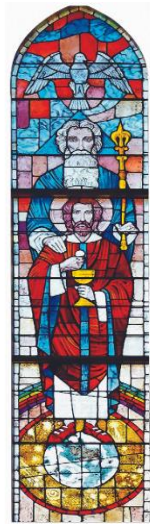


**The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
London Diocesan Annual Report Book  
January to December 2023  
Annual Membership Meeting and Convention  
April 22-24, 2024**



**CATHOLIC**  
and **LIVING IT!**

**We remember with great fondness our deceased members of  
The Catholic Women's League**



### **League Prayer**

**We humbly pray you, O God our Father, to bless  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada.  
Bless our beloved country, our homes and families.  
Send your Holy Spirit upon us to give light to our minds  
and strength to our wills that we may know and fulfill  
Your great law of charity.  
Teach us to share with others, at home and abroad,  
The good things you have given us.  
This we ask through Our Lord Jesus  
Christ and the intercession of our  
patroness,  
Our Lady of Good Counsel.**

**AMEN.**

### **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.**



### **Objects of the League**

**Shall be to unite Catholic women of Canada:**

- To achieve individual and collective spiritual development
- To promote the teachings of the Catholic Church
- To exemplify the Christian ideal in home and family life
- To protect the sanctity of life
- To enhance the role of women in church and society
- To recognize the human dignity of all people everywhere
- To uphold and defend Christian education and values in the modern world
- To contribute to the understanding and growth of religious freedom,  
social justice, peace and harmony



## **Diocesan Executive**

### **Position**

Spiritual Advisor  
President  
Vice Pres. /Organization  
Life Members Liaison  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Administrative Assistant  
Past President

### **Name**

Fr. Paul Kim  
Mary Bannon  
Denise Lalonde Morris  
Marie Therese Lamphier  
Nelly Kelders  
Mary Clare Latimer  
Julie Sans  
Theresa Ryan

## **Diocesan Standing Committees**

### **Position**

Faith  
Service  
Social Justice

### **Name**

Beatrice Taylor  
Lori Alexander  
Denise Masse

## **Regional Chairpersons**

### **Region**

Chatham-Kent  
Essex  
Huron-Perth  
Ingersoll  
London  
Sarnia-Lambton  
Windsor

### **Name**

Jeanne Lauzon  
Sharon Twamley  
Fatima  
Van Raay  
Carol Hall  
Helen Biales

*If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.*

John Quincy Adams

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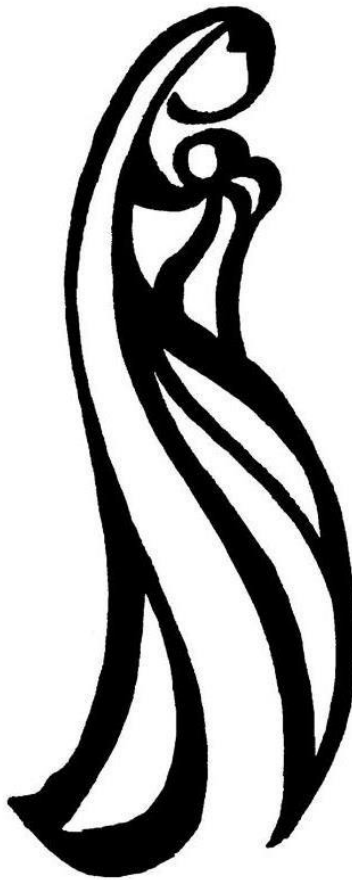
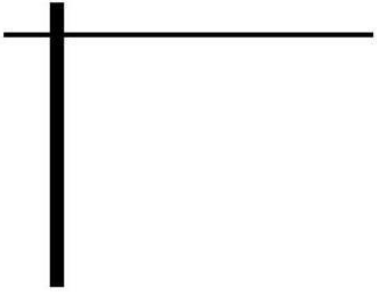
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Letters  
Of  
Greetings





DIOCESE OF  
LONDON  
OFFICE OF THE AUXILIARY BISHOP

1070 WATERLOO STREET  
LONDON, ONTARIO N6A 3Y2  
CANADA  
519-433-0658  
FAX: 519-433-0011

15 January 2024

Catholic Women's League of Canada  
London Diocesan Council

Dear Sisters in Christ,

It is a privilege for me to extend to you a warm welcome as you gather in London for the 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention of the Catholic Women's League. I hope that this is a time of reflection, prayer, and fellowship.

This year's theme, "Here I am Lord, Send Me", reminds us that each of us is called to be disciples of Jesus, sent forth to do his work. The CWL has a long history of answering this call through tireless service and ministry. The Holy Spirit gives us unique gifts and talents to build the Kingdom of God, and to be a mission-oriented Church that forms disciples of Jesus. As you come together for your annual Convention, it is my hope that it will be an opportunity to open yourselves to the call of the Lord, and allow him to send you forth on mission, renewed in your faith and on fire to use your skills and abilities in whatever way the Lord sees fit.

May God, through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel, bless you, your families, and your good works.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, CSB  
Bishop of London





## The Catholic Women's League of Canada

February 14, 2024

My dear sisters in the League,

Gathering at convention/meeting of members is a joyous occasion where we learn and experience our faith in action. It is a time to celebrate the good works of your own council as well as that of accomplishments across Canada.

As I read reports from across the country, I am always amazed at what is achieved as well as the new ideas that come forth from the women of faith in The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

I congratulate you on the work that you have done over the years and in this past year as you now meet to report on those achievements I encourage you to continue to strive for even more works that helps your diocese, parish and community.

The national theme *Here I am Lord, Send me*. Is so reflective of what we are and what we do Catholic women. We want to serve and are called to go and do! And I thank you for all that you do for the church and society. League of Canada The mission statement is even reflective of the theme. "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"

There has been change within the League over the past several years and I thank you for accepting and even embracing that change. Well thought out change is good and healthy, and needed periodically.

May God bless you in your continued work for The Catholic Women's League of Canada and may you be blessed with more women who strive to enrich their faith through services and ministry Your Sister in the League.

Your sister in the League,  
Shari Guinta  
National President SG/ms



**ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL**  
of  
**The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

My Dear sisters in the League,

As we read the reports in this annual report book, it is amazing to learn about the work being done in your diocese. It is encouraging to see the dedication, good deeds and accomplishments of members, parish councils and diocesan executive.

The work in your diocese reflects the League mission statement. "calling its members to grow in faith and to witness the love of God through ministry and service". The benefits of your efforts are far reaching and can be felt by the whole community, especially those most in need.

It is evident that the members of the Catholic Women's League are responding to the 2023 national theme, "Catholic and Living It!" and the provincial theme of "Go Make a Difference!" The League continues to be a positive influence by promoting Christian values in an increasing secular society.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide you, as you live out your faith and find joy in serving the people of God.

Sincerely,

*Linda Squarzolo*

Ontario Provincial President





## The Catholic Women's League of Canada

### London Diocesan Council

My dear sisters in The Catholic Women's League,

Welcome to the 2024 AMM/Convention here in London. Annual gatherings like this provide us with a marvellous opportunity to experience what one of my parish CWL council members called a "WOW" opportunity.

I welcome all of you in the hope that you may grab this gathering of sisters as an opportunity to get to know the diocesan executive, meet National and Provincial representatives and even more importantly sister members from other parishes across the diocese. Meet someone new!

I thank you for the warm welcome, homey hospitality and generosity in sharing gifts you have when we visited with you for Project Unity Outreach. You demonstrated to us that you were Catholic and Living It, willing to Make a Difference and respond starting this year with "Here I am Lord; send me." Please feel welcome to ask anyone from the Executive to visit with you. We do enjoy our interaction with you. We plan to touch base with you again about your "wish list" for us.

Don't forget to wear your pins for our pin draws at our gathering.

Once again, Welcome!

Blessings:

Mary Bannon,  
President of London Diocese CWL



## The Catholic Women's League of Canada

### London Diocesan Council

April 2024

Dear Sisters of the Catholic Women's League, Spiritual Advisors, delegates and guests,  
Christ is Risen Alleluia! Alleluia!

I wish to welcome all of you to our Annual Meeting of Members, as we continue to journey through this sacred season of Easter. Each year we make a point to gather together as a family in our Catholic faith, to spend these few days to pray, reflect, discuss, share and grow in the ways God desires to work through us, to better serve our communities, our parishes, and our country.

A significant part of the Easter season is renewal in the risen Christ, and to bring new life in our own circles, and those around us. I experienced a taste of this when I attended World Youth Day in Portugal this past year. The theme our Holy Father Pope Francis chose was "Mary arose and went with haste" (Lk 1:39). I was moved by the faith of millions of young adults who travelled from across the globe to celebrate and worship our Lord Jesus through the lens of Mother Mary. It was an affirmation that the Holy Spirit and the prayers of our Blessed Mother are at work in the minds and hearts of our young. I was touched by how many of the young shared the importance of a mother, a father, a sister, a grandmother, an uncle, or an aunt, who were the catalyst to keep their Catholic faith alive and to live it!

This year Bishop Fabbro called a Year of Prayer for Priestly Vocations. We know the importance of accompanying our young to know love and serve God and embrace His will for our lives. I am grateful for all the prayers and service the CWL has given over the many decades to our community and parishes, but especially to our seminarians and priests.

I pray that God will continue to bless the good work you have been doing in years past, and I pray these days together bring all of you renewal in the joy and love of our risen Lord!

In Christ,  
Father Paul Kim  
London Diocesan Spiritual Advisor  
Catholic Women's League of Canada

# **Diocesan**

# **Reports**



## London Diocesan Council Report 2023

President: Mary Bannon

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Paul Kim

# of parishes reporting: 58/87

# Of Life members 12

# Of Regions: 7

Councils moving to the new structure in 2024,  
prepared by Mary Bannon

Unity Outreach Project was presented to 57/87 65% of councils  
in the diocese and most councils found it was :

- It was very interesting, completed with two members of the diocesan executive, a good to inform the diocese of some of our issues and we learned about the webinars that are available to us, learned about the sharing and caring webinar, very helpful in understanding the role of the Provincial Council, lots of information shared, but it should have been started before the Strategic planning got started, too little too late, our no answer is because we could not accommodate the timeline given, nice to know that National wanted to hear what we had to say, our council has many gifts, we are very creative, we answered to no and for a visit be scheduled in January 2024, challenging for members regarding some questions, difficult trying to get answers from the membership, some felt more visits should occur with the diocesan level

Many councils had specific projects/focuses for the year that touched on all pillars. Some were new to the diocese, for example:

- Birthright bassinet with baby articles, Soup Supper on Good Friday with all proceeds going to Development and Peace, celebration of National Indigenous Peoples day with First Nations representation, Soup and chilli fundraiser to support Pakistani Refugee family, a month long parish collection for local charity-Ashley's Place as we supported their many
- initiatives with food, clothing, personal hygiene, etc. ,held month collection for our local Food Bank, participated in the

12 Hours of prayer for Palliative Care, amended our Council's "Manual of Policy and Procedure" to reflect upcoming changes, developed a strategic planning workshop based on information on the CWL website, trying to make a concerted effort to reach out to the homebound and nursing home members, retreat for Family of Parishes. Sock donation for the homeless, Lenten Lunches for the Council of churches, involved with a Fashion Show put on by our 3 Family of Parishes members, went to Convention in Sarnia, helped with Confirmation Retreat day, guest speaker and film presentation-The Stone Pillow-based on homelessness, "Soup for Ukraine" Fundraiser and all proceeds were sent to CNEWA, support of Jesu Ashram in India, formed an Affordable Housing Committee, knitted or crocheted chemo beanies and caps for chemo therapy clinic, new and popular item is our recognition of a featured member, self care tips were provided monthly at meetings and in our newsletter, free community meals, "Family Fun Fest" to encourage families to participate in a church activity, Horizon of Hope, continued doing the "My Story" project, Bee compassion project with Our Lady of Guadalupe home, home for single, homeless mothers, work with the Matthew House, a home for refugees

During the year, a significant and/or unusual activity: President reported

- Sarnia hosted AMM/Convention, hosted Indigenous Blanket exercise

Recommendations for improvement in policy, guidelines or reporting that concerns the President:

- Encourage parish councils to familiarize themselves with resources available on National website
  - Provide information for local councils to develop creative and imaginative activities to involve members
  - Reinstated Newsletter League Lingo online & hard copy
-

**ONTARIO ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**  
**DIOCESE: \_\_\_\_\_ LONDON \_\_\_\_\_**

**Vice-President/Organization:** Denise Lalonde Morris

**# Of parishes responding** 61 of 87  
.....

**Examples of new and creative ideas for membership campaigns**

- New membership should be welcomed all year round
- We instituted a new certificate to acknowledge work done by councils
- Sisters in the league need to make themselves visible so new persons to the parish know who you are
- Provide fulfilled activities that encourage people to join or reinstate their membership
- Provide mentorship for new members
- Hold a blue weekend(our diocesan colour) where members wore their T-shirts, scarves pins or anything blue to signify their CWL membership
- Hold a potluck lunch and invite all the parish and have membership information

**Other activities to retain current members and promotion of the league**

**Common Strategies used in the diocese**

- For promotion-announcements from the pulpit, invitations in the bulletin, displays at the entrances of the church
- At special occasions there is a booth or posters promoting the League

**Challenges to membership development:**

- After effects of Covid: it has taken time for councils to activate and many members were lost because of age and now residing in Nursing Homes
- Priorities have changed –a meeting is no longer a night out with friends



- Many did not like the large jump in dues at one time
- Older members feel left out with the dependence on technology i.e. want a hard copy of the League and diocesan League Lingo
- Having annual memberships only in the Fall as it runs into Christmas time and funds are limited
- Many members are snowbirds and don't pay dues before they leave
- Should annual campaigns be only in the Fall?

Councils primarily used announcements from the pulpit that accompanied bulletin notices, newsletters and telephone calls to contact their membership as well as emails and Face book notifications.

**Recommendations for improvements in policy, guidelines, or reporting related to President-Elect/Organization position including identifying at what level of the League.**

- Reports are due just before and after Christmas, could the Annual Survey be done in June when we wind down for the summer? New goals are usually set in September and councils start preparing for elections and the same persons are not always re-elected and new persons do not have all the information.
- All levels could pick 3 times a year to engage ne membership. I have requested our councils try for 3 occasions this next year to join together and show everyone the different aspects of the League which hopefully inspires others to join
- Although bi-weekly directives are important it is too much and it is getting overlooked
- The vice-president organization chair can be overwhelming to smaller councils where there is not a full executive. The V>P> needs to not just inspire new membership but needs to provide guidance (mentors) so the new members don't head for the hills.

**ONTARIO ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**  
**DIOCESE: \_\_\_\_\_ London**

**Past President: Theresa Ryan**

**# of parishes responding 57 of 87.**

.....  
**The top 5 reasons parishes reported consulting the Past President were:**

- Advisory
- Education on many matter, especially the three pillars
- Consulted on the Manual of Policy and Procedure, closely working with the president
- Elections

**Parishes (#) reported the following activities:**

- Updated council activities 57%
- Shared a copy of a history book with National office 95%
- Displayed archived material (albums, minutes, etc.) 67%
- Shared Constitution and Bylaws at a meeting 55%
- updated Policy and Procedure in the past two years 40%

**List any recommendations for improvements in policy, guidelines, or reporting related to the Past President position including identifying at what level of the League.**

- In the National Manual of Policy and Procedure under Section 6: Quorums, Meetings(C&B PART XIV) it infers that monthly meetings are to be held at the parish level. This should be changed so that the parish council can decide when and how many times a year they meet, to reflect the reality of our times.
- I think the C&B and the Manual of Policy and Procedure need to have a simplified format that the average member can understand.



If speaking kindly to plants helps them grow, imagine what speaking kindly to humans can do.

## ONTARIO ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED December 31, 2023

**Diocese: London**  
**Secretary: Nelly Kelders**

**# Of Parishes responding:** 57 of 87

.....

### **Recording of Minutes:**

- Reminders that a hard copy of all meetings must be retained

### **Communication:**

- Attended 14 site meetings involving more than 20 councils as a part of the Unity Project; Feedback
- Too many directives from all levels
- Want a Canadian League Magazine in hard copy; needs to be more interesting(article read like essays)
- Want the Diocesan news letter "League Lingo" in hard copy
- Provide articles that describe: spiritual experiences, reasons why women joined the League, humour, stories about saints that may impact our lives; activities by councils that meet League objectives; explain things that we did in the League and why
- Websites at all levels not well-utilized by members
- Lack of recognition and understanding of the three levels of governance in the League

**List any recommendations for improvements in policy, guidelines, or reporting related to the secretary position including identifying at what level of the league**



**ONTARIO ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

**DIOCESE:** London

**Treasurer: Mary Clare Latimer**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Indicate the total donations to the National Voluntary Funds:**

- Catholic Missions in Canada \$5113.00
- Catholic Near East Welfare Association \$3100.00
- Coady International Institute \$ 850.00
- Development & Peace Canada \$5716.00

Total Donations to all charities: \$220231.00

Significant and/or unusual donations reported were (indicate ParishOP or Diocesan-D);

**List any recommendations for improvements in policy, guidelines, or reporting related to the treasurer position and communication including identifying at what level of the League;**

- It would be helpful if Treasurer training was standardized between all levels of the League
- My past treasurer provided a treasurer's guide- Annual Calendar of Action(s). I found the summary of duties very helpful to correctly and efficiently meet expectations of P&P in timely fashion.

# ONTARIO ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

**DIOCESE: London**

**# of parishes responding 58 of 87**

**PILLAR: FAITH**

**LEADER: Beatrice Taylor**

.....

Spiritual advisors were involved in activities for 48/58 83% of councils  
Councils (#) assisted members in their communal and personal prayer life  
through:

- Used a variety of prayer styles for meetings 41
- Raised awareness of online prayer services/webinars 27
- Organized or promoted retreats, days of reflection 23
- Encouraged religious reading and/or participation in book clubs 12
- used spiritual resources from the national website 16
- encouraged use of apps or subscriptions for daily Mass readings 11
- encouraged praying the psalter/psalms 02
- other 19

**Councils reported new forms of prayer and spirituality used, including:**

- Temperaments, Hallow-app for praying, Indigenous gatherings

**Councils (#) assisted members in their growth in the Catholic faith by:**

- Shared information from Catholic sources 33
- raised awareness of Catholic resources such as websites 31
- scheduled guest speakers on religious topics 12
- reported on progress of Synod on Synodality 2022 09
- encouraged study of Catechism of the Catholic Church 10
- studied/read encyclicals by Pope Francis 02
- studied/read Vatican II 02

**Councils initiated and/or participated in ecumenical or interfaith activities such as:**

- World Day of Prayer

**Councils (#) supported and /or promoted religious vocations through:**

- Donated to seminary fund 16
- Supported consecrated women religions by prayer or donations 11
- Invited a guest speaker on vocations to ordained ministry/consecrated life 07
- Sponsored League membership to novitiates and or consecrated women religions 06

**Councils (#) upheld or advocated for the sanctity of life by:**

- Promoted pro-life events and encouraged member participation 38
- Donated to pro-life 38
- Participated in 12Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care 35
- participated in March for Life or similar public pro-life events 28
- included pro-life prayers and reports in meetings 26
- wrote letters to government against abortion and/or MaiD 28
- Participated I n the 40 Days for Life vigil 15
- Participated in pro-life webinars or guest speakers events 11

**List any recommendations for improvements in policy, guidelines or reporting related to the Faith Pillar including identifying at what level of the League:**

- Reporting of deceased members should only go to National and not to multiple people, such as Diocesan, Provincial and National. Too much duplication.

**ONTARIO ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**  
**DIOCESE: London**

**# Of parishes responding**58 of 87

**PILLAR: SERVICE**

**LEADER: Lori Loreta Alexander**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Catholic education was promoted within council's community or parish through:**

- Councils gifted Rosaries to First Communicants, some participated in Sacramental preparation, Councils at school Masses and some lead Rosary at school. Councils sponsored students to attend Right to Life dinner, other councils offer bursaries to young ladies entering Catholic High Schools, some provide scholarships to graduating students who are continuing Post=secondary education, councils have quest speakers who talked about how to present issues like Abortion, Euthanasia and MaiD. Councils facilitate at summer camp, councils presented gifts of Bibles to graduating students that demonstrates Christian Catholic values.

**Awareness of mental health (teen suicide, bullying, etc.) was raised through:**

- Councils have guest speakers on mental health and Wellness. Some members host monthly Faith based gatherings for families who suffer Mental Illness. Prayers at the meeting and special intentions, other councils have speakers on Homelessness, Human Trafficking and exploitation of individuals



**Awareness of Palliative care raised through:**

- Councils dedicated 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care using prayers from National and encouraged members to use the toolkit during their assigned hour. They took the four week lectures on Horizon of Hope. Council members attended workshops on Compassionate Care and some volunteer at Hospice. Some had prayer services and shared video.

**Activities promoted the need to care for the environment:**

- Councils offered Masses to pray for ways to combat Climate Change, opened discussions on banning plastics, take out containers and straws. Councils encouraged members to bring their own utensils, plate and cup during functions and meetings. On Earth Day members are encouraged to help clean up surrounding areas. Some councils have presentations on how to create a natural habitat for birds and pollinators in an urban landscape. Other councils have speakers on Composters, Digesters and Biodiversity.

**Councils educated members and their parish communities on Women's health issues:**

- The Parish Nurse was invited to talk on Women's Health and Wellness. Councils provided personal care products and shared websites on health issues. They wrote letters for the White Ribbon Campaign against Pornography.

**Councils supported immigrants and refugees moving to Canada through:**

- Councils donated non-perishables to the St. Vincent de Paul for distribution to migrant parishioners. Clothing, furniture, and monetary donations were collected. They helped reunite a family. Member also donated to the Ukraine Relief Fund.

**No recommendations at this time.**

**ONTARIO ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

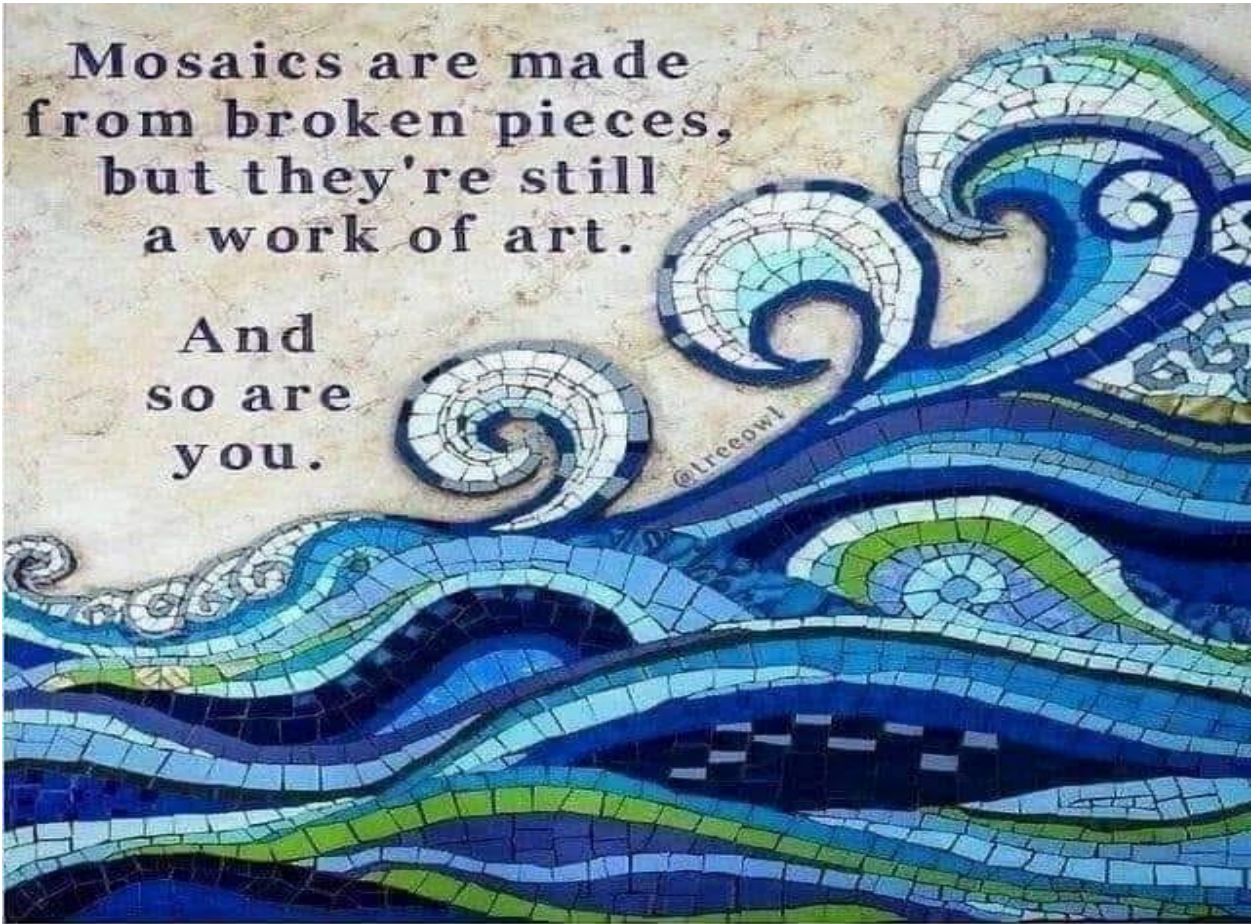
**DIOCESE: LONDON**

**PILLAR: SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**LEADER: DENISE MASSE**

---

**No Report**



## Council Reports by Region

### *Chatham-Kent Region*

*Regional Chairperson: Not Available*

#### *13 Councils*

Faith. Service. Social Justice.

**Faith-** these women live their faith every day. They are celebrating mass weekly-some daily. They are ministers of various ministries within their parishes. They teach and pray the rosary. They have vocation crosses. They support seminarians. They advocate for the sanctity of life. Many councils participate in World Day of prayer. They live their faith daily.

**Service-** the women in Chatham-Kent live their Christianity through service to the people of God. They are involved in their community. They volunteer at schools and at soup kitchens. They volunteer at Canadian Food for Children. They have guest speakers (now that we can!) to speak about human trafficking, racism and bullying. They are trying to make a difference in the community...no matter how small.

**Social Justice-** the women of Chatham-Kent actively participate in activities like WRAP. They advocate for the end to pornography. They participate in Right to Life events such as March for Life and 40 Days for Life. They have hosted baby bottle boomerang. They have had baby showers for Right to Life. They have written resolutions to be brought forward. They have run for political office so that they can be part of the change that needs to happen.

The women of Chatham-Kent are truly amazing and inspiring women. The councils in Chatham-Kent work tirelessly to support each other and to help grow our community. I am truly blessed to be counted among these women!

*Faith is not the belief that God will do what you want. It is the belief that God will do what is right.”*

— Max Lucado, *He Still Moves Stones: Everyone Needs a Miracle*



### **Blessed Sacrament, Chatham**

President: Renee Culver well

Spiritual Advisor:

#of Members: 166

Card parties were launched and gaining popularity, a great benefit to our seniors. We have hosted a Ladies Night & family dance for all our Family of Parishes. Many cards were sent to members and families. Prayer shawls were knit or crocheted for members experiencing hardships. Newsletter allowed us to reach out to the home bound. We prayed the rosary for our deceased members& provided honour guards at funerals. We supported several causes with monetary donations-Right to Life, Parish Picnic, and High School bursary, Cdn. Missions, Euthanasia Prevention, Coady International Net Ministries and Save a Family Plan. General meetings are well attended with a focus on Fun, Fellowship and Faith, Service and Social Justice.

### **St. Joseph's (City) Chatham.**

President: Beth Lachine

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. John Jasica

Number of Members: 74

After meeting with St. Joseph's, Harwich the two councils have joined up and work together. This arrangement is working very well. They meet on the same night and stay together for most of the meeting but separate to do financial portion.

### **St Joseph's Harwich Chatham**

President:

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. John Jasica

# of Members: 78

**Refer to above report**

**St. Ursula, Chatham**

**President:**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. John Jasica**

**# of Members: 66**

**No report**

**Visitation, Comber**

**President:**

**Spiritual Advisor:**

**Number of members: 113**

**No report**

**St. Michael's CWL, Dresden**

**President- Norine McFadden**

**Spiritual Advisor- Fr. Chris Gillespie**

**# of Members: 46**

Throughout 2023 our members lived the call of Faith, Service and Social Justice through Catholic and Living it. Individually and in a group we prayed in silence and in adoration hearing God's voice in the wind .Together in thanks giving we celebrated the graces and blessings we received Our councils support of our charities and organizations at home and abroad highlighted our passion to put ourselves in someone else's shoes. Parish families faithfully prayed the Rosary on Sunday, Baby Bottle Boomerang campaign, devotions to Jesus and Mary, collections at social gatherings to our recognized shut-ins, shelters in Chatham Kent retreats and our Harvest 50/50 draw. Linens for the Altar, tabernacle table, Credence table and Holy water table were replaced; we are in the process of replacing our stoles for funerals and installation. Our service will continue with our new theme Here I am Lord. We are also preparing for our Centennial Anniversary in 2025.

**St. Patrick, Merlin**

**President:**

**Spiritual Advisor:**

**Number of Members: 25**

**No report**

**Sacred Heart, Port Lambton**

**President:**

**Spiritual Advisor:**

**# Of members: 67**

**No Report**

**St. Michael's CWL, Ridgetown**

**President: Susan Martens**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Christophe Mbunzu**

**# of Members: 49**

**No Report**

**Life Members:0**

**St. Paul, Thamesville**

**President:**

**Spiritual Advisor:**

**# of Members:**

**No Report**

## **St Francis Xavier Tilbury**

**President: Michelle Rivard**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. MukachaKatherno**

**Number of members: 99**

**Life Members: 1**

The council has been very busy and the members have been quick to participate when needed. World Day of Prayer, the Stations of the Cross, 1<sup>st</sup> Communion gifts, monetary gifts to Gr. 8's and a High School student. These are a few of our activities. Some members bring Communion to shut-ins, and visit a local Rest Home and Nursing home. We collected items for Cdn. Food for Children, Ashley's Place, Tilbury Help Centre and the Chatham Refuge. We held prayer services on Mother's Day and during Palliative Care Week. The council did projects with Knights of Columbus -Memorial Mass Celebration. There were two major fundraisers held in the Spring and Fall as well as the Christmas Shoe Box. For Fun we had 3 Potluck Dinners I leave the president's office full of pride for our council.

## **Holy Family, Wallaceburg**

**President: Sue Anderson**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Chris Pietrasko**

**#of Members: 86**

- Holy Family CWL worked together to enhance the role of women in the Church and community
- we raised funds to be able to help people in need
- we paid memberships for seniors in Nursing homes as well as elderly parishioners
- we sent out sympathy cards, get well cards and Christmas cards to parishioners
- we supported a family in India, a student in Ghana, Cdn. Food for Children and collected shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Chile
- we said Masses and had honour guards for deceased members and helped with the Dove of Peace celebration
- We collected items for the Homeless-St. James Mission, Wallaceburg
- Had a Mass and Lunch for Senior shut-ins
- Provided gifts for Sacraments and graduations
- presented Service pins to members at Our Lady of Good Council Mass
- hosted Advent Service and Tea
- collected stamps, eye glasses and shoes for needy
- Provided refreshments for pastoral events

**Our Lady, Help of Christians, Wallaceburg**

**President: Margaret Cushman**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Gerard Bedard**

**Number of members: 163**

**How We Responded to God's Call in 2023:**

**ACTIVITIES:**

March- indoor Yard Sale April- Our Lady of Good Counsel Mass followed by a Spring Banquet where gave out 30 anniversary pins plus a bouquet of roses for one member who has been with us for 77 years May: Roast Beef Dinner Fundraiser and a moth long Baby Shower for the Right to Life, attended the Annual Right to Life Banquet. Rested in the summer and in September: held a Pasta Fundraiser to Annual Membership drive and launched a 50/50 Draw for Charity for the St. Vincent de Paul. October kept us busy with meetings, participating in Life Chain, planned our Fall Harvest Bazaar. The November Pot-Luck revealed the winner of the 50/50 Draw.

Additional Activities: Petition against MaiD, visits and calls to shut-ins, sending cards for get well, sympathy, and thinking of you and cards for special occasions supported the White Ribbon Campaign against Pornography

**Donations**

Development in Peace-Caritas Canada, Homes for Hope (El Salvador Save A Family Plan Catholic Missions, Operation Christmas Child, Locally: Right to Life, School Breakfast Programme, Madonna House, R.O.C.K. (Reach Out Chatham Kent), ARK, London, Courage for Freedom Farm Town Canada, CK Women's Shelter and St. Peter's Cemetery.

Our council continue to serve as Commentators, lectors, Choir, Funeral Honour guards, Funeral Altar servers, volunteering at SVDP. And prepare and serve community meals.

Wherever and whenever we are there to serve.

**Visitation, Comber:**

**President:**

**Spiritual Advisor: Father Paul Kim**

**# Of members: 113**

**No report**

*No matter what accomplishments you achieve,  
somebody helps you.*



*Essex Region*  
*Jeanne Lauzon, Chair*

The National theme "Catholic and Living It" was a challenge for all of us. The sisters in Essex Region are always up to a challenge, so we continued to make a difference in the Spiritual lives of our members by attending a spring retreat at Holy Family Retreat house. Baked goods were donated by the members to be used for the summer retreats. Members participated in the Stations of the Cross at their parishes during Holy Week. A prayer service was held to the Divine Mercy and we prayed the rosary during the month of May. Several members attended the Shrine Day in Merlin. Memorial services were held for deceased members and spiritual advisors. Advent Teas, with beautiful prayer services gave us an opportunity to slow down and reflect on the true Reason for the Season.

Many councils Made A Difference in their Parishes and communities by the Service work they do. Some council visited the homebound and our sisters in nursing or retirement homes. The Hospice of Windsor and Leamington appreciated the volunteer work done by our members. Through a variety of activities, donations were made to so many charities, St. Vincent de Paul, Street Help, Hiatus House and Courage for Freedom just to name a few. Cell phones and chargers were collected for HUB, a Spring Card Party was held and a generous donation was made to Guadeloupe House for unwed mothers. Another successful Soup & Baked Goods sale was held for the people of Ukraine through CNEWA.

Social Justice is another way we Made A Difference. Many ladies participated in 40 days for Life, witnessing the need to respect and cherish life at all stages. Stations of the Cross were dedicated to the victims of Human Trafficking to create an increased awareness of this issue. One council invited an indigenous person to speak to them in accordance with the truth and Reconciliation objective. Several councils contributed to the Bee the Difference project by finding resources for contacts in the areas required.

As all of you, we in the Essex Region do our best to Make a Difference!



*Great occasions for serving God come seldom, but little ones surround us daily.*

**Saint Francis de Sales**

**St John the Baptist, Amherstburg**

**President: Anne Roy**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Matt Kucharski**

**# Of members: 76**

- On Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> our council hosted the Stations of the Cross for victims of Human Trafficking. Kelly Franklin co-founder of Courage for Freedom attended the service
- Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> we held a Lenten Reflection day for the 1<sup>st</sup> time and we invited ladies of the parish to attend
- Mar. 21<sup>st</sup> at our general meeting Bianca and Robin Hodge from WECEN came to speak to our council to discuss the effects of Human Trafficking and starting over.
- On Good Friday we supported Anna Donnatucci and her husband's annual Good Friday Procession throughout our community
- In May we held a Fish Fry
- We held a Tea Part in June inviting other councils to join after a 3 yr. hiatus
- Pinning ceremonies were held in June and Dec. One member received the Her Story Book for all her dedication to the League
- 20 members honoured Dianne Fox's funeral after presenting family with her 15 year pin
- Money was donated to SVDP Our Lady o Guadalupe House, Amherstburg Community Service, Amherstburg Food Bank and Unity in Christ in Memorial of Dianne Fox
- Approximately 20 members went out to support Life Chain at Pickering % Sandwich in Amherstburg
-

## **St Simon and St Jude, Belle River**

**President: Jackie Gomes**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Mark Poulin**

**# Of Members 185      Life Members: none**

As we leave behind 2023, we reflect on what we, as a council felt "Make a Difference". Our focus remained on creating awareness of the many challenges facing our brothers and sisters in our society in these difficult times both at home and abroad, as well as actively engaging in support for the dignity and respect for human life at all stages. Participation in several anti-abortion, anti-euthanasia initiatives- which included public peaceful and prayerful presence in the Chain of Life, 40 Days for Life and March for Life- we encouraged at council and parish levels. We made use of petitions and letters/postcards to the government. Also creating awareness and soliciting donations of various necessities required to help sustain those in need in our own communities through our participation in the Family of Parishes Outreach Group. Canadian Food for Children, local food banks and more. Our members are always more than accommodating. The success of our annual fundraising bazaar permits us to contribute to the wellbeing of those less fortunate as well as our church. We were able to financially donate to 21 charities both local and abroad.

As we begin the new calendar year 2024 through action and prayer we will continue to work to "Make a Difference". May you have a grace-filled year with good health and many blessing.

## **Holy Name of Jesus, Essex**

**Presidents: Janice Rounding & Pat Kozak**

**Spiritual Advisor: Deacon Gary Flewelling**

**# Of Members: 61      Life Members: 0**

We participated in the Baby Bottle Drive for Our Lady of Guadalupe Mother's Centre. We raised \$2000.00.

We asked our parish to donate used cell phones and chargers. We have been taking them to the Leamington HUB Homeless Centre. They are given to people so they can make doctor's appointments, and connect with family members. They can recharge them at the centre.

May Our Lady of Good Council continue to bless and guide us.

**St. John de Brebeuf and Companions, Kingsville**

**President: Rose Jones**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Tom Ferrera**

**# Of members: 59**

No report

**Good Shepherd, Lakeshore**

**President: Lisa Aronne**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Mark Poulin**

**# Of Members:**

**Activities that made a Difference:**

-elections in March and sponsored a Soup and Stations .in April new executive was installed by Fr. Patrick

In May we initiated reciting the rosary after Tuesday evening Mass, had a membership drive after all Masses with CWL speakers Crowning of Mary was held May 18<sup>th</sup> ,restarted monthly circulation of the Vocational Crucifix

-6 members attended the Regional retreat at Oxley, held a Strawberry Social and presented the CWL Award to the winning student of this event, had a successful fundraiser in September-sale of used books, jewelry and purses

-October we collected hygiene products/toiletries for Street Angel, hosted a reception after a Healing Mass we were honour guards, hosted a Diocesan mRegional Day in Oct. recited Rosary together after Mass during October.

Collected hats,mitts scarves and socks for the Salvation Army,had speakers-president of the Windsor Veteran Memorial, a silver cross Mom, and a Vietnam Veteran, all were welcome, Christmas party in Dec. raised \$ for local charities also had Cookie Sale after masses Dec.9/10

-Feb. we held a membership drive as part of Parish outreach event and hosted Soup and Stations on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Hosted world Day of Prayer Mar.1st

**St. Michael's, Leamington**

**President: Barbara Gaspard**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Tom Ferrera**

**Number of members: 156                      Number of Life Members: 1**

**Faith Pillar:** Some members attended 2 retreats, formation of Cursillo Retreats, were part of a Book Club, formed small evangelization groups to teach Genesis Mission Evangelization and attended the Genesis Mission in our parish, led by the authors of the programme

**Service Pillar:** members were/are involved with SVDP refugee committee, Mission trip to Guatemala, Homelessness HUB, funeral lunches, RCIA, to name a few.

**Social Justice Pillar:** Members have been writing letters, e-mails to MP and MPP, and signed petitions to protest MaiD, Conscience Rights of Health Care Professionals, and various Bills etc.. We have donated to various local charities, Dev. and Peace Caritas, such as Our Lady of Guadalupe Home. Courage for Freedom (Human Trafficking of young girls and boys etc.) Our fundraising activities provide the funds to be able to donate generously to these charities.

**St. Clement, McGregor**

**President: Diana Coyle**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. David Johnston**

**# Of Members: 83                      Life Members: 0**

December: Member's Christmas Party was held with a sing-a-long and a loonie auction fundraiser

January: A can goods drive was held for the St. Vincent de Paul

February: toiletries were collected for the SVDP; 2024 Budget was adopted, coffee Sunday & Bake Sale was held, the Stations of the Cross were led by the CWL every Tuesday evening during Lent

Blessings to everyone this Lenten Season

**Ste. Anne, Tecumseh**

**President: Diane Gerard**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Chris Gillespie**

**Number of Members: 182**

**Life Members: 1**

"Go Make a Difference" that is what our CWL at Ste. Anne's Parish did. For our Lenten Project we collected baby bottles and asked the parishioners to fill them with coin. Many were brought back with mostly dollars. This was for Our Lady of Guadalupe Home for unwed mothers and children.

Simultaneously we collected diapers, diaper crème, baby shampoo and the baby basinet was always overflowing with these items for **Birthright** which was brought to them weekly, they were so grateful.

Advent Project was called "**Winter Warmth**" and again so well received by our League and Parishioners. Such items as gently used coats, gloves, hats, boots even sheets were given to the SVDP in turn they were given to

**Welcome Centre for Women** in our name.

We all profited by "**Go Make difference**".

**St. John the Evangelist, Woodslee**

**President: Kat Chevalier**

**Spiritual Advisor: Deacon Bryan Chevalier**

**# Of members: 32**

We collected hats, scarves and socks for street help-Tina's Collection- At our December meeting in lieu of a gift exchange, items were brought in by each member to donate to the Essex Food Bank. We are looking to expand this in 2024 to include the new Welcome Centre Shelter for Women and Families.

\$13,693 was donated to local charities from our fundraising events in 2023.

I have volunteered to be on the diocesan Service Pillar with Lori Alexander.

The Bee Compassion report was submitted. We will continue with our commitment to support Our Lady of Guadalupe Home.

St. John had their first "Harvest Blessing" Bazaar since 2019. It was a huge success, both for the community and financially raising money for local charities.

Our pasta dinner fundraiser and Chili Cook Off with our knights of Columbus were huge successes in the community. We are looking forward to holding it again in 2024.

## *Huron-Perth Region*

*Mary Barnes, Regional Chairperson*

### *15 Councils*

Huron Perth Councils continued to work towards the new structure with smaller executives and embraced the 3 Pillars in various ways. We had great representation at the Diocesan Convention in Sarnia as well as the Ontario Provincial Convention in Cornwall.

Some councils held "Blanket Ceremonies" led by an Indigenous person in their area.

Most councils participated in individual Unity Projects, a very enlightening process and the region as a whole participated in the first one at our March meeting.

Novenas, rosaries, Masses, Guard of Honour for deceased members were carried out along with funeral lunches. Some councils participated in a Lenten Lunch Series in their area joining persons from a variety of Churches,

A CWL member and Learning coordinator for the Huron Perth Catholic District School Board gave a presentation of recently purchased books that have been placed in our elementary schools.

As I retire as Regional Chairperson this position has been a rewarding experience. Don't be afraid to give it a try.



*I am no longer accepting the things  
I cannot change;  
I am changing the things  
I cannot accept. Angela Davis*

**St. Patrick's, Dublin**

**President: Mrs. Kathy Rowland**

**Spiritual Advisor: Father Phillip Joseph**

**Number of Members: 29**

**This council is trying to stay alive. They are going to concentrate on activities that help their parish.**

**Precious Blood, Exeter**

**President: Caroline Klaver**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Antoine (Tony) Laforet**

**Number of members: 53**

2023 was a year of community building. We did this through Coffee Sundays held after our youth and Family Masses, Souper Sundays- a hot bowl of soup after Mass in October and November and continuing on in the early months of 2024. These are free will offering events and we are starting to see the benefits of coming together in this way. We held a very successful Fundraising Bake Sale, collected for the Food Bank, participated in the Family of Parishes collection of socks for the homeless and gave to many charities.

**St. Peter's, Goderich**

**President: Tracy Van Diepen**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Steve Marsh**

Dedicated members of St. Peter's CWL, Goderich continued to make 2023 another of community outreach.

The year began with our League hosting a Coffee Social on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month where parishioners share conversation and fellowship. We alternate with the Knights of Columbus every other month. We are involved in the community churches' Fishes and Loaves Meal Programme. This helps persons suffering from food insecurity. The Knights gave us a grant to enable us to continue in 2024. The council very successfully held our 2<sup>nd</sup>



Annual Through our Closet Luncheon & Fashion Show. The proceeds were divided amongst the SVDP, the Knights of Columbus and the CWL. On Truth and Reconciliation Day (Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>) our League and the Development and Peace group jointly presented the Kairos Blanket Ceremony. Knowledge Keeper Mary Anne Kechego was the mediator. She delivered the ceremony to a full house. It was a powerful and emotional presentation that heightened the awareness of participants who were asked to go forth and share their experiences. As the year drew to a close a Church Hall Project sub-committee was created to deal with a bequest left to the League from a former member.

### **Immaculate Heart of Mary, Grand Bend**

**President: Maureen Garinther**

**Spiritual Advisors: Fr. Vince Gulikers**

**# Of Members: 83**

Our CWL is made up of Catholic women who interact with each other with respect, pray for one another and sincerely care about each other and the residents of their community. This was evident when we showed our support for our Indigenous sisters by participating in Red Dress day and in the Truth and Reconciliation Day that acknowledged that Every Child Matters. We walked in solidarity together, took part in an Indigenous ceremony and listened with compassion to our Indigenous sister who shared her life story. We continued to “Make a Difference” when our League donated fundraising money to purchase books for the Kettle and Stony Point 1st Nations Children’s Library. “Knowledge is Power”

When Ark Aid Street Mission sent out a plea to support those in need, our CWL spearheaded a “Warm Sock” campaign. With the generosity of members and parishioners, 806 pairs of socks as well as 14 Prayer Shawls were gathered and delivered. Imagine the “Difference” this will make in the life of someone who needs to keep their feet warm.

Our annual raffle, apple pies, dinner and Christmas planters permitted our League to give many large donations to the local hospital, 3 foodbanks, \$1000.00 to the “We Can Help” fund, institutions that solely on the donations they receive as well as honouring our 90 year old members by paying their memberships. I am proud to say “Our IMH CWL most definitely MADE A DIFFERENCE.”

**St. Patrick's Kinkora**

**President: Linda Donkers**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Ronnie Tagnines**

**#of Members: 85      Life Members: 0**

The year 2023 has been a year to really “bounce back” from the effects of the Covid Pandemic. It was a blessing to see people coming back to the church and participate in regular spiritual and social activities within our Parish.

St. Patrick's CWL has hosted two Seniors and Youth Socials this year where youth who were part of the local COR retreat socialized with seniors from our Parish Families. They gain a true sense of respect for each other. Especially the youth who may not have the opportunity to speak to seniors. This made a real difference. In our small but close knit community, we have also made a difference by supporting our refugee family from Pakistan. We held a Soup and Chilli Luncheon as a fundraiser which is very successful. This made a real difference to this family.

We hope to continue making a difference in our families, our parish and our community.

**St. Joseph's: Listowel**

**Co-Presidents : Judy Givens and Judy Charles**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Ross Bartley**

**# Of members: 65**

**St. Joseph's has been very active. Lots of fun was had at the Spring Tea as everyone –ladies and young girls-dressed up to enjoy delicious food and teas. Our annual Christmas Bazaar involved lots of our members and we invited all the community. We ask our members to bring people from outside our group to provide them with the knowledge of what we are all about. We have a dedicated group of ladies who cater funeral luncheons. Profits go to charities in our area. The ladies have fun working together and are proud of the service that we can provide. Our CWL provides gifts for baptisms, 1<sup>st</sup> Communicants and couples getting married as we support those celebrating these sacraments. We also provide scholarships to two high schools and support our local Catholic**

elementary school. We ended our calendar year with our annual Christmas dinner and presentation of milestone anniversary pins. In the next year we are excited to work together and try new things to entice ladies to join us.

**St. Vincent de Paul, Mitchell**

**Contact person: Ingrid Hanrat**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Philip Joseph**

**#of members: 25**

The Mitchell CWL has decided to disband. And hopes their members will join the neighboring councils.

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Mount Carmel**

**President- Clasina Geurts**

**Spiritual Advisor-Deacon Fred Truchon**

**# Of members: 59**

Our council has made a difference by holding a Christmas Food Drive, keeping our parish community connected, holding a potluck picnic, and a Sausage Luncheon, sharing what is happening in our parish and school by way of a Parish newsletter and telling of the lives of the saints depicted in our stain glass windows.

Our members also take part in the church ministries. They are: hospitality, choir members, sacristan, lectors, lay ministers and collection counters. We help where we can.

**St. Peter, St. Joseph**

**President: Susan Regier**

**Spiritual Advisor: Father Steve Marsh**

**# Of Members: 448**

**# of Life Members: 0**

The St. Peter's ,St. Joseph hosted a Spring Retreat to honour Mother Mary Queen of Angels, where we explored the multi- facets of prayer. Father Steve Marsh our spiritual Advisor opened the retreat with Mass. Sixty women from our Lake Huron Catholic Family of Parishes And from Stratford Attended the full day retreat where we broke down the decades of the rosary and offered tips to help pray the rosary more deeply. Also we launched our 1<sup>st</sup> Tailgate Yard Sale and BBQ for the community, which created substantial media buzz and helped create

awareness of our League. We had over 30 vendors set up in the church parking lot. It will become an annual event.

### **Holy Name of Mary, St. Mary's**

**President:**

**Spiritual Advisor: Father David Butler**

**# Of Members: 85**

### **St. James, Seaforth**

**President: Mary Barnes**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Philip Joseph**

**Number of Members: 85 Life Members: 0**

The year 2023 has come and gone with the St. James Catholic Women's League continuing their ministries of giving religious pictures at Baptism, rosaries for First Communion, crucifixes at Gr. 8 Graduation and a bursary to a high school graduate at St. Anne's High School that is from our Parish.

"Bee The Difference" the Provincial theme came into focus with the sudden arrival of our Perth Huron Crossroads Family of Parishes refugee family arrived July 13, 2023. Our council sprang into action collecting various items and making ready the home for this family of four. With this family having come originally from Pakistan there was a large learning curve not only them but for us as well. We continue to support them via various means including our individual financial support, transportation and most of all our prayers. 2024 will have us supporting Huron/Perth region hosting the next Diocesan Convention.

### **Immaculate Conception, Stratford**

**President: Mary Kay Lobsinger**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. David Butler**

**Number of members: 78**

Here is how we were Catholic and Living It in 2023. After each mass we presented to our Family of Parishes information on Bill C-7 which expanded euthanasia in Canada to allow persons who were not terminally ill to choose to die by assisted suicide or MaiD, which now wants to include infants 0-2 yrs.

We were finally able to host 6 Lenten Lunches this year. We had record numbers coming out. We also were able to start Funeral lunches for our deceased parishioners, honour guard, and prayers in the unreal home again for our

deceased members. We had a successful raffle and bazaar in the fall with funds raised going to our church and our community.

To help revive our church community we put on a Social Supper with a free will offering and we were able to raise \$500 for 2 local charities that help the poor in our community. For Easter and Christmas we remembered to reach out to our CWL sick and shut-ins with a visit, card and flowers.

Just before Christmas we collected non-perishable food and hygiene products for the woman's shelter.

## **St. Joseph's Stratford**

**President: Mary Cobb**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. David Butler**

**# of Members: 165**

This year our council started the year by looking beyond our borders. On March 17/23 we held a night of Irish music with Michael Kelly as our entertainment. We spent the night in song and laughter. It was wonderful to see the church hall filled with smiling faces after the pandemic prevented us from gathering together. A portion of the proceeds was sent to assist the turmoil in the Ukraine.

We also assisted several other organizations as well as SVDP with their monthly community meals in the St. Joseph's Hall. These meals are open to anyone in our community who is in need of a warm meal. Many of our members belong to the SVDP society and other organizations. This year we invited Kelly Franklin from Courage for Freedom along with Officer Darrin Fischer who is the school liaison to speak on Human Trafficking. This event was well received by our community and helpful information was shared. We were happy to bring forth such a horrible act that does happen in our own backyard.

**Sacred Heart Wingham**

**President: Marilyn van Heesch**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Ross Bartley**

**# of Members: 71**

Activities: Valentine themed potluck for our members  
-participated in the World Day of Prayer with other Christian churches in our area, we had someone talk to us on Development and Peace, gave rosaries and crosses to children in our community who made their 1st Communion and Confirmation. A fun night for our members was held with a dessert social and lessons on making succulent planters was given by our local florist. Cards were sent to shut-ins. We participated in a walk for Alzheimer's and the Life Chain. A family Funfest for our community with a Halloween Theme, games and crafts for different ages, candy floss machine, Bake Sale, luncheon. Craft table and silent auction with donations of prizes for the children. The council collected water bottles and socks for our local Catholic School.

**St. Boniface, Zurich**

**President: Loretta Ayotte**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Tony Laforet**

**# Of members: 72            Life members: 0**

St. Boniface, Zurich has continued to aspire to be "Catholic and Living it" in the community and the wider world. On a global perspective we raise funds for Jesu Ashram in India. Jesu Ashram was founded by Bro. Bob Mittleholtz who is a native of Zurich. Jesu Ashram is an organization that cares for the sick and under privileged in India. We also support a family through Save a Family Plan. Closer to home our council continues to support local charities including Blessings, Huron Food Bank and the Women's shelter, as well as Out of the Cold. We realize that many organizations are in need and we help as many as we can. Our members are very present in the parish and volunteer in various areas. We have few members at meeting but the ladies are there when we need them. We are definitely "Catholic and Living It"

## *Ingersoll Region*

### *Regional Chair: Fatima Cabral* *10 Councils*

Regional chairs were how our region followed the 2022-2023 National Theme "Catholic and Living It". I had to refresh myself and go back to look at the prayer card we all received. There were several phrases that jumped out at me specifically:

- deepen the spiritual life
- strengthen the faith & good works
- building up life in the world
- welcoming the forgotten, suffering or vulnerable wherever we encounter them

Each council in the Ingersoll region found ways to live out those phrases. Many helped in local soup kitchens or prepared comforting funeral luncheons for members of our communities. There were several prayer services and rosaries said during Lent, National Palliative Care Week in May, various Marian devotions and when honouring deceased members. Our region designed a "Hail-Mary-A-thon" calendar to use during the month of May dedicating a Hail Mary for a specific prayer intention outlined in the calendar. A similar one was prepared in October with "Our Fathers" As featured in the winter edition of the League Lingo, six councils in our region joined forces to crochet and knit over 100 beanies and caps that were gifted to the Chemotherapy Clinic at Woodstock Hospital. Slowly but surely our councils are starting to adopt the new pillar structure and get back to the "new" normal.

The term catholic as an adjective means "a collection of things or people that are varied". The CWL is varied with members that have so many different gifts but together we come together to do such great things that effect so many. Past President Fran Lucas cited this from Pope Francis in her theme presentation. "Women make the world beautiful; they protect it and keep it alive. They bring the grace of renewal, the embrace of inclusion, and the courage to give of oneself" The Catholic Women's League members of Ingersoll region exemplify this in all they do.

### **Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Delhi**

**President: Vacant report submitted by Vicki Braun, Recording Secretary**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr Augustine Ogundele**

**Number of Members: 87**

**Life members: 1**

**Report submitted by Secretary: Vicki Braun**

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs CWL continues to be the heart of our spiritual family within the church. During the past year we have presided over weekly rosaries in the Months of May and October. In Lent our members preside over one Friday's Stations of the Cross. We also provide honour guards and rosary at our deceased members' funeral.

A member has convened with volunteers 7 Funeral lunches in 2023. On Shrove Tuesday each year we provide a Pancake Lunch for over 360 students and Staff at St. Francis Cabrini Elementary School. Monetary support is provided for the schools Snack program during the year.

A smaller version of the Christmas Bazaar "The Children's White Elephant Day has begun. The school children enjoy a day to shop for treasures. In exchange a small profit is returned.

The league was happy to share a Birthday visit at the Nursing Home with Martha Scheers who was 101 on New Year's Day. CWL members are active in visiting homes/phone calls to make a difference to those unable to be independent. CWL hands created many prayer shawls and chemo caps for others in the community.

### **Sacred Heart, Ingersoll**

**President: Joanne Schoenmaker**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Gilbert Simard**

**Number of members: 84**

Our council has embraced the theme "Catholic and Living It" during the past year 2023. We started of the year with a mini Lenten Retreat by our Faith Pillar and ended the year with an Advent Reflection with a discussion of the role of the herb Rosemary in the lives of Mary and Jesus. We continue to be active in our charity work for the Canadian Food for Children missions and many more charities. We have returned to Honour Guards and continue with our Rose ceremony. This past year we started two new activities helping our most needy. A Tampon Tuesday fundraiser for Feminine



Hygiene products (84 items collected) and 43 Christmas bags (with toiletries, food, socks, candies) were distributed to our local "Cycle of Life" center. We will continue with these activities and look forward to continuing to be Catholic and Living It".

**Sacred Heart, Langton**

**President: Linda Vandendriessche**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Thomas Kuriacko**

**# Of Members: 137**

No report submitted

**Our Lady of LaSalette, LaSalette**

**President :Edith Heleniak**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Augustine Ogundele.**

**# Of members :**

No Report received

**St. Peter's, Norwich**

**President: Mary-Ellen DeKlerck**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Seejo John**

**Members: 10**

Well we have ended another year. So in 2023 we still have 10 members. We are dealing with a number of serious health issues. We had a special meeting on July 24<sup>th</sup> in the Southside Park in Woodstock with 7 members present and 1 guest. We discussed what we were going to do for our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. So we decided to have Mass in October on the 11<sup>th</sup> at Holy Trinity Church in Woodstock. Only 4 members were able to attend. We have kept our CWL council going for over 50 years without a Church.

**St. Cecilia's, Port Dover**

**President: Evelyn Hudecki**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr Augustine Ogundele**

**# Of Members: 43**

Contributions to the Church and Parish

-participate in the Choir, act as sacristan, act as lectors & Eucharistic ministers, decorate the church for holidays, care for the flower arrangements in the church throughout the year, care for the flower beds, volunteer with the SVDP society, provide luncheons after funerals

Contributions to the Community: donate to the local food bank, volunteer at the local food bank, donate to the SVDP, donate scholarships to the local elementary & high schools, donate to the local hospital, the cancer society, Voice for Life & Save the Family Plan

### **Sacred Heart, Princeton**

We regret the disbanding of Sacred Heart and express hope that their members have found a warm welcome in their new councils.

### **St. Mary's Parish, Tillsonburg**

**President: Kathy Holly**

**Spiritual Advisor: Father Fr. Seejo John**

**# Of Members: 112**

The year 2023 has been a challenge. Coming back from Covid restrictions still had some members concerned about coming back to church, let alone coming to a meeting or being involved in any activities. We did however manage to become more active in the Fall and had a greater success with meeting attendance.

During the year we did have 2 Rummage Sales as well as our annual Mistletoe Bazaar in November. All 3 were very well attended, allowing us to support various community efforts. Of course, our own parish is part of that- we continue to provide a yearly stipend for bussing the elementary schools to Mass, along with bursaries to both the Elementary and Secondary school graduates. Keeping our youth involved in our church and Catholic Faith is of course where we need to continue working. We were also pivotal in having our parish Thurible replaced and having brass candle stands cleaned.

In March, we sponsored a one -hour free swim at our local community centre. From April through June we gathered together and provided a variety of supplies and cash for Camp Stevenson in Dorchester to help children that needed assistance. In May we collected supplies and cash for Fresh Start Maternity located in St. Thomas. We provide financial aid to DASO

{Domestic Abuse Services of Oxford}, helping women, men and children get out of abusive relationships. In Tillsonburg, there is a local drop in zone mainly geared to children, but young adults are able to use the facilities as well. It is a place where children can come and enjoy activities in a safe environment. This facility is run by donations only and we are happily able to provide some assistance.

**St. Michael, Walsh**

**President: Mireille Braun**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Thomas Kuriacko**

**# Of members: 138**

No report submitted

**St. Bernard of Clairvaux. Waterford**

**President: Betty Pajor/ Conny Vanden Ven**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. AugustineOgundele**

**# Of Members: 53**

Our Council members participated in the World Day of Prayer. They led the Stations of the Cross and prepared a Soup Supper on Good Friday with proceeds going to Development and Peace. Chemo caps were crocheted/knit for the Woodstock Hospital Chemotherapy Clinic. Agendas and minutes were emailed or hand delivered to improve communications. Fundraisers included participating in the Town Wide Yard Sale and our own Maretique in November. We sponsor a child in Kenya via Chalice as well as support Save a Family Plan, scholarship and local charities needs.

We acted on the topic of Truth and Reconciliation via our indigenous members, researched our history of Treaty 3 of 1792(British Crown and the Mississaugas). Over 30 members, friends and strangers participated in the National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21<sup>st</sup> at the Moccasin Identifier Teaching Circle on the bank of Shadow Lake along the Waterford Heritage Trail. A smudging ceremony was performed as well as the reading of Colony Felony.O Canada. A performance via boom box of Is Sorry Enough written by Murray Porter. Desserts and fellowship continued through a serene and beautiful sunset of our own Shadow Lake.

## **Holy Trinity Woodstock**

**President: Fatima Cabral**

**Spiritual Advisor – Fr. Dariusz Jagodzinski**

**# Of members : 168 Life members: 1**

The year 2023 has certainly felt a bit more normal. We were able to have many in person events and host our annual Christmas bazaar. Our council adopted the new Pillar structure but still struggle to fill all the positions but we continue to make a difference in our church and community.

Faith: Praying is one of the council's core strengths. We prepared several prayer services including one for deceased members, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Palliative Care, Our Blessed Mother Mary and for Vocations. A new initiative is creating 2 prayer calendars in May and October with daily prayer intentions.

Service: Our members give of their time and gifts every day. We prepared 4 lunches for our community soup kitchen, crocheted/ knitted caps and beanies for our local oncology clinic, had 2 successful food drives during Lent And Thanksgiving and prepared numerous funeral luncheons that comforted so many families during the loss of their loved one. Our council lost six longstanding CWL members in 2-23 with more than 150 years of service to the League.

Social Justice: We have tried to keep our members aware of many social justice events going on in our community involving human trafficking, MaiD human dignity and preserving the sanctity of life. We hosted a "Scams & Frauds" information night for our Family of Parishes which provides ways to protect and be aware of fraudulent activity.

Lastly we try and have fun. Social events keep our members connected and engaged. We held a Coronation Tea in May to commemorate King Charles, trivia night at our pre-summer potluck and a mystery event at our Christmas gathering.

## *London Region*

*Linda Van Raay*

*Regional Chairperson*

Catholic and Living It- the London Councils followed this motto in 2023 by: welcoming and accepting everyone, making them feel part of the parish and making the feel "at home"

Welcomed refugees by donating time, money and goods and their communities, concern for the homeless and low-income by donating the necessities, they cooked and served community dinners and lunches, had an Angel tree at Christmas for needy children, had prayer chains as well we supported a family devastated by a house fire

In their parishes –gave gifts for sacrament recipients, visited shut-ins, sent cards, attended funerals held prayer services for members at Funeral homes, held Parish socials, made meals for the bed-ridden , informed parishioners and community about homelessness, mental health, human trafficking and indigenous issues, donations went to the seminary, their parishes, food banks, SVDP and other charities, supported families in other countries and gave monetary donations to the elementary and high school graduates. There was lots of involvement in their churches as Sacristans, Eucharistic Ministers, readers, greeters choir etc. showed support for their priests, informed their members by a newsletter ,involvement in World Day of Prayer They showed others how to be Catholic and Living It by their caring words and actions using Jesus' example.

**Our Lady of Sorrows, Aylmer**

**President: Jackie Van Ryswyk**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Graham Keep**

**Members: 108**

No Report Submitted

## **Sacred Heart, Bornish-Parkhill**

**President - Lucy Hendrikx**

**Spiritual Advisor – Deacon Jim Vandersanden**

**#of members: 42    Life Member: 1**

Our CWL Council worked hard this year to get back on an even keel after the whole Covid irregularity. We have supported a seminarian. We also financially and physically supported the "Cat Chat" Vacation Bible School in our parish. For 10 months of the year we were able to host "Take a Break" where young parents can get together, enjoy a meal and some time with their preschool children.

We've gone back to catering to raise the funds needed for Sacramental gifts at 1<sup>st</sup> Communion, Confirmation and Weddings in our parish.

We worked together with our sister councils in the West Middlesex Family of Parishes to do a social justice presentation open to all, on Euthanasia Prevention and Compassionate Community Care.

As the Faith Pillar, we participated in the World Day of Prayer, kept up our rosary team and participated in the bible study on "Exodus".

In the Pillar of Service, we supported 2 families in India through "Save a Family Plan". We hosted a Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day along with other churches in our community, and we've visited shut-ins in their homes and in care centres.

## **St.Charles Garnier - Glencoe**

**President: Shirley Gilliland**

**Spiritual Adviser: Fr. Thom Blondin**

**Number of Members: 52**

**Life Members: 0**

As a 1<sup>st</sup> time president has had challenges and rewards with a new executive and establishing the Pillars- Faith, Service and Social Justice. A new membership poster programme aided in signing younger ladies to our CWL sisterhood. We promoted sharing in our Family of Parishes CWL and at parish events encourage sisterhood.

Faith/Service: Our Sisters in Christ support our parish thru the many Ministries and financially as well as presenting religious gifts for the sacraments of 1<sup>st</sup> Communion, Confirmation and Grade 8 Graduation., offering support to parishioners and community thru our prayer shawls, Shut-ins and Sunday Fellowship Ministries. The fund raising events/funeral lunches, \$ has encouraged members to grow in Faith and Fellowship. Participating in World Day of Prayer, CWL Day at the Shine in Merlin, Lenten

Retreat Fall Regional Days Advent Tea were a few of the events that members to grow.

Social Justice Pillar: Numerous issues are a work in progress. Our Family of Parishes jointly welcomed Kathy Matusiak Costa CCC and Alex Schadenberg Euthanasia Prevention spoke about Compassionate Community Care. They talked about training and the work the CWL does.

Follow up; Training workshops will be offered for caring for seniors/vulnerable individuals with social psychological and spiritual needs.

### **Holy Cross, London**

**President: Maria Marques Di Cicco**

**Spiritual Advisor:**

**# of members: 60**

**Life Members: 0**

One of our new initiatives is working with a delivery company. They have uniforms that need to have labels removed in order for them to be donated. The delivery company leaves a box of uniforms at the home of one of the members who then distributes them among a group of members who remove all the markings of the company. A member picks them up and takes them to a location for donation. The clothes have been donated to Mission Services, SVDP, and London Coffee House (a division of CAMH)

- Something new for our council was a donation to the fundraising campaign of the Humane Society London & Middlesex. They are in the process of building a new facility. At the same time, one of our members moved into a retirement home and she donated bath, hand and face cloths to the Humane Society for use in bathing the animals located there.
- Several members attended the Leading Girls, Leading Women event organized by MPP Peggy Satler. A member of the Holy Cross Council was nominated, recognizing her leadership in the CWL at Holy Cross. She was nominated by MPP Teresa Armstrong.

### **Holy Family, London**

**President: Vacant (submitted by Angela Pellerin)**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Bob Remark**

**Membership: 101 Life Members: 2**

**No Report Submitted**

## **Mary Immaculate, London**

**President: Ann Andreica**

**Spiritual Advisor: Bros. Doss Vallengali**

**# Of Members: 89            Life Members 0**

### **Summary of Activities:**

- Donated Rosaries as a gift to those making their First Holy Communion
- Send out cards to shut-ins, Birthday, Christmas, Sympathy and Mass cards
- Our parish nurse came and spoke to us about Women's Health and Wellness
- Held a Birth Right Shower, members had brown bag picnic lunch during Summer Months
- Held Mother's Day Dinner, Father's Day Sundaes, Senior's Day Thanksgiving Dinner
- We participated in the Merlin and Martyrs' Day Retreat ,and had an Advent Tea
- Held a clothing drive that we donated to 519 Pursuit ,Ark Aid Mission, snacks, water
- Had a guest speaker from SVDP, collected items to restock pantry plus \$200 in new items chosen each month to donate
- Donated warm clothing for Sister's Place and for Bee Compassion Challenge
- Attended Mass of Remembrance for CWL did Honour Guard on request
- Prayer partner exchange, produce Prayer calendar, 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care, had Christmas Potluck; prepared newsletters to keep members informed increase meeting attendance gave membership speech at Masses.

## **St. Andrew the Apostle, London**

**No report submitted**

## **St George, London**

**President: Rita MacIntyre**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. John Girt**

**# Of members: 135            Life Members: 1**

We continue to provide spiritual and social services to the St. George's CWL members by having general meetings, a yearly spiritual retreat. We have tremendous support not only from our members but the Parish as well. This



has allowed us to flourish and provide financial donations to the church as well as funding assistance to our local Catholic Schools and Community. CWL members participate in numerous acts of service in a variety of different ways. We provide sisterhood and friendship to all women.

**St John the Divine, London**

**President: Colleen Kelly**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr Michael Bechard Fr. John Pirt**

**# Of Members: 141      Life Members: 0**

St. John Divine made a difference in the lives of 52 people who participated in the Horizons of Hope that was produced by the CCCB and advertised through CWL directives. 14 facilitators supported 38 men and women who chose to attend 4 sessions leading up to 12 hrs. Of prayer for Palliative Care. The programme identified concerns regarding

Euthanasia Bill C-314. This led to a petition to our MP to not support the inclusion of persons with Mental Health Disorders. The next beneficiary was Nursing Home volunteers and recipients. The committee worked with our parish team to identify staffing and process problems. Our nursing care is now working with our Family of Parishes team while the Horizon of hope team is now reviewing outstanding action items The "Care for our Common Home " team aka "Environment Committee " now include members from all our Family of Parishes. 6 CWL members continue to be active on this committee. Some of the issues are:

- Environmental education tips weekly in the bulletin
  - Implemented the 2<sup>nd</sup> digester in the kitchen
  - Grow and harvest fresh vegetables July-October, brought to the Caring cupboard food bank that supports a rent geared to living seniors building, collect and recycle food containers, egg cartons & bags that Aid St. Paul's Cathedral. There are a lot of others things we do as well. Support health and maintenance of London's sewers
  - Create booklets for Families to learn about the environment
  - Held 2 presentations; 1 on composting and 1 on pollinator gardening
- We definitely make a difference.

**St Justin's, London****President: Elisabeth Duggan****Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Christopher Bourdeau****Number of members: 106**

St. Justin's members have been active supporting ANOVA several times during the year. We organized a parish collection for 2 weeks and at Christmas. We provided gifts for women and children. We had a successful sock drive for our community schools and those in need. In the spring we organized a parish Baby shower for Birthright. At Christmas we sent our members who are in nursing homes or homebound a Christmas card which included a prayer card "The Cardinal"

**St. Martin of Tours, London****President: Susan Coleman****Spiritual Advisor: Rev. Chris Bourdeau****Members: 60**

In 2023 St. Martin of Tours CWL embraced the theme "Catholic and Living It". We demonstrated Faith, Service and Social Justice by working closely with our Knights of Columbus council to actively participate in parish activities and support our community.

Highlight :celebrated the World Day of Prayer, 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care and Rosary in the Rose Garden, attending the Annual CWL Convention, Advent Tea Service, Fall Regional Days and regional meetings, donating flowers for the Altar, hosting Coffee Sundays assisted the Knights with a Pancake dinner, donating Baby and mother care items to Birthright, purses full of personal care items to My Sister's Place, Socks to Men's Mission pyjamas to Rotholme and Merrymount Centres and funds to Catholic Missions, Development and Peace and Save A Family Plan. New activities this year included a yard sale and the Multicultural Festival

**St. Michael, London****President: Dorothy Solomon****Spiritual Advisor: Fr Sekar Raj****Members: 126**

St. Michael's Council demonstrated being "Catholic and Living It" by supporting an endeavour undertaken by the London Ukrainian Center. The Center hoped to purchase and donate 5,000 Life Straws for the people of Ukraine who are challenged by water insecurity. Our council collected \$700 and were able to deliver 56 personal water filtration units to the Ukrainian Center. These Life Straws filter out 99.99% of particles includes bacteria, parasites, and micro

plastics allowing them to drink from any water source – rivers, ponds and puddles and can be used up to 100 times.

At one of our general meetings, it was brought to our attention that some funeral homes were offering rooms for euthanasia. One of our members decided to investigate this further. She contacted ten funeral homes in London and asked if they participate in offering a room for M.A.I.D. It was discovered that there were two, A. Millard George Funeral Home and Northview Funeral Chapel. They do not use the term “M.A.I.D. Rooms” but instead refer to them as the “Compassion Room”. We were very disappointed to learn about this and shared the information with our members.

### **St. Peter’s Basilica, London**

**President: Julie Sans**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Felix Odoobi**

**# Of Members: 101      Life Members: 0**

How did St. Peter’s CWL made a difference? 2-23 started as per usual with our regular meetings and services for our members and parish community. St. Peter’s CWL service came to abrupt halt after our Lenten lunches due to the loss of use of the Parish Centre. This was devastating or was it an opportunity? The women of St. Peter’s CWL went into action connecting with our Cathedral neighbour. St. Paul’s. Kitchen appliances were donated to St. Paul’s hospitality Centre to enhance the provision of services to our downtown community. The dishes, pans, small equipment went to Indell outfitting several kitchens in the in the renovated apartments that were accepting downtown clients needing a place to live. All miscellaneous items that were not relocated went to St. Vincent de Paul for their clients. The years of accumulating items to improve our service has been distributed to various agencies for their benefit, the facility is now empty but the memories live on. In collaboration with the St. Paul’s Anglican Church Women, St. Peter’s CWL had a very successful bazaar and we continue to build our relationship. The BEE Compassionate initiative led us into a more in depth look at the London homeless situation at our general meetings. A summary, resource and services were made available at the end of the year. Reflecting upon this issue, are they the 21<sup>st</sup> century lepers? Community turning a blind eye, being isolated, moved away from their encampments, out of sight and social support system. We are compassionate and want to assist by supporting where we can make a difference. Throughout the year, we provide opportunities to attend various activities not only CWL sponsored, (Lent, Advent, and Merlin/Regional) but social events. Palliative care, hospice service, Euthanasia Bill C-314 to protect the vulnerable. Canadians

with mental illness parked writing to our MP and MPPS to share our Catholic values of dignity and respect for all human life. As the year came to a close, it was important that time was set aside for remembrance, reflections and celebration of our deceased CWL members who have journeyed and laid a path before us.

### **St Patrick's, Lucan**

**President - Harriet Duynisveld**

**Spiritual Advisor - Rev. Stevan Wlusek**

**# Of members: 90 Life Members: 1**

The CWL ladies of our parish are first and foremost are service to God and our community. We take time at meetings to ask for prayer intentions. Our meetings have been filled with lively discussion and laughter.

We appreciate the help of the Knights this year with Monthly Coffee Sunday expenses and as always their help in supporting our youth who are receiving their sacraments. Receptions for sacraments were held and the gifts were given to the students. Together we provide gifts for RCIA candidates, baptismal and wedding gifts. St. Patrick's Day we held our traditional collection for flowers in the church. We were also able to support Chris Vandenberg in joining the NET team for the year.

In November, we raised @ \$2000 from our bazaar that will be distributed to community charities in the spring. Our pie baking day was well attended with new and old friends. We are grateful for the support of our community and the donations to the Bazaar.

A potluck in May honoured our members with service pins. A special thank you went out to Bonnie Van Lanen as she received her Maple Leaf service pin. Our guest speaker was Jean Aitcheson from the Stratford Mission Depot Who collects medical supplies and sends them all over the world. A special collection was held in September.

Our ecumenical events included: World Day of Prayer, Lenten and Advent soup lunches. We also collected Baby items for London Pregnancy and Family Support Centre. We continue to support the Ailsa Craig Food Bank. We continue to support our mature parishioners with Mass intentions for living and deceased members. We held a day of prayer for Palliative Care and check on members to see how they are doing.

On behalf of so many generous women who give of their time and talents. Thank you for all your support over the past year.

**Holy Angels, St. Thomas**

**President: Maureen Bedek**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Peter Keller**

**Number of Members 96**

No Report Submitted.

**St. Anne's, St. Thomas**

**President: Therese Kwapis**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Peter Keller**

**Number of Members: 150**

**Life members: 0**

During this past year Katie Kelly provided leadership for our council. Our members helped St. Anne's Festival committee to put on a successful fundraiser for Community Living Elgin. We had social events with our members with the May Mother/Daughter Brunch and the September Women's Breakfast and Potluck. These events bring members together that we don't always get to see. We send greeting cards to the homebound. Social isolation is on the rise with many in our society. We hope these events help to alleviate this growing trend in our community.

We gathered to pray the Living Rosary in May and October. We pray together before and after each meeting. We pray together during 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care and World Day of Prayer. These gatherings are spiritually uplifting. With a successful bake sale in June and the bazaar in November we were able to support many organizations that serve women and children. We honour our members with service pins, honour guards and serving funeral lunches. Listening to our sisters stories is one of the many pleasures of being a member of the league .We help cook and serve community dinners and lunches. We donate necessities to Fresh Start, organize Christmas Giving Tree and donate gifts to Christmas care. All these community activities bring out members into the community. We see the need and take action.

**All Saints, Strathroy**

**President:**

**Spiritual Advisor:**

**Number of members: 204    Number of Life members: 1**

**No report Submitted.**

**St. Helen's, Wallacetown**

**President – Jackie Campigotto**

**Spiritual Advisor – Father Peter Keller**

**Members – 48**

St. Helen's is comprised of a tightly knit group of women who are very much attuned to the needs of the small rural communities in which we live. We provide support to those who are ill, lonely or shut in. We provide support for local agencies that provide necessities for those in need and collect items to support the local food bank and gifts for children at Christmas. This year a new initiative for us is supporting local indigenous community's .We look for opportunities to enrich the spiritual lives of our members through speakers, retreats and outings.



*I don't think of all the misery, but of the beauty that still remains.*

ANNE FRANK

*Sarnia/Lambton Region*  
*Chairperson: Carol Hall*

*10 Councils*

Catholic and Living It: Making a Difference in the Sarnia Lambton Region

- There were many ways that the councils of Sarnia Lambton region tried to live out their mandate this year. Homelessness was a priority. Three councils who used to be clustered continue to meet together to undertake projects. In June and December at their joint potlucks items were collected for the homeless and disadvantaged in Sarnia. Another council set up a donation box for items for the homeless and invited a speaker who is involved in the "homeless project" in the Bluewater Family of Parishes.
- Under Truth and Reconciliation a council hosted an Indigenous Blanket Exercise for their parish. It was very moving and informative. A report was sent to the Provincial Council about this gathering.
- Another council chose to inform their members about Human Trafficking and sponsored an anti-pornography post card campaign. This same council is reaching out to their community and encouraging socialization through weekly card games.
- In 2023 the Sarnia Lambton Region was very proud to host the 1<sup>st</sup> AMM, post Covid. Taking on this challenge united our councils in a way that we could never have imagined. We faced many adversities, not the least of which was a conference centre that we weren't sure was going to be completed in time. But, all turned out well. As a result of this undertaking, we were able to financially help Gianna Home- a home for mothers needing assistance to provide a good beginning for their children. St. Joseph's Hospice which, without any cost supports all those who are needing end of life care and in addition funds were able to be donated to the SVDP Food Bank. This coming together for a common cause was very fulfilling.

## **St. Michael, Bright's Grove**

**President: Mary van Delft**

**Spiritual Advisor: Father Dan Vere/Fr. Joseph**

**# Of Members: 132**

St. Michael CWL Makes a Difference:

2-23 was a year of change for St. Michael with a new executive and a new CWL structure. With change came opportunity. The executive held a brainstorming session early in the year and again mid-year to familiar ourselves with each other and the new structure, and to set goals under the new Pillars of Faith, Service and Social Justice.

Activities that have made a difference to our Parish and our community for years were maintained and new ideas were embraced, looking at them all through a new lens under the three pillars.

- Our Catholic **Faith** was strengthened through participation in activities like World Day of Prayer with our ecumenical community, the Diocesan Annual of Members, Lenten Retreat and Regional Day with our CWL community, spiritual reflections at our own meetings and fellowship with our CWL sisters through service, prayer and social activities.
- Our council undertook many opportunities to be of **Service** to our membership, church and community including provision of a student bursary, hosting parish receptions, funeral lunches and monthly Coffee Sundays. We participated in the Family o Parishes first Halloween Trunk or Treat event and the CWL cardigan was introduced to help identify us as CWL members.
- St. Michael CWL continued to advocate for **Social Justice** in 2023 with two main initiatives. In the spring we hosted a local horticulturalist/landscape designer focused on fighting climate change, who inspired us to alter our gardening practices to improve the ecology of our own yards to help protect our "Common Home". In September, John Barnfield, co-chair of the new Homelessness and supportive Housing team for our Family of Parishes, educated our Council on Homelessness in our community. This led to a very successful collection of "Winter Warmth" items that were distributed to people experiencing homelessness. Additionally, our annual fundraising activities were again very successful, enabling us to continue supporting many local, national and international charities.

By doing the work CWL, through Faith, Service and Social Justice, we make a difference!



### **St. Joseph's, Corunna**

**President: Susan Morphew**

**Spiritual Advisor: Deacon Chuck Stevens**

**# Of members: 76      Life Members: 0**

Go Make a Difference! During 2023 our council began to transition to the new structure for our Executive in preparation for a new President taking office in September. Pillar chairs began to study their roles and to investigate the resources that were in place to guide and assist us. The 3 pillar model works better for small councils such as ours where it is impossible to seat a roster of 11 committee chairs. The result has been richer discussions and added depth to our planning. Projects overlap the mandate of the pillars which resulted in more sharing of ideas and workload. What a difference! Not only for the executive team but also for the general membership, the parish and the community who benefit from the results of the planning. One example was our hosting of an Indigenous Blanket Exercise aimed at drawing attention to the Truth and Reconciliation Day in September and open communication with our Indigenous neighbors. Hopefully we will continue into 2024 with meetings and events that meet the spiritual needs of our members and inform them of community issues and our call to make a difference in our world.

### **St. Charles, Courtright**

Disbanded

### **St. Christopher, Forest**

**President: Deb Devet**

**Spiritual Advisor:**

**# of members:**

**Life Members: 0**

During 2023 we were able to awaken the St. Christopher CWL. We increased membership from 2 to 18. The CWL membership invitation helped. We put on a "Come and See Tea" to show the parishioners what the CWL has been up to for the last 102 years. We acknowledged our 102<sup>nd</sup> anniversary with a certificate in the church narthex. We had a small but successful Bazaar. We held a sunflower wreath creative social and a Nativity cookie scene creative social which were well attended. We made financial donations to Lambton Right to Life, St. Joseph's Hospice together with the Missions Committee in milk bag mat weaving and crocheting pneumonia vests.

### **St. Philip's, Petrolia**

**President: Ann Wade**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Ray Lawhead**

**# Of Members: 58 Life Members: 0**

A couple times a year we show a Christian- based movie and offer a supper for a donation in our church hall. We get a lot of the people in senior complexes and parishioners who want to get to know each other and enjoy a night out, take away loneliness and make new friends!

On Friday nights we have Euchre card parties and see 9-11 tables fill up! People From other faiths around our area come and enjoy a fun evening that includes snacks and prizes! This also gives us the opportunity to show us living our Catholic faith.

This year we worked closely with the Sarnia Regional organizing the Annual Meeting of Members in April. We were in charge of printing. The meetings were well attended full of fun and ideas. A true fellowship.

To help the lonely or people with financial burdens we put up a tree in the back of the church and collected toys for Christmas for everyone in Petrolia. We also offered Good Samaritan Boxes for the congregation to fill and return. (helps 9 countries) Our members also worked in pairs as we gifted a plant and card to our shut-in members this Christmas.

### **Our Lady of Mercy Sarnia**

**President: Phyllis Vanoverbeke**

**Spiritual Advisor: Deacon Lyle LaLonge**

**Number of members: 42**

**No report submitted**

### **Queen of Peace, Sarnia**

**President: Joanna Kazanecki**

**Spiritual Adviser: Fr. Jan Burczyk**

**# Of Members: 32**

**Life Members: 0**

Queen of Peace is a small but quite vibrant group of ladies. We always think how to help and make our community better. The main focus in 2023 was on

our member's church and community needs. Our Fall Bazaar which was very successful allowed us to support both the church and various local charities. This year we organized a summer picnic and a Christmas dinner for members and friends who helped organize the bazaar. We didn't forget homebound members either. Phone calls and visitations are done at Christmas as well as throughout the year.

**Sacred Heart, Sarnia**

No report submitted

**St. Benedict's Sarnia**

**President: Carol Hall**

**Spiritual Advisor: Deacon Lyle Lalonge/ Father Rob Renaud**

**# Of members: 156**

Our main focus in 2023 was to reach out to our members in meaningful ways. In particular, we tried to reach out to our homebound and nursing home members. Phone calls were made and cards were sent out at Easter and Christmas. Newsletters and the minutes of our general meetings were sent out via email. This helped to keep members up to date about what was going on with our council.

We reached out to the homeless community through our June and Christmas collections of food and personal items. We continued to support Gianna Home- a home for pregnant women and girls who are choosing to raise their babies in difficult circumstances.

Here at St. Benedict's CWL, we continue to be proud of and support our Catholic Girls' League, the first in the Diocese of London. This group reaches out to young girls from all over the city. At present we are proud to say that they have 13 members. This year for the 1<sup>st</sup> time we were able to present our education bursary to a former president of the girls' League. She became a member of our CWL council and is continuing on her higher education.

## **St. Joseph, Sarnia**

No report submitted

## **Our Lady Help of Christians, Watford**

**Co.-President: Julie Joris VanderKant, Illa Joris**

**Spiritual Advisor:**

**# of members: 120**

There are many ways that our council tried to live out this mandate in 2023. We introduced the "Catholic and Living It" prayer to our opening prayers at monthly meetings. As New co-presidents, we used the CWL website as a resource when preparing for meetings as well as working on introducing Pillars to our council as we search to fill these positions.

Our council has been busy this year with a few endeavors as we prioritized encouraging a culture of using our Face book page and messenger as well as regular emails to communicate with members to advise of happenings, events and meetings. We placed our energy on inviting younger members to enjoy and participate in all events, meetings and taking on responsibilities, especially for our annual fundraiser in December, the Christmas Supper, Penny Sale and Skit night. It is important to us to bring as many members into that evening and have them share their many talents and gifts with each other.

New this year is a rosary making group headed by Audrey and Paula mentoring youth to learn the skill of making Rosaries by one of our oldest senior members Emma. This showed a positive response. In the future we will continue this work for worldwide missions. We also prioritized attending and supporting the diocesan Convention in Sarnia. Our council was very supportive of our past president Betty and her role in the convention. We painted rocks and planned the closing Mass using it again at an opportunity to invite young and new women to participate with the choir and lay ministries and all members who never attended a convention and others who have to come again and they did.

We continue many programmes in our local school for the sacraments, snack and graduation. We supported many charities like Gianna house, Baby bottle drive, Right to Life, Potlucks and Fun Night. We prepared Funeral Lunches and Honour Guards. We promote membership in October plus we started to wear our Blue to promote the League.

Finally we hosted the Diocesan visitors Denise Morris and Nelly Kelders in November with their interesting and informative survey and our hope to

connect National, Provincial & us by working on developing the Pillar Committees. We finished the year with our Annual Dinner and Penny Sale and Skit night. This event sees about 200 ladies. Watford CWL has had a Great Year.

**Holy Rosary, Wyoming**

**President: Joan Fournier**

**Spiritual Advisor: Father Ray Lawhead**

**Number of members: 37**

Holy Rosary CWL held a soup luncheon this past year with the help of St. Philip's CWL. All proceeds went to St. Joseph's Hospice. We're hoping this will become a yearly thing and will be held the Tuesday of Hospice Week in May.

We continue to present a Gr. 8 student with a Bible at their awards ceremony and we supply candy canes for their Christmas dinner and Mr. Freezies in June for their Fun Day. It's our way of keeping our presence in the school with the hope of getting new members from the parents at the school. We try to make a difference and continue to reach out to our members and community.

*Windsor Region  
Chairperson Helen Biales  
10 Councils*

Catholic and Living: It has been very much at the forefront of the Windsor Councils. Each Council has been very active promoting the 3 pillars- Faith, Service and Social Justice. Faith has been shown through retreats, days of reflection and special Masses. All councils have actively supported the poor, ensuring that their needs are being taken care of. Service has certainly been the focus in our community. Whenever a council is approached to help out, they immediately respond. Social Justice is always on our minds whether it be MaiD, Birthright or Reconciliation. Our councils continue to educate themselves about these issues. Each council has chosen its focus for the year. Now that we have started to emerge from isolation, e is connecting in person with our shut-ins. It feels good to be able to meet in person with the membership and share our faith and renew friendships. All the Councils are in the process of transitioning to the new governance format.

***I am the New Year: I am here, but once the Past, I can be recalled.  
Make me your best!***

Author unknown.



Remember

**St. Paul's, LaSalle**

**President: Judith Benn**

**Spiritual Advisor: Father Dwayne Adam**

**Number of Members: 34**

Po-life : e-mail response to Bender House Hospice ,including MaiD, Horizon of Hope , Webinar Compassionate Community Care, Webinar on Prevention of Elder Abuse, two CCC hotline referrals, !2 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care, distributed Windsor Essex Paramedic Info. To CWL, Picked up by Joy Project, hosted luncheon after anointing of the sick in May and September, contributed to Birthright of Greater Windsor and Windsor-Essex Right to Life Synod on Synodality: had discussion on the document on the Continental stage, participated in 5 zoom discussions by Gailee Retreat Centre before and after the October 2023 Assembly including Sr. Susan Scott from National CWL

Vocations: organized presentation by three deacons in the family of Parishes. Participated virtually in Ordination to the Diaconate, participated in World Day of Prayer for Vocations, welcomed transitional deacon Parish: hosted Soup and Stations and Coffee Sundays, contributed to student trip to Steubenville, completed survey for parish pastoral council and CWL Unity Survey Process, Christmas and June socials for members and CWL Day at the Shrine, History of the Mass down through the ages and new Directory of Catechesis webinars.

### **Corpus Christi, Windsor**

**President: Jo-Anne Lortie**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Mathew Bedard**

**# Of members : 150**

It appears the theme "Go Make a Difference" is basically what the CWL is all about. Our presence and actions within the parish and community reflect our commitment to our mission. Along with our usual fundraising events to raise money for charities and supporting groups such as SVDP, Birthright, Right to Life etc., these are a few activities we enjoyed doing:

- Toiletries, healthy snacks and food items were collected for "Bridges" which is a safe welcoming place for youth(12-24)and where help is given for housing ,jobs, education ,addiction etc., Milk bags were made into totes collected and held the above items for distribution.
- Twice a year Victoria Manor receives some cheer from our CWL. At Christmas, cards are written for the residents and then at Easter, eggs are stuffed with goodies for them.
- Some refugees and immigrants are a little warmer this year. Our CWL winter clothing drive helped families from Latin America, Africa and Afghanistan. Extra items were given to the Windsor Lifeline Outreach, which supports Matthew House Refugee Centre.
- We continue to support "Street Help" and our ladies were thrilled to provide them with some healthy stew.

No matter what the theme is, we will always strive to make a difference in our community.

### **Holy Trinity, Windsor**

**President: Valarie Blak-Gill**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Stanislaw Izdebski**

**# of members:9 Life time :6**

After two years of not meeting together our council is up and running again. We had successfully put on two parish dinners at Easter and Christmas trying to get people to come back to church. Both dinners were well attended. We collected hats gloves and scarves for a local school. We crochet blankets for our 10 aging Ursuline Sisters at our parish. We supported our Right to Life group in Windsor. Our council is struggling to get new members. We have 9 members and 6 lifetime members.

### **Immaculate Heart, Windsor**



**President: Anna St. Antoine**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Glen Ball**  
**Number of members: 44**

**Faith: we** promoted spiritual programmes using resources from the National website, used a variety of prayer styles, encouraged use of APPS of subscriptions for daily Mass, scheduled quest speakers on religious topics, invited a speaker on the role of women in the Church, promoted pro-life with prayer and action

**Service:** worked at the Saint Vincent de Paul

**Social Justice:** sent postcards, sent things to the MP and MPP, signed petitions  
We are in the process of switching to the new structure.

**Most Precious Blood, Windsor**

**President: Laurie Dufour**  
**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Greg Bonin**  
**Number of members: 112**

As a Catholic Women's League member: we are called to serve God and Country. We began the new year by hosting a New Year's Day Brunch open to everyone in our Family of Parishes. To keep serving we need to take care of ourselves. Therefore we had a focus on self-care, physically, mentally and spiritually. At our monthly meetings we discussed one thing we could do to ensure we were taking care of ourselves. With the theme Catholic and Living it we tried to do one thing in our daily lives to show we were indeed Catholic and Living It. At our meeting one person would share something they did. Using the provincial theme Go Make a Difference we sang along to the song at our gatherings and encouraged our ladies to go make a Difference. At our monthly Social Group ladies came and had a coffee and treats, play a game, have conversation, do a craft and make cards for the homebound. In March we hosted the monthly coffee social after weekend Masses. We hosted the Annual Salmon dinner followed by leading parishioners in Mary's way of the Cross. In March Fr. Greg said Mass for us followed by a BBQ with several of the Knights manning the grill. Several of us attended the retreat in Merlin after myself and another person attended the Diocesan AMM/ Convention. Other activities we hosted would be the Trunk 'n Treat, Bake sale/ Chicken/beef pie sale, membership drive, deceased members Mass with the Knights, and of course our many donations to many organizations. Throughout

the year many of our ladies served in many ministries of the church, helped with Bible camp, and Sacramental Prep. Staying connected is a top priority for our council through many sources. The ladies certainly took it to heart to Go Make a Difference.

### **Our Lady of Assumption**

**President: Marilyn Morrison**

**Spiritual Advisor:**

**# Of Members: 21**

After a tumultuous 2 years, through a couple of fundraising events were able to raise enough money to donate to charities our council chose to support. It was difficult due to the fact so many organizations require support. However we are able to make a difference by sending cheques to seven organizations who are dedicated to helping those less fortunate than ourselves. While starting slow due to the pandemic as of Nov. 2023 our council has grown to 21 members and membership efforts are ongoing. At our regular meeting in November we were able to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of our beloved Mrs. Bernadette Lesperance who attends meetings on a regular basis and is still living in her own home. Our council members continue to support Assumption Cares programme by helping to feed the homeless at our weekly Monday night suppers. Beginning in November we began collecting hats, mitts and gloves to bring to the local schools to distribute to the children in need.

### **Our Lady of Guadalupe, Windsor**

**President: Brigitte McFadden**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Greg Bonin**

**Number of Members: 60**

**Life Members: 0**

We are doing our best to stay connected and make sure that our members do not become isolated as they are getting older. We offer the ladies the opportunity to join us to attend plays by Windsor Light production at the Chrysler Theatre. Since we can "car pool" this is a great help to the ladies who no longer drive. We also attend and participate in the World Day of Prayer. We take part in Day of Reflections, memorial Mass, and Mass for our living members. Our members are actively involved in the Christmas Giving Tree so no one is without a gift. We have many members who are Eucharistic ministers, readers, choir members, SVDP visiting hospitals and nursing homes. The passing away of our members bring many to funeral homes for prayers and honour guard.

Even though we are an aging council we have found ways to be of help where we can. We are looking forward to another busy year and welcoming new members to our council.

### **Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Windsor**

**President: Janis Mclsaac**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Glen Ball**

**Number of members: 33**

- CWL Recruitment Sunday afternoon tea and sandwiches
- Lead the Stations of the Cross & made soup event/donation to SSVP Street Outreach
- Donation for Benjamin's Box Family Activity youth programme
- New executive added the 3 Pillars blessed by /Fr. Glen in Jan. Mass & meeting
- Donations collected for Angela Rose/refugees- new bedding, towels, paper towels etc.
- Weekly monitoring of members to send anniversary, get well, sympathy cards

- CWL serve in church as Eucharistic ministers, readers, choir, SSVP, Bingo etc.
- Pasta dinner/Paddle Auction 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of December
- Invite various speakers such as Mays from NET and Jennifer from Street outreach
- CWL council gifts for Baptism, Confirmation and newly married
- Donate to Our OLPH for use of the hall, copier, coffee etc
- Reach out to the homebound

**Our Lady of the Atonement, Windsor**

**President: Penny Craig**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Rob Rocheleau**

**# Of members: 141**

We continue to facilitate communications with members through phone calls, newsletters, email etc. Our corresponding secretary continues to send special cards to those appropriate members. Once again we have experienced losses in our council due to deaths and member having to move out of town.

We continue service through support of various community activities such as bursaries to the graduating Gr. 8 and High School candidates; we also support the school breakfast programme. Supported by our Parish giving tree and by working with our local conference of SSVP. We held a Welcome Back Social Tea and Bingo in September. The ladies found it fun to just come and have fun for themselves. We have held a joint Advent Dinner with St. John Vianney Council in December.

Our council has worked to embrace the three pillars into the agendas of our meetings

**St. Angela Merici, Windsor**

**President: Lucia Truant**

**Spiritual Advisor: Father Antonio Del Ciancio**

**Number of members: 44**

Over the past year, we were able to raise funds through bake sales and donated \$500 to the SSVP. For our Christmas Mass and

dinner attended by 78 persons, we requested and received an SUV of donations of warm winter apparel and food for Street Help, a non-profit organization that provides sanctuary and services for the homeless in Windsor. In addition, through our own funds and donations received, we were able to provide \$360 worth of food such as Turkeys, potatoes etc. for Christmas. Our Confirmation class received a personalized bookmark indicating that donations of \$200 were made in their names to the Ronald McDonald House, which provides a welcoming and secure "Home-away-from-home" for families with seriously ill or injured children in need of medical care at Windsor Regional Hospital. Our numbers are currently dwindling. At present we have only 44 members, with 2 passing this year. One member Flora Ghione celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. For the coming year, with /god and Our Lady of Good Counsel's help, we hope to have a recruitment drive to increase our numbers. We hope to continue to fulfill the great law of Charity.

**St. John Vianney, Windsor**

**President: Patricia Lafontaine**

**Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Rob Rocheleau**

**Number of members: 72 Number of Life Members: 1**

- Our council works well with the Knights of Columbus in helping to encourage our Parish to help the needy (Food , Fellowship & Youth)

**St. Michael's German, Windsor**

**President: Anne Their submitted by Angie Mora**

**Number of members: 19**

Faith: used a variety of prayer styles for meetings, encouraged spiritual readings, encouraged using the psalms for prayer, shared information from Catholic sources, studied Catechism of the Catholic Church, donated to the seminary fund, promoted and participated donated and wrote letters to promote Pro-life

**SERVICE:** participated in Palliative Care Training, Lectures and Seminars and more cultural activities.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE:** need to research find out how to become more involved



*The smallest surprise, received gratefully, yields a harvest of delight.*

BR. DAVID STEINDL-RAST



**Life Member Liaison Report 2023**

**Diocese of London**

Life Member Liaison: Marie Therese Lamphier

## **Life Members and Past President**

Honorary Life Members: 0                      Life Members: 12

Newly Appointed Life Member 2023: 1

### **Life Member Liaison's Activity Report**

- Attended the World Day of Prayer
- Attended my CWL Council meetings
- Attended Zoom meetings like "Who me a leader?" and "WHY did God give us free will?", and others as recommended
- Attended Diocesan Convention in Sarnia
- Appointed Life Member Liaison for London Diocese
- Forwarded prayer requests and emails as required from Prov. Life Member Liaison and Diocesan President
- Busy with duties of OPC treasurer, including issuing cheques, making deposits, setting up meetings, renewing investments, making reservations and preparing reports and books for the auditor's review
- Attended London Retreat for Executive and Life members at Holy Family Retreat house
- Attended Provincial Convention in Cornwall
- Prepared reflection for my own CWL council
- Attended CWL Christmas meeting and lunch in Essex region
- Attended Advent dinner with our Family of Parishes Council at Our Lady of Atonement Parish

My husband and I are still trying to keep fit by attending exercise classes 3X/week

### **Shirley George**

- I have tried to contact Shirley a couple of times, but with no luck. She is keeping very quiet. I have heard she was quite happy to get a visit from Bev W. and Lucy H. who delivered a copy of the history book earlier in the year.

### **Muriel Murphy**

- I heard from Muriel at Christmas. She is in a 2 bedroom suite at Harbour Hill where there are many activities including a variety of musical acts.
- She stills play euchre with her 3 siblings ranging in age from 80 yrs. up. The oldest is 97.

- They celebrated several weddings in 2023 with her family and she became a great Nana for the very 1<sup>st</sup> time.

### **Mary Van Dyk**

I have had a bad year and didn't participate in any CWL activities Other than donating of 3 large boxes of crafts to my CWL Bazaar as I was 24/7 caregiver to my sick husband who passed on September 22, 2023.

### **Trucy Cornelis**

It certainly has been a hard year for me, losing my Grandson last October and after a long struggle with Cancer, my husband joined Spencer in March of this year. I thank God for my 3 sons that live close by, and farming goes on as usual. I thank God every day for all family and friends in the community.

- I made a special effort to attend all Catholic Women's League conventions- Diocesan, Provincial and National this year. It was very rewarding to see all my sisters in the League from across the country.
- At the grass roots, apple peeling for the pie bake with many of our local Parish CWL members was a great success for the Bazaar. We made 130 pies within 2 1/2 hours that was record time for us, many hands make little work.

**God is Good.**

### **Maria S. Odumodu:**

- Covid 19 continues to make its presence known by the absence of many members at church. Parish activities including CWL though disrupted have continued in new ways. Prayer and acts of mercy have been in living Catholic. The new Theme, "Here I am Lord Send Me" is a favourite of mine but living it is not always easy as one becomes entrenched as an elder.
- Welcome new members in our parish
- Attended Diocesan and National Conventions in person!
- Visited to St. Peter's seminary
- Attended daily TV Mass and prayed for the League, end to pandemic and peaceful co-existence in the world especially the Holy Land
- Advice given as needed by president
- Mentoring young people
- Part of honour guard for deceased members



- Directed the 30<sup>th</sup> Christmas Pageant at the average of 20 participants, we have easily touched the lives of 600 future parish members. God be Praised
- Read directives and prayed for CWL members
- Speaker at Brescia College
- Called parishioners to assure them that they are remembered
- Joe and I were recognized by the Black Community for our leadership in Oxford County.

### **Bev Weiler**

- As a life member I attended as many of my parish council meetings as I could and supported the president and council
- In March I assisted by explaining the election/nomination process for the Diocese
- In May gave a presentation on the 3 Pillars
- I assisted at funeral luncheons, pie making workshops, leading Stations of the Cross and various other parish council initiatives
- I attended the London Region presidents meetings several time and attended the Advent Tea hosted by Holy Cross London
- In April I attended our London Diocesan convention in Sarnia
- I served as the screening officer for elections
- After being inspired by National President Fran Lucas, I hosted a Tea party that raised funds for various charities. This was a lot of fun the attendees were from various parts of my life. It was amazing to see these women interact and to find collectedness.
- I was very pleased to be able to support a sister League at St. Mary's, Gibsons,BC by attending a Valentine Tea they held in February and a soup luncheon they had as well.
- It was also a pleasant time visiting Life member Shirley George with Lucy. We brought hr a copy of the history book.
- Just trying to be present and supportive for our League. The past few months have been a little more involved with the unexpected death of our parish President. Trying to assist on the elections committee to get a new slate of officers.

Theresa Winchester (originally MO Provincial Council)

- We moved from Trenton to Listowel ON in April 2023. In Trenton, I had been a member for the last 6 years of the 8 Wing Our Lady of Peace Council which belongs to the Military Ordinate Provincial Council. After many moves while in the Canadian

Forces and since retirement, we are happy now to consider Listowel as our forever home and look forward to creating new friendships and experiences here.

- While in my last council, I was the lucky duck who was the council President during the 3 years that we will all remember as "The Covid Years". Our council hung on during these years, holding whatever form of meeting the day called for-in person, by Zoom. Hybrid. We made it through by focussing on mutual Zoom, hybrid- we all learned new ways to do old things under unusual circumstances. We made it through by focussing on mutual support and friendship and doing what we could and never-minding about the rest.
- My president elect and I were the council's Resolution Committee. Our big accomplishment in 2023 was the passage of a resolution that made its way to National Level. Its name was "2023.1 support for the Dallaire Institute for children, Peace and Security" and when it was passed by 8 wing council, it said:

**RESOLVED,** that 8 Wing Trenton Our Lady of Peace of the Catholic Women's League of Canada urge the Military Ordinate Provincial Council of the Catholic Women's League to support The Dallaire Institute for Children ,Peace and Security(The Dallaire Institute) by:

- Educating its members on the subject of child soldiers, and
- Urging the National level of the Catholic Women's League of Canada to name the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security as a temporary National Voluntary Fund of the Catholic Women's League of Canada.

I remain interested in resolutions and the changes to the Canadian way of life that are possible through the resolution process.

### **Patricia M. Rivest**

- Although I was unable to attend meetings, I still was updated with the activities in my council in Leamington
- Reviewed the financial books for St. Michael's Council
- Sub-committee member of the OPC Treasury
- Attended the London Diocesan Convention in April in Sarnia where I presented my last life Member liaison report
- Attended The Ontario Provincial AMM/Convention
- Corresponded with members by telephone, emails and texts
- Participated in League Development workshop presented by Colleen Martin by way of Zoom

- Continue to have coffee whenever possible every Tuesday morning with 2 very dear CWL members. We have continued this gathering since the Covid shutdown.
- Most of 2023, I was recuperating from radiation treatments, 2 surgeries, therapy and waiting for good health to return
- Sudbury and Winnipeg families visited, so blessed to have them with me whenever possible
- Prayed for all members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada and especially the members of the London Diocese.

### **Lucy Hendrikx**

- Interim leader in my parish of Sacred Heart's Council, Parkhill
- Hosted an Advent Tea at our parish
- Attended the Fall Regional Day at ST. Benedict's Sarnia
- Signed on as co-chair of the 2024 London Diocesan AMM/ Convention at the Lamplighter in London
- Appointed as co-chair of the 2025 Provincial AMM/Convention to be held at the Four Points , Sheraton, London .ON July 2025
- Celebrated Louis and my 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary at the time of last year's AMM/ Convention
- Enjoy spending time with family and friends when not doing volunteer work. We're expecting our 1<sup>st</sup> great grandchild in April

### **Angela Pellerin:**

- The early part of the year, I was busy continuing to consult with the Sarnia Convention Committee. There were some challenges as the facility was still under renovation however, the convention went well
- In the summer I enjoyed attending the Executive/Life members Retreat and also, CWL Day at the Shrine in Merlin
- After serving in various capacities, I informed my own council I was stepping down from leadership roles in September. I had been in one position or another for over 20 years and had worked at keeping things together during Covid. We have some newer, younger members who stepped up to take on executive positions. I can still be available to mentor as needed but felt I had to step back at this time. It is so nice to be able to just sit back at meetings and visit with other members
- I am consulting again this year with the London Convention Committee. Things are moving along well and the registration package is almost ready to go out as I write this. My council is doing registration for 2024 convention. We are fortunate to still be dealing

with the same person at the Lamplighter that we have dealt with for numerous conventions. All we need to do is tweak things a little. Lucy Hendrikx, Linda Van Raay and hold our behind the scenes meetings at Shelly's restaurant. The one waitress recognizes us as we have met there numerous times, so she knows the routine of bringing us our drinks and waiting for us to let her know when we are ready to order lunch.

- My personal life is much quieter these days. The granddaughters are getting older so I am not needed as much child minding. Lily is now in Grade 9 at CCH and Hannah is in Gr. 6 at St. Mary's Choir School. They are OK staying on their own, although they do fight. It also nice to have my nephew and niece in London at University.
- Looking forward to seeing everyone at convention.

**Rebecca McCarrell:**

- I am privileged to have received my Life Membership in April 2023
- I have continued to assist London treasurer, Mary Clare Latimer with Quick Books
- As a member of the Ontario Provincial Council I attended the Provincial Convention in Cornwall this past year, It was a wonderful experience and I hope to be able to continue.
- With my life member buddy Maria Odumodo, we attended the National Convention in St. John, New Brunswick. Thanks to Maria for her thoughtfulness, and for picking me up off the floor when I lost my balance and fell.
- In the Fall, I joined the Strategic Planning group looking on at the Criteria for moving up the league. Led by National Life member liaison Jacqueline, our group has been diligently researching how various organizations elect their executives. Our next step is to relate the findings to the CWL.
- I look forward in joining my fellow Life members in prayers and activities in 2024.

### Presidents, London Diocesan Council

1921-1922	Mrs. B. C. McCann	London
1923-1924	Mrs. J. J. P. Dunn	Chatham
1925-1926	Mrs. G. B. Dawson	Sarnia
1927-1928	Mrs. W. Kirwin	Ingersoll
1929	Mrs. J. Bohan	Monkton
1930	Miss K. Casey LaSalette	
1931-1932	Mrs. J. A. Horricks	Windsor
1933-1934	Mrs. J. A. Frezell	London
1935-1936	Miss Catherine Toal	Strathroy
1937-1938	Mrs. T. E. Durocher	Windsor
1939-1940	Mrs. Wm. McMahon	LaSalette
1941-1942	Mrs. Jos. Coveny	Electric
1943-1944	Mrs. Jos. Freeman	Riverside
1945-1946	Mrs. P. M. Dewan	Ingersoll
1947-1948	Mrs. R. S. Saigeon	Sarnia
1949-1950	Miss Alice Daly	Seaforth
1950-1952	Mrs. E. G. Marnell	Tilbury
1952-1954	Mrs. Mel Walters	London
1954-1956	Mrs. J. M. Fitzpatrick	Windsor
1956-1958	Mrs. T. M. Kelly	Kinkora
1958-1960	Mrs. P. L. McManus	Windsor
1960-1962	Mrs. R. E. Doyle	Chatham
1962-1964	Mrs. W. J. Farrell	London
1964-1966	Mrs. Fred McDermott	Ingersoll
1966-1968	Mrs. H. R. Ferris	London
1968-1970	Mrs. G. O. Rutherford	Windsor
1970-1972	Mrs. Lawrence Howard	London
1972-1974	Mrs. J. J. Gardiner	London
1974-1976	Mrs. T. A. Gorski	Harrow
1976-1978	Mrs. P. J. Belanger	Windsor
1978-1980	Mrs. R. M. Bingham	Amherstburg
1980-1982	Mrs. Rita Ouellette	Windsor

1982-1984	Mrs. Wm. Regier	Mt Carmel
1984-1986	Mrs. Don Vrooman	St. Thomas
1986-1988	Mrs. Max Mousseau	Belle River
1988-1990	Mrs. Angela DeBruyn	Blenheim
1990-1992	Mrs. Eva Mitchell	London
1992-1994	Mrs. Theresa Loebach	Windsor
1994-1996	Mrs. Shirley George	Delhi
1996-1998	Mrs. Muriel Murphy	Goderich
1998-2000	Mrs. Gladys W. Dewey	Forest
2000-2002	Mrs. Marie Coughlan	Sarnia
2002-2004	Mrs. TrucyCornelis	Parkhill
2004-2006	Mrs. Maria S. Odumodu	Woodstock
2006-2008	Mrs. Bev Weiler	Watford
2008-2010	Mrs. Patricia Rivest	Leamington
2010-2012	Mrs. Lucy Hendrikx	Parkhill
2012-2014	Mrs. Mary Jean Horne	Chatham
2014-2016	Mrs. Marie-Theresa Lamphier	Stoney Point
2016-2018	Mrs. Angela Pellerin	London
2018-2021	Mrs. Rebecca McCarrell	Tilbury (pandemic)
2021- 2023	Mrs. Theresa Ryan	Kinkora
2023-2025	Mary Bannon	Stratford



1923-20223

*Best Wishes for many more!*

**Chatham Kent**

**Essex**

**Huron-Perth**

**Ingersoll**

**London**

**Sarnia**

**Windsor**

## 2024 Member Councils

<b>City/Town</b>	<b>CWL Council</b>
Amherstburg	St. John the Baptist
Aylmer	Our Lady of Sorrows
Belle River	St. Simon and St. Jude
Bornish/Parkhill	Sacred Heart
Bright's Grove	St. Michael
Chatham	Blessed Sacrament
	St. Joseph (City)
	St. Joseph Harwich
	St. Ursula
Comber	Visitation
Corunna	St. Joseph
Courtright	St. Charles disbanded
Delaware	Sacred Heart
Delhi	Our Lady Queen of Martyrs
Dresden	St. Michael
Dublin	St. Patrick
Essex	Holy Name of Jesus
Exeter	Precious Blood
Forest	St. Christopher
Glencoe	St. Charles Garnier
Goderich	St. Peter
Grand Bend	Immaculate Heart of Mary
Harrow	St. Anthony of Padua (disbanded 2022)
Ingersoll	Sacred Heart
Kingsville	St. John de Brebeuf
Kinkora	St. Patrick
Langton	Sacred Heart



LaSalette	Our Lady of LaSalette
LaSalle	St. Paul
Leamington	St. Michael
Listowel	St. Joseph
London	Holy Cross
	Holy Family
	Mary Immaculate
	St. Andrew the Apostle
	St. George
	St. John the Divine
	St. Justin
	St. Martin of Tours
	St. Michael
	St. Patrick
	St. Peter's Cathedral
Lucan	St. Patrick
McGregor	St. Clement
Merlin	St. Patrick
Mitchell	St. Vincent de Paul
Mount Carmel	Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Norwich	St. Peter
Petrolia	St. Philip
Port Dover	St. Cecilia
Port Lambton	Sacred Heart
Princeton	Sacred Heart (disbanded)
Ridgetown	St. Michael
Sarnia	Our Lady of Mercy
	Queen of Peace
	Sacred Heart
	St. Benedict
	St. Joseph
St. Joseph	St. Peter
St. Mary's	Holy Name of Mary

St. Thomas	Holy Angels
	St. Anne
Seaforth	St. James
Stratford	Immaculate Conception
	St. Joseph
Strathroy	All Saints
Tecumseh	Good Shepherd, Lakeshore
	Ste. Anne
Thamesville	St. Paul
Tilbury	St. Francis Xavier
Tillsonburg	St. Mary
Wallaceburg	Holy Family
	Our Lady Help of Christians
Wallacetown	St. Helen
Walsh	St. Michael
Waterford	St. Bernard of Clairvaux
Watford	Our Lady Help of Christians
Windsor	Corpus Christi
	Holy Trinity
	Immaculate Heart
	Most Precious Blood
	Our Lady of Guadalupe
	Our Lady of Perpetual Help
	Our Lady of the Assumption
	Our Lady of the Atonement
	St. Alphonsus (disbanded)
	St. Angela Merici
	St. John Vianney
	St. Michael
Wingham	Sacred Heart
Woodslee	St. John the Evangelist
Woodstock	Holy Trinity
Wyoming	Holy Rosary
Zurich	St. Boniface

