



Winter Newsletter

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.

President's Message:

In every parish the CWL is required to have elections every two years..... unless there is a pandemic.... in order to provide opportunities for all members and to keep the council vibrant with new ideas and leadership. At St. Teresa's elections will be held in January/February 2023. It is not too early to start thinking about where you fit in. What are your gifts? Are you willing to seek out new friendships? The current president of St. Teresa Catholic Women's League has spent approximately 12 years as president. It is time for her to hang up her hat. She would like to just be a member who helps out when asked.

We are blessed in this parish to have an enthusiastic executive who will work alongside new members. We are considering what we can do to accommodate younger participants and to simplify the workload. If you think you might be interested in a position in 2023 you can work with an executive member now. Contact me at 519-578-2019.

Mary Alice Zister

Correspondence since March 2020: Canadian Food for Children, Birthright, Comboni Missionaries, The Working Centre, Save-A-Family, Catholic Missions in Canada, Marillac Place and a CCO Ministry Update from Paul Rouleau, all requesting some financial support. The only one we can support at this time is Save-A-Family because we have a standing motion to help our family in India annually. Motions supporting any other group have to be made at an in-person meeting.

We received 'thank you' cards from Ann Onn, Jim Weber, Janet Fronchak, Dorothy Luft, the Fritz, Psutka, and Hishon families.

Shut-Ins and Retirement/Nursing Home Visits: we tried to keep in contact with visits and cards. Jean Giles, Christian Family and Community Life, has been doing a wonderful job.

Christmas visits: We had hoped to resume visits as much as possible with Vaccine Passports and mandatory masks. We became limited with restrictions in the Retirement/Nursing homes and with the comfort of people in private homes so minimum calls were made.

Meetings: The executive has had three ZOOM Meetings. We attempted to have a General Meeting on June 6/21 but the only attendees were executive. The invitation to attend was well advertised in the bulletin and by e-mail. We were disheartened by the lack of response but may try again. ZOOM meetings are very pleasant and efficient. We get a lot done in a short time and then we visit. It is good to catch up with friends. We plan on having an in-person meeting in the Church practicing all protocols to vote on several very important issues including an increase in the membership fee.

Prayer Shawls are available for those who would like one. Those who make these shawls pray while knitting or crocheting and they are blessed by Father. Contact the parish office if interested.

Small blankets are made and presented when babies are baptized. Thank you Pat Crawford.

Silent Auction: Thank you to Jen Schnarr, Barbara Daly and Amy Strauss for their work on a successful Silent Auction. We made about \$1100 and learned a few things along the way. Thank you to all who participated.

Canadian Food for Children: Thanks to Ann Onn and her youthful team for collecting hygiene products for impoverished countries where they are desperately needed. Approximately 450 items were taken to the CFFC depot on Guelph St.

Tradition: From the very beginning **St. Teresa's CWL members** have gathered before the Funeral Mass to pray the rosary for our deceased member and to stand as an honour guard. There have been a small number of us (5) for recent funerals. If we do not get a better response we may have to end this beautiful tradition.

Membership: If you have not paid your \$25 membership for 2022 please put it in an envelope with your name and put it in the collection basket. Congratulations to Isabel Stroeder who won the draw for free 2022 membership. Members who paid by December 15th were eligible.

Executive members and Covid!

I have been fortunate to have worked throughout the lockdowns. Our little store has been busier than usual. Our neighbourhood has made the choice to buy from us instead of the bigger stores. We are able to see how many people are in the store and we do regular cleaning to keep everyone safe.

The blessing of being very busy has its drawbacks. Seeing family other than children and grandchildren has been impossible. We are all getting older and don't want to chance harming anyone. I do not want to bring germs from my working retail to my family or my St. Teresa family so I miss Mass and the connection with our parish family. I couldn't face infecting someone with Covid so I keep a small circle around me at all times. If you know me that is hard.

To keep sane I have taken up knitting baptismal blankets again and I have a small library of favourite books that I enjoy reading time and again.

I am blessed that I have meals with my daughter and son-in-law and I see one son at noon everyday. It is difficult to see my older son because three family members are child care workers while two others are in the workforce.

I gained a confidence and independence that I have forgotten for many years. I also learned that life is too short to deal with negativity. I want to surround myself with positive attitudes! I really enjoy doing things with my son and want more of it. I prefer the quieter side of things now.

The pandemic has helped me appreciate faith, home, family and the many gifts God has blessed us with. I value the slower pace of life and the opportunity for more prayer time.

Covid has helped me be more grateful for all our blessings, not taking our family or health for granted. I've enjoyed the slower pace of life not having to rush around. I love spending more quality time with my family. It has also allowed me to go for more walks and absorb nature's beauty.

I thought I really missed.....gyms, restaurants, stores. Now, they seem trivial. The normal we were living was too much, too busy, too frantic.

This has been an opportunity to slow down, focus on family, our talents, trying new things. Good things have come from a dark and uncertain time.

The executive, Helen Bastian, Pat Crawford, Barbara Daly, Jean Giles, Amy Strauss, Mary Helen Stroeder, Ann Onn and Mary Alice Zister wish you hope of heart, peace of mind and God's many blessings in 2022.

It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you. Yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your bother and offer him your hand. ~ Mother Teresa