

TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2021

(March to June)

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Lucia Vacca

Sub-Convener:

Patricia Cross

A brand new year with so much hope ahead of us - we rejoice and are thankful for the small miracles that happen each day and consider ourselves blessed with our family, friendships and sisterhood of The Catholic Women's League.



In this Spring issue you will read informative articles from the TDC executive such as retreats and social justice and other events, membership renewals, resolutions, legislations and more for members and council to take action on. Monsignor Patrick O'Dea has gifted us with a special prayer for this year of St. Joseph on page 3. Hilarion Mitchell, President and the AGM Committee have outlined the TDC 2020 and 2021 AGM format. The Catholic Children's Aid Foundation *Hope for Children Scholarship* has been renamed *Margaret Ann Jacobs Catholic Children's Aid Foundation Scholarship Fund* in her honour.

This is the first issue for of the Toronto Diocesan newsletters for 2021. I continue to encourage every council to subscribe, especially the executive and any member of the council who would like to learn more about the League. Thirty-five of the 84 councils in the TDC January 2021 survey on meetings during the pandemic did not have in-person or virtual meetings. Hence, this newsletter is a good resource for those members who are not computer savvy or do not use a computer. We thank Holy Rosary, Toronto Region for the 28 subscriptions for the 2021 newsletters. We also thank all councils and members who have subscribed for 2021.

Any questions or address changes, please contact me at newsletter@cwltoronto.ca. If you wish to submit the names of the members who are receiving service pins for the next issue of the newsletter, the deadline is July 30th. Those receiving 20 years of service pins (as reported) or more will be posted in this booklet, and all will be posted on the www.cwltoronto.ca website under Service Awards.



We encourage members to go to each of the websites on "CWL Wednesday" to read the most current information from National, Provincial and Toronto. Be informed and inspired.

Dear Members of the Catholic Women’s League:

In these very challenging times, please know of my prayers and thoughts for you, your family and your parish communities.



I know we all look to this New Year 2021 as the year in which we will begin to see a time of healing and recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 virus. The challenge of the rollout of the vaccine, and the possible UK and South Africa variants are also of concern. Like you, I long for the day we can gather in person and as a community. In the meantime, let us strive to be patient, as well as to ensure we remain safe and healthy.

For me, I find that, in prayer, I discover that inner peace I need to ensure a semblance of calm and comfort in the midst of this new and difficult reality. I also find prayer helps to remind me to think of others, and not simply to focus on self. It is indeed helpful to pray, especially for others, as we sometimes forget there are so many others in even more difficult situations, especially the sick, the lonely, and those who grieve the loss of a loved one.

You may recall, when I celebrated the virtual end-of-the year Mass for the CWL, just before the New Year 2021, I also suggested we look to St. Joseph as a saint we should pray to more often. Pope Francis has even declared the Year 2021 as the Year of St. Joseph. What a great gift to us in this time of pandemic!

St. Joseph is indeed a favoured saint of His Holiness, Pope Francis. The Pope often remarks that, before he goes to sleep, he places written intercessions under a statue of St. Joseph on a table by his bed, inviting St. Joseph to sleep on his requests. This "sleeping" reference actually comes from the scriptures, in which St. Joseph is visited, in his sleep, by Angels, and they speak to him and guide him on the course of action he should take. Angels are seen, in scripture, as messengers from God, speaking directly on God's behalf. The Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to inform her she would conceive Jesus. Joseph was visited, in his sleep, and told not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife, and later warned to take a different route back home, because Herod was looking to kill Jesus. God, in Mary and Joseph, would allow Jesus, the Messiah, his Son, to enter the world, in order to redeem and

save us. In his love for Mary and Jesus, Joseph also became their great guardian and protector. What a great saint to pray to, in this time of pandemic! May he also protect and guard us all!

In my church, at St. Edward the Confessor, I have placed a statue of St. Joseph in a prominent place, so that all, in the coming year, might seek his intercession, for our personal needs, and for an end to the pandemic. Like the Holy Father, Pope Francis, let us find comfort in St. Joseph, a man called by God to care for Mary and His Son, Jesus. Let us rediscover St. Joseph, and carry him close in our hearts, as the Pope has for many years.

I close, inviting you to recite the following prayer daily. May God bless you.

YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

PRAYER TO THE SLEEPING ST. JOSEPH

O Saint Joseph, you are a man greatly favoured by the Most High. The angel of the Lord appeared to you in dreams, while you slept, to warn you and guide you as you cared for the Holy Family. You were both silent and strong, a loyal and courageous protector.

Dear St. Joseph, as you rest in the Lord, confident of His absolute power and goodness, look upon me. Please take my need (mention your request) into your heart, dream of it, and present it to your Son. Help me then, good Saint Joseph, to hear the voice of God, to arise, and act with love. I praise and thank God with joy.

St. Joseph, I love you. Amen.



PRESIDENT

Hilarion Mitchell

Your Toronto Diocesan Council is *One Hundred Years: Growing in Faith, Love and Service.*

This is the first anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic being declared in Ontario on March 17, 2020. We have had 12 months of fasting with the loss of our pre-pandemic normal routines. It has also been a transformational year which has accelerated many firsts such as using virtual technology within and beyond our diocese which will now be permanent. It is now Spring 2021 and the season for Lent, Easter and renewal. The world around us is going through a digital transformation. We are adapting and look forward to the COVID-19 vaccines being rolled out providing hope with each passing day.



Annual General Meetings (AGM)

The 2020 and 2021 AGMs dates will change based on government and public health guidelines for indoor gatherings. There will be a virtual AGM which will be opened to all voting council presidents and accredited delegates (TDC executive, regional chairs, life members) and general members. The in-person AGM will be opened to voting and accredited delegates.

The quorum for the annual general meeting is 10% of the voting members of the council (pg. 83 P&P Section 6: Quorum, Meetings, Conventions and (C&B Part XIV). The in-person AGM is being planned for 30 individuals and will be adjusted as needed. There will be 2-3 voting delegates from the seven regions. Attendance for the accredited delegates will depend on whether they have assigned duties at the AGM. The TDC conducted a survey in November-December 2020 on members' willingness to attend the 2021 AGMs. An overwhelming majority of the 80 respondents preferred to attend virtually or by live-streamed.

The in-person and virtual AGMs will cover the 99th annual 2020 convention and the 100th 2021 AGM. The voting will be on ordinary matters of business such as the adoption of the standing rules, resolutions, financial statements and the 2019 minutes of the 98th Convention. Live-streamed or virtual will be available for those participating at home on both days. See the draft AGM agenda on page 21.

Electronic Bank Transfers (E-Transfers)

As a grassroots organization, changes are driven by members and not always from the other levels of the League. Online electronic or e-transfers were one of these emerging changes due to the pandemic restrictions. Some councils have pivoted to e-transfers to collect membership fees. The collection of money should never go into the signing officers' (president, treasurer and recording secretary) or others' personal accounts, due to liability issues. Councils wishing to use e-transfers must check with their banking institution to see if the council's account is set up or can be set up for e-transfers. The e-transfer is to be set up for incoming funds only into the council's bank account. This protection prevents the signing officers from removing funds from the account without consent of another signing officer. There is some apprehension to using e-transfers. The Government of Canada website on direct deposit states "*The Government of Canada is switching from cheques to direct deposit, an electronic transfer of funds deposited directly into your bank account. Direct deposit is faster, more convenient and more secure.*" Members and councils are to further check with their banking institutions for e-transfer safeguard tips against security breaches, if they are uncomfortable with using them.

2021 Instructed Votes Deferral

Members at the grassroots also contribute to changes in the League through the instructed vote process. The 2021 nine instructed votes have been deferred as it was not appropriate to hold them during the pandemic. They will now be presented in 2022 and if adopted, will come into effect in 2023. The instructed votes contain the proposed motions, background histories and rationales. They cannot be amended so if there are any doubts with any of them, members are to vote accordingly.

1. Per Capita Fee Increase: National portion of the membership fee to increase by \$12 for a total of \$25. This does not include the fees for provincial, Toronto Diocesan Council, regional and remainder that stays with the council.
2. There are eight amendments to the C&B.
 - Amendment I: Annual Meeting of Members
 - Amendment II: Change in our Patroness from Our Lady of Good Counsel to Our Lady of Guadalupe.
 - Amendment III: Officers. Part XI (parish officers, diocesan and provincial officers): Change from 12 executive to 7 on the executive.
 - Amendment IV: Duties of Officers. Part XII Provides the duties of the officers VP, Secretary, Treasurer.

- Amendment V: Standing Committees. Part XIII Align with Faith-Service-Social Justice with only three.
- Amendment VI: Meetings and Quorums. Part XIV Virtual meetings added but for government-declared emergencies.
- Amendment VII: Eligibility, Nominations and Elections. Part XVI Term of Office.
- Amendment VIII: Eligibility, Nominations and Elections. Part XVI Election of Officers.

Action

Several councils have not had in-person or virtual meetings since the pandemic. It is important for all councils' presidents to ensure the following:

- Contact your regional chair if you did not receive the hard copy of the instructed vote package which was mailed out in mid-December 2020.
- Check with your predecessor who may have received them and then update your records with National.
- Read and become familiar with the instructions on how to conduct the instructed votes and circulate them by email or regular mail to each member.
- Schedule time to discuss and conduct the instructed votes at a general meeting between now and March 2022, either virtual or in-person. If virtual, the votes must be ratified at an in-person meeting.
- Feel free to encourage members to relay their concerns to me for forwarding to National.
- Complete the NCR forms, mail as directed and attend the 2022 AGM.

Happy 100th Anniversary

The TDC will celebrate this milestone on June 3, 2021. Even though we are in a pandemic, we have big plans for our centennial anniversary with more details to follow. As diocesan president, it is humbling to know that many technologies and events transpired since our council was organized and we will continue to be transformed. We are looking forward to seeing you all virtually and/or in-person at the Spring regional meetings and the AGMs. The past year has shown us that we must be resilient and adaptable, as necessary. Good things are in store for us this Spring as mother nature is in full bloom. Keep well, stay safe and celebrate our 100 years as a council.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Kate O'Quinn

Sub-Conveners:

Alice Warford
Monique Forster

"Tell the people I love them. Tell the people I care. When they feel far away from me, Tell the people I'm there."



This refrain is from the song *Tell the People I Love Them*, by Leonard Barlotti, and is my 'go to' song to sing at Mass for the season of Lent. When I think of Lent, I think of the sacrifice Jesus made for us, to show us just how forgiving and trusting is God's love for us. During Lent, we are reminded of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness, praying and fasting, and in turn, we look to ways that can draw us even nearer to God. We know by Christ's suffering and death on the cross for us, that he will always be with us, we just have to trust and keep an open heart. During this Lenten Season, let us all take the time to be in awe of this steadfast love, and, in thanksgiving spend moments in reflection and prayer for ourselves and others, and... in times of ours or others loneliness, let us be the ones to *"tell the people, I'm there"*.

Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel

The CWL of Canada is sponsoring the televised Mass which will be aired Monday April 26, 2021, on Vision TV, 8:00 am and 12:00 noon.

Events Hosted by Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC)

World Day of Prayer: This is generally celebrated on the first Friday of March. This year, the writing country is Vanuatu: *"Build on a Firm Foundation"* A one-hour World Day of Prayer service video has been created. It is based on the worship bulletin prepared by the women of Vanuatu and then edited by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. This video will be available on the WICC website www.wicc.org/world-day-of-prayer/ starting February 15, 2021. Available now on the website: www.wicc.org/world-day-of-prayer/how-to-participate are three promotional videos: a two minute demo of the full-length video; an eight minute Spiritual Service Devotional Only video, featuring Major Shirley King from the Salvation Army; and, a seven-minute video Introducing Vanuatu.

Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC): This is a worldwide ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation. Christian women around the world meet and pray with each other. Through this, they are reminded to live a forgiving life with others. For further information, please visit either of the above websites.

World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO)

The WUCWO's aim is "to promote the presence, participation and co-responsibility of Catholic women in society and the Church, in order to enable them to fulfil their mission of evangelization and to work for human development." Please visit their website www.wucwo.org to keep updated on WUCWO Day 2021, *Let Us Eliminate Discrimination and Violence Against Women*.

Faith Formation

Manresa Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre in Pickering: Weekend Retreats have been cancelled until further notice; however, events and presentations are being filmed and shared online during this time. Unless otherwise stated, there is no charge for viewing videos. In October 2020, Fr. Henk van Meijel, S.J., presented four talks entitled "*Understanding and Praying with the Mystics*". Please visit www.manresa-canada.ca/events/ for the link to these videos. Click on Retreats, then Virtual Retreats and Events.

St. Augustine's Lay Spiritual Formation Program is offering an online Lenten Retreat, "*The Holy Spirit and the Abandonment of the Saints*", on Saturday, March 13, 2021, from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. The cost is \$25.00. (Time for Confessions is also available) Online Presenter: Father Charles Anang.

Annual Day of Reflection for Women: *Where Holiness is Found-- Ordinary People Called to Extraordinary Lives*, Saturday, June 5, 2021, 9:30 am to 12 pm. Presenter: Dr. Anne Jamieson. Link for virtual presentations will be sent upon registration. Registration for both retreats: www.staugustines.on.ca/about/events.

Loyal Press: Looking for ideas for short reflections/videos for personal prayer or to use in your prayer service for meetings? www.loyolapress.com has a section on their home page *Deepen Your Spirituality*. Here you will find four categories to assist you: Three Minute Retreats (a daily moment of prayer); Liturgical Year (feasts and seasons of the Church Year); Sunday Connection (weekly Gospels explained); and Saints Stories (explore the lives of those who have become our models).

“When I walked upon Calvary, and I poured out my life. I died for each one of them, so that they might have life.” (Verse 3 Tell the People I Love Them)

As we continue our journey through this Lenten season, let us remember the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made, so that we might receive the gift of eternal life. Let us walk with our Lord, in his footsteps, as we spend time each day in prayerful reflection. At www.mycatholic.life/lent-prayers-reflections/ you will find some reflections to assist you: 40 Days at the Foot of the Cross: A Gaze of Love from the Heart of Our Blessed Mother; and Catholic Daily Reflections.

Holy Hour for CWL Members, Regional and Parish Spiritual Advisors

On Wednesday December 30, 2020, Toronto Diocesan Council hosted a Holy Hour, to bid farewell to a very difficult year and to welcome in 2021 in Prayer and Hope. Msgr. Patrick O’Dea, Toronto Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, celebrated a beautiful live-streamed Mass with over 280 participants (and over 800 views after the date.) Members of Toronto Diocesan CWL were asked to send in names of family members/friends who were in need of special prayers, were ill or who had passed away in 2020. These 162 intentions were then read by Msgr. Pat during the Mass and after the names were read, Msgr Pat. placed the list at the feet of St. Joseph – a very touching moment. Following the Mass over 150 members joined in the Zoom Prayer Service to celebrate the Inauguration of The Year of St. Joseph. Knowing that so many of our Sisters in the League and Spiritual Advisors were praying together in hope for the new year was a very powerful feeling and made the Holy Hour a meaningful and blessed experience!



ORGANIZATION

Sue Lubowitz

Sub-Conveners:

On-line Membership
Member Development

Mary Antonio 905-895-3637
Andrea Tjioe 416-525-3893

2020 Annual Report Surveys

The 2020 Annual Report submission process at the parish council level is now complete. Your diocesan committee chairs are going through your submissions and will be reporting all your efforts to the various other levels of the League.



A total of 760 reports were submitted (of a required 1224). Twenty-two councils did not submit at least one report. However, 32 councils submitted all 12 reports for their councils. Thank you for your help in this information gathering.

Recruit Members and Maintain Membership

The best recruitment tool for any membership drive is a visible and effective organization.

Membership as of December 30, 2020 stood at 6747 members. Four hundred and ninety-eight members in the Toronto Diocese have not renewed their 2020 memberships to date. Dues can continue to be sent to National for 2020 in an effort to not lose years of service by a member. Some councils have been able to collect all their fees as well as recruiting new members. Thirty councils increased or maintained their membership for 2020: Durham - 3 councils, Humber Valley - 3 councils, North York - 6 councils, Northern - 6 councils, Peel - 5 councils, Scarborough - 4 councils and Toronto - 3 councils. Thank you to those councils. Their efforts and results will be celebrated at the spring regional meetings.

Per capita fees for 2021 are submitted to national office by January 1st and regional dues early in the year to the regional treasurer. Councils are finding creative ways to accept memberships. A couple of councils even had a drive-by membership drop-off in the parish parking lot. Be sure to submit the per capita fees to national as you receive them.

Leadership Development

The diocesan council continues to offer the Parish Executive Training Course to members through virtual technology. Durham Region held one in

January and Scarborough Region at the start of February. This training program adapts very well to the virtual world. It allows for a power point presentation that is easy to follow and allows time for questions. The Parish Executive Training Course is not exclusive to executive members but would also be worthwhile for members who want to know more about the League and who are perhaps considering an executive role in the future.

Requests for a course should be made through your Regional Chair. There is a maximum of 20 members per session.

A new Executive Orientation program is being developed from the National council. As your diocesan Organization chair, I will be participating in the pilot program. This program will eventually roll out to parish councils and should replace the Parish Executive Training Course in due time. Until then, we continue with the Parish Executive Training Course.

Strategic Plan Update

In early February, the implementation committee for the national strategic plan will be seeking volunteers for the next round of nine working groups for Year 3 strategies. The national website, The Canadian League magazine and the CWL's Facebook page will have details. Please consider submitting your name, knowledge and enthusiasm.

The Goal 4 Strategic Leadership group has been using the Annual Reports from 2019 and 2018 to further their work. They are coming up with strategies that will address issues at the parish level. Philomena Menezes from Scarborough Region is part of this working group.

The Goal 3B Encourage Diversity group has been promoting the diversity of the League through social media and The Canadian League magazine. Keep an eye out for their work. Philiz Goh from Toronto Region and our diocesan president, Hilarion Mitchell, are part of this group.

We thank these members for their continued dedication to the League.

Members across Canada are asked to pray the CWL Prayer for Renewal (found at cwl.ca/cwl-prayer-for-renewal/) regularly and often. With the prayerful intercession of all members, the Spirit will guide the groups' deliberations as they undertake the renewal of the League.

Care for our Common Home

The theme continues this year. Last year (2020) was a remarkable and troubling year and it seems as we are not out of the woods yet. Pope Francis has issued a new encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti, On Fraternity and Social Friendship*. This is widely considered to be a companion to his *Laudato Si* encyclical. Consider studying the new encyclical via virtual technology as a parish council. “Solidarity finds concrete expression in service, which can take a variety of forms in an effort to care for others.” (FT, s115)

PAST PRESIDENT/HISTORIAN

Ann D’Souza

Happy New Year! I cannot remember another moment where people have been so happy to turn the page and move forward. 2020 was difficult in so many aspects of our lives. We still have important problems to solve in the months ahead as we start to put this miserable virus behind us. The challenges also revealed deep reserves of character, resolve and ingenuity in individuals and communities around the world.



Thank you for reaching out to your council members. I have read, seen and heard on the virtual meetings how members have kept in contact with their members, families and especially those who were in long-term care, sharing and grieving the loss and helping one another. Prayers have taken an important role in our lives; let’s keep the flame of hope burning and with the vaccine, let’s look forward to this year with new hope, joy and new beginnings.

By now, I am hoping you are aware that “The National board overwhelmingly extended the deadline for instructed voting at the parish level to March 2022, with the diocesan, provincial and national instructed votes taking place in spring/summer 2022”.

As a past president, I hope you are keeping yourself updated with all that is coming down from National, Provincial and the Toronto Diocese. Keep one day in the week, perhaps “CWL Wednesday” to look up the three websites for what has been uploaded with new information. Some may have to add a fourth level, as I have seen most of the parishes have a CWL blog on their

parish website. With the present state that we are in, we must get on the technology wagon to keep ourselves updated. If you are unable to do so, call a CWL friend or an executive member to get the latest information.

It gives me immense joy and pleasure to let you know that TDC passed and adopted the motion to name The Catholic Children’s Aid Foundation in honour of Margaret Ann Jacobs.

This was previously called Hope for Children Foundation. The motion was adopted in January 2020 and would have been announced at the 2020 convention, that from the year 2021 it will be named: *Margaret Ann Jacobs Catholic Children’s Aid Foundation Scholarship Fund*.

Due to the convention cancellation, we could not do that. Margaret Ann Jacobs finishes her term this year as National Past President and Chairperson of Laws, and it could not have come at a better time. Toronto is very proud of her accomplishments as it is not a small feat to reach that level. On announcing this news to her, here is what she had to say:

“I consider it a great privilege to have the Catholic Children’s Aid Foundation Scholarship Fund (formerly Hope for Children’s Foundation Fund) named in my honour. This is a very important way that the Catholic Women’s League can support young people who have not had a family support system to advance their education and I encourage councils across the diocese to continue to support this most worthwhile endeavour. I value the dedicated efforts of past diocesan presidents Dorothy McGuigan and Mary Ellen Stinson who brought this most worthwhile cause to the attention of the Toronto Diocesan Council. May we all live in hope of a better future, one crafted by the dedicated efforts and talents of these young people”.

Here is the Foundation’s website address <https://www.ccafdn.ca/> if you wish to know more about them. You can download the donation form our website: <https://www.cwltoronto.ca/index.php/forms> and click on the Toronto Diocesan Voluntary remittance form. This form is used when submitting your council’s donations to the TDC Treasurer and remember to make your cheque payable to the “The Catholic Women’s League of Canada”.

Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Award

The Patricia Beattie Mentoring Award is an award to honour all those special dedicated women of The League that have through their knowledge and active encouragement, promoted growth in other members in the

League. Recipients of this award are nominated by their CWL peers and the award is given out annually at the Toronto Diocesan Convention. This year we will be giving out this award at our AGM the pandemic, you would have seen members seeking advice and being mentored - please nominate these ladies.

The deadline to submit the nomination form will be April 3, 2021. You can find this form on our website. Make sure the one you nominate has fulfilled all the criteria outlined in the form, the link is:
<https://www.cwltoronto.ca/index.php/forms>

Moira Ste. Marie Memorial Lecture

This year we will be hosting the Moira Ste. Marie Memorial Lecture, it will be a virtual presentation which will be on **Wednesday October 20, 2021.** Please mark this date in your calendar and stay tuned for more details.

RECORDING SECRETARY

Shaila D'Souza

“One of the cornerstones of good written communication is the clear, concise expression of ideas or information. The recording secretary, through good written communication, is an important contributor to the history of her council”.

- Executive Handbook.



History of the Recorded Minutes

This 100th anniversary of the Toronto Diocesan Council provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the changes throughout the years to document the council's history in the minutes. For example, there was a time when shorthand, which used symbols or abbreviations for letters, words or phrases, was used by recording secretaries. This was followed by dictation machines, typewriters and the practice of executives writing their own reports on their personal computers and laptops which has increased efficiency of the minute-taking process. The concept of typewriters ribbon, corrector tape, carbon paper, etc., seems a lifetime ago.

In recent years, most recording secretaries may have access to their personal laser or inkjet printers at home and are using emails. This has reduced time to take minutes, print or photocopy ahead of meetings. Instead, less printing of minutes, as once completed they can be emailed to members 3-4 days

prior to executive and general meetings. It means the meeting review process at the meetings has been shortened as members can provide corrections to the minutes prior to and at the meeting before final approval. See Janet McLean National Secretary-Treasurer's article *Continuing a Tradition* in the Fall 2020 issue of The Canadian League magazine for her reflection on recording secretaries through the League's history.

COVID-19 Pandemic Impact

Since the pandemic, more councils have transitioned to online meetings and have had to adapt but essentially, minute-taking remained the same. The change here is taking attendance with a roll call and approving the agenda, minutes and motions. These can now be done with a physical count with a show of hands or using the voting feature on the virtual platform. Virtual minutes and motions must be ratified at the next in-person meeting as currently they are not included in the Constitution & Bylaw, 2013.

Minutes and Record Keeping

As the recording secretary, you are responsible to summarize meeting discussions, events and actions taken to ensure an accurate record for the council's history. Specifically, around your role as the recording secretary you are responsible to:

- Record the minutes of meetings.
- Retain minutes as a permanent record.
- Distribute copies of the minutes of the previous meeting prior to each meeting.
- Bring the motions book and minute book containing past minutes to meetings.

Use the current and emerging technologies such as a palm size voice recorder or even your smartphone to be more efficient. They also provide an accurate record of the discussions when preparing the minutes. The minutes of a meeting are not necessarily exciting, but they should be clear and easy to understand.

You can also encourage the executive and guests to prepare and submit their reports electronically ahead of the meeting. This will make it easier to summarize the contents with a simple copy and paste into the minute template. Further minutes-taking guidelines are available in League resources such as Handbook for Recording Secretaries, Executive Handbook, etc. Additional resources are available through internet search on minute-taking and Roberts Rules of Order.

Know that as the recording secretary, your role is important. Change is inevitable and needed. You are the current conduit of your council's history and set the tone for your successor. Happy Anniversary to your council and to the Toronto Diocesan Council in our 100th year.



Happy 100th Anniversary Toronto Diocesan Council

TREASURER

Lolita Perry

Parish Treasurer's Annual Summary Report

Sixty-two parish councils have shared their Parish Treasurer's Annual Summary Report. These reports consisted of the amount donated as allocated namely: National Voluntary Fund, Standing Committee and Parish Donations. This year's donations have been significantly down as anticipated due to this unprecedented time. The details of each segment's summary will be included in the Toronto Diocesan's Annual Financial Report.



On-Line Treasurer's Survey

Participation in the annual survey is vital to obtain a cross section of all donations provided by parish councils across Canada. Any donations made are appreciated – this the evidence of good deeds we do as a council and a League. The total donation is similar to the results received in the Parish Treasurer's Annual Summary Report.

Per Capita Fee - Membership Fees

Collecting membership fees this year appears to be more challenging than the previous years. The National Office through the request of the Toronto Diocesan Council is to review alternative mode of remitting membership fees. This will be shared to all the councils once it becomes available.

Membership fees can also be collected as early as November of the previous year – the earlier these fees are remitted to the national office, the earlier they can be processed. These fees can be withdrawn directly from the council's bank account by signing up with the national office. This process will alleviate the need to write a cheque, saving time and money.

Annual Financial Statement Review

By this time, the annual financial statements should have been completed and presented to your councils. The League is a national organization governed by the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act and the CWL Constitution & Bylaws. As per Part XII, Section 5a of the C&B, the treasurer is to maintain the financial records of the council and have them appropriately audited or examined annually. This should include examination of bank statements, expenses paid and cheques written; this can be performed by someone with bookkeeping or accounting experience or background, ensuring this person is not related to a signing officer for the council.

Annual Budget Review

Generally, annual budget and donations under normal circumstances should have been prepared and presented to your members to vote on. This year fundraising activities maybe be limited; it plays an important role in sustaining operational expenses. Therefore, having your budget prepared is more crucial than ever for it assists in administering and managing your expenses. Expected revenue or income is hard to come by and yet there will be expenditures as expected.

Council Finances: Everyone's Responsibility

A council's finances are not the sole responsibility of the treasurer. All members, particularly every member of the council's executive need to have general understanding of the basic of the finances.

- All expenses should be paid by cheque and two signatures should be required; usually by the president and the treasurer. Three signing officers are the president, treasurer and recording secretary with any two being required for each cheque.
- Cheques should never be pre-signed. Upon approval of the expense, cheque will be issued, signed and remitted.
- All expenditure should be authorized at the general meeting – if virtual meeting is held, then it must be ratified at the next on-site meeting. Council members are encouraged to ask questions on any proposed expenditure. Treasurers should positively welcome any question, for expenditures belongs to all members.
- Receipts should be provided for all the expenditures and must be maintained on the current year's records.
- During general meetings, virtual or on site, the treasurer should provide a list of monies received and expenses paid so that members

regularly know the financial position of the council. Members' queries referencing the council's finances should be diligently welcomed by the treasurer.

- Members should always have access to the financial documents if requested.
- Remember, the treasurer is the guardian of the council's funds, however all members share the responsibility and the burden for their proper management.

Financial Projects

At parish level, all financial projects shall be approved by parish members as per the Constitution and By-laws 2013, Part XVII; Section 2(a).

Spring Cleaning

New day and new season... It is rightfully the best time to savour last year's accomplishments and achievements. It may have been less than we needed and wanted to achieve due to the COVID 19. Nevertheless, give yourself a pat on the back, staying afloat is a great achievement.

It is time to clean up our files, sort unwanted documents or even unarchived files both digital and manual filing systems; organize our new accounts and review our procedures. Perhaps, it is time to review how we do things and see if we can be more efficient and effective this year. How do we prepare cheques, make deposits, update your records, prepare the Treasurer's reports? Maybe we should consider membership payment through email transfer, it is time efficient. Are we getting the help and support we need? The key is to make things simple, yet not forgetting the basic rules of accountability, compliance, transparency and stewardship. And yes, there is always room for improvement. We just have to do it.

*Kind words can be short and easy to speak,
But their echoes are truly endless.*

-St. Teresa of Calcutta

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 2	Ordinandi Dinner (Virtual)
March 5	World Day of Prayer (Virtual)
March 23	Vaccines: Faith & Science Together with Dr. Moira McQueen
April 4	Easter
April 26	Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel
TBA	TDC 100 th Annual General Meeting
May 16	World Communication Day
May 31	St. Michael Scholarship Deadline
June 3	100 th Toronto Diocesan Anniversary Celebrations
June 20	National Indigenous Peoples Day Mass
July 11-14	Provincial Annual General Meeting
August 8-11	National Annual General Meeting
October 20	Moira Ste. Marie Memorial Lecture (Virtual)

SPRING REGIONAL MEETING DATES – 2021

These meetings are Virtual or Teleconferencing Meetings.

Spring Regional Meetings have been combined.

Detailed instructions will be forthcoming from the Regional Chairs.

March 17	Durham and Toronto Regions General Meeting 7:00 pm
March 25	North York and Scarborough Regions General Meeting 7:00
April 15	Humber Valley, Northern and Peel Regions General Meeting 7:00 pm

Happy Anniversary!

St. Francis de Sales, Durham Region – 60th Anniversary

St. John the Evangelist, Humber Valley Region - 70th Anniversary

St. Edward the Confessor, North York Region – 65th Anniversary

St. Mary Collingwood, Northern Region – 90th Anniversary

St. Mary, Barrie, Northern Region – 100th Anniversary

Holy Cross, Toronto Region – 65th Anniversary

St. John, Toronto Region – 60th Anniversary

GENERAL INFORMATION (DRAFT)

2020 and 2021 Annual General Meetings (AGMs)

*(Care for Our Common Home, Loneliness,
Toronto 100th Anniversary, Year of St. Joseph)*

DATE AND LOCATION: TO BE ANNOUNCED BY END OF MARCH 2021

DAY 1 Pre-AGM Virtual Activities (Saturday)

- 9:00 am Mass (Live Streamed)
- 9:45 am Land Acknowledgement; League Prayer; Prayer Service
- 10:00 am Welcome; Roll Call
- 10:30 am Executive and Outgoing Regional Chair Reports
- 11:45 am Closing Prayer Service
- 12:00 pm Lunch Break
- 1:00 pm Afternoon Prayer Service
- 1:15 pm Resolutions Dialogue Session
- 2:00 pm Merit Awards and New Council Presentation
Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Award
- 2:30 pm TDC 100th Anniversary Presentation
- 3:15 pm Announcements
- 3:30 pm Closing Prayer

DAY 2 In-Person Format (Weekday)

- 8:00 am Registration
- 8:45 am Welcome and Announcements
- 9:00 am Land Acknowledgement; League Prayer; Prayer Service
- 9:15 am Business Session: 2020 AGM
- 10:15 am Morning Break
- 10:30 am 2021 Resolutions Presentation
- 11:30 am 2021 Spiritual Advisor's Report
- 12:00 pm Lunch Break
- 1:00 pm Afternoon Prayer Service
- 1:15 pm Business Session: 2021 AGM
- 3:00 pm Announcements
- 3:15 pm Closing Prayer Service
- 3:30 pm Closing Mass

****NB Additional Information****

- The In-Person AGM will be based on government and public health guidelines limits for indoor gatherings at the time.
- The hotel or other venues being considered are based on an attendance of 30 persons which will be further adjusted as circumstances allow.
- Dates are flexible until late May 2021.
- In-Person attendance will be open to voting delegates (three per region) and accredited delegates (TDC and life members to be determined).
- Live streaming or virtual will be available for everyone attending from home.

SERVICE AWARDS

65-Year Membership Pins

Durham Region

St. Joseph the Worker: Joan Burns Lorraine McDonnell

60-Year Membership Pins

Northern Region

Holy Martyrs of Japan: Julie Brinkos

Peel Region

St John Fisher: Vera Nolan

55 Year Membership Pins

Peel Region

St John Fisher: Theresa Merola

50 Year Membership Pins

Durham Region

St. Gertrude: Helen Gillis
St. Joseph the Worker: Joan Atherfold

45-Year Membership Pins

Northern Region

Holy Martyrs of Japan: Imelda Santos

Peel Region

St John Fisher: Catherine Henvey

40-Year Membership Pins

Durham Region

St. Joseph the Worker: Carol McAllister Lorraine O'Brien

Northern Region

Holy Martyrs of Japan: Vivian Furlan Stefani Bobala Els Jonkhout
Nikki Nanwski Carol Sargeant

Peel Region

St. John Fisher: Jeannette Morgan Josephine Zucchero

35-Year Membership Pins

Northern Region

Holy Martyrs of Japan: Eva Schmich

30-Year Membership Pins

Northern Region

Holy Martyrs of Japan: Jeannine Vollebregt

Peel Region

St. John Fisher: Helen Armstrong Shirley Christo Helen Pietrangelo

25-Year Membership Pins

Durham Region

St. Joseph the Worker: Rosemarie Patterson Lina Apicella

Northern Region

Holy Martyrs of Japan: Maureen Patterson Cecilia Podger

Peel Region

St. John Fisher: Ann Day Shirley Digby

20-Year Membership Pins

Durham Region

St. Joseph the Worker: Cora Doyle Janet McNellan

Peel Region

St. John Fisher: Brenda Allison Dorothy Fernandez Mary-Jo Clutchey

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE

Iris McNulty

Sub-Convener:

Philomena Menezes

Marriage and Family

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is affiliated with The World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO). Catholic women are one in the human family, united by Christ and supported by the Church Magisterium. WUCWO has an interesting website which includes links to prayer and famous art pieces to pray and meditate upon. The website contains excerpts from a book called: *Women's Voices*. Themes in the excerpts include: Pandemic in our Common Home, Family and Community. Website: www.wucwo.org



Sanctity of Life

The federal government announced in 2020 that it would commit \$650 million over three years to fund Women's Reproductive Health in Africa. These monies are called Foreign Aid support. Realistically, the dollars will be used to promote abortion and artificial birth control. Campaign Life Coalition has an online petition called: *Canada: End Coercive Foreign Aid Now*. It asks the federal government to stop using tax dollars to promote abortion services and artificial birth control. African people have a high regard for every human life and remain largely opposed to abortion. They also view the forced ideology of the Canadian government as a form of colonialism. To sign the petition: www.campaignlife (click on Take Action and scroll down to Sign a Petition). An informative video by David Mulroney, former ambassador for Canada, can be found on the website. He

interviews an African filmmaker and human rights activist who addresses the subject of Foreign Aid.

Annual March for Life: May 13

Alliance for Life is the educational wing of the Pro Life movement. Its focus is protecting the unborn child by providing educational resources and supports to the mother. It sponsors an advertising campaign. It has published a book: *Hope in Turmoil* which contains stories by parents who have journeyed through a difficult medical diagnosis. The book is filled with hope and spiritual growth as the couples journey together with their child during the pregnancy. Website: www.allianceforlife.ca

Hospice Palliative Care Association

This association recognizes the dignity and worth of each human life regardless of age or health status and is involved with individuals who are nearing the end of their earthly life. Whole-person care is at the centre of their philosophy in which they address the individual's spiritual/mental/physical health. Hospice Palliative Care attempts to neither hasten nor prolong an individual's life. St. Elizabeth Health Care supports *Journey Home Hospice* in downtown Toronto. It cares for dying homeless men in a caring and dignified environment. The facility has recently expanded care to ten beds. *Journey Home* also serves as a teaching and research facility. The National council has adopted two resolutions pertaining to *Hospice Palliative Care*: Resolution 2007.02 Hospice Palliative Care: An Integral Component of the Canadian Health Care System and Resolution 2016.04 Amend the Canada Health Act to Identify Palliative Care as an Insured Health Service.

Action Plan: Members are strongly encouraged to suggest by review Resolution 2016.04 which includes creating awareness and contacting legislators. Website: www.hpco.ca/contact-us/. Info: 1-833-621-0728.

The Disabled

The Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD) is a national human rights organization of disabled people. It works towards developing and maintaining an inclusive and accessible Canada for disabled people; 24% of Canadians self-identify as having a disability relating to physical and mental health challenges. The CCD feels that they are less successful than able-bodied Canadians, in accessing healthcare services and in gaining a higher education. Only 40% of its members have been able to access financial support during COVID-19. Disability Rights Online connects individuals with resources and online training regarding human rights, how to advocate for services and how to go about seeking legal assistance. The main

webpage of *CCD* includes an article on “ableism” and how Bill C-7 could affect disabled people. The Association fears that the introduction of *critical care triage* protocols could prevent them from receiving life-sustaining resources if they become limited. This shortage could occur as a result of increased demand for them as a result of COVID-19.

Seniors Month

June is Senior’s Month. Refer to the website: www.seniorsafetyreview.com/11-products-for-elderly-living-alone to learn about 11 recommended household products for Seniors. It has drop-down menus covering topics such as health care, scams and fraud, checklists. Useful information includes fall prevention, medication challenges and elder abuse.

Youth

The National Evangelization Team (N.E.T.) is a trained group of young missionaries who spread the Gospel message to Youth in partnership with parishes, schools and dioceses. Their mission of Youth Evangelization is carried out through individual and group prayer, personal testimonies, theme-based activities and talks, praise and worship. Themes vary and are adapted to the needs of the student community and youth culture. The Co-Missionaries have been formed and equipped in faith formation, evangelization and peer mentorship. Members of the team are committed to a lifestyle that is consistent with the morals and teachings of the Church Magisterium. There are currently seven teams across Canada with two of them based in Ontario. N.E.T. would be most appreciative of prayers and any financial support that councils could provide towards their mission. Website: www.netcanada.ca

COMMUNICATIONS

Mary Tuccitto

Communications

An outline of responsibilities for all positions on the executive is found in the CWL Constitution & Bylaws 2013. For Communications Chairs, this is found on page 27 of the C&B 2013 in Part XIII section (6) Communications. The four areas which fall under the Communications position are:

- (a) *The Canadian League Magazine*
- (b) Media: (i) for evangelization (ii) to promote the League (iii) evaluation and promotion of good content (iv) newsletters and bulletins



(c) Media relations

(d) Pornography

These are further explained in the executive handbook which can be found on the National website www.cwl.ca under – To Organize 600 Series: Manuals item 606 Executive Handbook. This is an indispensable tool for every council to have as part of their library to help guide your work.

The executive and members are encouraged to review and become more familiar with the entire Constitution and Bylaws, and other League resources materials, join in workshops and programs offered by CWL.

Stay updated with all the information by checking the websites at all three levels of CWL. Check us out on social media such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram. Share this information and let us promote the League, creating awareness of the League and who we are by liking, commenting and sharing all posts.

Have you seen the new - To Inspire? It is a series of Video vignettes with powerful stories from the League's first 100 years in the interest of informing and reminding the public of who we are, what we do and why we do it. Go to www.cwl.ca

League Magazine and Newsletters

As you may have heard, this year the League is trying something new by having the Fall 2021 issue of the Canadian League Magazine available online only. National has suggested councils print a copy and share it amongst members who do not have the technology to view it online, again, this is only a onetime trial. The opportunity for members to view it online only (and not have it mailed) has always been available. Members simply need to let their council organization / membership chairperson know that this is their preference and she will indicate this to National by clicking this option as she processes memberships. Unless specifically indicated, members will continue to receive the League magazine in the mail.

Communications Chairs are reminded to assist your council in keeping membership records updated, ensuring the correct information is forwarded to national so our members do not miss out on their Canadian League magazine. All members are encouraged to subscribe to the Provincial Online Newsletter at www.cwl.on.ca. It is free and a nice way to be inspired by our sisters from across the province. Do not forget the Toronto Diocesan Newsletter (this booklet). It is an important tool not only for the executive but for all members. Go to our website www.cwltoronto.ca under Resources

Newsletters where you will find the subscription forms and related information to subscribe.

Communications Annual Reports

Thank you to all the parish councils who submitted their Annual Communications Reports to National. Despite the pandemic, councils have found new and innovative ways to communicate information to members and the community, while still embracing our most important tool - the telephone! Do not underestimate the power of the telephone and what it can do to someone on the receiving end of a friendly call, especially during this time of isolation.

Although not all councils have a communications chair, the work which falls under this standing committee should always be reported. You may think that your council has nothing worth reporting, but just think of the many ways we communicate with our members. What is important is that we all keep in contact with our members, forwarding information and keeping them engaged in the many activities and programs that have continued throughout the year, and through virtual technology we have been able to continue meetings and events. Our duty as communications chairs is to keep our members updated and encourage participation.

World Communications Day 2021

The beautiful and timely theme *Come and See* was chosen by Pope Francis for the 55th World Day of Social Communications. It will be celebrated May 16, 2021 with the theme “*Come and See*” (Jn 1:46). *Communicating by Encountering People Where and as They Are*

A message accompanying the theme’s announcement states: “In the epochal change we are experiencing, in a time that obliges us to social distance due to the pandemic, Communication can enable the closeness that is necessary to recognise what is essential, and to truly understand the meaning of things. We do not know the truth if we do not experience it, if we do not meet people, if we do not participate in their joys and sorrows. The old saying ‘God meets you where you are’ can be a guide for those engaged in media or communications work in the Church. In the call of the first disciples, we see Jesus who went to encounter them and to invite them to follow Him, we also see the invitation to use all media, in all their forms, to reach people as they are and where they live”. - *Taken from Vatican News*

Spring is upon us and we are still suffering from the lingering effects of the SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccines authorized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for emergency use are now being injected in those most vulnerable and frontline healthcare personnel. Variant/mutant strains of the Coronavirus have been spreading across the globe. Our collective efforts in restricting the spread of COVID-19 and related virus will hopefully slow the pandemic to a foreseeable future with a return to some state of normalcy for everyone.



With all the unpredictability and negative impacts of this pandemic, our CWL members continue to perform remarkably by standing up for justice in areas affecting human dignity and *Care for Our Common Home*, while respecting all public health guidelines.

Issues Concerning Dignity and Rights of Persons

Many losses of lives to COVID-19 are related to neglect and unpreparedness, especially in the Long Term Care (LTC) homes, homeless shelters, migrant workers' facilities, prisons and places of clustering, poor ventilation and hygiene. Pope Francis, in his message for the 2021 World Day of Peace, urges global governments to shift spending from military needs in order to help those experiencing poverty and to provide better healthcare to their population. Using Catholic teaching in such a way, the Pope said: "*will enable us to esteem the value and dignity of every person, to act together in solidarity for the common good, and to bring relief to those suffering from poverty, disease, slavery, armed conflicts and discrimination*". Source: (Encyclical, Fratelli Tutti)

[www.ncronline.org>news>politics>francis-urges-wor-](http://www.ncronline.org/news/politics/francis-urges-wor-)

Homelessness

The province's new five-year poverty-reduction strategy released before the Christmas break, "*makes no specific commitment to build or finance affordable housing*", said Michael Fullan, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto. Housing is the key to any poverty-reduction plan, a sentiment echoed by advocates, Capuchin Brother John Frampton, director of St. Francis Table and St. John of God, Brother David Lynch, E.D. of The Good Shepherd in Toronto. Many families have to choose between paying rent or eat.

Source: Catholic Register, “*without housing, poverty plan is ‘window dressing’* “, Michael Swan.

Action: Contact your local members of parliament regarding plans to end homelessness. Support to your parish Share life campaign helps charities that help the needy.

Indigenous Peoples

The federal government has broken its promise to end boil water advisory to many Indigenous communities by this Spring, 2021, blaming the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors. Pope Francis in his 54th World Day of Peace message said that there is no peace without a *Culture of Care*. He called for “*a common, supportive and inclusive commitment to protecting and promoting the dignity and good of all, a willingness to show care and compassion, and to work for reconciliation and healing and to advance mutual respect and acceptance*”. www.vaticannews.va/pope/news/2020-12/pope

Yukon addressed violence against Indigenous women and became the first jurisdiction in Canada to release a strategy in response to the federal government’s report on missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. The strategy, called *Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice* outlines four main goals which include increasing community safety, strengthening economic independence and education for Indigenous women. The federal report from a national inquiry was released in June 2019 and requires every province and territory in Canada to respond to its finding. An action plan promised by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has yet to be released.

Action: Contact your local MP regarding progress and timelines of issues affecting Indigenous Peoples.

Human Trafficking: The federal government’s document regarding the *National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking (2019-2024)* publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/2019-ntnl-strtyg-hmnn-trffc/index-en.aspx shares a framework of empowerment, prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnership-based initiatives, adaptable to address the changing crime environment.

Action: Members are encouraged to read the document to have a better understanding of this issue.

Climate Change

Climate change is still on track despite the priority given to the COVID-19 pandemic. Climate change in actuality will continue to have great impacts

on present and future environmental issues such as flooding, wildfires, diseases, food shortage and an overall reduction in economic recovery. Responsibly recycling of your old batteries helps to protect the environment. By recycling used batteries into new products, we also reduce the need to mine for new materials. Visit www.call2recycle.ca for more information.

Development and Peace

Parish councils are encouraged to resume their support of the one percent program to Development and Peace through the National Voluntary Fund. (*Ref. Communiqué # 18, www.cwl.ca.)* Your assistance is needed now more than ever during this pandemic.

EDUCATION AND HEALTH

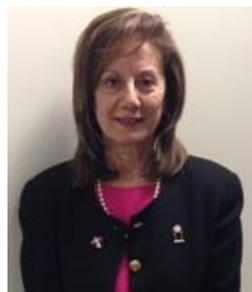
Connie Cristinziano

Sub-Conveners:

Youth Awards
St. Michael's Scholarship

Val Egerton
Donna Capobianco

As we begin another New Year, and look back and evaluate how things are going, 2020 was a year that without a doubt no one will forget, a year that will be talked about for many years to come, which began to fundamentally change our lives.



Education & Health Annual Reports

Thank you to all the 68 Parish Councils that completed the 2020 Annual Report. Your accomplishments during these unprecedented times exemplified your commitment for God and Canada.

Health News

Bell's let's talk day, hits a new record on January 28, 2021. website states *"Bell let's talk day set a new record of over 159 million messages of support with contributions of over 7 million committed to mental health initiatives. 83% of Canadians reported believing attitudes about mental illness have changed for the better since bell let's talk began"*

A recent report from the Children's Mental Health Ontario (CMHO) *How the pandemic is affecting Youth* states: *"Young people are telling us that their mental health has been impacted by the pandemic, and many who were already getting mental health support before the pandemic are experiencing*

worsened symptoms. In a survey conducted in the early days of the pandemic, nearly two-thirds of youth said that their mental health became worse since the pandemic. Over 60 percent of youth reported feeling a combination of worried, upset, sad and angry feelings about the abrupt end to the school year, ability to see their friends, and uncertainty about the future”.

COVID-19 infection rates are on the rise more than ever before. While the Coronavirus pandemic is keeping everyone focused on social distancing, public health products, personal safety and lockdown measures, our Public Health Officials remind us that “it is very important to take care of our mental well-being and to be there for others in our lives”. For many this also means a tendency to remain indoors especially during the winter months, being isolated from family, friends and the community or disruption of their daily routines. It’s never been easier to connect with people online, text messaging, by phone, video chats, virtual celebrations and many more ways. It is so inspiring to see the many ways that we have come together to look out for one another. For information, support and available resources visit: www.wellnesstogethercanada.ca.

Health officials, governments, and institutions are proactively working to slow the spread of COVID-19 and minimize the harm it will do. The promise of vaccines is a hopeful sign. However, we must continue to do our best to prevent exposure. For pop-up testing sites in your area and up-to-date information as well as steps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, visit <https://news.ontarion.ca/en>.

Long Term Care Homes

Issues in Long Term Care homes may not be a new topic; however, it has brought to light the many challenges that these homes face in a crisis. It is so heartbreaking listening to the number of outbreaks and fatalities that these homes face on a daily basis as the virus spreads at rapid levels with signs of the new variant complicating treatment and survival even further. In a recent article from the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, Dr. Moira McQueen writes: “In an interview with CBC’s Metro Morning, Dr. Naheed Dosani, a leading advocate for palliative care in general and for the homeless and marginalized, said: ‘When you think about for-profit homes, they’re by design created to have one thing in mind and that’s profits for shareholders. It’s not care for our seniors. This is a humanitarian crisis’ He is joined by more than 215 Ontario doctors and researchers who have joined the” Doctors for Justice in Long-Term Care” campaign. Let’s hope

they are joined by many more doctors so that the Ontario government as well as other provincial governments will pay much more attention”.

Catholic Education

In a recent news release (<https://news.ontario.ca/en>) “Ontario Making Additional Investments to Keep Students and Staff Safe. As more students return to class today, the Ontario government is providing an additional \$381 million, provided through the federal Safe Return to Class Fund, to keep schools safe from COVID-19”. Let us pray for the students and staff as they transition back to in-class learning.

Catholic Education Week is held each year across our 29 Ontario Catholic School Boards. It will run from May 2-7 2021. This year’s theme is “*Nurturing Hope*” The sub-themes are as follow: Monday, *Preparing the Earth*; Tuesday, *Sowing Seeds of Gratitude*; Wednesday, *Cultivating Relationships*; Thursday, *Harvesting New Fruit*; Friday, *Marvelling in Wonder*. For more information and resources and how councils can participate visit: <https://www.ocsta.on.ca/>

Toronto Diocesan St. Michael’s Scholarship 2020 Award

Congratulations to Anna Godomski, from St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Mississauga. Anna is studying Humanities. Chairs of Education and Health, please continue to promote this very worthwhile scholarship. This year’s campaign ends on August 31, 2021. For information and resources please visit: <https://www.cwltoronto.ca/index.php/reference-documents>

Upcoming Events

March 22: United Nations World Water Day – “Valuing Water”
visit <https://www.worldwaterday.org/>

April 22: Earth Day network – “Restore Our Earth”
visit: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2021/>

May 3-9: CMHA Mental Health Week: <https://mentalhealthweek.ca/>. Councils are encouraged to utilize the Mental Health Postcard to voice your concerns on mental health, which can be found on the National Website: <https://cwl.ca/resources/> under the100 series.

LEGISLATION

Elizabeth Joseph

Sub-Conveners:

Suzanne Cockburn
Sonia Da Costa Spence

Greetings for the New Year 2021. Amidst the restrictions, let us look forward to Spring and the upcoming Easter season.



Federal Legislation

Bill C-6 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (conversion therapy). This enactment amends the *Criminal Code* to create the following offences:

- a) causing a person to undergo conversion therapy without the person's consent;
- b) causing a child to undergo conversion therapy;
- c) doing anything for the purpose of removing a child from Canada with the intention that the child undergo conversion therapy outside Canada;
- d) promoting or advertising an offer to provide conversion therapy; and
- e) receiving a financial or other material benefit from the provision of conversion therapy.

It also amends the Criminal Code to authorize courts to order that advertisements for conversion therapy be disposed of or deleted. The Bill defines conversion therapy as a practice, treatment or service designed to change a person's sexual orientation to heterosexual or gender identity to cisgender or to repress or reduce non-heterosexual attraction or sexual behaviour (House of Commons, December 11, 2020).

Although the Federal government seeks to criminalize conversion therapy with punishments of up to five years imprisonment, the Bill is shrouded in legal uncertainty and risks undermining support networks; and does not serve individuals seeking support nor individuals providing support.

The broad definition of conversion therapy found in Bill C-6 is "overarching and flawed"; and does not strike the right balance between protecting people, parenting rights and freedom of religion (Rosemarie Falk, MP, October 27, 2020). The Bill could criminalize the lawful actions of:

- Parents who educate their children about human sexuality based on their religious or ethical beliefs.

- Clergy who shares their religious or ethical beliefs on human sexuality.
- Support group volunteers who walk with consenting same-sex attracted adults seeking to live consistently with their religious or ethical beliefs.
- Anyone who opposes a child changing their sex through hormone treatments or surgery.

Despite its claims on the Department of Justice website, the Bill is “ambiguous and makes no provisions for legitimate viewpoints on human sexuality, arising from religious beliefs, philosophical debates, medical and scientific studies” (Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, October 7, 2020). The Bill had Second Reading on October 27, 2020 and was sent to the Standing Committee for Justice and Human Rights on December 11, 2020.

The Catholic Church opposes conversion therapy, as it is a coercive practice that undermines a person’s free will and human dignity.

Action: Contact your MP to create a more precise definition of conversion therapy in Bill C-6 that focuses on coercive acts, those targeting minors, omitting gender identity, acknowledging the right of religious communities to share their beliefs on human sexuality; and parents’ rights for guidance and the welfare of their children (Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops).

Provincial Legislation

Bill 228 Keeping Polystyrene Out of Ontario’s Lakes and Rivers Act, 2020 An Act to prohibit unencapsulated expanded or extruded polystyrene in floating docks, floating platforms and buoys. A person who sells, offers to sell or construct a floating dock, floating platform or buoy shall ensure that any expanded or extruded polystyrene in the dock, platform or buoy is fully encapsulated. The Bill had First Reading on November 5, 2020; and comes into force on the second anniversary of the day it received Royal Assent. **Action:** Monitor this Bill. It resonates with Resolution 2006.05: Plastic Bags: The High Cost of Convenience.

Bill 226 Enacts the *Broadband is an Essential Service Act, 2020*, which requires the Minister of Infrastructure to develop a Broadband Connectivity Strategy that aims to deliver high-speed internet connectivity to 95 per cent of Ontarians by 2026 and to all Ontarians by 2030. The Minister is required to update the strategy at specified intervals and undertake certain consultations in developing or updating the strategy. Any updated strategy shall include a progress report summarizing the measures taken since

publication; and evaluation of the progress of the strategy against performance measures set out in the previous version of the strategy. The Minister shall consult with representatives at all levels of government, Indigenous communities, and the general public in developing and updating the strategy. Any updated strategy shall be tabled before the Legislative Assembly and published on the Government of Ontario website. The Bill was sent to Standing Committee on November 26, 2020. This Act comes into force on the day it receives Royal Assent.

Action: Monitor this Bill as it guides universal access to affordable and reliable high-speed internet, particularly for Northern and rural Ontarians.

To access Legislation Information and follow Legislative proceedings, visit: www.parl.gc.ca/LEGISInfo For the Ontario Legislature website: www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/current

RESOLUTIONS

Andrea Smart

Sub-Conveners:

Celestine Hall 416-694-8922
Tracy MacInnis 647-973-7645

As I write this article, we are in our second COVID-19 lockdown. During the inability to meet in person, perhaps you can turn your attention to action plans for past resolutions. It is important that the plans be followed up.



Thank you to everyone that completed the annual report for resolutions. I am in the midst of writing the resolutions annual report to be submitted to Ontario Provincial Council. I look forward to reading the work councils did with regard to resolutions.

Resolutions update from Toronto Diocesan Council

At this year's Toronto Diocesan Annual General Meeting (AGM), the two resolutions accepted by the Toronto Diocesan Resolutions Committee in 2020 will be presented for discussion and voting. Prior to the AGM, a virtual Resolutions Dialogue will be held. This will provide the opportunity to discuss 2021.01 Promoting a Holistic Parish-Based Theology of the Body Lifestyle and Procreation Teachings and 2021.02 Canada Needs a National Strategy to Address Loneliness. Stay tuned for more details.

These two resolutions have been forwarded to the Ontario Provincial Council's Resolutions Review Committee for their consideration.

Resolutions Update from National

The National Resolutions Committee met last summer to consider suggested resolutions for archiving by National's Standing Committee Chairpersons. Keep in mind that at the national level, resolutions are presented with the relevant Standing Committee for each resolution. If the resolution topic falls under Christian Family Life for example, that is where the resolution will be attached to that Standing Committee. Sixty-six resolutions were presented for archival consideration. The action(s) requested of the federal government or national organization had been addressed for 11 of these resolutions.

National has updated its website to include a "To Inspire" section. Five short videos feature past resolutions. Be sure to check them out. The information shows the importance of resolutions and how the League is involved in many different issues that effect society and the environment. The first video *"Every member of the Catholic Women's League has the ability to bring forward a resolution"* provides a brief overview of resolutions.

Now that these resolutions have been archived, councils at any level can write a new resolution on the topic. Please see Resolutions Communique 10 on National's website for more information on the archiving of resolutions.

Update: Resolution 2019.02 Canadian Support for the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

One of the five videos on National's To Inspire website pertaining to resolutions is a video entitled *"There is no challenge too large for Canada's Catholic women to take on"* about Canadian Support for the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The link is: <https://youtu.be/YqCQvLxamU>. The Catholic Register recently published an article on the Treaty. See https://www.catholicregister.org/item/32645-churches-again-demand-canada-join-nuclear-treaty?mc_cid=2efe2451e5&mc_eid=9847cecede for the full article.



Commemorative TDC 100th Anniversary Pins

Available for purchase at a cost of \$10.00 each.

Contact: Mary at marytuccitto@hotmail.com

2021
NATIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TORONTO, ONTARIO

APRON FUNDRAISER



This handy apron, available in navy blue, is imprinted with the CWL crest. It is a one-size-fits-most with a neck strap and waist ties to keep the apron in place. There are two spacious front bottom pockets to hold pens, note pads, cell phone and other essentials. Great for those CWL functions.

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The Catholic Women's League of Canada

TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

One Hundred Years: Growing in Faith, Love and Service

At the end of October 2020, we sent each Parish Council President and Regional Chair a questionnaire.

We are so grateful to the 38 councils who have submitted information to us about the important people and events of their councils. We are gleaning the information we want all the councils in the Archdiocese of Toronto to know about. We hope to have a visual and, most likely, virtual presentation ready for the Spring, 2021 Annual General Meeting.

Meanwhile, we are aware that there are many other councils with long histories to share, and if you would like to share them with us please feel free to submit the filled in questionnaire we published in October 2020.

Given the ongoing uncertainty of what Emergency Measures may be in place even later this Spring, we are exploring the best way to exhibit your great deeds from your councils.

We also note there have been so many Spiritual Advisors who have served our councils through the years. The Committee is discussing a most appropriate way to honour their service.

The other issues of the High Tea and the Closing Mass are definitely still on our agenda but we must wait for the clearance of health authorities to move forward with our plans.

Meanwhile, we congratulate all parish councils whose presidents and their executive members have found creative ways to keep their members informed and involved.

We continue to ask Our Lady of Good Counsel to be with us in all our efforts for the good of the League, especially as we navigate these uncharted waters.

Mary Hawkley
Chair
100th Anniversary Committee
Toronto Diocesan Council

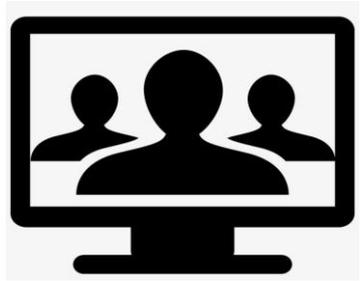
Virtual Safety Tips

"Emails, text messages, social networks and chats can also be fully human forms of communication." - Pope Francis.

Councils are gradually moving to using virtual technology to stay connected with members. Forty-nine of the 84 councils in the TDC January 2021 survey on meetings during the pandemic were using virtual technology. Councils have used virtual technology for meetings, prayer services, retreats and other celebrations to connect with members. The TDC held virtual executive meetings, regional meetings, celebrated the national CWL 100th Anniversary, St. Joseph Prayer Service and 2021 New Year's Party.

With increasing use of virtual technology, members and councils must be aware of the security issues and implications around their use.

- Protect your virtual account and do not share the access code or PIN with others.
- Use a password to protect the meeting.
- Do not add the meeting access links and passwords on posters and social media links.
- Provide meeting passwords only to those who have confirmed their attendance.
- Put attendees into the waiting room before they join the meeting.
- Enable screen-sharing for only the hosts, cohosts and those assigned to speak.
- Request attendees to identify themselves when they join the meeting.
- Remove attendees if they do not identify themselves.
- Indicate on the posters that the meeting or event is being recorded and that photos may be taken.
- Log-off or close the link at the end of the meeting and event sessions.



Adapted from Cisco WebEx, GoToMeeting and Zoom security tips.

World Communications Day

May 16, 2021

"Come and See" (Jn 1:46). Communicating by Encountering People Where and as They Are



Toronto Diocesan
Catholic Women's League

Welcome 2021

NEW YEAR'S PARTY
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13TH

Thank you to the over 260 of us celebrating the New Year to welcome 2021 in Hope.

Members shared their talents with musical performances, storytelling, poetry reading and sharing jokes. There was a slideshow of council photos.

We opened and closed the evening in prayer.

