

FAITH IN ACTION

June 1, 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Ottawa Diocesan Council

President Lynn Lavictoire
1st Vice-President Teresa Psutka
Secretary Michelle Morrow
Treasurer Diana Baines
Christian Family Life Jennifer Jones
Spiritual Development Janet Warren

Care for our Common Home

"A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings."

Pope Francis in his Encyclical *Laudato Si'* Chapter 2, para 91.

In the last few months, the world has dramatically changed around us. With the coming of the pandemic, our conventions were cancelled. We were no longer allowed to come together for council meetings. We weren't allowed to gather for any type of celebration not even to be in the Eucharistic presence of our Lord. Like Jesus on the cross, we might be tempted to cry out "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" (Matt 27:46). We have lost much and things may never be the same as they were.

There is hope though. St. Augustine expressed it well when he said, "Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are." Anger helps us recognize we are being pushed away from Christ and courage allows us to take those steps back towards Him. This is where we need the involvement of everyone because there are no easy answers. With Christ's love, however, we can forge a new way into the future.

In Ottawa, it has been humbling to witness the participation, resourcefulness, creativity and love of the members throughout the diocese who have risen to the new challenges placed before them especially through prayer and sharing. A sampling of this creativity shines out in "Council News" which highlights the activities initiated by parish councils. It is not business as usual. It's something different, it's something hopeful. It is also who we are.

To help keep that light of hope burning at the diocesan level, we have initiated "CWL Wednesday!" Reaching Out, and Seal the Door posts which are described under "Diocesan Events." Before anyone knew anything about COVID-19, we also said "yes" to hosting the 2021 Ontario Provincial Convention in Ottawa. Anyone who has been involved in planning a provincial convention knows that planning needs to start up to two years before the event. The current pandemic has not helped things! Information as well as some of the trials and tribulations are also described in the "Diocesan Events."

Ottawa remains hopeful that we will prevail as sisters of the League united in Christ. May the light of hope also ignite in all our members across the province and the nation.

Love, peace and joy,
Lynn Lavictoire

DIOCESAN EVENTS

“CWL Wednesday!”



Members in the Ottawa Diocese were encouraged to wear their CWL pin each Wednesday in solidarity with all our members in the diocese and beyond. Sounds funny - why would we do that? Wearing our CWL pin is a reminder of who we are. Putting on the CWL pin tells us we are not alone. Wearing our pin brings us closer knowing another one of our sisters is praying, thinking about us as we wear it throughout the day. There is a sense of familiarity and connectedness. Even though we cannot be with each other right now, we smile knowing we are in each other's thoughts and prayers.

Reaching Out

All our members were asked to reach out to their sisters, families and friends so that nobody has even a chance of suffering loneliness in the midst of our current reality. Even though we cannot physically gather together, we are blessed by so many other means, including the telephone, email, texting, FaceTime, Zoom and the list goes on. By reaching to others, we bring God's messages "do not fear, for I am with you" (Isa 41:10) and "may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace" (Rom 15:13). We need to know that we are present for each other. In our recent conference call with the full diocesan executive there were many shared stories of reaching out.



Seal the Doorposts



This was a voluntary activity for our members which entailed posting the picture of the Divine Mercy on the outside of our doors as a source of protection. This was not a purely CWL initiative but originated as an invitation from the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception as a powerful act of faith. In this time of crisis, we need to storm heaven in every way we know how!

League Development Day

In February, the Ottawa Diocesan CWL council held a long-welcomed League Development Day hosted by the St. Bernard Council. The day began with morning mass, celebrated by our Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Father Paul Gaudet. Moving into the church hall, we began with prayer and then "The Future of the League" presentation given by myself and Diocesan Christian Family Life Chair Jennifer Jones.

Following a short break, our Spiritual Development Chair Janet Warren, gave a workshop on how to enhance our prayer life. She referred us to various books and pamphlets she personally uses.



In the afternoon after a brown bag lunch, we resumed with our guest speaker, Leslie Giddings, a relationship-driven educator and professional facilitator with a unique combination of experience in the education and non-profit sectors. Leslie began with humour and led us to brainstorm about the type of women that could be potential members. We then broke into small groups to consider membership issues and provide ideas on what potential new members, such as a single mother with children or a working woman with a family, are doing in their lives and what they may be thinking, seeing, feeling, or saying about the CWL. We shared some of these ideas as a large group with many of the same concerns being voiced.

Leslie described four principles of sacred hospitality: Invitation, Respect, Rootedness and Openness. She reminded us that people participate best when things make sense to them. She shared the need to connect with new members by touching base with them, by asking questions, by joining them in an activity. We can tell them about social justice done by the CWL, how monies raised from bake sales go to various charities. We need to be authentic and care about them, as this may be lacking in this digital age. This includes going to where they are at – learning about their talents and how they may feel a lack of purpose or may feel incomplete. We need to let them know of the benefits of volunteering, and make them feel welcome and important. They want to be part of something, not necessarily do something.

Leslie taught us to see things from a different perspective. By the end of the afternoon, everyone was energized with a new sense of purpose and creative ideas on membership. Our closing prayer was a fitting end to the day.

Submitted by 1st Vice-President Teresa Psutka

Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel



On the Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel, I reached out to all our members. I phoned some who don't have email. I met one, on my social distancing walk! It sure was a win-win!

One-member lost track of the day of the week caring for her hubby on her own because of the quarantine. Another was disappointed that the cemetery was locked on this her hubby's ninth death anniversary. Another had a son-in-law, an RCMP officer, who had worked in the Nova Scotia area of the mass murders. One was waiting for surgery only to be put on the waiting list for another surgery as a result of an accident on an OC Transpo bus.

Some were glad to be notified about the mass offered by Bishop William McGrattan with prayer intentions for the CWL in its 100th anniversary year as they usually watch the Vatican Mass. We are all in this together! It was so comforting to hear Bishop McGrattan emphasize this.

Our Lady of Good Counsel smile on us all!

Submitted by Resurrection of Our Lord Past President Wilma Murzello

Our Lady of Good Counsel Novena (Pope Pius XII)

Leading up to the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel, members of the Ottawa Diocese began praying the following Novena written by Pope Pius XII who had a special devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel. The Novena is prayed for nine consecutive days and can be said at any time of the year for any reason. The version of the Novena we prayed is shown below.



O Holy Virgin, to whose feet we are led by our anxious uncertainty in our search for and attainment of what is true and good, invoking you by the sweet title of Mother of Good Counsel, we beseech you to come to our assistance, when, along the road ruin by leading our minds and our hearts astray.

O Seat of Wisdom and Star of the Sea, enlighten the doubtful and the erring, that they be not seduced by the false appearances of good; render them steadfast in the face of the hostile and corrupting influences of passion and of sin.

O Mother of Good Counsel, obtain for us (your intentions), and from your Divine Son a great love of virtue, and, in the hour of uncertainty and trial, the strength to embrace the way that leads to our salvation. If your Hand sustains us, we shall walk unmolested along the path indicated to us by the life and words of Jesus, our Redeemer; and having followed freely and securely, even in the midst of this world's strife, the Sun of Truth and Justice under your maternal Star, we shall come to the enjoyment of full and eternal peace with you in the haven of salvation. Amen

Pray three times the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, *pray for us.*

COUNCIL NEWS

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Council – President Joan Lepage

Over sixteen years ago our council approached the principal of Assumption School for permission to come once a month to recite the Rosary with the school children. The principal was really in favour of our doing it and so it began. It has continued once a month since then and the results have been amazing.

Initially the children wanted to play with the Rosary, however, after explaining the meaning of the Rosary they began to treat it appropriately. Gradually, we started to ask the students to lead us in a decade of the Rosary and one student to decide on what mysteries to read. Little by little the children became more and more anxious to recite the Rosary and we became known as the "Rosary Ladies."

After reciting the Rosary, we would then say three "Hail Mary's" for their special intentions. That is when we saw the results of the prayers in action. The students were seeking God's help in finding a job for their dad or perhaps a family member in the hospital. They even asked for prayers for a teacher who was pregnant and that she would have a healthy baby. Better still, they asked for prayers for those affected by the severe floods we had last year. These children will grow up knowing the value of prayer because we took the time to teach them.

Our members have also been constantly making masks for frontline workers during the coronavirus. Also, we have had members praying a special prayer every day during the month of May for more priests in Canada. Although we cannot come together for meetings, we are keeping together in prayer. God bless the CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE!

Annunciation of the Lord Council – President Michèle Hundertmark

The Youville Centre in Ottawa offers pregnant or parenting teen mothers the opportunity to complete their high school requirements while providing childcare facilities. Last year, our council took on the responsibility of raising funds to furnish a new space at the Youville Centre for child care. The goal was to raise \$15,000. This was achieved by holding two raffles, and hosting activities such as a breakfast and three evenings of "Ladies Night Out" events. Each event was very well attended with the purpose of raising the money for our project and offered excellent speakers.

Annunciation of the Lord Council – Spiritual Development Chair Sharen Reynaert

Another council initiative is the CWL Prayer Shawl Ministry which officially began in June 2007. As of March 2020, just days before the COVID-19 era, we had made 1,390 prayer shawls. The knitting and/or crocheting of prayer shawls is a spiritual practice that embodies our thoughts and prayers for the receiver. Upon completion, one of our parish priests blesses the shawls before we give them away.

We have given shawls to our parishioners in times of solace and celebration and to first-time moms when their babies are baptized. We have also delivered shawls to Elizabeth Bruyère, the Royal Ottawa Hospital Day Clinic, Laurier Manor, St. Joseph's Women's Centre, the Ottawa Men's Mission, St. Patrick's Home, the General Hospital Rehab Center, St. Mary's Home, Cornerstone (affordable and supportive rental housing for women in transition), Ronald McDonald House and the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO).

During the pandemic we have delivered three shawls and the members have been busy praying and making more shawls. We look forward to the day when we'll be able to meet again.

May the Lord watch between me and thee, while we are absent one from the other.

Holy Redeemer Council – President Sharon Sudsbear



At our Christmas Potluck in December 2019, President Sharon Sudsbear presented long-time CWL member Shirley Sarrazin with her 60-year service pin! Over those sixty years, Shirley has been an active member including terms as president at two different parishes: Holy Name in Kirkland Lake and St. Patrick (Fallowfield) in Ottawa. Shirley was also presented the Maple Leaf Service pin in recognition of her outstanding dedication to the community at Holy Redeemer Parish.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Council – President Frances Murphy-Pike

Our council had a very busy year focusing on raising monies for our three bursaries that we award to grade twelve students. The recipients we awarded had a need for a bursary, were in good academic standing and exhibited life affirming values.

In other years, we have been able to present the bursaries in person to the recipients, but this year, of course, we will have to send them by mail. Since we started raising money for this year's bursaries back in September 2019, the current situation has had little effect on attaining this year's goals, for which we are most thankful.

St. Bernard Council – President Patricia Chaplinsky

When CTV News Ottawa ran a story on fire victims living in tents in an Ottawa wooded-area after they were left homeless from a rooming house fire, Colleen Perry turned to her council. The CWL members initiated the "Poverty Socks" campaign and along with St. Bernard parishioners collected 655 hats, mittens and socks. This overwhelming generosity of mainly warm thermal socks during Advent time brought us together as a faith community.



St. Basil Council – President Elizabeth Larmond Elliot



A few years ago, our members wanted to get a banner. They wanted something unique. I called national office to inquire about rules and regulations and was told that we would need permission to use the logo but, other than that, we could use a design of our choice. We engaged a local artist, Jadzia Romaniec, to work with us in designing and creating a banner. The resultant banner was on full display in the sanctuary during the online mass for St. Basil Council on Sunday, April 26, 2020, the Third Sunday of Easter as well as the Feast of Our Lady of Good Council. The mass was celebrated by our Spiritual Advisor Fr. Daryold Winkler and also included a special prayer intention for the 100th anniversary of the CWL.

We also had a very successful recruitment campaign last Fall, growing from 28 to 42 members. One of our new members, Madeleine Mallett (seated in the photo), turned 101 years young. It's never too late!!



St. John the Apostle Council – President Rosemary Fikis



Last December, we hosted a Christmas Sing-Along at the parish. The CWL ladies put together the reception with home-baked goodies and even some mulled wine which went over really well. We had about 80 attendees and raised almost \$600 for the area food banks.

Our Installation Ceremony took place in early February where I also presented awards to some of our members. Pictured in the photo is Kathleen Kot who received her 65-year pin along with a Certificate of Merit.

Also shown here are Maple Leaf service pins presented to Fran Herman (left) and Helen Wallace (right).



St. Margaret Mary Council – Past President Marie-Claire Patterson

St. Margaret Mary Council (Cumberland) celebrated their 70th Anniversary on Sunday, October 6, 2019 beginning with their monthly CWL Mass followed by their Social Sunday. At the end of the mass, Ottawa Diocesan President Lynn Lavictoire presented the 70th Anniversary Certificate and a letter from our Ontario Provincial President Colleen Perry to St. Margaret Mary Past President Marie-Claire Patterson.



St. Faustina Council



To celebrate the change in council name from St. Margaret Mary to St. Faustina, the Certificate of Organization was also presented by Diocesan President Lynn Lavictoire to Past President Marie-Claire Patterson at the 70th Anniversary Celebration. Our diocesan president also presented service awards to a few of our members. Pauline Murray is seen here receiving her 40-year service pin which received a loud appreciative applause from the congregation.

St. Patrick Council (Fallowfield) – Organization Chair Joy Kehoe



We celebrated our 75th CWL Council Anniversary on Sunday, October 20, 2019 with a beautiful parish mass followed by High Tea. During the mass, all CWL members were invited by the Celebrant and our Spiritual Advisor Fr. Paul Shepherd into the sanctuary – a surprise that touched the hearts of all! Afterwards at the High Tea, Diocesan President Lynn Lavictoire presented the 75th Anniversary Certificate and a letter from our Provincial President Colleen Perry to St. Patrick Council President Catherine Gasper. Catherine on the far left of the photo along with many of the council past presidents. The celebration also included 75 purses for 75 years initiative with Cornerstone Women's shelter in mind. The purses were filled with toiletries, knitted hats, scarves and mittens. The response from our members was so overwhelming that we ended up with 210 purses and were able to support seven women's organizations!

St. Philip Council – President Veronica Gervais

In our 200th Anniversary Year of St. Philip Parish our CWL members performed all the ministries during a mass in June 2019. At the end of the mass our Spiritual Advisor Fr. Bob Poole blessed us and gave us our service pins. We had ladies with 10 year's service up to 30 years of service.

Blessings to all our sisters as we pray our way through this extraordinary time.



St. Philip Council – Spiritual Development Chair Bernadette Nagle

The CWL of St. Philip's country parish is a busy, active one. During the course of a normal year, we were pleased to provide funeral receptions for any family that requested it. We consider this to be one of our most important services to our parish.

We were able to support Catholic Missions In Canada, Richmond Food Cupboard, a Catholic home for unwed mothers, parish needs, local social needs and many other charities who approach us in their need. We feel abundantly blessed that we can answer these calls. Of course, we could not do so without spiritual empowerment, so we have taken nourishment from various spiritual activities in our parish over the past year, e.g., Alpha course, hosted the Rosary and Stations of the Cross, and participation in League Development Day. Due to the present Covid-19 pandemic, our hope is to reschedule our day of retreat which was planned by our Spiritual Advisor Deacon Mark Masson.

Blessings to all our sisters as we pray our way through this extraordinary time.

Our Lady of Fatima Council – President Jean Anderson

“I AM ALONE”

I am old.
I live alone.

I have no one to call my own.
I've outlived my children and friends,
Would you drop in on me now and then?

I am a young mother of babes and tots,
I sit at home alone a lot!
The pressures of house, husband and stuff,
Make me scream at times – “that's enough!”
I need a friend for a cup of tea,
Someone to accept my hospitality
And laugh over life's idiosyncrasies,
This to me is deep necessity!

I am in prison, the bars are my world,
Check in on me if only you would.
A visitor would be a balm to my soul,
My days are long, lifeless and cold.

I am a teen, misunderstood and alone,
I can't connect to make friends of my own.
You in your wisdom of yesteryear,
Could counsel me; alleviate my fear.

I am your Jesus but aged or a babe,
I am in prison and just a castaway.
Come, take my hand for a moment of sharing,
Show me your Christian compassion and caring –
For life is fleeting and fast flows the stream,
Your love is a bridge and friendship, My dream!

DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL ADVISOR



This last year was the first year for our new Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Fr. Paul Gaudet. He has been a blessing to the diocesan membership and involved from the very beginning. This includes leading a retreat for the diocesan officers and the diocesan Holy Hour, as well as presiding at masses such as the annual Executive Potluck Meeting, Advent Retreat, League Development Day, etc. He has been there for us throughout it all and we are truly grateful for his support, mentorship and spiritual guidance.

As well as paying tribute to all the good things he has done as our spiritual advisor, Fr. Paul recently had a special birthday at the end of May. Please join us in spirit as we wish him:

HAPPY 60th BIRTHDAY!

DIOCESAN LIFE MEMBER LIAISON

Moira Matthews

In the Ottawa Diocese, we are privileged to have Honorary Life Member Joan Chesser and eleven life members, one of whom is our current Provincial President Colleen Perry.

I am proud to report that life members are actively involved in their respective councils and parishes, although, because of the historic times that we now find ourselves in, their activities have been curtailed greatly! We are kept busy though, by the almost daily email request for prayers from Ontario Life Member Liaison Jeannie Coleman. This is arguably our most important task. It has been said that when people know others, many complete strangers, are praying for them and their intentions, this knowledge brings great solace in times of anxiety and grief.

This month our life members joyfully welcomed a new member, Joanna Sisk. When life returns to normal, Joanna will be formally welcomed. Until then, she has been "virtually embraced" by us.

Stay safe and as the old saying goes, "This too, shall pass."

FUNERALS AND LONELINESS IN OUR MODERN REALITY

Ottawa Diocesan President Lynn Lavictoire

As the early Church separated itself from Judaism, the Roman culture asserted a greater influence on Christian funeral rites. Superficially it might have seemed that Christianity was being paganized. In reality, the opposite was true: pagan practices were Christianized. Christianity borrowed from Roman practices, emptied these practices of their pagan meaning, and then gave them new meaning which was uniquely Christian. The viaticum is a good example. In the Roman practice, it was a coin placed in the mouth of the deceased person to pay Charon's fee for the voyage over the river Styx to the underworld. In the Christian practice, it is the final Eucharist given to the dying.

In Catholic funerals of today, rituals have developed as an essential part of the rite. They serve to mark the significance of the passing of a life and help us smoothly transition through this time of change. It is also a chance to re-enact stories which allow the participants in the funeral rite to experience the reality of life and death of the deceased in the context of the life, death, and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

A good funeral, however, is not simply a collection of ritual elements that one picks and chooses; it needs to be well planned. The Catholic funeral liturgy is a worshipful drama in which the congregation are participants who play their parts through movement, singing, speaking and praying. They act out the Gospel message, the great drama of life and death. In doing this, they become better prepared for their own deaths.

There is also the sense of journey. The deceased is going somewhere. The community prepares them at the funeral home, prays for them at mass, and then lovingly carries them to the place of departure for burial. It is this sense of journey which is often missing from contemporary funerals. Ultimately a good Catholic funeral is a transformative experience that turns its participants towards Christ. It is also an experience that involves more than the family and friends; it involves the entire Christian community, the Body of Christ.

When a CWL member has died, an honour guard, like the one shown in the photo below taken at Annunciation of the Lord Parish, is a beautiful example of our human connectedness as Christian sisters. We are all part of the same journey from baptism to death. CWL participation is always well appreciated by the family of the deceased.



Today we are faced with new challenges. With the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions on the size of gatherings have severely limited our opportunity to journey with the families of the deceased as they deal with the reality of their loss. At this time when we, as CWL members, need to be able to reach out and touch these families, we are isolated. The sense of journey is lost. The meaning brought through ritual is lost. The embrace of the community has been lost. What is left can lead to emptiness and loneliness.

It will take time until we fully come to understand what future restrictions we need to live with and how we can adapt. In the meantime, we need to be able to find ways to support people who have lost a loved one particularly our own CWL sisters. Many parishes offer online streaming of their Sunday Mass. Perhaps we could encourage our pastors to offer an online funeral liturgy so that the community could participate in a spiritual communion of sisters in the League.

Written cards can mean a lot. At the diocesan level the news from a parish about a member's death can be passed on to the other parishes. Sending a card from the diocesan level is important but sending cards from the parishes would be a wonderful affirmation that the community remains connected even in spite of physical distancing.

The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic will be with us for months and even years to come so we really need to find more ways to adapt to this reality. The death of a member should not be a doorway into loneliness but a coming together of a community and a celebration of the journey of faith of the deceased as they travel on to a new home with the Lord. We need to ensure that the healing power of the funeral journey is not lost and loved ones not forgotten.



IN MEMORIAM



At the age of 88, former Diocesan Treasurer Patricia Mary Lepine passed away peacefully earlier this year surrounded by her family. Pat, as she was known to everyone, was an active CWL member for 68 years and the self-named matriarch of Annunciation of the Lord Council in Ottawa. As well as her role as diocesan treasurer, she held many positions including parish council president in 1987, convened many functions including Christmas Bazaars, bake sales, 20th Anniversary of our council, she put together a Book of Life in 1995, did all the research and kept it current. Pat was the historian of the council and was truly knowledgeable on all aspects of the CWL. Pat also gave workshops for treasurers, received the Maple Leaf Service Pin in 1998 and the Bellelle Guerin Award in 2009. She was an immensely proud member and wore her pins at all functions.

Her funeral, which included a CWL Honour Guard and reception as well as many CWL members in attendance, was a fitting tribute to a Catholic woman who had served her council and community well. Her knowledge and tenacity will be missed by all. Pat is photographed with Fr. Dennis Hayes CC at one of our council meetings.

Submitted by Annunciation of the Lord Past President June Thibault

CONVENTION NEWS

2021 Ottawa Diocesan Convention in Almonte

St. Mary's Council (Almonte) President Cindy Zorgel informs us that her council has graciously volunteered to host the Ottawa Diocesan Convention on Saturday, May 1, 2021. The Business Session will be held at the Civitan Hall, the Closing Mass at Holy Name of Mary Church, followed by the banquet which will be held at the Civitan Hall. More details will follow once we can meet and discuss with the convention planning committee in the Fall. We thank Cindy and her council for hosting this wonderful event.

2021 Ontario Provincial Convention in Ottawa

Planning for next year's provincial convention began last spring with the booking of the Ottawa Conference and Event Centre for July 11-14. Since that time, the convention planning committee has been formed, chaired by Frances Chicot, and things were progressing well. That is, of course, until the pandemic!

The Ontario Provincial Convention will be held at the Ottawa Events & Conference Centre, 200 Coventry Road. Accommodations will be available at the Courtyard Marriott and the Hampton Inn. At this moment in time, we have a link to the virtual tours of the conference centre given by: <http://www.gotyoulooking.com/1ottawaconferencecentre/mht.html>. Once you click on the main link, you can view more by clicking (at the top of your screen) Atrium, Conference Areas, Amphitheatres and Meeting Rooms. The hotels are not able to give us a link yet as we are still over one year away from the actual event. More details will follow and made available on our diocesan website.

Protocols from the conference centre and hotels will be in place to protect both staff and clients from COVID-19. We've been informed that there is plenty of time in which to put their protocols in place. Once the hotels are able to set up their links, they will be able to share with us what protocols they currently have in place.

As time doesn't stand still, we've begun meeting virtually to ensure things don't go off course. This has been a challenge because everything is closed including the conference centre, hotels, suppliers, stores, entertainment and travel bookings and so on. Even our opportunity to advertise at the 2020 Ontario Provincial Convention has disappeared but hope springs eternal and we are challenging ourselves to find new ways to adapt to our new changing reality so we will be ready for 2021.

We have been able to get some of our fundraising supplies as stores begin to open up. Our fundraiser items are based on the provincial theme of loneliness and our provincial president's love of the Rosary. Of course, we will also be having a raffle for a beautiful quilt which was designed and handmade by one of our committee chairs. Most of these items are now available and the latest information is posted on our diocesan website: www.ottawa.cwl.on.ca. Our website will also be continuously updated with the latest news about the 2021 provincial convention.

To ensure the success of the Ontario Provincial President Colleen Perry's convention, we are invited to say a prayer which was composed by our Liturgy Chairs, Marilyn Olsen and Hilda Chow.

Prayer for the 2021 Ontario CWL Convention

Dear Lord...

*During this time of the COVID-19 pandemic
we seek your strength more than ever.
The self-isolation has laid extra burdens and feelings
of loneliness on our families and on our hearts.
And the financial fall-out adds to the worry.
The whole world seems to cry out for relief.*

*We need your help more than ever
to overcome this feeling of desolation.
In these days of trial it seems easy
to fall into the trap of feeling all alone.
And yet we trust that you are with us
every step of the way, giving us comfort and hope.*

*Help us journey from loneliness
to finding strength to sustain us,
in our prayers to You.*

*As we pray our daily rosary we ask
your Holy Mother, Mary,
to intercede with you on our behalf.
We ask for guidance for those who are preparing for
our 2021 Provincial CWL Convention in Ottawa.
As our patroness, she leads us in our service
and in our prayers.*

*And we ask that during this time
of suffering in the world,
we will be led from loneliness to solitude
with strength to sustain us
on our journey of faith and trust.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ and
the intercession of our patroness,
Our Lady of Good Counsel. Amen.*

Composed by Marilyn Olsen & Hilda Chow

2021 National Convention in Toronto

Next year's national convention will be held in Toronto from August 8-11. The Toronto Diocesan Council will be celebrating "One Hundred Years: Growing in Faith, Love and Service." In the May 2020 edition of the *On-Line Newsletter*, a prayer to celebrate their anniversary was made available and found on page 20. More details will soon follow on the national website.

Our Hope

With the cancellation of the conventions in 2020, an opportunity to rekindle CWL friendships from all across the country was lost. Pope Francis tells us that hope does not disappoint. In this spirit of hope, we look forward to a brighter future in which we can meet together again!