

# BLUE and GOLD CWL DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER



March 2022



## WELCOME!

I decided to take advantage of the Newsletter template on the National Website. Perhaps This will encourage Communications Chairs to design their own Newsletter.

Please feel free to share with the women in your parish. Enjoy!

## A Prayer for Lenten Grace

Loving God,

During the Season of Lent, bring me closer to You. Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life.

Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity.

Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul and remind me of the grace of simplicity.

May this season be as grace-filled time to rekindle my love for and faith in You.

Excerpt from the Corpus Christi church bulletin March 6, 2022.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Messages from the President  
and the Spiritual Advisor

Faith

Service

Social  
Justice

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart"*  
(Proverbs 3:5)

Dear Sisters in the League,

By the end of March parish councils will have conducted their votes on the proposed motions for a national per capita fee increase and Constitution and Bylaw changes. Our instructed voting procedure is a democratic process that has been in effect in our organization for over 100 years. With the guidance of Our Lady of Good Counsel, who we prayerfully ask to intercede for us, whatever the outcome, the CWL will have its direction to proceed into our second century. Let us contemplate how we can live out our new theme, *Catholic and Living It*.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us.

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## IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

Diocesan Annual Meeting of  
Members May 14, 2022,  
St. Francis Xavier parish hall.

Ontario Provincial Council  
Annual Meeting of Members July  
10-13, Ottawa, Ontario

National Council Annual Meeting  
of Members August 14-17,  
Kelowna, British Columbia

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## CONTACT US

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Chairperson  
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Joan Lemay, President  
[jtlemay@sympatico.ca](mailto:jtlemay@sympatico.ca)

## MESSAGE FROM FR. MICHAEL COYNE

Greetings ladies of the CWL. I have been asked to write a few words for your newsletter and as I sit here in my office this early Saturday morning with the sun shining strong outside, I am inspired to write about hope. Hope in the coming spring and the weakening of winter's bitter grasp. Hope for peace in a world on the brink of war, hope that our human connections embrace and even encourage our human differences. Hope that soon we will meet in person rather than digitally, and above all I hope and pray that your great organization will be inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit this coming year.

Amen.



## FAITH

### *Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace*

Lord, God of peace, hear our prayer.

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced? How much blood has been shed? How many lives have been shattered? How many hopes have been buried?

But our efforts have been in vain.

Now Lord, come to our aid, grant us peace. Teach us peace. Guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts and give us the courage to say, "Never again, war". With war, everything is lost.

Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the prophets, God of love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace. Enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister.

Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness. Keep alive within us the flame of hope so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation.

In this way may peace triumph at last and may the words division, hatred and war be banished from the heart of every man and woman.

Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds so that the word which always brings us together will be brother and our way of life may always be that of shalom, peace, salaam. Amen

This prayer is a great call for peace everywhere - at present there are more than 25 countries with ongoing conflicts. Please Lord hear our cries for Peace across your Land.

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## QUICK LINKS

Diocesan Council  
[pembroke.cwl.on.ca](http://pembroke.cwl.on.ca)

Provincial Council  
[cwl.on.ca](http://cwl.on.ca)

National Council  
[cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca)



## MISSION STATEMENT

The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

## DIOCESAN NEWS

In November of 2021, Annette Chaplin, Pat Weller and Bev Drouin travelled to attend Temiscaming's to attend one of their meetings. Their guest speakers Verna Polson, Kebaowek and Martha Polson from Wolf Lake Band were not able to make it at the last minute so following the council's regular business, Annette got out her notes and gave a shortened version of the Welcome Workshop she had presented at the Fall Meeting in Chalk River to a receptive audience.



A design wall appears in their meeting room with the pictures of the Diocesan Council Representatives and the National Executive.

Many members never get to go to Diocesan meetings so this wall puts a face to the name of the Executive.

What a wonderful way to educate your members.



## NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Please submit newsletter contributions as you have them. Once this edition is published, the next one is already being worked on.

## LIFE MEMBER NEWS

### St. Francis Xavier CWL Life Member Celebrates 75years of Service

In 2021, our longest SFX CWL member, Life Member Sylvia Smith achieved diamond anniversary status celebrating 75 years as a CWL member. Sylvia was a war bride who emigrated to Canada in 1946. Her journey from England took seven to eight days aboard the ship, Lady Nelson, a refurbished ship that had partially sunk during WWII. She arrived in Canada at Pier 21 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Her husband Harold was in the Canadian army in Britain when they met in 1944 and married in a small Catholic church. Sylvia was a convert to the Catholic faith. Arriving in Canada, their first posting was in Trenton, Ontario, and from there they moved to St. John, N.B., where they later returned a second time. After Harold retired, they moved to Ottawa and he joined the Federal Public Service.

Sylvia and Harold had four children: Brian of Renfrew, Debra Danis of Ottawa, Keith of Renfrew, and Glenn of Toronto. She also has two grandchildren and one great grandchild. Sylvia now resides with her son Brian in Renfrew, Ontario.

While they lived in St. John, Sylvia joined the Military Vicariate of the CWL, later integrating into the Ottawa Diocese of the CWL. During their time in Ottawa, Sylvia worked as a buyer for Women's Fashions at Caplan's in downtown Ottawa.

Sylvia's greatest contributions to the League occurred while she was a member of the St. Francis Xavier Parish in Renfrew:

1988 – 1991, served as President of the SFX Council

1995 – 1997, served as Diocesan President

Received Life Membership in 1999

June 2002, received the Maple Leaf Service Pin

Liaison for Life Members at National level

1997 & 2002, served as convenor of the CWL Tea & Talent Sale Instrumental in bringing the Boys Choir from St. Michael's School in Toronto in 1989 and again in 1993 for a Christmas Concert in St. Francis Xavier Church.

1990's, Breast Cancer Research Resolution team member.

Resolution was adopted by the National Council of the CWL.

Committee member of Atomic Energy Canada



Interview with Life Member Sylvia Smith prepared by SFX CWL member Susan Ringrose  
Submitted by Debbie Macdonald – SFX CWL – Communications



## IN MEMORIAMs

We lovingly remember Diocesan C.W.L. Past Presidents:

Mary Hass and Ruth Elliot. Both were members of Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Renfrew Ontario. Ruth was Diocesan President 1979-1981 and Mary was Diocesan President 1988-1991.

Ruth Elliot was ninety-four years old and was predeceased by her husband Vincent. She will be sadly missed by her children: Wayne, Donna, Tom, David, Chris and their families. Predeceased by her son Joey. Ruth was also a loving grandmother, sister and dear friend. Ruth's faith and community were of great importance to her. She loved life and spread joy and care wherever she went. Her contributions to Silver Seniors, the Renfrew Legion and the Golden Age Activity Centre were well known and appreciated.

Mary Hass was 73 and was predeceased by her husband Michael. Mary was a loving mother to Kathleen (Robert) Carroll and an amazing and adored grandmother to Maeve and Mikayla. Mary will be remembered by her many dear friends in the parish and community. She enjoyed gardening, playing the piano and was an avid amateur bridge player. Mary was a CWL Life Member. She most recently served as 100<sup>th</sup> CWL Anniversary historian for SFX Parish Council.

Both Rita and Mary were recipients of Maple Leaf service pins.

Masses of Christian burial were celebrated for Mary on February 3, 2022 and for Ruth February 4, 2022 .

**We cherish their lives and our memories of them. May they rest in peace!**

Georgina O'Connor, President, Portage du Fort, Québec

We were shocked to hear the sad news of the sudden passing with family at home in Portage du Fort, of Georgina O'Connor (McCallum) on Sunday February 13, 2022 at the age of 88 years old. Georgina was the loving wife of the late Michael O'Connor and the mother of Anna-Lynn (late Dave Brouke), Wendy (Fernand St-Pierre), late Lorelie (Robert Evans) and Late Cindy (Dave Costar). She was the devoted grandmother of six and great grandmother of seven. Georgina always had a quick wit and a smile and encouragement for everyone. She was a woman of great faith, there to help others in any way and devoted to family, community, parish and friends.

She was a devoted CWL member who almost single handed kept her parish council alive. You would see her at every Day of Reflection, Spring, Fall and Convention meetings. Her sisters in the League honoured her with an honour guard at her funeral Mass. She will be greatly missed.

# **DIOCESAN ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS**

**The 101st Annual Convention  
Pembroke Diocesan Council  
of The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Saturday, May 14, 2022**

*Hosted by St. Francis Xavier Parish Council, Renfrew  
at St. Francis Xavier Parish Large Hall, 331 Plaunt St. S., Renfrew, Ontario*

**Themes: "Catholic and Living It" - "Loneliness"**

Dear Sisters of The Catholic Women's League:

You are cordially invited to attend the 101st Annual Pembroke Diocesan Convention. St. Francis Xavier's Council extends a warm welcome as we celebrate the 101st anniversary of our charter. Registration and refreshments begin at 8:00 a.m., followed by the opening of the convention at 9:00 a.m. The day will conclude with the convention Mass in St. Francis Xavier Church at 4:30 p.m.

Those attending the convention are asked to come "SCENT AWARE".

Each council is asked to please bring your Council Banner.

Registration fee	\$10.00
Luncheon fee	<u>\$20.00</u>
Total	\$30.00

You will note that due to our continued journey through the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Diocesan Council is planning a scaled down convention. Therefore, there will be no banquet this year to end the day.

Each registrant should complete the advance registration form and return it prior to Friday, April 29, 2022 with payment to St. Francis Xavier Treasurer Rita Mears, 141 Haramis Drive, Renfrew ON K7V 4M4. For more registration information you may call Margaret Maloney at 613-432-6276. Cheques are payable to St. Francis Xavier Catholic Women's League.

We look forward to welcoming members and Spiritual Advisors and we encourage you to extend an invitation to your spouse or a friend to come to the mass.

Yours sincerely,  
Carol Sulpher Host Council President

**Accommodations Available in Renfrew:**

Days Inn by Wyndham  
Renfrew Conference Centre  
760 Gibbons Road  
Renfrew, ON K7V 0B7  
613-432-8109

Rocky Mountain House Lodge Motel  
409 Stewart Street  
Renfrew, ON K7V 1Y4  
613-432-5801

101st Annual Pembroke Diocesan Convention of the Catholic Women's League of Canada  
St. Francis Xavier Large Hall, Renfrew ON Saturday, May 14, 2022  
One person per registration form (photocopy as needed)

**REGISTRATION DUE: Before April 29, 2022 PLEASE PRINT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Council: \_\_\_\_\_

I am attending the convention as a: Please check one.

**Voting and Accredited Delegates**

\_\_\_\_\_ Voting Delegate (parish president or designate)

\_\_\_\_\_ Parish Accredited Delegate (2 per council)

\_\_\_\_\_ Diocesan Officer

\_\_\_\_\_ Life Member

**Non-voting Delegates**

\_\_\_\_\_ Diocesan Spiritual Advisor

\_\_\_\_\_ Parish Spiritual Advisor

\_\_\_\_\_ Catholic Women's League member

\_\_\_\_\_ National Officer

\_\_\_\_\_ Provincial Representative

\_\_\_\_\_ Guest

Please complete: Registration \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch \$ 20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate any food allergies here: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to: **St. Francis Xavier CWL**

Cancelled cheque is your receipt. No refunds after May 7, 2022.

Mail registration forms and total fees to: Rita Mears

141 Haramis Drive, Renfrew ON K7V 4M4 Call Margaret Maloney at 613-432-6276 with concerns.

**Come join us & celebrate our accomplishments over the past year in faith, fun & fulfillment!**

**Credential Form – Parish Voting Delegate (1)**

This contact information will be used by the registration committee and diocesan recording secretary for checking credentials, preparing voting cards and the credential record. Information will be destroyed once the convention is over.

This is to certify that:

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the Voting Delegate of  
Parish Council, Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parish Council President: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parish Council Recording Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this form with your completed registration form.**

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This contact information will be used by the registration committee and diocesan recording secretary for checking credentials, preparing voting cards and the credential record. Information will be destroyed once the convention is over.

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Is the Accredited delegate of  
Parish Council, Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parish Council President: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parish Council Recording Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this form with your completed registration form.**

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**Credential Form – Parish Accredited Delegate (2)**

This contact information will be used by the registration committee and diocesan recording secretary for checking credentials, preparing voting cards and the credential record. Information will be destroyed once the convention is over.

This is to certify that:

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the Accredited delegate of  
Parish Council, Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parish Council President: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parish Council Recording Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this form with your completed registration form.**

## COUNCIL UPDATES

### St. Michael's, Douglas

St. Michael's participated in the Gratitude Project initiated by National.

A number of cards were printed and sent off to various health care and service agencies, nursing homes, schools, and our local fire department to offer thanks for their continued service and commitment during the pandemic.



### Our Lady of Fatima, Renfrew



Altar at Our Lady of Fatima for Easter of 2021

Ella Box presented Maureen Brennan with the Maple Leaf Service pin in June 2021 in recognition for her exemplary service to the Catholic Women's League.



Our Lady of Fatima Parish held a drive- thru take out bake sale on Friday August 27, 2021 with a tremendous success. A huge “thank you” goes out to our organizer, Pauline Hughes, who decided we should try this and orchestrated the fine tuning to make it work. Due to Covid-19 guidelines, all the cakes had to be baked at the church hall. For a week, a group of designated members baked five hundred and forty cakes to have fresh for the bake sale date. Many thanks go to the ladies who devoted in excess of 180 hours with phone calls, package preparation and the baking itself. Its success is due to the members coming together and working diligently together and enjoying it at the same time.



Darlene Meleskie presented Merle Ritz with a Service pin for her 60 years of dedication and service to the council. Fr. John Lacey was in attendance also.



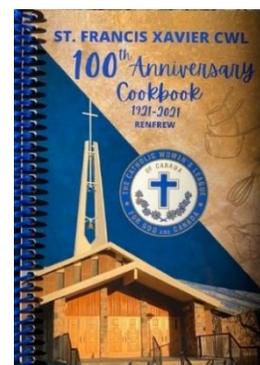
Darlene Meleskie presented Margaret Carty with a Service pin for her 50 years of dedication and service to the council.

## St. Francis Xavier, Renfrew

In 2021, St. Francis Xavier CWL council celebrated a 100th year milestone. Even though the 100th Anniversary occurred during the COVID19 pandemic we managed to hold small events to mark the occasion.

Life Member and CWL Historian, Mary Hass prepared “Historic Highlights” that were published in the parish bulletins, as well as reviewed at our monthly CWL virtual meetings.

In May, we published the “St. Francis Xavier CWL 100th Anniversary Cookbook 1921 – 2021” with close to 400 copies sold in our parish community. This was a very successful fundraiser for 2021. To mark the 100th Anniversary, 54-year member Angela McAdam prepared 20 posters commemorating events, past CWL members, fundraising occasions, and service events that occurred during the past 100 years. These posters were on display in the church from November through December.



Also, to commemorate the Anniversary, a Time Capsule was prepared and filled with a copy of the Cook Book, the Historic Posters, a 2021 membership list, as well as the monthly Historic Highlights authored by Mary Hass. One hundred years from now the SFX CWL will be able to open and review items from our council.

When the COVID19 restrictions relaxed in November, we were able to celebrate our members CWL Service Anniversaries by presenting 35 service pins, as well as Maple Leaf Service Pins to recipients Elaine Turner, Gladys Curry, Marilyn Campbell, and Mary Richards. Due to COVID19 attendance limits, the event was held in the church after the Sunday morning mass on November 14, 2021.

To celebrate the four Maple Leaf Service Pin recipients, Past President and Life Member Mary Hass wrote a commemorative poem in their honour. Mary Hass passed away Jan. 30th, 2021 with 49 years as a CWL member.

## 2021-CWL MAPLE LEAF PIN TRIBUTE

The St. Francis Xavier CWL found its way  
One hundred years ago and wanted to stay.  
Parish families stood firm and strong.  
Serving this church as the years passed along.

A thank you now for all your good will.  
While a hundred years, our league did fill.  
With prayers & faith, they made our league strong.  
Proud we are of our league to belong.

Our Marilyn, born in Douglas, a voice to sing.  
Her hands she places in many a thing.  
Bake table at Tea and Talent and luncheons to nourish.  
Everything she does, it's done in a flourish.

Our Gladys from the Palmer, she's just great.  
To our meetings and functions, she remembers the date.  
Gladys now sure, she spreads her good will.  
Strong in church, community and hospital still.

Our Mary from Ireland, to our parish she came.  
A reader, a greeter, everyone knows her name.  
Tea and Talent, Rummage sales, dishes galore.  
With Mary's help, tasks were never a bore.

Our Elaine, a girl from the Mountain, she came.  
Thorough reports are her claim to fame.  
Her fancy sandwiches are her signature dish.  
And many more years with her is our wish.

For a hundred years our council did strive.  
Thanks for your support which makes it survive.  
To serve God & Country, I know we'll succeed.  
God Bless You, All: The Catholic Women's League.

Mary Hass – Past President & Life Member  
Deceased January, 30th, 2022



Carol Sulpher (right) presents Elaine Turner (left) with the Maple Leaf Pin.



Joan Lemay (right) presents Mary Richards (left) with the Maple Leaf Pin.



Angela McAdam (left) presents Gladys Curry (right) with the Maple Leaf Pin.



2021 CWL President Shirley Ann Holley (right) presents Marilyn Campbell (left) with the Maple Leaf Pin.

## St. Theresa, Temiskaming



The planting of our centenary cedar sapling, left to right: Joyce Pigeon, Raymonde Héroux, Linda Lamarche, Lynne Stymiest, Diane Robichaud and photo by Louise Rockburn



Nov 11th Remembrance Day parade. Left to right: Cynthia Lamarche, Linda Lamarche, Huguette Delorme, Joyce Pigeon, Lenora Hunter



September 30th participated in the walk for Truth and Reconciliation

## ST. JAMES THE LESS, EGANVILLE



- † Unable to meet in person, “ZOOM” became a way to hold our meetings and our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee was established. Telephone calls and church bulletin announcements were ways to keep our members informed.
- † St. James the Less CWL charter is dated April 26, 1921. 100 years later, unable to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary together, all members past and present were honoured with over 140 solar lights lighting up the church gardens the night of April 25<sup>th</sup>. The lights continued to shine all summer. What a beautiful sight!
- † In June, with social distancing in mind, all parishioners were invited to participate in a garden prayer walk taking in the beauty of the gardens with the solar lights being a reminder of the good works of the CWL.
- † In July a cemetery service was held honouring our first president, Mollie Bulger, and remembering our deceased members.
- † We moved to the front lawn of the church where a tree had been planted to commemorate our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a monument given to the CWL by the parishioners were blessed.
- † In September we celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Mass. 44 service pins were presented and each member received a copy of our history book.
- † On December 8<sup>th</sup>, the feast of The Immaculate Conception, we were able to partake in Christmas dinner and held a prayer service honouring Mary.
- † While we are faced with many challenges, we pray that 2022 will bring an end to the pandemic and with Mary’s guidance, we will find a way to continue with the good works of the CWL as we have for 100 years.



Helen O'Grady-70 Years of Service