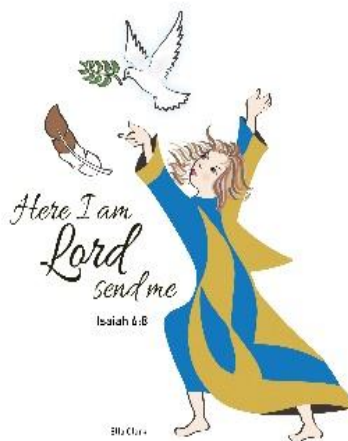


The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Toronto Diocesan Council
Annual Report 2025



Be Eucharistic

Annual Report 2025

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The Catholic Women's League of Canada

TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Spiritual Advisor
Rev. Liborio Amaral

President
Kate O'Quinn

Dear Sisters in the League

Let us give thanks to Almighty God for the many good gifts He has given us and for the wonderful achievements we have completed in 2025. Every good gift and every good achievement have their ultimate source in God.

This past year we celebrated the Jubilee Year, and it is always productive to take time and reflect on the many achievements (big and small) that, as individuals and as parish councils, we were able to accomplish. Each achievement was made possible because of your dedication and commitment to the League.

Beyond your council's achievements this past year, I pray that you were able to grow in your Catholic Faith. The CWL can be a wonderful vehicle to get closer to Christ, through interactions you have with your fellow sisters in the League.

I have enjoyed my time meeting many of you at the various regional meetings this past year. When you gather as women of God, you show forth a glow of loving fraternity and caring for each other. I pray that you will continue to be guiding lights to the other women in your parishes, who have not yet considered to be part of the CWL.

I continue to encourage each one of you to keep an eye out for women in your parish who would benefit from joining the League, as you have yourself. Remember to tap the shoulder of a woman you see sitting in the pews in your parish and gently invite her to consider joining the CWL. This simple tap can lead to a woman joining the League, in your parish.

I again would like to thank our Regional Spiritual Advisors, in a special way, who have supported you this past year. Please join me in thanking these wonderful priests who have said YES to being your Regional Spiritual Advisors. To Fr. Gerard Pilon (Durham); Fr. Jan Gogolewski (Humber Valley); Fr. James Dunstan (North York); Fr. Suresh Xavier (Peel); Fr. Laurence Léger (Northern); Fr. Alexander Osei (Scarborough) and Fr. Patrick Ezimora (Toronto).

Thank you for guiding our sisters in the League, so that we can all come closer to Jesus Christ our-Lord.

Please keep our Spiritual Advisors in your prayers as I am sure they will keep you in theirs.

Finally, I ask for your prayers, that the Lord may make me a good and holy priest. In return, be assured of my prayers for all of you. May Our Lady of Good Council lead us all forward on the path of Hope, Faith and Charity.

Blessings,
Fr. Liborio
Spiritual Advisor
The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Toronto Diocesan Council

Report of the President

Kate O'Quinn

Regions: 7

Members: 5984

Councils: 93

Catholic Girl Councils: 2

Honorary Life Member: 1

Life Members: 13

Seventy-four of 93 councils completed the annual report survey.

Focus on the National Theme, 'Here I am Lord, send me'

All 74 councils reported they had focused on the National Theme, *Here I am Lord, send me*, in the following ways: attending an online webinar (54%), a retreat (35%), a guest speaker (22%), a workshop (18%) and other (54%). 'Other' included council activities/involvement, offering monetary support and/or volunteer support to community organizations such as: Leave no Neighbour Behind Food Bank, Rose of Sharon, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, etc. Some councils reported back to their members on the Toronto Diocesan convention keynote speakers. Others shared that members were inspired to take on executive positions. One council had members attend training on palliative care, then made arrangements with a long-term care facility for members to volunteer on a weekly basis, while another council hosted World Day of Prayer. Many councils centred their prayer services at their general meetings around the national theme.

Focus on National Focus of Mental Health

The 74 councils reported they focused on the national focus of mental health in the following ways: speaker on mental health (26%), how to get help for those with mental health issues (20%), distributed up-to-date information (33%), how mental health affects homelessness, job security, violence, etc. (41%) and other (35%). Other ways councils focused on mental health included: support letters to MP on Bill C-218, donations to charities supporting mental health, use of telephone tree to check on homebound members and parishioners, attended the Toronto Diocesan Development Day where the theme was on mental health, attended the national convention presentation by Dr. Gerry Turcotte, invited guest speaker from 360 Kids and prayer services focused on the mental health theme.

On August 13th, the national president wrote to the prime minister of Canada on behalf of all members expressing "dismay and concern about the plight of women and children who are living in appalling conditions in Gaza." The prime minister was urged to press for sustained humanitarian aid and an end to the ongoing conflict. Councils reported the following:

Forty of the 74 councils were aware of the letter. Thirteen of these councils reported speaking out on this issue.

As part of a multi year survey to see if effectiveness has improved, councils reported the following on the national communique packages sent quarterly from national office:

Forty-eight of the 74 councils reported they received the national communique packages sent quarterly from national office. Thirty-nine of these councils found the information

useful. Thirty-seven of the councils found the information timely. and shared the information with their members.

The Annual National Convention

Fifty-five of the 74 presidents reported they have considered attending a national convention.

What members enjoyed at the national convention in Toronto:

Members reported they really enjoyed the opportunity to attend the WUCWO Conference, resolutions discussions, Opening and Closing Eucharists and seeing all levels of clergy in attendance, keynote speakers, the experience of attending a national convention and meeting sisters from across our country, lunch with national executive members and being actively involved in the business of the League. One council enjoyed the convention so much that they would like to attend the 2026 national convention in Halifax!

What members would like to see at a future convention:

Members reported they would like to see more workshops on current issues and activities that promote fellowship, have activities to enable members to truly get to know one another, round table discussions of pertinent issues, a “speed-friendship” or mentorship activity to pair newer members with seasoned ones for intentional connection, workshops on storytelling and sharing faith with the next generation.

What prevents members from attending a national convention:

Financial restraint was the most cited reason for not attending a national convention. Other reasons included: mobility issues, getting time off work, family obligations, travel distance, conflicts with family vacation time, lack of interest and too many levels of League to try to get to everything.

Toronto Diocesan Highlights

The Toronto Diocesan Annual Convention/AMM continues to be a highlight. The 104th Convention/AMM (April 28 & 29) focused on the national theme, *Here I am Lord, send me*, the provincial theme, *Joyfully*, the Jubilee Year, *Pilgrims of Hope* and our diocesan theme, *Be Eucharistic*. Over 300 members were in attendance at the business sessions. Keynote Speaker on Monday evening was Father Tim Hanley, Chair of the year of Jubilee, who spoke on Pilgrims of Hope. Tuesday Keynote Speaker was Frankie Burg-Feret, Executive Director of Silent Children’s Mission. Two resolutions were adopted. The collection taken at the Closing Eucharist on Tuesday was divided between Silent Children’s Mission and the Margaret Ann Jacobs Catholic Children’s Aid Foundation Scholarship Fund.

The banquet Keynote Speaker was Honorary Life Member, Margaret Ann Jacobs.

Another highlight from the Toronto Diocese was a council in Humber Valley Region being recognized and nominated by the Attorney General's Office of the Government of Ontario for a second year in a row for their work on Human Trafficking Awareness. Members of the CWL visited Vaughan City Hall to request a flag raising for Human Trafficking Awareness week and left with even more. Vaughan City Hall has declared the 2nd week of October as Human Trafficking Awareness Week in Vaughan and City Hall will be lit blue every February 22nd, for National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. The president of this council did a presentation at the 104th TDC Annual Convention, April 2025, on this project and has sparked diocesan-wide participation in Human Trafficking Awareness!

A third highlight for our diocesan executive was our continued focus on our visibility to our members (which was a number one priority for us as a result of the feedback from the national Unity Outreach initiative.) This was achieved because every executive member was fully supportive and excited to be involved at the parish council level. Through in-person visits, workshops and zoom presentations that focused on League development and executive training, our executive was very visible to all our members across the diocese. This year, I also requested members of the diocesan executive to host a meeting with their corresponding counterparts at the parish level. These meetings were done via zoom and were extremely well attended and appreciated. A third way we were visible as an executive was through the All-Regions zoom meetings, one held in the Fall and one in the Spring. All executive members gave a report/update on their office. These meetings saw 120-140 members in attendance.

As an executive, we made it very clear to the membership, that we were here to help and we made ourselves available as needed. Feedback from the annual survey sums up the success of our 'visibility' focus: *"We are particularly grateful for the support and active outreach of the TDC this year. We know each of the executive on a first name basis, thanks to the many webinars they have presented over the year. Well done!"*.

Recommendations:

- Continue to encourage your diocesan executive to be visible to your members at the parish council level - we all need to know and respect one another.
- Continue to offer League Development for our council presidents and to all members.
- As diocesan president, encourage all executive members to offer training on their position to correlating parish executive positions as support, encouragement and networking with one another is so important.
- Presidents are encouraged to mentor their Vice President.
- Always treat one another with kindness and respect - as president, you are a role model to all.

Report of the Vice President

Connie Cristinziano

Members: 5984

Regions: 7

Councils: 93

Honorary Life Member: 1

Life Members: 13

Seventy-four out of 93 councils participated in the national 2025 annual report survey. A very warm welcome back to Sts. Martha and Mary Council, Mississauga which was reactivated in February 2025.

Recruit Members and Retain Membership

Sixty-six percent of councils reported using the ‘*Welcome Program*’ to promote the League with prospective and new members; 95% of council’s executives encouraged members and prospective members to visit the national website for information and resources as a recruitment tool.

The greatest challenges that councils faced with membership included: difficulty in engaging younger members, attracting new members, changing demographics, lack of attendance at meetings and members not willing to take on a leadership role. Many councils have encouraged a team approach through formation of committees, to not only undertake the duties of the different roles, but also to promote leadership within their councils.

Despite the various challenges councils were faced with, they continued to work diligently and tirelessly using many resources, strategies and initiatives to promote the League, to keep their councils vibrant!

Councils focused on being visible in their parishes through many means: membership drives; pulpit talks; display tables at fundraising events; coffee Sundays; meet and greet of parishioners before and after Mass; wearing their pins and CWL scarves; service pins ceremonies; members’ appreciation dinners; church bulletin; hosted various events for the parish, which included: Simbang Gabi (a nine day series of devotions and Masses in preparation for Christmas) and Zumba classes. One council reported a significant increase in attendance at their monthly meetings. This was achieved by changing the format of their meetings which included: reports emailed to members in advance so questions or concerns could be addressed efficiently during the meeting, each meeting centered on a specific theme, which also included interactive activities that encouraged members to engage, mingle and share ideas. The most popular method in gaining new members was by extending a personal outreach or inviting parishioners to their events. One council reported that they were successful in gaining seven new members at their Christmas Bazaar.

The R3 to 1 Unity! Task Force was launched in 2025, to assist parish councils with their questions and concerns, particularly regarding membership.

Nineteen councils reported that their council was approached and were offered assistance, with fourteen councils accepting the offer of assistance.

Life Members

Toronto Diocese is truly blessed with thirteen Life Members and one Honorary Life Member. Our Life Members are truly valued, as they not only represent the League’s

history, but they are always available to share their knowledge, provide mentorship and leadership and inspire members to continue in their own journey and mission of faith, service and social justice. (see Life Member liaison full report).

Leadership Development

In August, the national level launched the D2L Brightspace an online learning opportunity for members.

Thirty-three councils were aware of this initiative, 11 councils had members who registered for courses and 12 councils felt it was a good resource for members.

Many opportunities for leadership development were provided to members through the virtual CWL Wednesdays initiative which included a variety of workshops: *How to Prepare a Parish Council Manual of Policy and Procedure; The Joy of Leadership: Strategies to Engage New members; Members' Communication Guide; Parish Council Elections, Roles of the Executive; Mentorship in the League and Advent retreat 'That Blessed Upper Room'*.

2025 Council Anniversaries

Fourteen councils celebrated milestone anniversaries in 2025. Some councils elected to receive their certificate at their special event while others chose to receive their certificate at the 2026 convention. Anniversary years are based on the charter date and actual paid years of service. Councils that had lapses in membership fees or were disbanded are not credited for unpaid years.

5 th Anniversary	St. Jerome, Peel Region
10 th Anniversary	St. John XXIII, North York Region
15 th Anniversary	St. Leo the Great, Durham Region
25 th Anniversary	St. Francis Xavier, Peel Region
30 th Anniversary	St. Joseph the Worker, North York Region
	Annunciation of The Blessed Virgin Mary, Scarborough Region
40 th Anniversary	St. Joseph the Worker, Durham Region
45 th Anniversary	Holy Family, Durham Region
	Holy Rosary, Toronto Region
55 th Anniversary	St. Roch, Humber Valley Region
60 th Anniversary	St. Ambrose, Humber Valley Region
65 th Anniversary	Our Lady of Miraculous Medal, Humber Valley Region
	Transfiguration of Our Lord, Humber Valley Region
70 th Anniversary	St. Pius X, Toronto Region

Toronto Diocesan 2025 Vice President Highlights

- The Toronto Diocesan Development Day was held in-person and hosted by Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Humber Valley Region, on Saturday February 22, 2025. The Theme of the day was: *Strengthened by Knowledge, Guided through Faith, Supported by Service*. The morning session was presented by Catholic Family Services Toronto, and focused on Mental Health, Wellness and Self Care. The afternoon session focused on the 2025 Jubilee Year's Theme *Pilgrims of Hope* with Keynote Speaker, Father Eugene O'Reilly. It was a very informative and inspiring day with 281 members in attendance.

- Successfully reactivated Sts. Martha and Mary council Mississauga with a full executive
- Arranged the introduction of the R3 to 1, Unity! Task Force initiative with Toronto Diocesan Life Member and Toronto Diocese Lead Ann D'Souza. Over 75 members across our diocese attended the presentation.

Recommendations

- Continue to offer Diocesan Leadership workshops and Parish Executive Training Sessions.
- Appoint committees: to handle new member inquiries, assist with member development workshops and annual reports.

Councils are encouraged to:

- Take advantage of the many resources that are available on the national website that will assist them with recruiting, retaining and regaining their membership.
- Visit the national website for upcoming courses offered through the D2L Brightspace online learning portal.
- Request assistance regarding declining membership issues from the R3 to 1. Unity! Task force and TDC Vice President and President.

Report of the Secretary

Andrea Tjioe

Seventy-four councils completed the 2025 annual report survey.

Record Keeping

Minutes are a vital resource to track council activities and are legal documents. Ninety-seven per cent of councils took minutes at all their meetings. Ninety-two percent of councils had the minutes reviewed and approved by their members, 83 % archived the minutes and 78% kept a minutes book.

Communication

Fifty-four percent of councils had formed a subcommittee to assist with communications. Members were informed about resources available to them on the national website by various means: email was the primary method of communication used by council secretaries (93%). Other methods included: general meetings (85%); word of mouth (61%); telephone committee (39%); communiques/directives/memos (38%); newsletter (36%) and text (17%). Very few councils used social media: Facebook (15%); Instagram (8%). Fewer used WhatsApp, or Messenger. Other methods of communication used included parish weekly bulletin, CWL bulletin board and pulpit announcements.

National Communication

Sixty-six percent of the councils reported they received all national quarterly communiques/memos and 23% received some of the national quarterly/memos. Thirty-four percent of the councils shared all quarterly communiques/memos with their executive and 31% shared some of the communiques/memos with their council members. Forty percent of councils consistently visited the links provided in the national communiques/memos, and 31% sometimes visited the national website to view national communique/memo package.

National Website and Resources

The national website has many resources for members and for councils to use.

Sixty-six percent of the councils used the national website for resources as follows: on a weekly basis (7%); twice a month (8%); semi-annually/annually (4%) and did not visit the website (8%).

Eighty-two percent of councils shared the national resources with members.

Fifty-seven percent of councils informed their members on how to access resources on the national website. Only 9% of councils informed their members how to navigate the national website.

Some councils reported that the national website is not user-friendly and/or hard to navigate.

Toronto Diocesan 2025 Secretary Highlights

- Recorded all motions and updated/ maintained the TDC Motion Book.
- Maintained and updated parish information lists with the collaboration of the regional chairs and ensured that the website administrator was advised and changes made accordingly.

- Sent cards to members including Life Members, as well as clergy, for significant life events.
- Circulated the weekly Monday correspondence and all other communication requested by the president.
- Managed registration for virtual and in-person events, training workshops and member development sessions.
- Secretary for the 2025 National Convention Planning committee and managed the Secretariat office during the convention.

Recommendations

- Continue to refer to the ‘Handbook for Secretaries’ found on the national website.
- Form subcommittee to share the responsibilities and duties to avoid excess workload.
- Engage members who are home-bound or unable to attend meetings, to assist with the correspondence, writing of cards to keep them connected and engaged.
- Use your younger members or members who are media savvy, manage the social media communication.
- Ensure that members who do not have access to internet, are receiving communications.

Report of the Treasurer

Donna Capobianco

Seventy-four councils participated in the 2025 annual report survey.

Forty-four councils (61%) prepared an annual budget. Forty councils (56%) presented an annual comparative budget at council meetings.

Sixty-two councils (86%) prepared and presented a monthly cash flow statement at meetings.

Fifty-seven councils (77%) had a clear council financial policy for fundraising and spending. Thirty-four councils (46%) adhered to the national Financial Policy, and forty councils (54%) were not aware of the national Financial Policy.

Forty-five councils (61%) had their books examined/audited at least every two years.

The Annual Parish Treasurer Report submitted by the councils with totals as shown below. This indicates the monetary donations made by parish councils in the Toronto Diocese. It is evident that our members are committed to aiding and supporting their parish and communities. The data also includes donations made to the National Voluntary Funds.

The total donations are detailed below.

National Voluntary Fund		% of Total
Coady International Institute	1,300.00	0.35%
Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace	3,250.00	0.88%
Catholic Missions in Canada	5,400.00	1.47%
Catholic Near East Welfare Association	3,000.00	0.81%
National Bursary Fund	1,100.00	0.30%
National Voluntary Fund Sub-total	14,050.00	3.81%

Standing Committees		
Faith	27,864.00	7.56%
Service	98,502.00	26.73%
Social Justice	36,326.00	9.86%
Standing Committees Sub-total	162,692.00	44.15%

All Donations		
National Voluntary Fund Sub-total	14,050.00	3.81%
Standing Committees Sub-total	162,692.00	44.15%
Parish Donations	147,717.00	40.08%
Other Donations	44,090.00	11.96%
TOTAL	368,549.00	100%

In 2025, the Toronto Diocesan Council, received donations towards its Voluntary Funds, namely: St. Michael's Scholarship Fund and Margaret Ann Jacobs Catholic Children's Aid Scholarship Foundation. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

Listed below is a breakdown of donations received, and disbursements made for the Toronto Diocesan Voluntary Funds for 2025.

National Reference Numbers	Council Name	Region	St. Michael's Scholarship Fund 2025	Margaret Ann Jacobs-Catholic Children's Aid Foundation Scholarship Fund 2025	2025 TOTAL
T013	Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Scarborough	200.00		200.00
T005	Guardian Angels, Orillia	Northern	100.00		100.00
T009	Holy Cross, Toronto	Toronto	100.00	100.00	200.00
T011	Holy Martyrs of Japan	Northern		150.00	150.00
T129	Holy Rosary	Toronto	150.00	150.00	300.00
T022	Nativity of Our Lord, Etobicoke	Humber Valley		100.00	100.00
T 024	Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmvale	Northern	100.00	100.00	200.00
T034	Precious Blood, Scarborough	Scarborough	100.00	100.00	200.00
T043	St. Barnabas, Scarborough	Scarborough	100.00		100.00
T039	St. Batholomew, Scarborough	Scarborough	150.00	150.00	300.00
T047	St. Bonaventure	North York	200.00		200.00
T058	St. Boniface	Scarborough		50.00	50.00
T148	St. Charles Borromeo	Humber Valley	25.00	25.00	50.00
T118	St. Francis Xavier, Mississauga	Peel	350.00	200.00	550.00
T059	St. Gregory, Etobicoke	Humber Valley	200.00	200.00	400.00
T062	St. Helen	Toronto	100.00		100.00
T067	St. Ignatius Loyola	Peel	100.00	100.00	200.00
T136	St. John XXIII	North York	100.00	100.00	200.00
T060	St. John Chrysostom, Newmarket	North York	100.00	150.00	250.00
T068	St. John the Evangelist, Whitby	Durham	50.00	100.00	150.00
T066	St. John Fisher, Peel	Peel	100.00	100.00	200.00
T069	St. John Vianney, Barrie	Northern	200.00	200.00	400.00

T071	St. Joseph Highland Creek	Scarborough	200.00	200.00	400.00
T130	St. Leo the Great	Durham	50.00	50.00	100.00
T035	St. Leonard, Brampton	Peel	200.00	200.00	400.00
T078	St. Margaret Mary, Woodbridge	Humber Valley	400.00		400.00
T113	St. Martin of Tours	Peel	100.00	100.00	200.00
T087	St. Mary of the People, Oshawa	Durham	50.00		50.00
T057	St Mary Star of the Sea, Mississauga	Peel		75.00	75.00
T083	St. Mary, Brampton	Peel	100.00	200.00	300.00
T114	St. Patrick, Wildfield	Peel	400.00	400.00	800.00
T076	St. Paul the Apostle, Alliston	Northern		100.00	100.00
T144	St. Rose of Lima	Scarborough	100.00		100.00
T101	St. Roch, Weston	Humber Valley	50.00	50.00	100.00
T077	St. Margaret, Midland	Northern		200.00	200.00
T082	St. Mary, Barrie	Northern	100.00	200.00	300.00
Other	2025 Toronto Convention Mass Collection			1,355.00	1,355.00
Other	Anonymous Donation			100.00	100.00
	Total Parish Donations		4,275.00	5,305.00	9,580.00
	Less Disbursements		-3,000.00	-2,000.00	-5,000.00
	Net Donations		1,275.00	3,305.00	4,580.00
	Total # Donors	38			

Recommendations:

- Membership fees should always be submitted to the National Office in a timely manner.
- Complete and submit the yearly Treasurer's Annual report and participate in the On-Line Survey. This not only shares the good works of your council but also provides opportunity to put forward suggestions your councils may have.
- Council treasurers are encouraged to review the League Financial Policy found on the national website.
- Recommend for Parish Council treasurers to form a committee to prepare an annual budget for planning. All budgets discussed and agreed upon by the executive, need to be presented to the members at a general meeting and voted upon by the membership.
- Consider using e-transfers at the council level for members to pay membership.

Report of the Past President

Sue Lubowitz

Seventy-four of 93 councils completed the 2025 annual report survey

Advisor in a consultative capacity:

Past Presidents reported assisting the president and council in whatever capacity was required or requested. This included parish council elections, helping in parish activities, reviewing minutes and agendas, and being part of a planning committee for special events. Some councils experienced situations where the Past President was not present for various reasons including illness. Alternately, where there was no current President, the Past President was fundamental to the running of the council.

One council reported that the President and Past President have been alternating the role every two years due to the difficulty in finding a member willing to take on the leadership role of the council.

Past Presidents reported being in charge of parish elections and that they follow a system for election by contacting members in various ways (84%) and by doing a presentation at a meeting prior to elections (73%). Also mentioned was attendance at the diocesan webinar held in October 2025 on the election process at the parish level.

Archives and History:

Although not a question in the national annual survey for 2025, councils did report some work on maintaining archives and council history. One historian reported on the League history during presentations at general meetings.

Study and Implementation of Constitution and Bylaws

Seventy-eight percent of councils responded that they would commit to a webinar on parliamentary procedure if it was organized. An even larger group of councils (87%) responded that they refer to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* when seeking clarification or advice.

A few councils expressed their hope that certain sections on parish elections could be better defined as to the process involved. They found that commingling of the information for other levels lead to ambiguity and confusion. Many councils became informed of the timeline of elections beginning with the naming of the nomination and election chair, in November and the completion of elections to be done by the end of February.

Some councils reported updating their own policy and procedure manual and mentioned that as a resource person they ensured that parish activities were in compliance with the current parish council manual. Others mentioned that they provided historical context for past decisions as well as encouraging executive members to make note of any suggested changes to the annual update the parish council policy and procedure manual.

Patricia Beattie Annual Mentoring Award

At the Toronto Diocesan convention in April 2025, the Patricia Beattie Annual Mentoring Award for the Parish Level was presented to Diana Gamboa, St. Francis Xavier Council, Peel Region.

The Auxiliary Level Recipient was Alice Warford, Immaculate Heart of Mary Council, Scarborough Region. Nine nominations in total were received.

Moira Ste. Marie Memorial Lecture

The 6th Moira Ste. Marie Memorial Lecture, held on October 15, 2025, brought a current and concerning topic to members. The evening's speakers addressed 'Artificial Intelligence and Catholic Perspectives'. Dr. Moira McQueen, LLB, MDiv, PhD, Senior Fellow at Cardus and the former Director of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, informed members of the use of Artificial Intelligence in the field of medicine. Mr. Giancarlo Brotto, a globally recognized education advisor and founder of Pave Edu, informed us on the responsible and impactful adoption of AI in education. Registration was open to members across the country and an audience of over 150 was in attendance. A free will offering was requested from those attending with all proceeds directed to Share Life. An article was posted on the Spotlight section of the Toronto Diocesan website and the backgrounder for Reference Documents was updated.

Toronto Diocesan 2025 Past President Highlights

As past president, the following workshops were offered

- How to prepare a Parish Council Policy and Procedure manual in January (virtual).
- 'Joy of Leadership' at a parish council general meeting.
- Parish elections: virtually (October) and again at the CWL Wednesday in November in conjunction with the Vice President's presentation on 'Roles of the Executive'.
- Interactive mentoring workshop presented virtually in November with assistance from former National President and Honorary Life Member Margaret Ann Jacobs, Past Provincial President and Life Member Linda Squarzolo and former Toronto President and Life Member Mary Hawkley.

Recommendations:

- Encourage experienced members to participate in the Companionship Program as outlined in the Welcome Program (Resource # 621) to accompany a new member in her League journey. Mentors are integral to the continuity of the League.
- Initiate at the parish level a discernment exercise on gifts in anticipation of a parish election so members become aware of how they can be leaders in their council.
- Review at the start of term, the *Past President Handbook* (Resource #611) so to better understand your role in a consultative capacity and as a support to the President and council.
- Forward to national office any proposed revisions to the National *Manual of Policy and Procedure* by December 1 of each year. Review the yearly revisions to the manual and inform the council of changes.
- Create a *Parish Council Manual of Policy and Procedure* and review or update it every two years. This process is best accomplished by a committee.
- Each president should prepare a written summary of their term as president.
- At the diocesan level, a member or members with archival interest to be appointed by the president to serve as ongoing archivist.

Report of the Chairperson of Faith

Amelia Hazell

Seventy-four councils completed the 2025 annual report survey.

Spiritual Growth of Members

In celebration of the 2025 Jubilee Year, 57 councils participated in a pilgrimage to a locally designated holy door, 31 councils received plenary indulgences and 17 councils visited one or more of the major papal basilicas in Rome; 59 councils engaged in increased prayer; 52 councils participated in locally organized worship events; 42 councils participated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation; 36 councils practiced the spiritual works of mercy; 35 councils practiced the corporal works of mercy; 44 councils were a source of hope for their families and communities; 52 councils participated in locally organized worship events; 30 councils used and/or promoted the CWL Novena for Members. Other activities councils took part in included: a Marian Triduum (a 3-day Marian Consecration and Eucharistic Adoration); Jubilee Masses; specialized liturgies, such as the Mass of Sto. Niño de Cebu; First Friday Devotions; bible study sessions; 2000 Hail Mary's intensive marathon; the daily rosary and intercessory prayers; various retreats and Rosary Sunday at the Martyrs Shrine. Councils attended the annual Lift Jesus Higher Rally. One council held a 5 session zoom series 'A Biblical Walk Through the Mass'.

Sanctity of Life

Parish councils' commitment to the sanctity of life was visible through various forms: letter writing campaigns opposing the expansion of MAiD; 36 councils took part in the March for Life and other public pro-life gatherings; 6 councils participated in the National Life and Family Week, and participation in Life Chain and 40 Days of Life. Many councils participated in the annual 12 hours of prayers for palliative care. One council held a presentation on Live Long & Joyfully in the Lord: Senior Spiritual Care and Home Care. Members assisted with presentations on Horizon of Hope when hosted in their local parishes.

Vocations

Some ways members were encouraged to learn more about female vocations included: 37 councils prayed for Religious Women as well as organized dedicated prayer groups; 16 councils partnered with Religious Communities; 7 councils provided financial assistance to Women in Formation; 1 council hosted a parish breakfast featuring a religious speaker to foster community connection. Councils reported other activities that included: reflection on female saints and supported their lay/religious communities as vocation-focused events to raise parish awareness; supported vocations through Spiritual Bouquets.

Study of Catholic Teachings

Councils embraced their role in promoting the study of catholic teachings by facilitating scriptural study and spiritual growth through multi-session zoom Bible studies.

Ecumenism and Interfaith Endeavors

Ways councils demonstrated commitment to ecumenical solidarity included: 47 councils participated in World Day of Prayer; 18 councils participated in Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and 6 councils participated in National Life and Family Week.

Role of Women in the Church

Members demonstrated a resilient "Here I am" spirit through steadfast service as Eucharistic ministers, ushers, altar servers, hospitality ministers, catechists, parish pastoral council, finance council, funeral committees and other parish ministries.

Toronto Diocesan Faith Chair Highlights

- Prepared prayer services for Toronto Diocesan executive meetings, workshops and training sessions.
- Organized spiritual bouquet for spiritual advisors, deacons and the Ordinandi.
- Held zoom meetings/information sessions for parish council chairpersons of faith.
- Organized readers for the Glorious Mysteries and kept the membership informed on Rosary Sunday.
- Facilitated the OPC initiative, Prayers Across the Province for members in our Diocese.
- Attended special Masses at St. Michael's Cathedral.
- Promoted information/works of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Recommendations

- Continue to use the various resources available on the national website.
- Diocesan chairperson of faith is encouraged to continue offering information sessions for parish chairpersons of faith to enrich their role.
- Work together with the Service and Social Justice chairpersons on shared projects.
- Continue to seek assistance from diocesan chairperson of faith as needed.
- Attend workshops/ training webinars offered by all levels of the League.
- Continue to support and participate in the promotion of pro-life activities.

Report of the Chairperson of Service

Gabriella Di Pietrantonio

Seventy-four of 93 councils submitted an Annual Report.

While many initiatives were positively supported, most parishes focused their service works on homelessness, human trafficking, missionary work, and violence against women.

Advocacy and Support Services

Councils advocated for and/or supported the following services: homelessness (44); human trafficking awareness (39); promoting health, welfare, physical activity and active living for seniors (30); national focus on mental health awareness (22); supporting or welcoming refugees and migrants (10); intimate partner/family violence (8); blood donation drives (7) and others (17), which included a council hosting an OPP presentation on bullying and senior fraud scams. Members participated in various activities which included: hosted potluck dinners; prepared lunch buffets; collected food and spearheaded food drives for their local food banks and supported the homeless shelters and outreach programs throughout the year.

Councils participated in and encouraged support in the following: evangelization or missionary work (29); Catholic or continuing education such as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (28); starting or promoting a Catholic Girls' League (2); Other (11) some of which included Living Rosary and prayers for Missionaries and supported a child through Chalice.

Councils actively promoted or supported fundraising initiatives led by the following organizations: Development and Peace - Turn Debt into Hope (24); Catholic Missions in Canada (22); Coady Institute (13); CNEWA Canada; (11) and the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation (8).

Councils engaged members in faith-filled action that reflected the mission of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, using the following activities that followed the liturgical seasons: Feast days or Catholic observances (52); Lenten charitable activities (40) and A Season of Service Advent Calendar (20).

Ministry to Youth

Councils were active with their youth groups by engaging in activities which encouraged awareness of their presence in the community with the Rosary Apostolate at elementary and secondary schools, a parish level scholarship to a graduating high school student who exemplifies the values of the League, and presenting rosaries and crosses to those receiving their sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Action to Faith

Councils led members in faith filled action, all reflecting the mission of the League, with highlights cast on the importance of liturgical seasons and recognition of annual events. Resources with activities on Advent, Lent and Feast Days were implemented by councils

to bring service in with spirituality. A strong focus was given to World Mental Health Day

Toronto Diocesan Highlights from Service Chair

- Hosted the Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest. Encouraging participation in all the Youth Awards continues to be a highlight for this position.

Recommendations:

- Continue to use the various resources available on the national website.
- Increase support and participation in the promotion of Catholic education through greater involvement with schools or work closely with Parish youth groups.
- Encourage members to experience the League through attendance at regional meetings, Development Days and conventions.
- Form a subcommittee to assist in the various roles under the Service Standing Committee.
- Organize events where both the youth and elderly could interact and benefit from inter-generational interaction.

Report of the Chairperson of Social Justice

Christina Boyle

Seventy-four councils completed the 2025 annual survey.

Monitoring Legislation

The national council circulated two urgent communiques on matters of critical legislation introduced in the House of Commons. Petitions were circulated along with the communiques urging members to act.

Removing Charitable Status from Pro-Life and Religious Organizations

Fifty-three councils reported receiving the information, fifty-two councils circulated the information to members, sixteen councils wrote letters to government and fifteen councils circulated and filed the petition with their MP.

Expansion of Medical Assistance in Dying

Fifty-three councils reported receiving the information, fifty-two councils circulated the information to members, twenty-six councils wrote letters to Government and eighteen councils circulated and filed the petition with their MP. One council held a letter writing campaign and delivered over four hundred letters to their MP with copies to our Prime Minister and other cabinet ministers.

Resolutions

Councils plan to explore in more depth the following 2025 resolutions:

2025.01 asking the federal government to establish a centralized cybercrime reporting system (58%).

2025.02 defines when a child becomes a human being (33%).

2025.03 strengthening support for Chaplains (11%); **2025.04** regarding completing the Office of Palliative Care (84%).

Thirty councils reported they were not at all interested in drafting a resolution. Twenty-seven councils would be interested if they had more knowledge on the process of a resolution and four councils were in the process of drafting a resolution.

Councils reported the following barriers in drafting a resolution: lack of ideas (45%), lack of capacity to research (61%), lack of knowledge on how to write a resolution (35%) and lack of information on next steps (27%).

Catholic Social Teaching

Advocating for the poor and vulnerable in society prompted action by councils to raise concerns about the possibility of the government removing the charitable status, from pro-life and religious organizations that help marginalized members of society. One council participated in “Moose Hide Day” against gender-based violence, and another council participated in “Red Wednesday,” a global initiative to pray for persecuted Christians and people of faith worldwide. Fourteen councils attended the National webinar *Walking together with Indigenous Sisters*. Several councils joined in strong action to advocate for victims of human trafficking. One council appeared three times, before their local municipality and obtained an agreement to raise the Stop Human Trafficking flag at Vaughan City Hall in recognition of Human Trafficking Awareness week and to illuminate their City Hall the colour Blue on February 22 every year, in solidarity with victims and survivors of trafficking. Other councils held ‘Red Sand Services’ to bring awareness to the marginalized and ignored members of society. Thirty-six councils attended the webinar *Finding Hope in the Fight Against Human Trafficking*.

Care for God’s Creation took many forms, with eleven councils using the National Earth Day Toolkit, fifteen councils provided education on climate change, and twenty-eight councils promoted eco-friendly practices and building community resilience. Other ideas included distributing vegetable seeds and plants, while hosting planting workshops, going ‘green’ by stopping the use of plastic water bottles and utensils at meetings, and carpooling to events to reduce carbon footprint. One council hosted a Lenten Retreat that focused on the sacredness and life-giving nature of water.

Toronto Diocesan Highlights from Social Justice Chair

- National Indigenous Peoples Day 2025 was a successful in-person event with presenter Julia Kozak of the Nisga’a Nation, visual artist, dancer, and designer of the vestments for the papal visit in Edmonton. Julia spoke on the selection process and journey to design the papal vestments for Pope Francis visit to Canada in 2022. She also provided cultural experiences in the form of a traditional story and a dance, in full regalia. Traditional foods were served to attendees.
- Regular Zoom meetings scheduled throughout 2025 for all the Social Justice Chairs and those interested in Social Justice issues across the diocese, which facilitated the sharing of ideas and social justice projects taking place in other councils.
- The successful adoption of two Toronto Diocesan resolutions at the national level; **2025.01** Federal Government to Create a Unified and Centralized Cybercrime Reporting System for Individuals in Canada, and **2025.04** Federal Government to Complete the Development of the Office of Palliative Care.

Recommendations

- Monitor and implement Action Plans of passed resolutions published on the National, Provincial and Toronto websites.
- Toronto Diocesan Social Justice Chair to continue the practice of holding workshop sessions on how to write a resolution, to generate more interest in the overall process and implementation of resolutions.
- More councils to consider offering the Horizons of Hope program.
- Consider writing a resolution and enlisting assistance from the Toronto Diocesan Social Justice Chair.
- Consider promoting and supporting fundraising initiatives like Development and Peace, Catholic Missions in Canada and CNEWA.

Report of the Newsletter Editor

Lynette Mendes

Eighty-five of the 93 councils subscribed to the newsletter. As of December 31, 2025, there were a total of 638 subscriptions, which included the Diocesan Executive, Honorary Life Member, Life Members, Regional Spiritual Advisors, Regional Chairs, Archdiocesan Hierarchy, council executives, parish council Spiritual Advisors and members. This number represents a 9.5% increase from 2024.

The Toronto Diocesan Newsletter raises awareness and promotes the work of the League. It is an extremely useful resource for all council executives, spiritual advisors and members.

The articles prepared by the Toronto Diocesan executive officers and chairpersons of faith, service and social justice are on current and upcoming initiatives, events and activities based on the Constitution and Bylaws, Policy and Procedures, communiques and directives from other levels of the League. The newsletter highlights special projects, events, resolutions, council anniversaries, milestone years of service and Maple Leaf Service Pin recipients.

The newsletter is published three times per year, in the Spring, Fall and Winter. The following are the deadline dates for submissions from the TDC Executives.

Spring January 30 (March to June - to arrive in the mail by March 1)
Fall July 30 (September to November - to arrive in the mail by September 1)
Winter October 30 (December to February- to arrive in the mail by December 1)

Any changes in information of executive officers, addresses or deceased subscribers need to be sent immediately to the newsletter editor. This ensures that the newsletter information is accurate and subscribers receive it in a timely manner. It will also reduce undue costs for undelivered mail.

Recommendations

- Subscriptions are to be renewed early in January to ensure uninterrupted delivery. Be sure to indicate unit or apartment number. Use the form on our website cwtoronto.ca and be sure to include the parish, region, contact name and phone number.
- Budget a subscription of the newsletter for executives, Spiritual Advisor, Life Member. Encourage all members to also subscribe.
- Consider subsidizing the cost for general members in your council to receive these newsletters.

Report of Life Member Liaison

Mary Hawkley

The Archdiocese of Toronto covers a large area and our Toronto Diocesan CWL parish councils are widespread and very diverse. It is very challenging to bring our Life Members together for personal encounters. However, at our Toronto Diocesan Council Convention, thanks to Margaret Ann Jacobs, our Honorary Life Member, we sit for business sessions at a designated table adorned with the tablecloth embroidered with the names of 51 Past Presidents. In 2025, we lunched together on the second day of convention. We were joined by National President Shari Guinta and two guests from the Peterborough Diocese - Life Members Glenda Klein and Ann MacKinnon.

We took time during the luncheon to pay respects to the late Margaret Tipping, Mary Quinlan and Carole Pitcher from the Toronto Diocesan Council and Joanne Hough from the Peterborough Diocesan Council. These four women passed away in 2024.

Our Toronto Diocesan Historians and Mentors.

The Life Members of the Toronto Diocesan Council are available to all members of our councils across our diocese in any capacity asked of us.

Margaret Ann Jacobs is always active at all levels of the League and with other community agencies. She is President of her parish council of Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmvale. She was also a member of the Planning Committee for the 2025 National Convention held in Toronto.

Karen Lawless spent many years as Life Member Liaison. She continues to participate in League activities, as her health permits and supports her parish council of St. Patrick's in Mississauga.

Mary Ellen Stinson continues to mentor and be the guiding force for her parish council of St. Francis de Sales in Ajax. She also serves other ministries in her Parish. She is always available to offer advice.

Celeste Hall continues to serve the community of St Dunstan's, Scarborough. She is always available to assist and advise.

Patricia Cross is our resident historian and author of the supplement to the history book for the Toronto Diocesan Council's 100th Anniversary in 2021. She belongs to the council of St. Edward the Confessor in North York. She always has sage advice and astute observations to share.

Marlin Taylor is always ready to assist where she can, either as a member of St. John Chrysostom council in Newmarket or beyond. She was a member of the Planning Committee for the National Convention in 2025 and the Convention Chair for the TDC Convention for 2025 and 2026.

Mary Hawkley continues to advise her council of Holy Family, Whitby. She is completing her term as TDC Life Member Liaison. She was a member of the Planning Committee for the National Convention in 2025.

Donna Shaddick is a former President of the Pembroke Diocesan Council, and we welcomed her to our midst when she moved to Brooklin. She established the council of St. Leo the Great, which she continues to nurture. She served a four-term on the Women's Inter-Church Council. and is presently involved with the yearly World Day of Prayer Committee.

Mary Capobianco works with her council, Nativity of Our Lord in Etobicoke, as well as filling roles at the Ontario provincial table as consultant to the resolutions team and as Provincial Life Member Liaison. With Co-Chair, Debbie Bates she led the Planning Committee for the 2025 National Convention.

Shirley Christo serves the council of St. John Fisher in Brampton. She works with Dr Moira McQueen of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute to promote Horizons of Hope, a program on palliative care.

Ann D'Souza is always available to her council of St. Francis Xavier in Mississauga. She has served in several roles for the Provincial Council. She's always ready to participate in whatever and wherever she's needed. She was a member of the Planning Committee for the 2025 National Convention. She is presently the Ontario and Toronto Diocesan lead for the R3 to 1 Unity! Task Force.

Hilarion Mitchell continues to serve her council, St. John Fisher in Brampton. She had the unique task of guiding the TDC through a three-year term as President during COVID. She is presently the Social Justice Chair on the Ontario Provincial Council.

Hazel Hawrish is our Life Member of the Military Ordinariate. She continues to serve her council of St. John Vianney, Barrie. She truly serves God and Canada.

Rosa Lam joined us in 2025. She moved to Holy Spirit Parish in Barrie, from Quebec. We were happy to welcome her as Past Quebec Provincial President who received her Life Membership in 2021. She is presently Chairperson of Social Justice for her parish council.

Durham Region

Spiritual Advisor
Chair
Councils:11

Rev. Gerard Pilon
Mary Donnelly
Membership: 684

Four councils in Durham Region showed an increase in membership in 2025.

Councils in Durham Region were most active in Social Justice Initiatives which included St. Mary of the People invited a speaker on human trafficking. Subsequent to this event, a parish initiative took place whereby cell phones and chargers were collected to assist victims of this crime. Sacred Heart parish held a letter writing campaign and discussed Bill C-218 (Expansion of Medical Assistance in Dying) with their MP and St. John the Evangelist sent over 400 letters to their MP. Other councils responded to the Federal Government's Announcement (to Remove the Charitable Status from Pro-Life and Religious Organizations) and wrote letters/signed petitions which were sent to their member of Parliament to oppose this legislation.

Sacred Heart and Immaculate Conception councils hosted 'World Day of Prayer' for their local faith communities. Councils also participated in '12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care'. A Regional Retreat was held at Manresa Jesuit Renewal Centre organized by the Regional Faith Chair and Past President, on the theme 'A Garland of Roses.' Over 60 members attended this interactive evening. Father Pilon, Durham Region Spiritual Advisor, led the outdoor Rosary, celebrated Mass and spoke on the Four Mysteries of the Rosary.

Many councils continued to support food banks and unsheltered communities with food and clothing drives. On Shrove Tuesday, Holy Family council prepared and delivered a pancake breakfast to their shut-in members. Councils also organized Lenten Soup Nights and Pancake breakfasts. After a pause and with much work, St. Francis de Sales was able to continue their visits with residents at their local Long Term Care Facility.

All the parish councils supported their charities through various fundraising events which included: luncheons; high teas; bake sales; raffle baskets; clothing sales; dances; card parties; and garden markets. These events were often combined with new membership opportunities.

The Mary Mathews Public Speaking contest continued throughout the region with increased council participation.

Congratulations to the following councils who celebrated a milestone Anniversary in 2025: Holy Family, 45 years; St. Joseph the Worker, 40 years; and St. Leo the Great, 15 years.

Durham Region continues to hear God's call and followed the National theme 'Hear I am Lord, send me.'

Humber Valley Region

Spiritual Advisor
Chair
Councils: 11

Rev. Jan Gogolewski
Darlene Marino
Membership: 921

Humber Valley Region had an overall increase in membership for 2025. The positive outcome demonstrated stability across the region as councils continued to explore creative approaches to attract new members while keeping current members motivated, connected and inspired to share the League with others.

Councils embraced the Jubilee Year of Hope through well organized and meaningful pilgrimages which included: the Martyrs' Shrine in Midland, St. Paul's Basilica, and St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica. Several councils held retreats and evening of reflections at their general meetings. These shared spiritual experiences strengthened fellowship among members and offered moments of reflection and renewal. They also helped sustain member engagement throughout the year, providing opportunities for members to connect more deeply with their faith and with one another.

Reception of new members and years of service ceremonies were celebrated by several councils which recognized women joining the League and members with significant years of service.

Milestone anniversary celebrations were marked across the Region, which included: Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, 65 years; Transfiguration of Our Lord, 65 years; St. Ambrose, 60 years and St. Roch, 55 years. These milestones honoured the long-standing commitment of members and highlighted the enduring presence of the League within these parish communities.

Humber Valley Region's commitment to social justice and community engagement was demonstrated through a flag-raising event held at Vaughan City Hall, in honour of human trafficking awareness, spearheaded by St. Padre Pio council. This meaningful initiative came to fruition after several meetings and the ongoing advocacy by council members.

Humber Valley proudly had one candidate from St. Margaret Mary Council advance to the TDC Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest. Immaculate Conception council and St. Margaret Mary council both participated in the Mary Dobell Poetry and Essay contests and had five entries move forward to the TDC.

Councils continued their support to their parishes and communities through various fundraising initiatives which included: annual bazaars; High teas; bake sales; raffles; supported other local efforts. A particular highlight this year was St. Charles Borromeo's Bethlehem Crèche Fundraiser, which drew more than 100 attendees for a festive brunch and an inspiring presentation by Father Peter Choi.

Humber Valley Region councils continued to stand strong, united, and answered the call 'Here I am Lord, send me' through their commitment and dedication.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide our members on their CWL journey.

North York Region

Spiritual Advisor

Chair

Councils: 19

Catholic Girls League: 1 (St. Edward the Confessor)

Rev. James Dunstan

Diane Olmstead

Membership: 1074

Blessed Frederic Ozanam council held a Family Bowling night, and monies raised went towards their Blessed Frederic Building Fund. A bus trip was organized for the “Pilgrimage of Hope” at Martyrs’ Shrine in Midland. Fifty-six pilgrims took part from parishes in the Markham area.

Blessed Trinity held their annual Communion Breakfast with speaker Fr. Eugene O’Reilly. Seven youth from their parish schools were recognized for outstanding achievements by their Circle of Friends for the Youth.

Good Shepherd held a traditional high tea celebrating the women of the parish. Several CWL service award pins were presented. Two council members and their Spiritual Advisor from Immaculate Conception/ Our Lady of the Lake, went on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje and returned with inspiring information.

Our Lady of Grace held a Christmas Market with baked goods, vendors, a bistro, a visit by Santa and sleigh rides. They also hosted a Father’s Day Cake Raffle where the proceeds were donated to 360 Kids and Girl’s Inc.

Sacred Heart took a trip to Martyrs’ Shrine as part of the Jubilee celebration.

St. Bonaventure Council continued their support of St. Clare Inn, a transitional housing project for homeless women, with a fundraising walk and two additional events.

St. Edward the Confessor hosted a reception for over 1000 people following the Central Region Jubilee Mass with His Eminence, Frank Cardinal Leo. Their annual Communion Brunch featured keynote speaker, Dr. Connie Price, with her talk ‘Walking Together in Hope’.

St. John XXIII celebrated their 10th anniversary. A Lenten retreat was held and CWL members visited seven churches on Good Friday. St. John Chrysostom parish held their annual Stewardship BBQ and the CWL council hosted breakfast after all masses.

St. Justin Martyr prepared dinner for two of the parish’s Life Teen gatherings of 60 teens. It was a wonderful intergenerational experience and social night for the CWL members.

St. Luke council visited Mount Carmel Monastery in Niagara for a Day of Reflection, thanks to the generous bequest from their oldest member, who passed away in 2024.

St. Mary Immaculate held a Lenten retreat presented by Fr. Roni George, of the Divine Retreat Centre with his prayerful talk about the Word of God: “Return to me with all your Heart”.

St. Patrick hosted a World Day of Prayer event that featured prayers, readings, Polynesian food and dancers.

North York Region truly responded to the call, ‘Here I am Lord, send me’.

Northern Region

Spiritual Advisor
Chair
Councils: 12

Rev. Laurence Léger
Martha Whelton
Membership: 882

Two of our councils showed an increase in membership: St. Andrew (2) and Holy Martyrs of Japan (17). The Northern councils continued to be both vibrant and active in the Jubilee Year, 2025.

Celebration of the faith remained vital for all councils. Councils hosted or participated in both Advent and Lenten retreats, attended a retreat at Martyr's Shrine, carrying a CWL banner in Parish Corpus Christi processions, and led the Stations of the Cross during Lent. The feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel was celebrated with both dinner and breakfast socials. Indigenous Reconciliation was remembered through a Mass offered on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Mother's Day was celebrated with a procession of children carrying flowers up to a statue of Our Lady at the front of the Church. Those receiving the Sacraments of First Communion, Confirmed or received into the Church as adults (RCIA) were recognized by their parish CWL council.

Many councils had guest speakers from various agencies, that addressed a wide variety of important and relevant issues, which included: mental health, victim services, the unhoused, women shelters, home care, food banks and ageism.

Many members attended both the Toronto Diocesan Convention and National Convention to remain informed about CWL news.

Several councils reviewed and revised their Policy and Procedure Manual and to keep it up to date.

Councils continued to reach out to those in need. One council prepared and served soup every Friday, during Lent. All monies raised for this event went to a 'Housing First' community. Another council held a Baby Bottle fundraiser for a local Pregnancy Center. One council filled Christmas stockings for those in their local homeless shelter, while another council filled bags for the Elizabeth Fry Society. A council did a sponsorship, through Chalice, for a young man who was accepted into the seminary and this same council is now sponsoring a young lady studying to become a nurse.

A few councils had members who participated in 'The Coldest Night of the Year' walk. Councils in the Region participated in a collection of used phones for Victim Services and also collected used eyeglasses that were sent overseas.

The youth were recognized through several high school awards or scholarships.

Fundraising events included: Father's Day Pie sale; Christmas Market; Mother and Daughter Tea; bazaars and bake sales. A local artist donated an original painting to be sold, and proceeds went to the council. These fundraising events not only encouraged participation but brought the parish and community together and to support a good cause.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to lead our members to her Son.

Peel Region

Spiritual Advisor
Chair
Councils: 20

Rev. Suresh Xavier
Ana Mendoza
Membership:1501

Peel region had an overall increase in membership for 2025. St. Ignatius Loyola and St. Joseph, Streetsville, had an increase of ten or more.

The region welcomed back Sts. Martha and Mary, Mississauga, reactivated in February 2025.

The following councils celebrated a milestone anniversary in 2025: St. Francis Xavier, 25 years and St. Jerome, 5 years.

Councils hosted a variety of spiritual activities which included: Lenten and Advent retreats; candlelight processions and Novenas to Our Lady of Good Counsel. Members participated in pilgrimages to Martyrs' Shrine and visited three of Canada's national Catholic shrines: Our Lady of the Cape, St. Anne de Beaupré, and St. Joseph's Oratory. Councils also joined the 1,500 Rosary Rallies across Canada, observed the One Day of Prayer for Palliative Care, attended the Ordinandi Dinner, supported Birthright, and participated in March for Life, Life Chain, and the 40 Days for Life campaign.

Councils served their communities in many meaningful ways: distributed children's winter coats and accessories; assembled backpacks and hats for the homeless; and organized Share tables, featuring children's toys, books, and clothing. Members attended the Jubilee Mass at St. Mary's in Brampton. St. Joseph and St. Francis Xavier councils participated in the Coldest Night of the Year walk. Funds from this event were sent to Eden Food for Change. Additional donations made given to Society of St. Vincent de Paul and to community shelters.

Councils enriched parish life by: organizing movie nights; coffee Sundays and collaborative events with the Knights of Columbus; bursaries and scholarships were established for graduating female students from Catholic High Schools; craft days; High Teas; plant sales; Father's Day Root Beer sales; Family Fun Day BBQs and Pancake Breakfasts, and a popular T-shirt fundraiser which featured the message 'Faith Can Move Mountains' on one side and the parish name on the back.

In the area of education and formation, councils offered presentations on: Human Trafficking Awareness; Wills and Estate Planning; End-of-Life Preparation; Coping with Emotional and Psychological Impacts of Illness; and Home Safety.

Some councils completed their Policy and Procedures Manuals.

Eleven councils proudly participated in the Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest.

Councils in Peel Region continue to shine as vibrant witnesses of faith, service, and sisterhood.

Scarborough Region

Spiritual Advisor

Chair

Councils: 11

Catholic Girls League: 1 (St. Bartholomew)

Rev. Alexander Osei

Gwyneth Faustin

Membership:705

The dedication and enthusiasm of council members in Scarborough Region during 2025 were truly commendable. Increase in membership was a primary goal. Scarborough region had an overall increase in membership for 2025. Councils recognized their members in various ways which included: enjoyable summer picnics; Christmas luncheons and dinners; and recognized their members with years of service pins.

Councils organized various spiritual events to deepen and support the spiritual lives of their members and parishioners. These included Lenten and Advent reflections and pilgrimages to Martyrs Shrine, Quebec Shrines, and churches throughout the GTA, Hamilton, and Niagara Falls. The region held a Jubilee of Hope Pilgrimage, visiting three sacred sites: St. Barnabas Church, St. Michael Cathedral, and St. Edward the Confessor Church. Other spiritual programs included: a Day with Mary; prayer services to mark Truth and Reconciliation Day and Red Wednesday; and participation in Remembrance Day, March for Life, Life Chain, and the 1,500 Rosary Rallies across Canada.

Serving others with love and care, council members actively supported and served their communities through food and clothing drives; collected items such as socks, hats, gloves, and baby essentials; provided gift cards and Christmas presents to families in crises. The donated items were delivered to charities which included: Rosalie Hall; the Sisters of Life; the Angel Tree Network, and Society of St. Vincent de Paul. To address food insecurity, councils prepared sandwiches and supported charities like Good Shepherd Ministries and Club Sandwich. Additional efforts included Loose Change Sunday, with proceeds donated to three elementary schools to help provide snacks and field trips for children in need. Councils hosted successful fundraiser events such as: High Tea Parties; Autumn and Holiday Cheer Gift Basket raffles; Blast from the Past Dinner & Dance and brought joy to residents of long-term care and retirement homes with their Christmas caroling.

To enriched parish life, councils organized coffee Sundays, Christmas Cards for seniors, Easter egg hunts, and movie nights in partnership with the Knights of Columbus.

Service and Social Justice initiatives included: informative sessions to raise awareness of issues such as human trafficking, bullying, fraud, and scams. Members also participated in events such as: Linda's Walk, which focuses on women's homelessness and mental health; the Night Light Walk. The proceeds generated from these events benefitted the Red Door Family Shelter and Nellie's Shelter place for women and children fleeing domestic violence.

The members of the Scarborough Region remain beacons of faith, service, and social justice in their communities.

Toronto Region

Spiritual Advisor
Chair
Councils: 9

Rev. Patrick Ezimora
Agnes Passee
Membership: 217

Toronto Region's overall membership remained consistent with the previous year.

The region commenced the year with a Day of Reflection held on January 25, 2025, hosted by St. Alphonsus council.

Members attended Development Day, February 22, 2025, and found the day to be very informative and offered many ideas to promote and act on the national theme, 'Here I am Lord; send me.'

The following councils celebrated milestone anniversaries: Holy Rosary, 45 years and St. Pius X council, 70 years. St. Alphonsus council celebrated 35 years in 2024 and was presented with their certificate at their council meeting in 2025. Members received their years of Service Pins with one member receiving a 65year pin.

St. Joan of Arc council held their annual events and fundraisers, which included: Winterfair Drive, Irish Celebration, Oktoberfest, Christmas Celebration and provided food for the needy in their parish community.

Holy Cross council had a very successful membership drive with an increase of 8 members.

Our Lady of Lourdes council organized a Pilgrimage to various local Holy Doors to mark the Jubilee Year.

Members attended the National Convention and helped to host the luncheon following the Opening Eucharistic Celebration, held at St. Paul's Basilica.

Councils attended Rosary Sunday at Martyr's Shrine.

Throughout 2025, Toronto Region members continued to answer the call, 'Here I am Lord, send me' through their service to God and Canada.

Summary of Per Capita Fees as of December 31, 2025

Paid by Parish Councils

	2025	2024R	2023R
Total Membership	5984	6011	6039
Total Councils	93	92	96

R Revised Membership Numbers for the current year

* Re-Activated

** New

National

Account#	Durham Region (11)	City/Town	2025	2024R	2023R
T-008	Holy Cross	Oshawa	37	42	39
T-001	Holy Family	Whitby	77	71	83
T-014	Immaculate Conception	Port Perry	38	53	18
T-135	Sacred Heart	Uxbridge	33	27	27
T-055	St. Francis de Sales	Ajax	76	78	65
T-112	St. Gertrude	Oshawa	37	50	62
T-061	St. Gregory the Great	Oshawa	23	25	30
T-068	St. John the Evangelist	Whitby	106	102	105
T-030	St. Joseph the Worker	Oshawa	90	106	116
T-130	St. Leo the Great	Brooklin	49	42	43
T-087	St. Mary of the People	Oshawa	118	116	118
	Totals		684	712	706

Summary of Per Capita Fees as of December 31, 2025

Paid by Parish Councils

National					
Account#	Humber Valley (11)	City/Town	2025	2024R	2023R
T-122	Immaculate Conception	Woodbridge	90	87	91
T-022	Nativity of Our Lord	Etobicoke	88	97	99
T-026	Our Lady of Miraculous Medal	Alderwood	100	88	88
T-036	St. Ambrose	Toronto	53	56	59
T-148	St. Charles Borromeo	North York	51	51	42
T-059	St. Gregory	Etobicoke	84	88	89
T-078	St. Margaret Mary	Woodbridge	196	196	200
T-121	St. Padre Pio	Woodbridge	77	70	66
T-101	St. Roch	North York	79	81	79
T-110	Transfiguration of Our Lord	Weston	76	63	52
T-149	Swahili Catholic Group	Weston	27	38	0
	Totals		921	915	865
National					
Account#	North York Region (19)	City/Town	2025	2024R	2023R
T-147	Blessed Frederic Ozanam	Markham	37	36	31
T-003	Blessed Trinity	North York	68	71	72
T-015	Good Shepherd	Thornhill	69	69	69
T-119	Immaculate Conception/ Our Lady of the Lake	Sutton/Keswick	30	29	25
T-049	Our Lady of Grace	Aurora	40	41	46
T-013	Our Lady of the Annunciation	Richmond Hill	17	19	23
T-032	Sacred Heart	King City	81	82	85
T-143	St. Bernard de Clairvaux	North York	13	11	9
T-047	St. Bonaventure	Don Mills	108	101	88
T-054	St. Edward the Confessor	Willowdale	109	100	83
T-060	St. John Chrysostom	Newmarket	91	94	83
T-136	St. John XXIII	North York	53	46	50
T-052	St. Joseph the Worker	Thornhill	26	29	30
T-063	St. Justin Martyr	Unionville	83	75	73
T-091	St. Luke	Thornhill	44	38	38
T-117	St. Mary	Nobleton	33	31	26
T-004	St. Mary Immaculate	Richmond Hill	68	82	94
T-132	St. Patrick	Markham	72	71	74
T-125	St. Patrick	Schomberg	0	0	13
T-108	St. Timothy	North York	32	38	55
	Totals		1074	1063	1067

Summary of Per Capita Fees as of December 31, 2025

Paid by Parish Councils

National

Account#	Northern Region (12)	City/Town	2025	2024R	2023R
T-005	Guardian Angels	Orillia	103	113	123
T-011	Holy Martyrs of Japan	Bradford	136	119	123
T-127	Holy Spirit	Barrie	43	43	48
T-024	Our Lady of Lourdes	Elmvale	56	58	51
T-033	Sacred Heart	Port McNicoll	0	0	11
T-037	St. Andrew	Brechin	38	37	33
T-046	St. James	Colgan	42	49	39
T-069	St. John Vianney	Barrie	88	91	92
T-077	St. Margaret	Midland	64	71	59
T-082	St. Mary	Barrie	139	151	157
T-084	St. Mary	Collingwood	46	47	56
T-093	St. Patrick	Phelpston	0	0	38
T-086	St. Patrick/St. Noel	Stayner	56	57	59
T-076	St. Paul the Apostle	Alliston	71	74	77
	Totals		882	910	966

National

Account#	Scarborough Region (11)	City/Town	2025	2024R	2023R
T-013	Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	North York	24	17	20
T-020	Immaculate Heart of Mary	Scarborough	26	26	15
T-034	Precious Blood	Scarborough	88	92	96
T-123	St. Aidan	Scarborough	81	71	72
T-043	St. Barnabas	Scarborough	41	42	57
T-039	St. Bartholomew	Scarborough	56	59	56
T-058	St. Boniface	Scarborough	37	29	30
T-050	St. Dunstan	Scarborough	21	21	20
T-071	St. Joseph Highland Creek	Scarborough	211	212	208
T-079	St. Maria Goretti	Scarborough	84	88	87
T-144	St. Rose of Lima	Scarborough	36	44	33
	Totals		705	701	694

Summary of Per Capita Fees as of December 31, 2025

Paid by Parish Councils

National					
Account#	Toronto Region (9)	City/Town	2025	2024R	2023R
T-009	Holy Cross	Toronto	18	20	20
T-129	Holy Rosary	Toronto	37	33	26
T-025	Our Lady of Lourdes	Toronto	50	50	41
T-012	St. Alphonsus	Toronto	28	31	30
T-062	St. Helen	Toronto	13	11	9
T-064	St. Joan of Arc	Toronto	19	19	25
T-027	St. John	Toronto	0	0	41
T-051	St. Matthew	Toronto	11	15	13
T-089	St. Monica	Toronto	0	0	41
T-099	St. Pius X	Toronto	32	33	29
T-139	St. Thomas Aquinas	Toronto	9	5	0
Totals			217	217	275

National					
Account#	Peel Region (20)	City/Town	2025	2024R	2023R
T-141	Guardian Angels	Brampton	44	45	42
T-126	St. Anne	Brampton	73	83	72
T-115	St. Anthony of Padua	Bramalea	28	31	32
T-118	St. Francis Xavier	Mississauga	165	160	159
T-065	St. Ignatius Loyola	Mississauga	62	51	47
T-145	St. Jerome	Brampton	26	29	29
T-146	St. John of the Cross	Mississauga	49	59	64
T-066	St. John Fisher	Bramalea	104	112	130
T-140	St. John the Evangelist	Caledon	24	19	26
T-072	St. Joseph, Streetsville	Mississauga	119	106	83
T-035	St. Leonard	Brampton	90	79	82
T-120	St. Marguerite d'Youville	Brampton	42	50	56
T-113	St. Martin of Tours	Mississauga	103	117	110
T-083	St. Mary	Brampton	104	104	85
T-057	St. Mary Star of the Sea	Mississauga	59	63	62
T-092	St. Patrick	Mississauga	105	103	85
T-114	St. Patrick, Wildfield	Brampton	49	47	50
T-107	St. Timothy	Orangeville	18	18	18
T-128	Sts. Martha and Mary*	Mississauga	11	0	0
T-124	Sts. Peter and Paul	Mississauga	226	217	234
Totals			1501	1493	1466

Toronto Diocesan Council

Executive 2024 - 2026

Spiritual Advisor	Rev. Liborio Amaral
President	Kate O'Quinn
Secretary	Andrea Tjioe
Vice-President	Connie Cristinziano
Treasurer	Donna Capobianco
Past President	Sue Lubowitz
Chairperson of Faith	Amelia Hazel
Chairperson of Service	Gabriella Di Pietranonio
Chairperson of Social Justice	Christina Boyle
Newsletter Editor	Lynette Mendes

Regional Chairs 2025

Region	Chair	Spiritual Advisor
Durham	Mary Donnelly	Rev. Gerard Pilon
Humber Valley	Darlene Marino	Rev. Jan Gogolewski
North York	Diane Olmstead	Rev. James Dunstan
Northern	Martha Whelton	Rev. Laurence Léger
Peel	Ana Mendoza	Rev. Suresh Xavier
Scarborough	Gwyneth Faustin	Rev. Alexander Osei
Toronto	Agnes Passeur	Rev. Patrick Ezimora