

NOVEMBER



President's Update

Dear Sisters in the League,

In my daily reading I came across this saying: "November is the last month of autumn but the beginning of a new adventure; time to take risks and do the unexpected." (Author Unknown) This will be very true for councils that will hold elections in the next few months. They will be the first ones to incorporate the new League structure into their parish council.

As we have received communiqués, directives, newsletter and The Canadian League magazine, we have been made aware of a host of resources that are now available as the Strategic Plan process enters into its fourth year. Our challenge is to provide this information to all members. Technology cannot replace the experience of being personally.

Strategic Plan Update:

The October 2022 Implementation Committee Update has may be found at:
<https://cwl.ca/implementation-committee-update-october-2022/>



Goal 1 and Goal 2 Implementation Committee Leads have reported on their progress.

The Training and Development Using Technology group is creating a train-the-trainer guide. The Marketing group has a campaign in place to help councils use

positive and affirmative words. The Communications group is finishing work on an up-to-date communications guide.

2022 Christmas and holiday stamps

"Canada Post has released new Christmas stamps.



The majestic new Christmas stamp – designed by Paprika and illustrated by Fanny Roy – is inspired by the Nativity, with an emphasis on the star that led the Magi to the infant Jesus. In biblical accounts of the birth of Jesus, the star of Bethlehem served as both a guide that led the Magi to find the young child and a sign that the prophecy of the coming of a saviour had been realized. The Permanent™ domestic rate stamp is available in booklets of 12." (From Canada Post news release).

Members are reminded that these stamps are still available as a result of a national resolution requesting

that the production of religious stamps continue. The pertinent resolutions is [2005.01 Christmas Postage Stamps](#)

Council Activity

"It is good for us to be here" Luke 9:33

Technology cannot replace the experience of being personally present to each other and councils continued to gather in meetings and other events during October.

Scarborough regional meeting (Oct. 4) and North York regional meeting (Oct. 5) finished our round of 7 meetings. Councils reported food drives, attendance at Life Chain and Rosary Sunday, plant and bake sales, retreats and successful membership drives to capacity attendance. What a joy to be together!

Martyrs of Japan (Bradford) Council invited all women of the parish (and the region) to attend their Day of Reflection and talk on "Woman of Valour Woman of



Strength-Spiritual and Life Lessons From The Women of the Bible" and how they are relevant to women of today. Their day started with Mass at 9 a.m. and ended with Benediction at 3p.m. The guest speaker was **Fr. Fred Chung** of St. Augustine's Seminary. The talk was inspiring and the lunch nourishing and the fellowship warming (their

words!). Cost was a very reasonable \$10. (Photo courtesy of Cecilia Podger)

Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada (UCWLC)

On October 22, I represented you at the 33rd UCWLC Convention on the occasion of their 75th anniversary as a League. Their theme was "With God's Guidance - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow". The day began with Liturgy for deceased UCWLC Members (pioneers, leaders, HLMS), Bishops and Spiritual Advisors celebrated by Bishop Bryan Bayda, CSsR. After the procession of flags (Ukrainian, Canadian and councils) and the singing of our national anthem as well as the Ukrainian anthem, the Toronto Eparchial Spiritual Advisor - Sister Theresa Matwe, SSMI gave a wonderful spiritual reflection.



Vera Kostecki, who many of you know from our annual conventions, finished her final year of a five year term at this event. She received her Honorary Life Member medal on that morning and it was a pleasure to be a witness to it.

I stayed for their first workshop which was mostly in English in order to hear a report from the program director of their efforts with the Ukrainian refugees in the greater GTA. It was very informative and they were very appreciative (again) for our contribution through the TDC temporary Ukrainian Fund towards these efforts as well as to relief in the war areas.

If councils wish to continue donating, it is recommended that donations now be made through the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA). CNEWA has disbursed over **5.5 million CAD** to provide immediate relief to Ukrainian families devastated by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

To donate: <https://cnewa.org/ca/campaigns/ukraine/>

St. John Vianney 65th council anniversary celebration

Celebrating council accomplishments and successes is very important. It reinforces the great work being done. Parish councils are the lifeblood of the League and amazing things are accomplished at this level. St. John Vianney council was



founded in 1957, the same year that the official League banner came into use. The members have served faithfully for an uninterrupted 65 years! This council has 107 members and many of them were in attendance including past presidents who moved to other areas. A former president from this parish was Peggy Nastasiuk who passed away in 2011. Peggy was a member for 64 years and council president from 1972-1974. She was Toronto Diocesan President (1985-1987), Provincial

President (1995-1997) and National Spiritual Development Chair (1998-2000).

The picture shows me presenting current president **Helena Hedrich** (dressed in the style of 1957) with their milestone certificate. Also present was Sue Gibbons Shrubsole (President 2015-16 and past regional chair) who came from North Bay with her family. Sue wrote a poem for the occasion and Helena included it in her president's bomboniere. I have included Sue's poem with this mailing. It made me recall a poem that **Irene Debono** (Transfiguration Parish Council) recited at the Humber Valley regional meeting in September. There are so many talented members in our midst. It's wonderful to give them an opportunity to shine!

Faith in Action Workshop



On October 29, almost 40 of us gathered for the Faith in Action workshop held at St. Roch Parish to learn about the transition of resolutions and legislations into the three new standing committee chairs of Faith, Service and Social Justice. The presenters were diocesan committee chairs **Connie Cristinziano** (Resolutions), **Mary Tuccitto** (Legislation) and **Nenita MacKenzie** (Communications).

Elisabeth Quail (North York Regional Chair) helped with registration as well as the prayer service. Members wrote a "funny" resolution when it was time for table work as well as saw how to implement the action plan for Resolution ON2022.01 Improve Care in Long Term Care Homes. Also present were other diocesan committee chairs Kate O'Quinn (President-Elect/Organization), Ciscily Winkler (Christian Family Life), Elizabeth Joseph (Community Life), Zenora Mahabal (Recording Secretary), and Iris McNulty (Spiritual Development) who came to learn also but also to share some knowledge at their tables.

Knowledge Sharing

Diane Olmstead, Council President at St. Justin Martyr shared with me at the North York Regional meeting a copy of her council's Policy and Procedure document

(April 2022). It is very well written and each policy has its own page which makes it very easy to switch out when changes are made.

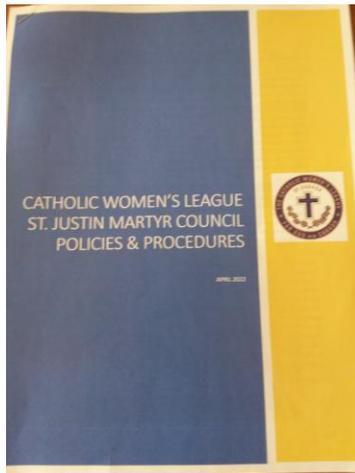


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Diane also shared her highlights report to members. She let members know all the events that occurred during 2021. This is a great piece of information for members to have as not all members go to all meetings but they should know what has happened in the council over the year. As an outgoing president, you should also write a short document recapping your term as president for your council archives.



Does your council have a newsletter? Did you know that there is a downloadable template on the CWL national

website available for council use? It's #145a in the To Organize section of the website.

Mary Hawkey, Life Member, Convention 2023 Chair and council member at Holy Family parish in Whitby shared their council newsletter with me. The editor is the very talented **Judy Griscti Byrdine**, who is also the council communications chair. If you think your council would benefit from a newsletter, then canvass your members as their might be someone who has the skills or would like to learn the skills (instructions for the template are #145b). Alternatively, this might be a great project for some intergenerational activity with high school students who may be looking for volunteer hours. Be sure to let Diocesan Communications chair Nenita MacKenzie know if you have a parish council newsletter (digital or hard copy).

Book Launch

Be sure to register for our Diocesan Advent Retreat to be held virtually on Tuesday, November 22. The talk will be on the Saints of Advent presented by Novalis author and CWL member **Christine Way Skinner**. St. John Chrysostom CWL council held a book launch for Christine as none were able to be held during the pandemic period. It may well be the first book launch ever at the council level. The poster is attached for the retreat and be sure to spread the word to other women in your parish. As women of faith their place is among us.

Pray for Our Deceased Members



The National Book Of Life contains a listing of all deceased members' names submitted by provincial councils and distributed to all councils by national office. It is "dedicated to the deceased members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada whose lives were a tribute to womanhood in their devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ and to Our Lady of Good Counsel, whom they loved and served, and in whose presence they now rejoice". In our diocese for the period of January 1 to September 30, we mourn the passing of 112 of our members as reported by their councils. Please pray for them.

"In the world of today, as perhaps never before, the church needs an enlightened and faithful laity. Dedicated members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada live their faith by serving others and thus discover Christ through relationships with others. The members we honour today openly made a solemn commitment to be witnesses of Christ, carrying out the mission of Christ at home, in the parish and in the whole community. We recall now their service to others, and we pray that the God of all has joyously welcomed them into the fullness of life, where they rest in peace and love." This passage has been taken from the **Memorial Service for Deceased Members** (#720) available on the national website. It is a beautiful prayer service that many councils use during the month of November.

In Case You Missed It:

Since Oct 1st, the following have been made available to councils:

From the national website: www.cwl.ca

Communiqué #9 Spiritual Development

Communiqué #5 Legislation

Communiqué #12 Community Life

And the following resources: **Intergenerational Activity Program (#643)**, Catholic Girls League Admin Manual, Food Bank Project Final Report, Communications During Transition, **Actively Engaging New Members and Home Bound Members (#635)**, Implementation Committee Update (October 2022), and The Canadian League magazine (Fall 2022 issue)

From the provincial CWL: www.cwl.on.ca

In the Communiqués section

Directive #1 Recording Secretary

Directive #2 Legislation

Directive #3 Christian Family Life

As well as the October issue of the provincial newsletter



As we turn back our clocks this weekend, it provides the ideal opportunity to reset our sleep patterns.

The longer winter hours also allows us to explore and learn new things and continue your faith formation by joining a Catholic book club at your church. If there isn't one, start one! Ask your pastor or lay minister for suggestions.

Or watch educational videos about the Church. Bishop Barron's are a good place

to start. Learn about a new, less known saint each month. Learn something new about the League by exploring the national website. The possibilities are endless. Share what you learn with members of your council. The first goal of our theme "Catholic and Living It" is to build or rebuild relationships. "Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing." 1 Thess. 5:11

Please continue to send me your good news, your questions and your concerns.

Thank you for all you for God, the League and Canada.

Your sister in the League,
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