

## President's Update July 2022



Dear Sisters in the League,  
Here we are with another month flown by and so much to report back to you.

### Membership

By now all membership fees should have been forwarded to national office. The League accepts membership throughout the year. It is important to remember however, that members whose 2022 per capita fees have not arrived at national office by August 31, 2022 will not receive the fall issue of *The Canadian League*.

If you are experiencing difficulties, feel free to contact Kate O'Quinn, as organization chair, your regional chair or myself. We are here to assist you in any way possible.

### New Councils Update

We are thrilled to let you know that we have two new councils in the diocesan family of councils: St. John of the Cross (Peel Region) and Blessed Frederic Ozanam (North York Region). The work on these 2 councils was interrupted by COVID in March 2020 but they (and we) persevered.

St. John of the Cross had their organization meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup>. The slate of officers included a new member who asked about membership through the national website. Many thanks to Kate O'Quinn, Organization Chair, the team from Peel (Andrea Tjioe, Aurora Chavez, Natalie Meier and Diana Gamboa) and Fr. Joyson George.



Blessed Frederic Ozanam had their organization meeting on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to the team from North York (Marg Arangio, Carmela Ientile, Elisabeth Quail and Ciscily Winkler) as well as Fr. Ricardo Davis and Kate O'Quinn.

The CWL will be instrumental at this parish in the building of a new church for the diocese.



## Provincial Convention



75TH ONTARIO PROVINCIAL  
ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS/CONVENTION  
July 10-13, 2022

Did your council promote the upcoming provincial convention? There will be 38 members from Toronto Diocesan Council attending from a total of 18 parishes. This number includes 9 of our Life Members and five members who will be attending for the first time. If someone from your council is attending, have her share her experience at the next parish council general meeting. The first national convention was held in Toronto in 1921, so we have a long history in our diocese of gathering to celebrate the good works we do for God and Canada.

At the convention in Ottawa, the Toronto Diocesan Resolution **2022.02 National Strategy to Address Loneliness** will be brought to the floor for consideration by those assembled. Thank you again to St. John Fisher Council (Peel Region) for their excellent work.

Our second resolution **2022.01 Promoting a Holistic Parish-Based Theology of the Body Lifestyle and Procreation Teachings** was not accepted by the provincial resolution review committee. We thank St. Timothy Parish Council for their work.

As you stay informed on the world around you, view the news with an eye to forming a resolution in your council with the help from the diocesan council. Topics for resolutions should be submitted to Resolution Chair, Connie Cristinziano by October 31<sup>st</sup>.

## National Indigenous Peoples Day

On June 21<sup>st</sup>. the diocesan council hosted an evening of conversation and reflection on the theme of *Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle (History of the Circle and its impact on us as CWL Members) and Finding Our Place in Reconciliation*. Guest speakers were Graydon Nicholas, Wolastoqiyik First Nation and Colleen Martin, Provincial Christian Family Life Chair. Both are members of the Guadalupe Circle.

There were 112 people in attendance. Some members were viewing together so this number may be higher. All 7 regions were well represented by 35 parish councils. As well, there were members from 5 other dioceses and 6 Life Members.

After the presentation, Kate O'Quinn shared via email to all attendees resources from our guest Graydon Nicholas. If you were not able to attend but would like to have the resources for your council, then Kate will be pleased to send them to you. Kate can be contacted at [kateoquinn@yahoo.ca](mailto:kateoquinn@yahoo.ca)

## Special Council Events

On June 27<sup>th</sup> I had the opportunity to attend the New Member Ceremony at Sts. Peter and Paul (Peel Region). Madge Somasundaram and her council welcomed 24 members. Over the last 3 years this council has signed up over 90 new members and continues to be our largest council in Toronto Diocesan Council (and perhaps the country!!).



Before the ceremony, members gathered in their new "Mary Garden" inspired by the CWL Wednesday from May 2021. This council purchased a statue of Mary to place in the garden and has raised enough funds to purchase three benches to place around the garden. While there, we said the Rosary and even had a passerby join us.

"We have  
described for you  
a mountain.  
We have shown  
you the way to  
the top.  
We call upon you  
to do the climbing"

- Justice Murray Sinclair





I also gave a talk on "The Joy of Leadership" as part of a short exercise on discernment as this council starts the planning for their fall election. Congratulations to Madge and her executive for a successful membership drive.

On June 28<sup>th</sup> Kate O'Quinn and I attended the awards evening at Our Lady of Grace Council (North York Region) to present them with their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary certificate. Service certificates were presented to over 30 members. They were not able to present the 65 year pin and certificate to member Rita Marinucci on this evening but plans are to have this done in the fall.

Congratulations to Lori Thompson, President and Donna Sardone, Membership for organizing an evening that reflected the importance of acknowledging members.



### Ukraine Relief

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, Past-President sent out an update to all councils on this fund. A total of \$14,655 has been raised by councils and sent to the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada for their relief work in Ukraine. This is wonderful support for Ukraine and was much appreciated by them and they send their thanks.

One of our members, Kay Newbold, showed her support for Ukraine by planting a yellow palette in her



Mary Garden this year. Kay shared photos and recounted how blue flowers are difficult to find. What a wonderful idea! I had yellow petunias in my garden. Did any of you plant yellow this year?

I would also refer you to the book "The Garden Way of The Cross" by Father Thomas A. Stanley, available from Novalis. What a wonderful way to spend some quiet time in your Mary Garden during the few days of summer.

*"...the soul is a garden enclosed, our own perpetual paradise where we can be refreshed and restored." St. Thomas More*

### **In Case You Missed It**

Since June 1<sup>st</sup>, the following have been made available to councils:

From the national website: [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca)

- ✓ Community Life Communiqué #9
- ✓ Christian Family Life Communiqué #5
- ✓ Launch of *Retreat Centres for Spiritual Development* documents (#328 a & b)
- ✓ Launch of *Life and Dignity of the Human Person* Resource (#632)
- ✓ Papal Visit Appeal <https://cwl.ca/canadian-papal-visit-in-july/>

From the provincial website: [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca)

- ✓ Christian Family Life directive #11 (sent by Ciscily Winkler, June 16<sup>th</sup>)

From Toronto Diocesan Chairs

- ✓ World Meeting of Family information: <https://www.cccb.ca/media-release/press-release-world-meeting-of-families/> Resources are still available. Sent by Iris McNulty on June 12<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ Information on recent webinar *Indigenous People and the Church* sent on June 14<sup>th</sup> <https://cwl.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Indigenous-People-and-the-Church-Webinar-June6th2022.pdf>
- ✓ Convention Video Links sent by Past-President Hilarion Mitchell on June 7<sup>th</sup>: [https://1drv.ms/v/s!AqS47SJURrqghbszU8\\_jgQIu80DWOg?e=sCOdSY](https://1drv.ms/v/s!AqS47SJURrqghbszU8_jgQIu80DWOg?e=sCOdSY) and many others.

### **Dates to Remember:**

July 30 United Nations World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/end-human-trafficking-day>

August 9 United Nations International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day>

Sept. 1 to Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> Season of Creation, a global Catholic climate movement

<https://seasonofcreation.org/>

Sept. 11 Rosary Sunday

Sept. 25 Mass of Truth and Reconciliation

Sept. 30 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

## For God and Canada



In the photo to the left is my father's certificate of citizenship granted on Oct. 18, 1960. He was very proud of it.

The words on it should resonate with all of us:

*"is a Canadian citizen under the provisions of the Canadian Citizenship Act and, as such, is entitled to all the rights and privileges and is subject to all the responsibilities, obligations, and duties of a Canadian citizen."*

We are indeed fortunate to live in this country and should always be aware of this as we continue in our work for God and Canada.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns feel free to call or email me. I look forward to seeing you all this fall at the regional meetings.

Your sister in the League,  
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