

# Annual Report Book 2023 Template

## St Joseph's Kingston, Catholic Women's League of Canada

### 1. What is 1 highlight from your Council in 2023?

In 2023 St Joseph's Kingston, CWL members were so pleased to be able to complete two projects that honoured the women that came before us and laid the foundation for today's very active Catholic Women's League of Canada.

**Project #1** On Monday September 11, 2023 our General Meeting began in the outdoors with our members surrounding a beautiful young maple tree. Our Faith Ministry Team with the support of our Spiritual Advisor, Father Cosmas Ajawara, led us through a Marian Prayer Service, followed by the blessing of our CWL 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tree, in recognition of the Kingston Diocesan Council's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1922-2022. This dedicated tree was funded by the Cotnam family in honour of Leona Cotnam, a long time, faith-filled CWL member.

**Project #2** A highlight at Monday December 4, 2023's Pot Luck and Appreciation Evening, was the presentation of the St. Joseph's Catholic Women's League's recently printed and framed Charter which was ready to be hung, with pride, in the Parish Hall. The Charter states that St Joseph's, Kingston, Catholic Women's League of Canada was founded in 1950 and lists the founding members.

We, the present members of St Joseph's Kingston CWL, are proud of these accomplishments and with the three pillars of Faith, Service and Social and Ecological Justice, will strive to continue **"Creating hope through action"**.

### 2. "Go and Make a Difference" has been our provincial theme. Describe 1 way in which your Council has made a difference.

Because St Joseph's CWL was committed to "Go and Make a Difference" in 2023, we adopted our own local theme of **"Creating Hope through Action."** We knew that words were not enough to show our care and compassion for others and that our service had to be active. Our **Speaker Series**, has educated us and allowed us to create hope in our community through our active service. For example, we have 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 and murdered Indigenous sisters. As stewards of creation we too honour the land by providing for St Joseph's parishioners, a collection and recycling service of small items such as milk bags, egg cartons, pill bottles, bottle caps, pop can tabs, bread bag tags, etc. Through our Speaker Series we also learned about vanishing affordable housing in Kingston, homelessness and food insecurity especially through the *Feed the People* program at the

Integrated Care Hub, Kingston, which prompted our generous support. Michael Schwarz spoke about The Kingston Union of Tenants and his wife Michelle spoke about *Feed the People Program*. Both Michael and Michelle, parishioners at St. Joseph's, volunteer at the Integrated Care HUB. Not only do they fundraise to fund daily lunches for 18-120 unhoused (when finances allow), but they also cook and serve. Their presentation inspired us to initiate a collection from St Joseph's CWL and with the help of some parishioners, raised over \$1777. These funds were used to provide a Christmas lunch/dinner on Christmas Eve and for days after. Some of our CWL members have now continued to volunteer for the *Feed the People Program* Ministry.

**3. We know that collectively, our Councils make a difference financially to so many organizations and groups. Please list those groups you have supported in 2023. (include only the names, not the amounts)**

-In 2023, St Joseph's Kingston CWL distributed funds to the following local charities in Kingston:

Partners in Mission Food Bank, Almost Home, Interval House,

St. Vincent de Paul Society, Birthright, St. Mary's Cathedral-St. Rita's Drop In Centre.

-To each of our elementary feeder schools, St. Paul Catholic School and St. Thomas More Catholic School, two bursaries were presented to Grade 8 Graduates who would be attending one of our Catholic Secondary Schools.

-Funds were also distributed to CWL Diocesan Voluntary and Bursary Fund, CWL Provincial Voluntary Fund, CWL National Bursaries and the Development & Peace 1% Program.

**4. This year we would like to record the names of members who have passed away in 2023. Please send us the names of any members from your Council who have passed away in 2023.**

The following CWL members passed away this year:

Gloria Emilia McLaren

April 13, 2023

Mary Yvonne St-Pierre

June 4, 2023

Lois Theresa Halligan (St Mary's Cathedral- Inactive)

June 30, 2023

Grace Margaret Neddow

October 12, 2023

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

