

**June 2024 Newsletter**  
**Catholic Women's League Assumption-Resurrection Parishes**  
**Edmonton, Alberta, Canada**

**Our 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.*

**A Message from our President**

*Blessings to all as we move from winter, albeit short, to hopefully a glorious summer. Please keep the stewardship of God's creation in your prayers. In this newsletter you will find a wonderful write up from our new secretary, Joan Carlson. Thank you so much Joan for joining our executive team! At this time, we are not planning to add any new initiatives as you'll note our ladies are already very busy. However, anyone wishing to organize something new that falls within our mission statement is always welcome to bring such to our meetings.*

*As we bring our membership drive to a close for 2024, we'll be about 65 including 4 new memberships, this is in the typical range for our council of 64 – 70. Please keep Helen Desjardins, Aletha Crowe and Doris Lynch in your prayers upon their passing this year.*

*As our membership continues to age gracefully, we do have more members who are unable to attend masses and/or social events. Maintaining our sisterhood with these women is part of our vocation, and although I know many of you continue to care for each other I worry that some ladies are not being supported, thus we are reaching out to those who would like to be added to a list for social phone calls or visits to please let us know. Thank you sincerely to those of you as well that are willing to step forward and provide this care.*

**Meetings**

*CWL meetings are held once a month (with the exception of June, July, August and December) at 2 pm and alternated between the two parish conference rooms. The agenda and previous minutes are circulated approximately 1 week before each meeting by email, a phoning committee reaches out to those without email access. If you wish to get these phone calls and are not, please call the parish office and they will pass on the request. Recently a social time at 1:30 pm has been established prior to each meeting to enhance the sense of community and fellowship.*

**Recap of CWL Events**

*Over the last year, members of the CWL of Assumption-Resurrection parishes have supported a variety of initiatives through donations of time, talents and resources. Our goal is to build faith, charity and community. Your support of prayers is always appreciated.*

**Homemade Soup Sales**

*In our third year now, CWL members and friends have been making delicious homemade soups to sell in those chilly months of October, November, January and March. One weekend each month volunteers make, package and freeze soups in 2 cup portions and sell them after each mass at both parishes. Each sale typically includes a large variety of about 15 types of soup with borscht, beef barley, Thai coconut and Moroccan lentil being some of the favorites. In March, we trialed including dry soup mixes made by the moms at Gianna Centre in our sales with great success, all proceeds from those sales are for the Gianna Centre market. Each month these homemade soup sales raise approximately \$800. Christine Kupilik is the coordinator of this fund-raising and outreach event to parishioners who find the soups delicious and often very helpful with meal planning.*

**Bake Sales**

CWL members baked their way to a very successful sale in December organized by Doris Leboldus-Campbell and Bernice Townsend along with a number of CWL volunteers who baked and helped sell these goodies after all masses at both parishes. A second spring sale took place the first weekend in May with a trial run selling Gianna Centre dry packaged baking products and soups which were well received. We plan to continue with two bake sales per year in December and spring.

### **Inner City Pastoral Ministry (ICPM)**

Twice a year, CWL members join with other parish members to support ICPM with monetary donations and making sandwiches, packaging lunches, delivery and serving of these to those less fortunate in the city. Watch the bulletins for 2024 dates and contact information.

### **Funeral Hospitality**

With a group of 21 CWL members and friends led by Nancy Poloway and support from Joan Carlson, funeral hospitality is offered to parishioners at Assumption parish. Set up of the hall, preparation of coffee, tea, and juice, management of the catered food and clean up are provided by these volunteers. There is no charge for this service to grieving families but a donation is kindly requested where possible. An honour guard is offered to the families for all deceased members who have at any point been a member of the CWL anywhere in Canada. Thank you to this very busy team.

### **Gianna Centre**

The Gianna Centre is located in the former Assumption Church rectory and is funded within the umbrella of Catholic Social Services. The centre provides pre- and post-natal services to women and their babies, facing an unplanned or crisis pregnancy. Their belief in the sanctity of human life and protection of the unborn drives their provision of free services to these families in distress. You can learn more about their mission online at [gianna.centre@cssalberta.ca](mailto:gianna.centre@cssalberta.ca) or by contacting or visiting their physical location next door to Assumption Church. Joan Carlson is our CWL Gianna Centre liaison.

Due to our common beliefs many CWL volunteers are involved in various Gianna Centre activities including:

- Helping plant and nurture their onsite garden plot which provides vegetables for sale at their outdoor market which runs Thursdays mid-June to mid-September on the lawn between Gianna Centre and Assumption Church,
- Preparing baked goods, lunches and other items for this outdoor market on Wednesdays at the Centre,
- Working with the “market moms” to create and sell art at the outdoor market as well as the online market throughout the year, [www.themarketatgianna.ca](http://www.themarketatgianna.ca),
- Hiring Gianna Centre moms to cater our CWL June Tea Party,
- Donations of new baby layette items at our CWL June Tea Party,
- Support of Gianna pop-up markets such as at our December Christmas Potluck and June Tea Party,
- Preparation of preserves and sewn items sold at these various markets.

### **Other Activities of the CWL include:**

- CWL members, Lucy Steen and Jeannette Poulin are very active in the work of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP). Along with the many hours they spend volunteering with the Assumption Conference, these ladies bring information forward to our CWL council with regards to current needs of the society and opportunities for our support to them in their mission of providing food, household goods and monetary needs to those facing poverty and crisis,
- Each year the CWL purchases several books recommended by the Provincial Diocesan CWL and donates these to the schools supported by our parishes. This year copies of the two books were donated to St. Brendan’s and St. Gabriel’s libraries by Bonnie Malowany, our new coordinator for this initiative.
- Many of our members have supported several Coffee Sundays at both Assumption and Resurrection parishes providing wonderful opportunities for community building after years without such.

- Along with the Knights of Columbus and the Youth Group, the CWL helped to facilitate and participate in the second annual February Chili Cook Off event as a fundraiser and social event for our joint parishes.
- Ongoing support to our adopted seminarian, Peter Nguyen, who continues in his formation to the priesthood. The CWL provides some monetary support, small gifts and most importantly our prayers and encouragement. Once Peter is ordained in 2025, we will be asked to adopt a new seminarian, as such we are seeking a CWL member to become the coordinator of this faith filled initiative.
- Our President, Lorrie Deutscher is a member of the Assumption-Resurrection Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) along with our CWL member Audrey Sidebottom who represents the youth group. bringing information back to CWL meetings and sharing our ideas and feedback with the PPC.
- You will also see several of our CWL members participating in the various ministries, special liturgical celebrations and decorating in support of both parishes.

## **Charitable Donations**

Our memberships and events raised funds with which the CWL was able to make donations in support of a number of causes thus far this year as nominated by our membership including:

- Purchase of a box of children's winter coats in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids annual initiative \$345
- IWIN initiative against human trafficking \$500
- Sacred Heart parish outreach and children's Christmas party \$500
- Marian Centre drop-in service \$500
- Catholic Social Services (CSS)- Lurana Shelter \$500
- Saint Vincent de Paul local conference (SSVP) \$500

## **Social Activities**

In addition to our community projects, the CWL social calendar includes:

- Birthday cards sent to CWL members milestone birthdays (with permission of course) and whenever possible the sharing of cake for those very special 100<sup>th</sup> birthdays,
- Annual Christmas Potluck lunch, to be held this year on Saturday November 30th 2024,
- Annual catered June Tea Party to be held this year on June 8<sup>th</sup> 2024,
- The addition of a half hour social event starting at 1:30 prior to our monthly meetings,
- Occasional meet ups at the outdoor Gianna Market on Thursdays mid-June to mid-September,
- Sharing news/prayers/event information to members through our email distribution list and telephone committee,
- The launch of a new outreach program for homebound members.

**If any homebound CWL member would appreciate a home visit from a CWL member, please call 780-935-6065 or email [cwlare106@gmail.com](mailto:cwlare106@gmail.com)**

## **Contacts**

Members can always reach us via our email at [cwlare106@gmail.com](mailto:cwlare106@gmail.com), the parish office at 780-468-4071 or either member of our executive council, Lorrie Deutscher at 780-720-0946 and Joan Carlson at 780-935-6065.

## **Our CWL in Action**



*Our CWL member, Bonnie Malowany presenting our donation of books for the school library to staff at St. Gabriel School & a student at St. Brendan School this spring.*



*Two of our CWL bake sale volunteers, Sylvia Hoffman and Christine Kupilik with the wonderful Baking and dry mixes from Gianna Centre. Bake sale coordinators Doris Leboldus-Campbell and Bernice Townsend and a number of volunteers sold delicious baking after all 4 masses May 4 & 5<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to all who baked, helped with the sale and bought baking to support our council's works of charity!*