



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR
Monsignor Patrick O'Dea

SPONSOR
HIS EMINENCE THOMAS CARDINAL COLLINS
ARCHBISHOP OF TORONTO

PRESIDENT
Hilarion Mitchell

April 14, 2020

Dear Msgr. Pat, Council Presidents, Life Members and Sisters in the League,

RE: Toronto Diocesan Council Updates During the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Greetings for a blessed holy Easter! *"I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."* (Joshua 1:9). It has been one month since the Ontario State of Emergency was declared as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic resulting in unprecedented changes in our routines. This included embracing online Masses with other everyday words associated with COVID-19.

Had COVID-19 not occurred, we would be busy finalizing the 99th Annual Toronto Diocesan Convention at this time. However, with the reality of COVID-19, new opportunities have emerged that were not readily apparent during normal circumstances. For example, the TDC executive conducted pre-convention and executive meetings through teleconferences and a TDC Online Newsletter is now being prepared. This online newsletter will cover the six months between March and the Fall 2020 TDC Newsletter. Below are some of the updates that may be expanded on in the TDC Online Newsletter.

End of April Activities

- Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel: The Mass with Msgr. Pat O'Dea as the celebrant will be aired on Sunday April 26th on Vision TV, EWTN, etc. It will also be available on YouTube and Facebook.
- Mass for Honorary Life Members and Life Members: The Mass will also be held on the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel on April 26th at 10:00 am (MDT) or 12 noon (EDT). It will be live streamed (<https://www.catholiccyca.ca/>) from St. Mary's Cathedral with Most Rev. Bishop McGrattan, Bishop of Calgary.
- 2019 TDC Financial Statements: Will be emailed to council presidents, Life Members, TDC Executive and Regional Chairs.
- 2019 Annual Reports: Will be posted online without the financial statements.
- CWL Annual Meeting with the Cardinal: Msgr. Pat, TDC President, President-Elect, Past President scheduled to attend.



Toronto Diocesan Council 100 Years (1921 – 2021)
Growing in Faith, Love and Service
www.cwltoronto.ca

Youth Awards 2020

- The St. Michael's Scholarship Fund: Extended to July 30th
- Catholic Children's Aid Society, Hope for Children Foundation Scholarship Fund: TDC will be sending the scholarship award for 2020
- Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest: Will resume post pandemic
- Mary Dobell Pro-Life Essay & Poetry Contest: The 2020 recipients will be awarded in 2021
- Jean McCann Service Award: The 2020 recipients will be awarded in 2021

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

This is the business portion of conventions. The AGM, as per National's directive (March 20th) will be held three months post-pandemic. TDC has tentatively scheduled this for Sat. Sept. 26th.

TDC 2020 Resolutions

These resolutions will now be presented in 2021.

- TDC 2020.01 Promoting A Holistic Parish-Based Theology of The Body Lifestyle and Procreation Teachings
- TDC 2020.02 Canada Needs A National Strategy to Address Loneliness

Cancelled

- TDC High Tea (May 24th)
- Fall Gala Fundraiser for the 2021 National Convention (October 16th)
- Patricia Beattie Mentoring Awards 2020

12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care

It will be held during National Hospice Palliative Care Week May 4-10, 2020. Councils are encouraged to organize an at-home prayer service for at end of life and affected by COVID-19.

March for Life 2020

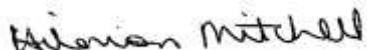
The National March for Life on Parliament Hill has been cancelled due to COVID-19. A *Virtual* March for Life will take place May 10 – 14, 2020 as an *on-line event* featuring a week of on-line programming with speakers (see www.marchforlife.ca).

Loneliness

This theme was gifted to Ontario by Colleen Perry, Ontario Provincial President in July 2019. No one could imagine how pertinent the topic would be during COVID-19. Hence, phone calls are back as they provide the personal touch during government-imposed physical and social isolation to stop the spread of the virus. This is the time for councils and members to make phone calls to shut-in members, parishioners and others in our community with a "*I just called to say, I'm thinking of you, etc.*" message.

These are uncertain but hopeful times as we celebrate the risen Lord at Easter, which is a time of joy despite the realities of COVID-19 at home and throughout the world. Let us join in prayer for all afflicted and affected by the virus; health professionals, scientists, clergy and each other, for the end to this pandemic.

Yours in Faith, Love and Service,



Hilarion Mitchell
President