



# “Around our Diocese”

(President's Update)  
November/December  
2025

Dear Spiritual Advisors and Sisters in the League

*November is the month where we give special recognition to our veterans, a time to say a special prayer of thanks for the sacrifices they made to ensure our freedom and for strengthening our beautiful country. It is also was the beginning of Advent Season- our Season of Hope, as ‘we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.’*

*December brings us the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 8 and the birth of our Lord on December 25. December 28 saw the closing of our Jubilee Year. December 31 brings us to the end of the year and celebrates the year to come.*

*As we begin this new year, let us reflect on how we can ‘Ignite our Passion to Empower His Mission. Let us make a resolution to move forward in harmony with one another and work together for ‘God and Canada’ Be Eucharistic.*

### **Upcoming Events:**

**January 1:** New Year’s Day

**January 18-25:** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**January 18:** Annual GTA Prayer Service, 4:00 pm

**January 20:** OPC Information Session on Proposed Amendments to C&B

**January 21:** CWL Wednesday, Joy of Leadership, Discovering New Opportunities

**January 27:** Dealing with Conflict and On Being Kind to Each Other Workshop

**February 8:** Marriage Sunday, Mass at St. Michael Cathedral Basilica 2:30 p.m.

**February 11:** CWL Wednesday, Human Trafficking Awareness

**February 14:** Valentine’s Day

**February 16:** Family Day

**February 17:** All Regions Zoom

**February 19:** Social Justice Zoom

**February 21:** Development Day

### **Pope Leo’s Monthly Intentions**

**January: For prayer with the word of God**

Let us pray that praying with the word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

**February: For children with incurable diseases**

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

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



**Council:**

**St. Gertrude, Oshawa**

**Annual Christmas Luncheon with CWL Members and Women in the Parish  
And Pin Ceremony**

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, all women in St. Gertrude Parish, Oshawa were invited to join the CWL members at their Annual Christmas Luncheon, held at The Portly Piper restaurant. Many women joined together in Sisterhood, to celebrate their council, their parish and welcoming their new Pastor, Fr. Luis Calleja. After lunch, a Pin Ceremony was held.



**Clotilde Quinn receiving her  
60 year service pin**



**Brenda Tuepah receiving her  
55 year service pin  
With new Pastor, Father Luis Calleja.**



Submitted by Paula Brown, Treasurer, St. Gertrude, Oshawa, Durham Region.

**Council:**

**Holy Spirit, Barrie**

On Wednesday, November 19, 2025 (Red Wednesday) Holy Spirit Council began their day with the Celebration of the Mass, with Celebrant, Father Marcel Bruneau. The members wore red and Prayed for Persecuted Christians.

After Mass we put together over 45 bags consisting of toiletries, socks, hats, mitts, and chocolate among other items. All of these items were donated by our CWL Council along with Smiles on Essa Dental. These items were then taken to the Elizabeth Fry Society.



Submitted by Mary Lou Linkert, President, Holy Spirit, Barrie, Northern Region

**Council:**

**Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Red Wednesday Prayer Service**



♥ At our Red Wednesday Prayer Service, CWL Members and guests received a card with the name of a country where Christians face persecution. The service was led by our Spiritual Advisor, Father James Cyfko, who began by lighting a candle as a symbol of hope and faith. He then read aloud the name of his assigned country and placed his card into a red basket. One by one, each participant followed his example, reading their country name aloud and placing their card in the basket. The red basket was placed before the picture of Our Lady of Good Counsel for her intercession.

🙏 Together, we offered petitions for suffering Christians. Father James concluded the service with a prayer that included the words: “May persecuted Christians feel Your presence, Lord, and know they are never alone. Amen.” Father blessed the participants.

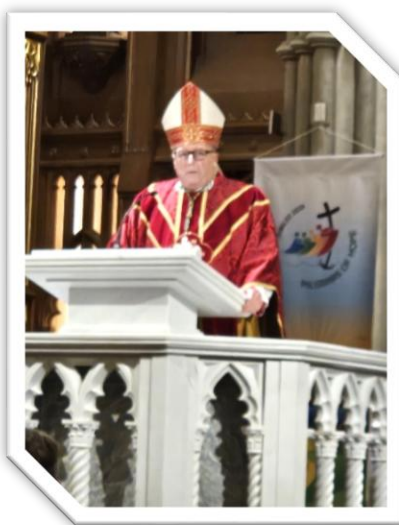
☀ The prayer service was emotive and powerful for CWL members and guests alike. It challenged us to remember persecuted Christians and to reflect on the words of Saint Teresa of Calcutta, who said: “This is Christ in the distressing disguise.” It also reminded us of the freedom we have in Canada ... the freedom to practice our faith openly and without fear. For this freedom, we are truly blessed and grateful.



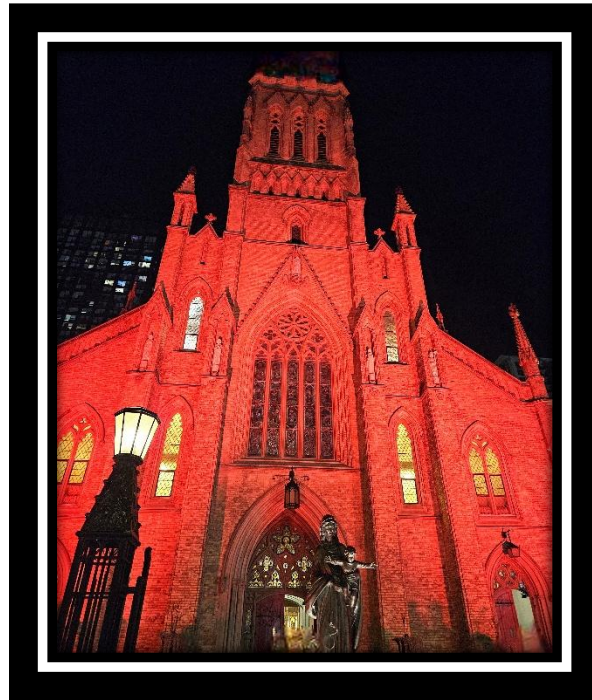
Submitted by Margaret McKibben, Secretary, Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Council, Scarborough Region

## Red Wednesday Mass, St. Michael Cathedral Basilica

On Wednesday, November 19, 2025, I had the honour of representing Toronto Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada at Red Wednesday Mass for Persecuted Christians, hosted by Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) and the Archdiocese of Toronto. This beautiful Mass was held at St. Michael Cathedral Basilica, and was celebrated by Most Reverend John Boissonneau, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto, Northern Region. Concelebrants of this Mass included: Most Reverend Robert Kasun, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto, Central Region, Most Reverend Bryan Joseph Bayda, Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Toronto and Eastern Canada, Fr. Keflemariam Okbamichael, Pastor of the Eritrean Catholic Chaplaincy at Saint Nicholas di Bari Parish, Fr. John Maier, Administrator of The Annunciation Byzantine Romanian Catholic Mission, Fr. Peter Turrone, Pastor of Holy Rosary Parish, Fr. Haig Chahinian, Chief Executive Officer of Salt and Light Catholic Media Foundation, Fr. Edwin Gonsalves, Rector of the Cathedral and Fr. Marijan Sisko, Pastor of Gregory the Great and Holy Cross, Oshawa. Also assisting with the Mass was Deacon Rudy Ovcjak, Director of the Office for Refugees in the Archdiocese of Toronto.



## Red Wednesday Mass, St. Michael Cathedral Basilica



As a Pontifical Catholic charity, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) supports the faithful wherever they are persecuted, oppressed or in need – by way of information, prayer and action. Every year, ACN supports more than 5,000 projects in over 40 countries to help poor and persecuted Christians. Evelyne Lemos, Aid to the Church in Need, Toronto Office will be the Keynote Speaker at our 105<sup>th</sup> Toronto Diocesan Annual Convention in April, 2026.



Submitted by Kate O'Quinn, TDC President



## **The Jubilee Prayer 2025**

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

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

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

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

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

Source: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/prehiera.html>  
(Thank you for this beautiful prayer as we acknowledge the end of Jubilee Year)