

St Basil's Parish CWL Council Report for 2023-2024

Do you ever wonder what the members of the Catholic Women's League do at St. Basil's. Check out a summary of our activities and donations. The work falls into one of the three pillars of the CWL: faith, service and social justice.

Faith

Our members conducted an Icon Building Workshop that was well attended and appreciated by participants.

Service

- We now have members welcoming people as they arrive at Mass. This has been well received.
- With the Knights of Columbus, we organized a Christmas Dinner for parishioners.
- As we have done for the past several years, we invited parishioners to donate toiletries for the St. Joe's Women Centre and response was amazing.
- We sponsored a parish wide session given by the Ottawa Police Service to raise awareness about scams and fraud.
- We participated in the CWL Unity Outreach Project.
- Very much appreciated have been the funeral receptions we manage for grieving families.
- And, of course, this year we once again had our fund-raising Christmas bake sale with treats for everyone.

Social Justice

Our work is both hands on and providing funds for needy groups and organizations.

- We baked with the women's group from Carlington Community Chaplaincy and then helped run a special bake sale that netted \$500 for the women's group retreat.
- Jointly with the Knights of Columbus, we put on a Fundraising Dinner for our newest refugee family.

Donations

Our parishioners are very generous in their support to the causes we select to receive help. This year, our distributions of funds was as follows:

Internationally, we are helping Sr. Sizane to build a new high school in Mali and Sr. Catherine in Burkina Faso to begin work on a new hospital. We assist a long-term care home in the poorest part of the Dominican Republic run by the Grey Sisters of Pembroke. We support the Canada Near East Welfare Association (**CNEWA**) especially in their work with children and mothers in Palestine. Another of our causes is **Chalice**, a Catholic international aid and development charity. They work in impoverished communities to help struggling families overcome the cycle of poverty. At the national level, we support **Momentum Single Mothers Group** which has a bold vision to transform the culture surrounding single mothers in the Catholic Church.

Locally, we support **Birthright of Ottawa** which provides support for women facing unexpected pregnancies. We are long time members and supporters of the **Multifaith Housing Initiative** which is finding new ways to provide affordable housing in Ottawa, especially for those most disadvantaged. As a women's group, we are pleased to donate to **St. Joe's Women Centre** which provides assistance for women facing financial, social, and mental health challenges.

Closer to home, we donate to the **Carlington Community Chaplaincy** which provides welcome and support to residents of Carlington. That is in addition to the 16,000 homemade muffins given to them over the years. We support the **Kateri Ministry**, the Indigenous Catholic Community which celebrates Mass in our Parish. This year we are helping **A New Day** whose mission to fight sex trafficking, especially in Ottawa. Sometimes a modest amount will go a long way in making the world a better place.

Our Council

We have a new President: Michelle Tracy. Our new vice-president and Faith Chair is Divina Hogan. Margery Livingstone has returned as Secretary. Catherine Casserly continues as treasurer and Judy Young is the Chair of Service. Elizabeth Larmond Elliot will continue to give sage advice in her now role as Past President. Thank you to Marilyn Adair for many years of service in that role. We began 2024 with a record number of members: 54. We want to remind all the women in the parish that you are welcome to join us at any time. You can be as active and involved as you choose to be. And we always welcome new ideas. Talk to any one of us. Or email us at stbasilcwl@gmail.com.

St. Basil's CWL