

# TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

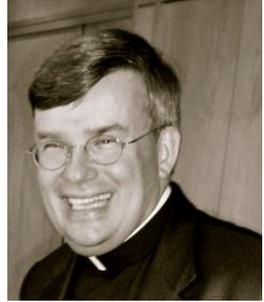
## NEWSLETTER

Winter 2015

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The Year of Mercy as proclaimed by Pope Francis begins on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8th. It is worth reflecting on the meaning of this word we use so often. In the classical world that surrounded Jesus' Palestine, the first meaning of the word is something like "tender-heartedness". "*Miseria*" in Latin refers to profound unhappiness. "*Misericordia*", would literally be a heart for those who are profoundly unhappy.



If you look in the Old Testament for the uses of the mercy, there are a multitude of textures. "What I desire is mercy, not sacrifice" (Hosea 6:6). A tender heart for those in need propels one to loving acts at the service of the other. In the psalms there are numerous calls made to God to rescue the Lord's people from misery. Mercy is a kind of restoration, a return to wholeness and a fulsome relationship with God.

In the Gospels we have many instances where Jesus takes initiative to lift up those who are bowed down, whether by physical illness, poverty or who suffer in other ways. Striking in these accounts is how these acts of Jesus are so deliberate and decisive. "Go and sin no more". "Your faith has saved you." Mercy, then is much more than kindness. Mercy, in Christ, is to place us within the realm of true life, life that is in union with the kingdom inaugurated by Jesus. God's mercy is directed at truly making us whole, alive, holy. As St. Paul says of love in his first letter to the Corinthians so famously, "love is not selfish". Mercy is not selfish but is inherently outward-moving.

If we find ourselves in a state of persistent unhappiness, we can take comfort that God's merciful love is for us. One of my great joys is working with young couples who are envisioning their future life. At a moment when they may not be thinking much about it, we spend some time reflecting on how God's love for us includes, "the good, the bad, and the ugly". So often we don't give much thought to those areas of our life that are truly good; we just take them for granted. We need to appreciate these things and adopt a genuine attitude of thankfulness about them, while giving them the permission to spread seed into the other areas of our life. What we think of as bad may leave us discouraged, while we commend these things in our prayers. Are we expecting a simple answer to our prayers? Do we not

realize that God’s ways are not our ways, that graces will come to us in ways that we don’t expect? Inadvertently, we can become self-centred and focus on how our problems haven’t been solved. This can really compound our sense of struggle.

What about the “ugly ducklings” of our life? Most of us have parts of ourselves we don’t know what to do with. I reassure the couples I work with, that these are sometimes the best things. These messy areas of our life remind us not to take ourselves too seriously, to be open to others’ help and input, and even to enjoy making a mess of things! It is exactly this sort of thing that becomes a communal lesson in mercy. A perfect life as we might see it in our mind’s eye, if God were to grant it to us, could very well turn out to be quite miserable. All too often our vision, left to its own devices, will leave us more isolated than is really good for us. Equally, it takes away any sense of the unknown or of adventure that is as important to our spiritual and emotional lives as the blood that courses through our bodies. Wholeness and holiness does change our perspective as we learn with St. Paul to live more and more “in Christ.”

This year provides us with the opportunity to make great strides in our family life, our parish life and in the authentic response to God’s call to holiness for each of us. May Our Lady of Good Counsel, whose wisdom comes from profoundly listening to and receiving the Word of God, intercede for us all, as we seek to live with tender hearts of mercy.

In Christ,

*Fr. Bob O’Brien*

Spiritual Advisor  
Toronto Diocesan Council



*“God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy.”*  
(Pope Francis)

As I compose this newsletter entry, we are fast approaching the end of our regional meetings. Especially during November, as we continue to find our place in leadership, we remember with gratitude all those deceased sisters in the League and spiritual advisors whose mentorship and selfless actions have guided us in our spiritual development and direction in the League. *May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.*



These fall regional meetings have been such a wonderful opportunity for the Toronto Diocesan Council to capture part of each local CWL story through the presidents’ highlighted reports. We look forward to receiving each council’s whole story in your 2015 annual report. I am eager to help the diocesan executive compile and share them at the diocesan, provincial and national levels and to have them documented for publication for our convention.

During the Provincial CWL fall meeting, President Pauline Krupa shared with us the Papal announcement of the “Jubilee of Mercy”. In explaining the many ways that we can gain indulgences, she drew attention to

emulating the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy in all that CWL does. She further assigned each diocese one of their three choices for a Blessed to imitate, to pray for and to celebrate in their potential journey from Beatification to Canonization.

*Works of Mercy*

<p><b>THE SEVEN CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Feed the hungry.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Give drink to the thirsty.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Clothe the naked.</i></li> <li>4. <i>Shelter the homeless.</i></li> <li>5. <i>Visit the sick.</i></li> <li>6. <i>Visit the imprisoned.</i></li> <li>7. <i>Bury the dead.</i></li> </ol>	<p><b>THE SEVEN SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Counsel the doubtful.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Instruct the ignorant.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Admonish sinners.</i></li> <li>4. <i>Comfort the afflicted.</i></li> <li>5. <i>Forgive offenses.</i></li> <li>6. <i>Bear wrongs patiently.</i></li> <li>7. <i>Pray for the living and the dead.</i></li> </ol>
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Please note Hilarion's informative article (Spiritual Development), which includes our assigned Blessed and a proposed project for all members to gain indulgences to be detailed at our winter regional meetings.

This time of year is also a time for doing membership drives and for having elections to determine your new parish councils. Do you know that our most successful parish to gain membership did not have a specific membership drive? Rather the CWL council faithfully hosted and /or assisted with hosting events and then collected membership dues during them. This year, why not think about an event that your council could help with in the larger parish and /or community that emulates some dimension of either the spiritual or corporal works of mercy instead of the usual membership drive? Then have an opportunity available for the female participants sixteen years of age and older to join. Be sure to read your Toronto Diocesan Organization Chair Ann D'Souza's article for many more membership recruitment tips. I also direct you to the Toronto Diocesan website under Resources for an excellent "Key Points" election tip sheet (Scroll the Parish Information section to Elections).

I welcome all new and returning presidents into your leadership role and journey with you as we attempt to follow Jesus' example of true servant leadership with integrity, depth and humility. Towards this end, thank you in advance for ensuring that your council membership dues are submitted promptly to national and that you inquire early of your executive and members about what resources they need to fully function in their positions. It is also our responsibility to do an assessment of what training is required and work with the organization chair and the appropriate levels of the League to arrange a training session and/or a Leadership Course.

For all those who planned for, attended, and/or participated in our fall CWL project "Truth about Palliative Care" there were many facts revealed and/or affirmed:

1. Never doubt the Power of Prayer as stated many times in the bible.
2. Excellent whole person Ethical Palliative Care is the answer for End of Life Care, not Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted death.
3. Canadians need education and awareness not only about what Palliative Care is, but also about ethical palliative sedation as opposed to a lethal dose.
4. Health professionals want to continue to provide palliative care according to their code of ethics and freedom of conscience.
5. TIME is needed to establish a Pan-Canadian Ethical Palliative Care strategy as outlined in the Canadian bill M456.

6. TIME is needed to implement World Health Organization (WHO)'s resolution (WHA) #67.19 passed in May, 2014, titled *"Strengthening of Palliative Care as a component of comprehensive care throughout the life course"*.
7. TIME is needed for WHO to work with Ageing and Life Course director Dr. John Beard to implement the Second Global Strategy and Action Plan on Healthy Ageing inclusive of access for all to Palliative Care initiatives.
8. TIME COULD BE PROVIDED in Canada through Section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and as urged by national CWL in resolution 2015.04 for the Carter v. Canada case (notwithstanding clause).

Thank you in advance for noting the newsletter entries for Sue (Resolutions), Andrea (Legislation) and Debbie (Education & Health) for details re writing letters to the governments, educating the members of your communities and for monitoring responses to your requests from officials.

On behalf of the Toronto Diocesan Council, I wish you and your families a truly Blessed Christmas and much Peace, Joy and Love as we move into 2016 and the Jubilee of Mercy.

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Ordinandi Dinner 2015: Fr. David Twaddle and his mother Janet Twaddle CWL Member at St. Justin Martyr Parish, Unionville.

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”* (Romans 15:13)

**Sub-Conveners:**

- |                              |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Catholic Missions In Canada  | Patricia Gyulay     |
| Lay Ministries               | Laurie van den Hurk |
| Women's Inter-Church Council | Claudette Wilson    |

Christmas is a time of joy, love and hope as we wait for the coming of Jesus Christ. It is also a time for us to show charity to those who are less fortunate than ourselves by practicing the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. For 2016, we must resolve to stay faithful to Christ in the resolutions that we make to guide us during the year.



**New Spiritual Development Chairs**

Thank you to outgoing and current Spiritual Development Chairs for your role in advancing this standing committee. Welcome all new Spiritual Development Chairs as you start to familiarize yourself with your spiritual development responsibilities as outlined in the Constitution & Bylaws 2013, the National Manual of Policy & Procedure 2014, Executive Handbook 2014 and other League resources. Also, there is a spiritual advisor brochure, *A Guide for Spiritual Advisors*, that is available from National office. This brochure provides your spiritual advisor (parish priest) with a high level overview of the League. There are many spiritual gifts that you bring or will develop over the next two years. We are all gifted! Continue to receive and listen to the Holy Spirit.

**Action:**

- Use this newsletter and the many League resources and websites at all levels of the League as you discern and share our Catholic faith to members of your council.

**Evangelization and Mission Assistance**

Take advantage of the many retreats and Masses during Advent, such as the Feasts of The Immaculate Conception (December 8) and Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12). At the time of preparing this article, many of the retreats may have occurred or will be occurring just as you receive your newsletter.

**Action:**

- Visit the Archdiocese of Toronto's website, tab Catholic Outreach, Calendar/events at [archtoronto.org/catholic-outreach/calendar-events](http://archtoronto.org/catholic-outreach/calendar-events)
- **Celebrating the Mercy of God:**

- **Our Call to Reconciliation**

**Wednesday December 2,9,16 2015 Time: 7:30 pm-9:00pm**

**Holy Family Parish, 60 Allan Drive, Bolton**

This three-part reflection will invite participants to deepen their understanding of Jesus' message of mercy and reconciliation. God calls each of us to be reconciled and to reflect the mercy of God. The sessions will focus on the gifts that flow from reconciliation: freedom, forgiveness and peace. Discussion and reflection will assist participants in recognizing God's healing and transforming work of reconciliation in their lives and offer a fresh approach to celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation.

**The Office of Formation for Discipleship**

The Office of Formation for Discipleship of the Archdiocese of Toronto assists parishes to nurture the faith formation of adults, with an understanding of the teachings of Catholic Church. There are over 50 different programs available on topics such as Foundations of Faith, Social Apostolate, Catechetics, Spirituality and Liturgical Ministries. The sessions are offered to parishes free of charge and they can also invite other parishes if they are interested in hosting an event.

**Action:**

- Contact The Office of Formation for Discipleship office at 416-934-3400 ext. 523 or visit the Archdiocese of Toronto's website at [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org)

**Catholic Missions in Canada (CMIC)**

Catholic Missions in Canada seeks to sustain and extend the Catholic faith in isolated, poor and hard-to-reach mission areas in Canada in communities where diocesan resources are insufficient to keep the Church alive. CMIC is one of the League's National Voluntary Funds. The support of councils and members allows CMIC to continue their mission.

**Action:**

- Councils and individuals are encouraged to continue their generous support of CMIC through the League's National Voluntary Fund.
- Visit the CMIC website at [www.cmic.info](http://www.cmic.info) for more information including their fundraising 2016 Calendar - At the Table of the Lord.

## **Festival Day**

The Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada Festival Day is a day of preparation for the World Day of Prayer Service in the Toronto area. The host country will be introduced and all attendees will receive a resource packet including a copy of the World Day of Prayer Service. There will be a bible study time based on the scripture for the theme of the service. It is a time of inspiration and fellowship with other Christians who also believe and want to support the needs of women and children around the world through grants that are given with the offerings from the World Day of Prayer Service.

Date: Saturday, January 9, 2016 from 9:15 am to 1:45 pm

Location: Yorkminster Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge Street  
(north of St. Clair Ave.)

Donation: \$15 (to cover the cost of church rental, speakers, etc.)

Lunch: Please bring a bag lunch

## **World Day of Prayer**

The Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada World Day of Prayer will be held on Friday, March 4, 2016. It is a worldwide gathering of Christians and in Canada includes eleven denominations to observe a common day of prayer annually. It promotes the understanding of women of other countries, languages and cultures through an ecumenical service to enrich the Christian faith. This year the women of Cuba are being honored.

### **Action:**

- Attend Festival Day above. Check within your local area for the churches that are hosting the World Day of Prayer service for 2016.

## **Deceased Members**

In the Papal letter, *Promotion of the New Evangelization*, the Pope states that “the Jubilee Indulgence can also be obtained for the deceased. We are bound to them by the witness of faith and charity that they have left us. Thus, as we remember them in the Eucharistic celebration we can, in the great mystery of the Communion of Saints, pray for them, that the merciful Face of the Father free them of every remnant of fault and strongly embrace them in the unending beatitude”.

### **Action:**

- Remember deceased members during the Year of Mercy through the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy by showing charity toward others.
- Promptly report deceased members so that they are recorded in the Book of Life at all levels of the League.

## **Holy Year of Mercy**

The Provincial CWL is asking members to seek the Jubilee indulgence for this Year of Mercy as indicated in the Papal letter, by challenging the various committee chairs and executive to incorporate the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy into all of our CWL actions. Each diocese was asked to choose a saint or a blessed to become more familiar with and to pray for their canonization. The Toronto Diocesan Council (TDC) chose Blessed Mother Teresa. The National CWL in the second year of the theme **One Heart, One Voice, One Mission**, will incorporate the Year of Mercy.



A TDC Spiritual Project is being developed to incorporate the **Holy Year of Mercy** and the current League theme **One Heart, One Voice, One Mission** for councils to work on during 2016. The project will be posted on the TDC website before the end of the year.

### **Action:**

- Visit the Vatican Jubilee of Mercy website at [www.iubilaeummisericordiae.va](http://www.iubilaeummisericordiae.va)
- Visit the TDC website for Toronto Diocesan CWL Holy Year of Mercy Project

## **Ordinandi Spiritual Bouquet 2016**

Information on the collection of the Spiritual Bouquet is found under the Christian Family Life Report on page 19.

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# ORGANIZATION

Ann D'Souza

Sub-Conveners:

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

## Membership

CWL can only be strong if our membership numbers keep growing, members are the lifeblood of our organization. As of October 1st, Toronto had a decrease of 297 members, in spite of 28 councils showing an increase. Thank you for renewing your membership.



Help your executive in your council - if you notice that the membership numbers have dropped, take action to identify the problem, gift a year's membership to your family and friends who are not members.

Are members beginning to lose interest and eventually drop their involvement and stop being members? In some councils, member retention problem seems to happen year after year; this is a sign to check and reignite the fire. Take steps to retain members and attract new ones. Members who join want to feel part of the organization - get them engaged, each member has a talent, ask them to share their talents, make them feel welcome.

Organization chairs, please check out the monthly attendance sheet; if you see a member who has been away for a while, call her, by doing this you will have loyal members for life because they know they matter and someone cares enough to call on them if they are not seen at events and meetings.

Word of mouth is the best method to increase your membership. Appreciate your members. The service pins are one way of recognizing them. At your year-end get-together, recognize those members who help at events. Everyone likes to be appreciated!

Soon you will be having your annual membership drive. You should start advertising in your church bulletin now - "have a monthly blurb" on all the good things you do to the community at large.

- Form a committee - have a brain storming session on ways to reach out to your parishioners. You will be surprised at the ideas that will flow out when you do this.
- Ask your pastor if you can do an announcement at each Mass, having the message delivered from a member will have a good impact on the parishioners.
- Invite parishioners for Tea/Coffee at your membership drive, and have your members stationed in the hall and passage with eye-catching flyers and ready to answer all questions.
- Have a display board at the drive, with large photographs of your events, and fun-filled activities that you organize throughout the year.

### **Annual Reports**

As I write this report (end of October) I have received reports from two councils. All of the diocesan executive are waiting to hear from each of the councils on all the good work done in your parish. As you may know, all the work you do will be captured by them in their annual reports. So, if your council has not yet sent in your report, please do so. Thank you in advance for all the work you do.

### **Membership Development**

A reminder to let your regional chair know if you require PET (Parish Executive Training). We have trainers in each region to give this course.

### **Development Day**

Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 27, 2016 (8:30am – 3:00pm). Please send in your registration before the deadline (February 16, 2016). Parish Presidents, please urge your members to attend, fill in the registration form (see page 21).

## **PAST PRESIDENT/ HISTORIAN**

**Mary Capobianco**

As we prepare for these cold winter months, there is also much work to be done in your councils. It is time for completing the annual reports and for some councils to prepare for elections.



### **Annual Reports**

We've just completed visits to the seven regional meetings where the presidents of the parishes gave wonderful reports on one or two highlights from this

year (2015). Therefore, the process has already begun. As past president, you know the importance of the annual reports and sharing your council's accomplishments with the rest of the diocese. Offer your assistance and encouragement to your council executive to help them complete their annual reports.

### **Parish Council Elections**

If your council is due for elections, you may be called upon to act as the nominations chair. To prepare for this very important role, be sure to review the document *Parish Elections Key Points* available on our website at [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca). The document can be found under *Resources* and then by selecting *Reference Documents*.

When the nominations have been made, you and the elections sub-committee are required to contact each nominee. What a wonderful opportunity to act as a mentor. Encourage the nominees and let them know that you are confident in their abilities. Offer to be there for them should they get elected and have any questions. The quality of your next executive can be influenced by your attitude during these contacts.

If this is an election year for your council and you are the outgoing past president, then be sure to write a summary of your presidency. This is usually two to three pages in length but it should capture the highlights of what took place during your term. As historians, it is up to us to record for history, the wonderful story of the League in our parishes. This legacy will be lost if **WE** do not record it as it happens.

### **Archives**

Archives are the permanent history of the League. The preservation of archives is a priority for all past presidents and should be reviewed and updated every two years. The president may also assign an archive sub-committee made up of past presidents and/or experienced council members to accomplish this task.

All archives should be kept in a locked cabinet on church property. An inventory of archival materials should also be maintained and updated every two years. Three copies of the inventory will ensure continuity. One copy is kept with the archives, one copy is kept in the past president's files and one copy should be given to the president and noted in the minutes.

### **Recommended Filing of Information**

Beware of using current media methods to preserve your history. Keep in mind that today's technology changes quickly and will most likely not stand

the test of time. Remember diskettes, cassettes and VHS tapes?

- Binders (large three ring) and acid-free file folders or large envelopes are usually the best manner in which to preserve historical information.
- Photograph albums, with names, dates, location and occasion noted, are invaluable.
- All information (especially newspaper clippings) should include names, publication and date.
- Treasurers' books (ledgers only) are retained and may be placed in archives after six years (six years, counting from the end of the current tax year). Cheques and receipts, etc., are also kept for six years and then destroyed.

Certain records must be kept permanently and should be kept in dated binders or folders best organized by chair position and/or event. We are often asked *What are permanent records?* The following are examples of permanent records:

- a. **Secretary:** all meeting minutes and motions books as well as the corresponding executive reports provided.
- b. **Treasurer:** Annual Audited/ Reviewed Financial Statements.
- c. **Organization:** All membership lists.
- d. **Corresponding Secretary:**
  - List of the Executive Teams, (including Spiritual Advisors);
  - list of recipients of the Maple Leaf Service pins, other League pins or certificates and Anniversary pins. Remember to include the presentation dates on the lists.
- e. **Other:** Other items may include written histories of your parish council, scrapbooks and/or albums labeled with date and event, special projects (including the financial statements of the project), sample parish newsletters, council's Manual of Policy and Procedure and of course, the past president's "story" of her term as president.

The above is a short summary of the archive guidelines. For complete information you can refer to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure, Archives Guidelines for League History.*

## **Mentoring Award**

### **10th Annual Patricia Beattie Mentoring Award**

This is a good time to start discerning whom you think would be a good nominee for this award for 2015. What a wonderful opportunity to honour those special women who have been true mentors and counselors to you and

others in your council, in the League and beyond. The nominee should be someone who through her gifts of love and compassion, helped to develop confidence and has encouraged growth in others.

Each year at our convention, two winners are recognized. One for Category A - The Parish Level and one for Category B - The Auxiliary Level (for those who have continued their journey at other levels of the League - regional, diocesan, provincial or national).

This year to make the nomination process easier, the nomination forms have been reformatted. Also for your convenience, the forms will be made available and can be completed on line.

A copy of the nomination forms, including the criteria to be addressed, will be in the president's convention packages which will be distributed at our Development Day in February.

Please keep in mind that either an individual member or a council may submit a nomination, and all submissions must be received by April 10, 2016.

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## **RECORDING SECRETARY**

**Tracy MacInnis**

How do I make the role of recording secretary sound exciting? The truth is, I can't. As recording secretary you cannot be a major participant in the meeting. You can't perform both tasks well. One of the main reasons you may speak up is to clarify what was just said and by whom, to fully comprehend an idea. But, other than that, you're busy taking notes.



Why then would anyone, especially someone as boisterous as myself, take on such a position? Quite frankly, I wanted to learn more about the League and make a valuable contribution to our council. This position has forced me to sit quietly and actually listen to what is being said. You quickly learn to decipher the content and ideas from the chatter around the table and include only the important issues in the minutes.

You've heard it countless times - without the minutes, there is no history of your council, no record of decisions made and actions that were assigned. When members are confused or in disagreement about what happened in a

meeting, the minutes can clear up any misunderstandings. For this reason, your role as recording secretary is an invaluable one. Accurate minutes, properly recorded and saved, tell the story of what your council has done and plans to do.

What I have already learned is that minute of a meeting shouldn't be an exact recording of everything that happened at the meeting. After the basic information has been recorded, they can be saved and used as reference or background material for future meetings relating to the same topic. For this reason, don't try to record notes verbatim. The minutes are meant to give an outline of what happened in the meeting, not a record of who said what.

Also important is to avoid using inflammatory or personal observations in the minutes. The fewer adjectives and adverbs you use, the better. If you need to refer to other documents or reports, don't try to rewrite them in the minutes. Simply give them a one sentence synopsis and indicate where they can be found.

When you have completed the minutes, send them to your president or meeting chair for a quick review, or better yet, if you have a review committee, send them a copy of the first draft and ask for their input. Be sure to send the minutes to the attendees as soon as possible, giving them ample time before the next meeting to read and review the content. And finally, keep a copy of your notes for yourself, just in case someone would like to review them later.

There are many facets and roles to being a recording secretary, and for the purpose of this article, I decided to focus mainly on minute-taking. Other topics up for discussion can be a guide to preparing the agenda and when are minutes approved. We'll save these exciting talking points for future articles. However, if you're an eager beaver you can always refer to [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca) and download yourself a copy of the *Handbook for Secretaries*.

Happy Writing!!

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## TREASURER

**Donna Capobianco**

Time has quickly flown by and it's that time of year again to wrap up the financial records for the current year and plan ahead for the new year.

Information to help you with preparing annual financial statements for your councils, reference documents, samples of financial statements and budgets are all available on our website at [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca). The financial report gives us a picture of where we have been and what we have accomplished. It is also the time to have your council's financial records reviewed. This can be done by anyone with accounting knowledge but should not be a member of your current parish council executive.



In the annual report packages received by your presidents, there are two forms for Treasurers. One is for the Toronto Diocesan Voluntary Funds which is used for the donations to St. Michaels Scholarship and for the Hope for Children Fund. Although donations to these two important funds are accepted throughout the year, in order to be included in the 2015 Toronto Diocesan Annual report, they must be received before December 31, 2015. Please refer to our website for a copy of the remittance form with all the necessary information.

The other form included in the package is the Treasurer's Annual Report Form which breaks down donations into different categories and sums up all the donations made by your parish council. All the information we receive from our parish councils on these Treasurers' Annual Reports is then sent to the Provincial Treasurer, who in turn provides an annual report to the National Treasurer. In this way, all of your important activities and generosity in supporting our parishes and communities can be captured and recognized.

Preparing the budget for your council is an important part of the treasurer's role. If you have not already done so, there is still time. The budget is planned in consultation with the president and the executive and presented to the general membership for approval. The budget can be approved at the January meeting but should not be delayed past the end of the first quarter. The approved budget will give important guidelines for the year in matters pertaining to spending and donations. When preparing the budget, it is recommended to include a portion of your funds for members' development.

This would include such things as subsidies for members to attend CWL events, training courses and conventions. After all, the funds raised are due to the hard work of your members and this is an excellent way to give back to them, encourage their participation and to promote the League. A question often asked is "do we need to disperse all the funds in our bank account at end of the year"? It has been recommended that a reserve be kept on hand to cover the operating expenses for approximately one year if possible.

The 2016 per capita fees are due on January 1, 2016, and should be collected and remitted to National office no later than February 28th. Submitting the fees on time will ensure that members remain on National's mailing lists and will continue to receive the national League Magazine. Prompt remittance of membership fees will also ensure that the members are accredited their correct years of service. In order to be certain that your records are up to date, it's important for the Treasurer to work closely with the membership chair.

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## **CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE**

**Suzanne Cockburn**

Sub Convener:

Philomena Menezes

Christian Family Life Standing Committee covers a range of topics: Marriage & Family, Sanctity of Life, Vocations, Ministries to: Youth, Disabled, Seniors, Widowed, Separated, Divorced and Singles. I will try to focus on three or four of these areas in each of my Newsletter articles. Many councils will be having elections this year, so particularly for the new Christian Family Life Chairs, please remember the many resources that the CWL has available to members. Download a copy of the Christian Family Life Study Kit which contains excellent workshops for free, or purchase a copy at [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca).



### **Vocations**

The 26th Annual Ordinandi Dinner will be held on March 1, 2016, at the Pearson Convention Centre, 2638 Steeles Ave. E., Brampton, at Airport Road. The cost is \$70 for adults and \$35 for youth. The CWL has reserved tables for our members. Make cheques payable to "Serra Foundation" with a list of the attendee(s)' names and addresses and mail to: Suzanne

Cockburn, 184 John Tabor Trail, Scarborough, ON M1B 2R2, before the deadline **January 30, 2016**. Cheques may be postdated to January 30, 2016.

The Spiritual Bouquet should be sent directly to: Imelda Santos, 64 Porter Street, Bradford ON L3Z 1E8, or call 905-775-7819, or email [imelda.santos@sympatico.ca](mailto:imelda.santos@sympatico.ca) no later than **February 22, 2016**. Remember to invite your parish and nursing home residents to participate, and work with your Education and Health Chair to include their school Masses and daily prayers in the bouquet. Engage the youth and other ministries of your parish to assist. See your package for a list of suggestions. Last year the Ordinandi received over 1.5 million Spiritual Bouquets and were very appreciative, so let's not disappoint them this year.

### **Jubilee of Mercy**

The Jubilee will begin with the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, December 8, 2015. Subsequent doors will be opened on the third Sunday of Advent and conclude with the closing of the door on the feast of Christ the King, November 20, 2016. To obtain the Jubilee Indulgence, the faithful are called to make a brief pilgrimage to the Holy Door open in every Cathedral or in designated Churches (as well as the four Papal Basilicas in Rome) as a sign of the deep desire for true conversion. The Sunday readings during this year will be taken from the Gospel of Luke, "The Evangelist of Mercy". For more information and updates on the Jubilee of Mercy visit [im.va](http://im.va). You can also watch it on Salt & Light TV.

### **Sanctity of Life**

RU486, the first drug indicated for medical abortion, will be made available in January 2016. Please write letters to the Prime Minister, Minister of Health, Health Canada and the media, requesting them to stop the distribution of this pill and to initiate public hearings on this subject.

### **Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide update**

Regarding The Supreme Court of Canada's decision to strike down Section 241 (b) of the criminal code, the expert panel established by the Government of Canada is expected to deliver their final report this fall. Let's keep the pressure on the Government by writing those letters and sending in the postcards and letting them know that we want Palliative Care. Also, you can use the Campaign Life Coalition automated action tools at [www.campaignlifecoalition.com](http://www.campaignlifecoalition.com).

## **Marriage and Family**

The Vatican recently instituted reforms to the Church's marriage laws by introducing specific changes intended to expedite the process relating to marriage annulments. While these reforms will speed up decision-making in these cases, they do not change the Church's position regarding the nature and fundamental structure of marriage, nor do they change the standards by which nullity is judged.

For more information and courses on Marriage in our archdiocese, visit [archtoronto.org/marriage](http://archtoronto.org/marriage)

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

The recently-concluded Synod which took place October 4-24, had as its theme "The vocation and mission of the Family in the Church and the modern world". The broad-based Synod included consultations with academic institutions, organizations, lay movements and other ecclesiastical associations and addressed questions relating to family, marriage and sexuality as well as domestic violence, violence against women, incest and abuse within families, marriage preparation and pornography. At its conclusion, a two-thirds majority of the 200 Bishops attending, supported existing Church teaching on hot-button issues such as homosexuality and communion for divorced and remarried persons. However, among other things, the Bishops cautioned that the divorced and remarried, being baptized persons, must be "more integrated in the Christian community while avoiding every occasion of scandal".

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## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Feb. 27, 2016	Development Day Christ the King/Cristo Rei Parish
March 1, 2016	Ordinandi Dinner
March 4, 2016	World Day of Prayer
April 9, 2016	Mary Matthews Public Speaking Finals
April 26, 2016	Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel
May 5 & 6, 2016	TDC Convention – International Plaza
June 26, 2016	Aboriginal Mass, St. John the Evangelist, Durham

**Development Day 2016**  
Saturday, February 27, 2016  
Christ the King/Cristo Rei Parish  
3495 Confederation Parkway  
Mississauga, ON. L5B 3G5  
<http://www.cristoreiparish.org/>

Join your sisters in the League. Every year this day is set aside to bring together all League sisters in the Toronto archdiocese. The day is packed with activities on “*Ways to improve and develop ourselves, ways to be successful in what we do. Sharing our gifts and talents*”.

Anne Madden, Provincial Organization Chair, will be one of the speakers.

8:30 am	Registration
9:00 am	Mass
9:45 am	Refreshment break
10:00 am to 2:30pm	Speakers & workshop
3:00 pm	Closing prayer

Registration \$10:00. **Must be completed by February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**

Lunch: 12:00 pm - please bring a brown bag lunch; tea/coffee/juice provided

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Copy this section and return to:

Ann D’Souza, 5342 Ferret Court, Mississauga, ON L4Z 3M4.

Registration must be completed by February 16, 2016 - Cost \$10.00  
(cheques payable to Catholic Women’s League of Canada – note  
Development Day on subject line.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Council: \_\_\_\_\_

Region: \_\_\_\_\_

## **SERVICE AWARDS**

### **Maple Leaf Service Pin**

#### **Durham Region**

St. Mary of the People: Carol Smart      Denise Walmsley

### **65 Year Membership Pin**

#### **Peel Region**

St. Martin of Tours:      Joan Pashak

### **60-Year Membership Pin**

#### **Peel Region**

St. Martin of Tours:      Helen Callery

#### **Toronto Region**

Our Lady of Lourdes:      Breeda O'Sullivan

Holy Cross:      Madeleine Corrigan      Helen B McMahon

### **55-Year Membership Pins**

#### **North York Region**

Blessed Trinity:      Dorothy Murphy

#### **Toronto Region**

Our Lady of Lourdes:      Ann Madden

### **50-Year Membership Pins**

#### **Peel Region**

St. Martin of Tours:      Helen Pashak

#### **Toronto Region**

Holy Cross:      Mary Keane

#### **Durham Region**

St. Mary of the People: Lorraine Corey

### **45-Year Membership Pins**

#### **North York Region**

Blessed Trinity:      Patricia Murphy Masse

#### **Toronto Region**

Our Lady of Lourdes      Eileen Donnelly-Casey

### **40-Year Membership Pins**

#### **North York Region**

Blessed Trinity:      Jeanne Baund      Shirley Burak Regan

Maureen Cullen      Lena Cusimano      Rosemary Eckert

Gail Klosa      Velma Letterio      Caroline Ludwig

Helen Ludwig      Nancy Steiner      Rae Tonelli

**Peel Region**

St. Martin of Tours:	Olga Bakowsky	Peggy Hicks
Mary Hill	Dorothy McGuigan	Blanche Monteiro
Phyllis O’Dowd	Catherine O’Neill	Maureen Hurley

**35-Year Membership Pins**

**North York Region**

Blessed Trinity:	Barbara Landry	Rosalie Gregory
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**Scarborough Region**

St. Joseph Highland Creek:	Barbara Clifford
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**Peel Region**

St. Martin of Tours:	Alzira Monteiro
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**30-Year Membership Pins**

**North York Region**

Blessed Trinity:	Alice Kever
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**Toronto Region**

Holy Cross:	Margaret Dolan	Dorothy Acheson
	Mary Rennie	Claudette Wilson

**Peel Region**

St. Martin of Tours:	Marinette Shaw
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**25-Year Membership Pins**

**Toronto Region**

Holy Cross:	Marie Anderson	Marie Cervantes
	Anita Murnaghan	Barbara Pell
	Margaret Ferry	Glendora Weiler

Our Lady of Lourdes:	Carmen Moreno
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**Durham Region**

St. Mary of the People:	Kathy Cannon	Eileen Tessier
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**20-Year Membership Pins**

**North York Region**

Blessed Trinity:	Kathy Nelson	
St. Joseph the Worker:	Carol Fernancez	Irene Sztuka
Amelia Aliermo	Lisa Caldarola	Joanne Tata
Teresa Simone	Fatima Gocool	Cecilia Ferreira

**Peel Region**

St. Martin of Tours:	Jennifer Affonso	Dina De Leon
Cecilia Hortillo	Lucy Maggiotto	Anita Mascarenhas
Anita Sequeira	Maria Silveira	Maria Manna
	Margarida Rebelo	

## 10-Year Membership Pins

### **North York Region**

Blessed Trinity:	Blanka Barron	Maria Farzad	Irene Swiderski
St. Joseph the Worker:	Cathy Ferlisi		Rina McErlain
	Mary Lou Burton	Denise Wong	Elizabeth Alcinii
	Cecilia Iori	Caterina Gucciardi	Cathy Newton

### **Toronto Region**

Holy Cross:	Maria Dawson	Sina Willett
Our Lady of Lourdes:	Adelina Bautista Casinas	Jocelyn Yap
	Lourdes Montefalcon	Mae Sajorne

### **Humber Valley Region**

Nativity of our Lord:	Matilda Borg	Mariel Bueno
	Elizabeth Mariaselvanayagam	Ermina Pallotta
	Theresa Smith	Anne Vince

### **Durham Region**

St. Mary of the People:	Majorie Baker	Paula Campbell
	Pat Crost	Marie Devlin
	Perfeita Dias	Mary Gallo
	Nancy Golding	Stephanie Hyer
	Natalie Judge	Mary Kinsella
	Isabelle Kovacs	Irene Lubowitz
	Marilyn Lyons	Pam Mather
	Marjo McPherson	Nora Mopas
	Janice Nemeth	Anna Pulla
	Carol Pulla	Theresa Robertson
	Luisa Romano	Veronika Spengel
	Frances Stano	Silvana Tersigni
	Nancy Walsh	Verna Young

### **Peel Region**

St. Martin of Tours:	Maribeth Arbout	Myrna Nazareth
	Suzanne Tjokrowinoto	Angelia Silveira
		Florence Ong

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## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

*Congratulations to St. Joseph the Worker Council, North York Region  
on the occasion of their  
20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!*

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# COMMUNICATIONS

**Lucia Vacca**

Sub Conveners:

Kathleen Koyama  
Sonia Villanueva

Greetings to all Communications Chairs and a special welcome to the newly-elected. I am looking forward to meeting all of you, so be sure to introduce yourselves at our upcoming events: Development Day, Spring Regional Meetings and the Annual Diocesan Convention in May. This position is vital in keeping members informed of CWL activities. You can do this by making use of social media, creating a newsletter to highlight upcoming events and summaries of past events, advertising your events in your parish bulletins, posting flyers, sending emails to members, having a calling committee to contact members in order to keep them informed of upcoming events. If you have a parish website, post your events to encourage participation and keep your parish community informed.



## Annual Reports

We thank you for your participation in completing the 2015 Communications Annual Report. I hope that you were able to use the fillable forms posted on our website [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca). Your good news stories need to be shared. Please note, even if you do not have a Communications Chair, I am sure that your council has found ways to inform members of planned activities through the various forms of communication.

## Pornography Hurts Everyone Campaign

The pornography cards for this campaign were distributed to all Parish Council Presidents at each of the Regional Fall General Meetings. This campaign will officially begin when the new government is in place. The distribution of these cards was discussed at our National Convention



**Pornography  
Hurts Everyone**

and it was agreed to rotate the mailing of these cards. The Province of Ontario has been assigned the month of **January 2016** – no postage required. Be sure to put your Name, Address and a question. NOTE: each of these cards is worth 100 votes.

Our National website [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) has a PowerPoint presentation developed on this topic for your use. It was created by Christa Grillmair, Communications Chair from Victoria Diocese. To view and download this presentation go to <http://cwl.ca/communications-communicue-4/>

The Fall 2015 Provincial Trillium News and Views Newsletter ([www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca)) has additional information on this topic as well as an article “*Ten Points to Create Safe Environment for Children*” (pg.14-17).

### **Provincial On-line Newsletter**

Thank you to the councils who submitted articles for inclusion in the October 2015 Provincial Online Newsletter. I do hope that you have had an opportunity to read it. If not, take a look at the Provincial website [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca) and look for the October issue. The Fall 2015 Trillium News & Views was also issued, look for this under Trillium Newsletter.

### **Media**

Please continue to encourage all your members to visit the following websites: National - [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca); - Provincial - [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca); - Toronto - [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca).

Be sure to take a look at the Newsletters:

- Canadian League magazine (Spring/Winter/Summer) - this is received once you have paid your annual membership (due January 1, 2016)
- Ontario Provincial newsletter Trillium (Winter/Spring)
- Be sure to register or renew your subscription for the Toronto Diocesan Newsletter (Spring/Fall/Winter).

Register to receive the online monthly newsletters in your email each month

- National Be-League (issued every 15<sup>th</sup> of the month) and
- On-Line Provincial Newsletter.

Take a look at their respective Facebook pages.

Visit the National website and read the Communiqués from the Communications Chair, and also go to the Provincial website and read the Communications Chair’s Directives.

### **Movies**

Here are five movies to consider if you are planning a movie night or just want to sit and enjoy a good movie with your family and friends: “The Drop Box”, “God is Not Dead”, “Do You Believe”, “Heaven is Real” and “90 Minutes in Heaven”. All of these can be purchased from [www.amazon.ca](http://www.amazon.ca)

## Books

The following books may be of interest:

**Spiritual:** “A Spirituality of Caregiving” – Henri J.M. Nouwen,  
“Love is Our Mission – The Family Fully Alive” – A preparatory  
catechesis for the World Meeting of Families

**Social Media:** “The Parish Guide to Social Media” – Clarissa  
Valbuena Aljentera

“Connected Toward Communion” – Daniella Zsupan-Jerome

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## COMMUNITY LIFE

**Andrea Tjioe**

By now, I hope you have completed and submitted your annual reports as the deadline was November 15, 2015. I thank you for your submissions. But if you haven't, please do so as soon as possible, it is never too late. If you do not have a Community Life Chair in your council, perhaps your president or a member of the executive can fill in the Community Life Annual Report form. I'm looking forward to reading all the good works that you have been doing in your parishes, especially the hot topic worldwide on the status of the Syrian refugees.



I'm pretty sure that many of you have participated in “Project Hope”, a 100-day emergency appeal with a goal to raise \$3 million to bring in 100 refugee families to the Archdiocese of Toronto, which was launched by Cardinal Thomas Collins on September 8, 2015. There were two components to the project – the collection of funds and the mobilization of 100 volunteer sponsorship committees to journey with newcomers for a period of one year. At the end of October, halfway through the campaign, there were enough committees to sponsor 50 families and \$1.7 million had been raised. To learn about the progress, and also how you can participate in “Project Hope”, you can check the Archdiocese of Toronto website: [www.archtoronto.org/projecthope](http://www.archtoronto.org/projecthope). The Office for Refugees will provide mandatory training, orientation and resources for volunteer sponsorship committees.

Also, many of your members have participated in webinars offered by the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program regarding sponsorship through groups. This program addresses the initial information needs of sponsored

refugees. The RSTP is funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The following resources for private sponsorship groups are available:

- 1) The RSTP Sponsoring Group Handbook
- 2) The Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program

You can learn more about “Refugee Sponsorship Training Program” - check out the Canadian government website:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsor/private-rstp.asp>

A reminder to all councils that the Canadian government has announced that it will match donations made to organizations responding to the refugee crisis (Syria Emergency Relief Fund) including Development and Peace, CNEWA and Aid to the Church in Need. Donations made before December 31, 2015, are eligible for matching. Development and Peace has been working with Caritas partners in Europe to help bring relief to thousands of people who are trapped in limbo as they try to escape war, poverty and repression in their countries of origin.

The new Liberal government has been moving very quickly on key promises, including an expedited plan to bring in thousands of Syrian refugees. Our new Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship John McCallum confirmed that bringing in 25,000 Syrian refugees by year’s end remains a “firm objective” of the government. The federal government is looking to partner with provincial and municipal governments, non-government organizations and international institutions.

Doreen Gowans, National Community Life Chair has sent two links for viewing:

- 1) a powerful interview with Mr. Carl Hetu, head of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association Canada (CNEWA) by Salt & Light TV regarding the Ukraine.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrlRdG26WwQ>
- 2) a thanksgiving message from KAIROS on The Mass Blanket Exercise done in Ottawa.  
[info@kairoscanada.org](mailto:info@kairoscanada.org)

Pope Francis has declared January 17, 2016, to be the next World Day of Migrants and Refugees. The theme will be *Migrants and Refugees to Challenge Us. The Response of the Gospel of Mercy.*

Plan a Mass or prayer reflection and educate your members about the refugees in our world today. Each of us has a part to play in being the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.

## ***Prayer for Refugees***

*Sheltering God,  
You were born in flight,  
Your parents anxious and given no rest.  
The manner of Your birth calls me to  
Open-heartedness and sensitivity to the strangers in our midst.  
Help me not to flee Your challenge.  
The violence of the present time teaches me fear of the stranger,  
reluctant to reach out to those who are different.  
Grace me this day as I seek  
to see You in the faces of those uprooted,  
weary, as they seek refuge and peace. Amen.*

Christmas will soon be upon us, thinking about what to get for so and so, you might end up with a great big headache, and I for one definitely am not looking forward to the hustle and bustle of the shopping malls. Here are a few ideas of gifts of a different kind:

- “Gift of Time” volunteer as a family in food banks, soup kitchens, senior homes, Out of the Cold, bagged meals for the homeless, etc.
  - “Two Gifts in One” – give gifts in their name; ie. Chalice Canada (check out Chalice Gift Catalogue – for as little as \$10.00 for Mosquito Netting or \$15.00 for chicks and ducklings) or any monetary donation to your recipient’s favorite charity in their honour.
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Sub Conveners:

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

**Education**

**2015-2016 Youth Awards Program Package**

By now all parishes should have received their 2015-2016 Youth Awards Program package. Hopefully you have looked over the material and have reached out to your schools to meet with the principals to review the various contests.



All the materials in this year's package are now available on the Toronto Diocesan website so parishes and regions can print additional copies of any document or form as required (i.e., the various contests' Rules/Guidelines, judging information and forms, application forms, consent forms, etc.). To access the package, go to the Toronto website - [cwltoronto.ca](http://cwltoronto.ca) and then under the *Resources* tab, select *Reference Documents*. There you will find a listing of all the materials for each contest and the St. Michael's Scholarship. Simply click on the required document or form to open and then print.

The 2016 Toronto Diocesan Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest finals will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2016, at St. Martin of Tours Parish in Mississauga.

**CWL Scholarships**

The recipients of the **St. Michael's Scholarship** and the **Catholic Children's Aid Society (CCAS) - Hope for Children Foundation Scholarship** for 2015 have been announced and they are as follows:

- The CWL St. Michael's Scholarship recipient is **Ann Phan** who graduated from Bishop Allen Academy and attends Our Lady of Victory Parish in Toronto.
- The CWL CCAS - Hope for Children Scholarship recipient is **Amanda Owusu** who is now in her first year of the Community & Justice Service Program at Sheridan College.

Both Ann and Amanda will be invited to the 2016 Convention and we look forward to hearing how the scholarships helped with their first year.

Remember to promote the St. Michael's Scholarship Fund in your high schools and parishes. All the information including the eligibility requirements are included in the Youth Awards Program package you received this fall.

The representatives from St. Michaels College and the CCAS - Hope for Children Foundation have expressed their gratitude to CWL members for the ongoing support of these scholarships. I ask that you keep these worthy scholarships in mind when next allocating your donation funds. Please mail donations to the Diocesan Treasurer, whose address can be found on the inside front cover of this newsletter. Donation cheques should be made payable to *The Catholic Women's League* (noting the name of the scholarship(s) on the memo line).

### **CWL National Bursary Fund**

The CWL National Bursary Fund, established in 1990, is used to provide financial assistance to members who meet the established criteria and who want to pursue studies in adult faith formation and/or youth ministry. There were 21 bursaries awarded in 2015 and I am very happy to recognize that one of the recipients is from the Toronto Diocese. Congratulations to **Anita Mascerenhas** from Mississauga, Peel Region!

If you are interested in applying for this bursary, the application can be downloaded from National's website at [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) or obtained by contacting National office. Applications must be submitted to National office no later than May 31<sup>st</sup> each year.

### **Health**

#### **Canadian Blood Services Partners Program**

Did you know that The Catholic Women's League of Canada is a supporter of the Canadian Blood Services *Partners for Life* program? This program allows organizations to encourage its members to participate and donate blood as team players and help Canadian Blood Services meet its on-going need for blood. Canadian Blood Services is a not-for-profit, charitable organization whose sole mission is to manage the blood supply for Canadians.

At the 2015 National Convention in Vancouver in August, our National Education and Health Committee Chair, Nancy Simms, in her oral report,

put forth the challenge to every parish council in Canada to become a *Partner for Life* before the 2016 National Convention. That gives you almost nine months to rise to her challenge! Nancy shared the importance of this program and recognized the fact that lives have been saved by our members who have already signed up and donated their blood!

So are you able to, and do you donate blood? If you are a blood donor, and have not signed up yet, please consider registering for the *Partners for Life* program under the League's unique partner ID # by completing the following steps:

1. Visit [www.blood.ca/joinpartnersforlife](http://www.blood.ca/joinpartnersforlife)
2. Complete the registration form (online or at clinic) using the League's unique partner ID number **CATH011269**.

Once you are registered, Canadian Blood Services will track your donations under this unique CWL ID#.

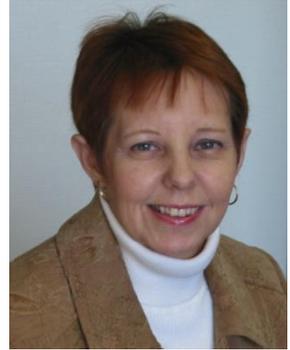
Please encourage your family members, friends and colleagues that can donate, to do so. Giving blood is such a beautiful gift and each blood recipient is extremely thankful that you were able to donate and you did it! Remember the slogan, "*It is in you to give*"!

### **Pen to Paper**

In a directive from our Provincial Education & Health Chair Colleen Randall, we have been reminded to take action and write to our new Liberal government on these important issues:

- **Action Item #1** – Health Canada has approved into law the abortion pill RU486. Write to your MP with copies to the federal Minister of Health Dr. Jane Philpott and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau informing them that you disagree with the decision and that it should be revoked. More details on the drug and the decision is available on the Health Canada website: [http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/rds-sdr/drug-med/rds\\_sdr\\_mifegymiso\\_160063-eng.php](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/rds-sdr/drug-med/rds_sdr_mifegymiso_160063-eng.php)
- **Action Item #2** – The government has established a panel for public consultation on drafting legislation on physician assisted suicide at <http://ep-ce.ca/en/home/> We need to have our voices heard. The government needs to invest more in hospice and palliative care. We need to stress that there should be no law that allows anyone, especially a doctor, to assist someone to end their life.

Wow! What a difference we can make when we turn out to vote. With a higher than expected voter turnout, Canadians decided it was time for a change in who leads our country by electing Justin Trudeau as our 23<sup>rd</sup> prime minister.



Prime Minister Trudeau has appointed an equal number of men and women to his cabinet. By choosing a gender-equal cabinet, Canada is now ranked No. 4 in the world in terms of percentage of women in ministerial positions. Some are experienced and for others this is their first time in cabinet. Some key cabinet appointments are: Finance - Bill Morneau; Status of Women - Patricia Hadju; Justice and Attorney General - Jody Wilson-Raybould; Health - Jane Philpott; Environment and Climate Change - Catherine McKenna; Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship - John McCallum. Minister Wilson-Raybould is the first aboriginal to hold a cabinet position. Seven members of the new cabinet represent the GTA. Prime Minister Trudeau has promised Canadians a more open and transparent government.

Before Parliament resumed sitting, the new government announced the reinstatement of the long-form census, our resolution 2015.05. At the time of writing, details on how it plans to persuade Canadians to fill it out are vague.

### **42<sup>nd</sup> Parliament:**

Parliament resumes sitting on December 3<sup>rd</sup> with the Speech from the Throne to follow on December 4<sup>th</sup>. At the opening of every new Parliament, and at the beginning of each session within a Parliament, the Governor General reads a speech, prepared by the Prime Minister in consultation with his or her cabinet. The speech is read in the Senate Chamber before the assembled Members of both the Senate and the House of Commons.

Traditionally, the Speech from the Throne reveals the reasons for summoning Parliament. It begins with an assessment of social and economic conditions in the country. It then declares the Government's goals and intentions, and outlines its policies and legislative agenda.

Two items that we know will be included in the Speech from the Throne are

the tax cuts to the middle class and small business, a tax increase to those with an income of over \$200,000 and the resettlement of 250,000 refugees.

### **Provincial Legislation**

**Bill 75, Microbead Elimination and Monitoring Act, 2015 (Resolution 2015.02)** The Bill enacts the *Microbead Elimination and Monitoring Act, 2015*. Microbeads are non-biodegradable solid plastic particles measuring less than one millimetre in diameter that are used in cosmetics, soaps or similar products as cleansing or exfoliating agents.

The Bill prohibits the manufacture of microbeads and the addition of microbeads to cosmetics, soaps or similar products. In addition, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change is required to ensure that water samples from the Great Lakes are analyzed for the presence of microbeads. The results must be published on a government website.

Regulation-making powers are established with respect to these requirements. This Bill has passed Second Reading and has been sent to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs.

### **Bill 113, Police Record Checks Reform Act, 2015**

The *Police Record Checks Reform Act, 2015* is enacted. Here are some of the Act's major features: The Act sets out a process governing requests for searches of the Canadian Police Information Centre databases, or other police databases, in connection with screening an individual for certain purposes. The Act authorizes police forces to conduct three types of police record checks: criminal record checks, criminal record and judicial matters checks, and vulnerable sector checks. The Schedule to the Act sets out the type of information that is authorized for disclosure for each type of police record check. The Schedule to the Act indicates that non-conviction information about an individual cannot be disclosed in response to a criminal record check or in response to a criminal record and judicial matters check. The Act specifies that a person or organization that receives information in response to a police record check shall not use or disclose it except for the purpose for which it was requested or as authorized by law.

A person or organization that wilfully contravenes certain provisions of the Act is guilty of an offence and is liable to a fine of not more than \$5,000. A prosecution cannot be commenced unless the Minister consents.

# RESOLUTIONS

Sue Lubowitz

Sub Convener: Susan Kobus

In his encyclical “*Laudato Si*”, Pope Francis counsels us that “public pressure has to be exerted in order to bring about decisive political action” (s.179). For over 95 years, CWL resolutions have defined us as women of one heart, one voice and one mission. The League is a powerful voice even when the rest of the world may be silent. As we continue with the national theme for 2016, thank you to outgoing resolutions chairs for your efforts in promoting the action plans of each resolution. A large welcome to all new resolutions chairs! I look forward to working with you. Be sure to make use of all the resources available to you. Be assured that you are capable, you do know enough and you are qualified. You will make a difference in our world. How awesome is that!



At the national convention in Vancouver this past August, five resolutions were passed. The following resolutions are posted on the national website and are also in the Fall issue of the Canadian League magazine:

- **2015.01 Increased early intervention and access to children and youth mental health services**
- **2015.02 Ban the use of plastic microbeads in personal care products**
- **2015.03 Banning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides**
- **2015.04 Invoke section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in the case of *Carter v. Canada***
- **2015.05 Reinstatement of the mandatory long-form census**

Please encourage your councils to study and act on the action plans associated with these resolutions. Toronto Diocesan Council is quite proud that resolution 2015.05 originated in our council as a gift from St. Mary’s Council, Brampton, Peel Region. Thank you to the members of that council for their hard work on this resolution.

## Resolutions Topics

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be finalizing the resolutions that will be presented to the Toronto Diocesan convention in May 2016. Your council will receive these resolutions with your convention package. Be sure to study the resolutions and talk about them at the council level during a meeting in March or April. It might be beneficial if one or two

council members study the resolutions and the briefs beforehand in order to formulate a more informed vote by members.

### **Advocacy**

After one of the longest federal campaigns in our nation's history, we now have a new government at the federal level filled with many new MPs. It was encouraging to witness the largest voter turnout (68.5% vs 61.1% in 2011) since 1993 and the election of 10 indigenous MPs. Prime Minister Trudeau is also promising gender balance to his cabinet. This is the perfect time to form a relationship with these new policy makers!

Your Member of Parliament is more accessible than you think. If you are passionate about an issue, respectful of the MP's time and willing to take the time for a meeting, your MP will likely be willing to meet with you. Building a relationship with decision makers puts you in a good position to advocate for change. By getting to know your representatives (your MP, MPP, city councilors or mayors), and building a relationship of credibility, you can open doors for the future. Find your MP's contact information by using your postal code when using the House of Commons website [www.parl.gc.ca](http://www.parl.gc.ca). To find your representative in the provincial legislature go to the Ontario website [www.ontla.on.ca](http://www.ontla.on.ca)

To be effective in your advocacy here are a few pointers. Be persistent: write and call your MP regularly about the issue, especially when new developments occur. Be consistent: formulate clear objectives. Follow up: after you have taken action, stay informed about the progress of your issue. After you have signed a petition or sent a postcard (e.g. Pornography Hurts), let your MP know why you signed. After participating in a demonstration (e.g. March for Life), let your MP know that constituents were present. By following up on such actions, you can demonstrate commitment to the cause.

For information on the different Canadian government departments and agencies, visit the Government of Canada website at: [www.canada.ca/en/government/dept/index.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/government/dept/index.html). This webpage has contact information for all the different cabinet ministers.

Please keep in mind that you can also contact senators. Senators can be influential in pushing legislation forward and influencing policy. Contacting a senator who has an interest or background in the issue you are advocating could be beneficial. Find information on current senators at [www.parl.gc.ca/SenatorsBio/default.aspx?Language=E&sortord=](http://www.parl.gc.ca/SenatorsBio/default.aspx?Language=E&sortord=)

You can start to stretch those advocacy muscles by adding your letter on physician-assisted dying to the ones sent by the national CWL executive and by members across Canada. The letters sent by the national executive can be found on the national website. Read them over and use them as a starting point for your own personal letter. I remind you that no stamp is needed on letters sent to federal members of Parliament.

All councils should have copies of the *Personal Letter Writing Guide* developed by the League. It is available on the national website under resources. It is free and each council may receive up to 10 copies. What a great resource for a letter-writing session during a council meeting.

In your annual reports, at Development Day and at the next round of regional meetings, I look forward to hearing how you and your councils have worked on the action plans of the resolutions as well as your efforts in advocating for the most vulnerable in our society. Let us continue to lead and have our voices heard.

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**Save The Dates!!!!**

**95th Annual Toronto Diocesan CWL Convention**

***ONE HEART, ONE VOICE, ONE MISSION***

***All CWL members and friends are invited and encouraged to attend!!***

**Thursday, May 5th and Friday, May 6th, 2016**

**International Plaza Hotel**

*(Previously named the Doubletree by Hilton)*  
655 Dixon Road, Toronto, Ontario M9W 1J3

Gain CWL knowledge and pride in an atmosphere of Spirituality,  
Prayer and Fun with your CWL sisters.

Be informed with the Resolutions Dialogue, Guest Speakers,  
Provincial and National News.

Be present to support the various Council Awards, Youth Awards,  
Catholic Girls' League Updates and Vendors.

The Presidents' Convention Packages with all the details, including  
Registration Form and the Banquet Ticket Order Form, will be distributed at  
Development Day in February 2016.

The Toronto Diocesan website [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca) will be updated as more  
information becomes available.

**Your 2016 Convention Convener and sub-Conveners are:**

**Convener:**

Mary Hawkley 905-668-1644 mahawkley@sympatico.ca

**Sub Conveners:**

Mary Antonio 905-868-9406 m.antonio@sympatico.ca

Mary Tuccitto 416-283-8828 marytuccitto@hotmail.com

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Patricia Cross



In preparing this newsletter, what stood out the most was the many women in the League celebrating milestones in years of service.



Approximately 115 names are recognized in this edition. There are ten members with over 50 years of service. That's amazing!

This is a testimony that the Catholic Women's League consists of many dedicated women all supporting this "national organization, rooted in gospel values, calling its members to holiness, through service to the people of God."

Congratulations also to St. Joseph the Worker Council celebrating 20 years.

The new subscriptions will commence at the end of February 2016. The subscription form is included in this newsletter and is also available on our website, [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca), or you can contact Christine Abela directly at [abelachristine@hotmail.com](mailto:abelachristine@hotmail.com).

All council presidents are reminded to submit Service Award recipients and council anniversaries' dates for printing in our next issue. Please forward the information to Karen Nazione-Garcea at [kegarcea@yahoo.ca](mailto:kegarcea@yahoo.ca) by January 30, 2016.

Congratulations to all!

**Toronto Diocesan CWL Council**  
**NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION - \$10.00 each**  
**Period: March 1, 2016– February 28, 2017**

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**Order deadline - January 31, 2016**

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