

Annual Report

St. Catharines CWL Diocese

April 30, 2022

Catholic and Living It!

National President: Fran Lucas

Ontario Provincial President: Colleen Dowd

Diocesan President: Lisa Fillingham

Index

President

Past President

Treasurer

Financial Treasurer Report

Secretary

Spiritual Development

Christian Family Life

Community Life

Communications

Health and Education

Resolutions

Legislation

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1st to December 31st 2021

President Report

President: Lisa Fillingham Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Richard Kowalchuk

Members: 2105 Life Members: 13

Councils: 30 Regions: 4

- Virtual convention held at once for 2019 and 2020 in the spring
- Postcards of thanks were sent to the parish presidents and executive to thank them for their patience, continued work and spirituality during these difficult times
- Hearing the need for more spiritual endeavors and activities a plan was put into place with the new Spiritual Development Chair and the Diocesan Spiritual Adviser. A book club, a monthly newsletter entitled Catholic Connections were established. The Diocesan Spiritual Adviser, Fr Richard Kowalchuk purchased Formed for the Presidents and Executive and is offering monthly guidance as to where you possibly could focus your attention.
- The executive is now meeting for meetings, to have an understanding of what we are doing, why and enable them to be better equipped to be help members with questions
- The Diocesan meetings were 5 times per year and very long. Covid has given us the opportunity to try new ways to do things. Consultation with the presidents has led to monthly, shorter meetings. Upon discussion, the meetings will remain this way with 2 per year in person and include workshops.
- The Diocese held an Advent Retreat entitled "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." Mark 6:31 It was the first Advent retreat that the diocese has held in a very long time. It will be in the plans for 2022 in person if we can.
- An Advent calendar was created and on the Diocesan website for those who wanted a reflective thought to contemplate daily.

- St. Kevin in Welland were able to have a Mass in October to celebrate their 70th anniversary. Even with social distancing and strict rules it was a wonderful night.
- Council anniversaries to celebrate were St. Mary, Welland 100th Anniversary, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Thorold, 95th Anniversary, The Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, St. Catharines, 85th Anniversary, St. Therese of Liseux, Welland, 70th Anniversary, St. Elizabeth, Wainfleet, 70th Anniversary, St. Kevin, Welland, 70th Anniversary, St. George, Crystal Beach, 65th Anniversary, St. Thomas More, Niagara Falls, 65th Anniversary, St. Martin of Tours, 60th Anniversary, Our Lady of the Holy Scapular, Niagara Falls, 70th Anniversary
- 5 Maple Leaf Service Pins were awarded to Mary Fromberger, St. Kevin Parish in Welland, Bonnie Koabel, St. George in Crystal Beach, Naty Canaria, St. Julia, St. Catharines, Olga Rosinski, St. Ann, Fenwick, and Colleen Drake, St. Helen, Beamsville
- Gathered the information from parishes to prepare the ON January newsletter
- Began planning for 2022 events

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2021**

Treasurer's Report 2021

Diocese: St. Catharines Treasurer: Karen Hofstede

Parishes Reporting: 17/30

Annual Report Survey

- Seventeen (17) councils reported (51%)
- Fifteen (15) of the treasurer's positions are filled (88%)
- Two (2) are a combined position (12%)
-

League Monies

- Membership will remain the same (100%)
- Limited to no fundraising was done in 2021 due to Covid- 19 restrictions
- \$985 was donated to the National Voluntary Fund; \$22,143 under various standing committees and \$5,904 to parishes for a total of \$29,232
- Councils require two (2) signatures on every cheque (100%)
- Bank statements are used to keep track of disbursements and receipts (100%)
- Paid all accounts by cheque (100%)
- Deposit book is used by thirteen (13) councils (77%)
- Ledger/column book used by twelve (12) councils (71%)
- Spreadsheet used by six (6) councils (35%); computer program used by 4 (24%); 1 (6%) used a disbursement book and 1 (6%) used a receipt book
- Fourteen (14) councils prepared a budget (82%)
- Fifteen (15) councils presented a financial report at each meeting (88%)
- Eleven (11) councils had their books examined annually (65%)

Communication

- Four councils (67%) were "usually" satisfied by communication from National

- Two councils (33%) were “always” satisfied by communication from Provincial while Two councils (33%) were “usually” satisfied
- Three councils (50%) were “always” satisfied with Diocesan and Two councils (40%) were “usually” satisfied with Regional
- Five councils (83%) “usually” felt that the communication from National was relevant to their parish council while three councils (50%) felt this way about Provincial and three councils (50%) felt this way about Diocesan
- Three councils (50%) “usually” found the communications clear and concise from National while two councils (33%) felt this way about Provincial; three councils (60%) “always” felt this way about Diocesan and one council (25%) felt this way about Regional
- Two councils (40%) reported “occasionally” receiving duplicate communications from all levels
- Two councils (33%) reported then when they received communications from all levels in regards to invites/requests they “usually” had time to participate and two councils (33%) said they “sometimes” have time to participate

Treasurer’s Activities

- The following activities were performed:
- Prepared and presented the 2021 budget
- Processed cheques and deposits
- Maintained the financial ledger
- Prepared annual report for provincial treasurer
- Prepared updated financial reports for all executive meetings
- Prepared all financial information for review

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period January 1 to December 31, 2021**

Recording Secretary 's Annual Report 2021

Diocese: St.Catharines Recording Secretary: Cathy Crabbe

Parishes Participating: 19/31

Duties of the Recording Secretary

- 26% were elected to this position; 58% were appointed
- This position is held for 1.81 years on average
- 47% are a signing officer for official documents
- 64% know where the council charter is
- 70% maintain a list of executive contact information
- 58% of councils have a motion book
- 53% have a copy of the Handbook for Secretaries
- 47% had a copy of the Persona Letter Writing Guide from National

Challenges

Chairs Vacant

Keeping contact information up to date

Taking notes at covid meetings

Satisfaction

44% were satisfied with communication from National

50% were satisfied with communication from Provincial

47% were satisfied with communication from Diocesan

47% thought communication was relevant that your parish council receives from Provincial

47% thought communication was relevant that your parish receives from Diocesan

63% believe communication from National is clear and concise

63% believe communication from Provincial is clean and concise

50# believe communication from the DIOC CWL

42% received duplicate information from Nat, prov and Dioc

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1st to December 31st 2021**

Spiritual Development Report

Diocese: St. Catharines Chairperson: Deedee Alexandre
Parishes Reporting: 17/30 Sub-chairpersons: Debbie Pine

Spiritual Growth of Members

- 65 % of the chairs were filled; 35% vacant
- 64% were elected; 34% were appointed
- "Care for Our Common Home" was learned through emails, and a parish gave up water bottles
- "Care for our Common Home" activities were sent through emails, presidents handed out seeds to plant, communiques from all levels passed down and the parish website view
- 71% say one third of their business is spiritual growth
- The 29% who do say no do prayers at the beginning and the end

A variety of liturgies and programs were organized; online programs were sent out, Memorial service celebrated for deceased members, the Indigenous Walk-through Queenstown Heights, a Mass on Indigenous Day where orange hearts were strung together after messages added and placed in our Mary Garden. Rosary meetings and reflections.

Liturgical: Members assisted members to set up their computer to watch Mass online, Rosary sessions live streamed. Outdoor Rosary Circle

Study of Catholic Teachings & Role of Women in the Church

- Celebrate Our Lady of Good Counsel
- Mass streamed online Masses at some parishes.
- Flowers brought to Our Lady of Good Counsel with restrictions followed
- Prayers and rosaries said at home

- National Faith Day in September
- Celebrated through Mass and prayers
- Spiritual adviser:
 - 41% attend meetings, 24% sometimes, 18% always, 18% never
 - Is your spiritual adviser on the agenda – 77% yes
 - All parishes who commented had positive remarks about their priests
 - Personally, developed your spirituality; 59% say the daily rosary while the lowest is 6% with a prayer partner
- Sources of Inspiration: Mass, prayers, seeing mass online and zoom meetings
- 82% use the National Website for a resource
- Most helpful from the national site was Prayer Service for Deceased and online retreats
- 71% do not encourage members to discuss Catholic Teachings and the Role of Women; COVID putting a huge hamper on this

Leadership Roles in the Church / Lay Ministries

Leadership roles in the church as were: 41% parish council, 35% parish committee chairpersons, 24% on parish finance, 41% were not involved in anything. 18% have joined the parish liturgy committee. Although many things were still done when we were open, when closed and with fewer members attending percentages of those active are down

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2021

Christian Family Life Standing Committee: E O'Brien

Reporting: 19/30

47% of the chair was filled, while 56% were elected, 59% have been members for more than 25 year, 50% have held the position before, 39% were between the ages of 50 to 65

From March 19, 2021 to June 26, 2022 as the Year "Amoris Laetitia Family."
Not one parish participated.

Many normal events were not participated in

Marriage and Family

- Councils promoted encounter weekends for prayers. Prolife donations, standing for the life chain and the 40 days for life campaign outside the hospital, had 2 Masses offered in parish.
- Councils supported women through donations

Sanctity of Life

53% have a membership in a local pre life organization

- Members attended life chain (84%) 40 days for life (32%) pro life dinners and masses(26% each) march for life (22%) pro life walks (5%) pro life vigils (16%) and 13% participated in a variety of other events. The movie Unplanned was highlighted by several councils
- Money or gifts were donated to these groups which advocate for sanctity of life: local pro life organizations (26%) Euthanasian Prevention Coalition (21%) Birthright (5%) , (16%) Pregnancy and Family Support Services (21%)
- 100% of councils have the current pro-life brochure while 68% have in the church vestibule
- 68% of councils regularly pray for the protection of life

Ministry to Youth

- 100% of councils have begun to promote the next World Youth Day being held in Lisbon, Portugal in 2022

100% do not have a CWL Girl Group

We support: annual financial contributions to elementary and secondary schools, Sacramental recognition gifts provided graduation bursaries to our three Catholic elementary schools and one Catholic secondary school

Made rosary bracelets for First Communion and Confirmation candidates.

Ministry to the Disabled

- sent cards of encouragement (11%), brought communion (9%), called/visited (8%), prayed with them (5%), We haven't focused on this ministry. (5%), involved them in CWL events (4%), provided transportation (3%), no councils reached out to any disabled organizations
- Councils have arranged for a special designated space with ease of access for wheelchairs in church (47%)
- Have supported shelters or programs designed to assist the disabled (25%)
- Council members have reached out to the disabled: visited or called (63%) brought communion (59%) sent cards (59%) prayed (53%) provided transportation (34%) special occasion gifts (25%) organized special events (3%)

Ministry to Seniors

- Since councils themselves have a large proportion of senior members, participation in this area is high: brought communion (58%) visited (69%) involved them in CWL events (59%) sent cards of encouragement (90%) called (68%) gifted them with membership (74%) prayed with them (32%) provided transportation (47%) invited newly retired women to join (16%) organized social events (16%) shared a meal (5%) initiated social programs and celebrations (5%)

Ministry to Widowed

- Councils have supported widows and widowers in their parish: sent cards of condolence (84%) provided prayer and support after the death of a spouse (63%) arranged memorial services and/or funeral lunches (16%) visited (47%) invited widows to attend CWL meetings and events (32%)

called (47%) invited them to attend community events (16%) encouraged participation in programs offered by the parish (21%)

Ministry to Separated and Divorced

- Councils have supported widows and widowers in their parish: sent cards of condolence (84%) provided prayer and support after the death of a spouse (63%) arranged memorial services and/or funeral lunches (16%) visited (47%) invited widows to attend CWL meetings and events (32%) called (47%) invited them to attend community events (16%) encouraged participation in programs offered by the parish (21%)

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1st to December 31st 2021

Community Life Standing Committee Report 2021
Diocese: St. Catharines Chairperson: Diane Szydlowski
Sub-chairpersons: 0 Parishes Reporting: 17/30

Dignity of Rights of Persons:

53% of the chairs were filled, 47% vacant

56% were appointed and 44% elected

More than 50% have been members for over 25 years

53% held the position previously

Those who hold this chair are no younger than 55

100% provided donations to minority groups

100% donated to domestic abuse

88% donated to Homelessness

Human Trafficking, one parish donated to this

89% have gained knowledge of the struggles of Indigenous women

89% have not discussed Bill C-262 United Nations Declaration on the
Rights of Indigenous People

No one spoke on the Public Safety Canada released the 2018 Human
Trafficking Consultation Report on January 14, 2020 Building a Safe and
Resilient Canada.

No one celebrated February 22nd as Annual Human Trafficking Awareness
Day

88% participated in the International Day of Prayer and Awareness against
Human Trafficking. This was done through Zoom together or individually

Social and Economic Justice

100% did not monitor the Canada Summer Job applications

67% provided prayerful support, while financial and volunteer support was 33%

Clothing Drives – 78% volunteer support

Drop In Center – 67% volunteer support

Emergency Shelter for the Homeless- 50% financial and 50% prayerful support

Emergency shelter for domestic abuse – 67% provided financial support

Employment and skills training – 50% financial and 50% prayerful support

Food hampers – 89% financial support

Food banks – 86% financial support

Resource centre for single parents – 50% financial and 50% prayerful support

Restorative Justice program – 100% prayerful support

Soup Kitchen – 71% provided volunteer support

Wish foundation – 100% prayerful support

82% do not support organizations that assist Indigenous peoples

71% did not celebrate National Indigenous Day on June 21

29% did celebrate National Indigenous Day through Mass, prayers, walking trails and rosaries

71% did not recognize the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation held on September 30th

35% did wear orange on September 30th to promote awareness in

Canada about the residential school system and the impact it had on indigenous

communities for over a century, an impact recognized as cultural genocide

100% did not participate in the prison ministry

6% promoted the Catholic Near East Welfare Association

12% support the CNEWA national voluntary fund to help support Christians in the Middle East and Holy Land

Prayers were offered on September 21st, celebrate the CWL Day of Prayer for Christian sisters and brothers in the Holy Land and Middle East

Refugees, Immigration and Citizenship

22% became informed about Canada's official immigration and refugee policies

Rating you members in their understanding the needs of immigrants and refugees:

Fair 56%- availability of employment services

Fair 44%- availability of English language courses

Fair 44% - financial assistance for food and rent that is offered

Fair 44% - countries of origin of immigrants and refugees

Fair 44% - number of immigrant and refugees in the community

77% said they could describe the difference is between a temporary foreign worker,

immigrant and refugee

94% do not participate in Citizenship ceremonies

53% do not participate in Remembrance Day ceremonies

18% do not support the poppy campaign

65% do not wear red on Fridays to support the troops

Continued to review and monitor Resolution 2016.01 Equal Access to Permanent Resident Status, An Amendment to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act through:

100% did not write letters to the prime minister

100% did not strengthen or establish programs for foreign workers

94% did not monitor the government's response to the request

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace

59% of council members are not familiar with the League's program for CCODP of donating 1% of the price of luxury items they purchased during the year to CCODP

94% did not partake in the CCODP program

94% did not support Mary's Meals

Developing Countries

Is your council aware:

12% yes - have become aware of conditions of child labour in developing countries

11% yes – have become aware of the implications of trade laws

11% yes – have become knowledgeable about the economic difficulties of developing countries

11% yes – have criticized structures that put profits before people

67% support Chalice

Covid put many things on hold this year. Parishes were able to collect socks, hats, scarves, gloves, mittens and coats for different shelters in their area

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1st to December 31st 2021
Education and Health Standing Committee

2021 Diocese: St.Catharines Chairperson: Dina Marchionda
Parishes Reporting 15/30

- The Health and Education chair in the parishes that reported were 67% vacant.
- Of the filled chairs, 60% were appointed/40% elected.
- 57% were members for more than 25 years; 14% 21-25 years; 14% 11-15 years ; 14% less than 5 years.
- This position was held previously by 64%/ 36% were new.
- The age of the chairs ranged from 55-64(43%); 65-74(29%); 75-84(29%).

Catholic Education

- 60% of chairs became informed of the quality of religious instruction both in their parish and Catholic schools in their area.
- 60% actively encouraged parents to participate in all areas of their children's Catholic education and activities.
- 67% of councils investigated the needs of Catholic schools in their diocese that could be met by council. These needs were identified as scholarships /bursaries; sacramental faith development; extracurricular activities ; field trip or recess supervision and other.
- Councils also asked if the schools knew if any families needed help at Christmas; needed school supplies.

Rites of Christian Initiation

- 67% of council members became involved in Rites of Christian Initiation programs. The involvement included acting as sponsors; running and assisting the program.

Literacy and Continuing Education

- 60% encouraged members to assist those wishing to improve their literary skills
- There are no Catholic Universities or Colleges in our Diocese

Scholarships and Bursaries

- 53% of councils have a current list of scholarships and bursaries available that could be accessed by Catholic women to further their education.
- 67% of councils provide a bursary or scholarship to provide funds to another bursary or scholarship.
- The recipients of the above are: Catholic women furthering their education (7%); Elementary students :(scholarship 33%/bursary 20%/contribute to a scholarship and bursary 7%each); High school students :(scholarship 33%/bursary 27%/contribute to a scholarship or bursary 7% each); Post Secondary: (contribute to a bursary 7%). Net Ministries (7% contribute to a bursary); 7% contribute to Other.
- One council provides funds to two Grade 8 students for high school uniforms.
- No councils ordered the revised bursary certificate from National to download or promoted the National Bursary Fund using the new brochure.
- 60% of councils are familiar with the criteria for applying to the National Bursary Fund, but none have ever made an application, or promoted a legacy in their member's will to support the Fund.
- 93% contributed to the Coady International Institute this year.
- There was no action taken on any Health and Education resolutions.

Health

- 67% of councils participated in the CWL Mental Health Postcard campaign

- 87% did not support national organizations that focus on the health and wellness of Canadians. Canadian Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke Foundation and Matercare International each received 7% support.
- 47% of members were not aware of Canadian Blood Services Partners for Life Program. 7% did donate blood using the Partner ID.
- 93% were not familiar with the process of registering for the Partners for Life Program
- During National Hospice Palliative Care Week, 47% encouraged all members to pray for palliative care; 27% did not participate; 13% arranged for 12 members to pray in their homes for one hour; 13% held a virtual event; 7% participated in other ways.
- 47% were not aware of the Palliative Care postcard; 7% participated.
- 93% did not provide information on advance care planning.
- No councils provided information on emergency response information kits or enquired into the possibility of the province developing a lot.

Environment

- 67% participated in the Care for Our Common Home initiative; 79% participated in plastic and waste cleanup individually in their neighbourhoods.
- 67% of councils planted a tree to commemorate the League's 100th anniversary. They were planted on church property with 3-25 members as well as clergy in attendance.
- One parish had a speaker on Laudato Si.
- No parishes celebrated United Nations World Water Day or Earth Day.
- Environmental issues addressed during the year: other topics(47%);green bins(33%);recycling (27%);reduce Styrofoam(27%);reduce plastic(27%); compost(20%);community clean up(13%);reduce paper and water waste (7%)

Genetics

- The World Health Organization defines genetics as the study of heredity and states genetics scrutinized the functioning and composition of the single gene.
- Councils indicated their knowledge in regards to the advantages and disadvantages of technology to alter genes in light of the teaching of the Catholic Church. 40% indicated good or fair; 20% poor.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1st to December 31st 2021

Resolutions Report

Diocese: St. Catharines Chairperson: Sue Pellerin

Parishes Reporting: 12/30 – 40%

Research and Preparation of Resolutions and Briefs

- Very few members attended any workshops in the last few years that outline the resolutions process in the League.
- One committee sourced the Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook or the Resolutions Guide in developing their resolution.
- Two committees referred to communiques and/or annual reports from other levels. They found that the summary of issues was helpful as well as providing language appropriate for communication.
- Two councils considered and studied issues that might become resolutions .

Study and Implementation of Resolutions Passed by Other Levels

- Specific actions councils have undertaken this year to support resolutions adopted at any level included: signed petitions, made members aware through meetings, e-mail or newsletters, wrote to federal or provincial governments and organized demonstrations.
- Issues that councils were particularly passionate about in 2021 were indigenous issues, palliative care and euthanasia and assisted dying.
- A small percentage of councils were actively involved in contacting members of government, whether at the municipal, provincial, or federal level. This was done by letter, e-mail, phone call or in person visit.
- 33% of councils reporting have become familiar with the resolutions that require action as listed on cwl.ca

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report
For the period from January 1st to December 31st 2021

Legislation Standing Committee Report 2021

Diocese: St. Catharines Chairperson: Sue Pellerin

Parishes Reporting: 18/30 – 60% Sub-chairpersons:

Monitor and Study Legislation at All Levels of Government

- For the 6 councils who have a chair, 100% are able to identify government representatives at all levels.
- On average, 56% reported that they receive mailings from government representatives.
- 100% have knowledge of issues discussed at all levels of government.

Level of awareness of Federal Bills:

- Bill C-7 (medical assistance in dying) : 88%
- Bill C-233 (on sex-selective abortion) : 100%
- Bill C-268 (on intimidation of health care professionals) : 78%

Action taken on Provincial Bills

- Issues regarding Long Term Care and pay increases for PSWs

Other activities :

- Bill 229, Schedule 6 - reduced Environmental protection for the Greenbelt. Members wrote to MPP, & Minister of Environment in protest. email sent to our members to alert them to this. Contact made with Ontario Environment Network.
- Letter sent to Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Education, and local MPP related to Indigenous content and delivery in curriculum of the province's K-12 Education Session. Response was received to letter of June 25, 2021 from Minister of Education Lecce dated Oct 5/21.

Action taken on Federal Bills

- The Transgender “bathroom bill”
- M.A.I.D.

"Faith in Action"

Was not used by any council

Membership Awards

In Second Place – Is the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria
– 3.50%

In First Place – Is Mary, Star of the Sea – 3.60%