

# TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

## NEWSLETTER

### FALL 2025

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## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Committee Member:

**Lynette Mendes**  
Charmaine Alweyn

Welcome back everyone! As I enter into the second year of my term as Newsletter Editor, I look forward to your feedback on the newsletter issues. We have had an increase in subscriptions to the newsletter, which is encouraging and excellent news!

I had wonderful experiences at our Toronto Diocesan Convention in April at the Ajax Convention Centre and the Provincial Convention, at London, in July. At the provincial convention, the officers' reports were presented in a very creative way - a TV news channel, with each officer reporting on their channel. For example, the treasurer used the weather channel to highlight her report. The twelve diocesan presidents donned sunflower faces when giving their reports and each diocesan president, along with members of their diocese stood up and sang a verse that pertained to the attributes of their diocese, to the tune of **Hallelujah**. So much fun, learning and sisterhood!



This is the 2nd edition of the 2025 subscription. Renewal forms will be included in the winter issue. The subscription form is on our website [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca)

Your newsletter is one of the most valuable tools you or your council can purchase, as its purpose is to:

- forward directives to the parish committee chairs from the Toronto Diocesan Council
- promote special CWL projects
- share information
- raise member's awareness

Please remember to send your submissions in early, for years of service, as members do enjoy and should be recognized. October 30, 2025 is the deadline for the winter newsletter. Please inform me when there is any change in name or address.

Congratulations to all members who were awarded membership pins, especially those with over 50 years of membership. And congratulations to all councils celebrating milestone anniversaries.

Council newsletters can be formal or informal and are a great resource to share news, showcase activities and promote the League.

A council newsletter template is available from the national website: <https://www.cwl.ca/parish-council-resources/> Under section stationery - download 145A - Newsletter Template and 145B - Newsletter templates notes editing instructions.  
Use your member ID and password to access the above resources.

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**Mary's Table at  
Toronto Diocesan  
Convention**

Dear Sisters of the League,

We have been blessed this past summer with wonderful HOT days - some days were so hot that even Satan complained! I hope you were not one of those people who complained about the heat, forgetting that it is a gift from God. We have to accept everything that God gives us, even the extreme HEAT! And why? Because it gives us the ability to appreciate all the more, the cool breeze, a fall day and even a blistering COLD day which will surely come our way in winter. We need to accept what crosses God wishes to give us, even the extreme weather temperatures.



It is our Christian Call to accept the Cross that the Lord has given to us. Some of us have very heavy crosses and the weight of these crosses can be overpowering. It might seem that we cannot carry these crosses for one more minute. But we are assured that the Lord does not give us a Cross more than we can handle. We need to try to keep this in mind as we live and move, and have our being in the Lord.

In the next few weeks, we will be gathering for our fall regional meetings. I encourage you to consider attending your regional meeting, so that you can be supported and encouraged by other Christian women who also carry their own individual crosses. At these meetings, we are able to support each other and remind each other that we belong to the Lord and that He will not leave us orphaned.

I hope to see many of you at your Regional meeting and ask that you please keep me in your prayers, as you will be in mine.

Blessings,  
Fr. Liborio Amaral

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*Peace is built in the heart and from the heart, by eliminating pride and vindictiveness and carefully choosing our words.*

*(Pope Leo XIV)*

## PRESIDENT

Kate O'Quinn

*I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call. (Ephesians 4:1-4)*



In the above quote, in his Letter to the Ephesians, St. Paul reminds us to not only answer the call of *Here I am Lord; send me*, but to do so with humility, patience, gentleness and hope. In our role as President, we have been given the awesome chance to work with our councils, as servant leaders, encouraging, mentoring and, in this Jubilee Year, as a Pilgrim of Hope.

A warm welcome back to all and I truly hope you took some time for yourself and your families to enjoy the summer days and that you are relaxed and rejuvenated for this exciting, upcoming year. I will be offering information sessions/presentations again this year (please note, all members, not just presidents, are welcome to attend) and I will keep you updated in the Monday Correspondence. Presidents, a friendly reminder that all Monday Correspondence is to be distributed to every member. To all presidents, whether new or in your second year, thank you so much for your dedication and commitment to the League and to your councils. Please reach out to me at [torontodiocesecwlpres@gmail.com](mailto:torontodiocesecwlpres@gmail.com) any time for assistance, if needed.

### **Toronto Diocesan Council 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention/AMM**

The Convention/AMM was centered on the National theme, *Here I am Lord; send me*, Isaiah 6:8. A total of 335 members were in attendance over the two days. Opening Mass was celebrated by The Most Reverend Bishop Vincent Nguyen, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto, Eastern Region. Concelebrants were Fr. Liborio Amaral, Toronto Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, regional and parish spiritual advisors and assisted by Deacon David Quail. National President, Shari Guinta, brought greetings on behalf of national and Hilarion Mitchell, OPC Chairperson of Social Justice, brought greetings from provincial. Monday afternoon, we had a special council presentation. Debbie Fisher, St. Padre Pio council president, shared her council's journey on Human Trafficking awareness, and the steps/process they went through to get the 'Stop Human Trafficking' flag raised at the City of Vaughan.

At the Youth Awards evening, a new initiative was implemented and very well received. Winners of the poetry and essay contests at all levels, read their

winning submissions. Unfortunately, the winner of the public speaking contest, due to family commitment, could not attend. Keynote speaker following the Youth Awards was Fr. Tim Hanley, who spoke on Pilgrims of Hope.

Two resolutions were passed, and TDC Chairperson of Social Justice, Christina Boyle has the update on the resolutions in her report. Our Tuesday Keynote speaker was Frankie Burg-Feret, Executive Director of Silent Children's Mission. Keynote speaker for the Tuesday banquet was Honorary Life Member, Margaret Ann Jacobs, who spoke on our CWL strategic planning - from the beginning to where we are now and what the future looks like for the League, specifically for Toronto diocese.

Closing Mass was celebrated by The Most Reverend Robert Kasun, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto, Central Region and Fr. Liborio, and spiritual advisors in attendance were concelebrants. Deacon David Quail assisted.

Thank you to Emily-Ana Filardo, our official photographer, who was constantly on the move, taking wonderful pictures to remember our convention. Pictures can be viewed under Past Conventions, 2025, at: <https://cwltoronto.ca/conventions/>

Congratulations and thank you to the 2025 convention committee (TDC executive officers, regional chairs and volunteers) for an excellent convention. Marlin Taylor, chair, along with Mary Tuccitto and Shaila D'Souza, co-chairs, were instrumental in the success of this convention.

### **Executive 2024-2026**

We are now in the second year of our 2-year term as the Toronto diocesan executive. Executive members are busy planning workshops/presentations to assist you at the parish level, as well as planning parish visits. Please contact me for diocesan executive attendance at parish general meetings or attendance at special events. Thank you to Dianne Hunter, who filled in as acting Northern Chair during Martha's absence and a warm welcome back to Northern Chair, Martha Whelton.

Thank you to all members in Toronto diocese for your unfailing support.

### **Provincial Convention**

Toronto diocese was well represented at the 78<sup>th</sup> Provincial Convention/AMM in London, with representation from TDC executive, Honorary Life Member, Life Members and council members. It was a joy-filled convention, with the theme, *Here I am Lord; send me..., joyfully!*

Opening Mass was celebrated by The Most Reverend Ronald Fabbro, Bishop of London and concelebrants were The Most Reverend Alan Campeau, Bishop of Thunder Bay, and diocesan and parish Spiritual Advisors.

National President, Shari Guinta brought greetings. National Vice President, Betty Colaneri, with the assistance of Ann D'Souza, Provincial Lead and Toronto Diocesan Lead, did an update on R3 to 1! Unity, Task Force.

A beautiful workshop on *Her Story, His Glory, An Interactive Spiritual Workshop* was led by The Most Reverend Alan Campeau, along with diocesan spiritual advisors: Fr. Paul Kim, Fr. Stephane Pouliot and Fr. John Lemire and OPC President, Colleen Martin (due to time constraints, Colleen's part was given as a handout). Bishop Alan Campeau also lead us in a prayerful Twilight Retreat, during which the spiritual advisors were available for confession.

Tuesday Keynote speaker was Dr. Josephine Lombardi, who spoke on Marian Approaches to Synodality.

Provincial Vice President, Karen McDonald and Provincial Secretary, Lisa Henry, performed a wonderful presentation on *Igniting the League*. OPC presented Bishop Alan Campeau, Provincial Spiritual Advisor, a cheque for \$5,000 to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in support of the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund. The provincial council has pledged \$5,000 for five years for a total of \$25,000. This was the fourth donation to that pledge.

Colleen Martin, Provincial President, in her presidents' report, reminded everyone of the importance of always being joyful and kind to all members. She reminded us of 'Holy Manners', a guide to follow as we run our meetings and events. I did send out this guide in my Monday Correspondence on July 14. Members from Thunder Bay showed a fun-filled, informative video, welcoming everyone to next year's provincial convention in Thunder Bay!

Closing Mass was celebrated by The Most Reverend Alan Campeau, Bishop of Thunder Bay and, diocesan and parish spiritual advisors were concelebrants.

As you continue your wonderful works as presidents, please keep these very precious words of St. Teresa of Calcutta at the forefront:

*Be the living expression of God's kindness;  
kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile.*

In all you say and do, *Be Eucharistic.*

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*“Have a great compassion for people. To be able to have a heart full of compassion, we need to pray. Especially be kind, be loving to the poor. We think we do so much for the poor, but it is they who make us rich. We are in debt to them. Do you want to do something beautiful for God? There is a person who needs you. This is your chance.”*

*(St. Teresa of Calcutta)*

### Role of Women in the Catholic Church

Women's leadership in the Catholic Church is experiencing a quiet transformation, growing in visibility and with expanded roles. Women have long played vital roles in shaping the Church's spiritual, educational, and social mission, one that spans scripture, history, theology, and modern practice. All the baptized are co-responsible for actively engaging in carrying on the work of Christ. *The feminine genius is needed in all expressions in the life of society, the presence of women must also be guaranteed in the workplace and in the various other settings where important decisions are made, both in the Church and in social structures (Evangelii Gaudium).*



The role of women has biblical foundations in the Old and New Testaments, such as Sarah, Mary, the Mother of Jesus and Mary Magdalene, to name a few. St. Teresa of Ávila, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Hildegard of Bingen and St. Thérèse of Lisieux have greatly influenced Catholic theology and spirituality. For centuries, women have been, and are instrumental in Catholic education, healthcare and missionary work.

In 2014, Pope Francis appointed several women to the Vatican's International Theological Commission, an expert advisory body which assists the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, in examining questions of doctrine. In 2019, four women were appointed councilors in the office of synods. Women are making history in Vatican City. They now hold significant positions in Vatican departments - Sister Nathalie Becquart was appointed as an under-secretary to the Synod of Bishops, with voting rights, historically a first. Sister Raffaella Petrini serves as the highest-ranking woman in Vatican City governance.

The role of women in the Church continues to enrich our Catholic Church's mission. Pope Francis and now Pope Leo XIV have both taken steps to elevate women's voices. *Women are critical agents for building a better future (Vatican speaker).*

In your parish, you may have an opportunity to serve in one of the many ministerial areas such as: Pastoral Visitor, Children's Liturgy, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Youth Ministry, RCIA, Choir, CWL, etc.

### Pope Leo XIV

**Habemus Papam** (Latin term translation, *We have a new Pope*)

Cardinal Robert Prevost was elected to the papacy on May 8 and became the 267<sup>th</sup> successor to the Chair of Saint Peter. Both Pope Leo XIV and his

namesake, Pope Leo XIII witnessed great social upheaval as a result of technological change. Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903) witnessed the impact of the industrial revolution on the rights and dignity of workers. Pope Leo XIV is living during a time in which social media is revolutionizing human interactions, and he has expressed grave concern over how it is used and its effect on human dignity and society.

For a biographical timeline for Pope Leo XIV please visit:

<https://catholicreview.org/pope-leo-xiv-a-biographical-timeline/>

### **Pope Leo XIV and Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC)**

Robert Prevost entered the Order of St. Augustine in 1977, and His Holiness was ordained to the priesthood in 1982. Augustinian spirituality centers on unity, truth and love. The Order of St. Augustine has adopted Our Lady of Good Counsel as its Patroness. They rely on her motherly protection and turn towards her intercession for wisdom and discernment. In 1998, His Holiness was named Prior Provincial of the Order of St. Augustine Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel, Chicago. He served as Director of Formation at the Convent of St. Augustine Chicago, 2013-2014 and became the First Councillor and Provincial Vicar of the Province of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Chicago. Pope Leo XIV celebrated Mass in 2024 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Genazzano, Italy, when he served as Cardinal. It holds the original icon of Our Lady of Good Counsel and comes in the form of a fresco. Following his election to the papacy, His Holiness once again visited the Shrine. He recited a prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel there, which was composed by St. John Paul II, who along with St. Teresa of Calcutta, had a great devotion to her. This church has been under the auspices of the Augustinian Order since 1200 and many miracles have been attributed to her intercession. Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903), as well, had a devotion to OLGC. He approved the white scapular of OLGC and entrusted it to the Augustinians in 1893. The scapular is made of white wool, symbolizing purity and a life of virtue and has an image of OLGC on one section. A new tourism was officially launched on July 21, 2025, in Peru called: Path of Pope Leo XIV. It highlights locations associated with his ministry in Peru. (This information was compiled from EWTN, Vatican and Columbia magazine)

### **Vocations**

May we always promote vocations! Every baptized person lives their vocation as either a single, married, consecrated or ordained person growing in relationship with God, which will lead to His kingdom. We can pray and contemplate which vocation is right for us in front of the Eucharist. Communities can create a culture that values and encourages those to pursue

their God-given purpose in life. There are different ways-we, as members of the CWL, are able to promote vocations, especially to the priesthood.

- **Prayer:** Regularly pray for an increase in vocations, including specific intentions during Mass or organized prayer gatherings. Sharing personal stories of discernment can also inspire others.
- **Vocation Resources:** Create a dedicated vocation corner in your church stocked with books and brochures that explore different religious orders
- **Educational Programs:** Offer seminars, workshops, or retreats that allow young people to engage with priests, sisters, and brothers, fostering an environment conducive to vocations.
- **Community Events:** Host events like Altar Server Appreciation Nights, Communion Breakfasts, or family dinners with vocation speakers.
- **Family Involvement:** Encourage family members to participate in prayer for vocations, share personal stories, and support young people in discerning their call.

(<https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/educators-and-youth-leaders/best-practices/20-ways-to-promote-vocations>,  
<https://www.gbfranciscans.org/content/vowed-life/promoting-vocations>,  
<https://catholic-link.org/what-vocation-are-you-called-to-single-married-or-religious-life-quiz/> )

For information on Fostering a Vocations Culture, please

visit <https://www.cccb.ca/media-release/fostering-a-vocations-culture-pastoral-plan-for-vocations-in-north-america-launched/>

Serra International-International Rosary for Vocations-Last Saturday of every month at 9:00 am <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/314315981>

## Revision of Faith Resources

In her May 31, 2025 Memo, National Chairperson of Faith, Rolande Chernichan, gave an update on the following faith resources that have been revised: New Edition of League Prayers (#168); Ceremonies Handbook (#603); Handbook for Chairpersons of Faith, Service and Social Justice (#614) and a newly developed Prayer for Discernment to Nominate (#742). These can all be found on the national website: <https://www.cwl.ca>

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*“Having faith does not mean having no difficulties, but having the faith to face them, knowing we are not alone.”*

*(Pope Francis)*

## **VICE PRESIDENT**

Committee Member:

Member Development

**Connie Cristinziano**

Mary Capobianco

A warm welcome back to all new and returning Vice Presidents. As the leaves gradually ignite in a vibrant blaze of fall colours, it is a time to explore and reflect on ways that will help transform your council into a vibrant one. A time to ignite hope, faith, fun and fulfillment in our League!

### **Membership**

As of June 30, Toronto Diocese has registered 5,640 members for 2025. Councils are encouraged to contact members who have not paid their fees, to do so. This ensures that members' years of service are recorded and kept current, and to complete their 2025 membership drive before the 2026 cycle begins in October/November.



### **Recruitment**

By the time you receive this newsletter, it will be time to renew, recruit, retain and regain membership for 2026. Presence is one of the most important ways for recruiting new members. There are so many ways that you can be visible and enthusiastic about the League in your parishes. Simple tasks can lead to multiple opportunities, not only to increase membership but to provide the women of your parish a sense of purpose by being a member and show what they are missing by not being part of this strong sisterhood.

*The Canadian League* - Spring 2025 issue featured an article from then National Vice President, Betty Colaneri on: Retaining Membership Honouring our Legacy. In her article, Betty reminds us: While recruiting and regaining members are often emphasized, retention is just as crucial. Parish councils must take time to remind members of their value, recognizing their time and talents as treasures of the League. Honouring the incredible women who paved the way for members' current efforts ensures their legacy lives on.

If you have not already done so, I encourage you to read this very informative article ([www.cwl.ca/resources](http://www.cwl.ca/resources)), that includes various ways to assist your councils in maintaining your membership.

### **The "1" Campaign - Recruit, Retain, Regain**

This initiative was first introduced by National Vice President Betty Colaneri in her December 2023 communique #3. The initiative was not only to promote the league, but also to address the ongoing concern of declining membership.

The purpose of the campaign is to recruit, retain and regain members. I hope that you were able to promote the “1” Campaign, by using the monthly catchphrases especially during your membership drives. The catchphrases can be found on the national website: [www.cwl.ca/communique](http://www.cwl.ca/communique) under Vice President.

### **The R3 to 1, Unity! Task Force New Initiative**

To continue to address the ongoing concern of declining membership and in her May communique #14, National Vice President Betty Colaneri has introduced: *The R3 to 1, Unity! Task Force*. “Its purpose is to mentor/assist councils to recruit, retain and regain members. The Task Force also reaches out and assists councils that are considering becoming inactive or disbanding. The goal of this initiative is to reach out to councils to strengthen connections at all levels within the League.”

Responsibility of the task force:

- Assist struggling councils and members by providing support.
- Contact councils regularly to see how they are doing and offer assistance and encouragement.
- Build relationships with councils and engage with members, through dialogue.
- Remind councils that membership provides women a sense of purpose, faith, friendship, connection, fulfilment, and leadership development.

Life Member, Ann D’Souza is our Toronto diocesan lead as well as the provincial lead. Ann will work closely with the Toronto Diocesan President and Vice President. You can contact Ann by email: [ant\\_dsouza@hotmail.com](mailto:ant_dsouza@hotmail.com) or by phone: 905-502-1610

### **CWL Wednesdays: Save the dates**

Wednesday, September 17 - R3 to 1 Unity!

Task force Presentation: Ann D’Souza, Toronto Diocesan Lead, President Kate O’Quinn and Vice President Connie Cristinziano

Wednesday, October 22 - League Development:

Vice President Connie Cristinziano. More details will follow via email communication and website postings.

Wednesday, November 19 - Mentoring: Past President Sue Lubowitz

### **2025 Annual Reports**

The end of the calendar year will soon be upon us and the 2025 annual report survey will be available from National Office. Councils are encouraged to schedule some time in your executive and general meetings this fall and to gain input from members that will assist with the completion of your reports.

Councils are also reminded that although there may be vacant positions within your council, reports are to reflect all the activities that have taken place in your council for the year.  
Share your good news with all levels of the League.

**Development Day: Save the date**

Development Day will be held in person on **Saturday February 21, 2026**.  
More details and information will be available in the Winter Newsletter.



“Like a Sunflower...”



**Reaffirmation of Provincial Executive**

## PAST PRESIDENT/HISTORIAN

Sue Lubowitz

As I reviewed documents in the archives of the diocesan council, I came across this 1951 quote on the challenge to Catholic women: “The history of the service of women in the Church of God has been one of its most glorious pages. At the very dawn of Christianity, she was already active in the cause of her Divine Master, whom she served with exemplary devotion.” (Bishop William J. Smith, 1951 Ontario CWL Convention) This message still resonates today.



### Parish Council Elections

The League needs enthusiastic women to fill executive positions and if you are eligible for office, please consider, prayerfully, the opportunity God is extending to you to serve in this wonderful organization. Before beginning the nominations process, we suggest that councils have a discernment session at a regular meeting in September or October. Resources on the national website that may be helpful include: #802 *A Short Exercise in Discernment* (spiritual gifts), #804 *Affirming Workshop* and #835C *The Joy of Leadership (Module 3) - Leadership in the League*.

Councils are also reminded that Form #553 CWL Letter of Good Standing is required once nomination is accepted. The process was outlined in memos from National Past President Fran Lucas, dated September 15 and November 30, 2024 respectively. For help in presenting a discernment exercise or any questions on elections, feel free to contact me. Through your baptism, God has called you to go out and spread the ‘good news’! Your leadership within your parish council is one way of fulfilling your mission.

There will be a workshop in the Fall, on elections, from Linda Squarzolo, Ontario Past President.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Moira Ste. Marie Lecture Series

The Moira Ste. Marie Lecture Series is held every two years to honour Moira Ste. Marie, a past Archdiocesan president (1991-1993) for her dedication and service to the League. The lecture is held as a way to inform members and non-members of issues around family, politics, education, health and social issues. This year’s lecture will be held virtually on Wednesday, October 15 and the guest speakers are Dr. Moira McQueen, Director at the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute and Mr. Giancarlo Brotto, Founder and CEO of PaveEdInc. They will help us better understand the role Artificial Intelligence (AI) can play in medicine and education as seen through our faith lens.

## **Mentoring**

“A mentor is a guiding light that smooths the path for those who do the work and shares in the responsibility of the council.” Here are some qualities a good mentor may possess as taken from Resource #817 (A & B) *Mentoring Workshop*:

1. **Relevant expertise or knowledge:** A good mentor has relevant expertise or knowledge on a specific subject or activity. This can be expertise in a specific area of the League or someone who knows how to plan an event, such as funeral receptions, bazaars or other fundraisers.
2. **Enthusiasm for sharing that expertise:** Someone who is happy to help.
3. Someone with a **respectful attitude:** Someone happy to share and help but without taking over.
4. **Eager to invest in others:** Someone who is happy to help and takes pride in someone else’s success.
5. The **ability to give honest and direct feedback:** Someone who can be honest and give constructive feedback without being hurtful.
6. **Active listening and empathy:** A good listener but guides with compassion.
7. **Willing to be a sponsor:** Someone willing to be your go-to person when you need encouragement and affirmation in your decisions.

I will host a mentoring workshop on Wednesday, November 19. More information will be forthcoming in a Monday Correspondence.

## **League Protocol**

One very important role of the past president is to provide advice regarding League protocol. Protocol deals with the codes of ceremonial form and courtesies of precedence accepted in official dealings and functions. Councils should be aware of the following from the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* (2024): Member Recognition-Pin Protocol (page 35), Book of Life Protocol (page 40), Funeral and Honour Guard Protocol (page 41), Communication Protocols (Appendix 9, page 225). Our League protocol requires that we welcome and accord proper recognition to official League representatives from the next level as well as special guests. For assistance in correctly addressing guests in person or in writing, the League’s *Personal Letter Writing Guide* (#173) is available for download from the website. Every member of the parish council executive should have a copy in their files.

## League Files

If you are nearing the end of your term, now is a good time to put your files in order for a smooth transition to the next person who will take on your particular position. The *Constitution and Bylaws* (Article XI, Section 6) states that the past presidents of all councils are responsible for the council archives. A small committee should be formed, including the council president, to review records, select material of significant historic interest, discard temporary or outdated items, review contents in secretaries' files and catalogue all materials kept in the archives. Mark each minutes book as 'Permanent Record'. Your council's history is kept through its minutes books, correspondence, chairpersons' reports, membership records and photo/scrapbooks. Each council must provide a secure location for storing these vital records. If you missed the Archives Webinar last January, contact me ([jslubowitz@gmail.com](mailto:jslubowitz@gmail.com)) for some of the resources that were shared.

Continue to read the provincial and diocesan newsletters, read *The Canadian League* magazine, check the various CWL websites for ideas on how you and your council can become more involved, as you set your goals for this upcoming year.

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### ***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.

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**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](mailto:lucia.vacca@sympatico.ca) (416) 283-3536**

## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Council</b>	<b>Anniversary Years</b>
<b>Durham</b>	Holy Family	45
	St. Leo the Great	15
<b>Humber Valley</b>	Our Lady of Miraculous Medal	65
	St. Ambrose	60
<b>North York</b>	St. Joseph the Worker	30
	St. John XXIII	10
<b>Peel</b>	St. Jerome	5
<b>Toronto</b>	St. Pius X	70

## **MAPLE LEAF SERVICE PIN**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
<b>Peel</b>	St. Martin of Tours Mississauga	Lawina Notario Liz Nixey Maria Silveira

## **SERVICE AWARDS**

### 70 years Membership Pin

<b>Region</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
<b>Northern</b>	Holy Martyrs of Japan, Bradford	Mary Kavchak Mary Molokach

### 65 years Membership Pin

<b>Region</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
<b>Durham</b>	Holy Family, Whitby	June Sobanski Vivian McDonnell
<b>Northern</b>	Guardian Angels, Orillia	Helen Clarke

### 60 years Membership Pin

<b>Region</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
<b>Northern</b>	Guardian Angels, Orillia	Phyllis Walsh

### 55 years Membership Pin

<b>Region</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
<b>Humber Valley</b>	St. Margaret Mary, Woodbridge	Maria Martire Mary Borgo
<b>Northern</b>	Guardian Angels, Orillia	Shannon Berdusco

### 50 years Membership Pin

<b>Region</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
<b>Durham</b>	Holy Family, Whitby	Rose M Cusack
<b>Northern</b>	Guardian Angels, Orillia	Diane Rivard

### 45 years Membership Pin

<b>Region</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
<b>Scarborough</b>	St. Boniface, Scarborough	Marilyn Taylor
<b>Northern</b>	Guardian Angels, Orillia	Mary Anne Morano Sue Bailey

### 40 years Membership Pin

<b>Region</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
<b>Durham</b>	Holy Family, Whitby	Mary Hawkely
<b>Humber Valley</b>	St. Charles Borromeo, Toronto	Pina Bruno
	St. Margaret Mary, Woodbridge	Josie Aiello
<b>Northern</b>	Holy Martyrs of Japan, Bradford	Ellen Rombough Stella Bordignon
	Guardian Angels, Orillia	Barb Wannamaker Mary Tilley
<b>North York</b>	Blessed Trinity, Bayview	Donna Corso

### 35 years Membership Pin

<b>Region</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
<b>Humber Valley</b>	Nativity of Our Lord, Etobicoke	Martha Frigault
	St. Margaret Mary, Woodbridge	Ada Vecchio Nina Bertolo Roma Carosi

### 30 years Membership Pin

<b>Region</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
<b>Durham</b>	Holy Family, Whitby	Diane Roach
<b>Humber Valley</b>	Nativity of Our Lord, Etobicoke	Joanna Bates Marianne Hamilton
	St. Charles Borromeo, Toronto	Margarita Mangano
	St. Padre Pio, Kleinburg	Terri DeCotis
	St. Margaret Mary, Woodbridge	Antonietta Gaiardo Florida Giallonardo Brienza Rosetta Cerone
<b>North York</b>	St. Joseph the Worker, Thornhill	Carol Fernandez Cecilia Ferreira Fatima Gocool Irene Sztuka Joanne Tata Lisa Caldarola Teresa Simone
	Blessed Trinity, Bayview	Evelyn Manalo Anne Change Camila Nowakowski
	Good Shepherd, Thornhill	Mary Kay de la Torre
<b>Northern</b>	Guardian Angels, Orillia	Margaret Kehoe Margaret Petri Mary Connor
<b>Scarborough</b>	St. Bartholomew, Scarborough	Norma Hing

### 25 years Membership Pin

<b>Region</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
<b>Durham</b>	Holy Family, Whitby	Anna Colacicco
<b>Humber Valley</b>	Nativity of Our Lord, Etobicoke	Cynthia Roberts Etty Roach Mariel Bueno Rose Machacek Yolanda Pighin
<b>Northern</b>	Holy Martyrs of Japan, Bradford	Connie Ferrira Franca Sclafani Mary Mendrek Vilma LaRoche

<b>Region</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
<b>Northern</b>	Guardian Angels, Orillia	Anne Munro Anne Wiles Carol Murphy Joyce Zabinski
<b>Scarborough</b>	St. Bartholomew, Scarborough	Carmela Burdi Desiree Vicerai
<b>Toronto</b>	Holy Rosary, Toronto	Judy Bishop

### **20 years Membership Pin**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
<b>Durham</b>	Holy Family, Whitby	Mary Leslie-Stitt
<b>Humber Valley</b>	Nativity of Our Lord, Etobicoke	Elizabeth Mariaselvanayagam Erminia Pallotta Matilda (Connie) Borg
	St. Padre Pio, Kleinburg	Maria Mazza
	St. Margaret Mary, Woodbridge	Adele Iannetta Anarita Greco Anna Brancatella Julia Arbanas Loreta Bellisario Nicoletta Rizzi
<b>North York</b>	Good Shepherd, Thornhill	Donna Keenan Jean Callaghan Sylvia Lee
<b>Northern</b>	St. Mary's, Collingwood	Mary Cudney Tammy MacDonald
	Guardian Angels, Orillia	Audrey McGann Betsy Escalona Lori Bylow Mary Wiles Maureen Guaranaccio Rose Carpino Terry Elliot
<b>Scarborough</b>	St. Bartholomew, Scarborough	Sonia DaCosta- Spence

*“To believe in him and to be his disciples means allowing ourselves to be changed and to take on his same feelings. It means learning to have a heart that is moved, eyes that see and do not look away, hands that help others and soothe their wounds, shoulders that bear the burden of those in need”*

*(Pope Leo XIV)*

## SECRETARY

**Andrea Tjioe**

Committee Members:  
Web Administrator  
Zoom Meeting Co-Ordinator

Lucia Vacca  
Shaila D'Souza

### **Parish Information Sheet**

Gentle reminder to send me your council's updated Parish Information Sheet, and much appreciation to those of you who have done so, faithfully. Please use the template that we have provided on our website: <https://cwltoronto.ca/forms/>. Click on "Parish Information Sheet"



### **Correspondence:**

If you are not already doing so, ideally, as communication is part of your portfolio, you should be the person forwarding the Monday Correspondence to your council members. In consultation with your council president, have her forward the Monday Correspondence to you as soon as she receives the email. Then you, in turn, forward, in its entirety to the general membership, by email, phone call or hardcopy.

### **Christmas stamps:**

In this e-world, it's still nice to receive a Christmas card in the mailbox. Please check either [canadapost.ca](http://canadapost.ca) website or your local post office for availability of religious Christmas stamps for your Christmas mailings. It's all about supply and demand. Canada Post will supply religious Christmas stamps as long as there is a demand for them.

### **CWL Toronto website: <https://cwltoronto.ca/>**

We strive to keep our website accurate and up-to-date. Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you see anything that needs to be corrected and/or updated.

### **Meeting Minutes and Secretary file:**

For councils who are preparing for election for the term 2026 - 2027, council secretaries will need to ensure complete documentation of the immediate past term Secretary files for the council archives, as they are the official long-term archived documents of the Council.

From the May 2025 Memo circulated by National Secretary-Treasurer Dorothy Johansen:

- When an officer submits a written report, the executive should not vote to accept, adopt, approve or receive it.
- If a report has a recommendation, the executive would like to act on, then a motion can be made at the meeting and recorded in the minutes to take that action.
- On the meeting minutes, all written reports submitted are simply noted as received for information. The reports shall then be filed with the minutes, not as part of the minutes.

### **Resources for Secretary:**

Handbook for Secretaries Item #612: <https://www.cwl.ca/manuals/>  
 Toronto Diocesan Manual Policy & Procedure Revised May 2024:  
<https://cwltoronto.ca/manuals/> page #14, Item #5, Secretary.

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## **TREASURER**

**Donna Capobianco**

As we see the end of summer approaching, we also see the start of our ‘wrap up time’.

The Fall season is well known for CWL councils to be busy preparing for their bazaars, annual fundraisers, and year-end preparations. As we restart our monthly meetings, it is great to welcome everyone back and begin our programs once again. As Treasurers, you have the added responsibility of finalizing all the financial records for the year and begin preparations for the coming year, especially if there are elections on the horizon. Fall also gives you an opportunity to do some housekeeping and prepare the files for your annual financial statement and, if applicable, to put your files in order so you can pass them on to your successor. Although many now save files to USBs, it is still important to keep a file with one hard copy.



### **Donations Voluntary Funds**

There are two charities listed for the Toronto Diocesan Council: St. Michael's Scholarship Fund and Margaret Ann Jacobs Catholic Children's Aid Foundation Scholarship Fund. These are scholarships awarded to encourage and assist young women to further their education. The forms can be found on the Toronto website at [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca) /reference /forms. All councils making

donations will be listed in the 2025 Annual Report Book. Please note, that in order to have time to process the cheques before year end, they must be received no later than **December 20, 2025**. Last year, unfortunately, due to the postal strike, several 2024 donations were received later in 2025. These will be included in the annual report book for 2025.

The National Voluntary funds and forms are listed on the national website, [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) .

The Ontario Provincial Voluntary Fund can be found on the Provincial website at [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca).

Remember to visit these websites for news across the Diocese, Province, and Canada.

### **Membership 2025**

Treasurers, please ensure all 2025 membership fees are paid for your council before you start to send in the 2026 fees. As the Treasurer, you are entrusted to collect and submit to National, in a timely manner, ALL membership fees paid to your council.

Always remember that if you have any questions, you can always contact me. There are many resources on the CWL websites. We are always here to help each other on our CWL journey.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER – FALL 2025 MEETINGS**

TDC all Regions	Tuesday, September 16, 7:00pm	Zoom Meeting
Northern Region	Monday, September 22, 7:00pm	Holy Martyrs of Japan Parish, Bradford
Humber Valley Region	Wednesday, September 24, 7:00pm	Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Etobicoke
North York Region	Monday, September 29, 7:00pm	Blessed Trinity Parish, North York
Peel Region	Tuesday, October 14, 7:00pm	TBD
Durham Region	Thursday, October 16, 6:45pm	St. John the Evangelist Parish, Whitby
Toronto Region	Thursday, October 23, 7:00pm	Holy Rosary Parish, Toronto
Scarborough Region	Thursday, October 30, 7:00pm	Precious Blood Parish, Scarborough

**2025 Youth Awards**

Celebrating another successful and exciting round of Youth Awards! Sending congratulatory notes to all the students who participated in the Youth Awards, and especially the parents/guardians, teachers and administrators who supported them. An enormous amount of gratitude goes out to the parishes and regions, for all their dedication to ensure these contests run as successfully as they do.

**Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest**

First Place: Aila Riajskikh,  
Hawthorn Catholic School for Girls,  
St. Bonaventure Parish, North York Region  
Title: Ancient Egypt

**Mary Dobell Pro-Life Awareness Essay and Poetry Literacy Awards  
Intermediate Essay**

First Place: Abigail Alo,  
Ecole Secondaire Catholique Monseigneur-De-Charbonnel,  
St. Timothy Parish, North York Region  
Title: Loving God

**Senior Essay**

First Place: Kate Lee,  
Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts,  
St. Timothy Parish, North York Region  
Title: The Sanctity of Life and Its Universal Value

**Intermediate Poetry**

First Place: DJ Griffiths,  
St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Bartholomew Parish, Scarborough Region  
Title: Martin's Dream

**Senior Poetry**

First Place: Natalie Sequeira,  
Francis Libermann Catholic High School,  
St. Bartholomew Parish, Scarborough Region  
Title: Our Path in Faith

### **Jean McCann Service Award for Youth**

Natasha Sequeira,  
Francis Libermann Catholic High School,  
St. Bartholomew Parish, Scarborough Region

### **Toronto Diocesan St. Michael's College Scholarship (2024-2025 Academic Year)**

Sofia Pereira,  
St. Edward the Confessor Parish, North York Region

### **Toronto Diocesan – Margaret Ann Jacobs Catholic Children's Aid Foundation Scholarship (2024-2025 Award)**

Cassandra, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Developmental Psychology Program

The 2025/2026 Youth Awards forms will be available on the TDC website in September, and Regional Chairs will also be sent the details. Please email me at: [gdp9@hotmail.com](mailto:gdp9@hotmail.com), should your parish council be interested in hosting the TDC Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest Finals in the Spring of 2026.

### **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (also known as Orange Shirt Day) is September 30, 2025. A reminder that councils/regions are asked to organize this day of recognition for your members. Information to assist you on planning this day can be found at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/national-day-truth-reconciliation.html>

The National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples is celebrated annually on December 12, the liturgical feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patron of the Americas, who in 1531 appeared in Mexico to Saint Juan Diego. Each year, the Canadian Catholic Aboriginal Council marks this day of prayer, solidarity, and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples by issuing a public message. Read more about messages for the National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples at:

<https://www.cccb.ca/about/commissions-committees/canadian-catholic-aboriginal-council/national-day-prayer-solidarity-indigenous-peoples/>

### **Introduction to the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)**

There are many ministries that members can join to serve in the church. National Chairperson of Service, Joline Belliveau, in her May 31, 2025 Memo, outlined one of these ministries, the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), a sacred journey for those seeking to enter the Roman Catholic faith. It provides a structured yet flexible process of reflection, prayer, instruction, and discernment, welcoming adults and older children who feel called to deepen

their relationship with Christ. This memo can be found on the national website:  
<https://www.cwl.ca>

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**DIOCESAN CHAIRPERSON OF SOCIAL JUSTICE      Christina Boyle**

Committee Members:

Resolutions

Legislation

Elizabeth Joseph

Audrey Nichols

**Resolutions**

**ON 2025.02 Federal Government to Create a Unified and Centralized Cybercrime Reporting System for All Canadians - gifted by St. Joseph Council, Streetsville**

**ON 2025.03 Federal Government to Develop the Health Canada Office of Palliative Care - gifted by Peel Region**



Good news regarding the two resolutions listed above, originating from within the diocese of Toronto. At the Toronto Diocesan Convention held on April 28 and 29, after some vigorous debate and minor revisions, both resolutions were adopted and then forwarded to the Ontario Provincial Review Team to be considered at the provincial level. Further revisions were made and it was recommended that both resolutions be brought before the assembly at the Ontario Provincial Convention held in London, ON, July 6-9. I am pleased to report that during the business session on July 9, both resolutions were adopted, and will now be considered by the National Review Team for possible presentation at the National Convention in August. Please remember that no action is to be taken on these resolutions, until they are adopted at the national level.

Resolutions are an important part of the work of the Catholic Women’s League, and reflect our values and concerns around many social justice issues in our society. For any parish council, or region considering developing a resolution for 2026, a reminder that the deadline for the submission of your idea and early research is October 31, 2025. It is important to form a resolution committee as soon as your council resumes meeting in September, in order for your idea to be presented to and adopted by your council members via a motion during a

general meeting. The intense work then has to get underway in order to meet future deadlines by early January, 2026. The Resolutions team at the Toronto Diocesan level is available to help guide a council through the process. The most comprehensive resource when writing a resolution, can be found on the National website [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca), Manual #618 *Resolutions Handbook 2025* version. The Handbook contains sample wording for the Resolved Clause(s), Brief, Works Cited, and Action Items. The full document is generally 4-5 pages in length. The manual contains helpful information on acceptable forms of research to support your arguments. Look at resolutions that are still active, listed on the national, provincial and Toronto diocesan websites, to avoid picking a topic that has already been covered. In the appendices there is a Checklist which has to be completed before submission and helps to guide your wording of the one-page Brief. I hope to receive some of your ideas before October 31!

### **Legislation**

When the 44<sup>th</sup> Canadian Parliament was prorogued in January, 2025, for a change in leadership of the governing party and in the lead up to the Federal election, many important bills were lost from the Order Paper as they had not been fully enacted. It is important that we carefully track new legislation that is being introduced during the current 45<sup>th</sup> Parliament, to see if some of the Bills have been reintroduced under a different name or Bill number.

One such example is **Bill C-322** (designation in 44<sup>th</sup> Parliament) **An Act to develop a national framework to establish a school food program**. This Bill did not complete Third Reading in the House (September 2024), or pass the stages in the Senate. It is important to keep track of what is happening with the development of this program. There has been no attempt to reintroduce the Bill to date.

**Bill C-26** (designation in 44<sup>th</sup> Parliament) has been replaced by **Bill C-8 An Act respecting cyber security**, amending the Telecommunications Act and making consequential amendments to other Acts has completed First Reading in the House of Commons on June 18, with no further activity since. The re-introduced Bill is aimed at improving protections within federally regulated sectors such as finance, telecommunications, energy and transportation using cybersecurity.

This legislation, when enacted, should help the overall security environment but fails to address issues of fraud attempts and cybercrime directed to individual citizens. We still need better and more efficient reporting for individuals who are victims of cybercrime. The Resolution **ON.2025.02** from St. Joseph Streetsville remains important in its focus on developing a unified and centralized cybercrime reporting system for individual Canadians.

**Bill S-210** (designation in 44<sup>th</sup> Parliament) has now become **Bill S-209 An Act to restrict young person's online access to pornographic material**, was re-introduced on May 26, 2025 and completed Second Reading in the Senate on June 12.

### **IWIN (I'm Worth it Now):**

IWIN is an organization that supports victims escaping from human trafficking by providing them with a backpack containing vital supplies, including a full change of clothes, toiletries, a handwritten note of support and a prayer bracelet. A matching bracelet is then partnered anonymously with a prayer warrior in the Catholic Women's League, to pray for a young victim. I serve on the Board of IWIN as the Ontario Liaison and following a recent backpack assembly, I have 18 prayer bracelets available. If anyone would like to receive one and be a part of this program, please contact me at [christinalynnboyle@gmail.com](mailto:christinalynnboyle@gmail.com). The Red Sand Prayer Service, provided by IWIN, was used at our Toronto Diocesan Convention in April.

### **Dates To Remember:**

- Next Social Justice Chairs Zoom Meeting: Tuesday September 23, 7pm, via Zoom. Registration through [a\\_tjioe@yahoo.com](mailto:tjioe@yahoo.com). See you all online!
- October 31, deadline to submit resolution ideas and early research on topic to [christinalynnboyle@gmail.com](mailto:christinalynnboyle@gmail.com)

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**Unique  
Red Sand  
Service**

**OUR CWL LIAISON IN ONTARIO,  
CHRISTINA CREATED "PAVEMENT" TO  
ALLOW THE RED SAND SERVICE TO BE  
PERFORMED INSIDE. IT WAS WITNESSED  
BY OVER 300 PEOPLE AT THE TORONTO  
DIOCESAN CONVENTION**