

The Catholic Women's League of Canada

**REGINA DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

Annual Reports

2021



**Care for our**

**Common Home**

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**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL ACTING-PRESIDENT  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021  
JANETTE RIEGER**

As of December 31, 2021, there were 68 CWL parish councils in the Regina Diocese. Responses to the survey were received from 29 councils or about 43% which is a decrease of 4 councils from the previous year. Thank you to all councils who submitted a report, as it gives our diocesan executive a sampling of what is happening around the diocese.

Of the 29 responses only one is an amalgamated parish which was formed by combining 4 former parishes. Almost all councils have a president, the majority of which (72%) have previously held the position. I congratulate the 3 presidents who have actually been a CWL member for 10 years or less. Half of the presidents have been a member for more than 25 years. Whether a relatively new or an experienced CWL member, remember to call on your fellow council members or your diocesan executive if you have questions or need help.

Presidents used many resources to keep their council members informed. The most common were the national communiqués, The Canadian League magazine, diocesan communiqués, the national and provincial websites, and parish bulletins. Three national priorities were introduced to parish councils. The two most common were 'Care for Our Common Home' and 'Bill C-7 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)', while only a few councils looked at the 'Rights of the pre-born under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child'. However, from the responses it does not appear that much headway was made in advancing these topics, such as getting a speaker.

Half of the councils meet with their spiritual advisor frequently, while the other half rarely or never meet with him. It is not clear if this is the normal response or if this is due to the COVID virus and many councils being unable to hold meetings and gather in person. However, the vast majority report that their spiritual advisor is supportive of the CWL. The councils are engaging their spiritual advisors by keeping in touch with him through email and personal invitations. He is invited to attend the meetings, to say mass prior to meetings, to say prayers at meetings, to attend events, special projects, and all council activities. One council has asked their spiritual advisor to speak to them at each meeting on some spiritual instruction of his choosing. They also purchased a CWL stole for him.

Half of the council presidents report using Robert's Rules of Order, the Constitution & Bylaws, and the National Manual of Policy and Procedure at their meetings. A third of reporting councils use their own council's manual of policy and procedure and the Executive Handbook. Only a few uses Parliamentary Procedure and the national website to help preside at meetings. One president gets her assistance from using the agendas of a past-president. Most of the presidents are responsible for signing the cheques and other banking documents for their council, with half signing letters directed within or outside of the CWL.

Council presidents are busy ladies representing their council at over 20 different types of events. The most common are church functions, diocesan and provincial conventions or meetings, and fundraising events. A few presidents attended special masses, dinners, meetings, workshops,

community events, school events, prayers services, and conferences. Only 3 reported attending the national convention even though in 2021 it was online and available at no charge. One president reported meeting with a politician. In the comment section it appears that COVID is responsible for the low participation numbers as many events were cancelled.

The question as to whether the council subsidized, in full or in part, for events that the president attended is difficult to interpret. For example, not one of the 29 council presidents reported being reimbursed for any fundraising dinners and events, workshops, or the national convention. Is this because their council has no money or does not reimburse? Likely not. The most likely explanation is that these presidents did not attend any fundraisers or workshops due to COVID, or if they did attend any, they were likely virtual and offered at no charge, like the national convention. A few presidents reported that their council reimbursed them in whole or in part for attending conferences, the diocesan convention, or the provincial convention. Again, this might have been a reporting error if these presidents are thinking of previous years and not specifically 2021. In 2021 there should have been no charge for the diocesan or provincial conventions as they were both presented virtually.

The vast majority of the presidents indicated that they have read the Executive Handbook and that they understand the duties of their executive team. As a president, if you have not read the Executive Handbook, this is something that you should strongly consider because 100% of the presidents who reported that they have read and understand this book said that it has assisted them in their role as president. Remember that this handbook can be purchased from the National Office or it can be downloaded and printed at no charge. (#606 under 'Manuals').

A small majority of the presidents provide an annual summary of their council's activities to their members. Those that do give this information to their members use a variety of methods: email, written report, newsletter, oral report, and parish bulletin.

Many of our councils have committees other than the standing committees, with over half having a funeral lunch committee. About one-quarter of councils report having committees for scholarships, visiting, annual events, social events, fundraising, and donations. Four councils have a catering committee. One council has a Catholic Girl's League.

Presidents have been called to speak on behalf of their council regarding COVID, Pro-Life, World Day of Prayer, and in promoting their council and the CWL. The majority of councils do not use letterhead when corresponding.

Presidents receive communication from the various levels of the League – national, provincial, diocesan, and regional – and the satisfaction rates from all 3 higher levels are always or usually satisfactory to the clear majority (79%-86%). The satisfaction rate from the regional council is 67% always or usually satisfactory, with a 14% satisfaction rate for each of sometimes and occasionally. The relevancy of the communication from the 4 levels for always or usually is around 69-71% for national and provincial councils, 75% for diocesan councils, and 64% for regional councils. The clarity of the communication from the 4 levels for always or usually is around 86-89% for national, provincial, and diocesan councils, and 76% for regional councils. One-third of councils find that the communications from the 4 levels occasionally or sometimes overlap. Almost half of the councils agree that when they receive communication from the

various levels which requests or invites participation that they have enough time. The other half feel that they are given enough time only sometimes or occasionally.

Presidents responded that when they assumed the role of president, they received the most assistance from their current executive and the immediate past presidents. The former past presidents and diocesan president also provided assistance to a lesser degree.

The greatest challenges to the presidents when they assumed the role was not having a full slate of officers, keeping members interested, recruiting, and technology. Other challenges to a smaller extent were having enough time, feeling overwhelmed, the amount of paperwork, inexperience, trying to please everyone, feeling undertrained, delegation, and the tedious policies and procedures. A few presidents reported that they were criticized by other members, lacked confidence, and were challenged in running meetings, public speaking, and being organized. The presidents were asked to describe in two to three words the greatest challenge they face, but one word was all that was needed: COVID.

The vast majority (90%) find having a national theme and logo beneficial, but only one-third find the change with each national president to be very good, while under half find it to be good. When asked how many years there should be between theme changes, the range was from one to five years, with three years seeming to be the most popular choice.

The presidents were asked to list two or three things about which they were most proud of their council. There were many responses that were duplicated. What stood out are these words: *passionate, supportive, loyal, dedicated, committed, cooperative, involved, helpful*; and these phrases: *the sister spirit, good communication, work well together, pray together, members' willingness to participate and help others, new friendships and comradery, appreciation shown by members, working relations with our spiritual advisor*; and these thoughts: *"the willingness of executive members to fulfill their duties and assume their roles as CWL women. Their faith-based approach to life. Their guidance and prayerful example."*, and *"Starting a Catholic Girl's League in 2021, and keeping their interest when the first meetings were virtual."*

The presidents were asked to list their biggest challenge. By far, the issue of 2021 was COVID in terms of not being able to meet in person and the difficulties that many councils have with using technology for online meetings. Other issues included a lack of membership, and an aging membership. Other issues were in having a full executive and in getting people to take positions of leadership, especially the role of president, and just general difficulties in keeping members interested in the League and engaged.

In conclusion, this has been a challenging year for many of us. I would like to thank the outgoing president Yvonne Bachelu. Yvonne completed her 2-year term in spring but was tasked with a 3<sup>rd</sup> year due to COVID, as were many of you. Due to her work and family commitments, I assumed the presidency in June of 2021. I wish Yvonne the best and look forward to her support when she takes on the role of past-president. I keep all of you in my prayers. Please keep me in yours as I endeavour to serve you as Diocesan President. God bless you all and may you stay safe and healthy throughout 2022!

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021  
SHARON MAYOR**

For the second year in a row CWL councils have had to cope with the challenges presented by the pandemic. Since 2019 responses to the annual survey have dropped from 29 in 2019 to 25 in 2020 and to 19 in 2021. In total there were 583 in 2020 down to 485 respondents in 2021.

**Fourteen** councils stated that the positions of **Chairpersons of Spiritual Development** were filled. **Nine** of these were appointed and **three** of these were elected. **Four** councils reported this position vacant.

**Activities used to help councils learn more about Care for Our Common Home** - Many councils prayed Pope Francis' prayer, two councils planted trees. Councils referenced communiques and the league magazine for ideas, then spoke about them at meetings. Others wrote about the theme in emails and newsletters. An awareness of Care for Our Common Home is evident among members who continue saving water, recycling, composting and using less Styrofoam. CWL and the Catholic Girl's League planted and cared for the flower gardens around the church. The members assisted with cleaning and sanitizing the church during the pandemic. One council wrote a letter to the people of the earth about care for our common home. This included signing a petition asking our government to hold large corporations accountable for their actions (mining and reforestation) in the global South and supporting farmers in their efforts to protect their homes from environmental devastation. (Inspired by Pope Francis *Laudato Si* in the Development and Peace Fall action Campaign, Deforestation of the Amazon)

**Spiritual growth of the members** spent during one-third of the business meeting – 61% said yes 39% said no

**If no, please explain the reasons** - Many deemed having a mass prior to their meetings was the most important part of spiritual development. Other councils claimed they started the meeting with a prayer, a reflection by the Spiritual Advisor and a spiritual development report. Several councils stated that meetings were long and members wanted time to socialize. Virtual meetings are cut short due to poor internet rural service. Members were encouraged to participate in parish spiritual development activities.

**Types of liturgies and programs organized for your council** - A mass was said for all deceased members who died since the start of the pandemic. Families were invited with refreshments following the mass. One council began their meetings with a reading or prayer service and discussion, coinciding with the time of the year, Lent, Advent, fall, spring, etc. A day of Eucharistic Adoration was held for 12 Hours of Palliative Care and CWL members led the Stations of the Cross. Members participated in the Rosary to the Lady of Fatima and led the rosary before daily mass. The rosary was also prayed on Zoom. A monthly intention was sent to members via email or phone call. Before all council meetings members studied St. Ignatius's teachings. One council viewed the film *Pray – The Story of Father Payton* and another council gathered a spiritual bouquet for their Spiritual Advisor.

**Retreats or programs planned for Spiritual Development with duration of two hours** - minimum 0 to maximum 5, the mean (average) was 0.82

**Celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel, April 26<sup>th</sup>.** - Holy Rosary CWL Council celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary by purchasing a stained glass window depicting Our Lady of Good Counsel. For this important event prayer cards were printed to Our Lady of Good Counsel. Other councils held masses to celebrate this feast. CWL members participated in the liturgy as proclaimers, in the music ministry and special Intentions were said. Members were encouraged to watch this special mass online.

**Celebrating CWL National Faith Day, September 19<sup>th</sup>** - Mass was held. Members were notified of the mass by email or phone call.

**Does a Spiritual Advisor attend council meetings?** Answers ranged from **always 17%** to **most of the time 44%** to **sometimes 28%** and **never 11%**

**Do you have your spiritual advisor on the agenda?** 78% answered yes and 22% answered no

**Role of your Spiritual Advisor in your Council** - Spiritual Advisors celebrate masses before council meetings and as requested for the repose of the souls of deceased members and of loved ones. Some masses were celebrated on Zoom. Spiritual advisors provide reflections and give a blessing at the meetings. Some CWL councils described their spiritual advisors as a support system, advising, encouraging and expressing appreciation for the role of CWL women in the parish. Some vocally express their support for the CWL and invite women of the parish to join the CWL. The Spiritual Advisor provides updates for the CWL members on parish activities. Two councils stated that their spiritual advisors do not play an active role.

**How have YOU developed spiritually?** - The highest percentage of CWL members said their spiritual development was gained by reading spiritual books followed closely by praying the rosary and participating in bible studies. Lower percentages listed praying novenas, reciting the chaplet of Divine Mercy and praying the liturgy of the hours.

**Other sources of inspiration 56%** - Many members listen to Catholic leaders, i.e. Tim Grey on Formed, Bishop Barron on Ascension, Bruce Downes Daily Devotions, and Creighton University Daily Reflections. CWL members gather subscriptions for "Living Faith", then order and deliver them. Some members are participating and have completed Lay Formation. Others have joined a prayer chain and pray the Cenacles with Sister Mary Epko.

**56% of the councils replied "yes" and 44 % replied "no" to the use of National Website Resources.** Those who replied "yes" accessed the website for spiritual programs (based on the seasons of the liturgical year) used the Manual of Policy and Procedures, read the News Releases, read the communiques from the National executive and ordered stationary supplies listed under resources.

**11% answered "yes" and 89% answered "no" to encouraging members to study and discuss Catholic teachings and the role of women in the church** – Catholic women are inspired by the women who take leadership roles in their region. Members are encouraged to participate in bible and book studies. Adoration and prayers are held for Palliative Care. Catholic women are encouraged

to pray for indigenous people who were survivors of residential schools. Catholic women also pray for an end to the corona virus.

**100% of the CWL councils answered “no” to studying Pope Francis’ encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti, Fraternity and Social Justice***

**Pope Francis’ request that all faithful pray the daily rosary in May for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic** – 56% of the councils participated and 44% did not participate

**Personal Development and Structural Evolution, reflecting more fully the partnership of women and men in Christ’s mission** - What role have your members undertaken in the church? The majority of responses varied from filling parish pastoral council positions, i.e., parish committee chairpersons and serving on parish financial committees. Some CWL members served on **regional** pastoral councils. Others filled the role of pastoral associates. One member was a trustee for the Catholic School Division. Listed under “other”, CWL members assisted with mass facilitation, distributed communion at mass and in homes, were proclaimers, sang in church choir, led chaplet of Divine Mercy at daily mass and facilitated and participated in bible studies.

**Participated in CWL Day of Prayer for Home Missions (CMIC)** – 83% said No **CMIC donations to voluntary fund** - The majority answered financial assistance, both from councils, individually and through an ongoing project “Nickels for the North”. Other councils purchased calendars. One council supports the mission in Sandy Bay by supplying them with bedding, clothing, religious articles and baking transported by truck, sometimes twice a year.

**Other Missions in Canada you have supported** - Councils supported Esk-Omi Native Valley Ministry, Code, Coady, Catholic Christian Outreach and local support was given to Visitation House, Carmichael Outreach, Marian Center (financial support, warm clothing and baked muffins for their daily lunch program). CWL members also belong to Angel 4 Warmth who knit for the needy in Regina i.e., hats, mitts, slippers, quilts, etc. Warm items were also collected for the children of Sacred Heart School.

**Personal** Participation in lay ministries – The highest percentage was lectors, followed by Eucharistic Ministers. A fair number participated in the music ministry, hospitality, ushering, and decorating. Some were sacristans. A lower number were facilitators. One was a catechist, one chose not to participate and one could not participate.

Lay Ministries **your council members** participated in during the year – One hundred percent fell under lectors, ninety percent participated in music ministry and in the 80 to 89<sup>th</sup> percentile were Eucharistic ministers, sacristans and those who worked in decorating. Sixty-seven percent worked as ushers, followed by facilitators and catechists. In addition to participation 87% were **chairpersons or organizers** of the lectors, 67% were chairpersons or organizers of all three ministries of Eucharistic ministers, hospitality and sacristans. In between 27% and 60% came the chairpersons of ushers, choir/music, facilitators and catechists.

Initiated **joint prayer services** with women of other denominations or faiths – Seventeen percent answered both. Eleven percent reached out to other churches. Seventy percent answered neither. Reached out to women of other denominations and faiths by **inviting them to council meetings** -



One council answered both. Another council invited women from other churches. Sixteen councils replied neither. Inviting women from other denominations and faiths to **social events** – Two councils answered yes. Sixteen councils answered neither. Reaching out to other women of different faiths and denominations **to listen to a joint guest speaker** – All councils answered neither to both.

**Participation in Ecumenical Activities** - One council participated in the **Fellowship of the Least Coin**. Eight Councils replied yes to participating in the **Week of Christian Unity in January** and six councils replied yes to participating in **World Day of Prayer in March**. Five councils answered positively to participating in the **Women's Inter-church of Canada** and one council replied yes to participating in ecumenical activities provided by **WUCWO in May**. All of the councils replied negatively to participating in any activities with interfaith groups, Jewish, Muslim and Buddhist. Five councils replied yes to participating in activities with Indigenous groups. **If yes, describe the activity** – Some members participated in **National Orange Shirt Day** on September 30<sup>th</sup>, an event organized by the Archdiocese of Regina. Socks and shoes were brought to the altar in the church where Father blessed them to remember the children of residential schools, others left shoes on the steps of the church. The prayer for reconciliation was said at mass. Another council listened to an indigenous speaker and participated in the blanket ceremony. A council said the rosary and the reconciliation prayer during the week of September 30<sup>th</sup>. **Ecumenical activities to promote awareness or participation in interfaith groups at diocesan level** - We take on these roles without realizing what is expected of us. No support or training was received at any level. We did receive good communiques with good ideas. We offered workshops to councils. **At provincial level** – We used the resources on the website and accessed communiques on the cwlsk.ca. **At national level** – No training was received at the national level, but we received good communiques and accessed the *Canadian League* magazine for spiritual inspiration and then were better prepared to help others. **What training would you recommend be provided for this position next year?** A Zoom workshop could be held for Spiritual Development convenors at the beginning of the year, explaining actual ideas and how and when to implement them. This would allow councils to set their goals for the year, so their answers would coincide with the questions asked on the Spiritual Development Survey. Communiques have to arrive on time, these arrive too late. It is difficult to provide training when it is a HUGE challenge keeping members connected. We did have some meetings face to face and some were held virtually; **both were not well attended**. Twenty six members in our council do not have **computers**. Our council members are **aging** and are **reluctant** to attend in-person meetings. One council was satisfied with the information received. **Any new ideas projects or workshops you had that produced good results?** We led a Diocesan CWL Retreat which was well received and appreciated. Sending out a monthly prayer intention was a good way to reach out to all the members. Having mass or saying the rosary before the meeting helped improve attendance. Organized bible studies are well received. **What information did you receive from communiques or methods did you find useful to share at a meeting?** Agnes Smith, Diocesan Chairperson of Christian Family Life, in her communique provided us with good information on the "Year of St. Joseph"; with this information sourced we presented to our council in April. We were encouraged to read the Knights of Columbus magazine. Other councils said that they use the internet, e.g. Richard Rohr's daily reading from the Centre of Action and Contemplation, i.e. Peace Justice and Prayer. The liturgical calendar was also used for current activities in the church i.e. All Saints Day, novenas, etc. This information was shared at our meetings. One council said that they had received so much information that there was too much to mention.

Another council stated that they have a Standing Committee Chairperson for Spiritual Development, so they do not have a need to monitor the sources of information received at their meetings.

**Share a success story.** - We initiated a program of phoning the members. Through this initiative, we discovered that a member’s husband was sick and that he had not attended mass or received communion since the beginning of the pandemic. We immediately began delivering communion to her husband and placed an announcement in the bulletin which stated to phone in a request for the Eucharist to be brought to their homes.

Our council supported the Vacation Bible School which my grandson attended. After his participation, my grandson requested to be baptized.

Another council organized praying the rosary to keep the community of Estevan safe. From April to August 2021 their council drove around the perimeter of Estevan as individuals or as families in cars. They carried the Blessed Virgin in the lead car.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL ORGANIZATION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021  
JANETTE RIEGER**

As of December 31, 2021, there were 68 CWL parish councils in the Regina Diocese. One council is considering disbanding and did not pay their fees for 2021. These may still be remitted in the future. Responses to the survey were received from 19 councils (28%) which is a decrease of 6 councils from the previous year. Thank you to all councils who submitted a report.

Below are the demographics of the councils in the Regina diocese. As of the writing of this report we have 2,563 paid members. This number may go up if women haven’t yet paid for 2021, and then decide to do so. Following is a chart as to the size of councils. There are 4 councils with over 100 members each. These are Estevan, Weyburn, Yorkton, and Swift Current. In the second column, the number 9 indicates that there are 9 councils with 1-10 members, and these 9 councils have a total of 63 members. Column 3 indicates that there are 19 councils with 11-20 members, and these 19 councils have a total of 267 members. There are 41 councils with 30 or fewer members. This totals 654 women, and 60% of our councils. This means that the majority of our councils are quite small. This can present a challenge for these councils especially when they are trying to fill executive positions.

| <b>Size range of councils</b>                | <b>1 to 10</b> | <b>11 to 20</b> | <b>21 to 30</b> | <b>31 to 40</b> | <b>41 to 50</b> | <b>51 to 60</b> | <b>61 to 70</b> | <b>71 to 80</b> | <b>81 to 90</b> | <b>91 to 100</b> | <b>101 to 110</b> | <b>111 to 120</b> | <b>121 to 130</b> | <b>131 to 140</b> | <b>141 to 150</b> | <b>151 to 160</b> | <b>161 to 170</b> | <b>Total Membership</b> |
|--|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Number of councils in each size range</b> | 9              | 19              | 13              | 6               | 4               | 2               | 2               | 1               | 2               | 5                | 1                 | 0                 | 1                 | 1                 | 0                 | 0                 | 1                 | <b>67</b>               |
| <b>Number of members in each size range</b>  | 63             | 267             | 324             | 214             | 176             | 110             | 134             | 72              | 177             | 488              | 106               | 0                 | 130               | 134               | 0                 | 0                 | 168               | <b>2563</b>             |

**\* Note: one council has not paid their fees for 2021 but has not disbanded. Their statistics are not included in this chart.**

Regarding the Organization survey, of the 19 respondents, the large majority have this position filled, the majority by appointment, and the majority have previously held this position. Just over half of the respondents are from urban areas and the remainder are rural.

The majority of council members would be described as being of European ancestry, with a few being from each category of: North American Indigenous; Latin, Central or South American; Caribbean; and African; and a slightly larger number being Asian. Just over half of the respondents believe that their council membership reflects the cultural diversity of the parish and general community.

Of all respondents, the total estimate of percentage of members aged 35 or younger, ranged from a response of '0 to 10'. Opinion was equally divided as to if this reflects the age diversity of the parish. The majority do not believe that this reflects the age diversity of the general community.

In July 2021, *Embracing Diversity: Tools for Council Use* (#623 under 'Manuals' on the national website) was published to assist councils with welcoming new members. The slim majority of councils have not heard of this, and a large majority have not downloaded this toolkit, received it from their provincial or diocesan council, or used the ads found in the toolkit. No council has planned any of the multicultural celebrations listed in the calendar of the toolkit. However, councils have employed a wide cross-section of methods to invite women of various cultures and ages, such as: personal invitations, parish announcements, bulletin board, websites, guest speakers, ecumenism and interfaith endeavours, gift memberships, and social media.

Respondents were asked to estimate the levels of participation in certain events. For fundraising, the estimate varied widely from many members being involved to very few members. For meetings, the majority estimate that participation rates are 40% of the membership or lower. For social events, participation estimates vary widely, and that is probably reflected in the size of the council. For spiritual events, the participation rate seems to be quite low – 56% of respondents estimate the participation rate at 40% or less of their membership, while a third of respondents estimate the participation to be in the 41-60% range. Estimates like this can be difficult to decipher and a greater investigation may be needed. For example, if you have a very small council but most of the people come to an event, the participation percentage is very high. On the other hand, if you have a council of over 100 people and only half come to an event, your participation rate is only 50% but that number could mean that 50-85 people attended, which would make most of us very happy.

Seven councils reported that new members joined in 2021, with one council getting 5 new members. Two respondents said that some of these were under the age of 40, while 4 respondents said that they were not. The most effective method used to recruit members was by personal invitation at 74%. Less effective but also used were advertising in the bulletin or on bulletin boards; dinners, teas, or social events; and display tables. One council reported that they have one non-Catholic member.

The most used methods of recognizing council members were by the presentation of service pins, use of cards or announcements, and the presentation of certificates. Lesser used methods were by having a new member ceremony; the presentation of awards; luncheons, teas, or other special events; presentation of the Maple Leaf service pin; giving small gifts; having a reaffirmation ceremony; and personal telephone calls.

The *Welcome Program* was introduced in 2020. The majority of respondents have heard of it but have not downloaded it. One third of respondents indicated that they have not received it. As a point of clarification, all councils in the Regina diocese were mailed a spiral-bound hard copy of the *Welcome Program*, paid for by the Regina Diocesan Council. But perhaps the respondents to this survey (Organization chairpersons) do not know that the president of each council received this. The majority of respondents indicated that they had not been invited to a workshop on this program. This is unfortunate because the Provincial Council has hosted 2 virtual fall workshops in 2020 and 2021 to which all members were invited. I personally gave a presentation at each workshop on the *Welcome Program*. This indicates to me that the presidents are receiving the information about the workshop, but not passing it on to their council members. Only 2 respondents indicated that this program has been implemented in their parish.

The *Welcome Program* is one way to engage new and current members. Other ways that councils are engaging new members is through personal conversations, welcoming them at meetings, invitations, new member kits, and mentoring, conducting orientation sessions, member feedback, and having them participate in sub-committees.

The majority of member renewals are administered online.

In spring of 2021 an *Executive Orientation* was introduced to assist parish councils with training parish council executives. The majority of respondents have not heard of this, downloaded or accessed it, received orientation from the provincial or diocesan council, or been invited to a workshop. No councils used this in their parish. Once again, as a point of clarification, at the 2021 Fall Provincial Workshop which was presented virtually, Provincial Organization Chairperson Connie Crichton did give a presentation on the *Executive Orientation*.

The slim majority of the councils are aware of the latest activities of the Strategic Plan, and have set goals that include members' input. A minority of councils have members who have a role on another level of the League. But for those that do, they responded that they have members on the regional, diocesan, and provincial levels, but none on the national level.

The average number of executives per council is under 10, and very few of these were filled by election; the majority were appointed. There is an average of 3 vacant executive positions per council.

Half of the chairpersons in charge of the annual reports use guidelines to assist other executive members in completing their reports. This questionnaire was reduced in length this year and the majority of the members found that it was sufficient to accurately reflect their committee's activities.

Not one council reported getting assistance from either an honorary life or life member. Two councils reported success stories in maintaining and attracting members. One is that their council pays the membership fees of the ladies who are in nursing homes as some of them do not have control of their finances. Another reports that their president personally visits with potential member and long-time members. Other comments regarding special activities include taking the time to talk to members, sharing meals, and having fellowship.

Some of the biggest challenges the respondents face as president-elect are that they have small councils so it is difficult to fill executive positions, that no one wants to take executive positions, the aging membership, and that this past year COVID made things very difficult generally. The biggest challenge faced in completing this survey was knowing the ethnic and cultural background of their members, as that is not usually something that is asked of their members.

As a final comment, I acknowledge that these last 2 years have been difficult due to the COVID virus. Councils have not met regularly and it is difficult to keep the lines of communication open. Do not be discouraged. Please reach out to the Diocesan President if you are encountering difficulty in collecting membership fees or filling your council positions. There are options that can be explored in keeping your council running and successful.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021  
AGNES SMITH**

Eighteen councils in the Regina Diocese reported and are included in this report. Where several activities are listed and small numbers participated, they are grouped together. Sixty seven percent of this position is filled, seventy five percent were appointed and sixty percent have held this position previously. Forty seven percent were members for more than twenty five years.

They all have been members for more than five years. Sixty percent have held this position previously. Forty percent of this group are between the ages of 65-74, forty percent are 75 and over and twenty percent are between 55-64.

**MARRIAGE AND FAMILY**

One council has planned events to recognize the year that Pope Francis has proclaimed March 19th, 2021 to June 26, 2022 as the Year "Amoris Laetitia Family".

Two councils had marriage preparation courses, two councils held marriage encounter weekends, one council held programs for families and one had programs/ resources from CCCB. Fifteen councils said that their emphasis was on other topics this year. One council said that their members attended workshops or seminars on the topic of family life. One council organize events for National Family Week. Three councils said that they support people from domestic abuse.

Actions taken to support marriage and families:

- Support Visitation House, Isabelle Johnson YWCA charities for adult youth and women and plan to start Bereavement group at St. Peter's Parish
- Provide prayer blankets for those who are sick or in difficult situations.
- Inform members where to get information on families, review communiques and memo. One council began a program of calling members to touch base and see how they are doing.
- an insert was put in the bulletin regarding National Family Week and prayers of the faithful for the theme were said on two separate weekends.
- a few members took in the Palliative Care webinar in May 2021.

**SANCTITY OF LIFE**

Seventy eight percent of the reporting councils hold a membership in a local pro-life organization. Forty four percent joined a life chain, thirty three percent took part in the

March for Life, and twenty eight percent attended pro-life Masses. Nine councils participated in 40 days for life, pro-life walks and pro-life vigils.

No councils have attended a presentation on Pope Paul II/s Theology of the Body.

Ten councils donated to local pro-life organizations, Six councils gave to Birthright, Five gave to the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and three supported Pregnancy and Family Support Services.

Four councils ensure that each member has a copy of the current pro-life brochure available from national office or that there is one available in the church.

No councils have met with pro-life legislators but 44% have written letters to inform legislators of CWL positions on abortion and euthanasia. Sixty seven percent pray for the protection of life. In Aug. 2019, nation council adopted the resolution 'Canada to Honor It's Commitment to the Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child'. Seven councils educated members about this, five councils recognize the day of prayer for the legal protection of the unborn, three councils have monitored the federal gov't response to this resolution and two have written to the Prime Minister.

The reporting councils have been praying and supporting Sask pro-life. They have put pro-life pamphlets and post cards at the back of the church. Members have contacted elected officials regarding the sanctity of life. Baby gifts and financing have been donated.

#### **MINISTRY TO YOUTH**

One council has promoted the World Youth Day in Lisbon in 2023. Eight councils have participated in programs for young people and one council has a Catholic Girls League. CWL councils have supported summer camps, Sunday School, Youth conferences, CCO, and NET Ministries. They have supported Sacramental programs and workshops and retreats. Some have provided scholarships for secondary education.

**MINISTRY TO DISABLED AND SENIORS-** Two councils have organized or participated in support groups or in respite for caregivers.

CWL members have brought Communion to the homes, called /visited and prayed with them. They have provided transportation, sent cards of encouragement and involved them in social programs and celebrations and invited them to join the CWL.

**MINISTRY TO WIDOW AND WIDOWERS-** Sixty seven percent sent cards of condolence, fifty six percent provided prayer and support after the death of a spouse and called or visited them. Fifty percent arranged memorial services and funeral lunches and invited widows to attend CWL and parish events. Twenty two percent encouraged participation in programs offered by the parish and community events.

**MINISTRY TO SEPARATED AND DIVORCED-** One council has purchased copies of the new brochure 'Annulments Today- Merciful and Just' to be made available for those who need advice.

**VOCATIONS-** Seventy seven percent participated in prayers for vocations, fifty four percent supported seminarians, thirty one percent encouraged families to invite priests and religious into their homes, and invited them to speak on vocations. During covid the CWL have helped the Marion Center feed the homeless.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL COMMUNITY LIFE  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021  
LINDA MADDAFORD**

This report is based on 19 councils reporting out of 68 councils in the Archdiocese. Ten councils had a Community Life chair and in nine the position was vacant. Half of the respondents have held the position more than once.

Our councils continued to offer their time when the opportunity arose and also made financial donations during 2021. Half of the reporting councils donated to support people struggling with poverty, more than half donated to social and economic justice organizations. A third of the councils gave aid to assist Indigenous peoples. One council has partnered with another parish to support the Indigenous community of that parish. We gave clothing, food and personal items to the Salvation Army, Women's Shelters, the Homeless Shelter, Child in Need Programs, and to Sandy Bay in Northern Saskatchewan.

None of the councils reported discussing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Persons, or the 2020 Building a Safe and Resilient Canada (Human Trafficking Consultation Report). We are currently not monitoring the Canada Summer Jobs application (applicants must indicate support for the government's pro-abortion policy). Two of our councils observed National Indigenous Peoples Day in June, and a quarter of our councils observed the first National Truth and Reconciliation Day in September.

One council held a special Mass and offered prayers for Indigenous Day in June, and another council held a special prayer vigil for Truth and Reconciliation. Seven councils participated in Orange Shirt Day, in September to promote awareness of the Residential School system and the devastating impact it had on our indigenous communities.

We have not participated in any Citizenship Ceremonies this past year, but 13 councils participated in Remembrance Day Services and 17 donated to the Poppy Campaign. Four councils have adopted the Wear Red on Friday campaign, to show support for Canadian Troops. We have not reviewed, monitored, discussed, or written letters on the Equal Access to Permanent Resident Status, Amendment to Immigration and Refugee Act.

None of our councils donated to the Development and Peace 1% program or the Mary's Meals Initiative this past year. A total of 26 financial donations were made with the top two charities: Chalice receiving nine donations and Save a Family receiving five donations.

Comments of Note from our Councils:

- It has been a continued and ongoing challenge to stay connected with our own members during this second year of the pandemic. We have many elderly or at-risk members so much of the activity/support has been as silent prayer partners.
- The community success story would be that we support and contribute personally to very many of these activities but not necessarily as a council, we are active and visible in our church.
- From Estevan: Our CWL council members and their families drove the outskirts of Estevan and prayed the rosary for the safety of our community during Covid 19. Each family drove their own vehicle. The first vehicle carried a statue of Mary. We met in the church parking lot and began with a prayer and ended there with a prayer. We began this last December 2020. We resumed in April and met each month up to and including August 2021.
- Although many activities were not taking place because of the pandemic our council and parish held toiletries drive for the women's shelter and collected toiletries, food, clothing and funds at Christmas for the local soup kitchen. A carload of items was delivered as well as \$900 in gift cards.
- The longer the pandemic lasts, the harder it will be to remain active.
- Covid is the biggest challenge. We cannot reach out if we are not allowed to enter LTC or private homes. The Vax - No Vax division that has been created and emphasized has created problems. How do we address this? Good question. For now, we pray and love each other.
- Phone Link update: Two of our members co-founded Phone Link and it is now partnered with Canadian Red Cross. Other members of our council are participating members of Phone Link. This is a telephone circle created to optimize safety of seniors living in their own homes. Phone calls are made in the morning and the evening to ensure the seniors are safely waking up or in their homes ready for bed. Emergency protocols are in place for unanswered phone calls.

It is important to note for our records, that this is the second year of the COVID-19 global pandemic. Canada at Feb 23, 2022, has had 3.25 million cases of COVID-19 with 36,117 souls succumbing to this virus. Our councils, our communities, our province, nation, and people around the world are still struggling with isolation, vaccine hesitancy, in some areas vaccine access, and viral variants that are surpassing the efficacy of the vaccines currently available.

We pray for our sisters in the CWL, our families, and our communities that the Lord's continued grace will sustain us, during this time of distress.

This concludes my report.



**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL COMMUNICATIONS  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021  
LYNDA THUL**

COVID-19 continues to play a large part in the types of meeting and activities that can be done again this year. Many Zoom meetings, phone calls and emails have become the new norm as ways of connecting with council members. At present there is a total number of 68 councils with a membership of 2,563 persons in all of the Regina Diocesan Councils. Based on the survey results received, the majority of the Communications positions were filled, with the majority of those filled positions being appointed.

***The Canadian League Magazine***

The top articles that survey respondents indicated resonated with them are listed as follows:

- 1) Winter 2021:
  - Action in the Time of COVID - 19
  - Pornography Hurts
  - President's Message
- 2) Spring 2021:
  - Reasonable Stewardship
  - Presidents Message
  - Make Valuable Use of This Time
- 3) Fall 2021:
  - Highlights from the 100<sup>th</sup> and 101<sup>st</sup> National Annual Meeting of Members
  - Honouring the Gift of Service
  - I did not read the Fall 2020 edition

Suggestions for future articles:

- Members disappointed that they could only get online
- In 2021 there was no Winter magazine, only Fall
- LGBTQ view points, and what we are to accept and not accept
- Bill C-233 Sex Selective Abortion Act, what is the church's view on that
- Ones that offer encouragement and ideas, or share unique events held by councils across Canada

**Media for Evangelization**

The majority of councils did promote faith-oriented programs

The majority of councils promoted National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

A large majority of councils promoted World Communications Day (First Sunday in June)

Most councils did not encourage members to subscribe to and promote Catholic newspapers, periodicals and magazines. Of those councils that did promote such media, the top 3 responses included:

- None; Vision TV; Other

Most councils did not share with their members the League sponsored mass on April 26, 2021 in honour of the Feast of Our Lady of Good Council

### **Media to Promote the League**

The majority of councils did not make use of local media to advertise council's activities or events. The majority of councils encouraged members to use the following

- Visiting CWL on Facebook or Twitter
- cwl.ca website
- Telephone Committee
- email

The majority of councils have not set aside a budget for publicity.

In terms of promoting the council's activities and events, the top 3 types of media used include:

- Church bulletins; e-mail; Church bulletin boards.

### **Media Evaluation and Promotion of Good Content**

A small percentage of councils encouraged members to monitor media content. There were no instances in 2021 when councils or members spoke out about inappropriate content.

### **Media: Newsletters and Bulletins**

The majority of councils did produce a newsletter. It was prepared by the President or an appointed member the corresponding secretary or whoever was in charge of communication. The newsletter was distributed by email

### **Media Relations**

The majority of councils did not work with local media. Of those who have, the top 3 methods have been used:

- submitted material for publication; advertised with them; invited them to attend an event.

### **Pornography**

In terms of becoming informed about the influence that pornography has on children and adults the top 3 methods have been used:

- read newspaper articles; other; viewed the website [fightthenewdrug.org](http://fightthenewdrug.org).

The vast majority of councils distributed the League's Pornography Hurts cards in November.

The vast majority of councils chose not to promote the documentary *Over 18* and the film *Red Light Green Light*.

The vast majority of councils chose not to do the following regarding Adult Pornography Websites and Mandatory Age Verification:

- contact MPs, justice minister, PM requesting this legislation
- encourage members to become educated on Internet safety and responsible/appropriate Internet use
- made members aware of the lack of age verification controls on adult websites
- monitor the federal government's response to the issue

The vast majority of councils chose not to do the following regarding Graphic Imagery and Aggressive Behaviour:

- write to governments regarding limiting sale/rental/distribution to minors of such videos/movies/games
- ensure the educational system contains required curricula to equip students to respond to such content

The vast majority of councils chose not to do the following regarding Responsible Internet Use for Children:

- encouraged federal government to support research and development of tools to protect children against offensive internet content
- encouraged members to educate themselves and their families on safe internet use

### **Strategic Planning**

The majority of councils have shared the strategic planning information with their members, including the information in *The Canadian League* magazine. Most councils are aware of the strategic planning monthly updates on the national website, but are not reciting the strategic planning's Renewal Prayer at meetings. Most council's have viewed the national website.

### **Summary and Final Thoughts**

Some themes described regarding the national website are as follows:

- Still not very user-friendly. You need to use the search tool to find items
- It is well organized and the search function is effective... updated on strategic plan
- Very helpful... Spiritual programs available plus all other information
- Everything on the site is helpful
- Have not viewed it lately and unsure what my thoughts were at the time
- It is clear and appealing
- Yes, very informative
- Sometimes find it hard to navigate
- I like the ideas and the updates in communiqués strategic planning and resources
- Members still have difficulty finding the information they need or want so they give up
- It is nice that there are the links given on the opening web page

Some themes described regarding the council's communication activities:

- We have now moved to email communication by setting up our own CWL email to keep items in one location. For those who have email it seems to be going well
- Fewer meetings and activities because of COVID
- Continue to phone members who do not use email. Phone calls are enjoyed.
- Meeting material, minutes, agenda and upcoming events are emailed prior to a meeting. A member delivers the meeting material to those who have no email
- We participated in the Gratitude Project. Made 200 cards available to parishioners with directions on what to do with them
- There are many older members who do not use the computer

Some themes described regarding the biggest challenge of this standing committee:

- No Communications Chair
- Getting members to feel comfortable and gain awareness of how to use Zoom in order to participate in meetings
- Biggest challenge is COVID, and trying to raise money for the charities we support
- Fear of COVID
- The committee chair is new and as we didn't meet in person (due to COVID) didn't have a chance to get familiar with this committee enough to fill in this report
- Filling the position, finding someone adept at computers and communicating clearly via email (who is not already handling other tasks) is a challenge
- Many of our members are not tech-savvy and shy away from communication responsibilities, we can't make people comfortable with something they don't want to try

Some themes described regarding new ideas, projects, workshops used with good results:

- Most had nothing to share
- We started having a relatively new member give an update on the strategic plan every second meeting. She is learning more about CWL and members are more aware of the progress on the strategic plan
- Drive through suppers catered by a local caterer were well received each time we did them
- We discussed residential schools and role of the Catholic Church and we thought that the Church as missionary was thinking they were helping unfortunate children, not murdering them, and that the graves at one time were marked, and the children were buried at these schools
- Not at this time

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL HEALTH AND EDUCATION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021  
REPORT BY JANETTE RIEGER**

As of December 31, 2021, there were 68 CWL parish councils in the Regina Diocese. Responses to the survey were received from 18 councils or about 26.5% which is a decrease of 7 councils from the previous year. However, for some of the questions it appears that an answer was not required. Therefore, some of the questions have responses from less than 18 people. Thank you to all councils who submitted a report. Currently the Education and Health standing committee on the Regina Diocesan executive council is vacant.

Slightly under half of the reporting councils have this position filled, and for those 8 councils that have this position filled, 5 were appointed and 3 were elected. The majority of those holding this position have been a member for more than 25 years and almost half of them have held this position previously. Half the members are in the 65-74 age range, one-third are 75-84, and there

is one in each age range of 35-44, 55-64, and 85+. There is no one in the age ranges of 16-34, or 45-54.

Only 8 members answered some of the questions regarding Catholic religious instruction. Regarding the question of becoming informed about the quality of Catholic religious instruction in their parish, 4 answered yes, and 4 answered no. Five members answered that they have not become informed about Catholic religious education in the area or diocese. And six members answered that they have not actively encouraged parents to participate in their children's religious education and activities. The vast majority (16 members) answered that they have not looked into the needs of Catholic schools in the diocese and how their council could help. The two councils that did look into this said that the needs are present for scholarships or bursaries, breakfast or lunch programs, extracurricular activities, and sacramental and faith development.

A strong majority of the respondents or other members of their council have not become involved in the Rites of Christian Initiation in their parishes. The councils that have helped assisted in sacramental preparation or bible studies, and purchased gifts for RCIA members at Easter. In the councils that assisted usually 3 members per council were involved.

Again, a strong majority of the respondents have not encouraged members to become involved in literacy programs. Over half of the councils do not have information on any Catholic universities or colleges in our diocese or make this information available to members. There is in fact a Catholic university in the Regina Diocese. It is Campion College at the University of Regina.

Over half of the councils do not have a list of scholarships and bursaries that are available for Catholic women to further their education. Twelve of the responding councils do provide a bursary or scholarship. The recipients are: Catholic Christian Outreach; elementary, high school, and university students; NET Ministries of Canada; and other Catholic women. None of the respondents have ordered the revised bursary certificate from National Office. Only a few of the councils are familiar with the National Bursary Fund and the criteria for applying. Only 2 members have ever made an application to the National Bursary Fund from all the responding councils. Some councils have donated to the fund and the donations are in the \$100.00 range. There appears to be no awareness that council members can include a legacy in their will to support the National Bursary Fund. A few of the councils contributed to Coady International Institute with the donations ranging from \$50.00 to \$200.00.

It should be noted that in addition to the National Bursary Fund, the Regina Diocesan Executive council funds an annual scholarship at Campion College, worth \$1,000.00. The criteria for application: "This scholarship is awarded to a first-year Campion College student whose mother is a CWL member, and who participates actively in their parish, school, or community. The recipient of this scholarship must be a full-time student during the upcoming Fall semester." Applications for this scholarship are made directly by the student to Campion College.

Only one council participated in the CWL Mental Health Postcard campaign, and the majority were not aware of it. Most councils have not supported any national organizations that focus on health and wellness. The four organizations that were supported are: MaterCare International, Relay for Life, a women's homeless shelter, and the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan.

Most councils are not aware of, participate in, or know how to register for the Canadian Blood Services – Partners of Life Program. This is a program whereby if you donate blood, you can have your donation registered and the program will tally how many CWL members donate blood. To register under the CWL umbrella, one would use the Partner ID number of ‘CATH011269’.

Many councils attempted to participate in the “12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care” program. This year it was mostly by encouraging members to pray individually as it was difficult to hold programs in churches due to the COVID virus. The Palliative Care postcard was used by 6 of the councils. Only 1 or 2 councils were involved with advance care planning, Care for Our Common Home initiative, or plastic and waste cleanup. No councils were involved with emergency response kits, by either providing information or development.

Just under half of the councils planted a tree for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the League, with most being around the church or cemetery, but others being in the town or by a school.

The majority of councils do not celebrate or are involved in the World Water Day, Earth Day, or use the Water for Life Discussion Guide. The few councils that were involved with World Water Day celebrated the event with members of other churches. Half of the councils were not involved with environmental issues, but the ones that were focused on recycling, composting, and reducing the use of Styrofoam, plastic, paper, and water.

Half of the respondents felt they have a good understanding regarding technology to alter genes in light of the teaching of the Catholic Church. The other respondents answered fair or poor. No one answered very good or excellent. No councils are on the mailing list for the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute. One council indicated that they would like the Education and Health standing committee to give more information on dealing with a pandemic such as COVID.

Judging by some of the final comments, it appears that councils’ activities were limited due to COVID. As one member wrote, “The main focus this past year was (on) surviving!”. May God keep you all safe and healthy until we can meet again.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL LEGISLATION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021  
BLANCHE BELLERIVE**

Councils Reporting: 16 of 68 councils: approximately 23.5% response rate.

Number of Reporting Councils with Legislation Chairpersons: 6

Number of Reporting Councils with no Legislation Chairperson: 10

The first portion of the annual survey asked only those councils who have a chairperson to respond, only 6 people, which is a very small sample. But of those people, all know the names of their local, provincial and federal government representatives. A majority of these chairpersons receive correspondence from these representatives. This year none of these chairpersons attended a government forum of any type, but many accessed other resources for the review and study of federal legislation, including websites, emails, newspapers, and Hansard, the official

printed record of federal government proceedings. Most rated their knowledge as somewhat informed to well informed, regarding issues discussed by government at all levels.

The second portion of the survey asked all respondents to comment on their council's awareness of specific bills that were before the federal government in 2020. The survey mentioned 3 federal bills in particular. The majority of respondents was very aware or had some knowledge of the bill pertaining to Bill C-7 on medical assistance in dying. Respondents also mostly had some knowledge or were very aware of Bill C-233 on sex-selective abortion. Most respondents also said their councils had some knowledge of Bill C-268 on intimidation of health care professionals, some being very aware, although some were not aware. Other federal bills that councils have monitored and/or acted upon included Bill C-6 (C-4) Conversion Therapy, and Bill C-15 an Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Other issues of interest included Human trafficking and Sexual Abuse and Truth and Reconciliation.

The majority of respondents are not monitoring provincial legislation, but those who are reported that Bubble Zones around health centres preventing peaceful pro-life witnesses from being near places that perform abortions to be something they monitored and/or acted upon. Also -members were informed of The Supreme Court ruling on February 25, 2021 that overturned Justice Donald Layh's decision that only Catholic students attend Catholic schools, thus allowing children of all faiths to attend the Catholic schools.

No councils have used the legislation workshop "Faith in Action" that was distributed in fall of 2021, the majority reason being they were not aware of the workshop.

Challenges around this committee were mostly, as can be expected, related to the Covid -19 Pandemic and not being able to meet in person. Other major challenges included not being able to fill the position of chair person/no standing committee, so much information, and just being able to generate interest. A suggestion was made that they would like to see more direction in which bills that the League would like councils to be actively involved in and in what way in a given year or two – "there are just too many to try and keep up with. We need more direction." Also the Federal Election and bills having to be re-submitted was cited as a challenge.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL RESOLUTIONS  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021  
BLANCHE BELLERIVE**

Councils Reporting: 11 of 68 councils approximately 16% response rate.

Number of Reporting Councils with Resolutions Chairpersons: 4-all of which are shared with the legislation standing committee for those councils.

Number of Reporting Councils with no Resolutions Chairperson: 7

None of the members who replied to the 2021 annual survey have attended a workshop pertaining to resolutions this year. The communiqués and reports are read by all of the chairpersons. Positive comments were made that the information was concise and helpful. There

was some interest in topics that could lead to a resolution. One council did form a resolution and prepared it 2 years ago. It was submitted to Regina Diocesan CWL for presentation at the 2020 convention. Unfortunately Convention was cancelled and so the Resolution has yet to be presented. It was also reported that another executive member brought forward ideas for resolutions. She consulted the provincial chairperson regarding Resolution time lines and was provided with “very good detailed information”.

Issues that councils reported being passionate about in 2021 included euthanasia and assisted dying, pornography, abortion, and indigenous issues. National resolutions that councils acted upon in 2021 included: [2018.01](#) Attestation Requirement on Canada Summer Jobs Program Community Life, [2019.02](#) Canadian Support for the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons Legislation, 2007.02 Global Accountability for Canadian Registered Mining Companies.

Some of the actions undertaken by councils regarding resolutions were to raise awareness through meetings, e-mail or newsletters, write letters, and sign petitions.

Challenges around this committee were mostly, as can be expected, related to the Covid -19 Pandemic and not being able to meet in person. Other major challenges included not being able to fill the position of chair person/no standing committee, so much information, and just being able to generate interest.

We are fortunate that one council made the effort to draft a resolution, and although delayed yet again this will be hopefully be presented at Diocesan Convention 2022.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL SECRETARY  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021  
JOAN POPOFF**

Well it has been another challenging year and our second one dealing with the COVID pandemic and all the restrictions that are in place as many of us have remained in our homes trying to remain safe from the various waves that have developed. From this I believe it was a strong factor that once again only 25 out of 68 councils completed their year end annual reports on-line. Many councils have not resumed in person meetings and have been using some type of virtual meetings or hosting a limited number of meetings.

All councils that responded did indicate that they have a recording secretary in place, and over half of those in this position are both the recording and correspondence secretary. None of the councils answering indicated that they have only a corresponding secretary in their councils. As for our Secretary positions, 72% of the Ladies were appointed with 20% elected and 8% indicating that the position was now vacant. Some of our secretaries or 59% are also one of the signing officers for financial transactions.



It is positive to note that all secretaries were taking minutes if any meetings were being held either in person or virtually. There was an improvement from the previous year to note that at least 88% know where their council charter is located. This should be shared with all members as in future some councils may consider amalgamating or disbanding and the charter should be returned.

There has been improvement in councils maintaining Motion books or separate records. But still 44% only have motions documented in their meeting minutes. It could be that not many motions have been made over the past year due to the inactivity of many councils. Many of the councils do not receive written reports from their executive using only verbal and oral reporting from their members.

Over 68% of councils reporting indicated that they had a copy of the Handbook for Secretaries while 8% did not with 24% not knowing if there was one. There were similar results to the councils having the CWL personal Letter Writing Guide. Many councils use proforma letters supplied. or have been ensuring that the postcards sent out are completed by members and forwarded on.

It is an important reminder that secretaries record any minutes from virtual meetings and to ensure that any in-person meetings that were cancelled or not being held have documentation noted for archive records. It has been difficult to survive as a council during another year of pandemic and it hoped that with our prayers, we will see an end to our struggles and a resurgence in our faith and good works.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL ARCHIVES  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021  
MARILYN SCHUCK**

Currently there are 68 active councils in the Regina Archdiocese. This year 19 councils returned the Past President survey compared to 22 last year despite the efforts of Janette Rieger, Diocesan Organization chair, who worked hard to convince councils to submit a report for each committee even if they did not have a chairperson. The biggest challenge for all reporting was the COVID-19 pandemic as many councils did not meet for most of the year and some just started to have meetings. I thank all councils who submitted reports and despite the many complaints about Covid-19, there are some bright spots to report.

Most of the councils reporting have a past president with the majority being a member with more than 25 years of experience. However, the rest reported having been a member for 6 to 25 years which indicates that some councils have attracted more recent members to become president. The next question, **“Have you held this position previously?”** tells me that two-thirds of the respondents have been past-president before and possibly could have been holding this position for more than one term, especially if the president has been in place for more than one term. In

contacting the past presidents to inquire if they are interested in serving on the Diocesan Council, I have discovered that several presidents have been serving for up to 10 years.

Most past presidents are between the ages of 55-74 and are very active in attending executive and general meetings, social events, and spiritual events. They are called upon for advice frequently except for two respondents who have never been asked for advice. Most feel that their president feels supported and encouraged by the help offered.

In most councils, the past-president or her designate is responsible for **archives**. Two councils did not indicate if someone is looking after their archives. One has an historian working on them. Most councils have their archives stored in the church or church hall or office in filing cabinets, photo albums, scrapbooks, banker boxes and memory sticks. Most past-presidents know the whereabouts of their **council charter** and, hopefully, have it displayed in a prominent place.

**What is in your archives?** While it is recommended that **annual reports** should be kept in archives, more than half the councils do this indefinitely with some keeping them for a few years. The annual report survey from National is probably not that valuable to keep for each council. I would recommend the president of each council write a summary of the activities for the year and this could be included in the archives along with the minute book. Most councils reporting keep a **book of life** indefinitely and more than half reported keeping **deceased member histories**. The number of councils that keep **financial information** indefinitely has dropped since last year so, hopefully, councils are following the guidelines to keep financial information (cheques and receipts) for 5 years. Most councils keep a **list of past executives** which can be included in the minute's binders. Less than half of the councils keep their **membership renewal data** indefinitely while the rest keep it for 1 to 10 years. Most councils keep the **minutes of their general meetings** and **minutes of executive meetings** indefinitely. The guidelines ask that the minutes of all meetings should be kept. Also important are **records of pin and award recipients** which most councils keep for their archives. About half of councils reporting keep **written reports of executive members** indefinitely, but some do not, and a few keep them for 1-10 years. Most councils keep track of the **years of service of their members**. All councils review their archives as needed, while one council reviews them annually and three councils review them annually. Most councils maintain a **history book**, but most consider their well-labelled **photo albums** and stored minutes as a record of their history.

All councils have a copy of *Constitution & Bylaws* and *National Manual of Policy & Procedure*, and some refer to them to help guide a decision or check on a procedure. This is probably the job of presidents, but past presidents can guide their presidents to the correct reference.

About half the parish councils responding have their own manual of policy and procedure which is updated when there is a change or when the executive gets around to it. While most councils rarely seek advice from diocesan, provincial, and national executives, it seems that the number of councils seeking answers from diocesan and provincial levels has risen slightly. Councils have rarely or never sought advice from their local bishop or from life members. However, some have sought the advice of their spiritual director at various times.

Past presidents are still highly active in their councils, promoting CWL in the parish, chairing executive and general meetings, organizing fund raisers and special events, checking the national

and provincial website for information to share, filling the role of a vacant position, and chairing the elections committee. Some organize funeral lunches and look after funeral procedures for members' funerals. (I assume this might be the honour guard.)

**Communication with other levels:** Most past presidents are satisfied with communications received from National, Provincial, Diocesan councils and Regional councils, where applicable. Most found the communications relevant with slightly more paying attention to National communications. Most councils find the communications clear and concise from all levels with National and Provincial getting the most attention. Most councils occasionally or sometimes receive duplicate communications from all levels. It is possible to be on the mailing list of parish, diocesan and provincial councils. Most respondents usually or sometimes have enough time to respond to invitations to participate in initiatives from other levels.

There were varied responses to **ways to make your successor's experience more enjoyable and fulfilling:** being co-president with another member using both of their strengths, keeping in touch with the president through friendly chats, being available to answer questions and concerns, keeping files organized and taking a leadership role for specific events. However, one respondent wrote that "Now that we are surrounded by Covid all enjoyable factors have been discontinued." Another remarked that since both she and the present president have both been president many times, there isn't much that can be done to improve the situation.

Two thirds of respondents said that they did not do much to support the implementation of **Planning Strategically 2018-2020**. One respondent gave several verbal reports each year and also participated in a Working Group. She noted that there is a lot of anxiety in the general membership about the value of the Strategic Plan and the cost, but she hopes that the members will be pleasantly surprised with our efforts.

Comments on their **greatest successes** included helping CWL to be a very visible presence in the parish financially, socially, and spiritually. Having meetings in 2021 both in person and by Zoom was a success although it is very hard to get older members to try anything in a virtual setting. Because fund-raising was greatly affected by the pandemic due to restrictions, one council had a bake-less bakesale and raised as much as they would have with a regular sale. Another council started a prayer blanket ministry for the sick and started a CWL Girls' group. Several councils planted trees in 2021. One council had a quilt raffle and made birthday cards for students at three schools. Another council paid to have an electronic sign for a day to show appreciation to health care workers.

COVID-19 proved to be the **greatest challenge** for councils in 2021 as it made having meetings and fund-raising almost impossible. The division caused by vax vs. unvax raised its ugly head among some of our councils. Visiting the sick and elderly in hospitals and nursing homes was also curtailed for most of the year. Other **challenges** were getting new members, getting members to take on leadership roles, encouraging younger women to be involved, and implementing new ideas to older members who feel that change is too much to handle. One respondent wrote, "We are all busy women who are aging. Some are caring for parents/grandchildren, spouses with disabilities. We are tired and stressed by 2 years of Covid."

Thank you to all past presidents and their councils for submitting their reports. There is still reason to hope for a return to normal for our CWL councils, or at least a new normal! Blessings from your retiring Diocesan Past President.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL ESTERHAZY REGION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021  
DONNA SUGDEN**

**Councils:** St. Mary, Churchbridge; Our Lady of Victories, Esterhazy; St. Ann, Kennedy; St. Anne, Kipling; St. Joseph, Langenburg; St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Stockholm.

**Spiritual Advisor:** Fr. Franklin Emereuwa

**Chairperson:** Donna Sugden

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Lucille Haydt

Councils have been meeting less or not at all but have communicated with members through phone calls, handouts and visits.

St. Joseph Council celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary with parish members only in November. Two charter members were present.

St. Ann Council were able to plant a tree for 100 year celebration of CWL. They were saddened at the passing of Zita Sandor. Zita had been a member of their council for over 75 years.

Members have been participating in novenas and online Lenten and Advent retreats.

St. Anne Council member keeps the parish informed about CWL by reading articles from The League magazine.

Our Lady of Victories Council collected donations for Shelwin House and Marian Center. Members have supported each other with phone calls and prayer.

St. Mary Council has met a few times. All members that renewed were sent a thank you card.

St. Elizabeth of Hungary members have been meeting a few times. They awarded a scholarship to a Grade 12 student to help further their studies. They also sent the pornography hurts everyone cards.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL ESTEVAN REGION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

**Councils:** Sacred Heart, Benson; St. Monica, Bienfait; Immaculate Heart of Mary, Carlyle; St. John the Baptist, Estevan; Our Lady of Seven Sorrows, Lampman; Our Lady of Fatima, Redvers; St. Anthony, Storthoaks; St. Jean Regis, Wauchope.

**Spiritual Advisor:** Fr. Nestor Gregoire

**Chairperson:** Vacant

Estevan submitted a report – Membership is at 105 members. Five new members joined and two centenarians are members – Blanche Keating and Marie Dubreuil.

The year many meetings were held virtually. Because of Covid, we based our year on Spiritual Programs. A retreat was held on Zoom in May. April to August we held monthly Prayer Drives, with our Mother Mary, around Estevan praying for the safety of all residents from covid. Many of our members have taken part in the two bible studies ran this year. Every second month the Mass Ministries are done by the CWL membership, but many members do ministries at all weekly services. Members lead the rosary during May and October and lead the Stations of the Cross during Lent. New members were installed in October. At the December meeting members were recognized for their dedicated years of service to the League covering 2019, 2020 and 2021. 53 members were acknowledged.

There were two CWL Funeral Honor Guards. Our members have been assisting at funerals and weddings by helping to seat families and cleaning the church after the services. We assisted at one funeral lunch.

The Catholic Women's League school scholarship recipient for 2021 was Julia Pangan. \$250.00 in scholarship and awards were given to the Estevan & District Music Festival. CWL and the Knights of Columbus purchased bibles for the Grade 4 students.

Members helped in the parish hall to clean the chairs, tables and kitchen, plus put furniture together. They cleaned the body of the church and stairwells by scrubbing to prepare for the opening of our new parish hall.

This concludes the report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL MOOSE JAW REGION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021  
LYNDA THUL**

This report comes from the following councils:

Church of Our Lady - Moose Jaw; St. Joseph's - Moose Jaw; St. John the Evangelist - Marquis  
Immaculate Heart of Mary – Claybank.

This year has once again been very challenging, just trying to keep things going in our councils. Some have been more able to hold virtual meetings, while the smaller councils have not.

Some of things the St. Joseph's Council – Moose Jaw did throughout the year:

- The Beginning of the Catholic was certainly a highlight.. seven girls participated
- The Prayer Chain Ministry team has been praying for those in need
- Prayer Blankets are available, bringing comfort to many
- Funeral Lunches as required, following COVID guidelines
- Assisted with the online Vacation Bible School
- Working on the upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Joseph's CWL
- In recognition of the 2020 National CWL 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, an oak tree was planted in Sunset Cemetery to provide shade for the Memorial Bench for the Unborn and Infant loss

- Supported the Royal Canadian Legion with the purchase of a cross for Remembrance Day

Some of the things Church of Our Lady Council – Moose Jaw did throughout the year:

- Reached out to CWL members and shut-ins by phone, and “sunshine cards and flowers”
- Assisted with church activities as needed
- Funeral Lunches as needed, following COVID guidelines
- Members assisted with Registration and ushering for Sunday Masses to follow the COVID guidelines
- Members met in the church in May to view the movie “Pray”, the story of Fr. Peyton
- Members encouraged to donate yarn and/or knit toques, mitts and scarves to distribute to schools and other causes
- Pastoral Care to Seniors Residences has resumed
- A “Walk Around the Hall” Bake Sale, Raffle, Sale of Christmas cards/religious articles was held
- COOL CWL will host the World Day of Prayer on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Some of the things done by St. John the Evangelist Council, Marquis did throughout the year:

- Two meetings were held – there are 7 members, 4 of whom attend meetings
- Considering some different ways of fundraising to support the organizations we contribute to

Some of the things St. Joseph’s Council – Claybank did throughout the year:

- No meetings have been held for some time due to COVID – there are 18 members, 7 to 9 of whom attend meetings
- Provide lunch for funerals when requested

As we look forward to a New Year and a new Theme, hopefully we will be able to do the best we can to serve and promote the Catholic Women’s League of Canada.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL REGION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021  
JUDIE WILLIAMS**

**Councils:** St. Patrick, Cupar; St. John the Baptist, Dysart; Our Lady of Sorrows, Fort Qu’Appelle; St. Joseph, Indian Head; Mary Queen of All Hearts, Lestock; Sacred Heart, Raymore; St. James, Southey.

**Spiritual Advisor:** Fr. Francis Hengen

**Chairperson:** Judie Williams

CUPAR – ST. PATRICK’S PARISH R-O90 – MONA KISH, PRESIDENT – Mona reports that the CWL have been holding a membership drive and now have 25 members on their list. They have not held any CWL meetings since the start of Covid. They held a St. Patrick’s Day mass and luncheon in honor of their namesake.

LESTOCK –MARY QUEEN OF HEARTS PARISH R-O29 – LINDA CHUBAK, PRESIDENT – Linda reports that they discussed a few ideas of how to get the CWL back in action at a parish council meeting as most of the parish council members are also CWL members. They are still collecting memberships and now have eleven members. They have not held any CWL meetings since the start of Covid.

RAYMORE- SACRED HEART PARISH R-004 - CARLEEN GAUDET, PRESIDENT – There is not a lot of CWL action in Raymore at this time. The members agreed that they would not have CWL meetings as most of their members are elderly and have health issues. This includes no in-person meetings and no Zoom meetings as many of their members are not tech savvy and many don't even have computers. Carleen reports they have been collecting memberships and continuing on with the ministries for her parish.

FORT QU'APPELLE- OUR LADY OF SORROWS PARISH R-O27 – SISTER THERESA FEIST, PRESIDENT – Our President, Lucy Koolen, resigned and we are pleased to have Sister Theresa Feist, from Lebret, accept her role as president. We thank Lucy for all she has done during her difficult reign since the start of Covid. We have been meeting in person since the February meeting. We moved our meetings from the evening meetings to Friday afternoons and will have a formal initiation ceremony at a later date. Attendance is still light but we are hoping to increase in number once the snow goes and people start coming out. We are planning our usual Mothers' Day Tea.

SOUTHEY – ST. JAMES PARISH R-O70 – GLADYS OLLINGER, PRESIDENT – Gladys reports that they had an executive meeting but no general meetings yet. Not enough members were interested in holding Zoom meetings as not everyone has a computer and others were unsure about how to participate in an online meeting. They have been keeping in touch with all 12 of their members. They did not have a treasurer and their secretary passed away. They were pleased when two newer members stepped up to fill these positions. Their spiritual convenor is very good. They will be meeting and voting on the issues. Some of their activities include a prayer chain for hospitalized members. They purchased bibles to present to those receiving Confirmation. They sent money to two priests who were recently ordained. They take care of the needs inside of the rectory and make donations to the parish. Birthday cakes are presented to members on their special day; they were a visible presence at their member's funeral as they wore CWL stoles. The beautiful "Almighty God..." letter is presented to the family of the deceased CWL member. Mass cards and greeting cards are sent to members who are ill. Their treasurer moved to Regina. She had been phoning each member on their birthday. Gratitude cards with an encouraging message and a tea bag were mailed to all the members. They do have some members living in Regina as well. Plans are underway for the installation of officers. Notes regarding the CWL are included in the church bulletins.

INDIAN HEAD – ST. JOSEPH R-O72 – MARY ANN LYONS, PRESIDENT – Again, another Covid year made things a little difficult to plan, however, we did accomplish a few things. I attended, virtually, our Diocesan Meeting of Members, as well as Father Francis; he also attended the Provincial and National meetings and The Fireside Chat, in the same format.

We purchased and planted a flowering crab apple tree, marking National 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

We began having our in-person meetings in September, not many members are attending, but we have been able to continue with CWL projects and support. We participate in The Save A Family Program, Legion Poppy Fund, Pro-Life, & Music Festival. I delivered 38 Christmas Cards to our Nursing Home, ensuring that every resident was remembered at Christmas. Father Francis celebrates Mass at the Nursing Home twice a month. Our Council sends cards to all our members & parishioners in their times of sickness or bereavement. We sent 30 cards last year. We catered to one funeral lunch. We participate in all Mass ministries, and tend to the cleaning and laundry of the linens.

We hosted a very successful Christmas social in December. Fr. Francis crafted us a Queen size Quilt & Jan Spencer quilted a table center to raffle. We sold 1000 tickets. That really helped us with our finances. We are planning a Tea Social on April 26. We will celebrate Our Lady of Good Counsel as well as present pins and certificates. We will be presenting three 65 year, one 60 year, and one 55 year, as well as welcoming new members that have not been welcomed for the past two years.

Our membership has fallen to 90. Our last Charter member passed away in February.

We have tried to keep in touch with all our members. Fr. Francis has prepared an Advent, and a Lenten and Easter reflection: he has purchased, for each member, a cloth bag, flashlight & pen, imprinted with our National Theme "Catholic & Living It". I have personally written Thank You notes to each renewing member along with the National Prayer Card. These have either been hand delivered or mailed to each member.

We called a special meeting to complete our Instructed Vote. I completed & submitted all the Annual Reports online.

DYSART – ST. JOHN BAPTISTE R-065 – BEV LIST, PRESIDENT – the council is disbanded effective December 2021.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL OUR LADY OF PEACE REGION**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2021**  
**Submitted by JOANNE VINISH**

**Councils:** St. George, Assiniboia; Ste. Radegonde, Lafleche;  
Our Lady of Assumption, Gravelbourg; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Coronach

**Spiritual Director:** Fr. Denis Remot

**Regional Chairperson:** Joanne Vinish

**Regional Secretary-Treasurer:** Yvonne Jalbert

Due to Covid-19 we were unable to have our Regional Annual Meeting in Lafleche to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Regional group in 2020. This was then rescheduled for Saturday, October 23, 2021 in Lafleche. We had invited Chantal Devine to be our guest speaker for that day. Again in 2021 we had to cancel it.



Very few meetings were held in all councils during 2021, due to the continuing virus threat in our county and in Saskatchewan.

I do not have any Council Reports for this year as I am “unofficially” doing this report.

The roles of Chairperson and Secretary-Treasurer have expired for the Lafleche Council turn as executive of Our Lady of Peace Regional, after holding these positions for over two full terms. These positions were to be picked up by one of the other councils in our region. Unfortunately no other council was able and/or willing to take over the Our Lady of Peace Regional executive. The present Regional Council now lies in a dormant position, with the books of this Regional being held in Lafleche.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL REGINA REGION**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2021**  
**Submitted by ANITA HANNA**

**Councils:** Christ the King, Holy Child, Holy Cross, Holy Family, Holy Rosary Cathedral, Holy Trinity, Little Flower, Our Lady of Peace, Resurrection, St. Anne, St. Anthony, St. Cecilia, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Peter, St. Joseph (Balgonie), and St. Agnes (Pilot Butte)

**Spiritual Advisor:** Vacant

**Regional Chairperson:** Vacant

**Executive:** **Acting Chair** Janette Rieger, **Secretary** Viola Joel, **Treasurer** Aurelie Hodges, **Past Chair** Sharon Mayor

**Reports Received From:** Holy Family, Holy Trinity, Little Flower, St. Agnes (Pilot Butte) St. Anne’s, St. Joseph’s (Balgonie) St. Martin’s, St. Cecilia’s, and Resurrection

The public health restrictions and limitations imposed by dealing with the Covid 19 epidemic greatly curtailed regular CWL operations. But, again, councils continued to serve God and their community with willing hearts.

**Care For Our Common Home:** Holy Family council placed a plaque with the tree planted in 2020 commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CWL. St. Joseph Council planted a commemorative tree in the cemetery.

**Council Meetings:** A few councils did not hold any in person meetings, a few were able to have a meeting or two in person, some managed to have more, Zoom and one parish was able to do teleconferencing as well as some in person meetings.

**Communications:** To remain in contact with members, councils used email, cards, newsletters, bulletin announcements, phone calls and some were even able to visit homebound members.

**Spiritual Development:** Some councils continued to provide the Livestream to Sunday Masses. Daily prayers were sent by email. Members were invited to pray the Rosary via Zoom or Facebook. Some councils sent Easter and Christmas cards to all members. Guest speakers were invited. CWL members continue to serve at liturgies. Prayer chains include CWL members. And

all members were praying for each other, the community and the world. Councils helped lead Stations of the Cross during Lent. An honour guard was held for a member's funeral.

**Organization:** Several councils are having difficulty filling executive positions. At least two councils have only two members on their executive. This is not sustainable, but solutions are not easily found. Several councils have executive members who have served three or more terms. One council reports electing a new council.

Most councils have struggled to hold regular meetings citing the pandemic as the main difficulty. Fundraising has also been difficult but creative alternatives have been found and most councils are still able to continue their charitable works and financial giving. Scholarships continue to be offered. One council seems to have been able to carry on in a close to normal manner. Another council was able to have parishioners give talks on their faith journey and their professional lives.

**Ecumenism:** Councils have been able to participate in or support financially, endeavors that are Ecumenical in spirit (Birthright, Marian Centre, Good Neighbour Project).

**Donation and Fundraising:** Councils have continued to donate to charitable causes locally, nationally and internationally. Councils have donated money, time, goods like food and clothing, prayer shawls and baptismal stoles, and gift cards.

Councils have raised funds for their parishes, charitable organizations and causes as they have in and out of pandemic times. Fundraisers included appeals for donations, raffles, the Harvest Sale, 'bakeless' bake sales, drive-through suppers, co-operative ventures with the Knights of Columbus and hosting funeral lunches.

**Gratitude Project:** At least two councils are participating in National's Gratitude Project.

**Executive members for local councils and at the regional levels continues to be a challenge.**

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL SOUTHWEST REGION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021  
RACHELLE JOHNSON**

**Councils:** Christ the Redeemer, Swift Current; St. Anne, Gull Lake; Our Lady of Confidence, Cadillac; Notre Dame D'Auvergne, Ponteix; Holy Family, Admiral; Christ the King, Shaunavon; St. Lawrence, Maple Creek; St. Stephen, Consul.

**Spiritual Advisor:** Deacon David Hagel

**Regional Chairperson:** Rachelle Johnson

**Regional Secretary/Treasurer:** Michele Vallee

With the pandemic still a reality in our lives this year, the Southwest Regional councils did their very best to keep our Catholic League visible in the community. Some councils had excellent success holding meetings while others struggled. The same applied to fundraisers and volunteering. Because of the lack of fundraisers, funds are getting low for some councils. There

are obvious concerns about being unable to meet commitments. Regardless, a number of donations were made to an assortment of worthy causes.

- \*Dr. Noble Irwin Foundation
- \*Southwest Crisis Services
- \*Archbishop's Appeal
- \*Camp Lemieux
- \*Sask Pro-Life
- \*Grade 12 Bursary
- \*Christmas/Easter hampers
- \*Food Bank

#### **Successful Fundraisers:**

- \* Ticket raffles on a Christmas dinner & Family Movie Night
- \* Cash raffles (books were personally delivered and collected)
- \* Cookie Walk

#### **Volunteering And Its Many Forms:**

- \* Manning the Salvation Army kettles
- \* Funeral Lunches
- \* Nursing Homes
- \* Mass Ministries
- \* Meals on Wheels
- \* Delivering coffee/muffins to school for Education Week/Museum

#### **Odds and Ends**

- \* Mini retreat with Deacon Dave as guest speaker (17 attended)
- \* Christmas catered turkey meal (37 attended)
- \* Planted a centennial tree in May
- \* Swift Current Council is hosting Provincial Convention June 5th & 6th, 2022
- \* Delivery of "Goodie Boxes" to elderly and shut-ins
- \* Come and Go Christmas lunch
- \* Presidents kept up to date through emails, communiques, websites and mail ins
- \* Swift Current executive has dropped off in recent years, but the nominating committee was able to recruit all positions moving forward for 2022.

#### **Summation**

Even though 2021 was a difficult year, our CWL sisters through their dedication and perseverance continued on their journey to make this world a better place. Congratulations and God bless!

*"Catholic and Living it!"*

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL WEYBURN REGION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021  
CAMILLE GOSKI**

**Councils:** St. Michael, Bengough; Sacred Heart, Montmartre; Holy Angels, Pangman; Holy Family, Radville; St. Mary, Tribune; St. Paul, Vibank; St. Vincent de Paul, Weyburn

**Spiritual Advisor:** Fr. Louis Abello

**Regional Chairperson:** Camille Goski

**Regional Secretary/Treasurer:** Jean Woodard

2021 was another quiet year for many of the Weyburn Region CWL Councils as most Councils suspended their regular meetings and activities. Because of Covid restrictions, several councils were not able to hold meetings during the year and their activities, projects and fundraising efforts were put on hold. While these Councils were unable to continue their Council activities, they were able to remain active in their parishes, helping with whatever needed to be done. These activities and supports ranged from the physical cleaning of the Church, to paying Church bills, to taking part in the Liturgy of the Mass throughout the year. Some members led the Stations of the Cross in Lent, led the daily Rosary , and collected donations for the Carmichael Outreach, the Salvation Army and other charities.

The councils that were able to carry out some meetings did so while maintaining Covid restrictions and protocols. Some Councils held bakeless bake sales and Christmas raffles - events that did not involve any gatherings. All Councils were able to continue their charitable donations throughout the year.

Councils found ways to keep in touch with their members by phoning them for a visit. Easter and Christmas messages were emailed or mailed out to members. Members in long term care facilities were remembered at Christmas and Easter with small gifts and rose bowls. Masses were offered for members who were ill and for the members who passed away.

Councils sent out Pornography hurts post cards and took part in letter writing campaigns. Members viewed many CWL online national, provincial, or diocesan workshops, meetings and presentations. They also took part in online Alpha programs, retreats, Masses and workshops that were offered by various dioceses across Canada.

The hope of all Councils is that in person meetings and activities will resume in 2022 and that all members will be able to come together to enjoy the fellowship and friendship of their sisters in Christ.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL YORKTON / MELVILLE REGION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021  
Submitted by ELAINE HORNING**

**Councils:** St. Joseph, Canora; St. Stanislaus, Ituna; St. Stephen, Kamsack (disbanded December 2021); St. Henry, Melville; St. Patrick, Preeceville; St. Patrick, Sturgis, St. Gerard's, Yorkton.

**Spiritual Advisor:** Fr. Joseph Kuruvilla

**Chairperson:** vacant

In 2021 the six reporting councils had a total number of 259 members between them, ranging from the smallest being Ituna with 9 to the largest, Yorkton with 130. Kamsack disbanded December 2021 and did not provide a report. Most councils were active to some degree during the year.

It was noted by some that the membership numbers dropped during these two Covid years. Most councils did not have in-person meetings during 2021 if they had any at all. The best at holding meetings were Canora with 9 and Sturgis who had 6.

**Sturgis** – We have 44 members this year. We have accomplished:

- Meeting in person.
- All executive served another year, as per Provincial/National request.
- We provided financial assistance to a community member who lost everything in a fire.
- We sent statistics to working groups.
- We planted a spruce tree at the cemetery to celebrate CWL 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Canada.
- We had our Year End social June 10<sup>th</sup> at Autumns (a local outdoor eatery). I handed out pins.
- We have discussed the 'Gratitude Project' and are starting work on what we want to do.
- There is a Sewing group called Klothes 4 Kids that operates under the Sturgis CWL umbrella.

**Ituna** – Ituna went from 13 to 9 members for 2021 and several of the continuing members are over 90 years of age. They have not been meeting in person. There were no changes in Executive for the past 2 years and none planned as their council is so small.

**Preeceville** – Preeceville has a steady membership of about 20 members. There were no meetings for 2021, and there were no parish activities aside from Mass and funerals.

**Canora** – Tree Planting Ceremony to recognize the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CWL was held on the front lawn of St. Joseph's in Canora on May 26<sup>th</sup> with 10 CWL members & Father Joseph Kuruvilla in attendance. Two trees were donated by one of our members, Joan Kowalyszyn.

National Day for Truth & Reconciliation Prayer Service on September 30<sup>th</sup> at St. Joseph's. Seven CWL members participated wearing orange shirts along with other parishioners.

The Marian Months of May and October were marked with the Rosary being led by members of CWL on Wednesday mornings. The CWL members also participated in and shared in leading the Ways of the Cross during the Lenten period. Our annual CWL Memorial Mass in November is carefully planned each year and we try to invite family members who may live in other communities to attend when possible. Our number of deceased members continues to rise each year, this year being over 70 souls that we celebrated. The CWL also participated in All Soul's Day mass and blessing of graves at the cemetery and the singing of hymns on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

We struggled with seriously declining attendance at monthly CWL meetings, brought on by Covid-19, and that made planning difficult. Covid has made life lonely for so many. In the meantime, CWL members carried out their faithful work as Sacristans, leaders of Music, helped as lectors & greeters, & provided an Honor Guard at a CWL funeral. CWL members also provide all the janitorial services inside the church including washing floors, windows, pews, (including sanitizing), vacuuming carpets weekly, cleaning bathrooms and emptying garbage containers. We have no funds for janitorial staff like larger centres.

We continued to offer an academic scholarship to a qualifying student at the High School who was going on to further education, as well as special scholarships to graduating students from our own Parish who have demonstrated a willingness to participate in Parish activity over their youth i.e. mass servers, choir, musicians, lectors.

We led the fundraising drive to raise approx. \$13,000 to replace 50 year old windows on the east side of the church by making and selling perogies and holding a 'Take-Out' Fall Supper in October. A planned Parish BBQ fundraiser in the summer was cancelled due to the restrictions of Covid. Perogy Bees have been the glue that keeps our members connected apart from the Sunday Liturgy. We are CWL sisters but we have also become 'friends'!

St. Joseph's CWL in Canora had 9 formal meetings in 2021, every month except for June, July & December. We followed all Covid protocol rules at these meetings held in the church basement, no food; all seating was minimum 6 feet apart and everyone was masked.

Our future as a Council is uncertain as we now function with a three-member executive, about 20+ members and no organized committees. CWL memberships dropped by over 50% this December. May God bless the Catholic Women's League of Canada.

**Yorkton** – St. Gerard's, Yorkton C.W.L. had 130 members. Unfortunately 7 members passed away. In the past we have had membership drives to promote our membership and collect the fees, but this year we phoned all the members as a means of socializing and a reminder about the upcoming memberships coming due for 2022. As everyone is aware, the Pandemic has certainly affected all league activities. We were unable to have our 'Annual Garage Sale' in September which is our major fundraiser for charities; instead we made and sold Christmas pudding in November as a fundraiser. We have a group of CWL Members who make quilts and donate them to the needy. May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to watch over us, guide us, and give us strength to persevere.

**Melville** – We have 43 CWL Members. Most of these Members are very active in our Parish and Community. Some of our elderly Members are Prayer Members. Only one Executive and one Regular Meeting was held in person in September in 2021. All other communication was done via email on a regular basis.

Following are activities we were involved in for 2021:

- Honor Guards for funerals
- Ensure a weekly rose is placed by the Tabernacle
- Pay for a monthly Mass for our deceased CWL Members
- Paid for two flower barrels in the front of the church
- Placed a huge rock with a plaque beside our CWL Centennial Tree
- Buy and present engraved plaques to 6 St. Henry's School Students for the Prodigal Son Award June and December
- Continue to send bereavement, birthday and anniversary cards to members
- Helped to support our Parish Bazaar by supplying 35 dainty trays plus pies, as well as individuals donating carrot pudding, plants and items for the bake and craft tables
- Provide gift for our Spiritual Director
- Continue to serve as Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Greeters, Rosary and Money Counters

- Provide Readers for Stations of the Cross and Devotions May and October
- Volunteer at Thrift Store and take Communion to Shut-Ins
- Provided monthly email newsletters to members to pass on information from Diocesan, Provincial and National communiques as well as inform members of other CWL items.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL TREASURER  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021  
VIOLA JOEL**

Thank you to the 26 councils that submitted their annual reports for Treasurer. Regina Diocesan Council CWL has 68 councils with a membership of 2,563.

**Donations to CWL National Voluntary Funds**

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Coady International Institute                  | \$300.00           |
| Catholic Mission in Canada (catechesis fund)   | \$1,050.00         |
| Euthanasia Prevention Coalition                | \$400.00           |
| Catholic Near East Welfare Association- Canada | \$400.00           |
| National Bursary Fund                          | \$0.00             |
| <b>Donations to Parish/Church</b>              | <b>\$10,905.00</b> |
| <b>Other Donations</b>                         | <b>\$25,443.56</b> |

**Some results from the annual report survey are as follows:**

- All reporting councils have filled the treasurer position with 2 being combined with the secretary position. They reported using bank statements, deposit and cheque books as tools with 56% using some form of computer tools such as computer programs or excel spreadsheets.
- Most councils collected membership fees of \$35.00 but some were \$40.00. The bulk of membership fees are collected in December and January and most councils send in their fees to national by the end of February. Most work with their organization chairperson in remitting per capita fees to national office.
- All councils follow proper banking practices. Cheques are used to pay accounts; two signatures are required on cheques and most councils have three signatories usually the treasurer, president and one other executive member. More than half of councils prepared a budget and most present financial reports at their parish council meetings. 65% of the councils do not have their books examined annually. Usually an independent individual experienced in accounting matters does the audit.

**General Comments:**

2021 was a year where most usual fundraising activities were suspended due to restrictions imposed because of the Covid 19 pandemic.

This concludes my report.

### Councils with Membership Increase in 2021

| <b>Council</b>   | <b># of Members</b> | <b>Increase</b> |
|--|---------------------|-----------------|
| Church of our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Moose Jaw | 33                  | 6               |
| Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Coronach                   | 22                  | 2               |
| Sacred Heart, Benson                                   | 11                  | 1               |
| St. John the Baptist, Estevan                          | 106                 | 3               |
| St. John the Evangelist, Marquis                       | 7                   | 1               |
| St. Joseph, Balgonie                                   | 38                  | 5               |

6 Councils with an increase of 18 members  
47 Councils with a decrease of 193 members  
15 Councils with same membership

|                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| Total Councils 2021          | 68   |
| Total Membership 2021        | 2563 |
| Total decrease in membership | 175  |