

TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

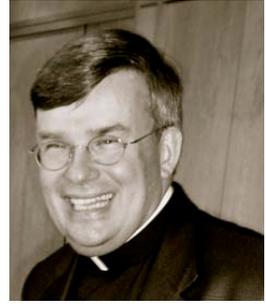
Winter 2014-15

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Given recent developments in the Church and the world we live in, I thought it important to depart from the usual reportage.

As you are probably aware, there are many people in our world these days who are being killed because of their religion, many Christians but also Muslims. The rise of ISIS is even more terrible because it is an overt attempt to create a state by direct violence against others. These things are first an evil directed at innocent persons, but at the systemic level they are attacks on international law and the cooperation between states that is necessary for freedom from violence. In turn, this is what allows us to speak to one another, to listen, to learn, to understand and to concretely act on our mutual concern for one another.



Responding by sponsoring refugees is one thing that we can certainly do and are being called to do – to help those who are denied the opportunity to help themselves. But if we do these things and fail to build bridges so that we can show to the world that living in faith brings people together rather than pushing them apart, then the popular way of understanding religion as somehow divisive will continue to spread. In a profound way, this seems to me to be part of what Pope Francis is calling us to do. Thinking about such things certainly does pull us out of ourselves and our own concerns.

We have also just experienced the first part of an ongoing process that is engaging the whole Church in a holy conversation concerning the family. Our attitude about this conversation needs to be shaped by the guidance of the Holy Father rather than news reports that characterize the conversation in conventional ways.

Since the very beginning of Pope Francis' pontificate, he has been challenging all of us to open doors. Early on he talked to priests, seminary rectors and bishops describing the challenge of positively responding to the needs of those they are called to serve. He also has addressed all of us, each member of the Church, and called us to be bearers of Christ to others. First we must go to the tabernacle, taking time to pray with Our Lord, both in the church and in the tabernacle of our hearts. We must be humble, seeking to learn, focus on others, listen and look to evoke the love of God. "Lord make me an instrument of your peace!"

There are many who do not come to our churches not because they have no faith, but because they are afraid, afraid that they will be kept separate. Humility reminds us that many of these folks may well be saints ahead of us. The need is not far away; we see it often in our own families. If, figuratively, we have been riding a bicycle in our daily living of the faith, Pope Francis is asking us to learn how to fly! Jesus tells us that He has come to bring us life and life to the full. And being alive means burning the calories, getting up in the morning with vim and vigor, and looking forward to the privilege of holy encounters each day. And like Jesus too, we shall bear part of the Cross. As others struggle in the ebbs and eddies of the culture to find Christ and to live a grounded and holy life, we should be concerned enough to be troubled. Our response will be one of solidarity, walking with and supporting sensitively. Challenge comes after friendship, when we trust one another.

The Holy Father is doing that which is most difficult. He is trying to rouse us to change our attitudes. In my short pastoral experience, the good news is that when we change even a little, a big change is the result.

I wish you all good family time at Christmas, that your family projects in your councils are fruitful and most of all that the tabernacle within each of you lights your way.

In Christ, and through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Fr. Bob O'Brien
Spiritual Advisor
Toronto Diocesan Council



Rosary Sunday, September 21, 2014, at Martyrs' Shrine in Midland Ontario. Our Diocesan Council was well represented

PRESIDENT

Mary Capobianco

"May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, and may charity be the root and foundation of your life."
(Ephesians 3:17)

The CWL parish councils in the Archdiocese of Toronto have indeed been very busy, as witnessed by the oral reports given at the Fall Regional Meetings by the parish presidents.



I was most impressed by the many and varied projects successfully undertaken by the different parishes and truly humbled by everyone's commitment and dedication. Each region and parish was unique in its own way but joined together with a common goal: To love and serve our God and to serve our Neighbour. I look forward with anticipation to so many more projects and activities on the horizon.

Many councils will soon be holding elections. I ask that you please consider saying YES if asked to stand for a position on your parish council. National President Barbara Dowding asks members to start with prayer, discern carefully and thoughtfully and fulfill their baptismal calling by accepting and affirming their many and varied gifts.

Every year we hear from councils that they have problems finding members who are willing to serve a term on the executive - yet they want the council to continue. If all members don't take a turn on the executive the council suffers and in some cases may not be able to continue. Please don't be afraid to say **YES!** "Jump in" and take an executive position. What a great way to truly feel part of your parish. Trust that the Holy Spirit will guide you.

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose If God is for us, who can be against us?"
(Romans 8:28-31)

Your membership drives for 2015 should now be in full swing. It's very important for each council to be able to attract new members to join. However it's equally as important to maintain the memberships we have. When members have not renewed their memberships, please take the time to reach out to them to see why that happened. It may simply be an oversight and the member would appreciate hearing from you.

As most of you already know, all councils are now being asked to comply with the new *Not-For-Profit* legislation requirements which are covered in the *Constitution & Bylaws*, in *Part XIV* and the Sections under *Parish Councils* and *Financial Statements*. As promised, the Diocesan Council has put together a "How-To" document to assist parish treasurers and their councils in this matter. The Regional Chairs have recently distributed a copy of the "How-To" document to all parish presidents. If you have not yet received one, you may obtain one by contacting your regional chair or diocesan treasurer or by downloading a copy from our website at www.cwltoronto.ca.

President-Elect Shirley Christo has been very busy planning a wonderful Development Day for you. It will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2014, so please be sure to read the details included in the center of this newsletter. I encourage all members to attend this event. Perhaps councils that don't already do so, can consider subsidizing their members to attend. For those councils located farther away, perhaps several councils can get together and rent a bus. It's a wonderful opportunity to spend the day with your fellow sisters.

Our 94th Annual Convention Committee, once again chaired by Madeleine Burke, Debbie Bates and Mary Antonio, have plans well underway for an enriching and fun-filled two days. As announced at all the Fall Regional Meetings, the convention next year will be held a whole month earlier than last year. The dates are Thursday, April 30th and Friday, May 1st, 2015. Start planning now to get as many of your members to attend as possible. Conventions offer members the opportunity not only to learn more about the League, but to experience first-hand the very strong sense of sisterhood that comes from spending time with their fellow sisters.

This convention will be especially important as it is an election year. Your president or voting delegate will need to be present in order to cast your council's vote. As well, each council is entitled to send two accredited delegates. Again for those councils that can afford to do so, consider subsidizing your members for at least the registration cost.

As members move forward to another year of sisterhood and service, I pray that our loving Patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel, continues to intercede for our special needs and intentions as she guides us all safely through the year ahead.

On behalf of all the Toronto Diocesan Executive Council, we wish you and your families a prayerful Advent season, a very joyful Christmas and a truly wonderful New Year!

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Lucia Vacca

"Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

(1 John 3:18)

Sub-Conveners:

Catholic Biblical Association	Sr. Jocelyn Monette
Catholic Missions In Canada	Patricia Gyulay
Lay Ministries	Laurie van den Hurk
Women's Inter-Church Council	Pat Sheehan
	Delma Alphonso

"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, Love never ends."

(1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

At the National Convention in Fredericton, our new National President, Barbara Dowding, introduced a new theme: One Heart, One Voice, One Mission. At first I found it a bit of a challenge to connect with this theme. For me the word LOVE is what comes to mind. "We have seen the Lord", so now we continue our journey to Love with one heart, one voice and one mission in our lives and serve those in need with Love in action. How do we show our love of ourselves to our neighbour? Love is the first fruit of the Holy Spirit. Our challenge is to find ways in which to unite with all our heart, speak with all our voices and act out of love for one mission. How will you connect with this theme?



Spiritual Growth of Members:

Lay Ministries

The Office of Formation for Discipleship is offering **Advent reflections** around the Archdiocese. Below are those booked at the time of the printing of this newsletter:

St. Gertrude's, 690 King St. East in **Oshawa**. Tuesday, December 9, 2014, 7:30 – 9 pm. **Mary's Way**: Participants are invited to imitate Mary in answering God's call in their own lives.

In **Northern Region in Wasaga Beach**, at **St. Noel Chabanel**, 133 Dunkerron Ave. at 20th St. N. on Saturday, December 6, 2014, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm. **A Franciscan Christmas**: Participants are invited to turn to wonder with St. Francis of Assisi, as they reflect on the significance in their lives of the Incarnation.

Check the archdiocese website www.archtoronto.org/discipleship for new opportunities as they become available.

Plan to attend the 11th Simcoe Liturgy Conference in the 2015 Easter Season, Friday, April 24, 2015, from 7:00 – 9:30 pm and Saturday, April 25, 2015, from 9:00 am – 2:45 pm. Also at Holy Spirit Parish, 650 Essa Road, Barrie. More details will be provided in the next newsletter.

Learn more about our faith – Prayer and Worship - go to http://www.archtoronto.org/about_our_faith/prayer_worship.html

Monthly Lectio Divina

What are you doing on the first Sunday evening of the month? Why not join our Cardinal Collins as he leads us with the Lectio Divina (divine or sacred reading) of the Bible Gospel of Mark, chapters 7 to 11. The evening begins with Vespers (Evening Prayer at 7:00 pm) followed by the Lectio Divina from 7:30 to 8:15 pm at St. Michael's Cathedral. Salt and Light Television has footage of these Sacred Scripture readings www.saltandlighttv.org. The schedule can be found at www.archtoronto.org/lectio/gospel_mark_year2.html

Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be celebrated around the world, January 18-25, 2015. Go to www.weekofprayer.ca for copies of the prayer program. Christians from around the world will be praying for unity. "The encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman

invites us to try water from a different well and also to offer a little water of our own. In diversity, we enrich each other.”

The theme for this year is “Jesus said to her, ‘*Give me a drink*’.” (John 4:7) “This year we rejoice in the opportunity to pray with the Christians of Brazil. For 70 years, The Canadian Council of Churches has been witnessing to ecumenism, to God’s unity in diversity in Canada and today, with 25 member denominations representing over 85% of the Christians in Canada, is the most inclusive church council in the world”. For additional information go to The Canadian Council of Churches www.councilofchurches.ca

Catholic Missions In Canada

Great Need, Great Hope

In 2014, after much discussion and prayer, Catholic Missions In Canada has had to reduce the financial support to our Canadian missions from \$4 Million to \$3 Million. Why the 25% cutback? Lack of funding. And as always, it is our poorest missions that are suffering.

Catholic Missions In Canada’s DVD, “*Great Need, Great Hope*”, presents the face of missionary work in Canada through stories and interviews of our missionaries and the people they serve. Learn about their pain and struggles, but also the joy that their faith provides in a fast transitioning world. It is available free to the Catholic Women’s League or Parish groups across Canada. Go to www.cmic.info or contact Patricia Gyulay for your copy.

Yes, there is GREAT NEED but joyfully, because of the support of mission partners like our fellow Sisters in the League, there is also GREAT HOPE!!! God Bless you all.

Pray the Rosary

Our National Spiritual Advisor is encouraging us to pray the Rosary for Peace. Our country has been divided in five sections so that the Rosary is said each day. More information is available on the National website; go to <http://cwl.ca/urgent-request-for-prayers-for-peace/>

Ordinandi Spiritual Bouquets

Our prayers for the Ordinandi in the past years have been very generous; let us continue our efforts and promote vocations through prayer by actively collecting a spiritual bouquet for the graduating class of 2015. Ask the parish families, ministries, schools and communities to contribute with their prayers of support. Our prayers are much

appreciated to these men who are dedicating their lives to shepherd the people of God. (See page 16 for more information.)

“Lord, today I pray for religious vocations. The Church is in great need of religious to continue Your work in the years ahead. Bless and guide those whom You have called to serve the Church. Give them courage for their lifetime commitment to this special vocation. Amen.” (Fr. John Madigan, OMI)

Women’s Inter-Church Council (WICC) -- World Day of Prayer

In preparation for the World Day of Prayer 2015, the annual *Festival Day* is scheduled for January 10, 2015, at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church at 8:30 am. (1585 Yonge Street – 2 blocks north of St. Clair Ave.) Bring your lunch. A donation of \$10.00 is appreciated. This event will acquaint the hosting churches about the Bahamas culture, foods, and music.

World Day of Prayer will be held on Friday, March 6, 2015. This year’s theme is *“Do you know what I have done to you?”* The prayer service has been created by women in the Bahamas. For more information, go to Women’s Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC) www.wicc.org

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The *Fruits of the Holy Spirit* initiative letter and prayer was distributed to all Presidents in the Fall Executive Regional Meetings. We would like to hear how your council is reflecting the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. Feedback is always welcomed! There will be a closing prayer ceremony at our Toronto Diocesan Convention. We invite you to participate.

Advent

Advent is a period beginning with the Sunday nearest to the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle. For 2014, the First Sunday in Advent is November 30th. It is a time for prayer, fasting, preparation, expectation, waiting and celebration for the coming of Christ. During this time, we take this special time to reflect and prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord, knowing that God will never abandon us. *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.”* (John 3:16)

Spiritual Development Chair Communiqués can be found on the National website www.cwl.ca and Directives on the Provincial website www.cwl.on.ca.

Feasts

Dec. 6 – Feast of St. Nicholas
Dec. 7 – Second Sunday of Advent
Dec. 8 – Immaculate Conception
Dec. 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe
Dec. 13 – Saint Lucy

Dec. 14 – Third Sunday of Advent
Dec. 21 – Fourth Sunday of Advent
Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve
Dec. 25 – Christmas – Holy day of obligation

ORGANIZATION

Shirley Christo

Sub-Conveners:

Annual Reports
Life Members' Liaison
Training Materials
On-Line Membership

Patricia Cross
Karen Lawless
Debbie Bates
Val Egerton
Lucia Vacca

Annual Reports

The annual report deadline of November 15, 2014, has now passed. Thank you to all those councils that have submitted. **If you have not already done so, it is not too late ... please be aware that you can fill out and submit your annual reports on-line; print, fill out and scan to me via e-mail (shchristo@gmail.com); or use the snail mail to my address on the front cover NOW.** I want to include your special accomplishments/milestones in the Toronto Diocesan Annual Report to be shared with all League members across all the Provinces!



Membership

Ideas for your membership drives have been creative and inspirational. The Spiritual Advisors from across the Archdiocese of Toronto welcomed a presentation on the League by Mary Capobianco and I at their retreat recently and they look forward to assisting your League councils in their parishes. His Eminence Cardinal Collins emphasized his wish to have a CWL council in every parish and gave accolades to the good work we are doing 'For God and Canada'. Please know that there are many great recruitment materials and resources available from the National website www.cwl.ca.

Membership drive Tip #4 – During the election process, send nominees a 'Discernment package/letter' encouraging them to discern on using

their unique gifts to contribute to the council executive and/or committee chair positions.

Membership Dues

Your council memberships (per capita fees and membership list) are payable from January 1st and cover the period until December 31, 2015. The submission deadline is **February 28, 2015**, with the **last day to submit per capita fees and 2015 membership lists being May 31, 2015**. If you have any questions or run into any problems, please contact me immediately so we can resolve your issue.

On-Line Membership

If your council is not already registered for the on-line membership and wishes to do so, please contact Lucia Vacca or Val Egerton at the contact numbers provided at the top of this article and they will be happy to walk you through the process.

Member Development

As mentioned at all of the Fall Regional Meetings, the follow-up program for the *Catch the Fire*, called *S'Mores*, is now underway across Canada. Our own Toronto Diocesan Council has reviewed your *Catch the Fire* feedback and created the revised training course for understanding the League and spiritual development. Please keep an eye out for your regional chair's email and/or posting on the Toronto Diocesan website for a P.E.T. program coming to your region. (P.E.T. - Parish Executive Training)

Parish Elections

Many CWL Councils have recently held or will be holding their elections. I congratulate and welcome all new and returning executive members and encourage everyone to take some time to review the resources available. The Toronto website has a very useful resource on parish elections under resources/reference documents.

Development Day - Mark Your Calendars

Development Day will be held **Saturday, February 21st, 2015**. We welcome all of you to join us for this wonderful day. The sessions will be based on the theme "*Discerning ONE: Heart, Voice, Mission*" - our national CWL theme for 2015-2017. Our keynote speaker, Margaret Ann Jacobs, National President-Elect/Organization Chair, will reflect on the theme and its application to the various standing committee chairs. Please plan to attend and bring along a new member/sister in the League. The full program and registration details can be found in the centre pages of this newsletter. Please register early and join us!

PAST PRESIDENT/HISTORIAN

Mary Hawkley

Moira Ste. Marie Memorial Lecture

It was with pride that we hosted the first lecture in a series to honour the late Moira Ste. Marie, Life Member, on October 8, 2014, at the University of St. Michael's College on the campus of the University of Toronto.



We were thrilled to have Dr. Margaret Somerville from McGill University as our first guest lecturer. She spoke on the topic of Euthanasia. Her message was well received by about 100 attendees from all parts of the community, including clergy and several disciplines of the medical profession. There were academics from the general community and several of our CWL family in the Archdiocese.

We look forward to making this a regular event on our calendar as we continue to make our role as members of the CWL better known to the broader community of the Archdiocese.

Diocesan Elections

Each parish council has the right to participate in the election of the officers of the Toronto Diocesan Council. Every parish president is eligible to stand for election at the Diocesan level for three terms (six years) after her two-year term as parish president.

To be able to participate knowledgeably in the election process at the 2015 Diocesan Convention, please make your council familiar with the process and your voting privileges. See the Constitution & Bylaws 2013, Part XV, Section 1. Delegates, 2. Voting Powers, 3. Instructed Vote and Part XVI Section 1. Eligibility for Office, pp. 34-37, and the National Manual of Policy and Procedure, pp. 61-68.

Letters will be sent to those eligible to stand for election to the Toronto Diocesan Executive. This mailing will include the Candidate Form. There will also be an explanation of the duties of the Recording/Corresponding Secretary and the Treasurer.

If you are one of the eligible candidates, please take time to seriously discern your call to service at this level. We sometimes dismiss our gifts of leadership as not good enough to step into another arena. It is very easy to compare ourselves to those already filling these roles and to find

ourselves wanting. True humility is to recognize the strengths we can bring to the League, at all levels, and then to leave it to the Holy Spirit to put us where we are needed and can be most fruitful in fulfilling our mandate to serve God and Canada. In addition, we often reject the invitation out of hand by saying, “I do not have time to do this.” It is truly amazing how the universe provides the time needed to do the work of the Lord, if we look to Him to guide us in our endeavours.

Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Award

Nomination forms, as well as criteria to be addressed, are included in the Presidents’ packages for the 2015 Convention, which will be distributed at Development Day. This is a very special way to bring honour to anyone in your council who has provided mentorship and guidance, whether she is a longstanding member who has provided continuity and stability, or a newer one who has brought refreshing ideas to your council.

Please remember:

- I. There are two categories: Parish level and Diocesan/Auxiliary level.
- II. Members of the present Diocesan Executive are not eligible for nomination during their term.
- III. You may re-submit a nomination if your candidate was not chosen in a previous submission.
- IV. Submissions should be received by March 15, 2015.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Andrea Smart

Last year Canada Post announced that over the next five years it will be transitioning from door-to-door delivery to community mail boxes for most Canadians. If you will be affected by this change, you will receive a letter from Canada Post with the details. A small number of places will still receive mail delivered to their places of residence. These are seniors’ residences, apartments and condo buildings, with mail delivered to the lobby, and rural mailboxes.



Some of you may already have your mail delivered to community mail boxes. Oakville residents are the first in the GTA to have all their mail sent to a community mail box. More information can be found on Canada Post’s website. It has several sections for transitioning to the new

mailboxes.

https://www.canadapost.ca/cpo/mc/assets/pdf/aboutus/g_en.pdf

So far no announcement has been made by Canada Post regarding an increase in postage for 2015. It's always better to purchase the permanent stamps. Canada Post will be offering Madonna and Child stamps again this year. Please remember to use them for all your Christmas correspondence. The cost of a booklet of 12 permanent stamps is \$10.20.

If your council is electing or has elected a new executive, please send an updated list to your Regional Chair or to me at smart.kid416@gmail.com. Please put CWL elections in the subject line. It's important that the Diocesan CWL's election register is kept up-to-date.

TREASURER

Sonia Villanueva

2015 Budget

The annual budget is one of the most important financial control tools available to ensure an organization meets its goals and ensures financial stewardship among all members. Have you prepared your 2015 Annual Budget yet? Has it been approved by the general membership? If not, it is not too late. Just do it!



2014 Financial Statements

As mentioned in my previous article and as reported at the regional meetings by our Diocesan President, Mary Capobianco, there is a new requirement regarding the issuing of financial statements. Under Section 10 of the Constitution & Bylaws, the financial statements are to be sent to the voting members at least 21 days ahead of the general meeting when the financial statements are to be presented. In order to comply with this requirement, we recommend that you have the financial statements reviewed/audited in January and presented at your February general meeting. Please let me know if you have difficulty meeting this requirement.

New Executive

If this is an election year for your council, this is a reminder for Treasurers to update your bank signatories, which should include the

President, Treasurer and Recording Secretary. All cheques must be signed by two of the signing officers. If you are the new Treasurer, congratulations and thank you for taking on this important role. To help you carry out your duties, please refer to the many resources available on the National website such as the Constitution & Bylaws, National Manual of Policy and Procedure, Executive Handbook and Guidelines for Treasurers.

Voluntary Funds

Please remit your voluntary fund donations by December 31, 2014, in order for them to be included in our total donations for the year. Donations from each council to the Toronto Diocesan Voluntary Funds – St. Michael Scholarship Fund and the Hope for Children Scholarship Fund, will be listed in my report included in the Annual Report book for the next Toronto Diocesan Convention. Please remember to make all cheques payable to The Catholic Women’s League.

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE

Sue Lubowitz

Sub Convener: Suzanne Cockburn

We can, at times, become so taken up with the comings and goings in our lives that we fail to recognize the presence of God in the midst of our homes and parishes. As our two-year theme, “We Have Seen The Lord”, comes to an end, take a moment as an individual and as a council to stop and reflect on where you have seen the Lord in the work we do. As we get ready for the coming of the Christ this Christmas, be reminded once again by the face of God appearing in the unlikeliest of places and people.



Marriage and Family

All parish council presidents should have received the Christian Family Life challenge. It is a three-part challenge. Firstly, councils are encouraged to study Church documents that relate to family and marriage topics. Secondly, councils are encouraged to hold a free event in their parish that brings together families, in all forms, in order to share fellowship and their gifts. Last but not least, councils are encouraged to take photos with permission forms and submit (to jslubowitz@gmail.com), along with a short description of the event, for

distribution to the Diocesan family of faith. More information is on the Toronto Diocesan website.

Sanctity of Life

At the first Moira Ste. Marie lecture on October 8th, Dr. Somerville stated that “the euthanasia debate focuses attention on the importance to humanity of putting into practice the belief that all human life has dignity and deserves respect and protection.” We all have intrinsic dignity and this dignity cannot be lost as we age or become infirm. She reminded us that the two main reasons cited for wanting euthanasia are the fear of dying alone and unloved and the feeling of being a burden to family. She asked us if euthanasia is the outcome of our failure to be able to love those who are dying. She believes that the feeling of being loved could negate these fears in the dying. What can we, as councils, do to help bring about a culture of life?

Those of you who attended the Diocesan convention in May 2014, may have met Jackie Wood (St. Anselm’s parish). Jackie has been a member of the Toronto Commandery Hospice for over 10 years and has been involved in hospice and palliative care both in Canada and the United States for over 25 years. She is quite willing to come and speak to your CWL council. She can be reached at 416-486-2088.

Vocations

The 2015 Ordinandi Dinner will be held on March 3, 2015, at the Pearson Convention Centre, 2638 Steeles Avenue East (at Airport Road), in Brampton. **Cost: Adult \$70, Youth \$35.** Deadline is January 31, 2014. Make cheques payable to “Serra Foundation”
Purchase your tickets as soon as possible, tables are limited.

Deadline for the Ordinandi Spiritual Bouquet is February 21, 2015. Councils have received the package at the Fall Regional Meetings. Invite your parish or schools to participate in the collection of intentions. Please forward your Spiritual Bouquet to Imelda Santos

Catholic Girls League updates

St. Francis Xavier girls had a food drive for Thanksgiving with proceeds to Eden Community Food Bank. The girls collected 623 pounds and donations of \$70. St. Bartholomew girls celebrated their first anniversary over the summer and in September held a potluck to exchange views and start their planning for a successful second year. St. Aidan’s CGL had their installation over the summer and led the rosary at a Marian evening to welcome the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of the Cape

from the National Shrine of Trois Rivieres, Quebec. Thank you to the CWL members in these parishes who assist these young women in their League journey.

Blessing your home

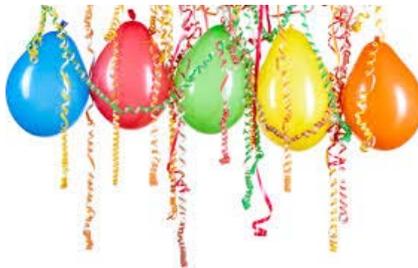
On Epiphany we celebrate the manifestation of Christ to the world and as the day the Three Kings visited the home of our Lord. From this, came the custom of blessing homes on Epiphany. After the blessing, the initials of their traditional names - Gaspar, Melchior and Balthazar - were written in chalk on the back of the door or over the top. They were enclosed by the year and connected by a cross. So for this year, it would be: 20 + G + M + B + 15. Use the following prayer to bless your home as you make the inscription on your door. Have someone light and hold your Christmas candle during your blessing ceremony. *“Lord Jesus, the Three Kings followed the star that led them to your home. Help us to find you in this house through the love we share. Bless our home and all of us during this year ahead. Amen.”*

Happy Anniversary

Durham Region: St. John the Evangelist, Whitby - 75 Years
Holy Cross, Oshawa - 50 Years

Peel Region: St. Patrick, Mississauga - 60 Years
St. Leonard, Brampton - 25 Years

Scarborough Region: St. Bartholomew, Scarborough - 20 Years



DATES TO

REMEMBER

January 10, 2015	WDP Festival Day
January 31, 2015	Newsletter Subscriptions Due
February 21, 2015	Development Day - St. Roch's Parish
February 28, 2015	Regional Level Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest
February 28, 2015	Regional Level Jean McCann & Mary Dorbell Contests
February 28, 2015	Memberships due to National Office
March 3, 2015	Ordinandi Dinner
March 6, 2015	World Day of Prayer
April 12, 2015	Mary Matthews Public Speaking Finals 1:00 pm - Holy Martyrs of Japan, Bradford
April 26, 2015	Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel
April 30 & May 1	94th Annual Toronto Diocesan Convention

SERVICE AWARDS

50-Year Membership Pin

Humber Valley Region:

St. Margaret Mary: Ottilia Fedrigoni

10-Year Membership Pins

Durham Region

St. Isaac Jogues: Marisa Cicuto Yvonne McLean

North York Region

St. Bonaventure:	Geraldine Daly	Jill Dosman
Frances Fong	Katharina Gasser	Monica Houston
Betty Kee	Tracy MacInnis	Mary Murray
Sara O'Dea	Paciencia Santos	Eleanor Shannon

Toronto Region

St. Joan of Arc:	Alice Amaral	Anna Maria Barabas
Wanda Brown	Josie Caprara	Susan McElcheran
Rafi Parsaei	Mary Reekie	Purisima Robertson
Judy Roe	Helen Soares	Patricia Tilley



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

DEVELOPMENT DAY

DATE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2015

TIME: 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

**PLACE: St. Roch's Parish Hall
2989 Islington Ave., Toronto**

COST: \$10.00 per person

**WORKSHOP THEME:
Discerning:**

ONE

**HEART
VOICE
MISSION**

**Keynote Speaker: Margaret Ann Jacobs,
President Elect/Organization Chair, National Council,
The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

Coffee & tea will be provided - bring a brown bag lunch

NOTE: Pre-registration is a MUST! Registration will be **CUT OFF** when the maximum has been reached; you will be advised and your registration will be returned.

Please complete and return - Pre-registration is essential.

DEADLINE DATE: February 1, 2014

(Please photocopy - one form per member)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Council: _____

Region: _____

Cost: - \$10.00 per person (make cheques payable to "CWL of Canada" - Write *Development Day* in the lower left corner of the cheque) - Your payment confirms your seat.

DEVELOPMENT DAY - PROGRAM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2015

8:30 am	Registration
9:00 am	Opening Mass
10:00 am	Coffee, Tea & Muffins
10:25 am	Welcome/ Introductions
10:30 am	Keynote Speaker - Margaret Ann Jacobs President Elect/Organization Chair, National Council
12:00 noon to 1:00 pm	Lunch Break Meet the Diocesan Executive, visit displays - ask questions and pick up information
1:00 pm	Gathering Prayer
1:15 pm	Interactive Workshop - "CWL Inspiring Membership"
2:45pm	Closing Remarks
2:50 pm	Final Blessing
3:00 pm	Departure

94th Annual Toronto Diocesan CWL Convention

**ONE HEART, ONE VOICE, ONE MISSION –
One Family in Christ**

All CWL members and friends are invited!

When: Thursday, April 30th and Friday, May 1st, 2015

Where: **International Plaza Hotel**
(Previously named the Doubletree by Hilton)
655 Dixon Road, Toronto, Ontario M9W 1J3
Hotel: 416-244-1711 Reservations - see below

Why: Spirituality, Prayer, Fun & Friendship, Guest Speakers,
Provincial & National News, Council Awards, Youth
Awards, CGL Update, Resolution Dialogue, Vendors

Registration: 1 Day only: **\$20.00** Both Days: **\$35.00**
Thursday, April 30, evening only (after 6:00pm) **\$10.00**
Friday's Closing Liturgy only: **No Registration Fee**

Hotel Rooms: CWL Rate \$142.00 plus taxes per night (Max. 4/room)

Note: March 30, 2015, is the deadline to receive CWL rate.

Reservations:

Phone: Call 1-800-668-3656 and ask for the CWL rate.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact your 2014 Convention Convener or sub-Conveners:

Convener:

Madeleine Burke

Sub Conveners:

Debbie Bates

Mary Antonio

The Toronto Diocesan website www.cwltoronto.ca will be updated as information is available. The Presidents' Convention Packages with all the forms including the Registration Form and the Banquet Ticket Order Form will be distributed at Development Day in February 2015.

COMMUNICATIONS

Andrea Tjioe

Sub Conveners:

Orlanda Sousa

Nina Fernandes

My sincerest greetings and warm welcome to all the newly-elected Parish Council Communications Chairs. I am looking forward to meeting and working with you in the coming months. Please introduce yourself and say hello at the Development Day in February, during the Spring Regional Meetings or at our convention at the end of April.



Annual Reports

Thank you to all the Parish Council Communications Chairs for completing the 2014 Communications annual reports. To those Parish Councils who do not have a Communications Chair, thank you for completing this report. I hope many of you used the fillable annual report forms, posted on our website. Last year, being my first time reading all the reports completed by 76 Parish Councils, I was in awe with all the wonderful work that you've

done in your parishes and communities. I'm looking forward to receiving and reading all the good works that you have been doing this past year, and I hope the number of reports I receive increases. Remember, there is no excuse or no such thing as "no report", with all the surfing you can do at a click of a button.

Welcome to all the newly-elected executives. I would like to familiarize you with the various level CWL websites:

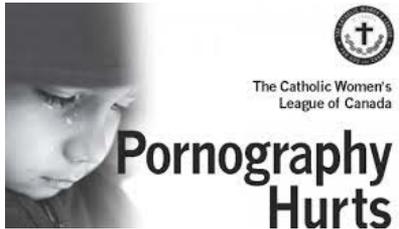
National : www.cwl.ca

Provincial : www.cwl.on.ca

Toronto Diocese: www.cwltoronto.ca

**“Pornography Hurts”
National CWL Campaign**

Thank you for all your efforts in getting the signed postcards either to me or mailing them yourselves last August. And if you still have signed postcards, mail them anyway. It was an all-year event for mailings across Canada, and it is never too late to voice your concerns.



Toronto Diocesan Council – ON-Line Newsletter article submission

The Provincial CWL Council produces ten issues of their ON-Line Newsletter per year. Subscriptions are free and you simply have to visit their website to enroll. In 2015 they will feature one diocese and one standing committee per issue. The Toronto Diocesan Council has been asked to submit articles pertaining to Christian Family Life projects and events. This submission will be featured in the March 2015 issue of the ON-Line Newsletter.

At the Fall Regional Meetings, Sue Lubowitz,, Diocesan Christian Family Life Chair, presented you with a “We Are Family” project challenge. As I will be working with Sue, we hope your council takes up the challenge and submits a project before January 31, 2015. We will go through all the submissions and choose two or three to send to the Provincial Council Communications Chair, to be published in the March 2015 issue of their ON-Line Newsletter.

Sub Convener:

Inez Meleca

Dignity of Rights of Persons

Understanding the changing needs of seniors

As the population ages, the needs for those entering senior years changes. Older Canadians have additional health care concerns which require day-to-day support not previously needed. When more frequent health-related appointments and hospital visits are needed, it is important that seniors have access to the care and support they need in living their lives comfortably and with dignity.



Support required by seniors could include personal support such as Meals on Wheels, or day-to-day support as shopping, banking, transportation, especially to doctors' and rehabilitation appointments.

For the elderly, the thought of seeking out and finding these various services can be daunting as many are unsure where to start. Some may be overwhelmed with the prospect of finding and connecting with the appropriate services. Fortunately, there are some options that allow seniors to access the specific assistance and support they need.

Through Toronto Community Care Access Centre (CCAC), seniors can acquire services needed to live independently in their communities and homes. Through home care and referrals to specific local programs and services, seniors are able to maintain their independence and dignity of life.

Child Pornography Crackdown

On September 25, 2014, a massive child pornography investigation in Ontario led to the rescue of 14 underage victims of sexual abuse. There were 249 charges laid against 60 people. The month-long investigation was a joint effort with 27 police services across the province. A large number of the arrests were made during the few days of the month with 99 warrants being served across the province. Charges included sexual assault, sexual interference, child luring and other charges; the arrests were made in big cities as well as small towns and rural areas.

At a press conference in Vaughan, OPP Det. Staff Sgt. Goldschmidt said that this is not a city problem anymore. Drugs and weapons were also

seized during the sweep. Insp. Naylor from the OPP's child sexual exploitation unit spoke about how people engaged in child pornography were from gangs or other types of criminal activity. When one has a sexual interest in children, nobody else knows this. This is your deepest darkest secret; this is why people engaged in this activity will have "anonymous relationships with like-minded people" on line. Insp. Naylor stated that the children that were seized were very young.

I AM NOT FOR SALE

Have you seen someone?

- Who is being controlled by threats, however subtle?
- Who fears for their safety or that of loved ones?
- Who has bruises, or shows other signs of abuse?
- Whose freedom of movement seems to be restricted?

Call Crime Stoppers @1-800-222-8477

Development and Peace

Many communities in the Global South reported that their rights are not respected and their health and livelihoods are threatened by the Canadian mining operations. In 2009, an office of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) body was formed to resolve conflicts between affected communities and Canadian extractive sector companies outside of Canada. So far, the CSR body has not been able to adequately resolve conflicts and provide effective remedies to the communities. It would be a good idea if Canada provided an effective independent body.

“There is a call for responsible mining - The mine will displace our village and we have no say”

Keep supporting D&P in your parish by being involved.



Northern Region installation of new executive council. We extend our most sincere Congratulations and wish you a most production two-year term!

EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Val Egerton

Sub Conveners:

Public Speaking, Poetry & Essay Mary Lou Bonnici

St. Michael's Scholarship & Health Mary Tuccitto

Whether we take our inspiration on the topic of education from Mahatma Gandhi who said, *“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.”* - or from Oscar Wilde who said, *“You can never be overdressed or over-educated”* - the women of the Toronto Diocesan Catholic Women’s League take education very seriously. They continue to prove their commitment to the cause year after year, through their generous donations in support of two worthy scholarships – St. Michael’s Scholarship Fund, and the Catholic Children’s Aid Society of Toronto’s Hope for Children Scholarship Fund.



In her appreciation letter, Kara Spedding, Manager, Fund Development of the CCAS of Toronto said, “This year, Hope for Children provided 93 scholarships and over 30 special recognition awards to our youth”. She advised that the recipient of the Toronto Diocesan 2014 award is Rita Brobbey. Rita is a 1st Year, General Arts – Pre-Health student in Durham College. Hopefully, Rita will give us an update on her progress in person, at the 2015 Convention.

We are pleased to announce also, that out of the four applicants, the recipient of the Toronto Diocesan CWL University of St. Michael’s College Scholarship is Alessandra Ferlisi Cicci, a graduate from Michael Power/St. Joseph C.S.S. in Toronto. Alessandra is noted to be a member of All Saints Catholic Church. Hopefully, she too will be able to attend our 2015 Convention.

As we turn our thoughts to gift-giving and new budgets, we may want to consider donating to the Ontario Provincial CWL Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Memorial Bursary. As the title indicates, this fund was established in honour of Bishop Bernard F. Pappin who passed away on August 27, 1998. The fund was established for the purpose of assisting diocesan seminarians who are in need of financial support. Applications and more information can be found on the Provincial website.

Another cause supported by your donations at the National level, is the Coady International Institute's Indigenous Women in Community Leadership Program. Nancy Simms, National Chairperson of Education and Health, speaks highly of the wonderful work being carried out at the institute in educating aboriginal women. The women are taught to recognize leadership qualities within themselves. They then return to their communities to "share this new sense of leadership and belonging, and bring a renewed pride and dignity to their people". (*Communiqué 01* – Nancy Simms, National Chairperson of Education and Health.)

"Schools adjust to influx of autistic students" - Catholic Register, Sept. 14, 2014

This article in the Catholic Register must have brought a ray of hope to parents who have children with physical or developmental disabilities. Specifically, the article reported on students who have autism. Evan Boudreau reports that in the past an autistic student "existed on the periphery of the education system." Now due to the increase in autism the Ontario Catholic school boards are responding to the growing needs of these students. St. Mary's Catholic High School in Toronto is such a school. The article portrays the experience of Elsayed, an 18-year-old Grade 12 student whose abilities have been honed to allow him to play a saxophone in the school band and who is looking forward to participating in a work placement program.

As described in the article, "Autism impacts neural development, impairing social and behavior skills as well as verbal and non-verbal communication." York Catholic School Board has developed several professional development programs, and has partnered with York University and Centennial College in this endeavour. The York Catholic Board is reaching out to children not yet old enough to be in a classroom, through a program which teaches them social skills in order to smoothly transition into Senior Kindergarten.

MENTAL HEALTH

What is Recovery?

Many of us who have friends and loved ones who are suffering from some form of mental illness, know that "recovery" is not a new goal, or idea. As a Mental Health Commission of Canada publication states, the idea of "recovery has been developed and championed by people with lived experience of mental health problems and illnesses for decades."

One of the most difficult things to do for family members of a person with mental illness, is to recognize that each person is unique and has a right to choose their own path to establish their own well being.

Recognizing that the person with the illness may never be the person she or he once was is a challenge. So recovery of a loved one in a “family” is a process in motion. “It is a joint goal aimed at enabling the individual to enjoy a meaningful life in their community, exercising their rights as a citizen.” - to quote an article in the Mental Health publication *“Recovery principles, including hope self-determination and responsibility, can be adapted to the realities of different life stages, and to the full range of mental health problems and illnesses.”*

The Mental Health Strategy for Canada cites recovery as an important ingredient to improving the health and quality of life of people living with mental health problems. For more information, check out the Canadian Recovery Inventory, which provides a broad range of recovery-oriented policies, programs, practices and research, as well as personal testimonies.

Carol Richer, Provincial Education and Health Chair, in her report in Trillium News and Views of Fall 2014, gives us food for thought on the topic of mental illness. She draws our attention to our own Resolution ON.13.01 *“Reduce the Stigma Attached to Mental Illness”*. In her report in the Trillium News, Carol states that this Resolution has been instrumental in changing attitudes and in educating the public to the fact that *“mental illness is an illness, not a choice.”* At the National Convention, Carol was impressed with the presentation by Michael Kirby, a former Canadian senator who has become a tireless advocate for better health care, especially for the youth. His dedication to the cause was rewarded by Prime Minister Harper who invited Mr. Kirby to become the first Chair of the newly-created Mental Health Commission for Canada, a not-for-profit organization that was created in response to his 2003 Senate report on mental health. Mr. Kirby’s focus is on the estimated 1.3 million Canadian children who are affected by mental illness. Michael Kirby believes that promoting the expansion of treatment of mental illness in young people will pay off. To quote Mr Kirby: *“Almost all of mental health problems begin in the young, before the age of 24. If you get them early, you avoid a lifetime of problems and costs.”* We are encouraged to check out two initiatives of Partners of Mental Health launched in 2013/14 – *Right by You* and *Not Myself Today*.

BIOETHICS MATTERS

Moira McQueen, LLB, MDiv, PhD

Congratulations to Professor McQueen who is the Executive Director of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute. Prof. McQueen also teaches moral theology in the Faculty of Theology, University of St. Michael’s

College. In September 2014, Pope Francis appointed Dr. McQueen as a new member to the International Theological Commission for a five-year term.

Michael Swan, in an October issue of the Catholic Register, gives us an insight into the woman who is a professor of moral theology at St. Michael's and Executive Director of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute. Although she has said that she doesn't know why she was appointed to the commission, she will bring to the job, a breadth of experience that surpasses her academic credentials. Dr. McQueen has been Executive Director of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute since 2004.

As Executive Director of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, McQueen has shared her ethical thinking through a series of "For the People in the Pews" presentations. She has also shared her views through her book "Bioethics Matters". Her evening discussions with family doctors regarding difficult medical issues include end-of-life care of patients with Alzheimer's, to palliative sedation.

Dr. McQueen has also put out a positive message about donating organs. She promotes the concept about donating organs and the idea "of Catholics giving so others can live". (*McQueen: Campus voice to Vatican advisor – Michael Swan, The Catholic Register*).

In her article "Bioethics Matters", November 2014, Volume 12, Number 3, Dr. McQueen comments on books written by a couple of well-known authors who envisage what society will look like in the near future. She encourages us to see an interesting movie called "The Giver". "See it", she says, "if you have ever wondered why civilized people resort to abortion and euthanasia, or why they attempt to justify them as compassionate and necessary actions." She wonders why people don't seem to question if these actions could be in any way "harmful to individuals or society". Dr. McQueen states: "When I talk about euthanasia from now on, I will recommend that people watch "The Giver." She continues to say that the movie is both faith-filled and that secular people can see a message in it. She feels that the "movie contains powerful examples of Catholic teaching, which portrays the dignity of every person and that every individual person has been judged worthy of being saved."

LEGISLATION

Dorine Dubreuil

Sub Conveners:

Imelda Santos
Ilona Binns

Several councils will have elected a new executive. It is my hope that your council has a legislation chairperson. There is much work to be done in this important area. Legislation affects all of us, from the young to the young-at-heart. There are issues that need addressing at all levels of government. We need to have our voices heard.



At the recent Synod of Bishops the focus for 2015 in the Catholic Church will be *“Family”*.

Chairpersons of the Toronto Diocesan executive were asked to set a goal for 2015 and engage councils in a project or activity.

The area I want to focus on is homelessness. The homeless are our brothers and sisters in Christ - they are *“Family.”* Homelessness is prevalent in all our communities. To everything there is a reason. A large number of those living on the street suffer from mental illness, others fell on hard times and perhaps lost their job, suffer from alcohol or drug abuse, perhaps they cannot find affordable housing. Whatever the reason, we should not judge that person living on the street.

When walking down the street and we encounter a homeless person shivering from the cold, needing a bath, holding their sign and crumpled coffee cup begging for money, what are our thoughts? Do we walk on and ignore them, or give them a Loonie? Regardless, we need to look at our brothers and sisters and see the face of Christ in them. One of the best ways to help a homeless person is to show them respect. If you have the opportunity talk to them with interest and recognize their value as an individual, this will give them a sense of dignity that they very rarely experience.

Action:

The most productive way to get started helping the homeless is by volunteering; join forces with an established operation. A good place to start volunteering is with the Out of the Cold program, a street center, soup kitchen, or local food bank. Consider partnering with Habitat for Humanity to help build houses for the needy. Make sandwiches and coffee and deliver it to them; you know where they are in your area.

Partner with the Knights of Columbus, involve the youth. Make little gift bags with toiletry items for Christmas, St. Valentine's or Easter. Engage the parish in collecting items for little gift bags; put a box in the church lobby for donations.

Bill 3: Planning Amendment Act (Enabling Municipalities to Require Inclusionary Housing) 2014

- The council of a local municipality may, in a by-law passed,
- (a) require that a specified percentage of housing units in all new housing developments containing 20 or more housing units be affordable;
 - (b) specify the percentage.

Bill 140: Strong Communities through Affordable Housing Act (2011)

Municipalities have a mandate of five years to implement this Bill for delivery of affordable housing services, as well as for requirements on municipal zoning laws permitting second unit apartments. This Bill sets out a number of areas of interest for development of policies and local plans relating to housing and homelessness, including treating individuals and families with respect and dignity.

Bill S-208: An Act to establish the Canadian Commission on Mental Health and Justice

Mental illness is treatable, and the effectiveness of the treatment is enhanced by early detection and intervention. Symptoms of mental illness are often misunderstood and regularly met by a range of inappropriate responses. Attention and cooperation between levels of government departments and agencies are needed to address this growing mental health and justice problem.

This Bill received second reading June 14, 2014, and was referred to the Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology.

Action:

Municipalities held elections several weeks ago, and new mayors and councillors were elected. Encourage members to become familiar with the newly-elected officers. Start with your local government to establish a program to help eliminate homelessness. Support programs already in place. Research what MP's and MPP's are doing to eliminate homelessness.

Showcase your activity/project at our spring annual convention. May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide us in our endeavours to help the homeless and those suffering from mental illness.

RESOLUTIONS

Hilarion Mitchell

Sub Convener:

Patricia Wilson
Wilma Van Den Herk

One Heart, One Voice, One Mission

This is our national theme for 2015-2017. Greetings as each of you prepares for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Thank you to outgoing Resolutions Chairs for promoting the resolutions standing committee during your term. Welcome new Resolutions Chairs! There is no need to be frightened as you carry on the work that your predecessor started - embrace your term. You have a lot of League resources, such as *The Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook*, websites, TDC Newsletters and provincial and national directives, to assist you.



A resolution is a type of motion which follows a democratic process to achieve a decision or action. The League process for resolutions is similar to the process through which a Bill becomes a law in Canada. It starts with an idea presented by members that is discussed and adopted or defeated at the council level. The same process is repeated at the diocesan, provincial and national levels of the League.

Action:

Resolutions Chairs are to work with other standing committee chairs such as legislation, to implement the resolution actions plans such as letting-writing campaigns to government.

2014 National Resolutions: Eighteen resolutions were submitted to the National Resolutions Committee but the only five were presented to the convention assembly at the August 2014 National CWL Convention in Fredericton, New Brunswick. The resolutions are posted on the national website and are also in the Fall issue of the Canadian League magazine.

- 2014.01 – Restoration of Health Care for Refugee Claimants
- 2014.02 – Electronic Cigarettes
- 2014.03 – Flavoured Tobacco Products

- 2014.04 – National Standard for Newborn Screening Including Screening for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency
- 2014.05 – Old Age Security Allowance for Individuals 60 to 64 Years of Age Regardless of Marital Status

Action: Encourage your council to study and act on the action plans associated with these resolutions.

ON.14.01 Mandatory Labelling of Genetically Modified Foods

As previously reported, the resolution was adopted at the Provincial convention in July and was forwarded to national. However, it was not presented to the national assembly as resolution 1997.06. Genetically Engineered Foods is still active since the government has not implemented the actions directed in the resolved clause. Instead, the resolution was distributed to the CWL provincial presidents and the national chairperson of Education and Health for them to implement the action plan. The CWL national delegation to government will address the topic in their next meeting with the federal government in 2015. Sample letters to the Minister of Health requesting the federal government to support legislation for the mandatory labelling of genetically modified foods were circulated to the regional chairs for each council to personalize and send to the Minister of Health and other members of parliament.

Action: Resolutions standing committee chairs are to implement the resolution's action plan for their council using the resolution action plan that was provided in the fall 2014 TDC newsletter and on the provincial website.

Provincial Resolutions Social Justice Project

In order to keep the interest in resolutions that are still active, our Provincial CWL has asked each diocese to implement the action plans on resolutions that deal with social justice issues. The Toronto diocese was assigned ON.13.01 Reduce the Stigma Attached to Mental Illness and ON.O2.01 Accessibility of the Workplace for Persons with Disabilities. These resolutions with their brief and action plans are available on the Provincial CWL website at cwl.on.ca.

Action: Councils that have taken action on these resolutions during 2014 or plan to implement them in early 2015 are to send me a summary by the end of January 2015.

Directives from Provincial and National

In addition to this Toronto Diocesan Newsletter that you receive in the fall, winter and spring, my resolutions counterparts at the provincial and national levels prepare directives or communiqués on resolution

activities. These are available on each League website at different intervals and are also circulated by me to you via your regional chair or resolutions chairperson. Based on past council annual reports, it appears that most councils are not using these timely and valuable resources to keep their members informed of the great works undertaken by the resolutions standing committee.

Action: Resolutions chairs are to use the above resources to communicate current resolutions activities to their council executive and general meetings.

2014 Resolutions Annual Reports: Now past due! It is important that we receive your reports which are used to summarize your achievements for annual reports at the Toronto, provincial and national levels.

Action: Councils can still complete and submit their council's resolutions annual report even if there is no resolutions chair at the time of this newsletter.

2015 Resolutions: By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be finalizing the resolutions that will be discussed and hopefully adopted at our Toronto Diocesan Convention at the end of April 2015. These resolutions will be available in the convention packages that will be handed out on Development Day. Because our convention dates are earlier, councils must bring the draft resolutions to their members' attention at their March and/or April general meetings.

Action: Resolutions chairs and council presidents are to read, discuss and vote on the draft resolutions so that they bring an informed vote to the convention on April 30th and May 1st.

With **One Heart, One Voice, One Mission**, go out to spread and implement the responsibilities of the resolutions standing committee.



Sub Convener:

Patricia Cross

There is a lot to celebrate in this issue of the Toronto Diocesan Newsletter. Five councils celebrate milestone anniversaries, members celebrate milestone years of service and many parish councils celebrate the election of new executives. Both our President, Mary Capobianco, and President-Elect, Shirley Christo, mention in their articles the importance of saying "Yes" when nominated to your parish executive council. They both speak on the significance of not only increasing membership, but maintaining it with a personal touch. A phone call or letter encouraging members to renew is sometimes all it takes.



If we were to pick a theme for this newsletter, it would have to be "Family". Father Bob mentions it by pointing out that we have just "experienced the first part of an ongoing process that is engaging the whole Church in a holy conversation concerning the family." Sue Lubowitz, Christian Family Life Chair, introduces her "We Are Family" challenge and Andrea Tjioe, Communications Chair, stated she will be working with Sue looking at all the entries and choosing a few to go in the March 2015 ON-Line Newsletter produced by the Ontario Provincial CWL Council. A detailed report from our Education and Health Chair, Val Egerton, outlines our League's commitment to Education as well as how mental health issues affect our families. And finally, our Legislation Chair, Dorine Dubreuil, reminds us not to forget the homeless because they are part of our family.

We look forward to receiving your submissions for recipients of service awards or parish council anniversaries. Simply email them to Tracy MacInnis at tmacinnis@rogers.com no later than January 30, 2015.



Now that you have finished reading this newsletter, turn to the final page and use the form provided to renew your or your council's subscription. If you're a techie, you can go online and print a form off our website. You can scan and email either form to Alice Warford at fleur.59@hotmail.com or mail it to the address provided. Whichever way you renew, make sure you mail Alice a cheque for \$10 per subscription with "Newsletter" written on the memo

line. Subscriptions are due January 31, 2015. This should ensure that there is no disruption in delivery. Your newsletter is a valuable tool that will keep you apprised of League events.

Alice and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for not shooting the editors for subscriptions that go astray. We strive to have everyone's subscription delivered on time but for many reasons beyond our control the odd one dares to go astray. Please continue to let us know of any mailing issues so we can rectify them.

CANDID MOMENTS



**Happy 25th Anniversary
St. Leonard, Brampton
Peel Region**

**Happy 20th Anniversary
St. Bartholomew
Scarborough Region**



St. Bartholomew CGL



St. Aidan CGL

Toronto Diocesan CWL Council
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION - \$10.00 each
Period: March 1, 2014 – February 28, 2015

PLEASE PRINT:

REGION _____

PARISH COUNCIL _____

PRESIDENT'S PHONE _____

	Name	Address / Postal Code	Phone / Email
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
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9.	_____	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____	_____

Order deadline - January 31, 2015

Please photocopy and mail this form along with a cheque, payable to Toronto Diocesan CWL and put on the memo line “Newsletter”.

Mail to: Alice Warford, CWL Newsletter Editor,

Add additional sheets if necessary.