



Antigonish Diocesan CWL Newsletter

October 19th, 2024

"Here I am Lord, send me!"

Anne McCormick – ANTIGONISH DIOCESAN CWL PRESIDENT



It is a great privilege to begin this two- year term as president. The presidents who have preceded me set high standards and demonstrated commitment and dedication; I am honored to follow in their footsteps. I accept the responsibility that comes with this position and I am committed to serving with integrity and in a spirit of collaboration and teamwork.

I am very grateful to be supported by a full executive, a team of generous, committed and faith-filled women. Thank you for saying "yes", for your willingness to serve and share your gifts.

In September and the fall season we return to schedules and structure, new committees and new projects. This time of the year can be compared to a new year, to renewal, or a call to newness.

Fall Conference provides us with the opportunity to experience renewal as we share new ideas and insights that allow us to embrace change and move forward with confidence. We have so much to share and learn from each other. It is my hope that fall conference allows us to truly experience the joy of sharing and being connected and that we gain a renewed sense of hope and enthusiasm.

Thank you to St Joseph and St Lawrence councils for co-hosting our Fall Conference. Your hospitality, generosity, hard work and planning are so very much appreciated.

If your council is preparing for an election soon, this is a great time to think about sharing your gifts on the new executive. Think for a moment of the gifts you have received personally. Each person's gifts are unique and valuable; collectively we become a team. Remember there is "no age to get the ask from the Lord"; Mary said "yes" without knowing what was around the corner, and we aren't meant to keep our gifts to ourselves; we are to share them with others. Is this your time to answer: *"Here I am Lord, send me!"*

Please be assured that your diocesan council is here to support you in your roles. Please reach out to us.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide us as we use our gifts and talents in service to others through the work and mission of the League.

Anne McCormick

Fr Danny MacLennan – ANTIGONISH DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Dear Members of the Catholic Women's League,

As we enter the colourful season of fall, we are reminded of the cycles that reflect the rhythms of our spiritual lives. The leaves change colour and fall to the ground, signaling a time of change and preparation for the quiet winter. This is a season to reflect on the blessings of the year, to give thanks for the harvest in our lives and to prepare our hearts for the coming of Advent, a season of hope and expectation.



Thanksgiving provides us with a moment to express our gratitude for the abundance we have received. It is an opportunity to thank God for the gifts in our lives, including the gift of community we share in the Catholic Women's League. Your dedication, faith, and service have been a true testament to our theme, "*Here I am Lord, send me.*" Each of you has responded to God's call in your unique way, making a difference in your families, parishes, and communities.

As we approach Advent, we are also called to focus on our mental and spiritual well-being. The theme of mental health has been an important focus for us this year, reminding us that caring for ourselves and others is a vital part of our ministry. Let us continue to support one another with kindness and compassion, ensuring that no one feels alone in their struggles.

I want to offer a message of encouragement and support to each council as you continue your important work. Your efforts, whether large or small, are deeply appreciated and make a significant impact. Remember that even in the quieter moments of service, God sees your faithfulness and love.

May this fall season bring you peace, strength, and a deep sense of God's presence in your life. Let us continue to say, "*Here I am Lord, send me*" with open hearts, ready to serve wherever we are called.

With gratitude and blessings,

Father Danny MacLennan

Debbie White – DIOCESAN SECRETARY

Hello everyone, it's Debbie White, from our Lady of Lourdes CWL, your new diocesan secretary. I have 6 years in the Catholic Women's League. How did that happen? Well, my husband read "*Here I am Lord, send me!*" and said "You could help out there", so here I am, Lord.

I look forward to working with our President Anne, and all the members of our diocesan team. I have lots to learn, but I am up to the challenge.

I look forward to meeting lots of new CWL sisters, and if anyone wants to mentor me, Here I am Lord.

Blessings,

Debbie White



Doreen Boudreau – FAITH



Last Monday was Thanksgiving Day, so I am writing this message in the spirit of thanksgiving. There are so many things that I thank God for every day. Here are just a few:

I am thankful for the beautiful weather we have enjoyed this summer. Long, warm days and slightly cooler nights. Lots of sun and some nighttime rain to help our gardens grow. My own garden was very productive and I am enjoying the fruits of the harvest. Now the leaves are changing colors and we are enjoying a kaleidoscope of beautiful reds, oranges and yellows. What a wonderful part of the world we live in! Do we ever stop just to appreciate what we have?

I am thankful that we live in a part of the world where we do not have to worry about air raid sirens or being bombed—where no wars are being fought. I feel safe and secure going about my business every day.

I am thankful that, although we are starting to be affected by climate change, we are not seeing the extreme effects that other regions are experiencing. Climate change is a result of our own activities. We need to be mindful of how we care for our common home.

I thank God for my health and my ability to help others when I can. I love to bake and being able to share with others in my community.

I am thankful for the love and support of my family and friends, and I thank **you**, my CWL sisters, for your continued kindness and encouragement.

What are you thankful for?

Doreen Boudreau

October is the month of the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Members are encouraged to dedicate the entire month of October to pray the Holy Rosary, if possible, on a daily basis for peace in the world.

**PRAYER FOR
HEALING AND
RECONCILIATION**

O Blessed Virgin,
Our Lady of Guadalupe Intercede for us
with your Son
That we who live in this land,
Indigenous and non-Indigenous together
may experience healing and
reconciliation,
on a renewed journey for justice and
peace for our children.
Mother of the Church,
pray for us.

<https://ourladyofguadalupecircle.ca/>

Denise Forgeron – SOCIAL JUSTICE



My name is Denise and I am privileged to be your CWL Antigonish Diocesan Social Justice Chair.

I hail from St Theresa's in Sydney. I am in the third generation of 4 generations of women in my family who became CWL members. I was in CWL with my grandmother and currently join my mom, three aunts, mother-in-law, two sisters, my daughter, and a niece in CWL. I feel very blessed with all of the sisters in the League I have met. I served on a national committee last year on recruiting leaders within the parishes. We are so lucky to be able to join with others in our family, parish and country to share our faith.

Matthew 5:14-16 tells us that we are called to let our faith shine before others like a light. We are to be light bearers with our faith, life givers with our heartfelt service, and world changers through resolutions and our letter writing for social justice.

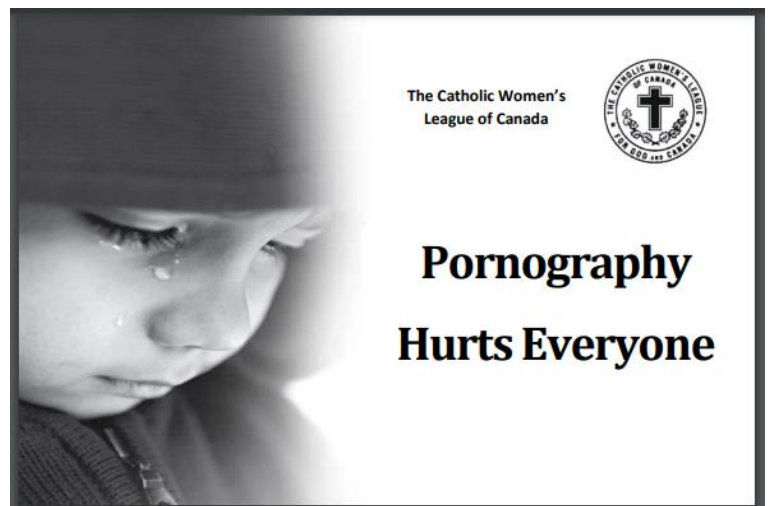
The CWL website www.cwl.ca tells the resolutions we can support with letter writing. Federal government letters do not require a stamp. I hope you are able to pick a resolution you support and send a letter to government. Ask for a response and inform your social justice chair for her report.

Please choose a CWL postcard (eg. mental health of children, preventing pornography of children) at <https://www.cwl.ca/crest-stationery-and-other-council-supplies/>.

Can your council have some printed on cardstock? Ask your members/parishioners to sign them, then count them and mail them. Include this in your yearend report.

Thank you and God Bless,

Denise Forgeron



Rita Wojtyniak – SERVICE



Summer was beautiful, hot, busy-busy and passed oh so quickly. I wasn't busy enough so I accepted the position of diocesan service chair in September!

As fall continues, I'm enjoying the bounty of my garden still, with tomatoes and cucumbers. Harvesting gives you a feeling of accomplishment providing food for yourself, friends and family. Growing up the garden was food security for my family. Food security is a danger for so many at home and abroad. Many families are struggling to provide the basic needs of food, water, shelter, and security. Increased use of food banks (1:5), soup kitchens and shelters for the homeless are occurring every day and becoming the norm. We can help by having food drives, volunteering at shelters, providing clothing, necessities, sanitary products, socks and underwear.

In our League prayer we are *asked to share at home and abroad*. Our commitment to Development and Peace-Caritas Canada (D&P) is supported by our yearly 1% commitment through the National Voluntary Fund. The two projects we are supporting through D&P are:

1. Food and Nutritional Security and Climate Change in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) which focuses on: stabilizing dunes to prevent flooding and erosion; reforestation and developing income generating activities (beekeeping, diverse food production, forest byproducts); relearning traditional techniques that respect and rebuild the land.
2. Management and Prevention of Acute Malnutrition (Gedo, Somalia) providing lifesaving nutritional services to 1.8 million children who are severely malnourished from conflict, drought and displacement.

Danger from continued and expanded fighting in the Middle East (Gaza, Israel, Lebanon) is destroying lives, homes, families, communities and countries. The war in Ukraine also is continuing and expanding causing massive destruction and devastation.

This fall most councils are preparing for fundraising projects to support our service commitments. Do you provide support through prayer; volunteer your services; advocate for change with letter writing or petitions; educate yourself and your council on national resolutions and action plans?

How do you promote SERVICE activities in your CWL council, your parish and community?

Rita Wojtyniak



Antigonish Diocesan Executive Officers 2024-2026

President	Anne McCormick
Spiritual Advisor	Fr Danny MacLennan
Past President	Julie LeLievre
Vice President	Laurena Greencorn
Secretary	Debbie White
Treasurer	Louise Campbell
Faith	Doreen Boudreau
Service	Rita Wojtyniak
Social Justice	Denise Forgeron



Louise Campbell – TREASURER

Fall is upon us and our councils are becoming active after a beautiful summer siesta. Welcome back!

I have mentioned in earlier memos that as part of my prayer life I visit a website on Ignatian Spirituality. I recently read an article on the topic of “thin places”. I had come across that term before but I don’t think I really grasped the meaning of the phrase until I read this article.

In her reflection, the author Peggy Webber talked of sitting in a slightly uncomfortable chair at the local library with her two grandsons who were there for a story and art session. The boys were wearing paper hats that they had just made.

She describes her grandsons as follows: “There was an air of innocence and sweet boyhood about the two of them as they seemed unaware of how adorable they looked. They were just wearing what they had made.”

Then the boys asked her to read to them as they climbed into her lap. And at that moment she described being moved to a “thin place”. “It was finding God in the every day. I was able to recognize that this ordinary moment was extraordinary, God’s grace poured into my soul, and I treasured where I was and what I was doing.”

How many of us have experienced those “thin places”? Recently my husband and I were visiting our son and daughter in-law and our grandson who is just fourteen months old. As he was being held by my husband and then myself, he snuggled into our shoulders and lay there a couple of minutes and I was filled with love and joy for this special person. Had I made the connection with “finding God in all places”, I may have recognized that moment as a “thin place”.

Peggy Webber concludes her reflection with the following thoughts: “This day was a marriage of the Jesuit concept of “finding God in all things” and Julianne Stanz’s book, ***Braving the thin Places***. She (Julianne Stanz) writes ‘In each person’s life are thin places where that person experiences God’s presence in a way that stirs the soul.’ That moment of reading with my grandchildren was so ridiculously ordinary. Yet it is marked in my mind and on my heart so deeply. Thin but deep. Regular but inspiring.”

Going forward, I hope to keep practicing “finding God in all places” so I can experience those “thin places”. I hope that you are able to do the same.

To read the entire article by Peggy Webber go to : [Thin Place](https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/a-thin-place-at-the-library)
<https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/a-thin-place-at-the-library>

God Bless

Louise Campbell



Julie LeLievre – PAST PRESIDENT



Welcome to the diocesan Fall Conference as we gather together to share our enthusiasm for the League, and enjoy the friendship with members.

Fall is my favorite time of year. I love the beauty of nature as the leaves change to the colourful landscape and the family gatherings for Thanksgiving as we count our many blessings.

I am personally blessed to still have my mother. At 99 years of age, she enthusiastically shares her joy of her new home at Parkland Seniors' facility, her many new friends and social activities. I felt truly blessed when my family, including my children and grandchildren had a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend together, sharing meals, laughter, many fun games and 3 birthday celebrations!

I feel blessed to be a member of my own parish council, Our Lady of Fatima, and the many friendships this has brought me. Being a member of the diocesan council has expanded my League friends as we share our faith and enthusiasm for the League. The League has brought me so many blessings as part of this national organization of faith-filled women.

My sincere hope is that members support one another and councils continue, however they are able, to be a strong Catholic voice in their parish and community. Together with over 60,000 women across Canada, we DO make a difference to promote a compassionate and thoughtful society.

May we give thanks to our Lord God for all His glorious blessings, as we continue to answer the call "*Here I am Lord, send me*".

Julie LeLievre

The Antigonish Diocesan Council collected personal care items for Every Woman's Centre and HERS at the AMM in April 2024.

Over 350 personal care items were received including toiletries, baby items, socks and underwear.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity!



Laurena Greencorn – VICE PRESIDENT



As I sit at my dining table looking out at the beautiful sunny afternoon, I reminisce about life and all my old classmates over the years in school.

I met with a couple yesterday at a 'Meet and Greet' to honour an old teacher of mine.

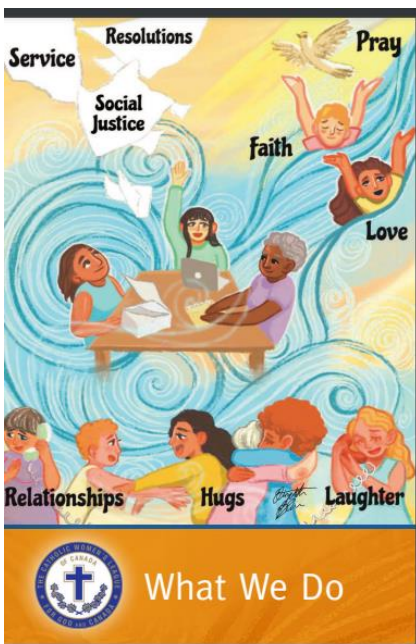
Mike MacDonald from Heatherton graduated from St FX and at Homecoming on Saturday evening, he was recognized with the 'Distinguished Alumnus Achievement Award'.

In 1974, fresh out of university, the school board asked him to go to Whitehead in Guysborough County to be principal and teach a grade 5/6 split. Focusing as a junior high social studies teacher, he thought it would be a piece of cake. He was told that the two-room schoolhouse would close the following year. That year, I was in grade 6 and he was my first male teacher as I was taught by the Sisters up until then. He was such a kind and soft-spoken teacher even though some of us gave him a hard time.

It was in 1984, while he was teaching in Calgary, that his friend, who was a missionary in Mexico, invited him down for the summer. While down there, his friend who wanted him to stay on and continue the work, said that he was getting old and wanted to pass on in the mountains. So, Mike stayed, and his friend lived until 2007. By that time, Mike was a devoted missionary to the mountains of Mexico where he still serves the underprivileged communities in very remote areas of the Montanya region.

I found out yesterday that his mother was a charter member of the Heatherton CWL and was very active throughout her life. Mike, being a man of deep faith, is much like his mother as he continues to serve where needed.

As my colleagues and I chatted over a cup of coffee, it made me realize just how much our worlds are different. His world is basic and he seems so happy. We have so much 'stuff': clothes, some that we hang on to because they are a little tight but we plan to lose weight and will fit into them again one day; one, maybe two vehicles in the yard; so many dishes, knickknacks, etc. Do we need all this 'stuff'?



I think it's time that I go through all those clothes that are too small in hopes that I will fit into them one day. I probably won't. Those knickknacks that I dust once a month? Time to let it all go and live a simpler life. Time to send all those items to charity.

Laurena Greencorn

***Be a Friend
Make a Friend
Invite that Friend to CWL***



LIFE MEMBERS' CORNER



Do you know about Life Membership in the Catholic Women's League? Life Membership is an honor, a permanent place on national council with voting privileges as an accredited delegate at annual meetings at Diocesan, Provincial and National levels. It is not intended to be a reward for years of service or a retirement gift. There is an established criteria outlined in the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*. Life Members are always encouraged to support council members and the League at all levels, by participation in committees, preparing briefs, resolutions, researching reports and facilitating workshops. Life Membership does not mean life-long membership.

In Nova Scotia, we currently have one (1) Honorary Life Member (Danielle McNeil Hessian Halifax Yarmouth Archdiocese). An Honorary Life Member is designated to a member who has served as National President. Danielle served as National President from 2008-2010. There are currently twenty-three (23) Life Members in Nova Scotia. Ten (10) members are from the Antigonish Diocese and thirteen (13) members from Halifax-Yarmouth Archdiocese. The accumulated experience of all these members is immeasurable in terms of service.



Sadly, in the Antigonish Diocese we have lost Honorary Life Member Dr. Irene Lefort of Antigonish, and Life Member Claire MacDonnell of New Glasgow. These members have left us with a rich legacy of service to the League. Their treasured friendship, love and respect resonates with each one of us. They were our friends, mentors and supporters as we navigated the Diocesan, Provincial and National levels of the League.

I currently serve as the Nova Scotia Life Member Liaison. This means I channel communication from the National Life Member Liaison to Life Members across Nova Scotia and vice versa. Every province across Canada has a Provincial Life Member Liaison. Our communication is primarily through email. News of Diocesan events and prayer requests are emailed to Life Members. I send greeting cards for various occasions to keep the lines of communication open and to let the recipient know that we are thinking of them and praying for their needs. Most importantly, we pray for each other and the needs of our organization. We have several members who are currently in assisted or long-term care. Where Life Members see a need, they respond with faith and service. Several members continue to serve in executive positions at the Parish and Provincial Council levels.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation to Anne McCormick, Antigonish Diocesan President for asking me to write an article on Life Members. We are here to help and offer assistance in any way we are able. We continue to uphold the League's 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.'*

Life members who attended the diocesan convention in April 2024 included (L to R) Debbie Samson, Toosje Van de Sande, Julie LeLievre, Donna Bates, Joan Bona and Peggy MacNeil.

Joan Bona, Nova Scotia Life Member Liaison





COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



St. Louis, Louisdale

Louisdale continues to provide much needed baby clothing and items to the 'One Plane Away' organization in Nunavut. In the spring, at our Antigonish Diocesan Annual Meeting of Members, a request was made to our Diocesan councils for assistance in this initiative. The response was overwhelming. Gently used and new baby clothing, pablum, milk products, and other items filled our storage in a short period of time. Approximately 55 boxes (two pallets) were shipped by Easson's Transfer to Ottawa on July 17, 2024. From Ottawa, the pallets were shipped via air cargo and arrived in Nunavut in early August with much delight from our Council members.

Councils also presented monetary donations which were presented to Celeste Gotell of One Plane Away. This helped to provide assistance for the most pressing needs of the organization.

The needs of One Plane Away are ongoing. As we move forward with continued support, we express our heartfelt gratitude to all councils who assisted us in this endeavour. Some of those known to us include: Holy Name – Westville; St. Andrew's – Antigonish; St. Theresa's – Sydney; Our Lady of Assumption – Arichat and St. Mary's – East Bay. We received over \$600.00 in donations.

The overwhelming support and drops offs at our parish hall caused us to lose track. If your council donated, please let us know so that we can acknowledge your contribution.

The Louisdale Lions Club has donated pre-paid shipping boxes which will be utilized throughout the winter of 2024/2025. We will hold another baby shower in May of 2025. If your council would like to support us, please let us know. The items currently being accepted are gently used sleepers, onesies, toques, snow suits, mittens and other warm clothing. Summer clothing is not suitable for our northern babies.

One Plane Away is grateful for all the support – 'Words cannot express how grateful we are for you taking on this project and for your support of our organization. Donations like this make it possible for us to continue the important work of sending baby care boxes to Moms in all 25 fly-in communities throughout Nunavut. Since One Plane Away began in 2015, over 1600 babies across Nunavut have received our care boxes. The feedback we receive from our moms is beautiful and we know we are making a difference. Once again, your support is so appreciated. My heart is full! Celeste Gotell, Executive Director

On behalf of St. Louis CWL, we want to express our heartfelt appreciation to all councils for your generous support.





COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



St Partick's, North East Margaree



On Dec. 10, 2023, 40 years to the day, St. Patrick's CWL celebrated its 40th anniversary with Mass presided by Fr. Peter LeBlanc and concelebrant Fr. Silvichan Dominic, our Spiritual Advisor and homilist. Our local Knights of Columbus served a delicious meal. Three members: Anne LeBlanc, Stella McDaniel and Cathy Miller were presented with Maple Service Award pins. Sheila Fortune was presented with CWL gifts to honour her dedication to our League work. Sandra O'Connell was our guest speaker, and the Shaw family provided music for the occasion.

In March, we hosted World Day of Prayer with our sisters and brothers from the United Church.

In May, with the help of acting vice-principal Sarah McDaniel, we organized two virtual presentations by the Joy Smith Foundation (Manitoba) on sex trafficking. We were fortunate to offer the first presentation to the grades 11 & 12 students at the school during the day, and in the evening to the public. The turnout was disappointing, but we have not been deterred. We will continue to raise awareness of this heinous crime in our communities and province. "Every minute, within one kilometre of you, someone is being lured into trafficking." "A recent human trafficking investigation estimated that 50% of girls being trafficked in the Greater Toronto Area are from Nova Scotia." These are sobering thoughts, and they spur us on!

Last October, we hosted our first ecumenical *Season of Creation* prayer service. We invited members of the United Church to take part, and on Oct. 4, 2024 the United Church will host this year's service.

With successful fund raisers, we have continued to support: Chalice with a sponsored child and \$500 on gifts from their Christmas catalogue; \$300 to Christmas Daddies; our local Margaree Food Security Society; Catholic Missions in Canada with a yearly donation for their calendars; Development & Peace – Caritas Canada with our collections at each meeting and donations to our 1% can and membership in the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition.

Four CWL members and another parishioner continue to make "Little Dresses for Africa". Over 1 000 dresses have been made to date.

St Joseph, Port Hawkesbury

Our first project of our new year is getting sneakers for our Deacon's Closet for children whose parents are not financially able to provide them. Along with the sneakers, our parish provides backpacks and lunch packs.





COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

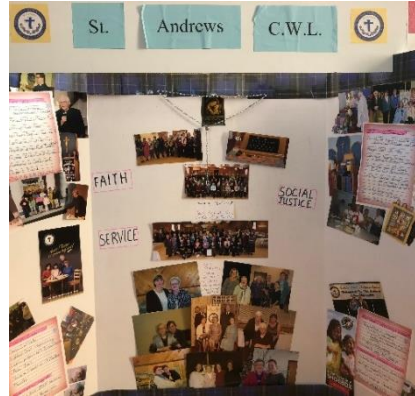


St Andrews, St Andrews

The St Andrews Partnership Association in cooperation with East Coast Credit Union celebrates volunteers in each of the 14 volunteer organizations in our community. The St Andrews CWL nominated Minnie Van de Wiel this year for her many years of service as Spiritual/Faith chairperson. Each organization has an opportunity to promote itself.

Our CWL uses a poster board that highlights our work in the following areas:

- 1) St Andrews Parish Church
- 2) St Andrews Community
- 3) Antigonish Community
- 4) Nova Scotia Support
- 5) National Advocacy & Support
- 6) International Advocacy & Support



Our Lady of Lourdes, Stellarton

We have come back together after enjoying the wonderful summer. We hold our meetings the first Monday of the month, at 6:00pm for our social time, meeting time 6:30pm. Our executive meet the Monday before to set our agenda.

At our meetings we sell numbers for \$1.00 on a gift bag. The proceeds go towards our \$250.00 bursary, which was won this summer by Brett Stroud. The winner of the gift bag brings the next gift bag.

Our big fundraiser is always our cold chicken burger dinner. It consists of the burger, cranberries, coleslaw, and potato salad, and a piece of our famous carrot cake. Tickets are pre-sold at \$10.00. We also have a bake table, and silent auction. This year we sold a record number of dinners at 511!!! The money we make goes towards the many places we sponsor.

Some of the places we help are our local homeless shelters, our Tearman House for abused women, a family abroad, St. Vincent de Paul Society, our first communion and religious education programs, our lector program, and funeral receptions just to name a few.



Our members have taken part in the life chain, and the Day of the Rosary. We help to host parish galas, where all members of the parish come to celebrate a meal together, free of charge. These galas are helping our parish come together, and get to know each other better.

Again, this year we are lucky to have a full executive, and look forward to a very active year as we will serve God's will in our council.

Shown in the picture are Brett Stroud and Debbie White.



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



Holy Redeemer, Sydney



Holy Redeemer CWL are very active in their community. The “Pay It Forward” members meet every Thursday to work on items to be donated to local nursing homes, hospitals, etc. They make fidgets, hats for cancer patients, new born baby hats, teddy bears, bibs, etc.

Our council provides a St. Patrick's Day Party and Christmas Party for New Dawn Home. Our ladies participate in International Women's Day. The ladies generously donate delicious baking and food to the once-a-month church social at Holy Redeemer.

We have a wonderful group of ladies always ready to help out in our church and community.



St Theresa, Sydney



Pins and awards were presented at the annual Feast Day celebration in April. **Front Row:** Louise MacNeil (25-year pin recipient), Theresa DeCourcy (50-year pin recipient) **Back Row:** Gail Martin (Certificate of Merit recipient), Janice MacDougall (25-year pin recipient). Theresa Anne MacNeil (25-year pin recipient), Gloria Youden (25-year pin recipient), Gen Farrell (Maple Leaf Service Pin recipient), Roberta O'Leary (25-year pin recipient)

St Theresa's Service Chair, Anne MacNeil, proudly stands next to the items donated by members for the “One Plan Away” project spearheaded by St Louis, Louisdale.





COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



St Ninian's, Antigonish

St. Ninian's CWL had a wonderful start to the year, as we welcomed Rev. Danny MacLennan as our spiritual advisor during our March 3 general meeting. Fr Danny was installed by Toosje Van de Sande, Life Member, and he in turn installed our new executive.

On March 16, we held a Day of Discovery for new and existing members. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about the CWL as a Ministry, as well as the history, structure and Mission Statement of the League. We also took part in an interactive session that allowed members the opportunity to discuss topics of interest and potential activities to consider for the upcoming year. Topics included Spiritual, Outdoor/Indoor Activities, Guest Speakers, Concerts/Music. Some wonderful ideas were brought forward for consideration as upcoming events, including a planned retreat, guided book study, a walk and talk, potential guest speakers and many more creative ideas to foster learning and fellowship among League members.

The general meeting held on June 12 was extra special, as a reception was held to welcome our five new members to the League. Our reception included a prayer service and a potluck dinner. New members were presented with an insignia pin, CWL member card and a copy of the book "Women of Action: 100 Years of Service for God and Canada". The history of St. Ninian's CWL from 1921 to 2021 was written by current President Toosje Van de Sande.

After a year of celebration activities, the final commemoration of the 150th anniversary of St. Ninian's Cathedral was held on Sunday, September 15. A special celebratory mass was followed by a cake and ice cream reception. CWL members played a supportive role to the parish's Anniversary Committee at many of the celebration activities and were on hand at the grand finale to serve cake and ice cream to parishioners and guests.

Our members look forward to a busy autumn, as we plan and prepare for our Fall Harvest Festival Weekend and the upcoming prayer breakfast.



Dr. Irene (MacDonald) Lefort, Honorary Life Member

March 3, 1934 – July 10, 2024

Irene joined the CWL in 1953. She served as President of St. Mary's in East Bay, Diocesan President (1971-1973), and Provincial President (1974-1976), along with several other positions. In 1972, Irene co-hosted, with Dorothy Brocklehurst, the only National Convention of the Catholic Women's League ever held in Cape Breton.

In 1976, Irene was awarded Life Membership and began her fourteen year journey on the National Council where she held many positions: Resolutions, Legislation, Community Life, Secretary Treasurer, and President Elect. She went on to serve as President (1986-1988) and Past President. In 1988 she was awarded Honorary Life Membership.

Irene was always very generous in sharing her knowledge and love of the Catholic Women's League of Canada. She presented numerous workshops and was always a sought after guest speaker. Over the years she mentored many CWL members and encouraged their active involvement in the League. For this we are truly grateful. May Irene rest in God's eternal peace. <https://www.elcurry.com/obituaries/178832>



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



St. John the Baptist, New Glasgow

Rosaries, receptions, Tea by the Sea and more...

Springtime saw our CWL celebrating Mary with our annual Mother's Day Rosary, in addition to a rosary prayed for palliative care. Members were also encouraged to participate in a parish rosary prayed on October 7th, in union with rosaries prayed on that day around the world for World Rosary Day.



Our closing banquet in June was special this year, as we joined with two other councils, Our Lady of Lourdes and Stella Maris, to celebrate the end of the service year together. This was enjoyed by all, and we anticipate joining forces again for this and a variety of other activities. We hosted our annual brunch as the parish celebrated the feast of St. John the Baptist in June, to thank all our parishioners for supporting the CWL throughout the year. This was followed by our closing mass at which several service pins were awarded, and we began our summer holiday.

Summer holidays saw three notable activities:

- ✚ CWL prayers and honour guard marked a prayerful farewell to our dear life member, Claire MacDonnell, whose funeral was in August,
- ✚ A small group also gathered for a relaxing day of drawing flowers and cats,
- ✚ and the holidays drew to a close with a tea-by-the-sea at member Shirley Manos' cottage, attended by over twenty members!

Council members (L to R) Jessie Parkinson NS Provincial President, Gill Atwood, Elaine Sponagle and Celina MacNeil modeling their new aprons.



Claire MacDonnell, Life Member

March 21, 1930 - May 18, 2024

Claire was a member for 74 years; Past-President, St. John the Baptist Council, New Glasgow; Past-President, Antigonish Diocesan Council; Past-Treasurer, Nova Scotia Provincial Council. *"Claire was a member's member. She never missed anything and was just...wonderful!"* - Long-time friend and CWL member Shirley Manos

<https://www.rhporter.ca/obituaries/177969>



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



St Mary's, East Bay



Installation of officers September 27, 2024

Fr Anthony O'Connor (Spiritual Advisor)
Mae Rowe (Faith)
Cecelia MacLean (Treasurer)
Theresa Morley (President)
Rita Wojtyniak (Past President/Service).
Missing Mariette McPhee (Secretary)



A quilt draw, the fundraiser for Christmas charitable donations, was held on October 7, 2024. The winning ticket was selected by Father Anthony O'Connor and Theresa Morley. The lucky winner was the daughter of a member, currently living in Fredericton.

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Sydney

One of the major accomplishments for our council is the completion of the updated version of our Policy and Procedure Manual. It will be presented to the membership for final adoption.

We are completing the last weekend of our three weekend fundraising campaign. It is proving once again that we have a wonderful congregation who support our CWL financially.

In October we hold our Thanksgiving Candle Service and Rosary following the noon time mass.

We hold our "Shower for the Needy" in November and in December we make our "Memory Tree Cards" available to parishioners for a modest price.

Our membership is increasing with three new members joining last month. Attendance at last month's meeting was 35 which was excellent.

Our nomination campaign for executive positions takes place this weekend. Our goal is to have the new/returning executive in place for January 2025.

Wishing everyone a happy and blessed Thanksgiving!

