

The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
**REGINA DIOCESAN COUNCIL**  
Annual Reports  
2020



**Care for our**

**Common Home**

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**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL PRESIDENT  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020  
YVONNE BACHELU**

After receiving the results of the President's annual surveys submitted on-line, although not quite as many as last year (40), thankfully 33 councils out of a possible 68 completed the on-line survey for the 2020 year. Considering the year we had...I congratulate all of you for taking the time to complete this task!

In this report, I will try to capture the essence of all comments, however some may seem the same as last year as there were very similar responses.

Of the responses that were received, only two reported not having the position filled and I want to thank those two for completing this survey for their council. More than half reporting have been a member for more than 25 years as well, and have held this position more than once. This tells me that you consider this organization an important part of your community. This holds as well for those that have not been a member for as long. You are just as important and I thank you for stepping up to the challenge!

The results this year present a close comparison to last year with respect to where you received your information - the Canadian League Magazine was the most popular once again. However, as with last year as well, the National and Diocesan communiques, Provincial website and newsletters, as well as the National website were well used. Parish bulletins came in very close for providing information for members.

The two National priorities that are being made available to your councils are:

1. Care for Our Common Home – continuing to be our National President's theme, I am ecstatic that members feel this is still a very important part of their community;
2. Excluding medical assistance in dying from palliative care/hospice facilities – This would, of course, be an important issue for many. I am happy to hear that our members do not give up and continue to advise our Government that we are not in agreement with the changes proposed.

Discussing these topics at your council meetings seemed to be the most popular way to deliver these important issues to your members. Standing Committee Chairpersons also helped in delivering these topics to members, along with arranging for speakers.

How frequently do you meet with your spiritual advisor? Half of you reported that you meet monthly, whereas slightly less than half rarely meet with your advisor. I know in these difficult times it is not easy to accomplish this, so I thank you for doing what you can. It is reported that 85% of your councils are supported by your spiritual advisor. I feel that is a good percentage and I know some spiritual advisors have more than one parish to administer to as you indicated 60% of your advisors have other duties outside the parish, as well as a lack of tradition for having them attend your meetings. So let's see what we can do for next year to make us feel that we have the support of 100% of our spiritual advisors!

The next question resulted in the same numbers as last year. The Constitution and Bylaws and Roberts Rules of Orders are tied #1 for a popular resource used at meetings, followed closely by the Executive Handbook, as well as the National and council Manuals of Policy and Procedure. This is very exciting to hear! The last two resources are the council's policy and procedure manual, which I am very happy to hear that councils have one of their own, and the last resource used is the Parliamentary Procedure. It is good to know that councils are using resources provided by National!

The next question asks what kind of documents you have signed on behalf of your council. The first, by a large margin, is cheques of course. We all need to pay bills! However other documents reported were letters directed within and outside of the CWL which tells me that members have participated in letter writing campaigns to our government, as well as petitions which is a very important part of our voice.

You reported that councils attended church functions, World Day of Prayer, Regional meetings, community events and workshops. Unfortunately Diocesan Conventions and meetings, and Provincial Conventions and meetings were way down on the list. This is understandable due to the gathering restrictions and both conventions in 2020 being cancelled.

The next few questions were about subsidizing specific events, and while all events were cancelled in 2020, I am surprised and perplexed to see that 94% to 100% of members were subsidized to attend events such as conferences, Diocesan, Provincial and National conventions. So I am not sure what cost members incurred with respect to these events, but I am happy to hear that your council was able to subsidize your expense.

Parish policy manuals are an important tool to have available, and the result did not change from last year. Only 49% have a parish policy manual, 24% feel it is helpful to have one, and 24% indicate you would like assistance in developing one. Please remember that your Diocesan Executive is here to help. If you are one of those councils that would like to develop an parish policy manual and need assistance, please contact me and I would be happy to help.

The majority of councils have read and understand the Executive Handbook. You reported it has assisted you in the responsibility of overseeing the operations of your councils.

Most councils provide an annual summary of council's activities to members in a variety of methods, such as written and oral reports, emails and newsletters are amongst the most popular.

Various committees also exist in your councils, like funeral lunches, annual events, social events and visitations, followed closely by scholarships or bursaries. Other committees reported were spiritual, financial, organizational committees, World Day of Prayer, Girl's League and Prayer Chain.

Other issues you report that have been spoken on behalf of your council is keeping in touch with your members via phone calls, emails, sympathy cards, etc. One council reported having written to three government officials in regard to the building of a new nursing home in Estevan, and another reported on Care for Our Common Home. Other important issues were Bill C-7, Valley Native Ministry, Chalice, support of Northern Missions, local charities, resolutions from National, mental health of your members, palliative care and MAiD.

The League letterhead is available for use, but not many of you use it when corresponding. Please remember this is for your use, and it also promotes the CWL without you really having to do anything extra for it.

When asked the question of who provided you with the greatest assistance when you assumed the role of president, the majority responded that assistance from the immediate past president was received. Following very closely to that is other former past presidents, as well as the current executive, specifically the secretary and treasurer. The Diocesan President, which is currently me, did not provide a lot of

assistance, and that's okay. You need to find help where you feel comfortable. Just remember, I'm only an email (or phone call) away, and I will always be available to help.

Your greatest challenge you faced with transitioning into the presidency role was not having a full slate of officers, followed by keeping members interested, recruiting, technology, feeling overwhelmed, paperwork, feeling undertrained, finding the time, and the list goes on. Some Presidents reports that they have only been a member for a couple of years and don't feel they have the experience they should have, and that's okay. Many in your council have been president many times, and they are there to help you in any way they can. You will bring a fresh perspective to the council, and with that comes new ideas! I thank you for not letting it go un(wo)maned!

Most of you find a new national theme beneficial and embrace it as it gives your council a focus during the year. When asked if you like to have the theme changed with each new national president, 28% feel this is very good while 52% consider it good, 17% is okay with it, and 3% don't like it at all.

When asked about which you are most proud in your council, there are many positive comments like how engaged and eager your members are to take leadership roles and participate in activities, doubled membership, willingness to help the CWL, parish and community, sharing ideas to benefit the CWL and hold interest in membership, tapping into the different strengths in members, being cheerful and hardworking, having a strong leadership role in the parish, working well together, having a great executive to work with, working hard to meet goals set out, supportive of local charities, support and pray for one another, influence on government with important issues, reaching out to isolated seniors, and the list goes on and on.

The biggest challenge you face and how to address it as president again came with many ideas such as reorganizing the executive once the new guidelines are implemented, of course COVID-19 was mentioned, trying to get more members, having to serve more than one or two terms continually, due to lack of being able to have meetings, it was difficult to make decisions due to lack of feedback from members so this will be solved by requesting more input from members. Other challenges mentioned were getting memberships excited about moving forward with a new way of doing things, maintaining memberships, finding members to take on executive positions. Of course COVID-19 was the biggest challenge for us all, and as many of you have reported, there is nothing we can do about that. However many reported that due to this pandemic, you have had to make more phone calls to connect, conduct meetings in a physically safe manner, and having to be patient thru it all.

Members were asked what was your greatest challenge in completing this survey...some commented they had difficulty getting onto the site due to the long address, not being able to print, time consuming, having no standing committee chairpersons so having to fill it out for all, did not understand some questions, not having options to provide input, feeling as this was an "off" year due to the pandemic the results will be skewed, inexperience, being a small council, most questions did not apply, do not have a computer so someone else had to complete it. Several reported they found it easy, it went well, seemed to be user friendly, found it simple however a challenge in convincing other committee chairs they can do it. One council did request the ability to save it electronically rather than just the option to print and submit.

In reading this report, you may find some similarities to my 2019 annual report. This is because many of the answers to the questions did not vary much, and although as with last year there were many many

comments, it is difficult to include them all, so I reiterate that I tried my best to capture the essence of all responses.

We need to keep in mind that many of our Spiritual Advisors do not have much experience with the CWL, and we need to help them learn about our organization. This will encourage them to attend meetings and conventions.

I welcome members to contact me if they have any questions or concerns whatsoever. I'm available by email or phone.

We need to count our blessings:

Look to your left...what friend do you see?

Look to your right...what family members are there?

Look behind you...what memories of loved ones are following you?

Look ahead...this is your path going forward.

May God bless you, may his love shine upon your soul, and may you feel his presence as he walks beside you as you travel your path of life.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020  
SHARON MAYOR**

Since the onset of Covid 19 in March 2020, the councils in the Regina Diocese were presented with many challenges. In spite of this, 25 councils responded to the survey as compared to 29 councils last year. Councils took initiative to find different ways of communicating, fundraising, etc.

**Nineteen councils** said that the positions of **Chairpersons of Spiritual Development** were filled, of these 3 were elected, whereas, in 16 councils, these were appointed. Six councils reported this position vacant.

### **Spiritual Growth of Members**

In reply to studying the national theme, **Care for Our Common Home**, twenty-four councils replied positively. Several councils prayed Pope Francis' prayer before meetings. Some other activities listed, were inviting speakers and hosting a book club, using the Laudate Si document. Other councils referred to the suggestions given on the CWL website, in The Canadian League and in communiques. Councils planted trees for the 100th anniversary of the CWL, started recycling projects and encouraged members to participate in the Water Challenge. Minutes were sent electronically.

In response to the question if **one-third of the meetings** were spent on the spiritual growth of the members, sixteen councils replied "yes". To those who responded "no" the reasons were they began their CWL meetings with mass and closed with a prayer. The other reason was that "time" was of essence, conducting the business portion took longer.

Twenty-five councils said that their councils had **organized liturgies and spiritual growth programs** this past year by hosting CWL Sundays where CWL members ministered during the liturgy. Some CWL councils assisted with lay services, Memorial Mass, mass intentions and participated in an honor guard.

Several councils participated in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Other councils led the rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet before weekday masses. A few councils organized 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care. One council facilitated The First Spiritual Exercises (originated by Ignatius Loyola) viewed a video on How to do Lent Differently and a slide presentation on the Cuernavaca Project. Another council added prayers to **newsletters** that were sent out to their members.

Twenty-five councils did say they celebrated the **Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel on April 26<sup>th</sup>**. One council sponsored the mass where all members volunteered. Remaining members viewed the mass for our Lady of Good Counsel on Vision TV.

In regard to **spiritual advisors** attending council meetings eight councils replied “always”; six said “most of the time”; five replied “sometimes” and another six said “never”.

### **Studying of Catholic Teachings and the Role of Women in the Church**

Six councils replied yes, to discussing Catholic teachings and studying the role of women in the church. As to the six councils, who replied positively, one said that they sent an email to their members with the Pope’s monthly intentions, specifically on Laity and Women in the church. Another council participated in a book club studying, Living as a Beloved daughter of God.

Personal development and structural evolution which would enable reflection on the **partnership of women and men in Christ’s mission** Serving on parish pastoral council was the most common, followed as members who served as parish committee chairpersons. Members of nine councils were on the finance committee. Equal numbers served as pastoral associates and on regional pastoral councils. Others stated that their council members were on the provincial executive.

Councils supported **Catholic Missions of Canada (CMIC)** primarily through council and individual financial donations Prayer was also listed as another resource. Two of the councils have listed CMIC under annual donations. One council provided support through Nickels for the North and another through resale of mission calendars. Two councils visited a local mission.

**Support of Missions in Canada** varied from monetary donations to providing supplies, i.e., groceries and clothing for Sandy Bay to volunteering at Marian Center, Visitation House and Riverside Mission. Monetary donations for Missions in Canada were listed as the following: ESK-OMI, Chalice, Peace and Development, COADY Institute, Save a Family Plan and Feeding Children in Ethiopia. Other councils have memberships with CHAS (Catholic Health Association) and Pro-Life. One council has supported a member of Christian Family Outreach.

**Council** and **personal** participation in the lay ministries overlapped with 32% more participating as CWL members. A greater number of councils participated as Eucharistic ministers, in choir/music and with decorating. A near second participated in hospitality, as lectors, ushers and sacristans and mass facilitators. A fair number served as catechists. It is also important to note that 53% of the ministries were either chaired or organized by CWL members.

In ways your council has **reached out to women of other denominations** or faiths (initiated prayer services) An average of 17% of the councils initiated joint prayer services. A marked increase was demonstrated when asked about Week for Christian Unity in January and World Day of Prayer in March. Percentages were higher when inviting women to social events and listening to joint speakers. Only 1% invited women of other denominations to council meetings. No councils promoted awareness or

participation in Fellowship of the Least Coin and only 4% in both the Women's Inter-church Council of Canada and in WUCWO (World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations).

Promoting **awareness** or participating in activities with **interfaith** groups. One council visited the Jewish synagogue for an evening with Archbishop Bolen and the Jewish Rabbi, while another group was given a tour and information on the Muslim mosque. Eight percent of the councils participated in activities with the Indigenous, i.e., blanket ceremony, and monthly pot-luck dinner and sharing circle. No councils participated in any activities with the Buddhist and Hindu interfaith groups. In response to this question, all three levels of the CWL (diocesan, provincial and national) stated that no one on their executives filled the position of promoting awareness, however all three levels referred to the communiques and The Canadian League as valuable sources of information. Conventions and annual reports were also mentioned.

### **Training recommended for the position of Chairperson for Spiritual Development**

The recurring idea of holding workshops, virtually or in person, surfaced, along with a written guide or a formal program, recommending resources and new fun ways to provide spiritual development for members. Suggestions for speakers at the virtual workshops were those who fill this position at all three levels (diocesan, provincial and national). The reasoning behind this required training is lack of time and experience. Let us not forget to ask our Spiritual Advisors who have attended conventions and can pass on their ideas.

**Information** received from **communiques** and other resources All communiques are informative. National and diocesan communiques were shared with our members. The themes of communiques were summarized and forwarded to members on an email list by the president. Other comments were communiques could be timely; most were late this year.

In lieu of communiques, the *Word Among Us* was used as a resource. Other resources that were listed were *The Canadian League* for the Mission statement and the 8 Objects of the CWL, documented by National Spiritual Advisor, Bishop Jenson (Winter and Spring 2019 issues) a book by Pope *Francis Speaks to Families: Give Us this Day Our Daily Love* and a *Prayer for Married Couples*. *CWL Prays* was used as a resource for God's Blessing on Our Work and for a Thanksgiving Service. A link to *Center for Action & Contemplation* for daily prayer was shared with all members via email. The internet was accessed for the *History of the Rosary*.

This concludes my report.

### **REGINA DIOCESAN CWL ORGANIZATION ANNUAL REPORT 2020 JANETTE RIEGER**

As of December 31, 2020, there were 68 CWL parish councils in the Regina Diocese. One of these councils has only one paid member, another council has 2 paid members, and another 4 councils have less than 10 members. Conversely, we have 9 councils with over 100 members in each. Congratulations have to be given to Indian Head council which reported 53 new members! (This is speculation on my part, but I believe that Fr. Francis Hengen can be quite persuasive.) Reports were received from 25 councils, which is down from last year, but understandable during this interesting year of COVID difficulties. Two councils in Wapella and Hodgeville have disbanded, or are in the process of doing so. The majority of councils use the online registration system.

The majority of the reporting councils have the Organization position filled, but for some councils it does not mean that this person will necessarily become president. That is, the person currently holding this position is helping with membership duties but has not committed to, or has declined to, step into the role of president. As well, the majority of the women were appointed to this position and have previously held this position. That indicates that women are not willingly taking on the role of Organization / President-elect. The women holding the Organization chair indicated that their biggest challenges are recruiting new members, having members attend meetings, and getting members to take on leadership roles.

The racial make-up of most of the councils are women of European descent. As well, the non-European women hold very few executive positions on parish councils. For the reporting councils, this was reflective of the community at large. The same can be said for the age of the membership. Very few members are under the age of 35, which is also reflective of the parish community, but is not reflective of the general community. The response indicates that there are younger people in the general community, but they are not in the parish community and not members of the CWL. Some women completing the survey remarked that they had to give their best guess as to their members' ethnicity and age, as that information is not collected by their councils.

The new members who joined the reporting councils totalled 93 women, and the majority of them were over the age of 40. The most successful methods of inviting members of other cultures and ages was by personal invitation, and announcements – whether through the parish, bulletin boards, or websites. Social events, display tables at parish events, and presentations at mass were also helpful in recruiting new member. But by far, the most successful method of recruiting any new member is by personal invitation. The number of associate members, those who are non-Catholic, is minimal.

CWL members don't often attend meetings but will help out in other areas when needed – fundraising, social events, and spiritual events. Councils made efforts to engage members, many by presenting service pins and certificates, with cards or announcements, or at new member teas and other ceremonies. New members were engaged by being welcomed at meetings, in private conversations and invitations, and by presenting them with a new member kit. However, councils indicated that much more could be done in the form of mentoring, having them participate in sub-committees, and in providing them with an orientation session.

Of the reporting councils, almost half have a member who is also a regional chairperson, or on the diocesan or provincial council.

A small majority of the councils are aware of the Strategic Plan Implementation Committee. The Welcome Program is one initiative of this committee. It is accessible on the Provincial website, and a workshop was presented by me at the fall Provincial online workshop in October which was open to all councils in the province. This workshop can be presented to any council online upon request.

Councils had difficulty embracing change this year due to COVID. Some councils did their best to stay in touch with their members, mostly by telephone; others are using email more frequently. The majority of councils did not utilize the knowledge and experience of any honorary life or life member. This year, many councils were challenged to find new members and to recruit members to leadership roles. I believe that all of us recognize that 2020 was a difficult year and not reflective of the normal activities of most CWL councils.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020  
AGNES SMITH**

Twenty-four councils in the Regina Diocesan reported and are included in this report. Where several activities are listed and small numbers participated, they are grouped together. Fifty percent of this position is filled and seventy five percent of these were appointed with twenty five percent elected. Sixty percent have held this position previously. Ten women have been members for more than 25 years, 4 for 11-20 years and 6 for less than 10 years. Seven are between the ages of 35 and 64, 10 are between 65 and 74, and 4 are between the ages of 75 and 84.

**MARRIAGE AND FAMILY**

Eighty eight percent said that their emphasis was on other topics this year. The other 22 percent of councils promoted encounter weekends for engaged couples, marriage preparation courses, marriage encounter weekends, programs for single parent families and programs to support happily married couples. Two councils said that they participated in the gathering of items for victims of domestic abuse (Shelwin House in Yorkton) and to a local shelter for women and children. No one was able to attend workshops or seminars on the topic of family life. One council was able to celebrate or organize events for National Family Week.

**SANCTITY OF LIFE**

Seventy one percent of the councils have memberships in a local pro-life organization. Ten councils participated in a chain of life, 4 councils attended pro-life Masses, 4 attended pro-life walks, others attended 40 days for life, march for life and pro-life vigils. Thirteen councils donated to local pro-life organizations, 7 to Birthright, 6 to the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and 2 to Pregnancy and support services. Three councils ensure that their councils have a copy of the current pro-life brochure available from national office available in their church vestibule and two councils ensure that every member has a copy. Ten councils have written letters to inform legislators of CWL resolutions on abortion and euthanasia. Seventeen councils regularly pray for the protection of life.

In August 2019, national council adopted the resolution "Canada to Honour Its Commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child." Five councils wrote to the prime minister and minister of justice urging legal protection to children before birth. Seven councils educated members on the importance of legal protection for unborn children. Four councils raised awareness of the day of prayer for the protection of unborn children, held annually Jan. 22. Six councils monitored the federal governments response to this resolution.

**MINISTRY TO YOUTH**

Four councils have participated in programs for young people. There is no Catholic Girls League in the 24 parishes that responded in this report. Five councils have sponsored summer camps, 3 have given to Catholic Christian Outreach, 3 to NET Ministries, 3 to Sunday School, 2 to Girl Guides, 1 to leadership camps or retreats, and 1 to youth conferences.

**MINISTRY TO DISABLED**

CWL members have prayed for, visited or called the disabled. They have brought communion to the homes, sent cards, provided transportation.

#### MINISTRY TO SENIORS

16 councils have called or visited seniors and brought them communion, 12 councils gifted them with memberships and involved them in CWL events, 10 councils provided transportation and sent cards of encouragement and prayed for them. Also newly-retired women were invited to join, they organized social events, programs and celebrations. They involved them in intercessory prayers.

#### MINISTRY TO WIDOWED

Fourteen councils have sent cards of condolence and arranged memorial services and / or funeral lunches. Ten councils have called/ visited widows and invited them to attend CWL meetings and events. Eight councils have provided prayer and support after the death of a spouse.

#### 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

Fifteen councils participated in prayers for vocations, 6 councils adopted or supported seminarians, 3 councils encouraged families to invite priests and religious into their homes, 2 sent spiritual bouquets and hosted luncheons for priests and religious. Three members visited the World Day of Prayer for Vocations website and one member watched the video on YouTube regarding the call to serve God through a vocation to the ordained ministry and religious life.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL COMMUNITY LIFE  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020  
LINDA MADDAFORD**

This report is based on 25 councils reporting out of 67 active councils and 1 inactive council. Thirteen councils had a Community Life chair and in twelve the position was vacant. Half of the respondents held the position more than once.

A good number of councils have given financial support to organizations helping with domestic violence, and homelessness. Two have given a donation toward alleviating human trafficking. A quarter of the councils reported providing financial support toward poverty agencies and almost the same number have given volunteer time for poverty issues. Five donations were made to CNEWA, Catholic Near East Welfare Association projects. Two councils gave to the annual Development & Peace 1% program and two made a donation to Canadian Food for Children. An additional 27 donations were made to the charities listed in the questionnaire with Chalice, Save a Family Plan, and Operation Christmas Child receiving five or more financial gifts.

Three councils brought in a guest speaker; the talks were on poverty, homelessness, racism. More than half of the reporting councils had read Canada’s 2018 Human Trafficking Consultation Report. Twenty-one councils took part in the 2020 International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking, but did not provide details on how they observed that day.

64% of reporting councils found that their support for Social and Economic Justice was affected this year due to the pandemic, yet half of our councils still found ways to assist those in need. Even though in person events such as Seniors birthday parties had to be cancelled, some councils stayed in contact by

sending greeting cards, sympathy cards and mass cards to their members. Some councils reached out with regular phone calls to seniors in their parish and also dropped off/picked up Missals, calendars and membership fees. In some areas members provided baking and other goods to make bagged lunches when the hot meal program had to be suspended. One council sent birthday cards and took Christmas cookie baskets to their seniors. One council is starting a Catholic Girl's League in their parish. We collected and contributed boxes of food to our local Salvation Army, as well as personal items to Women's Shelters.

Four years ago one council and their CWL president helped establish a Friendly Phone Link Program. The program was created to assist elderly persons living independently with a morning and evening check in phone call to stay in touch and ensure their safety. After the first year the Red Cross become involved. The program has been of such value that they hope to roll out a province wide system.

On the whole, we have a fair to good understanding of refugee and immigrant issues, but have not followed or read recent Resolutions pertaining to The Refugee and Immigrant Protection Act or any Amendments. A small number of chairs and councils, 6 or fewer, are following child labour issues, and are becoming knowledgeable in economic issues of developing countries. We have not participated in citizenship ceremonies or Indigenous days, but half have participated in and support Remembrance Day, the Poppy Campaign and Remembrance Day.

One council commented: To look beyond the boundaries of our community has been more challenging this year. A large number of our members are mostly inactive; even our generally more able members fall into high risk categories for Covid-19. So we have made greater attempts to just stay connected especially since computerized communication doesn't work for all. Our ladies are very prayerful, so many "behind the scene" endeavours have been supported in that way.

I wish to thank and encourage all councils that support Community Life and work for social and economic justice at their local levels with or without a chair for this committee. I am so inspired by the determination of our ladies to make a difference in their communities through prayer, financial donations, volunteer time, and food, baking and gifts of other goods. And the efforts you have made to stay in touch with your council members and those isolated during this pandemic has been exceptional.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL COMMUNICATIONS  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020  
LYNDA THUL**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and it's impacts on our many CWL councils over the last year, most of the functions and activities done under the CWL looked different than they normally do. We saw far fewer meetings, and those we did hold were done virtually. Zoom meetings, phone calls and email became the more common ways of connecting this year.

A total of 24 parish councils responded to the Communications Annual Survey, out of a possible 69 in the Diocese of Regina. This represents a 35% response rate. This is a decrease from 26 councils that reported in 2019.

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 2020:
  - Care for Our Common Home – Year Two
  - Inappropriate Medication Prescribing for Older Adults
  - President’s Message
- 2) Spring 2020:
  - Our History is Filled with Faith, Fun and Fulfillment
  - Looking Back, Looking Forward
  - Something Beautiful from God
- 3) Fall 2020:
  - President’s Message
  - From the National Spiritual Advisor
  - 100 Years is Good! 200 Years is Better!

A couple of themes expressed regarding potential future articles included:

- Abortion and Euthanasia
- Methods to attract potential new / younger CWL members

## **Media for Evangelization**

The majority of councils did not promote either faith-oriented programs or 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:

- Salt + Light TV
- Other
- Vision TV

Most councils did not share with members information regarding the April 26, 2020 League-Sponsored Mass.

## **Media to Promote the League**

The majority of councils used the following media to promote the League and share information:

- Visiting CWL on Facebook or Twitter
- cwl.ca website
- telephone committees
- email to share meeting agendas and minutes

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

- church bulletins
- e-mail
- telephone committees

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

Most councils either did not encourage, or were unsure whether members were encouraged, to monitor media content.

For the most part, there were no instances where the council or member spoke out about inappropriate content, with the exception of the TV show “Mary Kills People” – people were encouraged not to watch this program as it promotes euthanasia.

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

The majority of councils did not produce a newsletter. Of those that did, in the majority of cases it is prepared by the President and distributed via email.

### **Media Relations**

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

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

### **Pornography**

The majority of councils haven’t taken any steps to becoming informed about the influence of pornography on children and adults. Of those who have, the top 3 steps were identified:

- read newspaper articles
- reviewed current legislation
- viewed the website [fightthenewdrug.org](http://fightthenewdrug.org)

The vast majority of councils chose not to distribute League’s *Pornography Hurts* postcards. Of those who did, they were distributed early in the year.

The vast majority of councils chose not to promote either the documentary *Over 18*, or 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:

- written 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 were not aware of the strategic planning monthly updates on the national website, nor were they reciting the strategic planning's Renewal Prayer at meetings.

## **Summary and Final Thoughts**

Most councils had viewed the national website.

Some themes described regarding the national website are as follows:

- Liked using it, positive experience, informative
- Less computer savvy, hard to navigate without assistance
- Prefer to correspond by mail
- Some information is only on the website and not found elsewhere (email, etc.)

Some themes described regarding the council's communication activities:

- Concerns regarding nursing home construction
- Positive response to email updates and newsletters
- Teaching each other to use Zoom
- Lack of a Communications Chair

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

- Lack of a Communications Chair
- Lack of computer skills or access to a computer
- Inexperience in the role of Communications Chair, find the role overwhelming
- Limited communication due to the pandemic

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

- Most had nothing to share.
- Some contributions were made as individuals within the community.

This concludes my report.

## **REGINA DIOCESAN CWL HEALTH AND EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT 2020 REPORT SUBMITTED BY JANETTE RIEGER**

The Education and Health Standing Committee is currently vacant.

Of the 67 active councils in the Regina Diocese, 25 councils completed an E&H report, which is only one less report than last year. Considering the interesting year that we have experienced with COVID, this is a good completion rate. Of the reporting councils, only half have this position filled and the majority of them were appointed to the position, and half of all respondents have previously held this position. Again, half of the respondents have been a member for more than 25 years, but the other half have been members for 15 years or less which indicates that some new members are taking leadership positions. The vast majority of the respondents are over the age of 55.

Most respondents do not have any interaction with Catholic schools but that is understandable as many rural councils do not have a Catholic school option. The councils that did identify needs of the Catholic schools mostly saw a need for scholarships, food programs, and extracurricular activities. Most councils are not aware if there are family life programs in the area or diocese. The majority of the respondents were not familiar with Catholic universities in our diocese or of scholarships and bursaries that are available to Catholic women to further their education. Over half of the councils provide a bursary or scholarship, mostly to high school and university students, sponsorship for the MyGen Rally, and to NET Ministries of Canada. As a reminder, the Diocesan Executive Council continues to present a \$1,000.00 annual entrance scholarship to a student of Campion College, at the University of Regina, whose mother is a CWL member. This year's recipient was Alex Beauchesne. As well, members should be reminded that the national CWL offers a bursary to members which can be found under 'To Organize', '500 Series', '552' on the national website. Of all the respondents, they know of one member who made an application to the National Bursary Fund. Councils donated to the National Bursary Fund and to Coady International this year.

Most councils have not heard of, or have not participated in the CWL Mental Health Postcard campaign. These postcards can be found on the national website under 'To Organize', '100 Series', '177'. As well, very little has been done to support national organizations that focus on the health and wellness of Canadians. Due to COVID-19, this has been a difficult year to meet, but awareness of mental health and physical health is probably more important now than ever. The councils that are supporting national organizations have focused on the Heart & Stroke Foundation, MaterCare International, the Alzheimer Society of Canada, the Canadian Cancer Society, the Canadian Diabetes Association, and the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada. Unfortunately, only 2 respondents are aware of the CWL's Canadian Blood Service Partners for Life Program. Under the Partners for Life Program, CWL members are encouraged to register under the CWL's Partner identification of **CATH011269**. This way the CWL will be recognized by its members who donate blood.

Half of the councils either encouraged or arranged for members to participate in prayer for the 12 hours of Prayer for Palliative Care, some even provided members with a prayer kit. Most councils did not use the Palliative Care postcard (#180 on the national website, under 'To Organize', '100 Series'). Advanced care planning was also not a priority for councils.

Half of the councils participated in the Care for Our Common Home initiative, by increasing awareness of recycling and by planting a tree to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CWL. Other initiatives include reducing water usage, and eliminating non-refillable bottled water. World Water Day was not a focus of councils, but one council did make a donation to a new drinking well in India. While councils did not participate in Earth Day on April 22, 2020, they did discuss recycling, and reducing the use of Styrofoam, paper, plastic water bottles, and plastic straws.

Half of the councils are aware of the technology to alter genes in light of the teaching of the Catholic Church. Some councils plan to do more reading on this topic and plan to hand out pamphlets to educate members. Councils are not focused on bioethics.

The majority of the closing comments echoed the sentiment that "as everyone is aware, this past year was one like no other". Unfortunately, these circumstances severely curtailed what our normally very active members are able to do. May the year of 2020 be considered our sabbatical year and may all members come back renewed and refreshed to carry on the work of the League, for God and Canada.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL LEGISLATION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020  
BLANCHE BELLERIVE**

Councils Reporting: 26 of 68(67 active, one inactive) councils: approximately 38% response rate.  
Number of Reporting Councils with Legislation Chairpersons: 8  
Number of Reporting Councils with no Legislation Chairperson: 18

The first portion of the annual survey asked only those councils who have a chairperson to respond, only 8 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 Hansard, the official printed record of federal government proceedings. They were divided about a third each as to feeling not informed, somewhat informed, to well informed, regarding issues at all levels. They felt most informed about issues at the federal level, where three quarters were somewhat to well informed.

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 5 federal bills in particular. The majority of respondents was very aware or had some knowledge of the bill pertaining to Bill C-7 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying). Respondents only had some knowledge or were not aware (about half and half) of Covid-19 Emergency Response Acts (Bill C-13 and C-14) and Canada Emergency Student Benefit Act (Bill C-15). Most respondents said their councils were not aware of Bill C-71 An Act to Amend Certain Acts and Regulations in Relations to Firearms, although some had some knowledge and one response was very aware. Other federal bills that councils have monitored and/or acted upon included Bill S-203, Protecting Young persons from Exposure to Pornography Act and Bill C-233, the Sex Selective Abortions Act. Several respondents reported they and/or their councils had participated in writing letters to government officials concerning Bill C-7 (re: MAiD).

The majority of respondents are not monitoring provincial legislation, but those who are reported Protection of Conscience Rights for Medical Professionals to be something they monitored and/or acted upon.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL RESOLUTIONS  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020  
BLANCHE BELLERIVE**

Councils Reporting: 26 of 68 councils (67 active, one inactive): approximately 38% response rate.  
Number of Reporting Councils with Resolutions Chairpersons: 8-all of which are shared with the legislation standing committee for those councils.  
Number of Reporting Councils with no Resolutions Chairperson: 18

None of the members who replied to the 2020 annual survey have attended a workshop pertaining to resolutions this year. The communiqués and reports are read by all of the chairpersons. There was minimal interest in topics that could lead to a resolution. With no meetings taking place for the most

part any sort of work on Resolutions came pretty much to a stand still. However one council considered forming a resolution and prepared it last year. 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.

Only about one third of the reporting councils are familiar with the resolutions that require action as listed on cwl.ca. There were no provincial or diocesan resolutions passed in 2020, so therefore there was no action taken at those levels. Some of the actions undertaken by councils regarding resolutions were to raise awareness through meetings, e-mail or newsletters, write letters, and sign petitions. One Council reported that they held a letter writing session and one Council reported that they met in person with their local government representative.

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 and just being able to generate interest. One Council mentioned specifically that they are hoping the new proposed system of 3(pillars) “will help as resolutions are very important that all members take part in”.

We are fortunate that last year one council has 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 2020  
JOAN POPOFF**

This past year has been very challenging with meetings being suspended for many months due to the pandemic and COVID-19 restrictions in place. It is believed that this was one of the factors that had only 25 out of 67 councils completing the year end annual reports on-line. Many councils only had 1 to 2 meetings at the beginning of the year and then tried to establish some type virtual or limited physical gatherings later in the year.

All councils that did report indicate that they have a recording secretary in place. In over 56% of those councils this person also covers a being a corresponding secretary. None of the councils have a separate corresponding secretary. It was also reported that over half of the recording secretaries were appointed to their position versus being elected. The position of the recording secretary 50% of the time is also a signing officer of their council. Many of the recoding secretaries maintain a list of their executive along with their contact information.

For the few meetings that were held this past year it is good to note that there was 100% compliance in recording the minutes of those gatherings. Secretaries reported for the most part that they know where their council charter is located., but there are 24% that did not know. Perhaps this should be information provided to all council members.

As reported in previous reports over 72% of councils indicated that they do not maintain motion books or separate records and only have motions documented in the meeting minutes. Most of the councils do not use or receive written reports from the executive. Smaller councils use verbal or oral reporting.

It was great to discover that 80% of councils reporting indicated that they have a copy of the Handbook for Secretaries from National Office. Less than half or 44% also had a copy of the CWL Personal Letter Writing Guide from National Office. Many councils use proforma letters provided rather than drafting up their own.

As the restrictions continue it is an important reminder to ensure that secretaries are recoding minutes from any virtual meetings and to ensure that if meetings were cancelled or not held that it is documented for archive records. It remains difficult to attract new members and it is hoped that with the vaccine rollout, councils can once again in the future try to return to some of their activities before the Pandemic arrived.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL ARCHIVES  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020  
MARILYN SCHUCK**

Currently there are 67 active councils in the Regina Archdiocese. This year 22 councils returned the Past President survey compared to 28 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. I thank all councils who submitted reports despite all the difficulties.

82% of councils responding have a past president and 50% of these past presidents have been a member for more than 25 years. However, the rest reported having been a member for 11 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.

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 are responsible for **archives**. Two councils do not have someone doing archives. One has the secretary doing this and another has an historian working on them. Most councils have their archives stored in the church or church hall or office. Most past-presidents know the whereabouts of their **council charter** and, hopefully, have it displayed in a prominent place. The methods of storage are photo albums, filing cabinets, banker boxes, scrapbooks, and some use memory sticks and DVDs.

**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 but only

half reported keeping **deceased member histories**. Slightly more than half keep **financial information** indefinitely and, 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 minutes binders. More than half of the councils keep their **membership renewal data** indefinitely with 9 councils keeping it for 1-10 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 records. Slightly half of councils keep **written reports of executive members**, 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 one council reviews them biannually. Most councils maintain a **history book** although some do not. Most consider their **photo albums** and stored minutes as a record of their history.

All, except two councils responding, have a copy of *Constitution & Bylaws* and *National Manual of Policy & Procedure* but most rarely refer to them to help guide a decision or check on a procedure.

Just over 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 (13) 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. **Suggestions to make the president's experience more enjoyable** include meeting with new president to review all the procedures and tasks and supplying a written copy of such, being patient and kind, offering help, making notes, and collecting materials to pass on to her, being supportive in discussions and projects with suggestions for more entertainment and spirituality at meetings.

Most past presidents support the **Planning Strategically Initiative** by attending workshops and sharing that information at local meetings, by encouraging membership to read League news, go online to CWL.ca and to access our provincial website. Past presidents are encouraging members to use the prayer card. Comments on their **greatest successes** included helping CWL to be a very visible presence in the parish financially, socially, and spiritually. One past president initiated a Spiritual Adoption Program to assist Birthright Regina, supported an assistance program for a nurse with connections to Tanzania, Africa. Members did up kits to send to international nursing students. She encouraged members and parishioners to donate items to one of Regina's local soup kitchens. Her members heard from an indigenous elder and Sr. Re-Anne Letourneau about residential schools and the Truth and Reconciliation process. They also had a speaker from Carmichael Outreach Center in Regina to speak on their work with the homeless and those suffering from addictions. COVID-19 proved to be one of the **greatest challenges** for councils in 2020. One council stopped all their projects while another considered keeping in touch with members which they did through newsletters, works of service, phone calls and cards as their **greatest success!** Despite the lack of projects, some councils generated several letters to the government opposing euthanasia and Bill C-7.

Other **challenges** were getting new members, getting members to take on leadership roles to prevent burn-out, encouraging younger women to be involved, and implementing new ideas to older members who feel that change is too much to handle. Not being able to meet was cited along with the difficulty of promoting CWL to the women of the parish.

Thank you to all past presidents and their councils for submitting their reports. This year has been unprecedented in the difficulties that arose but God through His Blessed Mother along with the angels and saints will continue to help and protect our League as we launch into a new century.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL ESTERHAZY REGION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020  
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; St. Andrew, Wapella

**Spiritual Advisor:** Fr. Franklin Emereuwa

**Chairperson:** Donna Sugden

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Lucille Haydt

Councils in the Esterhazy area have experienced a change in their activities this past year due to Covid 19. Many of the councils have not met since February of 2020. Two of the councils had a meeting in the fall of 2020 as it involved only a very people. One council has not been able to collect memberships but hope to in April. Other councils have collected all memberships or are very close to completing. Several councils have limited funds to operate on as there were no opportunities to raise money this past year. One council had a memorial mass for deceased members.

St. Joseph Council, Langenburg will be celebrating their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary in November 2021. They have two charter members in their council and are hopeful they can have a celebration .

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL ESTEVAN REGION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020  
CONNIE GIBSON**

Greetings and well wishes from the Estevan Regional Council

The Estevan region consists of eight councils – Estevan, Bienfait, Lampman, Wauchope, Redvers, Carlyle, Storthoaks, and Benson.

Our spiritual advisor is Father Nestor Gregorie.

The Estevan Region was to host the Regina Diocesan convention in the spring of 2020. We hosted a planning meeting in January 2020 where representatives from the Regina diocesan executive, Janette Rieger and Yvonne Bachelu, and representatives from Estevan Region councils were able to attend. The meeting started with a tour of the convention venue, the Estevan Legion. The meeting followed in the basement of the Estevan parish. Lots of good discussion and plans were made and put in motion. The

next planning meeting as set for March 2020, however that did not come to fruition as COVID restrictions were taking place on a global level. The decision was made to postpone the meeting for a couple weeks until we could gather. As everyone knows, that didn't happen as restrictions became more stringent and continued to be in place. The decision was made to cancel the convention for the safety of all members.

The rest of 2020 proved to have more cancelled meetings, fundraisers and activities for all councils as COVID restrictions remained in place. Most councils did not host meetings for the safety of themselves. Estevan council had some members drive around the outskirts of the city reciting the Rosary. They said "this was a very moving experience praying for our community during this pandemic".

The Estevan Regional Annual General meeting which is usually held in the fall was also cancelled. This was to be an election year. The executive for the Estevan Region stepped down and all positions remain vacant at this point. We ask for prayers that these positions can be filled.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL MOOSE JAW REGION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020  
LYNDA THUL**

This report comes from the following Councils:

Church of Our Lady – Moose Jaw; St. Joseph – Moose Jaw; St. John the Evangelist – Marquis.

This year has been challenging in as far as keeping things active in our CWL Councils. The different Councils have not had the opportunity for face to face activities and have had to resort to other means as far as trying to keep things alive and well.

Some of things the St. Joseph Council did was to...

- Phone members to keep in touch
- Drive around town to pick up memberships
- Deliver Missals and Calendars
- Learn to attend virtual Zoom meetings
- Etc .....

The Marquis Council has been very quiet throughout this time ... two meetings were held with really no other activities at all throughout the year.

Some of the things Church of Our Lady Council has done are...they also held two meetings in 2020.

- Reached out by phone and letters to CWL members and shut-ins
- Many activities were cancelled due to the pandemic such as the Fall Gathering, Advent Brunch and Bazaar...

Hopefully in the coming year we will be able to reunite as councils face to face, and continue doing our best, 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 2020**  
**JUDIE WILLIAMS**

This year, 2020, was a year like no other. Covid hit the world, masks were worn everywhere, church attendance was restricted and the CWLs in our region were very limited in what they were able to do. 2020 was the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CWL in Canada, definitely a time for celebration. But alas, celebrations, special events and even meetings and conventions were unable to be held. History was made, but not celebrated. The councils in our region did the best they could.

President Mary Ann Lyons from St. Joseph's CWL in Indian Head:

She reports that they had 104 members for 2020. Their membership drive was conducted by phone, letter writing, and personal contact. Father Francis helped out by talking to members after masses in our Central Pastoral Region. To date we have submitted 2021 dues for 96 members. We continue to contact these unpaid members hoping that they will renew. However, we have five members that will not be renewing.

How did we keep in contact? Well, Father Francis wrote letters three times and included reflections for Advent and Lent. He also included a mask with the CWL logo and sent each of us 'The Light of Christ' in the form of a small flashlight. He also bought each member a CWL history book and a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary pin and pen.

I hand wrote a personal note to each member in July. We continue to call to check up on one another.

We had planned a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary tea, in May, to welcome our new members and recognize our long serving members. We had one 50-year and one 65-year member. Again, Father purchased three CWL scarves and three pins. These were drawn for. One for a renewing member, one for a new member, and one for a recruiting member.

Christmas Card Greetings were sent to our Nursing Home residents. 39 cards were sent.

Father Francis and two of our members were booked into National Convention. How disappointed we were when it was cancelled.

In August, Father was asked to say a mass for all CWL members. It was on the day that Provinces would have been together at National. Following mass refreshments were served in accordance with Health rules. We had 17 members and guests.

Father celebrates Mass for all CWL members on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

Twice Mary Ann asked CWL members to stay after mass to keep them up to date. Our members are not computer people, so Virtual meetings are not possible.

We had been working on a Resolution regarding children mining Mica for quite some time. This was completed and was to be presented at the Diocesan Convention in 2020. However, this has been put off until 2022.

We paid our Pro-Life membership and Save a Family support.

My wish for our council is that someday soon, I'll be able to call a meeting and a social gathering. We have members in Indian Head, Qu'Appelle, Wolseley, Grenfell, Windthorst, Glenavon, Regina and Okotoks, AB. So, as you can appreciate, it is no small task to be in touch with everyone.

Thanks to Father Francis for his help and his encouragement.

President Carleen Gaudet writes from Sacred Heart Parish in Raymore:

The year 2020 was a complete wash as far as meetings went. We were having difficulty gathering people long before Covid. Once the virus arrived it wasn't even an option as most of our members either out-rank me in age, are responsible for elderly family members, or are immune-compromised themselves.

Our membership for 2020 was 17 as ladies who joined us only for occasional social gatherings chose to discontinue their memberships. One lady moved away and transferred her membership to her new local council, so that was a blessing.

On the local level, we do not have any standing committees. Our members are active within the parish. We, as individuals, are active in music ministry, sacristans, parish council (currently five of us), visiting the sick and bringing them communion (until Covid), volunteering at the local care home (again, on hold). Council members make the schedule for monthly adoration to ensure there is always someone with our Lord.

As far as virtual events go, we did not participate. This is in great part due to the fact that I, first and foremost, am not computer literate. I require my husband's assistance in almost everything I need to do. This, coupled with the fact I was away from home during the events, made it impossible for me to join. I was occupied with other things. Our council does not have members' e-mails so I could not even forward the information to them (with or without help). Some of our members are not online. I have encouraged our members to keep in touch the best they can by reading the magazine.

The one thing that remained totally intact was that we continue to offer masses, mostly for repose of soul, for deceased members of our members' families. We did offer a mass of thanksgiving for a member on her 100th birthday. With some creative planning many of her children celebrated with us even as she was unable to be there as she lives in a nursing home.

We had an ongoing fund-raiser for CNEWA which we concluded at the end of November, 2020. It was a jar on a table in which people dropped spare change, and even some bills, in support. We sent CNEWA just under \$200.00. It was great to have helped someone well beyond our parish.

Going forward, I am weighing the possibility of an in-person meeting as regards per capita fees, etc. Time will tell where that leads. Three of our members live in three separate care homes. A fourth member is living out her remaining days in her family's care as terminal cancer progresses. A fifth member will be undergoing surgery for cancer in just a few days. My hope is that the remaining members, or at least some of them, will agree to attend a meeting.

President Gladys Ollinger from St. James council in Southey:

We are continuing greeting cards, making phone calls to members, especially shut-ins—this could be everyone of us, I am delivering a little birthday cake to each member. Bess, from Regina, is making birthday phone calls. Not doing monthly meetings. We are fortunate to be able to register for Sunday mass. Everyone is diligently following Covid regulations.

President Mona Kish from St. Patrick's council in Cupar:

St. Patrick's CWL had 28 members for 2020. They were in contact with these members through announcements in church, phone calls and emails. Father Prince likes social media and announcements such as reconciliation, etc. were posted for members to see.

The 2021 membership drive was announced at masses, annual newsletters, financial reports, etc. Members were requested to include their CWL membership renewals along with their mass collection. 19 members renewed.

No meetings were held. They had planned to attend the World Day of Prayer. St. Patrick's Day is their usual parish celebration. An Irish Stew supper was planned but unfortunately, they had to cancel due to health restrictions. They were able to send donations to Telemiracle and Souls' Harbour. No meetings, not even for Easter. The ladies are missing Divine Mercy once a week, Friday visits to the Shalom nursing home and helping out with weekly masses.

They are keeping up with the parish newsletters and magazines including The League magazine. They are really missing the spiritual gatherings and they hope they will soon be able to gather together again.

One of their members had her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday last year. Three members are over 90 years of age. The council purchases their memberships for them. A fourth member is also over 90, but insists of purchasing her own membership. Their member in charge of Organization moved away so they will be reviewing their records to confirm long service memberships. Due to the ages of their members they usually only have three or four attend meetings.

No reports were received from the following:

Dysart – Mona Kish; Cupar – Bev List; Fort Qu'Appelle – Lucy Koolen; Lestock – Linda Chubak

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL OUR LADY OF PEACE REGION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020  
JOANNE VINISH**

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

**Spiritual Advisor:** Fr. Denis Remot

**Chairperson:** Joanne Vinish; **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. This has now been rescheduled for Saturday, October 23, 2021 in Lafleche. We have invited Chantal Devine to be our guest speaker for that day.

Highlights from our four Councils follow:

**Assiniboia:** We were able to have the January, February and March meetings. After an online survey it was decided not to have any more meetings until it was safe to do so. It was decided that the executive with stay on as is with a member volunteering to be the recordings secretary. We were able to have our St. Patrick's Tea. We held one Executive socially distanced meeting in September to pay bills. After Mass on Sunday a meeting was held in the church and we decided to send money to the Seminarian Fund of

\$200 and with other personal donations we contributed \$425. We have kept in touch since March via emails and phone calls.

**Coronach:** This year has been like no other in the history of the church. Celebrations had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Many things within and outside of the church had to be cancelled. Despite the extraordinary year we have been able to sew “dresses for Africa”, collected and delivered warm coats in donated suitcases for the Regina needy, presented flowers to 4 new mothers and their babies, donated to our Mission family in Honduras, as well as our many other service and benevolent community and church donations. We have 20 members at this time. An open invitation is always out for the women of our Parish to join this worthwhile membership.

**Gravelbourg:** We were unable to have meetings throughout the pandemic time. We missed being able to have our social times at the Villa connected to the long-term facility at St. Joseph’s Hospital. We continue to be readers at Mass but have discontinued serving at Mass. We keep in touch with each other via phone calls and emails.

**Lafleche:** The 2020 year started with a full calendar of events: teas, community service, fundraisers, conventions etc. But then Covid-19 hit and everything had to be cancelled; even our monthly meetings. We have 28 members at present. In September, we did start with our monthly meeting, had a long service award event for 3 members and presented them with their years of service pins. In November we had our Memorial Service for all deceased members along with the Knights of Columbus. It was, and still is a very discouraging and stressful year for everyone. We can only PRAY for an end to this pandemic and be grateful we stayed safe and healthy.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL REGINA REGION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020  
REPORT SUBMITTED by SHARON MAYOR**

**Councils:** Christ the King, Holy Cross, Holy Family, Holy Rosary, 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:** Fr. Chinh Vu

**Regional Chairperson:** Vacant.

**Executive Members:** Secretary – Viola Joel, Treasurer – Aurlie Hodges, Past-Chairperson – Sharon Mayor.

Even though, Covid 19 tried to shut down the CWL councils, councils took new initiatives and demonstrated their creativity. The following is a list of their *new* and yes some of their *old or used* ideas. This report is evidence that for CWL members and with God’s help, “where there is a will, there is a way”.

**Care for Our Common Home** - Two councils planted trees.

**Council Meetings** - Council meetings were held in churches and in the halls where the members wore masks and practised social distancing. These meetings were well attended. One council executive meeting was held via ZOOM, and the next general council meeting will also be held virtually with Zoom. A different format was adopted by a council with older members. They now schedule meetings for the

afternoon and the meetings consist of prayer time, a short business section, followed by visiting and refreshments.

**Communication** – To remain in contact with their members, councils used email, newsletters, bulletin announcements, phone calls and written letters.

**Spiritual Development** - One council has put their members in touch with *livestreaming* Sunday mass. For those who are not computer savvy, mass is just one “click away”. Last Feb. 2020 one CWL council sponsored an all-day retreat, entitled, “Belonging” with leader Sr. Anna Aulie. During Lent and Advent 2020 an email with daily prayers was sent out to members. For those without the internet regular post and phone calls were employed. A council donated monies to sponsor part of a mass on Catholic Broadcasting. Councils are also praying for an end to this pandemic. One council member spear headed a Christmas card campaign, inviting all councils to contribute. Directions were to write a scriptural or spiritual message inside the card and sign it from a CWL member. In the end 500 Christmas cards were gathered and taken to the General Hospital and delivered by chaplain, Joan Rink. The remaining cards were placed in lunch bags at the Marian Center. Another council delivered cards to Wascana Rehab, Extindicare and Santa Maria. As well, this same council sent Easter and Christmas cards to all their members.

**Organization** – A pamphlet (in lieu of a CWL mass) in honor of one of their longest serving council members was mailed to all members. Sadly, one council reported the loss of a CWL member of 55 years. Another council has reported the loss of five members in the past year. Extraordinarily, in January 2020, a council welcomed eight *new* members. Fr. Ken Forster OMI, during a Lenten retreat, stated, “one journey ends, and another begins”.

**Ecumenism** – One council participated in the World Day of Prayer at the Heritage United Church.

**Donations** -- A council has placed a food bank barrel in the church for donations to the **food bank**. Several councils have provided muffins for bagged lunches at the **Marian Center**. Besides muffins, other councils have donated food (including coffee), clothing, gift cards and monetary donations. Charitable donations have continued to local initiatives, **Visitation** House, **Birtright** and **Carmichael Outreach**, Catholic Missions of Canada (**CMIC**) and other Canadian Missions. A council provides a scholarship to a member’s child and/or grandchild who enter a secondary education program.

**Fundraising** – One council invited Fr. Parker Love, as a guest speaker. Covid 19 protocol was followed in the church. The funds raised were donated to the Angel program at O’Neill High School. Another council fundraiser held a bakeless bake sale. Two different councils held basket raffles and another held a flea market previous to Covid limiting activities. **New** One council came up with an idea that was a “rousing success”, a Fall Harvest Sale. Members of their parish donated garden vegetables, lentils grown locally, home canning and baking. Items were pre-sold and pre-packaged for curbside pick up. To replace the traditional Toonie pie sale, pumpkin pies were purchased at Costco and then sold to parishioners. This was such a success that it will continue in fall 2021.

Four Regina councils now have new presidents. Regina Region is still in need of a president.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL SOUTHWEST REGION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020  
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

Due to the outbreak of Covid-19 in mid-March, activities for 2020 were severely restricted. Nevertheless, our CWL sisters persevered and continued their journey in the League with determination. Regardless of the unique challenges that 2020 brought, our councils continued to be strong. They found creative ways to continue to support and keep up with the League’s ambitions.

Some activities before Covid-19 restrictions came into effect were able to be attained. Two councils came in under the wire with their St. Patrick’s Day plans. Other undertakings that took place are as follows:

- \*participation in a “Chili Challenge” sponsored by parish council
- \*assisted K of C with Lenten lunch
- \*represented the church at World Day of Prayer
- \*provided lunch to the local quilting club as a thank you for donations made to the church
- \*Centennial trees were planted in a few communities. Special plaques were made to commemorate the event.

During shutdown, some councils came up with innovative ideas to stay in touch with their CWL sisters. In lieu of the annual Angel Tea/membership drive, Angel Tea packages with various items were personally delivered. A similar activity was done at Christmas. Packages were also delivered to a Care Home.

Understandably, fundraisers were minimal. With all appropriate precautions, raffle tickets were placed in plastic bags and hand delivered. Some councils in lieu of their annual bake sale and raffle, members were asked to make a cash donation. (optional). To date, most councils for the most part have managed to keep up with their annual donations.

At present, some memberships are down but others have managed to maintain their numbers.

2020 was a sad year for the Swift Current Council. They experienced the loss of five members.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL WEYBURN REGION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020  
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

2020 started well for the Weyburn Regional CWL Councils as they started planning their activities for the new year. Several Councils held their AGMs in January and regular monthly meetings in February and early March. Some Councils hosted the World Day of Prayer Service while other Councils attended the services hosted by other churches. Councils were able to host The Travelling Madonna. When COVID restrictions came into effect in March, all CWL activities came to a grinding halt. Meetings were cancelled, activities and events were put on hold for an unknown length of time. Our Annual Regional AGM and workshop was postponed.

Because of the shutdown, 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 activities, they were able to remain active in their parishes, helping with whatever needed to be done. Other councils were able to carry out some meetings while maintaining Covid restrictions. 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. Rose bowls were delivered at Easter and Christmas to members who reside in nursing homes. Masses were offered for members who were ill and for members who passed away.

Some Councils took part in the letter writing campaign opposing Bill C-7. Trees were planted to commemorate the CWL National Centennial. Members viewed many CWL online presentations such as the Summer Speaker Series, Provincial workshop in October, Women in Mission presentation, annual reports webinar. Fundraising was very limited with some Councils able to hold very successful raffles. Councils were able to continue with their planned donations.

While facing the adversities that 2020 brought, all of our Councils continue to fulfill the mission of the Catholic Women's League which calls its members to grow in faith and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL YORKTON / MELVILLE REGION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020  
EVELYN BANKS**

St. Gerard's Yorkton reports they have a membership of 150 members, with five new members and unfortunately six members were deceased in 2020. In the past membership drives were used however this year members were phoned regarding their annual fees, this was a means of socializing with our members, catching up on their physical, emotional well being.

St. Joseph's Canora reports they were able to have their Valentine Tea & Bake Sale - one of their fund raisers, unfortunately as everyone is aware that on March 16/20 Covid-19 was declared a pandemic and all activities stopped. Membership drive was done entirely by e-mail and phone we have 42 members with 15-18 active members. We CWL members of Canora really miss the friendship and socializing as all councils throughout our region.

St. Patrick's - Sturgis "The Crazy Covid-19 Year."

All of our executive agreed to stay on for another year. We hosted World Day of Prayer and had our Pie Social fund raiser on Mar.14/20. With the declaration of the Pandemic on Mar. 16 we were not able to be involved in many activities such as Long Term Care birthdays, coffee after Mass and also many fund raisers. In spite of all the challenges we participated in the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care, provided packages for our local women's shelter. Enjoyed meetings in accord to protocol, collected 2021 fees and supported our Local Food Bank.

Preeceville CWL participated in the World Day of Prayer, continued membership in Catholic Hospital Assoc of Sask. donated to " Filling the Gap", (support for local families in need) but were unable to participate in a scheduled month of Meals on Wheels.

St. Henry's Melville celebrated 60 years as a council on Feb.20/20. Hosted World Day of Prayer, donated to TeddyBears Anonymous and to Telemiracle. A tree was planted at the Church Grotto in commemoration of the League's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Prayer for Palliative Care was provided for members to pray during week of Palliative Care, as well as BillC47 with instructions to contact members of parliament. Each month a CWL member and her husband provide a rose to be placed at the tabernacle. During Covid-19 the president has sent out a news letter to all members informing them of what is happening at the diocesan, provincial and national level. Puts small write-ups in parish bulletin, provide Masses for deceased members, send greeting cards to people celebrating a special birthday or anniversary.

St. Stanislaus- Ituna Though small in number continued the 50/50 raffle, catered to funeral lunches, all that stopped Mar.16th., Delivered food for the Food Bank in Melville, also hosted World Day of Prayer.

St. Stephen's - Kamsack We have 17 members with 6-8 active, this year five members passed away. Hosted Telemiracle breakfast where all churches attend and all proceeds at door are sent. Hosted World Day of Prayer. All fund raisers came to and end as they did at all other councils. Prior to Covid-19 masses were celebrated once a month at Eaglestone Lodge Personal Care Home and the Nursing Home, at present that has not resumed. We celebrated birthday party at Eaglestone Lodge in February 2020. Members are in volved with the washing of all church linens, decorating of church and liturgy.

Please be in informed that our Spiritual Director is Father Joseph Kuruvilla.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL TREASURER  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020  
VIOLA JOEL**

Thank you to the 30 councils that submitted their annual reports for Treasurer. Regina Diocesan Council CWL has 67 active councils and 1 inactive council.

**Donations to CWL National Voluntary Funds**

Coady International Institute	\$800.00
Catholic Mission in Canada (catechesis fund)	\$1,300.00
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition	\$750.00
Catholic Near East Welfare Association- Canada	\$800.00
National Bursary Fund	\$100.00
<b>Donations to Parish/Church</b>	<b>\$39,828.00</b>
<b>Other Donations</b>	<b>\$40,278.89</b>

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

- All reporting councils have filled the treasurer position and 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 were collecting membership fees of \$30.00 but some were \$40.00. The bulk of membership fees are collected in November, December and January and most send in their fees 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. Less than half of councils prepared a budget and presented it to their parish councils for approval. More than half of the councils do not have their books examined annually. Usually an independent individual experienced in accounting matters does the audit.

**General Comments:**

2020 was a year where most usual fundraising activities were suspended due to restrictions imposed because of the Covid 19 pandemic.

This concludes my report.

**Regina Diocesan C.W.L. Treasurer Report  
January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020**

**Statement of Income & Expenses**

**Income**

Membership/Per Capita		\$ 29,808.00
2018	\$ 98.00	
2019	\$ 420.00	
2020	\$ 26,760.00	
2021	\$ 2,530.00	
Donations to Seminarian Fund		\$ 1,060.00
Interest		\$ 97.22

**Total Income**

**\$ 30,965.22**

**Expenses**

Administration		
CWL Supplies	\$ 81.85	
Insurance	\$ 250.75	
Postage	\$ 366.90	
Printing & Stationary	\$ 271.95	
Total Administration		\$ 971.45
Diocesan Convention		
Advance	\$ 1,000.00	
Advance Returned	-\$ 995.00	
Total Diocesan Convention		\$ 5.00
National Convention (2019)		
Meals and Registration	\$ 497.23	
Total National Convention		\$ 497.23
Meetings and Conferences		
Meals	-\$ 52.24	
Mileage	\$ 1,569.20	
Rooms	\$ 100.00	
Total Meetings and Conferences		\$ 1,616.96
Miscellaneous Expenses		
Scholarship		\$ 85.00
Seminarian Scholarship		\$ 1,000.00
Seminarian Scholarship		\$ 600.00

**Total Expenses**

**\$ 4,775.64**

**GAIN**

**\$ 26,189.58**

**Ending Credit Union Account Balances  
As of December 31, 2020**

Chequing Account	\$ 49,025.55
CU Save Diocesan Account	\$ 20,293.88
CU Save Seminarian Account	\$ 569.14
Membership Account	\$ 5.00
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b><u>\$ 69,893.57</u></b>

**Councils with Membership Increase in 2020**

<b>Council</b>	<b># of Members</b>	<b>Increase</b>
Mary Queen of All Hearts, Lestock	11	1
Resurrection, Regina	103	35
St. Anthony Regina	21	1
St. Joseph, Indian Head	104	53
St. Joseph, Moose Jaw	109	2
St. Peter, Regina	72	10
Swift Current CWL #942, Swift Current	170	8

7 Councils with an increase of 110 members  
 44 Councils with a decrease of 227 members  
 17 Councils with same membership

Total Councils 2020 (67 Active/1 Inactive)	68
Total Membership 2020	2738
Total decrease in membership	117

**AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Viola Joel, Treasurer  
Regina Diocesan Council of  
Catholic Women's League of Canada  
March 29, 2021

To the Executive of the Catholic Women's League, Regina Diocesan

I have reviewed the receipts and the disbursements of the Regina Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's league of Canada for the years ended December 31, 2019 and December 31, 2020. The verification consisted of a comparison of recorded receipts with bank activity.

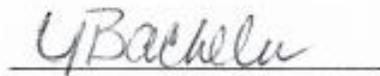
In my opinion, the Statements and bank accounts fairly represent the cash activity for the above noted years. The expenses have been properly authorized and the reconciliations are complete and up to date.

Sincerely,



Harley Ulmer CPA, CMA, MBA

Approved on behalf of the Executive

  
Executive - Treasurer  
Executive - President