



Joan Schurter
Diocesan President

Joan was born and raised on a dairy farm close to the small village of Chepstow, near Walkerton, with her four brothers. She remembers her mom always helping with funerals, bazaars, bake sales etc. as a League member for over fifty years, but she never considered joining while at home working on the farm.

After graduating from Stratford Teacher's College, Joan taught in Chepstow for one year, teaching 39 grade ones her first year with no kindergarten experience. She married her husband Mike in 1969, and they moved to Kitchener where she taught in Bridgeport until the first arrival of their family.

Joan then became a stay at home Mom until their youngest daughter started school. They have three daughters, two sons-in-law and three granddaughters. Sadly, their youngest daughter passed away three years ago at the age of 37 after fighting brain tumors for four years. The wonderful support of Joan's sisters in the League helped her and continues to help her through this difficult journey.

Joan has been a member of St. Anthony Daniel parish in Kitchener almost since its beginning. In her first year of joining the League she was asked if she would be their Recording Secretary. She moved on to Treasurer and then President for six years in total.

As Joan became more active in the League, she became Kitchener Regional Secretary and then Regional Chair where she continued to realize the support and fellowship of the sisters in the League.

On Hamilton Diocesan Council she served as Education and Health Chair and then was encouraged to let her name stand as President Elect. One dear Life member told Joan when she was Regional Chair that one day she wanted to see her at the table as the Hamilton Diocesan President. Her belief in Joan's capabilities supported her every step of the way.

In addition to the League, Joan is very involved with their church as Minister of the Word, screening ministry co-chair, social events coordinator for many parish events, schedule coordinator for Eucharistic ministers and Ministers of the Word for the parish, as well as arranging theatre bus trips for seniors, helping with First Communion and Confirmation retreats and more.

At one point their priest thought Joan actually lived at the church! Retiring from supply teaching and special education allowed her to do more volunteering and become more involved with the League. She also enjoys spending time with their granddaughters, at their homes or ours, while vacationing or at a cottage they have rented each year for the last 14 years.

Joan greatly enjoys her work with the League and looks forward to her two years as Diocesan President. Now she has sisters; many, many sisters who have truly been a blessing in her life.