

TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

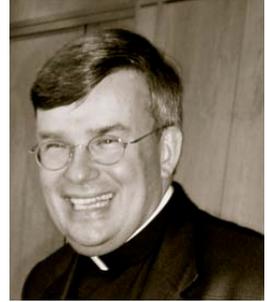
Spring 2014

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Nurturing Gospel Lives

Every now and then I hear concern about membership in the League. When I was a kid and didn't get the result on a test that I wanted, it was easy to keep thinking about why. The same is true in a sport when we end up on the losing side. In our ongoing concern for our children we do the same thing. Why didn't I do so well on the test? Because there were questions to which I didn't know the answers. There were parts of things I didn't understand well enough. That's it, that's all.



- I. We can easily overanalyze this question of membership too. What we can do is lower the barriers to membership and participation in the League. After that we need to be at peace and continue to do our good work, trusting that the Lord will bring our efforts to fruitfulness.
- II. Everyone wants to know they will be respected. We will listen carefully. Suggestions and positive initiative will get the room they need. **Creating new opportunities is therefore important.**
- III. Leadership has to be one of service. Being elite in any way will discourage people. **Each person in the group needs to be valued.**
- IV. Our **councils' activities need to mesh with the wider Church.** There are important pastoral directions that your own parish is taking. All of us will need to include the Pastoral Plan for our Archdiocese.
- V. **Fit the commitment to the member.** If younger women are already juggling family life and work, then the opportunities for involvement need to help family life or at least be complementary. It is increasingly difficult to get people to come out at night. Is it possible to organize activities around Sunday Mass that let people stay a little longer?
- VI. **Close the tech divide at least a little.** With very little computer skills, it is possible to have what is called a "web log" or "blog". Busy moms are usually close to their phones and you can share information very easily in this way. It is a question of finding a person who can provide that support to

your council. That might call for a little focused recruiting. Someone may be happy to know that they can help draw you closer together in this way and make the council more welcoming and accessible to people.

VII. Fight the urge to be “functional”, to simply keep doing the same things in the same way. Yes, they do feel comfortable and no, you don’t need to change everything or even most things. But to keep your edge you need to change some things. Trying something new and not having it work as well as you would like is not a failure. It is an adventure from which you learn. We knew that as kids, when we came home after a day of adventure. Asking people to fill in functions that others have left is necessary in some cases, but it could lead to all kinds of fruitfulness if we take a little time to **work out something new that uses the gifts and talents of the people we have welcomed**. For one thing, we get to know them a little better.

VIII. **Go out to the margins**. The Holy Father has been telling us this and it is very wise. When we model our lives to be simple we can be much more attentive. While those who seem least capable may not be the ones who are in the visible places of leadership or who orchestrate the work, they are the souls who will point us in the right direction and show us if what we are doing is truly fruitful.

So be discerning. Getting the right fit is not easy or quick, but doing it a few times right can have dramatic results. As St. Paul tells us, we are one body but with many parts. May Our Lady of Good Counsel help us to be truly wise so that we may use the graced opportunities we are given each day.

May the Lord sustain you all in joyful love and service.

Fr. Bob O’Brien

Spiritual Advisor
Toronto Diocesan Council

PRESIDENT

Mary Capobianco

"I stand at the door and knock says the Lord. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and sit with him and he with me."
(Rev.3)

As we complete our Lenten journey and move into the Easter season, may our lives be joyous and our hearts be full of hope as we continue to answer God's call to service.



Plans are well underway for our 93rd Annual Toronto Diocesan Convention. Our theme is: *We Have Seen the Lord - Let His Light Guide Our Path*. All presidents should have received their packages by now. If you have not, please contact your Regional Chair immediately and she will provide a replacement package for you. These packages hold important information regarding the upcoming convention. Please read through each item carefully with special attention to the forms with time-sensitive items. Please be sure to share ALL of the information with your members. All forms are also available on our Toronto CWL website and for your convenience this year, you also have the option of registering on-line. Hopefully, your councils have planned to subsidize members to attend and experience that unique "convention excitement".

As you should all know by now, this year we will be providing a Spiritual Advisor's luncheon on the second day of the convention, Friday May 30th, at 12 noon. A letter of invitation from our Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Father Robert O'Brien, is included in your convention packages. This luncheon is in recognition of their ongoing support to the CWL and it will also provide them with an opportunity to share with each other. Presidents, I ask that you please pass this letter of invitation on to your Spiritual Advisors and encourage them to attend.

Remember to review the winter issue of The Canadian League magazine; it is packed with excellent information and ideas. The new Constitution & Bylaws is now available from National Office. Hopefully by now, all councils have ordered their new copies. If not, then please do so as soon as possible.

Many councils recently held elections. Thank you to all new presidents and executive members who said *YES* to an executive position. You will be abundantly blessed for giving of your time and talent in service to

others. There are lots of resources available for you, so please be sure to ask your Regional Chairs for any assistance. I would encourage all presidents, if you have not already done so, to please order a newsletter subscription for each of your executive members. This newsletter can provide your standing committee chairs with very practical information as well as a specific focus and direction for each position.

Thank you to the 78 percent of all the councils who submitted their Annual Reports. These have been compiled and sent on to the other levels of the League. The information will also be assembled to produce the Toronto Diocesan Annual Report, which will be available at our annual convention.

Beginning in March, Spring Regional Meetings will be taking place. Please attend the one in your region. Presidents, please encourage your executive and members to attend these meetings. There will be important information and news to share, plus more information about the upcoming convention. We look forward to seeing you there.

May God's blessing be upon you and on each of us as we walk together into the next few months.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Lucia Vacca

"Through him all things came to be. He is the life of the world - a light that shines in the darkness and the darkness could not overcome it."
(John 1.1-5)

Sub-Conveners:

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

Blessings, and a warm welcome to all New Spiritual Development Chairs and those of you continuing your term in this capacity. As Spiritual Development Chairs, we can offer members opportunities for spiritual growth with special Masses, rosaries, prayers, intentions, spiritual readings and reflections. There are programs and workshops on the



National website www.cwl.ca for use at your meetings. I encourage you to check this out.

Now is the time to plan a Lenten retreat day or reflection at your meetings. We can all take this time to renew our spirituality by spending time in prayer, self-examination and focus on the life and passion of our Lord and look to the resurrection.

Spiritual Growth of Members

As you are aware, Our Lady of Good Counsel is our Patroness and her feast day is April 26th. Each council should make an effort and celebrate this day with a Mass. Once again, there are great resources available from National. Remember to set up a place of honour/table a Prayer Centre with a candle, flowers, bible and a picture of Our Lady of Good Counsel at each meeting and social event.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is sponsoring the daily Mass on Vision TV on Saturday, April 26th, the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel. It airs at 8:00 am and 12 noon. The taping is on Friday, April 25th at 5:10 pm at St. Basil's Church, 50 St. Joseph St. (off Bay, south of Bloor). National Spiritual Advisor Bishop William McGrattan will be the celebrant and members in the Toronto area are encouraged to attend.

Learn the Catechism in a Year

There are many websites where we can read and learn more of our faith. One of the websites which will give us the opportunity to read the Catechism in a Year is flocknote.com/catechism or you can study the Gospels in a Year at flocknote.com/gospel. Go to these websites and sign up!

Archdiocese of Toronto – Office of Formation and Discipleship

There are many topics covered under this office. One that may be of interest is the scriptural references as to why Discipleship is important. Go to www.archtoronto.org/discipleship/scriptural.htm for more topics and courses of interest.

CWL Spiritual Development Resource Material

The National website has a number of workshops and programs which are available to all of us to pray and use at our meetings. Just follow the tabs under Resources, Programs and Workshops, Spiritual Development. The Provincial website www.cwl.on.ca also has additional material located in the Prayer Room tab.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

On the fourth Sunday of Easter, May 11, 2014, the Church will mark the 51st World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The Holy Father has released a Message on the theme "Vocations, Witness to the Truth", which is available on the Vatican website. Pope Francis' message can be found at http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/messages/vocations

Study of Catholic Teachings

The light of faith, "Lumen Fidei" is Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter which was published in June 2013. An online document is available to read at <http://www.vatican.va/lumen-fidei/en/html/#6>. "This document speaks of the Church's tradition of the great gift brought by Jesus, the risen Christ, ... Those who believe, see; they see with a light that illumines their entire journey ..." as per Provincial Spiritual Development Chair, Anne Madden, Trillium News and Views Fall 2013 www.cwl.on.ca. A small summary booklet can be purchased from Pauline Books & Media.

Evangelization and Mission Assistance

Catholic Mission in Canada cordially invites you to the Tastes of Heaven Gala 2014, Thursday, May 1st at 6:00 pm - Cocktails 7:00 pm. Dinner - Business Attire (2 Tickets for \$650). Bellvue Manor, 8083 Jane Street, Vaughan, ON L4K 2M7, complimentary parking.

This year, the gala will feature the missionary dioceses on the west coast of Canada, with Bishop John Corriveau O.F.M. Cap. from the Diocese of Nelson as the guest speaker. *Red Sky*, both a traditional and contemporary First Nations dance troupe, will add to the exquisite singing and dancing which will delight the heart. Our live and silent auctions will feature unique items from some of our many mission dioceses across Canada.

In 1908, Catholic Missions In Canada was established to foster and extend the blessings of the Catholic faith in the poorest dioceses throughout the Dominion of Canada. That missionary work continues today, 106 years later, providing over \$3 million to assist over 23 dioceses, and affecting the lives of 600,000 Catholics across our great country. Over the last 13 years, the Catholic business community has generously supported our gala, raising \$1,821,400 through this signature event. For Tickets and Sponsorship opportunities, contact Patricia at 416-934-3424 Ext. 227 (Toll-Free: 1-866-937-2642) or Email: patricia@cmic.info / Website: www.cmic.info

Lay Ministries

Council Prayer Partners - This initiative was introduced last year at each of the Fall Regional Meetings. Councils have made the commitment and are praying for other League sisters in other Councils. We will all reap the benefits of our strong prayers for each other as sisters in the League.

Many of you are to be commended for all the service, involvement and assistance you are providing in each of the ministries in your parishes; this is what makes a strong parish. It is a commitment to joyful service to the people of God.

Ecumenism and Interfaith Endeavors

Under this heading there are many ways in which to participate; here are some ideas to consider: become a member of the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, take part in interfaith events in your area, host the World Day of Prayer Services, host a community event and have a speaker of interest for your community.

ORGANIZATION

Shirley Christo

Sub-Conveners:

Annual Reports

Life Members' Liaison

On-Line Membership

Patricia Cross

Karen Lawless

Val Egerton

Lucia Vacca

Membership Dues

Your membership dues for 2014 were due on January 1st, 2014. Thank you to all the many councils that have already submitted their lists and fees by February 28th, 2014. If you have not submitted your 2014 dues yet, PLEASE DO NOT DELAY! Submit your dues today and when additional membership dues are received, they can be submitted up to May 31st, 2014.



On-Line Membership

If your council is not already registered for 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 page for assistance. Councils who have already mastered the process are giving accolades to how much

easier it is to track their membership changes with this great electronic tool.

Member Development

I am happy to report that we had a very successful “Train the Trainer” session on January 18th. This session has been carefully updated and refreshed to train and maximize the potential for service of parish CWL executives. As our members requested, regional chairs, Toronto diocesan executive and two or three carefully chosen CWL members for each region are being trained and provided with the instructional tool kit to run Parish Executive Training sessions in each region. Please watch the Toronto web page for opportunities to take the session in your region, as soon as we complete the trainer preparation and finish editing the tools according to your feedback.

The Catch the Fire (CTF) National training program is burning brightly and we are blazing our way to our next session on Saturday, March 22nd, at St. Leo the Great Parish, 130 Watford St., Brooklin, Whitby, Ontario, L1H 1M2. To register, email: lucia.vacca@sympatico.ca.

Annual Reports

Thank you to the 78 councils that have submitted their annual reports. If you have not submitted your report as of today, please let me know the reason why. PLEASE NOTE - you can still send the report to me for our Diocesan records. As well, we are continuing to make changes in the report forms so we would appreciate any related feedback. Email: shchristo@gmail.com.

Development Day

Thank you to all who attended Development Day held on Saturday, February 15th. A special appreciation to the host CWL councils of Northern Region, who made such a special effort to make us feel welcome at the Portuguese Cultural Centre in Bradford. A very special thank-you to everyone who played a role in making this day successful.

Elections

If your council has elected a new executive at the beginning of this year, you should ensure that:

1. You inform your Regional Chair and the Diocesan Corresponding Secretary of the names, full mailing addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses (if applicable). Your Regional Chair will have the Parish Information Form to record this information.

2. You inform National Office of the names of your new President, Treasurer and Spiritual Advisor and their mailing information. Failure to do this will result in your mail from National being sent to your previous president.
 3. You update your newsletter subscriptions for your new executive members.
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PAST PRESIDENT/HISTORIAN

Mary Hawkey

Archives

When the word “archives” comes into the conversation, it may very well be the time the Past President/Historian of a council wishes she were somewhere else. That is probably due to the fact that it is difficult to know just what qualifies as archival material. We are fortunate that Lucille Cullen, Honorary Life Member, prepared a guide which was published in The Canadian League magazine in 2002. The information remains relevant more than a decade later. Her wise words are quoted below:



Re: Parish files:

- Archives should be kept in a locked filing cabinet on church property.
- A review of all materials should be undertaken by the immediate past president, or by a member with archival interest, appointed by the president, who could serve as ongoing archivist for the council.
- Every two years, an index of items in archival safekeeping should be updated and submitted to the president and noted in the minutes.

Parish archives should include:

- original charter framed and displayed if possible (copy of original charter is available from national office -indicates date of organization and signatures of charter members).
- minutes of executive/general meetings are the **permanent** record of council activities and should be kept in dated binders.

- current minutes of the recording secretary should include previous two terms **only**; all other minutes should be transferred to the archival binders.
- motion books should be kept in the active files of the recording secretary for the previous two terms **only**, then transferred to the archives.
- treasurers' books (ledgers) **only**, cheques/receipts should be kept by the treasurer for **five years** and then discarded. Yearly financial statements should be kept with the minutes in the archives.
- separate binder for other important information related to the life of the parish council:
 1. listing of parish presidents, spiritual advisors, names, addresses, terms of office;
 2. listing of recipients of Maple Leaf Service Pins, and 10-, 25-, 40-, 50-, 60-year pins with names/dates of presentation; the Bellelle Guerin Award was created in 2007, you would also want to include a record of this being presented to any of your members. Also, the Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Award, started in 2000 in Toronto only, might have been presented to one of your members; per capita lists, excellent reference for awards research.
 3. a record of charter dates of all members - refer to annual per capita lists, excellent reference for awards research.

Other

1. written histories
2. scrapbooks/albums labelled by dates/events
3. annual reports
4. special projects file with financial statements
5. sample of newsletters, **one** copy only per year, if applicable

Each president should be encouraged to write a 2-3 page story of highlights of her term as president (a valuable resource).

Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Award

You should have received information regarding the Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Award in the Presidents' packages for the 2014 Toronto Diocesan Convention, distributed at Development Day on February 15th. Please consult your president if you have not yet received the information. Deadline for submissions is March 31, 2014.

Members of the present Toronto Diocesan Council are not eligible for nomination during their term. The committee will review the submissions and the winners will be announced at the Toronto Diocesan Convention, May 29-30, 2014.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Andrea Smart

Welcome to all new Corresponding Secretaries. Our job is to ensure that correspondence is sent out on behalf of the council. Sending out letters, get-well cards and sympathy cards are all our responsibility.



When sending out get-well cards and sympathy cards, a little note should go along with your name on behalf of your council. For example: "Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time". It adds a personal touch that will be appreciated by the recipient. National has new sympathy cards that can be sent to a member's family upon her death. The card's verse states that the family member was a valued member of the CWL and expresses the council's sympathy to the family. It lets the family know that we are mourning with them.

When you receive correspondence, make note of the date it was received and put in a folder to bring with you to the next meeting. Be sure to let the president know of any important documents or something requiring her attention right away. Start an incoming correspondence log to help keep track of the correspondence received.

National has a letter-writing guide that you can download. It will help you with the proper way to address letters and will provide you with many helpful tips with correspondence.



TREASURER

Sonia Villanueva

Operating Surplus

In the Winter 2013 issue of The Canadian League magazine, the National Secretary-Treasurer, Judy Lewis, has provided insight on how to deal with operating surplus. While it is common to have revenues in excess of expenses at the end of the year, it is also prudent that parishes set aside funds to cover at least three to four months of expenses, even to a year's expenses. I encourage you to read the magazine in print or online for more details. It has a number of suggestions on how to use excess funds for the development of members. It is the responsibility of each council to be good stewards and determine the appropriate reserve for each parish.



2014 Budget

By this time, each parish should have their 2014 budget prepared and presented to the general membership for approval at its January meeting. If not, it's not too late, but it should be finalized at least before the end of the first quarter of the year.

Per Capita Fees

The 2014 per capita fees are due on January 1st and should be collected and remitted to the National Office on a timely basis, no later than February 28th. All fees collected subsequently should be remitted to the National Office as soon as received.

Spring Cleaning

Yes, even for Treasurers ... we can use some spring cleaning! It's time to clean up our files, sort unwanted documents, organize our new accounts and review our procedures. Perhaps we need to review how we do things and see if we can be more efficient and effective this year. How do we prepare cheques, make deposits, update our records, prepare Treasurer's reports; how often, how long does it take to do the tasks, what are the obstacles, are there delays ... why? Are we getting the support or help we need? The key is to make things simple, yet not forgetting the basic principles of accountability, compliance, transparency and stewardship. And yes, there is always room for improvement. Just do it!

Sub Convener:

Suzanne Cockburn

Congratulations to all those members who have recently accepted the position of Christian Family Life (CFL) Chair on their CWL councils. To you, and those of you returning for a second year in this position, I would like to remind you of the many resources that are available to help you on your journey. On the provincial website you will find the slide presentation from the 2013 Provincial convention prepared by the CFL Chair. On the National website you will find resources as well as



previous resolutions that have action plans that can be worked on. More than a few of these resolutions overlap with another committee. This can lead to some exciting work between members of your executive.

Marriage and Family

Last May, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC) sponsored the first National Week for Life and Family. This was a result of the recommendations from the CCCC Committee on Life and Family. In preparation for this year, councils are invited to be a part of this pastoral initiative. Pray for and support families. Make every effort to protect and defend life. Stay informed by going to www.cccb.ca and to the website for the Catholic Organization for Life and Family (www.colf.ca). Read more about it in the CCCC text, *Building a Culture of Life and Family in Canada*, available on their website. This website also offers a “tool kit” of possible activities and resources. All the documents and activities proposed by the CCCC can be downloaded and printed free of charge, or adapted as needed.

By going to the English Sector Episcopal Commission for Communications at cecc@ccb.ca, councils can also access a document entitled *Families and Media*, a project whose purpose is to help families navigate through the various forms of media found in the home. The document’s five parts would make great conversation starters around the dinner table, as bulletin inserts or as talking points for a council meeting.

Vocations

May 11, 2014, the Church will mark the 51st World Day of Prayer for Vocations. National CFL Chair Margaret Ann Jacobs reminds us to mark in it many ways in her Communiqué #5 (www.cwl.ca). The League Prayers pamphlet has the Prayer for Vocations. Continue to offer

spiritual bouquets for the ordinandi, priests and religious. Reclaim Sunday as the Lord's Day. Provide opportunities for youth to be involved in parish activities and ministries. In our own Archdiocese, there are excellent resources available for vocations. Please check the website www.archtoronto.org under the "archdiocesan offices" tab.

Please also remember to keep the **Bishop Pappin Memorial Bursary Fund** in mind when your council is deciding where to direct their fundraising funds. Provincial council plans to award ten bursaries of \$300 each, annually. We need to pray and support those discerning their vocations now and in the future. Your donation (by council or your own personal) is an excellent way to do this. More information is available at www.cwl.on.ca. All funds should be directed to the provincial treasurer.

Sanctity of Life

The **March for Life** will be held May 7-9, 2014 in Ottawa. The walk will be on May 8th at noon. On May 9th, there will be a day-long workshop for young people. Last year, an estimated 25,000 pro-lifers assembled on Parliament Hill and marched through downtown Ottawa. This year's theme is "**RU-4Life**". This is a provocative, rhetorical question that plays on the drug RU-484's name. It is also known as mifepristone. This drug is now being tested in Canada. The drug produces severe bleeding in 10% of the women who take it. It is being used on a trial basis in remote locations where Aboriginal and Inuit women live and is being promoted for areas where abortion access is a problem. For more information, go to www.campaignlifecoalition.com. While on the website, you can also look over the petition to Health Minister Rona Ambrose as a possible course of action for your council. Councils are also encouraged to organize buses to Ottawa, hold a prayer vigil in their parish, or have a special Pro-Life Mass.

Visit www.priestsforlifecanada.com for free bookmarks (up to ten) with the Prayer to End Abortion. This site also has many resources that can be used to host a "Just for Life" information weekend.

10th Annual Mass for Life will be held on March 24th at St. Anne's Parish, 115 Vodden St. E., Brampton. Rosary at 6:30 pm and Mass at 7:00 pm, with a special blessing for unborn babies. The speaker is Jim Hughes from Campaign Life Coalition. A reception and baby shower for Birthright will follow the Mass. For information, call St. Anne's: 905-453-1303.

40 Days for Life will be held March 5-April 13. Contact www.40daysforlife.com to check for your local team's activities.

**The 93rd Annual Toronto Diocesan CWL Convention
May 29th and 30th, 2014**

**International Plaza Hotel, 655 Dixon Road, Toronto
Hotel: 416-244-1711 Reservations - see below**

CONVENTION THEME:

We have Seen the Lord – Let His Light Guide our Path

***All CWL members and friends are invited to attend
and share in a celebration of our achievements.***

HOTEL INFORMATION:

CWL ROOM RATE: \$140.00 plus taxes per night (Max. of 4/room)

Note: April 28th, 2014 is the deadline to receive the CWL rate.

HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS:

On Line: There is now a dedicated reservations website for the CWL Convention. To make your reservation online visit the website at:

<https://aws.passkey.com/event/10769741/owner/16312/home>

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

PARKING AND MEALS

There are hotel restaurants and many additional restaurants across the street from the hotel. Parking rates: **\$14.00 per day for overnight hotel guests**. Check with hotel for non-guest rates.

GENERAL INFORMATION

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS:

Thursday, May 29th

- 9:00 am Registration
- 10:00 am Resolutions Dialogue (International "A" Room)
- 1:30 pm Opening Eucharist
- 2:45 pm Call to Order and Business Session
- 5:00 pm Dinner Break
- 6:00 pm Registration
- 6:30 pm Business Session
- 7:00 pm Keynote Speaker: Maria Karajovanova,
Covenant House
- 7:30 pm Public Speaking, Poetry & Essay Awards
- 9:30 pm Evening Prayers

Friday, May 30th

- 8:00 am Registration
8:45 am Business Session
9:30 am Resolutions (2)
12:00 noon Lunch Break
1:30 pm Business Session
2:00 pm Keynote Speaker– Monsignor Pat Stilla,
Thunder Bay Diocese - **Topic:** *We Have Seen
the Lord As Women of Faith*
3:30 pm Closing Eucharist
6:00 pm Cocktail Reception
7:00 pm Closing Banquet - **Address by:**
His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins
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DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 11 Deadline for Mary Dobell & Jean McCann Youth
Awards and St. Michael's Scholarship applications
April 26 Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel
April 27 Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest Finals
May 29-30 93rd Annual Toronto Diocesan Convention
July 6-9/67th Annual Ontario Provincial Convention, Cobourg
August 10-13 94th Annual National CWL Convention, Fredericton NB

SPRING REGIONAL MEETINGS

- Durham** April 23, 2014 - 7:00 pm Mass
St. Leo the Great Parish, Brooklin
Humber Valley April 3, 2014 - 7:00 pm Mass
Our Lady of Miraculous Medal
North York April 7, 2014 - 7:00 pm Mass
Blessed Trinity
Northern March 26, 2014 - 7:00 pm Mass
Holy Martyrs of Japan, Bradford
Peel April 8, 2014 - 7:00 pm Mass
Sts. Martha and Mary Parish
Scarborough April 10, 2014 - 7:00 pm Mass
Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Toronto March 18, 2014 - 7:00 pm Mass
St. John Church

SERVICE AWARDS

Maple Leaf Service Pins

Peel Region

St. Francis Xavier: Sonia Villannueva, Ann D'Souza

St. Mary Star of the Sea: Pushpa Lobo

60-Year Membership Pin

North York Region

St. Bonaventure: Anne McRae

50-Year Membership Pin

Peel Region

St. Mary Star of the Sea:: Patricia Burt

40-Year Membership Pins

Durham Region

Holy Cross: Hilda Schlechter Helen Stanic

Peel Region

St. Mary Star of the Sea: Antonia Vandenbroek

25-Year Membership Pins

North York Region

St. Bonaventure: Pat Mancuso Joan Watson Cathy Swenson

Scarborough Region

St. Maria Goretti: Anna Allair

10-Year Membership Pins

North York Region

St. Bonaventure: Anne Clune Margaret Kerk
Marjorie Lewis Barbara Morton
Marie Powers Anna Sarracini
Romi Walsh Irene Wolff
Carmelina Marziliano-Polansky

Peel Region

St. Mary Star of the Sea: Lyette Alley Maureen Fournier
Jolene Leon Jeanne Ropp

COMMUNICATIONS

Andrea Tjioe

Sub Conveners:

Orlanda Sousa
Nina Fernandes

Annual Reports

Thank you to all Communications Chairs and/or Council Presidents, who submitted 2013 annual reports for Communications. I thoroughly enjoyed reading all the good works in your Councils. It was quite an interesting task, summarizing 62 Council reports into two pages.



League Magazine & Newsletters

The Canadian League magazines are being received by each registered League member.

Please assist those members whose subscription did not continue for some reasons, maybe it's just a matter of membership renewal, or perhaps they're stuck in the snail mail somewhere. Better yet, encourage your members to access The League magazine through the National website.

Please ensure that each of your Parish Council executive members subscribe/renew their subscriptions to the Ontario Provincial Trillium Newsletter and the Toronto Diocesan Newsletter. And how about the on-line publications posted on www.cwl.ca (Be-League) and on www.cwl.on.ca (ON-Line Newsletter, Catch the Fire! Newsletter). There is a wealth of information you can use for your monthly meeting reports and council projects. Why not start your own Parish Council Newsletter, for those who have not yet attempted one, even twice a year. And leave a few copies by the Parish Bulletin board, you never know - someone might pick up a copy and may strike an interest in attending a meeting and may become a member.

Toronto Diocesan 2014 Theme and Convention on our website.

“We Have Seen the Lord - Let His Light Guide our Path” This will be our theme this year at our May convention. The formal logo is still being finalized. I will make sure to post it in our website, upon completion. This way you will be able to use the logo on all your correspondence, newsletters, projects and at your meetings.

Convention information is continually being updated. Please visit our website often. You will find information and downloadable forms

pertinent to the convention such as an on-line registration form, banquet form, Patricia Beattie Award information and nomination form, and hotel information.

The convention is all about you, the member, all your hard work you do within your Parish Councils and communities. At the Communications Table, I would like to display as many Parish Council Newsletters as possible. You can email them to me and I will print them out. Otherwise, you can mail me a hard copy, or personally hand me a copy at the Spring Regional Meetings. If your Council does not have a Newsletter, I would encourage you to still share your good works, perhaps with photographs and information highlighting 2013. Please limit your submission to one page, that way we have enough space for everyone.

“Pornography Hurts”

Please be reminded that our turn to send in those “Pornography Hurts” postcards to your MP and the Prime Minister is during the month of **August**. To ensure a steady flow of communications throughout the year, each province and Diocese has been assigned a different month. The Toronto Diocese has been assigned the month of **August**.

Here's an idea. To ensure that your members don't forget to mail the postcard, why not hold a “Pornography Hurts” campaign during your May or June general meeting? Have the members bring their signed postcards and assign one person responsible to mail them all in August. Don't forget to take a count of the number of postcards you're mailing. This way, you will know how many postcards go out from your Council. There would be no need to remind members during the summer break to complete this task. It's all done!

The postcards were included in your Volume 89/Fall 2013 The Canadian League magazine. Extra postcards will be available at the May Toronto Diocesan Convention at the Communications Table. I look forward to seeing many of you there. Come and say hello, view many Parish Council newsletters from across the Diocese and pick up some information.

Congratulations to the three winners who knew the two women in this photo are Tracy MacInnis and Lucia Vacca! They received their prize at Development Day, February 2014.



Sub Conveners:

Veronica Grant
Inez Meleca

As we embark on the New Year let us try to focus our attention on things that we might be able to change through prayer and support.

Dignity of Rights of Persons

Women of Courage Delegation:

In June 2013, Sr. Mary-Ellen Francoeur spent two weeks in the Congo representing the Canadian Religious Conference as part of a five-person delegation called Women of Courage. The delegation's name was deeply inspiring and humbling.



An initiative of KAIROS Canada, this trip had many objectives. The delegation was exposed to human rights issues and also learned of the country's long conflict that was connected to the industry of mineral resource extraction. Calling the delegation Women of Courage indicated their particular focus on the historic disrespect for women's human rights and the unspeakable gender-based sexual violence that is increasing in frequency.

Human right activists courageously risk their lives; the toll is great as many key volunteers lose their lives. Representatives of Heritiers de la Justice, a partner of KAIROS, visit villages to spread the message of human rights, equality of women, and peace. Sr. Mary-Ellen stated that the heart of the delegation's experience for her, was meeting women whose lives were transformed by the loving and faithful presence of Heritiers.

Human Trafficking

A perfect storm for child predators:

An Irish missionary in the Philippines warned that the chaos and hunger in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan can provide the perfect setup for child trafficking.

“Under the pretext of saving or taking care of children, traffickers kidnap children and sell them to pedophiles.” They can also earn some money by providing the children for illegal adoptions, or introduce them into prostitution, making them slaves of sexual exploitation. It is a horrible

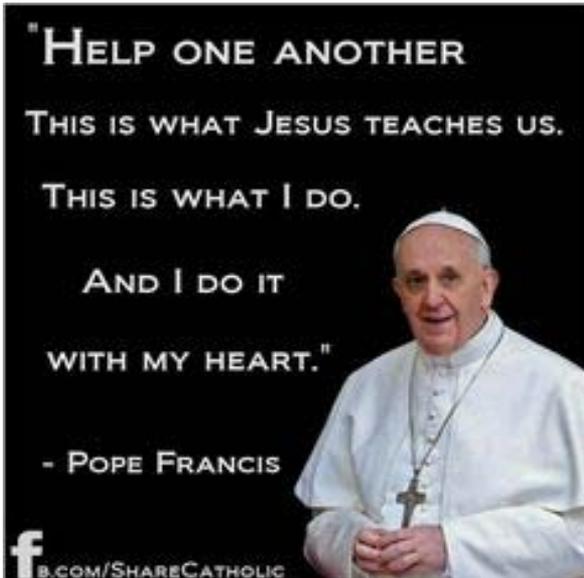
way to look at things, but it is extremely realistic in cases of natural disasters. These children are in need of immediate attention, to be saved from the clutches of traffickers and pedophiles.

On December 20th, The Supreme Court of Canada issued a decision striking down most of the laws regulating prostitution in Canada. The spokesperson for The Elizabeth Fry Society came out saying that they were disappointed with the decision as it would only open the door for innocent children to be subjected to pedophiles, and prostitution.

Development & Peace

2013 marks the 30th anniversary of Canada Food Grains Bank; through 30 years, churches responded to hunger. From 2012-2013, the Canadian Food Grains Bank programs reached over 2.1 million people in 37 countries through 122 projects. The way the program works has changed and evolved. They continue to work and trust God's guidance as they move on.

Councils, please continue to support D & P by collecting your used stamps and sending them off to D & P. You can also collect your Christmas cards and send them off to the nursing homes in your area so that the residences can use them in the activity room.



Sub-Conveners:

Public Speaking, Poetry & Essay Mary Lou Bonnici
St. Michael's Scholarship & Health Mary Tuccito

Catholic Education

As we start the New Year, the Toronto Diocesan Education and Health Standing Committee's focus moves towards the Youth Awards. Hopefully, with the cooperation of our schools, parents and students, the Mary Matthews Public Speaking, the Mary Dobell Essay and Poetry writing, and the Jean McCann Youth Service Award contests are well underway so that by the time you receive this newsletter, the target dates will have been met and the results will be a testimony to the dedication of our students, teachers and parents and a reflection of the high standards of our Catholic Education in Ontario.



In support of Catholic Education, Carol Richer, the Provincial Education and Health Chair, encourages all councils to be “vigilant, vocal and visible when it comes to Catholic Education”. Her message was abundantly clear in her direction to galvanize the members, friends and relatives to respond to the Globe and Mail survey of their readers’ response to the question of public funding for the Catholic school system. *“Make it clear to everyone that this is something we take very seriously, and are not willing to give up.”*

(Directive #4, Carol Richer, Provincial Education & Health Standing Committee Chair)

Catholic Education Week:

May 4–9, 2014, Education Week, provides many opportunities for the CWL to show support for Catholic Education, and partner our schools in living out our mandate to be of service. The main theme for the week is “I am among you as one who serves.” (Luke 22.27e). Each day follows a sub-theme: Monday: Serve with faithfulness; Tuesday: Serve with Humility; Wednesday: Serve with Compassion; Thursday: Serve with Justice.; Friday: Serve with Joy. Check the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association website – www.ocsta.ca for inspiration and more information.

Scholarships and Bursaries

The 2013 Annual Reports show that many councils continue to support scholarships and bursaries at all levels of our organization, but of particular note, in our Toronto Diocese, councils were generous in their support of the St. Michaels College Scholarship Fund, Hope for Children Foundation, and Parish school scholarships. We endorse the Provincial Education and Health Chair's suggestion that a bursary of \$50 "goes a long way in encouraging a student, and in recognizing their achievement." Catholic Education Week may be a good opportunity for the CWL to present an award to a student who has served his/her school or community in a special way.

Wellness and Sickness/Disease

Thanks again to the Provincial Health and Education Chair's timely Directive #4, I am able to share some of the information she has provided on topics relating to health issues.

Colorectal Cancer is the second most common cause of cancer deaths in Ontario, and can develop without any early warning signs. If caught early, 9 out of 10 cases can be cured. Screening is easy and convenient, and the simple test can be done at home. For information, visit www.ontario.ca/coloncancercheck.

Carol Richer advises that, "our Federal and Provincial Governments continue to disagree over who is responsible for what when it comes to Health Care." She goes on to say that the 2004 Canada Health Accord is coming to an end and the agreements were to be renegotiated in 2014. She urges members to contact their provincial and federal Health Ministers, provincial and federal Health Critics, the Premier of Ontario and the Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Canada, asking them for an explanation on the status of the Health Accord and Health Care Funding. "Ask how the allocation of transfer payments is decided, who is consulted, and what criteria is concerned. Call, write letters, send emails. Always request a reply!" is Carol's advice. Visit www.canadians.org/content/take-action-2014-health-care-accord; www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca

Mental Illness - Resolution ON.13.01

For some of us, Resolution ON.13.01, which urges us to "become educated about the reality of mental illness ...", takes on a very personal meaning. Through the kindness and enthusiasm of some of our CWL sisters, and in response to a request, forty-two "clients" and six staff

members of a Group Residence were treated to an afternoon of Christmas cheer. Through the generosity of these ladies and aided by a couple of husbands, every person received a gift, a plate of goodies, and were encouraged to explore their “creative” talents by making Christmas decorations for their rooms or for a family member. As one client said, “That was the best afternoon ever!” a sentiment which was echoed by all those who made this possible. We encourage you to seek out and “adopt” a residence in your area – it takes so little and you get so much in return!

Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide: Why Not?

The Catholic Organization for Life and the Family (COLF) has published a helpful “Quick Answers to Common Arguments” booklet, which COLF states “provides appropriate responses to common arguments put forward by proponents of euthanasia and assisted suicide.” The following is in answer to a statement we hear so often by people questioning various beliefs of the Catholic faith, but this time as it applies to Euthanasia.

“You are trying to impose your religious values on all of Canadian society”. COLF’s response:

- There are many good religious reasons to acknowledge the absolute value of the human person and to oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide. But there is no need to rely on them in order to reject these deadly practices.
- Whether you are a religious person or an atheist, the fundamental reasons to say “no” to euthanasia and assisted suicide are first and foremost purely natural, human reasons that promote the well-being of all Canadians regardless of race, gender, age, ability or health.
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights clearly states that “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.” (art.3). In order to uphold this right for all citizens, at the moment in Canadian history when we are faced with the prospect of legalizing euthanasia and assisted suicide, we need to (1) encourage new research and education on pain relief; (2) provide public funding for more palliative care centers and units in order to ensure that all Canadians have access to end of life care; (3) and develop fiscal measures to allow primary care givers to commit themselves freely to the support of their sick or dying loved ones.”

LEGISLATION

Dorine Dubreuil

Sub Conveners:

Imelda Santos
Ilona Binns

Duties of the Legislation Chair:

- (a) monitor and study legislation at all levels of government
- (b) preparation of briefs and position papers on proposed Legislation
(National Manual of Policy & Procedure)



Legislation works closely with resolutions by following up with action, by signing petitions and letter-writing. Ensure that your council has on file the *Personal Letter Writing Guide from National office*. Resolutions for the past ten years are posted on the National website (www.cwl.ca).

On the Federal Government website, there are bills on the order paper and notice paper that pertain to resolutions adopted by national council. It will be interesting to see how the bills proceed through Parliament. Letter-writing to Parliament plays a large role, your voice could influence a discussion and debate on a bill. Monitor the proceedings of the bills by visiting www.parl.gc.ca.

Resources and Reference:

League magazine, communiqués, national website, provincial website, federal and provincial government websites and your municipal website. LEGISinfo website is one of my favorites. This website is an essential research tool for finding information on legislation before Parliament. Visit www.parl.gc.ca. Keeping tabs on Canada's Parliament - www.openparliament.ca - this website is an excellent resource for what our MP's are doing in Ottawa, the latest transcripts on topics discussed in the house and recent votes on bills.

Federal Legislation

- ❖ **Bill C-212: An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Luring a Child Outside Canada)** This Private Member's Bill has received 1st reading and relates to the League's position on trafficking. If passed this bill would amend the Criminal Code to add *Offence of luring a child to offences for which Canadian Citizens may be prosecuted even if the offences were committed outside Canada*. This bill relates

to the League resolution 2009.02 Protection and Support Services for Foreign Victims of Trafficking.

Action: Study resolution listed above. Contact your MP to support this amendment.

- ❖ **Bill C-233: An Act to Eliminate Poverty in Canada:** This Private Member's Bill has received 1st reading and relates to the League's resolution 2001.03 Hunger in Canada. The purpose of this Act is to impose on the Federal Government the obligation to eliminate poverty and promote social inclusion by establishing and implementing a strategy for poverty elimination in consultation with the government and society organizations.

Action: Study resolution listed above. Engage in letter-writing to your MP to support this bill.

- ❖ **Bill C-314: An Act Respecting the Awareness of Screening Among Women With Dense Breast Tissue:** The 2nd reading of this Private Member's Bill was adjourned in the Senate. There will be further debate at the next sitting of the Senate. The Government of Canada must encourage the use of existing programs and other initiatives that are currently supported by those entities in order to increase awareness concerning the implications of dense breast tissues for breast cancer screening.

Action: Organize a letter-writing campaign to the Senators at: The Senate of Canada, Ottawa ON. K1A 0A4 (free postage).

Provincial Legislation:

- ❖ **Bill 54: Alzheimer Advisory Council Act 2013:** This bill has been referred to standing committee on regulations and Private Bills. The purpose of this Act is to establish the Alzheimer Advisory Council and develop a strategy for the research, treatment and prevention of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia in Canada. The Alzheimer Advisory Council would consider matters related to Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia and make recommendations to the Executive Council responsible for the Act.

Action: Engage in letter-writing to The Honorable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, your MPP. Invite a speaker from the Alzheimer's Society. The full text of this Bill is available at www.ontla.ca

- ❖ **Bill 88: Update: Child and Family Services Amendment Act. Children 16 years of Age and older.** Since my last newsletter directive, this bill was ordered for 3rd reading December 11, 2013.

Municipal

Municipal elections will be held October 27, 2014. Ensure your name is on the voter's registry. Familiarize yourself with the candidates - ask questions.

If you are a new Legislation Chair, take the time to familiarize yourself with the various websites. Your knowledge and enthusiasm will inspire your fellow sisters in the council to become more involved with legislative issues.

I am looking forward to seeing your Resolution/Legislation Project Challenge display's "*Putting your Faith into Action*" at our convention in May. **Reminder, no display - no draw ticket for the council.**

RESOLUTIONS

Hilarion Mitchell

Sub Conveners:

Patricia Wilson
Wilma Van Den Herk

The Resolutions Process Continues

We are now entering convention season. It means that dioceses throughout the country are getting ready to formally introduce their resolutions at their diocesan conventions in hopes that they will be adopted. This will be followed by the provincial resolutions committee meeting to review all submitted resolutions. The approved resolutions are then reviewed, presented and adopted at the respective provincial councils' conventions.

The same process is repeated at the national level. Some of the resolutions may move directly to one of the standing committees, such as Community Life (CL), Christian Family Life (CFL), Education and Health (EH). A committee of our provincial and national presidents, resolutions and legislation chairs meet with the respective levels of government to discuss resolutions adopted at their level.

Action: See Shari Guinta, National Chairperson of Resolutions' articles about the League delegation to Parliament in the Fall 2013 and Winter 2014 issues of The Canadian League magazine.



Toronto Diocesan Convention News

2014 TDC Resolutions: We have been gifted this year with the two resolutions below that were made available in the convention packages distributed at Development Day in February.

- TD 2014-01 Mandatory Labeling of Genetically Modified Food Products
- TD 2014-02 Support for a National Dementia Strategy

Action:

- Resolutions chairs and council presidents are to read, discuss and vote on both resolutions at their upcoming general meetings so that they can bring an informed vote to the convention in May.
- Members are to call or email me on any concerns or feedback on the resolutions prior to convention.

Resolutions Dialogue Session: This extremely popular session provides members with an opportunity to network with other members to gain a better understanding of the resolutions prior to them being formally discussed at the convention. The session will be held on **Thursday May 29th starting at 10:00 am** and is open to all members attending the convention. Pre-registration is required so that we have seating to accommodate everyone.

Action: Interested members are to check-off the applicable line on the convention registration form.

Resolutions Business Session: The resolutions will be formally heard on the morning of **Friday May 30th, 2014**. This provides members with another opportunity to speak to the resolutions following the *Standing Rules of Convention*. After discussions and amendments; motions will be made to approve the resolutions. The successful resolutions will then be forwarded to the Ontario Provincial Resolutions Standing Committee in hope that they will be considered at the 2014 Provincial Convention in Cobourg in July.

Action:

Members wishing to speak to the resolutions at the Convention must use the microphones, identify themselves stating their name and council, and keep within the allotted time.

Private Members' Bills and Motions: Saskatoon MP Maurice Vellacott presented Motion 490 in Parliament at the end of January to amend the Standing Orders on votability of private members' bills and motions. The goal is make the process for them more democratic and transparent.

Currently a sub-committee decides which private bills and motions are allowed to be voted on in the House of Commons. This control hinders private members' bills and motions from becoming law. Private members' business is one of the few ways a MP has to speak on issues that are important to their constituents. Many of our CWL resolutions' action plans encourage members to contact their elected officials to take actions on our concerns and issues. Consequently, the success of this motion will be beneficial to many of our resolutions moving through the legislative process.

Action: Contact your MP through letter-writing to support this motion.

Resolutions Legislation Project Challenge 2013–2014: Hopefully by this time, all councils are participating in this joint resolutions and legislation project. The project goal is to allow members to *PUT* their *FAITH* into *ACTION* as they implement diocesan, provincial and national resolutions' action plans that are still ongoing to their corresponding legislation. Participating councils will receive a certificate and will be entered into a draw. The winning ballot will receive a \$50 prize for their council.

Action:

- Visit the TDC website for the project guidelines and check the resolutions and legislations standing committee chairs' directives on the provincial and national websites for more topic ideas.
- Councils should start preparing their project displays for the TDC Convention on May 29–30, 2014.

We Have Seen the Lord - Let His Light Guide Our Path! Let us remember the important role of the Resolutions Standing Committee to study and implement resolutions passed at all levels of the League in conjunction with the corresponding legislation.

Concern with care
Working with love
in League with others

Sub Convener:

Patricia Cross

We are so over wearing our winter jackets! While putting this edition of the Toronto Diocesan Newsletter together, it is still February, freezing cold and no end to the snow is in sight. At least we can count on the warmth of "Catch the Fire" Workshops to carry us through to the Spring!



This is the first edition of your 2014 subscription. If you know of anyone who still would like to subscribe, please let them know that it's not too late. There is a subscription form available on our website, www.cwltoronto.ca, or you can contact Alice Warford directly at fleur.59@hotmail.com. As always, we welcome submissions of Service Award recipients and Anniversaries. Be sure to get them in to Tracy MacInnis, tmacinnis@rogers.com, by July 30, 2014, to make the next edition.

With the Spring we will finally be able to throw off our winter coats, welcome the renewal of life and celebrate the beginning of convention season. We look forward to meeting many of you at the Diocesan Convention May 29th and 30th! If you miss us there, you can always catch us at the Provincial or National Conventions in early July and August respectively. Don't worry, you can't miss us!

*God made us
Sisters
Love made us
friends*

Jean McCann - Obituary

On December 16, 2013, the fire of The Catholic Women's League of Canada dimmed when they lost lifetime member, Jean McCann. Jean was the epitome of what being a CWL member is all about. She truly lived "For God and Canada".



When reading through her biography, one wonders when she ever had time for her family, for meals, for sleep or for a shower. Jean was the mother of ten children, five of whom became teachers. She had 28 grandchildren, and at last count, had 30 great-grandchildren. Her shopping list of accomplishments, boards she sat on and programs she started and ran, puts us all to shame when we say we're "too busy" to take on additional CWL responsibilities.

Jean was a member of St. Mary's CWL Council in Barrie for about 75 years and lived to be 101 years young. She was President of St. Mary's CWL Council, was Immigration Convener for Northern Region during the Hungarian uprising, and following that, became Chair of Northern Region. When Jean sat on the Toronto Archdiocesan CWL Council, she served as 3rd Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, 1st Vice-President, then was President from 1971-1973.

She was a founding member of ShareLife and sat on the Advisory Board. She also served on on the Boards of Catholic Charities and CCODP, representing the CWL. Jean was proud to acknowledge that she was the first Roman Catholic President of the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada.

Following her term as Toronto President, Jean spent a year at Covenant House as a volunteer. She also volunteered for six years at Morton House, a holding place for young offenders. For the **Ontario CWL Council**, Jean served as Immigration Convener. For the **National Council**, Jean was a sub-convener for Immigration. She was also part of the National Interfaith Immigration Group.

In 1992, the Toronto Archdiocesan CWL Council established the Jean McCann Service Award for Youth, in recognition of her outstanding volunteer work with youth. Jean was a lifelong supporter of the League and the Jean McCann Youth Service award will continue to honour her many achievements.

Please pray for the repose of her soul and for all of those devoted League members who have passed away recently.