



## **St. Joseph's Catholic Women's League Newsletter – Spring 2025**

### **Dear Sisters in the League:**

With joy, we are pleased to be sharing our Spring 2025 Newsletter. Once again, it has been a busy time since our last Newsletter in the Fall of 2024. We, in conjunction with St. Joseph's Parish, are currently celebrating the Jubilee Year 2025. We are also continuing our support of the Feed the People program, St. Vincent de Paul Society and Birthright as well as other local organizations. And we have fun – celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel Dinner (Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup>) and our upcoming Fancy Hat Tea Party (Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>).

We thank you, our members, for your ongoing support which enables us to help others in need. Please remember that you are encouraged and welcomed to assist at and participate in our many activities.

In January 2025, we were pleased to have the following women installed as the St. Joseph's CWL Executive for 2025 – 2027. Co-Presidents: Kathi Colwell and Susan Conway Williamson; Vice President: Siobhain Boisvert; Secretaries: Rina Daechsel (Correspondence), Denise Irvine (Communication), Carol Keeler (General Meetings) and Colleen Purcell (Executive Meetings); Treasurer: Cecile Dillon; Membership: Mary Clancy and Pauline Scott. The Ministry Members are: Faith Ministry: Sister Nancy Hurren, Karin Long and Kathryn Nickerson (Chair); Service Ministry: Denise Irvine, Angel MacKinnon (Chair), Joan McCann and Maureen Plunkett; and Social and Ecological Justice Ministry: Rina Daechsel, Alice Gazeley and Barb Quinn (Chair). Our Spiritual Advisor is Father Cosmas Ajawara and our Co-Spiritual Advisor is Sister Nancy Hurren.

### **CWL Executive and Standing Ministry Reports:**

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

We, Co-Presidents feel grateful and blessed to work for and with all of you, our CWL members as we continue, "Creating Hope through Action."

We are happy to report that eleven (11) of our members will be attending the Kingston Diocesan Convention, Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in Kingston at the Quality Inn and Conference Centre.

For the Kingston CWL Diocesan Annual Report for this April 2025 convention, we were asked to share a highlight of our CWL for the last year, something that we are especially proud of. In soliciting help to answer this question, we were humbled and proud to be told that our CWL is very inclusive, cohesive and welcoming. We are extremely proud to have supported St. Joseph's 60th Anniversary, our outreach through our newsletters, our timely and relevant Speaker Series presentations, including one on mental health and by being able to say farewell to our deceased CWL sisters with an honour guard.

We were also asked how our CWL used the provincial theme of JOY! in our parish and community. We agree we feel joy when we gather and serve to "Create Hope Through Action." We experienced this especially with our Parish Appreciation Pot Luck dinner, our annual Fancy Hat Tea Party, our Retired Priests Luncheon, Our Lady of Good Council Mass and then out to dinner together, our Gift/Craft/Bake/Raffle Sale and our installation, welcoming and service pin ceremonies.

We would really appreciate hearing from you. What makes you proud of our CWL? What gives you Joy? We also want any feedback you wish to provide on what we could do more of? Less of? Engage younger members? Provide speakers you would like to hear from? Please feel free to reach out to Susan or Kathi any time. Our emails are conwills59@yahoo.ca for Susan or Kathicolwell@gmail.com for Kathi.

We were very touched by the Ontario Provincial CWL, Prayer from Dynamic Catholic:

*Heavenly Father, guide me to the path that leads to you. Fill my heart with gratitude, patience, strength and peace as I strive to become the-best-version-of-myself. Let me hear your voice in the deepest reaches of my heart. Give me rest in you. Help me to accept others, showing them your great love instead of casting judgement. Stay with me throughout the busy days this week and remind me that when I need comfort, solitude, wisdom or guidance, I can always turn to you.*

Wishing you and your loved ones a very happy and blessed Easter, filled with love, joy, peace, hope and new beginnings.

Please enjoy our newsletter as you read what our awesome and amazing committees have been up to.

Kathi Colwell and Susan Conway Williamson

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

### **A Message from our Treasurer – Cecile Dillon**

As the new Treasurer, I have spent the past several weeks familiarizing myself with the various accounts and categories—expenses, income, and donations. A key focus has been ensuring the financials are balanced at the end of each month. I believe I have now captured all the necessary information to move forward with confidence. Many thanks to Connie Halverson and Pauline Scott for their previous work and guidance—it has been invaluable in helping me transition into this role.

### **CWL Development and Peace Program**

Our Development and Peace fundraising goal for 2025 is \$200.00. To date, we have collected \$78.10 through member donations as part of the 1% program. With continued support, I am confident we will meet our goal. Thank you to all who have contributed so far—your generosity is greatly appreciated!

### **A Message from Membership and Organization – Mary Clancy and Pauline Scott**

On June 10, 2024 we presented Service Pins to 28 members ranging from 5 to 45 years of service. We also presented our 5 new members with CWL pins.

Our membership drive beginning January 2025 introduced 4 new members – Mary-Louise Heroux, Monique LeRay, Fran Levesque and Unoma Onwuliri; reinstated 3 members – Colleen Earle, Shirlee Graham and Brigit Joseph; welcomed 3 transferred members – Grace Goncalves, Marietta Marcial and Sharon Murphy; and 115 members renewed, bringing our total membership for the St. Joseph Council to 125 members. We would like to thank all who participated in the drive and to those who have continued to encourage women of our parish to become members. If you should have any questions about membership, please contact Mary Clancy 613-544-4190 or Pauline Scott 613-548-3456.

### **Faith Ministry – Sister Nancy Hurren, Karin Long and Kathryn Nickerson (Chair)**

In February, Kathryn Nickerson, as Chair of the Faith Committee, helped organize the Welcoming Ceremony for new members and the Installation Ceremony for the Executive members. We also welcomed Sister Nancy Hurren as the Co-Spiritual Advisor to assist Father Cosmas. With a focus on spiritual growth and faith formation of our CWL members, Faith Prayer Services included: Remembering the Holy Souls of Purgatory; Jubilee Year 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope; and A Lenten Journey Filled with Hope. As a CWL congregation, we pray for the intentions of our parish members, our school prayer buddies, our Indigenous sisters and brothers, and for members' personal intentions that they hold close to their heart.

In March, 2025, we collaborated with the Service and Social & Ecological Justice Committees, as well as with St. Joseph's parishioners as we spearheaded a much-needed collection for St. Vincent de Paul Society of Kingston. Thank you to all whose contributions created hope for clients of St. Vincent de Paul Society.

### **Service Ministry – Denise Irvine, Angel MacKinnon (Chair), Joan McCann and Maureen Plunkett**

Our vibrant Service Ministry continues to be very active and runs the gambit from organizing and participating in social activities; fundraising; providing support at spiritual events (such as standing in the Honour Guard at funerals for CWL Members) and to our

two Catholic elementary schools – St. Paul and St. Thomas More Catholic Schools. We welcome all, and in particular, new members to join us in our endeavors. The result is two-fold: you will be assisting individuals and groups who so need our time, attention and resources and we will get to know one another and enjoy time spent together. Many life-long friendships have had their start with the CWL.

Be assured that our Service Committee members are very energetic and will continue working for and alongside you with enthusiasm and in faith.

Activities since our Fall Newsletter 2024 are:

**FUNDRAISERS:**

- ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIFT & BAKE SALE (December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024): This is our principal fundraiser each year. Due to great participation from many members and parishioners we exceeded last year's total by raising over \$3,900.00.
- ANNUAL FEBRUARY BAKE SALE (BAKE FEST – February 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025): This is our secondary fundraiser and, again, we were very successful with the help of many dedicated members and parishioners. Despite being hit with the worst snowstorm of the winter, we raised \$1,500.00 – again exceeding last year's total.



- ANNUAL BIRTHRIGHT COLLECTION (April 7<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025): We are currently collecting items and financial donations. There are donation boxes at each of the three entrances of St. Joseph's Church. You may contribute to both Mom and Baby. Financial donations marked "CWL Birthright Collection" may be placed in the weekend collection baskets or brought to St. Joseph's Parish Office.

**Thank you everyone for your generous support with these events!**

### UPCOMING SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:

- OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL MASS AND DINNER (April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025): Mass at 5:15 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church, immediately followed by dinner at the Greek Islands Restaurant, Kingston. Please join us for a lovely evening of great food and conversation.
- 11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FANCY HAT TEA PARTY (May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025): This event is a big favourite with everyone and it's just for fun and friendship! If you haven't attended in previous years, we encourage you to come this year and bring your mom, aunt, sister, daughter, niece or friend. Tickets are \$20.00 each. We will offer a delicious "High Tea" menu, door prizes, silent auction and, of course our beloved Fancy Hat contest. More details will follow in our parish bulletin and posters.
- CWL MASS, PRESENTATION OF SERVICE PINS AND POT-LUCK (June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025): Mass at 5:15 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church, followed by the presentation of Service Pins in the Church, and then a hearty Pot-Luck dinner in the Parish Hall.

### Social and Ecological Justice Ministry – Rina Daechsel, Alice Gazeley and Barb Quinn (Chair)

First of all, thanks to Jane Watts for serving with our community for the past two years. Jane continues to be our Recycling Guru. At all CWL events and some Parish events that have CWL participation the recycling bins and the green bins are all in the hall so attendees can easily distribute food and other recyclable materials. Please visit Jane's recycling corner just inside the Church door at the Choir side for all the items we are recycling.

The newest CWL Resolution is to increase supportive housing for Individuals experiencing homelessness with mental health and mental illness issues. Persons with these issues are predisposed to experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness and poor mental health can be triggered or aggravated by homelessness. It has been found that in Canada 520,700 persons with mental illness do not have access to adequate housing and that 119,800 of them are homeless.

Please read the brief and action on the CWL national website [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca). Pope Francis said "During the Holy Year, we are called to be tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind. I think of *prisoners* who, deprived of their freedom, daily feel the harshness of detention and its restrictions, lack of affection and, in more than a few cases, lack of respect for their persons."

Bill S-210 *An Act to Restrict Young Persons' Online Access to Sexually Explicit Material* has been through the Senate and has passed third reading in the House. Now that Parliament is shut down this bill's future is unknown.

One of the areas the CWL are focusing on is Human Trafficking. The CWL has written and adopted a Position Paper on Human Trafficking. You can read it on the National website. Saint Josephine Bakhita is the Patron Saint of victims of Human Trafficking. She was born

in a small village in the Dufar Region of Sudan in 1869. She was sold into slavery at age 9. Her captives named her Bakhita meaning "fortunate" in Arabic. We were fortunate to have Nathan Murano who is the Kingston RCMP Border Integrity and Central Region Anti - Human Trafficking Coordinator speak to us in February. Trafficking is defined as recruitment, transportation, harbouring and/or exercising control, direction or influence over movement of a person in order to exploit that person typically sexually or forced labour. It is often described as a form of slavery. If you believe someone is being trafficked do not approach the situation but call the police.

The Canadian Trafficking Hotline is **1-833-900-1010**.

### **Development and Peace - Caritas Canada**

This year we are responding to Pope Francis's call and joining the global TURN DEBT INTO HOPE campaign, so that our sisters and brothers in the Global South can live in dignity, free from the burden of unjust debt. The crushing debt payments keep them from investing in their people. At the same time, countries in the Global North owe them an "ecological debt" for exploiting their resources and destroying their environment driving climate change adversely affecting societies that are least responsible for it. For more information contact [devp.org](http://devp.org).

This month Alice Gazeley will lead us in a discussion of the Synodality Process.

In May we will have a speaker talking about Palliative and End of Life Care.

Many thanks to all who help keep us on track.

### **CWL Memory Book**

Since our Fall 2024 Newsletter, five of our long serving members have passed away.

Donna White	November 29, 2024
Sheila Alarie	December 6, 2024
Wilma Kearns	January 9, 2025
Isabelle Curry	February 9, 2025
Lee Ann George	February 23, 2025

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

### **Please mark on your 2025 calendar the following dates:**

#### **April**

General Meeting – Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m. (Collection for Birthright)

Kingston Diocesan Convention – Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> – Quality Inn, Kingston. Registration is required before attending.

Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel – Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> – Mass at 5:15 p.m. followed by dinner at The Greek Islands, 331A Bath Road

Executive Meeting – Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m.

#### **May 2025**

General Meeting – Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m. (Presentation - End of Life Care)

Fancy Hat Tea Party – Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> – 2:00 to 5:15 p.m. – St Joseph’s Parish Hall  
Palliative Care Day of Prayer – Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. St Joseph’s Catholic Church

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

### **June 2025**

General Meeting – Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup> 5:15 p.m. Mass / Presentation of Pins / Pot-Luck Supper

St. Joseph’s Family Picnic – Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup> – following the 11:00 a.m. Mass

Executive Meeting – Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 7:00 p.m.

### **July 2025**

No scheduled Meetings

CWL Provincial Convention – July 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 / in London, Ontario

### **August 2025**

No scheduled Meetings

CWL National Convention – August 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 / in Toronto, Ontario

### **September 2025**

General Meeting – Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m. (Presentation)

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

Further Information about all of the above events will be posted on the St. Joseph’s website ([www.stjosephskingston.ca](http://www.stjosephskingston.ca)) and in the Bulletins.



**We would like to wish you and your family  
a very Happy and Blessed Easter**





## The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,  
 may the *faith* you have given us  
 in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
 and the flame of *charity* enkindled  
 in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
 reawaken in us the blessed *hope*  
 for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
 into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
 May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos  
 in the sure expectation  
 of a new heaven and a new earth,  
 when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
 your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
 reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,  
 a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread  
 the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
 throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
 be glory and praise for ever.

Amen