

St. Joseph's CWL Annual Report

March 27, 2017

The last Annual General Meeting of St. Joseph's CWL was held on April 25, 2016. No changes were made to the Executive Committee. Jean Collins and Laureen Murphy began their fourth year as President and Vice-President, respectively.

Other officers: Donna Kennedy, past president; Theresa MacMullin, treasurer; Kaye Marie Chisholm, recording secretary; and Katherine Ann Chisholm, corresponding secretary. Standing Committee Chairs: Annette Stewart, organizational/membership chair; Janet Gallant, spiritual development chair.

We had 49 paid members of the St. Joseph's CWL in 2016.

Activities for the year: April 25, 2016 - March 27, 2017

Members of the CWL were involved in the following activities throughout the year:

1. Eight regular meetings of the CWL have been held since the last Annual General Meeting on April 25, 2016. We start each meeting with the CWL prayer, followed by a decade of the rosary for the sick of the parish and any special intentions people may have.
2. The CWL mass was held on April 30, 2016, the Saturday after the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel. One member was presented with a 25-year long service pin.
3. Alan Boutillier, a Grade 12 student, was presented with a CWL bursary for \$200. We decided to discontinue the bursary after this year, since Parish Council is also providing a bursary, and we were getting fewer and fewer applicants.
4. St. Joseph's Cemetery Mass was held on Saturday July 9, 2016. We organized a reception following the mass, at the Saint Joseph's Lakeside Community Centre, and provided strawberry shortcake and refreshments for approximately 115 people. During the reception, an engraved Holy Water Vessel and Sprinkler was presented by the CWL to the parish in memory of Allie MacLean.
5. A mass for all three parishes was held to celebrate the end of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, on November 19, 2016. The CWL, together with members from the other two parishes, organized food and refreshments for the reception, which included entertainment from the Voices of Praise.
6. Three funerals were held at St. Joseph's during the year: April 18, 2016 for Shirley Campbell; May 25, 2016, for Bill van Oirschot; and January 7, 2017, for Joseph Gillis. Members of the CWL organized food and refreshments for the receptions following the funerals at the Saint Joseph's Lakeside Community Centre.

7. We continued to pray the rosary together after the 5 pm mass on the first Saturday of each month throughout the year, organized by Janet Gallant. This is for the sick of the parish, plus any special intentions people may have. In May 2016 we only had one mass each week, at 8:30 am on Sunday. We prayed the rosary together after all five masses during May. We have been very pleased with the attendance, which is usually around 20 to 30 people each time.
8. Members of the CWL participated in the 12 hours of prayer for palliative care, which was held on May 4, 2016. A notice was placed in the bulletin, and an email sent to members, inviting them to take an hour to pray for palliative care whenever it was most convenient for them.
9. Meagan Kennedy organized and conducted the religious education program for the church, including both first communion and confirmation classes.
10. Members of the Haverkort family continued to provide beautiful decorations for the church for Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.
11. Laureen Murphy organized our second annual Christmas Carol Sing, featuring the Voices of Praise, and local talent, which was held on Sunday, December 18, 2016. Approximately 85 people were present at the event, and donations at the door raised \$295 for our Christmas commitments. The concert was followed by tree lighting, hot chocolate, and candy canes at the Saint Joseph's Lakeside Community Centre.
12. Members of the CWL sent or delivered a number of Christmas cards and gifts to people who were homebound, sick or in need.
13. Katherine Anne Chisholm sent thank you cards, get well cards, sympathy cards, mass cards, and Christmas cards to 41 members of the parish.
14. Janet Gallant organized a used stamp collection after Christmas, which is still ongoing. Once all the stamps are collected, they will be donated to Development and Peace for their missions abroad.
15. In addition to taking on the job of sacristan and altar server for the Saturday masses, Cathy Chisholm organized two more sacristans for the Sunday masses, and helped Fr. Alphonsus set up and organize all of the special Christmas and Easter celebrations, plus baptisms and funeral masses throughout the year.
16. Representatives from the CWL served on Saint Joseph's Parish Council (Laureen Murphy, Cathy Chisholm, Donna Kennedy), and the Saint Joseph's Lakeside Community Centre Board of Directors (Kaye Marie Chisholm).
17. The CWL continued to organize the monthly cleaning schedule for the church. Regular cleaning was done following mass on the last Saturday of each month. An item was placed in the bulletin each month asking for volunteers to help out, and the response has been excellent.

18. Mary Janet Grant has been faithfully taking care of the altar linens and albs, and also arranged to purchase material for two new table cloths to cover the tables at the entrance to the church.
19. Three new table cloths were purchased for use during funeral and other receptions at the Saint Joseph's Lakeside Community Centre.
20. Following a request from the CWL, Bernie MacLean arranged to have the outside steps into the annex repaired so they were no longer a hazard.
21. Jean Collins has taken over publishing the church bulletin each week. She has also designed a web site for the church, and updates it weekly.
22. Mary Kay Barter organized the schedule for extraordinary members of the eucharist for each mass throughout the year, and Jean Collins organized the lector schedule.
23. Many members of the CWL also served as lectors and extraordinary ministers of the eucharist during masses throughout the year.

This was my fourth year as President of the CWL, and normally I would step down at this point, but I have been asked to stay on as President for another term. I appreciate the faith and confidence people have expressed in me, but I could not do the job I do without the excellent help I receive from other members whenever I ask for it. I want to thank everyone for that and to express my appreciation for the very generous amounts of time and energy you have all put into so many of our CWL projects and activities.

Special thanks to those CWL members who faithfully attend our monthly meetings, and do so much of the work of organizing parish events: Laureen Murphy (Vice President), Donna Kennedy (Past President), Kaye Marie Chisholm (Recording Secretary), Katherine Anne Chisholm (Corresponding Secretary), Theresa MacMullin (Treasurer), Annette Stewart (Membership/Organization), Janet Gallant (Spiritual Development), Genevieve Haverkort, Florence MacLean, and Cathy Chisholm.

I had two personal goals for the year which were continued from previous years; to finish conducting a telephone survey of the membership, and to organize a prayer chain. I am still working on these. Unfortunately, because of other demands on my time, I have been unable to complete these tasks. However, undaunted, I am making them my goals again for this coming year, and I hope to get them both done.

Respectfully submitted
Jean Collins
President