



“Around our Diocese”

(President's Update)
March/April
2025

Dear Sisters in the League

Alleluia, He is risen, He is truly risen! March began our season of Lent, and April 20th, we celebrated Easter Sunday, the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

“The month of May is a month which the piety of the faithful has long dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. Our heart rejoices at the thought of the moving tribute of faith and love which will soon be paid to the Queen of Heaven in every corner of the earth. For this is the month during which Christians, in their churches and their homes, offer the Virgin Mother more fervent and loving acts of homage and veneration; and it is the month in which a greater abundance of God's merciful gifts comes down to us from our Mother's throne.”

(MENSE MAIO, Encyclical of Pope Paul VI on Prayers During May for Preservation of Peace, April 29, 1965)

May is the month we dedicate to our Mother Mary and June is the month we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi, the 'Day of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ the Lord', also known as the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

Upcoming Events/Conventions:

May 4-10, 2025: 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care

Tuesday/Wednesday, May 6 & 7, and 13 & 14: Horizons of Hope (Zoom, and councils are encouraged to meet as a council if possible and participate as a council)

Thursday, May 15: 'CWL Wednesday' (yes, it's a Thursday this month): Archives

Saturday, May 31: Northern Retreat/Pilgrimage, Martyr's Shrine, one of our Jubilee Shrines

Saturday, June 21: National Indigenous Peoples Day

Pope's Monthly Intentions

May: For working conditions

Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfillment, families might be sustained in dignity, and society might be humanized.

June: That the world might grow in compassion

Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus and, from his heart, learn to have compassion on the world.

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/261269/pope-francis-prayer-intentions-for-2025>



IN MEMORIAM



From the Most Rev. William T. McGrattan, Bishop of Calgary, and President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops on the Passing of Pope Francis:

“In this time of grief, I invite the Catholic faithful to join their local Ordinary and their pastoral ministers in praying for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis. Let us give thanks to God for giving us such a good shepherd, an eloquent teacher of the joy of the Gospel, a humble witness, and a fellow pilgrim of hope. May the love and hope that Pope Francis found in the Risen Lord continue to radiate through our lives, and may he receive the reward promised to good and faithful servants who were heralds of the Good News of the Kingdom of God.”

Prayer for Joy in the Presence of the Saints

Lord of Hosts,

**Receive Pope Francis into the company of apostles and prophets, martyrs and mystics,
saints and shepherds.**

May their voices welcome him in jubilant chorus

**Let him see Peter, whose chair he held; Paul, whose letters he cherished; Mary, whom he
loved; and Christ, whom he followed.**

Let their joy flood his soul and laughter rise from his lips as he joins the everlasting feast.

In Your presence is the fullness of joy. May it now be his.

Amen

(Taken from the Catholic Women's League of Canada Facebook post, April 23, 2025)

At our 104th Annual Toronto Diocesan Convention, at our Deceased Members Prayer Service, Fr. Liborio Amaral, TDC Spiritual Advisor, offered two white roses, one in recognition of our TDC deceased Spiritual Advisors and one in memory of Pope Francis.

Council:

St. Aidan, Scarborough

St. Aidan's Parish Council held its Lenten Reflection on March 29th, 2025 with guest speaker Fr. Michael Corpus, Vice Rector of St. Augustine's Seminary. The reflection was well attended by parishioners and friends. The theme was: Tempted, tested, transformed: Embracing self-denial and the Cross. We all fall into temptations and by examining Geneses 3: 1-7 Fr. Michael Corpus explained the steps involved when we face temptations. He also reminded us that temptations are not from God, but God can use temptations to test us and to exercise our spiritual muscles. Everyone was encouraged to read the relevant scripture passages given to help us overcome temptations.



Submitted by Rosario Dizon, President, St. Aidan Council, Scarborough

Council: Sacred Heart, Uxbridge

On Sunday, February 2, 2025, Bishop Nguyen celebrated mass with Father Gerard Pilon and the parishioners of Sacred Heart to commemorate the 160th anniversary of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Uxbridge (established Feb. 3, 1865). The mass was followed by a light lunch for all. This kicked off a year of celebration events, which will culminate at the end of October with a formal dinner where Cardinal Leo will be our honoured and special guest.



Submitted by: Angela Gonsalves, President, Sacred Heart Parish Council, Uxbridge, Durham

Council:

St. Joseph Highland Creek, Scarborough



An information night with Toronto Police from 43 Division: Constable Tania Hugo and Constable Bruce Lui on Frauds and Scams at our Monthly General Meeting of CWL St. Joseph Highland Creek, with our green themed attire in honour of St Patrick.

Be careful everyone, scammers are out there to get us all, especially the vulnerable seniors!
Thank you to Nancy Jane Fife-Martineau for arranging this informative session.
Final blessing was given by our Spiritual Advisor, Fr Francis Folleh.

Submitted by Therese Baduria, St. Joseph Highland Creek Parish Council, Scarborough Region

Region:

North York



North York Region CWL invited its members to a 'Morning of Prayer, Active Participation, Mutual Listening and Discernment' on Saturday, April 5th, at St. Luke's Catholic Church and hall. The day began with Mass concelebrated by the associate pastor, Fr. Savio da Costa and Fr. Robert Foliot SJ. This was a response to Pope Francis' request that we, Pilgrims of Hope, will journey together working towards building a synodal church in communion, participation and mission. A background on the history of synods was presented by Catherine von Zuben, faith chair for this region. Fr. Foliot facilitated the program as the participants listened to the life journeys of Jean De Brebeuf and Kateri Tekakwitha. We then followed the guidelines for Spiritual Conversation as we listened with our hearts to each participant in our group. The reports which followed the third round were beautifully presented. The morning ended with a Pizza lunch and warm fellowship. All were filled with gratitude to Father Foliot, who resides with the Jesuit community at the Shrine in Midland.

Submitted by Catherine Von Zuben, Chairperson of Faith, North York Region

Council:

St. Joseph Highland Creek, Scarborough

During our General meeting in April 22nd, our Service Chair spoke about **'Small Actions, Big Impact'**; about how small meaningful actions that we can even do during our busy schedules can create small change. The ladies were then asked to write 2 to 3 cards each with a nice message and decorate it with stickers. These would then be given to residents at the retirement homes so that we could bring a little joy to their lives and show them they are loved! The ladies enjoyed the card making as did our Spiritual Advisor Fr. Francis Folleh



Great gathering and sisterhood building ---- Lovely Hats Ladies - Fun was had by all.



Submitted by Lucia Vacca, Member, St. Joseph Highland Creek, Scarborough Region



The Jubilee Prayer 2025

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.