

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



Be Eucharistic

Spring 2025
(March to June)



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

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

TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Committee Member:

Lynette Mendes
Charmaine Alweyn

We begin 2025, a new year, with so much hope ahead of us. We rejoice and are thankful for the small miracles that happen each day and consider ourselves blessed with our family, friendships and sisterhood of The Catholic Women’s League. In this Year of Jubilee, we are called to be “Pilgrims of Hope”. Our Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Rev Liborio has an amazing message for us on this topic, in this newsletter.



The Spring newsletter is the first issue of the Toronto Diocesan newsletters for the **2025** calendar year. I continue to encourage every council to subscribe to the Newsletter. Thank you to all the councils who have renewed their subscriptions and a special welcome to new subscribers. If you know of anyone who would still like to subscribe, please let them know that it is not too late to do so. There is a subscription form on our website <https://cwltoronto.ca/newsletters/>

The newsletter is intended to guide each parish council executive in the areas of responsibilities, raise awareness of the directives and inform you of planned events for your participation. It is your resource tool for reporting at your meetings and sharing this information with all your members in your parish council. The vast information keeps us all connected and informed of all the important events taking place all over our diocese, especially the upcoming Toronto Diocesan Convention on April 28 and 29. I look forward to meeting many of you there.



We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision.
(Pope Francis, Jubilee 2025)

Dear Sisters in Christ,

In this Year of Jubilee, we have been called by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, to be “Pilgrims of Hope”. I think all of you would agree that the world needs HOPE. Wars, insurrections, natural disasters and the daily stories of crime and evil that we hear of in the news is so pervasive, that we can lose Hope for a better future. God is still in charge and He has given us the task of bringing Hope to people near and far - and we do this in our daily activities as we go about our pilgrimage of life.



Our faith in Jesus Christ allows us to be persons of hope. In our words and actions, we let people know about this hope we hold. The world can be a better place to live if we share this hope with others. One of the simplest ways of sharing HOPE is to smile - not a fake smile, but one that truly comes from our knowledge of the Lord and our love for Him, and Him alone. Every one of us is able to smile, even in the daily carrying of our Crosses, because as St. Paul writes: *“Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* (Romans 8:35-39)

This passage is, in a sense, a statement of faith, which reminds us that in the midst of all that we encounter.—We are able to continue to smile in the knowledge that we are precious in God’s eyes. Let this HOPE of ours accompany us in our Journey of Life.

Please be assured that you are all in my prayers. My hope is that you will experience all the graces that the Lord wishes to share with you and your family in this YEAR OF JUBILEE.

Yes, let us all be PILGRIMS OF HOPE!

Blessings,
Fr. Liborio

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.



A warm welcome and congratulations to the ladies who are new to the president role in your council! Thank you for saying “yes”. Taking on the leadership role of president, can seem very daunting! The above words from Isaiah 41:10, remind us to never forget that we are not alone. We do not make decisions on our own, we do not act on our own - God is always by our side, leading us. We also look to our sisters in the League for assistance. On January 28, over thirty-five presidents participated in the President’s Information Session. At the end of the evening, a very courageous new president admitted she was scared and she had to run her first meeting in two days. Right away, a seasoned president reached out offering assistance, saying she would contact her immediately and another president reached out offering to send an example of an agenda and the rest of us gave a resounding, “you’ll be great”! What joy filled all of us! This is why asking for help is a sign of strength, as it recognizes and emphasizes we need one another! Please know you can contact me any time, with any questions or concerns you may have. My email address is torontodiocesecwlpres@gmail.com. President information sessions will continue (session dates will be sent in Monday Correspondence) and I encourage all presidents to attend. What a great and joyful network we can establish for one another. In the words of St. Teresa of Calcutta, *If you do your work with joy, you can bring many souls to God. Joy is prayer, a sign of our generosity, evident in our eyes, our faces, our actions.*

Regional Meetings

The feedback from our Fall Zoom Regional Meeting was so positive, that we are hosting a Spring Zoom Regional Meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 7:00 pm. The format will be the same, with the TDC Executive and Fr. Liborio giving reports. An addition to the Spring Agenda is the report/invitation to the 104th Annual TDC Convention from the Convention Chair and Co-Chairs. The Spring in-person Regional Meetings will follow the same format as the Fall in-person Regional Meetings, with regional updates and messages from the TDC President and Spiritual Advisor. The Regional Meetings are booked from March 4 to March 31. The Spring Regional Meetings information can be found on our website under Special Events, cwltoronto.ca. All members are

encouraged to attend the zoom Regional meeting as well as their own regional meeting.

Conventions

TDC 104th Annual Convention

Our TDC Convention will be held at the Ajax Convention Centre on Monday, April 28 and Tuesday, April 29. The president's package has been posted on the website and has been sent electronically to each council president. Please review the package carefully and ensure all deadlines are met. All councils should be represented with one voting delegate and if possible, two accredited delegates. Additional members from your council are strongly encouraged to attend, as this is a time for sisterhood and member development. Convention highlights and hotel information are included in this newsletter on pages 14 and 15.

Provincial Convention

The 78th Annual Provincial Convention will be held July 6 - 9, 2025 in London, Ontario. Provincial President, Colleen Martin is inviting you to participate *Joyfully* in this event. Look to the OPC webpage and newsletter for more information on this convention.

National Convention

The 105th Annual National Convention will be held August 10 - 13, 2025, in Toronto, Ontario. The National Convention Committee has been working diligently planning this convention. At the 103rd Annual National Convention in Saskatoon, Ontario extended the invitation for members across Canada to *Come to Toronto and see the World!* Hotel information is posted on our TDC website under Conventions and Hotel Information Update. The full details for the convention will be in the Spring Issue of *The Canadian League* magazine, May 2025. Please feel free to contact the co-chairs, Mary Capobianco and Debbie Bates at CWLTO2025National@gmail.com if you have any questions.

If you have a chance to attend a convention at any level, I strongly encourage you to do so and encourage your members to attend as well. All conventions offer a wonderful opportunity to meet your sisters from across the diocese, the province and the country and all offer League development!

Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope

The Archdiocese of Toronto has identified holy places of worship in each of the major regions of the archdiocese to serve as pilgrimage destinations during the Jubilee Year. These locations are as follows:

Archdiocesan

St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, Toronto

Central Region

St. Paul's Basilica, Toronto

St. Mary's Parish, Toronto (Bathurst Street)

St. Edward the Confessor Parish, North York

Western Region

Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Etobicoke

St. Mary's Parish, Brampton

Eastern Region

St. Barnabas Parish, Scarborough

St. Gregory the Great Parish, Oshawa

Northern Region

St. Padre Pio Parish, Kleinburg

St. Mary's Parish, Barrie

Shrines

Martyrs' Shrine, Midland

Information on the Jubilee Year in the Archdiocese of Toronto, can be found on their website: <https://www.archtoronto.org/>, click on Jubilee Year 2025.

As we continue our journey in the Catholic Women's League, let us always be pilgrims of hope. Jesus is our ultimate role model. May we always follow Jesus' example of servant leadership as we walk in His footsteps - *to act with justice, to love tenderly, to serve one another and walk humbly with our God. Be Eucharistic.*

As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst... 'Repent and believe' Jesus tells us. What are we to repent? Our indifference, our hardness of heart. What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor -- He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you.

(Saint Teresa of Calcutta)

We are such value to God that he came to live among us ... and to guide us home. He will go to any length to seek us, even to being lifted high upon the cross to draw us back to himself. We can only respond by loving God for his love.

(St. Catherine of Sienna)

DIOCESAN CHAIRPERSON OF FAITH

Amelia Hazell

“God shapes his people, he enables us to leave our slavery behind and experience a Passover from death to life. Like a bridegroom, the Lord draws us once more to himself, whispering words of love to our hearts”.

(Pope Francis)



Season of Lent (Wednesday, March 5 to Thursday, April 17)

Jesus loves us ... wherever we are on our spiritual journey. Make your pilgrimage of hope this Lent during the Jubilee Year of 2025. Lent is a grace-filled season of forty days in preparation for Easter through our commitment to prayer, fasting and almsgiving, metamorphosing us into a deeper relationship with God our Father, embedded in our baptism. Jesus is knocking at the door of our hearts and through prayer we allow Him to enter.

Prayer (*John 15:7-11*) transforms us, helping to abandon idolatry, ego, etc., showing our need for the Lord and His mercy. **Fasting** (*Matthew 4:1-11*) turns us away from our temptations, allowing us to change. **Almsgiving** (*Mark 6:30-44*) is sharing our faith and material goods with our brothers and sisters in need. As Catholics, we prepare the way for the Lord to enter our hearts by repenting our sins, so that Jesus Christ can come in and make straight our paths, leading to holiness in our lives. The fulfillment of biblical prophecy of Saint John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus Christ, foretold in *Isaiah 40:3, A voice cries out in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.* This Lent, let us rediscover God’s plan for humankind, *Love God with all your heart and to love your brothers and sisters, finding an abundance of happiness found only in surrendering to Jesus Christ (John 14:6; 2 Timothy 1:9).* When we walk with Jesus Christ, He strengthens us and lights our way. Let’s radiate His transfiguration light to all creation, in becoming more Christlike!

Retreats:

CWL National Lenten Webinar: *Hope in the Midst of Turmoil* (April 6, 2025): Mark your calendar and join sisters across Canada! Register at, <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2669420062234998620>

Divine Retreat Centre, 69 William St, York, ON, M9N 2G6, Tel: 647-949-4932, Website: <https://divineretreatcentretoronto.org>

Manresa Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre, Silent Ignatian Retreat for Women - Lent as a Pilgrimage of Hope, March 7 - 9, 2025, Facilitated by Fr. John O'Brien, SJ, 2325 Liverpool Rd., Pickering, ON, L1X 1V, Tel: 905-839-2864, website: <https://manresa-canada.ca>

Marylake Shrine of Our Lady of Grace, 13760 Keele Street, PO Box 550, King City, ON, L7B 1A7, Tel: 905-833-5368, website: <https://marylake.com>

Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre, 1617 Blythe Rd, Mississauga, ON, L5H 2C3, Tel: 905-278-5229, website: <https://qoa.ca>

The Newman Centre, 89 George St., Toronto, ON M5S 2E8, Tel:416-979-2468, website: <https://newmantoronto.com>

Ecumenism and Interfaith - World Day of Prayer, Friday, March 7, 2025

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative celebrated in over 150 countries on or around the first Friday in March. *Imagine over 1.5 million Christians speaking 90 different languages in 150 countries, coming together in spirit; uniting to pray for relevant issues affecting women and children. This was the 2024 reality for this tremendous movement that has been active for nearly 100 years.* Councils and members are invited to join in prayer and action by sharing in this global ecumenical movement led by Christian women. The day's theme, *I Made You Wonderful*, based on Psalm 139:1-18, reinforces that women and girls are "fearfully and wonderfully made" in the image of God. For more information/ideas and planning visit: <https://wdpcanada.ca/world-day-of-prayer/what-is-wdp/>

Lift Jesus Higher Rally - Adult & Youth: Saturday, March 29, 2025, 9am-5:30pm

It is an annual event for Youth and Adults that focuses on evangelizing through uplifting music, testimonials, reflections, Divine Mercy celebration and Eucharistic Adoration. For tickets and information, visit: www.LJHR.ca

Sanctity of Life

National March for Life will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2025. Every year, this event supporting pro-life, is held in Ottawa on Parliament Hill, as a peaceful rally of prayer and action.

National Hospice Palliative Care Week, May 4-10, 2025 - Plan a "12 Hours of Prayers for Palliative Care" by choosing one day during this week, asking members to pray for palliative care.

Vocations

You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. Psalm 110:4
World Day of Prayer for Vocations is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday), May 11, 2025. Throughout the year, we pray for our Bishops, Priests, Clergy, Deacons, Consecrated Persons, Seminarians and the Lay Faithful who need our prayers especially on this day. Pope Francis announced on November 20, 2024 - Blessed Carlo Acutis will be canonized a Saint on Sunday, April 27, 2025, in St. Peter's Square at 10:30 am, local time, during the Jubilee of Teenagers and the canonization of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati will take place on August 3, 2025.

Study of Catholic Teachings - Papal Documents

Pope Francis' Encyclical 'Delexit Nos' (He Loved Us): Our Holy Father speaks about the human and divine love of the heart of Jesus. It is Pope Francis's fourth encyclical, coinciding with the 350th anniversary of the first apparition of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. Members are urged to prayerfully read the encyclical found at:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html>.

Pope Francis', Apostolic Exhortation EVANGELII GAUDIUM of the Holy Father to the Bishops, Clergy, Consecrated Persons and the Lay Faithful on the Proclamation of the Gospel in Today's World: Our Holy Father reminds us, *The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus*. Members can joyfully peruse his exhortation at,

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/pa-pa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium.html

Pope Francis', SPES NON CONFUNDIT, Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025 - To all who read this letter, may hope fill your hearts
https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509_spes-non-confundit_bolla-giubileo2025.html

Mark Your Calendars:

Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel, April 26, 2025 - members are encouraged to view online/TV the annual taped Mass. You may also want to consider celebrating this feast day as a council event.

Rosary Sunday, September 7, 2025 - plan a day trip to the beautiful acres of the Martyr Shrine in Midland, ON

VICE PRESIDENT

Committee Member:

Member Development

Connie Cristinziano

Mary Capobianco

Welcome to all new and returning Vice Presidents in the Toronto Diocesan Council. I look forward to working with you as we journey together, embracing the new structure in the league and taking the opportunity to implement a team approach. I urge you to take advantage of the many valuable resources available on the national website: www.cwl.ca/, under Resources. The national website should be checked often, for any updates and new resources. The handbook for Vice Presidents (#610) is an excellent resource and reference document to assist you in your role.



Annual Reports

A huge thank you to all councils that submitted an Annual Report for 2024. A total of 75 reports were received. Reports are not just a mandate to satisfy our not-for-profit government requirement, but a great way to celebrate the history and accomplishments of our councils. These reports are also an important means of communication as they are shared across all three levels in the League. (National, Provincial, Diocesan). They are used to determine additional need for training, new initiatives and gaps or room for improvement. Your councils' collated results will be shared accordingly through the Diocesan Executive and will be included in the online 2024 Toronto Diocesan Annual Report Book, that will be available in April, closer to our convention date. Your voice is heard and we thank you for making a difference!

Membership

Our membership as of December 31, 2024 stands at 5,908 members, a slight decrease of 114 members from December 31, 2023. Thirty-six councils, across all 7 regions, increased or maintained their membership for 2024: Durham (4), Humber Valley (3), North York (8), Northern (7), Peel (5), Scarborough (3) and Toronto (6). Congratulations to those councils. Certificates will be presented at the spring regional meetings (for an increase in membership of 1-9) or convention (for an increase of 10 or more). Continue to collect membership fees when received and submit to national in a timely manner. Regional dues are submitted directly to your regional treasurer.

Councils are encouraged to use the various excellent resources to help you recruit, retain and regain members: Promotional Materials are found on our

national website under Resources, 300 series (#325, #326 and #327). On the “Inspire” page, you will find short videos to share with your membership and to enhance your membership drives: *Why Become a Member?* *What’s your CWL?* and *Powerful Stories*. These videos are also a great way to enhance personal faith journeys, as members serve their parish and community and work for social justice. Visuals are always a great way to draw attention to the outstanding work being done in the League and may inspire others to join. *The Welcome Program* found under Manuals (#621) is also an excellent resource which encourages the use of the Welcome Kit. On our Diocesan website www.cwltoronto.ca, under Resources/Reference Documents, click on Membership Kit, and you will find a list of what should go into this kit. Remember the personal approach is always the best way to attract and retain members.

The “1” Campaign (to Recruit, Retain and Regain), is a wonderful program to embrace and assist you with your membership drives. Congratulations to the councils who have reported the use and success of this program. Below are the catchphrases for February and March (which can be used at any time).

Catchphrase for February: **‘1’ Amazing Love**. The love of God is beyond words. ‘1’ love to their League sisters, parishes and communities.

Catchphrase for March: **The Courage of ‘1’**. Members can look at two important feast days in March for inspiration - the Feast of St. Joseph (March 19) and the Feast of St. Oscar Romero (March 24). For the complete communicate and inspiration of these two great Saints see Communique #12 from our National Vice President, on our national web page.

Leadership and Member Development

All members need to feel the sense of sisterhood in the League. Encourage members to be involved in your council activities that not only give them this sense of belonging but will enhance their spiritual growth and leadership development. Team building is very vital in our League. The more knowledge members have of the workings of the League, the more willing they will be open to accept a leadership/committee role.

Toronto Diocesan Council continues to offer various training and member development sessions via zoom and CWL Wednesdays. The next two CWL Wednesdays are: March 19, 2025, Parish Executive Training for Secretaries and Treasurers and May 21, 2025, Human Trafficking (Presenters: Faith, Service and Social Justice Chairpersons). Encourage your members to attend these informative sessions. If you have not had a chance to attend any of our workshops or training sessions perhaps this can be added to your ‘to do’ list.

PAST PRESIDENT/HISTORIAN

Sue Lubowitz

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is governed by the authority of the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act*, followed by its *Constitutions and Bylaws*. The League refers to *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* for questions of parliamentary procedure.



Importance of Sub-Committees

As I read through the 2024 Annual Survey Report, I noticed the responses from councils who are struggling with the structure of the League. One of the leading strengths of the League is the sense of fulfillment experienced when members get together and work on projects to carry out their mission. Personal contact, building relationships and teams working towards a common purpose, these are what give vitality to councils. The planning of such activities, the consultations needed to bring projects to fruition and evaluating the work, occurs best in teams, especially executive teams. Part XIII of the *Constitution and Bylaws* (C&B) covers standing committees in broad terms (pages 24 and 25). Corresponding clarification can be found in the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* (P&P) on page 76 (duties of the chair) and page 77 (duties of the sub-committee). Sub-committees help members to get to know each other and the gifts each one brings. This is the best way to build an enthusiastic team at the parish level. I encourage each council to develop sub-committees whenever possible.

Amendments to the National C&B and P&P Manuals

In the fall, we held two events to help councils with parish elections. One was a virtual CWL Wednesday in September and the other was an in-person workshop in October, with presentations by the Standing Committee chairs. This past January, a two-night virtual session was held, the first on preparing a parish council P&P Manual and the second evening was exclusively for parish council past presidents. Part of that discussion was the amendments process to both the C&B and the P&P. The complete outline of the process to amend the C&B can be found in the national P&P on pages 151-155. It is a lengthy process taking up to two years.

Councils and members are encouraged to forward their proposed revisions to national P&P manual using the form (#551) found on the website and submit it to national office by December 1.

Watch for new national P&P updates in the spring through the parish memo mailing. Help each other to view the C&B, P&P, and other numerous manuals that exist, to guide and help councils function smoothly and to celebrate doing the League's work.

Guidelines

In the next few months I will be sending, through the Diocesan President's Monday Correspondence, further information that will answer questions raised by members on various aspects of the national P&P. Stay tuned and share the information when received.

Parish Council Manual of P&P Template

The 2025 Parish Council Manual of P&P Template is now posted on the diocesan website under Resources / Reference Documents. Councils are encouraged to update/review their manual at least every two years to reflect current practices.

Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Awards Reminder

The 20th Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Awards will be presented at our convention on April 29. Forms are available on the diocesan website at <https://cwltoronto.ca/forms/>

Members can be nominated for the awards at two levels: the parish level and the auxiliary level.

Nomination for either category can be re-submitted from a previous year or for a different level. Deadline for submission is March 31, 2025.

Return completed submission packages to me at jslubowitz@gmail.com.

I look forward to conversing with you at the upcoming regional meetings as well as the Toronto diocesan convention in April. Until then, let us serve our councils with joy as we strive to bear witness to all the good deeds.

Christian hope makes us dream of a new humanity and gives us courage in our efforts to build a fraternal and peaceful world, even when it seems barely worth the effort.

(Pope Francis, Jubilee 2025)

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

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS:

Monday, April 28, 2025: “Here I am Lord; send me” *Joyfully*

8:30 am	Registration
10:00 am	Opening Eucharistic Celebration, Bishop Vincent Nguyen
11:30 am	Call to Order and Business Session
12:00 pm	Lunch Break
1:30 pm	Resolution Dialogue
2:30 pm	Health Break
2:45 pm	Business Session / Deceased Members Prayer Service
5:00 pm	Dinner Break
6:00 pm	Registration
6:30 pm	Business Session -Youth Awards
7:00 pm	Keynote Speaker: Fr. Tim Hanley, Pilgrims of Hope
7:30 pm	Closing Prayer
7:45 pm	Entertainment: DJ TeeCee

Tuesday, April 29, 2025: “Here I am Lord; send me” *Be Eucharistic*

8:00 am	Registration
8:30 am	Opening Prayer / Business Session / Presentation of Certificates
9:20 am	Resolutions
10:30 am	Health Break
10:50 am	Resolutions/Business Session
12:00 pm	Lunch Break
1:30 pm	Keynote Speaker: Frankie Burg- Feret, Executive Director, Silent Children’s Mission
3:10 pm	Health Break
3:30 pm	Closing Eucharistic Celebration, Bishop Robert Kasun
6:00 pm	Cocktail Reception - Cash Bar
7:00 pm	Closing Banquet - Keynote Speaker: Margaret Ann Jacobs, Honorary Life Member

HOTEL INFORMATION:

The Hilton Garden Inn, 500 Beck Crescent, Ajax, ON, L1Z 1C9

By telephone: **1-905- 686-9400**. Group code ID is: **CWL25**

Rates are \$179 per night, plus HST for double occupancy. There is a surcharge of \$10 per person for up to two additional persons—limit four people per room. We recommend you call the hotel directly, but you can email your request to: info@hiltongardeninnajax.com

Deadline to get this rate is **March 28, 2025**. Parking is free

Homewood Suites, 600 Beck Crescent, Ajax, ON, L1Z 1C9

By telephone: **1-905-686-5969**. Group code ID is: **CWL**

Rates are \$199 double occupancy, per night, plus HST. Suites available: King Suite or One Bedroom Suite. You can also email your request to: <https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/ytoajhw-homewood-suites-ajax-ontario-canada/>

Deadline to get this rate is **March 28, 2025**. Parking and breakfast is free.

Monday lunch and dinner tickets and Tuesday lunch and Banquet tickets are available. Please fill out appropriate forms when registering. **No outside food is allowed in the meeting room.**

INQUIRIES AND OTHER INFORMATION:

Website: cwltoronto.ca

Convention Team:

Marlin Taylor mk.taylor@rogers.com 416-801-2399

Mary Tuccitto marytuccitto@hotmail.com 416-816 -1591

Shaila D'Souza shailaflavy@gmail.com 416-220 -8611

THIS CONVENTION IS A SCENT- FREE EVENT

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.

There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

(1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! (March to September, 2025)

<i>Region</i>	<i>Council</i>	<i>Anniversary Years</i>
<i>Humber Valley</i>	<i>St. Roch, Weston</i>	<i>55</i>
	<i>Transfiguration of Our Lord, Etobicoke</i>	<i>65</i>
<i>Peel</i>	<i>St Francis Xavier, Mississauga</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Scarborough</i>	<i>Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Toronto</i>	<i>Holy Rosary</i>	<i>45</i>

SERVICE AWARDS SPRING 2025

Maple Leaf Service Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Toronto	Holy Cross, Toronto	Karen Doumouras
Scarborough	St. Boniface, Scarborough	Rosemarie Gaglione

50 year Membership Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Northern	St. Andrew, Brechin	Kathleen Kelly Maureen Adamo Margo Ward
Peel	St. Martin of Tours, Mississauga	Peggy Hicks Mary Hill Blanche Monteiro
Toronto	St. Pius X, Toronto	Ann Waters

40 year Membership Pins

Region	Parish	Name
North York	Good Shepherd, Thornhill	Mary Williams
Northern	St. Andrew, Brechin	Theresa Robertson
Peel	St. Martin of Tours, Mississauga	Viviane Gabelle
Scarborough	Precious Blood, Scarborough	Mary P Nicol

30 year Membership Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Peel	St. Martin of Tours, Mississauga	Jennifer Alfonso Luciana Maggiotto Maria Silveria

25 year Membership Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Peel	St. Martin of Tours, Mississauga	Vida Nerona

20 year Membership Pins

Region	Parish	Name
Peel	St. Martin of Tours, Mississauga	Susanna Tjokrowinoto



**In Celebration of
Margaret T. Tipping
November 30, 1929 - October 14, 2024
Toronto Archdiocesan President 1977-1979
Ontario Provincial President 1987-1989**

Margaret Tipping was born on November 30, 1929, and left this world peacefully on October 14, 2024. Margaret lived a life full of purpose, passion, and an energetic spirit that touched everyone she encountered.

Margaret began her term as President by emphasizing the spiritual aspect of the League. Councils were encouraged to precede their meetings with Mass, to open meetings with scripture readings, to promote days of reflection, retreats and bible study and to develop personal prayer. Margaret represented the League at the solemn liturgical installation of Most Rev. Gerald Emmett Carter as Archbishop of Toronto and participated in the offertory procession.

With Margaret as president, an ad hoc committee was formed to deal with the issue of the proliferation of pornography. Representation on the Day Care Coalition and the Red Cross was maintained and participation continued in the League's ongoing *One Million Hours of Prayer*. The League also responded to an invitation of the Provincial Citizenship Court to co-ordinate and host citizenship courts in local churches.

Margaret was also a devoted missionary, sharing her faith and kindness wherever she went, which included places like the Philippines and Africa with the Holy Childhood Association. Her active involvement in Our Lady of Sorrows Church brought her great joy.

As Margaret ended her term of office, she commented "...I am more firmly convinced than ever before that the Catholic Women's League is the greatest national organization for women in Canada."

Carole Pitcher - Life Member (Age 82)

St. John Fisher Council

Carole first joined the League in 1969 at St. John Fisher Parish, Bramalea, Peel Region, at the invitation of a friend. She soon accepted the nomination of corresponding secretary and held several executive positions. She was president in 1987 - 1989 and again in 1993 - 1994. Carole received her Maple Leaf pin in 1998. She was actively involved in the council's 45th, 50th and 55th anniversaries.



For years, she proofread the St. John Fisher annual membership newsletter, provided gift membership for some long-time members and presented awards. Carole was a mainstay at the Christmas Bazaar Toonie Table. She often made food contributions for events and meetings.

Toronto Diocesan Council

- 1998-1999 - Appointed to the executive, given Education & Health Chair
- 1999-2001 - Elected to executive, given Education & Health Chair
- 2001-2003 - Elected as 2nd Vice-President, given Spiritual Development Chair
- 2003-2005 - Elected as 1st Vice-President, given Resolutions Chair
- 2005-2007 - Elected as President-Elect
- 2007-2009 - Toronto Diocesan President
- 2009-2011 - Toronto Diocesan Past President
- 2011 - Received her Life Membership
- 2015 - Recipient: Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Award (Auxiliary Level)

Committees

- Past President/Historian Sub-Committee (2022-2024): Policy manual updates, TDC archives, proofreader, Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Award evaluator.
- Toronto Diocesan 100th Anniversary Committee (2019-2022)
- Ontario 71st Provincial Convention Planning Committee (2016-2018): Protocol

Carole was always ready and willing to share her League knowledge and expertise. She supported and facilitated the Leadership and Public Speaking (LPS) Course, the Parish Executive Training (PET) and Catch the Fire program. She was a founding member in 1989 of Vita Manor (now Vita Centre) to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Peel regional CWL. She sat on the board for 10 years and took an active part in the annual fundraising dinner dance.

Carole though not familiar with the computer, did not shy away from embracing new technology. With trepidation, she embraced Zoom during the COVID-19 Pandemic to attend League meetings and events when in-person gatherings were not possible. Her COVID word in the COVID-19 Chronicles was “Live Streamed Masses”, a witness to her strong Catholic faith.

*May the Lord grant us the grace to rediscover hope, to proclaim hope
and to build hope.*

(Pope Francis, Jubilee 2025)

Committee Members:
Web Administrator
Zoom Meeting Co-Ordinator

Lucia Vacca
Shaila D’Souza

Many councils across the Toronto Diocese have held elections. Thank you to all who submitted an updated Parish Information Sheet. On doing this, we were able to update Presidents and/or Spiritual Advisors names on the ‘Regional Information’ in the CWL Toronto website. Please visit: <https://cwltoronto.ca/regional-information/> and check your respective region and council to make sure we have the correct name and spelling.



If you have not submitted an updated ‘Parish Information Sheet’, please do so as soon as possible. website: <https://cwltoronto.ca/forms/> and click on ‘Parish Information Sheet’.

Please visit our CWL Toronto website often and also encourage your members to do the same. You will find a wealth of information, resources, past and upcoming events, past TDC Newsletters, past Resolutions, etc. My very favorite is ‘Spotlight’, which is under ‘Events & Projects’. This is where you find all the good works being done by councils across the diocese. Please remember to share your council’s special events, projects, recognitions, etc. You are encouraged to visit the Ontario Provincial Council website: <https://cwl.on.ca/> and our national website: <https://www.cwl.ca/> on a regular basis to be kept updated and informed on the provincial and national levels.

Reporting a Deceased Member - Book of Life Reporting

All Councils are encouraged to use online tools to report a deceased member.

- Sign in to your CWL membership page.
- Under the ‘Membership’ tab, select ‘Report a Member Passing’.
- Enter the deceased member’s membership number and the date of passing, then submit the form.

This online submission will automatically notify the National, Provincial, and Toronto Diocese. Using the online system will:

- Eliminate paperwork
- Prevent misplacement of information

- Ensure that the member's name is accurately entered into the Book of Life.

All councils are strongly encouraged to adopt this efficient reporting method to honour and remember our deceased members.

World Communications Day:

Sunday, June 1 marks the 59th World Communications Day, and the theme chosen by the Holy Father Pope Francis is: *Share with gentleness the hope that is in your hearts.* (1 Peter 3:15-16)

As I reflect on the Jubilee we are celebrating this year as a moment of grace in these troubled times, I would like in this message to invite you to be 'communicators of hope', starting from a renewal of your work and mission in the spirit of the Gospel. (Pope Francis)

Let us be communicators of hope for each other.

TREASURER

Donna Capobianco

It is the beginning of a New Year and for the councils that have had elections, the beginning of a new executive's term.

I wish to extend a welcome to all the newly elected Treasurers and a big 'thank you' to all who have completed their term. For the outgoing Treasurer, this involves closing the books, ensuring everything is finalized and passing the files on to the new Treasurer. Copies of all the monthly and annual reports along with the banking records from the previous term

should also be passed on. Please note, it is recommended that the outgoing treasurer work with her successor and assist when asked, explain the responsibilities and how everything is set up. Refer to Guideline for Treasurer's, #609, Manuals, on national webpage.



Financial Statements

By this time, your 2024 Financial Statements should be completed and in the process of presenting to your council. It does take time to prepare the statements and if it is delayed for any reason, its important to let the members know. As treasurer, it is their money that we are entrusted with.

As per Section 10 in the Constitution and Bylaws (C&B), *Financial Statements: The annual financial statements will be sent to members entitled to vote at a parish council annual meeting or annual diocesan, provincial or national*

meetings of members at least twenty-one (21) days before the date of the annual meeting of members. For all other members, notice will be given, and the financial statements will be made available to members on request.

Membership 2025

Treasurers, please submit the 2025 membership fees to National office in a timely manner, as per the National Manual of Policy and Procedure (Membership Fees, p 125); the membership fees are due by February 28. This ensures that members will receive their League magazine filled with news from our League sisters across the country.

Always remember that if you have any questions, there are many resources on the CWL websites and we are always here to help each other on our CWL journey.

DIOCESAN CHAIRPERSON OF SERVICE Gabriella Di Pietrantonio

Youth Awards:

By time of publication, the TDC Level of the Mary Matthews Public Speaking and the Mary Dobell Essay and Poetry writing Youth Service Award contests would have been completed. A job well done! I would like to thank everyone, at all levels, for their time and effort in ensuring that these contests run as smoothly as possible. The continuing cooperation of our schools, students and valued support from parents/guardians, is what keeps these contests to be an ongoing success. I encourage us all to continue creating opportunities for our youth to showcase their talents and express how they embrace the teachings of the Catholic Church.



Reminder:

Jean McCann Service Award deadline to Toronto Diocesan is March 22, 2025
St. Michael’s Scholarship deadline is May 31, 2025

Criteria and applicable forms: [www.cwltoronto/resources/reference documents](http://www.cwltoronto/resources/reference_documents)

Catholic Education Week

This year’s Catholic Education Week is May 4 – May 9, 2025, with this year’s theme set as “*Pilgrims of Hope*”. During this Jubilee Year, it is an invitation for all, to embark on a journey of faith and transformation. Let us all do what we can to protect and preserve Catholic education. Please, review your

municipal property taxes information, to ensure that you are registered as an English Separate school supporter.

‘Ask for Angela’ Initiative

York Region has launched the *Ask For Angela* initiative, partnering with Loblaws stores - Real Canadian Superstores, Loblaws, Shoppers Drug Mart and No Frills. This initiative provides support to individuals in unsafe situations who can approach any staff member at these stores and ask for ‘Angela’. The staff have been trained and they will place the individual in a safe environment and contact the necessary help.

Office for Refugees

The Office for Refugees (ORAT, Archdiocese of Toronto) celebrates the 10 year anniversary of their *Project Hope*, launched in 2015. This program works to resettle immigrants in the Toronto Archdiocese and unfortunately, is now facing a financial burden. Hope is that your council might consider contributing to ORAT. For information in how your council or parish can assist, visit:

<https://www.archtoronto.org/refugee/>

Youth Mental Health

This year, the focus for *Bell Let’s Talk Day* (January 22) was on Youth Mental Health. A comprehensive national report was released in October 2024 by Mental Health Research Canada (MHRC), titled *A Generation at Risk: The State of Youth Mental Health in Canada*, and is the first comprehensive and collaborative national report of its kind to be released in at least five years. This report shows that there is a growing health crisis among young Canadians. The full report can be found at: <https://www.mhrc.ca/youth-mentalhealth>

This is a generation at risk. Some key facts on youth mental health:

- Approximately 1.25 million youth in Canada need mental health support on a yearly basis. Nearly three in five (57%) of those youth are not getting the help they need.
- Suicide remains a leading cause of death among young people in Canada (21% of deaths)
- Since the pandemic, youth mental health issues have worsened with contributing factors such as social disconnection, excessive screen time (more than six hours a day) and socioeconomic challenges.

For more resources <https://www.cwl.ca/parish-council-memos/> Service Memo Nov. 2024 (1), National Chairperson of Service, Joline Belliveau.

National hosted a webinar on January 21, 2025 titled ‘Finding Hope in the Fight Against Human Trafficking’. Founder of EVE (Exploited Voices Now Educating), Trisha Baptie, one of the presenters, is dedicated to having

prostitution, considered a form of violence and is working to ensure its eradication through advocacy, political action and raising awareness. I encourage everyone to take the time to view the recorded webinar, which can be viewed on YouTube (link on National’s website cwl.ca), as there are many success stories to hear, along with the many more obstacles to overcome. Share the information with your Councils, as there is so much that many hands can do as a Service project. Overwhelming, touching and inspirational all at the same time, especially the closing comments made by Trisha Baptie on hope and change.

Wishing everyone a bright Spring season, and gardens sowed with ‘*seeds which continue to bloom long after we go to Him, and will work towards keeping momentum of change alive*’ (Trisha Baptie)

DIOCESAN CHAIRPERSON OF SOCIAL JUSTICE Christina Boyle

Committee Members:
Resolutions
Legislation
Social Justice Issues

Elizabeth Joseph
Audrey Nichols
Maureen Cassidy

Resolutions

I am pleased to report that there are two resolutions that will be brought before the assembly at our 104th Annual Diocesan Convention.:



TDC 2025.01 Federal Government to Create a Unified Cybercrime Reporting System for All Canadians - gifted by St. Joseph Council, Streetsville, Peel Region

TDC 2025.02 The Federal Government to Follow Through with Formation of a Health Canada Office of Palliative Care - gifted by Peel Region

Congratulations to the gifting councils for their interest and dedication in developing these resolutions that they feel will make a difference to Canadians in their daily lives. These two resolutions have been reviewed and formerly adopted by the Toronto Diocesan Executive. Council Presidents can review and discuss these resolutions during your regular council meeting, before the Annual Convention.

An amazing five resolutions were submitted by the deadline of October 31, 2024 and I want to encourage the councils and authors of those resolutions that did not make it this year, to not be discouraged, as they all had merit and with work, can be ready for submission for 2026!

Convention is an exciting experience and it is important to attend the Resolutions Dialogue on April 28, at 1:30 pm, when all attendees are invited to discuss and suggest amendments through proper motions. These suggested amendments are addressed during the Business Session on April 29. Voting on the resolutions takes place on this day. If adopted, the resolution is sent to be reviewed by the Ontario Provincial Review Panel, who will determine if the resolutions move to the floor at the Ontario Provincial Convention in July, 2025.

Legislation

We are dealing with both a recent Ontario provincial election and at the time of writing, a federal government that is prorogued. What happens to the legislation that we are watching so closely such as **Bill S-210** Protecting Young Persons from Exposure to Pornography Act, when government is prorogued? Because this Bill is still moving through the House of Commons and has not received Royal Assent, it is very likely to be lost.

“Prorogation of a session brings to an end all proceedings before Parliament with certain exceptions, unfinished business dies on the Order Paper and must be started anew in a subsequent session” (House of Commons Procedural Info). On occasion, bills are reinstated at the start of a new session at the same stage they had reached when prorogation occurred. Typically, this occurs with Private Member’s Bills as opposed to government bills. Other exceptions can be made and this requires specific action in the House of Commons. However, there is strong risk of a federal general election, and dissolution of Parliament terminates all business, and the items on the Order Paper including ALL the bills will “die”. It is important that after prorogation ends on March 24 that a strong push occurs to move important pieces of legislation through parliament so they are not lost when there is an election. Meet with your MPs, or write and voice your support for Bills such as **S-210**.

For those of you who are interested in tracking legislation as it moves through the House and Senate, LEGISinfo is a good website. Some Bills of note include **C-71, C-72 and C-73**.

What is Social Justice?

After council elections, there will be new Social Justice Chairs or people considering the chair role, and you may be asking yourself, ‘What is social justice within the context of the Catholic Women’s League?’ Exciting as resolutions may be, Social Justice is so much more than just Resolutions! Social Justice is our Catholic Social Teachings and all that encompasses, including but

not limited to, respect and dignity of the human person; protection of basic human rights such as food, shelter and safety; care for the poor and vulnerable in society; care for the environment and care for each other as part of the human race.

We can be called to action in many ways, and advocacy can take many forms. Learning about the issues and raising awareness through conversation with others is a form of advocacy we can all engage in. Raising funds to help organizations who fight for social justice causes, and lending support by volunteering, is advocacy. Writing letters, sending birthday cards, spending time with the sick and those in palliative care are all ways we can be witnesses to God’s love in society.

I believe, any member who is considering the Social Justice Chair role on the executive, can get behind these ideas of advocacy without it being a resolution. Who among you will take up the challenge?

Save the Dates:

At our last zoom meeting in February, we reviewed the role of the Chairperson of Social Justice for newly elected members of your council executive, discussed Human Trafficking Awareness Month (February), and other topics. If there is no Social Justice Chair on your council executive, do not be deterred, as anyone interested in Social Justice issues is welcome to join in these meetings. Please note our next zoom meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2025 at 7.00 pm.



Membership Drive information table at St. Martin of Tours, Mississauga

**2025 ANNUAL CWL NATIONAL CONVENTION
TORONTO, ONTARIO**

APRON FUNDRAISER

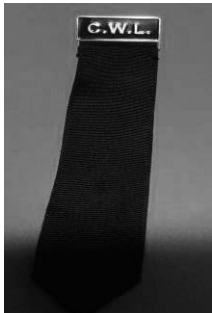


This handy apron, available in blue, with the CWL crest is one size with a neck strap and waist ties. There are two spacious front bottom pockets to hold pens, paper pads, your cell phone and other essentials. Great for those CWL functions.

Price: \$20.00 each + \$6.00 postage & shipping
****** For orders of 2 or more please contact Lucia Vacca email or phone number provided for more shipping cost details.**

Make cheques payable to: *The Catholic Women's League of Canada*
Send your order and payment to: Lucia Vacca, 187 Calverley Trail, Toronto, ON M1C 3Y4 For more information: contact: lucia.vacca@sympatico.ca (416) 283-3536

Available in limited quantities!



Members have asked about the CWL ribbon designed to hold your service pins and other CWL pins. We have been able to source out a supplier and are making them available to members. This new version has a magnetic back. Cost is \$10 each plus mailing charges. Payment is by cheque payable to Toronto Diocesan Catholic Women's League. Mail cheques to Sue Lubowitz, 201 Penn Avenue, Newmarket, ON L3Y 2S4

To order contact: Sue Lubowitz jslubowitz@gmail.com with number required and address.

Custom Cast CWL Crest

- Includes Raised/recessed design (Royal blue fill)
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- \$10 plus shipping and handling

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



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League Prayer

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