

**BLESSED SACRAMENT
CATHOLIC WOMENS' LEAGUE**

**2014 ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**



2014 Annual Reports

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

During the year 2014, our CWL brought life to the Objects of the League and to the League's membership by holding a candlelight memorial on November 11, 2014. The main goal of this vigil was to bring comfort by offering hope in the eternal life with their loved ones and God. We took some time to light a candle for those who had died, another to redeem the pain of loss, a third to pray for ourselves, a fourth for the gift of hope, and finally a candle for Christ who is with us all the days of our lives, may this light never go out. God is our true peace and joy. The closing prayer was: *God of all, we pray to you for those we know and love, but can no longer see. Grant them eternal rest and let perpetual light shine upon them. Grant your servants, whose memory we have celebrated, and to us that inheritance promised to all saints. Eternal God, in whom Mercy is endless, and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your Mercy in us, that in difficult moments, we might not despair, nor become despondent, but with great confidence, submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.*

Each CWL member received a candle to take home and to light to remember their loved one(s) and to remember God is always with them. The SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY, which are Acts of compassion and love, were utilized by showing comfort to the sorrowful and praying for the living and the dead.

ORGANIZATION

In 2014 our Council hosted a *Catch the Fire* workshop for our members and ladies from Railton Council. The workshop was uplifting and infused those who attended with a renewed spirit of participation in Council activities.

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE

Our Council members encouraged parishioners to wear white ribbons against pornography (WRAP) in October. The ribbons were prepared by one of our members and were made available over the weekend. Our parish priest invited all parishioners to take a ribbon and wear it in support for the campaign.

Our Council also supported Birthright in a number of ways. We had a speaker from Birthright attend one of our meetings to present information on the organization. This resulted in our support through the sale of "Tiny Feet" at our religious articles kiosk at masses throughout the year, as well as sharing prayer requests at our meetings.

COMMUNITY LIFE

New this year, our Council chose to donate \$300 to a local charity. The charity would be one chosen by CWL members, with one of the criteria being that the money stays in the Loyalist Township community. This year's recipient was Easter Seals. The Community Life chair delivered the check in person and challenged other CWL councils to make a donation.

EDUCATION

“Students for Change”: Grade 7 and grade 8 students from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School are involved in a social justice program called *Students for Change*, founded by the students and their teacher, Ms. Martin. The students explained how this program works at our CWL meeting, June 10, 2014. Through dialogue, slides, and the sharing of their goals for the future, both the League members and the students enjoyed the sharing of faith experiences.

HEALTH

Our Council supported the Diocesan Mental Health theme with guest speakers this year. At our May potluck we had a speaker from Providence Care Mental Health speak on the clinical aspects and diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease, and at our September meeting we had a speaker from the Alzheimer’s Society speak on *Responsive Behaviour & Effective Communication*, focusing on Alzheimer’s in the community and caring for a loved one with Alzheimer’s. Following these presentations, our members had a better understanding of the illness.

COMMUNICATIONS

Blessed Sacrament CWL members sent postcards for the *Pornography Hurts* campaign to petition the Federal Government members of Parliament to pass a law to stop pornography. Pornography is very destructive towards women and children.

Birthday cards are sent to all Blessed Sacrament CWL members. A Mass is also celebrated for their intentions during their birth month.

All members are phoned by a committee for special events that are taking place in Blessed Sacrament church that are pertaining to the CWL i.e. funeral lunches, baking, and parish events where help is needed.

Web sites of National, Provincial and Diocesan councils have been shared with members to keep up with activities and events all across Canada.

RESOLUTIONS AND LEGISLATION

Our Council elected a Chairperson (the first time we have had someone in this role) who worked closely with the President to assist in introducing the resolutions to the membership. We also worked closely with Father Stan and a couple of members to organize a few speakers in support of resolutions and challenges associated with Mental Health.

HISTORIAN

Our Council history continues to be preserved with documents (minutes, information on special events) and photographs which are available and on display in a locked cabinet in our Hall. We have also developed several display boards that we can set up at selected events in the Hall or in the church vestibule to highlight the works of our Council and promote membership in the League.

2014: The Year in Review

JANUARY: Our annual membership drive is held over the month of January. Our annual budget is approved at the January meetings, as are our charitable donations for the year. In 2014, our Council purchased a change table for the new bathroom.



MARCH: Several of our members participated in the World Day of Prayer on March 7. On March 12, Sister Mary Joseph Mazzerole (a member of our Council) was presented with the Maple Leaf service pin for her outstanding work and support of the San José de Ocoa mission in the Dominican Republic. At our March meeting, service pins were presented to our members. On March 29, a CPR workshop was organized by the CWL and attended by 17 parishioners.

APRIL: On April 5, our Council hosted a very interesting *Catch the Fire* workshop. CWL members from Railton joined us as we developed a better appreciation of our League. On April 8 our Council was involved with Birthright Prayer Requests. On April 15 our “crafty” ladies participated in a craft group to make items that would be sold in our November Snowflake Bazaar. Also in April, Confirmation was held and gifts from the CWL were presented to those being confirmed.



MAY: May is a busy month in our Council! In May, our ladies provided gifts to First Communion celebrants. Our spring pot luck dinner meeting was held May 13. On May 20, the “crafty” ladies met again to complete their bazaar items. Our annual Bake Sale, in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus Garage Sale, was held on May 24.

JUNE: Our Council supported Birthright by selling *Precious Feet* pins before and after weekend Mass. On June 24, our Council presented student awards to two Grade 8 graduating students from Our Lady of Mount Carmel School. In June our ladies assisted with the annual parish ham dinner.

AUGUST: In August, our ladies held a birthday party for residents at Helen Henderson nursing home, in Amherstview.

OCTOBER: The annual Coat Drive was held in October, as was our pie making bee, where the ladies prepared pies to be frozen and sold at our annual Bazaar. In October, St. Denis (Athens) Council became our Council Prayer Partner.

NOVEMBER: Another very successful Snowflake Bazaar was held on November 1. In November our Council took over the collection of stamps for the Redemptorists. Our elections took place at our November 11 meeting and a new Executive was elected.



DECEMBER: Our Christmas Pot Luck dinner was held on December 9, and Carol Daigle was awarded a Certificate of Merit for her outstanding work for our Council. On a sad note, our religious articles cabinet closed on December 31. Religious articles may be sold during special occasions (e.g., First Communion, Confirmation) and during the Bazaar.

AWARDS AND PINS

Our Council presented the following awards and pins in 2014:

- 10-year pin: Esther Dorey, Ida Townsend, Meg Van Eyken, Norma Wilkinson]
- 25-year pin: Bev Lyman
- 50-year pin: Helen Hanley
- Certificate of Merit: Carol Daigle
- Maple Leaf Service Pin: Sr. Mary Jo Mazzerole

GUEST SPEAKERS

Guest speakers were featured at four of our meetings in 2014:

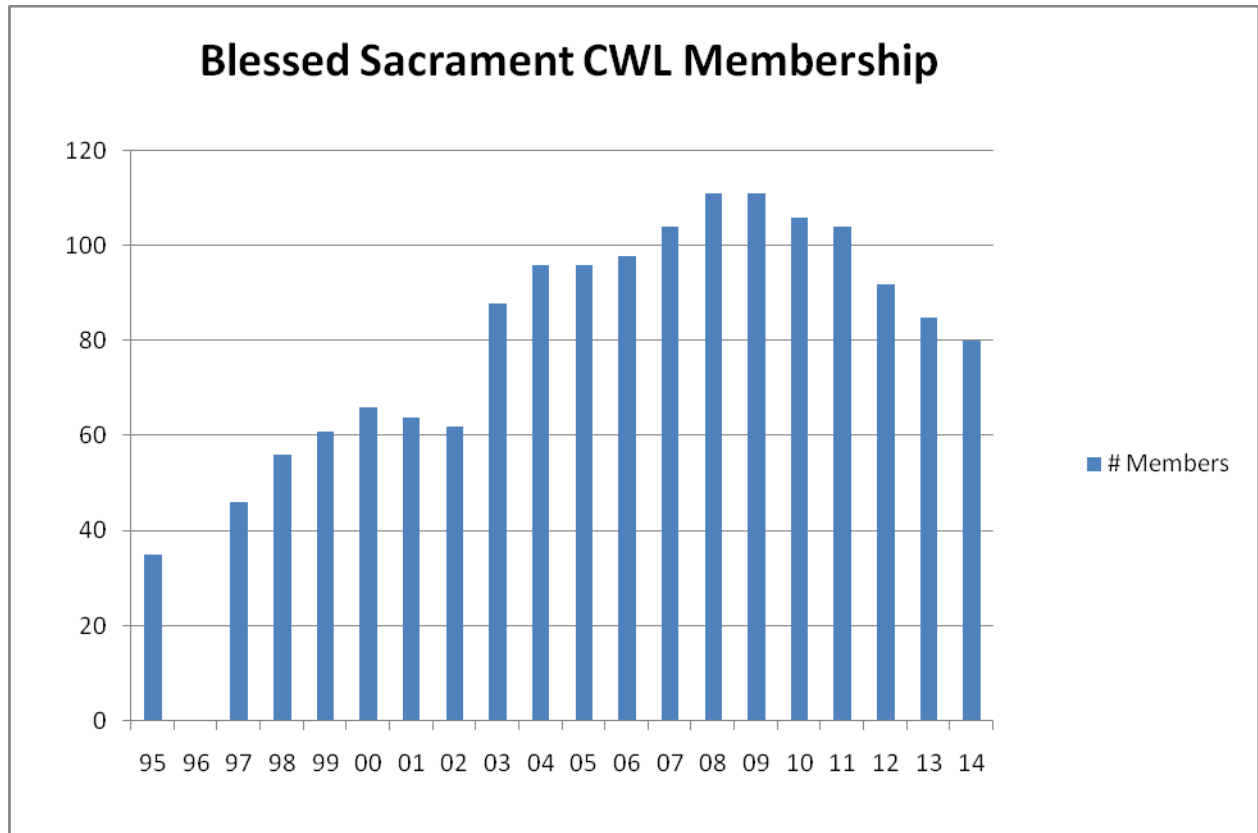
- In March, Marie Sardinha from Birthright spoke about the organization
- In May, Nancy Tieman from Providence Care Mental Health spoke on Alzheimer's Disease
- In June, OLMC students presented Students for Change
- In September, Katie Doran from the Alzheimer's Society spoke on Alzheimer's Disease

IN MEMORIAM

Our Council lost the following members in 2014:

- Sister Loretta Gaffney, RHSJ (January 17, 2014)
- Sister Margaret Morrissey, RHSJ (March 17, 2014)
- Elaine Marshall (June 16, 2014)
- Sister Evelyn Leonard, RHSJ (July 10, 2014)

Membership Growth Chart



2014 Financial Summary

Blessed Sacrament CWL Budget 2014

Income	2013 Actuals	2014 Budget	2014 Actuals	Details
Paid Membership x74	1,850.00	1,975.00	1,725.00	paid x 69
Bazaar Income	3,991.40	4,500.00	4,121.45	
Bake Sale	952.75	1,000.00	758.95	
Funeral Lunches	770.00	800.00	720.00	
Conventions	555.00	600.00	103.00	
Religious Articles	730.00	800.00	561.00	
Share The Wealth	8.50	50.00	32.00	
Donations	0.00	0.00	329.25	
Other	0.00	0.00	1,084.79	CPR fees, Pennies refund
Interest	0.33	0.35	0.14	
Total Income	\$ 8,857.98	\$ 9,725.35	\$ 9,435.58	

Expenses	2013 Actuals	2014 Budget	2014 Actuals	Details
Office	769.31	250.00	333.89	
Kitchen	95.04	200.00	0.00	
Bazaar	134.45	280.00	316.60	
Funerals	649.32	680.00	531.73	
Conventions	842.00	760.00	434.00	
Guest Speakers	50.00	100.00	50.00	
Religious Articles	162.37	300.00	345.29	
Pins/Awards/Gifts	392.50	350.00	0.00	
Clergy Gifts	0.00	0.00	150.00	donation to priest's retirement
Christmas Gifts	0.00	150.00	20.00	Mass for Fr. Stan
Masses	360.00	400.00	460.00	
Charitable Donations	2,216.45	3,500.00	2,742.65	
Donation - Church (from Bazaar)	2,700.00	1,200.00	449.84	change table \$289.75+chairs \$160.00
Donation - Church	842.91	1,000.00	1,200.00	donation approved at Jan meeting for 2014
CWL Memberships x 86	1,720.00	1,800.00	1,600.00	x80
Bank Charges		0.00	18.50	
Other		0.00	1,141.19	CPR training, plaque engraving etc.
Total Expenses	\$ 10,934.35	\$ 10,970.00	\$ 9,793.69	

Balance (Income - Expenses)	\$ (2,076.37)	\$ (1,244.65)	\$ (358.11)
ADD: Balance on hand January 1	\$ 5,168.16	\$ 3,091.79	\$ 3,091.79
Balance on hand December 31	\$ 3,091.79	\$ 1,847.14	\$ 2,733.68

2014 CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Blessed Sacrament Parish

General Assistance Fund

Hope Fund

Birthright

Food Bank

Pennies for Pesos

Project Homeland

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School Graduation

Life after Loss

Easter Seals

Alzheimer's Society

World Day of Prayer

Confirmation Gown Rentals

Foster Family

Priests' Retirement Fund

OTHER DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH

Change Table

Chairs for Hall