

October

President's Update

Dear Sisters in the League,

Team work is something you hear a lot about, almost to the point of being a cliché. But cliché or not, it's at the foundation of most of what we do. The Catholic Women's League is no different. As President of the Toronto Diocesan Council, I rely on the diocesan executive, the seven regional chairs as well as council presidents to ensure that information is sent to the members at large. Events in September gave proof to this concept. Together, we can achieve more. Thank you to all of you for your commitment to the League.

"Coming together is the beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success"
(Taken from *God's Little Instruction Book*) reflection on Psalm 133: 1, 3
National Organization Communiqué #5

Rosary Sunday

Rosary Sunday was held on a beautiful Sunday afternoon at Martyrs' Shrine in Midland. The celebrant and homilist was Fr. Michael Knox, S.J., director of Martyrs' Shrine. The day started with mass at the Polish Altar and our League was the special intention. At 2:30pm there was the procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Papal Altar. The Living Rosary included many of our members. The reflections to the Glorious Mysteries were said by Honorary Life Member Margaret Ann Jacobs, Anna Tremblay (Ontario CWL Recording Secretary), Iris McNulty (Toronto Spiritual Development Chair), Dianne Hunter (Northern Regional Chair) and I. A grateful thank you is extended to Loretta Gismondi, St. Paul the Apostle CWL (Aliston) who continues this ministry to the League by informing and organizing us. I estimated about 300 in attendances and many CWL banners were evident. Councils joined together for lunch in the picnic area before the mass.



Members from St. Joseph (Highland Creek) CWL in attendance at Rosary Sunday.

Regional Meetings

Most regional executive meetings were held virtually which allowed Kate O'Quinn and me to present the Per Capita PowerPoint to the presidents. Council presidents are reminded that the presentation is available from their regional chair if they wish to use it at a council meeting.



(PowerPoint available with speaker's notes)

As I write this, five of the seven regions have had their regional meetings and it has been wonderful to see everyone again after the long period of COVID. Our new Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Liborio Amaral has introduced himself to councils and we will enjoy and benefit greatly from him over the next 5 years.

Council presidents are reminded to send their written reports to their regional chairs to facilitate the writing of the annual regional reports.

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

On Sunday, Sept. 25th approximately 80 people joined together at Holy Spirit Parish (Barrie) to mark the second National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. This event was presented by Kate O'Quinn (Organization), Iris McNulty (Spiritual Development), Ciscily Winkler (Christian Family Life), Elizabeth Joseph (Community Life) and I. It was hosted by Holy Spirit Council, St. John Vianney Council and St. Mary Council. All 3 councils are from Barrie. A free will offering was collected for the Barrie Native Friendship Centre in appreciation of Elder Ernestine Baldwin who came to do the smudging ceremony. Councils will be receiving the documents and research that was prepared by the 5 presenters. These will be useful at the parish level as we continue on our path to truth and reconciliation.



To Left: Kate O'Quinn (President-Elect/Organization) and Iris McNulty (Spiritual Development) at the smudge by Elder Ernestine Baldwin from the Barrie Native Friendship Center and a parishioner at St. Mary's parish in Barrie.

We smudge to clear the air around us. We smudge to clean our minds so that we will have good thoughts of others. We smudge our eyes so that we will only see the good in others. We smudge our ears so that we will only listen to positive things about others. We smudge our mouths so that we will only speak well of others. We smudge our whole being so we will portray

only the good part of our self through our actions.

The event was held as a response to The **Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action #59** asking church parties to the Settlement Agreement to develop ongoing education strategies to ensure that their respective congregations learn about their church's role in colonization, the history and legacy of residential schools, and why apologies to former residential school students, their families and communities were necessary.

“The power of true reconciliation originates in the true recognition of human dignity; God Himself loves our humanity so much that He has given us His own Son.”
(† Gérald Cyprien Cardinal Lacroix, Archbishop of Québec, Primate of Canada)
National Community Life Communiqué #10

Farewell to Msgr. Patrick O’Dea

On September 14, Diocesan presidents (past, current and future) who served with Msgr. O’Dea organized a celebration event in appreciation of his service to the League over the last 6 years. Msgr. Pat came to the diocesan level in Shirley Christo’s last year as President and continued with Ann D’Souza as well as Hilarion Mitchell during her extended three year term. They mentioned how grateful they were for his support over the years as well as his words of wisdom. We also thanked Deacon David Quail for his assistance to the League at convention, regional and other special masses and numerous other times. Eighty guests were in attendance.



Spiritual Advisors in attendance (left to right)
Fr. Peter Marr (Scarborough Region)
Fr. Michael Samoos (Peel Region)
Fr. Robert O’Brien (former Diocesan Spiritual Advisor)
Msgr. Patrick O’Dea (honouree)
Fr. Larry Leger (Northern Region)
Fr. Edwin Galea (St. Maria Goretti)

Nativity of Our Lord Council 50th council anniversary

On September 18, the members of Nativity of Our Lord Council held their delayed by COVID anniversary brunch. Everyone enjoyed getting together at the banquet call for celebration complete with cake, prizes and service awards. Below is a photo of all past parish council presidents in attendance. So many years of service in this picture! Mass was celebrated before the brunch by the parish spiritual advisor, Fr. Michael Machacek who made a brief appearance to offer grace before our meal before returning to the parish for the next meal. The members made sure that he took a “goodie” bag with him.



St. Joseph (Streetsville) 65th council anniversary

On September 24th I attended a mass and celebration to honour the 65 years of service by the members of St. Joseph parish council to the League and Canada. Joining us for the presentation of the service awards and lunch was the parish council spiritual advisor, Fr. Paul Dobson.



The organizing committee led by council president, Christina Boyle (at left with me), did a wonderful job of keeping attendees engaged with games and dancing. There was even an appearance by Elvis (Melanie Nazareth)!

Other events around the Diocese

Many council presidents during the fall meetings reported some of their recruitment and membership drive successes as well as anniversary celebrations. Here are a few:



Our Lady of Lourdes Council (Toronto Region)

September 11-12, 2022 was the parish ministry fair and I am happy that five parishioners signed up to join the council and three are interested and thinking about joining.

Prescy Alumaga, President





St. Patrick Council (North York)

Submitted by Lalita D'Souza, Council President: executive members made a collage about all the events we did. We handed out about 250 bags of popcorn (machine was loaned by a member) for free. We also, handed out brochures that gave people information about who we are and what we do.

Some members organized a game "Lucky pop" (pop a balloon that has a number and the number corresponds to a prize) All winner received a free prize (had about 225 free prizes to give away) donated by our own CWL members. It was a great success. We were able to get 25 women sign up to potentially become a member at the fair. They will be invited to join us at the general meeting on Wednesday September 14th.



St. Joseph the Worker (North York) submitted by Mary Lynn Porto, council president

Here is a picture of our 25th Anniversary celebration with our pastor Father Victor Amole. It really was our 27th anniversary as we were unable to celebrate in 2020 as planned due to the pandemic. Nine of these members were given their 25th anniversary service pin by our new pastor during mass. Following mass, the celebration continued with an afternoon tea at the After Queen Tea Shop in Thornhill.

Ontario Provincial CWL Council Meeting

As your representative on the provincial CWL council, our concerns as a diocesan council were brought to the table at an in-person provincial council meeting on Sept. 29 to Oct. 1st. Provincial president, Linda Squarzolo, will meet with other provincial presidents and the national executive in Winnipeg in a few weeks (Oct.19-23). On the evening of Sept. 30th we gathered together to recite the Rosary of Reconciliation virtually with others

throughout the province. It was wonderful to see that members from across the diocese also participated. Mass was said daily by Provincial Spiritual Advisor, Bishop Thomas Dowd.



Prayer table for National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Day at provincial council meeting, Sept. 30th



In Case You Missed It

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

From the national website: www.cwl.ca

Communiqué #4 Legislation

Communiqué #5 Organization

Communiqué #5 Resolutions

Communiqué #7 Educations and Health

Communiqué #8 Communications

Communiqué #8 Spiritual Development

Communiqué #11 Community Life

Also: Strategic Plan Implementation Committee Update "The Power of Words" (Oct. 3)

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

Directive #1 Community Life

Directive #1 Legislation

Directive #1 Organization

Directive #2 Christian Family Life

Directive #2 President

Directive #2 Resolutions

Also: Webinar Topics for the next few months presented by Colleen Martin, Provincial Organization Chair

And Provincial October Newsletter with some news from Toronto Diocesan Council

Dates to Remember

Oct. 19: CWL Wednesday "Effective Meetings" registration needed (virtual)

Oct. 29: Faith into Action Workshop (Social Justice) registration needed (in person)

Oct. 31: Deadline for Proposed Resolution (to Connie Cristinziano)

Nov. 16: CWL Wednesday (topic to be determined) (virtual)

Nov. 22: Advent retreat with guest speaker Christine Way Skinner (author of *The Joy of Living the Faith* and the *Catholic Kids' Library Series*). The theme is The Saints of Advent. This is a virtual event and registration is required.

And one more thing

Thursday, September 29 was the World Day of Migrants and Refugees. Please pray for wisdom to come to the Canadian Supreme Court judges who will hear the legal challenge of the Safe Third Country Agreement on Oct. 6th. This policy bars many people from seeking refugee protection in Canada and the risk of being detained in inhumane conditions if sent back. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops is a member of the Canadian Council of Churches. The Council of Churches is making the legal challenge. More information on this can be found at the following website.

<https://www.councilofchurches.ca/news/supreme-court-decision-to-hear-safe-third-country-agreement-appeal-is-a-promising-step-for-refugee-rights/>

As you gather to give thanks this weekend for all the many blessings you have received, remember that "Thank You" is the best prayer that you can say.

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



Your sister in the League,
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