

TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2016

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We live in a world where there are so many things that we could try to address to bring about a more humane, loving and Christ-centered world. Is this not the challenge in general these days. We feel pulled in too many directions. To attempt to answer all the things we see need doing will tire us out before any of them get done – and we can end up getting cranky on the way.



The place to start is really “at home”, in our own lives. The first stage of the spiritual life is always some kind of letting go. What are the things that are really important? And what things do I really need to let go of? Without this simplicity and groundedness how are we to hear the Lord? So there are many things as Martha was well aware, but then there is also one important thing as Mary knew.

This is just as true at your council. What are the things that are really important and central? I might suggest that we have a number of things that are important that are with us now or are knocking at our door.

1. Refugees. Canada and the Archdiocese of Toronto are trying to do their share to support people whose lives have been taken away from them and who are now very vulnerable to poverty and violence. And paying attention to this reality will also sharpen our awareness that we have many people in our society who suffer, who are poor, who need hope and a community of love.
2. Physician-assisted suicide. This is no longer a matter of the criminal law and the federal and provincial governments are determining how they will act. Cardinal Collins and Bishop Douglas Crosby, the President of the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops were in Ottawa recently. Their submissions are available at the bishops’ website: www.cccb.ca. Respecting conscience and giving patients’ the assurance of excellent palliative care are two things we should be clear about ourselves and in the public square. The League, as an organization is actively speaking. At the council level, you can promote better understanding and knowledge of the issue. Our diocesan president can point you in the right direction.

3. Parish life. The pastoral plan of the Archdiocese has given pastors some goals to aim at. It calls for a group in parishes to welcome new parishioners and to support a welcoming environment to those who come to the parish on Sunday and for any other reason. Ministries require ongoing formation, education and spiritual reflection. Expressing our Catholic faith in cultural ways is also seen as important. If your parish is taking initiatives or revisiting some of its current ministries or structures being ready to share a new vision of these will be a tremendous help.
4. Youth. This summer our Office of Catholic Youth is hosting Steubenville Toronto again. This time it will be north of Oshawa at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) and Durham College Campus. Your parish council could help financially or logistically, especially if you are in the vicinity. www.ocytoronto.org.

There are other things that are already on your own list too. Discern, hone, decide, plan and then go ahead and do – praying and making your work prayer as you go. When the apostles went off to preach after the Pentecost event, they didn't proclaim a bunch of caveats like, "Oh, by the way – being a Christian is going to be hard!". They went and did it with joy. We are at our best when we simply do what we can, simply.

A blessed Lent and a joyful Easter to you all.

In Christ,

Fr. Bob O'Brien

Spiritual Advisor
Toronto Diocesan Council



Acting with Kindness and Mercy

PRESIDENT

Shirley Christo

“If we pray, we will believe; if we believe, we will love; if we love, we will serve.” (Blessed Mother Teresa)

As we approach the Lenten season, it is an honour and a privilege to serve my fellow sisters as your CWL president. My heart is filled with pride and gratitude as I experience ongoing support from our Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Father O'Brien, the Executive members of the Toronto Diocesan Council, our wonderful Life Members and especially the sustaining prayers received from you the members throughout the Archdiocese.



The focus of our Diocesan convention theme for 2016 is "*One Heart, One Voice, One Mission....Acting with Kindness and Mercy*". This theme fits well with the national sub-theme '*Palliative and Hospice Care*' and the Holy Father's intent for the Jubilee Year of Mercy to guide Catholics to perform spiritual and corporal works of mercy. It is important for us to recognize in today's society how very important our role is in providing '*Life giving Love*' to those facing the end of their life.

As you receive this newsletter, each council president will have been given a complete Toronto Diocesan CWL convention package for registration action, banquet ticket purchase and resolutions discussion and informed vote. Please follow the instructions and honour the deadlines for each.

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. We are looking to increase our numbers again this year so please be sure to hand-deliver this invitation to your advisor as soon as possible.

Congratulations to all those who have accepted the challenge and said YES to a leadership role. I have enjoyed meeting some of you at the Parish Executive Training (PET) sessions and look forward to meeting more as the year progresses. Please know that you are not alone and don't hesitate to reach out to your past presidents, regional chairs or any of the members of the Diocesan executive. We welcome your invitation to share your journey.

The Ontario Provincial Convention is being held in Stratford this year July 9 to July 13. It is shaping up to be 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.

Keeping in mind the corporal works of mercy, each provincial attendee is asked to bring canned foods and / or dry goods to the registration desk this year. More information and registration forms are available on-line at www.cwl.on.ca.

The National Convention is being held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, August 14 to 18. Please check the Canadian League Magazine (Winter 2016) for the National registration forms.

The 31st Rosary Sunday will be held on Sunday, September 11, 2016, at Martyrs' Shrine, Midland. 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 organizing these meetings and it's always nice to see large groups of members attending. I look forward to seeing all of you and sharing news from provincial and national as well as updates on our convention. Please do encourage your members to attend.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Hilarion Mitchell

Sub-Conveners:

Catholic Missions in Canada	Patricia Gyulay
Lay Ministries	Laurie van den Hurk
Women's Inter-Church Council	Claudette Wilson
Liturgical Support	Diana Gamboa
	Pushpa Lobo

“Let us be renewed by God's mercy ... and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish.”
(Pope Francis)

Extraordinary Year of Mercy Projects

It's an exciting time to be in our roles as Spiritual Development Chairs as we enter the liturgical seasons of Lent and Easter in the midst of the Extraordinary Year of Mercy. We have been gifted with many resources to strengthen our faith. By now you have enlightened members with Pope Francis' call for the Jubilee, learned how to obtain Indulgences, attended or plan to visit Holy Door Churches, and continue to undertake merciful acts through the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. You are also engaging all standing committees to implement the various League projects below.



National Council Projects: Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy brochure and pledge cards are now available on the National website cwl.ca.



Provincial Council Saint Project: Each diocese and standing committee has chosen saints that they will emulate during the year as outlined in the respective directives on the Provincial website cwl.on.ca.

Toronto Diocesan Council Blessed Mother Teresa Project to seek Indulgences for the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy 2015-2016: This is a timely opportunity for councils to study the life and works of Mother Teresa in advance of her canonization to sainthood in September 2016. Project details are on the Toronto Diocesan website cwltoronto.ca.

Action: Inform your Regional Chair by March 31, 2016, if your council will have a project display

during the Toronto Diocesan Convention to showcase how your council responded as disciples being “*Merciful Like the Father*”.

Holy Door of Mercy Retreat Pilgrimage, Peel Region

This will take place on Saturday, April 16, 2016, from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. It will include visits to St. Paul's Basilica in Toronto (with tour); St. Patrick's Church in Toronto (National Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help) and Merciful Redeemer Church in Mississauga. It is open to CWL members only and costs \$25 with transportation and gratuities included. Bus pick-ups from Brampton and Mississauga; the deadline for payment is March 15, 2016.

Martyrs' Shrine Retreat, Northern Region

Northern Region is planning a retreat at Martyrs' Shrine in Midland for Saturday, May 14, 2016, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm.

Action: See the TDC website or contact the respective regional chairs for more details.

2016 Spiritual Bouquet for Fr. Robert O'Brien

A Spiritual Bouquet is a list of prayers and devotions offered to commemorate special occasions or for special intentions. Each prayer or devotion represents a flower, which when added to others, forms a mystical bouquet. They are NOT paid offerings. The Toronto Diocesan Council will present Fr. Robert O'Brien with a Spiritual Bouquet on behalf of members during the annual convention. It is also the end of his five-year term as the TDC Spiritual Advisor.

Action: The Spiritual Development Chair is asked to circulate the **2016 Spiritual Bouquet Form** that was provided in the President's Package at Development Day, at their meetings and other council events in advance of the March 31 deadline, to allow the majority of members to complete it.

The Book of Life

The Toronto Diocesan Council Book of Life contains the names, parishes and regions of deceased Catholic Women's League members within the Toronto Diocese and is placed on Our Lady's Table for the duration of the Toronto Diocesan Annual Convention. This allows everyone present at the Convention to pray and remember them. Their names are also added to the Provincial and National Books of Life. Our prayerful actions for our deceased members allow us to obtain Jubilee Indulgences during the Year of Mercy.

Action: Councils are asked to submit the names of deceased members who passed away between January 1 and December 31, 2015, NOW - if they

were not previously reported through the National Online System or on the Form for Reporting Deceased Members.

Band of Christian Brothers Men’s Conference

The Serviam Ministries will be hosting their 1st annual men’s conference on Saturday March 19, 2016, with Cardinal Thomas Collins, Matt Fradd and Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers. The theme of the event is: “Iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend” (Proverbs 27:17). Topics for the day will include God, the Universe and Everything; Clothed and in His Right Mind: Reclaiming the Heart of the Spiritual Man; Taking Down Goliath (Porn); Putting on the Armor of God: Preparing for Spiritual Combat. It is a great opportunity for men to grow in faith and virtue, and to encourage each other in this pursuit.

Action: Encourage all fathers, husbands, brothers, sons, friends and colleagues to attend. For more information about the event contact the ServiamMinistries.com.

Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel Televised Mass

The taping of the Mass will take place at Loretto Abbey, 101 Mason Blvd., North York, on Thursday April 21, 2016, at 5:00 pm. The mass will be televised on Vision TV April 26, 2016.

Action: Encourage your council members to attend and to wear their CWL scarves, League colours and other memorabilia.

Catholic Missions in Canada Tastes of Heaven 2016

A Gala will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2016, at Bellevue Manor, 8083 Jane Street, Vaughan. The theme is “*To build a Church.*” Part of the proceeds will support the building of a new church in Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories. The 91-year-old Sacred Heart Church was torn down in 2013 because of concerns about its foundation. Since then, the parish community has had to gather in the gym of Bompas Elementary School each Sunday for the celebration of Mass. See more at: <http://www.cmhc.info/toh-2016/#sthash.AqsbbByG.dpuf> . Tastes of Heaven Gala 2016.

Action: For Tickets and sponsorship opportunities, contact Patricia at 416-934-3424 ext. 227 | 1-866-937-2642, or patricia@cmhc.info.

Toronto Diocesan Council 2nd Annual Aboriginal Day Mass

The 2016 Mass celebrating National Aboriginal Day will be held on Sunday, June 26, 2016, at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Whitby. Durham Region, at 3:00 pm followed by a social and display of the Aboriginal culture. More details will be posted on TDC website by April.

Action: Encourage all members to attend.

Prayer Corner

The Prayer Corner is located on the landing page of the Toronto Diocesan website. It will serve as a resource library of prayers, spiritual readings, reflections and poems to inspire members to grow in faith. The Prayer Corner is in the very early stages of development and requires members' contributions to increase the number of resources currently available.

Action: Submit your prayers to your Regional Chair for posting on the TDC website.

With One Heart, One Voice, One Mission Acting with Kindness and Mercy remember Mother Teresa's quote that *"It is not the magnitude of our actions but the amount of love that is put into them that matters."*

ORGANIZATION

Ann D'Souza

Sub-Conveners:

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

Annual Reports

Thank you for your submissions - a total of 69 Reports were received as of mid-January, 2016. A look at past years' records indicated that some of the 26 councils who did not submit reports, had not submitted in past years also.



Why should you send in your Annual Report?

- *Reports are mandated as part of our not-for-profit charter with the government.*
- *We want to include your special accomplishments and milestones in the Toronto Diocesan Annual Report to be shared with all League members. Members attending the convention in May will get a copy of the Annual Report book.*
- *As well, they are an important means of communicating with others in the parish, community and the country at large, "Your voice is heard."*

Each Diocesan Executive also does a summary report to the Provincial Council. Provincial Chairs then submit their reports to the National Council. So as you can see how important it is for us to hear from you.

Development Day

We are looking forward to seeing you at Development Day on Saturday, February 27, 2016, (8:30 am - 3:00 pm) at Christ the King/Cristo Rei Parish, 3495 Confederation Parkway, Mississauga, ON L5B 3G5 <http://www.cristoreiparish.org/>

Anne Madden, Provincial President-Elect and Organization Chair, is preparing a great workshop to be delivered to you; 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*”. Each of the Diocesan Executive will have a booth display and you can ask them any questions you like; this is a good time to meet them.

Membership

Your membership dues for 2016 are payable by January 1, 2016. They should be submitted by February 29, 2016. These dues will cover your membership for the period January 1 to December 31, 2016. The last date to receive your dues by National Office is May 31, 2016. If your council is not already registered for the on-line membership and wishes to do so, please reach out to us for assistance.

Members’ overall success is very important; we have to retain the members we have. Involve members in CWL activities, look after their spiritual growth and leadership development too. Subsidize fees so that members can attend Development Days, retreats and conventions. The more they know the League, the more committed they will be.

Be creative in your membership drive. In my last issue, I listed a few things, “remember your action and visibility” will say it all and attract ladies to join the League. Word of mouth and personal approach are still the best ways.

The success of our League depends on the strength of its membership. Membership statistics received from National Office for the last couple of years show our membership is on a decline. As of December 2015, Toronto had a total of 144 fewer members than in 2014. Yes, you did your best if we take into consideration the deceased members (may their souls rest in peace).

Development of Members

Many of the regions are holding the Parish Executive Training (PET) Workshops - grab the opportunity to attend. It is not necessary for you to be an executive to attend; it's a great tool to learn more about the role of an executive and what it entails to be a member. Let your regional chair know if you require PET, since we have trainers giving this course in each region.

PAST PRESIDENT/HISTORIAN

Mary Capobianco

Parish Council Elections

If your council recently had elections, then I welcome all new Past Presidents / Historians to your new roles. As past presidents, you are the liaison that can make the transition a positive experience for everyone. Be a mentor and a support to the incoming presidents and their new executive; be a positive influence, encourage them to try out their new ideas. Perhaps you can offer to lead a mini-training session for the new executive. Invite other past presidents from your council to assist in the training.

If you are in the second year of your term as past president, then it's time to take a status of your work so far.

Check your progress:

- Have you completed the summary of activities for your term as president?
- Have you reviewed the guidelines for archiving? Have you updated the history files of your council by adding the necessary documents and deleting others?
- Have you brought your council's photo albums or scrapbooks up-to-date?
- Have you encouraged, supported and affirmed the work of your executive team? For your next meeting, plan to make one positive comment to every executive member, and then continue to do the same for the rest of your League sisters.
- Have you facilitated the study and implementation of the Constitution & Bylaws and the National Manual of Policy and Procedure?
- Have you reviewed and updated your own Council's Policy and Procedure Manual? If your council does not yet have one, this



would be an excellent time to create one. There are many resources to help you get started.

Archives

The Toronto Diocesan Council has just completed the archiving process for the years 1990 to 2010. These records have been sent to be microfilmed, which is the industry-recommended method for safekeeping and copies will be stored with ARCAT - Archives of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto. This very necessary but tedious process was needed in order to preserve our history. I would like to thank the archiving committee led by our Life Members, Patricia Cross, Carole Pitcher and Marlin Taylor. This huge task would not have been possible without their expertise, patience, dedication and many, many, long days of hard work.

Annual Patricia Beattie Mentoring Award

The Patricia Beattie Mentoring Award was first established in 2005. Over the years many women have been honoured recipients of this award.

This year, we've made the overall process even easier by revamping the forms and making them available earlier in the year. The forms were recently distributed by the Regional Chairs by email to all Council Presidents. As well, the forms in their fillable format, can be found online at www.cwltoronto.ca. You can access them under RESOURCES > FORMS on our website. Be sure to download a copy and once you have saved it, you can then type in your information. The deadline for submissions is April 5, 2016.

The committee will review the submissions and the winners will be announced at the Toronto Diocesan Convention, May 5 and 6, 2016. Please do take the time to honour all those special League sisters who have helped you on your CWL journey.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Alice Warford

Welcome to another year of CWL activities. To anyone beginning her term as Corresponding Secretary, please take note that your duties for this position are outlined in the Handbook for Secretaries, which you can find on the National website and download. (www.cwl.ca)



I would like to remind councils who held elections before or after Christmas to please send your new executive list to your Regional Chair, who will then forward it to the appropriate people. This should include your Spiritual Advisor as well. I can't stress enough the importance of having up-to-date lists when sending out correspondence, presidents' packages, invitations, cards and especially for updating the elections register. Take note it is important to include the date and length of the new executive's term. (For example, January 2015 - December 2016. Please take the time to do this now if you have not done it already.

If we can keep on top of what may seem to some like small details, we will be able to communicate in a timely and effective manner.

TREASURER

Donna Capobianco

Many of you have completed your membership drives by now or may be in the process of wrapping them up. It is very important to remit the dues to National Office promptly. The League's membership year runs from **January 1 to December 31** and the Per Capita fees are due at National office by **February 28**.



Please note that there is no need to wait to collect all the dues from the council. It is best to send in your memberships in batches as you collect them, rather than wait until you have all of them. That way National can update the records in a more timely fashion and the reports can reflect a more accurate picture.

For councils that have a newly-elected executive, it is important to change the signing authority at the banks. The signing officers are the President, the Treasurer and the Recording Secretary. For security reasons, your account should be set up so that all cheques are required to have two signatures. It is not necessary that you close the bank account and open a new one as this will save the costs of bank fees and ordering new cheques, etc.

Also, be sure to take the time to sit down with your representative at the bank and discuss ways to reduce the monthly service charges. Service fees are usually based on the number of account transactions per month. It's important that you fully understand what is included in your service fees and what they have to offer. Check with the bank and discuss different ways to reduce the number of transactions and reduce the cost.

As Treasurer, you are responsible for the funds, but you are also responsible to keep your members informed, on a monthly basis, of the expenses and the bank balance.

The Annual Financial Statements for your council should all be wrapped up by now or be in the process of doing so very shortly. If you have not done that yet, there is still time. Sample annual statements and information are available on our website www.cwltoronto.ca. The information can be found under **Resources** and then click on **Reference Documents**. The sample forms are there to guide you. Your predecessors are an invaluable source of information. If you have any questions on this process, please be sure to contact me at the number listed on the inside cover of this newsletter.

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE

Suzanne Cockburn

Sub Convener:

Philomena Menezes

Congratulations and welcome to all the newly-elected Christian Family Life Standing Committee Chairs. As you know, this very important role covers a range of topics: Marriage & Family, Sanctity of Life, Vocations and Ministries to: Youth, Disabled, Seniors, Widowed, Separated, Divorced and Singles. Remember to utilize the many resources that the CWL has available. The Christian Family Life Study Kit is particularly useful as it



contains excellent workshops. Download it for free, or purchase a copy at cwl.ca. I also recommend the 2013 Provincial Convention slide presentation available at cwl.on.ca.

Vocations

Ordinations will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2016, at St. Michael's Cathedral where nine Ordinandi will take the next step into priesthood and councils are encouraged to attend this holiest of ceremonies.

Note also that the 53rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations, also known as "*Good Shepherd Sunday*", will be observed on Sunday, April 17, 2016. Our Holy Father Pope Francis invites us to use the opportunity "*to reflect upon the apostolic community and to give thanks for the role of the community in each person's vocational journey*". Let us all continue to pray for an increase in vocations. Visit cwl.ca Resources, Prayers, for the Prayer for an Increase in Vocations. We can also lend support to the cause by inviting someone from the clergy to speak on the topic, by sponsoring a seminarian, or by participating in the travelling Chalice program.

Lastly, do remember to donate to the Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Memorial Bursary. This bursary was established for the purpose of assisting diocesan seminarians in need of personal financial support and is a wonderful way for Councils to support our future priests. Application forms are available at cwl.on.ca.

Sanctity of Life

Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Update

In its Carter decision in February, 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada effectively legalized assisted suicide and euthanasia in some circumstances. The new Liberal Government has until June 6, 2016, to bring the required legislation to Parliament. As of January 18, the External Panel appointed to recommend a system of safeguards to protect the vulnerable, submitted its final report to the special Parliamentary Committee. In any case, the new law will be in effect in a matter of months. Our position continues to be that killing is not health care, nor is it an acceptable solution to human suffering. As such, members are urged to keep themselves informed of relevant developments and to continue your advocacy by writing letters to government in response to this report, and signing and taking action on the recently distributed pledge cards.

March for Life

The 2016 National March for Life takes place from Wednesday, May 11 to Friday, May 13. The main event, the March itself, occurs at 12 noon on

Thursday, May 12, starting at Parliament Hill and continuing through downtown Ottawa. Over 25,000 are expected to participate again this year. Councils should organize buses to facilitate attendance. Please visit campaignlifecoalition.com for a detailed schedule.

Ministry to Youth

CLC Youth is a branch of Campaign Life Coalition and provides a network for young people to help get them involved in the pro-life movement through street activism and in the political process by supporting and volunteering for local pro-life candidates. Go to campaignlifecoalition.com or contact youth@clife.ca

Steubenville Youth Conference will be held on the campus of UOIT in Oshawa on Friday, July 22-24. Visit steubenvilletoronto.com for more information and to register.

WUCWO Prayer for Family and Youth 2016 - During this Holy Year of Mercy, special prayers are being offered for single mothers, newborns, youth, and for all families of the world on the first Friday of every month. Go to cwl.ca/wucwo-prayer-for-family-and-youth-2016.

Marriage and Family

Members are advised to continue activities that uphold the Family as the fundamental building block of society. In her November 15th communiqué, National Christian Family Life Chair Judy Lewis suggests that we may do so by promoting natural family planning, facilitating or financially supporting marriage preparation courses, marriage encounter weekends, programs for single parent families, stress workshops and other activities relating to newlyweds, baptism, confirmation and National Family Week or other similar events. Of interest also may be Catholic Singles Social hosted by catholicssinglesocial.com, now in their ninth year.

DATES TO REMEMBER 2016

March 1	Ordinandi Dinner
March 4	World Day of Prayer
March 5	Lift Jesus Higher Rally Metro Toronto Convention Center
March 31	Mary Matthews Public Speaking submissions due
March 31	Mary Dobell Pro-Life Essay & Poetry submissions due
March 31	Jean McCann Youth Service Award submissions due
April 9	Mary Matthews Public Speaking TDC Finals St. Martin of Tours, Mississauga
April 20	TDC Evening of Reflection at Scarboro Foreign Missions Society
May 5&6	95 th Annual Toronto Diocesan Council Convention International Plaza Hotel
May 31	St. Michael's College Scholarship submissions due to TDC
June 9	Farewell Dinner for Fr. Bob
June 26	Aboriginal Mass – St. John the Evangelist, Durham
July 10-13	Ontario Provincial CWL Annual Convention, Stratford ON
Aug. 14-18	National CWL Annual Convention, Halifax NS

REGIONAL MEETING DATES

March 2	Toronto Region General Meeting St. Joan of Arc
March 14	Northern Region General Meeting Holy Martyrs of Japan
March 17	Humber Valley Region General Meeting Location TBA
March 31	North York General Meeting Our Lady of Grace, Aurora
April 5	Peel Region General Meeting – St. Marguerite D'Youville, Brampton
April 6	Scarborough Region General Meeting Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
April 27	Durham Region General Meeting Location TBA

95th Annual Toronto Diocesan CWL Convention
May 5 and May 6, 2016
International Plaza Hotel, 655 Dixon Road, Toronto

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, May 5th	9:00 am Registration 9:30 am Resolutions Dialogue (International “C” Room) 1:30 pm Opening Eucharist 2:45 pm Call to Order and Business Sessions 5:00 pm Dinner Break 6:00 pm Registration 6:30 pm Business Sessions 7:00 pm Keynote Speaker – Dr. Josephine Lombardi, Ph.D. 8:30 pm Public Speaking, Poetry & Essay Awards 9:30 pm Evening Prayers
Friday, May 6th	8:00 am Registration 8:45 am Business Sessions 9:30 am Resolutions 12:00 noon Lunch Break 1:30 pm Business Sessions 2:00 pm Keynote Speaker/Workshop – Pauline Krupa, Ontario Provincial President 3:30 pm Closing Eucharist 6:00 pm Cocktails 7:00 pm Closing Banquet - Address by: His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins

HOTEL INFORMATION

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

Note: April 1, 2016 is the deadline to receive this rate

Hotel Room Reservations:

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

https://www.phgsecure.com/IBE/bookingRedirect.aspx?propertyCode=Y YZIP&group=CAT_004&arrivalDate=2016-05-04

Phone: Call **1-800-668-3656** The call-in code is CAT-004 and be sure to 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.

SERVICE AWARDS

Maple Leaf Service Pins

Scarborough Region

St. Barnabas: Jannette Dempsey Joan Ironside

Peel Region

St. Mary Star of the Sea: Genevieve Steverango

60-Year Membership Pins

Northern Region

Holy Martyrs of Japan: Mae Eek Mary Molokach
Mary Kavchak Mary Simurda

55-Year Membership Pins

Peel Region

St. Mary Star of the Sea: Noreen Lista Mary Cathcart
Frances Holland Betty Biss

Humber Valley Region

St. Ambrose: Joan Tiernay

50-Year Membership Pins

Peel Region

St. Mary Star of the Sea: Joy Parsons

Toronto Region

Holy Cross: Mary Keane

45-Year Membership Pins

Humber Valley Region

St. Ambrose: Clare Konczarek Mary Stuart

Scarborough Region

St. Helen: Charlotte Mulhern

40-Year Membership Pins

Peel Region

St. Mary Star of the Sea: Ann Havlik Joan Phillips
Elda Rebuli Anna Stegman

Scarborough Region

St. Barnabas: Jannette Dempsey Eileen Doyle
Gloria Fernandes Eleanor Rodrigo Theresa Snider
Leticia Lo Mary Mangattur Gemma D'Souza

Humber Valley Region

St. Ambrose: Mary Laffradi Mary O'Conner

35-Year Membership Pins

Peel Region

St. Mary Star of the Sea: Cressy DeMello Silvia Gualtieri

Scarborough Region

St. Helen: Doreen McDonald

Humber Valley Region

St. Ambrose: Nella Amaolo Leona Barr
Pat Bester Phyllis Boulet Carmela Defranco
Marg Gombita Mary Laing Joan McKenny
Marie O'Neil

30-Year Membership Pins

Peel Region

St. Mary Star of the Sea: Rose Marie Grinton Maria Marchiori
Bette Pauli

Scarborough Region

St. Barnabas: Nair Bahadur Mary Fernandes
Joan Ironside Marillyn Mitchell Maura Monteiro
Nicky Rangel Sylvia Trachuk

Humber Valley Region

St. Ambrose: Vicki Ennamorata Pat McWilliams
Mary Ritchie Jean Zuk

25-Year Membership Pins

Peel Region

St. Mary Star of the Sea: Gemma Sardo

Scarborough Region

St. Barnabas: Merle Simpson

Humber Valley Region

St. Ambrose: Helen Allard Ida Falcone
Elenor Fasciano Teresa Gombita Diane Lariviere
Valerie Mackenzie Olivia Morris Doris Pickles

20-Year Membership Pins

Humber Valley Region

St. Ambrose: Mary Akermanis Maria Manzo
Cathy Ricketts Lorna Verdun

Scarborough Region

St. Barnabas: Edith Sickander Fe Salamillas
Elizabeth Apolinio Sophia Mak Classina Lewis
Aura Mascarenhas Winsome Fletcher Rocio Maestre
Antonia Maestre

Peel Region

St. Mary Star of the Sea: Alberta Melanson
Mary Secko Patti Stapleton Jeanne Stevrango

10-Year Membership Pins

Scarborough Region

St. Barnabas: Agnes Baptiste Cynthia Mason
May Pierre Lydia Shillingford Ramona Solevilla
Julia Williams

Peel Region

St. Mary Star of the Sea: Stella Ambler Rita Scerri
Sts. Peter & St. Paul: Norma Antipolo Lorraine Fenton
Patricia Hickman Sophie Lawrence Natalie Meier
Sabina Muia Olive Rego
Margina Sta Rosa Linda Tesoro Teodora Tulabu

Northern Region

Holy Martyrs of Japan: Helen Dolinski Sonja Hammersley
Cynthia De Baeremaaeker Annie Nanowski
Nadia Pethick Eduarda Romeiro

Humber Valley Region

St. Ambrose: Cathy Bester Betty Deblois
Cynthia Deblois Nanette de Vera Kitty Dowling
Judy Lorenz Carol Mcauliffe AnitaMcConnell
Olivia Moesch Gemma Neal Liz O’Conne
Lupe Picio Joan Sibenek Mary West

Durham Region

Holy Cross, Oshawa: Vicki Coombes Martha Hill
Karn Frenette Cecilia Mamawag

HAPPY ANNIVERSARIES!

*St. Patrick, Schomberg, North York Region
- 100th Anniversary*

Holy Martyrs of Japan, Northern Region - 60th Anniversary

St. Mary Star of the Sea, Peel Region - 50th Anniversary

St Paul the Apostle, Northern Region - 50th Anniversary

Holy Family, Durham - 35th Anniversary

HAPPY 105TH BIRTHDAY!

*Birthday Wishes to charter member Dorothy Augustus on her 105th
Birthday!*

St. John the Evangelist, Durham

Sub Conveners:

Kathleen Koyama
Sonia Villanueva

Communications

On page 27 of the Constitution and By-Laws 2013, there is an outline of the four areas for which the Communications Chair is responsible:

- a) The Canadian League magazine
- b) Media:
 - i) for evangelization
 - ii) to promote the League
 - iii) evaluation and promotion of good content
 - iv) newsletters and bulletins
- c) media relations
- d) pornography.



These four areas are further explained in the Executive Handbook (May 2014) on pages 61-63, or go to [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca/resources/manuals) resources/manuals. <http://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Executive-Handbook-May-2014.pdf> This manual will give the council chairs a better understanding of their responsibilities.

Encourage all members to become familiar with the Constitution & By-Laws, the various manuals/workshops, the Be League, and information available from the National website www.cwl.ca and Facebook. For information from the Ontario Provincial Council www.cwl.on.ca, and the Toronto Diocesan Council website www.cwltoronto.ca, look under projects and Regional events posted.

Annual Reports

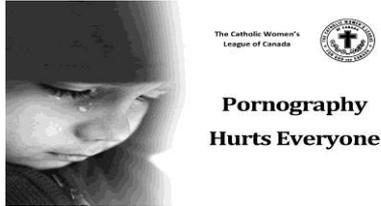
Thank you to the parish councils who submitted their Communications Reports. A number of councils did not have a Communications Chair and so some annual reports were left blank or not submitted at all. There are many ways in which council executives communicate with members, and collaboratively should make an effort to review what this annual report is asking and work together to ensure members are contacted; this is the executive's responsibility.

Your good news stories need to be shared. Please note that even if your council does not have a Communications Chair, I am sure that your council

finds ways to inform members of planned activities through the various forms of communication.

Pornography Hurts Everyone Campaign

Thank you to those of you who took part in this campaign. The new cards were distributed at the Fall Regional Meetings and these cards should all have been sent out in the month of January. If you still have these cards, please continue to mail them in to our new Prime Minister. Perhaps your council can have a speaker on this topic to better inform your members.



National Be League online Newsletter

Thank you to the councils who submitted articles for inclusion to the January 2016 issue of Be League, representing the Province of Ontario. Be sure to take a look at the National website www.cwl.ca and see if you recognize any of our sisters from Ontario. Two of our Toronto Diocesan Councils were featured: St. Bartholomew and St. Joseph Highland Creek. The Be League features stories, great ideas and projects happening from across the country. Be League is posted on the National website on the 15th of each month.

Woman on a Mission

As you already know, Salt+Light TV created a documentary on the work of the CWL. This was filmed at the National 2015 Convention in Vancouver. I hope that you were inspired and reaffirmed by the mission and the amazing work that we do across this country and beyond. If you missed the television airing, you can view this documentary on the National website and it can be purchased for \$19.95 from Salt+Light TV <http://www.saltandlighttv.org/>.

Toronto Diocesan Theme and Convention May 5th and 6th 2016 Information

Our Toronto theme for 2016 convention is “**One Heart, One Voice, One Mission ... Acting with Kindness and Mercy**” the theme logo has been posted on our website www.cwltoronto.ca in both .pdf and .jpeg format. This is for your use for your projects, newsletters, meetings, etc. You will also find on this website all pertinent information for the convention, hotel information, banquet tickets, including on-line registration. The Patricia Beattie Award nomination forms are also available to download.

This convention is the Annual General Meeting for the Toronto Diocesan Council. We encourage all members to attend. Like any meeting, there will

be a spiritual component (Masses, readings, etc.) business reports (committee chair reports, resolutions, speakers, awards, etc.), social time (coffee breaks, hospitality suites, banquet) and plenty of sisterhood for relationship building. Promote this convention and meet your sisters from all the Toronto Regions.

Toronto Diocesan Convention – Communications Table - Newsletters

A great way of informing and showcasing your parish council is to produce a newsletter. I know from your annual reports that a number of councils are doing just that. I would like to ask you to send me your newsletter so that it can be displayed at this table. Please email it to me at lucia.vacca@sympatico.ca or print a copy and I will be glad to take it at your Spring Regional meetings. For the councils who currently are not producing their own newsletter, I encourage you to do so. It's a great tangible and visible tool for communication to record your history, inform and remind members and parishioners of events in which the CWL is involved, and what it is all about.

2016 World Communications Day

Did you know that the patron saint of journalists is St. Francis de Sales? The Catholic Church celebrates World Communications Day on Sunday, May 8, 2016. In this Holy Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has chosen the theme “*Communication and Mercy: A fruitful encounter.*” He invites us to reflect on the link between communication and mercy. In the statement from the Pontifical Council for Social Communications: “*The theme highlights the capacity of good communication to open up a space for dialogue, mutual understanding and reconciliation, thereby allowing fruitful human encounters to flourish.*”

The Pope is asking us to be more welcoming and forgiving. He said that “*good communication is never merely the product of the latest or more developed technology, but is realized within the context of a deep interpersonal relationship*”. We must find ways to effectively communicate by using positive words and actions with our members and parishioners in order to flourish and increase our membership.

New Movie Releases

Here are a couple of new movies which will be released in March 2016. “*Miracles from Heaven*” is based on a true story - *Miracles from Heaven: A Little Girl, Her Journey to Heaven and Her Amazing Story of Healing*, a book written by Christy Wilson Beam. Look for the listing in Toronto. A trailer can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CldGTG6iVrU>.

If you enjoyed the movie “*God is not Dead*”, guess what, there is a second movie being released “*God is not Dead 2*”. Look for it in April 2016 (USA) and hopefully soon in Toronto. Take a look at this trailer on YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xt_RRpPPjq0

The Catholic Register has been advertising the book “*Out of the Cold - a History of Caring*” by Michael Swan. A way to understand the work of this outreach program established in Toronto. <http://www.catholicregister.org/arts/item/21264-out-of-the-cold-a-history-of-caring>. If you wish to receive your Catholic Register on line, go to <http://www.catholicregister.org/> and register.

Remember to wear your CWL pin and scarf (if you have one) to all CWL meetings and functions in the parish, this is one way of showing your commitment to the League; wear it with pride. Refer to the CWL as the Catholic Women’s League of Canada so that all may know what this acronym stands for.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Andrea Tjioe

“*Laudato Si*” – “Praise Be to you” – I salute and thank all of you who have submitted your Community Life annual reports. I was in awe at the amount of hard work done by your councils in your communities, locally and internationally - “at home and abroad”. So yes, once again “*Laudato Si*” – “Praise Be to you”. I received Community Life annual reports from 53 Councils. It took me quite some time to read every single one of them, and I have carefully tabulated all the information and in great detail, not wanting to miss any information. You will all have a chance to read your good works in the Toronto Diocesan Annual Report book, which will be released at our Annual Toronto Diocesan Convention May 5-6, 2016.



Dignity and Rights of Persons – Indigenous People

On December 8, 2015, the Government of Canada launched a national inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

The Government will immediately begin engaging with survivors, family members and loved ones of victims, as well as national Aboriginal, provincial, and territorial representatives to seek their views on the design

and scope of the inquiry. These meetings will be led by the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, the Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice, Attorney General of Canada, and the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Status of Women.

Meetings will continue across Canada that will involve family members and a range of provincial, territorial, justice and front-line workers, as well as Indigenous women's organizations. A discussion guide has been developed and will soon be available on-line to help focus meetings on this inquiry design process. For a more detailed information and any updates, please visit the link: <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1023999>.

Refugees, Immigration and Citizenship

Many councils have participated in *Project Hope*, a 100-day emergency appeal launched on September 8, 2015, with a goal to raise \$3 million to bring in 100 refugee families to the Archdiocese of Toronto. As per Cardinal Collins' press release of December 18, 2015, \$3.1 million has been raised, and the first families are arriving. Here's an excerpt from the Cardinal's message: *"I wish to express my deep gratitude to all those who have supported the Project Hope emergency refugee resettlement campaign. This is a tremendous accomplishment and I thank all donors and volunteers for this tangible demonstration of assistance for refugee families in great need."* To read the full text of his press release and further update on *Project Hope*, you can check the Archdiocese of Toronto website: www.archtoronto.org/projecthope.

ORAT - the Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto, provides advice, support and assistance if you want to initiate a sponsorship/resettlement. ORAT is available to provide support with information sessions to parish councils and committees, information on general refugee issues, and civic sponsorship opportunities.

Their website: <https://www.archtoronto.org/refugee/>

Please continue to pray for the refugees; those who have been able to find a safe haven here in Canada or other countries, those who are struggling to escape and/or stranded, and those who are working with them.

Developing Countries - Climate Change

On January 28, 2016, I attended a symposium - Faith, Science, Climate Change and Pope Francis's Encyclical *Laudato Si*. The focus of the symposium was a discussion and a dialogue, among scientists and theologians, of Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si* with its focus on global warming and climate change. The keynote speaker was Dr. Moira

McQueen, Executive Director of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute. To prepare myself for this discussion, I started reading Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si*. Not wanting to be boastful, but I was so proud of myself that I was able to follow and understand the whole dialogue/discussion, even though I had barely finished reading the first chapters.

For 2016, my new year's resolution will be to finish reading and to further study *Laudato Si*, and begin my own personal reflection on confronting the challenges of climate change, particularly for our sisters and brothers in the Global South, who are suffering the most. I challenge you to do the same; we can do it together.

This encyclical calls for urgent action to tackle the current ecological crisis and to address inequalities. Pope Francis invites us to put the poorest at the centre, the ones who are not responsible for the terrible consequences of climate change on people who have fewer resources to react. The Holy Father urges us to make a transformational change that will allow all human beings to live sustainably in dignity.

Allow me to end my article with the last paragraph of one of the two prayers at the end of *Laudato Si*:

God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen.

EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Debbie Bates

Sub Conveners:

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

Annual Reports

Thank you to the 53 councils who summarized their activities and sent in their Education and Health annual reports.



Education

This year’s Catholic Education Week is May 1st to May 6th, and in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, the theme is “*Opening Doors of Mercy*” with a sub-theme for each week day:

Monday: *Mercy that Welcomes*; **Tuesday:** *Mercy that Loves*; **Wednesday:** *Mercy that Forgives*; **Thursday:** *Mercy that Lives the Gospel*; and **Friday:** *Mercy that Rejoices*.

Catholic Education Week Prayer

God of Love and compassion,
 help us to open the door of mercy in our school, communities,
 in our families and in the world.
 Let mercy guide our living and bring us closer to the heart of the
 gospel.
 May we live as Jesus with mercy that welcomes, loves, forgives and
 calls us to live the gospel joyfully. Amen.

This prayer is not limited to schools or to Catholic Education Week. It can be prayed by everyone - for the CWL simply replace “our school” with “our council”. Are there not times when we could all try harder to live with mercy that welcomes, loves, forgives and calls us to live the gospel joyfully?

The Catholic Faith is alive in our schools! This is demonstrated in the videos submitted to the 2015 Ontario Catholic Schools “*Faith in Our Future*” short video contest. Wow, our youth are amazing and more involved in their schools, communities and the world than you may realize. In these short videos you will see they demonstrate and understand what it means to live their Catholic values through kindness and compassion. Please take a few minutes and go to www.ocsta.on.ca/ontario-students-create-unique-youtube-videos-about-gospel-values/ and watch these message-packed short YouTube videos.

CWL Scholarships

Remember to promote the 2016 St. Michael's Scholarship in your high schools and in your parishes. Young women who meet the criteria are invited to apply for this \$3,000 scholarship.

The criteria is in the St. Michael's College Scholarship package that can be found on our website www.cwltoronto.ca/index.php/reference_documents. For further details, you can also contact Mary Tuccitto at 416-283-8828 or marytuccitto@hotmail.com.

CWL National Bursary Fund

There has been a change to this fund. The funds are now distributed twice a year and there are two application deadlines - May 31st and Nov 30th. This allows for applicants taking courses mid-year to receive their funding on a more timely basis. Applicants may now request reimbursement for courses that they have already completed. The new application form and the details are available on the National website www.cwl.ca under *Resources - Forms*.

Health

This year's *Bell Let's Talk Day* was January 27th. This is a multi-year charitable program dedicated to mental health. For every text, wireless and long distance call made by Bell Canada and Bell Aliant customers, for every tweet using #BellLetsTalk and every Facebook Share of the *Bell Let's Talk Day* Image done on January 27th, Bell donated five cents. This resulted in \$6,295,764.75 being donated towards initiatives to eradicate the stigma surrounding mental illness, bringing *Bell Let's Talk* total to over \$73.6 million! Continue to help move this cause forward and to help build greater awareness and acceptance, and take action by following these five steps found on the *Bell Let's Talk* site: <http://letstalk.bell.ca/en/end-the-stigma/>
1) Language Matters; 2) Educate Yourself; 3) Be Kind; 4) Listen; 5) Talk About It.

LEGISLATION

Andrea Smart

Welcome back after the Christmas break and welcome to new Legislation Chairs. We will be travelling together during a very interesting and challenging time for our province and country as new Bills are put forward for consideration and some current Bills are being passed into law.



The first challenge we face is making our voice heard on physician-assisted suicide. The Supreme Court has extended the federal government's assisted suicide deadline by four months from the February 6th deadline. In this short time, the federal government has to come up with new laws and regulations to govern the practice of doctor-assisted suicide. Canadians who want a doctor's help in killing themselves between now and the new June 6th deadline will be able to apply to a court for judicial authorization for assisted suicide. "Requiring judicial authorization during that interim period ensures compliance with the rule of law and provides an effective safeguard against potential risks to vulnerable people," said the court. Both the federal government and the provinces will have to work quickly and collaboratively to meet the deadline.

With this ruling and a fast-approaching deadline, we all need to lobby our MPs and MPPs to urge immediate improvements of palliative and hospice care. Organize a letter-writing campaign for not only your parish council, but ask all parishioners to get involved. A sample letter to the Minister of Health can be found on the provincial website www.cwl.on.ca. Check the national website www.cwl.ca for further information.

Provincial Legislation

Bill 66 – Great Lakes Protection Act, 2015

An Act to protect and restore the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin. The purposes of this Act are: (a) to protect and restore the ecological health of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin; and (b) to create opportunities for individuals and communities to become involved in the protection and restoration of the ecological health of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin. Received Royal Assent on November 3, 2015.

Bill 70 – Registered Retirement Savings Protection Act, 2015

On January 27th, Premier Kathleen Wynne announced details of the Ontario Registered Pension Plan (ORPP). People entering the workforce are considered to be the biggest beneficiaries at a time when there are fewer and fewer company retirement plans. The new definition of employees to be included in the ORPP has been expanded to include federally-regulated companies that include banks, broadcasters, telecommunications firms and federal Crown corporations. The definition applies to anyone who works full-time or part-time in Ontario and does not have a comparable company pension plan. The plan takes effect January 1, 2017.

Bill 75 - Microbead Elimination and Monitoring Act, 2015 (Resolution 2015.02) The Bill enacts the *Microbead Elimination and Monitoring Act, 2015*. Update: Consideration of a Bill by Standing Committee on Financial and Economic Affairs.

The federal government has launched a national inquiry to investigate the disproportionate number of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. Such an inquiry can only be truly meaningful if it reflects the concerns and expectations of those most dearly affected. That’s why the first step forward must be to consult with survivors, families, loved ones, indigenous organizations and communities, provinces and territories, and experts.

Some federal Bills of interest:

C-202 An Act to establish a Canadian Environmental Bill of Rights and to make a related amendment to another Act; Short Title: Canadian Environmental Bill of Rights. First reading: December 9, 2015. This enactment establishes the *Canadian Environmental Bill of Rights*, whose provisions apply to all decisions that emanate from a federal source or are related to federal land or a federal work or undertaking. This is a private member’s bill.

S-212 An Act for the advancement of the aboriginal languages of Canada and to recognize and respect aboriginal language rights
Short Title: Aboriginal Languages of Canada Act. First reading in the Senate: December 9, 2015. This enactment recognizes the right of the aboriginal peoples of Canada to use, preserve, revitalize and promote their languages, and expresses the Government of Canada’s commitment to preserve, revitalize and promote aboriginal languages in Canada by protecting them and using them where appropriate.

RESOLUTIONS

Sue Lubowitz

Every New Year, it is natural to look back on the past year and be tempted to resolve how we can make this year even better. We often focus on goals that deal with our health, weight, our work, and our homes. Those goals usually last until the second week of January. So, I thought I'd offer you a resolution you can keep! We are in the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Let's resolve this year to embrace the gift of God's mercy. This year's Spiritual Project has many ways to make this possible. In addition, why not draw up a resolution?! Resolutions are born when members look around their communities and see a need. Let us look with mercy and compassion for ways to answer the need and have a positive effect on society.



My sincere thanks are extended to all of you who serve as your parish resolutions committee chairs. Your dedication, knowledge and abilities make our work for God and Canada productive and enjoyable. Thank you also to all councils who submitted their 2015 annual resolutions reports. A summary of your efforts will be available in the 2015 Annual Report book that will be available at our annual convention.

Convention News

This year at the diocesan convention (May 5th and 6th), we will be presenting the following two resolutions:

2016.01 Enhance the Canada Health Act to Include Home Care

2016.02 Expand the Nutrition North Canada program to include
ALL air-only accessible communities

Copies of these resolutions were included in the convention packages distributed to council presidents at Development Day. Presidents and Resolutions Standing Committee Chairs are requested to take time to read, study, review and discuss these two resolutions at one of your general meetings. Parish voting and accredited delegates must come to convention with an **informed** vote from their council. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions concerning these two resolutions, please contact me up to two weeks prior to the convention. I can be reached at jslubowitz@gmail.com.

Resolutions Dialogue

First held in 2011, this has become a well-attended event at convention. This year it will be held on Thursday, May 6th at 9:30 am. The dialogue session gives delegates the opportunity to review, discuss and suggest changes in the

forms of motions to the resolutions. These motions are presented during the resolutions session on day two of the convention. The dialogue session is open to any member registered at the convention. When completing your registration form for convention, be sure to indicate if you will be attending, so as to ensure sufficient seating.

Homelessness

On January 18, 2016, Cardinal Collins appeared at the Toronto session of the Ontario Ministry of Finance pre-budget consultations. He invited the provincial government to include the following priorities in the next budget: *“the investment of significant resources to end chronic homelessness in Ontario”* and *“the investment of significant resources to construct social, supportive and affordable housing units.”* Over 150,000 Canadians use a homeless shelter at some point in their lives. In Toronto alone, 5,000 people live outdoors, in emergency shelters and other such facilities. **Resolution 1987.07** on homelessness has been archived and yet this problem still exists. Is your council ready to come up with a new resolution? **Resolution 2013.01** Affordable Housing for Low Income Canadians is still active and ready for your actions. We are called to personally appeal to our provincial Member of Parliament to address this issue. The Cardinal’s presentation can be found at <https://www.archtoronto.org/Documents/2016-pre-budget-consultations-cardinal-thomas-collins.pdf>

Update to Resolution 2014.01: Restoration of Health Care For Refugee Claimants

The new federal government has announced it is dropping an appeal in the case around changes to the interim federal health program for refugees that were brought in by the previous Conservative government in 2012. The restrictions have already been lifted, providing coverage for privately-sponsored and government-assisted Syrian refugees. Health Minister Jane Philpott said she is “fully aware there are some inconsistencies” with refugees from other countries, who are still not eligible. Changes to expand beyond the Syrian refugees would require cabinet approval. Write your MP, the Minister of Health and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, urging that health services be restored for ALL refugees immediately. Cuts have an impact on the ability and willingness of sponsors to help due to added liability for costs associated with vision and dental care, prosthetics, medication and mobility devices.

Resolutions Action Plans

It continues to be important to carry out the action plans of adopted resolutions from all levels. It is our responsibility to keep our members

informed through the use of speakers, articles or sharing the resolutions brief. You are challenged to follow the action plan of an existing resolution. All the resolutions that are adopted at national convention should be brought to the attention of your council members. In this way, you honour the work done by the members who worked on those resolutions, and show that we are women of faith.

NEWSLETTER

**Karen Nazione-Garcea
& Christine Abela**

Proofreading

Patricia Cross



Here we are with the first edition of your 2016 subscription. Thank you to all the councils who renewed, and a special welcome to new subscribers! If you know of anyone who would still like to subscribe, please let them know it is not too late to do so. There is a subscription form on our website, www.cwltoronto.ca, or email:



abelachristine@hotmail.com and then mail the cheque, payable to Toronto Diocesan CWL Council, to Christine Abela at the address on the front inside cover of the newsletter.

The Newsletter is a valuable resource which keeps us all connected and informed of all the important events taking place all over the Greater Toronto area, especially the upcoming Toronto Diocesan Convention on May 5 and 6. We look forward to meeting many of you there.

We thank everyone for their submission and sharing of events. Unfortunately we are not able to include all photos submitted due to space limitations.

Council Presidents remember to forward submissions of council anniversaries and Service Award recipients. Please forward the information to Karen Nazione-Garcea at kegarcea@yahoo.ca. Our second edition for this year will be in the fall. The deadline for entries will be July 30, so that will give us all ample time to report on the events happening this year, the Year of Mercy!

Easter Blessings to all!