

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Holy Name of Jesus Parish Council
The Annual AGM Meeting
June 12, 2021

Holy Name of Jesus Parish CWL Council chose to speak on the concept of loneliness and how we were able to connect and stay connected when circumstances determined otherwise.

Loneliness is a perception that is internalized in one's mind and is not understood as to when or why that perception developed. Some of the factors that may have contributed to this is in infancy, not responding a baby's cry within a reasonable time, and not meeting the infants basic needs; toddlers left in their room by themselves for long periods of time; when situations in the home cause the child to be taken out and put in foster homes, and if fortunate being given up for adoption. In teenage years, some of them are put out at the age of 16 because that is what was done to their parents. Others were declared delinquents and put in detention centers etc. until they were old enough to fend for themselves. Then as the adults who have struggled through all the circumstances in life and raised their children find that as their children left home they felt empty and not needed. Again we have not spoken of those that were not blessed with children and do not have family where they live and most of their friends have moved /or died.

These are just a few of the examples of causes of loneliness the members of Holy Name of Jesus CWL Parish Council have seen and tried to assist in making all these lives better to some degree or other. This was achieved by personal visits, listening to their stories, bringing Communion, food or articles they liked to read or puzzles etc. We visited in their homes, their apartments and those in nursing homes.

A Newsletter, which was printed twice a year, was given to all the members of CWL keeping them up to date with what was happening in the league locally, provincially, and nationally. Cards were sent for birthdays, special anniversaries, and thinking of you and if they were sick we sent get well cards.

When COVID 19 hit all our personal contact with these individuals had to cease and that is when drop off's began, mailing cards increased and the phone calls got longer. The feeling of loneliness was spoken about more and the feeling of helplessness for some of members was stronger.

At Christmas time some of our members donated generously and we were able to add to the Christmas Hampers gift cards from Tim Horton and Gift Certificates for food at Foodland and gift cards from Giant Tiger for the children's presents. This replaced the gifts we used to buy for the families children and for the family.

Loneliness is deadly, that is no lie, and as Catholic Women of the League and members of this community we will continue to try our best to reach out try and make a difference to all.

Nora Barker Acting President