



## St. Joseph's Catholic Women's League Newsletter – Fall / Christmas 2023

### Dear Sisters in the League:

We are pleased to be sending out our Fall / Christmas 2023 Newsletter. We hope that all have had a good year and are looking forward to the coming Christmas season. Your Executive have been busy in 2023 and we are planning a challenging, interesting and beneficial 2024.

### A Message from our Co-Presidents – Kathi Colwell and Susan Conway Williamson

Dear Fellow Sisters of our Catholic Women's League:

*"Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern."*  
Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Saint Teresa of Calcutta's Advent message fits so well with the Advent message that Father Cosmas shared with all of us as the season of Advent began on Sunday December 3, 2023. He used the word **WATCH** to remind us all how to prepare for our Saviour, Jesus Christ's coming. Each letter of **WATCH** shows us how to best prepare:

**W:** Words matter. Watch your words. Are they blessing others or hurting others?

**A:** Actions matter. Make sure your actions are kind. Are you trying to help others?

**T:** Thoughts matter. Are we thinking kind thoughts? Try to think of Jesus and his good works.

**C:** Character matters. Are we trying to live like Jesus? What would Jesus do?

**H:** Hearts matter. We need to love others, always, as Jesus has taught us to love.

So let us all **WATCH** throughout this season of Advent and **HE** will come!

As we **WATCH** and prepare for the Lord's coming, on Christmas Day, we will be very ready to follow our National CWL President, Shari Guinta's announcement of the new 2024 CWL theme, *Here I Am Lord, Send Me!* We will be prepared to do the Lord's work, as we consider the importance of mental health as the lens in which we will continue to be **"Creating HOPE through ACTION!"**

During 2023, we have witnessed many times, as we focused on **"creating hope through action"**, the love and serving others with God's own love and concern. We are very proud of the accomplishments of St Joseph's CWL over the past year.

On Monday December 4th, we celebrated as a community of faith at 5:15 pm Mass and then enjoyed our Potluck and Appreciation Evening. This was our opportunity to say thank you to

Father Cosmas, Father Charles, Deacon Bob and parish staff, Susan Lett, Karen MacDougall and Tom Miller. It was very clear we so rely on their support of our spiritual family with their own loving and serving others, modelled by Jesus. We congratulate Father Cosmas Onyebuchi Ajawara on his 25 years of Priestly Ordination and thank him for his dedication and commitment to St. Joseph's Parish and the ongoing work of making St Joseph's a welcoming place of hospitality and support. At this gathering, we also congratulated our Membership Committee for unveiling our newly framed Charter and Founding Members, which will soon hang proudly in our Parish Hall.

In addition to thanking our parish team, we need to reflect on our accomplishments and say thank you to our very active CWL Executive and every member of our CWL sisterhood, which totals 120 members. Over the past 12 months, we adopted our own local theme of **"Creating Hope through Action."** We knew that words were not enough to show our love for others and that our service had to be active.

- We continued to learn, focus and act on our Indigenous sisters' relationship to the land and the Red Dress Project that led us to remember and pray in a special way for all our missing Indigenous sisters.
- We learned about vanishing affordable housing in Kingston, homelessness and food insecurity especially through the Feed the People program at the Integrated Care Hub, which we generously supported.
- We stood proudly on Guard for many of our sisters who passed away during this year and remembered our deceased members at our Mass for Deceased Members.
- We continued to collect for St Vincent de Paul and Birthright and even celebrated a baby shower for a new immigrant young family to our parish.
- We hosted the Diocesan Fall President's Meeting in October 2023 and attended the Diocesan Spring Retreat, the Development Days and the recent CWL Information Session promoting the Outreach Program.
- We loved the social face to face celebrations of our beloved Fancy Hat Tea Party and the recent Christmas Gift, Craft and Bake Sale. We so appreciate seeing new volunteers working alongside our well experienced members. All of these events, whether fulfilling the criteria of our Faith, Service or Social and Ecological Justice Ministries, require tremendous leadership, time, donations and we are so much better together.
- In January 2024, we are excited to focus on our memberships drive. We are so grateful and appreciate all current members and look forward to welcoming new members as Catholic Women Unite, Where Women Come Together to Live Their Faith.

Please stay connected; for those able, here are our web links to awesome resources:

[www.stjosephskingston.ca/ministries/catholic-womens-league](http://www.stjosephskingston.ca/ministries/catholic-womens-league) (our CWL Council)

<https://kingston.cwl.on.ca/> (Kingston Diocesan Council)

<https://cwl.on.ca/> (Ontario Provincial Council)

[www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) (National Council)

Keep **WATCH** throughout this Advent season, thinking kind words, kind actions and kind thoughts.

Merry Blessed Christmas to you and your families with prayers for Hope, Peace, Joy and Love!

Kathi Colwell and Susan Conway Williamson

Co-Presidents, St Joseph's, Kingston Catholic Women's League

## **A Message from our Past President – Colleen Krasna**

Dear members of the League,

Thank you all for your support and friendship. The Charter has been framed and will be hung in the church hall for all to see. This was something that Mary Clancy took the initiative on with the assistance of Alice Gazeley, Denise Irvine, Barb Quinn, and myself. We thank them all for their dedication and hard work. May you all enjoy a Merry Christmas with love, happiness, and good health in the new year.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to intercede for us, always.

Blessings,

Colleen Krasna

## **A Message from our Acting Treasurer – Pauline Scott**

Our budget is on target for the year. In fact, once the December 31, 2023 Financial Report is completed, we will have a very healthy balance. We have met our Christmas commitments to our Church, the staff and local charities. A cheque, in the amount of \$187.30 which was collected from our members over the past year, has been submitted to the Development and Peace 1% Program. Most of the money was collected at the meetings, but, if anyone who cannot make the meetings wants to contribute to the 1% Program, can feel free to mail a cheque to the office or place cash in an envelope in the collection plate clearly marked "1% Program". Thanks to all members for making 2023 a successful year not only spiritually, but financially.

## **CWL Executive and Standing Committees:**

### **Faith Committee – Margaret-Anne Wojcik (Chair), Rina Daechsel and Karin Long**

Our Faith Committee provides a beautiful prayer service at our Meetings. The Prayer Box continues to receive significant requests for prayers. A new display board is at the Main Entrance to the Church, focusing on the theme of Advent. We welcome the addition of Rina Daechsel to the Faith Committee.

### **Membership and Organization Committee – Mary Clancy and Pauline Scott**

Our Membership is at 120. We have 3 members who have renewed for 2024 also.

Our Membership Drive is booked for the weekends of January 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> and January 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> before and after the Masses. The Membership Fee is thirty-five dollars (\$35.00).

Please encourage new and renewing members to see us at one of the three (3) stations in our Church.

## **Service Committee – Joan McCann (Chair), Angel MacKinnon and Maureen Plunkett**

At our October 2<sup>nd</sup> General Meeting invited guest speakers Michael and Michelle Schwartz (Katarokwi Union of Tenants) spoke about their *Feed The People Program* and related involvement with the Integrated Care Hub on Montreal Street. Their volunteer work includes collecting and delivering supplies such as clothing and camping gear – in addition to food. The “Hub” provides Consumption and Treatment Services (CTS) operated by Kingston Community Health Centres (KCHC/Street Health Centre).

Through a joint fund-raising effort between the CWL and the parish community of St Joseph’s Catholic Church we were able to raise approximately \$1,777.00. This was presented to Michael and Michelle for their campaign. For approximately \$300.00 - \$350.00 they can provide one lunch for 80 – 100 people.

### ***Please note:***

Michael and Michelle are currently looking for volunteers to assist with their Christmas Eve Lunch. If you are able to help, please contact Michelle Schwarz at 613.770.6333 or by email at [SPC@kingston.net](mailto:SPC@kingston.net). You may also contact Alice Gazeley at 613.544.0485 or by email at [alicegazeley1@gmail.com](mailto:alicegazeley1@gmail.com). Thank you in advance for your assistance.

## **Social and Ecological Justice – Barb Quinn (Chair), Alice Gazeley and Jane Watts**

Speaker Series: We have had some interesting Speakers.

Patricia Streich talked about "The Affordable Housing Crisis" in Kingston. Speculators are buying up buildings and are able to charge whatever rent they want.

Michael Schwarz spoke about The Kingston Union of Tenants. His wife Michelle spoke about *Feed the People*. Both help at the HUB on Montreal Street. They have fund raisers to provide lunches at the HUB. A collection from CWL and some parishioners raised over \$1777.00. Some of this money will be used to provide a Christmas dinner on Christmas Eve which our CWL members will be helping to cook and serve.

In November we presented "The Red Dress Project", to remember our Indigenous missing and murdered Women and Girls. A prayer service was held and afterwards a little red dress with a name of a missing or murdered Woman or Girl was available to take home to pray for and research her story.

We continue to collect and recycle small item like milk bags, pill bottles, bottle caps, pop can tabs, and other items.

Merry Christmas everyone.

Alice Gazeley, Barbara Quinn and Jane Watts

## **CWL Memory Book**

A project started by Grace Neddow, in 2012, to commemorate members of the CWL who have passed away, is available for viewing at our General Meetings. The book contains our

member's picture and memorial announcement. It is a beautiful way of remembering our ladies who have supported St Joseph's CWL. Our last entry is of Grace Neddow, who passed away on October 12, 2023.

The following ladies passed this year:

Gloria Emilia McLaren	April 13, 2023
Mary Yvonne St-Pierre	June 4, 2023
Lois Theresa Halligan	June 30, 2023
Grace Margaret Neddow	October 12, 2023

May they, and all our deceased members, rest in peace.

### **Please mark on your 2024 calendar the following dates:**

#### **January**

Membership Drive (at Masses) – January 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>

General Meeting – Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m.

Executive Meeting – Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> – 7:00 p.m.

#### **February**

Bake Sale (after Masses) – February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>

General Meeting – Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m.

Executive Meeting – Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m.

#### **March**

General Meeting – Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m. / a collection for St. Vincent de Paul will be taken up at this meeting

Executive Meeting – Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m.

#### **April**

General Meeting – Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m.

Executive Meeting – Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> – TBD

Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel – Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Mass at 5:15 p.m. followed by a dinner at a restaurant / a Birthright Collection will be taken up at that time

Kingston Diocesan Convention – Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Quality Inn and Conference Centre, Kingston

#### **May**

Fancy Hat Tea Party – Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> – 2:00 p.m.

General Meeting – Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m.

Executive Meeting – Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m.

**June**

General Meeting – Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> – Mass at 5:15 p.m. followed by the Presentation of Pins and a Pot Luck Dinner

Retired Priests/Deacons Lunch – Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> – TBD

Executive Meeting – Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup> – TBD



**We would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas  
and all of the best in 2024.**

**See you next year!**