

TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2017

Table of Contents

Spiritual Advisor's Message	.....	2
President's Message	.....	3
Spiritual Development	.....	6
Organization	.....	8
Past President/Historian	.....	10
Corresponding Secretary	.....	12
Treasurer	.....	13
Christian Family Life	.....	15
Dates to Remember	.....	17
Service Awards	.....	18
Communications	.....	21
Community Life	.....	23
Education and Health	.....	26
Legislation	.....	28
Resolutions	.....	29
Newsletter	.....	31
Convention Notes	.....	31

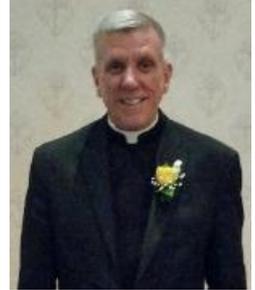
SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Rev. Patrick O'Dea

Dear Members,

I trust your summer has provided you extra time for family, rest, and safe holidays.

As I conclude the first year as Spiritual Advisor, I have now attended one Ontario CWL Convention, the past two of our own Toronto Conventions, and now I look forward to experiencing the workings of the Catholic Women's League at the National level. This, I trust, will offer me greater insight and appreciation for all that is done by the dedicated leaders and members of the Catholic Women's League throughout Canada. I also look forward to celebrating all of this within the context of the festivities marking Canada's 150th birthday.



We all know the work of the Catholic Women's League is also experienced in every part of Canada, regardless of the size of the diocese or the parish or the region. In my travels to various parts of our own Toronto regions, I have come to appreciate the unique ways in which each council expresses its faith and service within its own respective community. It is very inspiring. I know that being a member of the Catholic Women's League is not simply something one "works" at when the council comes together, but is rather a lived daily experience that flows out of our Gospel values. More recently, a CWL member, who can no longer come out to meetings because of ill health, mentioned how she still connects to her council by offering prayers for them each day and by phoning and encouraging prayers for others who may be in need of prayer. She truly recognizes, even in her illness, she can be an instrument of God's presence to others.

This reminds me of the prayer of St. Theresa of Avila, which I would encourage you to pray daily: *"Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which his compassion looks out on the world; yours are the feet with which he can go about doing good; yours are the hands with which he can bless."*

I wish you continued blessings.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Pat

PRESIDENT

Ann D'Souza

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.”
Proverbs 3:5,6

Welcome back. I hope you took some time to relax and enjoy the wonderful warm and wet weather that we had this summer. I am deeply humbled and honoured for the opportunity to serve as your new Diocesan President. What a great theme we have that has been given to us by our National President *“Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God’s Call”*. It is how we live the mission of Catholic women.



The Toronto Diocesan Convention held on May 4th and 5th at a new venue at the Marriott Airport Hotel was a success. We are very thankful for the efforts of our Convention Committee under the leadership of our life member Mary Hawkley and sub-conveners Mary Tuccitto and Mary Antonio. You will get a bit more insight from Mary Hawkley on work behind the scenes that goes into organizing our Annual General Meeting. We had a total of 398 in attendance. The keynote speaker was Marie-Claire Bissonnette, a youth coordinator at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College, who encouraged the assembly to let faith be a love affair through communication with God, and the best way to communicate with God is through prayer. At the closing banquet, His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins was unable to attend but he graciously sent his recorded greetings, which was shown at the banquet. National President Margaret Ann Jacobs gave her greetings at the banquet; she is such an inspiration to me and for sure to you all.

Thanks and appreciation were extended to the five outgoing regional chairs: Durham Regional Chair Kate O'Quinn, Humber Valley Regional Chair Connie Cristinziano, North York Regional Chair Franca Bunnell, Peel Regional Chair Melanie Nazareth, and Scarborough Regional Chair Philomena Menezes. We also welcomed new Regional Chairs Iris McNulty, Durham Region; Darlene Marino, Humber Valley Region; Val Egerton, Peel Region; Mary Tuccitto, Scarborough Region. The following month Andrea Smart was appointed as the North York Regional Chair.

You will note the names and addresses of the newly-elected diocesan CWL executive officers on the inside cover of this newsletter. A warm welcome to new incoming executive members Connie Cristinziano as Community Life Chair, Philomena Menezes as Christian Family Life Chair, Kate O'Quinn as Legislation Chair and Charmain Alweyn as Recording Secretary.

We extend congratulations to Mary Capobianco. It was a joy to see Mary being recognized as a Life Member, a well-deserved recognition, as many of you have surely seen the various hats worn by Mary, and just recently she was elected as the Recording Secretary for the Ontario Provincial CWL Council.

Our Resolution TDC2017.01 Grant GST Zero-Rated Status to Child Safety Products Listed In The Canada Consumer Product Safety Act (CCPSA), was passed at our Toronto Diocesan Convention in May. It was then presented at the Ontario Provincial Convention, where it was passed, and hopefully, if it is accepted, will be presented at the National Convention in PEI.

Thirty-three members from Toronto attended the Ontario Provincial Convention in Thunder Bay, a powerful, spiritual convention. It was beautiful to watch members placing an earring on the tree which symbolized a missing and murdered Indigenous woman. It was very moving to walk in the spirit with the Indigenous sisters as they concluded the service of remembrance, going to the McIntyre Floodway where they poured the water in Lake Superior that was brought by the members from their homes across the province.

We were proud to watch Martha Whelton, our CWL sister from St. Paul the Apostle Council, Alliston, Northern Region, receiving the Social Justice Award presented to her by Anne Madden. The Ontario Provincial Council would like us to submit more recipients for this award. Look around in your council and nominate those ladies, all the criteria are on their website.

We have a new slate of Provincial Executive; Anne Madden is now our Ontario Provincial President. Please view their website for more information and view all the updates on the convention at www.cwl.on.ca

Headed by Mary Capobianco and Debbie Bates, our Toronto Diocesan team did a tremendous presentation of dancing and singing at the invitation launch for the 2018 Provincial Convention, as Toronto will be

hosting this convention in July 2018 at the Marriott Airport Hotel and we will be looking for your help and support. We have beautiful fundraising items on sale and now we have added a beautiful photo frame with engraved plate, an ideal gift to members at various functions.

My vision as Diocesan President, and I would like your help to achieve them as: *“Ideas and visions are like stars; you will not succeed in touching them with your hands. But like the seafaring man on the desert of waters, you choose them as your guides, and following them you will reach your destiny.”* (Carl Schurz)

- 1st: Retain and increase membership – open one new CWL council in each region – each TDC executive to work with the regional chair and help to achieve this goal.
- 2nd: Open Catholic Girls’ Leagues (CGL) in all regions.
- 3rd: Focus on Homelessness. This has come down from our new Provincial President Anne Madden. Try to get as many as possible off the streets. Look for ways we can help eradicate this.
- I will give you more input during your Regional Meetings.



Presentation of Social Justice Award to Martha Whelton by President-elect Anne Madden

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Alice Warford

Sub-Conveners:

Flo Lawrence
Lillian D'Souza

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid: do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you where ever you go.”
Joshua 1:9

Well here I am starting a new two-year term with a new executive. I can't believe the summer is over already and it is time to begin my new role as your Spiritual Development Chair. I take comfort in the above quote as I embark on this journey with you over the next two years, knowing God will truly be accompanying me. I look forward to working with many of you and keeping you informed of upcoming opportunities to strengthen and deepen your faith.



Aboriginal Mass, June 25th 2017

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Hillarion Mitchell and the team from St. John Vianney Parish in Barrie for organizing our 3rd Annual Aboriginal Service. The event began with the celebration of Mass and a wonderful homily given by Fr. Biju Kannampuzla. We then moved into the hall for a reception where we had the chance to listen to songs, drums and watched some traditional dances. We even had a chance to participate. Thank you to Sue Gribbons-Shrubsole and her team for all their efforts for a very successful day. Any parish interested in hosting this event next year should contact me as soon as possible.

Rosary Sunday

The 33rd Annual Living Rosary Sunday Pilgrimage will be held on Sunday, September 10, 2017, at the Martyrs' Shrine in Midland. We will begin with Mass at the Polish Altar at noon, followed by the procession of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary at 2:30 pm. I am aware the Archdiocese of Toronto is having their 175th anniversary event the day before, but please make an extra effort to attend our annual event. Please remember to bring your banners, lawn chairs and lunch.

Month of the Rosary

The month of October is dedicated to the Rosary. The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated on October 7th. Take time to include the Rosary in your daily prayer during this month if you don't already. Perhaps gather with other members or ladies of your parish to say the rosary as a group.

Pope Francis has declared the 33rd Sunday in ordinary time, November 19, 2017, the first “**World Day of the Poor**”. It is my hope that in your councils you will be able to find innovative ways and strategies to mark this day. “*The poor are not a problem: they are a resource from which to draw as we strive to accept and practice in our lives the essence of the Gospel.*” (Pope Francis June 13, 2017).

December 8th is the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**. Councils are encouraged to celebrate this important day in the church calendar. There are many Marian Feast days starting in September through to December. You can easily familiarize yourself with these dates by googling Marian Feast Days.

The Fellowship of the Least Coin

At this time there is no date for this event. Please mark your calendars for **Festival Day** in preparation for **World Day of Prayer**, which will be held on January 13, 2018, at Yorkminster Baptist Church. This year the country is Suriname (South America).

I encourage you to take the opportunity and go to the Provincial website www.cwl.on.ca and read the address given to the delegates at the 70th Provincial Convention in Thunder Bay, by the keynote speaker, His Eminence Gerald Cyprien Cardinal Lacroix, on “*The Joy of Love and the Struggles of Catholic Women Today*”. I would also highly recommend you read Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* and possibly study it in your councils or parish if you have not done so already.

Please go onto the many websites for faith development. The Archdiocese of Toronto www.archtoronto.org offers many workshops on catechesis along with St. Augustine Seminary <http://www.staugustines.on.ca> and the various retreat centers. Take a look at our Toronto Diocesan website www.cwltoronto.ca for reflections and small workshops that are provided in many of the parishes in the various regions, especially during Advent.

Inspired by the Spirit Women Respond to God's Call

We look forward to the fall refreshed after attending the diocesan, provincial and national conventions over the summer. It is now time to complete our remaining personal and council goals for the year. This is my first article as President-Elect/Organization Chair for the 2017-2019 executive term. I am delighted to have responded to God's call as we journey together for the next two years.



League Strategic Planning

A national committee comprising of National President Margaret Ann Jacobs, President-Elect/Organization Chair Anne-Marie Gorman, Past President Barbara Dowding and Executive Director Kim Scammel are leading the review to develop a five-year strategic plan for the League. The review will focus on the viability, current relevancy and future sustainability of the League. A consultant was hired and has been working with the committee, national executive, League members in attendance at the 2017 PEI national convention and those that participated via live link on August 8th. The results of the SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis will be used to establish the goals within the strategic plan. Additional updates will be provided as they become available.

Action: See also National President-Elect/Organization Communiqué #03 May 1, 2017; Spring 2017 issue of The Canadian League magazine by National Past President Barbara Dowding entitled *Past, Present, Future* for background details and 2017 post-national convention website reports.

2017 Ontario Provincial Council Election

The Ontario Provincial CWL celebrated their 70th Anniversary during the July Provincial Convention in Thunder Bay. Elections were also held for the 2017-2019 executive term and Colleen Randall is now President-Elect/Organization Chair. Visit the provincial website for timely updates which she will provide at regular intervals during her term.

Leadership and Public Speaking Course

“Great League members do not just happen; they must be encouraged, trained, helped and supported.” (League Organization Handbook, 2013). After a six-year absence, the Leadership and Public Speaking Course will

start again this fall. It will provide members with the opportunity to develop leadership skills and talents. Members will also gain confidence in presentation and public speaking for council meetings and events which will be very beneficial in their personal and professional lives.

The course is offered one session per week over six weeks. It will provide members with confidence in leadership and speaking in a group setting. The course will be facilitated by Life Members, past or current Toronto Diocesan Council executive and experienced League members. Members will have the opportunity to share their experiences and support each other. A certificate will be provided to members who attended all sessions. The cost is a nominal fee of \$20 per member and includes all course materials.

Action: Contact your regional chair or visit the Toronto CWL website for more details.

Parish Executive Training (PET) Course

The Parish Executive Training (PET) is a half-day session scheduled on Saturdays by each region. It provides a high-level introduction to the League, executive roles and responsibilities, process of conducting meetings, etc. It is open to all members of the council and not just members of the executive. It does not replace the Leadership and Public Speaking Course. Regional Chairs are to determine the need for PET in their respective regions.

2017 Annual Reports

Last year, National introduced standardized annual reports for all councils throughout Canada. There were some glitches, but more than 74% of our council completed online reports in 2016. As the calendar year draws to an end, President-Elect/Organization Chairs are to summarize the highlights of membership recruitment and development activities undertaken between January 1st and December 31st. The deadline for the 2017 annual reports is December 15th. Further details will be circulated by email and posted on the TDC website.

Online Membership

The online membership system is a timesaver which provides for easy and prompt updates on membership records; access to paid and previous year's unpaid members lists; reporting deceased members; purchases and bill payments; generates membership reports in pdf or Excel; printing of address labels etc. The membership renewal period for 2018 will be

available in October and the council's online administrators will be notified by National.

Action: Councils that are not using the online membership system can access the enrollment form on the National website's [resources/forms/membership forms](#) tab, then select Online Membership System Enrollment Form.

Development Day 2018

Plans are now underway for Development Day which will be held on Saturday February 24, 2018. The venue and theme will be confirmed by the next newsletter and details will be posted on the TDC website. A nominal fee of \$10 will be charged.

PAST PRESIDENT/HISTORIAN

Shirley Christo

A warm hello and hug of encouragement and support to all past and about-to-be past presidents! Like any other role in the CWL, this position comes with its own set of duties that can be accessed from the national website at <https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Past-President.pdf> for our review and action.



Additionally, Past Presidents face the unique challenge of figuring out how to transfer their leadership gifts and talents over to consultative and advisory service within the new leadership team. This is no easy task to achieve and I humbly request all League sisters to pray for Past Presidents as we make this transition while remaining true to the faith-filled collaborative, cooperative efforts of our recent presidency. National Past President Barbara Dowding reminds us *“Your voice is needed and hopefully wanted. It is not about you, but about making sure there is open communication and sharing”*.

Toronto Diocesan CWL Council is continuing its efforts to “Respond to God’s Call” in light of the leadership goals of our Provincial and Toronto Diocesan Presidents, Anne Madden and Ann D’Souza, who respectively wish to guide service to the homeless and to provide increased access to, and membership in, the League. In the current context of our secular society, we are both challenged and encouraged by the words of Pope Francis to accomplish these goals. He says *“... meet one another doing good ... do good and we will meet one another there”*. As Past

Presidents, let us eagerly take on our consultative and advisory roles to the new executive team to “do good” and facilitate ongoing League service for God and Canada.

2017 Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Awards

When we think about those in the League whom we seek out for advice or consultation, we often refer to them as our mentors. In May, 2017, at the Diocesan Convention, we presented the awards for the Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Award. This year for the **Parish Level**, the recipient was **Mildred Gallagher** from St. Francis de Sales Council in Durham Region. Mildred has been a CWL member for 36 years and served as parish president at St. Maria Goretti and St. Boniface parish councils as well as Co-President of St. Francis de Sales Council in 2015. Having held various other offices at prior parishes, she is currently the Council Liaison to the Spiritual Advisor for the CWL President. During her Co-President’s term, the membership doubled and by the end of two years the council had a full slate of officers, primarily due to Mildred's encouragement and support. She is a confidante especially for new members and has facilitated unprecedented attendance at Development Days and conventions and increased participation at regional meetings and other events. Although in the parish a short time, she has become a beloved friend and sister to all members and has nurtured the strengthening of her council.

The **Auxiliary Level** recipient for the Patricia Beattie Mentoring Award was **Maureen Donaghy** from St. Edward the Confessor Council in North York. Maureen has been a CWL member for 42 years and has been Parish President and Co-President, Spiritual Development Chair, and Resolutions and Legislation Chair. As well, she has served as Regional Resolutions and Legislation Chair and was the Toronto Diocesan Newsletter Editor for two terms. In the year 2000, Maureen helped save the council from folding by stepping in and later, after becoming a Co-President with Mary Reynolds, she helped organize and run meetings for six years in a local Community Hall when the council was unable to use the church hall. Monthly, she brought in cups, mugs and plates so members protected the environment and did not have to use styrofoam. Additionally, she has kept on top of all issues which required members to act and regularly organized letter-writing campaigns to send to members of government. Her "never give up attitude" has been stellar and is attributed to saving her council from folding TWICE.

Maureen's perseverance in challenges she has faced in her own personal life as well as the unusual challenges faced by her council has been most inspiring to the many she has mentored.

Congratulations to these two very deserving members and thank you for your faith, commitment and leadership and exemplary mentoring in the League!

Elections

During this fall season, many CWL Past Presidents will be preparing for their councils' elections. If so, I remind you that your elections committee should include your parish council's spiritual advisor and at least two other members of your council who are not running for election. As you prepare yourself consider reviewing the following:

- Reference document *Parish Elections - Key Points* available on our website by accessing http://www.cwltoronto.ca/documents/Toronto_Diocese/Parish_Elections_Key_Points_2016.pdf
- The *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* with the appropriate updates which outline the proper procedures. <https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/national-manual-of-policy-and-procedure-2014.pdf>

Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions you may have related to this position (see inside front cover). May pertinent gifts from the Holy Spirit be made known to you early in your term and may Our Lady of Good Counsel guide you as Past Presidents to demonstrate the fruits of the Holy Spirit ongoing in your councils and in secular society.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Andrea Tjioe

I hope you have enjoyed your summer. Yes, it's time to regroup and get organized to get back to our work for God and Canada again. Organization is key to this position.

As Corresponding Secretary, it is our responsibility to be organized, and to keep a log, file and note all incoming and outgoing correspondence, for reporting at each of our council meetings. The Corresponding Secretary is the president's secretarial assistant, and does not act on her own initiative



but only as directed by, and in consultation with, the president. Always keep a supply of cards, stamps, letterhead and envelopes on hand.

As Corresponding Secretary, it is also our responsibility to keep an updated and accurate list of your executive information, and be sure to inform any changes to your regional Corresponding Secretary, so that she can pass these on to myself at the Diocesan level. Many parish councils will have an election of a new executive by the end of the year. Please update your council's executive information, including any new Spiritual Advisors. If you are the outgoing Corresponding Secretary, perhaps you can assist your incoming person in completing the Parish Information Sheet, which can be found on the Toronto Diocesan CWL Council website and forward the information to your Regional Chairs ASAP. Check www.cwltoronto.ca – Resources - Forms and click on “Parish Information sheet.”

Christmas is coming, and as you prepare mailing of your Council's Christmas cards, and also your own personal mailings, please visit your local post office and check out and purchase any available religious stamp. It is also a good idea to buy extra religious stamps while they are available and use them throughout the year.

I look forward to meeting you at our various upcoming events.

TREASURER

Donna Capobianco

Many parish councils are well into the busy time of the fall season. The “welcome back” meetings, bazaars and other events are all well under way.

As Treasurer, with only a few months left in the year, this also means that you have extra responsibilities. This is the time to start preparing for the 2017 financial statements as you begin to close out the year. As well, this is a time to start planning for the year ahead by preparing your council's 2018 budget.



It is very important to plan a budget, no matter how little or how big your bank balance. As per the annual reports, out of the 73 responding councils, only 55 councils reported that they prepare a budget and 19 councils do not present the budget to their members for approval.

A budget is so important, as it provides the opportunity to review the previous year's spending and plan for events that will take place in the new year. It is important to first prepare a budget and then to present it for approval. That way, the council members have a good idea of where the council stands financially, what they can afford to spend and what they will have to plan for. Once the budget has been approved at both executive and general meetings, then it is everyone's responsibility to work with the amounts allocated, to respect the budget and stay within the guidelines. Any expenditure outside of the budget and not already covered in your parish Policy and Procedures Manual would then have to be brought to your general membership to approve. This in itself sets a clear guideline for spending by your executive.

When preparing the budget for your council, remember too, that it is important to set money aside for membership development. Plan to reserve funds that would assist members to attend Development Days, workshops, retreats and conventions. This will help them to see the "big picture" of the CWL. It will encourage them and give them an opportunity to participate in and become aware of what members are doing at other levels of the League.

Last year the Toronto Diocese had a good response to the 2016 annual reports with 73 out of the 95 councils completing them online. This year again, you will be asked to complete the annual reports online. As the due date approaches, more information will be available through your Regional Chairs and all will be posted online on our website. Hopefully, we can have an even better response now that we are familiar with the online process.

It is so important to share the good news of all the work and support that is given to our parishes and communities by the CWL. If you run into problems or have any questions please let your president and regional chair know, or contact me. My contact information is on the inside cover of the newsletter.

If you have still not completed forwarding your 2017 membership to National, then please do so ASAP. Once you have collected the monies from your members, the dues paid are to be submitted to National. Although the payment is made to the council the membership renewal is not recorded until National has received the money. As Treasurer you are entrusted with the members' money and you need to forward this to National promptly. And it's not too early to start working on the 2018

dues; the fees are due to the council on January 1st and should be remitted to National no later than February 28th.

Fall is also the time of year that many councils plan and make their annual donations. The form for the Toronto Diocesan Council Voluntary Funds is on our website at www.cwltoronto.ca. The two charities are the St. Michael's Scholarship Fund and the Hope for Children Fund. This year, from these funds, we donated \$3,000 to the St Michael's Scholarship Fund and \$2,000 to the Hope for Children Fund. It is only with your generous help that we are able to provide support and encourage furthering Catholic education for our young women.

A reminder to ensure that the donations are sent in time to be deposited no later than December 31, 2017, in order for your council to be listed in the 2017 Annual Report. Cheques should be made payable to *The Catholic Women's League of Canada*. The mailing address and information is printed on the form.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you for the upcoming two years as we all journey together to respond to God's will.

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE

Philomena Menezes

Sub-Convener:

Gwyneth Faustin 416-754-3949

It is a privilege for me to serve as your Christian Family Life Chair for the next two years. This convenership covers a wide range of topics. Please feel free to share your ideas on the various ways the CWL can get involved in these areas. I hope to meet you at the Fall Regional meetings.



Marriage and Family

Marriage and families are faced daily with numerous challenges. Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF) has produced a booklet “The Joy of Love” at the Heart of the Family. This booklet is available through www.colf.ca. It speaks of love and promotes respect for human life and dignity and the essential role of the family. St. Teresa of Kolkata (Mother Teresa) when asked how one might change the world replied “... *go home and love your family*”. Let each one of us reading this heed her advice.

National Family Week - October 2nd to October 6th

The main purpose of this week is to recognize and celebrate the important contribution that families make in our lives. Families are the building blocks of society and the place where children learn basic values and principles. Family structures vary and need to be acknowledged. This year, make it a point to spend more quality time with your family – it is about making sure you are with those who see you through on a daily basis.

Sanctity of Life

The Catholic Women's League supports life from conception to natural death. The National March for Life was held on May 11, 2017. Thousands of Canadians gather on Parliament Hill to participate in the largest annual demonstration for Pro-Life. Thanks to the many ladies from our councils who make the trek to Ottawa every year.

40 Days for Life Campaign

This campaign celebrates ten years this fall. It started in College Station, Texas, and has now spread to 715 cities in 44 countries around the world. The peaceful approach through prayer, fasting and constant vigil draws attention in local communities, to the evil of abortion and the consequences. This year in Toronto, take a stand for life from September 27th to November 5th at 960 Lawrence Avenue West (corner of Dufferin/Lawrence), across from the Women's Care Clinic.

National Life Chain – October 1, 2017

Join the peaceful prayerful public witness of pro-life individuals as they stand for an hour from 2:00 – 3:00 pm praying for our nation and for an end to abortion.

Ministry to Seniors

At your next council meeting, look at how your council supports your frail and elderly members, as well as those within your parish communities. Does your council have a home visitation team? Do you include other parishioners, not just CWL members? Do you offer rides to members who can no longer drive and would like to attend meetings, CWL functions or parish events? Does your council have prayer partners who not only pray but also keep in touch via phone calls? If you answered no to any the above questions, you are encouraged to consider taking action in one or two of these areas. One way to keep your older

members on your roster is to pay the membership for Past Presidents and/or members who are in long-term care facilities.

Vocations

Councils across the diocese continue to support vocations and seminarians through prayer, collecting spiritual bouquets and donating to the Bishop Pappin Bursary Fund which assists seminarians who need financial support. These contributions are a great way to support our future priests. Check www.cwl.on.ca for further details.

The Ordinandi Dinner will be held on Wednesday, March 8th is always well attended by council members from the Toronto Diocese. The first highlight of the evening is listening to the vocation stories of the Ordinandi. The second is the presentation of the Spiritual Bouquet that is collected by members within their parish communities and schools. The numbers speak for themselves.

DATES TO REMEMBER 2017-2018

September 10	Rosary Sunday, Martyrs' Shrine, Midland
October 1	Life Chain
October 4	Mass to End Woman Abuse – Precious Blood 7:00 pm
October 26	38 th Annual Cardinal's Dinner
December 15	Deadline for Annual Parish Reports Due to National
January 13	Festival Day (WDOP)
February 24	Development Day
March 2	World Day of Prayer
March 7	Ordinandi Dinner
March 25	TDC Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest
May 3 & 4	Toronto Diocesan Convention
July 7–11	Ontario Provincial Convention – Toronto

Happy Anniversary!

Blessed Trinity, North York Region - 50th Anniversary
St. Anthony of Padua, Peel Region - 40th Anniversary
St. Patrick, Wildfield, Peel Region - 40th Anniversary

REGIONAL MEETING DATES

- September 26 **Northern Region** General Meeting
Holy Spirit, Barrie – Mass 7:00 pm
- September 28 **Durham Region** General Meeting
St. John the Evangelist, Whitby – Mass 7:00 pm
- October 5 **Humber Valley Region** General Meeting
Immaculate Conception, Woodbridge – Mass 7:00 pm
- October 11 **Toronto Region** General Meeting
St. Monica, Toronto – Mass 7:00 pm
- October 17 **Scarborough Region** General Meeting
St. Joseph Highland Creek – Mass 7:00 pm
- October 19 **Peel Region** General Meeting
St. Joseph, Streetsville – Mass 7:00 pm
- October 24 **North York Region** General Meeting
Blessed Trinity – Mass 7:00 pm
-

SERVICE AWARDS

Maple Leaf Service Pins

North York Region
St. Mary Immaculate:
Northern Region
Our Lady of Lourdes:

Boots Montano
Francie Hall

70-Year Membership Pins

Humber Valley Region
St. Gregory:

Margaret Crouse

65 Year Membership Pins

Northern Region
Our Lady of Lourdes:

Donalda Columbus Jean Columbus
Eileen Kenney Marguerite Stone

55-Year Membership Pins

Humber Valley Region
Transfiguration of Our Lord:

Mami Verth

North York Region
Blessed Trinity:

Monica Boyle Betty Keating

Scarborough Region
St. Bartholomew:

Desiree De Abreu

50-Year Membership Pins

North York Region

Blessed Trinity: Norah Maugeri Lucienne Choryhanna

Humber Valley Region

Nativity of Our Lord: Evie Adams

40-Year Membership Pins

Humber Valley Region

Transfiguration of Our Lord: Maureen Davis

North York Region

Blessed Trinity: Giselle Hall Marilyn MacDonald

35-Year Membership Pins

Humber Valley Region

St. Gregory: Jane O'Brien

Transfiguration of Our Lord: Gertrude Ambrust

Nativity of Our Lord: Julia Nixon

30-Year Membership Pins

Humber Valley Region

St. Roch: Alba Brunato Connie Cristinziano

Rosemary Rizzi Rosetta Sampogna

Nativity of Our Lord: Anna Mielczarek

Peel Region

St. Francis Xavier: Bertila De Souza Maureen Rodrigues

25-Year Membership Pins

Humber Valley Region

St. Gregory: Ann Andrachuk

St. Roch: Ilda Cesario Severina Biasutto Diana Fielli

Michelina Di Prospero Giulia Di Bartolo Maria Iannelli

Norma Kiekebelt Gemma Lacivita Ida Ferrari

Nativity of Our Lord: Mela D'Cunha Laura Fernandes

Alba Ferrao Alice Mycan Mary Capobianco

North York Region

Blessed Trinity: Mary Ellen Lawless

Northern Region

Our Lady of Lourdes: Ann Dempster

20-Year Membership Pins

Humber Valley Region

St. Roch: Felicia Adessi Doris Agyemang Maria Pascazio

Linda Pasut Alba Reda Gina Tramonte

Transfiguration of Our Lord: Ann Zammers

Nativity of Our Lord: Maria Di Carlo Ann Looney

Stella Rzeplinski Rosalia Wilton

Scarborough Region

St. Bartholomew:	Brenda Bourne	Benny Cadawas	Mary Charbonneau
	Marcelle Glean	Theresa Greasley	Norma Hing
	Susanne Leitmann	Anna Leodolter	Annette MacDonald
	Amelia Pereira	Mary Ratchford	Dagma St. John
	Annette Van Kempen	Trudy Vanderkooy	Ellen Yam
	Sonia Yam		

15-Year Membership Pins**Humber Valley Region**

St. Gregory:	Sandra Kirby		
St. Roch:	Silvana Carella	Rose Cossarin	Barbara Cossarini
	Phyllis Martelli	Paola Flaim	Gilda Pelligrini
	Nella Stagliano	Linda Villamor	

10-Year Membership Pins**Humber Valley Region**

St. Roch:	Assunta Manganelli		
Transfiguration of Our Lord:	Julie Goyeche	Maloie Morta	Jennifer Van Decoevering
St. Gregory:	Stefania Amatori	Janet Gilfoyle	Theresa Li
	Kay McLean	Wanda Passera	
Nativity of Our Lord:	Dora Abreau	Sally Fernandez	

North York Region

Blessed Trinity:	Joanne Clifton	Wilhelmina Egberts	Micheala Masse
	Linda Miklas		

Northern Region

Our Lady of Lourdes:	Barb Nadon	Angela Bertram	Kelly Edwards
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Scarborough Region

St. Bartholomew:	Catherine Kong	Noreen Nolan
	Rosalind O'Connor	Theresa Sue-Kam Ling

Peel Region

St. Francis Xavier:	Anna Eliza Britto	Loretta Coutinho
	Philomena D'Souza	Benedicta Passanha
	Rhea Ramgoolan	

5-Year Membership Pins**Humber Valley Region**

St. Gregory:	Carole Mandrapilias	Patty McCarthy
	Carol Slowinski	Gertrude Yez
St. Roch:	Judith Nchoujje	

COMMUNICATIONS

Suzanne Cockburn

Sub Convener:

Anne Wylie 416-292-9767

Welcome back from what I hope was a very enjoyable summer despite the unusual rainfall. I know many of you have been very busy attending conventions and other CWL events over the last little while. As your new Communications Chair for the next two years, I look forward to meeting and sharing ideas with all of you so that we may continue to be as effective as possible in this important role. I too have had my hands full trying to familiarize myself with my new assignment, particularly with regard to maintaining the website. As we all know, the Communications Chair is integral to the dissemination of issues, ideas and affairs of fundamental importance to the League. It is through you that information filters through to your Council executive and then on to the grassroots membership.



Social Media

In this modern era, social media has become an unstoppable and increasingly more popular form of communicating. Many of us are familiar with FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram, etc., as a means of staying in touch and sharing personal information with family and friends. Similarly, these media can also be very effective in getting the CWL message out and as such, a potentially powerful tool for us. Both National and Provincial Councils already host their own FaceBook pages. In considering how we can best use these features at our own parish level however, it's important that we observe necessary safeguards to ensure the integrity of our information and avoid misuse and confusion. Check out www.cwl.ca/facebook-guidelines/ for pertinent do's and don'ts to assist in this area.

Pornography

Without a doubt, the most dangerous drawback to internet technology has been its pervasive use to spread the evil of pornography. We've all heard horrendous stories of children as young as nine years old being addicted to internet porn. We all know as well of the pernicious connection between pornography and the twin scourges of prostitution and human trafficking, not to mention a severe and tragic decline in morality. Given the ease of access to the world wide web and the devices that connect

thereto, even to the youngest among us, it is imperative that we remain constantly vigilant and do all in our power to inform and educate everyone against this menace to our values and morals. For more insight on this, please see the two-part series presented by W5 entitled *Generation XXX, Shattering the Innocence of Curious Children* available at W5.ctvnews.ca – search for the Generation XXX documentary.

Newsletters

I strongly encourage all Communications Chairs who have not already done so, to create newsletters at their local parishes. Newsletters have proven to be a most effective means of alerting existing members about CWL events and activities and stirring interest of potential members searching for a faith-based group within their parish community through which to contribute their knowledge, skills and support. There are a host of resources to provide assistance in starting a newsletter; you may consult with other councils who already publish a newsletter. Quite likely there is at least one person within the existing parish membership who has expertise in this area. The only missing ingredient is your commitment to the idea.

On the topic of newsletters, you are reminded to avail yourselves of National's informative *On The Spot* on-line magazine wherein members are invited to send in news items from their parish councils. *On The Spot* replaces the former *Be-League* print publication. Check it out on the home page at www.cwl.ca.

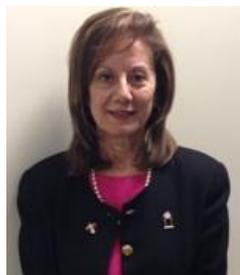
Remember...

- Make use of all CWL on-line resources and particularly our promotional brochures and information pamphlets. Visit us at:
 - www.cwltoronto.ca
 - www.cwl.on.ca
 - www.cwl.ca
- Represent the League proudly by wearing your scarf and pins to all CWL events and activities
- 2017 TDC Convention photos are available at www.cwltoronto.ca

COMMUNITY LIFE

Connie Cristinziano

Welcome to all new and returning Community Life Chairs. As your new Toronto Diocesan Council Community Life Chair, and as I learn the duties and responsibilities of this standing committee, I hope to share with you and your members information, directives and news that revolve around our communities at home and abroad and how we can make a difference. I am looking forward to the opportunity as we journey together.



Dignity and rights of persons

Our vigilance, response and commitment to human dignity due to civil war, death, hunger, displacement and destruction in our world today, is needed more than ever. Just recently we were asked to respond to the severe food crisis in northeast Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen and other affected countries in Africa. In February 2017, the new UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres declared 20 million people to be at risk of death in the next six months.

Here are a few suggestions our communities can do: Visit, contribute and help at local food banks. Visit and spend time with the elderly in a seniors' home, support/assist at adult and children's shelters, support school nutrition programs, reach out to families in crisis, help out victims at home, e.g. families in BC from the ongoing devastation of forest fires.

Indigenous persons/children

At the July Provincial Convention in Thunder Bay, guest speaker Jody Porter, a CBC reporter, spoke about the recent death and missing first nations teens in Thunder Bay. Jody also spoke about the aftermath of Indigenous children who were part of the residential school system of Canada. She also gave us a briefing about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada that was established in June 2008 organized by the parties of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. For more information visit their website www.trc.ca. Some ways to make a difference: Invite someone from the Indigenous community to come and speak at one of your meetings to help foster a better relationship.

Human Trafficking and Pornography

Unfortunately this tragedy never takes a break. It was shocking to know that Canada has been identified as a transit and destination country for human smuggling, women representing the majority of victims in Canada to date. In 2016 Canada was the third highest pornography consumer per capita in the world. Human trafficking attacks the vulnerable like our youth and children, teenage runaways, migrants, etc.

What can be done: Voice your concern, continue writing letters to your local government. Invite guest speakers to your meetings to bring awareness of this issue. Visit the Provincial website: www.cwl.on.ca under Community Life directives re Human Trafficking to protect the vulnerable and our children.

Social Justice Award

This year's recipient of this award from Provincial, was Martha Whelton from our Toronto Diocese. More information with regard to the award can be found on our website: www.cwltoronto.ca

I encourage you to look within your own councils for a candidate who has made a difference in your council/community through her extraordinary works of social justice and deserving of this special award. Nominations must be sent to the Diocesan President by December 15, 2017. For award criteria a nomination form can be downloaded from the Provincial website: www.cwl.on.ca/resources

Some things we can do: Support the Out of the Cold program, visit, contribute and support local food banks, prepare kits for the homeless, have a clothing drive for the homeless, hold a book sale and donate proceeds to the homeless, campaign for a poverty-free Canada on-line forms can be accessed via dignityforall.ca/sign-on-to-dignity-for-all.

Refugees, immigration and citizenship

Many parishes this year through their kindness and generosity have sponsored and welcomed refugees. Continue to support and pray for these refugees as they adjust to their new surroundings, follow their dreams and hopes for a better life.

Some things we can do: Visit your local citizenship office, how can your councils assist, welcome new immigrants into your community, host receptions in your parish for new Canadian citizens, continue to support and find ways to help more refugees in need. Keep current with our refugee programs, through the Office for Refugees of the Archdiocese of Toronto (ORAT) <https://www.archtoronto.org/refugee/>

Study Resolution ON.16.02 Equal Access for Permanent Residence, an Amendment to the Immigration Act Community Life (passed by Provincial Council) was passed at the 2016 National Convention, for more information visit www.cwl.ca under resolutions and community life.

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP)

Development and Peace was founded in 1967 by the Canadian Catholic Bishops as a way to inspire Canadians to act in solidarity with their sisters and brothers in the Global South, suffering from the injustice of poverty. It is one of the important development organizations in Canada. It is a strong and diverse movement that brings together Canadians from all over the country working for justice to enable that the poorest people live with respect and dignity.

Today more than ever, the goals of Development and Peace need to be pursued and supported. Visit their website for a list of projects and agencies that have been funded by Development and Peace and how we can assist in the worldwide organization in own parishes and communities. Continue to promote council participation through fundraising efforts, contribute to the 1% of council revenues to the national voluntary fund.

“Poverty has a face!...the face of widespread unemployment and lack of opportunity.” - Pope Francis.

Mass to End Women Abuse - Wednesday, October 4th

The hosting parish is Precious Blood, 1737 Lawrence Avenue East, Scarborough. Please ensure that you visit our Toronto website for more information at www.cwltoronto.ca.

Community Life resources and current topics can be followed via the Canadian League magazine, on-line Provincial Newsletter, Provincial website www.cwl.on.ca and the National website www.cwl.ca.

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.” – Ecclesiastes 31

EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Sue Lubowitz

Sub Conveners:

St. Michael's Scholarship
Genetics

Judy Jagger 905-895-6099
Elizabeth Joseph 905-427-6244

Greetings to all Education and Health Chairs! Some of us are launching on a new path on the League journey by taking the responsibilities of this standing committee. Some of you have been on this path for the past year so thank you and do feel free to share your learning with the entire group as we move forward. My phone number is inside the front cover of this newsletter and my email address is jslubowitz@gmail.com. Our new provincial chair for Education and Health is Wilma Vanderzwaag (St. Catharines Diocese). Our national chair continues to be Fran Lucas. I look forward to serving with you over the next two years.



Education Youth Awards

Toronto Diocesan Council extends its congratulations to all the students who participated in the Youth Awards and to all the teachers and parents who supported their efforts. We would also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the parishes and regions for their dedication and hard work which allow these contests to continue each year in schools across the diocese. A special thank-you to Mary Lou Bonnici, Mary Tucitto and past chair Debbie Bates, who oversaw the process over the last two years.

The winning entries can be found in the Youth Award booklet received by all delegates at the Toronto Diocesan Convention. Please share the entries from the booklet at a council meeting. It also makes a great resource when chairs go into the schools to talk about the awards.

Here is the list of 1st Place winners:

MARY MATTHEWS PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST 2017

1ST Place: **Eric Woo**, St. Timothy Catholic School, St. Timothy Parish,
North York Region Topic: Stress

MARY DOBELL PRO-LIFE ESSAY AND POETRY CONTEST 2017

Intermediate Essay:

1st Place: **Kiran Fisher**, St. Richard Catholic School, St. Joseph Parish,
Highland Creek, **Scarborough Region**

Title: Why Should They Live on the Streets While We Live in Comfy Homes?

Senior Essay:

1st Place: **Christian D’Ambrosi**, De La Salle College “Oaklands”, St. Padre Pio Parish, Kleinburg, **Humber Valley Region**

Title: Why Doctors Should Not Be Legally Obligated to Perform Abortions

Intermediate Poetry:

1st Place: **Jayveelyn C. Daus**, St. Timothy Catholic School, St. Timothy Parish, **North York Region**

Poem: Domestic Abuse

Senior Poetry:

1st Place: **Emma Harkin**, All Saints Catholic Secondary School, St. Leo the Great Parish, Brooklyn, **Durham Region**

Poem: My Voice

JEAN McCANN SERVICE AWARD FOR YOUTH 2017

Winner: **Zachariah Veltri-Sampogna**, All Saints Catholic Secondary School, St. Gertrude Parish, Oshawa, and St. John the Evangelist Parish, Whitby, **Durham Region**

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ST. MICHAEL’S COLLEGE CWL SCHOLARSHIP

2016 Recipient: **Michele Vitu**, Loretto Abbey Catholic Secondary School, Nativity of Our Lord Parish, **Humber Valley Region**

HOPE FOR CHILDREN FOUNDATION CWL SCHOLARSHIP

2016 Recipient: Lisa Marie – attending Humber College, working towards becoming a Registered Practical Nurse.

Watch for the 2018 Education Youth Awards Program Package that will be distributed to the councils by the Regional Chairs this fall.

Health

At the 70th Annual Ontario Provincial Convention held in Thunder Bay in July the following resolution was passed: Inclusion of Registered Nurses in Provincial Bill 163, Supporting Ontario’s First Responders Act 2016. More information on this resolution and its action plan will soon be posted on the provincial website.

I look forward to seeing and speaking to you at the upcoming Fall Regional Meetings.

LEGISLATION

Kate O'Quinn

Sub-Conveners:

Joan Barnes 905-728-5689

Diana Petre 905-626-3481

Having been in the education field for 30 years, fall always feels like “a new beginning”, a time for new challenges. I am so blessed to be serving you on the Toronto Executive as Legislation Chair. Congratulations to all the new Legislation Chairs! I look forward to working with you over these next two years.



Congratulations to Karen MacDonald, our new Provincial Legislation Chair. A special thank-you to Joan Barnes and Diana Petre, who have agreed to be my sub-conveners.

Bill 84, which is now law, as Royal Assent was provided on May 10, 2017, is the Ontario government’s legislation designed to implement the Federal Legislation, C84, on medically-assisted dying. This Bill ignores the conscience rights of doctors who oppose euthanasia on ethical grounds, thus involves them in the euthanasia process against their will. This is despite the fact that federal law encourages provincial legislation to uphold the conscience rights of doctors. Ontario is the only jurisdiction in the world that forces doctors to provide an effective referral for assisted suicide. Other Canadian provinces protect, or are looking to protect, the conscience rights of doctors. (See news of the Manitoba approach to conscience rights in assisted suicide cases <http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/participating-in-medically-assisted-death-not-mandatory-for-health-care-workers-422597594.html>)

I have also included the website for your referral for Bill 84 –

http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&BillID=4460



RESOLUTIONS

Tracy MacInnis

Sub-Convener: Laurie Van Den Hurk 705-428-5537

Welcome back. Although the weather at times didn't cooperate, I hope you all had a joyful and relaxing summer break. Hello to all the Resolutions Standing Committee Chairs. I look forward to working with you and meeting as many of you as possible over the next two years.



Resolutions

Toronto Diocesan Convention May 4-5, 2017

At this year's convention, a Resolutions Dialogue session was held where delegates gathered to review the resolutions that would be presented on the second day. The purpose of a Resolutions Dialogue is to give interested delegates the opportunity to review and discuss the resolutions in an informal setting and if appropriate formulate changes in the form of motions that will then be presented during the Resolutions session on Day Two of the convention. The popularity of these sessions has increased over the years to the point where approximately 200 delegates attended. As there was only one resolution to discuss, the delegates also participated in a seminar on how to work on action plans of past resolutions.

At this year's convention, there was one resolution presented and adopted Toronto Diocesan 2017.01 – Grant Zero-Rated Status to All Child Safety Products Listed In The Canada Consumer Product Safety Act (CCPSA). Congratulations to St. John Vianney Council in Barrie, Northern Region, for providing a long overdue resolution which could help young families and grandparents save money by eliminating the GST on child safety products. This resolution was sent to the Ontario Provincial Council and accepted for consideration at their July Convention in Thunder Bay.

Ontario Provincial Convention

There were three resolutions presented at the Ontario Provincial Convention this summer. They included:

- ON.17.01 Full implementation of the Supreme Court's Gladue Decision (1999) for Indigenous Women Offenders
- ON.17.02 Grant Zero-rated Status to All Safety Products Listed In The Canada Consumer Product Safety Act (CCPSA)

- ON.17.03 Inclusion of Nurses in Provincial Bill 63 (*The Supporting Ontario's First Responders Act*)

All three resolutions were adopted by the voting delegates present at the 70th Annual Ontario Provincial Convention in July. ON.17.01 and ON.17.02 were sent to the National Council for consideration and ON.17.03 was kept by the Provincial Council as it falls under provincial jurisdiction. At the time of writing this article, it is unknown as to the outcome of the two resolutions sent to national. I will update you in the next newsletter. Until then, you can always check the Ontario Provincial and National websites to see the outcomes of the resolutions put forward.

Deadline for Submission of Topics

Is your council working on a resolution that you want to have considered for the 2018 Convention? The deadline to submit the first draft of the resolution with some basic research on the subject is Tuesday, October 31, 2017.

As a Resolutions Chair at the parish council level, you are encouraged to help your council research and prepare resolutions and accompanying briefs. What can your council do if they do not wish to write a resolution? Work with your council to study and implement the action plans of existing resolutions adopted at the Diocesan, Provincial and/or National levels. Go onto the Provincial website www.cwl.on.ca or the National website, www.cwl.ca and choose a resolution or two and follow through on the action plan attached to the resolution. If appropriate, involve other councils, your parishioners and/or your greater community. Remember it is just as important, if not more so, to carry out the action plans that have been developed for resolutions.

In closing, I would like to say, please don't hesitate to contact me with any ideas or suggestions you may have for future resolutions. There are many resources in place to help your council get started on the websites of the various levels of the CWL. The scary part is just getting started. I find I'm reading the newspaper with a different eye and listening to the news broadcasts with a different ear now that I'm resolutions chair.

I look forward to meeting and talking with many of you at the Fall Regional meetings.

NEWSLETTER

Lucia Vacca

Sub-Convener:

Patricia Cross 905-889-5724

I am honoured to serve as your Newsletter Editor for the next two years. As I explore and learn yet another new aspect of the work of League, I look forward to your positive feedback and support.



Enjoy reading this issue of our Toronto Diocesan Council newsletter packed with information for you to share with your members at your council meetings.

This newsletter is a means of communicating the directives of each of the Standing Committee Chairs from the Toronto Diocesan Council to your Parish Councils. Use the information from these newsletters as your guide to action, promote CWL projects and resolutions, raise awareness of the directives, attend and participate in planned events and share the information in this newsletter.

Offer your members the opportunity to subscribe to this newsletter to expand their knowledge of the CWL and each Standing Committee Chair's area of responsibilities.

The subscription form can be found on our website www.cwltoronto.ca go to Newsletters or contact me directly at newsletter@cwltoronto.ca. Currently we have over 800 subscriptions to the end of this year. Be sure to re-subscribe in January.

Editor's Note:

The Membership Pins will no longer be published in the newsletters, but will be posted on the Toronto website three times per year to coincide with the newsletter. You may continue to send your Council's presentations of membership pins to newsletter@cwltoronto.ca

CONVENTION NOTES

Why Does the Toronto Diocesan Council Hold a Convention Every Year?

Together with Mary Antonio and Mary Tuccitto, I have convened the Toronto Diocesan Conventions for 2016 and 2017. We have read your evaluations with great interest and thank you for your comments. Some of these comments, however, have shown that not everyone is aware of why a convention is held and what takes place during its process.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is a Corporation under the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, and as such, operates under a constitution. The Constitution and Bylaws (2013), is available from National Office. Part XIV, Section 3, (b) states: "the diocesan and provincial councils shall meet in annual convention, diocesan in April or May, provincial in June or July, for the purpose of promoting the Objects and Policy of the League, planning future programs, receiving annual reports, and the election of officers, if applicable. Due notice having been given, ten percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum." Part XV describes who can represent your council at the annual convention and Part XVI describes who is eligible to stand for election at an annual convention. As at the parish level, these elections take place every two years.

There is a National Manual of Policy and Procedure, and such a Manual may be created by every parish, diocesan, and provincial council, which helps us carry out the procedures laid out in the Constitution and Bylaws.

The council president, or her delegate, represents her parish council at the convention, and members are encouraged to attend, to meet old friends, learn about the issues Catholic women across Canada are dealing with, and attain a sense of ownership of how the League is operating.

The planning of our annual convention takes some eight months, from September through to the following May. Unfortunately, the cost of everything rises by about 3% every year, including room rates, parking, and the much needed coffee break. This cost us \$7,051 in 2017, gratefully subsidized by donations of \$5,250 by a number of generous sponsors. Our registration fee barely covers printing fees, the cost of audio-visual equipment and other necessary expenses.

A suggestion for Council Presidents: perhaps have the President-Elect/Organization Chair do a short workshop to help ensure that everyone understands what they need to know before heading to the convention.

Mary Hawkley
Life Member
Toronto Diocesan Council