

**THUNDER BAY DIOCESAN COUNCIL  
OF THE  
CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA**



**ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

# **Mission Statement**

**The catholic women's league of Canada is a  
national organization rooted in  
gospel values calling its members to holiness  
through service to the people of God.**

## **MOTTO**

**"For God and Canada"**

## **League Objects**

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**The objects of the League shall be to unite  
Catholic women of Canada:  
To achieve individual and collective spiritual development  
To promote the teachings of the Catholic Church  
To exemplify the Christian ideal in home and family life  
To protect the sanctity of life  
To enhance the role of women in church and society  
To recognize the human dignity of all people everywhere  
To uphold and defend Christian education and values in  
the modern world  
To contribute to the understanding and growth of religious  
freedom, social justice, peace and harmony**

**THUNDER BAY DIOCESAN CWL  
DECEASED MEMBERS 2020**

**Maria Atwood  
Concetta Augruso  
Gloria Bagley  
Katarina Baumann  
Mildred Begin  
Rose Bernardi  
Angela Bragnalo  
Iole Brizi  
Gertrude Bujold  
Kata Butorac  
Carol Cernjul  
Giovanna Chiarelli  
Immacolata Commisso  
Franca Costantino  
Rita DeBruyne  
Mary Desaulniers  
Maria Dicastmirro  
Joan Drebit  
Betty Dwyer  
Norma Elliott  
Dolores Eyolfson  
Mary Gallacher  
Mary Geurts  
Mary Gibson  
Janine Green  
Mary Harris**

**Bartlette Kusik  
Verna LeBlanc  
Doris Maki  
Adele Marsh  
June Meady  
Irene Moro  
Marguerite Nephin  
Valerie Noga  
Regina Ortolon  
Zita Perling  
Anna Maria Pollari  
Sophie Potapinski  
Edna Potvin  
Yvonne Rumpel  
Greta Sacek  
Lillian Sechesky  
Mary Siegfried  
Marlene Smith  
Leonilda Stilla  
Lola Tait  
Ann Turgeon  
Greta Waller  
Ethel Wojciechowski  
Rose Zimak  
Verona Zuback**

**REST IN PEACE**



**Diocesan President's Annual Report  
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020**

**Name of your Diocese 2020: Thunder Bay**

**President: Maria Bertoldo**

**Spiritual Advisor: Rev. Michael Mahoney**

**Councils: 25**

**Life Members: 8**

- Annual reports completed by 13 out of 25 councils
- Of the 13 councils, 1 President position is vacant and 5 are new presidents
- Information to inform members obtained from local newspapers, national website, national communiques, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Organization for Life and Family Provincial websites or newsletters, Diocesan newsletters, parish bulletins, The League Magazine and Google searches.
- Current national priorities introduced were Care for Our Common Home, rights of the unborn under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, excluding medical assistance in dying from palliative care/hospice facilities, establishing standards of testing and labelling for products deemed "flushable" and excluding medical assistance in dying from palliative care/hospice facilities.
- These topics were introduced, by engaging the standing committee chairperson, discussed the topic at a meeting, wrote about the topic in a newsletter/bulletin/email, arranged for a speaker on the topic
- Meeting with the Spiritual Advisor, 3-weekly, 4-monthly, 2-rarely, 1-annually and 3 never. All but 2 councils had a supportive Spiritual Advisor.
- The resources used at meetings were Constitution & Bylaws, Policy & Procedure manuals, Executive handbook, National manual of Policy & Procedure and Robert's Rules of Order.
- Events represented by councils were Church functions, Council anniversaries, fundraisers, conferences, pro-life events, workshops, retreats.
- Challenges faced in transition were feeling overwhelmed, not having full slate of offices, finding time, amount of paperwork, member criticism, public speaking, technology inexperience, lack of confidence, delegation, recruiting.
- All but one of the councils appreciate a national theme and like the change with each new President.
- Covid-19 presented unprecedented challenges for most councils, but the willingness of executive members to provide positive attitude of support enabled councils to move forward.
- The greatest challenge in completing the survey was providing information as councils have not been meeting to Covid-19.

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report  
For the period from January 1 – December 31, 2020**

**Diocesan Past President**

**2020**

**Diocese: Thunder Bay Chairperson: Mary Wilson**

**Parishes reporting: 11 Sub-chairperson:**

- • The annual reports were completed by 11 of 24 councils.
- • Length of time on councils average 11-25 years and five 25years plus
- • Fifty percent have held position before
- • The ages of chairperson 55- 85
- • The majority attend executive, general meetings, social and spiritual events
- • The members feel the President is well supported
- • The standing chair is responsible for archives and the Charter
- • Archives are stored in filing cabinets, in the form of DVDs, CDs and memory sticks.
- • The history of the League are preserved in Photo albums, and scrapbooks
- • Annual reports are kept for an average of 5-10 years.
- • The Book of Life and deceased members history are kept indefinitely
- • Financial information is maintained 5-8 years by 50% and indefinitely by the other 50%
- • Past Executives lists are maintained indefinitely
- • The membership renewal data is kept the same as financial information
- • Councils keep executive and general minutes indefinitely
- • All pins and rewards and length of service records are kept indefinitely
- • Over half of councils maintain History books and labeled photo albums
- • All councils have copy of Constitution and By-Laws and National Policy and Procedure but rarely refer to it.
- • Other duties undertaken include Standing Chair nominations and elections
- • Duties as required: chair executive meetings, standing committee or task force, check with National for information, fill vacant position, organize fundraiser, charity event, social event, funeral lunches. Prepare agenda, and newsletters, represent council at convention

Other activities include being available to help president, keep meeting on task, keep a running documentary, be open to change and offer support, updating the Book of Life, have rotating chairs in place of a president. Be available and supportive where needed. Do wellness checks on members.

- • Support implementation of envisioned future, gathered information, reviewed Strategic plan, worked with Diocesan team, encouraged members to get on board
- • Moved to a format that works for council because members are tired of waiting for action. Unsure of what is expected of us as a council.
- • Challenges: recruiting members, younger members busy with family/jobs, time limitations, apathy of members toward contributing, existing structure and lack of willingness on part of National level to hear and respond to the cries to act. Many members in nursing homes. Getting members to meetings, concern of future of League after pandemic. No activities for  $\frac{3}{4}$  year.
- • Success stories: made members aware of strategic plan and probable changes in structure after workshop couple years ago. worked on original committee in our city. Filled out information requested by 1 of the teams. Mentoring new president. Initiating a monthly update to those whose email addresses we collected. Set up phone line for those who don't have email. Apathy. Difficult to get anyone willing to take responsibilities. Everyone is willing to share treasure, but few to share time and talent. Too much paperwork for younger ones. They look for more actions and not constant reporting. Lack of interested members in helping at executive level. We work well together and do what we can. We have found it to be somewhat of a challenge to do all the suggestions that we become aware of when we do our annual reports.





**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA**  
**DIOCESAN TREASURER'S ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT**  
**FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2020 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020**

COUNCIL: Thunder Bay Diocesan

LOCATION: Thunder Bay

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Maria Bertoldo

TREASURER: Dorothy Bechta

PHONE NO: 807-767-4812

**DONATIONS REPORTED FOR PAST CALENDAR YEAR** **\$ Totals (omit cents)**

<b>National Voluntary Fund</b>	
Coady International Institute	<b>400</b>
Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace	<b>400</b>
Catholic Missions in Canada	<b>900</b>
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (until August 18, 2020)	150
Catholic Near East Welfare Association	150
National Bursary Fund	50
<b>National Voluntary Fund Sub-total</b>	<b>2,050</b>
<b>Standing Committees</b>	
Spiritual Development	<b>1,370</b>
Organization	<b>3,081</b>
Christian Family Life	<b>4,476</b>
Community Life	<b>14,668</b>
Education and Health	<b>7,801</b>
Communications	<b>1,010</b>
<b>Standing Committees Sub-total</b>	<b>32,406</b>
<b>All Donations</b>	
National Voluntary Fund Sub-total	<b>2,050</b>
Standing Committees Sub-total	<b>32,406</b>
Parish Donations	<b>27,930</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>62,386</b>

Please submit the completed report to: Marie-Theresa Lamphier, Treasurer  
 Ontario Provincial Council  
 The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
 1617 Katella Ave.,  
 Windsor, Ontario N8P 1P8  
 226-676-0314  
[mtlamphier@gmail.com](mailto:mtlamphier@gmail.com)

Please submit by: March 1, 2021

# Grant Thornton

## Notice to Reader

### Grant Thornton LLP

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On the basis of information provided by Council's management, we have compiled the statement of cash receipts and disbursements of The Catholic Women's League Diocesan Council - The Diocese of Thunder Bay as at December 31, 2020.

We have not performed an audit or a review engagement in respect of this financial statement and, accordingly, we express no assurance thereon.

Readers are cautioned that this statement may not be appropriate for their purposes.



Thunder Bay, Canada

April 28, 2021

Chartered Professional Accountants

Licensed Public Accountants

Audit | Tax | Advisory

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**The Catholic Women's League of Canada**  
**Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report**  
**For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020**

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**Spiritual Development Standing Committee Report 2020**

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**Diocese: Thunder Bay**

**Chairperson: Cathy Carlino**

**Parishes Reporting: 13**

**Sub-chairpersons:**

**Spiritual Growth of Members**

Although most of our councils have spiritual chairs, two of the councils reporting had this standing committee vacant. All but three of the reporting councils have indicated that one third of their meetings have a spiritual component. The reason these three councils said they did not have a spiritual component was due to lack of attendants, an attempt to shorten meetings, and, Covid causing a halt of planned religious retreats.

Our councils have tried to learn more about the nation; however, due to Covid restrictions, they had limited contact. Despite the restriction of Covid, the councils still managed to assemble and deliver treat bags to all our members, participate in Development and Peace/Care programs, hosted prayer service, and, led the Share Lent Way of the Cross. Some councils planted a tree in the church yard for the CWL 100th Anniversary, while another participated in a coat, glove, scarf clothing-drive for people in need. Several councils indicated that they have had zoom meetings and rosaries to keep up with executive duties, information sharing, and to maintain connections with members during the pandemic.

**Study of Catholic Teachings**

Due to Covid, most council have had limitations in what they were able to do spiritually in their respective parishes. They did, however, have deceased members' masses, celebrations of life masses, and 10 days of reciting the Rosary which were broadcasted over a live web feed. They also indicated that they assisted with broadcasting the weekly Sunday Masses on the web, as well as the 2020 First Communion and Confirmation ceremonies.

Other methods to encourage Catholic teachings indicated by member councils included prayer services on: Corporal/Spiritual works of Mercy, Development and Peace, and the Way of the Cross. Others organized and facilitated Rosary Book exchanges and a Spiritual Bouquet Memory Box project for Bethammi Nursing Home.

One council also managed to continue with their Annual Retreat, while others visited the homebound and delivered the Eucharist to Nursing Homes. The celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe was also celebrated and facilitated primarily by personal prayer due to the Covid restrictions.

## **Role of Women in the Church**

All councils indicated a strong participation in the ministries of the Church. Their involvement included acting in the following ministries: lector, music, Eucharistic, hospitality, parish council, finance council, and (RCIA) Christian Initiation.

## **Evangelization and Mission Assistance**

Most council indicated that training would be beneficial on the following topics:

- new prayer services;
- to receive information about activities in a timely matter;
- Mass - structure, formulating Mass intentions, getting volunteers Training on Pope's encyclicals;
- How to lead prayers;
- How to connect virtually with council, diocese, provincial, and national sisters of the league; and,
- some ideas on short programs we can do at our meetings for things pertaining to the League throughout the year.

Others indications some suggestions for improvement:

- less reporting and more hands on action events, and,
- On-line speakers were beneficial and more opportunities would be appreciated.

## **Lay Ministries**

Many council reported active members in the Church participating in the following ministries: catechist, choir/music, cleaning, decorating, Eucharistic minister, facilitator, hospitality, lector, sacristan and ushering. However, the lockdowns and restrictions due to Covid have changed many of their roles.

## **Ecumenism and Interfaith Endeavours**

All reporting councils participated in World Day of Prayer with the other churches, however this tradition is uncertain due to Covid.

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada**  
**Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report**  
**For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020**

**President Elect/Organization**

**Standing Committee Report 2020**

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**Diocese: Thunder Bay**

**Chairperson: Judith Imbeault**

**Parishes Reporting: 10/15**

**Sub-chairpersons:**

**Recruit Members and Maintain Membership**

This has been a very difficult year for members to stay active due to covid-19, but when possible ... personal invitation, advertising in bulletin/on bulletin boards, potluck dinners, membership teas and other social events. Cards or announcements, luncheons, teas or other special events, maple leaf service pin, new member ceremony, presentation of certificates, presentation of service pins, small gifts, reaffirmation ceremony.

Conversations, conduct an orientation session, invitations, member feedback, mentoring, new member kit, welcoming at meetings, participation in sub-committees, Flowers and CWL pins.

**Recruit Cultural Diversity**

Cultural day celebrations and information opportunities, bulletin boards, ecumenism and interfaith endeavours, gift memberships, parish announcements, parish schools, lay ministries, council/parish/League websites, personal invitations, guest speakers, social media (Facebook twitter), emails and texting.

**Leadership Development**

Encourage members to use Provincial and National websites, workshops, adoration, deceased members services, masses funeral honour guard, world day of prayer, rosary, living rosary, station of the cross, ushers, choir, hospitality, lectors, sacristan, Eucharistic ministers, 12 hour prayer for Palliative care, meetings, conventions, involved in resolutions, retreats, sacraments, school ceremonies, keeping our municipal well informed, sent letters to municipal, provincial and federal government. However due to COVID-19 it has been a very difficult year.

**League Resource Material**

Constitution & Bylaws, National Manual of Policy and Procedure, individual standing committee handbooks, Leading the League, The Canadian League, Executive Handbook, and Ceremonies booklet. Also, both the National, Provincial and Diocesan web-site. Directives, Facebook, internet.

**Annual Reports**

The annual reports were completed by 11 to 15 of 25 councils. All reports are kept for an average of 5-8 years. Most members are appointed to this position as membership does not want position.

## Life Membership

8 life members

**Additional:** Our Biggest challenge for President elect, organization. No one wanted this position, so they take it on just to keep up with memberships. Not president elect just do membership. Not in charge of reports. We do not have a president-elect. Not having someone at the executive level in place to report and assume the membership responsibilities at meetings. Due to COVID - no activities can be held this year so nothing to report. We only have 24 members -3 of which are in continuing care. Many duties are shared among 8 members, including rotating presidents. We do not ask and record ethnicity or age. All members are welcome and we do not track personal information. This would make membership job difficult. I just do membership. COVID no meetings. Responsibilities and paper work. Aging membership.

Success Story's Continue personal invitation and encouragement. Members seem to like having time for some form of interaction. Special dinners at Christmas in April in honor of Our Lady of Good Counsel. SPECIAL EVENTS, BUT UNABLE TO DO ANY EVENTS IN 2020 DUE TO COVID.

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada**  
**Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report**  
**For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020**

**Community Life Standing Committee Report**

**2020**

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**Diocese: Thunder Bay**

**Chairperson: Claire Belliveau**

**Parishes Reporting: 11 out of 25**

**Sub-chairpersons: Judy Imbeault**

Prayer has played a key role in all aspect of Community Life.

It has been a struggle to get members to take positions and most are appointed to this position and have held it for more than 25 years. With aging membership over 65, closer to 85 and the young members not willing to join.

Monetary donations have been given to the poor, homeless shelters, homes for Women experiencing domestic violence, the incarcerated, human trafficking bullying, and racism.

Donations of clothing, socks, toiletries, and blankets continued to be sent to the various shelter houses in the communities.

We have become more aware of the struggles facing the indigenous women in Canada.

Guest speakers have come to our meetings and workshops have been held.

Members have been encouraged to participate in the work of affordable housing. Financial support has been given to School Programs (before-during-after). Members worked together with established organizations such as Drop in Centers, Clothing Drives, Domestic Abuse Shelters, Food Banks, Food Hampers, Soup Kitchens and The Wish Foundation. Members gave financial support, volunteered when they could during Covid-19 and prayed daily for all these programs.

Covid-19 did not stop us from praying.

Organization Chair for Community Life Chair

Judy Imbeault

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada**  
**Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report**  
**For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020**  
**Christian Family Life** **Standing Committee Report 2020**

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**Diocese: Thunder Bay**

**Chairperson: Joyce Lanigan**

**Parishes Reporting: 14 of 25 (54%) Submitting this report: Judy Imbeault:**  
**Education and Health survey for 2020**

This position is getting hard to fill and is mostly appointed and members have held this position from 11 to 25 years, they are between 65-85 years of age.

Councils support people suffering by donating money, clothing and sundries, organized a drive for winter mitts, hats, socks and underwear, financial and pray full support, women's shelters and financial donation towards them.

Due to COVID-19 there was no workshops or seminar, no celebrations or organized events for national, Provincial and Diocesan.

Parish councils financially supported and supplied material goods, including Christmas gifts, to women's shelters to help those suffering domestic abuse.

Members involved in prolife organization, prolife walks/vigils and written letters to legislators and also pray for the protection of life.

Councils reach out by bringing communion, provide transportation, sent cards, visited or called, gifted membership, initiated social programs and celebrations for seniors, invited newly retired members to join social programs and celebrations. They have adopted and support religious seminaries, encourage family to invite the priest and religious in homes, sent spiritual bouquets, participated in prayer vocations, visit world day of Prayer vocation websites, supported discernment events for youth, watch videos on you tube site regarding the call to serve God. Councils reach out to widows by arranging memorial services and/or funeral lunches, invite widows to attend meetings, events and send cards of condolences, called/visited when can due to COVID-19.

Member could only be involved within the Catholic community through schools zoom, parish on internet and catholic television. Sending letters educating members of importance to write to Federal Government.

A variety of options are available to promote religion, adopted or supported seminarians, encouraged families to invite priests and religious into their home, participated in prayers for vocations, sent spiritual bouquets, visit the World Day of Prayer for Vocations website? Supported discernment events for youth, watch the video on the YouTube site regarding the call to serve God through a vocation to the ordained ministry and religious life?

**Organization Chair for Christian Family Life**  
**Judy Imbeault**

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report  
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020**

**Education & Health Standing Committee Report 2020**

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**Diocese: Thunder Bay**

**Chairperson: Marion McKay**

**Parishes Reporting: 12/25**

**Sub-chairpersons:**

**Education and Health survey for 2020**

8 positions are filled and 4 vacant

**Have you held this position previously?** 8-more than 25 years; 2 - 16-20 years; 1 said 6-10 years and 1 N/A

**What is your age?** 1 -between 35-44; 1 -between 55-64; 5- between 65-74; 4 -between 75-84 and 1 N/A

**Have you become informed about the quality of Catholic re...** 5- YES, 3 - NO, and 4 N/A

**Have you actively encouraged parents to participate in al...** 5 YES, 3 -NO; 4 N/A

**Has your council investigated the needs of Catholic Schools...** 7 -YES; 5 -NO.

**If yes, what needs were identified?** Breakfast or lunch programs, extracurricular activities, sacramental/faith development (belongs under Christian family life), scholarships or bursaries,

**Other, please specify. Provided New Testament bibles**

**Is your council aware of the family life programs being t...** 10-YES; 2-NO.

**Have you personally become involved in Rites of Christian...** 3 -YES; 5 -NO; 4 N/A

**If yes, please provide your involvement.** as a sponsor, sponsor to baptism and confirmation.

**How many members of your council participated in Rites of...** 6 said there are no members that participate, 3 said only 1, 1 said 2, and 2 said they have 3 that participate.

**Have you encouraged members to assist those who wish to participate .2 -YES, 6 -NO; 4- N/A**

**Does your council have a current list of Catholic Universities...** There is no Catholic university or college in the diocese.

**Does your council have a list of Scholarships and Bursaries...** 12-YES;

Catholic Christian Outreach, not applicable

Elementary aged children, not applicable

High school students, 9 said provide a bursary, and 3 N/A

University/college students, 3 contribute to a bursary, and 9 said N/A

NET Ministries of Canada, not applicable

**Other. Please specify: Provide a bursary to a local catholic high school graduate for furthering their education**

**Has your council promoted the National Bursary Fund...** 12 -NO

**Have any of your members ever made application to the Nat...** No answers

**Has your council contributed to the National Bursary Fund...** No answers

**Has your council contributed to Coady International Institute...** 4 -YES ; 8 -NO

**If yes, how much was the contribution this year?** \$850.00

**The following are the Resolutions (s) councils have taken part in:**

2016.03 Warning Labels on Food and Drug Products for all Inactive Substances and Additives, 2018.02 Setting a Standard for Products Marketed as Flushable, 2016.02 Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide, 2015.03 Banning the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides, 2011.04 Caffeine in Energy Drinks, 2015.03 Banning the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides, 2015.02 Ban Plastic Microbeads in Personal Care Products, 2015.01 Increased Early Intervention and Access to Children and Youth Mental Health Services, 2014.02 Electronic Cigarettes, 2011.03 National Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Registry, 2011.04 Caffeine in Energy Drinks, 2011.03 National Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Registry, 2008.03 Toxic Substances in Household Products, 2007.03 Hospice Palliative Care: An Integral Component of the Canadian Health Care System, 2005.06 Developing Countries and Water, 2004.07 Water Use in Canada, 2001.01 End of Life Care, 1990.07 Environmental Concerns, 1997.06 Genetically Engineered Foods,

**The actions taken:** Letter to Federal Government regarding assisted dying legislation. Letters to Premier Ford, MPP, Minister of Health and Long Term Care re inadequate staffing Long Term Care Home, Palliative Care and need for Long Term Care beds in our community. Education session for CWL members re wait times in Ontario for LTC bed, application process, and how to ensure there are adequate beds for LTC in the future. Information given to parishioners

**Has your council participated in the CWL Mental Health Program..** 4 said they weren't aware of the campaign, and 8 -NO.

**Has your council supported national organizations such as:** Alzheimer Society of Canada, Canadian Cancer Society, Canadian Diabetes Association, Canadian Red Cross, Children's Wish Foundation of Canada, Kidney Foundation of Canada [The], Heart & Stroke Foundation, MaterCare International, Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, Relay for Life, 8 said they haven't.

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada is a proud supported..** 9 said I wasn't aware of the program, and 2 -NO.

May 4-10, 2020 was designated as National Hospice Palliative Care... encouraged all members to pray for palliative care, provided members with the 12 Hour of Prayer for Palliative Care Kit for focus on palliative care during this week, arranged for 12 members to pray for palliative care in their home for one hour, and 4 councils did not participate.

**Did members use the Palliative Care postcard?** 8 said NO and 4 I wasn't aware of the campaign.

**Did your council provide information on advance care plan...** 2 YES ; 10 NO

**Did your council provide information on emergency response...** 12 -NO

**If there is no emergency response information kit in your ...** 12 -NO

**Did your council participate in the Care for Our Common Home...** 11 -YES :1-NO.

**Participate in plastic and waste cleanup** 12 said NO

**Number of members committed to eliminating using plastic ..** Council members were to individually take part in this initiative. About 70

**Number of members committed to eliminating the use of plastic...** About 80

**Number of members undertaking to reduce their garbage..** About 105, partnered with schools and parish to collect old markers -The Crayola Project-collects markers so they don't go to landfill, but are recycled to a reusable product, we have no formal programs to reduce waste. Members do their best to reduce waste in their own homes, tried to reduce plastic wrap, Focus was on reducing wasteful use of water Planted a tree to commemorate the 100th anniversary . It was planted in the CWL garden at the front of our church along with a banner celebrating the CWL Hundred

year anniversary Due to Covid only 4 members were present for the planting, In our church front yard eight people attended, We discussed planting a tree at our regular meeting, however because of Covid-19, this was put on hold.

**Did your council celebrate the United Nations World Water...** 1 YES; 11 NO

**What special initiatives did your council undertake ...** encouraged members to decrease and conserve water, Mentioned at a meeting and in church bulletin, none due to Covid, Discussions on reducing the amount of water used daily, and the amount needed for necessary use, Had an activity at a meeting to bring awareness to the amount of water we use.

**Did your council utilize the Water for Life Discussion ...** 12 -NO

**Did your council act on any of the resolutions under this. Topic..** 11-NO;1 -YES  
If yes, resolution(s). 2004.07 Water Use in Canada 1990.07 Environmental Concerns.

**Did your council participate or plan any activities for Environmental concerns...**  
11 -NO; 1 YES

**If yes, what were the activities?** We discussed what we can do, within our individual households, to help reuse, reduce and recycle.

**What environmental issues has your council addressed during this time...**

recycling, reduce the use of Styrofoam cups, renewable energy, green bins for organic waste, compost,

**What environmental issues has your council addressed during this time.**

eliminate plastic water bottles, eliminate plastic straws, climate change, reduce paper use, reduce water use, Our emphasis was on other topics this year, planting more trees and milk weed for the butterflies, none rather shared articles of what we could do within our homes and local neighborhoods.

**How would you rate your knowledge in regard to the advantage...** 3 Fair, 2 Good, 1 Very Good, 2 Poor and 4 No answer.

**If your answer was fair or poor, please provide some input...** needs more research but not a focus at this time, not my focus at this time, need simple explanation papers to give out to parish members, Reading and research of this topic.

**Does your council subscribe to the Canadian Catholic Bioethics...** 12- NO

**Is there a specific area/topic you would like to see more... Bioethics, technology to alter genes,**

**Please share any other council activities not yet reported.** It is a challenge for our Council to support many of these projects due to vacancies in convenor-ships. The majority of funds go directly to support our Church. we made available a breast screening bus for our members and any women of our parish to do screening in our church parking lot.

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report  
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020**

**Resolutions Standing Committee Report 2020**

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**Diocese: Thunder Bay**

**Chairperson: Kathy Pelletier**

**Parishes Reporting: 12/25**

**Sub-chairpersons:**

**RESEARCH AND PREPARATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND BRIEFS:**

- councils refer to communiques/annual reports and in turn write letters/make phone calls and in person visits to government officials
- councils reported that there were no plans to research and prepare resolutions during the past year

**STUDY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT OTHER LEVELS:**

- CWL members rallied behind issues involving Long Term Care in their communities - wait times/lack of beds and lack of staff writing letters to provincial authorities and expressing concern

The biggest challenge in this standing committee is not having a standing committee chairperson/committee along with trying to generate interest in a topic of concern.

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report  
For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020**

**Legislation Standing Committee Report 2020**

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**Diocese: Thunder Bay**

**Chairperson: Kathy Pelletier**

**Parishes Reporting: 12/25**

**Sub-chairpersons:**

Parishes Reporting: 10

**MONITOR AND STUDY LEGISLATION at ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT:**

- councils are very aware of Bill C- 7 - An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying) along with both Bill C - 13 COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2 and Bill C - 14 COVID-19 Emergency Response Act No 2
- councils monitored provincial bills concerning Long Term Care Beds in Ontario along with federal bills concerning Assisted Dying legislation -provincial government representatives were contacted and encouraged to respond to the horrors in long term care homes as described by the military who spent time in the homes during the spring as the pandemic raged through the homes of the most vulnerable -councils were particularly interested in Ontario taking action to improve the quality of care in long term care facilities since the Premier acknowledged the shortfall in providing adequate care

In spite of the challenge of filling the legislation standing committee position councils feel that their members are aware of both provincial and federal legislation.

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada**  
**Diocesan Standing Committee Annual Report**  
**For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020**

**Communications Standing Committee Report**

**2020**

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**Diocese: Thunder Bay**

**Chairperson: Jane Slobodnik**

**Parishes Reporting: 11/25**

**Sub-chairpersons: Pauline Krupa (newsletter)**

Fewer council reported this year mainly because little was happening in councils during the pandemic and reporting was not emphasized as much this year. The majority of parish chair persons are appointed, the rest vacant.

***The Canadian League Magazine***

- Many used the magazine as a learning tool and to keep current
- Most read articles from the Winter 2020: Protection of Minors: A Serious Issue, Who do we choose to communicate, Where Does Your 13 Dollars Go? And Inappropriate Medication Prescribing for Older Adults
- Most read articles from the Spring 2020: Embracing Change by Being a Part of It, Looking Back, Looking Forward, Something Beautiful from God, Our History is Filled with Faith, Fun and Fulfillment, Living With Alzheimer's Disease
- Most read articles from the Fall 2020: 100 Years is Good! 200 Years is better! Change...So Much Change! Are members ready?, Women of Action, Here I am Lord
- Suggestions for future articles: Statistical growth of membership, more on our history

**Media: for Evangelization**

- A variety of media was used for spiritual growth (masses, prayer service, workshops, retreats) especially during periods of lockdown
- A few councils hosted zoom gatherings for prayer and reflection
- Prayerful congratulations and support were sent to all priests in the diocese on the anniversary of priestly ordination
- Members received greetings and prayerful support for a variety of reasons (birthday, anniversary, get well, in sympathy, etc.)
- None reported using Catholic printed materials, as many used social media and television

**Media: to Promote the League**

- Most emailed updates regularly or used phone trees to keep in touch with members
- Parish bulletins continued to be the most popular way to promote League activities. Some use local media to advertise events
- The diocesan website was updated regularly and members were encouraged to use it and submit items to post
- Weekly reminders were sent for *Website Wednesday* (browse diocesan, provincial, national sites and other Catholic sites)
- A variety of social media was used to promote activities and to keep in touch with members.

- A diocesan online newsletter replaced the hard copy newsletter which seemed to have lost its popularity. Still in its infant stages and with the pandemic year it has had a slow but steady growth.

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

- Members were encouraged to monitor programming and to inform providers of inappropriate content
- None reported actions taken

#### **Media: Newsletter and Bulletins**

- A small number produced monthly updates / newsletters as means of communication; most are distributed by email or posted to the parish bulletin board

#### **Media: Relations**

- Local media is kept informed of events by sending media releases, personal invitation, letter writing and phone calls.
  - Members of media / press have been invited to speak at gatherings

#### **Pornography**

- No councils reported participating in pornography issues, citing that the pandemic did not allow for this activity

#### **Strategic Planning**

- All councils reported that members have been keeping current with strategic planning through the League magazine
- Most also read monthly updates on the national websites
- Diocesan councils regularly reminded members to visit the national website through *Website Wednesday* reminders
- A small number of councils are reciting the renewal prayer

The national website is visited regularly by some. It has been reported that it continues to be difficult to navigate. Some have submitted to *On the Spot*

The biggest challenge faced this year was ensuring that communications get passed along to others as required.

Embracing technology continues to be a challenge. There are so many avenues available for groups to gather. This must be encouraged and used by many from now into the future.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Jane Slobodnik, Diocesan Communications Chair**  
**Sub-chairpersons: Pauline Krupa (newsletter)**

## Duties of the Recording Secretary

- Fifteen (15) secretaries out of 26 parish councils reporting with 6 having both a recording and corresponding secretary; 7 having a recording secretary only; 1 having a corresponding secretary only and 1 not having either.
- Majority of secretaries have held position previously; 8 were elected to position and 6 were appointed.
- All secretaries attend executive and general meetings and take minutes at both and all secretaries transcribe and distribute minutes of the previous meeting for approval.
  
- Six (6) are signing officers.
  
- Six (6) secretaries do not have a motions book.
  
- Average 5 years of minutes are kept in the minutes book.
  
- Members are notified of meetings and events mostly via the parish bulletins and emails.
  
- Six (6) secretaries have a copy of the Handbook for Secretaries from the National Office.
  
- Biggest challenge of being a secretary in 2020 was technology that didn't provide enough time for a meeting (no Zoom account). Some CWL groups are getting that remedied. Other challenges included not having meeting due to COVID-19, not gathering in person and trying to keep members who don't have emails updated.
  
- **Recommendations**
  - A policy should be established within the council for archiving records.
  - Secretaries should be aware that there are directives available on the Provincial and National CWL website which provide information to all secretaries.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Joanne Scerba  
Thunder Bay Diocesan Secretary**

## **Life Member Liaison Report (Diocese of Thunder Bay) 2020**

### **Diocesan Life Member Liaison: Elizabeth Bortolussi**

#### **Life Members: 8**

#### **Deceased Members**

The diocese was saddened by the death of one Life member, June Meady

#### **Reports from the Thunder Bay CWL Life Members**

**Pauline:** Life in 2020 was like no other....She learned what living in isolation means for a person living alone. Happily she can report, she still likes the person she lives with. She makes sure to pray, laugh and enjoy something special each day. In her spare time she assists the diocesan communications chair by keeping our website current and she produces the Diocesan Dialogue online newsletter. As chairperson of her parish council team, she keeps in touch with members via email and telephone. In this Covid19 year she has entered into the world of Zoom...participating in prayer services, masses, workshops, retreats and webinars. So looking forward to a face to face cup of coffee with friends....

**June:** Once Covid19 hit, all food banks in the City closed and she and others at the RFDA put together a plan to still get food to those in need. Every second Friday from end of March until end of June she worked at the CLE giving out hampers of food through both a drive-by and an in-person line. All safety protocols were followed. From July through October, her Food Cupboard opened and gave hampers and additional bags of fresh items to the many clients who came every two weeks. In November she worked again with Health Unit to move the operation indoors for the winter. Before Christmas she headed a committee to provide those who are not eligible for Christmas Cheer a Christmas hamper. She is also Director of Bay Credit Union and a member of the Board of Little Lions Waldorf Child and Family Centre.

**Colleen** continued her position as Provincial Christian Family Life Chair and will remain in that position to 2022 due to the COVID extensions. In 2020, Colleen worked on a loneliness toolkit which will be launched in 2021. She continued to offer her service to any council requiring assistance. At the passing of life member liaison June Meady, Colleen called a few members from June's council and formed a small group to stand as honour guard outside saying the rosary while her service was conducted. Colleen also lost her mom in 2020 and was so grateful that her CWL sisters managed to honour her for 10 minutes prior to the service standing socially-distanced across the altar, behind the casket. Although 2020 was incredibly hard with COVID-19 and the loss of her mother and brother, she said she still recognized the work of God all around her, particularly through her League sisters.

**Elizabeth (Liz):** All the mentoring finally paid off and the council was blessed with a first time president. She continued to mentor the new president and began updating the council's Book of Life. She also schedules the parish EMHC, now on hold with the Covid19 threat. She continues to serve as lector. She was privileged to accept the appointment to Diocesan Life Member Liaison when June Meady passed away. She also continues to serve as the secretary for the Diocesan Council of Development and Peace.

**Joleene:** 2020 was the year of following the rules: staying home...social distancing, mask wearing, sanitizing...no gathering...lots of walking...a real stretch for her...tried to keep members updated, provided different programs they could try and shared as many opportunities as possible...amazing how connected one can be...

**Marlene:** Served as St Margaret CWL Council President, hosted coffee Sundays and served as a lector from January-March prior to Covid19. She volunteered at the Dew Drop In, enjoyed a February vacation in Puerto Rico where she attended an Ash Wed service, was appointed to her Condo Board in January, completed an on line Condo Director's Course in June and was elected to the Condo Board in December. She continues to serve as treasurer of the Diocesan Council of Development and Peace. She filled in as temporary President until a new one was found and attended many zoom planning meetings. She attended Bishop Colli's on line Sunday masses and is looking forward to everyone being vaccinated and returning to normal.

**Sandra** continued as Organization Chair for St Anthony Parish council. With the onset of the pandemic and the closing of churches, she only managed to renew 75% of the members. She and her husband continue as members of the Capital Campaign Committee for the new Salvation Army's Journey of Life Campaign in Thunder Bay. With corporate generosity \$12M was raised for this facility to shelter, educate and give dignity to the most vulnerable.

As Ambassadors of the Northern Credit Union she and her husband assist the community with projects. They have volunteered on virtual charitable fundraising events, reviewed application requests and presented funds to Hospice Northwest, Literacy Thunder Bay and others.

**Josie :** Took charge of the shut in gifts and tries to help in any way she can. She is truly an example to us all as she makes her top priority caring for her ailing husband. She and Luke take time out each day to pray the rosary and she is quick to say that without the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary, she does not know how they would manage. This LM truly lives the way of Christ, never complaining and always so grateful for all the blessings she and Luke have.