



The Pandemic Diary

St Patrick's CWL, Mississauga

Volume 1, Issue 8

December 2021

President's Message

Sisters of the League,

December is here!! The season of winter, of warmth and celebration of Christmas! Let us think of ourselves as snowflakes, each one different in our own beautiful way, all a part of this magical season. And of course, all an integral part of the CWL!! We made it through another year of the pandemic!!

The highlight this month was the launch of the Parish Cookbook compiled by our Council's Cookbook Committee to commemorate the CWL's 100th Anniversary. I am truly in awe of the recipes, pics and stories shared by members and parishioners which make this book so delightful and interesting. A bit of CWL history, a dash of food trivia, quirky one liners thrown in and voila!! A culinary masterpiece was created!

Fr. John and Fr. Brian have so enthusiastically supported this venture. Special thanks to Susan Macera who not only contributed so many recipes

but also donated bags and bags of baked goodies for our bazaar besides volunteering too! Cathy Cerasani donated over 50 hats she made herself which were a huge attraction and many sold. Brigitte Daniel did an excellent job putting together baskets for the Silent Auction. JoAnne McAuley donated a beautiful teapot and table runner set she sewed herself. Hilde Stanke donated 2 beautiful hand crafted blankets for the Auction. Thanks to Agnes Carbonelli, Liz McCallion and Barbara Joseph who donated crafts and items too. Lucy DiLella baked an assortment of cookies and together with Michelle Craig, assembled sweet and savoury recipe sample plates. Maria Correia donated bags of Portuguese cookies. Thanks to all parishioners and members who donated items for the sample plates. There was such a variety of goodies such as bibingka cassava, waffles, cookies, cakes, rum balls, empanadas, mini-pies, cheeselets, taralli--ALL recipes from the cookbook. Once again--Thank You!! Agnes, Lucy and Shirley were our

member "Celebrity Chefs" for the weekend.

And I must thank our merry band of elves namely Lucy, Michelle, Susan, Peggy, Nancy, Barbara A, Petra and Tammy who helped over the weekend. And special thanks to Cathy Taylor and Andrea who stayed with me and helped right through every shift, all weekend!!

Please pick up copies of this amazing cookbook if you haven't already. Details on Pg 4.

Here's wishing you all a Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2022!

God Bless!!



This is a picture of our Council's Book of Life, created and maintained by Theresa Merkley. Andrea submitted this pic at the Peel Memorial Service for deceased CWL members held virtually on November 3rd 2021.

Mary, Did You Know?

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you delivered, will soon deliver you?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?*

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm the storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little baby you kiss the face of God
Oh Mary, did you know?
The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak
the praises of the Lamb*

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
That sleeping child you're holding is the Great I Am*

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Armchair Travelogue with Barbara Azzopardi (The Dominican Republic)

I recently went on my first mission trip to the Dominican Republic with a group of 53 men, women and children (youngest 11 months, oldest 79 years young!). We volunteered our talents in constructing and painting homes in a little village east of **Puerto Plata, DR** near **Sosua**. Fr. Mario of Sts. Peter and Paul Church, led our not so little band of helpers and has been involved with an organization called '**Samaritans Foundation**' for the past 9 years. This is an ongoing project that was started by Mr. Elio Madonia, a successful businessman/preacher in Toronto, now 92 years old, who upon retiring 35 years ago, saw a huge need for people in DR. Under the charitable foundation, he has completed 17 villages, 2000 homes, various Christian schools for kids from 5 to 16, vocational schools for those over 16, children's playgrounds and at least 4 medical clinics (called hospitals and the government wants all the glory!).

We flew into Puerto Plata on Saturday, attended Mass at the Cathedral on Sunday with Fr. Mario co-celebrating Mass with the Bishop of the town and then went on a tour of Puerto Plata, taking many photos by the oceanside and the fort/former prison(?). About 12 of us then took advantage of another private tour which took us to **Umbrella Street** and **Pink Street** (pics below) plus other interesting parts of town, returning to the Resort to enjoy the ocean and the beautiful sandy beach. The Resort offered the usual buffet, a Japanese teppanyaki restaurant and an Italian restaurant, a beautiful pool, spa, nightly entertainment and a family of peacocks!

During the week we helped the professional builders move concrete blocks, mix cement on the ground, hang out laundry for a young mother with small children clinging onto

her legs, paint completed houses (pink, blue, yellow, lilac) and clear almost completed houses of debris so that concrete floors can be poured.

Each home is hooked up to electricity and running water. Families wishing to move from really rough shacks into a stable house with a good roof over their heads have to complete an application process which helps to determine their needs and then a lottery helps to fairly choose families for each home. The homes are 20' by 24' and after being there for 3 years, a home can be put into the woman's name and she takes over ownership since the men have a tendency to remove themselves from a family situation.

We also built wooden doors and louvered windows from scratch and painted them white at the local woodworking shop near one of the villages. The day we were there we built and painted over 30 windows and about 10 doors.

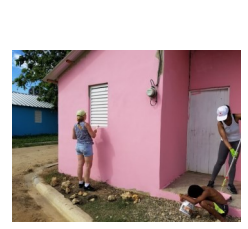
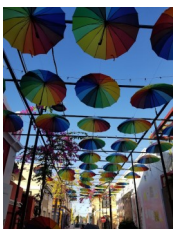
The next day we went to the local garbage dump! Haitian refugees escaping their even worse living conditions in Haiti end up living on the very fringes (no social assistance there!!!!) and literally comb through food scraps brought by trucks from the various resorts. We made many bags of sandwiches before we went to the dump which were supplemented with homemade stew and water to drink. Another Christian group serves these people on a regular basis. We found one elderly woman going through bags of clothing probably to cloth herself and the other people there or sell for a few dollars. Other garbage items are sorted and bagged by the men and they get only \$1.00 US for a bag at least 5ft tall. Flies are everywhere but I didn't see any rats!, thank goodness. We did see one child about 4 years old running around barefoot! One of the ladies with us brought flip flops of all sizes and handed them out to anyone she saw. We all contributed school supplies, medicines, vitamins, bandaids, clothing, food items, diapers for kids and adults plus so

much more. The parishioners were more than generous bringing in supplies. Fr. Mario made the decision to ship these supplies separately to DR and they should be arriving this week. Did you know that anything shipped must have taxes/duties paid on them up to 18%? If supplies are brought in by tourists in their suitcases this does not apply but we had way more than we could individually handle. A few of us spoke Spanish and we did have translators with us.

We also were blessed to visit the local pregnancy help clinic in Sosua which has been led by a very faithful husband/wife team from the US. Apparently, Sosua is a place where prostitution is huge. We even learned that women fly into the country to work on weekends. How horrible to be in this situation! The pregnant women get an ultrasound to show them their baby and are taught many skills and encouraged to finish school. They earn points and trade those points in for things they need. The men are also encouraged to take responsibility for their actions and this husband/wife team have had much success in helping these babies to be born. Due to Covid, they are not getting the funding that they used to get but it is getting better.

I could go on as you can well imagine but in summary, I am so grateful to have been able to participate in this mission trip. I have only heard of protestant churches doing these types of trips and am so happy that Fr. Mario has taken this group to DR. Another trip is planned for next summer when they expect to have approximately 125 young people from high schools and parents/teachers going along. If you are interested in participating, just keep in touch with Sts. Peter and Paul Church for news next spring. All this was and continues to be done to help the least of God's children and may God get all the glory!!!

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/GaHjcbzxTpscn1ET7>



Reflections of a CWL Sister... Theresa Merkley

I was born in Pembroke, Ontario and my husband Ellis in Finch, a small town in Eastern Ontario.

On August 15th 1959, we were married at St. Vincent de Paul Church on Roncesvalles. Ellis was a teacher in Eto-bicoke and I was a registered nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital. We did not own a car at that time. Our first years of married life, we lived in Mimico and New Toronto where we attended Mass at St. Theresa's on 10th Street and later at St. Leo's on Royal York Road. In December 1964, we moved to what was then called "Cooksville". We bought a semi-detached home and have lived there ever since.

St. Patrick's Church was at the corner of Dixie and Dundas. It was definitely quieter than it is today. That is where it all began....

I joined the CWL and went to a couple of meetings. I was still working occasional weekends at St. Joseph's, 3 o'clock to 11 o'clock, later at Mississauga Hospital because it was closer.

Ellis looked after the household.

As meetings resumed at the new St. Patrick's, I became a member once again. One evening, I heard a knock on the door. Three CWL women arrived with a prize that I had won. It was a gorgeous, hand-crafted quilt that many of the CWL women had worked on at the church. It was, and still is, a "work of art".

I eventually became a Spiritual Convenor and then President Elect. I was hesitant when asked to be President but I realized that it was a great experience. I was President from 1990-1992.

Some events during my term

- Communion Breakfast with a Guest Speaker
- Welcoming new Canadians at the Courthouse with an RCMP officer present.
- Conventions, Diocesan and Provincial. Never got to National (would've been nice)
- Birthday parties including one for

Bishop Lacey.

- Visiting other parishes.
- Hosting Mayor McCallion for World Day of Prayer.
- Bus trip to Canadian Martyrs Shrine in Midland.
- Public Speaking Contests
- Bazaars (some of the funds went towards the plaque above the tabernacle)
- Playing the keyboard for seniors at Christmas.

During my years at the CWL, Ellis and I raised twelve happy and healthy children.

Today I look after the "**Book of Life**" for our Council. Yes, I knew most of these women. They were kind, talented and devout women.

God Bless the Catholic Women's League of Canada.
Bless our beloved homes and families.

Kissing Under The Mistletoe presented by Brigitte Daniel

The origins of kissing under the mistletoe, a plant that bears white berries, is often traced to a tale in Norse mythology about the God Baldur. Frigg declares the mistletoe to be a symbol of love, after her son's death and promises to kiss anyone who passed underneath it. Mistletoe's associations with fertility and vitality continued through the Middle Ages, and by the 18th century it had become widely incorpo-

rated into Christmas celebrations.

According to the tradition it is bad luck for a young lady caught under the mistletoe to refuse a kiss. After the kiss, the couple is to pluck one of the berries from the plant. Once the berries are gone, the bough will no longer have the power to command kisses.

Celtic Druids, in the 1st century A.D. viewed it as a symbol of vivacity. It

remained green while other plants were bare during the winter.

Mistletoes are parasitic plants. Birds such as jays, cedar waxwings, bluebirds and other thrushes feed on the yellowish to whitish-green sticky mistletoe berries and then spread them from tree to tree in their droppings. The mistletoe seeds sprout and grow roots into the oak branches.



Christmas Bread - Pan de Pascua (Chilean version) by Magaly Vasquez

Ingredients

250 grams butter, room temperature
4 eggs
1 cup icing sugar
2 cups flour
2 tsp baking powder
1 tsp cinnamon
¼ tsp nutmeg
½ tsp cloves
½ cup milk (lukewarm)
1 tsp white vinegar
½ tsp baking soda, dissolved in 1 tbs of warm water
1 cup glazed fruit
1 cup raisins

1 cup walnuts, roughly chopped
½ cup cognac or rum

Preparation

Preheat oven to 400°F. Prepare two 7-inch round baking pans by greasing with butter then sprinkling with flour. Beat butter and icing sugar until creamy. Then add the eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Sift together flour, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves. Alternate adding the flour mixture and milk to the butter mixture. Beat constantly after each addition. Mix in vinegar and baking soda/water

mixture.

Next add in the glazed fruit, raisins and walnuts. Finally mix in the cognac/rum.

Mix everything well and pour in the prepared cake pans.

Place in oven for 10 minutes then lower the temperature to 300°F for 1 ½ hour. When toothpick inserted in middle comes up clean, the cake is done.

Remove from oven and cover with a dry cloth. Once completely cooled, cover with plastic wrap and place in a tin. Covered tightly in plastic and at room temperature will allow cake to last 1 month.

Makes two 7 inch round cakes



Cathy's Puzzling Trivia

Trying to figure out a way to make your family Christmas party or family time a little more exciting? Want to impress everyone you know with your extensive knowledge of all holiday-related things? Whatever the case, you can make any get-together merrier with this set of Christmas trivia questions and answers. Some are easy, some are hard, but they're all fun Christmas trivia!

- 1) Which popular Christmas beverage is also called "milk punch?"
- 2) What did the other reindeer not let Rudolph do because of his shiny red nose?
- 3) What are the two other most popular names for Santa Claus?
- 4) In the classic Christmas movie, How The Grinch Stole Christmas, the Grinch was described with three words. What are they?
- 5) In which modern-day country was St. Nicholas born in?
- 6) In the movie It's A Wonderful Life, what happened every time a bell rang?
- 7) Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
- 8) What was the highest-grossing Christmas movie of all time?
- 9) How many gifts in total were given in "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song?
- 10) What was the first company that used Santa Claus in advertising?



Birthday wishes to our CWL sisters for December!!!

Snapshots of Our CWL Cookbook Fundraiser

We launched the Parish Cookbook at our Christmas Bazaar, the weekend of December 11th/12th 2021 in the Church Hall after all Masses, maintaining Covid protocols.

The cookbooks were the highlight of our Bazaar but we also had sales of hats, shawls, table runners, baked goodies, a Silent Auction of Christmas Baskets and blankets. We had plates made up of some of the cookbook recipe samples to encourage people to make those recipes and several people liked that. We also invited "Celebrity Chefs" namely those who contributed recipes to talk about them and encourage people to buy the books. The chefs were even asked to autograph their recipes!!

In case you haven't purchased a copy yet, the cookbooks will be sold after all masses the weekend of Dec 18th/19th and will also be available at the Church office. You can call Cathy Cerasani at 905-279-5212 or email Andrea at a_tjioe@yahoo.com to order copies as well. Let us all work to make this venture a success!!!



Diane's Pundemic Corner

"A pun, or paronomasia, is a form of word play that deliberately exploits an ambiguity between similar-sounding words for humorous rhetorical effect. Such ambiguity may arise from the intentional misuse of homophonical, homographical, homonymic, polysemic, metonymic, or metaphorical language.

OR

"A Pun is a joke or type of wordplay in which similar senses or sounds of two words or phrases, or different senses of the same word, are deliberately confused; To tell a pun is to make a play on words." Check out these puns!!!

1. The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was **Sir Cumference**.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an **optical Aleutian**.
3. What do you call a priest that becomes a lawyer?
A father in law.
4. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
5. The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a **seasoned veteran**.
6. I told my suitcase that there will be no vacation this year. Now I'm dealing with **emotional baggage**.
7. If you boil a funny bone it becomes a laughing stock. That's **humerus** . . .
8. I renamed my iPod "The Titanic," so when I plug it in, it says, "**The Titanic is syncing**."
9. What washes up on tiny beaches? **Microwaves**.
10. The guy who invented the door knocker got a **no-bell prize**.
11. Studies show cows produce more milk when the farmer talks to them. It's a case of **in one ear and out the udder**.

Answers to Trivia

1. Egg nog
2. Play reindeer games
3. Kris Kringle and Saint Nick
4. Stink, stank, stunk
5. Turkey (originally Patara, a city in the ancient district of Lycia, in Asia Minor)
6. An angel got his wings
7. Germany
8. Home Alone
9. 364
10. Coca Cola