

# TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

## NEWSLETTER

Spring 2015

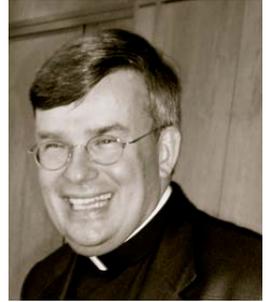
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## **SPIRITUAL ADVISOR**

**Rev. Robert E. O'Brien**

One of the gifts of the Catholic Women's League is how we know that living the Christian faith together is what it is all about. In a world where we are so challenged to communicate a Christian vision of life, the comfortable sharing of that life with one another can be so helpful. When we socialize or provide opportunities for the parish community to be together, we strengthen the bonds that support our mission to share the Good News.



This is also true in family life. We know the joys of it, and we know some of its challenges. Spending time together, listening to each other and walking together are not only humanly good, but create many channels through which Christ's love transforms us.

The Holy Father continues to remind us to put this charitable spirit first in our daily life. How humble are we ourselves? Do we see our own shortcomings? Can we laugh at ourselves? Do we build on and encourage the goodness of others? Can we talk maturely and respectfully when we have differences?

While the public issues that face us loom large, the spirit that will help society value the intrinsic dignity of each person cannot be legislated. The law can offer support for justice, but true justice is a set of right relationships. For that we must actually care for one another. In no family that I have known can one have that care without also accepting some of the messiness of life.

One of my heroes in the spiritual life, St. Thomas More, talks about how trials and difficulties perform a service for us. We not only focus more on what is important, but we are reminded not to take ourselves or others for granted. So while it is unhealthy to worry too much, it is life-giving to bear the real burdens of those whom we love. We get honed a bit. With some patience this gives us the chance to be of greater help to our neighbour.

We also need the assistance of the Queen of the Virtues, Prudence. Adult children, for example, know what their parents will say, or what they think about any topic. A key is showing support and positive concern as well as respect. Reflecting on my own growing up, so many people outside of my family contributed to my growth. And I needed some of that to come from outside my family. Prudence may mean doing less and meaning more.

Many young people are looking for the chance to experience real community. Our parishes and groups like the League, offer these opportunities in spades. The couples I meet in marriage preparation are keen to “build their couple lives”, to burn their calories fruitfully together to grow into a happy and mature couple. They do sense the importance of faith in that. Can we be part of that fresh air of faith and community with them? We certainly can and that will help love and faith in our society.

I encourage whatever initiatives you can take in your parishes to attend to the quality of family life and to build bonds of charity that span generations and cultures. As we experience more deeply our bonds in God’s love, the leaven of the Holy Spirit will build up the whole of the Church and contribute to a human society that invites depth of spirit. That will plant the seeds and the Lord of the harvest will make it fruitful.

*Fr. Bob O’Brien*  
Spiritual Advisor  
Toronto Diocesan Council

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## PRESIDENT

Mary Capobianco

*"Lord, teach us to step outside ourselves. Teach us to go out into the streets and manifest your love."* (Pope Francis, August 23rd, 2013)

This is my last newsletter as President of the Toronto Diocesan Council. The last two years have been most fulfilling for me and it was an honour and a privilege to serve my CWL sisters in this capacity. My heart is filled with gratitude for the support I received from our Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Father O'Brien, the executive members of the Toronto Diocesan Council, our wonderful Life Members, and especially for the support and prayers received from the members throughout the Archdiocese.



The focus of our Diocesan convention theme for 2015 is "*One Heart, One Voice, One Mission ... One Family in Christ*". This theme fits well with our focus on family this year, both through our Diocesan project *We Are Family* and the Holy Father's intent on holding an Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on *The mission of the family in the Church* later this year. We all recognize how important the role of the family is and this is our opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the very essential contribution of Christian families.

Each council president has been given a complete convention package for registration, banquet tickets and resolutions to be discussed, as well as information for the upcoming Diocesan elections. Please follow the instructions and honour the deadlines for each item.

Also included in the packages is a letter addressed to your Spiritual Advisor. This letter contains a personal invitation for him to attend the Spiritual Advisor's Luncheon, the opening and closing Masses and the closing Banquet. Please be sure to hand-deliver this invitation to your advisor as soon as possible.

Many councils held elections in December and January. Congratulations to those who have accepted the challenge and said *YES* to a leadership role. I know that some of you may find it difficult to accept leadership positions. Please know that although you have taken on a new position, you do not need to carry everything all on your own. Reach out to past presidents, regional chairs or any of the members of the Diocesan executive. We are all here to help you on your journey.

The Ontario Provincial Convention is being held in Niagara Falls this year, July 4th to July 8th. This is a great opportunity to experience the League at another level. Arrange for a car pool and come celebrate with your CWL sisters from all across Ontario. More information along with the registration forms are available on-line at [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca).

The National Convention is being held in Vancouver, British Columbia, August 15th to 19th. Please check the Canadian League Magazine (Winter 2015) for the National registration forms.

The 31st Rosary Sunday will be held on Sunday, September 13th, 2015, at Martyrs' Shrine, Midland. The celebrant this year will be Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick. Mark your calendars and make your plans early to participate in the procession and recitation of the living rosary.

Beginning in March, spring regional meetings will be taking place. Your regional chairs work very hard in organizing these meetings and it's always nice to see large groups of members attending. There will be lots of news to share as well as information about the upcoming convention. Please do encourage your members to attend these general meetings and show your appreciation to your regional chair for all the work they do. We look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting in your region.

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## SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Lucia Vacca

*“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”* (Galatians 6:10)

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      |

Congratulations and welcome, if you are the new Spiritual Development Standing Committee Chair in your Council and to those of you continuing your term, thank you for your commitment. This is a wonderful opportunity for your spiritual growth and that of your members. Pope Francis said, *“We need, in our own day to consider whether women really are aware of the duty they have to transmit the*



*faith.*” We need to accept and be more aware that as women we have the primary role of passing on the faith to generations to follow by showing our love, compassion, caring, presence, service and in our prayers for one another.

During this Lenten season we take time to renew our focus, open our hearts to others, spend time in prayer, self-examination, planning reflections and look to the life and passion of our Lord in the glory of the resurrection. Pope Francis message for Lent 2015 “... *to open our hearts to God’s love and to turn away from a culture of indifference ...*” Go to <http://www.news.va/en/news/pope-warns-of-globalization-of-indifference-in-len> for full message.

## **Spiritual Growth of Members**

### **Learn the Catechism in a Year**

If you have not already signed up to study and learn more about the Gospel in one Year or to read the Catechism in a Year go to [flocknote.com/catechism](http://flocknote.com/catechism) and [flocknote.com/gospel](http://flocknote.com/gospel) and websites and sign up! One way to inform and learn more about our faith.

**Our Lady of Good Counsel** is our Patroness and her Feast Day is April 26th. Two great resources for information on how we can celebrate this day are, the National Ceremonies booklet, page 14 - <http://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/ceremonies-booklet.pdf> or in the CWL Prays - [http://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/CWL\\_Prays.pdf](http://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/CWL_Prays.pdf). Go to [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) Resources Manuals. I encourage each council to make an effort and celebrate this day with a Mass. The nine-day novena to Our Lady of Good Counsel begins on April 18<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Vision TV Mass**

The Catholic Women’s League of Canada is the sponsor of the daily mass on Vision TV on Saturday, April 25, 2015, the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel. It will air at 8:00 am and 12 noon. The taping will take place on Friday, April 24th at 5:10 pm at St. Basil’s Church, 50 St. Joseph St. (off Bay, south of Bloor). The celebrant will be Fr. Fitzpatrick. Members in the Toronto area are encouraged to attend the taping of this special Mass. St. Basil’s Parish will be going through some renovations; if these plans change, a notice will be forwarded closer to the date.

### **Websites of interest**

Here are more websites to search to enhance, develop and strengthen our faith daily:

[www.theholyroary.org](http://www.theholyroary.org), <http://sacredspace.ie/>, [www.wordonfire.org](http://www.wordonfire.org) and these are only a few of the websites. For the Official Vatican Network with daily updates from the Vatican and the latest news on Pope Francis go to <http://www.news.va/en>

As you know, the season of Lent began on Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, and ends on Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015. During this season, an excellent booklet that offers prayers, Lenten readings and reflections is entitled “*Daily Reflections for Lent 2015 - Sacred Journey*”, by Krystyna Higgins. [www.novalis.ca](http://www.novalis.ca)

### **Formation Opportunities with the Archdiocese Office of Formation for Discipleship**

Visit [www.archtoronto.org/discipleship](http://www.archtoronto.org/discipleship) for more information about these and other formation opportunities in Lent. Pre-registration is requested to assist with preparation. Registration forms are available on the website.

### **The Annunciation and our Lenten Journey Retreat**

Here is one opportunity to attend a two-hour Lenten Retreat, by spending time in prayer and reflection and leave the distraction of our daily lives behind, at the Nativity of our Lord Parish, located at 480 Rathburn Road, Etobicoke, from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. on Wednesday, March 25, 2015.

**Whether or not you live in Simcoe County, plan to attend this event...**  
***Gathered, Nourished and Commissioned: Celebrating and Living Sunday!***  
11<sup>th</sup> Simcoe Liturgy Conference, Friday, April 24, 2015 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm and Saturday, April 25, 2015 from 9:00 am - 2:30 pm at Holy Spirit Parish, located at 650 Essa Road in Barrie.

Father Bill Burke is the presenter. He has served as a parish priest, Director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Antigonish and as Director of the National Liturgy Office from 2006 to August 2013. Father Bill is the first Pastor of the newly formed St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish in Sydney, Nova Scotia.

The Simcoe Liturgy Conference continues the tradition of gathering for times of prayer, presentation and fellowship, and is for all lay liturgical ministers, youth ministry leaders, parish catechists for Confirmation, First Communion and First Reconciliation, RCIA leaders, Baptismal preparation leaders, Catholic school teacher candidates and all people who gather for Sunday (Saturday) Eucharist. Anyone wishing to deepen their faith will find the presentations to be insightful and nourishing.

For information and registration, call: Catherine Ecker, Office of Formation for Discipleship, Archdiocese of Toronto. 705-726-2153 or Email: [cecker@archtoronto.org](mailto:cecker@archtoronto.org)

## **Lectio Divina – Year two for Mark’s Gospel**

The Lectio Divina reflections are given by Cardinal Thomas Collins and these are meant to work as a series to enhance our understanding of the Scripture readings. Take the time to attend these sessions at St. Michael’s Cathedral at 7:00 pm or go to [http://www.archtoronto.org/lectio/gospel\\_mark\\_year2.html](http://www.archtoronto.org/lectio/gospel_mark_year2.html) and watch the video of the session. **April 12, 2015** - Leaving everything (Mark 10:17-31) **May 3, 2015** - On the road to Jerusalem (Mark 10:32-52) **June 7, 2015** - Hosanna (Mark 11:1-25)

## **CWL Spiritual Development Resource Material**

Many workshops and resource material to assist you under Spiritual Development can be found on the National website [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) under Resources, Programs and Workshops. Take a look also on the Ontario provincial website [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca) for more useful prayers and workshops under Prayer Room.

## **Study of Catholic Teachings**

Father Robert Barron’s Catholicism series from the *Word on Fire* was a very popular documentary study program with many of you. A new production is now being filmed called “*Catholicism: The Pivotal Players*” a study program to explore the lives of St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Catherine of Siena, Blessed John Henry Newman, and G.K. Chesterton and other Saints. Also a new film entitled “*Priest, Prophet, King*” is available from [www.wordonfire.org](http://www.wordonfire.org) Go to this website to see all their study programs.

## **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**

The Church will mark the 52nd World Day of Prayer for Vocations on Sunday, April 26, 2015.

## **Evangelization and Mission Assistance**

**Catholic Missions in Canada** cordially invites you to the Tastes of Heaven Gala 2015: Thursday April 23, 2015 - 6:00 pm, Cocktails 7:00 pm, at Bellvue Manor, 8083 Jane Street, Vaughan.

Pope Francis has declared the year 2015 as the year in which we celebrate consecrated life. In his honour the gala will honour vocations to the consecrated life in missionary life across Canada.

For Tickets and Sponsorship opportunities, contact Patricia at 416-934-3424 Ext. 227. Email: [patricia@cmic.info](mailto:patricia@cmic.info) / Website: [www.cmic.info](http://www.cmic.info)

Proceeds from this event will benefit the seminarians in mission dioceses.

**Scarboro Foreign Missions**, 2685 Kingston Road, Scarborough. Check this website at <http://www.scarboromissions.ca/index.php> for the many

lectures and guest speakers on interfaith, justice and peace, missionary work and many other areas of foreign work opportunities.

**Lay Ministries**

**Prayer for the Fruits of the Spirit** this initiative was introduced last year at each at the Fall Regional Meetings with a letter and prayer to all presidents with the hope that this focus would help to produce discussion within your councils. We have received feedback from various councils and this initiative has been very “Fruitful”. Please continue to discover ways in which to bring the Gospel readings to life. We will all reap the benefits of our strong prayers for each other as sisters in the League.

The commitment and dedication to the joyful service that so many of you are providing in your respective ministries of the life of the parishes, is to be commended. Your annual reports are a witness of the good work by our faithful CWL members. Continue to be visible and focused in providing service to the people of God.

**Ecumenism and Interfaith Endeavors**

**World Day of Prayer** – Thank you to the many councils who will be participating or hosting this annual event which will be held on Friday, March 6, 2015. The service prepared this year is by the women in the Bahamas.

There are other ways in which you can take part in Ecumenism and Interfaith: Become a member of the Women’s Inter-Church Council of Canada, hold Interfaith events, attend seminars in your area or host a community event with a speaker.

**A Lenten Prayer**

- Fast** from judging others; **feast** on the Christ indwelling in them.
- Fast** from emphasis on differences; **feast** on the unity of all life.
- Fast** from apparent darkness; **feast** on the reality of light.
- Fast** from words that pollute; **feast** on phrases that purify.
- Fast** from discontent; **feast** on gratitude.
- Fast** from anger; **feast** on patience.
- Fast** from pessimism; **feast** on optimism.



On January 17, 2015 Shirley Christo signed the Official Letter of Acceptance to be our new President as presented by Mary Hawley, Past President and Elections Officer.



# ORGANIZATION

Shirley Christo

## Sub-Conveners:

Annual Reports	Patricia Cross
Life Members' Liaison	Karen Lawless
Training Materials	Debbie Bates
On-Line Membership	Val Egerton
	Lucia Vacca

## Membership

Be sure to check the national website information for promotional materials related to our new theme

*“ONE HEART, ONE VOICE, ONE MISSION”*. If you have not already noted, there are many promotional materials to help your council to discern how we as Catholic women “can answer the call to service with one heart centered on Christ, one voice in unity and one mission in conviction”. (M.A. Jacobs, January 20, 2015, National Organization Communiqué #3)



## Membership Dues

Thank you to all the many councils that have already submitted their lists and per capita fees by **February 28, 2015**. Remember that you can continue to acquire additional members and submit per capita fees until **May 31, 2015**. Accolades to all those who have submitted on-line this year.

**Membership Drive Tip #5:** Collaborate with the Spiritual Advisors in your region to host a guest speaker on a current topic/issue of Catholic concern. Have a promotional CWL membership table available at the event to receive new and returning members.

## Member Development

Our Parish Executive Training (P.E.T.) sessions in each of the regions are well under way. Congratulations to those who have completed their workshops. Feedback from participants clearly indicates that the training has been helpful to councils for their improved understanding of the League and administration of their counsels.

## Annual Reports

Seventy-eight councils submitted their annual reports to date and we are now compiling the information to pass along to the higher levels of the

League through our Toronto Diocesan Annual Report. It will be available to presidents at the convention.

**Development Day**

Thank you to all who attended Development Day held on **Saturday, February 21, 2015**, and willingly participated in our discernment exercises related to the new national theme. A special appreciation to our speakers for their wisdom and insight and to St. Roch’s CWL council for so graciously hosting the event. There were many whose assistance was invaluable in making this day so 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 address (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 going to your previous president.
3. Update your newsletter subscriptions for your new executive members.

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**PAST PRESIDENT/ HISTORIAN**

**Mary Hawkley**

**Diocesan Elections**

Diocesan elections will take place on May 1, 2015 at the Toronto Diocesan Convention. The CWL Constitution and Bylaws (2013) Part XVI, Section 4 (e) states “Each parish council executive shall nominate a slate of officers for the diocesan council from the list of those eligible to let their names stand for nomination.” This list was included in the Presidents’ packages that were distributed at Development Day.



Therefore at the executive meeting following Development Day, please complete, sign and date the Nomination form.

Return it **no later than March 21, 2015**

To: Mary Hawkley

Nominations and Elections Chair

Please ensure the following:

1. That a full slate of candidates is submitted;
2. That your council's minutes note the nominations made;
3. That your voting delegate takes a copy of your nominations to the Toronto Diocesan Convention on April 30th and May 1st, 2015.

As voting takes place at convention, please note, in particular, the following change to the Election of Officers, Constitution and Bylaws, 2013, Part XVI, Section 5, (b). *Part XVI Section 5: Election of Officers*

*(b) If the voting delegate does not have an instructed vote from the executive, she forfeits her privilege to vote on first and all subsequent ballots for that position.*

### **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 2015 Toronto Diocesan Convention, distributed at Development Day on February 21, 2015. Please consult your president if you have not yet received the information. Deadline for submissions is March 15, 2015.

Members of the present 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, April 30th and May 1st, 2015.

### **Past Presidents' Duties and Delights**

As you come to the end of your two-year term as I am doing, don't forget you are asked to provide a two-page summary of your term as president for your council's archives. This helps to give continuity to the history of your council and helps us all remember our accomplishments. Don't forget that this is part and parcel of archiving your council's records, another important duty.

The delights come in the wonderful friendships that will last forever, in the great wealth of information you now have to share with your members as you mentor them and in knowing that all your efforts have brought about something positive in your parish community, in the League and hopefully, most of all in your own life. I feel so blessed to have journeyed with my sisters in the League, at all levels, for these many years. Indeed, there is much to celebrate.

## RECORDING SECRETARY

Donna Capobianco

It is that time of year, when several of our parish councils have a changeover of executive. Thank you to the ladies who have completed their term as recording secretary and a warm welcome to those of you who are taking on this role.



Provincial recording secretary, Patricia Rivest, sent out an on-line directive last November which I found very helpful. The directive contained a list entitled, *Reasons for Good Minutes*. Some of the highlights were: a) minutes are the only record of the council business; b) the President and executive use minutes as a constant referral; and c) minutes are essential for continuity and information for a succeeding council executive. This list excellently sums up the importance and necessity for taking good minutes and keeping them properly filed.

An important part of the minutes are the motions that are made during the meeting. It is strongly recommended that motion sheets be used at all meetings. The use of motions sheets not only become part of the councils history but they help keep things in order and in the long run, make the recording secretary's job a lot easier.

The person making the motion is the mover, another member will second the motion and then the motion is read to the members attending. Discussion is open to all members before the vote is taken. If members are not sure as to what is being proposed, then the motion can be read out again before the vote is taken.

Motion sheets can be filed with the minutes or can be kept in a separate binder in numerical and date order. This makes for easy referencing when discussion turns to "when was this decided".

And as always, if you are not sure or have questions, ask the previous secretary, your president or regional chair for guidance. We are never alone as we take on various roles in the League. Help is there, we just need to ask.

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## 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.



Sue Lubowitz, Christian Family Life Chair, Connie Cristinziano, Humber Valley Region Chair and Sonia Villanueva, Treasurer, listen intently at a Toronto Diocesan Executive meeting.

Sub Convener:

Suzanne Cockburn

With this last newsletter article as Christian Family Life Chair, I find myself reflecting on all the great work that councils have reported in their annual reports. Christian Family Life in the parishes is alive and well!! I would like to thank all Christian Family Life Chairs and their councils for their dedication and service to the League.



### **Synod of Bishops on the Family**

The recent Extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the theme “*Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelization*” will be remembered as a milestone in the history of the Church. At this gathering of Catholic Church leaders, Pope Francis invited the universal Church to journey together and reflect on the joys and hopes, promise and challenges for family life today. Pope Francis has asked dioceses around the world to share the story of the Synod and carefully study the final document of this Extraordinary Synod, which now serves as the working document for the Ordinary Synod on the Family that will take place from October 4th - 25th, 2015. The subject of the second synod will be “*The vocation and the mission of the family in the Church and in the contemporary world*”.

The secular press gave the impression that this Synod was about changing the teaching of the Church on marriage, family life or sexual morality. This is not correct. It was about the pastoral care, the motherly love the Church strives to provide for people, especially when facing difficult moments and experiences in family life. During the Synod, the bishops looked at the great joy of family life and the importance of marriage at its heart. They listened to husbands and wives speaking of the difficulties they had overcome, the struggles they face and the deep joy they experience in their mature marriages and family lives. A wonderful description of the family was offered: the family as “a sanctuary of holiness” with emphasis always on the sharing of prayer at the heart of family life.

As councils we should keep informed on the workings of the Synod. You can be kept up-to-date by going to [www.saltandlighttv.org](http://www.saltandlighttv.org). You can also subscribe to Salt + Light’s twitter feed or follow their Facebook page. They were given the privilege and opportunity to document the Synod for the Vatican and to share their television and video coverage. They were also

able to conduct a number of interviews with participants. They will be at the second Synod to continue their work.

Councils are also called to pray for families. CWL members can assist in arranging a retreat day for the separated, divorced and widowed. We can advise them of the New Beginnings program in our parishes. Ask your parish priest to promote events for families and offer to be a part of the planning. Let us make our councils and parishes places where we “don’t see humanity as a house of glass to judge or categorize people ... (but a) Church that has the doors wide open to receive the needy, the penitent ...” (Address of His Holiness Pope Francis for the Conclusion of the Third Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, October 18, 2014)

### **Sanctity of Life**

Each year at the National March for Life, tens of thousands gather to demand protection for children before and after birth. Last year, an estimated 23,000 pro-lifers (many CWL councils among them!) assembled on Parliament Hill and marched through downtown Ottawa to inform Canadians that we are the only western nation with no protection for the unborn.

This year’s event will be held on May 14, 2015 and the theme is “March like someone’s life depends on it!” Councils are encouraged to organize buses to the event, and sponsor students to attend. Copies of the brochures or posters for your church or schools can ordered from Campaign Life Coalition Ottawa at 613-729-0379, or e-mail [debbie@campaignlifecoalition.com](mailto:debbie@campaignlifecoalition.com) Councils are also encouraged to pray for the unborn at meetings. Regardless of the pro-life activity you choose to support, always remember to exhibit an attitude of deep respect, inclusion and dignity for all. May the Holy Spirit make us worthy apostles of the culture of life in our parishes and communities.

### **Ministry to Youth**

A Catholic chaplaincy has begun at the University of Toronto’s Scarborough campus. It joins the university’s other two campuses to receive its own permanent Catholic chaplaincy. Chaplaincy programs will take on the Scarborough campus (UTSC) but the chaplaincy office will be based out of St. Barnabas Church nearby.

Young people who will be attending universities in the fall should be aware that campus ministries are available at York University, University of Toronto (three campuses), Ryerson, and University of Ontario Institute of Technology (Oshawa). These programs can be a positive influence during the students’ time at these educational institutions. They will offer the

students regular programming, catechesis, social events, access to the sacraments, ties with nearby parishes and community building.

**Final words:**

If we want to be convincing and to contribute effectively to the public debate on social and moral questions, our arguments need formation. Formation starts with information. Whether the topic is reproductive technologies, euthanasia, abortion, the role of the family, or marriage, CWL members gain credibility when they can explain the reasons underlying the Church’s position on these controversial issues. This is how we hope to influence the course of events and the future of our country: not by imposing our views, but by proposing reasonable approaches that favour the common good. By being “better informed, more active and more articulate” (Archbishop V. James Weisgerber), we can more successfully protect and defend human life and the natural family. I urge you to continue to read the Church’s documents on marriage and the family. Always remember that the path towards the future passes through the family!

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**SPRING REGIONAL MEETINGS**

<b>Durham</b>	March 24, 2014 - 7:00 pm Mass St. Mary of the People, Oshawa
<b>Humber Valley</b>	March 19, 2015 - 7:00 pm Mass St. Ambrose, Etobicoke
<b>North York</b>	March 9, 2015 - 7:00 pm Mass Blessed Trinity, North York
<b>Northern</b>	TBD
<b>Peel</b>	April 7, 2015 - 7:00 pm Mass St. Patrick, Mississauga
<b>Scarborough</b>	March 17, 2015 - 7:00 pm Mass St. Aidan’s, Scarborough
<b>Toronto</b>	TBD

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**Happy Anniversary**

**North York Region:** St. John Chrysostom, Newmarket - 90 Years

**Toronto Region:** St. Joan of Arc, Toronto - 50 Years

**The 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Toronto Diocesan CWL Convention  
April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

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

**CONVENTION THEME:**

***ONE Heart, ONE Voice, ONE Mission ... One Family in Christ***

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

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

<b>Thursday, April 30, 2015</b>	
9:00 am	Registration
9:30 am	Resolutions Dialogue ( <b>International "A" Room</b> )
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 Speakers - <b>Christine &amp; Michael Way-Skinner</b>
7:30 pm	Public Speaking, Poetry & Essay Awards
9:30 pm	Evening Prayers
<b>Friday, May 1, 2015</b>	
8:00 am	Registration
8:45 am	Business Session
9:30 am	Resolutions
12 noon	Lunch Break
1:30 pm	Business Session
	Elections
3:30 pm	Closing Eucharist
6:00 pm	Cocktail Reception
7:00 pm	Closing Banquet
	- <b>Address by:</b> His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins

**HOTEL INFORMATION**

**CWL Room Rate: \$142.00 plus taxes per night (Max. of 4 to a room)**

**Note: March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 is the deadline to receive the CWL rate.**

**Hotel Room Reservations:**

**On Line:** To make your reservation online visit the website at:

**[https://www.phgsecure.com/IBE/bookingRedirect.ashx?propertyCode=YYZIP&group=cat\\_003](https://www.phgsecure.com/IBE/bookingRedirect.ashx?propertyCode=YYZIP&group=cat_003)**

*\*If you were planning to book into the hotel a couple of days before the convention, please note the hotel is sold out for Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015*

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

### **PARKING AND MEALS**

There are hotel restaurants and many additional restaurants in the area.

Parking rates: **\$14.00 per day for overnight hotel guests** - Check with hotel for non-guest rates.

**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

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### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

March 3, 2015	Ordinandi Dinner
March 6, 2015	World Day of Prayer
April 12, 2015	Mary Matthews Public Speaking Final Contest 1:00 pm - Holy Martyrs of Japan, Bradford
April 24, 2015	Taping of Mass for Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel - St. Basil Church, Toronto 5:10 pm
April 26, 2015	Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel
April 30 & May 1	94th Annual Toronto Diocesan Convention
July 5-8, 2015	63rd Annual Provincial Convention, Niagara Falls
August 16-19	95th Annual National Convention, Vancouver, B.C.

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### **SERVICE AWARDS**

#### **Maple Leaf Service Pins**

**North York Region:**

St. John Chrysostom:

Maria Jorritsma

Maureen Bunce

**Peel Region:**

St. Martin of Tours:

Anna Jushkevich

Phyllis McNabb

St. Mary Star of the Sea:

Barbara Barringer

Pauline Clark

**Scarborough Region:**

Immaculate Heart of Mary:

Doris Ward

St. Joseph Highland Creek:

Mary Tuccitto

Margaret Wilton

### 60-Year Membership Pin

#### **Peel Region:**

St. Martin of Tours:	Rita Reed	Joan Pashak
Sts. Peter & Paul:	Mary Quinlan	

### 50-Year Membership Pin

#### **Humber Valley Region:**

Transfiguration:	Irene Debono	
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### 40-Year Membership Pin

#### **Humber Valley Region:**

Transfiguration:	Irene Easson	Marguerite Plourde
St. Roch:	Gina Campeotto	

#### **North York Region:**

St. John Chrysostom:	Agnes Ziegelbauer	
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### 25-Year Membership Pin

#### **Humber Valley Region:**

Transfiguration:	Stella Michniewicz	
St. Roch:	Antionietta Capuani	Nicolina Cipriano
	Giovanna Corvinelli	Patricia Gilmurray
	Maria Kusmich	Rosa Zago

#### **Peel Region:**

St. Leonard:	Lorraine Alvares	Gina Conte
	Geraldine D'Cruz	Justina Edwards
	Susan Maddocks	Mary Nahimy
	Maria Saraiva	Patricia Weeks
		Edie Petruzelka

### 10-Year Membership Pins

#### **Humber Valley Region:**

Holy Cross:	Rose Goreski	Lakshmi Ramrekersingh
St. Roch:	Maria DeBellis	Rose Stange
	Aurora Vescio	

#### **Northern Region:**

Sacred Heart:	Ann Cameron	Connie Cameron
	Maryjane Cameron	

#### **Peel Region:**

St. Leonard:	Melony Moeller	Lilian Alboino
	Catherine Moffat	Susan Novak
Sts. Peter & Paul:	Collette Andrade	Jeannie Novak
	Annie D'Souza	Adalina D'Mello
	Gladys Pinto	Herminia DeStefanis
	Marina Sequeira	Janet Monte
		Vilma Prescod
		Marie Roque
		Pamela Tartinow

# COMMUNICATIONS

**Andrea Tjioe**

Sub Conveners:

Orlanda Sousa  
Nina Fernandes

## Annual Reports – Communications

Thank you to all Communications Chairs and/or Council Presidents, who submitted 2014 annual reports. I thoroughly enjoyed reading all the good works in your council. Out of 94 parish councils, 59 councils submitted a Communications Annual report. We realize that many councils may not have an individual as Communications Chair, but work involving Communications is being done throughout the year. So for 2015, please be sure to fill out the Communications report form. This can be done by the executive members as a team effort.



## League Magazine, Newsletters, Websites

The Canadian League magazines are being received by each registered League member. Please assist your Organization Chair to make sure that your members, especially new members, are receiving their copies of the Canadian League magazine. Also, please ensure that each of your parish council executive members subscribe/renew their subscriptions to the Ontario Provincial Trillium Newsletter and Toronto Diocesan Newsletter. And how about the on-line publications posted on [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) (Be-League) and on [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca) (ON-Line 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, even if only twice a year? Post a copy of it 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. For the updated CWL news and upcoming events in our very own Toronto Diocese, encourage your members to check our Toronto website [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca).

## Toronto Diocesan 2015 Theme and Convention on our website.

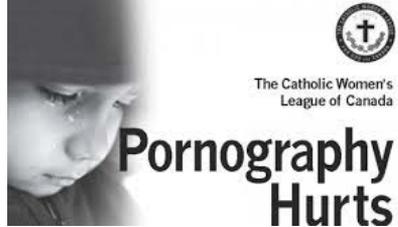
**“One Heart – One Voice – One Mission – One Family in Christ”** This will be our theme this year at our annual convention. The formal theme logo has been posted on our website: [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca) in both pdf and jpeg format, so that you may be able to use it on all your correspondence, at your meetings, newsletters, and projects.

Speaking of convention, information is continually being updated. Please visit our website often, you will find information and downloadable forms for on-line registration, banquet tickets, hotel information, Patricia Beattie Award, nomination forms and much more.

The convention is all about you, the members, all your hard work within your parish councils and communities. Once again, at the Communications table, I would like to display as many Parish Council Newsletters as possible. You can e-mail them to me and I will do my best to print them out, or 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 still to share your good works, perhaps with photographs of your 2014 highlights. Please limit them to one page, so that we have enough space for everyone.

### **“Pornography Hurts” Campaign**

New 2015 version postcards will be printed again, and will be made available at the spring regional meetings. The mailing month for Toronto Diocese will once again be **August**.



Instead of the previous WRAP campaign in October, I encourage all councils to fully integrate and implement the **“Pornography Hurts” Campaign** now. Since the mailing is in the month of August, you can promote the campaign anytime in the spring before your council winds down for the summer. Once again, the new postcards will be made available at the spring regional meetings and also at the Convention by the Communications table. Last year, many councils opened up the Campaign to the whole Parish.

To ensure that your member won't forget to mail in the postcard in August, 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. Take a count of the number postcards you mail.

You may also drop off the signed postcards with me at the convention, and I will mail them on your council's behalf throughout the month of August, as I did last year. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the Convention and be sure to visit the Communications table, say hello, view many Parish Council Newsletters from across the Diocese and pick up some information.

Sub Convener:

Inez Meleca

**Dignity and Rights of Persons**

During January we became aware of three deaths of homeless persons due to extremely cold weather. These people who passed away had no place to live; they could have been suffering from different illnesses of some sort so they lived on the streets. When the weather drops to below freezing temperature, homeless people have no place to go so they seek shelter anywhere they can. Most people who live on the streets reside there because they are afraid of going to shelters, and because of this fear they feel more comfortable with the friends they make on the streets.



Since this was such a high profile situation, the city of Toronto opened warming centres ahead of a weather alert to house more of the homeless. However, this only puts a plaster on the plight of the homeless. More housing is needed to assist this population of people so that they will have some dignity.

**Human Trafficking**

On February 8, 2015, the church commemorated the life of Saint Josephine Bakhite, a Canossian Sister, who was kidnapped and sold into slavery in Sudan. This day was observed as a Feast Day of Prayer and fasting for Victims of Trafficking, and those who work to combat it, in the Archdiocese of Vancouver at this time.

Pope Francis stated “Human Trafficking is a crime against humanity.” It is a disgrace that people are treated “as objects, deceived, raped, sold many times for different purposes, killed, or physically and mentally damaged.”

Each year there are anywhere from 2.5 to 3 million people who are victims of trafficking and slavery. On the other hand, the traffickers and pimps see this as lucrative illegal activities which generate a total of 32 billion dollars, and is the third most profitable “business” after drugs and arms trafficking.

***“JOIN US IN DAILY PRAYER TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING”***

**Refugees and Immigration**

Canada has made a promise to accept a large number of refugees this year. With the crisis that is going on now all over the world it is a great to know that our country has stepped up to the challenge to accept people from all

over the world, and give them a better life. At the present time the refugees live in tents and shelters, each one sleeping on each other with hardly anything to eat.

Although the Canadian government is committed to bringing these people into the country, they are hoping that some agencies will help in sponsoring some of them. Parishes are encouraged to assist where they can with the influx of new refugees until they are settled. The date for the arrivals is not known but friends and families already here will help.

**Development and Peace**

Development and Peace has partnered with Caritas Iraq and American agency Catholic Relief Services to renovate abandoned houses in the Dohuk Governorate of Iraq’s Kurdish territory. In addition to putting windows and doors on the existing houses, the shelter program sponsored by D&P locates the legal owners and arranges long-term leases so that refugees will have secure tenure in their temporary homes. These homes can house three to four families at any given time.

Keep supporting D&P in your parish by becoming involved. Look at the work they do for everyone all over the world. Keep saving your used stamps and bring them with you at the convention I will take them to D& P office. Also, take your Christmas cards to a senior’s home in your area. They are used quite often in their activity centers.

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**EDUCATION AND HEALTH**

**Val Egerton**

Sub Conveners:

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

**CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

No doubt many of us have been tuning in to the concerns and discussions on the proposed changes to the Sex Education curriculum, which the Ontario Government is planning to introduce this September. To this end, Carol Richer, Provincial Education & Health Chair, has advised that the Catholic Women’s League will take its guidance from The Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario. Bishop Gerard



Bergie, chair of the bishops' education committee, is aware of the concerns of parents and will give direction in due course.

However, in the meantime we should turn our thoughts and actions to a campaign, which the Ontario Catholic Trustees' Association is undertaking. The Campaign has three Objectives: *“To clarify the role of the Catholic School Boards: To remind Ontario’s political leaders of the societal value of Catholic education; To strengthen the broad support base for publicly funded Catholic schools in Ontario.”* (*The Campaign – Faith in Our Future*).

Some of the ways in which we can support the campaign is by promoting “face to face” information meetings in the parishes and at our CWL Council meetings. The Association has prepared, and will be willing to provide upon request, brochures and documents with appropriate information for these events. Some of the other strategies mentioned are: lobbying the Government, utilizing the Social Media, and Engaging the Media with facts by sending letters to the editors. School boards have been provided with resources to promote media relations. More information can be found on <http://www.faithinourfuture.ca/take-action>.

Posters and marketing materials can be downloaded directly from the website: Encourage high school students to enter a Faith in our Future video contest <http://www.faithinourfuture.ca/media-enter>. For more information contact Ontario Catholic Trustees' Association at 416-932-9460.

## **HEALTH**

The cycle of life is dotted with highs and lows, some happy and some bordering on or being traumatic. According to the Mental Health Commission of Canada stress and anxiety are normal reactions to trauma. These reactions can be moderate or overwhelming, and could include reliving the events, getting “flashbacks”; experiencing uneasiness in circumstances which bring back these memories; and trying to avoid things which were associated with the experience. Other reactions could be to have less interest in your friends and the outside world - distancing oneself from the things which once gave you pleasure. Sometimes being given to irritability. The article suggests a program of self-care. First on the list of suggested strategies is to prioritize all personal safety and health needs. Included also is to get enough sleep, reduce caffeine intake to 300mg or less per day, get regular exercise, but the list did not include depending on one's faith, which for us Catholics according to Dr. Richard Johnson, a behavioral scientist, although he was addressing the topic of “optimal aging” at the time, said that we should “accent the centrality of one's faith in the whole

wellness mix”. (“Aging is *THE* master teacher of life, not a thief in the night.” - Dr. Richard Johnson).

Where the Mental Health Commission of Canada proposes “identify and challenge exaggerated words and pessimistic thoughts” we may inject reading the Bible or other appropriate faith-filled books. This would fit in with the self-care techniques suggested by the CMHC - “Use evidence-based anxiety websites or self-help books.” We know that prayer is a great healer!

### **HEALTH AND MEDICAL SCAMS**

Speaking of reading – the Competition Bureau Canada has introduced an excellent book called *The Little Black Book of Scams - Your Guide to Protection Against Fraud*.

The book was introduced by the government because: “Every year, Canadians lose millions of dollars to activities of scammers who bombard us with on-line, mail, door-to-door and telephone scams.” As we are addressing health, my emphasis will be on health and medical scams. Some of the scams offer products and services which are an alternative to medicine - promising cures for serious medical conditions. Some television programs and magazines are sources of scams to lose weight, through restrictive diets, “fat-busting” devices, pills, beauty patches.

The internet provides a vehicle for the emergence of fake online pharmacies which offer drugs and medicines at cheap prices without a doctor’s prescription. Of course there are legitimate online pharmacies, but these sites will have their full contact details, and will require a prescription.

Some of the other scams included in *The Little Black Book* are “Emergency Scams” which prey upon the elderly to rob them of their money. Others include Dating and Romance Scams, Charity Scams, Job and Employment Scams, just to mention a few. The publication is available online in HTML at <http://www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/eic/site/cb-bc.nsf/eng/03074.html>.

My closing advice is to mirror a quote by Terri Guillemets: “My own prescription for health is less paperwork and running barefoot through the grass” - which I plan to do!



## LEGISLATION

**Dorine Dubreuil**

Sub-Conveners: Imelda Santos  
Ilona Binns

As I sit looking out the window this very cold, sunny day, I can't help thinking about the less fortunate and the homeless. Did they find shelter last evening, did they all survive the cold, did they have food? In my winter newsletter report, I asked members to remember our brothers and sisters in Christ. I made suggestions as to how we can become involved. It is encouraging to hear what councils have been doing to help those in need. Councils have engaged in helping at soup kitchens, providing lunches in the church hall, donations of food and clothing for the Out of the Cold program. One council engaged the parish to help collect toiletries, coffee cards, candy, etc., to make Valentine gift bags for the clients at a street center in the community. I cannot begin to imagine the joy these people will feel when they receive these gifts. One council engaged a speaker who in his younger years had issues, made bad choices and lived on the street. Today he is a successful businessman. There are some happy endings.



We need to familiarize ourselves with our local municipal mayor and councillors. What are they doing to improve this situation? Are developers building affordable housing in new subdivisions? All levels of government need to work together to formulate a plan of action. We need to advocate for those in need.

### **Bill 20: Ryan's Law (Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools) 2014 An Act to protect pupils with asthma**

This bill was introduced July 17, 2014, and was referred to the standing committee on Social Policy on October 23, 2014. The Bill requires that every school board establish and maintain an asthma policy, which must include strategies to reduce the risk of exposure to asthma triggers, a communication plan for the dissemination of information on asthma, regular training on recognizing asthma symptoms and managing asthma exacerbations, a requirement that every school principal develop an individual plan for each pupil who has asthma and that every school principal maintain a file for each pupil with asthma. The individual plan for a pupil with asthma must include details about the monitoring and avoidance strategies and appropriate treatment, emergency procedure for the pupil and

details for the storage of the pupil's asthma medication. School principals must allow the pupil to carry their own asthma medication if the pupil has the permission of their parents or guardian.

**Action:** Councils organize letter-writing campaigns to their MPP's to support this legislation.

**Bill 45: Making Healthier Choices Act 2014**

**An Act to enhance public health by enacting the Healthy Menu Choices Act 2014 and the Electronic Cigarette Act 2014**

Introduced November 24, 2014, and is now at second reading. This Bill is dealing with three schedules.

**Schedule 1:** Healthy Menu Choices Act, 2014: owners and operators of regulated food service premises are required to display the number of calories in each standard food item sold on the premises. Regulated food service premises are food service premises that sell meals for immediate consumption, and that belong to a chain with 20 or more Ontario locations.

**Schedule 2:** Smoke-Free Ontario Act: Assorted amendments are made to the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. Among them: The sale of flavoured tobacco products is prohibited, subject to a power to prescribe exemptions. The list of places that an inspector is specifically empowered to enter is broadened.

**Schedule 3:** Electronic Cigarettes Act 2014: The restrictions are placed on the sale and use of electronic cigarettes. The sale and supply of electronic cigarettes to a person under 19 is prohibited. Restrictions are placed on the display and promotion of electronic cigarettes. The use of electronic cigarettes is prohibited in enclosed workplaces, enclosed public places and certain other places

**Action:** Study resolutions 2014.02 and 2014.03 engage in letter-writing to your MPP.

**Bill C-452 An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons)**

This bill is currently at second reading in the Senate. The purpose of this Bill is to help victims of human trafficking obtain justice and to ensure they are better protected. In Canada, it is estimated that between 80 and 90 per cent of victims of trafficking are destined for the sex industry. Every year it is estimated that 1500-2000 women and children are victims of human trafficking.

**Action:** Councils to study and organize letter-writing campaigns to their MP's to support this legislation.

# RESOLUTIONS

**Hilarion Mitchell**

Sub Convener:

Patricia Wilson  
Wilma Van Den Herk

## **The Resolutions Process Continues**

By now, most resolutions chairs have settled into their role and are working diligently to inspire and educate their members about this standing committee.



- Did you take the time to review any of the League resources, websites and timely read directives from the other levels of the League?
- How have you prepared your members to get ready for the upcoming Toronto, provincial and national diocesan conventions?

This standing committee provides an opportunity for members to witness their faith influence others and elected officials. We are preparing for the 2015 resolutions but we still have resolutions from previous years that have not been implemented by the various government and other authorities. Each level of the League has resolutions that require our persistence to educate members through speakers, personal visits and/or letter to address gaps or concerns identified. Select the newly-minted and forgotten resolutions that are still active to address with members at general meetings. With so much resolution information at your disposal, there should always be resolution activity to bring to members attention.

## **Toronto Diocesan 2015 Resolutions Convention News**

We have been gifted this year with the two resolutions below that were provided in the convention packages at Development Day in February. These resolutions should be read, discussed and voted on at the March or April general meetings in order to have sufficient time to obtain members' feedback. The voting process does not mean that the councils have to make a choice between both resolutions. Instead, the vote means that the council is aware of the issues presented in the resolutions and may make amendments or changes to them. This is an important step which allows the council's voting and accredited delegates to represent the council with an informed vote.

### **TDC 2015.01 Mandatory Screening, Training and Supervision to Prevent Abuse and Protect Minors**

Currently there is no mandatory provincial or federal laws requiring Police Vulnerable Sector Checks (PVSC) screening, training and supervision of those who provide care for minors. The standard of protection and abuse prevention is inconsistent across the public and private sectors between jurisdictions and the provinces. The request for mandatory standardization of PVSC screening, training and supervision will protect minors from abuse by workers and volunteers.

### **TDC 2015.02 Reinstatement of the Mandatory Long Form Census Questionnaire**

The federal government replaced the mandatory long form census questionnaire in 2010 with the voluntary Household Survey (NHS). The mandatory long form census questionnaire is an essential tool to enable business, social planning, research and development of programs and policies for the well-being of Canadians. There have been calls from private and public sectors to reinstate the long form census questionnaire.

**Action:** Councils or individuals wishing to make amendments or changes to the resolutions are to submit them to this Diocesan Resolutions Standing Committee Chair no later than **Wednesday April 15, 2015**.

### **Resolutions Dialogue Session**

This will be held on **Thursday, April 30, 2015 starting at 9:30 am**. (Note the earlier start this year). The Dialogue Session is open to all members attending the convention but pre-registration is required to ensure that there is ample seating for all. The Dialogue Session is an informal setting that provides an opportunity for members to discuss the draft resolutions before they are presented in the formal setting to the Convention assembly. Last year, about 200 members attended and the majority enjoyed the experience. A number of attendees requested an overhead projector to display the resolutions which will be available this year. The originating councils for each resolution will provide background and their reasons for the resolution. There will be a facilitator at each table to keep the discussions and questions relevant so that members understand the issues as we strengthen the resolutions. Suggested changes to the resolutions are written up on the appropriate motion sheets. The mover and the seconder to the changes must sign the motion sheets and be present during the formal presentation of the resolutions during the business session.

**Action:** Members are to check-off on the convention registration form if they are attending the Dialogue Session.

## Resolutions Business Session

Both draft resolutions will be presented the morning of **Friday, May 1, 2015**, during the business session. Speakers knowledgeable on the resolution topics are invited to provide an overview to the convention assembly. However, they are a neutral resource so they do not influence the outcome of the resolutions. A short Q & A period is provided for members to obtain more clarity on the topics. The draft resolutions are read by the TDC Resolutions Chair after each speaker. A motion is made and is seconded, with the originating council given the first opportunity to speak to the resolution. Changes discussed at the Dialogue Session and other arising during the discussions are heard in this formal business setting under the *Standing Rules of a Convention*. After discussions and amendments, motions will be made to adopt or withdraw the resolutions. Following the convention, the adopted resolutions are sent to the Ontario Provincial Standing Resolutions Committee with the goal that they are accepted for presentation to the 2015 Provincial Convention assembly in Niagara Falls. This step increases the chances that the resolution will move to National.

**Action:** Members wishing to speak to the resolutions at the convention must use the microphone, identify themselves stating their name and council and keep within the allotted time.

## One Heart, One Voice, One Mission, One Family in Christ!

One of Pope Francis' suggested resolutions for 2015 asked the faithful to "Take care of our brothers and sisters who are weaker ... the elderly, the sick, the hungry, the homeless and strangers, because we will be judged on this." These resolutions are in keeping with the Pope's request and will allow us to put our faith into action. It is amazing how a spark of an idea that started with an individual member ignites other members at the council, diocesan, provincial and national levels of the League, our elected officials, and ultimately the rest of society. As I conclude my last article as your Resolutions Chair 2013-2015, I thank each of you for all your contributions in enhancing the important role of this standing committee.



# NEWSLETTER

# Tracy MacInnis & Alice Warford

Sub Convener:

Patricia Cross



This spring issue of the Toronto Diocesan Newsletter is all about new beginnings. Many parish councils have elected in new executive councils. New presidents and their councils have been attending the newly formed Diocesan Parish Executive Training courses (PET) in



their regions. With this spring season, new life will soon sprout from our gardens as the sun gets warmer and the days get longer.

As you have read in many of the reports in this edition, our Toronto Diocesan Executive have written their last reports in their current roles. For Mary Hawkey, our Past President/Historian, this will be her last report ever in this booklet. Mary Capobianco celebrates the end of her term as President and Shirley Christo moves in to fill Mary's shoes. As for the rest of us, it is an election year and we're not quite sure what the future has in store for us. For those who have let their names stand for election, they hope to be elected, but that is up to all of you. And, there are a few of our current executive who are ready to *hang up their Manuals, C & B's, and other resource material* to spend more time with their husbands, children, grandchildren and families. Their talents and smiling faces will be missed around the table.

This is the last issue of the Newsletter that we will be editing. It has been a wonderful learning experience. God blessed us with an amazing sub-convener who made sure we dotted all our "i's", crossed all of our "t's" and corrected all grammar and spelling mistakes. Also, through these two years, we have come to know a lot of you through missteps in printing service awards and anniversaries, undelivered copies and a few accolades from our fans.

Being Newsletter Editor is challenging work and at the same time, very rewarding. We had a few laughs and enjoyed our two-year term. Now it's time for a fresh take and someone new to shake things up! In the meantime, you can continue to send us your subscription renewals and service award submissions. We'll make sure the new gal gets everything!

