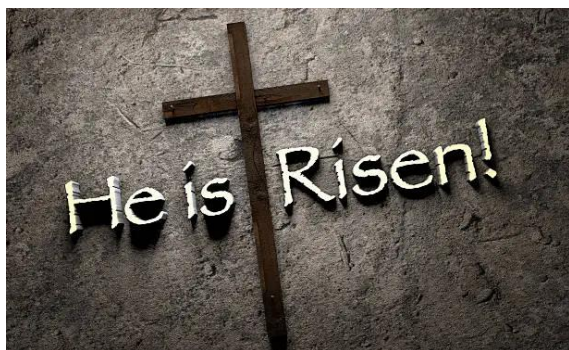




“Around our Diocese”

(President's Update)
March/April
2026

Dear Spiritual Advisors and Sisters in the League,

This is my last “Around our Diocese” (President's Update) edition, as my diocesan president term ended April 28, 2026. Thank you so much to all councils who sent in wonderful events that have taken place in your parishes and communities to share with your sisters across the diocese!

March brought us our season of Lent, where councils and regions offered Lenten Retreats. In April, we celebrated Easter Sunday on the 5th and our 105th Annual Toronto Diocesan Convention/Annual Meeting of Members was held on the 27th and 28th. This successful and well-attended convention held the instructed vote on the amendments to the Constitution & Bylaws (all 10 amendments were a 'yes' vote- meeting the 2/3 majority of councils voting and the results were forwarded to provincial and national) and a new TDC executive was elected – congratulations to all the successful candidates! Thank you to our outstanding Keynote speakers: Mark Creedon, Marie-Claude Lalonde and Monsignor Patrick O'Dea. Thank you to our National President, Betty Colaneri and our Ontario Provincial President, Colleen Martin for attending our convention and for their inspiring messages.

And, in all you say and do, Be Eucharistic.

Upcoming Events:

May 4: 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care (OPC)

May 10: Mother's Day

May 26: CWL 'Wednesday' Rosary, zoom, 7:00 pm

June 21: National Indigenous People's Day

June 21: Father's Day

Pope Leo's Monthly Intentions

May: That everyone might have food

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

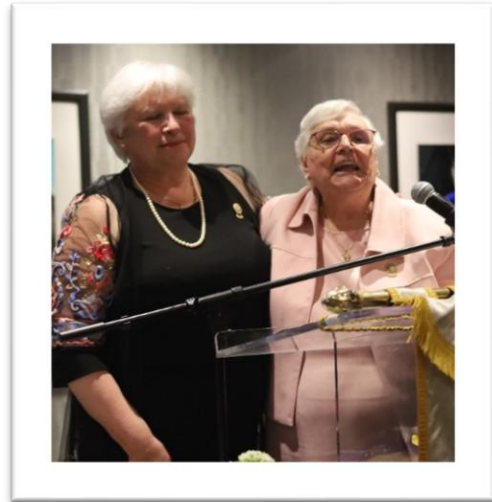
June: For the values of sports

Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.

<https://ewtnvatican.com/articles/pope-leo-xiv-prayer-intentions-2026>



Congratulations! Sue Lubowitz Receives Life Membership!



On Tuesday, April 28, at the Closing Banquet at our 105th Annual Toronto Diocesan Convention/Annual Meeting of Members, Toronto Diocese welcomed a new Life Member, Sue Lubowitz! Mary Hawkley, Toronto Diocesan Life Member Liaison, presented Sue with her Life Membership.



Sue received the CWL Blessing, sung by all 360 members in attendance at the Banquet. *“May the Blessings of the Lord be upon you, we Bless you in the name of the Lord. May the Blessings of the Lord be upon you, we Bless you in the name of the Lord.”*

Council:**Annunciation of Our Blessed Virgin Mary**

At our April Meeting, we listened to a timeline of how Our Lady of Good Counsel became the Patroness of the Catholic Women's League of Canada. This reflection prepared us for an activity and a special prayer service in honour of our Patroness, whose feast day is April 26.

To beautify our prayer service, we began with a simple activity. Each member created a flower made of four heart-shaped petals. Once arranged, the overlapping hearts became the flower petals. We crafted pretty pink, purple, blue and yellow flowers and decorated them with small faux gemstones. With our flowers complete, we took a quiet moment to offer a silent prayer in our hearts and commit our intention to Our Lady's care. We bunched our flowers together in a vase before her picture, as a sign of our shared prayers, trust and unity. Then, Father James Cyfko, Spiritual Advisor, led the prayer service. Our members participated by reciting the alternating prayers and following the readings. We concluded with a decade of the rosary and a blessing by Father James. The grace of our prayer service filled us with a gentle calm. May Our Lady of Good Counsel, guide us with her love.



Submitted by Margaret McKibben, Secretary, Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Scarborough Region

Council:

St. Joseph, Streetsville

On Saturday, March 21st, St. Joseph Streetsville CWL members celebrated **World Down Syndrome Day** by “Rocking Our Socks.” Members wore mismatched and colourful socks as a fun and meaningful way to celebrate the uniqueness of individuals with Down Syndrome, raise awareness, challenge misconceptions, and show our support for inclusion and love. (Chromosomes resemble little socks and individuals with Down syndrome have one extra.)



In addition, during our General Meeting, members took time to write letters to seniors in our community who may be experiencing loneliness and isolation. We are proud to share that we have 33 letters ready to be mailed out through our “Letters Against Isolation” initiative.

“Be kind and compassionate to one another.” – Ephesians 4:32 

Submitted by Genny Domingos, Vice-President, St. Joseph Streetsville Parish Council,
Peel Region

Council:

St. Mary of the People, Oshawa

St. Mary Of the People, Oshawa, Installation of New Executive and Committee Members with Spiritual Advisor, Father Joel Pabilona Jr. March 3, 2026



Victims Of Violence Walk, Whitby,
November, 2025
Raised \$1100.00

TDC Development Day, February 21, 2026
St. Mary of the People and Holy Family CWL Councils



Submitted by Anne Marie Whitney, President, St. Mary of the People Parish Council, Durham Region

Council:

St. Bartholomew, Scarborough



We, the Catholic Women's League of St. Bartholomew's Parish, have completed our first mission regarding, "Blessed are the Poor." 5N2 is a non-profit organization established in 2013. serving free and healthy meals every week across Scarborough. At the heart of 5N2 is their charity kitchen where food is prepared and delivered to local organizations that support people facing food insecurity. We, as a CWL council, have contributed to this organization by shopping for necessities required to run their kitchen. We also made a monetary contribution. In April, we delivered these items and presented them with a cheque.

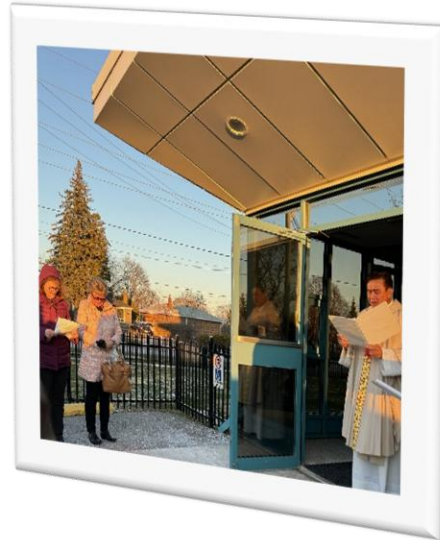


Submitted by Annette McDonald, President and Brenda Bourne, Member, St. Bartholomew Parish Council, Scarborough Region

Council:

St. Mary of the People, Oshawa

On April 7th, St. Mary of the People held a Red Sand Prayer Service after our Mass and before our General Meeting. Our Spiritual Advisor, Father Joel Pabilona Jr. and members from our Council read the service and poured red sand on the pavement at one of church entrances. It was a very moving and thought provoking event!



Submitted by Anne Marie Whitney, President, St. Mary of the People Parish Council, Durham Region

Council:

Holy Cross, Oshawa



Bishop Vincent Nguyen and Father Marijan with Holy Cross CWL Council Members during Bishop Nguyen's Pastoral Visit February 14th, 2026.



Installation of Officers with Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Marijan



Durham Region Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest, held at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Oshawa. Judges and hosts.

Submitted by Kim Beatty, Secretary, Holy Cross Parish Council, Durham Region and Durham Region Chairperson of Service

Council:

St. Leonard, Brampton

Action: The Right to Recover Act - stop the expansion of MAiD for those with mental illness and support Bill C-218



To support Bill C-218, we are happy to report the Social Justice Committee at St. Leonard Parish Council organized a letter writing campaign last week in our Parish. We wrote letters, as private citizens, to Ruby Sahota, MP - Brampton North—Caledon.

We collected 121 signed letters. To ensure all the letters would reach our MP in time before the vote, we collected all the letters and personally handed the letters to Ruby Sahota's office in Brampton last week.

Submitted by Garaldina Rodricks, Chairperson of Social Justice, St. Leonard Parish Council, Peel Region

Council:

St. Francis Xavier, Mississauga

Walking Together for Hope and Belonging

On Saturday, February 28, 2026, our CWL team proudly participated in the Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) Walk, an annual, family-friendly winter event that raises funds for local charities, serving people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness. This year, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Catholic Women's League Council, was honoured to walk in support of The Dam Project (DAM). The DAM supports young people during adolescence—a challenging and formative stage of life when many are searching for belonging and purpose. At The Dam, every young person is welcomed into a safe and supportive community where they experience belonging, a basic human need. From this foundation, they build meaningful connections to friends, values, and their own self-worth. Empowered by these relationships, young people grow in confidence and develop into leaders.



Our 2026 walkers were Team Captain Olivia De Souza. Team members: Shiroma Crasto, Lynette Mendes, Nancy Alex, Daphne Britto, Liza Miranda, Sandra Noronha and Sandra Serrao. Through this experience, our team raised an incredible \$3,315 in support of The Dam Project. This year as well we were accompanied and inspired to walk alongside our St. Joseph Council sisters, with whom we have walked with for the past four years. While two of our team members were unable to join us on the day of the walk, their encouragement and contributions were deeply felt. This experience was a powerful reminder that when we come together in faith and service, even a cold winter night can be filled with warmth, hope, and lasting impact. A BIG Thank you to all our participants and generous donors.

Submitted by Shiroma Crasto, President, St. Francis Xavier Parish Council, Peel Region

Council:

St. Joseph the Worker, Oshawa

Celebrating St. Patrick's Day!!



In partnership with St. Joseph the Worker Knight's of Columbus, St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Women's League celebrated St. Patrick's Day with their Annual Dinner and Dance.

Submitted by Joan Barnes, Chairperson of Social Justice, St. Joseph the Worker Parish Council, Durham Region

Council:

St. Aidan, Scarborough



The CWL St. Aidan Council recently held the New Member Initiation Ceremony on April 23, 2026. We are blessed to have 16 new members join our Council, with 10 able to attend the special celebration. This special occasion marked the beginning of their journey in faith, service and fellowship. We look forward to their involvement in our council and the League.



Members of CWL St. Aidan Council gathered and formed an Honor Guard for our deceased sister Frenny Sigantoria, April 17, 2026.

Submitted by Rebecca Dometita, Vice-President, St. Aidan Parish Council, Scarborough Region



Prayer for Passion on the Mission

Jesus, Our Lord, we come to You with open hearts
seeking passion for Your mission.

Your deepest desire was to draw all peoples
into the embrace of the Heavenly Father's Kingdom.

Send Your Holy Spirit to ignite our hearts with
the fire of Your passionate love, to empower us
with enthusiasm for Your mission.

May we be instruments of Your love
to our sisters in the League,
our families, parishes, and communities.

As we journey together, may the flame in our hearts
illuminate others to know Your eternal love.

May we hold Your people in our hearts
as we place all our trust in You.

Sweet Jesus, each day as we lift up our hearts to You,
we offer You our prayers, works, joys, and sufferings.

We humbly ask that our offerings increase
our faith, hope, and charity.

O Most Sacred and Passionate Heart of Jesus,
may our hearts and Yours beat together as one.

We make this prayer to You, Jesus,
in the power of the Father and in the union of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever. Amen

Betty Colaneri