

# TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

## NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018

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## SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Rev. Patrick O'Dea

This year, the Toronto Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League will be busy with hosting, not one, but two major Conventions: Toronto Diocesan Convention (May 3-4, 2018), and the Ontario Provincial Council of the Catholic Women's League Convention (July 7 -11, 2018), also held in Toronto. I look forward to attending both of these conventions as your Spiritual Advisor.



One of the main topics to be addressed at each Convention will be the theme of "Homelessness". This theme was suggested by Ann Madden, President of the Ontario Provincial Council. It is one that presents much thought and challenge and I think an important focus for all peoples, not simply Catholics.

I have been working closely on this project with Ann D'Souza, President of the Toronto CWL, and others, as we began to look more deeply into this sad reality of our times as it impacts every town, city and village throughout our country. Deacon Robert Kinghorn, a permanent deacon of the Archdiocese of Toronto, has also been helpful in guiding us into deeper discussion and awareness of the many facets of homelessness in our culture today.

More recently, on television, I was watching a remarkable CBC segment that highlighted a Toronto documentary that has just been released on the theme of homelessness. It was filmed by young Toronto filmmakers of various cultural backgrounds who each met and filmed a person they met who were impacted by homelessness. You can visit this link as follows:

[Young filmmakers, homeless seniors form unlikely bond](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcUqBmJrBWc&feature=youtu.be)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcUqBmJrBWc&feature=youtu.be>

In closing, let us pray in a very special way, that all of us will continue to become more aware and enlightened about the nature and reasons for homelessness. So many families are impacted. The Church has a great role in offering support, prayer and healing, not to mention, action.

I am delighted that the Toronto Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League will be taking a significant role in promoting more awareness and suggestions for action on this important issue of our time.

I close with the following prayer from <http://www.lords-prayer-words.com>

## PRAYER FOR THE POOR AND NEEDY

Lord God,

You came to give honour to the least, those forgotten, overlooked and misjudged.

You came to give first place to the last, those left behind, misunderstood and undervalued.

You came to give a warm welcome to the lost, those who are orphaned, abandoned and destitute.

Help us to be your ears to listen to their cries.

Help us to be your voice speaking out love and acceptance.

Help us to be your feet walking beside those in need.

Help us to be your hands to clothe, feed and shelter them.

You came for the least, the lost and the last of this world.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Amen.

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*"Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and, in this way, to know the fundamental truth: who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life".* - Benedict XVI

Time flies by quickly they say when you are enjoying what you are doing, and this has been the case for me since I took the Presidency. There is never a dull moment. I am in awe when I attend your anniversaries and hear the wonderful work you do for the community at large.



Congratulations to all those who accepted the challenge and said "Yes" accepting the executive roles. Sending warm welcome as you lead your councils to new heights and continue the magnificent work done by the ladies in their respective councils. I look forward to meeting with you all at your Regional meetings or at other CWL events like the Toronto Diocesan Convention that will take place on May 3 - 4, 2018 at the Airport Marriott Hotel, Dixon Road. Our theme will be *"Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call"*. I know it is on a week day and some of you will have to take time off work to attend the convention, please do apply for that vacation time, it will be worth your time as you meet your CWL sisters across the Toronto Diocese.

This is our Annual General Meeting. Each Diocesan Executive works hard behind the scenes to bring you a day filled with Spiritual prayers, their report for the year and some great speakers for both days. This year the keynote speakers will focus on “Homelessness”. You may say we see it all and know it all. BUT, do we really know it ALL? One does not need to be in the street to be homeless, we have “homelessness” among us and often we do not recognize it. It’s in our midst. How can we recognize, how can we help? How can we eradicate it? Come to our convention and you will see for yourself and hear from those that went through it. COME, JOIN HANDS AND LET’S ERADICATE HOMLESSNESS, ONE PERSON AT A TIME. WE CAN GET THERE. Eradicating homeless should be everyone’s duty.

There is a lot that happens around the world we cannot control. We cannot stop earthquakes. We cannot prevent droughts. We cannot prevent all conflicts, BUT when we know where the hungry, the homeless and the sick exist, then we can help. God Bless you for all that you do. I was humbled and filled with gratitude reading all the reports from the Regional chairs on the work that you do in your region to help those less fortunate.

At the Development day on February 24<sup>th</sup> (held at St. Roch Parish Hall, Humber Valley Region), each council president will be given a complete Toronto Diocesan CWL convention package. The Package will contain a convention registration form, banquet ticket purchase, resolutions discussion and instructions for informed vote. Please follow the instructions and honour the deadlines for each. Do not wait for the last moment to register, do it before the deadline as we need to provide those numbers to the hotel.

Also included in the package 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 welcome them, so Presidents, please be sure to personally deliver this invitation to your advisor as soon as possible.

The Ontario Provincial Convention is being held in Toronto, July 7 - 11, 2018 at Airport Marriott Hotel, Dixon Road. Toronto Diocese is going to host it. Mary Capobianco and Debbie Bates are chairing the convention. It is shaping up to be a wonderful opportunity to experience the League at another level. Arrange for a carpool and come celebrate with your CWL sisters from across Ontario. More information and registration forms are available on-line at [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca).

The National Convention is being held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, August 12 - 15, 2018. Please check the Canadian League Magazine (Winter 2017) for more information.

In February we celebrate “Valentine’s Day” where we show the appreciation to the people we love. Every day is the perfect time of the year to talk about love, but Valentine’s Day sparks more “love” talk than any other. What does God say about love? What is love, according to the Bible? Many believe love is a just a nice, heart-warming feeling, but we know it is more than that – we are called to act. We can share God’s love by noticing the unnoticed, loving the unlovable, extending grace to those who are not so easy to be around. Ask God to help us actively love others i.e. actively walking across the street to help our neighbours.

By the time you will get this newsletter we will be well into Lent, a time to reflect. Let us thank God for the life he gave to redeem us. Join me in this prayer:

*“Dear Lord, as I begin my journey towards spiritual growth, help me to look deep within myself and let go of the old and embrace the new life that comes from you, help me to live full of faith and teach me to find hope in the face of adversity”, Amen!*

Starting in March, Spring Regional Meetings will be taking place and two of our Regional Chairs will be hosting their final meetings. Please mark your calendars to attend your respective Regional meeting. All the dates are noted in this newsletter. Along with the executives, I look forward to seeing you to share news from Provincial and National councils, updates on our convention and to hear all the magnificent work being done across the Diocese on Homelessness. Please encourage all your members to attend.

Rosary Sunday will be held on Sunday, September 9, 2018, at Martyrs’ Shrine, Midland. Mark your calendars and make your plans early to participate in the procession and recitation of the living rosary.

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## **SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT**

Sub-Conveners:

**Alice Warford**

Flo Lawrence  
Lillian D’Souza

*“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love” Ephesians 4:2*

As I write this article for the Spring issue of our newsletter, I realize the first month of the year is almost over. How are you doing with your New Year’s Resolution so far? Are you already revamping it or are you fine tuning it? No matter what has



happened to your best laid plans, don't give up. Every day is a new day with opportunities for change and deepening your faith. Sign up for a daily devotional or bible verse to get you thinking. Start a journal to write your daily thoughts or write down things you want to say to God. Take the time to do something different and give your spiritual growth a boost. If you would like a short 3 minutes retreat every day go to [www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer](http://www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer). Click to Pray is another website and app that sends prayers three times a day, morning, afternoon and evening. You may find something you like there. [www.clicktopray.org](http://www.clicktopray.org)

**The Lift Jesus Higher Rally** will take place this year on Saturday March 3, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. at the Metro Convention Centre in the Constitution Hall. This year's theme is "*Fire on the Earth*". The keynote speaker is Patti Mansfield. Tickets are \$25.00 for adults and \$15.00 for youth. For more information go to [www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.ca](http://www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.ca)

**The Magnificat Breakfast** is another opportunity for faith sharing. This bi-annual breakfast event includes one woman's account of her personal transformation about how Christ affects her life, along with praise and worship music, confessions and vendors. This event takes place on Saturday April 28, 2018 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Claireport Place Banquet and Convention Centre. For more information contact St. Benedict Parish or [www.stbenedicts.ca/magnificat.html](http://www.stbenedicts.ca/magnificat.html)

The Magnificat will also be hosting a retreat on Saturday June 16, 2018 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. entitled "*A Journey of Self Discovery and Healing*" Part 2 that will be facilitated by Dr. Josephine Lombardi. This event will be held at St. Benedict Parish. Contact the parish for more information.

**St. Augustine's Lay Spiritual Formation Program** still has two remaining presentations coming up. The first is a Lenten Retreat entitled "*Vice and Virtue*" on March 10, 2018 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and is facilitated by Dr. Josephine Lombardi. The other is The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Retreat for Women, "*A Reflection on Some Women of The New Testament*" on June 9, 2018 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cost for each event is \$50.00 includes lunch and mass in the seminary chapel. To register online go to [www.staugustines.on.ca](http://www.staugustines.on.ca)

Once again this year we are asking you to promote the **12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care on Friday May 4, 2018**. Hopefully you have kept your

books from last year with the prayers or you can check the national website for ideas or feel free to contact me.

**The Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel**, our patroness is on April 26, 2018. Please remember to do something special with your council to mark this day. Some Councils in the past have had dinners, masses or award nights to celebrate this day. Information will be posted on our website as it becomes available with regard to the televised mass for this day. [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca)

I am in the process of updating the **Book of Life** in order to have it ready for the Annual Convention in May. Please remember to report your deceased members through the National Online System or on the Form for Reporting Deceased Members, so that they can be added to the book of Life at each level of the League. The Toronto Diocesan Council book of Life contains the names, parishes and regions of our deceased in the diocese and is placed on Our Lady's table for the duration of our convention. This book serves as a tribute to the service these women gave to the League, so please promptly submit the names of your deceased members so they can be included in the book for this coming convention.

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Indigenous Peoples Mass** will be held on Sunday June 24, 2018, the location is still to be determined. Information will be passed onto your Regional Chairs as soon as it is available and also will be posted on the website. Every year this mass has been a success and we hope that you will endeavour to join us this year.

By the time you read this article we will already be in the Lenten Season and a third of the way to Easter which really should be our New Year complete with resolutions. On Ash Wednesday, we start by remembering that we came from dust and to dust we will return, thus beginning our journey by spending time examining ourselves, seeking and finding forgiveness. Hopefully by the end of the Tridium we are reborn, invigorated and ready to continue in service to others. Evangelizing and spreading the Good News. Remember, we are the *“Women of the League, how rich is our legacy and strong is our faith”*.

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## ORGANIZATION

Sub-Convener:

### *Strategic Plan*

#### ***Building on Foundation – The Future is Now***

*“We want the League of the future to truly reflect the strength and wisdom of its founders and embrace and envision a future where our purpose, values and mission are timely and responsive to the needs of others”* Margaret Ann Jacobs, National President



**Hilarion Mitchell**

Carole Pitcher 905-792-0588



Below are some of the questions and answers posted on the National website on the Strategic Plan.

**Purpose:** As the League approaches 100 years, throughout its' history adaptations have taken place when signs of the times indicated adaptation was necessary. Members are being called to do so again. Strategic planning was set in motion at the fall 2016 national executive meeting and a committee was struck with the understanding that the plan must address all levels of the League.

**Why do we need to change?** We need to change because the world is changing. Membership is declining at an alarming rate, members are not willing to take on leadership roles, and women of today have limited time and want to make sure they are getting the most out of their investment.

**Why is it so important to have the CWL grow and flourish?** The CWL is the voice of feminine genius in Canada, advocating for justice for all and serving those in need.

**What is the end goal of the plan?** The end goal is to realize an envisioned future that encompasses what women are asking for and what they agree is needed. The envisioned future is “an inclusive community of Catholic women, growing in faith, strengthening the church through participation, a valued partner for social justice, a respected advocate at all government levels, connected to the world.”

**How long will it take to implement?** The implementation phase is planned to span three to five years incrementally based on the priorities set out by members and as overseen by the national executive.

**When will the changes begin?** Nothing will happen until after the 2018 annual national convention when the strategic plan will be presented for adoption.

**When will we know what the strategic planning will be? How will we find out?** The strategic plan will be shared in the Fall 2018 edition of The Canadian League for all members and through other forms of communication such as the website.

**Resource:** See the Fall 2017 issue of The Canadian League magazine contained a supplement, *Building on Foundation – The League of the Future Strategic Planning* which is also posted on the national website.

### **Guardian Angels, Brampton**

Welcome Guardian Angels, Brampton, Peel Region the newest council in the Toronto Diocese received their charter on November 7, 2017. The driving force behind this was Chinwe Bello a former member of St. John Fisher, Brampton. In her new parish she realized that the women were very active in other parish ministries needed to be united under the umbrella of the Catholic Women’s League. This was also the vision of Father Jan Gogolewski, who had a CWL at his last parish. Chinwe is joined by Mavis Kunjappu, Treasurer; Kim Williams, Recording Secretary; Amjelee Caluag, Organization; Venitta D’Souza, Spiritual Development and nine other women *inspired by the spirit, responding to God’s call*. They are eager to bond as a team, learn more about the League, filling the opened standing committee positions and to increase their membership in 2018 and beyond.

### **Online Membership Updated**

National has updated the online membership processing system. The changes were not available before the printing of this newsletter.

**Action:** Online Council administrators, share the updates as applicable to your Councils.

### **Leadership and Public Speaking Course**

Sixty-two students graduated from the Fall courses representing 17 Councils. Their personal testimonies, fast friendships, growth, appreciation during the course and on their graduation evening was truly inspiring. Some

have already accepted executive positions including Council president. Toronto concluded their course while Humber, Northern and Scarborough have courses scheduled this Spring.

**Action:** Organization Chairs and presidents are to encourage members to sign-up for the courses in their respective regions.

### **2017 Membership Stats**

As of December 31, 2017, there are 7372 paid members in the Toronto Diocese. This is an increase of 35 members from 2016. Peel, with an increase of 61, Humber Valley (18), Toronto (18) and Northern (4) members from 2016. There were 48 memberships for 2016 paid in 2017.

St. Joseph Highland Creek, Scarborough had the highest membership with 219 members. Holy Family, Durham had the highest council increase with 32 additional members. Congratulations to all!

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## **PAST PRESIDENT/HISTORIAN**

**Shirley Christo**

### **Parish Council Elections:**

Now that many of you have had your elections, I welcome our new cohort of Past Presidents / Historians. As Past Presidents, we continue to seek the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to be the mentor/consultant/liason that provides the *Wind beneath the Wings* of our new executives. This is no easy task to accomplish so let's affirm our Councils through ongoing prayer for their efforts. Additionally, assure them that we are valuing the *Power of Prayer* in our new roles to help us discern and to *Respond to God's Call* using our unique gifts.



### **Annual Patricia Beattie Mentoring Awards:**

As your Diocesan Past President, I am patiently waiting for nominations for both the *Parish* and the *Auxiliary* levels of the **Patricia Beattie Mentoring Awards**. The nomination forms are available on-line in fill-able format and a copy of the forms including the criteria will be in the president's convention packages which will be distributed at our Development Day February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018. An individual member or a Council may submit a nomination and I would be very grateful if I received all entries by **Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018**.

### **Historian:**

As Historian, Past Presidents are responsible for their Council's archival material. Individually, you are responsible for creating a two page summary

of your term as president to add to the council's archives. Each year, at the diocesan level of the League your history for the previous year is captured in the Toronto Diocesan Council's (TDC) annual report. This report is filed at ARCAT- Archives of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto so you can see how important it is to properly document your activities in your annual report!

TDC Documents for the 10 year period from 1990 to 2010 were archived with ARCAT in the spring of 2016. The process for archiving for 2011-2020 will occur in 2020 but the process of preparing for archiving is done ongoing and placed in our public storage.

**Moira Ste Marie Memorial Lecture:**

Great news!! We will once again be hosting the *Moira Ste Marie Memorial Lecture* at the University of St Michael's College (USMC) Father Madden Hall on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018! Please let your councils know, hold the date and stay tuned for more details!

Many blessings as we journey together as past presidents through Lent and the Easter Triduum 2018.

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**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

**Andrea Tjioe**

Welcome to all new Corresponding Secretaries. We are the messengers of good news, sad news and communications amongst our members on behalf of our Council. Thank you to all Councils who had election of new officers and for sending in updated listing of your executive to your Regional chair, which then were forwarded to me.



Now that the Christmas mailing and receiving is all done, recorded, and filed away, Corresponding Secretary's duties continue with get-well cards and sympathy cards. When sending out get-well cards and sympathy cards, do personalize it with a handwritten note along with your name on behalf of your Council, e.g. "Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time". It adds a personal touch and comforting gesture that will be appreciated by the recipient.

With the Lenten season upon us, Easter greetings to home-bound members would be a wonderful way to celebrate and spread Jesus' love to others.

And those extra religious stamps that you have left over from the Christmas mailing, you can continue using them throughout the year.

National CWL has a letter-writing guide that you can download - <https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/173-Personal-Letter-Writing-Guide.pdf> It will help you with the proper way to address letters and will provide you with many helpful tips with correspondence. National also has a variety of CWL cards that you can purchase, i.e. Mass cards (deceased & special intentions), sympathy cards and hasty notes and envelopes, etc. Visit National website: [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) under “Resources”.

*“May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God’s word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need.”* (Pope Francis, 2017 Lenten Message).

Easter is a good time to enjoy all of your many meaningful blessings: family, friends, Jesus, and of course chocolate molded into tasty bunnies and eggs. My heartfelt wishes for a Blessed Easter to you and your family.

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## **TREASURER**

**Donna Capobianco**

We begin the spring season with many things completed but also with the opportunity to begin new projects, different activities and ideas to be shared within your Councils and Regions.



By this time, the Annual Financial statements should be completed and presented or ready to be presented to your Councils. Also at this point, the annual budgets and donations should have been prepared and presented to your members to vote on. Supporting our parish and the many various organizations is an important part of the CWL. However, sometimes in doing so, we overlook our most important asset, our members. When preparing your budget and making plans, it is most important to set aside funds to support and encourage membership development in your councils. Members should be encouraged to participate in workshops, attend retreats, conventions and other CWL events. Subsidizing your members is one way of encouraging their attendance. It is by increasing our members knowledge and awareness of the many varied roles and opportunities in the League that we also increase the strength of our Councils. Members should know the

possibilities for them to share their many talents at different levels of the League and the best way to do that is to encourage their participation in events at all levels of the League.

For the Councils that are starting the year with a new executive, a gentle reminder to also update all the banking information. Each account should have three signing officers; the President, the Treasurer and the Recording Secretary. The cheques need to be signed by two of the three signatories.

A commonly asked question is do we need to give all our money away at the end of the year or how much money should we be leaving in the account. A good guideline to follow is that you should have enough money to cover your Council's expenses for one year. This would include supplies for running the meetings, subsidies for membership development and of course have that emergency fund available for any unexpected expense or donation.

Treasurers, please submit the 2018 membership fees to National in a timely manner. As per page 125 in the National Manual of Policy and Procedure, the membership fees are due to National by February 28<sup>th</sup> so at this point in time, the majority of your payments should have been received at National and processed.

I look forward to meeting you at our upcoming Annual Convention on May 3 – 4, 2018.

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## **CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE**

**Philomena Menezes**

Sub-Convener:

Gwyneth Faustin 416-754-3949

I extend a warm welcome to all the newly elected Christian Family Life Standing Committee Chairs. This convenorship covers a wide range of areas that can be addressed at your Council level. They include: a) Marriage & Family; b) Sanctity of Life; c) Vocations; d) Ministry to Youth, Seniors, Disabled, Widowed, Separated and Divorced. Your Councils have been doing great work in these different areas already as per your reports. Keep up the good work!! For more ideas, feel free to access the National website at [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) under resources – 800 series which has workshops to engage your members. The work of the Christian Family Life chair is our CWL love story in action.



## **Marriage & Family**

The National Week for Life and the Family will be celebrated across Canada from May 13 – 20, 2018. The theme is “Love Encountering the Other”. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) is offering resources prepared by the Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF) which are available online on the COLF website. They can be downloaded free and reproduced by parishes and non-profit groups. Among the materials available you will find a poster, prayer cards, suggestions for activities, etc.

## **World Meeting of Families**

Pope Francis has chosen Dublin, Ireland to host the World Meeting of Families (WMF) from August 21 – 26, 2018. This event is held every three years. The theme for this year is “The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World”. Families from around the world will gather to pray, celebrate and reflect on the importance of marriage and the family as “the cornerstone of our lives, of society and of the Church”. More about this major international event and opportunities to volunteer can be found at <http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie> One of the ways our Councils can help is by praying for the success of this event.

## **Sanctity of Life**

The Catholic Women’s League supports life from conception to natural death. The National March for Life will be held on May 10, 2018. It starts at Parliament Hill and continues through the streets of downtown Ottawa. 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 to show our support. Over the years many letter writing campaigns have been initiated asking government officials to stop funding abortions. A letter forwarded to Doreen Gowans, from Sr. Jean MacDonald C.S.M. states that we need God’s intervention to stop abortions from taking place. She invites members to pray the Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe for the Unborn asking her Son to obtain an end to abortions. This novena can be accessed on our National website, [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca)

**Petition of One Million 2019** is a project to gather one million plus signatures to be presented to the federal government in 2019 in support of pro-life issues. Unfortunately four million children have been killed by abortion since 1969, but they can be recognized by every signature that is collected and this will proclaim to all Canadians that every life must be protected from conception to natural death.

Visit [petitionofonemillion.ca/sign-petition/](http://petitionofonemillion.ca/sign-petition/) to download and print the signature page. Collect as many signatures as you can and send them to the address at the bottom of the petition. Please e-mail Alliance for Life Ontario at [aflo@mgl.ca](mailto:aflo@mgl.ca) or call (866) 588-2684 with any questions.

### **Ministry to Youth**

The Steubenville Youth conference is celebrating its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and is the largest Youth conference in Canada. It will be held from July 13 – 15, 2018 at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) in Oshawa, Ontario. As a teenager, staying true to your faith is tough. This conference helps to equip young adults with what they need to stand firm in their faith. Councils can help support their parish youth by either sponsoring or subsidizing them to attend.

### **Vocations**

2018 marks the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pope Francis has declared Sunday April 22, 2018 as Good Shepherd Sunday. By setting aside a day to pray that the Lord may send more labourers into his harvest we affirm the importance of faith and grace in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. The Church on this day publicly celebrates vocations to ordained ministry and religious life in all its forms – contemplative, apostolic and secular. Many parishes and religious institutions commemorate this day with prayers for an increase in vocations and other vocation promotion events. We can show our support by inviting a speaker to give us their vocation story, or by sponsoring a Seminarian or by taking an active role in the travelling Chalice program. 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 diocesan seminarians who need financial support. These contributions are a great way to support our future priests. Check [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca) for further details.

The Serra foundation will hold their Annual Ordinandi Dinner on Wednesday, March 7, 2018. This event is always well attended by council members from the Toronto Diocese. This year we have 4 candidates who will be ordained. The first highlight of the evening is listening to the vocation stories of the Ordinandi. The second is the presentation of the CWL Spiritual Bouquet that is collected by members within their parish communities and schools. Last year a total of one and a half million Masses, Communion, Rosaries, etc. were presented to the Ordinandi.

# The 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Toronto Diocesan CWL Convention May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Toronto Airport Marriott Hotel, 901 Dixon Road, Toronto ON M9W 1J5

## CONVENTION THEME:

*Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call*

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

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS:

<b>Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	9:00 a.m.	Registration
	9:30 a.m.	Resolutions Dialogue (Saloon A/B/C)
	1:30 p.m.	Opening Eucharist
	2:45 p.m.	Call to Order and Business Session
	5:00 p.m.	Dinner Break
	6:00 p.m.	Registration
	6:30 p.m.	Business Session
	7:00 p.m.	Keynote Speakers: <b>Deacon Robert Kinghorn and Nick Beckett</b>
		Topic: "The Many Faces of Homelessness".
	7:30 p.m.	Public Speaking, Poetry & Essay Awards
9:30 p.m.	Evening Entertainment	
<b>Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup></b>	8:00 a.m.	Registration
	8:45 a.m.	Business Session
	9:30 a.m.	Resolutions
	12:00 noon	Lunch Break
	1:30 p.m.	Business Session
	2:00 p.m.	Panel Discussion; open-forum question and answer session <b>Deacon Robert, Nick Beckett, Tracey Ferguson, and Chimene Boyce</b>
	3:30 p.m.	Closing Eucharist
	6:00 p.m.	Cocktail Reception
7:00 p.m.	Closing Banquet <b>Address by: His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins</b>	

## **HOTEL INFORMATION:**

**CWL ROOM RATE** \$150.00 plus taxes per night

(Maximum of 4 to a room)

**Note:** April 19<sup>th</sup> 2018 is the deadline to receive the CWL rate.

## **HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS**

**By telephone:** 1-800-228-9290 or 416-674-9400

**On Line:** To make your reservation online go to: Book your group rate for Catholic Womens League TD Convention

## **PARKING AND MEALS**

**Parking:** Special rate of \$5.00 per day for all guests. License plate must be registered at one of three machines inside the hotel.

**Meals:** Restaurant in hotel and nearby.

## **INQUIRIES AND OTHER INFORMATION:**

**E-mail:** [2018tdcconvention@gmail.com](mailto:2018tdcconvention@gmail.com)

**Convener:** Sonia Villanueva 905-567-1971

**Sub-Conveners:** Lynette Mendes 905-755-0270

Mary Lou Bonnici 905-890-5290

**THIS IS A SCENT FREE EVENT**



## **DATES TO REMEMBER - 2018**

March 7	Ordinandi Dinner
March 14	Norther Region Leadership & Public Speaking Course
March 15	Mary Matthews Public Speaking submissions due
March 15	Mary Dobell Pro-Life Essay & Poetry submissions due
March 15	Jean McCann Youth Service Award submissions due
March 25	TDC Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest
April 1	Easter Sunday
April 8	Divine Mercy Sunday
April 11	Patricia Beattie Mentoring Award submissions due
April 22	World Day of Prayer for Vocations
April 26	Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel
May 3 & 4	97 <sup>th</sup> Toronto Diocesan Convention
May 31	St. Michael Scholarship submissions due
June 24	Indigenous Day Mass - TBA
July 7-11	71 <sup>st</sup> Ontario Provincial Convention – Toronto
August 12-15	98 <sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention - Manitoba
September 9	Rosary Sunday, Martyrs Shrine, Midland

## **REGIONAL MEETING DATES**

March 13	<b>Scarborough Region</b> General Meeting Precious Blood Parish – Mass 7:00 p.m.
March 15	<b>North York Region</b> General Meeting St. Edward the Confessor - Mass 7:00 p.m.
March 21	<b>Toronto Region</b> General Meeting St. Pius X – Mass 7:00 p.m.
April 3	<b>Northern Region</b> General Meeting Holy Martyrs of Japan – Mass 7:00 p.m.
April 5	<b>Durham Region</b> General Meeting - TBA 7:00 p.m.
April 10	<b>Peel Region</b> General Meeting Sts. Martha and Mary – Mass 7:00 pm
April 12	<b>Humber Valley Region</b> General Meeting Our Lady of Miraculous Medal – Mass 7:00 p.m.

## *Happy Anniversary!*

*St. John Vianney, Northern Region - 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
*Immaculate Conception, Port Perry, Durham – 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
*Immaculate Conception, Woodbridge, Humber – 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
*Padre Pio, Humber – 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
*St. Timothy, North York – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
*Sts. Martha and Mary, Peel – 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
*Holy Spirit, Northern – 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
*St. Andrew, Brechin, Northern – 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
*Precious Blood, Scarborough – 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
*St. Dunstan, Scarborough – 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

### **SERVICE AWARDS**

#### **Maple Leaf Service Pin**

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

Transfiguration of our Lord Carol McErlain

##### **Scarborough Region**

St. Joseph Highland Creek: Lina Civello Suanne O’Neill

##### **Toronto Region**

Our Lady of Lourdes: Araceli Farinas Alisa Diokno Eva Caldillero  
Adele Casinas

#### **70- Year Membership Pins**

##### **Northern Region**

St. John Vianney: Mary Lomoro Everdina Robinson

#### **60- Year Membership Pins**

##### **Northern Region**

St. John Vianney: Maria Van Der Mast Margaret White Jacobs

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

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

Transfiguration of our Lord: Marguerite Plourde

St. Margaret Mary: Ottilia Fedrigone

##### **Northern Region**

St. John Vianney: Joan Wanamaker

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

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

St. Margaret Mary: Beniamina Mori

##### **Northern Region**

St. John Vianney: Florence Dietrich

### 45-Year Membership Pins

#### **Humber Valley Region**

Transfiguration of our Lord: Charlotte Pazder

#### **Northern Region**

St. John Vianney: Mary Ann Collingbourne Prima Parent  
Ena Howcroft Georgette Poliquin

### 40-Year Membership Pins

#### **Humber Valley Region**

St. Margaret Mary: Martha Bell

#### **Northern Region**

St. John Vianney: Teresa Mika Ingrid Loeffler Carol Roth

#### **Scarborough Region**

Precious Blood: Ann McEachen

#### **Toronto Region**

Holy Rosary: Amy Domingo

### 35-Year Membership Pins

#### **Scarborough**

Precious Blood: Mercea Larcina Gloria Wilson  
St. Barnabas: Nicky Rangel

### 30-Year Membership Pins

#### **Humber Valley Region**

Transfiguration of our Lord: Elizabeth DiCecco

#### **Scarborough**

Precious Blood: Geraldine Ellis  
St. Barnabas: Lois Larocque

### 25-Year Membership Pins

#### **Humber Valley Region**

St. Margaret Mary: Franca Carella Carmela Carnovale Rosanna Tacconelli

#### **Northern Region**

St. John Vianney: Sandra Duggan Joan Sintnicolaas Rosella Barrie

#### **Scarborough**

St. Barnabas: Elizabeth Apolino Norma Edwards Winsome Fletcher  
Antonia Maestre Rocio Maestre

### 20-Year Membership Pins

#### **Humber Valley Region**

Transfiguration of our Lord: Anne Zamida  
St. Margaret Mary: Mirella Ferrari Maria Spina

#### **Northern Region**

St. John Vianney: Sheila Wright

#### **Scarborough**

Precious Blood: Amelia Bayaton Viola Coulombe Josephine McNeill  
St. Barnabas: Chandra Ayoung Ruth Williams Anne Broekhof

**Toronto Region**

St. Monica: Angela Dill, Gloria Gillego, Margaret McGroarty, Mary Remedios  
 St. Alphonsus: Maria D'Alonzo

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

Transfiguration of our Lord: Irene Callum  
 St. Margaret Mary: Alba Bravaco Rosa Chiaravallotti Enza Gallo-Intraligi  
 Maria Milone Maria Petrucelli Sandra Tacconelli  
 Laura Tacconelli

**Northern Region**

St. John Vianney: Lisa Connel Elizabeth Moore Pat Smrcka

**Scarborough**

Precious Blood: Pusparani Chelliah Teresita Largo Flavia Sequeira  
 St. Barnabas: Euthalie Jones Lydia Shillinford Colleen Kristal Julia Williams

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

Transfiguration of our Lord: Victoria Sandre  
 St. Margaret Mary: Gabriella Caravaggio Agnes Saldutto

**Northern Region**

St. John Vianney: Marisa D'Angicco Anne Jardine Rosemarie MacDonell

**Scarborough**

Precious Blood: Rosario Cruz Janet Lambert Mary Luda-Mahendran  
 St. Barnabas: Rosemarie Abdool Suzanne Cockburn Jenny Dejaia  
 Chandra Mohammed

**Toronto Region**

St. Monica: Eileen Cain, Cely Silo Kathleen Wong

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

Transfiguration of our Lord: Irene Stumpf

**Northern Region**

St. John Vianney: Natasha Beauchamp Marlane Ramsbottom  
 Terry Lynn Dunesbury Marjorie Oliveira

**Scarborough**

Precious Blood: Nenita MacKenzie Marjeiry Robinson  
 St. Barnabas: Sylvia Oliver Agnes Jones Phan Lau Elaine Thomas  
 Shirley Tolentino Silvie Baichan Yolande Sparrock Monica Tomlinson  
 Erlese Winston Gladys Yorke Elsa Allenb Merlene D'Oyley Francis

**Toronto Region**

St. Alphonsus: Luisa Dourado

## COMMUNICATIONS

**Suzanne Cockburn**

Sub Convener:

Anne Wylie 416-292-9767

A warm welcome back especially to Communication Chairs! Hopefully those of you who are new to the position are settling in nicely. Remember I am always available in the event that you need any assistance.



### **Annual Reports**

Thank you to all parish councils for submitting your annual reports. As you know, these reports are an important resource for us. They provide great insight on what other councils are doing and may give you some ideas as to what your council can do. Where councils didn't submit a report or left their report blank because they did not have a Communications Chair, the report ought to be completed by the council president. You may even think that your council has nothing worth reporting, but remember not to overlook the many and various ways in which we do communicate with our members on a regular basis. For example telephone committee, church bulletin, and so on. Do consider these for inclusion in your report so that your efforts and initiatives are recognized and shared.

### **League Magazine and Newsletters**

Organization Chairs please ensure that your members are receiving the League Magazine – every paid up member should be receiving a copy. If they're not, please double check for omissions and inaccuracies regarding unit numbers, postal codes, etc. and otherwise confirm that addresses are up to date and correct. Also, encourage members to subscribe to our TDC newsletter which runs from February 2018 to February 2019 at a cost of \$12 for 3 issues annually. Presidents don't forget to include your spiritual advisor in your subscription. The subscription form may be downloaded from our website [cwltoronto.ca](http://cwltoronto.ca).

### **2018 World Communications Day**

May 13 2018 marks this year's World Communications Day. As is the case every year, it is celebrated on the Sunday before Pentecost. As it is every year also, the announcement was made by Pope Francis on September 29 2017 on the feast of the Archangels Michael, Raphael and Gabriel – Gabriel being the designated the patron saint of telecommunications. Initiated under the pontificate of Blessed Pope Paul VI the objective is to draw attention to the communications media and the enormous power they wield for cultural

transformation. For this the 52<sup>nd</sup> World Communications Day, Pope Francis has chosen the very topical theme “***The truth will set you free***” (***Jn 8:32***). ***Fake news and journalism for peace***”. Following is an excerpt of The Holy Father’s message, published on January 24 - the feast of St. Francis de Sales, the patron saint of journalism: “*Communication is part of God’s plan for us and an essential way to experience fellowship. Made in the image and likeness of our Creator, we are able to express and share all that is true, good, and beautiful. We are able to describe our own experiences and the world around us, and thus to create historical memory and the understanding of events. But when we yield to our own pride and selfishness, we can also distort the way we use our ability to communicate.*” To read more of Pope Francis’s message, visit the Vatican website [vatican.va](http://vatican.va)

### **Toronto Diocesan Convention**

The 2018 Toronto Diocesan Convention will be held on Thursday May 3 and Friday May 4 at the Toronto Airport Marriott Hotel. Our theme this year, in keeping with National’s is “***Inspired by the Spirit, Women’s respond to God’s call***”. Councils are encouraged to create projects centered around the theme. The theme’s logo is available on the Toronto’s website in both .pdf and .jpeg formats. All information regarding the Convention such as hotel accommodation, facilities and charges, online registration, banquet tickets and so on, will be available on our website and updated as necessary. All members are invited to attend the Convention. Although centered around our Annual General Meeting where fundamental business matters are discussed and decided and information disseminated, the event has ample elements of fun, festivity and entertainment. So come out, join us and meet your fellow league sisters.

### **SAVE THE DATE! Toronto is hosting the 2018 Provincial Convention – July 7-11, 2018**

#### **Convention Communication Table**

This is a great way to showcase your parish council’s newsletter at the TDC Convention. Those of you who do produce one please email me {[sd.cwl@gmail.com](mailto:sd.cwl@gmail.com)}, snail-mail me a printed copy or hand deliver it to me at your Spring Regional meeting. For those councils who do not currently have their own newsletter, now maybe a good time to start creating one.

#### **Remember...**

- Make use of all CWL on-line resources and particularly our promotional brochures and information pamphlets. Visit us at:

- cwltoronto.ca
- cwl.on.ca
- cwl.ca
- Represent us properly by wearing your scarf and pins to all CWL events and activities
- Organization Chairs/Presidents, remember to insert in your new members kit, welcome letters from all three levels of President {Toronto, Provincial and National}. These can be found on our website under the tab Resources click on Reference Documents.

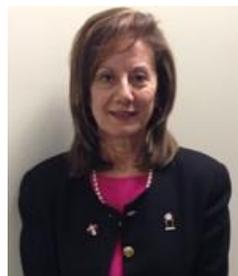
## COMMUNITY LIFE

**Connie Cristinziano**

*Whatever you do to the least of my brothers or sisters you do to me" is Mt 25:40.*

### **Dignity and Rights of Persons**

The last several months Environment Canada has issued extreme cold weather alerts. The city was faced with a homeless shelter crisis as demand was on the rise. This was due to shelters closing their doors and remaining ones overflowing. With the housing waiting list rapidly growing, finding a permanent place to call home becomes a nearly impossible task.



According to the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association over 170,000 households are on the waiting list for affordable housing and the average waiting time is four years. Governments are challenged with global economic crisis, the needs of the poor and most vulnerable are at even a greater risk of being overlooked. Research has shown that long-term approaches to ending homelessness are more cost effective than emergency responses. Investing in affordable housing today means enabling more people to realize their full potential in the future.

Let us reach out and help the marginalized and vulnerable brothers and sisters, and to pray that the Ontario Government continues with its ambitious long term goal to end homelessness.

### **Indigenous People**

“Walking Together: Ontario’s Long-Term Strategy to End Violence Against Indigenous Women” <https://www.ontario.ca/page/walking-together-ontarios-long-term-strategy-end-violence-against-indigenous-women>

The province is supporting Beendigen Inc. an Indigenous family shelter in Thunder Bay, to expand culturally appropriate helpline services for Indigenous women across Ontario. This provides safety and shelter to Indigenous women and children experiencing violence. Expanding the helpline services for Indigenous women is a key commitment in responding to the high rates of violence. Supporting Indigenous women is one of many steps on the journey of healing and reconciliation. The government's commitment to work with Indigenous partners creates a better future for everyone in Ontario.

### **Migrants and Refugees**

“Ontario Providing More Support for Refugees and Vulnerable Newcomers, Enhanced Funding Will Help Newcomers Settle and Succeed”. <https://news.ontario.ca/mci/en/2018/01/ontario-providing-more-support-for-refugees-and-vulnerable-newcomers.html>

A total of 95 projects will receive funding for services to help improve social and economic outcomes for refugees and other vulnerable newcomers, including immediate settlement and long-term integration support. Welcome and support any immigrants through private and community sponsorship programs. [https://www.archtoronto.org/about-us/departments-\(o-z\)/Office-for-Refugee](https://www.archtoronto.org/about-us/departments-(o-z)/Office-for-Refugee) Office of Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto (ORAT) *”I was a stranger and you welcomed me “(Mt 25-35)*

### **Development and Peace**

The Development and Peace Relief fund is asking aid to Rohingya refugees. It's becoming a growing crisis. Refugees are on the run from burning villages and military sweeps through Myanmar's Rakhine State. Since December 12, 2017, more than 647,000, most of them women and children have crossed the border into Bangladesh. Already there is 300,000 living as refugees in Bangladesh. D&P partners are working on projects to move people in existing overcrowded camps to ensure women feel safe, families have access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. Support to the huge needs by this humanitarian crisis is vital. The crucial need is to try to reach a diplomatic agreement in order that the Rohingyas may be able to return to their origins. Let us continue continue to pray for our brothers and sisters abroad. Let us continue to support Development and Peace.

Development and Peace – Caritas Canada welcomes the recent announcement by the Canadian Government to create a human rights Ombudsperson to oversee Canadian mining, oil and gas operations around the world after ten years of campaigning on this issue. Since 2006, its

campaigns for greater accountability in the Canadian extractives sector have garnered the support of 500,000 Canadians.

The Community Life Convenorship covers many areas. Let us together continue to explore, get involved, see what **we can do** to change things, and how we can **make** a difference in our communities at home and abroad.

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## EDUCATION AND HEALTH

**Sue Lubowitz**

Sub Conveners:

St. Michael's Scholarship  
Genetics

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

**Catholic Education Week** is held each year in May in the 29 Ontario Catholic school boards. The theme for CEW 2018, *Renewing the Promise*, draws upon previous documents on Ontario Catholic education, namely, "This Moment of Promise" (1989), "Fulfilling the Promise" (1993) and "Our Catholic Schools" (2006-2007). These three documents, while several years apart from each other, all speak of the unique mission of Ontario Catholic education, the importance of its shared leadership by all those involved in Catholic education and the critical role of Catholic education in contemporary society. For 2017-2018, these issues were further explored via an electronic survey that was organized by the Institute for Catholic Education (ICE) that led to a gathering of the Catholic community in the fall of 2017. From the discussions that emerged from this summit, the Ontario Bishops will be producing a new statement on Ontario Catholic education, "Renewing the Promise," which is expected out in the spring of 2018."



The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2018 are as follows:

**Monday (May 7)** Remembering the Promise, **Tuesday (May 8)** The Promise is Within You, **Wednesday (May 9)** Praying the Promise, **Thursday (May 10)** Living the Promise, **Friday (May 11)** Proclaiming the Promise

**National Hospice Palliative Care Week 2018** will take place the week of May 6-12, 2018. The theme was not available at the time of this writing but more information can be found at

[www.chpca.net/news-and-events/national-hospice-palliative-care-week-2018.aspx](http://www.chpca.net/news-and-events/national-hospice-palliative-care-week-2018.aspx)

**“A culture of life includes quality palliative care for all citizens.”** (National President Margaret Ann Jacobs) Last year all councils in the Toronto Diocese received the *12 Hours of Prayer* booklet. National and Provincial CWL Councils have called on us to pray again this year on May 4, 2018. It is hoped that all members will find some way to support this day of prayer, either on May 4<sup>th</sup> or on a day during the week of May 6 to 12. The prayer can take place within a parish church, a home or elsewhere. Participation may include a large congregation, a few friends or solitary prayer at home. The 12 hours can be designed around local schedules.

### **CWL Scholarships**

Toronto Diocesan Council awards two scholarships each year. They are the **St. Michael’s Scholarship** and the **CCAS-Hope for Children Scholarship**. Remember to promote the St. Michael’s scholarship in your high schools and parishes. All the information including the eligibility requirements are included in the Youth Awards information on the diocesan website.

Please keep these worthy scholarships in mind when allocating your donation funds through your budget process. Please mail your donations to the Diocesan Treasurer, Donna Capobianco. Donation cheques should be made payable to *The Catholic Women’s League* (noting the name of the scholarship(s) on the memo line). Donations can be sent at any time through the year.

### **Mental Health Week 2018**

Canadian Mental Health Association introduced Mental Health Week (MHW) in 1951 to raise awareness of mental illness in Canada. Today, MHW offers practical ways to maintain and improve mental health and support recovery from mental illness and addictions. This year’s Mental Health Week is May 7-13, 2018.

Approximately seven million Canadians – 20 percent of us – live with mental health problems, mental illness or addiction. Too often it’s kept hidden because of the associated stigma and discrimination. That needs to stop. Talking is the first step. During Mental Health Week Canadians are asked to get loud. Getting loud, means speaking up to stop the discrimination and the stigma that usually go hand in hand with mental illness. It means using your voice to raise awareness and build support, for someone at work, for someone at home, for yourself. You can visit CMHA’s [Mental Health Week](#) website in the coming months for updates,

campaign information and events near you. On the leading edge of health:  
(from Elizabeth Joseph, Genetics sub-convener)

**Precision Medicine:** Definition "an emerging approach for disease treatment and prevention that takes into account individual variability in genes, environment, and lifestyle for each person." Precision medicine helps doctors select cancer treatments that are most likely to help patients based on a genetic understanding of their disease.

Here in Canada, the Hospital for Sick Kids has The Cystic Fibrosis Canada-SickKids Program in Individual CF Therapy. It is collaboration between **Cystic Fibrosis Canada, SickKids Foundation and the Hospital for Sick Children** to develop a nationally accessible resource that will accelerate the development of precision medicine for the treatment of each individual living with cystic fibrosis.

Hospital for SickKids has taken the lead in the Centre’s genomic research initiatives with the establishment of the Cardiac Genome Clinic, the world’s first clinic dedicated to adult and pediatric genome analysis. Researchers will use their findings to develop more personalized treatments for patients. “The program at SickKids will investigate the genetic underpinning of cardiac disease and apply an integrated lens to define the cause and appropriate treatment of individual pediatric and adult cardiac patients. This approach will lead to the prediction of heart disease before it occurs and enable individualized therapies for children and adults based on the unique genome of each patient.” (Dr. Cohn, November 2015).

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## LEGISLATION

**Kate O’Quinn**

Sub-Conveners:

Joan Barnes 905-728-5689

Diana Petre 905-626-3481

### **Ontario Call for Conscience Campaign:**

Hopefully, as you read this, not only have you heard about the campaign, but also had the opportunity to participate in this campaign, acting on your own personal capacity, at your parish. The Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario approved a *Call for Conscience Campaign*, for Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. The campaign was organized by the Coalition for HealthCARE and Conscience.



The focus of the campaign was to encourage Ontario’s political parties to: (i) provide conscience protection for doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other health professionals who do not want to participate in assisted suicide or euthanasia. Currently, Ontario’s regulatory agencies are forcing referral, even if this is contrary to the caregiver’s convictions. Caregivers are at risk of being disciplined and losing their license to practice; (ii) support faith-based hospitals, hospices and nursing homes who are not able to allow assisted suicide or euthanasia on the premises; and (iii) ensure sufficient palliative care in the province. I will keep you updated on the results of this campaign.

Karen McDonald, Provincial Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson has updated us on the following private members’ bills (that support League Resolutions) as brought to our attention by National Legislation Chairperson, Nancy Simms, that require our action, by contacting MP’s, Ministers, and the Prime Minister. (Remember, government mailing is free.)

Bills at current status:

**Bill C-254 An Act to amend the *Excise Tax Act*** (baby products) is in first reading in the House of Commons. Members are asked to contact government officials to request support for the bill especially with adoption of **Resolution 2017.03 Zero-Rated Status Under the Goods and Services Tax Provisions of the *Excise Tax Act* for Child Safety Products.**

**Bill C-313 National Strategy on Advertising to Children Act** is in first reading and supports communications resolutions seeking protection in media for children and families.

**Bill C-249 An Act to amend the *Public Health Agency of Canada Act*** (National Alzheimer Office) is in first reading in the House of Commons and proposes the establishment of a national Alzheimer Office within the Public Health Agency of Canada. This would support the League’s ongoing call for compassionate care for the sick.

The following bills changed status:

**Bill C-277 Framework on Palliative Care in Canada Act** received Royal Assent on December 12, 2017.

**Bill S-228 Child Health Protection Act** passed third reading in the Senate and is in second reading in the House of Commons.

**Bill S-225** An Act to amend the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (substances used in production of fentanyl) was passed by the Senate with amendment at third reading.

Please note: The above is not a conclusive list – please refer to National Legislation Chairperson Nancy Simms’ Communique #6 on CWL National Webpage.

Two Items of Good News, brought to our attention by our National Legislation Chairperson are: **Bill C-233** **National Strategy for Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias Act** was passed by the Senate and House of Commons and received Royal Assent on June 22, 2017. And, On November 8, 2017, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights reversed the course of the government’s efforts to repeal section 176 of the *Criminal Code* by voting to retain the provision (with amendments). Section 176 prohibits activity that obstructs or interferes with religious officials seeking to perform their religious duties. Bill C-51 will no longer attempt to remove protections in law for clergy and worship services.

In closing, remember **June 7, 2017 is Election Day in Ontario** – get to know the candidates in your area and ask questions!!

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## RESOLUTIONS

**Tracy MacInnis**

Sub-Convener:

Laurie van ven Hurk 705-428-5537

Now is the time to start working on resolutions for the May 2019 Toronto Diocesan Convention. Watch the news, read the paper, become informed. If something you hear or read makes you stop and think, “Hey, that’s not right”, then perhaps you want to do some research and try to figure out whether it’s a resolution waiting to be written. I’d like to reinforce that if you do not know how to begin, please contact me and I, along with my team, will get you headed in the right direction.



### Convention News:

This year at the diocesan convention (May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) we will be presenting the following resolution:

- ***TDC2018.01 Develop National Standards for Levels of Pharmaceuticals in Canada’s Water Supply.***

Copies of this resolution were included in the convention packages distributed to council presidents at Development Day. Please take the time at an upcoming general meeting to read, review, and discuss the resolution. Parish voting, and accredited delegates should come to the convention with your council's **informed vote**. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions concerning this resolution, please contact me no later than April 20, 2018. I can be reached at [tmacinnins@rogers.com](mailto:tmacinnins@rogers.com)

**Resolutions Dialogue and Q & A Period:**

Resolution Dialogue will be held on **Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 am sharp**. This dialogue session gives delegates the opportunity to review, discuss and suggest changes in the form of motions to the resolution in an informal setting. These motions are presented during the resolution session on Day Two of the convention. This is a well attended event at convention, but you **must be registered** for this session. When filling out your convention registration form, be sure to indicate if you will be attending to ensure sufficient seating and information packages.

This year, we will also spend some time answering your questions on various aspects of the duties and responsibilities of the Resolutions and Legislation Standing Committee Chairs. I ask that you submit any questions to me (see email address above), also no later than April 20, 2018. This will provide us the time to research answers and be fully prepared for a meaningful dialogue. This should prove to be an informative and engaging session for many members of a council. I encourage you to attend.

**Resolutions Business Session:** This is scheduled for the morning of Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The Chair will recognize any member who wishes to speak to the resolutions providing members use the microphone and identify themselves by name and council. Once recognized, members are asked to keep within the time limits. The remainder of the *Resolutions Convention Rules of Order* will be explained at the start of the session.

**In Closing:**

Not every council will develop resolutions, but everyone can write letters or call their MP to voice their position on various topics. I urge you to do so personally and as a group. Please remember, that there is much to be done to implement recommendations of adopted resolutions at all levels. Even when councils are not prepared to develop a resolution, your support of adopted resolutions is urgently needed.

# NEWSLETTER

Lucia Vacca

Sub-Convener:

Patricia Cross 905-889-5724

This is the first issue of the Toronto Diocesan Newsletter for 2018. Thank you to the members who have subscribed. We encourage and welcome members from your council who would like to subscribe for the remainder of the year. The subscription forms can be found on our website at [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca) under Resources Newsletter cost is \$12.00. If you have any questions or there are address changes, you can contact me at [newsletter@cwltoronto.ca](mailto:newsletter@cwltoronto.ca).



If you wish to send the names of recipients of Service Awards, please do so before July 30, 2018 for the next edition of the Fall 2018 newsletter. Congratulations to the members who are listed in this issue for celebrating these service milestones and anniversaries of their Councils.

This newsletter is intended to guide each Standing Committee Chair in the areas of responsibilities, raise awareness of the directives and inform you of planned events for your participation.

As you know, convention preparations are underway and I look forward in meeting you at our Toronto Diocesan Convention on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and the Ontario Provincial Convention July 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>. Toronto is hosting this convention. Join us it's a great way to welcome and meet our CWL sisters from Toronto and Ontario.

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*“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it.” Proverbs 18:21*