

What a year 2020 was! Little did any of us realize that our terms as executive chairpersons in our committees would extend into a third year. Though our situations change, the work of the League continues. Since many of the councils could not meet in person due to the limitations set by the provincial government, the submissions of annual reports from council chairs were reduced (Halifax-Yarmouth -seven (7) out of twenty-five (25) parish councils; Antigonish – twelve (12) out of thirty-nine (39) parish councils). Though the submissions were reduced, the content and innovation were amazing.

The *League Magazine* was the prime resource used by all members to keep informed and the President's reports were by far the most relevant column with mention of other articles including *Protection of minors: a serious issue*, *Message from the Spiritual Advisor*, and a *Nova Scotian history of the League*. Suggestions for future articles include how to engage young women to become members and human trafficking. There was support for Resolution 1978.03 by chairs to promote Catholic material to members, and Mass for Shut-Ins had tremendous support both in the aspect of evangelization and financially from members across the province. The League-sponsored Our Lady of Good Counsel Mass on April 26, 2020 produced by Fr. Patrick O'Neill, NS Spiritual Advisor from Sydney was viewed by over 1000 viewers.

The National CWL website was widely utilized by members to keep informed in 2020 as well as social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram). Since one of the challenges for much of the membership are older women with little or very limited knowledge of computer applications, but church bulletins, bulletin boards, emails and the ever-present telephone committee stepped in to fill the void to inform members and to keep in touch. Newsletters were increasing promoted and used to inform members and were distributed via email or regular mail. In addition, one chairperson was particularly resourceful to teach her executive and members how to use Zoom and Facebook and even create their own Facebook group – this council needs to be commended for their creativity and innovation!!

Regarding Resolution 2017.02 (Mandatory Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornography), many of the parish councils encouraged members to become informed on internet safety and responsible technology use. Some councils made members aware of the lack of age verification controls on adult websites with several contacting their members of parliament, the justice minister and the prime minister to pursue legislation. Very few councils participated in the Pornography Hurts postcards campaign this year, but those who did, sent them in February and March. It was also noted that the videos (*Over 18* and *Red Light, Green Light*) available from National website were not viewed by many members, no doubt due to the lack of meetings.

Sharing the message of the Strategic planning was mixed with the majority aware of the updates through the League magazine and the website, but less shared through their councils. With no meetings last year due to the pandemic, it was difficult to share information though many councils connected through telephone calls, cards and emails. To share information in the province of Nova Scotia, the provincial CWL Council is implementing a new website and this process is now almost complete. Personally, it was privilege to be able to research and write a history of the Provincial CWL Council for the League magazine. As chair, I shared National communiques and emails from National Chairperson Doreen Gowans with the Diocesan chairs, Helena MacLeod from Antigonish Diocesan Council and Barbara Macdonald-Sullivan from Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Council. Thank you, ladies in your efforts and commitment to distribute the information to your parish councils.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel bless each of you to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ as good communicators with wisdom and understanding of our present situation.

Ann Myers,
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