



President's Update

November/December

2024

Dear Sisters in the League

November brought us All Saints Day, All Soul's Day as well as Remembrance Day. Northern Region hosted the CWL Wednesday, with a beautiful Prayer for Peace and Rosary. Many councils began preparation for their parish elections. December 1st was the 1st Sunday of Advent and the beginning of a new liturgical year. Advent webinars were offered on-line and some councils hosted their own Advent Retreats. Most councils hosted a Christmas Social at their December General Meeting, a chance to say thanks to members for all they have done over the year and to encourage sisterhood. Thanks to the councils who submitted articles and pictures for this edition. A reminder to all councils, please send me an article and picture(s) of events happening in your parish councils to share with your sister councils. Starting in the new year, I will be changing the title of this update from President's Update to *Around our Diocese*.

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, January 15, 2025: CWL Wednesday: Preparing a Council Policy & Procedure Manual

Thursday, January 16, 2025, Workshop on the Role of the Past President (zoom)

Tuesday, January 21, 2025: National Webinar on Human Trafficking

Tuesday, January 28, 2025: Workshop on the Role of the President (zoom)

Wednesday, February 5, 2025: CWL Wednesday: Joy of Leadership, Module 2: Engaging Members

Wednesday, February 12, 2025: Social Justice Chairs zoom

Saturday, February 22, 2025: Development Day (in-person)

Tuesday, February 25, 2025: Spring Regional Meeting (zoom) TDC and Convention Committee give reports (7:00 p.m.)

Pope's Monthly Intentions

January: For the Right to an Education

“Let us prayer for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.”

February: For Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life

“Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those you ng people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

<https://www.popesprayer.va/popes-prayer-intentions-for-2025/>



The following pages are: *From Around our Diocese*

Congratulations and Blessings
to
His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo



On your elevation to the College of Cardinals
from
The Toronto Diocesan Council
of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



Council: St. Justin Martyr

St. Justin Martyr Christmas Sale and Tea Room

The annual Christmas Sale at St. Justin Martyr Parish, held in November, has always been a spectacular event that parishioners and the local community look forward to. The downstairs hall and meeting room are transformed into a Christmas wonderland.

The Catholic Women's League of St. Justin Martyr Council participated in the event by hosting a tea room and accessories table selling hats, scarves, mitts and the like.

A meeting room was transformed into an elegant Victorian themed tea room with two stunning, lighted metal arches lined with leaves of evergreen trees against a backdrop silhouette of Christmas lights. Guests relaxed and enjoyed lunch in a very intimate setting kept 'warm' by the fireplace projected on the big screen. Many CWL members contributed home made sandwiches and butter tarts and this year a new item, cinnamon rolls, was a hot sell.

Outside the Tea Room, in the main hall, was the buzzing sound of people shopping the many interesting products displayed at the CWL accessories table and the myriads of beautiful Christmas crafts, handmade by a team of parishioners who began working on their creations in the summer months. In addition, tables of home baking, hand made quilts, and knitted items were offered for sale.

Overall, the event was a huge success and always brings out the parish community and visitors from Markham and beyond.



Submitted by: Belinda Cua, President, St. Justin Martyr Parish Council and
Diane Olmstead, Parishioner, St. Justin Martyr and North York Region Chair

Council:

St. Mary, Collingwood



Following a very short business session, our December CWL meeting was a Christmas Social Dinner. It was a very delicious pot luck! Instead of a Secret Santa, we had two donation bins: one for *Home Horizon* and one for *My Friend's House*. Both bins were a great success. We had an excellent turnout to our meeting/social even though it was snowing heavy prior to the start. We even had 2 ladies, who we met at our Sunday after Mass coffee hour, attend the meeting for the first time (mother and daughter), and became members! More good news: the website created last Jan/Feb for our CWL is doing very well. In December, the stats showed 1,693 visits to our COLLCWL.CA!



Submitted by: Carol Johns, President, St. Mary Parish Council, Collingwood

Council: Immaculate Conception, Woodbridge

Immaculate Conception, Woodbridge, Bazaar

At the entrance of our bazaar, was a CWL information table with our current VP, Lucy Pascarella and Gloria Bucci, past membership/organization chair, providing information to potential members. There was one young lady I had the pleasure of speaking to named Victoria. She is 16 and attends the local high school, Fr. Brissani. She was trying to encourage her mom and grandma to be a member but was also interested herself and very enthusiastic Margherita, Lucy and Gloria contacted this young lady and provided her with the information. I want to encourage younger ladies like Victoria to join CWL! Great news: we 'Recruited' 6 new members (one, a young lady (16) received a membership and CWL scarf from her mother), 'Retained' many members and 'Regained' 3 returning members at our Annual Bazaar and Christmas Social!



Our bazaar was well attended and very well supported by our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Eugene and our local MPP Francesco Sorbara



Submitted by: Darlene Marino, Parishioner, Immaculate Conception Parish Council,

Woodbridge and Humber Valley Region Chair

Council: Holy Rosary, Toronto Region

Holy Rosary Recruitment Drive Campaign

Holy Rosary Council has started using '52 reasons to talk about CWL' for our faith reflection at every council general meeting, and the "1" Campaign, to 'Recruit, Retain, and Regain' for our membership drive. We recruited 4 new members, are maintaining members and regained 2 members from a council that disbanded.

(Permission was obtained to share the pictures of the children included in the pictures below.)



Here's a picture (on the right) taken during the CWL recruitment drive, including 3 young ladies: one, her mother's grandma, is a member, and the other 2, their mothers, are prospective members.

Submitted by: Pauline Olindang, President, Holy Rosary Parish Council

Council: St. Patrick, Mississauga

St. Patrick's 70th Anniversary Celebration



On November 16th we celebrated the **70th Anniversary of our St. Patrick's CWL Council**



We were honoured to have Kate O'Quinn, TDC President, and Connie Cristinziano, TDC Vice President, join us. Kate presented Anniversary certificates to Shirley Inness from TDC and on behalf of the Ontario Provincial Council

Prior to the Mass, we gathered in the church hall to present Service Pins to members ranging from 70 years to 5 years of service.



Left: Oldest Pin Recipient
Right: Youngest Pin Recipient
Below: Past Presidents



The highlights of the event were definitely the smiles, tears, and laughter shared between the ladies who used to spend time together weekly at the church 20-40 years ago, and haven't seen each other as often in recent years.

Submitted by: Past Presidents Cathy Taylor & Ramona da Cunha, St. Patrick Parish Council, Mississauga

Council: St. Martin of Tours

November 10th, 2024, our Parish Council of St. Martin of Tours scheduled its yearly “Membership Drive and Renewal”. From National Vice President, Betty Colaneri’s Communique #3, we introduced the “1” Campaign by putting up a picture collage depicting the 3 “R’s”, using pictures of event and activities in the past couple of years that define, “Recruit, Retain and Regain”. Brochures and envelopes requiring the new members’ contact information were available.

On the same day, our council hosted a Coffee Sunday, which brings in parishioners to our Church Hall. Council members were available to answer questions regarding the Catholic Women’s League. We had four members who came back and to-date, about 50% already renewed their 2025 membership! We hope to see an increase in our 2025 membership.



Submitted by: Lawina L. Notario, President, St. Martin of Tours Parish Council