



The Catholic Women's League of Canada Toronto Diocesan Council Online Newsletter

May 2020

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President: Hilarion Mitchell

We have been quieted and slowed down from our busy fast-paced lives because of the COVID-19 Pandemic State of Emergency. The result is a deeper connection to humanity as we rekindle our family ties, friendships, support members and others in need, and being drawn closer to God.

This article was started on the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel on April 26th with the awareness that the week ahead was to be the 99th Toronto Diocesan Annual Convention. The hard work of the convention committee, 2019-2021 executive, regional chairs and members was coming to fruition with four ambitious themes: *Care for Our Common Home*, *Loneliness*, the National 100th Anniversary and *Celebrate our Cultural Diversity*. However, the scripture reading from Proverbs 16:9 "*The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps.*" provides us the reminder of who is in control of our lives.

In all areas of our lives, we have had to adjust to the hidden enemy that has affected and taken the lives of so many individuals in Canada and around the world. We pray and ask for the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel for everyone affected by COVID-19, and for it to end through a control and a cure. We also pray for the victims of the Nova Scotia mass shootings and the Fort McMurray floods.

Yours in Faith, Love and Service,

Hilarion Mitchell

"Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them." "Prayer and quiet service: These are our victorious weapons." (Pope Francis)

Newsletter Editor: Lucia Vacca

As a result of this unprecedented time we are being challenged to create opportunities to communicate with our members. This online newsletter covers articles from a number of standing committee chairs and regional chairs to keep you informed and encourage you to participate where possible.



The Toronto Diocesan Fall Newsletter 2020 will be available in printed form in early September for those who have subscribed.

Spiritual Advisor: Msgr. Patrick O’Dea

Dear Catholic Women’s League members:
I wish to offer you, by this letter, my sincere prayers and best wishes for your good health and safety. You are remembered daily in my weekday masses, and on Sunday at our mass which is available for viewing online www.stedward.ca.

I am glad that many of you watched the national broadcast of the annual Mass of Our Lady of Good Counsel on April 26th. I understand that more than 230,000 people tuned in to the Mass, not only from within Canada but from other parts of the world.

In this time of uncertainty, when our world is raging a battle to stop the further spread of COVID-19, the Bishops of Canada (and the United States) made a rare consecration of their countries to our Blessed Mother on May 1st, asking for her intercession and healing. In Toronto, Cardinal Collins led the official prayer, televised from St. Michael’s Cathedral-Basilica. Like other parishes, I also joined in offering the prayer, joined by our associate pastor and seminarian-intern.

For those who may not have read the prayer, I would like to offer you, below on page 8, the words of the prayer for your reflection and mediation.



In closing, I would be remiss in not congratulating all the members of the Catholic Women’s League, not only in Toronto, but across Canada, as we mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the League in Montreal, in the year 1920. While we grapple with a world pandemic, let us still focus on the many positive ways in which God has touched the lives of the League over so many wonderful years. Let us pray that in 2021, we will be able to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the First Convention of the Catholic Women’s League, which took place in Toronto.

May God bless you, your families, and all your loved ones in this difficult time in our history. Of course, we also pray for everyone who has shown such great courage in helping those in need, especially those on the front line of medical care. May God also receive into His eternal Kingdom all who have passed in the past months of

this pandemic. May God be with you. Let us pray for one another!

Spiritual Development Chair: Kate O’Quinn

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” - John 14:27

In these times of quarantine and physical distancing, as we go through each day, not sure what to expect, may we take comfort and peace in these words from the Gospel of John. May we always remember God is with us and will show us the way; just take courage and keep an open heart.

Spiritual Bouquet for Msgr. Patrick O’Dea, Toronto Diocesan Spiritual Advisor

The spiritual bouquet form for Msgr. Pat was included in the President’s Convention package provided on Development Day. The spiritual bouquet is our thank-you to him for his support and spiritual guidance to the League and all members in the Toronto Diocese. The spiritual bouquet is still being collected as virtual Masses, spiritual devotions, retreats, prayers, etc., are to be counted towards the spiritual bouquet during the closure of churches and cancelled CWL events. Circulate the spiritual bouquet form to members as a reminder to them to commit their spiritual offerings to Msgr. Pat. The completed spiritual bouquet form is to be returned by Tuesday, September 15, 2020, to Kate O’Quinn by email or home address listed on the form.

12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care

The 12 hours of Prayer for Palliative Care is held during National Hospice Palliative Care Week, May 4-10, 2020. Councils are encouraged to choose a date during this time and organize an at-home prayer service for individuals at end of life and their caregivers/palliative care workers. A prayer service was emailed in April and is available on the national website <https://cwl.ca/12-hours-of-prayer-for-palliative-care-2020/>

The Month of Mary

The Month of May is dedicated to Mary our Mother, “Queen of the May”. Members are invited to pray the Rosary each day or as often as possible



during the month. You may even want to connect with members of your council and make it a council project so that every day of the month is covered by a least one member saying the Rosary.

Special Prayer Services for June

Two prayer services are being developed to mark the 100th Anniversary of The Catholic Women's League which is on June 17th and National Indigenous Day on June 21st will be circulated by the first week of June.

In closing, as we continue our journey through this pandemic, take strength from these words from 2 Corinthians 4:8-9: *"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."* Be kind to others and ... be good to yourselves!

Toronto Diocesan Council Updates

National 100th Anniversary

June 17th will mark the official 100th anniversary of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. The Spring 2020 issue of the Canadian League magazine is dedicated to this milestone achievement and a must read for members. Though



the national convention has been cancelled, councils can still engage members to recognize the anniversary. Some activities to undertake include 10 Hours of Prayer for each decade, using the Spring 2020 Canadian League magazine to develop contests, explore the national's key League milestones that can be circulated online and/or mailed to members to complete.

2019 Annual Report Book

The 2019 Annual Report Book was circulated to the regional chairs and is also posted on the TDC website www.cwltoronto.ca. It contains the summary of all the great work of TDC councils during 2019.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The AGM is the business sessions at conventions. Due the 2020 convention cancellations, the AGM will be held post-pandemic for all levels of the League. The AGM for the TDC is tentatively

scheduled for September 26th and the format will be provided once available.

2019 Financial Statements

The 2019 Financial Statements will be mailed to the council president as the voting delegate with two copies for their accredited delegates, and to Toronto Diocesan Council (TDC) executive, regional chairs and life members. The financial statements will also be available in the printed copy of the 2019 Annual Report Book.

Loneliness

Social Isolation, self-isolation, quarantine and physical distancing are some of the critical measures used to address COVID-19. With these is the increased likelihood of loneliness, especially for the elderly and those who live alone. The provincial theme of *Loneliness* is providing an opportunity to understand the resulting health and social issues, hence the ongoing call for councils to actively maintain contact with members. It is our hope that even though councils have not held in-person meetings for the past two months, members are reaching out to each other, especially the shut-ins, through phone calls, social media, FaceTime, Skype, cards, rendering service, etc. Communication from all levels of the League, including this online newsletter, remains important to keep members informed of League, parish and other organization activities.



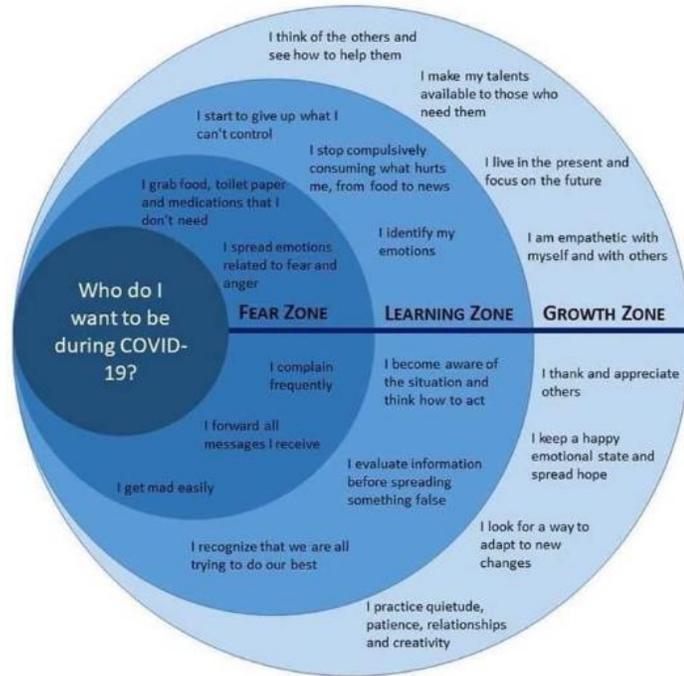
Recording Secretary: Shaila D'Souza

COVID-19...It has changed our entire outlook on life. This is a stressful time to say the least. Everything is impacted by COVID-19 in some way, including our work in the League. Once we have taken time to acknowledge how lucky we are to work and live in a digital world, it will be easier to adjust and respond to the current events. This is also a great opportunity for recording secretaries to use the time to ensure that filing of council's minutes and motion book are organized and current, review the National Manual of Policy and Procedure, Handbook for Secretaries, Executive Handbook, etc., for a better

understanding of the roles and responsibilities of this position.

The 2019 accomplishments of the recording secretaries are summarized in the 2019 Annual Report Book, now posted online. A few recommendations such as recording action items, encouraging executive to submit written reports, etc., are to further assist recording secretaries in their role.

Who I Want to Be During COVID-19?



Source: <https://qorf.org.au/who-do-i-want-to-be-during-covid-19/>

Resolutions Chair: Andrea Smart

During this trying time, we must remember we are all in this together and by being strong will get through it together. National has directed that all resolutions from 2020 will be presented at the 2021 conventions.



With the Legislature suspended and Parliament's limited sessions, MPPs and MPs are more available to hear about the important issues raised through our resolutions. Tips on how to contact them are in the National Resolutions Chair's communique

<https://cwl.ca/communique-8-resolutions/>.

During National Palliative Hospice Care Week, review the action plans of one of our palliative care resolutions below.

- 2018.03 Legislate Designation of Hospice/Palliative Care Services in Facilities to Exclude Medical Assistance in Dying
- 2017.04 Protection from Coercion of Conscience for Healthcare Professionals
- 2016.04 Amend the *Canada Health Act* to Identify Palliative Care as an Insured Health Service
- 2007.02 Hospice Palliative Care: An Integral Component of the Canadian Health Care System
- 2004.01 Protection of Human Life
- 2001.01 Quality End-Of-Life Care

**Christian Family Life Chair: Iris McNulty
National Palliative Hospice Care Week (May 4-10)**

Continue to promote the need for quality palliative hospice care with your membership. This time of physical distancing is an opportune time to engage our councils to prepare written letters to elected officials or to plan a meeting with them once physical isolation restrictions are lifted. As Catholic women, we uphold the dignity of all life, including those who are nearing the end of their earthly journey. Providing quality palliative hospice care is essential to maintain this dignity.

Aid to Women Online Auction (May 29-31)

Aid to Women is a crisis pregnancy centre in Toronto which has served women in the GTA facing an unexpected pregnancy, for 30 years. They are holding an online art auction called *Giving Hope* to raise funds for the organization. Members are invited to participate because of their commitment to LIFE. Information at www.aidtowomen.ca

Virtual March for Life (May 10-14)

Join this event sponsored by *Campaign Life Coalition* which intends to raise awareness on the issues surrounding abortion and end-of-life issues. It will feature movies, interviews, a candlelight vigil, Masses, a virtual rally and guest speakers. Events will be accessed on marchforlife.ca and its social media platforms.

National Week for Life and Family (May 10-17)

The theme is *Children: The Crowning Glory of Marriage*. Refer to the Catholic Organization for Life

and Family (COLF) website: www.colf.ca for a letter to parents, prayers and some suggested activities.

Refer to the website: citizengo.org/en-us and click on the image to access information on how abortion lobbyists intend to address unwanted pregnancies during the current pandemic crisis.

June is Seniors Month

The value of Seniors is realized in the life lessons they provide and in their contributions to society and families. The website: www.ontario.ca/seniors contains links to available programs and services open to seniors over 65 to help them lead a healthy, active and engaged life style. Seniors information line: 1-888-910-1999 or infoseniors@ontario.ca Individuals can request a congratulatory message for milestone anniversaries.

Euthanasia (MAID)

The federal government has been looking at expanding MAID to include mature minors and individuals with a mental illness. The Canadian Psychiatric Association has softened their position regarding individuals who have a mental illness requesting euthanasia. The position of the association is that individuals should not be discriminated from euthanasia because of their mental health diagnosis and that they should have the same options available to them as the general population. Psychiatrists would not have to provide the procedure if the legislation is expanded but they would be required to provide information on MAID resources and the process if it is requested of them.

Virtual Catholicism

Online video courses are delivered by renowned presenters in the areas of faith development, sacramental preparation, marriage. The cost per course is \$30. For more information refer to the website www.sacraments.augustineinstitute.org.

Legislation Chair: Elizabeth Joseph

Greetings! As we fulfill our daily obligations in the privacy of our homes, and adhere to the directives of the public health authorities and law makers in these unprecedented times, let us listen, discern and try to understand the impact and effects of the pandemic on vulnerable groups. The 43rd Parliament has introduced two Federal Bills for COVID-19.

Federal Bills

Bill C 13: (43-1) An Act respecting certain measures in response to COVID-19 (COVID-19 Emergency Response Act). Part 1 implements certain income tax measures; Part 2 enacts the Canada Emergency Response Benefit Act to authorize income support payments to workers who suffer a loss of income for reasons related to the coronavirus disease 2019. The Act had Royal Assent on March 25, 2020.

Bill C 14: (43-1) A second Act respecting certain measures in response to COVID-19. (COVID-19 Emergency Act, No. 2), was enacted to help businesses keep Canadians in their jobs. The Act was adopted without amendment by the Senate and received Royal Assent on April 11, 2020. Monitor the effects of both Bills as they relate to the poor, homeless, sick and seniors.

Bill C 204: An Act to amend the Canadian Environment Protection Act, 1999, to prohibit the export of certain types of plastic waste to foreign countries for final disposal. The Bill had first reading on February 7, 2020.

Action: Monitor this Bill as it relates to our national theme *Care for Our Common Home*.

Bill C 232: The Climate Emergency Action Act

The purpose is to ensure that the Government of Canada takes all measures necessary to ensure that Canada respects its commitment under the Convention on Climate Change to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and that it does so while complying fully with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Bill had first reading on February 26, 2020.

Provincial Bills

Bill 164: Protecting Vulnerable Persons in Supportive Living Accommodation Act, 2019. An Act to establish a framework for the licensing of supportive living accommodation, and enactment of activities of daily living. The Bill had first reading on December 10, 2019.

Action: Monitor this Bill to see if governments adopt the governance of long-term care homes in the future, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially as gaps in the long-term care system have been exposed, and seniors in many long-term care facilities have been neglected and suffered loss of life.

Federal Funding for Canadian Farmers and Food Processors

On April 13, 2020 Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau announced \$50 million dollars of federal funding for Canadian farmers and food processors to ensure temporary foreign workers comply with mandatory COVID-19 quarantine.

Action: Monitor these funding policies as temporary foreign farm workers have suffered with inadequate accommodation and unsanitary living conditions before the onset of COVID-19. Monitor the number of foreign workers who develop the disease while working on Canadian farms. Minister Blanchet stated *“we are concerned for their safety”* (Canadian Press).

As Catholics we need to pay attention to the issues and policies that concern us, especially those that impact the poor, homeless, sick and seniors, more so during this pandemic. Visit the following websites:

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

www.cccb.ca

Development and Peace www.devp.org

Catholic Register www.catholicregister.org

Parliament of Canada Legislation Info

www.parl.gc.ca/LEGISInfo

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/current

Education & Health Chair: Connie Cristinziano St. Michael's College Scholarship 2020

This is a generous scholarship of \$3,000 which is available to a young woman who is enrolling in the University of Toronto St Michael's College this fall and a significant benefit to help defray costs.

During these unprecedented times let us continue to promote this worthy scholarship. Let us do our best to promote this worthy scholarship and provide this opportunity to a deserving young woman.

Together we can make this a successful year for a worthy candidate. Deadline has been extended to July 30, 2020. The Information package and forms can be found on our website:

www.cwltoronto.ca/resources/referencedocuments

New Councils

St. Rose of Lima, Scarborough
Region: March 1st



St. Jerome, Brampton, Peel
Region: March 4th

Regional Updates

Northern Regional Chair: Anne Marie Martyniuk

A motion was adopted to reserve the funds that were budgeted for the 2020 Diocesan Convention and use it as a donation to the National 100th Anniversary Convention in Toronto in August 2021. Some councils have already cancelled their fall bazaars. A retreat is being planned for 2021.

Northern will maintain their normal Fall events and meetings. The Fall Northern Regional Executive Meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 24th and the Fall Northern Regional General Meeting is pending date approval. When known, both meetings will be held at St. Mary's, Barrie.

Scarborough Regional Chair: Nenita MacKenzie

Scarborough Region welcomes St. Rose of Lima Council with President Marian Gonsalves. There are 26 members and they are all very eager to get the council started. Our Fall General Meeting (Oct. 1st) and Deceased Members' Mass (November 4th) have been tentatively scheduled.

Peel Regional Chair: Aurora Chavez

Peel Region welcomed St. Jerome Council in Brampton with President Gabrielle Huggins.

Toronto Regional Chair: Araceli Farinas

Congratulations to all graduates of the Leadership & Public Speaking Course on March 14th who were presented with their certificates by Sue Lubowitz, Organization Chair. During the course, they developed and learned the skills of a leader, speaking in public, parliamentary procedure and much more.



Keep in touch with members

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, in this time of pandemic, we turn our age to you, and in Christ consecrate to you the faithful of our Archdiocese, together with all the people of Canada.



At the Annunciation, fear gave way to trust as you embraced the mysterious and loving plan of God, who through his providence, care and concern brought about newness of life in you and through you. Intercede, we pray, on our behalf as your children, Virgin most faithful.

Grant us faith, hope and perseverance, as we strive to serve and bear witness to all persons, responding to the needs of those affected by this virus.

Standing at the foot of the Cross at Calvary, you united yourself with the suffering of Christ and so uniquely contributed to the mystery of our redemption.

We beseech you as Health of the sick, draw to yourself in maternal compassion the brothers and sisters of your Son Jesus and all those who are grieved by this pandemic.

Strengthen the dying and comfort those who weep so that all may experience the healing grace of Christ our Divine Physician.

At the Cenacle, after the Resurrection, you accompanied the Apostles with prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In your maternal care as Consoler of the afflicted, accompany healthcare professionals, all who minister to the sick and those who seek

a cure to end this pandemic, that the Holy Spirit may renew the face of the earth.

To all of us, dearest Mary, Mother of all the living,

be present and show forth your tenderness, as we raise our eyes to you who shines forth before the entire community as a merciful and compassionate companion on our journey. Time and time again, with burdens weighing heavily on their hearts and in their many necessities, the Christian faithful have sought refuge under your mantle of protection.

Come quickly to our aid at this time, Mother of Mercy, and deliver us from the dangers that surround us in our hour of need; watch over especially the elderly, the weak and the infirm, our children and the unity of our families, and all those who give of themselves selflessly in pastoral care to those in need until in your arms and in your gentle embrace we all find safety and solace.

AMEN.



Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel: April 26th



Msgr. Pat O'Dea and Deacon David Quail,
St. Edward the Confessor

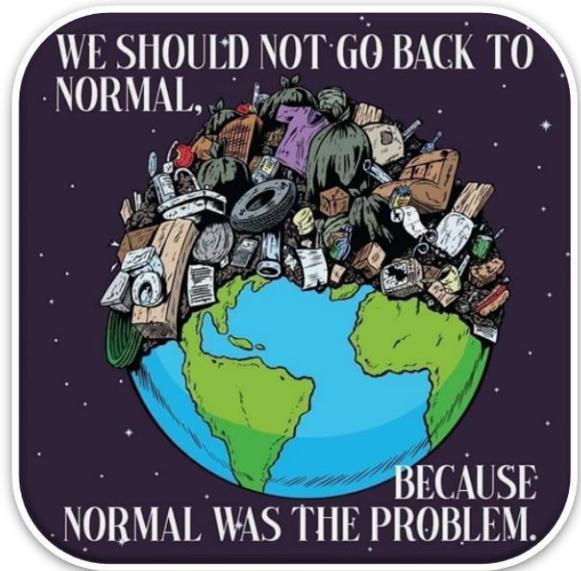
Lucia Vacca (Newsletter Editor) with granddaughters
Paige and Dakari, Scarborough: May 1st car parade.
Tony Stacey Centre for Veterans Care



Tony Stacey Centre for Veterans Care Staff,
Scarborough: May 1st car drive-by in appreciation of
all their efforts during this pandemic.



Mary Tuccitto (Communications Chair)



COVID-19 WORD SEARCH

N	I	N	R	W	A	S	H	H	A	N	D	S	A
H	E	N	O	N	E	S	S	E	N	T	I	A	L
S	E	D	T	E	M	P	E	R	A	T	U	R	E
S	N	E	E	T	R	U	O	F	S	A	C	U	A
D	E	K	R	D	A	S	A	C	O	U	G	H	I
O	H	N	U	A	G	K	F	C	D	I	V	O	C
C	R	T	I	L	R	S	V	I	R	T	U	A	L
T	P	O	O	O	L	A	C	A	N	A	D	A	T
O	E	V	C	R	R	M	D	T	I	E	P	P	N
R	E	A	C	E	O	S	W	C	H	U	R	C	H
S	T	V	M	Y	W	U	O	S	E	S	R	U	N
E	Y	O	S	A	S	H	C	O	E	W	N	D	U
F	H	I	C	R	L	Y	O	F	U	N	D	R	C
U	D	N	A	P	A	C	I	M	E	D	N	A	P

WASH
PRAYER
NURSES
GLOVES
SENIORS
NON-ESSENTIAL
TEMPERATURE
VIRTUAL
MASKS
COUGH
PPE
PANDEMIC
FOURTEEN
WHO
DOCTORS
HANDS
CANADA
COVID
CHURCH

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1122716/>

100th Anniversary Quiz

The Catholic Women's League of Canada Volume 96/No. 2/Spring 2020
History of the League (Pages 9-20)

League Milestones		Year
1	Provincial councils were formed.	
2	The League scarf was made available to members.	
3	The national office moved from Ottawa to Winnipeg.	
4	The Book of Life was initiated.	
5	The Catholic Girls' League (CGL) was established with membership for young women aged 10-15.	
6	Catch the Fire! leadership training package launched.	
7	The complete strategic plan was adopted by the national executive in August.	
8	The League was federally incorporated, and the national organization became official under Canadian law	
9	The Canadian League, the official League publication was founded.	
10	The Catholic Women's League originated in England.	
11	First meeting of a League delegation with federal ministers to discuss resolutions adopted in.	
12	What year was the fist national convention held.	