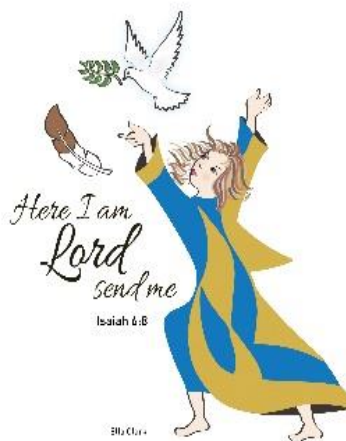


The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Toronto Diocesan Council
Annual Report 2024



Be Eucharistic

Annual Report 2024

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The Catholic Women's League of Canada

TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Spiritual Advisor
Rev. Liborio Amaral

President
Kate O'Quinn

Dear Sisters in the League

Let us give thanks to Almighty God for the many achievements we have accomplished this past year of 2024, for everything we do that is good, ultimately comes from the good blessings of God.

It is good to also take time to reflect on these many achievements (big and small), that we were able to accomplish this past year. Each achievement has been possible because of your dedication and commitment to the League, at the parish level and beyond.

I hope that beyond your council's achievements this past year, you are able to identify the achievements within your own life. As a member of the CWL, the hope is that each woman can grow in faith and charity. To have women journey together in the many meetings and activities that the CWL does throughout the year, helps each woman to grow in her faith life and encourages her to find opportunities of expressions of charity as well.

In the various regional meetings in which I participated this past year, one element that never failed to encourage me was your sense of fraternity in the League. I encourage you to continue to build this fraternity of charity within your parish councils.

As we look forward to the coming months of this Year of Jubilee, let us continue to do our part to bring the joy of being a CWL member to those women whom you encounter in the parish. Remember to tap on the shoulder of a woman you see sitting in the pews in your parish and gently invite them to consider joining the CWL. This simple tap can lead to a woman joining the League in your parish.

Finally, I again would like to thank our Regional Spiritual Advisors in a special way who have supported you this past year. Five of our seven regional Spiritual Advisors started their ministry this past June and I pray that their first year has been filled with many blessings as well.

Fr. Gerard Pillon (Durham)
Fr. Jan Gogolewski (Humber Valley)
Fr. James Dunstan (North York)
Fr. Suresh Xavier (Peel)
Fr. Laurence Léger (Northern)
Fr. Alexander Osei (Scarborough)
Fr. Patrick Ezimora (Toronto)

This thanks is also extended to all the priests of our Archdiocese who serve as your spiritual advisor in our local parish councils.

Please keep your parish priests in your prayers and if you can add an extra one for me, I would be most grateful. Be assured that you will be in my prayers.

May Our Lady of Good Council lead us all forward on the path of Hope, Faith and Charity.

Blessings,
Fr. Liborio
Spiritual Advisor
The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Toronto Diocesan Council

Report of the President

Kate O'Quinn

Members: 5908

Regions: 7

Councils: 92

Honorary Life Members: 1

Life Members: 12

Seventy-five of 92 councils returned the annual report survey.

Focus on the National Theme '*Here I am Lord; send me*'

All 75 councils reported that they focused on the national theme, '*Here I am Lord; send me*', in the following ways: attending on-line webinars (44%), guest speakers at general meetings (32%), hosting a retreat (22%), attending a workshop (16%) and other (59%). Unfortunately, the survey did not ask to list what 'other' entailed, thus, there is no explanation of other ways the councils focused on the theme.

Most councils reported that they centered on the national focus of mental health in the following ways: how mental health affects homelessness, job security, violence, etc. (25%), how to get help for those with mental health issues (25%), had a guest speaker at their general meeting (23%) and other (64%). Again, no chance to voice explanation of 'other'.

Embraced the New Structure of Executive Officers

Eighty-four percent of the councils reported that their councils embraced the new structure of executive officers, while 16% reported their councils were struggling. Some reasons for the difficulty in embracing the new structure included: inability to fill all the positions, especially for smaller councils, as perception is that there is more work for each position; an aging membership; not enough younger members to take on the roles; and not convinced the letter of good standing will encourage members to put their name forward for an executive position. Councils who embraced the new structure found that even though the number of executive officers were reduced, it did 'speed up' communication and decision making and the meetings were more focussed. Another positive mentioned was that the new Standing Committee Chair structure was working well, as each committee chair had her own working group of like-minded women to work with.

Toronto Diocesan Highlights

The 103rd Annual Diocesan Convention (April 29 & 30) focused on the new national theme, '*Here I am Lord; send me*'. *Here I am Lord* was the focus on the first day and *Send me* was the focus on the second day. Over 300 members attended the business sessions. Keynote Speaker on Monday evening was Kathleen Ancker, who spoke on the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation. Tuesday Keynote Speaker was Fr. Eugene O'Reilly, who spoke on '*Send me*'. One resolution was adopted. The collection taken at the Closing Eucharist on Tuesday was divided between Serra House and Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA).

Hilarion Mitchell was presented with her well-deserved Life Membership at the banquet dinner. The banquet Keynote Speaker was The Most Reverend Bishop John Boissonneau, Auxiliary Bishop, Northern Region.

A special event was the Toronto Diocesan Annual Development Day. It was held virtually, and the theme was *'Here I am Lord; send me', Putting Faith into Action*. Guest speakers were Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and Kathy Matusiak Costa, Executive Director of Compassionate Community Care. Alex gave an update on the widening of MAID for mental health, as well as other issues and cases in Canada and abroad. Kathy highlighted how Compassionate Community Care will help members of the CWL to recognize issues vulnerable people may experience and how to support them, and how to be an effective advocate for the vulnerable. Mary Capobianco, Life Member and Ontario Provincial Council Resolutions Standing Committee Chair, completed the day with next steps, *Putting Faith into Action*.

Two other special events of note were at the invitation of the Archdiocese of Toronto. I received an invitation to represent Toronto Diocese CWL at the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ Mass, Procession of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction at St. Michael Cathedral and Basilica on Sunday, June 2, presided by the Most Reverend Francis Leo, Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto. Five other executive members also represented the diocese. On September 29, at the noon Mass, the Archdiocese honoured the recipients of the inaugural St. Michael Award, recognizing faithful service by members in the Catholic community of the Greater Toronto Area. Three of these recipients are CWL members: Ann Fellin (and her husband Dan) of St. Bonaventure Parish, Central Pastoral Region, Melanie Nazareth, St. Joseph Parish, Mississauga, Western Pastoral Region and Theresa Keogh (and her husband Larry) of St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Alliston, Northern Pastoral Region.

From May to December, as Diocesan President, I visited twenty councils, in which I brought greetings and did a presentation on Spiritual Gifts. This presentation was a combination of recognizing that we all have gifts to offer, and encouraging members to answer the call, *'Here I am Lord; send me'*, in using their gifts in leadership opportunities in their council.

This is the first year that the Toronto Diocesan Council is in the new structure, and we have embraced it wholly and enthusiastically! This executive is committed to League development, with a focus on introducing members to the wonderful resources found on our national website and to visiting all councils in our two-year term.

Recommendations

- Continue diocesan information sessions to explain each role of the three pillars and reinforce all that can be done at the community/parish level, with a focus on the three chairs working as a 'team'. Sessions should be both virtual and in person.
- Continue diocesan information sessions to explain role of officers. Again, sessions should be both virtual and in person.
- Encourage presidents to mentor their vice president, at the council level and the diocesan level.
- Reinforce that the position of president is for one term only. This is imperative for succession to happen at the council level.
- Encourage every executive position to establish committees. This not only helps to share the workload, but it is also a form of mentoring. As members learn the role, they are more apt to take on a leadership role.

Report of the Secretary

Andrea Tjioe

Seventy-five of the 92 councils completed the secretary questions in the 2024 annual report survey.

Communication

Ninety-four percent of the councils used email as the primary method of communication to keep their members informed of resources and special events at various levels of the League. Other methods included: general meetings (65%); telephone committee (57%); word of mouth (44%); communiques/directives/memos (31%) websites (31%) and text (21%). Very few councils used social media which included: Facebook (11%); Instagram (7%).

Councils reported that the executive communicated with members either on a monthly (43%) or on a weekly (41%) basis. Few councils communicated bi-weekly (11%); bi-monthly (4%) and one council reported semi-annually. Seventy three percent had someone assist with communications activities.

National Website

Fifty-four percent of the councils viewed the national League postings on social media and 66% of the councils submitted “Spotlight” articles.

Most councils that accessed the website provided positive feedback. Councils reported that the various resource materials on the website were used during membership drives and special prayer services.

Some of the suggestions for improvement to the website included: have the option to view resources materials before downloading; price list should be easier to find; have a better search feature or even a web chat for quick finds.

Toronto Diocesan Council Secretary 2024 Highlights and Accomplishments

- Attended and recorded Minutes of all diocesan executive, pre-convention, resolutions meetings and all other special meetings. Recorded all motions and updated and maintained the Motion Book.
- Maintained and updated parish information lists with the collaboration of the regional chairs and ensured that the website administrator was advised and changes made accordingly.
- Sent cards to members including Life Members, as well as clergy, for significant life events which included the following: Birthday cards; Christmas cards, Mass cards, anniversary cards, sympathy cards, get well wishes, and other mailings as requested by the President.
- Circulated the weekly Monday correspondence and all other communication requested by the president.
- Received registrations for virtual and in-person events, training workshops, and member development sessions as requested by the president, executive members or subcommittee members. Created and circulated zoom links and details of all executive meetings and events.
- Ensured that all posters, updates, information material or any resources were forwarded to the website administrator and included on the Toronto website.

Recommendations

- Continue to refer to the “Handbook for Secretaries” found on the national website.
- With the recording and corresponding secretary positions merged into one role under secretary, who also absorbed the communications standing committee, it is very important to form sub-committees to handle some of these duties.
- Engage members who are home-bound. For example, members who love to write greeting cards could assist with the correspondence.
- Have members who are digital media savvy, manage your social media (Facebook or Instagram).

Report of the Treasurer

Donna Capobianco

Seventy-five of 92 councils participated in the 2024 annual report survey.

Seventy-four percent of councils prepared annual budgets. Ninety-six percent of councils reported that the treasurer gave a financial report at each meeting.

The Annual Parish Treasurer Report was submitted by the councils with totals as shown below. This indicates the monetary donations made by councils.

The data also includes the donations made to the National Voluntary Funds.

The total donations are detailed below.

National Voluntary Fund		% of Total
Coady International Institute	1,250.00	0.42%
Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace	2,605.00	0.87%
Catholic Missions in Canada	4,785.00	1.60%
Catholic Near East Welfare Association	2,250.00	0.75%
National Bursary Fund	1,550.00	0.52%
National Voluntary Fund Sub-total	12,440.00	4.16%

Standing Committees		
Faith	21,516.00	7.19%
Service	72,005.00	24.06%
Social Justice	24,682.00	8.25%
Standing Committees Sub-total	118,203.00	39.5%

All Donations		
National Voluntary Fund Sub-total	12,440.00	4.16%
Standing Committees Sub-total	118,203.00	39.5%
Parish Donations	125,640.00	41.99%
Other Donations	42,943.00	14.35%
TOTAL	299,226.00	100%.

In 2024, the Toronto Diocesan Council, received donations towards its Voluntary Funds, namely: St. Michael's Scholarship Fund and Margaret Ann Jacobs Catholic Children's Aid Scholarship Foundation. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

Listed below is a breakdown of donations received, and disbursements made for the Toronto Diocesan Voluntary Funds for 2024

Nat's #	Council Name	Region	St. Michael's Scholarship Fund 2024	Margaret Ann Jacobs Catholic Children's Aid Scholarship Foundation	2024 Totals
T013	Annunciation of Our Lady	Scarborough	200.00		200.00
T015	Good Shepherd, Thornhill	North York	100.00	200.00	300.00
T005	Guardian Angels, Orillia	Northern	100.00		100.00
T001	Holy Family, Whitby	Durham	50.00	50.00	100.00
T127	Holy Spirit, Barrie	Northern	100.00		100.00
T022	Nativity of Our Lord	Humber Valley		100.00	100.00
T024	Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmvale	Northern	100.00	100.00	200.00
T034	Precious Blood	Scarborough	100.00	100.00	200.00
T123	St. Aidan's	Scarborough	100.00	100.00	200.00
T039	St. Bartholomew	Scarborough		75.00	75.00
T047	St. Bonaventure	North York	100.00		100.00
T058	St. Boniface	Scarborough		50.00	50.00
T059	St. Gregory's, Etobicoke	Humber Valley		200.00	200.00
T067	St. Ignatius Loyola	Peel	100.00	100.00	200.00
T136	St. John XXIII	North York	50.00	50.00	100.00
T060	St. John Chrysostom	North York	100.00	150.00	250.00
T068	St. John Evangelist, Whitby	Durham	50.00	100.00	150.00
T069	St. John Vianney, Barrie	Northern		200.00	200.00
T071	St. Joseph Highland Creek	Scarborough	150.00	150.00	300.00
T072	St. Joseph, Streetsville	Peel	200.00	200.00	400.00
T078	St. Margaret Mary, Woodbridge	Humber Valley	400.00		400.00
T113	St. Martin of Tours	Peel	150.00	100.00	250.00
T087	St. Mary of the People, Oshawa	Durham	50.00		50.00
T083	St. Mary's, Brampton	Peel	200.00	400.00	600.00
T092	St. Patrick', Mississauga	Peel	100.00		100.00
T101	St. Roch	Humber Valley	50.00	50.00	100.00
T121	St. Padre Pio, Kleinburg	Northern	100.00	150.00	250.00
T082	St. Mary's Barrie	Northern	100.00	200.00	300.00
Other	Anonymous Donation			100.00	100.00
	Total Parish Donations		2,750.00	2,925.00	5,675.00

	Less: Disbursements		-3000.00	-2,000.00	
	Net Donations		-250.00	925.00	
	Total # Donors 29				

Recommendations

- Membership fees should always be submitted to the National Office in a timely manner.
- Complete and submit the yearly Treasurer's Annual report and participate in the Annual On-Line Survey. This not only shares the good works of your council but also provides opportunity to put forward suggestions your councils may have.
- Important to prepare an annual budget for your council. This not only helps in the planning and funding of activities for the year but to determine the status of the council's finances.

Report of the Past President

Sue Lubowitz

Advisor in a consultative capacity

The past president is mostly involved in advising in a consultative capacity.

Past presidents were consulted on policy and procedures including elections by more than half (57%) of the respondents and were also part of the elections committee in sixty-six percent of the councils. It was of special note that the past president was approached by the president for assistance or advice in a large majority of councils (85%). A few reported ‘filling in’ where necessary, including standing committee chairs, as well as supporting the president and secretary.

Archives and History

The responses in the 2024 Annual Survey indicate that this was a daunting task for councils, as only one-third reported that this was undertaken in 2024. Councils that completed some archival work reported creating or working on a photo album for the council. Photo albums were updated regularly and made available at all CWL member gatherings by some councils. This work was completed by the past president and other members fifty-six percent of the time. It was completed by a fellow member exclusively in four councils, that was reported. Slide presentations were reported by a few councils celebrating milestone anniversaries or to mark the passing of cherished members.

Study and Implementation of Constitution and Bylaws

In 2024 there were numerous revisions to the National Manual of Policy and Procedure. More than one of these revisions was shared at council meetings to keep members updated by most councils (57%). A few of the changes included:

- Councils at all levels can now assign representatives to boards of other organizations.
- Emphasis on the importance of and encouraging the practice of local leadership visits.
- A description of the procedure for reporting deceased members.
- Information on member communication pathways.
- Letter of good standing for members seeking election at all levels.

Some councils reported updating their own Policy and Procedures manual and one council mentioned providing their new spiritual advisor with a copy, so he was aware of the council processes.

Toronto Diocesan 2024 Past President Highlights

As this was an election year the outgoing past president successfully concluded the diocesan elections at the annual convention with a full slate of candidates.

Along with the executive, the updated Diocesan Manual of Policy and Procedure was uploaded to the website on May 1, 2024, for members’ ease of access.

As ingoing past president, the following workshops were held:

- How to prepare a Parish Council Policy and Procedure manual in May (in person)
- “Leadership is Behaviour” at a parish council membership appreciation tea.

- Parish elections: virtually (September 18, CWL Wednesday) and in person (October 26). The virtual presentation was also shared with 3 other diocesan councils in Ontario.

Updated the past president checklist for the diocesan website to reflect the changes to the League structure. Also, the reporting process for the Archdiocese of Toronto Needs Assessment through Catholic Charities was completed.

Toronto Diocesan Council Archives for the executive term 2022-2024 are being compiled through information gleaned from minutes, financial statements and other archival materials received from Life Members. The 2011-2021 archives will also be completed by a committee and deposited at the Archives of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto (ARCAT) at an appropriate date.

Patricia Beattie Annual Mentoring Award

At the diocesan convention in April 2024, the Patricia Beattie Annual Mentoring Award for the Parish Level was presented to Mary Grossi, St. Margaret Mary Council, Humber Valley Region.

The Auxiliary Level Recipient was Philomena Menezes, Precious Blood Council, Scarborough Region. The awards were presented by Life Member Carole Pitcher and previous recipient Lucia Vacca.

Recommendations:

- Encourage members to experience the League at all levels including regional meetings, Development Days and conventions.
- Mentor new and current members to develop their skills and strengths through the various webinars provided and encourage them to take on leadership roles.
- Create a *Parish Council Manual of Policy and Procedure* and review or update it every two years.
- Prepare a written summary of your term as president. This is an important part of your council history.
- Keep council records in your parish and refrain from storing in a member's home. Records should be continually updated and sorted. Enlist the help of a few members who enjoy the process, to lighten the load.

Seventy-Five councils completed the 2024 faith questions on the annual report survey.

Spiritual Growth of Members

To assist members in their communal and personal prayer life, councils: used a variety of prayer styles at their meetings (75%); organized or promoted retreats, days of reflection or participation through national webinars (52%); used resources on the national website and promoted participation in national webinars (42%); encouraged members to use apps or subscriptions for daily Mass readings (32%); promoted prayers that are regularly posted to the national website and social media (45%); encouraged spiritual readings, bible study or participation in a book club (44%); sourced the calendar on the national website for faith events and prayers (39%); shared the televised Mass in honour of Our Lady of Good Counsel (30%); developed spiritual programs with the spiritual advisor's guidance and involvement (29%) and prayed the psalter (3%).

Councils incorporated the National Theme "Here I am Lord, send me" by: praying the theme prayer at monthly meetings (53%); shared as a group how members responded to God's call in their lives (37%); discussed the symbolism of the national theme logo (36%); through prayer and reflection on Isaiah 6:8 (32%). Forty percent reported using other methods which included: informative event with speakers for a Catholic funeral and burial; beautiful Fatima Procession each May and October; retreat at the Loyola Centre in Guelph; Corpus Domini and the Feast of the Assumption with a CWL Altar and a procession; Lenten-themed human Bingo; small group discussions on Lenten-themed questions; living Rosary, prayer service for victims of human trafficking on Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita and members also took part in a shawl ministry.

Councils prayed for their sick members. The death of a member was celebrated in many ways such as prayers throughout the membership, visitation and prayers at the funeral home; a candle lit Honour Guard at their funeral; prayer service, Mass Intention and name recorded in the Book of Life for deceased members.

Sanctity of Life

Sixty-seven percent of councils advocated for the sanctity of life by promoting pro-life events and encouraged member participation. Fifty-four percent of councils participated in March for Life or similar public pro-life gatherings. Forty percent included pro-life prayers and reports in meetings and engaged in 12 hours of prayers for Palliative Care; twenty-eight percent wrote letters to the government against abortion and or MAID. Fifteen percent took part in 40 Days for Life prayer vigils. Eighteen percent took part in pro-life webinars and guest speaker events. Forty-six percent made donations to pro-life causes. Forty-three percent discussed league position papers. Fifteen percent promoted the CCCB's National Family and Life Week in May.

Vocations

Forty percent of councils supported vocations by praying on World Day for Consecrated Life and/or World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Fifty-four percent hosted special events to celebrate the priest's birthday or anniversary of ordination. Fifteen percent of councils helped consecrated women religious through prayer and/or donations. Some councils

invited a guest speaker on vocations to the ordained ministry and consecrated life, or sponsored League membership to novitiates and/or consecrated women religious. Thirty-five percent pursued other ways to promote vocations; councils offered Spiritual Bouquets for Diocesan spiritual advisors and Ordinandi.

Study of Catholic Teachings

Majority of councils (52%) raised awareness of Catholic resources on the internet, scheduled guest speakers on religious topics. Other methods used by councils included: twenty percent of councils studied or read encyclicals by Pope Francis and encouraged reading of the synodal synthesis document, pastoral letters on the reconciliation with Indigenous peoples; and twenty six percent encourage study of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Twenty three percent participated in the Year of Prayer webinars hosted by the CCCB. Only six percent promoted member participation in the WUCWO's "Conversation of the Spirit"; thirteen percent discussed League position papers.

Ecumenism and Interfaith Endeavors

Seventy-one percent of councils participated in or hosted the World Day of Prayer service. Twenty-six percent worked with other churches in the community to address local concerns; twenty-six percent participated in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity; 3% hosted an information event about another faith and twenty-nine percent promoted ecumenism and interfaith in other ways.

Role of Women

Thirty-seven percent of councils discussed the role of women in the life and mission of the church and shared how members have responded to God's call in their lives. Members served in their [parishes](#) as lectors, Eucharistic ministers, ushers, altar servers, hospitality ministers, catechists, parish pastoral council, finance council, funeral committees and others, that promoted our faith.

Toronto Diocesan Faith Chair Highlights

Participated, on behalf of Toronto Diocese, in an Ontario Provincial Council initiative, 'Prayers Across the Province'. Presented an Advent Retreat for a northern council. Organized the readers for the mysteries of the rosary for Rosary Sunday at Martyr's Shrine. Presented "How to Prepare a Prayer Service" at the TDC Fall Workshop. Prepared prayer services for Toronto Diocesan meetings, workshops and training sessions.

Recommendations

- Continue to use the various resources available on the national website.
- Provide opportunities to increase members' faith in a variety of ways.
- Increase support and participation in the promotion of pro-life in their community.
- Continue to support new vocations in a variety of ways as well as offering spiritual bouquets for Bishops, Priests and Ordinandi.
- Form a subcommittee to assist in the various roles under the Faith Standing Committee.

Report of the Vice President

Connie Cristinziano

Members: 5908

Regions: 7

Councils: 92

Honorary Life Members: 1

Life Members: 12

Seventy-five of 92 councils participated in the national 2024 annual report survey. Diocesan council received official notice of disbanding for St. Patrick Phelpston, Northern Region as of January 16, 2024. St. Thomas Aquinas was inactive. Diocesan executive visited this council on May 18, 2024, and provided an information session. The council was reactivated on this date, with a full slate of executive elected.

National Office reported Sts. Martha and Mary Council disbanded as of April 2022. Diocesan executive visited this council and assisted in the membership drive on November 30 and December 1st, with the reactivation of this council to begin in the new year.

Forty-six councils across the diocese either maintained or increased their membership for 2024.

Recruit Members and Retain Membership

Forty-one percent of councils used the National Project: *"I" Campaign*. All councils encouraged members to invite prospective members; 64% of councils reported using the *"Welcome Program"* to promote the League with prospective and new members; 85% of council's executives encouraged members and prospective members to visit the national website for information and resources as a recruitment tool and 19% used the *"Share the Words (52 reasons to talk about the CWL)"* material to promote the League.

Membership drives and pulpit talks were the most popular and well received. One council reported that their pulpit talk/speech outlined some of the many ways that they helped the homeless and the fight against Human Trafficking and the prospect of helping others helped to spark interest in women who were considering joining our CWL

The greatest challenges that councils faced with membership included: attracting younger members; aging membership; lack of attendance at meetings; motivating members to take part in seminars or workshops; demographics; attracting new members; keeping members engaged; members not willing to take on a leadership role; members who are very willing to volunteer for special projects but do not want to commit themselves to a specific role or responsibility.

Despite the various challenges that councils were faced with, councils continued to work diligently and tirelessly and used many resources, strategies and initiatives in their work to promote the league, recruit, retain and regain membership and to keep their councils vibrant!

Many councils promoted membership through fund raising events, potlucks, pie making or hosting a game/fun night, being visible in the parish. One council's goal was not only creating a presence through faith, service and social justice within the council, but creating a sense of community and unity within the parish, promoting the league as a vibrant, agile organization aimed at bringing awareness of issues that impact the poor and vulnerable. Councils hosted regular coffee weekend, keeping updated on parish events

and having display tables at these events. Another council gained a few members through a personal outreach and invited parishioners to one of their fundraising events and social night. One council changed the format of their meeting focusing on a specific theme that featured interactive activity which gave members the opportunity to engage, mingle and share ideas within the group. To increase attendance at meetings, one council changed their winter meetings to Sunday afternoons; another council was successful in empowering new members to be actively engaged through a program called “The Final Journey” where speakers talked about the importance of having a will and planning for a Catholic Funeral and Burial. One council included a publication in their quarterly newsletter entitled: “Reflections of a CWL Sister” showing appreciation for their senior members

Life Membership

Hilarion Mitchell was presented with her Life Membership at the Toronto Diocesan 103rd Annual Convention in April 2024.

We are deeply saddened by the loss of three Life Members:

Mary Quinlan- October 4

Margaret Tipping- October 14

Carole Pitcher - November 19

Leadership Development

The Toronto Diocesan Annual Development Day was held virtually on February 10, 2024. The theme was “*Here I am Lord; send me. Putting Faith into Action*”. Guest speakers were Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and Kathy Matusiak-Costa, Executive Director of Compassionate Community Care.

2024 Council Anniversaries

Sixteen councils celebrated milestone anniversaries in 2024. Some councils elected to receive their certificate at their special event while others chose to receive their certificate at the 2025 convention. Anniversary years are based on the charter date and actual paid years of service. Councils that had lapses in membership fees or were disbanded are not credited for unpaid years.

5 th Anniversary	St. Bernard de Clairvaux, North York Region
20 th Anniversary	Sts. Peter and Paul, Peel Region
30 th Anniversary	St. James, Colgan, Northern Region
	St. Bartholomew, Scarborough Region
35 th Anniversary	Sacred Heart, Northern Region
	St. Leonard, Peel Region
	St. Alphonsus, Toronto Region
40 th Anniversary	St. Matthew, Toronto Region
45 th Anniversary	Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scarborough Region
55 th Anniversary	St. Timothy, North York Region
60 th Anniversary	Holy Cross, Durham Region,
	St. Paul the Apostle, Northern Region
	St. Joan of Arc, Toronto Region
65 th Anniversary	St. Maria Goretti, Scarborough Region

70th Anniversary St. Patrick, Peel Region
85th Anniversary St. John the Evangelist, Durham Region

Leadership Development and Highlights

Workshops presented by Toronto Diocesan Council included: *Dealing with conflict to Reach Win-Win Solution and Being Kind to Each Other; Parish Executive Training; Garden Way of the Cross; Celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day; Stewardship in the CWL - Elections and Prayer for Peace and Rosary.*

Organized a Fall Workshop and Information Session for Faith, Service and Social Justice, with an additional session on Elections.

Responded to new potential member requests received from National website's "Join" webpage and Toronto Diocesan website.

Visited six councils and assisted with membership/leadership development

Recommendations

- Continue to offer Diocesan Leadership workshops and Parish Executive Training
- Form committees: to handle new member inquiries; assist with member development workshops; and annual reports

Councils are encouraged to:

- Participate in membership campaigns/initiatives offered by all levels of the league.
- Visit the national website for information and resources as a recruitment tool.
- Motivate members to take part in seminars and workshops.
- Reach out to Diocesan Vice President when they are experiencing challenges with membership and/or leadership development.
- Promote the league using the welcome program or "Share the Words (52 reasons to talk about the CWL)" material.

Report of the Chairperson of Service

Gabriella Di Pietrantonio

Seventy-four of 92 councils submitted an Annual Report. Most were satisfied with the flow of communication from their service chair and committee. Sixty percent of councils reported that there have been positive changes with the new structure, and a few councils are still working on fully embracing the new structure.

Advocacy and Support Services

Councils were very active in raising awareness on the topics of bullying, racism, human trafficking and homelessness. Some of the actions taken included: guest speakers (e.g. BridgeNorth on human trafficking awareness; MAID, dignity of life); prayer services and reflections during monthly general meetings; outreach work with local organizations helping the homeless (e.g. Street Patrol ministry, Coldest Night of the Year, walk for Armagh House, Knights Table, Indwell Homes, Mission Angels, Open Door and Regeneration Brampton); correspondence shared via Parent School Councils and other Parish Councils; OPP presentation on bullying and senior fraud scams; Toronto Police session held on human trafficking; and financial support provided to groups such as Busby Centre and local food banks. One council participated in a 'Stop Human Trafficking flag raising' in their city.

Challenges/Obstacles for Chairperson of Service

An obstacle some councils are working through included new members holding the position and challenged with understanding the requirements of the role.

Some repeated challenges included: difficulty in recruiting new members to take on the role or help in the role; members not being able to allocate time to the position as much as they would like, due to family and career obligation; age demographics of their members; and the roles and duties required of the chair can be a bit daunting and challenging especially for anyone new coming into the role.

Most councils reported that the service chairperson was familiar with material provided on the national website for this standing committee and found the resources adequate.

Effectiveness of the Pillar of Service

Working with the Social Justice and Faith chairs on topics has helped to overcome separating the lines between the committees, and in turn, has made service in some councils a popular practice. Service chairs find the role fulfilling and service is an area where major impact on the lives of people in need, especially in the community, can be made. There is always an abundance of support shown by all members for Service during Youth Awards and the work behind organizing them.

Catholic Education

Councils promoted Catholic education by supporting and sponsoring both elementary and secondary school awards and scholarships. Councils also held the youth awards contests in their parish schools and/or at their parish.

Toronto Diocesan Highlights

A Youth Awards presentation was done at the October in-person TDC Workshop. Questions and positive feedback from the attendees highlighted areas to help parishes and regions hosting the youth awards. The effectiveness of workshops and League development, within the CWL, has led to great appreciation of the efforts put forth by members at all levels of the League.

Recommendations

- Promote the idea of a sub-committee for the Chair with hopes of drawing more interest in the executive council positions: “many hands make light work”.
- Selecting topics to act on which are relevant/specific to the parish community, while keeping true to the CWL directives.
- Encourage members to participate in workshops on the various topics offered at all levels of the League, regardless of what Chair it might fall under.
- Continue to encourage participation in the youth awards in parish associate schools and in the parish.
- Continue to acknowledge at your council and in your parish, all students who participate in youth awards.

Report of the Chairperson of Social Justice

Christina Boyle

Seventy-five councils completed the 2024 social justice annual survey.

Monitoring Legislation:

Councils monitored or acted on legislation and bylaws at various levels, Federal: (76%); Provincial: (42%); Municipal: (36%).

Some of the federal legislation monitored by councils included the following bills:

S-210 An Act to restrict young person's online access to sexually explicit material

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

C-62 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)

C-61 First Nations Clean Water Act

C-73 Nature Accountability Act

Resolutions

Councils acted on resolutions at all levels of the league: National (35%); Provincial (20%); Diocesan (78%). Actions initiated by councils included: Letter writing campaigns (44%); postcard campaigns (37%); petitions (39%); briefs (17%); consideration or drafting of a resolution that has not yet been submitted (17%) and submission of a resolution to diocesan provincial or national levels (12%).

Councils reported using a variety of social justice resources found on the national website which included: Toolkit for Social Justice (27%); Catholic Social teaching manuals and workshops (22%); the Resolutions Handbook, Guide and workshops (22%); Indigenous relations materials (17%); legislation and advocacy workshops (9%); councils that reported that they were not aware of any of these resources (6%) or were aware of the resources but did not use them (44%).

Catholic Social Teaching

Councils reported the following areas of Catholic Social teaching were addressed through discussions, actions or both: Uphold the life and dignity of the human person (77%); advocate for the poor and vulnerable and their inclusion in society (75%); care for God's creation (42%) and (13%) advocated for the dignity of work and equal rights of workers. Many councils worked to promote awareness of sex trafficking and advocated for causes that helped victims of human trafficking, by holding workshops and invited speakers from the police services and victims' organizations to speak at meetings. Members became involved in social justice topics such as Right to Life, MAID, Euthanasia Coalition, Compassionate Community Care, access to palliative care, pornography and other causes advocating for the poor and vulnerable in society. An increase in member attendance was reported when there was a guest speaker on these topics. One council reported that members facilitated the "Horizons of Hope Program - A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care" for all interested parishioners which was well received. Another council reported that members, with the support of their pastor, facilitated a parish Development and Peace campaign "Stand for the Land", in support of communities in Honduras who were struggling with contamination of their land and water. One council reported that by putting on a program to celebrate "*National Day for Truth and Reconciliation*", helped to increase their awareness of the need for

reconciliation. To mark the Earth hour and Earth Day, one council reported participating in various initiatives and activities to care for our planet.

Impact of social justice activities on members

Councils rated the impact of the council's social justice activities on members as follows: very positive (39%); somewhat positive (26%); not positive (3%) and unsure (32%).

Highlights from Social Justice Chair

One resolution: *TDC: 2024.01 National Food Program* was presented and passed at the Toronto Diocesan Convention on April 30, 2024. This resolution was brought forward and passed at the Ontario Provincial Convention in July 2024 for subsequent consideration and presentation at the National Convention in August 2024. Due to the subsequent Federal Government's announcement and the commitment of funds to implement a National School Program for all, this resolution was not presented at the National Convention. Councils are encouraged to monitor the government's response to this resolution.

Toronto Diocesan Highlights

Since taking on this role in April 2024

- Worked with the faith chair and put together a CWL Wednesday in June 2024 to celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day. Our guest speaker helped members understand the importance of the land to all indigenous peoples, and members had the chance to review their Land Acknowledgement for possible improvements, based on new information.
- Developed a regular Zoom meeting schedule for all the Social Justice Chairs and those interested in Social Justice issues across the diocese. These meetings facilitated the sharing of ideas and social justice projects taking place in councils across the Toronto diocese. These will continue to be held through 2025.
- Participated in a member development day that was held in October 2024. A short workshop on how to get started writing a Resolution was provided to our members. As a result of this workshop, it opened the opportunity to engage with and assist councils that had started to develop ideas on five possible resolutions topics.

Recommendations

- Encourage the Social Justice Chairs and others on the council executive to make better use of social justice and other resources available on the national website.
- Continue to monitor resolutions at all levels of the League.
- Invite more councils to consider supporting international organizations like Development and Peace and Canadian Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA).
- More councils to consider offering the Horizons of Hope program
- Continue to offer workshops on resolutions to generate a greater interest in the overall process of writing and implementing of a resolution
- Continue engaging and informing members on social justice issues, through information sessions and diocesan-wide meetings.

Report of the Newsletter Editor

Lynette Mendes

As of December 31, 2024, there were a total of 584 subscriptions, which included the Diocesan Executive, Life Members, Regional Spiritual Advisors, Regional Chairs, council executives, parish council Spiritual Advisors and members. This number represents a 15.6% decrease from 2023.

The Toronto Diocesan Newsletter raises awareness and promotes the work of the League. It is an extremely useful resource and a must for all council executives, spiritual advisors, life members and members. The articles prepared by the Toronto Diocesan executive officers and chairperson for faith, service and social justice are on current and upcoming initiatives, events and activities which apply to them based on the Constitution and Bylaws, Policy and Procedures from the diocese, and communiques and directives from other levels of the League.

The newsletter highlights special projects, events, resolutions, council anniversaries, member milestone years of service and extraordinary awards which include, Maple Leaf Service Pin and Life Member awards. It is published three times per year in the Spring, Fall and Winter.

The following are the deadline dates for submissions from the TDC Executives:

Spring January 30 (March to June - to arrive in the mail by March 1)
Fall July 30 (September to November - to arrive in the mail by September 1)
Winter October 30 (December to February - to arrive in the mail by December 1)

Any changes in information of executives, addresses or deceased subscribers should be sent in immediately in order to keep the data accurate and up-to-date. This ensures that your newsletter information is accurate and subscribers receive it on a timely basis. This will also reduce undue costs for undelivered mail.

Recommendations

- Subscriptions are to be renewed early in January to ensure uninterrupted delivery. Be sure to indicate unit or apartment number. Use the form on our website cwltoronto.ca and be sure to include the parish, region, the contact name and phone number.
- Budget a subscription of the newsletter for your executive, Spiritual Advisor, Life Member and encourage all members to also subscribe.
- Consider subsidizing the cost for general members in your council to receive these newsletters.

Report of Life Member Liaison

Mary Hawkley

The Archdiocese of Toronto covers a large area, from Penetanguishene in the north to Brampton in the west, Oshawa in the east and Lake Ontario to the south. Our Toronto diocesan CWL parish councils are wide spread and very diverse. In this light, it is very challenging to bring our Life Members together for personal encounters. We generally do this at our Toronto Diocesan Council Convention where, thanks to Margaret Ann Jacobs, our Honorary Life Member, we can sit for business sessions at a designated table adorned with the tablecloth embroidered with the names of fifty-one past presidents. We usually have lunch together once during convention.

In Memoriam

Very sadly, in 2024 we lost three members of our sorority:

Mary Quinlan - December 25, 1933 to October 4, 2024

Mary spent most of her life in Mississauga, most recently as a parishioner of St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church. She initiated the birth of several councils and contributed to the CWL community. She lived in Montreal for twenty-five years and was Montreal Archdiocesan President from 1968 to 1970 and Quebec Provincial President from 1975 to 1977.

Margaret Tipping - November 30, 1929 to October 14, 2024

Margaret was very involved in her community both at home and abroad and was deeply rooted in her Parish of Our Lady of Sorrows, Etobicoke where she supported the CWL Council for many years. She was Archdiocesan President from 1977 to 1979 and Ontario Provincial President from 1987 to 1989.

Carole Pitcher - March 27, 1942 to November 19, 2024

Carol was a member and ongoing supporter of St. John Fisher Council in Brampton and a Past President. She was quiet, gentle, kind and generous in all her interactions. She was always ready to assist in any capacity and in her unique style would provide insight into many situations. She was Archdiocesan President from 2007 to 2009.

Our Toronto Diocesan Historians and Mentors

'Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it should be open to you'.

This verse, referring to our God being ever present with us and for us, strikes me as an appropriate motto for a Life Member of the Toronto Diocesan Council They are there for all members of our councils across our diocese.

Margaret Ann Jacobs is active at all levels of the League and with other community agencies. She is President of her parish council of Our Lady of Lourdes in Elmvale and part of the planning committee of the National Convention to be held in Toronto in August 2025.

Karen Lawless spent many years as Life Member Liaison. Due to health issues, she relinquished her role in the summer of 2024. She continues to participate in League

activities as her health permits and supports her parish council of St. Patrick's in Mississauga.

Mary Ellen Stinson continues to mentor and be the guiding force for her parish council of St. Francis de Sales in Ajax. She also serves other ministries in her Parish. She was Co-Chair of the TDC Convention in 2022-2024 and is always available to offer advice.

Celeste Hall continues to serve the community of St. Dunstan's, Scarborough. Unfortunately, she is presently dealing with a health issue. She is always available to assist and advise.

Patricia Cross is our resident historian and author of the supplement to the history book for the 100th anniversary of the TDC in 2021. She belongs to the council of St. Edward the Confessor in North York. She always has sage advice and astute observations to share. Some health problems have meant that Pat has had to cut back on some of the activities in which she would normally participate.

Marlin Taylor is always ready to assist where she can, either as a member of St. John Chrysostom council in Newmarket or beyond. She has served on several committees including the planning committee of the 2025 National Convention. She is the Convention Chair for the TDC Convention for 2024-2026.

Mary Hawkley continues to advise her council of Holy Family, Whitby. She has served as TDC Convention Chair for 2022-2024. She was appointed TDC Life Member Liaison in May, 2024. She is a member of the Planning Committee for the 2025 National Convention.

Donna Shaddick is a former President of the Pembroke Diocesan Council, and we welcomed her to our midst when she moved to Brooklin. She established the council of St. Leo the Great, which she continues to nurture. She is also involved in the Women's Inter-Church Council.

Mary Capobianco works with her council, Nativity of Our Lord in Etobicoke, as well as filling roles at the Ontario provincial table as consultant to the resolutions team and is Provincial Life Member Liaison. She sits on the Board of Directors for Catholic Charities and is the Co-Chair of the Planning Committee for the 2025 National Convention.

Shirley Christo serves the council of St. John Fisher in Brampton. She works with Dr. Moira McQueen of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute to promote Horizons of Hope, a program on palliative care.

Ann D'Souza is always available to her council of St. Francis Xavier in Mississauga. She has served in several roles for the Provincial Council and is now part of the planning committee of the 2025 National Convention. Her business acumen and negotiating skills have proved very helpful to the team. She's always ready to participate in whatever and wherever she's needed.

Hilarion Mitchell continues to serve her council, St. John Fisher in Brampton. She had the unique task of guiding the TDC through a three-year term as President during COVID. She is presently the Social Justice Chair on the Ontario Provincial Council.

Hazel Hawrish is our Life Member of the Military Ordinariate. She continues to serve her council of St. John Vianney, Barrie. She has truly served God and Canada.

Durham Region

**Spiritual Advisor
Chair
Councils: 11**

**Rev. Gerard Pilon
Mary Donnelly
Membership: 703**

The Durham Region showed a decrease of three members in 2024. Councils continued with membership drives and promoted all their great work in the wider community. Congratulations to three of our councils who showed an increase of membership: Holy Cross (3); St. Francis de Sales (13) and Immaculate Conception (35).

Many parish councils invited guest speakers to their meetings to bring awareness to their members on topics that focused on the National theme of '*Here I am Lord, send me*'. Councils engaged in many activities and projects which included: food insecurity where councils supported various food banks in their areas; provided much needed clothing and food in their communities. One council raised funds, food, gift cards and used cell phones to provide to the homeless in North Durham.

Councils also focused on the Ontario Provincial theme "Go make a Difference" and invited speakers to meetings to bring awareness and develop action plans to support the most vulnerable in our society. Topics included: mental health, human trafficking, palliative care and supporting hospices.

Immaculate Conception Council booked Kathy Matusiak-Costa, Executive Director of Compassionate Community Care, to offer training to all our Durham sisters. This was greatly received, and Immaculate Conception council is now a member of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. Sacred Heart council invited the entire parish to hear a speaker on Euthanasia which further demonstrated how our Durham councils made a difference. Other speakers included topics on Development and Peace, Wills and Estate Planning and Victim Services.

The "Joy of the Gospel" theme was evident as Christmas bake sales with raffles, games, silent auctions and Coffee Sundays abounded. These events raised the funds needed for councils to support their charities and initiatives.

Congratulations to St. John the Evangelist council, who celebrated their 85th Anniversary with a Mass, luncheon and keynote speaker. Many of their former CWL Presidents were honoured.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Joseph of St. Francis de Sales council who was awarded the Maple Leaf Service pin.

The Youth Awards Competitions were popular in Durham Region. A Grade 8 student from St. Mary of the People parish won the Mary Matthews Regional Public Speaking Award.

Faith is the motivation for all the CWL activities. Each week during Advent, our regional Faith Chair sent Advent Inspirations and Prayers to all Durham members. Sacred Heart council held a full day retreat at Manresa Jesuit Renewal Centre.

The commitment and spirit in Durham is strong as we continue to support the three pillars of Faith, Service and Social Justice through our sisterhood.

Humber Valley Region

Spiritual Advisor(s)
Chair
Councils: 11

Rev. Donatello and Rev. Gogolewski
Darlene Marino
Membership: 909

Humber Valley Region increased their membership in 2024 as councils continued to conduct membership drives and consistently promoted the League at their events. Major contributors to this increase were: a new charter council, the Swahili Catholic Community Catholic Women's League, bringing in thirty-eight new members and Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish who increased their membership by eleven members.

Parish councils were able to engage in their regular meeting schedules and activities in 2024. The fear of in-person meetings is well behind us as members embraced the opportunity to socialize and attend meetings in person.

Annual Christmas bazaars, bake sales, movie nights, high teas and raffles seemed to be popular activities that took place in many councils, to raise money. Some of the money collected was donated to each council's charity of choice including ShareLife, Bethlehem Creche and other needy organizations.

Humber Valley executives and parish councils came together to organize the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2024. The event was hosted by Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and began with Mass, celebrated by The Most Reverend Bishop Kasan, Central Pastoral Region, followed by a traditional Métis round dance led by one of Humber Valley's members. Funds raised were donated to Indspire, a National Indigenous Registered Charity that invests in the education of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people.

Humber Valley extended a warm welcome to our new Spiritual Advisor Fr. Jan Gogolewski.

St. Padre Pio and Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal councils held human trafficking awareness events to all CWL members in the region and parish communities. Both sessions were very informative and enlightening as detectives shared their experiences, along with truth and facts of human trafficking.

Transfiguration of Our Lord welcomed (former) Archbishop Francis Leo on Sunday, August 5, 2024, as he celebrated Mass followed by a meet and greet reception in the church yard.

St. Margaret Mary Council was proud to have one participant in the Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest from St. Margaret Mary Catholic School, who competed at the Diocesan level.

Humber Valley Region is proud to congratulate Mary Grossi, President of St. Margaret Mary's Council in Woodbridge, as the winner of the 2024 Annual Patricia Beattie Memorial Mentoring Award for the Parish Level.

North York Region

**Spiritual Advisor
Chair**

Councils: 19

Catholic Girls League: 1 (St. Edward the Confessor)

Rev. James Dunstan

Diane Olmstead

Membership: 1057

Fr. James Dunstan, Pastor of Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of the Lake Parishes was welcomed as the new Spiritual Advisor for North York Region.

Blessed Frederic Ozanam continued to help raise funds for their future church building through the sale of donated gold and silver jewellery. Blessed Trinity organized a luncheon presentation on Recognizing and Addressing Mental Health Challenges in Adolescents for parents and grandparents by Dr. Adrienne Sequeira.

Good Shepherd held a Wine and Cheese Christmas Party. Scarves knitted by their Knitting Ministry and toiletries were collected for the women's shelter in their area. Immaculate Conception/Our Lady of the Lake collected over one hundred winter coats from parishioners, schools and community agencies and donated them to Georgina Outreach.

Our Lady of Grace council had speaker Cris Smith, from Sara Elizabeth Centre, which provides programs for young adults with special needs. Sacred Heart council hosted a well received World Day of Prayer event. St. Bernard de Clairvaux council celebrated their 5th anniversary as a council. They also held two successful bake sales. St. Bonaventure council hosted the parish and regional Mary Matthews Public Speaking competitions. They also held their inaugural Bonnie Venture tea to raise funds for the church.

St. Edward the Confessor established a Catholic Girls' League (CGL). They held a communion brunch with speaker Linda Pletzer on "The Power of Teamwork in the Spiritual Journey". St. John XXIII launched a Socks Drive for the needy with a target of 500 new pairs of socks. St. John Chrysostom council held a monthly food drive in support of the Newmarket Food Pantry. A CWL award was established for a graduating student demonstrating/modelling the three CWL pillars.

St. Joseph the Worker council held their annual Spiritual Day with Fr. John Paul Bolger as their guest speaker. St. Justin Martyr council held their bi-annual Friendship Tea featuring Ruth Ann Onley, as guest speaker and vocalist. Twenty-five members received anniversary service pins. St. Luke council had a retreat at St. Augustine's Seminary for the "Grace to Glory" seminar.

St. Mary Immaculate council participated in a Pow Wow hosted by the Chippewas of Georgina Island, one of their charity recipients. St. Patrick council, Markham held a Mother's Day Tea raising funds for Yellow Brick House. St. Timothy council celebrated its 55th anniversary with a brunch. Their keynote speaker for the day was Msgr. Patrick O'Dea.

North York members are answering the call to '*Hear I am Lord, send me*'.

Northern Region

Spiritual Advisor
Chair
Councils: 12

Rev. Lawrence Léger
Martha Whelton
Membership: 895

Although Northern Region showed a decrease in membership of sixty-seven in 2024, 5 councils showed an increase in membership: St. John Vianney, Barrie (1), St. Andrew, Brechin (3), St. Margaret, Midland (3), Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmvale (7) and St. James, Colgan (10). Unfortunately, two councils were disbanded: Sacred Heart, Port McNicholl and St. Patrick, Phelpston.

Our Northern councils embraced the national theme, *'Here I am Lord; send me'* in many creative ways. St. Noel/St. Patrick, Stayner, had a guest speaker from Catholic Family Services, who spoke about their outreach programs. Of interest to this council was the 'Slow Cooker Club', where lunch was shared with the registered seniors. They were also provided with the ingredients to make the meal at home.

St. Mary, Barrie, hosted a diaper drive in support of the women's shelter in Barrie. This council also hosted a Day of Reflection. St. Margaret, Midland hosted their own local World Day of Prayer. Their council newsletter is delivered to their shut-in members as well as members without internet access. They have stayed committed to their community outreach charities. St. Mary, Collingwood, in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus, distributed 'Welcome to the Parish' baskets. Holy Martyrs of Japan Bradford hosted a Christmas Market to support their charities.

Guardian Angels in Orillia made the 'Hospice Wish List Drive' an annual event, where members brought an item on the wish list that were delivered to the Hospice. They also held their annual baby bottle fundraiser for the Pregnancy Resource Centre. Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmvale, to encourage community participation renewal of their parish groups, hosted monthly soup suppers following the Saturday evening Mass. St. Paul the Apostle, to honour those who have gone before them and in a joint endeavour with the Knights of Columbus, provided a bench in the section of Columbarium in their parish cemetery. St. James, Colgan, hosted their own Advent Retreat. Members provided lunch to Totus Tuus missionaries and volunteers who ran the summer youth camp at their parish.

St. John Vianney, Barrie, approached Barrie city council and got free transit for seniors raised from 1 day to 2 days!

St. Andrew, Brechin celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel with a Mass, dinner and welcome ceremony for new members. Holy Spirit, Barrie began their year with a presentation on palliative care from Hospice Simcoe. They hosted a free Family Bingo Night to build community and to thank parishioners for their ongoing support and generosity. They closed the year with donating gift bags to the Elizabeth Fry Society (shelter).

May our Lady of Good Counsel continue to watch over our councils as we continue to answer this call, *'Here I am Lord; send me'*.

Peel Region

Spiritual Advisor
Chair
Councils: 19

Fr. Suresh Xavier
Ana Mendoza
Membership: 1482

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our councils, Peel Region had an increase of thirty new members in 2024, with three councils showing significant increases.

We are honoured to share that Melanie Nazareth from St. Joseph council Streetsville. received the St. Michael's Award for the Western Region, for her dedication and extensive undertakings in the parish and community.

To help Parish families, a council initiated "Share Tables" where parishioners donated or exchanged items needed, which included clothing, fresh produce, canned goods and school supplies. This initiative has now expanded to other councils in Peel region.

CWL Sisters partnered with the Prison Ministry, where members brought gifts for children whose parents are in prison. Councils also participated in the Coldest Night of the Year initiative, to walk in support of Armagh (a transitional supportive housing program for abused women). A Christmas Gift Card Drive was held before Christmas and the gift cards were then distributed to fifty-five families in need. Council members prepared and served lunch for over seventy people at the Open Door, a frontline outreach ministry. Members also prepared, cooked and served breakfast to the vulnerable and homeless at Regeneration Outreach. Another council collected peanut butter and jam for the Compass Food Bank to help reach their goal of 2,500 lbs. Our Sisters in Peel Region distributed over 1,000 postcards at their parishes to protest the expansion of MAID.

Retreats, rosaries **and** spiritual reflections, with speaker sessions, were conducted in person and via ZOOM. This reflected 'faith in action' throughout our region. One Council led the rosary in sixteen different languages at the beginning of their meetings. Another council created faith-based games such **as** Wheel of Fortune, Who Wants to be a Millionaire and Jeopardy, to name a few, enhancing faith knowledge and creating a friendly competition.

St. Patrick council, Mississauga, celebrated their 70th Anniversary; St. Leonard council celebrated their 35th Anniversary and Sts. Peter and Paul council celebrated their 20th Anniversary. Sts. Peter & Paul council also honoured their treasured Life Member Mary Quinlan for her 90th birthday and 69 years as a CWL member.

Sadly, Peel region lost two of their treasured life members: Mary Quinlan from Sts. Peter and Paul council and Carole Pitcher, from St. John Fisher council.

St. Mary council presented a very special birthday cake to Mary Alves who turned 100. They also recognized Margaret Beach for 70 years as a CWL member.

Our CWL Peel region members are definitely answering the call to '*Here I am Lord; send me*', as we continue our good works for God and Canada.

Scarborough Region

**Spiritual Advisor
Chair**

Councils: 11

Catholic Girls League: 1 (St. Bartholomew)

**Rev. Alexander Osei
Gwyneth Faustin
Membership: 653**

The commitment and passion demonstrated by the council members in the Scarborough Region throughout 2024, despite numerous challenges, is inspiring.

Precious Blood Council organized a donation drive for the CAMH Mobile Library and the Suit Me Fine Program, collecting clothing, shoes, and other essential items to support women as they re-enter the workforce. St. Boniface Angel Tree project provided gift cards to families in need. The Immaculate Heart of Mary gift basket raffle supported the needs of the parish. The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary held a bake sale. Proceeds from the bake sale were donated to Campaign Life and Canadian Food for Children.

St. Bartholomew Council held a Healing Prayer Service for the Sick. St. Aidan Council held their annual pilgrimage to Quebec. St. Barnabas Council started the First Friday Rosary in their parish.

Councils participated in the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, as well as the Life Chain's 'Silent Hour of Prayer.' St. Joseph Highland Creek Council conducted a moving prayer service with over forty attendees, all dressed in orange.

St. Maria Goretti Council completed a survey as part of the Federal Government Consultation on Euthanasia and Advance Requests for Medical Assistance in Dying.

St. Bartholomew Council conducted a palliative care postcard campaign, where two hundred postcards were sent to the Federal Minister of Health.

St. Rose of Lima council enlisted students from the communion and confirmation classes, along with families from the parish, to create three hundred Christmas cards for seniors residing in long-term care facilities. They also distributed 'Backpack Blessings' (backpacks blessed by their parish priest), filled with school supplies, to the children of neighboring schools. St. Dunstan Council hosted a presentation on seniors' safety for parishioners.

St. Bartholomew Council celebrated their 30th anniversary. St. Dunstan council contributed a picture commemorating their parish's 100th anniversary.

Congratulations to the 1st and 2nd place winners of the Mary Dobell Intermediate Essay and Poetry contest from St. Bartholomew parish and the 1st place winner in the Mary Dobell Pro-Life Senior Essay contest from Precious Blood parish.

Congratulations to Philomena Menezes from Precious Blood Council, who was awarded The Auxiliary-Level Patricia Beattie Mentoring Award.

Council members continue to volunteer at Good Shepherd Refuge, and participated in caroling at several long-term care facilities, embodying the call, *'Here I am, Lord, send me'*.

Toronto Region

Spiritual Advisor

Chair

Councils: 9

Rev. Patrick Ezimora

Agnes Passee

Membership: 209

In 2024, Toronto Region embraced the new structure of the league and the theme, *'Here I Am Lord; send me'*.

Councils continued to support their parish activities in different areas which included: hospitality Sunday, parish feasts and volunteered in different ministries. Seven councils had an increase in membership for 2024.

Father Patrick Ezimora, Toronto Region Spiritual Advisor attended the full two days convention in Ajax on April 29 and 30, 2024, which was an inspiration to our members.

Holy Cross council celebrated Mother's Day by distributing flowers to mothers, and candies for kids, on Easter Sunday. Holy Rosary council organized a Father's Day celebration with the youth and nursing students in their parish. During the Holy Rosary Feast Day in October, members led the rosary in the church.

Both, Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Alphonsus councils sponsored "Simbang Gabi" (a devotional nine-day series of dawn Masses in anticipation of Christmas) held from December 16 to December 24. Our Lady of Lourdes council offered a Mass on April 26 in celebration of Our Lady of Good Counsel. At their Parish Ministry Fair, they had a CWL booth where parishioners could learn more about and how to join the CWL. The 2024 Spring Regional General Meeting was hosted by St. Alphonsus council.

St. John of Arc council assisted the Merry Maker Ministry where they prepared and served monthly meals to the needy of the parish. St. Matthew council continued with their Homelessness Project.

In June, St. Matthew council celebrated the birthday of Dorothy Salvoko, 91 and Pearl Brown, 95. St. Pius X council started a Shawl Ministry. They also renewed their Annual Sponsorship of a Chalice Child in Zambia and donated to various charities. On June 25, this council also presented their Annual St. Pius X CWL 'Christian Spirit Award' to 2 grade 8 students. This award was presented to a student who portrayed Christ through their daily interactions with their peers.

With the assistance of the Toronto Diocesan Council and the dedication of their Spiritual Advisor Father Partrick Ezimora, St. Thomas Aquinas council was reactivated on May 18, 2024. The 2024 Fall Toronto Region General meeting was held at St. Thomas Aquinas parish.

Toronto Region councils continue to support each other and become stronger through the help of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Summary of Per Capita Fees as of December 31, 2024

Paid by Parish Councils

	2024	2023R	2022R
Total Membership	5908	6037	6186
Total Councils	92	95	98

R Revised Membership Numbers for the current year

* Re-Activated

** New

National			2024	2023R	2022R
Account#	Durham Region (11)	City/Town			
T-008	Holy Cross	Oshawa	42	39	44
T-001	Holy Family	Whitby	71	83	100
T-014	Immaculate Conception	Port Perry	53	18	54
T-135	Sacred Heart of Jesus	Uxbridge	27	27	31
T-055	St. Francis de Sales	Ajax	78	65	48
T-112	St. Gertrude	Oshawa	48	62	67
T-061	St. Gregory the Great	Oshawa	24	30	30
T-068	St. John the Evangelist	Whitby	101	105	105
T-030	St. Joseph the Worker	Oshawa	101	116	123
T-130	St. Leo the Great	Brooklin	42	43	43
T-087	St. Mary of the People	Oshawa	116	118	114
	Totals		703	706	759

Summary of Per Capita Fees as of December 31, 2024

Paid by Parish Councils

National					
Account#	Humber Valley (11)	City/Town	2024	2023R	2022R
T-122	Immaculate Conception	Woodbridge	87	91	90
T-022	Nativity of Our Lord	Etobicoke	97	99	111
T-026	Our Lady of Miraculous Medal	Alderwood	87	88	82
T-036	St. Ambrose	Toronto	56	59	60
T-148	St. Charles Borromeo**	North York	50	42	
T-059	St. Gregory	Etobicoke	87	89	84
T-031	St. John the Evangelist	Weston	0	0	33
T-078	St. Margaret Mary	Woodbridge	195	200	197
T-121	St. Padre Pio	Woodbridge	70	66	58
T-101	St. Roch	North York	79	79	82
T-110	Transfiguration of Our Lord	Weston	63	52	60
T-149	Swahili Catholic Group**	Weston	38		
	Totals		909	865	857

National					
Account#	North York Region (19)	City/Town	2024	2023R	2022R
T-147	Blessed Frederic Ozanam	Markham	36	31	18
T-003	Blessed Trinity	North York	71	72	64
T-015	Good Shepherd	Thornhill	67	69	64
T-119	Immaculate Conception/ Our Lady of the Lake	Sutton/Keswik	29	25	26
T-049	Our Lady of Grace	Aurora	41	46	53
T-013	Our Lady of the Annunciation	Richmond Hill	19	23	22
T-032	Sacred Heart	King City	82	85	90
T-143	St. Bernard de Clairvaux	North York	9	9	5
T-047	St. Bonaventure	Don Mills	101	88	86
T-054	St. Edward the Confessor	Willowdale	99	83	71
T-060	St. John Chrysostom	Newmarket	94	83	75
T-136	St. John XXIII	North York	46	50	41
T-052	St. Joseph the Worker	Thornhill	29	30	31
T-063	St. Justin Martyr	Unionville	75	74	59
T-091	St. Luke	Thornhill	38	38	27
T-117	St. Mary	Nobleton	30	26	34
T-004	St. Mary Immaculate	Richmond Hill	82	94	105
T-132	St. Patrick	Markham	71	74	71
T-125	St. Patrick	Schomberg	0	13	21
T-108	St. Timothy	North York	38	55	47
	Totals		1057	1068	1010

Summary of Per Capita Fees as of December 31, 2024

Paid by Parish Councils

National

Account#	Northern Region (12)	City/Town	2024	2023R	2022R
T-005	Guardian Angels	Orillia	113	123	140
T-011	Holy Martyrs of Japan	Bradford	119	123	127
T-127	Holy Spirit	Barrie	42	46	49
T-024	Our Lady of Lourdes	Elmvale	58	51	51
T-033	Sacred Heart	Port McNicoll	0	11	16
T-037	St. Andrew	Brechin	36	33	20
T-053	St. Columbkille	Uptergrove	0	0	36
T-046	St. James	Colgan	49	39	46
T-069	St. John Vianney	Barrie	91	91	109
T-077	St. Margaret	Midland	62	59	59
T-082	St. Mary	Barrie	150	157	183
T-084	St. Mary	Collingwood	47	56	46
T-111	St. Mary	Victoria			
		Harbour	0	0	52
T-093	St. Patrick	Phelpston	0	38	44
T-086	St. Patrick/St. Noel	Stayner	57	59	58
T-076	St. Paul the Apostle	Alliston	71	78	79
	Totals		895	964	1115

National

Account#	Scarborough Region (13)	City/Town	2024	2023R	2022R
T-013	Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	North York	17	20	27
T-020	Immaculate Heart of Mary	Scarborough	25	15	15
T-142	Our Lady of Fatima Shrine	Scarborough	0	0	2
T-034	Precious Blood	Scarborough	91	96	93
T-123	St. Aidan	Scarborough	71	72	66
T-043	St. Barnabas	Scarborough	29	57	59
T-039	St. Bartholomew	Scarborough	59	56	52
T-058	St. Boniface	Scarborough	29	30	21
T-050	St. Dunstan	Scarborough	21	20	22
T-071	St. Joseph Highland Creek	Scarborough	211	208	200
T-079	St. Maria Goretti	Scarborough	76	87	102
T-144	St. Rose of Lima	Scarborough	24	33	37
	Totals		653	694	696

Summary of Per Capita Fees as of December 31, 2024

Paid by Parish Councils

National					
Account#	Toronto Region (9)	City/Town	2024	2023R	2022R
T-009	Holy Cross	Toronto	20	20	26
T-129	Holy Rosary	Toronto	31	26	26
T-025	Our Lady of Lourdes	Toronto	49	41	33
T-012	St. Alphonsus	Toronto	31	30	23
T-062	St. Helen	Toronto	11	9	6
T-064	St. Joan of Arc	Toronto	14	25	25
T-027	St. John	Toronto	0	41	40
T-051	St. Matthew	Toronto	15	13	10
T-089	St. Monica	Toronto	0	41	55
T-099	St. Pius X	Toronto	33	29	32
T-139	St. Thomas Aquinas*	Toronto	5	0	0
Totals			209	275	276

National					
Account#	Peel Region (19)	City/Town	2024	2023R	2022R
T-141	Guardian Angels	Brampton	44	42	46
T-126	St. Anne	Brampton	83	72	74
T-115	St. Anthony of Padua	Bramalea	31	32	30
T-118	St. Francis Xavier	Mississauga	160	159	175
T-065	St. Ignatius Loyola	Mississauga	51	47	48
T-145	St. Jerome	Brampton	28	29	30
T-146	St. John of the Cross	Mississauga	59	64	39
T-066	St. John Fisher	Bramalea	111	130	129
T-140	St. John the Evangelist	Caledon	19	26	19
T-072	St. Joseph, Streetsville	Mississauga	105	83	77
T-035	St. Leonard	Brampton	79	82	91
T-120	St. Marguerite d'Youville	Brampton	50	57	65
T-113	St. Martin of Tours	Mississauga	117	110	101
T-083	St. Mary	Brampton	101	85	88
T-057	St. Mary Star of the Sea	Mississauga	63	62	68
T-092	St. Patrick	Mississauga	103	85	90
T-114	St. Patrick, Wildfield	Brampton	45	50	11
T-107	St. Timothy	Orangeville	18	18	18
T-124	Sts. Peter and Paul	Mississauga	215	233	274
Totals			1482	1466	1473

**Toronto Diocesan Council
Executive 2024 - 2026**

Spiritual Advisor	Rev. Liborio Amaral
President	Kate O'Quinn
Secretary	Andrea Tjioe
Vice-President	Connie Cristinziano
Treasurer	Donna Capobianco
Past President	Sue Lubowitz
Diocesan Chairperson of Faith	Amelia Hazel
Diocesan Chairperson of Service	Gabriella Di Pietranonio
Diocesan Chairperson of Social Justice	Christina Boyle
Newsletter Editor	Lynette Mendes

Regional Chairs 2024

Region	Chair	Spiritual Advisor
Durham	Mary Donnelly	Rev. Gerard Pilon
Humber Valley	Darlene Marino	Rev. Jan Gogolewski
North York	Diane Olmstead	Rev. James Dunstan
Northern	Martha Whelton	Rev. Laurence Léger
Peel	Ana Mendoza	Rev. Suresh Xavier
Scarborough	Gwyneth Faustin	Rev. Alexander Osei
Toronto	Agnes Passeur	Rev. Patrick Ezimora