

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (OLMM)

Russell, Ontario

Catholic Women's League (CWL) History

Charter #2790

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| Date Organized | May 25, 1977 |
| Name of Council | Notre Dame - Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal |
| Location | Russell, Ontario |
| 1st Spiritual Director | Rev. Michel Minvielle |
| 1st President | Helene Cooper |
| 1st Rec. Secretary | Ruth Bertrand |

Charter Members

Diny Achtereekte

Cherry Bekkers

Ruth Bertrand

Coby Bols

Helene Cooper

Joan Laviolette

Gertrude Millaire

Pauline Ouellette

Past Presidents

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Helene Cooper | May 1977 to April 1979 |
| Cherry Bekkers | May 1979 to April 1981 |
| Ruth Bertrand | May 1981 to April 1983 |
| Diane Hedges | May 1983 to April 1985 |
| Coby Bols | May 1985 to April 1987 |
| Diane Ceponkus | May 1987 to April 1989 |
| Bep Versteeg | May 1989 to April 1991 |
| Diny Achtereekte | May 1991 to April 1993 |
| Roseanne Boucher | May 1993 to April 1994 |
| Coby Bols | May 1994 to April 1995 |
| Bep Versteeg | May 1995 to April 1997 |
| Luciana Gordon | May 1997 to Dec 1999 |
| Martha Sauvé | Jan 2000 to Dec 2001 |
| Bep Versteeg | Jan 2002 to Dec 2003 |
| Heather Sisk | Jan 2004 to Dec 2005 |
| Pat Redsell | Jan 2006 to Dec 2009 |
| June Paré | Jan 2010 to Dec 2010 |
| Pat Redsell | Jan 2011 to Dec 2011 |
| Jane Munro | Jan 2012 to Dec 2015 |
| Pat Redsell | Jan 2016 to Dec 2017 |
| Mary Ellen James | Jan 2018 to Jun 2023 |
| Jane Munro | Jun 2023 to Oct 2023 |
| Lorraine Barker | Oct 2023 to Dec 2023 |

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Russell, Ontario

Catholic Women's League History

1977

On May 25, 1977, a meeting was held to form a Catholic Women's League (CWL) Council at Our Lady's Parish in Russell, Ontario. Thirteen ladies and Father Minvielle were in attendance. Eight were from Our Lady's Parish and there were five guests from Ottawa and Metcalfe.

The ladies from Ottawa explained the purpose and organization of the CWL. After the presentation it was decided to form a council in Russell and an executive was elected as follows:

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|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Helene Cooper | President |
| Cherry Bekkers | 1 st Vice-President |
| Ruth Bertrand | Secretary-Treasurer |

The first meeting of the new council was held on September 27, 1977. It was decided to hold the meetings on the 4th Tuesday of every month and the membership fee was \$3.00 a year. There were ten ladies in attendance at the first meeting.

A tea and bazaar was held on December 3rd to raise money for the council.

May 1977 – April 1978 (18 members)

May 1978 – April 1979

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Fr Michel Minvielle | Spiritual Advisor |
| Helene Cooper | President |
| Ruth Bertrand | Secretary-Treasurer |

At the January meeting, Father Minvielle presented a gavel to the President as a gift for the council.

Activities

- Held sleigh rides and a bean supper on February 26th in conjunction with the Russell Winter Carnival.
- Sent a gift to the Metcalfe CWL on the occasion of the dedication of their new hall.
- Planned for a St. Patrick's Day dance.
- Bought an altar table and linens and a set of new vestments as well as two holy water fonts.
- Presented gifts to students for First Communion and Confirmation.
- Gave financial support to the Metcalfe CWL for the convention.
- Subsidized part of the fees for members to attend the Ottawa Diocesan CWL Convention in May.
- Held a Tea and Bazaar on December 2nd
- Donated to the Winchester Hospital and to the Russell Recreation Association (R.A.) for the Arena Fund.

May 1979 – April 1980 (17 Members)

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Fr Michel Minvielle | Spiritual Advisor |
| Cherry Bekkers | President |
| Bonnie Langill | Secretary-Treasurer |

- Held a bean supper in February.
- Gave a flower to each child to give to his or her mother on Mother's Day;
- Saved old greeting stamps and greeting cards to support the Missions.
- Supported a family under the "Save-A-Family Plan" to support "The International Year of the Child."
- Held the Strawberry Tea and Bake Sale on June 24th.
- Donated a sewing machine and Gold Bond Stamps to help purchase craft materials for the Winchester Home for Retarded Adults.
- Donated to the Cancer Society.

May 1980 – April 1981 (16 Members)

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Fr Michel Minvielle | Spiritual Advisor |
| Cherry Bekkers | President |
| Bonnie Langill | Secretary-Treasurer |

- Purchased new dishes for the kitchen.
- Provided free lunches following funeral masses.
- Purchased a Ciborium for the church, a telephone in the Church Hall and gave gifts and served lunch for First Communion children.
- Took Grades 6, 7 and 8 on a bus trip to Montreal.
- Taught Catechism to Public School children.
- Served a "Starvation Lunch" on March 9th with donations given to Development and Peace.
- Made plans for a St. John's Ambulance course open to the whole community.
- Hosted a Holy Hour with Metcalfe CWL.
- Recited the Rosary before all October masses.
- Worked on a cookbook which will be sold at the Bazaar in November.
- Hosted a speaker from "The Royal Ottawa Hospital" in November.
- Took residents from Lanthier Home in Vars for Christmas shopping.
- Donated to the Northern Organization of Women in Inuvik and \$25 to a needy family in Russell for heating oil.

May 1981 – April 1982 (12 Members)

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Father Clément Fillion | Spiritual Advisor |
| Ruth Bertrand | President |
| Bonnie Langill | Secretary |
| Cherry Bekkers | Treasurer |

May 1982 – April 1983 (12 Members)

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Father Clément Fillion | Spiritual Advisor |
| Ruth Bertrand | President |
| Joan Laviolette | Secretary |
| Cherry Bekkers | Treasurer |

- Provided free lunches after funeral masses.
- Held an annual potluck supper in conjunction with the Parish Council.
- Assisted the Parish with a Starvation Lunch with proceeds going to Development and Peace.
- Gave Easter baskets, bingo prizes and home baking to the residents of Lanthier Home.
- Provided lunch following First Communion and gave each child a gift.
- Gave flowers to each mother on Mother's Day.
- Served refreshments following First Confession.
- Held annual Strawberry Tea in June.
- Served lunch at Cancer Society Fashion Show.
- Purchased plants for the church.
- Bought a lectern and microphone for the church and paid half the cost of an electric heater for the kitchen.
- Catered a wedding reception dinner to raise funds.
- Held a Christmas Tea and Bazaar in November.
- Took residents of the Lanthier Home Christmas shopping and gave them gifts.
- Donated old clothing to the Salvation Army.
- Donated \$580 to purchase ceiling fans for the church.
- Donated to Esk-Omi Missions, the Cancer Society and Save-A-Family Plan.

May 1983 – April 1984 (30 members)

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Father Clément Fillion | Spiritual Advisor |
| Diane Hedges | President |
| Joan Laviolette | Secretary |
| Cherry Bekkers | Treasurer |

- Gave \$50 to the RA auxiliary towards an air conditioner for the Arena Hall.
- Attended World Day of Prayer at the United Church.
- Served lunch at the Cancer Society Fashion Show.
- Gave Lanthier Home residents some Easter treats.
- Sent four members to the Ottawa Diocesan CWL Convention in May.
- Gave a rosary and a flower to First Communion children to present to their mothers.
- Held a Strawberry Tea in June.
- Held a Harvest Dance on September 24th.
- Led the rosary after all masses in October.
- Held a Bazaar and Tea on November 5th.
- Catered the Russell Lions Club Dinner on November 22nd.
- Took Lanthier Home residents Christmas shopping.
- Bought 10 books for the choir.
- Donated four plaques to St. Joseph school to be used as awards.
- Donated to March of Dimes for Disabled Adults, Esk-Omi Missions, Action Life “Respect for Life”, National Family Planning, Joe Borowski Fund, St. Vincent de Paul Society “Soup Kitchen,” and Mother Teresa Charity.

Deceased Member – Mildred Groves – July 20, 1983

May 1984 – April 1985 (31 Members)

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|------------------------|-------------------|
| Father Clément Fillion | Spiritual Advisor |
| Diane Hedges | President |
| Diny Achtereekte | Secretary |
| Cherry Bekkers | Treasurer |

- Baked for the St. Patrick’s Home and Blanchard Home.
- Attended World Day of Prayer at the Anglican Church.
- Gave gifts for First Communion and to Altar boys and girls.
- Catered Russell Lions Club dinner on May 8th.
- Presented Holy Spirit pins to each child making their Confirmation.
- Led the rosary before all masses in October.
- Collected monies for the poor and everyone donated what food would cost for a day.

- Sent five members to volunteer at the Papal Mass and made sandwiches.
- Paid our organist \$60 a year.
- Took residents from Lanthier Home in Vars Christmas shopping and to see the lights and also gave them small gifts.
- Presented a donation to a Pro-Life speaker who showed a film on abortion.
- Donated to a needy family in Russell, a single mother, Catholic Health Association, Esk-Omi Missions and the March of Dimes.

May 1985 – April 1986 (42 members)

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Father Rolland LaFleur | Spiritual Advisor |
| Coby Bols | President |
| Diny Achtereekte | Secretary |
| Joan Laviolette | Treasurer |

- Began each meeting with Mass.
- Viewed a film, “The Silent Scream ” presented by two sisters from the Margaritha Centre in Plantagenet and gave a donation to them.
- Gave gifts for First Communion and Confirmation.
- Gave plaques to students from St. Joseph for excellence in Christian values and English language.
- Hosted the World Day of Prayer.
- Bought an expensive statue of the Holy Mary Queen of Peace for the Papal visit.
- Bought a washer and dryer for the rectory.
- Held a Strawberry Tea in June and a Bazaar in November.
- Said the rosary before all masses in October.
- Took Lanthier residents Christmas shopping.
- Donated to The Holy Childhood Missions, Shepherds of Good Hope, Vanier Industries (workplace for mentally handicapped), Esk-Omi Missions, Save-A-Family, Osgoode Care Centre, Operation Go Home.

May 1986 – April 1987 (42 Members)

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Father Rolland LaFleur | Spiritual Advisor |
| Coby Bols | President |
| Martha Sauvé | Secretary |
| Joan Laviolette | Treasurer |

- Said the rosary before each meeting during Marian Year.
- Picketed MPs constituency offices re abortion issue.

- Participated in World Day of Prayer.
- Baked for Fashion Show.
- Catered Agricultural Society Dinner at Russell Fair.
- Took Lanthier residents Christmas shopping.
- Catered Lions Dinner.
- Held a Bazaar, Bake Sale, Garage Sale and Raffle.
- Donated to Winchester Hospital; 100 towards new piano for St Joseph's school; Esk-Omi Missions; Peace and Development Fund; Shepherds of Good Hope; Save-A-Family Plan.

May 1987 – April 1988 (40 members)

May 1988 – April 1989 (40 members)

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Father Rolland LaFleur | Spiritual Advisor |
| Diane Ceponkus | President |
| Martha Sauvé | Secretary |
| Joan Laviolette | Treasurer |

- Said the Rosary before each meeting during Marian Year.
- Bought gifts for First Communion children.
- Celebrated the 40th anniversary of our Parish with Mass celebrated by Archbishop J.A. Plourde.
- Held a Strawberry Tea in June.
- Purchased a new cross for the church and tablecloths and blinds for the hall.
- Awarded two plaques to graduating separate school students.
- Held annual bazaar in November.
- Took residents of Lanthier Home in Vars Christmas shopping and gave them gifts.
- Catered annual dinner meeting of the Russell Agricultural Society.
- Catered two Russell Lions Club dinners.
- Donations were made to the following organizations: Human Life International, Russell Swimming Pool Fund, Winchester Hospital, Muscular Dystrophy, Esk-Omi Mission, Save-A-Family Plan, Edmonton Tornado Relief Fund, Shepherds of Good Hope, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, and Development and Peace Fund.

May 1989 – April 1990 (40 members)

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Father Rolland LaFleur | Spiritual Advisor |
| Bep Versteeg | President |
| Bobbie Nielsen | Secretary |
| Margaret Beseau | Treasurer |

- Celebrated the Marian Year with a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine in Rigaud, Quebec.
- Hosted World Day of Prayer.
- Bought a CWL banner.
- Contributed infant clothing for Birthright and sent used greeting cards to Arc Industries.
- Gave a donation to the church to help purchase some items for the kitchen and a new statue of St. Joseph.
- Held a garage and bake sale.
- Catered three Russell Lions Club Dinners.
- Had a Strawberry Tea in June.
- Held a Bazaar in November.
- Catered a Harvest Dinner during the Russell Art and Craft Festival.
- Took residents from Lanthier Home in Vars Christmas shopping and gave them gifts.
- Donated to: Save-A-Family Plan, Armenian Earthquake Relief Fund, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Development and Peace, The Call of the Poor, and Solidarité Jeunesse.

May 1990 - April 1991 (47 Members)

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Father Dennis Hayes | Spiritual Director |
| Bep Versteeg | President |
| Bobbie Nielsen | Secretary |
| Margaret Beseau | Treasurer |

- Began meetings with either Mass or the Rosary.
- Recited the Rosary every Saturday and Sunday before Mass.
- Participated in the Inter-Church Christian Unity Service and World Day of Prayer.
- Held a Spring Bake and Garage Sale.
- Presented religious gifts and held receptions for all First communicants and confirmation candidates.
- Served coffee and doughnuts after mass once a month.
- Helped with the Cancer Society Fashion Show.
- Catered three Russell Lions Club dinners.
- Hosted a Strawberry Social.
- Donated to the Provincial CWL for their convention.

- Gathered signatures on the sign for life petition after all masses.
- Wrote letters to our Members of Parliament regarding abortion issues.
- Sold religious articles in the parish throughout the year.
- Took residents from Lanthier Home in Vars Christmas shopping and gave them gifts.
- Held a Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale.
- Made a donation for church repairs.
- Donated to: Save-A-Family Plan, Shepherds of Good Hope, Call of the Poor, Winchester Hospital, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Cancer Society, and Development and Peace.

May 1991 – April 1992 (48 Members)

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|---------------------|--------------------|
| Father Dennis Hayes | Spiritual Director |
| Diny Achtereekte | President |
| Bobbie Nielsen | Sec/Treasurer |

The new executive was installed at a Sunday Mass with a reception afterwards.

- Began meetings with either Mass or the Rosary.
- Recited the rosary before each Mass during May and October.
- Hosted the World Day of Prayer.
- Participated in the World Day of Prayer.
- Involved in the video presentation “Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin.”
- Participated in the Synodal discussions.
- Sponsored a mentally challenged person along with the Anglican and United churches at the Special Olympics.
- Supported “Canadians for Decency Campaign” by writing letters to our Members of Parliament (Federal) and Members of the Provincial Parliament.
- Participated in a ten-week course on Pastoral Care.
- Assisted in the annual Blood Donor Clinic.
- Supported students attending our two Catholic schools with trophies of excellence.
- Presented religious gifts and held receptions for all First Communion and Confirmation candidates.
- Organized and canvassed for the Cancer Society and the Heart and Stroke Foundation.
- Bought clothing for the Plantagenet Children’s Aid.
- Involved in an Ecumenical “Sing Noel” before Christmas.
- Catered to Russell Lions Club dinners several times a year.
- Held fundraising events: Garage and Bake Sale, Strawberry Tea and Raffle, Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale, Barbeque Brunch and served coffee and desserts after Mass once a month.
- Donated to: Shepherds of Good Hope, Winchester Hospital, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, Save-A-Family Plan, Cancer Foundation, Heart and Stroke, Call of the Poor and Block Parent Association.

We are pleased that OLMM CWL member Joan Chesser, a CWL Life Member is now a member of the executive of our National CWL Council.

May 1992 – April 1993 (49 Members)

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Father Dennis Hayes | Spiritual Director |
| Diny Achtereekte | President |
| Elizabeth Gravel | Secretary |
| Cherry Bekkers | Treasurer |

- Began meetings with either Mass or the Rosary.
- Brought weekly communion to shut-ins.
- Attended Catholic Faith Series given in our parish.
- Participated in the World Day of Prayer and Ecumenical Winter Carnival Services.
- Celebrated CWL Sunday with a Mass and social time to invite new members.
- Provided free lunches for funerals in church hall.
- Organized and canvassed for the Cancer Society and the Heart and Stroke Foundation.
- Donated knitted items to the Children's Aid Society.
- Supported the White Ribbon Campaign.
- Held a letter writing campaign against an abortion clinic in Ottawa.
- Organized and helped in an annual Blood Donor Clinic.
- Presented religious gifts and held receptions for all First Communion and Confirmation candidates.
- Supported students at both Catholic schools.
- Took residents from Lanthier Home in Vars Christmas shopping and gave them gifts.
- Held fundraising events: Garage and Bake Sale, Strawberry Tea and Raffle, Christmas Bazaar and Raffle, catering to weddings and Russell Lions Club Barbeque Brunch.
- Donated to: Call of the Poor, Shepherds of Good Hope, Winchester Hospital, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, and Save-A-Family.

May 1993 – April 1994 (54 members)

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|---------------------|--------------------|
| Father Dennis Hayes | Spiritual Director |
| Roseanne Boucher | President |
| Elizabeth Gravel | Secretary |
| Cherry Bekkers | Treasurer |

- Hosted World Day of Prayer
- Provided lunch for the Cancer Society Fashion Show.
- Pledged \$100 each year to help defray cost of National Convention to be held in Ottawa in 1998.

- Presented religious gifts and held receptions for all First Communion and Confirmation candidates.
- Went on a Pilgrimage to St. Joseph's Oratory.
- Joined with the other two Russell churches to provide an Outreach Program.
- Helped with the annual Blood Donor Clinic.
- Prepared a spiritual bouquet to be presented to Archbishop Marcel Gervais at our convention.
- Wrote letters to our Members of Parliament against abortion.
- Wrote letters and made phone calls to stop Dr. Henry Morgentaler from opening an abortion clinic in Ottawa.
- Catered Russell Lions Dinner.
- Catered a wedding as a fund raiser.
- Took residents from Lanthier Home in Vars Christmas shopping and gave them gifts.
- Held fund raising activities: Barbeque Lunch, Strawberry Tea, Bazaar and Bake Sale, Garage and Bake sale.
- Donated knitted items and a food basket to needy children in our area.
- Donated to a health clinic in Haiti.
- Donated trophies and plaques for Christian Leadership to students at our two parish schools.
- Donated to: Esk-Omi Missions, Canadians for Decency, Youville Centre, Save-A-Family, Winchester Hospital and Ronald McDonald House.

May 1994 – April 1995 (52 members)

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|--------------------|--------------------|
| Fr Robert Comptois | Spiritual Director |
| Coby Bols | President |
| Elizabeth Gravel | Secretary |
| Cherry Bekkers | Treasurer |

- Participated in Christian Unity Ecumenical Services and World Day of Prayer.
- Presented religious gifts and held receptions for all First Communion and Confirmation candidates.
- Recited the Rosary before each Mass during May and October and held a weekly devotion on Thursday evenings.
- Provided free lunches for family and friends after funerals.
- Purchased two sets of vestments for the parish.
- Bought flowers for the church.
- Purchased a VCR for parish use.
- Paid to have the presbytery cleaned.
- Took residents from Lanthier Home in Vars Christmas shopping and gave them gifts.
- Fundraising activities included: Garage and Bake Sale, Strawberry Tea, Barbeque Lunch and Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale.

- Donated to: Canadians for Decency, Pro-Life, Diabetes Association, Esk-Omi Missions, Winchester Hospital, Development and Peace, Youville Centre, Save-A-Family, Shepherds of Good Hope, Pope's Pastoral Works and Breast Cancer Challenge Fund.

Our Council is every proud of OLMM CWL member, Joan Chesser, who is now President-Elect of the National CWL Council.

May 1995 – April 1996 (54 Members)

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Father Robert Comptois | Spiritual Director |
| Coby Bols | President |
| Bep Versteeg | Acting President |
| Elizabeth Gravel | Secretary |
| Cherry Bekkers | Treasurer |

- Provided desserts for the Cancer Society Fashion show.
- Hosted an evening on Organ Donor Awareness.
- Participated in the World Day of Prayer.
- Helped with the Children's Liturgy.
- Assisted on the Baptismal and Marriage courses.
- Provided trophies and plaques for Christian Leadership in both Catholic schools.
- Presented religious gifts and held receptions for all First Communion and Confirmation candidates.
- Helped with a Bible Study in our parish.
- Sponsored a Chernobyl victim to stay in Russell.
- Took residents from Lanthier Home in Vars Christmas shopping and gave them gifts.
- Donated to: Pro-Life, Youville Centre, Esk-Omi Missions, Social Justice Committee, Action Life, Save-A-Family Plan, Catholic Immigration Centre, Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke, Diabetes Association, Red Cross, Development and Peace, Shepherds of Good Hope, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides.

May 1996 - April 1997 (51 Members)

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Father Kevin Beach | Spiritual Advisor |
| Bep Versteeg | President |
| Cathy Faubert | Secretary |
| Cherry Bekkers | Treasurer |

- Hosted a World Day of Prayer.
- Provided trophies and plaques for Christian Leadership for both Catholic schools.

- Presented religious gifts and held receptions for all First Communion and Confirmation candidates.
- Provided desserts for the Cancer Society Fashion Show.
- Provided coffee and desserts after Mass once a month.
- Presented a bursary award to a student at St. Francis Xavier High School.
- Catered three Russell Lions Club dinners.
- Took residents from Lanthier Home in Vars Christmas shopping and gave them gifts.
- Fundraising activities included: Garage and Bake Sale, Strawberry Tea, Pork Barbeque Lunch and Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale.
- Donated to: Pro-Life, Esk-Omi Missions, Action Life, Campaign Life Coalition, Hike for Life, Miriam Centre, Development and Peace, Youville Centre, Save-A-Family, and Shepherds of Good Hope.

We congratulated Joan Chesser on her position as the new National CWL President, and presented her with a gift.

May 1997 - April 1998 (52 Members)

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Father Kevin Beach | Spiritual Advisor |
| Luciana Gordon | President |
| Cathy Faubert | Secretary |
| Cherry Bekkers | Treasurer |

Our council celebrated its 20th anniversary this year.

- Began meetings with either Mass, spiritual readings or the Rosary.
- Helped organize the World Day of Prayer and attended other ecumenical services in our community.
- Provided plaques for Christian Leadership to students at both Catholic schools.
- Purchased new books for the Children's Liturgy.
- Served a few free lunches for funerals.
- Purchased new altar cloths.
- Presented religious gifts and held receptions for all First Communion and Confirmation candidates.
- Volunteered for the Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke, Diabetes Association and the Red Cross.
- Took residents from Lanthier Home in Vars Christmas shopping and gave them gifts.
- Fundraising activities were: three Russell Lions Club dinners, Garage and Bake Sale, Strawberry Tea, Pork Barbeque Lunch, Bazaar and Bake Sale and a Lenten lunch.
- Donated to: Development and Peace, Shepherds of Good Hope, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, a local food bank, Winchester Hospital, Habitat International Jamaica and many more.

May 1998 – April 1999 (57 Members and 2 Life Members)

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|--------------------|-------------------|
| Father Kevin Beach | Spiritual Advisor |
| Luciana Gordon | President |
| Cathy Faubert | Secretary |
| Cherry Bekkers | Treasurer |

- Held meetings on a monthly basis while recruiting and maintaining memberships.
- Attended Provincial meetings and reflected on other Parish accomplishments.
- Provided lunches for funerals and supported families.
- Gave Christian leadership awards to high school students at both Russell schools.
- Presented religious gifts for First Communion and Confirmation candidates.
- Helped with a Children’s Bible School.
- Provided funds for Children’s Liturgy Program.
- Recited the Rosary during May before all masses.
- Participated in the National CWL convention in Ottawa.
- Made 700 prayer cards for the convention and helped in many ways at the convention.
- Volunteered with the Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke and Red Cross Blood Bank.
- Held drive for local food bank at Christmas.
- Took residents from Lanthier Home in Vars Christmas shopping and gave them gifts.
- Fundraisers included: Garage Sale, three Russell Lions dinners, Strawberry Social, Pork Barbeque Lunch, Christmas Bazaar, Lenten Lunch and World Day of Prayer.
- Donated to Pro-Life – had a mass said on Pro-Life Sunday.
- Donated to: Youville Centre, Save-A-Family Plan, Development and Peace, Action Life and Habitat for Humanity.

We were very proud of our Life Member, Joan Chesser who was President during this year’s National Convention in Ottawa.

May 1999 – Dec 1999 (64 Members, 2 Life Members)

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|-------------------|-------------------|
| Father John Whyte | Spiritual Advisor |
| Luciana Gordon | President |
| Bobbie Nielsen | Secretary |
| Cherry Bekkers | Treasurer |

- Held monthly meetings during the year.
- Held one meeting at a member’s home with the theme “God in Nature” with the Rosary being said in her garden.
- Signed up ten new members at our membership drive.
- Helped with baptisms and marriage preparation courses.

- Organized a Pastoral Care Committee this year thanks to one member.
- Held a craft night in February to help make crafts for the bazaar later in the year.
- Had a speaker from Peru who spoke on child labour.
- Had a speaker from the Canadian Eye Dog Association.
- Volunteered with the Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke, Red Cross, Meals on Wheels and our local food bank.
- Presented religious gifts to First Communion and Confirmation candidates from both schools.
- Gave a bursary to a high school student – David Maidment.
- Provided support to families during illness and death.
- Gave Christian leadership awards to students at both high schools.
- Took residents from Lanthier Home in Vars Christmas shopping and to see the lights and gave them small gifts.
- Fundraising events: Strawberry Social, Pork Barbeque Lunch, Russell Lions dinners, and an annual Bazaar and Bake sale.
- Donated to: Pro-Life, Campaign Life, Birthright, Catholic Health Association, Youville Centre, Action Life, Save-A-Family Plan and many more.

Jan 2000 – Dec 2000 (68 Members, 2 Life Members)

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| Father John Whyte | Spiritual Advisor |
| Martha Lou Sauvé | President |
| Elizabeth Gravel | Secretary |
| Cherry Bekkers | Treasurer |

- Began each meeting with the League Prayer and spiritual readings.
- Hosted the World Day of Prayer.
- Hosted Coffee Sunday once a month.
- Purchased a new cabinet for our religious articles.
- Started our May meeting at the grotto at St. Jacques Church in Embrun and prayed the rosary.
- Made a canvas scroll with everyone's signatures for the Ottawa Diocesan CWL Council's time capsule.
- Presented Coby Bols, Cherry Bekkers and Diny Achtereekte with Maple Leaf Pins.
- Presented religious gifts for First Communion and Confirmation candidates from both schools.
- Gave Christian leadership awards to high school students at both schools.
- Gave a bursary to a high school student – Becky Menard.
- Took residents from Lanthier Home in Vars Christmas shopping and to see the lights and gave them small gifts.
- Fundraising activities included: Garage Sale, Barbeque Lunch, Strawberry Social, Bazaar and Bake Sale and Russell Lions dinners.

- Donated to: Russell Food Bank, Save-A-Family, Esk-Omi Missions, Winchester Hospital, Habitat for Humanity and many more.

A member, Evelyn Bedard, walked from Windsor to Ottawa to raise money for Cancer Research and was honoured on Parliament Hill.

Jan 2001 – Dec 2001 (55 Members, 2 Life Members)

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|-------------------|-------------------|
| Father John Whyte | Spiritual Advisor |
| Martha Lou Sauvé | President |
| Elizabeth Gravel | Secretary |
| Cherry Bekkers | Treasurer |

- Began each meeting with the League Prayer and spiritual readings.
- Led the Rosary before masses in May, September and October.
- Held a membership drive in January and members spoke at each mass about the CWL.
- Attended Pro-Life activities and promoted them in our parish.
- A new Pro-Life banner was made by a parishioner and two CWL members.
- Participated in the World Day of Prayer.
- Helped pay for a new stove for our kitchen.
- Presented religious gifts for First Communion and Confirmation candidates from both schools.
- Gave Christian leadership awards to high school students at both Russell schools.
- Visited shut-ins.
- No applicants for the bursary this year.
- Hosted monthly Coffee Sundays.
- Produced a newsletter which highlighted past events and outlined upcoming ones.
- Took residents from Lanthier Home in Vars Christmas shopping and to see the lights and gave them small gifts.
- Volunteered with: Meals on Wheels, Blood Donor Clinic, Russell Food Bank, Russell Seniors' Group.
- Fundraising events: Strawberry Social, Barbeque Lunch, Bazaar and Bake Sale and catering to Russell Lions Club dinners.
- Donated to: Shepherds of Good Hope, CHEO, Canadian Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke, Pro-Life, and Winchester Hospital.

A member, Luciana Gordon, OLMM CWL President 1997 - 1999, passed away on Dec 14, 2001. A memorial mass was offered and an honour guard was formed at her funeral.

Jan 2002 – Dec 2002 (66 Members, 2 Life Members)

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Father John Whyte | Spiritual Advisor |
| Bep Versteeg | President |
| Anne Lommen | Secretary |
| Heather Sisk | Treasurer |

OLMM CWL celebrated our 25th Anniversary on June 2nd at the 10:30 a.m. mass. CWL members participated in various roles in the mass. A lunch was served afterwards.

25-year pins were presented to Diny Achtereekte, Cherry Bekkers, Ruth Bertrand, Joan Laviolette, Pauline Ouellette, Mary Groot-Lipman, Joan Chesser, and Sandra Blais. Other members were presented with special awards and pins recognizing their hard work.

- Began each meeting with the League Prayer and spiritual readings.
- Helped pay for a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary to be placed outside our church. It was dedicated to our deceased sister in Christ, Luciana Gordon, who spear-headed the project.
- Participated in the World Day of Prayer.
- Provided lunches for the seniors' card parties.
- Presented religious gifts for First Communion and Confirmation candidates from both schools.
- Gave Christian leadership awards to high school students at both Russell schools.
- Gave a bursary to a high school student – Sarah Cogan.
- Visited shut-ins.
- Took residents from Lanthier Home in Vars Christmas shopping and to see the lights and gave them small gifts.
- Volunteered with: Meals on Wheels, Blood Donor Clinic, Russell Food Bank, Russell Seniors' Group.
- Fundraising activities included: Lenten Lunch, Barbeque Lunch, Strawberry Social, Bazaar and Bake Sale, catering Russell Lions dinners, Garage Sale and Bake Sale.
- Donated to: Shepherds of Good Hope, Canadian Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO), Canadian Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke, Pro-Life, and Winchester Hospital.

Jan 2003 – Dec 2003 (74 Members, 2 Life Members)

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Father John Whyte | Spiritual Advisor |
| Bep Versteeg | President |
| Anne Lommen | Secretary |
| Heather Sisk | Treasurer |

- Began each meeting with the League Prayer and spiritual readings.
- Hosted the World Day of Prayer.

- Held an information meeting about the Saints, how their names were chosen and the history of Our Lady of Good Council.
- Participated in the Hike for Life and the Walk for Life on Parliament Hill.
- Organized a Pro-Life Sunday.
- Presented religious gifts for First Communion and Confirmation candidates from both schools.
- Gave Christian leadership awards to high school students at both schools.
- Gave a bursary to a high school student – Jessica Goodfellow.
- Participated in the White Ribbon Against Pornography campaign.
- Discussed Resolutions passed at the 2002 National Convention at each meeting.
- Took residents from Lanthier Home in Vars Christmas shopping and to see the lights and also gave them small gifts.
- Volunteered with: Meals on Wheels, Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic, Russell Food Bank, Russell Seniors' Group.
- Fundraising events: Produced a four-season cookbook; Lenten Lunch, Strawberry Social, Russell Lions Dinner, Barbeque Lunch, Bazaar and Bake Sale.
- Donated to: Shepherds of Good Hope, CHEO, M.S. Society, Canadian Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke, Pro-Life, Russell Agricultural Society, Russell Women's Institute to purchase flowers for Russell Village and Winchester Hospital.

Jan 2004 – Dec 2004 (65 Members, 2 Life Members)

Father Tim McCauley Spiritual Advisor
Heather Sisk President
Gwenn Berard-Beaupré Secretary
Catherine ten Den Treasurer

- Began each meeting with the League Prayer and spiritual readings.
- Made a large banner of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal which was displayed in the church.
- Participated in the World Day of Prayer.
- Took part in a Living Rosary for our Parish Feast Day.
- Joined the Hike for Life and took part in the Walk for Life on Parliament Hill.
- Organized our Pro-Life Sunday.
- In conjunction with the Knights of Columbus, presented children receiving First Communion and Confirmation and RCIA candidates with beautiful handmade crucifixes.
- Presented Christian Fellowship awards to students at all three Catholic schools.
- Presented a bursary to a graduating student – Tim Jackson.
- Participated in the White Ribbon Against Pornography campaign.
- Prepared a resolution on suicide and the lack of a national strategy to be presented at the Ottawa Diocesan CWL Convention. Subsequently this resolution passed at all levels of the CWL.

- Volunteered with: Meals on Wheels, Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic, Russell Food Bank, Russell Seniors' Group, and took challenged adults Christmas shopping.
- Fundraising events: Lenten Lunch, Strawberry Social, Russell Lions Dinners, Barbeque Lunch, Bazaar and Bake Sale, Coffee Sundays.
- Donated to: Shepherds of Good Hope, CHEO, M.S. Society, Canadian Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke, Pro-Life, Russell Agricultural Society, Russell Women's Institute to purchase flowers for Russell Village and Winchester Hospital.

Held a prayer service for a deceased member, Frances Martin, Nov 14, 2004 and participated in an honour guard at her funeral.

Jan 2005 – Dec 2005 (85 Members, 2 Life Members)

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|----------------------|-------------------|
| Father Tim McCauley | Spiritual Advisor |
| Heather Sisk | President |
| Gwenn Berard-Beaupré | Secretary |
| Catherine ten Den | Treasurer |

- Began each meeting with the League Prayer and spiritual readings.
- Brought communion to shut-ins.
- Wrote letters to the Prime Minister and Members of Parliament about the sanctity of marriage.
- Held a CWL weekend and after all masses a member spoke about CWL activities.
- Provided coffee after our Parish Lenten Mission which lasted four evenings.
- Gave presentations at some meetings about and by Standing Committee Chairs to help members understand what each Chair was about.
- Led the Stations of the Cross one Friday during Lent.
- Participated in World Day of Prayer.
- Hosted Coffee Sunday once a month.
- Hosted a Lenten Lunch.
- Attended League Development Day.
- Participated in a Living Rosary on the Parish Feast Day.
- Presented children receiving First Communion and Confirmation with beautiful handmade crucifixes.
- Presented Christian Fellowship awards to students at all three Catholic schools.
- Presented a bursary to a graduating student – Leah Cogan.
- Took residents from Lanthier Home in Vars Christmas shopping and to see the lights and also gave them small gifts.
- Fundraising events: Strawberry Social, Barbeque Lunch, Bazaar and Bake Sale, and Christmas stocking raffle.
- Donated three diaper bags with Bay items for the Bishop's Pro-Life mass.

- Donated \$250 to the Russell Library to buy suicide prevention books.
- Donated to: Habitat for Humanity, Russell Food Bank, Youville Centre, Shepherds of Good Hope, OLMM Parish Fund, Pro-Life, Gable Fund, Mater Care, Cody Institute and Winchester Hospital.

Our Past President, Bep Versteeg, let her name stand for the Ottawa Diocesan CWL Council and she is now the Chairperson of the Christian Family Life.

Deceased Member – Marie Mullin-Coté Dec 18, 2005.

Jan 2006 – Dec 2006 (88 Members, 2 Life Members)

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Father Tim McCauley | Spiritual Advisor |
| Pat Redsell | President |
| Connie Weston | Secretary |
| Catherine ten Den | Treasurer |

- Began each meeting with the League Prayer and spiritual readings.
- Hosted the World Day of Prayer.
- Attended the Diocesan League Development Day.
- Held a bake sale in the Spring and proceeds were divided between Father Tim's Mission Trip to El Salvador and the Russell Fire Department fire trailer.
- Served a Lenten lunch.
- Participated in a Living Rosary at the Parish Feast Day.
- Established a prayer chain that helps many people requesting prayers.
- Recruited 17 new members during the membership drive.
- Presented two members, Martina Heymans and Bobbie Nielsen with their 25-year service pins.
- Sent letters and e-mails to the Prime Minister and Members of Parliament asking to reverse Bill C-38.
- Participated in the Walk-for-Life and the Hike for Life.
- Attended Pro-Life mass at St. Patrick's Basilica and also observed Pro-Life Sunday at our parish.
- Presented three diaper bags filled with baby supplies at the Pro-Life mass at Notre Dame Cathedral in Ottawa.
- Visited the sick and shut-ins in senior residences and brought them Holy Communion.
- Presented religious gifts for First Communion, Confirmation and RCIA candidates.
- Gave Christian leadership awards to high school students at both schools.
- Gave a bursary to a high school student, Patrick Jackson.
- Participated in all aspects of the parish and did many hours of volunteer work.
- Sent Christmas cards to Canadian troops overseas.
- Took residents from Lanthier Home in Vars Christmas shopping and to see the lights and also gave them small gifts.

- Fundraising events: Strawberry Social, Bazaar and Bake sale, Christmas Stocking Raffle and catering to Russell Lions Club dinners.

One of our Charter Members, Pauline Ouellette passed away on February 19, 2006.

Jan 2007 – Dec 2007 (83 Members, 2 Life Members)

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Father Tim McCauley | Spiritual Advisor |
| Pat Redsell | President |
| Connie Weston | Secretary |
| Catherine ten Den | Treasurer |

- Began each meeting with the League Prayer and spiritual readings.
- Participated in the World Day of Prayer.
- Participated in a Prayer Chain to pray for family and friends.
- Hosted a Holy Hour on March 30 in which the travelling “Ark of the Covenant” was brought to the church and placed in front of the altar during Mass. Parishioners were encouraged to place petitions within the Ark.
- Hosted the Ottawa Diocesan Executive meeting on May 12th.
- Awarded One Maple Leaf service pin, three 25-year pins and 10 membership scrolls this year in celebration of our 30th anniversary.
- Participated in the annual Hike for Life, March for Life, attended Pro-Life mass and supported several Pro-Life organizations.
- Supported our fourth family from India under Save-A-Family Plan. The other family is now self-sufficient.
- Presented crucifixes to First Communion and Confirmation students and to RCIA candidates.
- Gave Christian leadership awards to students at both schools.
- Sent out Newsletters to all members twice a year to keep them informed of all CWL activities.
- Discussed a different resolution passed at Provincial and National levels each meeting.
- Studied Ontario Resolution 2006.05 (plastic bags and high cost of convenience). Members were given cloth bags for grocery purchases and the council voted to stop using plastic and styrofoam products at events.
- Updated our Photo album and we received our New Charter with the proper name of our council and charter members.
- Celebrated our 30th year as a council. Father Tim presented us with a “Certificate of Appreciation.”
- Place a stone before the statue of Our Lady in front of the church which reads: “For all deceased CWL Members – For God and Canada.”
- Participated in several craft days to make items for our bazaar in November.
- Catered a funeral reception and a reception for the RCIA candidates.

- Participated in all aspects of the parish and volunteered for many organizations in and outside our community.
- Took residents from Lanthier Home in Vars Christmas shopping and to see the lights and also gave them small gifts.
- Fundraising events: Strawberry Social, Barbeque Lunch, Bazaar and Bake Sale.

Our Past President, Heather Sisk, let her name stand for the Ottawa Diocesan Council as secretary and was elected to that position.

Bep Versteeg also continues to serve on the Ottawa Diocesan CWL Council as the Chair of Education and Health.

One of our Charter Members, Ruth Bertrand passed away on May 4, 2007.

Jan 2008 – Dec 2008 (87 Members, 2 Life Members)

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Father Tim McCauley | Spiritual Advisor |
| Pat Redsell | President |
| Connie Weston | Secretary |
| Nancy Masters | Treasurer |

- Began each meeting with the League Prayer and this year the Beatitudes were the centre of our spiritual presentations.
- Led the Stations of the Cross with Pope John Paul 2000 year stations.
- Had a special night one meeting centred on “God and Nature” and meditated in silence about flowers and how they reminded us of God’s beauty.
- Participated in the World Day of Prayer.
- A Policy and Procedure for our council was written by our two Life Members, Joan Chesser and Jane Munro and approved by the membership.
- Held a contest for membership fees. Anyone who paid before December 31, 2007 could win a chance to get it free.
- Presented a bursary to a graduating high school student –Mary LaPierre.
- Led the Stations of the Cross on Friday during Lent.
- Awarded a 60-yr pin to Kathleen McCarthy and 25-year pins to two other members.
- Held a poster workshop to make posters for our Membership Drive weekend.
- Held four craft workshops to make items for our bazaar which gave us time for socializing with our Sisters in Christ.
- Participated in the annual Hike for Life, March for Life and also attended Pro-Life masses.
- Paid for two members to attend the Archbishop’s Rose Dinner for pro-life.
- Meditated at one meeting on the logo of hands that identifies the Community Life Committee; shared our thoughts and they were recorded and sent to national office.

- Shared the cost of a large coffee machine for the kitchen with the Knights of Columbus.
- Hosted the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel, April 26th for the Ottawa Diocesan CWL Council.
- Supported a family through the Save-A-Family organization.
- Stressed the importance of going “green” especially in our home, gardens and lawns.
- Presented crucifixes for First Communion, Confirmation and RCIA candidates.
- Sent newsletters to all members informing them of all CWL activities.
- Learned more about resolutions and legislation. Members learned that resolutions do make a difference and we need to continue to study the resolutions that have been passed at all levels.
- Participated in all levels of our parish and community life and volunteered with many worthwhile organizations.
- Started collecting loose change from members in a penny jar each meeting with the proceeds going to a different charity each year.
- Took residents of Lanthier Home in Vars Christmas shopping and to see the lights and also gave them small gifts.
- Fundraising activities: Russell Lions Dinner, Strawberry Social and Bazaar and Bake Sale.
- Held a bake sale with proceeds going to Father Tim’s trip to El Salvador. He used the money to buy shoes for the children.
- Donated \$500 for repairs to the church; money to purchase clothes for poor schoolchildren in Mexico; to the Pro-Life organization.

One of our members Catharina “Tinie” Forgues passed away in March.

Jan 2009 – Dec 2009 (87 Members, 2 Life Members)

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|---------------------|-------------------|
| Father Tim McCauley | Spiritual Advisor |
| Pat Redsell | President |
| Denise Coustineau | Secretary |
| Nancy Masters | Treasurer |

- Began each meeting with the League Prayer and the Beatitudes were the centre of our spiritual presentations.
- Hosted the World Day of Prayer.
- Collected money in a penny jar each meeting to collect money for a charity.
- Collected used stamps for Development and Peace.
- Led the Stations of the Cross during a Friday in Lent.
- Seven members attended League Development Day.
- Five members toured Roger’s House and were impressed with the work they do; donated to this cause.
- Sent out a monthly newsletter to inform members of our activities.
- Presented crucifixes for First Communion, Confirmation and RCIA candidates.

- Gave a bursary to a graduating student – Melissa Lewington.
- Gave Christian Leadership Awards to students at local Catholic schools.
- Helped with a Vacation Bible School held at our church.
- Participated in craft workshops to make items for the bazaar.
- A Prayer Shawl group was started in the parish and a few members helped to make shawls; the CWL donated wool.
- Our banner was carried by two members in the Corpus Christi procession.
- Attended the Diocesan CWL Advent Retreat Day.
- Participated in all levels of our parish and community life and volunteered with many worthwhile organizations.
- Fundraising activities: Russell Lions Club Dinners, Strawberry Social and Bazaar and Bake Sale.
- Donated \$500 to the Justin McKenna Fund. This fund helps buy special equipment for the McKenna family whose son, Justin, was in an accident.

One of our members, Collette Vaillancourt passed away on January 11, 2009.

Heather Sisk continues to serve on the Ottawa Diocesan CWL Council as Chair of Organization.

Jan 2010 – Dec 2010 (87 Members, 2 Life Members)

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Father Tim McCauley | Spiritual Advisor |
| June Paré | President |
| Denise Coustineau | Secretary |
| Nancy Masters | Treasurer |

- Began each meeting with the League Prayer and spiritual music was added during our meditation time. It had a very comforting effect and members enjoyed this time of reflection.
- Introduced a prayer basket at the January meeting and we draw names and pray for that person during the month. This continues at each general meeting.
- Communicated with our members by e-mail. Two members also telephone people who are not on e-mail. It is a quick and expedient way to get our news out!
- Attended the World Day of Prayer at the United Church.
- Led the Stations of the Cross on a Friday during Lent using “Mary’s Way of the Cross.”
- Paid for mass intentions on Mother’s and Father’s Day.
- Served a Lenten lunch with the proceeds going to Development and Peace.
- Introduced a Spring Fling for seniors; thirty local seniors were given a free lunch and entertainment.
- Attended League Development Day.
- Made CWL sashes to be worn at CWL activities and funerals.
- Made aprons with CWL emblems on them.

- Members participated in the March for Life and the Hike for Life. We also paid for one member to attend the Archbishop's Rose Dinner.
- Recycled milk bags to make mats to send to Haiti.
- Sent money to the "Sleeping Children Organization" which provides bed kits (blankets, pajamas, pillows, toothbrushes etc. for children around the world.
- Presented crucifixes for First Communion, Confirmation and RCIA candidates.
- Gave Christian Leadership Awards to students at local Catholic schools.
- Presented a bursary to a graduating student – Taryn Chesser.
- Donated money to our Spiritual Library to purchase some new books and children's DVDs.
- Presented one member with the Maple Leaf service pin.
- Attended the Provincial Convention held in Cornwall in July.
- Prepared the following for the National Convention held in Ottawa:
 - Made bags for each participant attending the conference
 - Sewed vests worn by the volunteers
 - Made prayer cards
 - Crocheted some rosaries and made bags for them
 - Baked muffins and loaf cakes for breakfast
 - Volunteered at the convention.
- Hosted the Ottawa Diocesan CWL Executive meeting and potluck on September 25th.
- Held our CWL weekend during our bazaar; two of our members gave testimonials at each mass.
- Presented a 40-year service pin to Jane Munro, and ten Certificates of Merit, six 10-year service pins, three 25-year service pins to other members.
- Participated in all levels of our parish and community life and volunteered with many worthwhile organizations.
- Took residents from Lanthier Home in Vars Christmas shopping and to see the lights and also gave them small gifts.
- Fundraising activities: Russell Lions Club dinners, Strawberry Social, Bazaar and Bake Sale and Christmas stocking raffle.

Three members, Jane Munro, Pat Redsell and June Paré were on the planning committee for the 2010 National CWL Convention and have been attending meetings for three years.

One of our members, Joyce Piovesan, passed away on April 2, 2010 and we had an honour guard and did readings during her funeral service.

Jan 2011 – Dec 2011 (82 Members, 2 Life Members)

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|--------------------|-------------------|
| Father Paul Nwaeze | Spiritual Advisor |
| Pat Redsell | President |
| Denise Coustineau | Secretary |
| Nancy Masters | Treasurer |

- Began each meeting with the League Prayer and spiritual readings, accompanied by music.
- Participated in the World Day of Prayer.
- Attended the League Development Day.
- Held a workshop on how to make mats out of milk bags.
- Discussed the motion concerning a National CWL membership fee increase. One of our Life Members explained the rationale behind this motion; motion was passed at our level and sent on to diocesan council.
- Led the Stations of the Cross on one Friday during Lent.
- Hosted a Lenten lunch.
- Sponsored the Spring Fling for 47 seniors this year.
- Attended mass at St. Patrick's Fallowfield on the Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel.
- Collected money for a charity in the penny jar at each meeting.
- Hosted Colleen Randall from the Ottawa Diocesan CWL Council, who spoke to us about letting our names stand for a position on our council.
- Purchased some new books for our spiritual library.
- Presented crucifixes for First Communion and Confirmation candidates.
- Gave Christian Leadership Awards to students at local Catholic schools.
- Presented a bursary to a graduating student, Lindsay Lovenuk.
- Participated in the March for Life, Hike for Life, 40 Days for Life Vigil and the Prayer Chain.
- Participated in all levels of our parish and community life and volunteered with many worthwhile organizations.
- Rented a bus to take members from Lanthier Home in Vars Christmas shopping and to see the lights. A small gift was given to each resident.
- Fundraising activities: Russell Lions Club Dinners, Strawberry Social and Bazaar and Bake Sale.
- Donated to: Buy-a-Net Program, Sleeping Children around the World, Save-A-Family Plan and Habitat for Humanity.

We held our elections and only five people let their names stand for a position. The important position of President was not filled. We asked everyone to pray for this council and reconsider letting their name stand for it.

Prayer really works because one of our Life Members, Jane Munro, said she stand as President.

Heather Sisk is now the President of the Ottawa Diocesan Council.

Jan 2012 – Dec 2012 (80 Members, 2 Life Members)

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|--------------------|-------------------|
| Father Paul Nwaeze | Spiritual Advisor |
| Jane Munro | President |
| Elizabeth Gravel | Secretary |
| Denise Parenteau | Treasurer |

We celebrated our council's 35th anniversary in May with a special mass, presentation of service pins and reception afterwards in the church hall.

- Began each meeting with the League Prayer and spiritual readings, accompanied by music. Encouraged members to do something special for "The Year of Faith."
- Hosted the World Day of Prayer.
- Donated a wine and cheese basket to the Knights of Columbus silent auction. Proceeds went to the Canadian Cancer Society in honour of the Knight's deceased member, Paul Beaupré, husband of one of our members, Gwenn Bedard-Beaupré.
- Led the Stations of the Cross on one Friday during Lent.
- Attended the League Development Day.
- Participated in the Parish Ministry Fair where membership information and CWL brochures were displayed.
- Presented service pins to Anne Lommen, Simone Sullivan, Ann Jackson, Maureen Marsolais, Lorraine Small, Marcella Woods, Annie Nyentap, Teresa Wever, Karen Lovenuk, Margaret Helliker, Rita Hendricks. June Paré was presented with the Maple leaf pin.
- Presented Bep Versteeg with the Belle Guerin Award at the Ottawa Diocesan CWL convention in May.
- Conducted a survey of our members in the fall which included questions on demographics, participation, donations, social activities, communications and general comments. The results of this survey will help guide us in the future.
- Purchased a Remembrance Day wreath which was placed at the Russell cenotaph on November 11th by one of our members, Marcella Woods.
- Presented a bursary to a graduating student, Richard James, Jr.
- Hosted a reception after a Pro-Life mass which was held at our parish.
- Collected 315 pairs of socks, 17 mittens, gloves, hats and two pairs of long johns for the Shepherds of Good Hope during the month of November.
- Rented a bus to take members from Lanthier Home in Vars for Christmas shopping and to see the lights. A small gift was given to each resident.
- Donated to the Silent Auction at the Ottawa Diocesan CWL Convention.
- Donated to numerous worthwhile organizations and members volunteered many hours of time in our community.

Our Past President, Pat Redsell, has filed all our minutes, membership lists and financial papers in the CWL filing cabinet. Pat also compiled the history of our council over the past 35 years and organized our photo albums so they can be displayed at meetings and events.

Two of our members passed away this year:

Aleida (Lydia) Nyenkamp – May 3, 2012; Monica Baker – Oct 16, 2012

OLMM CWL history:

- compiled by Pat Redsell,
- typed by Patti Larmour,
- edited by Jane Munro.

February 3, 2013