 24th of June. She is survived by a sister, a brother, two sons, two daughters-in-law and three grandchildren.
May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Elthea Mavis Gunnel, Johannesburg



22 June 1942 – 29 July 2023
Elthea was enrolled in January 2009 in the branch of Our Lady of Loreto in Kempton Park. She was dedicated, loyal and hard working. Her main job was to count, bind and pack cutlery when the branch had functions. She was well known for baking very delicious cupcakes for cake sales. In 2021 she wanted to resign due to ill health. The branch took a decision to keep her on as an auxiliary member. The members had an opportunity to celebrate Mass with her on her 80th birthday and thereafter share tea and cake. She passed away after a short illness. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Mme Alice Mmemmeng Keikaan, Klerksdorp



12 March 1941 – 5 May 2023
Alice Mmemmeng Keikaan joined the CWL in May 1980. She was a member of the Sts Peter and Paul branch, Potchefstroom-Promosa.

Mme Dikeledi Mokoena, Johannesburg



Dikeledi Mokoena joined the CWL at Saint Margaret in Dieploof in 1993. She passed away on the 7th of June 2023.

Mme Josephine Mokoena, Johannesburg



Josephine Mokoena joined the CWL in 1992, and was a member of the branch at St Pius, Mofolo. She passed away on the 6th of July 2023.

Mme Resigner Ndebele/Kholonyane, Johannesburg



Resigner Ndebele/Kholonyane joined the CWL in 1999 and was a member of the branch at St Angela in Dobsonville. She passed away on the 29th of April 2023.

OBITUARIES

Connie Moela, Kimberley

Connie Moela was a member of the St Boniface branch. She was enrolled in September 2006. She passed away in May 2023.

Mme Motlalepula Mary Mabula, Klerksdorp



30 August 1966 – 27 May 2023

Motlalepula Mary Mabula joined the CWL in 2011. She was a member of the St Joseph's branch, Leeudoringsstad.

Mme Minah Morongoe Chacha, Klerksdorp



4 February 1946 – 10 June 2023

Minah Morongoe Chacha was a member of the CWL branch at Our Lady of Lourdes, Wolmaransstad.

Mme Lorraine Jacobs, Klerksdorp



11 October 1950 – 10 May 2023

Lorraine Jacobs was a member of the Our Lord King of Peace CWL branch in Klerksdorp-Alabama.

Mme Johanna Lekalakala, Polokwane



Johanna Lekalakala was a member of the CWL branch at Emmanuel parish in Polokwane. She passed away on the 27th of August 2023.

CHARITY, LOYALTY AND WORK IN ACTION



CWL ladies at St Joseph's, Manzini, after an enrolment ceremony



Fun at Edenvale's Christmas in July



Ladies of the Mthatha diocese



Ladies from St Michael's, Red Hill, Durban after being awarded a president's badge and long-service badges.



Celebrations at St Anthony's, Soshanguve, Pretoria, as a new CWL branch is established there.

CHARITY, WORK AND LOYALTY IN ACTION

JOHANNESBURG DIOCESAN SPRING FAYRE



The worthy winner of the Hat Competition



Stall holders at the Spring Fayre



Food stalls did a brisk trade.



Victory Park (Tuesday) branch had a Needle Work and Craft Stall.



Past national 1st vice-president Mavis Ngwenya with her branch members.