

Fall Newsletter



Volume 1 | Issue 1 | Blessed Sacrament CWL Newsletter

Welcome!

Welcome to the first issue of our quarterly newsletter!

In this newsletter we will keep you updated on our council's activities, upcoming events, successes and plans for the coming months. If you would like to see something in the newsletter or have items to share with our members, let us know.

Newsletters will be sent electronically to those who have shared their email address and will be posted on the CWL website. Those who do not have email will receive printed copies. If you have an email address but do not receive information from us, please contact Shirley McDonald (see contact information at the end of the newsletter).

A Message from our President

Hello Ladies! Welcome to our first newsletter!!

In this unprecedented time, the pandemic, we have learned to live life differently. Throughout the past 6 months, the CWL has been keeping you informed by snippets of information. A member of our executive came up with the great idea of a newsletter...what a fabulous idea!!

First of all, I want to say a big thank-you to all our members that have continued to pray for one another. As well, congratulations to our executive that have kept things going during the pandemic. A huge shout out to Fr. Shea, in his ongoing faith and commitment to our CWL and our parish.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service. Through our newsletter we can surely master this.

The Lord blesses those who are kind to one another. In the coming days, I invite you to reach out to one another and check-in to see how your neighbour is doing. If we do this one small thing, the Lord will surely bless you, I promise you.

Donna Guiney, President

Awards and Pins

The following members received pins this year:

1. New Members: Jeannine O'Reilly, Trish Nguyen
2. Milestones:
 - a. 25 Years: Margaret Beneteau, Mary Garrah, Terri Godfrey, Myrna Greenwood, Jane McKenna, Anne Nicholls, Rose Reid, Mary Seifred, Margaret Wilson
 - b. 20 Years: Nickie Lake
 - c. 15 Years: Mary Grace Amann, Anne Hanley, Betty Hutcheson, Shirley Jaynes, Suzanne MacDonald, Shirley McDonald
 - d. 5 Years: Liz Guiney

The Maple Leaf Service Pin was presented at Mass on September 5, 2020 to Susan Aubin, Cathy Splinter and Margaret Wilson, for outstanding League service working "behind the scenes" for many years.

Congratulations!

Updates

Your executive has been hard at work during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have met several times electronically, using Zoom, to ensure that the donations that were approved at our March 10th meeting were distributed. We have also kept in touch with the Diocesan council and shared information with members electronically as it became available.

The following events were cancelled due to the pandemic:

- 2020 conventions (local, provincial, national)
- Diocesan Retreat
- Birthright Baby Shower
- Bake Sale (in conjunction with garage sale)
- Spring Potluck Dinner
- First Communion and Confirmation

We are planning to have a general meeting on October 13th, to plan for activities over the fall and winter months. As the Bazaar will likely be cancelled, we need to look at creative ways to raise funds to support our projects in 2021. Much of this newsletter will be devoted to sharing some ideas for virtual fundraising and other methods of revenue generation.

Your attendance at the meeting, either in person or "virtually", will ensure that we have ample discussion on these topics and enough members to hold a vote. Please consider attending the October meeting.

Fundraising

In the absence of a Bazaar, we are offering several fundraising opportunities to members. Please review these and bring questions and discussion to the October meeting.

FundScrip

This is a campaign where people order gift cards and the CWL will get a percentage of the face value of each card purchased. Members get the full value of the gift card to use. Each vendor card offers their own percentage available to the group. For example, PetroCanada Gas gift card is 3%. For a \$25 gift card purchased, the CWL will receive \$0.75. Every cent adds up to opportunities for the CWL to contribute to our community.

We propose “a paper campaign” for our first initiative. This would involve making the invitation letter and order form electronic to download and fill in, sending monies to a specific address or paying by e-transfers; possibly drive-by pickups. Similarly, card orders will be available after Mass in the parking lot, drive-by pickups or drop-offs as required. Each card order comes prepackaged so there is no risk in handling the cards. Individuals will have 3 days to check and confirm their card order. The Treasurer will prepare the orders online within a week to ensure that changes made are free. A snapshot of some cards is available is below. It may not seem like a lot when you think of \$0.75; Odessa Lions earned \$270 on \$3500 worth of cards.

For more information about FundScrip, visit their website at: <https://www.fundscrip.com/>.

Personal Hygiene Kits

A parish member, who is aware of our support for the Kingston Street Mission, has purchased 16 “back to school” kits suitable for men and women, that were a limited sale item. We have been contacted to see if we would like to “purchase them”. We have several options:

1. CWL purchases items and delivers them to the Kingston Street Mission and/or Women’s Shelter, as directed by membership.
2. Consider this a small fundraising event, where a price is set and CWL members “purchase” the items on behalf of the CWL. Any money raised above the donated price can be used to purchase meal tickets from Martha’s Table; or
3. Combination of the two above – CWL purchases the items and donates them, then also ask for member donations to purchase meal tickets.

Option 3 above could be modified to consider a free will donation model.

If the CWL is not interested in at least acquiring the kits in support of our commitment to support the community, the parish member will distribute the kits as he/she sees fit.

Taking on these kits, in the current COVID climate, seems an efficient way to accomplish the same thing we have done over several years, where we collect all the items and CWL members prepare and distribute individual kits.

Virtual Silent Auction

In a virtual Silent Auction, items are donated for auction and the auction is carried out by an online company for a fee (usually a percentage of the profits). There is no fee for 20 items or less. The auction is offered online within a local area, region, or wider group. The auction may be held within a 24-hour period or over the course of several days. Instant notifications keep participants engaged in the items they are interested in. Winners can pay online or by other means. Many non-profit organizations have raised thousands of dollars in this way.

In the current climate, it would be preferable for our members to purchase or obtain a new item and donate it to the auction, rather than approach retail merchants who have been impacted by COVID. We could hold several auctions per year, if needed.

Virtual 50/50 Draw

Online companies that are registered with the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario may host electronic 50/50 draws for eligible charitable organizations. A license would be required and there would be a fee (1% of the prize board) for the online company. There can be multiple draws over extended periods of time. While there is a good deal of paperwork involved in setting this up, the rewards could quite impressive, ranging in the thousands of dollars!

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CWL WEBSITE: http://www.blessedsacramentamherstview.org/bls_cwl.html

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