

# September 2022

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## *President's Update*

Dear Sisters in the League,

No matter what the calendar says, September signals the return to everyday life. Just like the saying goes, "Spring forward, fall back": back to school, back to routine, back to business and soon back to standard time.

September 1<sup>st</sup> also marks another *Season of Creation* until the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>.

If your council would like to mark it somehow then more resources can be found at the following website: <https://seasonofcreation.org/about/>

You can also view a wonderful reflection on this site:

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=Du-vjiw4OwM&feature=share>

### **National Convention 2022**

August was taken up by the national convention in Kelowna, British Columbia from August 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>. You have received most of that news already from various communiqués and updates: Our Lady of Good Counsel remains our patroness, the per capita increase was voted in by a majority of the provinces, and the number of officers on an executive has been reduced at all levels of the League. The fall regional meetings will include more details on these items. Be sure to check with your parish president and regional chair for dates.



Toronto Diocese was represented at the national convention by a dynamic group of women. Seen here are:

(left to right front row) Hilarion Mitchell, Elizabeth Joseph, Mary

Capobianco, Margaret Ann Jacobs, Mary Ellen Stinson, Mary Hawkey, Connie Cristinziano, Melanie Gabriel. Back row (l to r) Sue Lubowitz, Agnes Passee and Kate O'Quinn. Missing from the photo is Helen Carvalho.

### **St. Mary, Star of the Sea 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

On August 27<sup>th</sup>, I presented St. Mary, Star of the Sea (Peel Region) with their milestone anniversary certificate for 55 years of service to God and Canada.



The occasion was held outdoors as a boxed lunch picnic. There was a wonderful turnout and the location was beautiful next to Lake Ontario in a shelter by the Port Credit Yacht Club. Rev. Fr. Michael Samoes, Peel Region Spiritual Advisor and parish council spiritual advisor was a most welcomed guest.

The organizing committee had bingo, draws, trivia and cake. In the picture here, President Angela Menezes (right) is cutting the cake with Noreen Lista (centre), the longest serving member at 60+ years! I'm helping hold the knife. The first council president was Kay McCarthy and there were 23 original founding members. There are now currently 65 members in this council and if you added all the current years of service of these members it would total an amazing 1552 years! Thank you, St. Mary, Star of the Sea for a wonderful afternoon in your company and for your service to God and Canada.



## **Membership Drives:**



As councils start to gather again for regular meetings, they are encouraged to plan their membership drive. When we approach a potential new member, we should have our “elevator speech” ready to go. This is something that can be said in a short time frame (the length of an elevator ride). Here are top ten reasons why a woman would want to join us in our service to God and Canada. It comes from a short piece in the League magazine from Velma Harasen, Honorary Life Member, when she was the National Chairperson of Organization in 2010 but still holds true today. It would be great on your CWL bulletin board or placed in the parish weekly bulletin.

1. The CWL deepens my faith life, enhancing my spiritual journey.
2. The CWL is a supportive sisterhood that enjoys having fun.
3. I get to know the women in my parish community and develop friendships.
4. I am part of the largest national organization of Catholic women.
5. I am part of the united voice for Catholic women when representatives meet with the provincial and federal governments.
6. I receive *The Canadian League* magazine three times per year.
7. The CWL is the heart of the parish and works on many projects in the parish and community.
8. The CWL provides an opportunity for leadership development and education on issues of concern.
9. The CWL is open to women of all ages and embraces many traditions.
10. I can attend diocesan, provincial and national conventions.

## **Voluntary Funds**

As you plan out how to use funds from fundraising, please continue to generously support the national voluntary funds as well as the provincial Bishop Pappin Fund and the two Toronto Diocesan Scholarship Funds.

In the Financial Statement for year ending Dec. 31, 2021 the following contributions were reported received to the National Voluntary Funds with the amount our diocese donated inserted in parentheses:

Catholic Missions in Canada	\$20,902	(Toronto CWL \$3,859)
Coady International	\$13,612	(Toronto CWL \$ 683)
CCCB Palliative Care Kit	\$ 550	(Toronto CWL \$ 0)
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition	\$ 9,371	(Toronto CWL \$1,083)

Development and Peace	\$12,760	(Toronto CWL \$1,591)
Catholic Near East Welfare Association	\$ 9,655	(Toronto CWL \$ 900)

The League also gratefully acknowledges donations to the National Bursary Fund from the following Toronto CWL Councils:

- Precious Blood (Scarborough Region)
- St. Leo the Great (Durham Region)
- St. Padre Pio (Humber Valley Region)
- St. Patrick, Phelpston (Northern Region)

There is a newly developed brochure (#312) for the National Bursary Fund on the national website under the "To Organize" tab. The fund is open to a member who is in at least her third year of membership. A member who receives a bursary may reapply for a maximum of three additional one-year periods. The bursary can be applied to a diploma or degree as well as a shorter program. An application form can be downloaded from [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca).

### **Indigenous Reconciliation Fund**

In Communiqué #10, Community Life National Chairperson, Faith Anderson has given us excellent information on the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund sponsored by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. Please refer to it and inform your members. She also addresses the question on how can councils/members participate. Councils and members are challenged to donate \$2.00 each for the next five years to support the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund. This is a tangible way to support Indigenous peoples and the church on the reconciliation path. It is time for us to go beyond land acknowledgments at the start of our meetings. Please report the funds donated in your annual report survey when compiling.

**“ We have described for you a mountain. We have shown you the path to the top. We call upon you to do the climbing. ”**

*The Honourable Murray Sinclair,  
Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation*

## **In Case You Missed It**

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

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

Communiqué #5 Secretary-Treasurer (August 24)

Communiqué #5 and # 6 Past President (August 30)

Communiqué #5 Organization (September 6)

Communiqué #8 Communications (September 6)

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

Provincial President Directive #2 (Sept. 2)

Christian Family Life Directive #2 (Sept. 2)

Spiritual Development Directive #1 (August 4)

Resolutions Directive #1 (August 5), #2 (Sept. 2)

Past President/Historian Directive #1 (August 23)

Treasurer Directive #1 (August 27)

Education and Health Directive #1 (August 30)

Community Life Directive #1 (Sept.6)

Organization Directive #1 (Sept. 7)

Please keep in mind that this is the start of a new term for the provincial executive and these directives are providing you with a host of excellent information in which you can plan your fall activities.

Also available on the provincial website is the September 2022 newsletter, provincial convention photos (do you recognize anyone?) and Fr. Mark Slater's key note talk "Dance with Loneliness". I have attached the National Convention Report 2022 by Mary Capobianco, Life Member, who was the Ontario Provincial Accredited Delegate. Please make use of these resources as you continue to engage your members.

## **Dates to Remember**

Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> Rosary Sunday, Martyrs Shrine

Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> Mass and Education Forum for National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (poster attached)

Also:



**40 Days for Life Campaign September 28-November6, 2022**

[www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com)

40 Days for Life is an internationally coordinated 40-day campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer, fasting and peaceful

community outreach. Each day during 40 Days for Life, individuals, churches, families, and groups will be asked to join together in prayer for a specific request. People of faith are also invited to fast. The visible, public vigil is a peaceful and educational presence to send a powerful message about the reality of abortion



### **Life Chain Sunday, October 2, 2022**

<https://www.campaignlifecoalition.com/life-chain>

Life Chain consists of pro-lifers standing at intersections across the country for an hour, silently praying for an end to abortion while holding signs with messages like: "Abortion kills children," "Abortion hurts women," "Adoption, the loving option," and "Life, the first inalienable right."

### **Coffee and Chat**

At our convention in April, I invited council presidents to coffee and a chat. I'm pleased to report that some of you have had reached out. This a reminder that the offer still stands. We can connect over the phone or in person. Just let me know when it is convenient for you.

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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