

TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2024

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Committee Member:

Lynette Mendes

Charmaine Alweyn

I am humbled and honoured to be appointed as your newsletter editor for the next two years. After the elections in May, our diocese is now on the new organization structure based on the national strategic plan.

The intent of the newsletter is to keep our members engaged and abreast of all information. It is a valuable resource for all CWL members. It gives directives to parish council chairs on their areas of responsibilities, promotes and raises member awareness of the League at events in other councils.

The newsletter is issued in Fall (September), Winter (December) and Spring (March). Share the information in these newsletters with your council members and encourage them to subscribe. Council Presidents, use it as a guide to action. The subscription form is available on the cwltoronto.ca website.

Please remember to get your submissions in early, for years of service and anniversary celebrations, as members do like to be recognized. October 30, 2024, is the deadline for the winter edition.

Thank you to Charmaine Alweyn for volunteering to assist me with the proof reading of the articles.

If you have any questions or change of information for your council, you may contact me at newsletter@cwltoronto.ca

I look forward to your valuable feedback and support.



His Excellency, Most Reverend Bishop Ivan Camilleri, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto, Western Region, installs Fr. Liborio as Pastor of St. John Fisher, Brampton



Dear Sisters of the League,

How time flies! And more so as we age! Summer seemed to go on and on when we were in elementary school - at least this was my experience. Maybe it was because each day brought a new adventure - time well spent with family and friends. But as the years accumulate and we get older, we begin to experience the responsibilities and burdens of life. Our focus becomes not of play and adventure but rather on rest - sitting on a couch and just resting our sore muscles - this unfortunately becomes the adventure we seek. And “retirement” becomes the goal. But this cannot be our end goal.



We need to remember to be young at all times - to bring our childlike attitudes and adventures back into our lives. We should not waste the time the Lord has given us in this world, to desire rest, sleep or even retirement - this is for the old at heart. As CWL members, you need to be young and engage yourself in the many activities that the CWL gets involved in.

It should be satisfying to us that at the end of a busy day, where we are physically tired and in need of rest, that we go to bed with the knowledge that the day has not gone to waste, but that we have filled it with “WORK”. When we have worked hard in the heat of the day, we remember that the landlord will come to us and not only give us the “daily wage”, but also say to us “well done good and faithful servant, come and join your Master’s Joy”.

So, I encourage you all to be active every day and participate in the activities that your CWL will be initiating in the months to come. Share your gifts and talents with your fellow sisters of the League. Each and every one of you can impact the successes of your CWL council this year.

Don’t just sit around and waste time until the Lord calls you home. Instead, be active each day and join fully in the good works of your CWL family.

Blessings,
Fr. Liborio Amaral

“Be kind and merciful. Let no one ever come to you without coming away better and happier.” (St. Teresa of Calcutta)

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

The above quote from 1 Thessalonians 5:11, truly speaks to me, as it is because of the encouragement and trust shown to me by you, the members of the Toronto diocese CWL, that has led me in my CWL journey to become diocesan president. To all council presidents, thank you for saying yes to serving your council! You too, are in your awesome role because of the encouragement from your council members. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me for assistance or guidance as we are a team, here to support one another, as we continue to build each other up.



This is the first year for TDC to be in the new structure. It is very exciting, as the new structure truly emphasizes teamwork and leadership. I encourage every executive member to reach out to your council members and invite them to be part of your team. Being smaller in number doesn’t mean more work for one person, it means sharing the load by inviting and encouraging others to use their gifts.

Unity Outreach

In 2023, TDC executive members visited parish councils and delivered the Unity Outreach program initiated by national. These sessions were very positive, as councils recollected all the wonderful works they have done and continue to do for their parish, their community and beyond. The councils also had the opportunity to express how the league at all levels could assist them and what made them proud to be a member. Three of the take-aways that stood out for me are: the need for TDC executive to be present at council general meetings/events; the importance of honour guards and streamlining correspondence from all levels of the league.

At our first TDC executive meeting of the 2024-2026 executive in June, I brought forward your request for our presence at the council level and the executive, unanimously and enthusiastically agreed that they would love to attend council general meetings/events. We are available to attend and we look forward to hearing from you. Council presidents, please extend your invitation through me and I will set up a master calendar. My email address: torontodiocesecwlpres@gmail.com. If you would like us to bring greetings

or do a presentation, please let me know. I would ask that you send me your invitations early, as our calendars are filling up quickly!

It was heartwarming to hear of the honour and pride the members expressed serving in an honour guard for their council members. The honour guard is a way for members to say “thank you” to deceased members who have given so much to the league. Please do not feel the need to limit the number of members in an honour guard, and if you need help with an honour guard, reach out to other councils for assistance, as league members have had an impact outside their council as well.

Correspondence

This take-away was a concern from all councils - the need to reduce the number of emails from all levels. In answer to this concern, correspondence was streamlined so that national sends directives on Wednesdays; provincial, who was sending directives on Fridays, has now confirmed that they will not send out emails, rather, they will correspond through their monthly newsletter, which can be accessed on their webpage and Toronto diocese will send out their correspondence on Mondays. National and Toronto diocese send their correspondence directly to council presidents.

Council presidents, when you receive the correspondence, you are to ensure it is forwarded right away, to all your council members. A plan needs to be put into place as to how you will make sure all members receive the correspondence: email, hard copy to be picked up by member at parish office or after church, Canada post or phone tree.

Toronto Diocesan Council 103rd Annual Convention

The convention centred on the National theme, *Here I am Lord; Send me*, Isaiah 6:8, with the first day focusing on *Here I am Lord* and the second day, *Send me*. A total of 390 members were in attendance over the two days. Opening Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Liborio Amaral, along with regional and parish spiritual advisors. National President, Shari Guinta, brought greetings on behalf of national and Colleen Martin, President Elect, brought greetings from provincial. Kathleen Ancker, the Keynote Speaker on Monday evening after the Youth Awards, related her experience with the Catholic Women’s Leadership Foundation as part of her lifelong learning experience.

One resolution was passed, and Diocesan Chairperson of Social Justice, Christina Boyle has the update on this resolution in her report.

Our newest council, Swahili Catholic Community CWL was gifted with Our Lady of Good Counsel icon. Our Tuesday, Keynote Speaker was Fr. Eugene O’Reilly, C.Ss.R., who spoke to us in answering the call, *Send me*. Keynote

speaker for the Tuesday banquet was the Most Rev. John Boissonneau, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto.

Closing Mass was celebrated by the Most Rev. Ivan Camilleri, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto and Rev. Fr. Liborio and spiritual advisors in attendance were concelebrants.

Congratulations to Sue Lubowitz, Past President and the 2024 convention committee, Mary Hawkey, Mary Ellen Stinson and Lynette Mendes for a well run convention.

Executive 2024-2026

We have a newly elected Toronto Diocesan executive. Thank you to all the members who let their name stand for election. The names and positions of the executive are on the inside cover, along with our seven regional chairs. We thank the outgoing executive and regional chairs for their dedication and commitment to the league, and in particular, to the Toronto Diocesan Council. Our outgoing executive members include: Hilarion Mitchell, Past President, Shaila D'Souza, Corresponding Secretary, Zenora Mahabal, Recording Secretary, Lolita Perry, Treasurer, Andrea Smart, 2nd Vice President/Education and Health Chair, Iris McNulty, Spiritual Development Chair, Ciscily Winkler, Christian Family Life Chair, Elizabeth Joseph, Community Life Chair, Mary Tuccitto, Legislation Chair and Mary Antonio, Newsletter Editor. Thank you to our outgoing regional chairs: Alys McAllister, Durham Region, Karen McKeown, Humber Valley Region, Elisabeth Quail, North York Region, Northern Region was vacant, Diana Gamboa, Peel Region, Patricia Lobo, Scarborough Region and Mary Jane Domingo, Toronto Region.

Provincial Convention

Toronto diocese was well-represented at provincial convention in Sudbury, with representation from TDC executive, Honorary Life Member, Life Members and council members. The theme adopted by our new OPC President, Colleen Martin, is *Rejoice in the Lord Always!*, Philippians 4:4, and her chosen symbol is the sunflower.

Opening and closing Masses were celebrated by Most Rev. Thomas Dowd, Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie Diocese and Provincial Spiritual Advisor, and diocesan and council spiritual advisors were concelebrants. Congratulations to Hilarion Mitchell, outgoing past president who was recognized as a new Life Member.

National President, Shari Guinta did a presentation on how she came to the national theme, *Here I am Lord; Send me*, and how, as a national executive, they came to a consensus to have mental health as the focus. Each parish

council is encouraged to personalize this focus on the needs of their community.

A beautiful sunrise prayer service was celebrated at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Keynote Speaker was Edwina MacDonald, on *Listening to Indigenous Voices*. Edwina and her team presented Session 3 from this book, *The Land is Us*.

At the closing Mass, a new provincial slate of officers was installed. Congratulations to Toronto diocesan members who were elected to the executive: Hilarion Mitchell, Life Member, Provincial Chairperson of Social Justice, Sue Lubowitz, TDC Past President, Provincial Chairperson of Service and appointed to Life Member Liaison was Mary Capobianco, Life Member. The full provincial executive can be found on the provincial website.

In closing, I leave you with these words from St. Teresa of Calcutta: *I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things*. Let us always work together, share our gifts and build one another up for the good of the league!

DIOCESAN CHAIRPERSON OF FAITH

Amelia Hazell

“Prayer is the living relationship of the children of God with their Father who is good beyond measure, with his Son Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit.” Catechism of the Catholic Church #2565



Year of Prayer, 2024

Pope Francis has dedicated 2024 as a Year of Prayer, in advance of the Year of Jubilee 2025. The link below will take you to a free download of the book. This is a great resource to assist Faith Chairs in developing the prayer life of their members.

https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/content/dam/iubilaeum2025/foto-sezioni/2024-anno-della-preghiera/insegnaci-a-pregare/pdf/ENG_Sulla-preghiera-A5-76P-SITO.pdf

Traditionally, the Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to a devotion. The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, celebrating the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary annually on October 7. An amazing

webinar is being offered by CCCB to celebrate the month of October and in preparation for the Year of Jubilee 2025.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops is hosting two series of webinars titled *A Great Symphony of Prayer* to enable the faithful to participate meaningfully in the Year of Prayer. The webinars are based on the themes contained in the prayer booklets prepared by the Jubilee Office in Rome. The second series this fall consists of four parts with Dr. Josephine Lombardi (St. Augustine's Seminary):

Thursday, October 3 (1:00 pm - 2:30 pm EDT): Praying with Mary/The Rosary

Thursday, October 10 (1:00 pm - 2:30 pm EDT): Praying with the Saints/St. Teresa of Avila

Thursday, October 17 (1:00 pm - 2:30 pm EDT): The Prayer of Jesus/John 17

Thursday, October 24 (1:00 pm - 2:30 pm EDT): Lectio Divina/The Storm at Sea

These webinars will be recorded and packaged with a reflection guide and made available on the CCCB website sometime after the completion of the final session. Fall series registration will open soon.

Go to: [A Great Symphony of Prayer: The Our Father as a Programme of Life - Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops \(cccb.ca\)](#) to view the previous recordings of the spring webinar series on:

Why did Jesus address God as Father?

Seeking God's Kingdom and Knowing God's Will

Daily Bread and the Gift of Forgiveness

Managing Trials and Resisting Evil Fall Series on Prayer

The Pope's Prayer Intentions for the months of:

September - For the cry of the Earth

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

October - For a shared mission

We pray that the Church continue to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.

November: For anyone who has lost a child

We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

December: For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims

of Christian hope.

TDC Faith Chair Zoom Meeting - Nov 13, 7 pm - 8:30 pm

A zoom meeting for all Faith Chairs is being organized quarterly. The motivation is to get to know one another and to assist you in any way I can. You may want or have ideas for a retreat, pilgrimage, prayer service, etc. for your council/parish. Plan to attend by marking it on your calendar. Our very first meeting was held in July 2024 and was well received. Thank you for your prayers, gifts of time, efforts and resources. I am available to serve and support you in whatever way I can. You can reach me at: ameliahazell10@gmail.com

CCCB Office for Family and Life - Newsletter for Parishes and Families

This newsletter seeks to find creative ways to support the pastoral care of the family and promotes the dignity of life from conception to natural death. A key area of focus is curating and developing resources for the national network, reaching dioceses, eparchies, parishes, groups, movements and associations. *All Things New* is an initiative of the CCCB Office for Family and Life that offers our readers original reflections and resources from contributors across Canada. This quarterly e-publication is intended to, in the words of Pope Francis, “highlight family love as a vocation and as a way of holiness, so as to understand and share the profound and salvific meaning of family relationships in daily life.” Sign up to receive their Quarterly Newsletter at <https://mailchi.mp/82052302a242/5s5psm4psb>

Advent

Advent marks the beginning of our liturgical year. A time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming.

A weekend Advent Retreat is being offered, *For unto us a Child is born*, November 22 - November 24, 2024. Facilitator is Fr. Thomas Rosica, CSB. This weekend retreat, on the eve of Advent 2024 and the beginning of the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, will consider the richness of the Hebrew Scriptures that are the background of the Gospel Infancy stories. Suggested offering is \$260.00/person. All information can be found at: <https://manresacanada.ca/event/for-unto-us-a-child-is-born/>

"May today there be peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you" (St. Teresa of Avila)

VICE PRESIDENT

Committee Member:

Connie Cristinziano

Mary Capobianco

A very warm welcome to all vice presidents! Thank you for saying “yes” to this awesome role. It is a privilege and honour to be your Toronto Diocesan Vice President for the next two years. I am looking forward to working with all of you as we journey together in this role. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any new initiatives, any areas of concerns or if I can be of any assistance, at: ccristinziano@rogers.com. Thank you to Life Member Mary Capobianco for agreeing to work with me as I embark on this journey.

We congratulate our newly elected Ontario Provincial Vice President for 2024-2026, Karen MacDonald.



Membership and Recruitment

Membership is crucial for the league to flourish and declining membership is always an ongoing concern. As of June 30, Toronto Diocesan Council had 5,572 members registered, a decline of 343 from 2023. It will soon be time to renew your membership for 2025. Councils are reminded that membership fees are due to national by February 28 of each year.

It is very important to recruit new members as they provide fresh ideas and increasing our membership keeps the league strong and vibrant. Equally important is maintaining our existing members by keeping them engaged. Each of us has a responsibility to share your joy and love of the league. Reach out to the women in your parish and invite them to join the league: through personal invitation, being visible in the parish and community and sharing the work that is being done through the league, reaching out to the vulnerable and marginalized through our projects and resolutions. Appreciate current members and let them know that they are a valuable part of your council. Reach out to members who have not renewed their membership. Let them know they are missed and welcome them back. Each parish is unique, look for ways that work best in your council that will instill more member engagement.

We welcome back St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Toronto Region. The council has resumed its league work with Teresa Prieto as President and Rev. Patrick Ezimora as Spiritual Advisor. A huge thanks to Mary Jane Domingo, Past Toronto Chair and Rev. Patrick Ezimora for their help in re-establishing this council.

Member Development

Promote leadership in your councils in order that members are not hesitant to take on a leadership role. Mentorship is recognized as a highly effective tool and an important component of leadership. There are many wonderful resources that will help you in this role: *The Welcome Program* is an excellent resource that helps you welcome new members and also an excellent tool to look at existing member's interests and areas of development, thus engaging existing members and maintaining membership in the league. These resources can be found on the national website: www.cwl.ca/resources (#621) as well as the Welcome Program brochure (#308).

Life membership

Congratulations to Hilarion Mitchell, outgoing Toronto Diocesan Council Past President/Historian who received her Life Membership at the Toronto Diocesan Convention, April 30. Hilarion was also recognized during the Life Member's Ceremony at the Ontario Provincial Convention in Sudbury on July 10.

Upcoming CWL Wednesdays

Save the date

September 18: Parish Election Process

October 22: (please note, this is a Tuesday) more details to follow.

Annual Reports

The 2024 annual report survey will soon be available from National Office. Councils are encouraged to schedule some time in your executive and general meetings this fall, to get input from members that will assist in the completion of the reports. Councils are reminded that although there may be vacant positions within their councils, reports are to reflect all the activities that have taken place in your councils. Don't forget to list your accomplishments and hard work and how your council made a difference!

Development Day

This annual event is scheduled for **Saturday, February 22, 2025**. Plans are underway and the details will be confirmed in the Winter newsletter.

“The future is in your hearts and in your hands. God is entrusting to you the task, at once difficult and uplifting, of working with Him in the building of the civilization of love.” (St. John Paul !!)

I am pleased to write this newsletter article as I begin my new position of diocesan past president.

You are either nearing the half way point in your position as past president or are in your final year of your term. If you would like to know a little more about who I am and what I have done on my CWL journey, my executive profile is on the diocesan website.

Writing for the first time in my new position is an opportunity to express my extreme privilege of having been diocesan president and to have had your support. I look forward to working with past presidents via various means of communication.

Parish councils will continue with the current theme “Here I am Lord, send me” until the end of 2025. You should now be following the new organizational structure, but the role of the past president has not changed with the structure changes.



The Past President/Historian Duties

The *Handbook for Past Presidents* has a great deal of information worth reading. Part XII, Section 6 of the *Constitution and Bylaws* and the information provided in the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* will be of great help to you.

The first stated duty of the past president is to serve her council and president in a consultative capacity. Future newsletter articles as well as Monday Correspondence will go into more depth on specific duties. In the interim, do not hesitate to reach out to me should you have any questions. If you feel you require assistance in this role, please know that having another member or subcommittee join you, is perfectly fine and is advisable.

With 2024 drawing to a close, a couple of items need to be addressed and are detailed in the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* (P&P).

- Send proposed revisions (form 551) to the P&P, to national office by December 1. All past presidents are encouraged to monitor/review the P&P and invite members to do the same.
- Council manuals of policy and procedure should be reviewed biannually. Starting now, would allow for the time needed to

accomplish the required approvals. A workshop will be offered in January 2025.

Past presidents at all levels are encouraged to write a two or three page summary of highlights during their term as president. Take your time with this activity as you review past notes, meetings and photographs recounting the wonderful memories of your meetings, travels and special times with members. Submit photographs, clippings, etc., to augment these events.

Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Awards

The 19th Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Awards were presented at our convention on April 30, 2024. Congratulations to the recipients:

Parish Level Recipient: Mary Grossi, St. Margaret Mary Council, Humber Valley Region

Auxiliary Level Recipient: Philomena Menezes, Precious Blood Council, Scarborough Region

Councils can read more about the CWL journey of these two worthy recipients on our website in the Spotlight section. More information on the process for the 20th Awards will be available in the Winter issue.

Parish Elections

I strongly urge you to help with the recruiting in your council to ensure that available members and an effective executive will be part of your council. We must seek out those in the parish who have yet to be invited, to join the League. Some of these members may want to serve on the executive of your council. I will be hosting a virtual session on parish elections procedures on September 18. Registration is required. We will discuss discernment and qualifications and any other questions that you may have.

Planning

Two very helpful resources available for you as you plan the next months of your term, are the Past President's Checklist and the Project Planning Form. Both can be found on the diocesan website at <https://cwltoronto.ca/reference-documents/>

I look forward to hearing of your wonderful accomplishments and knowing you will share insights on how to make the position of past president the best it can be.

"I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us, and we change things." (St. Teresa of Calcutta)



Catholic Women's League of Canada Toronto Diocesan Council



2024 Fall Regional General Meetings

HUMBER VALLEY REGION

Monday, October 7, 2024 @ 7:00 pm
Immaculate Conception Parish
300 Ansley Grove Road, Woodbridge, ON

NORTHERN REGION

Tuesday, October 8, 2024 @ 7:00 pm
St. Paul the Apostle Parish
190 King St. South, Alliston, ON

DURHAM REGION

Wednesday, October 9, 2024 @ 7:00 pm
Holy Cross Parish
373 Simcoe St. South, Oshawa, ON

PEEL REGION

Tuesday, October 15, 2024 @ 7:00 pm
St. Martin of Tours Parish
1290 McBride Ave., Mississauga, ON

TORONTO REGION

Thursday, October 17, 2024 @ 7:00 pm
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish
640 Glenholme Ave., Toronto, ON

SCARBOROUGH REGION

Monday, October 28, 2024 @ 7:00 pm
St. Aidan Parish
3501 Finch Ave. E., Scarborough, ON

NORTH YORK REGION

Wednesday, October 30, 2024 @ 7:00 pm
St. Justin Martyrs Parish
3898 Highway #7 East, Unionville, ON

SERVICE AWARDS

Maple Leaf Service Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Durham	Holy Family, Whitby	Yvette D'Cunha
Scarborough	St. Bartholomew, Scarborough	Brenda Bourne
Toronto	Holy Cross, Toronto	Nifa Gasis Angela Alfred Otencia Bartholomew Maria Dawson

70 Year Membership Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Peel	St. Patrick's, Mississauga	Raniera Astri

65 Year Membership Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Northern	St. John Vianney, Barrie	Mary Jones
Peel	St. Patrick's, Mississauga	Karen Lawless, Gayle Dzis

60 Year Membership Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Peel	St. Patrick's, Mississauga	Patricia Manion
	St. John Fisher, Brampton	Theresa Merola

55 Year Membership Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Peel	St. Patrick's, Mississauga	Sylvia Da Cunha, Antonetta Macera
Scarborough	St. Joseph, Highland Creek	Joan Kunanec

50 Year Membership Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Durham	Holy Family, Whitby	Irene Misiaszek
Northern	St. John Vianney, Barrie	Florence Daigle Sharon McParland
Peel	St. Patrick's, Mississauga	Marina DeSouza

45 Year Membership Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Northern	St. John Vianney, Barrie	Barbara Hargrave
Peel	St. Patrick's, Mississauga	Helen Borgiel, Barbara Joseph, Teresa Sing
Scarborough	St. Joseph, Highland Creek	Barbara Clifford

40 Year Membership Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Northern	St. John Vianney, Barrie	Hazel Hawrish
Peel	St. Patrick's, Mississauga	Sophie Juhasz
	St. Francis Xavier, Mississauga	Mary Ann Butler
Scarborough	St. Joseph, Highland Creek	Elma D'Souza
Toronto	St Pius X, Toronto	Marthese Fenech

35 Year Membership Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Humber Valley	St. Margaret Mary, Woodbridge	Domenica Meffe
Northern	St. John Vianney, Barrie	Helen Russell
Peel	St. Patrick's, Mississauga	Teresa Kuervers
	St. Martin of Tours, Mississauga	Mary Weber
	St. John Fisher, Brampton	Helen Armstrong
Scarborough	St. Joseph, Highland Creek	Delma Alphonso

30 Year Membership Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Humber Valley	St Margaret Mary, Woodbridge	Maria Varanese
Northern	St. John Vianney, Barrie	Evelyn Herbert Vivian Loveys
Peel	St. Patrick's, Mississauga	Philomena Dias Petra Chan
	St. John Fisher, Brampton	Shirley Digby
Scarborough	St. Joseph, Highland Creek	Rosemary Hunt Una Felix

25 Year Membership Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Humber Valley	St. Margaret Mary, Woodbridge	Giulia Mazzella Maria Spina
Northern	St. John Vianney, Barrie	Mary Kominek Carmelita Narine Esther Paolini
Peel	St. Martin of Tours, Mississauga	Maria Manna
	St. Patrick's, Mississauga	Lena Griffatong, Angelina Taddeo

25 Year Membership Pins (continued)

Region	Parish	Name
Peel	St. Francis Xavier, Mississauga	Angie Aranjuez Lynette Colaco-Desouza Freda Desouza Ann D'souza Euvronia D'souza Spinola D'souza Suzette D'souza Diana Gamboa Maria Martyres Agnes Mclean Joan Myers Emilia Parado Sonia Villanueva
Scarborough	St. Joseph, Highland Creek	Jane (Belle) Augustin Jean Fernandes Frances Riggi Lisa Scholz
Toronto	St. Pius X, Toronto	Mary Golding

20 Year Membership Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Humber Valley	St. Margaret Mary, Woodbridge	Maria Alati Rosalia Bruno Angela Di Placido Rosa Falvo Enza Gallo-Intraligi Mary Lou Rashid Stella Sanginese
North York	St. John XXIII, Don Mills	Violeta Hughes
Northern	St. John Vianney, Barrie	Bernadette Borysenko
<u>20 Year Membership Pins (continued)</u>		

Region	Parish	Name
Peel	St. Patrick's, Mississauga	Ramona Da Cunha, Marie Fortier, Beatriz Filatow, Agnes Carbonelli
	St. John Fisher, Brampton	Mary Courneyea Ingrid Dias Aleta Fernandez Grace Lewis Helena Masri Audrey Wright
	St. Francis Xavier, Mississauga	Sheila Saldanha
Scarborough	St. Aidan, Scarborough	Florinda D'Costa Shirley D'Mello Teresa Seeley Bernadette Singh Artimizia Tellis Rose Ylagan
	St. Joseph, Highland Creek	Raffaella Civello Joanne Cline Linda De Acetis Christine Domingo Joan Doyle Hyacinth Fernandes Danielle Giggie Maria Ricupero Mary Tuccitto
	Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Scarborough	Helen Lewis



Life Member Shirley Christo presents
Life Member pin to Hilarion Mitchell
at the TDC Convention, April 2024

SECRETARY

Andrea Tjioe

Committee Members:
Web Administrator
Zoom Meeting Co-ordinator

Lucia Vacca
Shaila D'Souza

I heard His call to come and follow, to bring my gifts to serve His people; so, *“Here I am Lord, send me”*

I am very honoured to have received your vote of confidence, and with God’s help, I am looking forward to journeying along with all of you, as your new Toronto Diocesan Secretary for the next two years. Thank you for your love, prayers and support.

Under the new structure, one key word became very evident to me as I was delving

into my role as secretary, and that word is communication. Communication is the common denominator. And most importantly, *‘two-way communication’*. Two-way communication is defined as *when one person, the sender, transfers a message to another person, the receiver. When the receiver gets the message, they send back their response.* This lets the sender know that the information was received. This feedback is particularly important, not just in the business world, but in all of our relationships with others, with family, friends and with our sisters in the League.



Minutes of Meetings

As the recorder of all communication among the members from both executive and general meetings, the secretary compiles and organizes the notes and then shares/communicates these notes back to the members, as minutes.

Parish Information Sheet

When you elect a new executive, at any level of the league, information sheets need to be updated. At the diocesan level, the information on each executive member is found on our TDC website. Under each region, you will also find the council president and spiritual advisor of each parish council.

At the parish council level, once the new executive has been elected, the diocesan secretary relies on the council president to ensure the secretary keeps the Parish Information Sheet up to date and forwards the updated information to the Regional Chair with a copy to the diocesan secretary as soon as possible. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Please use the template that

provided on the website: <https://cwltoronto.ca/forms/> Click on “Parish Information Sheet”

Christmas Stamps

Yes, the Christmas season will soon be upon us. In this e-world, it’s still nice to send and receive a Christmas card in the mail. Please check either canadapost.ca website or your local post office for availability of Christmas stamps. It’s all about supply and demand, Canada Post will supply religious stamps as long as there is a demand for them.

Resources for Secretary

Below are two excellent resources to assist you in your role as secretary:
Handbook for Secretaries Item #612 downloadable from: <https://www.cwl.ca/manuals/>
Toronto Diocesan Manual Policy & Procedure Rev. May 2024 downloadable from: <https://cwltoronto.ca/manuals/> page #14, Item #5 **Secretary**.

TREASURER

Donna Capobianco

As the Fall season approaches, we once again get busy with CWL meetings and events. This is also the time that we begin the process of closing out another year and ensuring all our financial records are up to date. This exercise will greatly help in preparing the annual financial statement for your council and of course, the information is also needed to start preparing and planning for the next fiscal year. This is the same for all treasurers at all levels of the League.



BUDGETS

End-of-year is the time to start preparing the budget for the coming new year. A budget is necessary to ensure there is enough money to cover the operating expenses for your councils. It also provides a guideline for the amounts to be spent on the various needs of the council. The proposed budget and donations should first be reviewed by the executive and then presented to the members to be voted on and adopted. When preparing the budget, it is also important to set aside money for membership development, to cover or partially

subsidize members to attend CWL events, conventions, development day, workshops etc. Encouraging members to attend these events lets them see the bigger picture of the works of the League outside their own CWL parish.

DIOCESAN VOLUNTARY FUNDS

The Toronto Diocesan Voluntary Funds has two charities: St Michael’s Scholarship Fund and The Margaret Ann Jacobs Catholic Children’s Aid Foundation Scholarship Fund. It is only through your support that we are able to meet our commitment and contribute to these scholarships annually. The scholarships aid young women in furthering their education. Donations can be made year-round, but money must be received by the Toronto Diocesan Treasurer by December 20, 2024 in order to be included in the Annual Report for 2024.

ANNUAL REPORTS

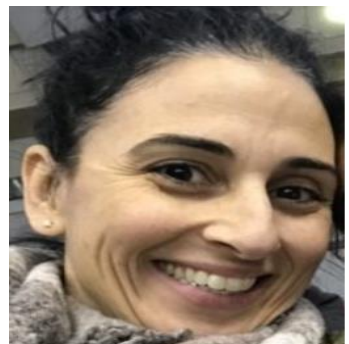
Late Fall is also the time to focus on completing the annual reports. You will be hearing more about this in future communiques and at regional meetings. When filling out the Annual Reports, be sure to include all the donations made under each category as set out in the annual report. Let everyone know the good works and the generosity of your members. This year, with the new structure in place, it will definitely be a learning curve for all of us, but working together, we will succeed.

DIOCESAN CHAIRPERSON OF SERVICE

Gabriella Di Pietrantonio

2024 Youth Awards

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the Youth Awards, along with the parents and teachers who supported them. Great appreciation and a sincere ‘thank you’ goes out to the parishes, and regions, for all their dedication to ensure that these contests run as successfully as they do.



Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest

First Place: Padraig Doyle,
St. Christopher CS, St. Mary of the People Parish, Durham Region
Title: The Importance of Physical Activity

Mary Dobell Pro-Life Awareness Essay and Poetry Literacy Awards

Intermediate Essay

First Place: Eshleah Noronha,

St. Ignatius of Loyola School, St. Bartholomew Parish, Scarborough Region

Title: We Are All Welcomed

Senior Essay

First Place: Sarah Catherine Garcia,

Notre Dame High School, Precious Blood Parish, Scarborough Region

Title: The Silent Scream of the Unborn

Intermediate Poetry

First Place: Daniel Cordeiro,

St. Margaret Mary C.E.S, St. Margaret Mary Parish, Humber Valley Region

Title: My Soul

Senior Poetry

First Place: Eden Britto,

St. Francis Xavier Catholic School, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Peel Region

Title: Voices for Change of Fate

Jean McCann Service Award for Youth

Adam Malik,

St. Mother Teresa Catholic Academy, St. Timothy Parish,

North York Region

St. Michael's College Scholarship (2023 Award)

Serena Fanzutti, All Saints Parish, Humber Valley Region

Margaret Ann Jacobs Catholic Children's Aid Foundation Scholarship (2023 Award)

Marceline, attending the Academic Upgrading Program, Sheridan College

Just a reminder that the 2024/2025 forms will be available on the TDC website by early September, and Regional Chairs will be forwarded details as well. Any member interested to be on my sub-committee, please contact me at gdp9@hotmail.com as any help would be most appreciated.

Development and Peace:

Women Changing the World: The 1% Program

Development and Peace - Caritas Canada, the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada, in partnership with CWL, accomplished impressive milestones for the 2022-2023 period.

Since 1969, the league has been encouraging its members to contribute to the 1% National Voluntary Fund by putting aside 1% of the cost of all personal items they purchase and of funds raised by councils, to support Development and Peace and its partners. These partners work to improve the status of women in the Global South, and collectively, the funds are having a real impact on the lives of thousands of women striving for a better future.

The League is supporting projects in Afghanistan, the Sahel and the Democratic Republic of The Congo. For example, in rural areas of Afghanistan, many children, especially girls, do not go to school because of the vast distance to the nearest school. Development and Peace is partnering with Catholic Relief Services on a community-based schools project to bring education to these remote communities. Through partnership with organizations in the Global South, Development and Peace is deeply rooted in the values of the Gospel, particularly the preferential option for the poor. (Faith Anderson, National Chairperson of Community Life, 2022)

Project 1: Food and Nutritional Security; Climate Change - Sahel Project (SANC2S)

Country: Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger

This is a five year project, running from 2021 to 2026

Update: Burkina Faso - Reforestation and village forest management: 40 hectares of deteriorate forest have been regenerated and enhanced, and focus continues on implementing communities' capacity to maintain and protect their forests through reforestation efforts.

Niger - Restoration of degraded lands: 120 hectares of pastoral lands were rehabilitated and redeveloped which will help improve the food and nutritional security of many Niger families who subsist on pastoralism.

Northern Mali - Stabilizing Dunes: Steps to stabilization of dunes has provided vital protection against advancing deserts and protection from silting of the banks of the River Niger. Participation by women, men and young people, working together, has strengthened the communities' resilience against climate change with a focus on conserving and preserving natural resources, allowing for continued production of varied and nutritious vegetables to feed families.

Project 2: Inclusive governance project for Kasenga women through functional literacy

Country: Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

This was a 34 months program, which ran from March 2021 to December 2023.

Update: In 2023 alone, 165 women were trained in functional literacy programs. The project focused on literacy programs which helped women learn new skills in agriculture or other income-generating activities. The program enabled women to read, write and calculate, along with garnering status for themselves in their communities. Participating women also gained access to information regarding health, environmental protection, human rights and specifically the rights women have in a political arena.

For background on this program, please visit: <https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/352-DP-Brochure-2022-DP.pdf>

DIOCESAN CHAIRPERSON OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Christina Boyle

Committee Members:

Resolutions

Legislation

Elizabeth Joseph

Audrey Nichols

This is my first newsletter submission after the election at the TDC Convention in April. As the new Social Justice Chair, I am quickly learning the role and really enjoyed our first diocesan wide Zoom meeting of TDC Executive, Social Justice Chairs, Council Presidents and Regional Chairs that took place on July 24, 2024. It was a wonderful exchange of ideas and a chance to learn from all of you. My vision is that we develop an effective working relationship, where we all learn from each other. Our next Zoom meeting for Social Justice Chairs is Wednesday, November 6. Please contact me with any questions, ideas for social justice projects and of course ideas for a Resolution at christinalynnboyle@gmail.com



National Indigenous Peoples Day

National Indigenous Peoples Day was the theme for the first CWL Wednesday, for the new TDC Executive. Our session on June 19, provided an opportunity to learn how Indigenous peoples view their connection to the

land and how that sacredness towards the earth and all living things informs their way of thinking and their belief system.

Rosella Kinoshameg, Wikwemikong, First Nation, was the keynote speaker. The breakout room session provided members the opportunity to look at the wording of our Land Acknowledgement and to consider ways to make it more meaningful. An excellent resource is *Listening to Indigenous Voices, A Dialogue Guide on Justice and Right Relationships*, by the Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice. This book can be purchased from the Novalis website: <https://en.novalis.ca/>

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

September 30 is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. It is also Orange Shirt Day. Toronto Diocesan Executive requested this day be recognized at the parish council or regional level.

When we meet again in November, please share details of any events you organized to recognize this very important day.

Resolutions

Ontario Provincial CWL Convention was held in Sudbury on July 7 to 10, 2024. One resolution from the Toronto Diocese was adopted at the convention, **ON.24.02 National School Food Program for All**, and it was sent to National to be reviewed. I want to thank the originating parish council St. John Fisher, Brampton, Peel Region, for all the hard work involved in research, composition and presentation of the resolution. Whether a resolution is adopted or not, the work involved to raise an issue, research, study and compose it, gives each member a voice. Resolutions are the League's voice with government, and members' voices are the League's voice. That means each member, as part of the whole, can make a difference! (www.cwl.ca Resources / Manuals: Resolutions Handbook # 618)

October 31, 2024 is the deadline date for a parish council to submit an idea for a resolution. The steps on how to get started are outlined on the TDC website www.cwltoronto.ca Resources / Resolutions.

Another topic brought to the forefront was Sex Trafficking, including the nine Warning Signs (Covenant House) and how to fight the problem through education. Prevention is so much easier than trying to rescue a trafficked individual. Help is available at The Joy Smith Foundation, the Mary Ward Centre, and the Canadian Human Trafficking hotline (1-833- 900- 1010). The IWIN (I'm Worth it Now) organization provides backpacks to those escaping being trafficked. Along with essential items, the backup also includes a bracelet that is matched with a CWL prayer warrior. The IWIN program could

fall under all three pillars of Faith, Service and Social Justice. More information about the program will be presented in the future.

Legislation Update

Bill S-210: An Act to restrict young persons’ online access to sexually explicit material.

This Federal Bill seeks to protect youth from access to explicit materials online. This Bill has passed all three readings in the Senate, and First and Second Reading in the House of Commons. The committee stage was completed on June 7, 2024 but to date, there is no activity in the Report Stage and the Bill still has to reach Third Reading in the House. This is such an important piece of legislation, that Archbishop Francis Leo wrote (on June 12, 2024) to Members of Parliament in ridings within the Archdiocese of Toronto encouraging MPs to support the Bill. His full letter is on www.archtoronto.org

You can also support this bill through letter writing to your local MP and reinforce the support shown by Archbishop Leo.

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

This is a Private Member’s Bill sponsored by Serge Cormier (Acadie-Bathurst, New Brunswick). It is currently in the Report Stage in the House of Commons. We need to monitor this Bill to ensure it is implemented in a sustainable way, and the funds that were earmarked for it during the 2024 Federal budget are used to develop such a program. The TDC submitted a Resolution on this topic at the Ontario Provincial Convention, where it was accepted and sent to National for consideration. Because **Bill C-322** is currently before the House of Commons, the Resolution will not be taken up at the National Convention. Our follow up action should be to spread awareness of the Bill and the need for such a program, and write letters in support, to both federal and provincial governments.



Installation of our newly elected and appointed members of the Ontario Provincial Council, 2024-2026.

Congratulations to Toronto Diocese elected members on OPC executive: Hilarion Mitchell, Life Member, Provincial Chairperson of Social Justice and Sue Lubowitz, Provincial Chairperson of Service and to appointed, Life Member Liaison, Mary Capobianco, Life Member.

**2025 ANNUAL CWL 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