



# Antigonish Diocesan CWL Newsletter

April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026

***"Blessed are the Poor"***

***Anne McCormick – ANTIGONISH DIOCESAN CWL PRESIDENT***



What an honor and privilege it has been to serve as diocesan president! As I reflect on the past two years, I am filled with gratitude for the many people who have supported and guided me. I extend my sincere thanks to the members of our parish councils for your dedication, commitment and contributions as you live out our mission *"to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service"*. I am especially grateful to those who mentored me; your guidance and encouragement were invaluable. Thank you to our executive officers, Julie, Laurena, Debbie, Louise, Doreen, Rita and Denise, and to Fr Danny, our diocesan spiritual advisor; you made this role meaningful and manageable.

Stepping into this position required me to move well beyond my comfort zone. I have learned a tremendous amount over these two years, and each experience, whether challenging or affirming, has contributed to my personal and leadership growth.

My focus over the past two years has been on membership and leadership. Education has always been an important component of my life and it has been a priority of mine to offer education/training to our councils. Our League is strengthened when we invest in learning and I appreciate that you have welcomed and hosted our officers for these presentations. These opportunities have enriched our members and our service to one another.

I have encouraged, at the parish and diocesan levels, the development of standing chair subcommittees and collaboration between the pillars; promoted collaboration between councils; and supported increased connectedness between parish council officers and their diocesan counterparts. I am grateful to those councils who embraced these concepts and encourage others to work towards them. The addition of the *"Life Members' Corner"* to our newsletter and the revised diocesan website have provided valuable input and opportunities for sharing. I applaud the councils that took on the membership challenge; your enthusiasm is inspiring!

It has been an affirming experience to serve on the provincial executive and to attend my first national convention. These experiences broadened my perspective and deepened my appreciation for the work of the League at every level. I have also truly enjoyed the challenge of working on resolutions - engaging in thoughtful dialogue and contributing to change through advocacy.

As I look ahead, I encourage everyone to keep the national convention in Halifax in mind. Consider attending some or all of it! Together let us build our membership through invitation and renewal, mentor one another, and show kindness to each other. As women of faith united in purpose, service, and love for our League, let us grow, learn and serve as we answer the call to *"Ignite our Passion, Empower His Mission."* ***Anne McCormick***

## ***Fr Danny MacLennan – ANTIGONISH DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL ADVISOR***

As we journey from the quiet, reflective days of Lent into the radiant joy of Easter, we are reminded that any kind of change rarely comes easily. Lent calls us to walk through the desert, and there we meet sacrifice and uncertainty before we can fully embrace the light of resurrection.

This year, that journey may feel especially real. We look around at our world and see struggles, division, uncertainty, and challenges that seem slow to resolve. Even in our own communities, we face frustrations in the everyday: roads that are rough, detours that delay us, and repairs that seem to take longer than we would like. It can feel, at times, like we are stuck in the ‘roundabout’, not quite where we were, but not yet where we hope to be.

And yet, this is exactly where Easter meets us. Easter is not just a celebration of what has been made perfect but the promise that renewal is already underway, even when we cannot yet see the finished result. Just as broken roads are eventually repaired and we make it through the roundabout, we are made new again, so too are our lives, our communities, and our world being restored through patience, perseverance, and faith.

The message of Easter is not that hardship disappears overnight, but that hope is stronger than hardship, and light always finds its way through darkness.

As members of the Catholic Women’s League, we are called to be people of that hope. In our prayers, in our service, and in our care for one another, we help to build those “better roads”.

This spring, may we carry the spirit of Easter into all that we do. Just as the earth awakens after winter, so too are we invited to rise, renewed and ready to walk forward together in faith.

*Father Danny MacLennan*

*Ignite Your Passion*  
Empower His Mission

## ***The Countdown Is On - National Convention Awaits!***

Excitement is building as we count down to our **upcoming National Convention!** It’s the perfect opportunity to **share and connect** with members from across the country. From spiritual enrichment, to learning, to fellowship and sisterhood, inspiring speakers, engaging breakout sessions, to motivation and empowerment, there’s something for everyone!

And don’t forget our **fundraising raffle**, featuring a **quilt and stained-glass piece** – tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Grab some for yourself, or order tickets to sell and help us raise funds for a memorable and successful convention!

For tickets or more information, contact:  
Anne McCormick at [annemccormick18@gmail.com](mailto:annemccormick18@gmail.com) or  
Debbie White at [2twins1979@gmail.com](mailto:2twins1979@gmail.com)

So, mark your calendars, pack your enthusiasm, and get ready for **faith, fun and fulfillment!**

You won’t want to miss it!

It’s going to be a time to remember!



## **Debbie White – DIOCESAN SECRETARY**



Hello ladies! The calendars say that spring has arrived; but when I look out my window I see winter conditions. I have faith that the warmer weather is just around the corner.

In late spring when the soil has warmed up, we will be planting seeds with the hope those seeds will produce leaves, which in turn will produce flowers or food for us to enjoy. The process takes time and patience, weeding and watering, but the result is worth the effort.

Our CWL councils are like those plants. If we continue to provide relevant information that potential members are interested in, stay in the public eye, be welcoming and encouraging to new members, we will grow. Never give up on asking people to come back or new people to join.

It may take time but like in Ecclesiastes 4:9 “Two get more work done, can help each other through the struggles, provide companionship, and ward against danger”, and verse 4:12 “A cord of three strands is not quickly broken”.

We are a very strong cord, and our councils will not be broken. Thanks to those who came before us, those who lead us now, and those who will inspire the CWL well into the future.

*Debbie White*

## **Doreen Boudreau – FAITH**



Bringing about change is not always easy. Bringing about change requires collaboration—it doesn’t happen overnight and it takes many hands to accomplish. As chairperson of the faith standing committee, I pray for positive change and know that God hears my prayers; but He requires that we also do our part. That’s where service and social justice come in. We need to work together to provide service to our neighbours by helping when needed and advocating for justice where we see injustice.

The focus of our provincial council for the next two years is Human Trafficking. We all have a part to play in preventing this terrible crime.

So, what can we do? This is where the three pillars of the CWL collaborate to bring about change. We can pray, hold vigils, organize an education session on the subject, learn to recognize the signs of possible entrapment, counsel survivors, work with law enforcement, be present and compassionate with someone undergoing abuse, and write to government to tighten laws. I’m sure you, also, can come up with ways to eliminate this dirge on society. However, we can only do our best and trust in God to do the rest. So, I leave you with this prayer:

**SERENITY PRAYER**  
God grant me the  
**SERENITY** to accept the things I cannot change,  
**COURAGE** to change the things I can, and  
**WISDOM** to know the difference.

*Doreen Boudreau*

## **Denise Forgeron – SOCIAL JUSTICE**



As your CWL Antigonish Diocesan Social Justice Chair, I want to thank the active committee members, executive, and all of you for three years of work signing petitions, letter writing to request information, and voting at three levels of CWL for resolutions. You, as a member of the Antigonish Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada representing 27 parish councils and over 1300 women, unanimously adopted Resolution 2025.01 *Provision of a Blood Donation Service for the Cape Breton Regional Municipality* at our 103rd Annual Diocesan Meeting and Convention in April 2025. This resolution has progressed to the national level of the Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Thank you for your letter writing to Canadian Blood Services CEO and board members, as well as to municipal, provincial, and federal representatives of various political affiliations. Canadian Blood Services (CBS) continues to request blood donations, citing decreasing donor participation and rising demand for blood products and recently launched its most ambitious recruitment appeal ever: one million donors over the next five years. We were first ignited to this issue by our dearly departed sister in the League, Earlene Landry, and she is our inspiration as we continue.

This year, the work expanded on the resolution action plan. NS Provincial President Sandra O'Connell, Diocesan President Anne McCormick, and myself (Denise Forgeron Social Justice Chair) visited the CBRM mayor and received his support (he sent a letter to CBS). A Power Point was presented to the CBRM Council and their support was received (letters sent by municipal council to the NS Premier and NS Minister of Health and Wellness). Media (Cape Breton Post and CBC radio) covered the municipal meeting and CWL's advocacy for a local blood donor clinic.

Since then, letters have been sent to Canadian Blood Services (CBS), First Nations Chiefs (Chief Terry Paul has sent us a copy of his supportive letter), President and Principal of local post-secondary institutions (Universities and colleges across Canada have been participating in the *Partners for Life* program with CBS and campuses provide ideal locations for mobile clinics), CWL parish council presidents (a template was included and some parishes handed them to members), local community leaders and organizations, and government representatives. CBS board members and CEO have sent a response. They have noted our diligence and organization, and are taking it into consideration when future decisions are made for locations of clinics. Councils, please keep a tally of letters sent and responses received to include in annual reports. Thank you.

A letter was sent (as a citizen) about our resolution to Prime Minister Mark Carney (and we received a response – to write Health Canada), and also to his wife Diana Fox Carney who recently visited Cape Breton. Next a letter was sent (as a citizen) to Health Canada. (We note Canadian Blood Services is regulated by Health Canada through the federal Food and Drugs Act and funded federally for their role in research, development, organ and tissue donation and transplantation.) President Anne McCormick and I wrote to past-senator Dan Christmas of Membertou.

CBU medical students sponsored a CBS Stem Cell Donor Registry (swab) Clinic March 26<sup>th</sup> for people aged 18-35. Diocesan President Anne McCormick and I spoke with CBS Community Development Manager Deborah MacGillivray at the clinic. Deborah has received copies of our letters to CBS. Although she is not involved in decision making re location of clinics, she commended us on our factual and organized letters and our efforts to urge CBS to host a clinic in the future in our area.

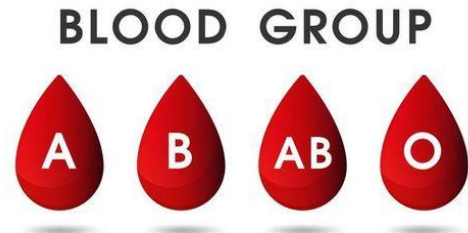
(Continued on page 5)

## ***Denise Forgeron – SOCIAL JUSTICE (continued)***

Without a blood donation service in the CBRM, opportunities for our residents to respond to CBS's appeal are limited. It would take approximately 5 hours to drive, to and from, and donate at the nearest mobile clinic near the Canso Causeway in Port Hawkesbury. This is costly in time and money for our CBU and NSCC students and young working people. Yarmouth, 320 km from the CBS processing centre in Dartmouth, hosts several mobile clinics each year; the distance from Sydney to the processing centre is 390 km; the distance from Bathurst, another hosting location, is 460 km.

- ✚ We need your help!
- ✚ Write letters to support our resolution!
- ✚ Please be part of the action on this resolution!

*Denise Forgeron*



## ***Julie LeLievre – PAST PRESIDENT***



Dear Sisters in the League;

For the past 10 years it has been my pleasure to serve as a member of the executive of the Antigonish Diocesan Council. I have written reports, attended meetings, led workshops, and attended conventions and fall conferences. I have learned so much during my time on the diocesan council and worked with many knowledgeable and faithful executive members. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to visit most of the councils in our diocese and get to know many members.

I feel privileged that I was president during our 100<sup>th</sup> year (2022) as a diocesan council and learned so much as I was researching the information for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary book. We have much to be proud of! I consider the anniversary book as my greatest achievement for the diocesan council.

I am feeling sad that my time on the diocesan council is coming to an end, but I know my service to the League is not finished! As I finish the final duties as a member of this extraordinary group of women, I know you are in good hands under the leadership of the incoming President Laurena and the next group of ladies to lead our members on the diocesan council. I plan to continue to attend conventions and conferences and support the League and members in any way I can.

May we continue to answer the call to “*Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission!*”, as we join together as ‘Sisters’ in the League to continue our work for God and Canada.

*Julie LeLievre*

## **Rita Wojtyniak – SERVICE**

### Human Trafficking

The provincial council has chosen human trafficking as their project for 2026. An information and prayer service presented by Faith Chair Cathy Farrow by Zoom on February 22 was very informative and prayerful. Previously, at our fall conference in October, a presentation was shared on ***Human Trafficking: A Three Pillar Approach***.

Human trafficking is a complex crime involving the exploitation of people through force, fraud or coercion for labor or sexual purposes. Victims are mostly women and children, Indigenous people and migrant workers.

A start to combat human trafficking is education and information. The three pillars of faith, service and social justice can work collaboratively to address this social issue. Pray (services, walks, candlelight vigil), investigate, create awareness, educate yourselves and the community (movie night or book club [Redeeming Love, Francine Rivers]), organize financial support or collection of personal products or food for local transition houses (Willow House) and women's centers (Every Women's Center, Jane Paul Indigenous Resource Center), mail postcards or gather signatures for petitions to send to your municipal council, MLAs, MPs, Ministers and PM.

### **RESOURCES:**

- **ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETY OF CAPE BRETON:**

Provides a 5-step program, **GATE OUTREACH**, offering education in schools and the community, advocacy, support (food & toiletries), physical and mental counselling and workshops. They work together with Transition House, Every Woman's Center, the Jane Paul Indigenous Resource Center at Membertou, and the Cape Breton Regional Police Community Services.

**Contact:** GATE OUTREACH 1-833-625-4283

Anna Flynn: [anna.gate@efrymns.ca](mailto:anna.gate@efrymns.ca)

Maria MacDonald: [maria@efrymns.ca](mailto:maria@efrymns.ca) 902-539-6165

- **JOY SMITH FOUNDATION:**

Provides excellent fact sheets, printouts and information on human trafficking, apps and social media platforms that Canadian parents should know.

<https://joysmithfoundation.com> or [info@joysmithfoundation.com](mailto:info@joysmithfoundation.com)

204-691-2455

- **NOVA SCOTIA STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT:**

Emergency: 911

Tipline 902-449-2425

New Glasgow RCMP: Kelly Reid 902-396-7771

- **NOVA SCOTIA CRIME STOPPERS:**

1-800-222-TIPS <https://crimestoppers.ns.ca>

- **CAPE BRETON REGIONAL POLICE (COMMUNITY) SERVICES:**

Barry Gordon, Senior Safety Navigator, 902-574-3565, [senior.safety@cbfps.ca](mailto:senior.safety@cbfps.ca)

Non-emergency 902-563-5151 for information, printouts, speakers & workshops.



**Rita Wojtyniak**

## ***Louise Campbell – TREASURER***

### **Where are you from?**

How many times have we heard that question along with “who’s your father”? We all come from somewhere and that somewhere helps to mold who we are. Many of us probably do not consider that question until it is put to us. But our family, our community, our schooling, our friends all contribute to who we are.

Fundamentally we come from God. He created us, gave us life and our own will to be who we are. As I have told you in other memos, I visit a site entitled [Ignatian Spirituality](https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/) (<https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/>) frequently. On one occasion I read an article from a frequent contributor Rebecca Ruiz. Here is her poem in answer to the question “Where are you from?” In today’s world it seems more relevant than ever. So, when you are asked, “Where are you from?”

Let me remind you,  
You are from the mind of God.  
You are from the heart of God,  
Creator of the Universe.  
You are precious,  
Chosen,  
Cherished, and  
Beloved.

Do you feel it, feel it in your bones—  
That boundless Love?

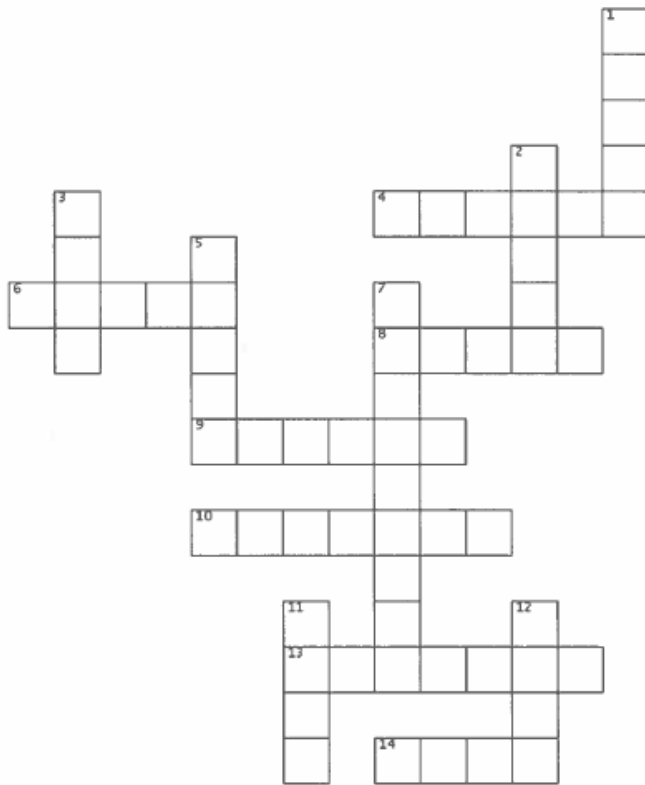
We are God’s.  
That makes you, dear, my brother, my sister.  
When you hurt, we hurt.  
When you rejoice, we rejoice.  
So let us go then.  
We shall walk together, heads held high,  
raising the heads of our brothers and sisters  
whose heads have been bowed.  
Let us build a land where peace prevails  
and justice the norm,  
The Kingdom of our heritage—  
*All* of us.  
Where all are honored,  
loved,  
and respected,  
dignity affirmed,  
centered in the Sacred,  
that Divine spark,  
from whence we all come. (Author Rebecca Ruiz)

***Louise Campbell***



**Laurena Greencorn – VICE PRESIDENT**

**CROSSWORD: Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission**



**ACROSS**

- 4. Sent to ignite our hearts
- 6. What illuminates others as we journey together
- 8. One of the virtues asked to increase
- 9. Central devotion of prayer
- 10. Virtue paired with faith and hope
- 13. What we are empowered with passion for
- 14. Virtue paired alongside faith and charity

**DOWN**

- 1. What beats together with ours as one
- 2. What we place fully in Jesus 3. Describes the Spirit sent to ignite hearts
- 5. To whom the prayer is addressed
- 7. What we offer daily to Jesus
- 11. Final word of the prayer
- 12. What instruments we are called to be

*Developed by Quebec Provincial President,  
Anna Bawer-Di Lallo*



*Laurena Greencorn*

**Congratulations to parish councils  
celebrating milestone anniversaries in 2026**



*St Ninian, Antigonish  
Immaculate Conception, Bridgeport  
St Joseph, Bras D'Or  
St Joseph, Port Hawkesbury*

*105<sup>th</sup>  
100<sup>th</sup>  
75<sup>th</sup>  
25<sup>th</sup>*





## LIFE MEMBERS' CORNER



Igniting Passion, Empowering His Mission: A Conversation with Doreen MacDonnell

*In a recent conversation, Life Member Doreen MacDonnell shared reflections from her 64 years in the Catholic Women's League. Her words offer a glimpse into a life of faith, service, and sisterhood.*

Doreen's involvement with Catholic women's groups began at a very young age when she attended "Ladies Aide" meetings alongside her mother. There, her passion for service, faith and community were clearly ignited. In 1962, she became a charter member of St Theresa Council and began her journey with the Catholic Women's League.

Doreen's first impression of CWL was that it was "a good place for young and older women to be. Being a member of the CWL meant 'a lot' to the ladies." Everyone could be involved in different ways and help out and everyone was welcomed no matter what level of the League. Her early memories of CWL activities included fundraising through parish fairs, supporting Catholic schools, and, most importantly, prayer. "Praying was key; we depended on prayer for everything."

Doreen embraced every opportunity to serve. She loved all the convenorships and over the years was chairperson of most, if not all, of them. She especially cherished her work in education. Guided by her personal motto, "*Life is God's gift to you—what you do with your life is your gift to God,*" she gave generously of her time and talents. With the steadfast support of her husband, Oscar, her family, and St. Theresa's Council, Doreen went on to serve as president at the parish, diocesan, and provincial levels of the League. She also contributed nationally as convenor of Spiritual Development and Christian Family Life, and assisted in developing bylaws, a position paper, and leadership training initiatives. Each role deepened her appreciation and love for the League. Doreen described the highlight of these years was being awarded life membership from national council, an honor she will forever cherish.



Throughout her years in the CWL, Doreen experienced a deep sense of friendship and sisterhood, and developed leadership skills. She formed lasting bonds with women across Canada, sharing faith, ideas, traditions, and joyful moments together. "We became sisters to one another," she says. She shared fond memories of conventions in Montreal with Dorothy Brocklehurst and conventions in Toronto, Ottawa, St John, Fredericton and Charlottetown, with roommates Janice MacDougall, Barbara Burke and Ann Marie Lawrence. The friendships she formed with travel companions Florence Khattar, Irene Lefort and other council members, enriched her life in countless ways. She reflected warmly that whenever help was needed, "there was always someone to reach out to." In subsequent years following the loss of her parents and husband, her CWL friends were there to support her and get her through hard times.

Doreen acknowledges that the League faces challenges today, particularly with membership and the demands on women's time. Changing family dynamics and lack of family support, she notes, make it more difficult for women to volunteer as they once did. However, her belief in the value of the CWL remains unwavering.

Doreen believes the CWL is a gift to women. "What a friend we have in Jesus". Doreen's passion was rooted in faith and in the sisterhood and love she found in the League. Sisterhood and love have been the most rewarding part of her CWL journey and has kept her involved over the years allowing her to *empower His mission*. Reflecting on her years of membership, Doreen describes it beautifully: 64 years of unconditional love and friendship.

*Doreen MacDonnell, Life Member*



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



## *St. Theresa, Sydney*



We welcomed a new executive in January. The newly installed executive for 2026-2028 are: Front Row: Pat Parago, Past President; Annette Gillis, Vice-President; Maureen Campbell, President; Wanda Bruckschwaiger, Secretary; Back Row: Anne MacNeil, Social Justice Chair; Femi Ferdinand, Service Chair; Cathy Farrow, Faith Chair. Missing from photo: Elizabeth Sampson, Treasurer.

President Maureen happily receives the gavel from Past President Pat Parago

Our executive would like to thank our fellow sisters who showed up to support us on one of the coldest days of 2026! We hit the ground running planning our Feast Day supper and the Diocesan AMM and Convention for the month of April. Not sure how it happened but it didn't take long for February and March to fly by!



Aprons were on, spirits high, and preparations well underway for Fall Fair 2025! Pictured are some members of the kitchen crew: Mary Myers, Barbara Burke, Cecelia Shaw, Paula Sawlor, Anne McCormick and Germaine Heffernan.

Save the date! Make plans to join us for the upcoming Fall Fair on Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026 from 7-9pm at St Theresa's Parish Centre, St Peters Rd, Sydney.

*Submitted by Wanda Bruckschwaiger & Maureen Campbell*

## *Our Lady of Lourdes, Stellarton*



Spreading God's love one bag at a time!

Alma Kyle and Cathy Boers, two members from Our Lady of Lourdes CWL Council, put together personal care bags for the Pictou County Food Bank as part of their efforts to share God's love by caring for one another.

*Submitted by Paula Cassidy*



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



## *Our Lady of Assumption, Arichat*



Bringing community together, one cup, one treat and one conversation at a time!

The CWL Tea/Coffee & Dessert Social was held on Feb 27<sup>th</sup>. Members and community come together the last Friday of the month, to socialize and enjoy wonderful treats. A donation bowl on the table allows affordability for everyone to enjoy treats while still raising some funds to assist our council's needs.

*Submitted by Brenda Boudreau*

## *St Andrew, St Andrews*

### Cold Nights ~ Warm Hearts!



Coldest night of the year  
Walk for the Naomi Society



Soup & Socks fundraiser for the Antigonish Food Bank



Soap & Socks fundraiser for the local Women's Center

*Submitted by Mary Anne Forbes*



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



## *Stella Maris, Pictou*



Celebrating faith, service and commitment!

Spiritual Advisor Father Peter MacDonald, celebrated Mass on the Feast of Our Lady of Good Council, on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Service awards were presented to 20 members by Margaret Greene (front row third from left).

*Submitted by Phyllis Bate*

## ***Antigonish Diocesan Executive Officers 2024-2026***

President	Anne McCormick
Spiritual Advisor	Fr Danny MacLennan
Past President	Julie LeLievre
Vice President	Laurena Greencorn
Secretary	Debbie White
Treasurer	Louise Campbell
Faith	Doreen Boudreau
Service	Rita Wojtyniak
Social Justice	Denise Forgeron

### **Answers to Crossword:**

	<b>Across</b>		<b>Down</b>
<b>4</b>	Spirit	<b>1</b>	Heart
<b>6</b>	Flame	<b>2</b>	Trust
<b>8</b>	Faith	<b>3</b>	Holy
<b>9</b>	Sacred	<b>5</b>	Jesus
<b>10</b>	Charity	<b>7</b>	Offerings
<b>13</b>	Mission	<b>11</b>	Amen
<b>14</b>	Hope	<b>12</b>	Love





# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



## *St. Ninian, Antigonish*

### Celebrating Faith in Action!

St. Ninian Catholic Women's League recently celebrated a beautiful and meaningful Pin Ceremony, honoring fifty-six devoted members for their years of faithful service. Pins were presented recognizing 70, 60, 45, 40 and 25 years of dedication to the CWL and to service within our parish and community.

The celebration was enriched by the presence of Bishop Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick and our Spiritual Advisor and Rector, Fr. Danny MacLennan, who offered spiritual guidance and reflections, reminding us of the importance of service rooted in faith.

A delightful afternoon tea was enjoyed by all, complete with fellowship, conversation and a special celebratory cake, adding to the joy of the occasion.

President Toosje Van de Sande served as MC, guiding the afternoon with grace and warmth.

A special highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the Maple Leaf Service Pin to Mary Beaton, in recognition of her lifelong commitment, not only to the CWL but to numerous organizations throughout the community. Mary's dedication to volunteerism, alongside her husband Connie, continues to inspire their children and grandchildren to serve for the betterment of the community.

We give thanks for all CWL members whose years of service reflect faith in action and a deep commitment to church and community.



*Submitted by Toosje Van de Sande & Mary Farrell*



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



## *St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Sydney*

We have had a busy spring as we embraced the new theme “Ignite your Passion, Empower His Mission”.

- ✚ Our chair of organization, Cory O’Brien, accepted the appointment to acting vice president and member Jecieryll (Jessy) Atillo accepted the appointment to the faith chair.
- ✚ Regular monthly meetings have been held and attendance is very good.
- ✚ An education session was presented by Constables Barry Gordon and Gary Fraser on Vials of Life and Frauds and Scams. All in attendance were given a Vial of Life.
- ✚ CWL members joined with members of Development and Peace for the taping of Mass for Shut-Ins.
- ✚ A vote was held on Proposed Amendments to the National *Constitution and Bylaws*.
- ✚ A donation was made to our parish building fund.
- ✚ We are looking forward to the diocesan convention on April 25, 2026, hosted by St. Theresa’s CWL.
- ✚ Plans for fundraising activities are being implemented to help with expenses to attend the national convention in Halifax in August.
- ✚ Our CWL closing banquet is scheduled for May 3, 2026.
- ✚ Fundraising activities for our parish include an on-line auction. Acting Vice President Cory O’Brien took the lead on this initiative and the response has been excellent. See our Face Book page for further information @ *St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish On-Line Auction*



Members attended World Day of Prayer hosted by Our Lady of Fatima Parish. The program was written by the women of Nigeria. Pictured is President Helena MacLeod looking beautiful wearing Nigerian attire.

*Submitted by Elaine Evely*

## *St. Mary, East Bay*



### “Promoting Community”

St Mary’s Council and community members have been enjoying monthly ceilidhs with neighbours of all ages. Pictured playing the piano is Bradley Murphy and on the fiddle Brad Reid.

A talk on "Human Trafficking" was hosted in early February. Guest speakers were Maria MacDonald, Anna Flynn and Heidi Marshall, from the Elizabeth Fry Society and Constable Gary Fraser, Cape Breton Regional Police Service. The event was well attended and very informative.

*Submitted by Theresa Morley*



## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



### *St Patrick, Northeast Margaree*

CWL members in the Margarees have been active. There are thirteen new and returning members for 2026 with one new member joining the executive in February.

Members joined with United Church women for a prayer service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January.

We initiated a winter clothing/bedding drive and included our three parishes. As usual, there was a wonderful response. Two carloads of donations were delivered to the students of Cape Breton University with the help of CBU Chaplain Fr. Doug MacDonald, a former pastor of ours.

We hosted the World Day of Prayer service at St. Patrick's the first Friday of March with about thirty in attendance. Also, in March, we had our annual Jiggs' Dinner, a fund raiser for us. Men from St. Patrick's Parish cooked the meat and vegetables and dished up the meals while CWL members waited on the tables and served the dessert.



For Easter, we gave out bags of jelly beans with a copy of the Jelly Bean Poem in each bag. Red is for the blood He gave. Green is for the grass He made. Yellow is for the sunflowers so bright. Black is for the dark of night. White is for the grace He gave. Orange is for the sun He made. Purple is for the hours of sorrow. Pink is for our new tomorrow. A bag full of jelly beans, colourful and sweet; it's a prayer, a promise and a child's treat.

We are eagerly anticipating the Second Annual Soup/Chowder Challenge initiated by our CWL which challenged the KOC last year. The KOC will be trying to win the silver ladle again on April 18.

We will be participating in Twelve Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care in early May, a very timely event following MAiD/Dignity Sunday on April 19.

Nine of our members are registered for and looking forward to the Diocesan Convention April 25.

*Submitted by Cecile Miller*

### *St Joseph, North Sydney*



Together in faith and fellowship!

Council members with Spiritual Advisor and Parish Priest, Fr Doug MacDonald and Deacon Roy Smith, celebrated Our Lady of Good Counsel Mass at St Joseph's Church, North Sydney, April 2025.

*Submitted by Maureen King*



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



## St. John the Baptist, New Glasgow



On December 9<sup>th</sup>, parishioners joined St. John the Baptist and Our Lady of Lourdes CWL and the New Glasgow Knights of Columbus #1667 in celebrating the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Delayed by a day due to weather, Mass was offered by Father Godwin, during which CWL and the Knights led a beautiful procession around the interior of the church, with roses and candles, arriving at the statue of our Lady. It was a joyful opportunity to bring several groups together in a shared celebration of faith and thanksgiving!



Also in December, St. John the Baptist CWL celebrated their 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. An excellent turnout of over 30 members joined together for a shared supper party and cake. Throughout the month of December, we also organized the collection of cake mixes, candles, candy, pop and gift bags to assemble birthday cake kits for the Pictou County Foodbank “because we all deserve a cake on our birthday!”

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, Jessie Parkinson organized our World Day of Prayer celebration with a reception following. With the focus country being Nigeria this year, Father Godwin, wearing traditional Nigerian attire also sang “Keleya”, a traditional Igbo song of praise.

*Submitted by Gill Atwood*

### Have you explored our diocesan website?

You’ll find information about our diocesan and parish councils, along with memos, newsletters, and reports to keep you in the loop.

Wondering what’s ahead? Upcoming events are just a click away, along with helpful resources and handy links to our provincial and national websites.

So why not take a look? Click, browse, and enjoy!

Visit us at [www.antigonishdiocesanctl.ca](http://www.antigonishdiocesanctl.ca)  
Contact us at [cwldioceseofantigonish@gmail.com](mailto:cwldioceseofantigonish@gmail.com)

