



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

One Hundred Years: Growing in Faith, Love and Service

Toronto Diocesan Convention, May 2-3, 2019

Dear Sisters in the League:

The celebration of our 100th Anniversary as Toronto Diocesan Council has begun. We have formed a committee comprised so far of Ann D'Souza, President, Hilarion Mitchell, President Elect, Mary Tuccitto, Scarborough Regional Chair who will be the liaison with the other Regional Chairs, Connie Cristinziano, Community Life Chair of the Toronto Diocesan Council, who is our Secretary, Pat Cross and Carole Pitcher, Life Members, who will spearhead the historical aspects we want to explore and me, Mary Hawkey.

Our first task was to send out an invitation for submissions for a logo to celebrate our centenary. The one we selected was designed by Irene Debono from Transfiguration Parish Council, and her daughter Alyse Sanborn. We believe it is a logo to help us focus on this 100th celebration of our vibrant past, our energetic activities of today and our enthusiastic anticipation of what we can become. We think it fits very well with Mary, Our Lady of Good Counsel in the center, and our name on her cape. The seal surrounded by the years and the motto at the bottom which flows from the League's new mission statement speaks to our past, the present and what we wish to be.

We have lapel pins of the logo available for you at the Vendors' tables. They are \$10 each and a wonderful way to get our celebration started. We hope to have them available at all Autumn Regional meetings also.

There will be a number of celebrations happening over the next two years and I would like to put our anniversary into context. The Catholic Women's League of Canada was formally initiated in 1920 in Montreal, and Bellelle Guerin elected President. We will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the National Council in Montreal, next August, 2020, at the Annual Convention. In August, 2021, the National Convention moves to Toronto where we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the First Convention of the Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Meanwhile, here in the Archdiocese of Toronto, we will celebrate, in 2021, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Toronto Diocesan Council. It was only months after the organization was incorporated that Toronto parishes began to establish and consolidate CWL councils. To serve them all and provide adequate communication among them and between them and the National Council, we brought our councils of the Archdiocese of Toronto under our umbrella.

Suggestions for Councils to Help Us Celebrate

We would like all councils to be included in the planning and celebrations leading up to our 100th Anniversary Year.

1. This year, we are asking that councils start to organize their own materials and ideas. Many councils have been celebrating major anniversaries over these past several years, so have had a good start on researching and presenting their own major events and photographs as part of their histories.
2. We are planning to update our Toronto Diocesan History Book, which ended with the year 2001. We will be especially interested in including major events and photographs for the years 2001 through 2021. Keep these in your councils for the moment. In a few months the committee will be asking for them to help us fill out further activities.
3. We also have a time capsule that was created by Life Member Karen Lawless in 1996. It will be opened during our festivities in 2021. We will be looking for appropriate items to add to the capsule, when it is opened at convention time and then stored again for the next 25 years.
4. Consider putting together a collage of activities through this year to be displayed at our convention in May, 2020.
5. Keep a record of the Spiritual Advisors who have served your council. Invite former Spiritual Advisors to join you for a special occasion like a retreat or end of the year dinner.
6. As our spiritual focus is paramount, your council members may wish to compose a prayer in recognition of our blessings and needs as we continue our journey. This can be a meaningful way to include your Spiritual Advisor in the celebrations too.
7. Do you know how old your council is? In 2021 we will be acknowledging, in a special way, our oldest council. Look into your archives.
8. Does your council lay claim to the longest serving member? Check your records.

All this information is available on the Toronto Diocesan Council website.

We are on the way to a joyous celebration of 100 years serving our parishes and communities.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to bless us all.

Mary Hawkley
Chair
100th Anniversary Committee
Toronto Diocesan Council

