

TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2025

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Committee Member:

Lynette Mendes
Charmaine Alweyn

Greetings to all of you, my sisters in the League and Spiritual Advisors. This is the third and final edition of the Newsletter for 2025. The newsletter is a valuable tool that keeps you apprised of league events.



It is time to renew or start subscriptions for parish executive members elected for the new term beginning in 2026. Don't forget your Spiritual Advisor's subscription. All your members should be invited to subscribe to the Newsletter, at the annual cost of \$15 per person. Subscription term is from February, 2026 to February, 2027. The deadline to subscribe for the new year is January 31, 2026. The subscription order form can be found in this newsletter or on our website www.cwltoronto.ca under Resources/Newsletter.

Congratulations to the 20 councils who had milestone anniversaries in 2025 (two councils celebrated 95 years) and to the fifteen recipients of the Maple Leaf Service Award pin for 2025.

In preparing this newsletter, what really stood out the most, was the many women in the League celebrating milestone years of service in 2025.

This year 359 members were awarded service pins from 5 years to 70 years. Amazing! This truly is a testimony that the Catholic Women's League consists of many dedicated women all supporting our national organization's mission that *calls its members to grow in faith and to the love of God through ministry and service.*

Membership pins	Number of Members	Membership pins	Number of Members
70 years	2	35 years	13
65 years	3	30 years	34
60 years	1	25 years	37
55 years	7	20 years	49
50 years	15	15 years	66
45 years	3	10 years	72
40 years	11	5 years	46

Please contact me directly at newsletter@cwltoronto.ca if you have any questions.

Dear Sisters in Christ,

On December 28, 2025, we will be coming to the end of the Jubilee Year where the focus was being “Pilgrims of HOPE”. This does not mean that we now leave behind the Jubilee Year and move on to other things. We must take what we have learned and received, and apply them to our lives. A good example of this is the promises made in a wedding celebration.

When a couple gets married, so much attention and money is often put into that one day, of the wedding ceremony and banquet. On the wedding day, the Wedding Vows are exchanged between the couple and the promise to be faithful until death, is proclaimed in front of family, friends and God Himself. This does not mean the day following the wedding festivities, the vows and promises cease to apply. Rather, each day in a marriage, is an attempt to continue to hold tight to these vows and promises and live them out. So too, it is for us, as we come to the end of this Jubilee Year. We don’t need to wait another 25 years to celebrate the next Jubilee Year, to regain the graces and blessings we hopefully received this year.

Be “Pilgrims of HOPE” daily to your family and friends, who surround your life at this moment. Try your best to bring HOPE even to those whom you encounter by chance. The world continues to need HOPE and we as followers of Christ Jesus can be the leaven for the world.

Be assured of my prayers for all of you and I ask that you do not forget me in yours.

May the Lord grace you and your CWL parish councils with all that you require to ultimately attain eternal salvation.

Blessings,

Fr. Liborio



Today too, amid so much darkness, we need to see the light of hope and to be men and women who bring hope to others. To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope; it is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds; it is to bring the warmth of hope!

(Pope Francis)

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.



Many councils are preparing for elections. During my council visits from September to December, I did a presentation on *Spiritual Gifts*, an interactive, discerning presentation, which encourages all of us to recognize that not only do we all possess spiritual gifts, but that they are meant to be shared. The above words from Romans 12:4-8, reinforces this message. Leadership at any level of the League involves using our spiritual gifts to serve others and to always recognize that all that we do is not for us, but for God and Canada. We must always remember that we are acting in God's name. *Who we are is God's gift to us. Who we become is our gift to God.* Be generous in your gift to God.

**2025 National Convention/AMM and North America Regional Conference
World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO)**

Toronto diocese was well-represented at the 105th National Convention/Annual Meeting of Members, in Toronto, August 11-13, with representation from TDC executive, Honorary Life Member, Life Members and council members. It was a faith-filled convention, with the theme, *Here I am Lord; send me.*

We were truly blessed to have the WUCWO North American Regional Conference hosted at the same venue, on August 10, which focused on the theme, *Building a Future Hope for Migrants and Refugees*. The WUCWO Regional Conference opened with a liturgical service, followed by a report of the WUCWO President General, Monica Santamarina, from Mexico. Members were given the opportunity to have lunch with Josephine Lombardi, who gave a presentation on *Mary, the Model of the Synod*. After lunch, presentations were given by Leah Watkiss, Ministry Director, Ministry for Social Justice, Peace and Creation Care for Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto, on *Justice for Migrant Workers in Canada*, followed by a session on *Jubilee of Hope and the Women of WUCWO*, with presenters Bishop Lobsinger, National

Spiritual Advisor and Barbara Dowding, Honorary Life Member and Regional Vice President for North America on the Board for WUCWO.

The Official Opening of the 105th National Convention began Sunday evening, with greetings from Dignitaries, followed by the Celebration of the Eucharist, at St. Paul Basilica. His Eminence, Frank Cardinal Leo was the Celebrant, with Bishops and Spiritual Advisors as concelebrants.

Keynote Speaker on Monday morning was Dr. Gerry Turcotte, on the topic, *Mental Health and Social Justice*. Monday afternoon was the Resolutions Dialogue and the Commissioning of Life Members.

Tuesday Keynote Speaker was Br. Richard MacPhee, Brothers of the Good Shepherd, whose topic was, *I am who I am - Living Hospitality of our World Today*. Tuesday afternoon were Breakout sessions, led by members of the national executive.

Wednesday was the Annual Meeting of Members, where reports from the national executive members were given, resolutions were presented and elections took place. The Closing Eucharistic Celebration and Installation of Officers took place at St. Michael Cathedral Basilica, with Bishop Lobsinger as celebrant and with Bishops and Spiritual Advisors concelebrating. The convention closed with the Gala Banquet.

Meet our new national executive for 2025-2027 and read their biographies, found on our national website: <https://www.cwl.ca/meet-our-executives/>

Annual Meeting of Members (AMM) and Convention 2026

The 105th Toronto Diocesan AMM and Convention will be held at the Ajax Convention Centre on Monday, April 27 and Tuesday, April 28. Our new national theme is *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission*. Please start planning now! Think of ways you can encourage and assist your members and Spiritual Advisor to attend. Subsidizing of members for conventions should be in your council Policy and Procedure manual. More details about the AMM and convention can be found in this newsletter. Please let your Spiritual Advisors know now, to save the date. I am very pleased to inform you that Bishop Vincent Nguyen, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto, Eastern Pastoral Region will be the celebrant for our Closing Celebration of the Eucharist on Tuesday, April 28.

Regional Meetings

September and October were busy but wonderful months as all seven Regional Meetings were held. What an honour it was to attend your regional meetings and hear from your presidents all the amazing works that your councils are doing. Congratulations to the Regional Chairs in running such excellent meetings. Thank you to all members who were able to attend. You were able to witness the pride shown by your presidents as they shared a special project

undertaken by your council in answering the national theme, *Here I am Lord; send me!*

The Spring Regional Zoom Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. The Diocesan Executive will give reports and the Convention Committee will do their presentation/invitation to our Toronto Diocesan AMM/Convention.

Advent is our beautiful Season of Hope. Every day during Mass, we are reminded of this hope in the words spoken by our parish priest following the Our Father... *as we await the blessed hope and the coming of Our Saviour, Jesus Christ.* Let us take time to celebrate this joyous, hopeful season with our families. In the November 3, Monday Correspondence, our TDC Chairperson of Service, Gabriella, included An Advent Toolkit for Service. I encourage all of us to use this toolkit as a guide to celebrate this season of Advent with our families and with our councils, in service to others. In the words of Pope Benedict XVI:

It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope.

FROM ALL OF US ON THE TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL, WE WISH YOU A JOYOUS, HOLY AND BLESSED ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON.

DIOCESAN CHAIRPERSON OF FAITH
Committee Member:

Amelia Hazell
Iris McNulty

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

(Luke 2:10-11)

Pilgrims of Hope, in this Holy Advent Season of waiting for our Lord, let us walk with Mary in quiet trust, with Joseph in strong faith, and with one another in joyful hope. As Catholic Women of faith, we prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ and His presence among us - the Holy Spirit, that eternal light leading us into everlasting life. In every act of Love, every word of truth, every moment of peace, let us lead with grace as He would, with courage, compassion and joy - sharing our God given gifts with one another.



Spirit And Life Series 2025-26 - Advent Retreat

As the Jubilee Year of Hope nears its conclusion, this Advent retreat will invite us to reflect on the Blessed Virgin Mary, as a radiant beacon of hope for all generations. This event is in person only.

Title: *Mary - A Sure Sign of Hope* By: Dr. Josephine Lombardi

Location: St. Augustine's Seminary, 2661 Kingston Rd., Scarborough

Date: Saturday, December 13, 2025 Time: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Mass, Confession and Adoration are offered.

Cost: \$45 (warm pastries, coffee, tea on arrival and lunch).

A Reflection on Jesus and TEAM work - Together Everyone Achieves More. Jesus built a transformative **TEAM**, anchored in respect, trust, shared purpose, collaboration, adaptability, and mentorship. He chose 12 ordinary men - fishermen, a tax collector, a zealot - who embraced extraordinary missions. Jesus modeled servant leadership by washing His disciples' feet and empowered them to carry His message. He lived life with His disciples - walking, eating, praying, and suffering together. The Church grew from this collaborative, value-rooted teamwork. Isn't that what we strive for in the Catholic Women's League as we model "WWJD - What would Jesus do?" Together, we continue His legacy. We can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens us with His Holy Spirit!

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops - Their Plenary Assembly was held in Montreal on September 22-26, 2025, an important gathering for the Canadian Catholic Church. Bishops from across Canada discuss and make decisions on a wide variety of issues concerning the Church including Artificial Intelligence. Elections were held for new members to the Executive Committee and Permanent Council. Bishop Pierre Goudreault is CCCB's new president. Familiarize yourself with their *Pastoral Letter on the Use of Social Media, Let Your Speech Always Be Gracious*, at https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Pastoral-Letter-on-Social-Media_EN-2024-01-22.pdf and *A Note on Prayer*, at https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Note-on-Prayer_EN-2025-04-22.pdf

Artificial Intelligence

Encourage your parish council members' understanding of the church's stance by reading the document from the Vatican's Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith *Antiqua et Nova* (Latin for old and new), The document points out several potential pitfalls of AI development. And, as the Vatican has repeatedly warned, the possibility of the deployment of AI in warfare that has the power to directly take lives.

https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_dof_20250128_antiqua-et-nova_en.html

Our Jubilee Year 2025 ends on December 28 when our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV will close the Holy Doors. To celebrate, stay informed through my Faith Chairs' meetings, to participate in the **Favourite Prayers of our diocesan Parish Council Members for the Jubilee Year 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope.**

The Golden Rose

Pope Leo XIV presented the *golden rose* to the original statue of Our Lady of Fatima in St. Peter's Square on October 11, 2025, during the Jubilee of Marian Spirituality. The presentation of the *golden rose* is a tradition dating back to the 14th century. On this occasion the *golden rose* is bestowed upon a person or place, holding particular significance to the Catholic faith and honours Mary. The *golden rose* is blessed annually by the Holy Father in a private celebration on Laetare Sunday, during Lent. It represents hope, joy and Mary under the title of *Mystical Rose*.

2026 Ordinandi Dinner - Tuesday, March 24, 2026 - Please join in this wonderful celebration to show your support, honouring the 2026 Ordinandi, who study, pray and reside at St. Augustine's Seminary and Redemptoris Mater Seminary. With God's grace they will be ordained to the priesthood. For more information and to purchase tickets online: <https://staugustines.on.ca/events-listing/ordinandidinner2026>; via telephone: 416-261-7207.

Apostolic Exhortation Dilexi Te of the Holy Father Leo XIV

To all Christians on love for the poor: https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20251004-dilexi-te.html

Archdiocese of Toronto: If you are interested in reading and sharing with your parish councils, the faith messages from His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo, such as *Archdiocesan Day for Palliative Care*, *That Blessed Upper Room*, etc. go to <https://www.archtoronto.org/en/outreach/news/> and for video's such as the *45th Annual Cardinals Dinner Speech* <https://www.youtube.com/@archtoronto/videos>

Thank you to all parish council Faith Chairs for all the work that you do. Our next Faith Meeting will be held in February 2026.

Upcoming Dates

December 3, 2025 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 8, 2025 - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
December 12, 2025 - Our Lady of Guadalupe (Feast Day)
December 25, 2025 - **Holy Day of Obligation** - Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
January 1, 2026 - **Holy Day of Obligation** - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - World Day of Peace
January 6, 2026 - Solemnity in some regions, **often a Holy Day of Obligation** - The Epiphany of the Lord
January 18 to 25, 2026 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
February 11, 2026 - World Day of the Sick
February 18 to April 2, 2026 - Season of Lent

To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him, who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut and what he shuts no one can open.

(Revelation 3:7)

VICE PRESIDENT

Committee Member:

Member Development

Connie Cristinziano

Mary Capobianco

Annual Reports

The 2025 Annual Report Surveys will be available to councils on the National Website, December 1. A memo from national will be sent on November 30. Councils are encouraged to set aside time at your executive or general meetings to complete these reports. Reports must be submitted by the deadline date. Your council events matter. Please share your accomplishments and achievements with all levels of the League.



Membership - Recruiting and Maintaining

Councils are working diligently to recruit members at their membership drives. In the November issue of the Ontario Provincial newsletter (cwl.on.ca) OPC Vice President Karen Macdonald has shared a few very simple practices that will help to attract new members and retain existing members:

- be a good role model
- have positive attitude
- be welcoming and kind
- be encouraging and open to new ideas

- empower and build confidence
- smile and give hugs!

As of September 30, 2025, Toronto Diocese has registered 5,908 members for 2025, a slight increase of 84 from September 30, 2024. Councils are encouraged to do a wellness check and contact those members who have not renewed their membership or members who have stopped attending meetings and determine their next course of action. Councils experiencing difficulties in declining membership or difficulties filling leadership roles in their councils are reminded that assistance is available through the newly formed ***R3 to 1 Unity! Task Force***. The Toronto Diocesan Lead for this project is Ann D'Souza (ant_dsouza@hotmail.com) who is working in partnership with Toronto Diocesan President Kate O'Quinn (torontodiocesecwlpres@gmail.com) and Vice President Connie Cristinziano (ccristinziano@rogers.com). Please reach out to us, as we are more than happy to visit your council and see how we can assist. Since September, the Task Force has visited six councils and have six upcoming council visits scheduled.

Remember, membership per capita fees for your council are to be submitted to National office by end of February 2026.

Leadership/ Member Development

As part of our CWL Wednesdays, a well-attended and informative virtual session was held in October on the Roles of the Executive and Running Parish Council Elections.

A New League Opportunity: Learning Together Online Through D2L Brightspace. National has announced that they are providing courses for members to expand their knowledge and involvement with the League. Complete details can be found on the National Website: cwl.ca

'This initiative is a wonderful way to deepen members' understanding of the League, explore new opportunities to actively participate and embrace leadership rooted in gospel values. Let us continue to journey together as women of faith and action, using tools that can help us serve "For God and Canada" with joy and purpose'. The first League Brightspace courses began on September 15. Councils and members are encouraged to stay tuned to national's website and social media pages for future opportunities to register. The working group can be reached at cwl.brightspace@gmail.com.

Development Day:

Development Day will be held in person on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at St. Roch Parish, 2889 Islington Ave, Toronto. The day will begin with the celebration of the Eucharist at 9.00 am and centered on the Theme "Igniting the League". The morning

session will focus on “Sparks of Joy, Connection and Growth” in the League. Colleen Martin, Ontario Provincial President, will lead our afternoon workshop “Send me Lord to Ignite our Gifts”. **Please note:** Seating is limited; registration is required by February 10, 2026. Further information and registration details are on pages 15 - 17

PAST PRESIDENT

Sue Lubowitz

Parish Elections

Many councils have started the process for elections. If you missed our virtual workshop on October 22, here are some key points to remember:

- The election of a new executive signals the end of the term of the previous executive and as such, it is strongly suggested that all financial matters be finalized before the election.
- The election should be held at the Annual Meeting of Members (AMM) where the outgoing president gives her final report and the financial statement is accepted by the members.
- The term of office is two years; except for the treasurer for a second term and standing committee chairs who can serve a second term but in a different standing committee.
- The newly elected officers are introduced by the outgoing president and assume the duties and responsibilities of their respective office **immediately** following the annual meeting.



Complete instructions can be found on the diocesan website

<https://cwtoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Parish-Council-Elections-2025.pdf>

From the September 1, 2024 memo, sent by Fran Lucas to all councils, notifying that “at the August 11 national executive/board meeting, a motion was adopted to revise the wording in the nominations procedure outlined on page 105, lines 8 through 12 of the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*. The new wording is in bold below:

“3. A written reply will be requested and if the member is willing to accept nomination, a brief resume of her League service and experience **shall be included as well as a letter of attestation**”.

Thank you for ensuring your executive and nominations committee are aware of this change.

Toronto Diocesan Elections

The Toronto Diocesan Council election will take place on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at our Annual Meeting of Members. The diocesan secretary and I are updating the Election Register, so it is crucial that your council send an up-to-date list of your executive to the diocesan secretary so we can determine eligibility for election. To be able to participate in the election processes at the diocesan convention, ensure that your council members are familiar with the process and voting privileges. Check the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* (2024) pages 101 to 109 for eligibility criteria and processes.

For additional information refer to the *Constitution & Bylaws* (2023) Part XVI, Sections 1 to 5 (pages 34 - 39).

In January, each eligible candidate will receive their discernment package by email which will include the candidate form. If you are an eligible candidate, please take time to discern your call to service, pray over it and accept nomination.

At the Humber Valley Fall Regional Meeting (September 24) current Diocesan Vice-President, Connie Cristinziano, affirmed that she will serve as the next Toronto Diocesan CWL President. As a result, there will not be a vote for the position of diocesan president.

Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Awards

The Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Awards will be presented at our convention on April 28, 2026. Forms are available on the diocesan website at <https://cwltoronto.ca/forms/>

There are two levels of this award: the parish level and the auxiliary level.

Feel free to re-submit a nomination for either category that you may have submitted in a previous year or for a different level.

It is important that submissions concentrate on the nominated CWL member as a MENTOR. A mentor can assist in understanding League history and protocol. She has an appreciation of the mission of the League. She identifies and uses available resources and can explain League policy and procedures. She also helps in developing leadership strategies and skills. Councils should identify the mentors among them. Some councils may even have more than one! The deadline for submissions will be Sunday, March 15, 2026.

6th Moira St. Marie Memorial Lecture

Thank you for attending this virtual event on October 15. The event generated much interest and we had attendees from councils across the country. The topic was Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Catholic Perspectives. This topic was instigated by two documents. The first one was from the Vatican's Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith and the

Dicastery for Culture and Education entitled “Antiqua et Nova”. It was released in January 2025. This document addresses the relationship between artificial intelligence and human intelligence, and the challenges raised by AI.

The second document was the pastoral letter on the use of social media from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops titled “Let Your Speech Always Be Gracious”. The letter addresses the complexities of the rapidly evolving social media landscape.

To help us delve into the topic, Dr. Moira McQueen explained how AI can be used in medicine. Mr. Giancarlo Brotto addressed the issue of the use of AI in education. Registered participants received the slide presentations as a follow-up.

SECRETARY

Andrea Tjioe

Committee Members:

Web Administrator

Zoom Meeting Co-Ordinator

Lucia Vacca
Shaila D’Souza

As the title of this Newsletter - Winter 2025 suggests, dropping temperatures, majestic trees are bare, and we may even have snow settling on the ground!

Many councils are now preparing for their parish council elections, which should take place in January. This is the most important time of the year for the outgoing council secretary to prepare complete documentation of the secretary files to hand over to the incoming Secretary.

Meeting Agendas, Meeting Minutes and Motion Book are all official documents of the council. Reports from all Executive Officers and Standing Committee Chairs are in the Minutes and all motions listed in numerical order are in the Motion Book. Secretary’s files are official long-term archived documents of the Council.

Please remember that immediately after the completion of your council election, a Parish Information Sheet is to be completed and forwarded to your Regional Chair, with a copy to the Toronto diocesan secretary. The Parish Information Sheet can be found on our website: <https://cwltoronto.ca/forms/>
The Toronto Diocesan Council will be holding an election of officers for the 2026 - 2028 term, at the 2026 Convention/AMM, which means that our ‘Election Register’ needs to be updated. The updated information comes from each council’s updated ‘Parish Information Sheet’.



As the year 2025 comes to a close, my heart is filled with gratitude for God’s unwavering faith in us. For every blessing, for every challenge, and for every sisterly connection, whether through email or in-person, I give thanks to each and every single one of you, my League sisters. May the lessons of this year guide us with hope and strength into the next year.

DATES TO REMEMBER – SPRING 2026

Region	Date	Time - Venue
TDC all Regions	Tuesday, February 17	7.00 pm - 8:30 pm - Zoom
Durham	Tuesday, March 10	7.00 pm - Zoom
Humber Valley	Wednesday, March 4	7.00 pm - Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Etobicoke
North York	Monday, March 23	7.00 pm - St. Patrick, Markham
Northern	Wednesday, March 25	7.00 pm - Holy Spirit, Barrie
Peel	Thursday, March 26	7.00 pm - St. Jerome, Brampton
Scarborough	TBD	7.00 pm - TBD
Toronto	Thursday, March 19	7.00 pm - TBD



St. Padre Pio ‘Stop Human Trafficking’ Flag Raising at City of Vaughn,
October 6, 2025

“For if we remain in his love, he comes to dwell in us and our life will become a temple of God. His love enlightens us, influences the way we think and act, spreads outwards to others and embraces every situation in our lives”

(Pope Leo XIV, Regina Caeli, May 25).



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA,
TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT DAY 2026

Saturday, February 21, 2026

8:30 am - 3:00 pm

St. Roch Parish

2889 Islington Ave., Toronto

THEME: IGNITING THE LEAGUE



Morning Session

Sparks of Joy, Connection & Growth

Afternoon Session

Ignite Our Gifts

Cost is \$20/member.

Register with Andrea Tjioe: a_tjioe@yahoo.com

Please send cheque and registration form to

Andrea Tjioe, 3238 McCarthy Court, Mississauga, On L4Y 3Z6

Make cheque payable to: **The Catholic Women's League of Canada**
(and indicate Development Day 2026 on the memo line)

Seating is limited to 300. Pre-Registration is a **MUST**.

Registration will be cut-off when the maximum capacity has been reached.

Your registration form and your payment guarantees your spot.

No refunds. Transfer of spots only are allowed.

Registration and payment are due by Monday, February 10, 2026.

For more details see registration form and program.

For Inquiries contact: Connie Cristinziano, TDC Vice President:

ccristinziano@rogers.com 416-258- 6678

DEVELOPMENT DAY 2026

PROGRAM

- 8:30 am Registration
- 9:00 am Opening Mass
- 9:40 am Registration, Coffee, Tea, Juice, Assorted Baked Goods and Fresh Fruits
- 10:00 am Welcome & Introductions
Land Acknowledgement
Opening Prayer: League Prayer
Greetings from President, Kate O'Quinn
- 10:20 am Workshop - Sparks of Joy, Connection and Growth
- 12:15 pm Lunch Break (bring your own lunch)
- 1:15 pm Gathering Prayer
- 1:30 pm Workshop presented by Ontario Provincial President Colleen Martin: "Send me Lord to Ignite Our Gifts".
- 2:45 pm Closing remarks
- 2:50 pm Final Blessing



105th Annual Toronto Diocesan Council Convention

Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission

Be Eucharistic

Monday April 27 and Tuesday April 28, 2026

Ajax Convention Centre, 550 Beck Crescent, Ajax ON, L1Z 1C9

The convention committee, along with the President and her executive are very pleased to host the Toronto Diocesan Council Convention at the Ajax Convention Centre again this year. We are pleased with having the hotels on the property with free parking and easy access from Highway 401.

We look forward to having a great turnout from all our members across our diocese.

The hotels available on site are:

The Hilton Garden Inn, 500 Beck Crescent, Ajax, ON. L1Z 1C9. Phone: **905-686-9400**. Group Code ID is: **CWL26**. Rates are \$189 per night, plus HST, for double occupancy. There is a surcharge of \$10.00 per person for up to two (2) additional people, a limit of four (4) per room. We recommend calling the hotel directly. See the URL below for reservation.

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=YYZAJGI&groupCode=CWL26&arrivaldate=2026-04-27&departuredate=2026-04-29&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIREC>

Cut off Date: March 20th, 2026

Homewood Suites, 600 Beck Crescent, Ajax, ON L1Z1C9. Phone: **905-686-5969**.

Rates are \$199.00 per night, plus HST, for double occupancy. Suites available are:

- 1 King Bed Studio Suite Nonsmoking
- 1 King Bed 1 Bedroom Suite Nonsmoking
- 2 Queen Beds 1 Bedroom Suite Nonsmoking

See URL below for reservation.

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/catholicwomensleagueconference2026/>

Our theme will be the new National theme: ***Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission*** Diocesan theme, ***Be Eucharistic***, will also be emphasized.

The Convention will commence on Monday, April 27, 2026, with our Opening Eucharist at 10:00 am, with Business Sessions to follow.

More details will be provided in the Spring 2026 newsletter and on the Toronto Diocesan Council website at: www.cwltoronto.ca

Your 2026 Convention Team contacts are:

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

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

Shaila Dsouza 416-220-8611 shailaflavy@gmail.com

Tracy MacInnis 647-973-7645 t.macinnis60@gmail.com

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Region	Council	Anniversary Years
Durham	St. Joseph the Worker, Oshawa	40
North York	Good Shepherd, Thornhill	40
	St. Bonaventure, Leslie Street	70
Northern	Guardian Angels, Orillia	95
	St. Mary's Collingwood	95
Toronto	Our Lady of Lourdes	75
	St. Helen	75

MAPLE LEAF SERVICE PIN AWARDS

Region	Parish	Recipient
North York	St. Luke, Thornhill	Shaila D'Souza
Northern	Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmvale	Diane Moreau Rolande Brown Romelda Pottage
Peel	St. Patrick, Mississauga	Andrea Tjoie
Scarborough	St. Joseph, Highland Creek	Therese Baduria
Toronto	Our Lady of Lourdes	Ophie Calapatia Rita Alfred Rosalina Campbell Sally Arnuco

SERVICE AWARDS

55 years Membership Pin

Region	Parish	Recipient
Humber Valley	St. Roch, Weston	Elia Salerno Jo Cardle Joan Bass
Northern	St John Vianney, Barrie	Lucy Beauchamp

50 years Membership Pin

Region	Parish	Recipient
Durham	St. Mary of the People, Oshawa	Irma Dus Jeanette Bussanich Monica Freeman Rose Ambra
Humber Valley	St. Roch, Weston	Gina Campeotto
Northern	St John Vianney, Barrie	Eugenie Bottone

40 years Membership Pin

Region	Parish	Recipient
Humber Valley	St. Roch, Weston	Grace Caprara
North York	Blessed Frederic Ozanam, Markham	Carmela Ientile
Northern	St John Vianney, Barrie	Barbara Bagnell Nancy Joncas
Scarborough	St. Joseph, Highland Creek	Lina Civello

35 years Membership Pin

Region	Parish	Recipient
Humber Valley	St. Roch, Weston	Antoinetta Capuani Elia Romano Nicolina Cipriano Rosa Zago
North York	Blessed Frederic Ozanam, Markham	Jeannie Stregger
Northern	St John Vianney, Barrie	Yolanda Abspoeli
Scarborough	St. Joseph, Highland Creek	Irene Dillabough
Toronto	Our Lady of Lourdes	Caridad Tomas- Bercasio Dalisy Benedicto

30 years Membership Pin

Region	Parish	Recipient
Humber Valley	St. Roch, Western	Emelia Belli Teresa Caruso
Northern	St John Vianney, Barrie	Franca Mancineli

30 years Membership Pin

Region	Parish	Recipient
Scarborough	St. Joseph, Highland Creek	Jocelyn Holder Joy Ezemenari Justine Csenge Tina Zappulla
Toronto	Our Lady of Lourdes	Percy Eustaquio

25 years Membership Pin

Region	Parish	Recipient
Durham	St. Mary of the People, Oshawa	Janice Nemeth Pam Mather
Humber Valley	St. Roch, Weston	Erica Rac Maria Griffin
North York	Blessed Frederic Ozanam, Markham	Jill Liberty
Northern	St John Vianney, Barrie	Connie Ferrira Franca Sclafani Mary Mendrek Wilma LaRoche
Peel	St. Francis Xavier	Anita Falco Elizabeth Roopan Jan Lahouri Marilou Alinea Victoria Velasco
Scarborough	St. Joseph, Highland Creek	Mary Cunningham Winnie Yan
Toronto	Our Lady of Lourdes	Alisa Diokno Bing Maglana Luisa Ninahuilca Luz Mustacho

20 years Membership Pin

Region	Parish	Recipient
Humber Valley	St. Roch, Weston	Aurora Vescio Kathy Tesone Maria De Bellis Rose Stange
Northern	St John Vianney, Barrie	Joye Canning, Susan O'Reilly
Peel	St Francis Xavier, Mississauga	Delphine Pereira Diedre Ferreira Rita Iafrate

	20 years Membership Pin	
Region	Parish	Recipient
Scarborough	St. Joseph Highland Creek	Anne McDonald Bernice Clunas Clare Gotera Clementina Costa- D'Aguiar Eileen D'Souza Joan Snooka Monique Isidor
Toronto	Our Lady of Lourdes	Araceli Farinas Celia Boggs Elizabeth Ho Eva Caldillero Jean Thompson Joy Arellano Mae Sajome Prescy Alumaga

“Every gesture of willingness, every gratuitous act, every forgiveness given in advance, every effort patiently accepted, is a way to prepare a place where God can dwell”

(Pope Leo XIV)

TREASURER

Donna Capobianco

This is the time of year that most councils are holding elections. That means a busy time to arrange for transferring files and necessary information to your successor. As Treasurer, you will need to complete the current year so that the new person coming in can start with an updated slate beginning in January 2026. There is an **important step** that needs to be completed first. The banking information needs to be updated to show the new signatories on the account. The account requires three people with signing authority - the President, Treasurer and Secretary. All cheques are to be signed with two signatures. It is important when presenting a cheque for the second signature, to be sure to have the backup paperwork that will show who the payment is being made to and the reason for the payment. As the outgoing treasurer, you should be available, if asked for help or to answer any questions that your successor may have.



VOLUNTARY FUNDS

When preparing the donations for your council this year, please note there are Voluntary Funds at all three levels. At the Diocesan level, is the St. Michaels Scholarship and the Margaret Ann Jacobs Catholic Children's Aid Foundation Scholarship Fund. It is only through your support that we can meet our commitment and contribute to these scholarships annually. Donations can be made all year round, but must be received by December 20, 2025 to be included in the Annual Report for 2025.

At the Provincial level, there is the Bishop Pappin Bursary Fund which gives financial support to Seminarians. Go to www.cwl.on.ca for more information. Cheques are mailed directly to the Ontario Provincial Treasurer.

Finally, there are the National Voluntary Funds - the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (D&P), Catholic Missions in Canada (CMIC), Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), the Coady International Institute and the National Bursary Fund. The form #513 is available on the National website. Cheques are mailed to directly to National.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Be sure to fill in and submit all annual reports as soon as they are available. Parish Councils do so much to help and support their parishes and communities. So many wonderful activities and events are taking place in our parishes. Share the good news!

DIOCESAN CHAIRPERSON OF SERVICE Gabriella Di Pietrantonio

Until All Are Fed

Food insecurity is a growing concern in Canada today. The term describes a range of experiences related to inadequate access to food. Those who are marginally food insecure may face a limited selection of food options. Individuals who are moderately food insecure often compromise the quality or quantity of their food to make ends meet. At the most severe level, food insecurity means missing meals, significantly reducing food intake, or even going days without eating. Unfortunately, more Canadians are experiencing each of these levels of food insecurity. Take some time to read what Canadian Foodgrains Bank's program 'Until All Are Fed (untilallarefed.ca)' focuses on. Councils, take some time to work on the action plan behind **Resolution 2022.01 Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste**. Let us put forward our gifts of giving.



Environment

WUCWO's 2023-2027 set of resolutions included their campaign on 'Device-Free Family Meals': encouraging families to sit down and share a meal without any electronic devices. As we all know, cell phone usage alone has not only increased but has now trickled down to younger users. Effects are felt on a social and environmental level. Consider the production effects on developing areas: labour conditions, human rights violations and extraction of natural materials needed to make the devices. A great discussion opener about this would be to look at **Resolution 2024.03 Grant the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise Legal Authority to Investigate Environmental and Human Rights Abuses.**

Community

Quite dishearteningly, our communities face the harsh and devastating crisis of human trafficking. As part of our service to our faith, we need to focus on educating our members and support local organizations who are working to help victims. If at all possible, consider financial support to area shelters who are providing the care to women and children who have suffered violence and exploitation. Take some time to familiarize your councils about Policy/Program Memorandum 166, the Keeping Students Safe policy. This ties into Ministry of Education's commitment to enhance and build on local anti-sex trafficking protocols; a means of giving school boards the ability to develop and enact plans to protect and fight sex trafficking of our children.

TDC Youth Awards

The Toronto Diocesan CWL has set dates for the 2026 Youth Awards Contests. Information packages are available online at cwltoronto.ca, under the Resources tab. Deadlines for the regions to submit names to the diocese are: Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest (MMPSC): March 13, 2026, Mary Dobell Poetry and Essay and Jean McCann Service Award entries: March 13, 2026. The TDC MMPSC Final will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2026. Each Region and parish council will set their deadlines based on the TDC deadlines.

St. Michael's College Scholarship

Catherine von Zuben is chairing the 2026 applications. The deadline for submissions is May 31, 2026.

TDC Scholarships Funds

Please continue to support the Toronto Diocesan Scholarship funds with your generous donations by using the Toronto Diocesan Voluntary Remittance form that can be found on the Toronto Diocesan CWL website. Remember the St.

Michael’s College Scholarship and Margaret Ann Jacobs Catholic Children Aid Foundation Scholarship are funded solely by your council’s generous donations. Cheques are made payable to **The Catholic Women’s League of Canada** (not the Scholarship Fund) and sent to TDC Treasurer. Please remember to include these scholarships in your annual budgets.

Personal Growth

There is never too much already known for there not to be room for something new to be learned. Check out National’s website for details on any courses, including leadership or mentoring skills, which are sometimes offered. Empowering ourselves is the first step to making the League stronger and our efforts impactful.

DIOCESAN CHAIRPERSON OF SOCIAL JUSTICE Christina Boyle

Committee Members:

- Resolutions
- Legislation

Elizabeth Joseph
Audrey Nichols

The Journey of a Resolution

The TDC Resolutions Sub-Committee spends considerable time in dialogue with the gifting councils or region to refine the resolution. The originating council or region has to vote to adopt the resolution and gift it to the Toronto Diocesan Council. It then goes before the TDC Resolutions Review Committee for critique and feedback. Possible amendments take place based on those reviews. A final vote on whether to advance a resolution to the Toronto Diocesan 2026 Annual Meeting of Members (AMM) will take place at the January 2026 TDC executive meeting. If a resolution is adopted at the TDC Members Meeting, it then goes before the Ontario Provincial Review Panel, and the Provincial executive determines if it will be presented at the Ontario Provincial AMM. If adopted there, it goes before the National Review Panel, and has to be voted on by the National Executive immediately before the National Convention, to determine if the resolution will be considered for a final vote. If successfully adopted at **National AMM**, and **only** after it is published on the cwl.ca website, councils are able to act on the Action Plans that are part of the resolution. It is quite the journey!



Not all resolutions are destined for the National Convention/AMM. Only those asking for action from the Federal Government move through all those phases.

Some resolutions are destined for the Ontario Provincial Government, local municipal government or action by an organization, and will be actionable when they reach and are adopted at the respective AMM's. It is up to the executive at the final destination to take the necessary steps to arrange to meet with government or municipal officials to present the resolution. Planning is underway for OPC to meet with the provincial government in April 2026 to discuss resolutions from 2024.

This process illustrates what an achievement it was to advance the two resolutions **2025.01 and 2025.04** that originated within the Toronto Diocese through to their final destination at the 2025 National AMM. Congratulations to the gifting council of St. Joseph, Streetsville and the Region of Peel for the original ideas and the hard work of everyone involved to achieve this success. Now the work begins on the action plans from those and other resolutions, while we continue to develop new resolutions for 2026.

When writing letters in support of the resolutions to government officials, please remember that you are writing as a private citizen, not as a representative of the Catholic Women's League, as any official communication to members of parliament can only come from the National or Provincial levels. Do not let that stop you from developing letter writing campaigns at your parish councils, just use plain paper and write as a private concerned citizen.

Provincial Resolutions

Although no new resolution was passed in 2025 for destination at the Ontario provincial level, do not forget that action can still be taken on active resolutions from previous years. Search resolutions at cwl.on.ca.

Legislation

A reminder that when the general election was called, all Bills that were not fully enacted and still moving through the house and senate were lost from the Order Paper. We need to monitor the reintroduction of important Bills and contact our local MPs, as private citizens, to let them know we still think these pieces of legislation are important. For example:

C-322 (old designation 44th parliament) **An Act to develop a national framework to establish a school food program** reached third reading in the House September 2024, but was incomplete. However, On October 10, an announcement made by the federal government was very encouraging - that permanent funding for a National School Food Program would be included in the Fall 2025 budget.

Bill S-210 now changed to **Bill S-209 An Act to restrict young person's access to pornographic material** was reintroduced on May 28, 2025 in the

Senate, and completed second reading on June 12, 2025, referred to committee for consideration. Committee in progress during October 2025.

A new private members' **Bill C-218 An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Medical Assistance in Dying)** sponsored by Tamara Jansen was introduced and had first reading on June 20, 2025. "This Bill wants to amend the criminal code to provide that a mental disorder is not a grievous and irremediable medical condition for which a person could receive medical assistance in dying" (an extract from the text of Bill C-218). "The purpose of the Bill is to prevent the expansion of euthanasia to patients suffering solely from mental illness. A bill similar to this one, **Bill C-314**, was narrowly defeated 167-150 in 2023. It is hopeful that this one will pass. Members are encouraged to write to their MP urging support for **Bill C-218** regardless of political affiliation.

New National Social Justice Chair, Jessie Parkinson (2025-2027) is a retired lawyer from Nova Scotia, a member for 23 years and became a Life Member in 2012.



National President, Betty Colaneri and Provincial President, Colleen Martin - **Rosary Sunday, September 14, 2025, Martyr's Shrine**



The Catholic Women's League of Canada, Toronto Diocesan Council
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February 2026 - February 2027

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CONTACT NAME _____ **(Email & Phone):** _____

 President or Treasurer

First Name	Last Name	Address/Street	City	Postal Code

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