

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



Be Eucharistic

Winter 2024
(December to February)



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Toronto Diocesan Council
2024- 2026**

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**Subscription to this newsletter: \$15.00 annually
Toronto Diocesan Council Website www.cwltoronto.ca**

TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Committee Member:

Lynette Mendes
Charmaine Alweyn

Greetings my dear sisters in the League. There are three editions of the Newsletter per year. This is the Winter and final edition of the Newsletter for 2024.

It is time to renew or begin subscription, for parish executive elected for the new term 2025. Don't forget your Spiritual Advisor's subscription. All your members should be invited to subscribe. The newsletter provides a wealth of information relevant to our Toronto Diocesan Councils.



Subscription term is from the end of February, 2025 to the end of February, 2026. The deadline to subscribe is January 31, 2025. The subscription order form can be found in this newsletter or on our website www.cwltoronto.ca under Resources/Newsletter. There are two formats – pdf and Word.

2024 Statistic

Congratulations to:

- 16 councils celebrating milestone anniversaries
- 21 recipients of Maple Leaf Pin service award
- 573 members who received a membership pin, from 5 years to 70 years

Membership pins	# of Members		Membership pins	# of Members
70 years	3		35 years	19
65 years	3		30 years	32
60 years	2		25 years	55
55 years	7		20 years	91
50 years	12		15 years	77
45 years	9		10 years	117
40 years	16		5 years	130

Please send me any changes of address, in order to ensure timely and accurate mailings.

Contact me directly at newsletter@cwltoronto.ca if you have any questions.

Dear Sisters in Christ,

As we move to this Jubilee Year of 2025, it is a wonderful opportunity to take stock of our lives including the important element of “FAITH”.



It has been my experience that as we grow older, we slowly begin to focus on the essential things of our lives - those things that we understand are important to us and give us meaning and grounding. When we are young, we think of toys and games and developing friendships. As the years go by, these thoughts move to things like career choices and a partner we wish to spend our lives with. Then, as we get older and hopefully wiser, we think of our impact on life itself and how our actions have affected ourselves and others around us. We begin to think of LIFE beyond this life that we know.

God is real and we need to get to know Him more and more. In doing so, we develop a deeper love for the Lord and desire all the more to serve Him. This Jubilee year is a wonderful time for each of us, individually, to journey closer to our Lord and give our lives, all the more to Him. We are not alone; we have the opportunity to journey with others as well.

As CWL members, I encourage you in this Jubilee year, to find ways where you will jointly walk together towards the Lord and grow in your faith. I encourage parish councils to brainstorm ways that you can all grow in your Faith and walk together in the Lord. Don't let this Jubilee year pass by without doing something to increase your faith and Love of the Lord. Be assured that in this Year of Jubilee, I will walk with you in spirit and hold you all close to my heart and prayers.

May the Lord grace you and your CWL parish councils with all that you require to ultimately attain eternal salvation.

Blessings,
Fr. Liborio

Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence- an intercessor, a support and a guide in times trouble. St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. (Pope Francis)

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.



Many councils are preparing for elections and, in my council visits these past months, I have been doing a presentation on *Spiritual Gifts*, an interactive, discerning presentation, which encourages all of us to recognize that not only are we blessed to have spiritual gifts, but that they are meant to be shared. The above words from 1 Peter 4:10-11, reinforces this message. Leadership at any level of the League involves using our spiritual gifts to serve others and to always recognize that all that we do is for God and Canada, that we are acting in God's name, giving God the 'awe and credit due to God'. My sister presidents, I challenge you to always remember, when we interact with our Sisters in the League and our Spiritual Advisors, that we always *Be Eucharistic*.

Annual Meeting of Members (AMM) and Convention 2025

The 2025 Toronto Diocesan AMM and Convention will be held at the Ajax Convention Centre on Monday, April 28 and Tuesday, April 29. The theme is 'Here I am Lord; send me!', our national theme. Please start planning now! Think of ways you can encourage and assist your members to attend. Subsidizing of members for conventions should be in your council Policy and Procedure manual. More details about the AMM and convention can be found in this newsletter. Please advise your Spiritual Advisors to save the date. I am very pleased to inform you that Bishop Vincent Nguyen, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto, Eastern Pastoral Region, will be the celebrant and homilist for our Opening Mass and Bishop Robert Kasun, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto, Central Pastoral Region, will be the celebrant and homilist for the Closing Mass.

Regional Meetings

October was a busy but wonderful month, as all seven Regional Meetings were held. What an honour it was, to attend your regional meetings and hear from your presidents, all the wonderful works that your councils are accomplishing. Congratulations to the Regional Chairs in running such excellent meetings. Thank you to all members who were able to attend. You witnessed the pride

emanating from your presidents, as they reported the projects undertaken, in answer to the national theme, 'Here I am Lord; send me!'

Due to the positive feedback from the Fall Regional Zoom meeting, we will host the Spring Regional Zoom Meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. The Diocesan Executive will give reports and the Convention Committee will do their presentation/invitation to our Toronto Diocesan AMM/Convention.

Annual Reports

This is the first year that the Annual Report Survey is based solely on the new structure. There are four questions for the presidents to answer:

- Has the council focused on the national theme, Here I am Lord, send me? If yes, how?
- Has the council focused on the national focus of mental health? If so, how?
- Has the council embraced the new structure of positions of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, past president, faith, service and social justice?
- If the new structure is difficult to manage, please explain.

Please take the time to share all that your council is doing. National will do the full review in their annual report. The four questions above gives you, as the council president, the opportunity to share with all your sisters across Canada, the excellent work being done in your council!

We are now in the Season of Advent, our Season of Hope. In the words of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta:

Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern.

I leave you with this Advent Family Prayer:

God of Love,

Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.

He is a sign of your love.

Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent,

As we wait and prepare for his coming.

We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior.

(Author Unknown)

<https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/advent-prayers>

**FROM ALL OF US ON THE TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL, WE WISH YOU
A JOYOUS AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON.**

“Advent is the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes to encounter us, and also to verify our longing for God, to look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ’s return.”

Pope Francis

As we are sent on a mission to journey together in joy, communion with Christ and one another, let us continue to be prayerful disciples of Jesus during the beautiful Season of Advent.



Jubilee Year 2025

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

The Theme for 2025 Jubilee Year is Pilgrims of Hope

The Jubilee Year is a special year of grace, in which the Church offers the faithful the possibility of obtaining a plenary indulgence. Traditionally, it begins just before Christmas and ends on the Epiphany of the following year.

The Pope inaugurates the Holy Year with the rite of the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter’s Basilica. After that, the Holy Doors of the other papal basilicas - St John Lateran, St Paul Outside the Walls, and St Mary Major - are opened and will remain so until the end of the Jubilee Year.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2022-01/jubilee-year-2025-motto-archbishop-fisichella-new-evangelization.html>

In his letter to Msgr. Rino Fisichella, President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of The New Evangelization, for the Jubilee 2025, Pope Francis referred to the tragedy and hardships endured by the world in the face of the pandemic. Thus, moving forward in solidarity, *We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope.*

On Thursday, December 19, 2024, there will be a virtual presentation on The Holy Doors of the Jubilee, by Most Reverend Bishop Dowd, Provincial Spiritual Advisor. Watch for updates on TDC’s Monday Correspondence.

Synodality

Synod comes from the Greek syn and odos (meaning “with” and “path”) and refers to a way of living or working together.

For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission Final Document October 26, 2024 - Please read the final document prepared in an easy to read and understand format by accessing this link:

<https://synod.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/ENG-final-document-Synod-2021-24.pdf>

Ecumenism

Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity. Psalm 133:1

The Week for Christian Unity is January 18 to 25, 2025. The theme is: “Do you believe this?” (*John 11:26*)

“The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity this year holds special significance, as Ecclesial Communities across the Greater Toronto Area jointly commemorate the 1,700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea. This provides a unique opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate our common faith as expressed in the Creed formulated at this historic council.”

In the Archdiocese of Toronto, an in-person event sponsored by the Office for Promoting Christian Unity and the Greater Toronto Area Council of Christian Churches is being held on Sunday, January 19, 2025, at 4:00 pm, North City Church, 377 Woodbridge Ave., Woodbridge. We are invited to join Bishop John A. Boissonneau, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto, Northern Region, and distinguished Christian leaders from various traditions, as we pray together for the restoration of the full visible unity that Jesus Christ willed for His Church.

For full information and poster, please visit: <https://www.archtoronto.org/en/outreach/calendar-of-events/event-listing/archdiocesan/annual-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-prayer-service-2025/>

For more information and resources for celebrating the 2025 Week of Prayer For Christian Unity, and How to Organize an Ecumenical Celebration or Event, visit: <https://www.archtoronto.org/en/offices-and-ministries/pastoral-ministries/office-for-christian-unity-and-jewish-dialogue/home/prayer-for-christian-unity/>

Vocations

And one does not presume to take this honor but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was. (Hebrews 5:4)

Ordinandi Dinner

Please join in this wonderful celebration, to show your support of your Catholic Faith, on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 5:00 pm to 9:30 pm, honouring the

Transitional Deacons who study, pray and reside at St. Augustine's Seminary and at Redemptoris Mater Seminary; to hear their unique call to the priesthood. With God's grace, they will be ordained to the priesthood this year. Your support is needed and most appreciated. For more information and tickets, visit: <https://staugustines.on.ca/events-listing/ordinandidinner2025>

I began my article with a quote on Advent, our Season of Hope, that prepares us for the coming of Christ. It is only fit that I leave you with this beautiful passage from Isaiah, on the birth of Christ:

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
(Isaiah 9:6)

VICE PRESIDENT

Committee Member:

Member Development

Connie Cristinziano

Mary Capobianco

Annual Reports

If you have not yet completed your 2024 Annual Report Survey, remember to set aside some time at your executive meeting, to complete your report together. The survey is applied by all levels of the League when planning and continuing programs and initiatives for parish councils. It is also time for councils to reflect on the past year and share all your accomplishments. Deadline for completion for both electronic and paper copies is December 15, 2024.

A paper copy submitted by councils must be received at national office by December 15, C-702 Scotland Avenue, Winnipeg, MB, R3M 1X5. Remember to keep a copy for your records. For councils completing the survey on-line, (the preferred method), once you press submit, a copy of your report will—automatically be sent to the email address you provided. Late reports will not be added to the formal survey. Survey link is: <https://online2.snapsurveys.com/5sj9xv>.



Membership

There are 94 active councils across the Toronto Diocese. Membership as of September 30th stands at 5,824. I am pleased to report a total of 47 councils have either maintained their membership or increased it. It is never too early to

start your membership drives. An enhanced approach yields better results. In addition to having pulpit talks at all the Masses, ensure that you set up tables and display League materials. Promotional material 300 series is available on the National website: [www.cwl.ca/promotional material series 300](http://www.cwl.ca/promotional_material_series_300). League meetings/events offer great opportunities to recruit members. Our National Vice President Betty Colaneri, encourages us to continue to promote the **"1" Campaign to "Recruit, Retain and Regain"** our league membership. **December catchphrase: '1' Priceless Gift.** One way to show that compassion, is for members to give the gift of presence to '1' person. That '1' on '1' attention could be exactly what they need to boost their spirit. Another way is to help '1' member, who is unable to pay her membership or give the gift of membership to that '1' person you think would benefit from belonging to the League". Membership fees are due at national office by February 28th each year. Fees should be forwarded as received and not wait to until all the members have paid. You can continue to remit fees as received. Maintaining memberships can be a challenge and an ongoing concern. There are so many resources on the national website to assist councils. An excellent resource on the National webpage, the 800 Series, (#835B) is The Joy of Leadership - Strategies to Engage Members.

Leadership

The thought of taking a leadership role can sometimes be intimidating. Or perhaps the joy in the ministry has been lost. As a result, councils become inactive or the worst-case scenario, it could lead to disbanding of a council. It is important to recognize that if members do not show the joy in what they do, councils will not be able to attract new members. Leaders should engage the M.T.R. approach (mentorship, training and relationships). Mentorship is recognized as a highly effective development tool and an important component of leadership. Training will also help members fulfill their ministry with confidence. It is also important to take the time to get to know other council members and show genuine interest in each other. By doing so, members can discover each other's talents and gifts and help each other grow and succeed in the League. As mentors, leaders must motivate members to take leadership roles. (September 15, 2024 Communique #11, National Vice President Betty Colaneri.)

CWL Wednesdays 2025 – Save the date

- January 15: How to prepare a Parish Council Manual of Policy and Procedure
- February 5: Joy of Leadership Module 2 Strategies to Engage members
- March 19: Parish Executive Training - Roll and responsibilities of Secretary and Treasurer

Development Day

Development Day will be held in-person on Saturday, February 22, 2025, at Nativity of Our Lord Parish. The morning session will begin with Mass celebrated by our TDC Spiritual Advisor Fr. Liborio. Our guest speakers for the morning sessions will be from Catholic Family Services, Toronto, with the focus on “Mental Health”. Our keynote speaker for the afternoon session will be Father Eugene O’Reilly, with the focus on the Jubilee 2025 theme, “Pilgrims of Hope”. The cost will be \$20 per member. Please see pages 12 to 14 for full information and registration for Development Day.

PAST PRESIDENT/HISTORIAN

Sue Lubowitz

Parish Elections

As the calendar pages turn, many councils have started the process for elections. If you missed my virtual workshop in September and the in-person workshop on October 26, then here are some key points to remember:



- The election of a new executive signals the end of the term of the previous executive and as such it is strongly suggested that all financial matters be finalized before the election
- The election should be held at the annual members meeting where the outgoing president gives her final report and the financial statement is accepted by the members
- The term of office is two years; except for the treasurer (four years) and standing committee chairs who can serve a second term but in a different standing committee.
- The newly elected officers are introduced by the outgoing past president and assume the duties and responsibilities of their respective office immediately following the annual meeting.

Complete instructions can be found on the diocesan website <https://www.cwltoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Parish-Elections-Key-Points-revised-2023.pdf>

Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Awards

The 20th Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Awards will be presented at our convention on April 29, 2025.

Forms are available on the diocesan website at <https://cwltoronto.ca/forms/>

There are two levels of award: the parish level and the auxiliary level. Feel free to re-submit a nomination for either category that you may have submitted previously or for a different level.

It is important that submissions concentrate on the nominated person as a MENTOR, not a parish worker. A mentor can assist in understanding League history and protocol. She has an appreciation of the mission of the League. She identifies and uses available resources and can explain League policy and procedures. She also helps in developing leadership strategies and skills. Councils should identify the mentors among them. Some councils may even have more than one! The deadline for submissions is Monday, March 31, 2025

Women of Impact

Stay tuned to the Spotlight section of the Toronto Diocesan website, where each month a “woman of impact” will be featured. Our Youth Awards and our Mentoring Award are named after a few of these women but there are many others. These will be previous diocesan presidents who have contributed greatly to the League and of whom our memories may seem a little dim at the moment.

Advent is like springtime in nature when everything is renewed, fresh, and healthy. Advent refreshes us, makes us healthy and able to receive Christ in whatever form he may come to us. At Christmas, he comes as a little child, small, helpless, and in need of his mother and all that a mother's love can give. His mother's humility enabled her to serve. If we really want God to fill us, we must empty ourselves through humility of all the selfishness within us.

(St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta)

Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes with which Christ looks out his compassion to the world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which he is to bless us now.

(St. Teresa of Avila)



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT DAY 2025

Saturday February 22, 2025
8:30 am – 3:00 pm
Nativity of Our Lord Parish Hall
480 Rathburn Road, Etobicoke

***THEME: STRENGTHENED BY KNOWLEDGE,
GUIDED THROUGH FAITH, SUPPORTED BY SERVICE***

Morning Session

Mental Health Wellness & Self Care

Presented by:



Afternoon Keynote Speaker

Father Eugene O'Reilly



Cost is \$20/member.

Register with Andrea Tjioe: a_tjioe@yahoo.com

Please send cheque and registration form to:
Andrea Tjioe, 3238 McCarthy Court, Mississauga, ON L4Y 3Z6

Make cheque payable to: **The Catholic Women's League of Canada**
(and indicate Development Day 2025 on the memo line)

Seating is limited to 300. Pre-Registration is a **MUST**.
Registration will be cut-off when the maximum capacity has been reached

Your registration form and your payment will guarantee your spot.

No refunds. Transfer of spots only are allowed.

Registration and payment due by **Monday, February 10, 2025.**

Inquiries: Connie Cristinziano, TDC Vice President:

cristinziano@rogers.com 416-258-6678

DEVELOPMENT DAY 2025

PROGRAM

- 8:30 am: Registration
- 9:00 am: Opening Mass
- 9:40 am: Registration, Coffee, Tea, Juice, Assorted Baked Goods & Fresh Fruits
- 10:00 am: Welcome & Introductions
Opening Prayer: League Prayer
Greetings from President, Kate O'Quinn
- 10:20 am: Workshop presented by the clinical staff at Catholic Family Services Toronto. Recognizing mental health signs and symptoms and finding support during challenging times.
- 12:15 pm: Lunch Break (bring your own lunch)
- 1:15 pm: Gathering Prayer
- 1:30 pm: Father Eugène O'Reilly
Theme: Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope
- 2:45 pm: Closing remarks
- 2:50 pm: Final Blessing



104th Annual Toronto Diocesan Council Convention
Here I am Lord; send me.
Joyfully and Be Eucharistic
Monday April 28 and Tuesday April 29, 2025
Ajax Convention Centre 550 Beck Crescent, Ajax ON, L1Z 1C9

The convention committee, along with the President and her executive are very pleased to host the Diocesan Council Convention at the Ajax Convention Centre for another year. The hotels are on the property with free parking and easy access from Highway 401.

We look forward to having a great turnout from all our members, near and far, to experience the *Joy* and to *Be Eucharistic* when meeting their sisters in the League.

The hotels available on site are:

The Hilton Garden Inn, 500 Beck Crescent, Ajax, ON. L1Z 1C9. Phone: **905-686-9400**. **Group Code ID is: CWL25**. Rates are \$179 per night, plus HST, for double occupancy. There is a surcharge of \$10.00 per person for up to two (2) additional people, a limit of four (4) per room. We recommend calling the hotel directly.

See the URL below for reservation.

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=YYZAJGI&groupCode=CWL25&arrivaldate=2025-04-27&departuredate=2025-04-30&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

Homewood Suites, 600 Beck Crescent, Ajax, ON L1Z1C9. Phone: **905-686-5969**. Rates are \$199.00 per night, plus HST, for double occupancy. Suites available are a King Suite (1 king bed) or a One Bedroom. Suite (2 queen beds). We recommend calling the hotel directly, See the URL below for reservation.

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/catholicwomensleagueofcanada2025/>

National Theme: ***Here I am Lord; send me***

Provincial Focus: ***Rejoice in the Lord always, I say rejoice.*** (Focus on joyfully)

Diocesan Focus: ***Be Eucharistic***

The Convention will commence on Monday April 28, 2025.

Registration: 8:30 am

Opening Mass: 10:00 am

Business Sessions: 11:30 am

More details will be provided in the Spring 2025 newsletter and on the Toronto Diocesan Council website at: www.cwltoronto.ca

Your 2025 Convention Team contacts are:

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Tracy MacInnis 647-973-7645 t.macinnis60@gmail.com



Catholic Women's League of Canada



2025 Spring Regional General Meetings

PEEL REGION

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 @ 7 pm
St. Mary's Parish
66 Main St. S, Brampton, ON L6W 2C6

HUMBER VALLEY REGION

Thursday, March 6, 2025 @ 7 pm
St. Gregory's Parish
122 Rathburn Road, Etobicoke, ON M9B 2K6

DURHAM REGION

Thursday, March 20, 2025 @ 7 pm
Immaculate Conception Parish
1710 Scugog Street, Port Perry, ON L9L 2E2

NORTHERN REGION

Monday, March 24, 2025 @ 7 pm
Guardian Angels Parish
115 West Street N, Orillia, ON L3V 5C4

NORTH YORK REGION

Tuesday, March 25, 2025 @ 7 pm
St. John Chrysostom Parish
432 Ontario Street, Newmarket, ON L3Y 2K4

TORONTO REGION

Wednesday, March 26, 2025 @ 7 pm
St. Matthew Parish
706 Old Weston Road, Toronto, ON M6N 3B8

SCARBOROUGH REGION

Monday, March 31, 2025 @ 7 pm
St. Rose of Lima Parish
3216 Lawrence Avenue E, Scarborough, ON M1H

Happy Anniversary! (July to December, 2024)

Region	Parish	Anniversary Years
Durham	Holy Cross, Oshawa	60
	St. John the Evangelist, Whitby	85
Northern	St. James, Colgan	30
	St. Paul the Apostles, Alliston	60
Peel	St. Leonard, Brampton	35
	St. Patrick, Mississauga	70
Scarborough	St. Maria Goretti, Scarborough	65

SERVICE AWARDS WINTER 2024

Maple Leaf Service Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Durham	St. Francis De Sales, Ajax	Elizabeth P Joseph
North York	Good Shepherd, Thornhill	Sharon Gilbert Mary Williams Alana Papeo Carol von Zuben
Scarborough	St. Boniface, Scarborough	Rosemarie Gaglione
	St. Aidan, Scarborough	Naomi Patterson Gwyneth Faustin

70 Year Membership Pin

Region	Parish	Name
Durham	St. Mary of the People, Oshawa	Anne Doyle

65 Year Membership Pin

Region	Parish	Name
Scarborough	Precious Blood, Scarborough	Mary Flaherty

55 Year Membership Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Humber Valley	St. Roch, Weston	Joan Bass Jo Cardle Elia Salerno

50 Year Membership Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Durham	St. Mary of the People, Oshawa	Carol Jeffers
Humber Valley	Nativity of Our Lord, Etobicoke	Gloria Machacek
	St. Roch, Weston	Gina Compeotto
Northern	St Mary, Barrie	Lucille Desbiens Nellie Jorritsma

45 Year Membership Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Scarborough	St. Boniface, Scarborough	Marylyn Taylor
Northern	St Mary, Barrie	Lucille Hill

40 Year Membership Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Humber Valley	St. Padre Pio, Kleinburg	Lina Battaglini
	St. Roch, Weston	Grace Caprara
North York	Good Shepherd, Thornhill	Mary Williams

35 Year Membership Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Northern	St. Mary, Barrie	Donna Kennedy
Humber Valley	St. Padre Pio, Kleinburg	Peggy Hunter
	Nativity of Our Lord, Etobicoke	Linda Wisz

Region	Parish	Name
Humber Valley	St. Roch, Weston	Rosa Zago Elia Romano Nicolina Cipriano Antoinetta Capuani
Scarborough	Precious Blood, Scarborough	Jeanette D'Souza

30 Year Membership Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Humber Valley	St. Roch, Weston	Emelia Belli Teresa Caruso
Northern	St. Mary, Barrie	Rita Bettam Jane Srigley
Scarborough	St. Bartholomew, Scarborough	Brenda Bourne Theresa Greasley Norma Hing Anna Leodolter Annette Van Kempen Trudy Vanderkooy Sonia Yam Ellen Yam
	Precious Blood, Scarborough	Nattie Aquino

25 Year Membership Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Durham	St. Mary of the People, Oshawa	Frances Stano
Humber Valley	St. Padre Pio, Kleinburg	Agata Cordoni Terri Decotism Debbie Fisher
	Nativity of Our Lord, Etobicoke	Nicole Chumo Patricia Dyson Dolores Pike
	St. Roch, Weston	Erica Rac Maria Griffin

Region	Parish	Name
North York	St. Justin Martyr, Unionville	McElroy, Cathy Crupi, Kathy Perta Rita
Scarborough	St. Bartholomew, Scarborough	Lilet Khan
	Precious Blood, Scarborough	Asish Italia

20 Year Membership Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Durham	St. Francis de Sales, Ajax	Elizabeth P Joseph
Humber Valley	St. Padre Pio, Kleinburg	Anna Catallo Alba D'Antonio Felicia DeFina Luz Garcia Joanne LaMere Boone Grace Liut Stella Martinez Maria Mazza Francesca Rosati Lolita Salado Margaret Tersigni
	Nativity of Our Lord, Etobicoke	Violet Macdonald Josepha Martyers Erma Pitre
	St. Roch, Weston	Aurora Vescio Maria De Bellis Rose Stange
Northern	St. Mary, Barrie	Cassandra Wilhelm Jenny Griffiths
Peel	St. Peter & Paul, Mississauga	Bernice Brand Editha Eduarte Jennifer Fonseca Antonella Nardulli Eveline Richard Rosemarie Tokar
	St. Anthony of Padua, Brampton	Theresa Borutski

Region	Parish	Name
Scarborough	St. Aidan, Scarborough	Winnie Gomes Alphonsa Mariasingham Mavis Pecus Nelly Sanchez Aggie Gomez

Mary Quinlan
December 25, 1933 – October 4, 2024
“League Life - Full Circle”



Mary’s service to the League began in St. Patrick’s Council (Wildfield, Toronto Diocese) in 1955 and ended as a cherished mentor to the members of Sts. Peter and Paul Council (Mississauga, Toronto Diocese).

She was the charter president at 3 parishes over the years: St. Thomas a Becket Council (Pierrefonds, Quebec), St Luke’s Council (Dollard des Ormeaux, Quebec) and Sts. Peter and Paul Council (Mississauga). She was also the

President of the Montreal Diocesan Council (1968-1970) as well as Quebec Provincial President (1972-1974). Mary received her Life Membership in 1970.

In 2016 she was interviewed by Salt+Light Media (<https://slmedia.org/blog/halifax-dispatches-50-conventions-and-counting>) at the Halifax national convention. It was her 50th national convention. Her first convention was in 1966 in Hamilton.

Those of us who knew her remember and appreciate her encouragement of our potential and her mentorship. The lasting friendships, the inspiration and guidance and the unquestionable extent of education and experience gained were counted by Mary as rewards received from her participation in the League. She maintained that the “message of the League” is an intangible force felt within each of us. We have given ourselves for a common purpose and the impact is felt on those around us. She will be missed.

Requiescat in Pace

“You are rewarded not according to time or work, but according to the measure of your love.” (St. Catherine of Sienna)

65th ANNIVERSARY

What can one say after sixty-five years?
Does one tell of the laughter, or mention the tears?

Does one think of the people who were so helpful then –
Who started out strangers and ended up friends?

Like Arceli, Merlyn, Natalie and Madge,
Who are all so helpful; they deserve a badge.

We faced the problems and challenges (whatever they were)
Which today are forgotten, or merely a blur.

And the laughter and tears – but mainly the first –
Were strongest when things were right at their worst.

For the truth is, we did what had to be done –
Some battles were lost, but the war has been won.

We stumbled and fumbled, and sometimes wallowed,
In accomplishments we thought were for those who followed.

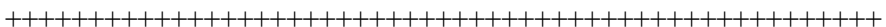
But life goes on, and so does the League;
It changes and strengthens in tune with the need.

For the past was then, the future starts now;
What matters is who does what, when, and how.

And if we Past Presidents feel any pride at all,
It is in doing our best and answering the call

To serve God and Canada, our families and friends,
And keep the allegiance until our life ends.

This celebration's been great, and that's no myth;
I can hardly wait for my 75th!



Mary Quinlan
July 8, 2020

SECRETARY

AndreaTjio

Committee Members:
Web Administrator
Zoom Meeting Co-Ordinator

Lucia Vacca
Shaila D'Souza

At this time of the year, many councils are gearing up for an election of their new executive in January. Now is the most important time of the year for the outgoing council secretary to prepare a complete documentation of the secretary files to hand over to the incoming secretary. Meeting Agendas, Meeting Minutes and Motion Book are all official documents of the council. The secretary is the 'glue' of the council executive. Executive reports from President to all Committee Chairs should be in the Minutes and Motion Book. Secretary's files are the official, long-term, archived documents of the council, along with the treasurer's files.



Please be reminded that immediately after the completion of your council election, a Parish Information Sheet is to be completed and forwarded to your Regional Chair, with a copy to me.

The Parish Information Sheet can be found on our website: <https://cwltoronto.ca/forms/>

New on National Website:

National CWL invites members to join their Email List to receive updates. Visit their website www.cwl.ca, scroll down to the bottom of the homepage, and you will see: Join Our Email List to Receive Updates. Fill in your name, email and consent. Please note: "The Catholic Women's League of Canada adheres to and maintains a privacy policy as per the terms of The Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada." Members can cancel or opt-out of receiving information at any time.

CWL Online Store is now open and you can shop 24/7; visit: <https://eshop.cwl.ca/>

All the information you need to shop on line is found on the link.

St. Joseph was a just man, a tireless worker, the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. May he always guard, protect and enlighten families.
(St. Pope John Paul)

The role of the Treasurer is an important one in our CWL Councils. As treasurer, you are responsible for maintaining the financial records, preparing the monthly reports for meetings, the budget and the annual financial statement. It can sound overwhelming! Ensuring that the records are kept up-to-date contributes to the ease of completing all of the above tasks. Reference documents, samples of the financial statements and budgets are all available on the www.cwl.ca and www.cwltoronto.ca websites.



Please take the opportunity to download these resources. They are there to assist.

Budget

When preparing the budget for your council, don't forget to also set aside funds for "a rainy day." There are always unexpected expenses that come our way. It's recommended that, if possible, councils should prepare for these unexpected events. It's also important to try to cover or subsidize your members to attend CWL conventions, Development Day and other workshops offered at the various levels of the League. This all adds to membership development which is especially important in building and maintaining your council.

As you collect the 2025 membership fee, please submit to National in a timely manner. We send National \$32.50 per member. This is broken down as follows: \$25 for National, \$3 for Ontario Provincial Council, \$4 for the Diocesan Council and National keeps \$0.50 for insurance coverage for the members. In addition, regional dues are paid directly to the regional treasurer. The membership fees are due on January 1, 2025. Please note that membership dues for your council should all be submitted to National by February 28, 2025.

Voluntary Funds

The Catholic Women's League is well known for donating to many deserving organizations. There are Voluntary funds at all three levels. At the Diocesan level we have St. Michaels Scholarship and The Margaret Ann Jacobs Catholic Children's Aid Foundation Scholarship Fund. It is only through your support that we can meet our commitment and contribute to the scholarships annually. Donations can be made year-round, but money must be received by December 20, 2024, to be included in the Annual Report for 2024. The form can be found on our Toronto website: cwltoronto.ca

At the Provincial level, there is the Bishop Pappin Bursary Fund. See www.cwl.on.ca for more information.

Finally, there are the National Voluntary Funds, which consist of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (D&P), Catholic Missions in Canada (CMIC), Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), the Coady Institute, and the National Bursary Fund. The form #513 is available on the National website.

The deadline for the Annual Reports this year is December 15, 2024. Be sure to complete yours' and let everyone know all the good works that your council does throughout the year. Remember to include your council's donations.

DIOCESAN CHAIRPERSON OF SERVICE Gabriella Di Pietrantonio

On October 26, 2024, a Chair Workshop was held, and well attended. It led to some great insight into the roles of the three pillars of Faith, Service and Social Justice. Feedback was on points around the Youth Awards and ideas on how to generate more interest in them. A reminder, on the importance of ensuring that all participants in the Mary Matthews Public Speaking contest, present their speech in front of an audience. This will help to prepare the contestants, as they move onto the next levels of the contest. Service Chairs, please ensure that all contest forms are completed in their entirety.



The contest forms are available on the Toronto Diocesan CWL website www.cwltoronto.ca/reference-documents (scroll down the page to Youth). All deadlines and contact names are listed on the site.

We need your continued support towards the Toronto Diocesan Scholarship funds. It is through your generous donations, that allow us to continue to provide these most appreciated opportunities to our young and deserving youth. How to donate to the Voluntary Funds can be found in the Treasurer's submission in this newsletter.

Evangelization and Catechesis in the Family

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) Office for Evangelization and Catechesis has presented a new pastoral letter on evangelization and catechesis in the family. The letter, titled, *Called to Witness and Proclaim, Evangelization and Catechesis in the Family*, "is framed around the story of Jesus healing the daughter of Jairus, as related in the Gospel of

Mark (5:21-43). The pastoral letter is divided into three sections: catechesis in the family, catechesis with the family, and catechesis of the family.” This pastoral letter highlights some of the ways Jesus continues to walk with families today, in the context of the parish community.

You can access this beautiful pastoral letter using the link:

<https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Called-to-Witness-EN-2024-09-09-FINAL.pdf>

If you wish to subscribe to receive the *Encounter* Newsletter by CCCB, use this link:

<https://ccb.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=60a646aaa3adcf048918aeebd&id=9d293b3627>

DIOCESAN CHAIRPERSON OF SOCIAL JUSTICE Christina Boyle

Committee Members:

Resolutions

Legislation

Social Justice Issues

Elizabeth Joseph

Audrey Nichols

Maureen Cassidy

As we enter into the winter months and settle in front of a warm fire, we are reminded of those less fortunate: the homeless, those with food insecurity, the hungry, the victims of domestic violence, those waiting too long for mental health treatment programs and the list goes on. Social Justice issues seem more relevant than ever before. How can a sister in a CWL parish council make a difference? **ADVOCACY**. This is when you get together with like-minded sisters and consider working on a Resolution. I am happy to attend council meetings to do a short presentation on Resolutions to help members move forward in this area. Contact our president Kate O’Quinn at torontodiocesecwlpres@gmail.com to schedule dates.



National Resolutions Update

Three resolutions were adopted at the National Annual Members Meeting/Convention held in August 2024. Full details can be found on cwl.ca under the tab “Act”.

- **2024.03 Grant the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise Legal Authority to Investigate Environmental and Human Rights Abuses**
- **2024.02 National Universal Pharmacare Program to Include Coverage for Drugs Prescribed for Mental Illness**
- **2024.01 Increase Supported Housing for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness with Mental Health and Mental Illness Issues**

Provincial Resolutions Update

One resolution was adopted at the Ontario Provincial Annual Members Meeting/Convention held in July 2024. Full details can be found on cwl.on.ca under the banner Resolutions.

- **ON.24.01 Elimination of the Minor Doctrine in Mental Health**

The listed resolutions have reached their final destination within the Catholic Women’s League and are posted on the website, to act upon them. All these resolutions represent the hard work and passion of the originating councils and the members who reviewed and voted to adopt the resolution at each stage and are deserving of study by all members. Please consider how you might want to initiate an Action Plan related to these resolutions. The action items are listed on page 4 in the full document of the resolution.

Legislation Update

The website LEGISinfo provides the latest updates.

Bill C-322: An Act to develop a national framework to establish a school food program, reached third reading in the House of Commons this fall. Over the next few months, you can follow the progress of this bill through the Senate. Betsy Currier, Life Member, Sault Ste. Marie Diocese, Committee: OPC Social and Economic Justice Team, provided an update to the Ontario Diocesan Social Justice chairs and reminded us of a Resolution going back to 2010. **ON.10.02 Financial Assistance for Diabetes Supplies.**

Bill C-64: The Pharmacare Act received Royal Assent on October 10, 2024. “The purpose of this Act is to guide efforts to improve, for all Canadians, the accessibility and affordability of prescription drugs and related products, and to support their appropriate use, with the aim of continuing to work toward the implementation of national universal pharmacare. Its purpose is also to support the development of a national formulary of essential prescription drugs and related products and to provide for the development of a national bulk purchasing strategy” (Betsy Currier). The first items to be covered by **Bill C-64** are Diabetic supplies!

Bill S-210: This Senate Bill, short title **Protecting Young Persons from Exposure to Pornography Act**, seeks to protect youth from access to explicit materials online. This Bill passed quickly through the Senate, but is still waiting

for Third Reading in the House of Commons. The last activity listed is “consideration in committee” completed June 7, 2024. This is a really important piece of legislation for our children and grandchildren today, with their daily use of social media. So much so, that Archbishop Francis Leo wrote 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. I mentioned this in my last newsletter, and your support through letter writing is still needed to get this bill to the finish line.

Appendix #8 in the National Manual of Policy and Procedures (cwl.ca Manual #615) can guide you in how to write a letter to your local municipal, provincial or federal representative.

Sometimes we question if we really do make a difference in Social Justice issues, as there is so much to address. With prayer, we are reminded to keep trying. Small steps, and one action at a time will keep us moving forward. Our third Social Justice Zoom call is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 7 pm.



St. Joseph, Highland Creek Council Honouring National Day
For Truth and Reconciliation

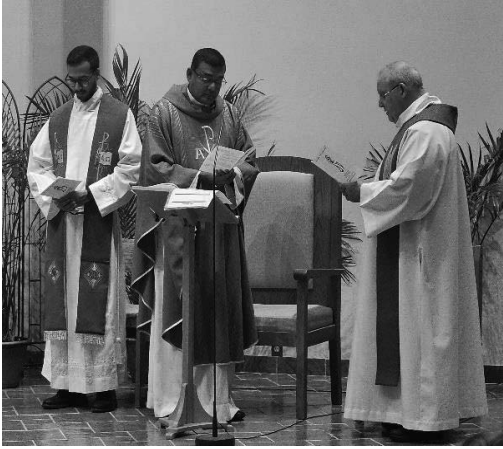
“God said: I have placed you in the midst of your fellows so that you may do to them what you cannot do to Me – that is, so that you may love your neighbor freely without expecting any return from him. And what you do to him I count as done to Me.”

(St. Catherine of Sienna)

If we find it hard to trust others because we have been hurt by lies, injuries, and disappointments, the Lord whispers in our ear: 'Take heart, son!' (Mt 9:2), 'Take heart, daughter!' (Mt 9:22). He encourages us to overcome our fear and to realize that, with him at our side, we have nothing to lose" (No. 37).

(Pope Francis, encyclical 'Dilexit Nos')

Regional Installation Masses



Installation of North York Regional Spiritual Advisor



Humber Valley Region Installation of Officers

TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL
Fall Workshop and Information Session

October 26, 2024, TDC Workshop



Faith



Service



Social Justice

Elections

**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
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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.

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Toronto Diocesan Council
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February 2025 – February 2026**

The Newsletter subscription runs from **February 28, 2025 to February 28, 2026**. The cost is **\$15.00** per subscription.

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Regional Councils: Only pay for subscriptions for executive members who are not covered by the Diocesan or Parish Council.

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President or Treasurer

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522 Yorkminster Crescent, Mississauga, ON L5R 1Z9

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Mary Donnelly
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League Prayer

We humbly pray you, O God our Father
To bless The Catholic Women's League of Canada.
Bless our beloved country, our homes and families.
Send your Holy Spirit upon us
To give light to our minds and strength to our wills,
That we may know and fulfill your great
law of charity.
Teach us to share with others, at home and abroad,
The good things you have given us.
This we ask through Our Lord Jesus Christ
And the intercession of our patroness,
Our Lady of Good Counsel.
Amen