

Catholic Women's League (CWL)

For Sacred Heart Parish, the CWL has been both the heart and the backbone of growth. When Father Dill established the League in 1951 and Margaret Hogan was the first President. The first members of the Executive were Ann Hatton, Edith Cameron, L. Valliant, H. Murphy, C. O'Hearn and J.D. Lamb, he began to use their special talents to contribute to the growth of the Catholic faith in Sarnia.

The women of the League took charge of the altars in the new church, supplying linens, flowers, carpets and drapes. Through fundraising they provided hymn books, surplices for the altar boys, chairs and the new kitchen for the meeting room.

They arranged dinners, receptions and dances to encourage social interaction and spiritual growth among the parish community. The League also established and finally supported Brownies and Girl Guides.

The league was not only active within the parish but they lobbied politically for "Equality in Education", against abortion, and pornography. Other members held high profiles in the community by serving on boards and committees, hospital auxiliary at St. Joseph's Hospital and establishing Birthright to assist mothers-to-be, who were considering abortion with counselling, personal support and after birth care for both mother and child. They also worked in Meals on Wheels for more than forty years to present and are still delivering meals during COVID. They presented small gifts to children receiving the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation.

It has been difficult to get a President to attend meetings at which different levels needed to be attended. Many executive members are also involved with other church and community groups. Many past Presidents have retired from other careers and have shared the President's position so that the Presidency has become more appealing and not such an onerous task with meetings and fund raising for charities.

Over the past few year's members have dwindled. More women are working outside the home and less are willing to volunteer time to the League.

If any member of the League were to be asked what they are missing during the COVID lockdown, it would be missing the comradery of getting together, working funeral lunches together, social occasions, assisting at Mass, and mutual support.

A knitting group was started and the women who gathered to share their talent with children from Sacred Heart School. Finished items were sold to raise funds or to donate items to the hospital.

Others in the League, who were not active in the community, supported these endeavors by being "quietly supportive of the League". During this pandemic CWL members are missing attending the meetings and enjoying each other's company together to pray, and sharing social time.

Many Congratulations on the 70th Anniversary of the League 1951-2021.

Catholic Women's League Presidents

Margaret Hogan	1951 & 1956
Ann Hatton	1952 & 1955
Jo Sauve	1953-1954
Mary Smith	1957
Joan Waters	1958-1959
Katherine Barry	1960-1961
Camilla Wheatley	1962-1963
Virginia Keelan	1964-1965
Helen Ballard	1966
Val Shearer	1967
Jo Young	1968
Gloria Bernard	1969-1970
Rosemary Bechard	1971
Harriet Reid	1972-1974
Cecile Kinlin	1975-1976
Wilma McNeill	1977-1979 & 2003-2004
Marilyn Sandrin	1979-1981
Brenda Hogan	1981-1983
Ruth Ann Carew	1983-1985
Nancy Berry	1987-1989
Betty Barry	1987-1989
Helen Tavares	1989-1991
Cathy McAnulty	1991-1993
Catherine Lynch	1993-1995
Betty Maczko	1995-1997
Winnie Zakoor	1997-1998
Dana Hadley	1999-2000
Jacquie Taylor	2005-2006
Mary Ellen L'Heureux & Noreen Salak	2007-2008
Patricia Hobin & Donna Richardson	2009-2010
Vicky Cowley & Joan Nienhuis	2011-2012
Barb Paul & Martha Knight	2013-2014
Ann Clark &	

Judith Gillespie	2015-2016
Yvette McLeod & Dominica Rastin	2017-2018
No President Residing- Executive. Members took Turns chairing meetings.	2019-2020
COVID 19	2020-2021