

# TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

## NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020

### Table of Contents

<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	.....	<b>2</b>
<b>Spiritual Advisor</b>	.....	<b>3</b>
<b>President</b>	.....	<b>5</b>
<b>Spiritual Development</b>	.....	<b>8</b>
<b>Organization</b>	.....	<b>10</b>
<b>Past President/Historian</b>	.....	<b>13</b>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	.....	<b>14</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	.....	<b>15</b>
<b>Christian Family Life</b>	.....	<b>17</b>
<b>Dates to Remember</b>	.....	<b>20</b>
<b>Service Awards</b>	.....	<b>21</b>
<b>Communications</b>	.....	<b>22</b>
<b>Community Life</b>	.....	<b>24</b>
<b>Education and Health</b>	.....	<b>27</b>
<b>Legislation</b>	.....	<b>29</b>
<b>Resolutions</b>	.....	<b>32</b>
<b>100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b>	.....	<b>34</b>
<b>2021 National Fundraiser</b>	.....	<b>35</b>
<b>Regional Activities</b>	.....	<b>36</b>
<b>TDC Ad - Catholic Register</b>	.....	<b>40</b>

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

**Lucia Vacca**

Sub-Convener:

Patricia Cross

So much has transpired since the spring issue of the newsletter. Our way of living has been put to the test on how well we can survive and adapt with change given the opportunity. We have discovered new ways to communicate with all of the technology available to us. We now have added many frequently used words: virus, pandemic, asymptomatic, social distancing, bubble, spike, flatten the curve, shutdown, lockdown, masks, washing hands, testing, vaccine, virtual meetings, livestreaming, teleconferencing, etc...



In this fall newsletter you will read the articles written by our Toronto Diocesan Council executive members in order to keep all of you informed and to encourage you to take action on some of the topics covered in this newsletter with action items. There are articles which cover: Covid-19 Opportunities, League updates, Loneliness theme, Strategic Plan, Recruitment and Member Development, Budgets and Funds, Racial Discrimination, Youth Award winners, Provincial Bills, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in 2021, Fundraising for 2021 National Convention and a summary of Regional activities during this time.

Due to COVID-19, the Fall Regional General Meetings will most likely be virtual, note the dates listed. A notice will be sent from the Regional Chairs with further direction and instructions to join in these meetings.

An online newsletter was created in May and is on our [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca) website for your reference. We encourage you to go to our website frequently for updates. Continue to submit information on members who will be receiving service pins from your council. The next deadline for this information is October 30<sup>th</sup>.

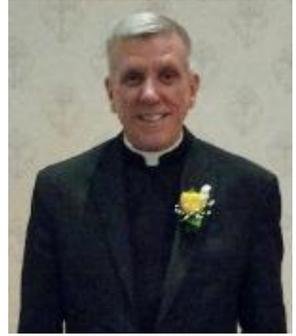
We unfortunately experienced some Canada Post issues with the spring issue of the newsletter, it is posted on our website [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca) Please contact me if you have any questions and if there are any address changes, forward to me at [newsletter@cwltoronto.ca](mailto:newsletter@cwltoronto.ca).

The subscription form for the 2021 newsletter will be in the winter 2020 issue and will also be available to download from our TDC website [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca)

Blessings to all of you let's keep the spirit of hope and joy, alive during this challenging time. Praying that we will see each other very soon.

Dear Members of The Catholic Women's League,

I must admit, even though numbers are less, that it is good to be able to celebrate Mass, daily, and on Sundays, again in our church. I know that many churches, during this time of COVID-19 have been essentially watching Mass on the internet, not only from parishes that provide a link, but especially the daily Mass from the Cathedral-Basilica with Cardinal Collins. The Archbishop has seen this as his way of being out front and evangelizing the faithful people of our archdiocese, and beyond.



It is clear that many people miss attending Mass in person at their parishes. For some, their age, and health, are a concern. For others, they are simply concerned about not knowing what to expect. This sense of anxiety is understandable. I try to be conscious, when celebrating Mass, to speak to those who are watching virtually. I cannot tell you how many emails and letters we get to say how much they appreciate being able to connect to their own home parish, even though other options are available. While they do offer the Prayer for a Spiritual Communion at each Mass, they long for the day they can receive it for themselves. Their "hunger" and desire for the Lord, in the sacraments, is something truly inspiring and causes us to reflect more deeply on the importance of our church, especially in times of great need.

As an example, this past week, I reached out to one of our oldest parishioners, aged 95, who, in the past, never missed Mass on a Sunday. He would take Wheel Trans, had a walker, and was always the first at the door when I opened for Mass. He has not been able to attend Mass since the closing of churches almost five months ago. In our phone conversation, I realized he needed the strength of the Eucharist and so I arranged, with social distancing guidelines and masks, to bring him the Eucharist. I also brought my seminarian-intern with me.

I was surprised, when we arrived, to find him already sitting on his front porch, in a rocking chair, saying his rosary, his mask firmly in place. He looked at my seminarian, and told him that he recognized him from our virtual Masses. He said, "You will be a good priest, and I promise to pray for you." (This would be the last visit my seminarian would make as he was

leaving the next day, having completed his internship.) The seminarian was very moved and touched by his words and his example of faith, marveling at how strong he was, even at 95 years old, and still intimately connected to the Lord. Following our visit, I could tell this would be a memory that would remain with the seminarian for a long time. His last visit in the parish was to an elderly man who reminded him of the importance of staying faithful to the Lord. The man's grateful words would remain with him: "Thank you for bringing me Jesus."

I must admit, in all the prayers I offer, daily, I particularly pray for the day we can all return to the sacraments in great numbers. I pray for a vaccine, and I encourage you to do the same. In the meantime, let us also know that God is still with us, in all we do, and in the many ways we see him in the church, and in one another, each day.

Yes, not even a pandemic can separate us from God. We just need to look closer at how He is present, in so many ways. For me, even that man on the porch, whom we encountered the other day, was a moment of God's presence.

I leave you with a scripture passage, taken from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans (8.35,37-39) which I trust may be a good meditation in this time of need.

*"Brothers and sisters: Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor Angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*



## PRESIDENT

**Hilarion Mitchell**

The past six months changed our lives in unimaginable ways with the global COVID-19 pandemic which was declared in Ontario on March 17<sup>th</sup>. There were unprecedented deaths, especially among the elderly, closure of churches, institutions and non-essential businesses, job and other losses beyond our diocese and throughout the world. All League diocesan, provincial and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary national convention in Montreal were cancelled. Visit the national website for highlights of the Online Summer Speaker Series held August 10 – 14.



### **COVID-19 Opportunities**

“My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy.” (James 1:2) Through this period of uncertainty, there were reasons to be hopeful as new opportunities emerged, such as virtual Masses. Councils were kept informed through emails on League responses to the pandemic and other updates from various executives, teleconferences and virtual meetings.

- **Toronto Virtual Celebration for National 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** TDC hosted a virtual celebration on June 17<sup>th</sup> the inception date of the League. Sixty councils and 230 members, spiritual advisors, deacon, seminarian, and life members participated by video and phone including Anne-Marie Gorman, National President. His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins sent in video greetings.
- **Toronto Virtual League Strategic Plan (Year 2) Reorganization Survey Meeting:** Thirty-four of the 71 presidents who received the survey from all regions participated on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Along with Toronto life members, completed the survey as your diocesan president. Members and councils are encouraged to participate in Strategic Plan working groups, surveys, etc. as they occur.

### **Care for Our Common Home and COVID-19**

The use of personal protective equipment (PPE) increased multifold as they are required to protect healthcare, essential and non-essential workers and each of us during the COVID-19 pandemic. These include the use of latex and vinyl gloves, surgical masks, disposable gowns and aprons, etc. However, they are single use and are creating issues for the environment due to litter, are non-recyclable and are not biodegradable. These are made using polymers that take decades or centuries to decompose, ending up in our

landfills and oceans. Prior to the pandemic, the provincial and federal governments and many municipalities had plans to ban the use of single-use plastics. The reality is that single use PPEs are required for medical and other purposes. However, as private citizens we are to be mindful of our use and find other ways to protect ourselves from the virus as noted below with further resources.

- Practice regular hand washing; use washable masks made from natural fabrics and washable garden gloves
- Video: “A new type of pollution”: Covid-19 waste ending up in the world’s oceans (June 10, 2020)
- ON: Bill 82, Single-Use Plastics Ban Act, 2019 and Health Canada Draft Science Assessment of Plastic Pollution

### **Racism Demonstrations**

Amid the pandemic, the murder of George Floyd by the police on May 25th in Minneapolis, Minnesota, resulted in demonstrations in the US, Canada and around the world. This regenerated conversations on racism experienced by Blacks, Indigenous and other racial groups through systemic barriers, micro aggressions, privilege, role of allies, etc., in the media. Statements from Pope Francis and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops on racism and respect for each other as disciples of Jesus are posted on the TDC website.

### **League Updates**

- **TDC Executive Term Extension:** This is the second year of the current TDC Executive elected for the 2019-2021 term. As a result of the pandemic, our term is extended to 2022. No elections will be held at all levels of the League including the parishes in 2020. Elections scheduled for 2020 will be held in 2021 and elections scheduled in 2021 will be held in 2022. The two-year terms will then resume.
- **2019 TDC Financial Statements:** With the cancellation of the 2020 convention, the financial statements were emailed to voting delegates (council presidents) and accredited delegates (Life Members, TDC Executive and regional chairs) in late August. The financial statements will be approved at the 2021 convention.
- **Virtual Meetings**  
Though TDC and some councils had virtual meetings and other events, the League Constitution & Bylaws does not include virtual meetings. Decisions made during virtual executive and general meetings must be ratified (formally approved) at the next in-person meeting to be official.

- **Centennial Tree Planting**

This has been extended to July 1, 2021. Tree planting can take place on church and public properties where permitted. Contact your local municipality and service groups, as they normally have community tree planting events in the fall and spring.

### **Fall 2020 Activities**

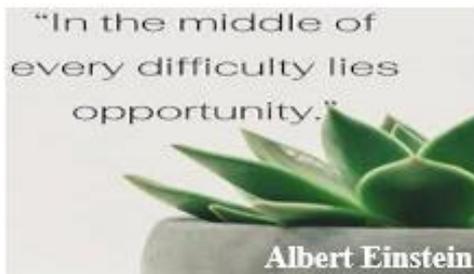
The majority of CWL members are in the susceptible groups for the COVID-19 virus and a second wave of the virus is expected in the fall, even with the lifting of the pandemic restrictions.

- **Fall Parish and Regional Council Meetings:** CWL meetings and events will be based on current gathering limits, the archdiocesan and parish guidelines, members' comfort level, etc. Members should not serve foods prepared by members at CWL approved events if the pandemic is ongoing. Check with your spiritual advisor for approval on resuming council activities and your regional chair regarding the regional executive and general meetings.

### **Loneliness Theme**

The provincial *Loneliness* theme was very timely during the pandemic. Social/physical distancing to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus placed seniors and other individuals at risk for further isolation and compromised mental health. To learn more on the impact of the virus see Statistics Canada on *Canadians' mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic*, (May 27, 2020) and *Mental Health in Canada: COVID-19 and Beyond CAMH Policy Advice* (July 2020).

Our fall activities will continue to be influenced by COVID-19. On behalf of Msgr. Pat, the executive and regional chairs we will continue to offer prayers for everyone affected by the pandemic. We look forward to reconnecting with each of you in person or virtually this fall.



## SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Kate O’Quinn

Sub-Conveners:

Alice Warford  
Monique Forster

***“In his name the nations will put their hope.”***

(Matthew 12:21)

Did we ever think that in our day, we would see the nations come together for the common good of all? These are definitely different times, but let us take this moment to reflect on how these times have changed us for the better. I have learned, without realizing it, that I took being blessed with a large family, wonderful friends and belonging to an amazing League of sisters, for granted. In these months of limited contact, how precious those hugs and visits will be when we are able to reunite! I have also learned that in my “busyness”, I was not always taking the time to appreciate the people and the beauty around me. Our National theme *Care for our Common Home* and our Provincial theme *Loneliness* are even more prevalent for me, as I breathe in cleaner air and look for creative ways to reach out to those who are on their own. Let us use this precious time to continue our faith journey – to deepen our love and trust in God.



### **36<sup>th</sup> Annual Living Rosary Sunday Pilgrimage**

This annual pilgrimage will proceed with livestreaming on Sunday, September 13, 2020, at 2:00 pm, as per COVID 19 regulations. Martyrs’ Shrine will not be opening its church or grounds, until May 2021. Instead, efforts and resources, this season, will be focused on providing prayer, pastoral care and ministry, through new digital mediums on our website. This decision represents the first time, in Martyrs’ Shrine’s nearly 100-year history, that it has not been open to pilgrims, and is a temporary measure representative of the magnitude of the global pandemic. For more information and access to their online Spirituality, please visit their website: [www.martyrs-shrine.com](http://www.martyrs-shrine.com).

### **Women’s Inter Church Council of Canada (WICC)**

WICC organizes World Day of Prayer (WDP) and Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC). WDP is celebrated on the first Friday of March and a different participating country writes the service each year. For 2021, it is Vanuatu “Build on a Strong Foundation.” A Festival (Preparation) Day is an event held well in advance of the World Day of Prayer service to acquaint people

with the service itself, to learn about the country of the women who wrote the service, and to bring together those who will be presenting the service for their community. FLC is a global ecumenical prayer movement for justice, peace and reconciliation. For updates on when and where these events will be happening in 2021, please access these websites: <https://wicc.org/get-involved/events/> and <https://wicc.org/fellowship-of-the-least-coin/what-is-flc/>. If you are interested, you can also sign up for their e-newsletter, to stay connected and receive updates.

### **World Day of the Poor**

The fourth World Day of the Poor will be observed on the 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, November 15, 2020. This year's theme is *Stretch forth your hand to the poor*. (Sir 6:7) Pope Francis states that "this theme is a summons to responsibility and commitment as men and women who are part of our one human family. It encourages us to bear the burdens of the weakest, in accord with the words of Saint Paul: 'Through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself'... Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ' (Gal 5:13-14; 6:2). The Apostle teaches that the freedom bestowed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ makes us individually responsible for serving others, especially the weakest. This is not an option, but rather a sign of the authenticity of the faith we profess." (Excerpt from Message of His Holiness Pope Francis, June 22, 2020). To view the complete message from Pope Francis, go to: [www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2020-06/archbishop-fisichella-pope-message-world-day-poor-coronavirus.html](http://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2020-06/archbishop-fisichella-pope-message-world-day-poor-coronavirus.html). Please keep this day/date in mind as you prepare your General Meeting Liturgical Celebrations.

### **12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care Council Responses**

As we were not able to participate in the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care as a Diocese at Convention, I had asked councils to share, if they wished, how they participated with their membership. Creative and effective ways developed: Emails and phone trees were used to inform members of what was happening and inviting them to participate. Each council chose one day - some councils used one hour or 30-minute time blocks, while other councils set one hour when all would pray at the same time. Prayers were done individually at home or virtually (Zoom, WhatsApp, etc.). One council had their executive members each take an hour and prayed together with members from their respective calling tree. Suggested prayers from the national website, personal prayers and prayer services written by Spiritual Development Chairs were used. Thank you to the councils for sharing!

## Faith Formation

To assist you with faith development with your council members, there are various websites for you to access, such as: [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca), [www.mycatholic.life](http://www.mycatholic.life) and [www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com).

St. Augustine's Lay Spiritual Formation Program is offering online workshops/retreats. On November 21, 2020, is a Workshop on the Holy Spirit: Water and Fire: The Person of the Holy Spirit in Christian Life. The Presenter is Father Joseph Chandrakanthan. On December 12, 2020, is an Advent Retreat, Imitation of Christ. The Presenter is Dr. Josephine Lombardi. Online events will be from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm, the cost is \$25.00. Link for virtual presentations will be sent upon registration. For further information and registration, go to: [www.staugustines.on.ca/about/events](http://www.staugustines.on.ca/about/events).

Manresa Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre in Pickering has temporarily closed its site but has a new website which allows online bookings for retreats. For information and updates go to: <https://manresa-canada.ca/>.

In closing, remember, as much as we have to look out for one another, we also have to take care of ourselves. I leave you with these words from St. Teresa of Calcutta: *"If you ever feel distressed during your day, call upon our Lady, just say this simple prayer, 'Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now.' I must admit, this prayer has never failed me."* Thank you, Our Lady of Good Counsel for always being there for us and for being our Intercessor!

---

## ORGANIZATION

**Sue Lubowitz**

Sub-Conveners:

On-line Membership  
Member Development

Mary Antonio 905-895-3637  
Andrea Tjioe 416-525-3893

## Strategic Plan

Seven working groups have been established in this the second year of the implementation of planning strategically in the League. Toronto Diocesan Council has three members working on two of the goals. The goals are as follows:

- Goal 1: Strategic Leadership – to help members grow in faith and develop leadership skills
- Goal 2: Catholic Social Teaching – to focus on Catholic social teaching



- Goal 3A: League Misconceptions - to focus on outreach and service  
Goal 3B: Encourage Diversity (Philiz Goh, Toronto Region and Hilarion Mitchell, TDC President)  
Goal 3C: Toolkits  
Goal 3D: Spiritual Formation  
Goal 4: Parish Councils - to focus on issues affecting the operation of the Parish Council (Philomena Menezes, Scarborough Region)

A few surveys have already been done by the Year One groups and some of you have participated in them. If you have not yet signed up for them you can do so by going to [clerk@cwlc.ca](mailto:clerk@cwlc.ca). It would be wonderful to have more participation by Toronto area councils!

Members are asked to pray the CWL Prayer for Renewal (found at [cwlc.ca/cwl-prayer-for-renewal/](http://cwlc.ca/cwl-prayer-for-renewal/)) regularly and often. With the prayerful intercession of all members, the Spirit will guide the groups' deliberations as they undertake the renewal of the League "For God and Canada."

### **Per Capita Fees**

The Covid-19 pandemic has contributed to a significant drop in membership dues being paid and submitted to National Office. In contacting councils, I have been told that they had not remitted any fees when activities were suspended in their parish. This is a reminder that all fees are due to National Office by the end of **February** each year. Toronto diocese is reporting a drop of 1464 as of the end of June. This will greatly affect how we can conduct some training as well as events in the coming year when we do resume.

Councils are encouraged to contact those members who have not been reached yet in order to collect fees to ensure that years of service will be recognized. As well, as we hopefully enter Phase 4 of recovery by the fall, councils should come up with alternative ways to conduct their business and plan for the resumption of activities.

### **Recruitment**

By the time you read this, it will be soon time to renew your membership for 2021!! Does your parish council have a copy of *Leading the League*? This amazing resource from national office gives information on activities for each month for your council: from recruitment (January) to fulfillment (November/December). Members are reminded that there are four types of membership in the League: fully active members, partially active members, financially supportive members, and prayer partners. Are all the women in your parish aware of this? There may be some women who, because of their

current circumstances, only want to be financially supportive or prayer partners. We welcome all. The goal of each council should be to have every woman in the parish as a member.

### **Member Development**

Membership is more than just the number of members in each council. It is about the women who are filling out their baptismal call and wanting to be with other faith-filled women to find fulfillment. As Organization Chairs, it is our duty to find ways to provide opportunities for training and enrichment for our members. The League has an abundance of materials, easily accessible from its website.

In the Workshop tab of the Resources section you will find:

- an exercise in discernment (#802)
- dealing with conflict (#808)
- how to prepare a parish council Manual of Policy and Procedure (#812)
- how to be kinder to each other (#818)

Does your council have all the latest manuals? They can be ordered through National Office or downloaded to your computer. An essential one for you should be the *Handbook for Organization Chairs*. How are your supplies? Do you have the stationery, pins, etc., that you need for the coming year? Are you allocating funds to member development? Is it 3%, 8%, 15% or more? Member development should be part of your annual budget. In addition, the diocesan council will be looking at ways of delivering some of our training materials virtually. Stay tuned for updates from your regional chairs.

### **New Councils**

Toronto Diocesan Council is pleased to announce the establishment of two new councils: St. Rose of Lima (Scarborough Region) with President Marian Gonsalves and Spiritual Advisor Msgr. Edgardo Pan and St. Jerome (Peel Region) with President Gabrielle Huggins and Spiritual Advisor Msgr. Michael Busch. We welcome those members and I would like to personally thank Regional Chairs Nenita MacKenzie and Aurora Chavez, along with their teams, who helped to facilitate the establishment of these councils.

### **Annual Reports**

Annual reports from all three levels of the League are now available on their respective websites. These are important tools for councils to study and perhaps glean new ways of doing things. It is also a good opportunity to start thinking about the next round of reports. If you have been using your council calendar as previously suggested, then you will have noted your

activities during the pandemic period: Facebook posts, 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary tree planting, and virtual meetings.

### **New League Mission Statement**

*The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.*

---

### **PAST PRESIDENT/HISTORIAN**

**Ann D'Souza**

What a roller coaster it has been for the last few months, for sure each of you must have been impacted one way or the other, be it personal, physical or mental. A pause that was brought into our lives, has taught, and is still teaching us, a few lessons forcing us to see things in a new perspective.

I have seen and watched people find creative ways to do things, technology was embraced like never before, the phone lines and teleconferencing were used in almost all households, be it to work from home or connect with their loved ones.



Keep yourself updated by looking up National, Provincial and Toronto Diocese websites for the latest updates on CWL matters.

### **Moira Ste. Marie Memorial Lecture**

I had mentioned in the Spring 2020 newsletter that TDC will be hosting the Moira Ste. Marie Memorial Lecture on October 29<sup>th</sup>, but as you all know, due to COVID, National Office announced that all events had to be cancelled, hence this event has been cancelled for this year.

### **Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Award**

A decision was made and a motion was passed to cancel the Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Award, which is presented at the annual convention.

This will be a good time to make a list of the ladies who have played a mentoring role in your CWL life, both at the Parish and Auxiliary level. You can find the criteria for this award on our TDC website under the resources tab.

## Archives

Since archives and history are considerable responsibilities for past presidents, I encourage using these quiet days to update files, particularly history files of your council. You can perhaps ask your council secretary to go through the past years' minutes or ask your Communications Chair to look at past newsletters, there is still much to do to update your Council's history files. I do hope you took time and read the Spring 2020 issue of The Canadian League magazine: History of the League, Pages 9-20, and felt proud that you are a member of this great organization and that indeed we are standing on the shoulders of some great leaders, who did much more than what we are doing, when technology was not what it is today and hence they had to work harder. National celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year in June and next year TDC will be 100 years young; wear the anniversary pin/brooch with pride. Please check if all your members in your council have bought the pin? Thank you!

## Updating Membership Lists

It is vital to keep your council's membership list up to date. If not for the COVID, around this time Toronto Diocese would have been getting the election registry ready, hence it is necessary at all times to update TDC if there are any changes in addresses, and if so, please send the information to our Corresponding Secretary.

Stay well, stay safe and be blessed.

---

## RECORDING SECRETARY

**Shaila D'Souza**

We continue to learn during the pandemic which also had positive influences in our lives. The cancellation of large group gatherings provided an opportunity to organize and update the minutes and motions records, review the position's responsibilities and 2019 annual reports, etc.



## Virtual Meetings Recording Secretary Notes

The National COVID-19 Update II on May 6<sup>th</sup> advised that virtual meetings are not included in the Constitution & Bylaws (C&B). However, some councils have met and may meet virtually for their executive and general meetings due to the restrictions and anxiety associated with the pandemic. The update recommended that the recording secretary take notes with the decisions and circulate them following the virtual

meeting to the participants. These can then be formally ratified with a motion at the first in-person meeting and recorded in the motion book for historic purposes.

### **Motions and Motion Book**

Motions are used at meetings to conduct the business in an orderly fashion to act or a stand on an issue. They are used to approve the minutes, pay outstanding bills, contentious issues, etc. Changes were made to 2019 National Manual of Policy and Procedure in handling motions. “Carried/defeated” was replaced with “adopted/lost or rejected”. The council should have a system to number motions such as by calendar year (2020-01, 2020-02, etc.). Motions may be done in bold text for ease in locating them in the minutes. The recording secretary is to work with the president to ensure that the motion book contains an accurate and updated record of all adopted and rejected motions. A motion book it to be kept in the recording secretary’s active files for six years and then placed in an archival motions’ binder for historical purposes.

### **Recording Secretary 2019 Annual Reports**

The 2019 annual reports now posted on the diocesan, provincial and national websites summarize the achievements of the recording secretaries throughout the League. Some of the recommendations for the recording secretary included the use of electronics (email) for the executive to submit reports before the meetings and to distribute minutes, maintain a motion book, use a tape recorder to supplement note-taking, hold a workshop for recording secretaries, etc. Recording secretaries are to review the 2019 annual reports as they will provide a focus as the year-end responsibilities are completed and in completing the 2020 annual report.

We missed our CWL activities helping others and all the human interactions due to the pandemic closures. We are all looking forward to returning to in-person or virtual meetings this fall.

---

## **TREASURER**

**Lolita Perry**

As the summer ends during this extraordinary time, the familiar regimen of CWL meetings resumes either on-site or in a virtual setting. It is a series of events everyone is looking forward to attend or join in. Evidently this is a busy time of the year for all members in so many ways.



Many councils are taking the challenges and opportunities of the global situation to turn into positives through creative ways of fundraising events, such as production of masks among others. In your role as Treasurer, this is the time of the year to probe and review the budget and year-to-date actuals. Ensure that all the needs and requirements of your councils are adequately covered. Check if there are areas that are becoming obsolete and need adjustment and must be reflected in your next year's budget. This will also guarantee that expenses are at reasonable amounts with available funds to cover them. The updates to the budget would be presented to the general membership for their input and approval.

### **Annual Reports**

This is also the time for parish councils to start working on their 2020 annual reports for the National Office. We encourage all Treasurers to fill the reports on-line. Information and directions on filling the report on-line will be included with the instructions when sent by the National Office. Additionally, information on this will be given at the Fall Regional Meetings.

### **Diocesan Voluntary Funds**

The Diocesan Voluntary Funds form is on the [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca) website for perusal and download. Go to Resources Tab>Forms. The League charities supported by this Voluntary Fund are as follows: St. Michael's Scholarship and the Hope for Children Foundation (Catholic Children's Aid Society) Scholarship Fund. This is a good way to support our young women and men in broadening their education and horizons. All donations can be made anytime of the year. However, funds must be received and deposited prior to December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year to be included in the 2020 Annual Report. Please note all cheques should be made payable to "The Catholic Women's League of Canada."

### **Provincial Voluntary Fund**

Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Memorial Bursary Fund's form can be found at [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca)

### **National Voluntary Fund – form can be found at [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca)**

Coady International Institute, Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, Catholic Missions in Canada, Catholic Near East Welfare Association and National Bursary Fund.

### **Budgets**

During your council's budget preparations, consider allocating funds to cover the operating costs for the council and member development and

training. If feasible, subsidize members' registration fees to attend our convention and Development Days so that they have the opportunity to see the League from parish to diocesan perspectives; set aside funds for members to participate and attend these events. Budget and donations are to be reviewed by the executive then presented to the members at the general meeting to be voted on. Have a look at present and previous expenses and revenue generated and use that as benchmark or guide for the coming calendar year. This will ensure that the operating expenses are covered to the best of council's abilities as well as monies are set aside for any planned special projects.

**Per Capita Fees**

The membership fees set by each council must include the national fees, regional dues and the portion that remains at the council. The \$20 sent to National is broken down as follows: National receives \$13, Provincial \$3 and Toronto Diocese \$4 per member. It is important to promptly remit the membership fees to the National Office, this will ensure the records of years of service are kept up-to-date and that there is no delay in members receiving their copy of The Canadian League magazine.

The Parish General Liability Insurance is now the responsibility of each council at a cost of \$.50 for each member.

For more information and resources visit the TDC website [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca) >resources>reference documents and scroll down to Sample Financial Statements and Treasurer 101.

---

**CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE**

**Iris McNulty**

Sub-Convener:

Philomena Menezes

**Sanctity of Life**

Bill C-7 went through first reading in the House of Commons on February 24<sup>th</sup>. It proposed changes to extend Euthanasia (MAID) to mature minors, those whose death was “reasonably foreseeable” and to individuals with mental illness. These changes were to be completed earlier this year and proceed to a Third Reading in Parliament. On June 29<sup>th</sup>, a Quebec court allowed the federal government to delay making changes to the medically-assisted suicide law until December 18<sup>th</sup>. The federal government must bring



Canada's medical

assistance in dying rules in compliance with a 2019 ruling by Quebec Superior Court Justice, Christine Baudouin. She struck down the federal government's changes to the legislation. Justice Baudouin argued that the requirement of a "reasonable foreseeable death" to qualify for an assisted death, was unconstitutional.

*Please continue to express your opposition to extend euthanasia to mature minors, those whose death is termed as "reasonably foreseeable" and to individuals with mental illness, to your elected officials at the federal government level and to the federal justice minister.*

### **Dementia Friendly Communities**

A Zoom presentation on *Dementia Friendly Communities* is being planned for the fall. *Dementia Friendly Communities* assist people living with dementia to feel included and supported within their community by creating an understanding of dementia and by fostering proper communication tools. Stigma around dementia: physical and social barriers in the individual's environment make it challenging for people with this diagnosis to feel a part of their community. Education and awareness of these challenges can help break down such barriers. Educating ourselves about the signs of dementia, learning how to communicate effectively and respectfully with individuals experiencing dementia, knowing what to do when encountering an individual who may be wandering and appearing "lost", taking steps to reduce physical and social barriers in our communities, particularly in our parishes, can increase a sense of self-worth and belonging by people facing chronic memory issues.

### **Life Chain Sunday (October 4<sup>th</sup>)**

Refer to the Campaign Life website to verify the time and location closest to you regarding this public witness to LIFE. Life Chain is supported by the Canadian Catholic Bishops and occurs in over 200 locations across Canada.

### **MaterCare International**

Dr. Robert Walley, a member of the Organization of Catholic Health Professionals and founder of the non-governmental organization MaterCare International, died on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. He has been internationally recognized for his efforts in maternal healthcare and has received various awards of excellence acknowledging his contribution to protecting the lives of women and babies prior to/during childbirth. MaterCare provides maternal health care training of local professionals in developing countries where basic care for pregnant mothers, born and unborn children, are virtually non-existent. The organization is known for its advocacy in reducing the levels of abortion globally and for reducing maternal and perinatal mortality rates. It

has a strong presence in Haiti, Kenya and Ghana and is making efforts to attain a presence in Rwanda and Uganda. The organization is responsible for building a 30-bed, fully-equipped maternity hospital in Isiolo, Kenya. It provides basic obstetrical services. MaterCare receives no government funding. Its existence depends on charitable donations to ensure that basic hospital equipment and supplies are available. This includes securing a 4x4 ambulance for emergency hospital transport to/from isolated areas. Dr. Walley leaves behind a “wonderful legacy of bringing thousands of children into the world”. Our National council has formerly supported MaterCare through the remittance of voluntary disbursement funds by councils. Learn more about MaterCare: [www.matercare.org](http://www.matercare.org)

### **Youth**

Many post-secondary campuses have a chaplaincy team which offers faith support and fellowship to students attending their facilities. This support would be especially useful to students entering their first year of studies. Students can connect with a campus anywhere in Canada through Chaplaincy Connect. Website: [www.chaplaincyconnect.ca](http://www.chaplaincyconnect.ca)

### **Vocations**

Stringent rules of Canada’s immigration system have denied permanent residence status to clergy, religious sisters and brothers from other countries who apply for permanent residence status in Canada. Until 2015, there was a reasonable protocol to follow and some success was met by them in obtaining residency. Since 2015, there has been a change in the requirements. One religious order has had all its applications denied since 2015. The Canadian Catholic Bishops are aware of this issue which seems to exclude permanent residency status to those called to lead a life of prayer and service. Concern has been expressed to the Apostolic Nuncio for Canada. A meeting between the Apostolic Nuncio and the Immigration Minister was to take place earlier this year but it did not occur as a result of COVID-19. Please contact the Immigration Minister to learn why permanent residence status is consistently being denied to clergy, religious sisters and brothers from other countries who apply for it. Individuals called to a life of prayer and living out a life of service to others should be held equally as important as those who are granted permanent residency because of their economic or social status. Contact the Immigration Minister: [marco.mendicino@parl.gc.ca](mailto:marco.mendicino@parl.gc.ca) or at his mailing address: Confederation Building, Ste. 20, House of Commons, Ottawa K1A 1A6.

---

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

September 13	Rosary Sunday, Martyrs' Shrine, Midland (Livestream)
October 4	Life Chain
October 29	Moira Ste. Marie Memorial Lecture (Cancelled)
October 31	2020 Resolutions Topics Submission Council Deadline
November 5	2020 Cardinal's Dinner (Virtual)
December 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
December 12	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
February 15	Family Day
February 20	Development Day
March 5	World Day of Prayer

---

## **FALL REGIONAL GENERAL MEETING DATES – 2020**

**These meetings are tentative dates which will be  
Virtual or Teleconferencing Meetings**

**Detailed instructions will be forthcoming from the Regional Chairs**

Sept. 24	<b>Humber Valley Region</b> General Meeting 7:00 pm
Sept. 29	<b>North York Region</b> General Meeting 7:00 pm
October 1	<b>Scarborough Region</b> General Meeting 7:00 pm
October 8	<b>Northern Region</b> General Meeting 7:00 pm
October 13	<b>Peel Region</b> General Meeting 7:00 pm
October 14	<b>Toronto Region</b> General Meeting 7:00 pm
October 20	<b>Durham Region</b> General Meeting 7:00 pm

---

***Happy Anniversary!***

**St. Joseph the Worker, Durham Region – 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Holy Family, Durham Region – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**St. Ambrose, Humber Valley Region – 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Our Lady of Miraculous Medal, Humber Valley – 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**St. Francis Xavier, Peel Region – 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**SERVICE AWARDS**

**60 Year Membership Pins**

**Durham Region**

Holy Family: Vivian McDonnell June Sobanski

**45-Year Membership Pins**

**Durham Region**

Holy Family: Rose Cusack

**40-Year Membership Pins**

**Humber Valley Region**

Transfiguration of Our Lord: Gertrude Ambrust

**35-Year Membership Pins**

**Durham Region**

Holy Family: Mary Hawkley

**Scarborough Region**

Precious Blood: Mary Nicol

**30-Year Membership Pins**

**Durham Region**

Holy Family: Shirley Graham

**Scarborough Region**

Precious Blood: Mary Bernard

**25-Year Membership Pins**

**Durham Region**

Holy Family: Dianna Roach

**Humber Valley Region**

Transfiguration of Our Lord: Ann Szammers

**Scarborough Region**

Precious Blood: Cress Josue Angelina Ruedas

**20-Year Membership Pins**

**Durham Region**

Holy Family: Anna Colacicco

**Toronto Region**

St. Helen: Marie Humenny

Dear Sisters in the League, a year ago the world was a different place. Councils were busy getting organized for their fall and winter programs and as a city, Toronto was bustling with activity and excitement as our Toronto Raptors had just won the 2019 NBA Championships - what a party it was. Fast forward to 2020 and the world is again a different place. We have learned so much about ourselves and those around us and have discovered new and innovative ways to “keep in touch”. Personally, I am grateful for this time of quiet as we were stripped from our lives of compulsive commercialism and made to live a life of simplicity this is where God can be found.



### **Hand Signal for Help**

This time of isolation has been very difficult for many as domestic, mental and physical abuse have risen to epidemic proportions. The “*Signal for Help*” was created by the Canadian Women’s Foundation and was designed for women to alert someone during a video call, that they are in danger and in need of help. The signal involves the lifting up of a hand then putting the thumb down and closing the rest of the fingers, covering the thumb. You may have seen the commercial which shows how this would work but it’s important that the person on the receiving end of this “secret hand signal” also knows about it, so spread the word and be vigilant.

### **2019 Communications Annual Report**

As our Toronto Diocesan Annual Convention was cancelled this year, the decision was made to post the 2019 Annual Report Book on our TDC website. Please look for it at [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca). In it you will find my complete Communications report which includes a recommendation for councils and individual members to be more educated and active in the fight against pornography by inviting speakers and connecting with agencies who support vulnerable minors and at-risk people who could be easy targets of sexual abuse and exploitation.

### **Pornography**

During this time of isolation due to the COVID-19, people both young and old have had increased and in many cases, unsupervised screen time, leading to interactions online of potential predators. The availability of massive amounts of pornographic material fuels the global sex trade and the demand for human trafficking, drugs and other crimes. Your ongoing support of the

Pornography Hurts Campaign is one way that we can make our voices heard with Parliament and help fight this madness. For instructions on printing the Pornography Hurts postcards, go to the National website [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) - no postage is required. Below is a list of related resolutions which fall under the communications standing committee. Take the time to study one or more as a council and consider a letter-writing campaign.

- 2017.02 Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornographic Websites
- 2004.11 Link Between Violent, Graphic Imagery and Aggressive Behaviour and the Mechanics of Killing
- 2002.11 Responsible Internet Use for Children
- 2000.06 Violence in Music Lyrics
- 2000.05 Violence on Television as it Relates to Children
- 1998.02 Deviant Sex Establishments/Businesses

### **Parish Council Mailings and Communications**

Staying connected is essential to our sisterhood and it is also good for our mental health. With the use of technology and teleconferencing tools, councils from across the country have been “getting together” for prayer services, planning meetings, crafts and games. On June 17<sup>th</sup>, our Toronto Diocesan Council hosted a virtual celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National CWL. In attendance were 230 members representing 60 councils across the Diocese as well as Spiritual Advisors and invited guests. There was a prayer service, greetings from invited guests, cake-cutting and even dancing! The virtual celebration was also featured on the National website in *On the Spot* and was also posted on the National Facebook page. You can view this event in detail on our website at [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca)

Since our last in-person gathering, CWL information and activities have been ongoing even during the pandemic. National, Provincial and Toronto executives have been working hard, keeping us updated through your Regional Chairs. As council presidents receive information, it is their responsibility to pass it on to the respective chairpersons and in turn, share the information with members in a timely manner.

### **Catholic Register Ad**

During this time of pandemic, we have had an opportunity to be still and truly reflect, giving thanks to the many people working hard, sacrificing their personal health for us all. There are so many individuals in all sectors of society to thank, and the Toronto Diocesan Council placed an ad in the June 28<sup>th</sup> issue of the Catholic Register to express our thanks and appreciation. You may view this on our website at [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca), and in this newsletter.

Greetings to everyone and welcome back from these unprecedented months of 2020 due to the new Coronavirus/ SARS-CoV-2/ COVID-19 pandemic. The challenges and adaptations that are being required today lead us toward more innovative ways of performing just about all of our daily activities. The impact and need for Community Life have never been greater in our collected history. I hope that you remain connected at home, abroad, and with nature as we continue to Care for our Common Home.



### **Issues Concerning Dignity and Rights of Persons**

The issues of respect for human lives have been elucidated and even demonstrated throughout this COVID-19 pandemic. The marginalized, the elderly/frail, the lonely, those of certain socio-demographic backgrounds have all stood out in this crisis. The depth of suffering seemed to have been greater among certain groups, such as those in Long-Term Health Care, the incarcerated, the homeless, seasonal farm workers and mainly in populations where there are overcrowded, poorly ventilated and/or non-hygienic conditions. Ideally, all humans should live in suitable and humane places.

- Let us monitor and speak by letter-writing to governmental and institutional leadership to ensure that better living accommodation is guaranteed to everyone in need of it.

### **Racial Discrimination**

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic is another pandemic of long standing relating to human dignity. The brutal killing of Mr. George Floyd of Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA by law enforcement officers took place on May 25, 2020. The almost eight minutes live video taping of this incident went viral to the disgust of many people all over the world, resulting with demonstrations that Black Lives Matter. Systemic racial discrimination is nothing new in society where people are discriminated against based on the colour of their skin. Here in Canada, Blacks and Indigenous peoples are disproportionately killed or interrogated by law enforcement officers.

***Building a Foundation for Change: Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy 2019–2022***, is a \$45 million investment that will take immediate steps in combating racism and discrimination.

- Write and/or speak to your local politicians to seek answers as to why these intolerable behaviours occur against certain visible minority groups.

- Read Canada’s Anti-Racism Strategy to better understand this issue and proposals to address it at the following website: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/pch/documents/campaigns/anti-racism-engagement/ARS-Report-EN-2019-2022.pdf>
- Embrace inclusivity and diversity in your council by inviting members of visible minority groups to share their stories and culture. This could encourage friendship and may even expand to membership.
- Promotion of racial inclusivity in the home, school and society is healthy for everyone.

### **Loneliness**

The 2019-2020 Provincial theme on *Loneliness* has been put to the test during this COVID-19 pandemic. Social and physical distancing mandated by the government through precautionary measures by the Public Health Ministry have been virtually important in mitigating the spread of COVID-19. Nevertheless, these measures have taken great effort on everyone of all ages creating anxiety and loneliness. Now with the slow recovery of the economy which has been lagging in productivity, it is advisable that everyone should approach the future with calculated precaution as indicated by the Public Health Ministry. This will prevent the resurgence of the COVID-19 virus or some other associated infection especially during the fall and winter months. Technological adaptation such as virtual meeting with Zoom, FaceTime or the use of teleconferencing, are greatly appreciated alternatives, but they certainly do not equate to the real human-in-person senses. Let us pray and hope that the real human connection be restored in the near future. Please visit the following websites for some information and resources on the effect of COVID-19 on mental health.

- Canadian Institute of Health Research: COVID-19 and Mental Health (CMH) Initiative: <https://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/52001.html> and <https://www.covid19mentalhealthresearch.ca/wellness-resources/>

### **Climate Change**

Climate change issues remain dynamic entities during this COVID-19 pandemic. With fewer vehicles and factories running, the emission of greenhouse gasses has been mitigated. The planet will have a chance to heal itself, both on land and in the oceans, if everyone invests in a future of clean renewable energy and in the ways that our daily lives are navigated. Here are some websites that share strategies and ways to help mitigate climate change.

<https://www.epa.gov/arc-x/strategies-climate-change-adaptation>

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/climate-change-strategy>  
<https://climate.nasa.gov/solutions/adaptation-mitigation/>

### **Care for our Common Home: Year Two Project**

Thanks to all councils that contributed to the Pieta Bhavan well water project in the Kerala, India. (Ref. Communique #10). This project-targeted goal of \$7,500 CDN has been reached and will go toward a new well cover for the residents of Pieta Bhavan. As of June 12, 2020, members have raised more than \$11,000 with the excess amount slated for a second project, “Feeding support for Catholic Schools in the Adigrat Diocese located in Tigray Region, Ethiopia” (Ref. Communique #12)

- Visit the website at [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) for more details.
- Please encourage your council to donate to this worthy project which continues until December 31, 2020.

### **Day of Prayer for the Holy Land & Middle East (Sept 21, 2020)**

This date has been chosen as a National Day of Prayer for Christians in the Holy Land. Each year on this date members will offer prayers for their Christian sisters and brothers living in the Holy Land and the Middle East. Prayer cards are available through the provincial and diocesan councils. Also available, is information on Peace Lamps for the Holy Land Christians. These lamps can be lit at meetings or on special occasions. If you are interested in ordering a lamp, please contact the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA). All funds raised are returned to the community that makes these lamps as a fundraiser. (Ref. Communique #14). Visit the website at [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca).

---

## **Toronto Diocesan Council Virtual Celebration for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada Wednesday June 17, 2020**



## EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Connie Cristinziano

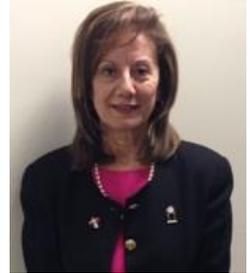
Sub-Conveners:

Youth Awards  
St. Michael's Scholarship

Val Egerton  
Donna Capobianco

### 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 allows these contests to continue each year in schools across the Diocese.



### Mary Dobell Pro-Life Awareness Essay and Poetry Literacy Award Intermediate Essay

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Jordan Bouckley, All Saints Catholic Secondary School,  
St. Leo the Great Parish, Durham Region

### Senior Essay

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Rhea D'Mello, St. Francis Xavier Secondary School,  
St. Francis Xavier Parish, Peel Region

### Intermediate Poetry

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Charlotte Selda, All Saints Catholic Secondary School,  
St. Francis de Sales, Durham Region

### Senior Poetry

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Campbell Lyons, All Saints Catholic Secondary School,  
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Durham Region

### Jean McCann Service Award for Youth

Winner: Arianna Veltri-Sampogna, All Saints Catholic Secondary School,  
St. John the Evangelist, Durham Region

### Toronto Diocesan St. Michael's College Scholarship (2019 Award)

Zephania Gangl: Graduate of St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School,  
St. Patrick's Parish (Schomberg), North York Region

### Toronto Diocesan Hope for Children Foundation Scholarship (2019 Award)

Annemarie Filazzola: Attending Centennial College in her first year in Medical Device Reprocessing program.

Please continue to support the Toronto Diocesan Scholarship funds with your generous donations by using the Toronto Diocesan Voluntary Remittance form that can be found on the diocesan website. Remember to make your cheque payable to *The Catholic Women's League of Canada*, not the Scholarship Fund and send to the TDC Treasurer Lolita Perry.

### **Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions, the TDC finals were not made possible. *Congratulations to our Regional winners:*

Durham	Jean-Eduard Legro
Humber Valley	Jessica Di Paola
North York	Melanie Dias
Northern	Meghan Stirpe
Peel	Julia Marji

### **Catholic Education**

Education across the various boards and levels have been faced with many challenges and uncertainties, not to mention the many immediate action plans that had to be put in place to ensure that our students' education could continue during the school year. Times have been very challenging for teachers, students and parents with students that may not have the technology readily available at home. Parents provided assistance to their children while they worked on their different assignments. Education Minister Stephen Lecce has announced a plan that will have elementary students in class full time in September, while most of the high schools will split their time between the classroom and online learning. The new environment change and restrictions that accompany the reopening of schools for some may be intimidating.

Please pray for our children, their parents and teachers, and the provincial government as they develop and continue with the fall school program. Ignite Hope!!!

### **Health**

A pandemic is a very stressful event for individuals and communities. It is normal to feel some stress and anxiety. It is also very common for people to display great resiliency during times of crisis. We should remember that this is absolutely the time to lean on each other. Even if we cannot be close physically, we need to stay close emotionally. So, while you are staying in, stay in touch with each other, and reach out if you need support.

We must write to the provincial government to ensure that they follow through with promises made regarding our Long-Term Care Homes, and we must keep a watchful eye on provincial Bill 175 respecting home care and

community services/a new bill which could change how home care is delivered.

We must also keep a watchful eye on, and write to the federal government concerning, Bill C-7, a plan to broaden the law/proposed changes in Medical Assisting in dying in Canada.

- September: World Alzheimer's Month
- October 4 - 10: Mental Illness Awareness Week
- October 10: World Mental Health Day - theme “Nurse and Midwife”, and their contributions where nurses and midwives are making the world a healthier place, especially during the Covid-19 response
- October 12: World Arthritis Day
- November 14: World Diabetes Day

As we welcome back the fall and a new CWL season, we reflect during these unprecedented times on the many challenges that we embraced that have affected our daily lives and the uncertainties on how this pandemic will evolve or when we can consider returning back to some sort of normalcy. Let us continue to embrace these challenges together.

*Remember, to wash your hands constantly, wear a face mask, practice social distancing, stay home and stay safe and healthy. Together we can protect each other!*

## LEGISLATION

Sub-Conveners:

**Elizabeth Joseph**

Suzanne Cockburn  
Sonia Da Costa Spence

Welcome Back! As our regions reopen in stages, let us apply safety as we venture out; and consider others in our communities as we engage in our daily activities. Let us take the opportunity to be thankful as our parishes are opened.

### **The 43<sup>rd</sup> Parliament: Evidence-Huma (43-1)-No. 21 House of Commons of Canada**

#### **Migrant Farm Workers**

Advocates for migrant farm workers purport the Covid-19 pandemic highlights the need for the federal government to create a new mechanism for foreign workers to access critical benefits like employment insurance (EI). Many migrant workers were forced to risk their lives and come to



Canada or be without income, as Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and Employment Insurance (EI) were not available to them, even though many work and pay taxes in Canada every year. This resulted in the death of three migrant workers and one example of the “series of injustices” occurring across Canada as migrants in the country don’t have access to CERB, healthcare, or jobs amid the COVID-19 pandemic (Hussan, Migrant Workers Alliance for Change, June 22, 2020).

Hussan proposed a “single-step solution is to create a single-tier immigration system” which offers full immigrations status for every immigrant worker who comes to Canada (July 4, 2020)” and “Need for proactive enforcement” and mechanisms of the new guidelines for employers of foreign workers to ensure the rights of workers are upheld (July 4, 2020)”. Some include creating calling and internet hotlines for filing complaints and anonymous reporting on the employer, as well as to have regular spot checks at farms where migrant workers are hosted. Many workers are unaware of their rights because the guidelines are only available in English. The (MWAC) created education materials to share with workers so they could understand employment rights and social distancing.

These issues have been addressed in Bill 148: The Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017 and Resolution 2016.01. Equal Access to Permanent Resident Status, an Amendment to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act on the national website cwl.ca.

### **Provincial Bills**

**Bill 161:** Smarter and Stronger Justice Act 2020. An Act to enact the legal Aid Services Act 2019 and to make amendments to other Acts dealing with courts and other justice matters. This Bill was enacted as Chapter 11 of the statutes of Ontario, 2020; and received Royal Assent on July 8, 2020.

**Bill 184:** An Act to amend the Building Code Act, 1992, the Housing Services Act, 2011 and the Residential Tenancies Act, 2006. To enact the Ontario Mortgage and Housing Corporation Repeal Act, 2020. The short title is the *Protecting Tenants and Strengthening Community Housing Act, 2020*. The Bill had 3<sup>rd</sup> reading and received Royal Assent on July 21, 2020.

**Action:** Monitor this Bill.

### **Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission**

The Ontario government launched an independent commission into COVID-19 and long-term care on July 29, 2020. Three commissioners will investigate how COVID-19 spread within long-term care homes, its impact on residents, staff and families, and the (in)adequacy of measures taken by

the province and other parties to prevent, isolate and contain the virus. Commissioners are expected to deliver their final report by April 2021.

### **Long-Term Care Staffing Study Report**

Minister Merilee Fullerton presented the Ontario government's Long-Term Care Staffing Study Report to the legislature on July 30, 2020. The study provided recommendations within five priority areas to improve staffing across the sector:

1. Increase the number of staff working in long-term care with more funding.
2. Change the culture of long-term care at both the system and individual home levels.
3. Improve workload and working conditions to retain staff and improve conditions for care.
4. Develop effective leadership and access to specialized expertise to acquire excellence in long-term care (Government of Ontario).
5. Attract and prepare the right people for employment in long-term care and provide opportunities for learning and growth.

This study will inform the development of a comprehensive staffing strategy to be released later this year, in response to “Recommendation 85” of the Long-Term Care Staffing Homes Public Inquiry report (Justice Eileen Gillese, July 31, 2019); which was informed by the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario's (RNAO) board report issued to Minister Merrilee Fullerton with an unanimous declaration that: "It's time to call for a ‘Nursing Home Basic Care Guarantee’ and demand that government allocate proper staffing and funding" to long-term care homes (Canada News Wire, June 11, 2020).

**Action:** Monitor closely if the Ontario government implements this staffing plan in all LTC homes.

To follow Legislative proceedings and access Legislation Information visit the following websites:

[www.parl.gc.ca/housechamberbusiness/chambercalendar](http://www.parl.gc.ca/housechamberbusiness/chambercalendar);

[www.parl.gc.ca/LEGISInfo](http://www.parl.gc.ca/LEGISInfo) [www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-1/HUMA/meeting-21/evidence](http://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-1/HUMA/meeting-21/evidence)

For access to the Ontario Legislature website: [www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/current](http://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/current).

---

## RESOLUTIONS

**Andrea Smart**

Sub-Conveners:

Celestine Hall 416-694-8922

Tracy MacInnis 647-973-7645

Here we are almost at the end of summer and while some COVID-19 restrictions have been eased, we are more aware of the complications and ever changing situation with the pandemic. Masks have become mandatory in many municipalities when indoors at public spaces.



Earlier in the summer, Wilma Vanderzwaag, OPC Resolutions Chair, asked us to write Premier Doug Ford and ask for a public inquiry into the devastating effects of COVID-19 in many long-term care homes across the province. If your council sent letters and/or have had a response from Premier Ford or the Minister of Health or Minister of Long-Term Care, please let me know. Wilma will include the numbers in her upcoming report.

### **Resolutions Update from National**

A reminder that at last year's National convention, it was announced that whereas clauses are no longer presented as part of a resolution. By removing whereas clauses, the statement of the League's position on an issue becomes the main focus and is presented exactly right (the resolved clause for that issue). This gives more emphasis on the heart of the resolution. Material previously contained in whereas clauses become part of the brief. The resolved clause is referred to as the resolution for the purpose of the motion and debate. The Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook was updated to reflect this change.

<https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/618-Resolutions-Supplement-to-Executive-Handbook-2020.pdf>

### **2021 Resolution Topics**

Does your council have an idea for a resolution or already working on a resolution that you want to have considered for the 2021 Convention? The deadline to submit the first draft of the resolution with some basic research on the subject is Friday, October 31, 2020. Before the pandemic kicked into high gear, two councils approached me about writing a resolution. I hope to hear from other councils.

To get started on writing a resolution your topic, check the National website [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca), and the Ontario Provincial website [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca) to ensure

that a resolution on your topic hasn't already been passed. Consult the updated Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook and follow the directions there.

Please note that resolutions developed and researched by other groups or organizations will not be accepted as resolutions of The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

### **Resolution Action Plans**

A lot of councils are unsure what to do if they are not writing 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 on to the Provincial CWL website, [cwl.on.ca](http://cwl.on.ca), or the National CWL site, [cwl.ca](http://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 to carry out the action plans that have been developed for resolutions as it is to write one.

An action plan is developed to implement action on the resolved clauses; i.e., members to become aware...; invite speakers...; write letters to...; become familiar with a particular law, publication, government stand, etc. The action plan should support the objective of the resolution (Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook).

In closing, please contact me ([a.smart@sympatico.ca](mailto:a.smart@sympatico.ca)) with any ideas or suggestions you may have for future resolutions. There are many resources in place to help your council get started. You can start by checking the websites of the various levels of the CWL. The hard part is just getting started!

May Our Lady of Good Counsel bless us all. Stay safe and healthy!

---

*“True love begins when nothing is  
Looked for in return.”*

- St. Therese of Lisieux

---



## The Catholic Women's League of Canada TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

*One Hundred Years: Growing in Faith, Love and Service*

We have encountered a few roadblocks as we attempt to move toward our celebration of our centennial in 2021.

### **Rescheduled High Tea**

Our High Tea had to be cancelled because of the Emergency Rules put in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We do have it tentatively penciled in around the same date for 2021. So don't store that frilly dress and flowery hat too far back in your closet. You will need them next spring.

**Commemorative 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pins** (Madonna) are available - call Mary Tuccitto 416-283-8828 or see TDC website [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca).

### **Still looking for your pictures and stories**

It is important to document your anniversaries and celebrations and pass them on so your history will be recorded in our updated history book, recording our 100 years as a Diocesan Council. Contact Patricia Cross at [pcpat@rogers.com](mailto:pcpat@rogers.com) and Carole Pitcher at [cpitcher@bell.net](mailto:cpitcher@bell.net).

### **Milestones to Celebrate in 2021**

We also want to recognize as many milestone anniversaries as possible, acknowledge Charter Members of those councils and longstanding memberships at the 2021 Toronto Diocesan Council Convention.

### **Remembering Our Spiritual Advisors**

It is important to remember the great contribution all our Spiritual Advisors have made over the years to all councils, whether at the Parish level, Regional or Diocesan. The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is considering how we might best acknowledge their contributions.

### **Acknowledging our Diocesan Presidents over the Century**

We have borrowed from the Pastoral Centre, the framed list of Diocesan Presidents that was presented to Cardinal Ambrozic by Moira Ste. Marie on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Council. This usually hangs in the Cardinal's Office Suite. We hope to re-present it to Cardinal Collins at the 2021 Toronto Diocesan Council Convention with the names of all presidents up to the present added, in celebration of our Centenary.

### **Closing Mass for Centennial Year**

We have traditionally celebrated a Mass on important milestones of the Council. So, it seems appropriate to celebrate the end of our centennial year either on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (December 8<sup>th</sup>) or the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12<sup>th</sup>). At this Mass, we could

have the Time Capsule formally blessed and closed until the next major celebration. We will inform you when plans are complete.

We look forward to 2021 with a great sense of hope and trust in God's plan for us and ask for the protection of Our Lady of Good Counsel in all our efforts for the good of the League.

Mary Hawkley  
Chair, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee  
Toronto Diocesan Council

2021  
ANNUAL C.W.L. NATIONAL CONVENTION  
TORONTO, ONTARIO  
***APRON FUNDRAISER***



This handy apron, available in blue, is imprinted with the CWL crest. It is a one-size-fits-most with a neck strap and waist ties to keep the apron in place. There are two spacious front bottom pockets to hold pens, note pads, cell phone and other essentials. Great for those CWL functions.

**Price: \$20.00 each + \$6.00 postage & shipping \*\***

**\*\* For orders of 2 or more please contact Lucia Vacca at email or phone number provided for more shipping cost details.**

**Make cheques payable to: *The Catholic Women's League of Canada***

**Send your order and payment to:**

Lucia Vacca, 187 Calverley Trail, Toronto, Ontario M1C 3Y4

**For more information: Email: [lucia.vacca@sympatico.ca](mailto:lucia.vacca@sympatico.ca)**

**or Call: (416) 283-3536**

## Regional Activities

### **Durham Region**

Our Durham CWL Sisters have been very engaged during Covid-19. They have reached out to their parish CWL members, by phone, text and emails. Several have adopted the COVID hotline. Lists of members' numbers circulated, and calls are made regularly. We are on call for: Prayer intentions, grocery pickups, pharmacy pickups and virtual assistance. Also, many of our members have made and delivered Prayer Shawls. Cards have been sent, for well wishes, loss of a loved one, and birthday celebrations. With the hopes that soon we may visit shut-ins, this is at the top of our priority list.

As our churches have slowly re-opened, many of our members are actively helping facilitate weekly Masses. They are taking all of the required information, sanitization, and cleaning pews after each and every Mass, and ensuring that all who attend are following the proper protocol (including wearing masks).

---

### **Humber Valley Region**

Humber Valley Region have been keeping their members engaged and up to speed with all the great virtual happenings initiated by TDC and individual councils. The councils in Humber Valley learned through many experiences how to Zoom with their fellow sisters and celebrate the many scheduled events like: Prayer Service for 12-Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care; the May 14<sup>th</sup> Prayer Service at Vatican Gardens, by Pope Francis' *"unite spiritually. . . to overcome the corona virus pandemic"*; and on June 17<sup>th</sup>, the significantly-awaited opportunity to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the League; and on June 22<sup>nd</sup> they also closed off for the summer by partaking in a special prayer service on the occasion of National Indigenous Peoples Day. Humber Valley members were very appreciative of this constant communication, which alleviated the loneliness and isolation. It made all feel refreshed and able to continue with their daily lives.



Nativity of Our Lord Council participated in a long drive-by surprise parade to wish happy anniversary to Father Michael Machacek, Spiritual Advisor, on the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

St. Margaret Mary Council celebrated the birth of Elyshia Agnes Casato on March 13<sup>th</sup>, a 5<sup>th</sup> generation of CWL members. She joins 90-year old Margherita Paladino, great, great grandmother; Maria Varanes, great grandmother (former council President; Rosemary Varanese, grandmother; and Jessica Casato, mother. Hoping that Elyshia will follow suit in 16 years! Congratulations to all!

---



## Northern Region

Northern Region stayed in touch with their members. through weekly email bulletins, phone calls and cards. Sacred Heart Council, Port McNicoll, members each helped a neighbour or friend shopping, telephone, doctor's appointments and just being there for each other.



St Mary's, Victoria Harbour organized an honour guard for Bunny Snider, a long standing member using their cars to distance. They tied a blue and yellow ribbon to a wreath at her gravesite.

A few members from St. Mary's, Barrie answered the call from the hospital for masks. One member is now donating masks to parishioners who do not have one and a donation is requested for St. Vincent de Paul.

Guardian Angels, Orillia planted a cherry tree in the spiritual garden. St John Vianney, Barrie planted two shrubs around their Sanctity of Life monument.



A few councils encouraged parishioners to do a drive-by to thank their priests for all they are doing during this time of isolation. St. Columbkille, Uptergrove gave a \$300 donation to the pregnancy crisis center when they could not do the roses for life. Food baskets were wrapped and distributed to frontline workers. The nursing homes as well as the Orillia hospital were very appreciative.

---

## Scarborough Region

Precious Blood Council members participated in a car parade to salute frontline workers at the Wexford Residence, long-term care home on May 14<sup>th</sup>. This brought tears to the staff who are still working so hard to keep the residents COVID-free. Over 200 cars joined in from the community. This Council also celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Catholic Women's League of Canada with an online Zoom prayer service. St. Joseph Highland Creek Council members were involved in sewing face masks to give to other members who needed these, while other members made extensions for the masks to donate to the healthcare workers in the community, the calling committee is calling members to keep in touch.



St. Maria Goretti Council asked members to donate funds to purchase items required to support the Good Shepherd with their packed lunches. They are also praying the virtual Divine Mercy and Rosary every Sunday for the sick and deceased, contacting members by phone and celebrated the National Indigenous Day prayer service through Zoom.

The region collected a Spiritual Bouquet to present to our outgoing Regional Spiritual Advisor, Father Dominic Borg for his dedication and service to the League.

---

## Peel Region

Sts. Peter and Paul Council had a virtual award celebration for Mary Quinlan's, Life Member, 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and presented her with a CWL pin and scroll dedicated for her long time service to the League with a celebration.



St. Francis Xavier Council had a drive-by to celebrate Louiza and Dominic Fernandes 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on June 6<sup>th</sup>. They have been active with virtual gatherings, for Mother's Day messages, seniors' bingo, prayers for 100<sup>th</sup> Year

celebrations, 12-Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care, March for Life, Anti-racism, Indigenous Peoples Day, Social Amazing Race, Rosaries, written letters to our Premier on public inquiry for deaths in the senior care homes, joined the Knights of Columbus for the food donation drive and members are volunteering for the re-opening of the church. In keeping in touch with



senior members, Emilia Parado, who is also a member of Emerals Senior group, has been assisting an elder member by “doggie walking” buddy and buying groceries.

St. John Fisher Council had a drive-by to celebrate Shirley Christo’s, Life Member, 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. They participated in Toronto 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary virtual celebration of the League. Members joined the Knights

of Columbus to fundraise for the Knight’s Table, a ShareLife agency which provides meals for the homeless. They have been successful in raising funds by selling cotton masks with the CWL logo (blue with white crest).



Several Peel Council members participated in the 90<sup>th</sup> drive-by birthday celebration for Kay Newbold, St. Marguerite D’Youville Council and member of MaterCare.

---

## Toronto Region

Our Regional Spiritual Advisor, Father Damian Young-Sam-You, sent a prayer to recite which was forwarded to the CWL members during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are very proud of St. Pius X Council; member Linda Unger made 85 masks and donated them to a hospital and made an additional 25 for family and friends. Some members are busy taking care of their sick parents or family. Councils participated in the 12-Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care in May. Six councils participated at the TDC Virtual Celebration for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada.

CWL members are volunteers in their own parishes as the church reopens by welcoming back the parishioners, cleaning and sanitizing, making sure the protocols are followed.

---

THANK YOU

## The Catholic Women's League of Canada Toronto Diocesan Council

On behalf of our members, we extend heartfelt gratitude to all frontline and essential workers, clergy and all others for their courage and resilience during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

We continue to pray for the deceased, sick, those who have experienced any loss and for everyone to have a fruitful post-pandemic recovery.



*Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid,  
for I am your God;  
I will strengthen you, I will help you,  
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.*

Isaiah 41:10

[cwtoronto.ca](http://cwtoronto.ca)

*“All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish  
the light of a single candle.”*

- St. Francis of Assisi