

**Pembroke Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League**  
**Fall Meeting, November 21, 2020, Oral Report**  
**Joan Lemay - President**

Our regular fall meeting will not take place in person, but I am encouraged to hear that many of you are planning to join our diocesan Zoom meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup> from 10am to 12noon. If this meeting works well, we may be able to invite more than one member from each council to join us at our next one. Our Zoom service allows for up to 100 participants per meeting and we have unlimited time. This meeting will be two hours.

In this time of uncertainty with COVID-19, I have heard members express - "is there any point in paying membership this year?" The answer is a resounding YES. The CWL needs its members. We are The League. Without members, there would be no CWL. If membership drops off, it will take a lot to get our numbers back. And there is strength in numbers. There are over 75,000 CWL members across Canada, and over 40,000 members in Ontario. These numbers give us a big voice when a CWL delegation meets with federal or provincial government representatives to promote social justice issues. Please don't let your membership lapse. I also urge you to invite someone who isn't a CWL member to join.

Parish councils are frustrated because they are not able to hold fund-raising events where the money raised is used to promote charitable works. Some councils have found new innovative ways to raise funds. One council held a successful preorder, take-out spaghetti dinner; another council had a "Bakeless Bake Sale", where members were asked to donate an amount that they felt they would have spent on ingredients, electricity, and their time to make goods to donate. No Baking! No Clean-up! No Selling! No Calories! It isn't as much fun as a bake sale or a tea, but they did raise significant funds. And we will get back to those events when this pandemic is a thing of the past.

Fund-raising is not all that CWL councils do. League sisters support and pray for each other. This down time is a good time to study Pope Francis' encyclical letter, *Laudato Si*. Now is a good time to write letters to our government representatives, relating to issues of concern regarding Bill C-7: An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying); or regarding the inquiry into care and support in long term care institutions; or relating to the ethical manufacture of vaccines.

Remember CWL Core Values: Faith, Service and Social Justice.

Please join with me in extending congratulations to councils who are celebrating milestone anniversaries. Because of COVID they could not hold the celebrations they had hoped to. Let us recognize their history and contribution

**65yrs.** – St. Mary's, Quyon

**70yrs.** – Ste. Anne, Calumet Island

**85 yrs.** - Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Lapasse

**90 yrs.** - St. Lawrence O'Toole, Barry's Bay, St. Alphonsus, Chapeau and St. Joseph's, St. Joseph