



St. Justin Martyr Council Of the Catholic Women's League Highlights of 2022

The Catholic Women's League (CWL) is a national organization whose mission is to call its members to grow in faith and to witness the love of God through ministry and service. It is based on three pillars: faith, service and social justice. This year we celebrated our council's 25th anniversary.

2022 was still affected by Covid and it was not until April that we were given the go ahead to resume in person gatherings and move away from Zoom.

All four Wednesday evenings in **January** were dedicated to refreshing our knowledge of the League with sessions on the history, structure, strategic plan, communications and member development, put on by the Toronto Diocesan Council (TDC). A Wellness Spa was held over Zoom with TDC sisters breaking out into virtual rooms for information on various spa therapies.

Development Day in **February** featured speakers from Development and Peace Canada on the theme 'Living Justice: A CWL Response'. At our council meeting that month we learned about 'Intuitive Eating' from a local nutritionist. Our 25th anniversary mass was held on February 23rd with Fr. Raymond as celebrant and was well attended by many sisters.

March saw members viewing the annual Ordinandi dinner celebration on Zoom. The 'Dynamic Women of Faith' conference, again took place on Zoom and we heard from Antonia Salzano, mother of the late teenager Carlo Acutis, who was beatified in 2020 for his work documenting Eucharistic miracles around the world. At our meeting we listened as a speaker from U-R Home Services spoke on the pervasiveness of human trafficking in York Region.



The tragic invasion of Ukraine sparked many efforts to raise funds and prayers for peace. The TDC held a 'Prayer for Peace in the Ukraine' virtual service and rosary. Our council donated \$250 to a fund managed by the Catholic Near East Welfare Association.



We had our Easter plant and chocolates sale with orders taken online. We were happy to present a cheque in the amount of \$1,100 to Msgr. Vid for ShareLife.

At our **April** meeting we voted on two resolutions that would be sent along to the TDC convention, then onto provincial and national conventions. Sisters and Msgr. Vid attended the TDC convention and banquet in person, after a two year hiatus due to the pandemic.

All councils have been asked to produce their own policy and procedure manual to augment the national and diocesan manuals.

Thanks to taskforce members Lucy, Carolyn and Ricki who worked with me over the winter. Thanks to reviewers Noeline, Louise and Vicky as well as the executive team. It was approved at the **May** council meeting.

Our council was delighted to host our 25th Anniversary High Tea and Speaker event with 110 attendees. The church hall was beautifully set up, we enjoyed delicious homemade scones, sandwiches and other goodies and listened attentively to a speaker on 'Brain Health'. Member service recognition pins were presented including to founding member in attendance Ruth Fuyarchuk. TDC President Sue Lubowitz joined us and presented our 25th anniversary certificate. Everyone was happy to be together and thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon.

Our **June** gathering took place at a restaurant on Main St. Unionville where we enjoyed an evening of fun and fellowship. We bid a fond farewell to Fr. Raymond as he became Associate Pastor at Saviour of the World Chinese Catholic Parish in Mississauga. We welcomed Fr. Jibin Joy as our new Associate Pastor.



In **July** I attended the CWL Ontario Provincial Convention in Ottawa and learned of activities from diocesan presidents across the province.



October was a busy month with sister Anita organizing a pilgrimage to Marylake led by Fr. Jibin and several sisters taking part. The TDC hosted a virtual session on 'Effective Meetings'. Our council meeting featured a speaker from Development and Peace, Caritas Canada who informed us on the valuable work the organization does to advance women's issues around the world. I was happy to attend an informative seminar on resolutions titled 'Faith in Action'.

The **November** CWL Wednesday was a memorable talk on the 'Saints of Advent'. This month also saw the return of the beloved parish Christmas Sale with crafts and baking galore. We hosted the CWL Tea Room that saw many smiling faces chatting in the beautiful tea room, enjoying their sandwich and butter tart with a hot cup of tea. The accessories table was filled with women's hats, scarves and the like. A number of scarves were donated to Yellow Brick House. The annual poinsettia and chocolates fundraiser was again a success with a mix of online and in person ordering.



The Gardens at Swan Lake was the venue for our **December** Christmas gathering. A joyous evening with much singing and laughter. The surplus from the event was used to purchase \$220 in gift cards for the Sisters of Life.



This year our council was pleased to donate \$5,500 to various Catholic, local and international charities. Our membership stands at 64.

I will sign off by saying that it has indeed been an honour and a privilege to have served as your president. Thank you to the executive committee for their hard work over the past 3 years: sisters Antonietta, Lucy, Rose, Ricki, Belinda, Virginia and Christine. Thanks to our Spiritual Advisor Msgr. Vid. Best wishes to Belinda and the new executive as they begin their term! Thank



you sisters for supporting the Catholic Women's League. We welcome all women of the parish to join us!

Diane Olmstead, President 2020-2023