

TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Mary Antonio

Sub-Committee:

Charmaine Alweyn

This is the first issue of the Toronto Diocesan Council Newsletter for 2024. Thank you to the councils and members who have subscribed. As you have been advised, the subscription fee has been increased to \$15.00 for three issues. This is due to the rising costs of paper and postage. We encourage and welcome members from your council, particularly the new members, to subscribe.



This issue contains lots of information on the events and happenings of the Toronto Diocesan Council.

It is also an election year for the current executive. There will be many changes, as the new structure will be starting for the upcoming term of office. I know most of your councils have had or will be having elections this year and adopting the new structure as well.

There is a long list of members receiving Service Award pins. Twenty years and over are included in the Newsletter, all others will be on the website cwltoronto.ca.

The 103rd Convention is coming up in April and information is on pages 17 and 18 and I look forward to seeing many of you there. This is the last Newsletter I will be producing. Please come by and say “hello” at the convention.



Archbishop Francis Leo blessed the Icon of St. John Chrysostom at a special ceremony and mass. January 27, 2024

L to R: CWL President Emily-Ana Filardo, Archbishop Leo, Grand Knight Vince Scarfone, and Rev. Fr. Landorff Garcia

(photo courtesy Gavin Gunther)

Dear Sisters in Christ,

New life is once again beginning to show itself in nature around us. We can smell the fresh air and anticipate the warmer weather that will enable us to shed the layers of our clothing. The thoughts of shorts, flipflops and baseball caps are forefront in our minds.

Yes, we look forward to these seasons of spring and summer with joy. We need to recognize that there are some members of our League, who are still looking back and remembering the various sad events that have happened to them. In the many emails that I have received from the Toronto Diocesan Council these past months, some were to notify us of the passing of CWL members, or their family members. Sadly, there have been all too many of these emails and I know that I will not remember these deceased members by name, but I remember them in the intentions of my masses for the CWL. Most important of course is that God remembers each and every one of them and takes them into His loving embrace.

As we move forward in these coming months, let us dedicate ourselves to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. Let us not be afraid to turn and tap women in our church pews and ask them to consider being members of the League.

Finally, let us pray for a peaceful resolution to the many conflicts in the world – especially in the Ukraine and the Holy Land. Let us remember as well, our Christian sisters and brothers who are being persecuted around the world (like Nigeria), who are suffering and dying just because they are followers of Christ.

May our prayers bring peace and joy back to the world that God saved through His Son’s death on the cross and resurrection from the dead.

Blessings,
Fr. Liborio



“Things have a price and can be for sale, but people have a dignity that is priceless and worth far more than things.” - Pope Francis

PRESIDENT

Sue Lubowitz

“Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.”
Pope Benedict XVI



As I complete my last few months as your diocesan president, I become more and more aware of my daily encounters with Christ through you, the members of the League. With the onset and continued diocesan CWL Wednesdays, we have made a commitment to you, the member, by creating opportunities to learn and share your gifts and talents. The League in our diocese will be transformed with the next election and we will have new horizons to work for God and Canada. May the Lord continue to sustain you all in joyful love as you place yourself at His service. It has been a privilege and honour to serve you as president.

Council Contact Lists

Thank you to all new presidents and executive members who said **YES** to serving on their parish council executive. You will be blessed for your gift of stewardship of the League at the local level. There are many resources available to assist you. Be sure to ask any member of the diocesan executive for help. If you have not already done so, order a newsletter subscription for each of your executive members. It will provide your executive with valuable information on specific initiatives for each standing committee chair.

Presidents are also reminded to forward the Parish Information Form to Shaila D’Souza, Corresponding Secretary, (shailaflavy@gmail.com). National office should also be notified of the change in contacts. Send your changes to officeassistant@cw.ca. This will ensure that you receive both, the Toronto Monday Correspondence email as well as the national Wednesday email in order to keep current with League activities.

Regional Meetings

Beginning February 29 and continuing to April 10, members are invited to attend their spring regional meetings to learn more about plans for conventions as well as council recognition. Please make an effort to attend your regional meeting and perhaps meet someone new and form new friendships. We look forward to seeing you there.

Convention

Once again we will gather at the Ajax Convention Centre on Monday, April 29 and Tuesday, April 30. The president's package will be sent electronically. Please review the forms carefully as there are some crucial deadline dates. All councils should send a voting delegate and try to send two accredited delegates. This is an election year at the diocesan level, so your presence is important. I believe you will find our speakers as engaging as last year. Make plans to celebrate the 103rd convention with us.

Provincial Convention

The Ontario Provincial Convention will be held in Sudbury on July 7 to 10. It is a nice drive up to Sudbury and carpooling would be a good way to travel. Provincial President, Linda Squarzolo invites you to "Bee there..."

National Convention

The 104th National Convention will be held August 11 to 14 in Saskatoon, the "Paris of the Prairies". Full details are in the Winter 2024 issue of *The Canadian League* magazine. Attending a national convention is a memorable experience and it should be on every member's bucket list to attend at least once!

Archdiocese of Toronto Consultation

Archbishop Francis Leo invited the Catholic community to share their thoughts and ideas regarding future pastoral planning in the Archdiocese. Feedback received will apprise a renewed Pastoral Plan to be used in the years ahead. The short survey was to be completed by December 15, 2023. I hope members took a few minutes to share their insights and ideas. Thank you for your collaboration in this archdiocesan initiative.

On January 1, the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, Archbishop Leo released his Pastoral Letter, "Seeking the Kingdom of God Above and Beyond All Other Things." The letter is directed to the People of God in the Archdiocese and offers a deep theological, spiritual and pastoral meditation as we begin a new year and for some of you a new term. You can find it at <https://www.archtoronto.org/en/outreach/news/archdiocesan/pastoral-letter-from-the-most-rev.-francis-leo/>

New theme

Our national president and fellow member from Ontario, Shari Guinta, has chosen as her theme a verse from Isaiah: "Here I am Lord, send me". The logo is available on the national website and can be used on announcements/posters and activity reports, Councils are reminded that the

use of the CWL crest is restricted and permission must be obtained from national office.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel inspire us to continue to serve in fruitful and effective ways.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Iris McNulty

Spiritual Development of Members

Pope Francis has declared this year as the Year of Prayer. He made the declaration at the Angelus on the Word of God Sunday, January 21. As the Universal Catholic Church anticipates the Jubilee Year and the opening of the Holy Doors, the faithful are invited to prepare for it through prayer. The Holy Father stresses the importance of rediscovering the value and need of prayer in our lives. Individual prayer, church prayer and universal prayer are ways to pray. Through prayer we can foster a deeper relationship with the Lord, listen to God speaking to us and express our gratitude to Him in doing so. Establishing a deeper and more consistent prayer life can be achieved in ways such as communal prayer gatherings, retreats, devotions, reading scripture, praying with the saints. Prayer draws us closer to God. www.press.vatican.va/content/salastampa



The Holy Doors in Rome will be opened with the start of Advent 2024. Their opening will begin a special holy year of jubilee. On the first day of the holy year, the Holy Father will strike the doors with a silver hammer and open the doors to pilgrims. The last jubilee was in the year 2000 under the pontificate of Pope John Paul II. A jubilee year occurs every 25 years. The opening of the doors symbolizes the gates of mercy being opened for us. God calls His people to repentance and special graces by crossing these doors.

The president of the World Union of Catholic Women has delivered a hopeful message on the impact by women in 2023. To access her full text as well as her reference to the *Women's Cry Photographic Exhibition* at the Perelman Arts Centre, near Ground Zero, New York: www.wucwo.org/index.

Pope Francis released a new encyclical in October 2023: *Laudate Deum*. It is a follow up to *Laudato Si* and stresses our interconnectedness to each other and to the world around us. *Laudate Deum* points to the reality of climate change and its impact on humanity. He refers to the over-reliance on technology and how it has contributed to climate change. Rather than honouring resources or sharing them with those with limited means; technology has contributed to the exploitation of resources in many part of the world where they are controlled by the privileged. This has caused the destruction of many local communities.

Ecumenism

World Day of Prayer, sponsored by the Women’s Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC), will take place in local communities around the world on Friday, March 1. This year’s prayer service has been written by Christian women in Palestine and takes it’s theme from Ephesians 4:1-3 “I Beg You...Bear with One Another in Love.” In addition, WICC will be holding a national online prayer service on March 9 at 1pm. It will be led by WICC board members and will include readings, music and a devotional moment. You are strongly encouraged to participate and to raise your voices in prayer for our precious sisters in Palestine who suffer so greatly. www.WICC.org. (scroll to national online World Day of Prayer Service 2024).

The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) has aligned its liturgical calendar with the western Roman Rite calendar. The UGCC has followed the Julian calendar, introduced by Julius Caesar in 46 B.C. Greece, Cyprus, Romania had also followed this calendar but switched to the Gregorian calendar in the 19th century. Churches of the Roman Rite follow the Gregorian calendar, introduced by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. This past Christmas, the Ukrainian Greek Catholics celebrated Christmas on December 25. The move by UGCC brings the faithful closer towards unity with other Christian denominations.

Missions

The Vatican recognizes and supports through prayer and financial contributions, four pontifical mission societies. Through them, the church demonstrates the missionary nature of the church around the world. Pontifical Mission Societies are administered in Rome and their works are supported by the Vatican. Councils may want to consider supporting the following:

Propagation of the Faith was founded to raise monies for world missions and to develop awareness of their needs. It is active in Gambia, Ghana, Tanzania and Zambia.

Society of St. Peter the Apostle supports the formation of local clergy, religious sisters and brothers in mission areas. Their formation is aligned with the local language and culture. The *Society* is prominent in Ghana, Malawi and Sierra Leone.

Holy Childhood Association supports the provision of educational needs in third world countries. Monies are generally raised by schoolchildren. *HCA* has a presence in India, Nigeria, Tanzania, Thailand.

Pontifical Missionary Union aims to raise interest and awareness of the work carried out through mission activity. The *Union* prays for the needs of missions and for the fostering of missionaries.

Lastly, information on one of world's largest rosary paths: www.marylake.com

ORGANIZATION

Kate O'Quinn

Sub-Committee:

Online Membership

Member Development

Philomena Menezes

Andrea Tjioe

A very warm welcome and congratulations to our new council Vice Presidents. Many elections were held in January/February and all councils should now be following the new structure of the League. Thank you for answering the call to serve by saying, "Here I am Lord, send me". I wish you every success in this new position. This is my last newsletter submission as Organization Chair for TDC executive. I thank Philomena and Andrea for all their assistance, especially with our webinars, over these two years. To all our members, thank you for your support. President-Elect/Organization Chair (now Vice President) is an awesome position to hold on the executive!



Membership, Recruiting and Maintaining

As of December 31, 2023, membership for Toronto Diocese is 5,951, which is down 233 members, from December 31, 2022. Looking on the positive side, we have thirty councils with an increase in membership of between one to nine, and eight councils with an increase of ten! Congratulations!!

Recruiting members is not just one weekend a year, it is ongoing. Betty Colaneri, our National Vice President, in her Communiques has introduced the "1" Campaign - *All it takes is "1" step in the right direction and "1"*

member to make a difference, to address the ongoing concern of declining membership. Each month is a new ‘catch phrase’. December’s was *It Begins with “I”*. January’s is *“Make a Difference”*. All information is in Betty’s Communiques, on the National website, www.cwl.ca. I encourage you to stay up to date with this promotion to assist you with recruiting. The national website, on January 17, 2024, posted a fifty-one second video: *How-To Series: Become a Member*. Be sure to always welcome new and returning members.

Membership fees are due at the national office by the end of February each year but, continue to recruit and send in fees (from new and returning members) as they are received.

Member Development

Our CWL Wednesdays continue to focus on leadership and member development, with faith always being at the core. January’s session was extremely well attended, with 107 members participating in *Dealing with Conflict to Reach a Win-Win Solution* and on *Being Kind to Each Other*. Once again, I used the wonderful resources found on our National webpage. For this session, I used #808 *Dealing with Conflict*, the Manual and Power Point and #818, *On Being Kind*. Thank you for your continued support and positive feedback for these sessions.

Due to the high number of requests for assistance with working with the new structure, CWL Wednesday will be held on February 21 to address this. The March 20 topic is *The Garden Way of the Cross*.

Annual Reports

Thank you to the fifty-two of our ninety-six councils who completed the Annual Report Survey. The TDC Executive team will be compiling their reports sent from National for the Ontario Provincial Council Annual Report and for our TDC Annual Report Book, which will be posted on our website closer to the convention.

The numbers from the per capita December 31, 2023, will be used for the annual report book tables. This date will also be used for the certificates given to councils’ who experience an increase in number of members.

Strategic Plan Update

We are now more than halfway through our 5-Year Strategic Plan. Ninety excellent resources are now available on the National website

Under *Resources: Strategic Planning Resources and Updates!*
Members are encouraged to use and share these resources.

Through the gift of technology, **Kate O'Quinn** signed her letter of acceptance as the next President of the Toronto Diocesan Council at the virtual diocesan executive meeting on January 13. Please pray for Kate as she takes up her new office on May 1.
May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide her in her work for God and Canada.



PAST PRESIDENT/HISTORIAN

Hilarion Mitchell

Spring promises new growth! The Toronto Diocesan Council will show historic growth with the new League executive structure following the 2024 diocesan elections.



**Toronto Diocesan Council 2024 Election:
Parish Council Executive Responsibilities
Election Package**

The election package was emailed to the parish council president in mid-February. Members of the council executive as per

Constitutional and Bylaws (C&B), Part XVI Section 4: Nominations 4 (e): Each parish council executive shall nominate a slate of officers for the diocesan council from the list of those eligible who have agreed to let their names stand for nomination.

- Acceptance List: The bios/resumes of members willing to accept nomination to office.
- Nomination Form: Only the names that appear on the Acceptance List and the office(s) can be nominated. C&B, Part XVI, Section 4, (e) of the C&B.
- Return the completed original signed copy of the nomination form by mail and send an email to Hilarion Mitchell, Chair Nominations and Election Committee no later than **Saturday March 30, 2024**.

Voting Delegates Convention Day (Tuesday April 30)

- Councils and their voting delegate (i.e. president or designate) and if they have a member(s) who has/have let their name stand for office, must be in good standing by submitting their 2024 per capita fees to national before the election.
- Must bring and present a copy of the completed Nomination Form which is the council's instructed vote to the 2024 convention on election day.

Note: (C&B), Part XVI, Section 5 Elections of Officers (a) For the election of officers the instructed vote applies on the first ballot only. and (b) If the voting delegate does not have an instructed vote from the executive, she forfeits her privilege to vote on the first and all subsequent ballots for that position.

2024 Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Award

The council or a member can nominate another member who actively mentors others for Category A (Parish Level) and Category B (Auxiliary Level). cwltoronto.ca/forms. Complete nomination forms and return to Hilarion Mitchell, Past President/Historian mitchellsmith@rogers.com by **Saturday March 30, 2024**.

TDC 2024 Manual of Policy and Procedure

The 2024 version will be posted on the TDC website by the end of April 2024 with updates:

- Removed old executive positions (i.e. corresponding secretary, christian family life, community life, resolutions, legislation) and replaced with new executive officers (i.e. vice president, secretary) and standing committees chairpersons (faith, service, social justice).

- Added the Moira Ste. Marie Lecture Series, Indigenous Mass, Ordinandi process and Spiritual Bouquet, brief TDC council history, storage locker, land acknowledgement, duties for the newsletter editor, website host and administrator, Police Records (PRC), liability insurance, annual report process.

Parish Council Manual of Policy and Procedure

Each council is encouraged to develop their own policy and procedure manual.

National Manual of Policy and Procedure on page 155 “*This policy is meant to provide a common standard for councils at all levels to follow when performing the work of the League.*” Proposed revisions to this manual may not conflict with existing League policy in the C&B. Councils at all levels are encouraged to develop and adopt manuals of policy and procedure specifically designed for their own level.

COVID-19 Chronicles Project

There were forty-three submissions from the seven regions (thirty-six of which were from the ninety-six TDC parish councils) for the COVID-19 Chronicles Project. It includes unique highlights, challenges, activities, photos, summary of the 2019-2022 diocesan term, League 100th anniversaries (national and Toronto), surveys conducted during pandemic and more. Overall, the COVID-19 Chronicles will be an excellent historic record and highlights the importance of recording the council’s history.

End of an Era: St. John Fisher Representation on the Toronto Diocesan Council

This is my last newsletter article on the diocesan executive after seventeen years beginning in 2007 as Peel Regional Chair. As a member of St. John Fisher Council, Peel Region, we have had representation on the diocesan executive for twenty-nine consecutive years, which no other council in the diocese can boast of. This started with now life members, Carole Pitcher being appointed to serve as Education and Health Chair in 1995, Shirley Christo started as Peel Regional Chair in 2001. It was truly an honour to serve and count my extended term as your diocesan president (2019-2022) during COVID-19 pandemic as most memorable, filled with exponential growth.

For God and Canada! Say YES to serve as the rewards are unimaginable. Your unique gifts are needed for the longevity of the League. If not you, then who? God equips the called. *Here I am Lord, send me* (Isaiah 6:8).

Greetings and a warm welcome to all the recently elected secretaries and those continuing in the role. With the new League structure all councils will now only have one secretary who will be responsible for the recording and corresponding duties.



Role of the Secretary

There are many resources to help secretaries outlined in the *Handbook for Secretaries* (#612) on the national website cwl.ca/manuals.

Other resources to assist you include the *Constitution & Bylaws* (604), *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* (615 and 615A), *Guide to Simplifying Meetings* (636), communiqués (national), directives (provincial), newsletter (Toronto), all League websites (cwl.ca, cwl.on.ca, cwltoronto.ca).

Tips for Your Success

The secretary position should not be daunting even with the combined roles. Organization and planning are the key ingredients as well as the following:

- Send the minutes to the president for review before circulating them to the executive and general membership.
- Work with the president to prepare the agenda which is to be circulated with the draft minutes from the previous meeting 5 to 7 days before the meeting.
- Request response to changes before the meeting so that the meeting is not spent reviewing housekeeping and other errors.
- Encourage the executive to email their meeting reports before the meeting, highlight and summarize, and keep points to be noted in the minutes.
- Ensure that meeting discussions from the executive reports and new agenda items are reflected in the minutes.
- Prepare the minutes within a few days following the meeting while the meeting discussions are still fresh in your mind.

Correspondence and Environmental Footprint

As per national policy only the president and secretary will send correspondence to members and are urged to do so promptly. Technology

lessens the need to print, but visual limitations may require printed documents.

Print sustainably by only printing necessary documents, using fillable PDFs, and electronic signatures with DocuSign. Display documents during in-person and virtual meetings using screens. These tips reduce paper waste and promote sustainable printing practices.

Virtual (Zoom) Etiquette

Zooming and other virtual platforms are now the common practice, so a few virtual etiquette reminders will make events informative and fun.

- Pre-register on or before the deadline, provide your name, council, region, and event for which you are registering.
- If registering as a council, ensure to provide the full names and emails of all members that are attending.
- Maintain privacy for yourself and others. Do not share the meeting links with others who did not register through the organizer.
- Raise your hand or use the raise hand icon if you wish to speak or use the chat feature if it is enabled.
- Be respectful of the host and attendees and listen while others are speaking.
- Turn off your audio and video if eating or performing other activities during the meeting.
- Stay focused as you might be asked a question.
- Look at the camera while you are speaking.

Fond Farewell

As the last executive member to hold the Corresponding Secretary role at the Toronto Diocesan Council, which ends after the 103rd annual convention on April 29-30, I offer my heartfelt gratitude to all my League Sisters for your unwavering support during my five-year tenure at this level. I am looking forward to continuing our sisterhood and friendship. *Lord Here I am, send me.*

“My friends, we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form”,

Pope Francis General Audience, 3 June 2020,

TREASURER

Lolita Perry

Many of you have completed your membership drives, retaining your ever loyal members or perhaps, in the process of having a drive. Treasurers should work closely with the vice-president, membership coordinator and/or online administrator, as appropriate, to ensure that per capita fees, which are due January 1 of each year, and sent to national office by February 28.



If a parish council uses the online membership system, the council is encouraged to enrol in the pre-authorized debit plan. The form can be downloaded from the national website or requested from the senior accounting clerk at national office.

End of Term/New term

At the completion of her term, the treasurer should ensure that all books and papers are in order before passing them to the new treasurer. Copies of all monthly and annual reports prepared during the retiring treasurer's term should be included in the documents given to her successor. The retiring treasurer should be prepared to work with her successor until she is familiar with the bookkeeping procedures used by the council.

For councils that are starting the year with new executive, banking information must be updated reflecting the new signing officers: president, treasurer, and secretary. All cheques must be duly signed by two signing officers as stipulated by the Constitution and Bylaws Part XII Sec 8(a). Cheques should not be pre-signed. In all cases, the Constitution and Bylaws of the League shall govern all treasurers. Treasurers should also refer to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*, particularly Section 8 – Finance. Additionally, please to speak to your banking representative to discuss ways to reduce monthly service charges.

e-Transfer

e-Transfer is generally set for transferring membership fees from a member's bank account to the council's bank account.

Things to consider:

- All financial projects shall be approved by members at a council meeting in consultation with the spiritual advisor. (C&B XVII, S2).
- Funds should be sent to parish council's account and never to a personal account.

- The computer of the recipient should have anti-virus software and precautions should be taken with regards to any emails received.
- There may be a charge for a sender.
- e-Transfers can only be used to receive funds for the council and not to send funds, as two signatures are required on council accounts.
- Fraud is not covered under the insurance that the League offers. Inquire within your banking institution if this is an option for your council and for additional instructions.

Fundraising and special projects

Fundraising events assist councils in supporting organizations. When considering a donation, a council is responsible to vet the organization to ensure its practices are in accordance with the values and teachings of the Catholic Church. All funds written in the name of the parish council must be deposited in the council's bank account. The Catholic Women's League of Canada is Not-for-Profit organization and as such receipts cannot be issued for income tax purposes. A supplementary report should be prepared, recording funds directed to other organizations or for gifts in kind, such as donations of food, drinks, and supplies. In this way, the true cost of events will be factored in to prepare yearly events.

Lastly, your predecessors are invaluable source of information. Conversely, go to cwl.ca under *Resources* and tab on *Manuals #609 Guidelines for Treasurers*

Whatever insults human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; all these things and others of their like are infamies indeed. They poison human society....

Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, Gaudium Et Spes

Promulgated by His Holiness Pope Paul VI on Dec.7, 1965

The 103rd Annual Toronto Diocesan CWL Convention
Monday, April 29, 2024 and Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Ajax Convention Centre
550 Beck Crescent, Ajax, On, L1Z 1C9
“Here I am Lord; send me.”

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, April 29

8:30 a.m.	Registration
10:00 a.m.	Opening Eucharistic Celebration
11:30 a.m.	Call to Order and Business Session
12:00 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:30 p.m.	Resolution Dialogue
2:30 p.m.	Business Session
5:00 p.m.	Dinner Break
6:00 p.m.	Registration
6:30 p.m.	Business Session-Youth Awards
7:00 p.m.	Keynote Speaker: Kathleen Ancker
	Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation
7:30 p.m.	Closing Prayer
7:45-9 p.m.	Entertainment: Live Band

Tuesday, April 30, 2024 **“Send me.”**

8:00 a.m.	Registration
8:45 a.m.	Opening Prayer
9:00 a.m.	Presentation of Certificates
9:50 a.m.	Resolutions
10:30 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m.	Fr. Eugene O'Reilly: “Send me”
12:00 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:30 p.m.	Elections
3:30 p.m.	Closing Eucharistic Celebration
6:00 p.m.	Cocktail Reception – Cash Bar
7:00 p.m.	Closing Banquet

HOTEL INFORMATION:

The Hilton Garden Inn, 500 Beck Crescent Ajax, ON, L1Z 1C9
By telephone: 1-905- 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 four people per room. We recommend you call the hotel directly, but you can email your request to: info@hiltongardeninnajax.com

Deadline to get this rate **is March 28, 2024.** Parking is free

Homewood Suites, 600 Beck Crescent, Ajax, ON L1Z1C9
By telephone: 1-905-686-5969. Group Code ID is: CWL

Rates are \$189 double occupancy, per night, plus HST. Suites available: King Suite or One Bedroom Suite. You can also email your request to: hilton.com/en/ytoajhw-homewood-suites-ajax-ontario-canada/hotel-info/

Deadline to get this rate **is March 28, 2024.** Parking is free.

Monday lunch and dinner tickets and Tuesday lunch and Banquet tickets are available. Please fill out appropriate forms when registering. **No outside food is allowed in the meeting room.**

INQUIRIES AND OTHER INFORMATION:

Website: cwltoronto.ca

Convention Team:

Mary Hawkley	<u>mahawkley@sympatico.ca</u>	905-668-1644
Mary Ellen Stinson	<u>mellen.stinson@gmail.com</u>	905-666-3752
Lynette Mendes	<u>lynettecwl@gmail.com</u>	647-927-1136

THIS CONVENTION IS A SCENT- FREE EVENT

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 21	Parish Executive Training
March 16	Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest Final
March 20	The Garden Way of the Cross
April 29 & 30	103 rd Toronto Diocesan Convention

SPRING REGIONAL MEETING DATES – 2024

February 29	Humber Valley Region Virtual
March 6	Northern Region Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmvale
March 7	North York Region St. Bonaventure Parish
March 13	Toronto Region St. Alphonsus Parish
March 14	Peel Region Sts. Peter & Paul, Mississauga
March 21	Durham Region (Virtual)
April 8	Scarborough Region

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

Maple Leaf Service Pins

North York Region

St. Bonaventure Celine Massaroni

Humber Valley Region

Nativity of Our Lord Nancy Fenech

Toronto Region

Holy Cross Sina Willette Kim Geekie Denise Roberts
Anita Murnaghan Pauline Taylor

70 Year Membership Pins

Peel Region

St. Martin of Tours Helen Callery

55 Year Membership Pins

North York Region

St. Bonaventure Christine Collins

50 Year Membership Pins

Northern Region

Holy Martyrs of Japan Susan Simurda Carol Belanger

45 Year Membership Pins

North York Region

St. Bonaventure Bonnie Beverley

Peel Region

St. Anthony's Marjorie Martins

40 Year Membership Pins

North York Region

St. Bonaventure Lillian Brooks Sue Norman Catherine Perry

Peel Region

St. Martin of Tours Marinette Shaw

Northern Region

Holy Martyrs of Japan Dian Stubbs Diane Riffert Sibilla Hambly

35 Year Membership Pins

North York Region

St. Bonaventure Maria Small

Peel Region

St. Anthony's Jacqueline Fraites Rekha Fernandes

Scarborough Region

Precious Blood Filomena Picariello Monica Birch

30-Year Membership Pins

Humber Valley Region

Nativity of Our Lord Stella Almeida Donna Capobianco

Toronto Region

St. Alphonsus Anna Maringola Llara Canizares Orfa Redin

Peel Region

St. Joseph, Streetsville Alyamma James Irene Violette

St. Martin of Tours Cecilia Hortillo

St. Anthony's Pam Munjal Lucy Wolverton

25-Year Membership Pins

North York Region

St. Bonaventure Judy Beca Patricia O'Connor

Barbara Reed-Tassone

Good Shepherd Saroj D'Souza

Humber Valley Region

Nativity of Our Lord Vivian Grandy Theresa Lavorato Ann Looney

Toronto Region

St. Alphonsus Maria D'Alonzo Sung Jhung Margarita Mangano

Peel Region

St. Martin of Tours Lily De Angelis Myrna Nazareth

Scarborough Region

Precious Blood Celea Larcina Magdalena Marquez

Northern Region

Holy Martyrs of Japan Barbara Balon

20-Year Membership Pins

North York Region

St. Bonaventure Carmelina Marziliano-Polansky Barbara Morton

Anna Saracini

Good Shepherd

Marie Gennaro Sharon Gilbert Anna Sauer

Rosemarie Lezon Alana Papeo

Peel Region

St. Anthony's Augustina John

Humber Valley Region

Nativity of Our Lord	Ancy Braganza	Cassie D’Cunha
	Amelia DiFillipo	Lorie Ann Mollen

Toronto Region

St. Alphonsus Rosa Barbuzzi Maria Carnovale Luciana Dimillo

Peel Region

St. Joseph, Streetsville	Amy Fernandes	Daphne Stockman
	Frances Khor	Luz Del Rosario

Scarborough Region

Precious Blood	Josie Garrido	Margaret Reel
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CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE**Ciscily Winkler**

Sub-Committee:

Kellie Hilliard

There are so many things to be grateful for as we leap into 2024. Firstly, we are given an extra day to get all our loose ends in place. Secondly, we are propelled by our new national theme *Here I am Lord; send me*; and thirdly, our TDC sub-theme *Called to Serve* gives us the impetus to serve others. By this time, all of you would have adopted to the new structure of the League along with its three pillars of Faith, Service and Social Justice. Christian Family Life leads us to concentrate our responsibilities on faith and service in the new structure and we look forward with the same enthusiasm that our CFL Chairs gave under the old structure.

**Faith**

As Catholics, we are encouraged to pray together and to witness to the love of God with our brothers and sisters. *The Daily TV Mass* can be accessed through www.dailytvmass.com. Please join in the daily scripture readings and prayer intentions to add to your spiritual growth. Also, the periods preceding Lent and Holy Week offer sacred moments for forgiveness, healing, reconciliation and renewal of our faith. Examples are praying the rosary with the family of a deceased, praying for those struggling in life, those coping with life’s crises such as mental/physical illnesses, or devastating effects that lead to the loss of human dignity. We humbly pray for unity in all marriages and family life.

Sanctity of Life

The Catholic Women's League advocates and encourages its members to peacefully participate in pro-life events such as *12 Hours of Prayers for Palliative Care*, *March for Life*, and also in letter writing to government against abortion, and/or MAiD. Councils can also include *40 Days for Life Prayer Vigils*; and invite guest speakers, conduct webinars on pro-life issues, explore as many educational resources, to have a better understanding of the negative impacts of ignoring the sanctity of life.

Service

Service remains a great strength of the League, as is evident in the ways members of our League care for each other in good times and bad times. Many councils and their members offer love, comfort and kindness when members are experiencing loss. This virtue was expressed by many during the Unity Outreach Initiative in 2023.

Vocations

The 2024, 34th Annual Ordinandi Dinner is on March 19. All members are encouraged to participate in the Ordinandi Spiritual Bouquet which is a spiritual offering of prayers and spiritual devotions that will be presented to the Ordinandi at the dinner. Members are also encouraged to offer prayers throughout the year for anyone discerning for spiritual vocations. It is very humbling to pray for all our priests, deacons and lay ministries, who serve their faithful all year round. Our retired bishops and priests are also deserving of our gratitude and prayers.

End of Term

As Kellie and I get to our final CFL newsletter article of our two-year term, it is with pure enthusiasm, honour and gratitude that we sign off as your Christian Family Life Sub-Committee and Chairperson respectively. It was a pleasure sharing and at the same time learning with you.

Our journey from the League's old structure to its new structure was a long and fruitful one. It is our hope that a decrease in the standing committee chairpersons will translate into an increase in more members willingly volunteering to become sub-committee members. This will help to decrease the load of the Faith, Service and Social Justice Chairs. It will also become a perfect synergy for all members to play an active role, thus leading to a longer life for our very unique Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Read, Learn, Share, Listen, Get involved, and Enjoy this beautiful Sisterhood!

Website Administrator:

Lucia Vacca

Annual Reports - Communications

Thank you and congratulations to the fifty-two communication chairs and/or council presidents for submitting their Annual Report Survey to National. Completing the surveys gives every level of the League an overview of all the good work being done at your council. They provide great insight on what other councils are doing and may give you ideas as to what your councils can do. Our responsibility as communication chairs is to keep our members well informed and the communication line going.



National Theme and TDC Convention Sub-Theme

You would have heard about the new national theme – “*Here I am Lord, send me*” with the focus on mental health. This theme was chosen by Shari Guinta, National President for her 2024-2025 term. You can download the theme logo and prayer from the national website [www.cwl.ca Resources/Promotional Materials](http://www.cwl.ca/Resources/Promotional_Materials) items #371A (Logo), #371B (Logo Transparent) and #372 (Prayer).

League Magazine and Website

There is a lot of current information to be found in *The Canadian League* magazine. Encourage your members to read and share it. Please send the per capita fees to the national office before the deadline so that members receive the League magazine in a timely manner.

The *Catholic Women Unite/Unite to Change* is a League marketing tool to attract new members. It is a League campaign to engage catholic women across Canada to share many reasons to unite in membership. If you would like to order “*Wear a Message of Unity*” t-shirt please visit the website at catholicwomenunite.ca

Have you subscribed to the *ON-Line Ontario Provincial Newsletter*? Subscribe and register at cwl.on.ca to read all the great achievements of our CWL sisters from across the province.

Please visit the Toronto Diocesan website at cwltoronto.ca and check the “Upcoming Events” where you can find events and workshops offered to all members.

TDC Convention - Communications Table – Parish Council Newsletters

This is the time to showcase your parish council newsletter at the TDC Convention (April 29 and 30). If your council has a newsletter, please contact me at nenitamackenzie@yahoo.ca. We will display your council newsletters in a binder at the communications table.

For those councils who do not currently have their own newsletter, now may be a good time to start creating one. There is a newsletter template which can be found on the national website at cwl.ca: *To Organize – Resources – 100 Series*, items #145A and #145B.

World Communications Day 2024

Sunday, May 12 marks the 58th World Day of Social Communications with the theme “*Artificial Intelligence and the Wisdom of the Heart: Towards a Fully Human Communication*”. Pope Francis’s message is that Artificial Intelligence (AI) can never replace the wisdom of the human heart. AI is radically affecting the world of information and communication. How can we remain fully human and guide this cultural transformation to serve God’s purpose? The Holy Father notes that our reflections begin with the human heart. Wisdom of the heart is a virtue that enables us to integrate the whole and its parts, our decisions and their consequences, our nobility and vulnerability, our past and our future, our individuality, and our membership within a larger community.

Pope Francis invites everyone to grow together “in humanity and as humanity” and recalls that it is up to us to decide whether we will become fodder for algorithms or will nourish our hearts with that freedom, without which we cannot grow in wisdom. Wisdom can help us to put artificial intelligence at the service of full human communication. (Vatican News).

Indigenous Authors and Books

“*How We Became Human*” by Joy Harjo. She is a poet and performer from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Harjo served as the Poet Laureate from 2019-2022. Her work includes many books of poetry and two memoirs, as well as several children’s books and plays. Her writings concern the history of the land and Indigenous people on the land. Her poems bring history to life and connect it to the present.

“Braiding Sweetgrass” – Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teaching of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer, a scientist, writer, and gardener from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Her work explores the relationships between humans and the natural world and is rooted in traditional Indigenous ways of knowing and learning.

Spotlight

If you have a successful event and would like to share it across the country, send in your story and a picture to Catherine at digitalmedia@cwl.ca. Check out the national website for some of the submissions of other councils. Continue to share your photographs of your council’s events and activities to be featured in “Spotlight” and on social media.

As I conclude my term as Communications Chair, I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your dedication and support. It was an honour and pleasure to work with you. Please continue your good works to serve the League for God and Canada!

COMMUNITY LIFE

Elizabeth Joseph

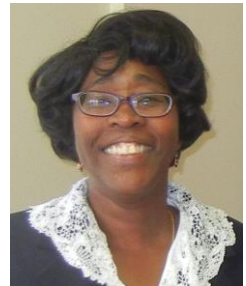
Sub-Committee

Yvonne LeGall

Dignity and Human Life

Restorative justice: a system of criminal justice which focuses on the rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with victims and engaging the community in the justice process. The Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC) “advocates for humane treatments of prisoners” (Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops). Any system of penal justice must provide those necessities that enable inmates to live in dignity: food, clothing, shelter, personal safety, timely medical care, education, and meaningful work adequate to the conditions of human dignity (Evangelium Vitae, 56).

Prison inmates in Ontario live in solitary confinement, share over-crowded cells, endure defecation and urination without privacy; and pest infestations. The inhumane conditions in Ontario prisons are leading frustrated judges to award lesser non-custodial sentences to criminals, that further impact public safety and community life (CTV News, 2024). Judges justify their lesser sentences for the harsh conditions inmates. As a result, drug traffickers,



child pornographers and gunmen are exiting the prison system without rehabilitation, due to lack of programming, decreased security and staff shortages.

In Canada and the United States, prison security is high, inmates wear prison/jailhouse clothes, and their activities are restricted and supervised. In contrast incarceration in Europe is geared towards rehabilitation and reformation of prisoners. Inmates in Dutch and German prisons are housed in modern, open, well ventilated, and heated jail facilities. As part of their rehabilitation inmates participate in cooking their own meals, work or attend classes in the correctional facility, visit relatives and have employment outside the institution

Prisoners' human rights are violated when they are confined for twenty-two hours a day. Hence the Ontario court of appeal “capped confinements to fifteen days” (Justice Benotto, 2019), and referred to the practice “of long-term segregation as unconstitutional, cruel and unusual punishment” (Supreme Court, 2023).

While in prison inmates suffer other health consequences of anxiety, psychiatric episodes, and can be overmedicated with psychotropic drugs. Prisoners are “more than 100 times likely to suffer from Hepatitis C”; and apt to suffer from HIV and AIDS (Canadian Human Rights Commission).

Canadian prisons have an over-representation of Blacks and Indigenous peoples.

In reference to the Gladue report where courts failed to consider the conditions and history of Indigenous peoples' lives and think of alternative punishment (1999), the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that a judge must consider the history and condition of Indigenous offenders' lives during sentencing. Councils should refer to **CWL Resolution 2017.01 Full Implementation of the Supreme Court Decision in R vs Gladue for Indigenous Offenders** for further information as well as an action plan to work on.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) has been a founding member of the Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC) since its inception in 1974. The CCJC is a national coalition of faith-based individuals and churches. The organization advocates for humane approaches in the treatment of criminal offenders. One of its current

primary focuses is restorative justice, an approach to criminal justice which focuses on the rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with victims and the community at large.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) also appoints five Catholic representatives to serve on the Interfaith Committee on Chaplaincy in the Correctional Service of Canada. They are assisted by a Bishop, whose role is to ensure Catholic prisoners within Canada’s correctional facilities have access to adequate spiritual care.

Restorative Justice Week (or RJ Week) starts every third Sunday of November, from November 17 to 23 this year, to honor and propagate the ethos of justice based on the restoration of human connection.

Resources:

<https://www.cccb.ca/justice-and-peace/restorative-justice/>

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action*, Page 3, No. 30 (2015) CWL Advocacy Workshop Handbook #831 <https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/831-Advocacy-Workshop-Handout-final.pdf>

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 Szutka

Margaret Arangio

Kay Booker

Catherine von Zuben

Welcome back after the Christmas break. This is the last Education and Health report for the newsletter. Going forward with the new structure, Education and Health responsibilities will fall under the Service and Social Justice Standing Committees.



St. Michael’s Scholarship – Deadline: May 31

Councils are reminded to submit applications for the

St. Michael's Scholarship to Catherine von Zuben by May 31.

The Scholarship is open to qualified female students in our parish communities, who are making St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto their first choice for their post secondary education. Please feel free to contact the St. Michael's Scholarship sub convener Catherine Von Zuben at catherine.vonzuben@outlook.com or 905-889-1561.

National Hospice Palliative Care Week – May 6 to 10

The first full week of May marks National Hospice Palliative Care Week in Canada. Palliative care is person-centered care. That means, in part, that wherever there is a person with a life-limiting illness, palliative care can be provided. National has a prayer service that councils can use for this important week. <https://www.cwl.ca/prayers-and-hymns/>

Medical Assistance in Dying MAiD

The federal government has just announced that it will be seeking another "pause" on Medical Assistance in Dying MAiD provisions based on the sole criteria of being mentally ill because Canada's health system is "still not ready" for this further expansion. We must continue to encourage our legislators not to support mental illness as part of the criteria. Councils can download or order the Medical Assistance in Dying postcard on National's website www.cwl.ca and found under Crests, Stationary and Other Council Supplies, #185C. Check with your pastor and see if you can engage the whole parish in this campaign.

Catholic Education Week – May 5 to 10

The theme for 2024 is "We Are Called to Love". The spiritual quote is "*If we love one another, God lives in us.*" 1 John 4:12. Visit the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association website for resources and the five sub-themes <https://www.ocsta.on.ca/resources/catholic-education-week-resources>.

World Water Day – March 22

World Water Day is an annual United Nations observance focusing on the importance of freshwater. It celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe drinking water and takes action to tackle the global water crisis. "Leveraging Water for Peace" is the theme for 2024. Water can be a tool for peace when communities and countries cooperate over this precious shared resource. Water can also spark and intensify conflict when access is denied and usage unfairly shared. World Water Day 2024 is about working together to balance everyone's needs - <https://www.unwater.org/our-work/world-water-day>

Earth Day – April 22nd – Planet vs. Plastics

This year's theme, "Planet vs. Plastics", advocates for widespread awareness on the health risk of plastics, rapidly phase out of all single use plastics, urgently push for a strong UN Treaty on Plastic Pollution and demand an end to fast fashion. Plastics may be convenient for us sometimes but they're not convenient for the environment. For more information visit Earth Day's website <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2024/>. Refer to National Resolution 2023.01 Combating Textile Waste in Canada for more action suggestions.

Environmental Tips – Green Churches

The Green Churches Network's newsletter (<https://greenchurches.ca/>) provides a wealth of information on how to protect the environment. The Social Justice or Service Chair could subscribe to the newsletter and bring forward ideas to a general meeting, to involve the whole parish. One of the suggestions is the reuse of old clothes. Consider donating clothes that are in good condition to Society of St. Vincent de Paul. This also ties into last year's resolution *2023.01 Combating Textile Waste In Canada*. Study this resolution and use an action item to help the environment.

Suicide Crisis Helpline – 9 8 8

On November 30, Canada's 988 new suicide crisis helpline was launched giving people across the country *confidential support via phone or text 24 twenty-four hours a day*. Callers will receive bilingual, trauma-informed culturally appropriate support from trained responders. While the service is designed to respond to those at risk of suicide, no one will be turned away. Those seeking to access other mental health supports, may be directed to other services in their area. If you know of anyone who is going through emotional upheaval, inform them of this important service. More information is available at <https://988.ca/>

LEGISLATION

Mary Tuccitto

Sub-Committee:

Carla Beckett

Happy new year, happy spring! Welcome to new chairs of Social Justice and those returning for their second year. We thank you for completing your council’s Annual Report Survey. It is a necessary task and an opportunity to look back on your activities through the year and document all your work, reflecting on the many ways you have impacted the lives of others. The work of Social Justice gives us the opportunity to hear God’s call and put our faith into action as we monitor bills, follow up on resolutions and take action, with reports to members, connect with government officials, write letters, sign petitions and get involved. I look forward to meeting you at our upcoming convention in April. Please come to say “hello” and introduce yourself.



Federal Bills

Bill C-322: An Act to develop a national framework to establish a school food program

This bill completed second reading in December 2023 and is currently in referral to committee for further study. This Act is meant to develop a national framework to establish access and distribution of healthy food for all children in Canada, through a school food program. The lack of a healthy diet negatively affects the general well-being of a child. With the current state of the economy, families are struggling to provide nutritious food. Many school-aged children are going to bed or to school hungry, which directly impacts their ability to focus and perform to their full potential. Although each province in Canada is responsible for health and education in their respective jurisdiction, the Parliament of Canada has recognized the importance of developing a national school food program and the necessity for all provinces and territories to work together in achieving this goal. A lengthy framework to establish this national school food program has been established to include consultation with the Minister of Health, health and education representatives from the provinces and territories and those of Indigenous governing bodies to ensure that all children in Canada have access to healthy food. This is an important and impactful bill as hungry children cannot wait months and years.

Action: Contact your MPs and urge them to support Bill C-322 and to expedite the process through receiving royal assent.

Bill C-337: An Act to establish a national strategy on the reduction of textile waste

In relation to CWL National resolution 2023.01 – *Combating Textile Waste in Canada*, Bill C-337 gives direction to the Minister of Environment to develop a strategy in the reduction of textile waste in Canada, in consultation with provincial government representatives and Indigenous governing bodies responsible for the environment. Some measures to be included in this textile reduction strategy are: to impose transparency in textile labelling to include recycled content and the chemicals used in the manufacturing process; to support the development of textile recycling technology and infrastructure in Canada and facilitate the reuse, repair and repurposing of textiles; to prevent waste in the fashion industry by educating everyone from the manufacturer to the consumer on how they each can contribute to waste reduction; and to prevent the export of unusable textile to developing countries. This bill completed first reading on June 6, 2023.

Action: Read the full text of CWL Resolution 2023.01 with your members and work on the Action Plan within.

Provincial Bill

Bill – 156: Homes You Can Afford in the Communities You Love Act, 2023

This bill makes various amendments to the *Planning Act* to require plans for policies giving authority in areas of settlement for the use of up to four residential units in a detached house, semi-detached house or rowhouse, as well as multi-unit residential buildings of up to four stories and other dwellings inclusive of midrise housing developments ranging from six to eleven stories on major streets including along transit corridors. I noted other bills having to do with housing, in previous TDC Newsletters and this current bill is yet another which is aimed at addressing the critical position the housing sector is faced with and the need for affordable housing in our growing city and throughout the country. The topic of housing is top priority for Canadians at this point in time, please review these bills:

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

Bill 45: Building More Homes on Major Streets and Transit Corridors Act, 2022

Social Justice 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. Other resources of interest to enhance your Social Justice work are found on the CWL National website www.cwl.ca go to RESOURCES – Workshops – item #803 *ABCs of Legislation*, item #829A *Legislation Workshop Introductory Letter* and item #829B *Legislation Workshop*

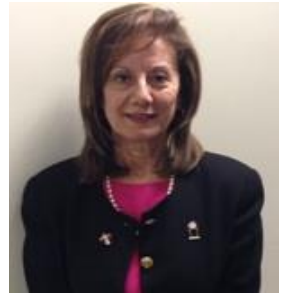
RESOLUTIONS

Connie Cristinziano

Sub-Committee:

Donna Capobianco
Darlene Marino

As we start the new year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all outgoing resolutions chairs. Your work to promote the understanding and significance of resolutions within each of your councils has been instrumental in keeping resolutions striving and help bring change to social justice. A warm welcome to all continuing and new social justice chairs. All levels of the League are currently in the process of changing over to the new structure. With this change, the work of resolutions will fall under the Chairperson of Social Justice. This change should in no way diminish or eliminate the importance of resolutions, whether they be work in progress or completed. If you are new to this position and to help you get a better understanding of this role, I urge you to access the many resources which can be downloaded from our various websites: national website: www.cwl.ca/resources; Toronto website: www.cwltoronto.ca/resources/manuals. Thank you to all councils who submitted their 2023 Annual Report Survey under this standing committee. A summary of your good works and achievements will be included in the 2023 Annual Report Book.



It is important to note that resolutions can be directed to all levels of government which in turn can result in changes across the country - locally, provincially and nationally. Most of the time, resolutions are addressed to the federal or provincial government to address issues that require attention nationally or provincially. However, sometimes there may be issues that need to be addressed locally/in your own community through your municipal member of parliament. Remember, all it takes is for someone to raise a concern that triggers the interest that will start the process.

Although the deadline for any resolutions to be presented at the 2024 Toronto Diocesan Convention has expired, it is never too early to begin working on an issue of concern or topic for 2025. It is also very helpful for councils to have an ongoing list of possible topics/ideas to explore that that can be worked on.

Councils are also encouraged to study past/adopted resolutions at all levels and their action plans. The **ACTION PLAN** is the most important component of the resolution process. It is by following through on the action plan that the League makes the most impact and makes a difference!

Resolutions that have been recently passed:

2023.01 Combating Textile Waste in Canada (featured in *The Canadian League*, Winter 2024 edition). There are two (*Fast Facts About Fast Fashion & Know Your Clothing Fabrics*) interesting articles on this resolution. I encourage you to read both of these articles.

2022.01 Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste

ON.23.01 To Establish a Sustained Universal Intermittent Catheter Coverage (gifted by Toronto Diocese)

ON.22.02 National Strategy to Address Loneliness (gifted by Toronto Diocese)

ON.22.01 Improve Care in Long-Term Care Homes.

Convention News

This year, one resolution will be presented at the Toronto Diocesan Annual Convention (April 29 and April 30).

TDC 2024.01 National School Food Program

Copies of this resolution will be distributed to all council presidents. Presidents and Social Justice standing committee chairs are requested to take time to read, study, review and discuss this resolution at one of your general meetings. Parish voting and accredited delegates should come to the convention with an **informed** vote from their council. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions concerning this resolution, please contact me by April 10, 2024. ccristinziano@rogers.com or (416) 258-6678.

Resolutions Dialogue

The resolutions dialogue this year will be held in person on the first day of the convention on **April 29 at 1:30 pm sharp** and is open to all registered delegates. This dialogue gives delegates the opportunity to review, discuss and bring forth any suggested changes in the form of motions to the resolution. This is also a great way to spark an interest in resolutions. The motions are then presented during the resolution process on the second day of the convention.

This will be my last newsletter article as your Resolutions Committee Chair. It has been an honour and privilege to serve you on this journey as we seek JUSTICE for ALL!!

I would like to leave you with a few important facts:

- **Resolutions are a powerful source of advocacy**
 - **Resolutions give women a voice in Canadian Society**
 - **Resolutions help us to educate ourselves and others**
 - **Resolutions help us make that difference and to change the world in a positive way.**
-



Attendees at the Lay Associations Symposium with Bishop Kasum and Connie Cristianziano (on Bishop's left) on January 27, held at St. Edward the Confessor parish. (photo courtesy of Connie Cristinziano).

The Church, for her part, reaffirms that only the acknowledgement of human dignity created in the image and likeness of God, can constitute a reliable reference point for such a task. From this common origin, in fact, stems a common destiny of humanity that should inspire in one and all a strong sense of solidarity and responsibility.” Benedict XVI

**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 email or phone number provided for more 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”
- \$10 plus shipping and handling