



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



Ignite Your Passion
Empower His Mission

Be Eucharistic

Spring 2026
(March to June)

The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Toronto Diocesan Council

2024- 2026

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TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026

Table of Contents

Newsletter Editor 2

Spiritual Advisor 3

President 4

Chairperson of Faith 6

Vice President 9

Past President 11

105th Annual Convention Information 14

Council Anniversaries/Service Awards 16

Secretary 19

Treasurer 20

Chairperson of Service 21

Chairperson of Social Justice 23

Dates to Remember25

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Committee Member:

Lynette Mendes
Charmaine Alweyn

Spring welcomes renewal of life and celebration of the convention in April.

Thank you to all councils who have renewed their newsletter subscriptions. This first 2026 spring issue of the Toronto Diocesan Newsletter is all about new beginnings and many parish councils have elected their new executive team.

The newsletter is your road map to the job ahead. Every executive member has detailed events and tasks to assist you in your role on the executive. They attend as many meetings as possible, giving their time and talent unconditionally, and also support and encourage their members to do the same.

I am passionate about learning. National has introduced free online courses which can be taken anytime and with no restrictions. I completed the nine courses that were offered: Core Purpose and Objectives of the League, Joy of Leadership Modules 1 to 5, Welcoming Members Module 1, Conflict Resolution and Mentoring. Each participant received a completion certificate and badge. The courses included discussions, reflections, quizzes and assignments. There was input from all participants who had the opportunity to share different aspects and points of view, get feedback from the instructors and broaden our horizons. I am so grateful for this experience. I encourage all members to check into these online courses and if interested, send an email to cwl.brightspace@gmail.com.

With elections taking place at our TDC convention in April, a new newsletter editor will be appointed. This is the last issue of the Newsletter that I will be editing. It has been a wonderful learning experience. I would like to thank everyone for their input and contributions - especially Kate, for her knowledge and guidance and Charmaine, for proof reading.

I am so proud to be a part of the Toronto Diocesan Council.

When called to serve...there is only one answer!



Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

(Luke 6:37)

Dear Sisters in Christ,

It is hard to believe that Kate O'Quinn's term as Toronto Diocesan President is coming to an end. It seems like yesterday that we were saying goodbye to the presidency of Sue Lubowitz and welcoming Kate in her new role. Why does time go so fast? I suppose that will be a question for me to ask God when I see Him face to face. I would like to personally thank Kate for the wonderful work she has done in continuing the long tradition of faithful and competent Presidents before her. We all know that Kate is also a wonderful musician and singer and I was hoping that I would have some more time with Kate so that she and I could start a band together - she on the guitar and I, on the heavenly harp. We could call ourselves the "Two Strumming Stunning Satirical Strings" and we could go to every region and offer concerts at parish halls and end our tour at the Rogers Centre with 50 thousand screaming fans who would not want us to end the show but continually request encore after encore. But let's now get away from fantasy and back to reality.



I am sure you join me in thanking Kate for her dedication, exuberance and contagious joy - she shared it wherever she went. May God continue to bless her as she soon moves to her new role as Past President. As Scripture says: "Well done good and faithful servant."

To all of you, I also would like to thank you for the work you do, day in and day out for your council, your parish and your Catholic Faith. Continue to live out your faith in Jesus Christ and remember to *BE EUCHARISTIC* in your words and actions.

Be assured of my continued prayers and if you have a minute to spare, please remember me in your prayers as well.

Blessings,

Fr. Liborio

Let us be very sincere in our dealings with each other, and have the courage to accept each other as we are. Do not be surprised or become preoccupied at each other's failures - rather, see and find in each other the good, for each one of us is created in the image of God.

(Saint Teresa of Calcutta)

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.



A warm welcome and congratulations to the ladies who are new to the president role in your council! Thank you for saying “yes”. In taking on the leadership role of president, you are well on your way in ‘Igniting your passion to empower His mission’!

The above words taken from Psalm 32:8 remind us that we must always put God first when we make decisions, as we lead our councils. We do not make decisions on our own, we do not act on our own - God is always by our side, leading us, showing us the way. We just need to listen and follow! We also look to our sisters in the League for assistance.

My president’s information session in November was on Conflict Resolution for a Win-Win Solution and On Being Kind to Each Other. The presidents asked me to offer this information session again and open it to all members in our diocese. On January 27, I repeated this workshop and opened it up to all members across Ontario. We had close to 100 participants, including the Ontario Provincial Council: President, Vice President, Secretary and Sault Ste Marie Diocesan President.

On March 11, CWL Wednesday, I will be doing a workshop on Effective Meetings. Save the date!

I want to thank all presidents who participated in my President information sessions over these last two years. What a great and joyful network we established with one another. Let us always bring faith and hope to our members. As we fulfill our role as president, let us keep these words from St. Teresa of Calcutta at the forefront of our words and actions: *Speak tenderly; let there be kindness in your face, in your eyes, in your smile, in the warmth of your greeting. Always have a cheerful smile. Don't only give your care, but give your heart as well.*

Regional Meetings

Our Spring All Regions Zoom Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 7:00 pm. The format was the same as our previous All Regions Meetings, where TDC Executive and Fr. Liborio gave their reports. An addition to the Spring Agenda was the report/invitation to the 105th Annual TDC Convention from the Convention Chair and Co-Chairs. The in-person Spring Regional Meetings followed the same format as the Fall in-person Regional

Meetings, (with the exception of no reports from council presidents) with regional updates and messages from the TDC President and Spiritual Advisor. The Regional Meetings are booked from February 26 to March 26. The Spring Regional Meetings dates and venues are on page 25.

Conventions

Toronto Diocesan Council 105th Annual Convention

Our TDC Convention will be held at the Ajax Convention Centre on Monday, April 27 and Tuesday, April 28. The president's package has been posted on the website since February 19, and has been sent electronically to each council president. Please review the package carefully and ensure all deadlines are met. All councils should be represented with one voting delegate and if possible, two accredited delegates. Additional members from your council are strongly encouraged to attend, as this is a time for sisterhood and member development. It is an election year so please make sure your council is represented and has a vote (Information on elections is included in the Past President's report). This year we also have an instructed vote on amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. An information session was offered by Ontario Provincial Past President, Linda Squarzolo on January 20, and TDC offered an information evening on February 3, to answer any questions/concerns on the instructed vote. Convention highlights and hotel information are included in this newsletter on pages 14 and 15.

Provincial Convention

The 79th Annual Provincial Convention will be held July 5-8, 2026, in Thunder Bay, Ontario, at the Valhalla Hotel & Conference Centre. Provincial President, Colleen Martin is inviting you to participate *Joyfully* in this event. This is an election year for provincial executive. Details and Registration Information can be found at: <https://cwl.on.ca/conventions/>

National Convention

The 106th Annual National Convention will be held August 9-12, 2026, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, at the Halifax Convention Centre. The Convention Hotel is the Sutton Place Hotel Halifax. *Experience Faith, Fellowship & Atlantic Charm!* For all hotel information, other accommodations, parking options, flight information and program at a glance, visit the national website, under 'About', click conventions, then click on Halifax 2026 and then click on Bulletin #1. The email for questions, concerns and more information is: natnlcwlconv2026@gmail.com.

If you have a chance to attend a convention at any level, I strongly encourage you to do so, and encourage your members to attend as well. All conventions

offer a wonderful opportunity to meet your sisters from across the diocese, the province and the country and all offer League development!

And now, my dear Sisters in the League, this is my last newsletter submission as President of the Toronto Diocesan Council. Where did the time go?? I thank you for your tremendous support and encouragement as I journeyed with you in my role as president. My hope is that I served the members in the Toronto diocese, as St. Paul wrote to the Ephesians 6:7, *Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people.*

And, in closing, in all you say and do...*Be Eucharistic.*

CHAIRPERSON OF FAITH

Committee Member:

Amelia Hazell

Iris McNulty

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? (Isaiah 43:18-19)

Lent 2026

As we journey through Lent, we are reminded of the four pillars of our Catholic faith: *The Profession of Faith* - the Creed we proclaim; *The Celebration of the Christian Mystery* - the Sacraments that sustain us; *The Life in Christ* - the Moral Life that challenges us and *The Christian Prayer* - prayer that keeps us centered. These foundations of our faith help us stand united as disciples of Christ. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*)

While we journey toward Holy Week (March 29 - April 5), we remember that Lent is not simply about giving something up. It is about being open to grace, truth and transformation. Upholding the call of the Beatitudes, let us remember that "Blessed are the Poor" is not only a promise but a call to discipleship. Just as the Holy Spirit accompanied Jesus in the desert, the Spirit accompanies us in our leadership, our meetings, our outreach, and our everyday acts of love. May this sacred season deepen our faith and strengthen our bonds as CWL sisters. May we burst forth, renewed in spirit, ready to walk in unity, serve with joyful compassion, lead with humility and bring Christ's love to those who need it most.

Prayer: <https://mycatholic.life/lent-prayers-reflections/>

Fasting: <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent/things-to-give-up-for-lent.html>

Almsgiving: ShareLife, Covenant House, Homeless Shelters (food, clothing), Food banks, donating your time to a charitable cause.+



Retreats:

Manresa Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre:

2325 Liverpool Rd., Pickering, ON, L1X 1V, Tel: 905-839-2864, website: <https://manresa-canada.ca>

Entering Jerusalem with Jesus: A Holy Week Retreat

Mar. 27, 2026 - 6:30 pm to Mar. 29, 2026 - 1:30 pm

Easter Triduum Retreat - A Silent Retreat for Men & Women

Apr. 2, 2026 - 6:30 pm to Apr. 5, 2026 - 10:00 am

A Jesuit Guide to the Stars: A Silent Ignatian Retreat for Men & Women

Apr. 24, 2026 - 6:30 pm to Apr. 26, 2026 - 1:30 pm

Women Silent Ignatian Retreat - From Fear to Freedom.

May 22, 2026 - 6:30 pm to May 24, 2026 - 1:00 pm

Other Retreat Centers:

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

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

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

World Day of Prayer: March 6, 2026

The Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC) is Canada's oldest national ecumenical council, with representatives from 10 church partners, focusing on bringing hope to women touched by injustice. This 100th year ecumenical movement calls people from different backgrounds globally to focus on prayer, unity, compassion, justice, and the relevant needs of women and children. Every year, women from a different country prepare the service, highlighting their local culture and challenges. The 2026 theme, *I Will Give You Rest: Come (Matthew 11:28-30)* was prepared by women from Nigeria. To access more information, visit: <https://wdpcanada.ca/world-day-of-prayer/>

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

Pray together, change the world. We are a global prayer family/community, moved by the cries of humanity and drawn to walk together toward hope, a mission at the heart of the Church. Our purpose is simple: to pray for and address the challenges facing humanity and the mission of the Church, guided by the Pope's monthly intentions. You are invited to explore the new Vatican campaign featuring helpful spiritual resources. <https://www.popesprayer.va/>

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) National Week for Family and Life will take place on Sunday, May 10 to Sunday, May 17,

2026 with the theme, '*I am with you always*'. Further details will be sent via email, about forthcoming CCCB pastoral resources to help celebrate the week. *The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops is pleased to announce the publication of the **National Ecumenical Strategy** (NES), a major milestone in its ongoing commitment to fostering Christian unity and strengthening interfaith relationships in Canada.* You are invited to read CCCB's letter to The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada regarding the **Proposed Restrictions on Religious Freedom, Bill C-9** <https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2025-12-04-Letter-to-PM-Religious-Freedom-EN.pdf>

Martyr's Shrine will joyfully celebrate two significant anniversaries in 2026. Its 100th anniversary (1926-2026) as a place of pilgrimage and worship and the 400th anniversary (1626-2026) of the arrival of St. Jean de Brebeuf in Huronia and the establishment of his mission. A number of events have been scheduled to honour these milestones. The celebrations begin with a special Centennial Gala at Bellevue Manor on June 3, a fundraiser and an opportunity to reflect with gratitude the past 100 years and support of the Shrine's future. On June 26, a commemorative concert and the launch of a new historical book by its' former Shrine director, Fr. Michael Knox will take place. His Eminence Cardinal Leo will celebrate a solemn anniversary Mass at the Shrine on June 27, marking this historic moment in faith and fellowship. On October 9, scholars will gather at Regis College to offer a lecture on the Canadian Martyrs, enriching our understanding of their legacy. Everyone is invited to join in these festivities honouring the past, rejoicing in the present, and looking forward with hope to the future.

Jubilee Year of Saint Francis of Assisi

Proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV, from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027, on the occasion of the eighth centenary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi. To obtain the plenary indulgence during the Year of Saint Francis, certain specific conditions indicated by the Church must be fulfilled: sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, certain prayers according to the intentions of the Pope, interior detachment from sin, and the performance of certain works, such as a pious pilgrimage to Franciscan churches, participation in Jubilee celebrations, prayer and meditation in the Franciscan spirit, as well as daily acts of charity and humility that express the spirituality of Saint Francis. ([Vaticannews.va](https://www.vaticannews.va))

Important Upcoming Events in 2026:

March 6 - World Day of Prayer

March 9 - Faith Chairs' Zoom Meeting, 7:00 pm

March 14 - Lift Jesus Higher Rally, Metro Toronto Convention Centre

April 17 - World Day of Prayer for Vocations

April 26 - Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel

May 3 to 9 - National Hospice Palliative Care Week

May 14 - Annual 29th National March for Life, Ottawa, ON

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.

(Jeremiah 29:11-13)

VICE PRESIDENT

Committee Member:

Member Development

Connie Cristinziano

Mary Capobianco

Welcome to all new vice presidents. Thank you for accepting this role. The Handbook for Vice Presidents (#610 www.ca/resources/manuals) is an excellent resource and reference document to assist you in your role. Some benefits in this role include the joy of recruiting, retaining and regaining members and encouraging active involvement.



Membership

As of December 31, 2025, membership for Toronto Diocese is 5959. December 31, 2024 showed 5908 members. The per capita from December 31, 2025, will be used for the annual report book tables and for the certificates given to councils who experienced an increase in membership. Certificates will be presented at the Spring Regional Meetings (for an increase in membership of 1-9) and Convention/AMM (for an increase of 10 or more). Membership fees are due at the national office by February 28, each year. Councils can continue to recruit and send in fees (from new and returning members) as received. Regional dues are submitted directly to your regional treasurer.

Leave no member behind. Be sure to always welcome new and returning members. The Welcome Program (#621) can be found on the national website under resources and manuals. It is important to have members complete the New and Returning Member forms, which benefit both the member and the

parish council when planning activities. There are many excellent resources available on the national website under resources and Promotional Materials (300 series) that can be used for your membership drives. On our Toronto website, under resources and reference documents, you will find the Membership Kit and what should be included in the kit.

Leadership and Member Development

Leadership and member development are vital to maintain a vibrant council. Keep in mind that leadership can also be defined as taking the lead in a plan or a project. Invite members to take on a small role. A personal invitation goes a long way. Members who feel valued and spiritually nourished are more likely to stay involved, which is essential for attracting and retaining members.

Toronto Diocesan Council continues to offer various training and development sessions via zoom and CWL Wednesdays. Both January sessions were very well attended.

On January 21, I presented the Joy of Leadership - Discovering New Opportunities. Over 70 members attended. I used The Joy of Leadership workshop #835D from the National Website.

New Resources

A New League Opportunity: Learning Together Online Through D2L Brightspace. These courses provide members with the opportunity to expand their knowledge and involvement with the League. Compete details can be found on the National website: cwl.ca. Councils and members are encouraged to stay tuned to the League's website and social media pages for future opportunities to register. The working group can be reached at: cwl.brightspace@gmail.com.

Introducing the Ontario Provincial CWL Compass Podcast!

Looking for inspiration, insight, and a fresh way to connect with the League? The Compass Podcast (www.cwlpodcast) is here to guide you. Discover a new way to journey with the CWL: tune in, subscribe, and share with your sisters in Faith and help spread the word!. More information and details can be found in the OPC February Online Newsletter (www.cwl.on.ca).

Annual Reports

Thank you to the councils who submitted the Annual Report Survey. I look forward to reading all your councils' good works, achievements and recommendations. The collated data will be used for the National Annual Report, the Ontario Provincial Annual Report and the TDC Annual Report, which will be available on our website prior to the convention.

This year you will have an opportunity to purchase a printed copy for \$10.00 (on registration form for convention).

This is my last newsletter as vice president. Serving in this role has been a blessing, a joy and a privilege. I am thankful for the encouragement, collaboration, commitment and dedication of our members. Thank you for your support and kindness throughout my term. A heartfelt thank you to my committee member Mary Capobianco, Life Member, for all her support and assistance. May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide us as we journey together and continue our League's mission with passion and joy!

PAST PRESIDENT

Sue Lubowitz

As I end my time of service at the diocesan level of the League, I leave with a heart full of gratitude and appreciation for the support I received from members across the diocese. I have learned a lot in each office I served (Christian Family Life, Education and Health, Resolutions, President-Elect, President and Past President). Members at the parish level are the life source of the League. Your enthusiasm and dedication for faith, service and social justice will ensure that the League continues to grow and prosper.



Toronto Diocesan Elections

The elections of eligible members to the Toronto Diocesan Council will take place on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at the annual meeting of members (C&B Part XIV Section 3b). The 2023 **Constitution and Bylaws**, Part XVI Section 4(e) states "Each parish council executive shall nominate a slate of officers for the diocesan council from the list of those eligible who have agreed to let their names stand for nomination."

Parish council presidents should have received, before the end of February, via email, the election package containing the list of nominees. Please contact me if you did not receive, or if your email address has changed.

Following the receipt of this package, at your council executive meeting, please complete, sign and date the Nomination Form, and email it back to me at jslubowitz@gmail.com or mail it to me (only if you cannot email), at the following address:

Sue Lubowitz, Nomination and Election Chair
201 Penn Avenue, Newmarket, ON, L3Y2S4.

Deadline: March 27, 2026.

Please ensure the following is done:

- A full slate of candidates is submitted.
- Your council's minutes note the nominations made.
- The council voting delegate brings a copy of the Nomination Form to the Toronto Diocesan Convention on Tuesday, April 28, 2026. This copy is your council's **Instructed vote**.
- Your council membership for the year 2026 is paid.

As voting takes place at the convention, please note the section to the Election of Officers, Constitution and Bylaws, 2023. Part XVI, Section 5, (b). *Part XVI Section 5: Election of Officers:(b) If the voting delegate does not have an instructed vote from the executive, she forfeits her privilege to vote on first and all subsequent ballots for that position.*

Thank you to all members who have agreed to let their names stand for elections at all levels of the League. You are ensuring the continued growth of the League. Your service is appreciated.

TDC 2026 Manual of Policy and Procedure

The 2026 updated version of the diocesan manual will be posted on the diocesan website on/or before May 1, after revisions are made by the committee and the executive council. Councils are reminded that their own parish council manual should be updated regularly and should only contain items that pertain to their council at the parish level. The national manual serves as the guide for us all on the proper process for most other issues.

Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2026 Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Award. We ask you to nominate that special woman who shares, nurtures, encourages growth and renewal, and responds to the needs of others. While a member's contributions to the parish and her community are most admirable, this award is for mentoring within the CWL. Special note should be made of the nominee's support and encouragement of others to move into executive positions and/or to progress to other challenging positions beyond.

"Mentoring in the League can be defined as the process wherein one member is a pilgrim companion to the other in their journey with the Lord. It is discipleship; a dynamic relationship in which one member enables another to maximize the grace of God in her life, to become Christlike, a servant and a steward." (CWL Archival Mentoring Pamphlet)

Refer to the Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Award Guidelines and Criteria. The nomination form can be found by visiting cwltoronto.ca/forms for more details. Please feel free to re-submit a nomination for either category

that you have submitted in previous years, for a member who has not yet been chosen. We encourage any member or parish council to nominate a member **from within their council or another council** for the following categories:

Category A - Parish Level: All members at the parish council who meet the Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Award criteria are eligible for the Parish Level of the Award.

Category B - Auxiliary Level: Members who served at the regional, diocesan, provincial or national levels of the League who meet the Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Award criteria are eligible for the Auxiliary Level of the Award.

Your submission for 2026 must be submitted to Sue Lubowitz, Past President (jslubowitz@gmail.com) by March 15, 2026. The committee will review the submissions and the recipients will be presented with their awards at the 2026 Toronto Diocesan Convention to be held April 27 and 28, 2026 at the Ajax Convention Centre.

New Past Presidents

The past president at any level is there to assist, guide, instruct and support without interfering. Her knowledge of the League and the council she serves should be a resource for the president and the entire council.

Some resources you may find helpful on the national website.

- Archive Guidelines for League History (#601)
- Constitution & Bylaws (#604)
- Past President Handbook (#611)
- National Manual of Policy and Procedure (#615)

Mary, my dearest Mother, give me your heart so beautiful, so pure, so immaculate, your heart so full of love and humility, that I may be able to receive Jesus in the Bread of Life, love Him as you loved Him and serve Him in the distressing disguise of the poorest of the poor.

(Saint Teresa of Calcutta)

105th Annual Toronto Diocesan Council Convention

Monday, April 27, 2026, and Tuesday 28, 2026

Ajax Convention 550 Beck Crescent,

Ajax, ON, L1C 1C9

Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission



All CWL Members, Spiritual Advisors, Catholic Girls League members, and Guests are invited to attend and share in our celebration of our achievements at our Convention/Annual Meeting of Members.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, April 27, 2026: “Blessed are the poor.”

- 8:30 am Registration
- 10:00 am Opening Eucharistic Celebration, Fr. Liborio Amaral
- 11:30 am Call to Order and Business Session
- 12:00 am Lunch Break
- 1:30 pm Resolution Dialogue
- 2:30 pm Health Break
- 2:45 pm Business Session (to include C&B amendments instructed vote) and Deceased Members Prayer Service
- 5:00 pm Dinner Break
- 6:00 pm Registration
- 6:30 pm Business Session -Youth Awards
- 7:00 pm Keynote: Mark Creedon, “Caught Between Two Devils.”
- 7:30 pm Closing Prayer
- 7:45 pm Entertainment: DJ TeeCee

Tuesday, April 28, 2026: “Blessed are the poor” and “*Be Eucharistic.*”

- 8:00 am Registration
- 8:30 am Opening Prayer / Business Session/Presentation of Certificates
- 9:45 am. Resolutions
- 10:25 am Health Break
- 10:45 am Keynote Speaker: Marie-Claude Lalonde, National Director, Aid to the Church in Need
- 12:00 pm Lunch Break
- 1:30 pm Elections
- 3:10 pm Health Break
- 3:30 pm Closing Eucharistic Celebration, Bishop Vincent Nguyen
- 6:00 pm Cocktail Reception - Cash Bar
- 7:00 pm Closing Banquet - Keynote Speaker - Msgr. Patrick O’Dea

HOTEL INFORMATION

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

By telephone: **1-905- 686-9400**. Group code ID is: **CWL26**

Rates are \$189 per night, plus taxes for double occupancy. There is a surcharge of \$10 per person for up to two additional persons—limit four people per room. We recommend you call the hotel directly, but you can email your request to: info@hiltongardeninnajax.com

Deadline to get this rate **is March 20, 2026**. Parking is free

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

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

Rates are \$199 double occupancy, per night, plus taxes. Suites available: King Suite or One Bedroom Suite. You can also email your request to:

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

Deadline to get this rate **is March 26, 2026**. Parking and breakfast are free.

Monday lunch and dinner tickets and Tuesday lunch and Banquet tickets are available. Please complete the appropriate forms when registering (one form per person). **No outside food is allowed in the meeting room.**

INQUIRIES AND OTHER INFORMATION:

Website: cwltoronto.ca

Convention Team:

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

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

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

THIS CONVENTION IS A SCENT- FREE EVENT

But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.

(Mark 11:25)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Region	Council	Anniversary Years
Durham	St. Francis de Sales, Ajax	65
North York	St. Edward the Confessor, North York	70
Northern	St. Mary, Barrie	105
Toronto	Holy Cross, Toronto	70

MAPLE LEAF SERVICE PIN

Region	Parish	Recipient
Northern	Holy Spirit, Barrie	Maria D'Souza
Peel	St. Francis Xavier, Mississauga	Charmaine Alweyn Diana Gamboa Lynette Mendes

SERVICE AWARDS

70 years Membership Pin

Region	Parish	Recipient
Northern	Holy Spirit, Barrie	Jeanne Koselek- Armstrong

65 years Membership Pin

Region	Parish	Recipient
Peel	St. John Fisher, Brampton	Vera Nolan

60 years Membership Pin

Region	Parish	Recipient
Northern	St. Andrew, Brechin	Mary Anne Heitzner
Peel	St. John Fisher, Brampton	Theresa Merola

55 years Membership Pin

Region	Parish	Recipient
North York	St. Edwards the Confessor, North York	Nancy Cummings

50 years Membership Pin

Region	Parish	Recipient
North York	St. Mary's, Nobleton	Carmela Iozzo
Peel	St. Mary's, Brampton	Roz Baker

45 years Membership Pin

Region	Parish	Recipient
Peel	St. Mary's Brampton	Debbie Stuart
	St. John Fisher, Brampton	Jeannette Morgan

40 years Membership Pin

Region	Parish	Recipient
Peel	St. Mary's Brampton	Fran Cadwell
Scarborough	Precious Blood, Scarborough	Norah Middleton

35 years Membership Pin

Region	Parish	Recipient
Peel	St. Anthony of Padua, Brampton	Pam Munjal
	St. John Fisher, Brampton	Shirley Christo Helen Pietrangelo Helen Armstrong
	St. Francis Xavier, Mississauga	Mary Lou Bonnici
Toronto	St. Pius X, Toronto	Eileen Banerjee

30 years Membership Pin

Region	Parish	Recipient
Northern	Holy Spirit, Barrie	Anne Gariepy
Humber Valley	St. Padre Pio, Kleinburg	Debbie Fisher
Peel	St. John Fisher, Brampton	Ann Day Shirley Digby
Scarborough	Precious Blood, Scarborough	Philomena Menezes

25 years Membership Pin

Region	Parish	Recipient
North York	St. Edward the Confessor, North York	Elisabeth Quail
	St. Mary's, Nobleton	Lucia Gentile
Northern	Holy Spirit, Barrie	Paulette Sasco
	St. Andrew, Brechin	Tammy Prophet Kennedy
Peel	St. John Fisher, Brampton	Brenda Allison Mary-Jo Clutchey Dorothy Fernandez
	St. Francis Xavier, Mississauga	Beryl Fernandes

20 years Membership Pin

Region	Parish	Recipient
Humber Valley	Immaculate Conception, Woodbridge	Silvana Nicastro
Peel	St. Mary's Brampton	Elisabeth Winklareth Tracie Elmer
	St. John Fisher, Brampton	Debbie Chapman Dora Mitchell Loraine Dubier Madge Burrell Paula Wilson Sally Gamez Veronica Grant Violet Menezes Helena Masri
	St. Francis Xavier, Mississauga	Charmaine Alweyn M Olivia D'Souza Mary Wanca Susan Wylde
Scarborough	Precious Blood, Scarborough	Prigita Mascarenhas

SECRETARY

Committee Members:
Web Administrator
Zoom Meeting Co-Ordinator

Andrea Tjioe

Lucia Vacca
Shaila D'Souza

Greetings, my sisters in the League. As this will be my last Newsletter article as secretary, I sincerely wish to extend my appreciation for the beautiful connection, friendship, mentorship, patience, support and your prayers during my term as the Toronto Diocesan Council secretary.



As of January 30, 28 councils who held elections submitted their updated Parish Information Sheet. This enabled me to update Presidents and/or Spiritual Advisors names on the 'Regional Information' on the Toronto CWL website. Please visit: <https://cwltoronto.ca/regional-information/> and check your respective region and council to ensure we have the correct name and spelling of names posted.

If you have not submitted an updated 'Parish Information Sheet', please do so as soon as possible. This form is found on our website: <https://cwltoronto.ca/forms/>.

Please visit our Toronto website and encourage your members to access our website on a regular basis: <https://cwltoronto.ca/>. You will find a wealth of information and resources. My favorite is 'Spotlight', where you find all the good works that are being done by councils across the diocese. Please remember to send me your council's special events, projects and recognitions, for posting.

World Social Communications Day

Sunday, May 17, 2026 (the Sunday before Pentecost) marks the 60th World Day of Social Communications, and the theme chosen by His Holiness Pope Leo XIV is: Preserving human voices and faces. This is the first year that the word 'Social' has been added to the title.

To read the MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV FOR THE 60TH WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS released from the Vatican, January 24, 2026, Memorial of Saint Francis de Sales, visit: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/communications/documents/20260124-messaggio-comunicazioni-sociali.html>

TREASURER

Donna Capobianco

By now, many councils have had their elections and should have completed or be in the process of transferring the Treasurer's files to the new Executive. This also entails closing the books for 2025, ensuring that all accounts are balanced and finalized before passing them on to the new treasurer. Make sure to advise the new treasurer of any projects that will be coming up and other events or timelines that she will need to be aware of. You also need to make arrangements to update the information at the bank for the new signing officers.



Financial Statements

Your 2025 Financial Statement should be completed. As treasurer, you should also be in the process of presenting the statement to your council. It does take time to prepare the statement, therefore it is important to let your members know if this is delayed for any reason, and advise them when they can expect the statement to be presented. It is their money that, as treasurer, we are entrusted with. The statement will need to go out to all members 21 days prior to your parish annual meeting of members as per Section 10 in the C&B,

Financial Statements: The annual financial statements will be sent to members entitled to vote at a parish council annual meeting or annual diocesan, provincial or national meetings of members at least twenty-one (21) days before the date of the annual meeting of members. For all other members, notice will be given, and the financial statements will be made available to members on request.

Membership 2026

Treasurers, please submit the 2026 membership fees to National office in a timely manner. As per the National Manual of Policy and Procedure, the membership fees are due by February 28, 2026. This will ensure that your members will receive their League magazine with news from our League sisters across the country.

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

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

(Colossians 4:6)

CHAIRPERSON OF SERVICE

Gabriella Di Pietrantonio

As the Spring season begins, take the opportunity to really appreciate the benefits of inspiring and motivating connections with others and building more on the League's work within your communities.



Youth Award Dates to Remember:

Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest: TDC Finals - March 28, 2026

Mary Dobell Pro-Life Essay & Poetry Contest: due to TDC Chairperson of Service - March 13, 2026

Jean McCann Service Award: due to TDC Chairperson of Service - March 13, 2026

St. Michael's Scholarship: send to Catherine von Zueben (catherine.vonzuben@outlook.com) by May 31, 2026

Be sure to visit our website: [www.cwltoronto/resources/reference documents](http://www.cwltoronto/resources/referencedocuments), for the criteria and applicable forms.

Catholic Education Week is scheduled for May 3-8, 2026 and continues with the theme *Pilgrims of Hope: On the Path to Holiness*. The theme encourages everyone to put Jesus Christ, along with the teachings of the Catholic Church, at the centre of our pilgrimage of hope, "As God who called you is holy, be holy yourselves" (1 Peter 1:15-16) This week showcases the value of Catholic Education, fostering faith, learning and community, with a special emphasis on the partnership between schools and local parishes. For resources, visit: www.ocsta.on.ca/resources/catholic-education-week-resources.

National Hospice Palliative Care Week

"Palliative care is an expression of the truly human attitude of taking care of one another, especially of those who suffer. It is a testimony that the human person is always precious, even if marked by illness and old age." (Pope Francis)

May 3-9, 2026 marks National Hospice Palliative Care Week in Canada. There are too many people suffering with illness, and their caregivers and families face obstacles in obtaining the support needed to navigate through these times. Take time during this week, to show support in the power of hospice palliative care, and raise awareness for the need of accessible quality care in every community. Follow up on Palliative Care Coalition of Canada's (PCCC) Blueprint for Action 2025-2030 for more on how to become engaged and informed. www.chpca.ca/advocate-for-hospice-palliative-care. Your council may want to act on resolutions regarding palliative care, for example:

2025.04 Federal Government to Complete the Development of the Office of Palliative Care (every resolution has an action plan included).

Visit our national website <https://www.cwl.ca> to access resolutions and the resource: 12 Hours of prayer for Palliative Care.

Make your Voice Heard Against Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)

February 29, 2024 legislation included a temporary exclusion of eligibility to receive MAiD when an application was based on mental illness as the medical condition. On March 17, 2027 eligibility for MAiD will include suffering solely from a mental illness. Letters to your MP are encouraged. Awareness, education, support and community are so important on this topic. Promotion of programs to help address mental health crisis, such as Bell Let's Talk Day, 'Coldest Night of the Year' community walks, and CCCB Horizons of Hope are just starting points for all members in the League. Horizons of Hope link: <https://www.cccb.ca/faith-moral-issues/suffering-and-end-of-life/horizons-of-hope-a-toolkit-for-catholic-parishes-on-palliative-care/>

Earth Day Canada

The theme for Earth Day, April 22, 2026, is 'Our Power, Our Planet' emphasizing the need for communities, businesses and leaders to take action in developing a more sustainable way of life, through our choices and methods of production. Can we improve our lives, while consuming less, and reducing our impact on the planet? The Catholic Church views "environmental protection as a moral imperative rooted in responsible stewardship of God's creation" (Pope Francis' Laudato Si', 2015). We are encouraged to participate in activities such as community cleanups and tree plantings. www.earthday.ca.

Smile as you start the gardening, enjoy watching the blossoms, but promise yourself to take the time to appreciate and pause at the beauty of God's creation, which surrounds us, comes to light.

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

(Pope Leo XIV)

CHAIRPERSON OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Committee Members:

Resolutions

Legislation

Christina Boyle

Elizabeth Joseph

Audrey Nichols

This is my final Newsletter article in the role of Chairperson of Social Justice. It has been a very busy and extremely rewarding two years, with responsibilities well suited to my interests and experience. I would like to thank my Committee members for their amazing help over the last two years. Recently elected or appointed Social Justice Chairs often ask for advice on how to get their council members engaged in Social Justice. I believe the most effective approach is to find their own “passion project” out of the many possible issues that could be addressed. Once that is identified, their own enthusiasm can easily engage members, then find other like-minded members who can form a sub-committee to help. (Please refer to National Theme Activity Calendar on the national website, for ideas).



My own “passion project” turned out to be Human Trafficking. This heinous crime is growing rapidly and is particularly prevalent in the GTA. Whether it was building broader connections by serving on the Board of IWIN (I’m Worth it Now); supporting councils who have initiated projects related to Human Trafficking such as St. Padre Pio (Flag Raising and Human Trafficking Awareness Week in Vaughan) and St. Mary’s, Brampton (Go-Bag project); promoting the use of multiple Red Sand Services or hosting a CWL Wednesday on Human Trafficking, I found many ways to act on my passion.

On February 22, 2026, the CN Tower was illuminated in Blue, which I was instrumental in making it happen. It was an opportunity for members to gather, pray and show our solidarity. Blue is the colour associated with the fight against Human Trafficking.

I am issuing a challenge to all councils to start to work together now, on requesting their local City Hall to illuminate the colour Blue on February 22 for the years to come, to raise awareness about Human Trafficking. What an impact that would make if all municipal buildings across our Archdiocese, lit up blue in solidarity with victims and survivors! We can also educate our schools and local communities about the dangers of grooming. It is acknowledged that awareness and education lead to prevention, and prevention can reduce the need to help victims escape their trafficker and rebuild ruined lives.

Blue for the Broken. Light for the Lost. Hope for All.

Resolutions

Two resolutions will be presented at the Toronto Diocesan (TDC) Convention in April, having been reviewed by the reading panel and adopted by the full Toronto Diocesan Executive.

TDC 2026.01 Federal Government to fund additional Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia (HHT) treatment and screening centers across Canada - gifted by Immaculate Conception Parish Council, Woodbridge

TDC 2026.01 was initiated through the personal experience of a parishioner, with three generations of immediate family members dealing with this rare genetic disease.

TDC 2026-02 Federal Government to implement the disability housing recommendations of the Canadian Human Rights Commission through the National Disability Housing Framework - gifted by Peel Region

TDC 2026.02 recognizes a tremendous unmet need for disability adaptations to private housing, and the complex patchwork of funding mechanisms that make it difficult to access financial help.

Take the time to fully discuss these resolutions and come with an informed vote from your council. The Resolutions Dialogue will take place at the TDC Convention on Monday, April 27, and the vote to advance the resolutions to the Ontario Provincial level will take place on Tuesday, April 28.

Legislation Update

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, and referred to committee for consideration. The Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs met seven times on this matter in October 2025. The committee has not yet issued a report. Bill S-209 still needs to advance to Third Reading in the Senate and then make its way through the House of Commons.

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. The sponsor's speech and two rebuttals took place on December 5, 2025. However, there was no vote recorded and Bill C-218 remains in Second Reading in the House of Commons. Letters from council members may help to move this forward, as it appears to be stalled. Please Note: When writing letters in support of or against legislation, please remember that you are writing as a private citizen, not as a representative of the

Catholic Women's League. Any official communication to members of parliament can only come from the National (Federal) and Ontario Provincial (Provincial) Executive levels. Do not let that stop you from developing letter writing campaigns at your parish councils, as they can be quite effective. Just use plain paper and write as a private, concerned citizen.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

(John 3:16)



**Catholic Women's League of Canada
Toronto Diocesan Council**



2026 Spring Regional General Meetings

SCARBOROUGH REGION

Thursday, February 26, 2026 @ 7:00 pm
St. Boniface Parish
142 Markham Road, Scarborough, ON

HUMBER VALLEY REGION

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 @ 7:00 pm
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish
739 Browns Line, Etobicoke, ON

DURHAM REGION

Tuesday, March 10, 2026 @ 7:00 pm
St. Joseph the Worker Parish
1100 Mary St. N., Oshawa

TORONTO REGION

Thursday, March 19, 2026 @ 7:00 pm
St. Pius X Parish
2305 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ON

NORTH YORK REGION

Monday, March 23, 2026 @ 7:00 pm
St. Patrick Parish
5633 Highway #7, Markham, ON

NORTHERN REGION

Wednesday, March 25, 2026 @ 7:00 pm
Holy Spirit Parish
650 Essa Road, Barrie, ON

PEEL REGION

Thursday, March 26, 2026 @ 7:00 pm
St. Jerome Parish
8530 Chinguacousy Rd., Brampton, ON



Red Wednesday Mass, celebrated by Bishop Boissonneau - November 19, 2025, St. Michael Cathedral Basilica





Installation of Officers, Precious Blood, Scarborough Region



Christmas Dinner, St. Anthony of Padua, Peel Region



Christmas Luncheon, St. Gertrude, Durham Region



Carol singing at a Seniors' residence, St. Francis Xavier, Peel Region

Spiritual Advisor

Regional Chair

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League Prayer

We humbly pray you, O God our Father
To bless The Catholic Women's League of Canada.
Bless our beloved country, our homes and families.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us
To give light to our minds and strength to our wills,
That we may know and fulfill your great
law of charity.

Teach us to share with others, at home and abroad,
The good things you have given us.

This we ask through Our Lord Jesus Christ
And the intercession of our patroness,
Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Amen

FIRST NAME LAST NAME
ADDRESS
CITY PROV POSTAL CODE