

End of term report

Our Mother of Perpetual Help parish President 2015-2016

I began my third term as parish president in January 2015. Most of the previous executive continued in their positions which made an easy transition for me to president.

We celebrated the Year of Consecrated Life in 2015 by writing Thank you cards to 30 priests, deacons and groups of religious in our diocese. We received a few responses from very grateful people.

Our council was partnered with the Big River First Nation Reserve in Northern Saskatchewan through Catholic Missions in Canada. We sent support through emails, cards, 10 new bibles and several boxes of school supplies. We directed our annual donation to CMC to the Big River Mission. Our council studied the resolution Feathers of Hope and watched the accompanying DVD. Cards with supportive comments were sent to the youth of Attawapiskat and Cross Lake First Nations who were experiencing high suicide rates.

We also concentrated our volunteer efforts close to home through the Rosary Club at English Catholic Central School as well as preparing foods for the breakfast program. We annually contribute funds to their breakfast program as well and in 2016 allocated an extra \$150.00 to be used for children unable to participate in activities due to financial reasons.

Couples getting married in our parish receive a gift of a cross and those being baptized receive their white sash and a card from the CWL. Our Community Life chairperson visits our ill members and other CWL members comprise the parishes Visitation committee.

Our meetings were informative and educational as we hosted presenters on the Seven Dimensions of Wellness, Palliative Care in Temiskaming, Alzheimers and the benefits of yoga. Each month we started our meeting with Mass and a spiritual story from "Stories from the Heart" radio program.

Our executive created a membership survey which was filled out by about half of our membership which helped us to find new volunteers for activities. Ladies of the congregation were called and personally asked if they would like to join the CWL. A newsletter was written and included in the bulletin with information on our many activities and a call of Evangelization to recruit new members. The bulletin was also used to educate the parishioners about Pornography in October.

Our Christian Family Life Chairperson concentrated on reporting about Physician assisted suicide, euthanasia and palliative care. Members wrote letters to government officials and received answers.

Monies not spent in the budget were redirected to Development and Peace for the refugee crisis. We also support a family in India.

Many of these activities also took place in 2016. We continued to pray for our Indigenous brothers and sisters and sent them Christmas cards again. Breakfast preparation is now being done for St. Michel school and Rosary Club and our monetary donations continue for ESSC. Several couples were married this year and received a gift as well as many who were baptized. Visits continue to take place to those who are housebound and ill. Christmas cards and cookies are brought to them at Christmas.

Our Council led the Stations of the Cross one week during Lent and again in September at a Pilgrimage to the Holy Door where we also lead the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Most of the activities that we accomplish as a CWL council are acts of Mercy. Members were reminded of the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy during this Jubilee Year of Mercy.

The League magazine was promoted during the year as was the Prayer Partners in the spring edition. Members were encouraged to attend the Diocesan Convention and money was provided to offset costs. Our Organization Chair distributed the Hospitality Survey.

In place of our May regular meeting, we participated in the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care. A presentation was made by a Palliative Care volunteer. Mass was said as well as the rosary. The petition was circulated.

In June we celebrated Seniors Month by hosting a Tea at our local Retirement Residence. Invitations were written and sent to the senior members of our council. Many of our CWL members attended as well as the residents. Many of them thanked us for the fun afternoon.

An employee of the Timiskaming Health Unit gave a presentation on their services and informed us on the various adult immunizations they give. In place of our October meeting, we had a S'mores workshop on Discerning a Call to Service. Our elections took place at the November meeting and we have most of our executive positions filled for the next two years.

It has been an honour to serve the Catholic Women's League Council of Our Mother of Perpetual Help parish. I am very thankful for the support of the executive members and the council members. We are a busy council working diligently for God and Canada.

Respectfully Submitted;

Audrey Shelton