

Spiritual Development Standing Committee

For the period January 1 to December 31, 2010

Name of Council: St. Francis of Assisi **Address:** 214 King Ave. E. Newcastle L1B 1H5

During the year 2010, our parish council brought life to the Objects of the League and to the League's *Mission Statement*. We have described **one or more** activities under this standing committee by which we were able to show our call to be "Women of Peace and Hope". **Report the activities under the following appropriate heading(s) for this committee.**

Spiritual Growth of Members

- Members attended Peterborough Diocese, other diocesan, Provincial and National conventions.
- Spiritual reflections held at all meetings.
- Attended ceremony for the canonization of Brother Andre.
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Study of Catholic Teachings

- Coordinated, facilitated and/or attended *Awakening Faith*, a program to develop or expand one's Catholic faith.
- Attended bible study sessions.
- Informed members of Byzantine Tradition of Catholic Church.
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Role of Women in the Church

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Evangelization and Mission Assistance

- Promoted and facilitated *Awakening Faith* sessions.
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Lay Ministries

- Assisted Father with various ministries in the parish.
- Participated in ministry workshops.
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Ecumenism and Interfaith Endeavours

- Attended World Day of Prayer.
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Organization Standing Committee

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Recruit Members and Maintain Membership

- Members are encouraged that recruiting and maintaining members is the responsibility of all members, not just the Organization Chair.
- Display board of CWL information is manned at the Ministry Fair.
- Held our annual membership brunch open to all ladies of the parish with a guest speaker on a topic of interest to CWL members, a spiritual reflection indicative of the reflections at our monthly meetings, and reports given by Chairpersons to inform members and guests of the good work done by our council in the past year.
- Posters from National are displayed.
- Members are spoken with personally, phoned and/or e-mailed regarding outstanding membership.
- Members are encouraged to reflect on their talents and treasures and how they can have faith, fun and fulfillment by sharing themselves as they serve God and Canada.

Leadership Development

- Members are encouraged to attend Diocesan workshops and conventions at all levels.
- Members attended Peterborough Diocese, other diocesan, Provincial and National conventions.
- Information provided at meetings about motion procedures and meeting decorum in order to educate members and facilitate smooth-running meetings.

League Resource Material

- Websites, newsletters, directives, communiqués, The League Magazine, various handbooks, guidelines and manuals, constitution and by-laws are referred to on a regular basis.

Annual Reports (i.e., Diocesan Annual Report book referred to during the year, how the Annual Reports are completed in your Parish Council, etc.)

- Chairs are encouraged to use a monthly planner, record activities in a monthly calendar, and refer to monthly reports and minutes of monthly meetings.
- Chairs are provided guidelines for completing reports.
- Copies of previous annual reports should be on file in Chairperson's binder and if not, are available in the Annual Report binder for reference.
- Chairs are asked to provide an oral report at our annual general meeting to summarize activities in their chair for the past year.

Life Membership (if applicable in your Parish Council)

- Submitted application for life membership of one member.

Christian Family Life Standing Committee

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Marriage and Family

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Sanctity of Life

- Prayers at daily mass for respect of life from unborn to elderly.
- Shared information regarding Abortion Survivor & her stance to protect life from conception to natural death.
- Wrote and encouraged letter writing regarding "*Roxanne's Law*", a private member's bill to our elected officials to support this bill making it an offence to coerce a pregnant woman to abort against her wishes. Also, thank you letters were written to the Manitoba M.P. for his presenting this bill.
- Organized and sold the "*Respect Life*" campaigns for Easter egg sales as well as the Lottery Calendar.
- Organized the "*Birthright Peterborough*" gifts for needy mothers and newborn infants for the newly formed hospital bag as well as clothing for youth children.
- Shared information with the League regarding the Vatican's praising two newly elected regional officials who vowed to defend life by working to halt the distribution of abortion drug RU 486 which was previously only administered by doctors in hospitals.
- Pro-Life Youth walked across Canada this past summer as well as giving hundreds of talks along the way as they take a stand for the unborn who have no voice of their own.

Ministry to: (note: please use extra page(s) if necessary to report completely)

- Youth
 - Vacation Bible Study was not only work & fun for CWL members that participated but enjoyed by the 4 youth who volunteered to assist with the children.
 - Teen Town, organized by a CWL member, has had numerous fun activities including sports nights, dance, movies and a Halloween party.
 - Helped organize, and attended the Youth ministry communion breakfast.
 - Shared my faith journey with the confirmation class during their retreat as well as helping with refreshments that day.
 - Teens have been encouraged to share their talents with the parish ministries and there is one helping with the parish flower gardens.
 - Teens that attended SONfest this past summer enjoyed their weekend immensely and are working towards success for the youth mass Sunday at 7 p.m.
 - Several members work with the Nutrition Program at St. Francis of Assisi School providing nutritious snacks to the children twice a week.

Christian Family Life Standing Committee cont'd

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Ministry to: (note: please use extra page(s) if necessary to report completely)

- Disabled and Seniors
 - Members assist with the Catholic Mass at Fosterbrooke Long Term Care Facility by gathering the residents, singing songs and hymns with them.
 - Members visit shut-in members of our parish as well as Fosterbrooke taking communion along and praying with the individuals.
 - Members offer transportation, taking seniors shopping, to medical appointments, library, banking and church.
 - SMART VON exercise program continues weekly led by and participated in by several members.
- Widowed, Separated and Divorced
 - Members assist with, and attend the parish ministry once monthly.
 - Invitations are extended for participation in parish as well as family social functions and sharing meals in members' homes.
 - Transportation is provided for attendance at prayer meetings in Oshawa.

Vocations

- Prayer for vocations prayed after daily mass and rosary, as well as individual prayers for priests by individuals for their personal needs.
- Invitation to homes and social outings inclusion continue.
- Reinforcement of job well done and support of programs, as well as spiritual messages for our parish priest is continued.

Community Life Standing Committee
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Dignity and Life of Persons

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Social and Economic Justice

- Donated to Women Changing the World program.
- Participated in the Fellowship of the Least Coin program.
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Refugees, Immigration and Citizenship

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Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP)

- Provided financial assistance to Development and Peace.
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Developing Countries

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Education and Health Standing Committee

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Catholic Education

- Catholic Schools and Catechesis
 - Members assisted with the Holy Communion and Confirmation programs.
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- Rites of Christian Initiation
 - Members worked towards the implementation of a new format for the RCIA program.
 - Members presented workshops to increase parishioners' knowledge of the Catholic faith.
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Literacy and Continuing Education

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Scholarships and Bursaries

- Donated monetary awards to the local elementary and high schools.
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Wellness and Sickness/Disease

- Members participated in Healing Masses.
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Environment

- Continued to inform about Go Green initiatives.
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Genetics

- Members attended Bio-ethics and Genetics workshop.
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Communications Standing Committee

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The Canadian League Magazine

- Urged members to read magazine.
May be able to connect with old friends.
Able to get ideas from it for own Council.
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Media

- For Evangelization
 - Letters written to elected officials re Roxanne's Law – a bill in the parliamentary process making it an offence to force a pregnant woman to abort her unborn child.
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- To Promote the League
 - Display during Ministry Fair.
 - Annual general meeting brunch and membership drive in November with all ladies of the parish welcome.
 - Printed and distributed 2010 bazaar flyer.
 - Christmas social with invitation to all ladies of the parish.
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- Evaluation and Promotion of Good Content
 - Cards and gifts to shut-ins and sick members, and cards to members for deceased relatives.
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- Newsletters and Bulletins
 - Use of church bulletin for communication of CWL information.
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Media Relations

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Pornography

- Letters were written to Prime Minister's office re "persons used or hired" for human trafficking during the Winter Olympics.
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Resolutions Standing Committee

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Research and Preparation of Resolutions and Briefs

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Study and Implementation of Resolutions Passed by Other Levels

- Met with members of other councils to discuss resolutions.
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Legislation Standing Committee

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Monitor and Study Legislation at All Levels of Government

- Wrote letters to government officials on issues such as human trafficking, convicted criminals receiving Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement payments, Old Age Pension Reform, and Roxanne's Law.
- Signed on-line petitions in areas such as Municipality of Clarington's opinion panel, euthanasia prevention, and Roxanne's Law.
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Preparation of Briefs and Position Papers on Proposed Legislation

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Parish Activities Standing Committee

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Liaison and Co-operation with Pastoral Councils

- Represented CWL on Liturgy Council.
- Facilitated communication between other parish groups and the CWL.
- Coordinated refreshments for various parish activities.
- Compiled and distributed questionnaires.
- Represented CWL at various retreats/workshops.
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Parish Assistance

- Catered community luncheons/weddings.
- Presented graduation gifts to local school students.
- Assist local nursing home (baking, donations, Christmas gifts).
- Helped coordinate and cater events such as the Easter Sunrise service, SONfest and Summerfest (parish summer party).
- Provided food donations and financial assistance to St. Vincent de Paul.
- Volunteer in various parish ministries.
- Coordinated and financially supported Vacation Bible School.
- Facilitated workshops on the Harassment and Violence Prevention Policy and Procedure of the Diocese of Peterborough.
- Facilitated *We the Parish sessions*, a faith community building experience.
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Other (i.e., Social Committee, Funeral Lunches, etc.)

- Assisted families with funeral receptions.
- Annual Christmas bazaar.
- Organized monthly euchre games to reduce mortgage.
- Coordinated staff appreciation reception.
- Assisted with mortgage reduction fund raisers such as Farmers' Forum and Feast.
- Planning CWL Diocesan convention for 2011.
- Implemented and coordinated gift card program to support the needs of the parish.
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Past President's Report

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Serve in a Consultative Capacity

- Answered questions posed by various chairpersons during the year, when asked, as well as passing on relevant information to assist the respective chairs.
- Informed & advised ladies from Our Lady of Mercy parish in Port Hope at one of their meetings prior to reapplication for reinstatement.
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Be Responsible for Archives and History

- Updated the pictorial history book with memorials for two deceased members this year.
- Shared & catalogued feature in local newspapers of council members.
- Assisted 2009 past president with pictorial book comments.
- Added to History, lists of Past Presidents and Spiritual Advisors and years of service.
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Facilitate the Study and Implementation of the *Constitution & Bylaws*

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Perform Other Duties as Assigned by the President

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President's Report

For the period January 1 to December 31, 2010

Name of Council: St. Francis of Assisi **Address:** 214 King Ave. E. Newcastle L1B 1H5

President: Helena Lessard **Address:** 5 Chester Lane, Newcastle, ON L1B 1E5

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Peter Seabrooke **Diocese:** Peterborough

Members: 72 **Associate Members:** _____ **Life Members:** _____

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SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

- Spiritual reflection for deceased members and spiritual advisors of our council since inception.
- Attended ceremony for the canonization of Brother Andre.

ORGANIZATION

- For leadership development, attended Peterborough Diocese, other diocesan, Provincial and National conventions.
- Members are encouraged to reflect on their talents and treasures and how they can have faith, fun and fulfillment by sharing themselves as they serve God and Canada.

EDUCATION AND HEALTH

- Participated in the nutrition program at the elementary school.
- SMART VON exercise program held at our parish for members of the community.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Cards and flowers for sick members and Mass for deceased relatives of members.

RESOLUTIONS

- Met with members of other councils to discuss resolutions.

LEGISLATION

- Wrote letters to government officials on issues such as human trafficking, convicted criminals receiving Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement payments, Old Age Pension Reform, and Roxanne's Law.

President's Report cont'd

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COMMUNITY LIFE

- Participated in the Fellowship of the Least Coin program.

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE

- Letter writing regarding Roxanne's Law.
- Supported Respect Life and Birthright Peterborough programs.

PAST PRESIDENT/HISTORIAN

- Answered questions posed by various chairpersons during the year, when asked, as well as passing on relevant information to assist the respective chairs.
- Updated the pictorial history book with memorials for two deceased members this year.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

- Facilitated *We the Parish sessions*, a faith community building experience.
- Implemented and coordinated gift card program to support the needs of the parish.

The following is a list of organizations to which members donated time and money in the year 2010.

Alzheimer Society
Arthritis Society
Bereaved Families of Ontario
Bethesda House Shelter and Community Outreach
Camp Northern Lights
Canadian Cancer Society
Community Care
Diocese of Peterborough
Fosterbrooke Long Term Care Facility
Heart and Stroke Foundation
Lakeridge Health (Hospital) Centres
Lioness Club
Meals on Wheels
Orono Senior Citizens Centre
Parkinson's Disease Foundation
St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School
St. Stephen's Secondary School
St. Vincent de Paul
St. Vincent's Kitchen
Victoria Order of Nurses (VON)