

St. Mary's CWL Update

Once again, the St. Mary's Catholic Women's League members had a very busy and productive 2018-19 season.

Our major fundraiser for this year was the St. Patrick's Day Raffle and Bake Sale held on March 17th. The Knights of Columbus supplemented this by giving us the proceeds from the Pancake Breakfast and a 50/50 Draw, for which we are very thankful. In addition, we held two perogy day sales – one in November and one in April. We are very thankful for the generosity of our parishioners and the community in supporting these important fund raisers. Special thanks also go to our inspiring and hard working executive committee.

The proceeds from these funds are distributed to many needy charities. Some of these charities included Beausejour and Area Food Bank, Christmas Hampers, the Handivan, Beausejour Hospital TV Fund, Brokenhead River Foundation, Daylily Gardens, Open Doorways Orphanage, Alzheimer's Society, East Gate Lodge Recreational Department, Nova House, Meals on Wheels, and many others. We also support a foster child in Kenya and are very pleased to receive letters from her updating her progress. Throughout the year, CWL donates Bibles and hymnals to the prison ministry.

In addition to financial donations, many CWL members volunteer at various organizations like the delivery of Meals on Wheels, organizing the Christmas Hamper program and their delivery, looking after the Daylily Gardens, visiting the sick and shut ins, organizing fund raisers for the Open Doorways Orphanage and more.

Once again, the CWL supported the Cancer Society. Under the leadership of Sylvia Mroz, some members sold and delivered daffodils raising \$1362.75. The sale of daffodil pins at local businesses also raised \$147.55, for a total sale of \$1510.30. Thank you to everyone for their donations and for purchasing daffodils and pins in support of cancer patients and the Cancer Society.

On November 11th, a wreath was laid by the CWL President, Anne Wolkenstein, at the Remembrance Day Ceremonies.

In December, the CWL contributed funds towards the purchase of some coats for the Coats for Kids program. In addition, the CWL collected donations of new winter mittens, hats and scarves for children which were donated to needy organizations. Before Christmas, we also collected pyjamas, toiletries, towels, gifts, etc. which were donated to Nova House in Selkirk to enhance their holidays.

In addition to our donations and volunteer work, many members attend conferences to enrich their lives and then share their experiences with the rest of the members. On February 9th, some members attended the Winnipeg Diocesan Day of Reflection where they learned about how pornography is becoming a serious problem to our young generation. Members sent post cards entitled "Pornography Hurts" to James Bezan, MP House of Commons, to let him know of our concern. On March 1st, some members attended the World Day of Prayer at the Alliance Church in Lac du Bonnet. There was a very interesting presentation given on the country of Slovenia. In April, some members attended the Caritas Awards Dinner where they listened to Joy Smith's presentation on "Human Trafficking".

On April 26/27th, some members attended the St. Boniface Diocesan convention at St. John, the Evangelist Church in Morden. These conventions are held every year in a different location throughout the diocese. In 2020, St. Mary's CWL will be hosting this convention.

In May, members of the CWL and parish donate and deliver a baby layette to Thrive in Winnipeg.

In June, the St. Mary CWL will be presenting a deserving student from Edward Schreyer School with a \$500 bursary to further their education. We also donate a birthday cake to the residents at East Gate Lodge who will be celebrating their birthdays in the month of June.

After a successful year, a June wind up was held with a mass, presentation of service pins, and delicious buffet lunch at Lee's Restaurant.

This year, we have a national theme for the league. "Care of Our Common Home" provides the opportunity for members to raise self awareness in taking steps to protect the environment and the world we live in.

After the summer holidays, our meetings will continue on the second Tuesday of every month starting in September. New members are always welcome. On behalf of our members, we wish everyone a happy and healthy summer.