

2020-2021

St. Julia CWL Newsletter



WELCOME TO THE SISTERHOOD OF THE LEAGUE

2020 and 2021 were very eventful years for our CWL community. The year started with the installation of officers at our first Gathering Mass, held on Sunday, January 12, 2020. In a beautiful ceremony, each officer held a lit candle "To bring Christ's light to the world".

Fr. Greg, our Spiritual Adviser, blessed the **2020-2021 Executives:**

- **President:** Naty Canaria
- **Past President:** Kathleen Masse
- **Treasurer:** Joyce DeCoste
- **Recording Secretary:** Linda Hicks
- **Corresponding Secretary:** Elizabeth Wood
- **Organization Chair:** Karen Wright



Above: installation of officers. Below: first general meeting 2020.

- **Christian Family Life Chair:** Mary Joel Modolo
- **Community Life Chair:** Francine Waterhouse
- **Health & Education Chair:** Donna Jeynes
- **Communications Chair:** Lynn Piech
- **Legislations & Resolutions Chair:** Geddie Pawlowski
- **Spiritual Development Chair:** Kathleen Masse

Our first General Members' Meeting, held on February 11, 2020, was very successful, with 27 ladies attending. We enjoyed good conversation and fellowship at our Soup and Sandwich Luncheon before the meeting. It was so gratifying to see such enthusiasm for the event and set the stage for what we hoped would be a productive new year!

We were off to a great start and then Covid changed our world! The next CWL events were our final 'in-person' events for quite some time. Some of our CWL members attended the Diocesan Workshop entitled, "Find Your Voice" on February 15th at St. Mary's Church in Welland, and the Annual Diocesan Retreat on March 4th and 5th, at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls. Little did we know how much the world would change when the Covid lockdown began.





From top clockwise: Comfort Dolls, reusable cloth masks, and Elizabeth Smith's 103rd birthday that was celebrated on August 15, 2021



St. Julia members and parishioners

were asked to invest an hour to save a life and put an end to abortion during the "40 Days for Life" campaign. St. Julia was assigned the date of March 31st, to gather and pray in front of the Niagara General Hospital. Many members and parishioners signed up for this worthy initiative, but due to the lockdown, they were asked to offer prayers in their own homes instead. Although we could no longer meet in person during the lockdown, our CWL members were still active in our faith and community projects. We participated in the "North of 60 Project" by collecting cake, muffin, cookie and pancake mixes which were sent to the residents of Nunavut. Our Treasurer, Joyce DeCoste, made some "comfort dolls" which were given to the Niagara Warehouse of Hope to be included with the baby layettes shipped out to under-developed countries. St. Julia CWL continued to try to make a difference. Fifty-six reusable cloth masks

sewn by Joyce DeCoste, Geddie Pawlowski and Linda Docherty were donated to St. Peter and St. Anthony elementary schools. Our Recording Secretary, Linda Hicks, spent a week decorating Smile Cookies in different Tim Hortons locations, the proceeds of which went to Hospice Niagara and Big Brothers, Big Sisters. Linda Hicks also volunteered for the Grief Walk with Hospice Niagara which helped people deal with the loss of a loved one.

Despite the pandemic and our inability to host our annual bake sale fundraiser in 2020, our council was able to support a number of local charities such as, Start Me Up Niagara, RAFT, Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education, St. Peter School, Hotel Dieu Shaver, Niagara Hospital Foundation and Hospice Niagara.

As we continued on through 2020 to 2021, we adjusted to life in the pandemic. We participated in several spiritual endeavours online, like zoom

retreats, rosaries, webinars and zoom meetings. There were surveys and letter-writing campaigns to our government officials pertaining to social issues, such as preventing Medical Assistance in Dying. We communicated with our members and parishioners through the St. Julia bulletin and Facebook announcements. Thanks to our Telephone Committee who reached out to our members, and to our Corresponding Secretary, Elizabeth Wood, who sent cards to families of children who were baptized and confirmed, to members celebrating special birthdays and anniversaries, to those who were sick and to families of members who passed away.

Special anniversaries and birthdays were celebrated in 2021. We wish God's continued blessings for Jane Oschypko who turned 95 on August 11th, Mrs. Elizabeth Smith who turned 103 on August 15th, and Mary Pizzo who also celebrated a special birthday in 2021.

We will not forget our members who passed away in 2020 and 2021 and we remember them in our prayers: Rosemary McNamee, Fran Cripps and Lillian Diggins.

Our monthly gathering masses gave us opportunities to see each other in church, in person. It was uplifting, to see our members sitting together, albeit physically distanced, wearing masks, and CWL scarves. To promote the National Day of Prayer for our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land and Middle East, a CWL Gathering Mass was held on September 21st, 2020. Father Greg led the congregation with a special prayer for this day. As this is now an annual CWL event, the day was again celebrated on September 21st in 2021.

National Indigenous Peoples' Day was celebrated with a special mass on June 21, 2021, followed by the praying of the Rosary. We had an opportunity to remember and pray for all the children who died while attending the residential schools. It was comforting to pray together with our CWL sisters from St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, who joined us at St. Julia. To continue to bring awareness to the plight of our indigenous brothers and sisters, September 30th was designated as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also commonly known as "Orange Shirt Day". We were encouraged to wear an orange shirt on this day.

Our only fundraiser for 2021 was our Quilt Raffle Fundraiser. The twin bedspread quilt

with a matching pillow case was hand-made by Joyce DeCoste. After the 11 am mass on Sunday, December 5, 2021, Mrs. Freda Holler drew the winning name of Anna Roselli! Many thanks to Joyce DeCoste and to all parishioners for their support!

The highlight of 2021 was the Service Pin Awards Presentation held on Monday, November 22, 2021 at St Julia Church, attended by members, family and friends. A heartfelt thanks goes to Fr. Greg for the beautiful Prayer Service that he officiated before the awards; to Millie Andronev who made the cards given to the awardees; to Francine Waterhouse for all the work she did, and to all those who helped to make this such a memorable event. The awardees were:





Welcome to Our New Members who were presented with the Insignia Pins!

New Members in 2019:

- Linda Docherty
- Catherine Dugo
- Mary Garrett
- Jackie Kerry
- Edith Matuch
- Ruth McLean
- Mary O'Neill

New Members in 2020:

- Candice Foley
- Donna Markarian
- Diane Michaud

Congratulations to Our Members who were presented with the Service Pins!

2019 Service Pin Awardees:

- **5 years:** Claire Beckermann, Naty Canaria, Valerie Honsberger
- **10 years:** Donna Jeynes
- **25 years:** Mabel Ball
- **30 years:** Margaret (Peggy) Champion
- **35 years:** Norah Behlau, Jeanette Kamendy
- **40 years:** Vi Knebel
- **50 years:** Carolyn Crowley, Mary Pizzo

2020 Service Pin Awardees:

- **5 years:** Eleanor Adams-Keltos, Maureen Dugo, Linda Hicks, Bev Marciniec
- **10 years:** Andree O'Mara
- **15 years:** Barbara Abramek, Marion Frendo, Majella Laliberte
- **20 years:** Irmi (Geddie) Pawlowski
- **30 years:** Louise Butko, Eva Palencar
- **50 years:** Jacqueline Herman-Wing

The term for the current executive ended on December 31, 2021. As the New Year starts, a new set of officers will again light their candles *"To bring Christ's light to the world"* and to continue the tradition of The League in St. Julia.

We are so blessed to have Fr. Greg as our Spiritual Adviser and we thank him for his continued spiritual guidance and support.

To all our CWL members and St. Julia parishioners: we are most grateful for all the support we received all these years, especially during these most challenging two years. We are happy we were able to help our community. We couldn't have done it without the support of our St. Julia Family!

We look forward, with hope, to 2022 and happily anticipate the day when the St. Julia CWL can gather again and continue our good works. May Our Patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel, guide and protect us.

The St. Julia CWL would like to extend a special invitation to all women of the parish, of all ages and heritages, to journey with us in a sisterhood of faith, service and social justice.

There is a place for you in the CWL!

*Newsletter prepared by:
Lynn Piech & Naty Canaria*

Mission Statement

"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."