



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
HALIFAX-YARMOUTH DIOCESAN COUNCIL
2023 ANNUAL REPORT - VICE - PRESIDENT
Here I am Lord, Send me

Dear Sisters in the League,

It is truly an honor and most humbling to have been elected Vice - President of the Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League. I thank all who have offered prayers of support and encouragement and I pray that God will send the Holy Spirit to keep me strong so that together with your prayers I can best serve the League and His People. It is when I am at service to others that I am most happy.

These are very exciting times with the new format now in effect and although a number of Councils have moved forward more will be doing so with their upcoming elections. It will be great to have all involved moving forward as together we can perform great work for the League, God and Canada. I look forward to working together as we strive toward revitalizing and rejuvenating the League.

This year has been a great learning experience and a most enjoyable year. Working together with and assisting our great new President Karen Craig and all of our wonderful Executive Officers has been most rewarding as they are all kind, loving, caring and appreciative. Noting our past Theme "Catholic and Living It" all are a great portrayal of this Theme which makes them a wonderful group in which to be involved. I was afforded some great opportunities this year for which I am most grateful. One opportunity was to contact all of our wonderful Presidents in the Diocese to book appointments for the presentation of the Outreach Program which was received with great enthusiasm. It was a great experience presenting the Outreach program, meeting the Presidents and Sisters in the League and learning of their desire to have more visitation from the Diocesan Council which may be incorporated in our planning going forward. Another most enjoyable opportunity is in mentoring our new Treasurer, Ethel Jack who is most appreciative and a joy to work with.

The Annual Membership Campaign is held in all Councils, however, many Councils throughout the Diocese are carrying this Campaign throughout the year and learning new ways in which to promote the League and attract new members. Utilization of the Parish Bulletin has become important for invitations to parishioners for special events, fundraisers, meetings and assistance with special projects when required.

Coffee Socials, Pot Lucks, Wine and Cheese Socials and gatherings for Christmas and Easter are just a few of the events being utilized. Some Councils hold a CWL Sunday where they wear their Scarves and Pins, speak at the Mass to promote the League and serve in any way in which they may be involved. Some Councils hold a reception following in which parishioners are invited. Some Councils have prepared a Handout to promote the League which includes all good work accomplished annually. Some Councils cater to funeral receptions and luncheon celebrations for the Catechetical Programs and Youth Projects which enables them to meet prospective members and use the Handout to educate them. Members are encouraged to invite prospective members to meetings and events and then encourage them to visit the National Website to gather information and resources which is a great recruitment tool. Some Councils have paid first time membership which is also a great recruitment tool. Inviting people to assist at events is very important as they can witness the faith, laughter and sisterhood held within the CWL which will surely attract some new members.

Maintaining membership is very important and some of the ways in which this is accomplished are noted by some of the Councils. Working together as a team is very important, having good communication with all members whether they are homebound or in a care facility, meetings to be kept structured and on track, promote groups to work together as a team, everyone has a voice, care about members and their families showing support when needed, send cards and letters to members for significant life events and evaluate all tasks that come by the way of CWL so as not to overwork members.

Although our meetings are few and far between we were able to take advantage of virtual meetings which enabled all to keep up to date and the meetings also enabled us in successful event planning. On behalf of our President and Executive Officers, in closing I would like to take this opportunity to thank those Councils who graciously stepped forward to host our special events during the past year. Those Councils are St. John XX111, President Ann Marie Shubert, St. Andrew, President Della Perry-Skinner, St. Clement, President Elizabeth Doyle, St. Bernard, President Georgina MacIsaac, St. Rose of Lima, Co-President Ellen Hibberts and Co-President Troy Marie Marshall, and Holy Family (Amherst), President Glenna O'Quinn. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Life Members Glenda Carson and Elizabeth Doyle for their kind assistance to the Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Council.

Please be reminded that the Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Council is available for your support and we are delighted to assist you whenever required. We are now in the process of assisting those Councils who unfortunately had to become inactive and our hope is that they will become fully active Councils again.

May God bless The Catholic Women's League of Canada and may Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide us with Her Love and Grace as we continue our work for God and Canada.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila A. Manuel, Vice - President,
Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Council

