

POLSKA

Annie Carpio – President of CWL Our Lady Queen of Martyrs



CWL Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Council of Canadian Martyrs Catholic church presented “Polska, celebrating Poland” last November 3, 2018. Annually, we do a cultural night fundraising event where we feature a country or the culture of an era. This year, we picked the country of Poland because we can feature the vast contribution it made to modern civilization. From Marie Curie who was born in Warsaw (Poland) and a famous scientist who discovered radium and other key elements that help us, especially when getting an x-ray; to Frederic Chopin, the famous Polish composer and virtuoso pianist of the romantic era; to Lech Walesa who championed the rights of workers and labourers and was known for developing the first labour union in Poland that won him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983; and most importantly, Poland being predominantly Catholic, it boasts famous saints like St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Faustina Kowalska, who inspired devotion to the Divine Mercy, and the well loved St. Pope John Paul II. Also, this year is Poland’s 100th year since it regained its independence.

Our cultural night fundraising event is our biggest fundraising event we hold every year. The preparation for this event is planned 6 months ahead and our members volunteer to be involved in the different committees such as food, decoration, program & entertainment, raffle & prizes, sponsor solicitation, and ticket selling.

We wore a Polish costume, we presented 2 songs (Szia Dzieweczka and Stolat) and 1 folk dance; we decorated the parish hall with paper flowers and the “Pajonki” (the Polish paper & straw chandelier) in vibrant colours, and provided place mats on the table with information about Poland. For food, we served authentic Polish Kielbasa with Sauerkraut and Polish pickles, Cheese Pierogi and Cabbage Rolls in big portions to the delight of our guests. Just before the end of the evening, the floor is open to line dancing and for anyone who wants to dance the night away. All the hard work we put into this event is solely to raise funds and all proceeds are divided and distributed to 4 categories: Parish, Seminarians, local charity organizations and international charity organizations, as well as to support the initiatives of our CWL Diocese and National. Last Year, the proceeds from our cultural night “Embracing Syria ... the birthplace of Christianity”, was given to the Parish fund, Redemptoris Mater Seminary of Vancouver and St. John Vianney Fund for Priestly Formation, Domestic Abuse Services, Agape Street Ministries, Missionaries of Charity, Richmond Right to Life Society, Door is Open and Living Room. For International we gave to Operation Smile Canada, Rohinya Refugee Crisis through CCODP, Mercy House for Girls (Our Lady of Lujan Mission Centre Inc.) and we also contributed to our CWL National initiatives for its 1% Program of CCODP, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and to its National Bursary Fund.

