



December 2022

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.

Dear Sisters in the League,

Advent is a time of waiting and in reality most of us are not very good at that! At this time of year, we seem to wait everywhere: at the grocery store, at the post office, on the highways and at so many intersections with red lights.

And yet, before you know it we are putting our purchases in the car and we get to our destination.

The **Strategic Plan** has the same sense of anticipation. The national CWL office has sent a notification to all councils letting them know of the publication of the newly adopted Constitution & Bylaws, National Manual of Policy and Procedure and other complementary guidelines, handbooks and toolkits to assist councils at all levels with the transition from the previous executive structure to the new structure which comes into effect at every council's next election. These will be available this week on the national website (cwl.ca).

Toronto CWL Diocesan Website: New Look



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Toronto Diocesan Council

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A committee consisting of Nenita MacKenzie (Diocesan Communications Chair), Lucia Vacca (Communications sub-convener), Ann D'Souza (former Diocesan President) and I have been working with a new web provider, Trinity Web Hosting, to update our website and make it more user-friendly and engaging for members.

It is due to "go live" by the end of this week after a couple of checks and updates. After you navigate it, let us know what you think.

Parish Bazaars: We have all been very busy over the last month with our parish bazaars. Days were spent baking, sorting, pricing and other duties. With the funds raised you will benefit your parish and communities. Please remember to report your donations to the various funds to our Diocesan Treasurer Lolita Perry by the deadline of January 15th. There are two forms for you to fill out: the Toronto Diocesan Voluntary Fund Remittance form and the Parish Treasurer's Annual Summary Report. Both can be found on the diocesan website: www.cwltoronto.ca



Holy Spirit Council News:

Holy Spirit Council in Barrie decided to hold a Harvest Festival instead of a Christmas bazaar this year. It was held outside and the weather co-operated. President Dorinne Dubreuil reported that it was a nice change from the usual Christmas bazaar and that the members are looking forward to doing it again next year.



I was able to attend their general meeting on Thursday, Nov.10th and give a short presentation on the future of the League as well as some topics on the "Joy of

Leadership".

Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate:

I had the pleasure of attending the ordination to the transitional diaconate of Mirko Ljuba and Carlos Marquez held on Nov. 27th at Blessed Sacrament parish. His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins celebrated the ordination mass. After the Cardinal asked them for their promise of respect and obedience to him and his successors the candidates are told "May God who has begun the good work in you

bring it to fulfillment." The same can be heard during the installation of parish council executives! We are all called to ministry.

Keep March 9th open for the annual Ordinandi Dinner. Diocesan Christian Family Life Chair, Ciscily Winkler will be sending out instructions early in the new year for the Spiritual Bouquet that will be offered at the dinner.



Nov. 22nd Advent Retreat:

Thank you to all of you who attended the Advent Retreat hosted by Christine Way Skinner on "The Saints of Advent: Guides and Companions on the Journey to Bethlehem". Christine made available a handout with her reflection questions. If you did not receive it, I have attached it to the email accompanying this newsletter.



Save the date:

- Jan. 15th Annual Report Deadline. Portal will be closed after this date. Contact Kate O'Quinn, Organization/President-elect, and (kateoquinn@yahoo.ca) if you are having issues.
- Jan. 18th Provincial CWL Zoom Development. Registration required: preselectopc@tbaytel.net The January topic is

Goal Setting made easy through prayer!

- Jan. 25th Virtual CWL Wednesday presented by Kate O'Quinn. Registration required.
- Jan. 28th **Leadership Through Change** workshop. This is a virtual event held from 9:30am to 1pm. Come learn about strategies to engage members, the leadership journey, project based committees, the uniqueness of each council and becoming an effective leader. Registration is required. See attached flyer.

Also available:



Webinar: Discerning and Re-Imagining the Church through the Lenses of Matthew's Gospel

Ignition Women for Dignity and Equal Voice

The Church faces numerous challenges to her identity. The Jesuits of Canada and Fr. Tom Rosica, CSB, will share how the Gospel of Matthew can help us discern and take the wide-angle view of salvation history. This could give us perspective on our own lives and the courage to re-imagine the Church today. Matthew wrote his account of Jesus for a Jewish Christian community that had identified itself with the Jewish origins of Christianity. The Jewish Christian community found itself having to work with interested Gentile converts who had no experience of Judaism. Matthew helped the Jewish Christian community forge a new self-understanding. Our times are no different than Matthew's. Matthew had the gift to go to the margins, as Pope Francis calls us, and re-imagine the church of Jesus Christ. A recording will be shared with registrants 72 hours after the event. For more information: poreilly@jesuits.org

Time: Jan 17, 2023 07:00 PM Registration is required.

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/1216692337996/WN_rbezAwnCQDKhoG2oR3ZHSw



Shaila's Email Etiquette: The following guidelines have been provided by Diocesan Corresponding Secretary Shaila D'Souza.

Email do's

- Use bcc to protect the privacy of the recipients and prevent their email from being used by unintended recipients.
- Identify your email topic on the subject line.
- Indicate the bcc recipients by position (i.e., St. Mary executive, TDC executive, regional executive, etc.) in the salutation or opening line in the body of the email.
- Include the council president in the bcc line in email correspondence.
- Address your email to the most appropriate person that a response is needed from.
- Keep your email concise to the contents of your subject line.
- Set up an email signature line with your name, position and council, phone number and email address.
- Only use the high importance (priority) setting if you have an urgent or time sensitive deadline. You may also flag the email to remind yourself to follow-up or take action at a later time.
- Provide a prompt (usually 1-2 days) response to emails that are addressed to you in the To line or the CC line if a response is requested from you.
- Create email groups for each set of contacts you interact with (i.e., parish executive, parish members, etc.)
- Use the League communication plan by sending your email inquiries to the next level in the League (i.e., your regional counterpart or regional chair) before the diocesan level, etc.
- Identify if an email needs to be circulated or kept confidential to the recipients addressed.
- Remove the email addresses of prior recipients listed in the To and CC lines you are requested to forward the email to others.
- Recheck your email before sending to ensure the correct recipients are included. Use the email recall feature you send an email in error.
- Do not notify others if you receive an email in error then delete it from all email folders (i.e., sent, deleted, inbox).

Email Don'ts

- Do not use all capital letters or red text in the body of emails as it is considered yelling or screaming. You may use red or other colour text or highlights to bring attention to deadline dates, subject of the email, etc.
- Do not overuse Reply to All if the response does not require an answer from you.
- Do not respond to an email if it is not addressed to you.
- Do not make an email longer than needed but be concise and to the point.
- Do not add or respond to unrelated subject matter in an email
- Do not reply to an email message when angry or use unsavory comments in emails as you may regret it later.

I will add one more: do not share an email that has been sent to you with a larger group without the consent of the sender. This can be disruptive in relationships of trust.



Stain Glass window at Christ the King Cathedral, Moosonee
Photo credit: Paul Lantz

I pray that the Christmas season brings you and your loved ones much joy and happiness. As you celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus, may you discover grace, peace, and genuine love. Have a joyful Christmas!

Your sister in the League,
Sue Lubowitz,
Diocesan CWL President 2022-2024