

TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2023

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Mary Antonio

Sub-Committee:

Charmaine Alweyn

Greetings my dear sisters in the League and all Spiritual Advisors. We certainly have been experiencing some strange weather for the Fall. Makes us wonder what winter will bring!

This is the third and final issue of the 2023 Newsletters. Thank you to the councils and members who subscribed for 2023. It is time to think about renewing your subscriptions for the period of February 2024 to February 2025. Please note that the deadline is January 31, 2024. Those councils that are having an election this year should also renew their orders as you can hand in the copy to the new chairs coming on board and the necessary changes can be done later by an email to me.



Please note: Due to increased costs of postage and production of the newsletter, it has been necessary to increase the cost of subscriptions to \$15 per year. The new subscription form is on the last page of this issue.

Congratulations to all members who are receiving milestone anniversaries this year. Please be reminded that only service awards recipients of twenty years and over are included in the Newsletter, all others will be included on the Toronto Diocesan website cwltoronto.ca. If you wish your service awards to be included in the next newsletter, please submit to me m.antonio@sympatico.ca by the deadline of January 31, 2024.

In this edition, you will find information on Development Day, being held on February 10, 2024. You will also find information on the 103rd Annual Convention being held April 29 and 30, 2024

CATHOLIC
and **LIVING IT!**

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Rev. Liborio Amaral

Dear Sisters in Christ,

This past October, I was able to be present at all seven of our regional meetings. Toronto Diocesan Council Executives and I were able to cover the Archdiocese from east to west and from north to south. Our cars racked up the kilometers and stops might have been made at some Dairy Queen and McDonald's outlets. Yet, in each regional meeting there was an opportunity for us to hear the great work that is being done in our parishes.



At these regional gatherings we heard the various parish council reports. It was evident that councils were trying to reach out to their members through the many activities initiated – councils were trying to bring back the importance of community and fellowship that is so important in the league.

There was also a desire to reach out to help our brothers and sisters who are in need, through the various agencies and organizations that help people when they are down and out. This was wonderful to hear and I strongly encourage councils to continue to do these wonderful works of God. You become the extension of God's hands, His compassion and His LOVE for all His children.

On Friday October 20, I attended the CWL Gala Dinner and Dance. I was seated with Msgr. Patrick O'Dea (our wonderful past Toronto Diocesan Spiritual Advisor) and heard his theme song "Sweet Caroline". It made me think that I now need to spend some time in discernment, to figure out what my theme song will be. My initial thoughts are leading me to consider a song I grew up with, singing with my parents and siblings - Bobby Bare's "Singing in the Kitchen". But then again, I might also consider the Black Eyed Peas "I Gotta Feeling"... hahaha.

I hope the winter days and the cold nights will not stop you from encountering the Sunlight of God's Love and His warming presence around you.

Be assured of my continued prayers for success in your CWL endeavours, always for the Glory of God.

PRESIDENT

Sue Lubowitz

Welcome Back! After provincial and national conventions as well as summer vacation plans for many of you, it has been a whirlwind of regional meetings and it was so wonderful to see so many of you attend. The council presidents' written and oral reports affirmed that many of you have got back into the swing of things, with council events that continued to bring the national theme of *Catholic and Living It* to your parish community in many creative ways! Thank you for your initiatives.



Unity Outreach

Members of the diocesan executive have enjoyed visiting so many councils over the last few months. This outreach to parish councils has now ended as of November 8, with a virtual presentation to those councils who were not able to schedule an in-person visit. The Unity Outreach Project gave many of you the opportunity to express your needs and to know that a plan is in place to help whenever possible. Our reports were sent to national office and based on those reports, the executive will continue to plan for workshops and learning sessions.

From the reports that national office received, they have chosen three priorities to focus on for the next two or three years: communications, training and priority-setting. One of these focus areas has already been implemented. As mentioned at the regional meetings, the Strategic Plan Communications Working Group recommended that last year's **temporary** policy of all communication from national is to be sent to/through presidents and secretaries. This has now been implemented as a **permanent** change in policy. Councils will receive communication directly from national on Wednesdays. The diocesan and provincial communication will come to you on Mondays. Please ensure that your individual members receive the information.

Core purpose

The Core Purpose of the League as mentioned in council visits is "Uniting Catholic women to grow in faith, and to promote social justice through service to the church, Canada and the world." Toronto Diocesan Council has organized and offered workshops and presentations on a variety of topics. Councils are encouraged to visit the national website to find resources and information. Two such resources are #181 Core Purpose Bookmark and

#182 Core Purpose Placemat. Continue to also reach out to us through the information line on our website: www.cwltoronto.ca

Annual Report

The annual report questionnaire was sent out directly to councils with the Wednesday Correspondence on October 25. There are five key questions under the president's section:

- If you have changed to the new structure what have been the challenges?
- If you have not yet changed, how are you preparing?
- Did you find some benefit to having the Unity Outreach presented to your council?
- Have you done a specific project?
- Is your spiritual advisor involved in your activities?

Please give plenty of thought to these questions and on how we can help and provide some guidance. Your responses to the Annual Report will inform the national executive team as to directions to take for better planning to serve the needs of members.

Convention 2024

The 2024 Toronto diocesan convention will be held at the Ajax Convention Centre on Monday, April 29 and Tuesday, April 30. The time to start planning is now. Councils are encouraged to subsidize members' registrations for attending the business sessions of the convention. Councils should also try to cover the expenses of the parish council president, if possible. Member development is a necessary part of a council's budget and you should allocate financial resources. More details about the convention can be found in this newsletter.

Representing Catholic Women

The CWL of Canada is a member organization of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO). Recently Barb Dowding, Honorary Life Member was appointed as the Vice-President for North America. WUCWO will be holding their 2025 North American convention in Toronto at the same time we will be hosting the 2025 CWL National Convention. For more information on WUCWO visit their website at: <https://www.wucwo.org>.

Strategic Plan and Service to the League

With deep appreciation and gratitude, the Toronto Diocesan council recognizes and gives thanks to the following members of the working groups as they finish the work of producing resources for this year:

Goal 2: Collaboration With Faith Organizations

Marissa Mendoza and Lawina Notario

Goal 3: Actively Engage Members

Iris McNulty

Goal 3: Mentor Members

Diane Lauziere and Karen McKeown

As we finish the theme of *Catholic and Living It!* I hope you are looking forward to the coming changes to the League as the new theme will inform and encourage us to say, “*Here I am Lord; send me*” (national theme for 2024-2026).

And finally, our Christmas prayer for you all and your families:

"God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith; the warmth of Christmas, which is purity; the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice; the belief in Christmas, which is truth; the all of Christmas, which is Christ." *Wilda English* (<https://www.xavier.edu>)

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Iris McNulty

Catholic Teachings

Pope Francis released an apostolic letter on St. Therese of Lisieux on October 15. This year marks the 150th anniversary of her birth. The church recognizes her as a Doctor of the Church. She is known for her simple ways leading to holiness, for her intense love for Jesus and for her complete trust in God. St. Therese led an intense prayer life often praying for those around her, including those who were most critical of her. She is considered by many as the greatest saint of modern times. St. Therese of the Child Jesus and St. Therese of the Holy Face are other names by which she is called. The three theological virtues of *Faith, Hope* and *Love* enable us to come to a closer relationship with Jesus. *Faith* confirms that we recognize the existence of God; His power and His role in creation. We accept Jesus as



His son and our redeemer. As people of *Hope*, we are instruments of the Creator actively working to create a world that reflects His beauty and His care for Creation. *Love* pulls us closer toward heaven as we strive to live in a good relationship with others; demonstrating concern for their welfare and seeking forgiveness where the chain of relationship has been broken.

A Jubilee Year will be celebrated beginning December 2024 and will continue to be celebrated throughout 2025. The theme will be: *Pilgrims of Hope*. During this time, Pope Francis encourages the faithful to explore and reflect upon the four main documents of Vatican II: *Light of the Nations* (1964), *The Sacred Council* (1965), *The Word of God* (1965), *Joy and Hope* (1965). A Jubilee Year has its roots in the Jewish tradition. It was originally celebrated every fifty years and has evolved in the Catholic Church to be celebrated every twenty-five years. A Jubilee Year is a special time of grace and hope. We are called to conversion and to be open to receiving God's mercy in a special way during this period. A plenary indulgence is usually associated with it. The official Jubilee website has the logo for the Jubilee, a short video and other interesting topics: www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html

Mission Assistance

Catholic Missions in Canada (CMIC) supports the missionary work of the Catholic church in the remote areas of our country. A parish has a priest while a mission church is served by a priest from another parish. His association with the mission church may only occur on a monthly basis or when he is available. Mission churches are isolated and many do not have road access. They rely on donations from outside their area to carry out the work of the church. CMIC relies on public donations and fundraising to support the work of the local church. The CMIC 2024 calendar is now available to support its missionary efforts: www.cmic.info

Ecumenism

The Week of Christian Unity will take place January 18 – 25. Its theme will be: *'You shall love the Lord Your God and your neighbour as yourself (Luke 10: 22)*. Resource materials have been prepared by the ecumenical team of Burkina Faso www.oikoumene.org

The fall issue of the League magazine encourages councils to continue to build relationships with spiritual advisors and to engage them in the activities of the League. They serve as a knowledgeable resource on matters of faith and parish life.

The National council supports the efforts of the Synod on Synodality. As women of faith, we can appreciate the main thrust of the synod which is to walk together in a spirit of compassion and dialogue.

Resources developed by the National council to assist Faith standing committee chairs are: *The Toolkit for Faith* (#640, 640A and 640B) which includes prayer services on Our Lady of Good Counsel and hosting a retreat, prayer service and workshop. Other resources include: *Ceremonies Booklet* (#603), *Handbook for Spiritual Advisors*, (#613), *Handbook for Chairpersons of Faith, Service and Social Justice* (#614) and the *Prayer and Hymns section of the website (700 series)*.

Do you know...?

Nuns typically spend their life in a monastery or convent while Sisters are involved in active service in the world, usually with those in great need.

ORGANIZATON

Online Membership
Member Development

Kate O'Quinn

Philomena Menezes
Andrea Tjioe

Annual Reports

The 2023 Annual Report Surveys are available to councils on the National website effective November 1, 2023. You are encouraged to work together at an executive meeting to complete the survey, then enter your responses digitally. If you require support, contact Celestine at (204) 927-2310, Monday - Friday; 8:30a.m - 4:30p.m. The survey is used by all levels of the League when planning and continuing programs and initiatives for parish councils. But most importantly, as you work together as a team to complete the survey, it is an affirmation of all you have achieved as a council! If your council chooses to complete the survey manually, your final copy can be scanned and sent to Celestine Ufeli at officeassistant@cw1.ca or mailed to Celestine at C-702 Scotland Avenue, Winnipeg, MB, R3M 1 X5 on or before **December 15, 2023**. Remember to keep a copy for your records. For councils completing the survey digitally, (the preferred method), once you press submit, a copy of your report will be automatically sent to the email address you provide. Late reports will not be added to the formal survey.



Membership – Recruiting and Maintaining

Councils are busy organizing their membership drives. When you organize your weekend for membership pulpit talk at all the masses, make sure to set up a table where you can put out displays and/or literature on the League and you/members are physically present to meet and greet parishioners as they leave the church. Remember, the personal touch is always the most effective. It's always a great idea to set up a membership table at your fundraising events! The 300 Series: Promotional Material, on the National website has literature you can download to assist you with your membership drive.

Membership as of the September 30, 2023 is 5852, down 331 from the revised September 30, 2022 total. Maintaining memberships can be a challenge and needs to be addressed by councils.

An excellent resource on the National webpage, the 800 Series, (#835B) is *The Joy of Leadership – Strategies to Engage Members*. When we engage members, *we give them a sense of purpose and belonging*. This resource is most helpful for ideas to help you recruit and maintain members.

Leadership/Member Development

I am pleased to report that a virtual session on *The Joy of Leadership – Leadership in the League*, was offered in October. An in-person workshop on leadership in the league, focusing on using our spiritual gifts and recognizing gifts in our council members was held. Since September, I visited ten councils to deliver the Unity Outreach initiative.

In the Fall 2023 issue of The Canadian League magazine, Shari Guinta, (the then) Organization Chair, promoted the *Joy in Leadership* program, a resource developed through the strategic planning initiatives, as leadership development is so important. This is most affirming, as I have put the Strategic Plan resources as a priority for CWL Wednesdays, to share with councils the wonderful resources at our fingertips. By using these resources on the National webpage, we can see how we truly are connected at every level.

Development Day

Development Day will be held virtually on Saturday, February 10, 2024. The day will centre on the National theme “*Here I am Lord; send me*”. The morning session will begin with a live stream Mass from St. Mary, Brampton, Fr. Liborio Amaral, our TDC Spiritual Advisor’s parish. I am so pleased to announce that our keynote speaker for the morning session will be Kathy Matusiak Costa, Executive Director of Compassionate Community Care, (CCC), who will give us an overview of what CCC does and how CWL members can become involved community volunteers to those who

need them most. The keynote speaker for the afternoon session will be Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, (EPA), who will speak about EPA and give updates on the widening of MAiD for mental health, as well as other issues and cases in Canada and abroad. This day is focusing on *Putting Faith into Action*. To complete the day, Mary Capobianco, Ontario Provincial Council Resolutions Chair will look at Next Steps, where she will talk to the resolution on CCC that was passed at the provincial level and the action plan. Mary will share some actions councils can take and tie it back to the Faith in Action project. To help defray any costs for the day, there is a suggested donation of \$10 per member or \$25 per council. Presidents, please register online, all the members from your council who will be attending, and send cheques, payable to Toronto Diocesan Catholic Women’s League, to Shaila D’Souza. Please see pages 18-20 for further information.

Strategic Plan Update

The October 2023 Strategic Plan Update is from Christa Grillmair, Goal 1 Lead. Christa reports that *the training and development using technology, working group has developed a leadership training workshop. The effective communications working group has created a guide that provides tips for written and verbal communication and listening skills. There are videos to showcase the national sisterhood and talking points to start the conversation about the League.*

These and all the resources over the last five years can be found on the National webpage.

PAST PRESIDENT/HISTORIAN

Hilarion Mitchell

Many councils are celebrating the liturgical Christmas season and the New Year, with members. As with all other councils’ events during the year, the past president/historian should use these occasions to preserve the council’s history, through photographs and scrapbooks, as a permanent record of their accomplishments.



Summary of Term

Thank you to the retiring past presidents/historians and those continuing in the role! Warm welcome to the new past presidents/historians! You have

many League resources to assist you in your new role which includes the *Handbook for Past Presidents, Constitution & Bylaws (C&B), National Manual of Policy and Procedures*, League websites and resources. You are the best person to summarize the highlights of your term as president by writing two to three-pages with photos that include the work undertaken by the entire diocesan council and not just your accomplishments.

Elections Eligibility for Office - Key Points

Congratulations to the councils that held elections in November! For the councils holding elections in early 2024, the nominations and elections committee should consist of three experienced members of the council appointed by the president in consultation with the spiritual advisor. The president is not a member of the committee. The committee chair may be the past president and shall not be a candidate for office. All members except associate members may be nominated for more than one position.

Toronto Diocesan Council 2024 Elections Eligibility

- Membership fee for eligible members letting their name stand for office must be paid by the time of the election.
- Present diocesan executives (except for the past president) who, at the time of election, have served a full term.
- Parish council presidents and regional chairs who, at the time of election, have served a full term.
- Diocesan executives, council presidents and regional chairs shall remain eligible for three elections following their term last served.
- Members may put their name forward for one of the executive officers (vice president, secretary, treasurer) and standing committee chairperson. The president assigns the elected members to the faith, service and social justice standing committees following the election.
- Discernment letters and self-nomination forms will be sent to the eligible members by email in January.

Resources: Eligibility, Nominations and Elections are in the *Constitution and Bylaws Part XVI* and the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* Section 7 and the Nomination and Elections Form (#521).

Moira Ste Marie Lecture Series Addressing Food Insecurity

There were over 200 in attendance at the 5th Moira Ste Marie Lecture Series on *Addressing Food Insecurity* held on September 25. The guest speakers from the Yonge Street Mission spoke on the systemic causes, advocacy,

awareness, provided client examples and call to action. Individual members and councils donated \$1,330 plus the \$500 which was budgeted by the Toronto Diocesan Council for running the Lecture Series. The combined \$1830 was donated to the Yonge Street Mission and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Toronto Central Council with each receiving \$915. To further address food insecurity, councils and members are encouraged to:

- Volunteer; donate money and non-perishable food items to a local food drive or food bank, Society of St. Vincent de Paul.
- Waste less on personal food purchases and preparation.
- Assist with school breakfast programs.
- Hold cooking/baking classes; provide resources on healthy eating nutrition and shopping budget as a council event for parents, seniors, etc.
- Write letters to elected government officials at municipal, provincial and federal levels to support legislation on healthy dietary guidelines, food assistance and national school food programs, increase the minimum wage, poverty reduction strategy, affordable housing, etc.

2024 Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Award

Mentorship in the League includes guidance, inspiration and encouragement. Any member or parish council may nominate a member from their or another council for Category A (Parish Level) or Category B (Auxiliary Level). Contact your regional chair or cwltoronto.ca/forms for the guidelines and criteria. The 2024 recipients will be awarded at the 103rd Toronto Diocesan Council Annual Convention April 29 - 30, 2024.

Completed nomination forms are to be submitted to Hilarion Mitchell, Past President/Historian at mitchellsmith@rogers.com by **Saturday March 30, 2024**.

The new League theme *Here I am Lord; send me*, prepares us to *Go Make a Difference* in 2024 as the new League executive structure will be the reality for all councils. God bless you all with these new beginnings!

Happy Autumn everyone. I hope you had a wonderful summer and looking forward to seeing the beautiful fall colours.

During our term as secretary or any other position for that matter, we learn new things, and get helpful tips along the way.



Here are three tips that will help you:

- **Creating a template.**

Templates are good time saving tools for helping us to be more organized and efficient. They help us to present our reports in a consistent and uniform way. The initial time and effort taken to create a template is well worth it. This then makes it easier to focus on the information being input for our reports.

- **Creating labels.**

When sending information out to our members via email, another time saver is to create labels.

Again, the initial set up will take some time, but the benefits of this is that you will not have to type individual email addresses every time you send a message out and information can be sent to many with the touch of a button. Having labels will save time and avoid errors when entering email addresses for everyone on your distribution list.

- **Checking devices.**

If the meeting is being recorded by using a tape recorder, cell phone or a laptop, you should check that the recording device is properly set up and in working order before the meeting starts. This means making sure you have extra batteries for the recorder or a charger for your laptop or cell phone. You should check your device at intervals during the meeting to ensure that the meeting is being recorded.

The national executive recommends that permanent e-mail addresses be established at all council levels, with more than one person having the password to access the email through an optional free subscription service, such as Gmail, Outlook, Yahoo, AOL, Proton, Tutanota, or iCloud, so that

the member who becomes the new president or secretary can take over the account, rather than receiving emails to a personal account.

TREASURER

Lolita Perry

Greetings to all treasurers. If you are ending your term and preparing the files and other documents for the new treasurer, it will be helpful to recap all the hands-on duties that your position entails. Moreover, refer the new incumbent to the following manuals: #609 *Guidelines for Treasurers*, #604 *Constitution and Bylaws*, #615 and #615A *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* and the Toronto Diocesan Council *Manual of Policy & Procedures* which can be found at cwltoronto.ca and follow the links as designated: www.cwl.ca, www.cwl.on.ca



2023 Financial Statements

As per the *Constitution and Bylaws*, Part XIV, Section 10, page 31, the Financial Statements need to be made available to the voting members twenty-one days prior to the general meeting. Councils may view the December 31, 2022 Financial Statements prepared by Scarrow & Donald for The Catholic Women’s League of Canada in Appendix A: Audited Financial Statements in the 2022 Annual Report available on the national website.

Per Capita Fees

It is never too early to start collecting the 2024 per capita fees. The fees are due January 1, 2024 and must be remitted to the national office before the deadline February 28, 2024. This will facilitate the continuous subscription of *The Canadian League* magazine and members will be properly credited for their years of service. Members whose 2023 per capita fees were submitted after August 15, 2023 will not appear on the parish membership list for the upcoming year. They must be manually entered.

2024 Budget

Preparing a budget for your council is a vital part of the treasurer’s role. If you have not done so, there is still ample time. The budget is prepared in consultation with the president and the executive officers and presented to the general membership for approval. The budget can be approved at the January meeting as it should be completed in the first quarter of the year.

The approved budget will serve as a guideline to balance income and expenses, including donations for the year. It is strongly recommended to include a portion of the funds for member development and training such as attending Toronto Diocesan Convention and other programs.

Catholic Missions in Canada was the largest recipient, from the permanent national voluntary funds, of donations from councils, with an average donation of \$92.64. Total contributions to all charitable organizations for the parishes that reported to national was an average of \$2,243 per parish council (CWL 2022 Annual Report).

A question as to whether monies from the bank account need to be dispersed at the end of the calendar year has been asked many times. It has been recommended that a reserve fund be kept on hand to cover the operating expenses for approximately one year, if possible.

Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Bursary Fund

All cheques should be payable to the Ontario Provincial Council of the Catholic Women’s League with Bishop Pappin Bursary in the memo line. Forms can be found in: *Forms- Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada* cwl.on.ca. Completed form and the cheque should be mailed to: Marie-Theresa Lamphier, Ontario Provincial Treasurer. For her address, please contact me at lolita.perry@rogers.com or -647-273-2147.

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE

Ciscily Winkler

Sub-Committee:

Kellie Hilliard

Welcome to all Standing Chairpersons and Spiritual Advisors for synergizing our faith process. Pope Francis, in his recent visit to World Youth Day in Portugal, shared “profound insights on the Church’s contemporary challenges and his vision for inclusivity, doctrinal progression and Synod; a synodal church for communion, participation and mission; while listening and more responsive to the needs of its faithful”. (catholicregister.org).



The Pope stressed that the church has space for everyone. (Vatican News). As the Pope opens the Synod on the future of the Catholic Church (Vatican Policy Meeting), the Objects of the League and its Mission Statement (*The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service*), will become the cornerstone as we progress into the League of the future.

Faith

In preparation for *Jubilee 2025*, the year 2023 is dedicated to *Vatican II*. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) Office of Evangelization and Catechesis had hosted a webinar series, *The Four Constitutions of Vatican II*, aimed at inviting the faithful to reflect on the life of the church today. If you had missed this webinar series in November 2023, be assured that recorded and packaged reflection guides will be released later. www.cwl.ca Faith Communique #04, Rolande Chernichan)

Marriage and Family

At the TDC CWL Wednesday virtual presentation, October 11, 2023 on *Faith, Love and Loss - Sustaining Hope amid Memory Loss and the Storms of Life*, CWL members and others listened deeply to the presenters (spouses and authors) Jennifer and Harry McAvoy, who shared their real-life story of Harry's sudden and undiagnosed memory loss, and how their faith and love sustained them through their terrific journey. Their story resonates with many people's life struggles today. The McAvoy's book on *Faith, Love and Loss* is now available through Novalis Canada.

Laity Family Life laityfamilylife.va/ shares many events and resources on topics of family life, youth and the elderly (Dorothy Johansen, Fall 2023 League magazine).

Sanctity of Life

The debate on Medical Assistance in Dying (*MAiD*) has had another setback as Bill C-314, proposed by MP Ed Fast, was defeated during its second reading in the House of Commons. Bill C-314 aimed at stopping the upcoming expansion of the Canadian euthanasia regime. Sadly, *MAiD* is to be offered on March 17, 2024 solely to individuals living with mental illness. (Quinton Amundson, catholicregister.org). Chairpersons of Faith and Service are encouraged to share this information with members and others. Advocate for increased funding and improvement to mental health and palliative cares. Check if palliative care and euthanasia have the same or

separate medical billing codes. Consult with your MP's, Bill C-314 defeat. Revisit TDC Winter 2022 newsletter, CFL-pg.17.

Vocations

Priests and other religious clergy serve us at all stages of our lives as they walk with us in our faith journey. Please pray for and encourage all those discerning for religious or lay vocations. The OPC Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Memorial Bursary offers financial assistance to seminarians. Another way to support to our seminarians and future deacons/priests is by offering of Spiritual Bouquets and attending the Serra Ordinandi Dinner, to be held on March 19, 2024.

Service

The wars in Ukraine and the Middle East have called on our compassion and service, especially for those greatly in need of our help. Please pray for world peace! The Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) is an affiliation of the League; please consider them in your council's donations. We are reminded of our journey towards the reconciliation and healing process by inviting Indigenous speakers, to share their stories and history with members. At the last National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, I was privileged to listen to the story of Paula Sevestre, an Indigenous speaker and writer who shared her experiences growing up as an Indigenous woman in Canada.

Recommendations:

- Read Communiques from National
 - Visit websites at all levels for invaluable learning and information
-

“Christ acts like a loving mother. To induce us to follow Him, he gives us himself as an example and promises us a reward in his kingdom.”

St. Anthony of Padua



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Toronto Diocesan Council**

Development Day 2024
Theme: *Here I am Lord; send me*
Putting Faith into Action



Morning Program:
10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Kathy Matusiak Costa
Executive Director
of

*Compassionate
Community Care*

*Kathy will highlight how
Compassionate Community Care
will help members of the CWL to:*

- Recognize issues vulnerable people may experience and support them in getting the help they may need to live fuller lives.
- Be an effective advocate for vulnerable seniors, as well as people with illness or disabilities.

Work with CCC to provide visits and support to those in their area.



Afternoon Program:
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Alex Schadenberg
Executive Director
of



Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

*Alex will speak about Euthanasia
Prevention Coalition
and:*

- Give an update on the widening of MAiD for mental health, as well as other issues and cases in Canada and abroad.

Saturday, February 10, 2024

9:00 a.m. Live Stream Mass
Reverend Father Liborio Amaral,
Toronto Diocesan Spiritual Advisor

Cost is a Toronto Diocesan Council suggested donation:
\$10 per Member or \$25 per Council

RSVP: Shaila D'Souza: shailaflavy@gmail.com

Please send cheques, payable to Toronto Diocesan Catholic Women's
League to Shaila D'Souza, 35 Lilac Ave., Thornhill, ON L3T 5K1

Presidents, when submitting your RSVP, please provide the following
information for each member attending from your Council

Parish Council

Name: _____

Region: _____

NAME	PHONE #	Email

For inquiries: Kate O'Quinn, Toronto Diocesan Organization Chair
kateoquinn@yahoo.ca

Development Day 2024

Program

- 9:00 a.m.** Eucharistic Celebration (Live stream)
Rev. Fr. Liborio Amaral
Toronto Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, St. Mary, Brampton
- 9:30 a.m.** Coffee Break (In your own home)
- 9:50 a.m.** Reconvene with Zoom Access
- 10:00 a.m.** Welcome/Introductions/Gathering Prayer

- 10:20 a.m.** Keynote Speaker, Kathy Matusiak Costa,
Executive Director, Compassionate Community Care
- 12:15 p.m.** Lunch
- 1:00 p.m.** Reconvening Prayer
- 1:05 p.m.** Keynote Speaker, Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition
- 2:30 p.m.** Next Steps, Putting Faith into Action
Mary Capobianco, Life Member, Ontario Provincial Council
Resolutions Standing Committee Chair
- 2:45 p.m.** Closing Remarks, Prayers

Learn how to provide effective support as dedicated volunteers and promote practical ways to reduce social isolation and loneliness, and how to improve quality of life and well-being within your communities.

HERE I AM LORD; SEND ME

DATES TO REMEMBER

December

- 6: National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
(Govt. of Canada)
- 12: National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples (CCCB)
- 13: CWL Wednesday-Christmas Theme (TDC)
- 15: Annual Reports submission deadline (CWL)

January

- 10: Values Based Time Management webinar (Ontario CWL)
- 17: CWL Wednesday – Dealing with Conflict (TDC)
- 18-25: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Vatican)
- 20: President’s Workshop (TDC)

February

- 8: International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking
(Vatican)
- 11: World Day of Sick (Vatican)
- 28: Anti-Bullying Day – “Pink Shirt Day” (Government of Canada)

103rd Annual Toronto Diocesan Council Convention

Here I am Lord; send me.

Called to Serve

Monday April 29 and Tuesday April 30, 2024

Ajax Convention Centre

550 Beck Crescent, Ajax ON, L1Z 1C9

We are pleased that we will return to the Ajax Convention Centre for this coming convention, with hotels on the property, ample free parking and easy access from the 401 Highway.

We anticipate as great an attendance as last year from those in the near regions and those from farther afield who will come once again to experience the joy of meeting Sisters in the League.

The hotels available right on site are:

The Hilton Garden Inn, 500 Beck Crescent, Ajax, ON., L1Z1C9. Phone: **905-686-9400**. **Group Code ID is: CWL24**. Rates are \$169 per night, plus HST, for double occupancy. There is a surcharge of \$10 per person for up to two additional persons- limit of four people per room. We recommend calling the hotel directly, but you can email your request to:

info@hiltongardeninnajax.com

Homewood Suites, 600 Beck Crescent, Ajax, ON, L1Z1C9. Phone: **905-686-5969**. Rates are \$189 double occupancy, per night, plus HST.

Suites available are a King Suite or a One Bedroom Suite. Again, we recommend you call the hotel directly, but you can find information at:

hilton.com/en/hotels/ytoa/jhw-homewood-suites-ajax-ontario-canada/hotel-info/

Our theme from National this year is *Here I am Lord; send me*. As a Diocesan Council our sub-theme is *Called to Serve*.

The Convention will open on Monday, April 29, 2024, with Registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. and the Opening Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Business sessions will begin at 11:30 a.m. Elections will be held on Tuesday, April 30 in the afternoon.

More details will be provided in the Spring 2024 newsletter and on the Toronto Diocesan Council website at **www.cwltoronto.ca**.

Your 2024 Convention Team contacts are:

Mary Hawkey 905-668-1644 **mahawkey@sympatico.ca**

Mary Ellen Stinson 905-666-3752 **mellen.stinson@gmail.com**

Lynette Mendes 647-927-1136 **lynettecwl@gmail.com**

SPRING REGIONAL MEETING DATES – 2024

February 29	Humber Valley Region - Virtual
March 4	Northern Region - Virtual
March 7	North York Region St. Bonaventure
March 13	Toronto Region St. Alphonsus
March 14	Peel Region Sts. Peter & Paul, Mississauga
March 21	Durham Region
April 8	Scarborough Region - Virtual

Happy Anniversary!

- Sacred Heart, Durham Region – 35th Anniversary*
St. Bernard de Clairvaux, North York Region – 5th Anniversary
St. Timothy, North York Region – 55th Anniversary
Sts. Peter & Paul – Peel Region – 20th Anniversary
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scarborough Region – 45th Anniversary
St. Bartholomew, Scarborough Region – 30th Anniversary
St. Alphonsus, Toronto Region – 35th Anniversary
St. Joan of Arc, Toronto Region – 60th Anniversary
St. Matthew, Toronto Region – 40th Anniversary

SERVICE AWARDS

65 Year Membership Pins

North York Region

St. John Chrysostom	Ann Nasato
Blessed Trinity	Dorothy Murphy

Humber Valley Region

St. Gregory	Ida Tierney
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Toronto Region

Saint Joan of Arc	Felicity Tabuenca
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60 Year Membership Pins

Durham Region

Sacred Heart Brigitte Sternberg
St. Mary of the People Antonia Komel Ann Marie Whitney

North York Region

Blessed Trinity Betty Keating

Northern Region

St. Paul The Apostle Rita Vandervoort Mary Lynch

55 Year Membership Pins

North York Region

St. John Chrysostom Eileen Pickard
Blessed Trinity Nora Maugeri

50 Year Membership Pins

North York Region

Blessed Trinity Mary Ellen Heron Mead

Northern Region

St. Paul The Apostle Mary Kennedy Barbara Camileri Theresa Keogh
Deborah Donnelly Carol Vanderpost

45 Year Membership Pins

North York Region

St. John Chrysostom Madeleine Burke Judy Jagger

North York Region

Blessed Trinity Gisele Hall Nancy Steiner
Rae Tonelli Karen Abbott

Toronto Region

Saint Joan of Arc Rosanne Kelly

40 Year Membership Pins

Humber Valley Region

St. Gregory Pauline Longo

Durham Region

Sacred Heart Judy Haars Sandra Roche

North York Region

Blessed Trinity Kathleen Keslick

35 Year Membership Pins**North York Region**

St. John Chrysostom Maryan Carlin
 Blessed Trinity Marie Dale Margaret Liu Louise Tonelli
 Donna Corso Joyce Egberts

Humber Valley Region

St. Gregory Marie Bertin

30 Year Membership Pins**North York Region**

Blessed Trinity Catherine Von Zuben Marga Van Den Hogan
 Mary Ellen Lawless

Peel Region

Sts. Peter & Paul Anna D'Agostino Barbara Smethurst

25 Year Membership Pins**Durham Region**

St. Mary of the People Barbara Staresinic

North York Region

Blessed Trinity Evelyn Manalo Anne Chang
 Camila Nowakowski

Scarborough Region

St. Bartholomew Mary Kong Bernadette So

20 Year Membership Pins**North York Region**

St. John Chrysostom Christine Steeves
 St. Justin Martyr Angela Lamanna Karen Natione-Garcea
 Blessed Trinity Sarah Elizabeth Remiel Rozal

Humber Valley Region

St. Gregory Noreen Krupica Mary McCullough

Peel Region

St. Francis Xavier Luiza Fernandes
 Sts. Peter & Paul Lou Afan Araceli Anglo Teodora Blas
 Cora Bryce Cordlyn Carryl Cecilia Chosa
 Amelia Cruz Mila Cueva Cheryl D'Souza
 Judith DeMelo Christine Didier Nicole Dolan

Juliana Fernandes Arceli Florentino
Gladys Fonseca Myrina Ghosal La-Rita Gomes
Chrislyn Gonsalves Virginia Gutierrez
Flaviana Maala Pat MacKay Corazon Nava
Teresa Olegario Maria Pacheco Fe Perez
Cynthia Potopsingh Rowena Sancho Loreta Taylo
Donna Sheldon Madge Somasundaram
Margaret Tardecilla Nancy Topacio
Miriam Vettor Nenita Vista

Toronto Region

Saint Joan of Arc

Rafi Parsael Mary Reekie

Purisima Robertson Patricia Tilley

Scarborough Region

St. Bartholomew

Shirley Fung Marie Woon Fat

COMMUNICATIONS

Nenita MacKenzie

Website Administrator

Lucia Vacca

As we head into winter, I send warm greetings to all the newly elected officers and look forward to meeting you at our various upcoming events. Please continue to connect with your members through social media, e-mails, text messages and the most popular telephone tree.



League Magazine

In order to receive the League magazines, notify the Online Administrator of any changes of members' addresses and ensure that the per capita fees are sent before the deadline. As a result of the per capita fee increase, it is financially feasible to produce all issues of the magazine once again, in hard copy, for members who preferred this mode of delivery (CWL National 2022 Annual Report p.44). We read in the League magazine that “*The Canadian League* magazine is the primary method to promote and spread the word to all members. The magazine is the link to the past and a promotion for the present, to be reference to the future” (*The Canadian League*).

Continue to send in photographs and information of your council's activities to be featured in Spotlight to Catherine at digitalmedia@cw1.ca

Annual Reports

This is the time to share all the amazing work being done in our councils. If you do not have a Communications Chair, it is important that the communications area of the Annual report is completed. Council Presidents received the memo directly from national. Please complete the annual reports survey and be sure to print a copy to look back when planning activities and events. Please note that on the new league structure, communications will be through presidents and secretaries.

Ontario Provincial Council (OPC) On-Line Newsletter

The Ontario Provincial Council releases a monthly online newsletter with reports and highlighted events of one of the twelve dioceses and the Ontario Provincial Committee Chairs. Members are encouraged to subscribe to OPC On-Line Newsletter. Please go to www.cw1.on.ca to subscribe.

Updates to the National Manual of Policy and Procedure (Privacy Policy)

The description of change; *“Recognition that a third party marketer collects, stores and uses member information to provide marketing message to those members who consent to contact”*.

Last June 20, a revised national website was launched that includes a form whereby members may consent to being placed on a mailing list. The form can be found at the national website homepage when you scroll down the page. Members will be informed of their right to “opt-out” in the privacy notice as information will now be collected outside of the League and will be used by a third party.

The National executive has an obligation to ensure that members are aware when they consent to supplying their information and to ensure that member information is safeguarded when collected.

Christmas Postage Stamp and Books

Now is the time to stock up on the religious Christmas postage stamps from your local Canada post office. For more information please visit <https://www.rpsc.org/canadapost.htm>

Novalis Books introduces “Faith as Protest – Answering the Call to mend the World”. The stories in this book, compiled and edited by Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton, are from interviews with people of different faiths who have acted courageously for justice. They are powerful and inspiring and proclaim the hope our faith gives us. As you listen to voices from a range of

religious traditions, you will see that Faith – and the actions from it – can mend the world.

Continue to practice WEB Wednesday by making an effort to visit the three levels of the League weekly at:

- Toronto: www.cwltoronto.ca
- Provincial: www.cwl.on.ca
- National: www.cwl.ca

Represent the League by correctly and proudly wearing the CWL scarf and pin to all League events and activities.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Elizabeth Joseph

Sub-Committee

Yvonne LeGall

Refugees, Immigrants and Asylum Seekers

A refugee is a person “who is outside his or her home country and has a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion” (Refugee Convention, 1951). An immigrant is an individual who comes to live permanently in a foreign country. An asylum seeker or asylee is an individual who has fled persecution or serious human rights violations by leaving their home country and seeking safety elsewhere. Asylum seekers can enter the host country legally with a visa from their home country or apply for asylum within one year of arrival. Illegal asylees are individuals who enter by crossing borders, on boats without proper immigration documents. The recent arrival of refugees and asylum seekers into Canada in June 2023 has not only impacted the shelter system in Toronto that is at capacity; but also broken “the ‘fractured’ network of supports claimants can access while waiting for eligibility hearings” (Sreenivasan, 2023). Therefore, asylum seekers and refugees are not receiving the supports they need to integrate into Canada. Due to lack of bed spaces at the Toronto shelter intake office, asylum seekers slept on the street, outside the office for three weeks.

Consequently, displaced refugees have been arriving in suburban regions of Peel and Durham. In July, Peel’s shelter system was over capacity at 164% occupancy and in September its “shelter capacity was at 247% with 730 of



shelter occupants being asylum seekers" (Shaun Baird, Leslie Moreau, 2023). Although Region of Peel's shelter overflow hotels accommodate 80% of asylum seekers, many camped outdoors and received meals from the region while awaiting their turn to access a bed.

In Durham, the "sudden influx" of more than 200 refugees has caused an emergency crisis and put the social support system under "immense pressure" (Mayor Shaun Collier). The crisis has exacerbated the homelessness situation in the Town of Ajax where resources have been "completely exhausted" (Shaun Collier). To ameliorate the crisis, Municipal Chairs have been applying to the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), through the Interim Housing Assistance Program (IHAP) for funding to deliver services and programs to newcomers. Interestingly, in its 2023-2024 budget, the federal government abruptly ended funding for IHAP. However, Minister Sean Fraser announced the program is now extended to March 2024 (Immigration.ca, July 2023).

Finding solutions to the housing challenge "require collaborations between multiple departments at each level of government to address housing, employment and social issues" (Matthew Krupovich, IRCC, 2023). Besides inviting refugees and asylum seekers, advocates suggest Canada should provide more financial support to middle to low-income neighbouring countries that house refugees and offer international protection (Tamjeedi, UNCHR, 2023).

In his recall of the plight of migrants and refugees, Pope Francis said, "everyone is called to be neighbours" and to "save their lives to heal their wounds and to soothe their pain" (October 19, 2023). Pope Francis described "building the future with immigrants as recognizing and valuing how much each of them can contribute to the process of construction" (September 2022). Most importantly, "show respect for the dignity of each migrant"; and "always be a community ready to welcome, protect, promote and integrate everyone without distinctions and exclusion" (Pope Francis, May 2023).

Individuals can subscribe to DonateTO a city program to offer available units and property at or below market rate to asylum seekers. League members can locate the shelter in our communities to donate food, clothing and volunteer our time.

Resources: www.durham.ca/en/regional-chair-statement
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/durham-peel-region-shelter...>
<https://www.bramptonguardian.com/news>
www.cccb.ca/world-day-of-migrants-refugees-20

EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Andrea Smart

Sub-Committee:

Mary Matthews Public Speaking:

Mary Dobell Essay:

Mary Dobell Poetry:

Jean McCann Service Award:

St. Michael's Scholarship:

Carolyn Meaney

Irene Sztuka

Margaret Arangio

Kay Booker

Catherine von Zuben

2024 Youth Awards

The Toronto Diocesan Council hosted an information session for the 2024 Youth Awards on October 4 with thirty-five members in attendance. It provided helpful information on organizing the contests. One takeaway was that if a council has never participated in any of the contests before, to start with one or two, like Jean McCann and one of the Mary Dobell contests. Councils should consider their parish dynamics when deciding what contests to participate in. Consult your Spiritual Advisor during your decision-making process. One of the tips shared to help in preparation of the impromptu speech for the Mary Matthews contest, is to ask families to get topics from the internet.



If there is only one contestant for the Mary Matthews Public Speaking contest, her/his speech still needs to be delivered in front of an audience. Invite them to an executive or general meeting to deliver it. This helps the contestant become more comfortable speaking in front of an audience.

Either the Regional Education and Health Chair, Regional Youth Awards Coordinator or the Regional Chair are to submit their contest forms to the sub-committee chair whose name appears on the form.

The Diocesan deadlines for 2024 are: Mary Dobell Pro-Life Poetry and Essay contest is March 10, 2024, Jean McCann Service Award and Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest is March 10, 2024. The Diocesan Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest will be at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 17.

The contests forms are available on the Toronto Diocesan CWL website – cwltoronto.ca or from your Regional Chair. Be sure to follow the submission instructions.

St. Michael's College Scholarship

Hot off the wire St. Michael's College announced that Serena Fanzutti is the recipient of the 2023-2024 St. Michael's Scholarship. Serena is a

member at All Saints Parish in Humber Valley Region. Thank you to the councils that submitted applications. An invitation will be sent to Serena Fanzutti, inviting her to attend our Youth Awards evening on Monday, April 29, 2024.

Parish councils can submit applications directly to Catherine von Zuben. Information is in the Youth Awards Documents (6a and 6b) on the TDC website.

I ask you to please continue to support the Toronto Diocesan Scholarship funds with your generous donations by using the TORONTO DIOCESAN VOLUNTARY REMITTANCE FORM that is on the Toronto Diocesan CWL website: <https://www.cwltoronto.ca/forms/>; cheque payable to The Catholic Women's League of Canada (not the Scholarship Fund) and send to the TDC Treasurer Lolita Perry (Tel: 647 273-2147). Thank you for continuing to support this important scholarship. The scholarship recipients are always grateful to receive financial assistance.

The Coady Institute Scholarship

Another worthy scholarship in need of support is one of the national voluntary funds – The Coady Institute. Since 1961, the League has partnered with Coady to provide financial assistance to women taking the leadership programs offered at St. Francis Xavier University campus. Last year, the League issued a cheque for \$13,051.15 to the Coady Institute to support its scholarship fund. More information can be found on their website coady.stfx.ca.

Mental Health

Margaret Schwab (past National Education and Health Chair) did some research on stress and provides some tips for relieving it in the League magazine's spring edition. We all know the best reliever of stress is laughter. If you haven't already done so, I encourage you to read her article. If you feel like you can't cope, don't be afraid to seek professional help. The federal government's Wellness Together Canada is a great resource <https://www.wellnesstogether.ca/en-ca/>.

It is important to complete the annual report surveys, from National, every year.

LEGISLATION

Mary Tuccitto

Sub-Committee:

Carla Beckett

Greetings! As we are now in year five of the New Strategic Plan, many of you will be reviewing and studying legislative issues, bringing forward activities and items of interest to your members under the core value of Social Justice. *“Legislation is where members become informed about what the government is proposing or eliminating that will affect them and their neighbours”* (taken from the Catholic Women’s League – *Toolkit For Social Justice* #639)



In the 2023 fall issue of *The Canadian League* magazine under Legislation, we read of the ongoing concern to Bill C-7 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)*. I have reported on this, on several occasions and you have shared with your members, encouraging letter writing to MPs and educating our community on the concerning inclusion of minors and those living with disabilities, as a criteria for euthanasia. National Sanding Committee Chairperson of Legislation, Glenda Carson, participated in the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) medical assistance in dying sub-committee. In her article, she noted that this group cited significant concerns arising from this legislation. It’s also disappointing that quality palliative care remains elusive. To alleviate suffering, Canadian citizens are turning to medical assistance in dying as an alternative.

Federal Bills

Bill C-307: An Act to amend the Canada Labour Code (menstrual products) This Private Members Bill was introduced in 2022 and remains at First Reading. It seeks to require federally regulated employers to have menstrual products freely available at the work place in accordance with the regulations.

Action: For many women, attitudes associated with menstruation and the cost of living adds to the barriers of accessing menstrual products. There is a national pilot project to address the affordability and other barriers to low-income consumers where (free) menstrual products will be distributed

across Canada to organizations that serve those in need. As the need is growing, I ask that you please consider adding such products to your food drive initiatives. Less money spent on these necessary products means more money for food and more dignity.

Bill S-1001: The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation for the Diocese of Ottawa-Cornwall Act

As requested by His Holiness Pope Francis, a papal bull was enacted in May 2020 for the diocese of Ottawa and Alexandria-Cornwall to be amalgamated into one and as reported by Provincial President Linda Squarzolo in *The Canadian League* magazine (2023 fall issue). To align with this change in boundaries a new diocese, the Ottawa-Cornwall Diocese of the Catholic Women’s League was formed with the newly elected diocesan executive being installed in June (2023). *The Canadian League* magazine is an outstanding resource from which to glean information and insight to the heart of the League and why we are members.

Provincial Bills

For many years, the issue of affordable housing has been on the radar of the Catholic Women’s League and in the 80’s resolution: **1986.07 Affordable Housing for Low Income People** was drafted. This continues to be a complex issue and an ongoing concern. Currently, there are various pieces of legislation, with some targeting housing in general and the building of affordable housing. Perhaps lower development fees, less red tape and lower borrowing costs would incentivise developers to build more homes. Below is a list of some recent legislation aimed with this goal in mind.

Bill 134: Affordable Homes and Good Jobs Act, 2023

Bill 97: Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023

Bill 91: Less Red Tape, Stronger Economy Act, 2023

Action: Review these bills and contact your MPP but please be reminded that due to recent cabinet shuffles, resignations and an election, there have been many changes to ministers at all levels of government. Be mindful of these changes to ensure any correspondence is directed to the correct minister and report on current information when writing letters. Refer to item #173 *Personal Letter Writing Guide* found on the National website cwl.ca, under Resources/Crest, Stationary and Other Council Supplies, for tips in writing an appropriate and impactful letter.

Legislation Resources: *The Canadian League* magazine, national and provincial websites, communiqués and directives, federal, provincial and

municipal government websites. Go to www.parl.gc.ca/LEGISinfo to access information on legislation currently before Parliament. You may also access Legislative Information and follow Legislative proceedings live at www.parl.gc.ca/housechamberbusiness/chambercalendar. For current bills in the Ontario Legislature go the *Legislative Assembly of Ontario* website at: www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/current.

RESOLUTIONS

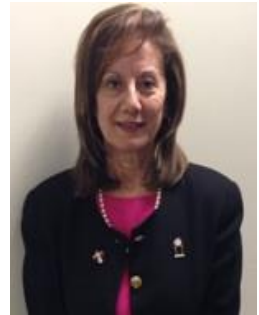
Connie Cristinziano

Sub Committee:

Donna Capobianco
Darlene Marino

Resolutions are among the most important documents in this organization. They can guide League positions, policies and actions and are informative for members, government representatives and the public. Most importantly, resolutions reflect the voices of the grassroots of the League about important concerns and topics for action. As such, all members are encouraged to consider developing a resolution.”

Glenda Carson, National Chairperson of Social Justice/Resolutions Communique #04



National Updates

The following resolution was adopted at the 103rd National Annual Meeting of members in Saint John, New Brunswick:

2023.01 Combating Textile Waste in Canada

A copy of the resolution along with the brief and the action plan can be found on the national website: www.cwl.ca/resolutions.

Councils are urged to review/study the resolution and encourage members to follow up on the action plan. There were eleven resolutions that were archived at the 103rd National Annual Meeting of Members in August. These can be found on the national website under archived resolutions. There are various reasons why resolutions are archived. For example: the references have become outdated; the topic is no longer relevant or current; the action(s) requested has already been addressed. Members are encouraged to review archived resolutions as this may help to formulate a new resolution.

Position Papers

A position paper is “a formal statement defining the League’s position or stance on a topic or issue. It gives readers a summary of the dimensions of the topic or issue from the League’s perspective. A position paper is used both for the information of members and for the public”. (National Manual of Policy and Procedure)

The following revised or new position papers were adopted:

- Abortion (new)
- Euthanasia and Medical Assistance in Dying (revised)
- Health Research (new)
- Matrimony and Same-Sex Unions (revised)
- Reproductive and Genetic Technologies (revised)
- The Use of Stem Cells for Research Purposes (revised)
- Truth and Reconciliation (new)
- Waste Management (revised)
- Water (revised)

The above position papers can be found on the national website: www.cwl.ca/act

Provincial Updates:

ON.23.01 To Establish a Sustained Universal Intermittent Catheter Coverage (submitted by Toronto Diocese) was adopted at the 76th annual OPC Convention in July 2023, can now be found on the OPC website at www.cwl.on.ca/resolutions.

Please review the Action Plan. This would be a great opportunity to add this activity to the Faith into Action – Making a Difference project: www.cwl.on.ca/communiques/resolutions. Other recent adopted resolutions that your council could consider working on:

- 2022.01 Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste
- ON.22.02 National Strategy to Address Loneliness
- ON.22.01 Improve Care in Long Term Homes
- 2023.02 To Add Compassionate Care to the National Temporary Voluntary Fund. This resolution was forwarded to the National council; unfortunately, the national resolutions review committee did not recommend this resolution for presentation at the August national annual meeting of members. National Office has also

advised that they will be updating the current criteria pertaining to the establishment of a national voluntary fund.

2024 TDC Resolutions:

Your council may have not had the opportunity or resources to submit a resolution topic. Councils are encouraged to continue to look for issues or gaps in our justice system. Create a list of resolution topics. Review the list and select a topic(s) that you feel your council can work on to formulate a resolution.

There are so many resources available on the national website that can help in the resolution process. The following can be downloaded through www.cwl.ca/resources/manuals: #618 *Resolutions Handbook*: #620 *Resolutions Guide*: www.cwl.ca/resources/workshops: #833A and #833B *Resolutions Workshop*.

2023 Annual reports:

It is important that you complete the annual report for this standing committee chair even if there is no resolutions chair. Annual reports are used to summarize your councils' achievements and for annual reports at all levels (Toronto, Provincial and National) of the league.

All annual reports, communiques, newsletters, directives, manuals as well as numerous workshops are all available and can be downloaded on our websites: www.cwltoronto.ca; www.cwl.on.ca; www.cwl.ca. These resources are very useful tools and contain a wealth of information, that will increase your knowledge of the league, help your councils and members keep current/informed on league matters and help your councils keep active. Informed members are engaged members.

“Let us be rooted and grounded in charity so that we may comprehend what is the length of eternity, the breadth of liberality, the height of majesty and the depth of wisdom.”

St. Bonaventure



The 70th Celebration Mass was held at St. Joseph (Highland Creek). Mass was celebrated by Bishop Nguyen, Fr. Francis Folleh and two former pastors, Fr. David Okenyl and Fr. Oliver Iwuchukwu. There were fifteen past presidents in attendance including Honorary Life Member Betty Anne Brown Davidson. Betty Anne was there to present the Betty Anne Brown Davidson Award of Honour to M. Civello, for her dedicated service to the council.



Teaching Divine Liturgy

On Saturday, October 28, members of the Durham Region CWL joined with their UCWL Sisters at St. George the Great Martyr Ukrainian Catholic Church in Oshawa to celebrate a teaching Divine Liturgy. Reverend Father Dmytro Hancharyk and Reverend Father Bohdan Bilinsky celebrated the Divine Liturgy. A humanitarian collection for “Food Boxes for Ukraine” through the papal agency Catholic Near East Welfare Association was received with donations of \$1035.00.

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation **Building Relationships with Indigenous People**

With fuller awareness of the necessity of building relationships with Indigenous People, Toronto Diocesan council decided that June 21, National Indigenous Peoples Day would continue as a diocesan event, probably virtual with speakers. Sept. 30, which is the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, would now be a parish and/or regional event, in person with resources available from all levels of the League. Parishes and regions were encouraged to hold an event to create this awareness.

Regional Event:

St. Gregory Parish Council hosted the Humber Valley Regional event on September 30. There was a prayer service and a presentation on the Seven Indigenous Grandfather Teachings.

The keynote speaker was Julia Kozak, a Nisga'a Nation artist. Last year, Julia was asked by the Archbishop of Edmonton to design and make the vestments for Pope Francis on his papal visit of reconciliation to Canada last July. The photo at right shows her wearing her button regalia coat from the Northwest Nations.



Council to Council event

Marlin Taylor, Life Member from St. John Chrysostom Parish (Newmarket), Lynn Olenik, Life Member (Hearst-Moosonee Diocese) and Shirley Gravel, Timmins Diocesan President coordinated a visit to Moosonee and Moose Factory in late September. The Hearst-Moosonee Diocese is trying to re-establish the council that existed many years ago in Moosonee. Along with Patricia Kloosterman (Social Justice Chair, St. John



Chrysostom), they all went by train for a visit to Moosonee. Members at St. John Chrysostom were asked to donate jigsaw puzzles. The four of them helped organize a craft sale with items brought by Lynn and had a wonderful response from the community and as a result \$500 was presented to the local parish

and Fr. Awowole. They visited the local Catholic elementary school and did crafts with the children. On September 30, they were able to go to a Truth and Reconciliation ceremony on Moose Factory Island and hear stories from survivors of residential schools.

The puzzles were presented to a local seniors' home for their enjoyment.



Councils are encouraged to continue donating to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund set up by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. To send in donations by cheque, please forward your cheques to: **Carol Bragagnolo Administrative Officer, IRF c/o 53 Glengrove Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario M4R 1N8.** For tracking purposes be sure to indicate in your letter that you are a CWL council from the Archdiocese of Toronto as they are tracking CWL donations separately.

**2025 ANNUAL C.W.L. NATIONAL CONVENTION
TORONTO, ONTARIO**

APRON FUNDRAISER



This handy apron, available in blue, with the CWL crest is one size with a neck strap and waist ties. There are two spacious front bottom pockets to hold pens, paper pads, your cell phone and other essentials. Great for those CWL functions.

**Price: \$20.00 each + \$6.00 postage & shipping
**** For orders of 2 or more please contact
Lucia Vacca for shipping cost details.**

**Make cheques payable to: *The Catholic Women's League of Canada*
Send your order and payment to: Lucia Vacca, 187 Calverley Trail,
Toronto, ON M1C 3Y4 For more information contact:
lucia.vacca@sympatico.ca (416) 283-3536**

Available in limited quantities!



Members have asked about the CWL ribbon designed to hold your service pins and other CWL pins. We have been able to source out a supplier and are making them available to members. This new version has a magnetic back. Cost is \$10 each plus mailing charges. Payment is by cheque payable to Toronto Diocesan Catholic Women's League. Mail cheques to Sue Lubowitz, 201 Penn Avenue, Newmarket, ON L3Y 2S4

To order contact: Sue Lubowitz jslubowitz@gmail.com with number required and address.

Custom Cast CWL Crest

- Includes Raised/recessed design (Royal blue fill)
- Blue Ribbon
- Overall size – 1.5” x 6”

Toronto Diocesan Council
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION - \$15.00 per year
Period: February 2024 – February 2025

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Please remember to include your Spiritual Advisor