

Winter Newsletter



Volume 1 | Issue 2 | Blessed Sacrament CWL Newsletter 2020

Message from our President

“You have a choice each and every single day”.

*I choose to feel Blessed,
I choose to feel Gratitude,
I choose to be Excited,
I choose to be Thankful,
I choose to be Happy.*

As we make an effort to focus on the positive, we slowly rewire our brain, so it becomes increasingly easier to be optimistic. This is called “cognitive reframing”. Being an optimist is vital in 2020!

Wishing you the blessings of peace, hope and love that is Christmas. May our Lady of Good Council, guide you and bless you.

Your sister in the League,
Donna Guiney, President

Updates

Our executive continues to meet electronically to continue the work of our council. Fundraising initiatives are well underway or are completed.

Despite not holding a Snowflake Bazaar this year, we will be able to meet our financial commitments next year, with the help of our members who renew their membership for 2021 (see important information in the Membership Report in this newsletter).

In other news, our new Community Outreach program has been kickstarted with generous donations.

President’s Report

One of my favourite quotes comes from St. Therese of Lisieux: “Never get tired of doing little things for others. Sometimes those little things occupy the biggest part of their hearts”.

Our Catholic Women’s League continues to live this quote in our everyday lives. We have been making calls checking in on others, making masks for the ladies of the parish, feeding the hungry, keeping people in need warm (over 100 crocheted hats were sent to St. Vincent de Paul), sending cards to the bereaved and to those who were celebrating birthdays, sending Mass cards to those who have lost a loved one...and these are just things I know about. Imagine all the other little things our CWL ladies are doing!

May our Lady of Good Council guide you and bless you.

Submitted by Donna Guiney, President

Treasurer’s Report

Community Outreach has been kickstarted with several generous donations.

We have also donated to Lionhearts Inc., that serves take-home meals from the Amherstview Sharing Centre on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 5-6 pm. Close to 400 meals are provided each day. Community members come for themselves, their neighbours that cannot get out and about and even for meals to cover the week.

Submitted by Danna Dobson, Treasurer

Past President's Report

It was discovered that 2020 Issues of "The League" were not received by several members of our Council. We were not the only ones affected, as I have since learned that at a member from another Council received 3 issues this past week. National office did publish a Winter, Spring and Fall issue.

If you have not received your Fall issue, please feel free to contact me at 613 -384-3547 and I will look into it. I believe that this has been a Canada Post issue – Canada Post, UPS –other courier services – were overwhelmed, and continue to be, with the volume of on-line ordering and delivery; especially during the first three months of the response to COVID 19 .

I will approach the National Board, first through the Diocesan Treasurer, and then by email to the National Treasurer-Secretary, to consider allowing members to opt out of receiving a print copy of the magazine and thus reduce the cost of their membership fee. As you know, \$3.00 of the per capita \$13.00 fee National receives goes to print the magazine. The Winter and Spring issues have been posted on National's website.

Submitted by Mary Lou Hills, Past President

Community Life Report

I am the chair of Community Life. Everything was cancelled because of COVID... but the other day I went with Donna Guiney and Danna Dobson to make a donation to Lionhearts Inc. on behalf of our C.W.L. and we had a photo opp. I do mail out Birthday cards to our members from the C.W.L. This probably brightens their day a little, especially if they are alone. I encourage you to make an effort to phone a friend who is alone and have a little chat, they would be very happy to hear from you.

Submitted by Barbara Larmondin, Community Life Chair

Christian Family Life Report

We would encourage our members to send a letter to the Prime Minister regarding a few of the vaccines being developed for COVID-19. Fetal cells from some elective abortions are used by some vaccine manufacturers to develop cell lines for growing the viruses used in vaccines. There are other vaccines being developed that do not create an ethical dilemma. We encourage everyone to say the following prayer by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen every day:

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion. Amen

If anyone knows someone suffering with loneliness and depression during this time of isolation, please refer them to Connex Ontario (1-888-531-2600). There are also resources available at bouncebackontario.ca.

Submitted by Suzanne MacDonald, Christian Family Life Chair

Christmas Message from Father Shea

When Santa Claus phoned last week, I told him that all the members of our Catholic Women's League had been good girls all year long!! So – you can relax...

This time of year, we are inspired by the faith, the trust and the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Part of God's plan was to have Mary show us how to respond to God and his will for us. God approaches us the same way He approached Mary, except we do not get the Angel Gabriel speaking to us. It is the same message: "The Lord is with you...you have found favour with God...do not be afraid."

God addresses those words to us also!! Our challenge is to follow Mary's example by thinking about what God wants, even asking sometimes "How can this be?" and then having the faith and the trust to say, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord." This Advent and Christmas, work on following the example of the Blessed Virgin.

Fundraising Reports

Fundraising is underway! See below for updated information on our three initiatives for 2020.

Virtual Silent Auction

On November 15, 2020 we held a very successful virtual silent auction. The auction was offered online, with items donated by our CWL members and several local businesses. It was a fun event, with participants engaged in several lively battles! Following the auction, winners were notified automatically by the auction program and their winning items were delivered to them. In total, there were 221 bids on 31 items! We ended up with a profit of \$2,007. Thanks to all who donated items, bid on items, shared the auction site link and those who delivered items to the winners. It was truly a group effort that went very well!

FundScrip

The Fundscrip gift card campaign was launched immediately following the silent auction. It is open to anyone interested in using gift cards, which helps our CWL raise money. You get the full face value of the gift card and the CWL gets a percentage of that face value. Forms are available from the parish website: <http://www.blessedsacramentamherstview.org>. This campaign closes December 4 so that you can use them as a gift this year. Call Danna for details 613-634-9621, even after the campaign closes.

Personal Hygiene Kits

We have shared 25 kits with St. Vincent de Paul and the Kingston Street Mission and will keep providing to serve the demand.

Submitted by Shirley McDonald and Danna Dobson

Membership Renewal

Membership Year 2020 and 2021

It would be very difficult to mention 2020 without using the words “pandemic” and “COVID-19.”

Definitely a year that we will always remember, but we may want to forget. Luckily our membership drive was well underway when it all began and we were going strong. We had 66 members (including Father Shea) for 2020. Sadly, we had one death of a CWL sister during the year.

The following members received pins this year:
New Members: Jeannine O’Reilly, Trish Nguyen;
Milestones: 25 Years: Margaret Beneteau, Mary Garrah, Terri Godfrey, Myrna Greenwood, Jane McKenna, Anne Nicholls, Rose Reid, Mary Seifred, Margaret Wilson; 20 Years: Nickie Lake; 15 Years: Mary Grace Amann, Anne Hanley, Betty Hutcheson, Shirley Jaynes, Suzanne MacDonald, Shirley McDonald; 5 Years: Liz Guiney. The Maple Leaf Service Pin was presented to Susan Aubin, Cathy Splinter and Margaret Wilson, for outstanding League service.

2021 will be a great challenge for a lot of reasons, not least of which is the necessity to stay apart. Our Executive has discussed a membership drive attached to this newsletter. A renewal form is attached, and renewing members are asked to complete the form, attach a cheque and drop it in the collection basket or mail slot at the church. You can also mail the renewal or call, and someone will pick it up at your home.

Submitted by Margaret Barker, Membership Convenor



Blessed Sacrament Parish Catholic Women's League MEMBERSHIP FORM

ANNUAL DUES: \$25.00 (please pay by cheque)

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

Birthday month: _____

Type of Membership (check one):

Renewal Rejoining New Member Transfer

If you are transferring from another parish council:

Previous parish (name and city): _____

Membership number: _____

Do you wish to receive the Canadian League magazine? YES NO

Please contact Margaret Barker at 613-888-6495 for more information.

Cheques should be made payable to "Blessed Sacrament CWL".

Mail completed form with your cheque to:

Margaret Barker

103 MacDougall Drive

Amherstview, ON K7N 0A1