

# TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

## NEWSLETTER

### WINTER 2020

(December to February)

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# NEWSLETTER EDITOR

**Lucia Vacca**

Sub-Convener:

Patricia Cross

Dear sisters in the League, greetings! It has certainly been an interesting year for all of us experiencing challenges adapting to new creative ways of dealing with everyday living, working, socializing and meeting. We have discovered the technologies available to us to continue to virtually meet and to continue our mission of service until such time that we can meet in person. The members have been very resourceful in connecting with each other as we heard at each of the Fall regional meetings.



This newsletter is an information resource, which will update you and your council in the various areas of each standing committee. Share this information. A wonderful prayer for the new Blessed Carlo Acutis, was composed by our Spiritual Advisor, Monsignor Patrick O’Dea together with his seminarian Sean Jacob, see page four. Read about the Annual Reports, Annual General Meetings for 2021, Development Day 2021 (pages 21 & 22), Treasurer information change the change in liability insurance, information on Faith Formation, Mary Dobell Pro-Life Awareness Essay and Poetry Literacy Awards winners for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place 2020, legislation bills, update on resolutions, and so much more.

This is the third and final issue for the year 2020. Thank you to the councils and members who have subscribed for 2020. Now is also the time for your 2021 subscriptions. The Newsletter Subscription Form for 2021 is on page 44 of this Winter 2020 newsletter and electronic forms are also available for downloading from our TDC website [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca). If you have any questions or address changes, please contact me at [newsletter@cwltoronto.ca](mailto:newsletter@cwltoronto.ca). Be sure to re-subscribe before the end of January 31, 2021 to receive your TDC Spring 2021 newsletter.



Dear Members, Catholic Women’s League:

I am writing this reflection on the Feast of All Saints.

The saints have always inspired me, and I am sure you, also, all have at least one that you consider especially important in your life. Hopefully, they inspired you to be a better Catholic and a follower of the Lord.



Recently, I was drawn to the announcement of the Beatification of Carlo Acutis, a 15-year-old teenager, who died in the year 2006 – not that long ago!

Carlo loved sports and was a good friend to many. Yet, his greatest joy was in his devotion to the Eucharist and in his service to the poor and needy. In his short life, he touched many lives around the world by his sharing of his special love of the Eucharist, even designing a program on the internet highlighting Eucharistic miracles. Pope Francis declared him Blessed and his Beatification Mass was held, in Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis, on October 10, 2020.

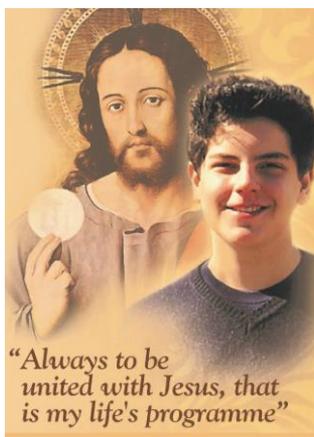
In a recent interview, his mother, still living, spoke about how he could not pass a church without wanting to go in and visit. She and her husband were not even necessarily great church goers, but her son’s example inspired them to be better, and to have more faith.

I recently celebrated four Confirmation Masses, at my parish. I wanted to give the young people a special gift. I thought of a holy card, and Carlo came to mind! I felt he would be a good example for the young people of today, since he lived not that long ago. As such, I composed a special prayer, in union with my seminarian-intern, Sean Jacob, and placed it on the back of a holy card with the image of Carlo on the front.

For Carlo, there was nothing more powerful or meaningful in this life than his relationship with Christ in the Holy Eucharist. He was truly one with the Lord in this special sacrament. This example inspires not only the youth, but all of us!

In this time in our history, when a pandemic separate so many of us from receiving Jesus more personally in the Eucharist, perhaps Carlo can offer us comfort, hope, and consolation. For those of us who can receive the Eucharist more readily, may we learn to never take it for granted. May our hearts always appreciate this most precious gift of our Lord's presence in our lives.

Below is the prayer Sean and I composed. May it bring you peace.



### **Pray to the Blessed Carlo Acutis**

*Oh Father*

*who has given us the witness of the young Blessed Carlo Acutis,  
who made the Eucharist the core of his life  
and the strength of his daily commitments.*

*Please also bless me with the desire to love  
the Eucharist and to share the joy of the faith,  
with everyone I meet. Bless my own  
tasks and commitments, especially in the service to the  
poor and needy, and grant me the grace I need to grow  
in faith and love for you.*

*As Blessed Carlo loved the Rosary, allow the love of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary to also grow in my heart.*

*Through the intercession of Blessed Carlo,  
Bless all my endeavours and draw me closer to You through  
the Holy Eucharist.*

**Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be**

## PRESIDENT

**Hilarion Mitchell**

Greetings during this holy time of year! The, love of our Saviour, Jesus Christ remains present for Advent, Christmas and the New Year during this ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Indoor and outdoor gathering limits this season will *Put Christ Back into Christmas* with a shift from the secular activities of large parties, shopping, gifts, travel, etc. There will be more opportunities to attend in-person and virtual Masses, and to connect with family, friends and those in need.



### **Toronto Diocesan Council 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

We close 2020 which marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the national level of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada much differently than envisioned. Now in 2021, it is the Toronto Diocesan Council’s turn to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Our diocese was formed during the first national convention, held in Toronto on June 3, 1921. Mary McMahan was elected the first president, and His Grace Archbishop Neil McNeil became the spiritual director. Visit our website under the *Who We Are* tab for an excerpt on our history.



The TDC 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has been planning since late 2018 to celebrate this milestone at the 2021 convention and throughout the year. Do use the anniversary logo on your council’s promotional events to heighten awareness of this centennial milestone.

### **Ontario Provincial Council 2020 Social Justice Award**

Miranda Pinto, St. Barnabas Council, Scarborough Region, was the recipient of the 2020 OPC Social Justice Award for her work with new immigrants and refugees on resettlement issues, sponsorship, government support and assistance. Congratulations, Miranda!

### **Hybrid Meetings (In-Person and Virtual)**

Notice must be given to members for all meetings. A quorum is required for general and executive meetings. At the parish level, a quorum is 10% of the membership required for general meetings. The quorum for the executive meeting is the majority (i.e. 50% +1) based on the number of individuals on the executive. Refer to the National Manual of Policy and Procedure,

Section 6: Quorums, Meetings, Conventions, page 81 (C&B Part XIV) for details.

The Toronto Diocesan Council used a hybrid format at our September 2020 executive meeting. To adhere to the current Constitution & Bylaws, a quorum was required for the in-person attendance. This meant that individuals attending virtually were not allowed to vote or make a motion. They spoke on agenda items after those attending in-person spoke. If more individuals were in attendance for a virtual meeting, then, all decisions will be ratified at the next in-person meeting. With fluctuating indoor gathering limits and some members reluctance to attend in-person, councils may utilize this format as an option for executive and general meetings with the technical requirements explained below.

- Internet access and password in the parish hall or meeting space
- Virtual provider such as Cisco WebEx, GoTo Meetings, Zoom, etc.
- In-person and virtual attendees require a camera enabled laptop, iPad, smartphone or can call in from a regular phone.
- During the meeting, turn down the volume on individual laptops and leave only one on (president or chair) with a speaker attached.

### **2020 and 2021 AGMs and Convention**

The Annual General Meeting is the business sessions of the convention which includes reports, review and adoption of the previous convention minutes and financial statements, adoption of current resolutions, elections, etc. and in 2021, the Constitution & Bylaws amendments.

National provided notice that the 2020 and 2021 Annual General Meetings will be held in Toronto in August 2021. It will be open to national eligible voting (provincial presidents) and accredited delegates (national executive, life members) with members participating virtually.

The Ontario Provincial Council will also hold AGMs for 2020 and 2021 in July in Ottawa with voting (diocesan presidents) and accredited (diocesan executives, life members) delegates.

The 2020 and 2021 Toronto Diocesan Council AGM/Convention scheduled for April 29 and 30, 2021 will be based on public health guidelines at the time. At the diocesan level, the voting delegates are the council presidents, and the accredited delegates are two parish executive or other members, TDC Executive, regional chairs and life members. More details on the TDC approach for the 2020 and 2021 AGMs/Conventions will be provided in early 2021 once finalized.

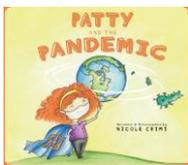
## Constitution & Bylaws

Members will have an opportunity to provide an instructed vote on upcoming proposed changes to the C&B which are necessary because of the pandemic and recommendations by the implementation committee on the strategic planning process. A two-thirds majority instructed vote will be required starting at the parish council for the proposed C&B amendments. Instructions will be provided in December and the vote must take place at an in-person general meeting in January/February. The parish council president will then send the results to the diocesan president and will also take a copy to the AGM. The process to adopt the instructed votes continues at the diocesan, provincial and national levels. Refer to the C&B Purpose and Amendment (C&B Part XXI) page 153 in the National Manual of Policy and Procedure for details.

## President's 2020 Annual Report Survey

Activities within councils may have been restricted this year due to the pandemic. However, there will be accomplishments that the president can contribute towards the annual survey whether in-person and virtual meetings were held, emails and phone calls were used during closures. Please ensure that your president's survey and the other executive members complete their surveys online by January 15, 2021.

## Patty and the Pandemic



This educational book on the COVID-19 pandemic for young children is \$12 + \$2 shipping from [pattyandthepandemic.org/](http://pattyandthepandemic.org/). The website states that 100% of profits earned for book sales will be donated to Face for the Future TM Foundation [facethefuturefoundation.ca/](http://facethefuturefoundation.ca/) which provide reconstructive facial surgeries for young children in developing countries.

We extend a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members, spiritual advisors, family and friends. We must remain hopeful and be prayerful so that a vaccine becomes available to end this pandemic. Creative approaches in our council activities will be needed to keep members engaged and councils vibrant. *“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”* (Romans 15:13).

Your Toronto Diocesan Council is ***One Hundred Years: Growing in Faith, Love and Service***. Keep well, stay safe and celebrate our 100 years as a council!

## SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Kate O'Quinn

Sub-Conveners:

Alice Warford  
Monique Forster

*“We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”*  
(1 Thessalonians 1:3)

These words spoken by St. Paul to The Thessalonians are so prevalent for us today. As a member of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, an organization in existence for 100 years, you exude these three so important qualities, faith, love and hope, as emphasized by St Paul. In these times, when you “hit a wall”, take the time to look at all the work you have done for others in God's name! Rejoice in all the work you have accomplished because of your faith; that you truly love what you are doing and have done for others and for the League; and how you persevered to complete work, even when tired, because of your hope in the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Hope is what the Season of Advent is all about and keeps us staying strong in our faith and love. So, during this Advent Season, remember, as does God, all the good works you have done and continue to do in His Name, not for glory, but for the faith, hope and love of God.



**Events Hosted by Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada**  
**National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women** will be held on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm. Sadly, domestic violence is rising during COVID-19. You are invited to join together via Zoom to pray to end violence against women.

Registration Link: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/prayer-together-ending-violence-against-women-tickets-122602590649>. A confirmation with the zoom link and password will be sent to you upon registration.

**Festival Day** will be held via Zoom on Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Register for this great opportunity to learn more about World Day of Prayer (Friday, March 5, 2021; Country: Vanuatu; Theme: *“Build on a Strong Foundation”*), and how to get involved. Information will be shared on various aspects of Vanuatu as well as key components of the service - music, Bible study, devotional speakers, great stories and much more. Learn more about how to use the online service option (new for

2021) in your area. Register now and watch for further details by mid-December. Registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/festival-day-zoom-event-tickets-122598514457>.

### **Faith Formation**

**Manresa Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre** in Pickering is once again offering weekend retreats. Manresa will be following all local and provincial health authority recommendations to make your sacred retreat a safe and spiritual experience. All retreats are \$225 suggested offering and run from a Friday at 7:00 pm to Sunday at 1:00 pm.

**“Rooted and Grounded in Love” The Way of Redemption and Freedom Retreat** is from January 29 to 31, 2021, Women Ignatian, facilitated by Fr. John Sullivan, SJ. *Finding God in Confusing and Challenging Times* Retreat is from March 12 to 14, 2021, Women Ignatian, facilitated by Fr. Kevin Kelly, SJ. For information and registration for both retreats, go to [www.manresa-canada.ca/events/](http://www.manresa-canada.ca/events/).

**St. Augustine’s Lay Spiritual Formation Program** is offering an online workshop, *The Songs of the Angels in the Book of Revelation*, on Saturday, January 23, 2021, from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. The cost is \$25. The presenter is Monsignor A. Robert Nusca. Link for virtual presentation will be sent upon registration. For information and registration, go to: [www.staugustines.on.ca/about/events](http://www.staugustines.on.ca/about/events).

All of us, at different times in our lives, especially during this time of pandemic, may feel overwhelmed and lost. On the website [www.bustedhalo.com](http://www.bustedhalo.com), is a short retreat by Kristin Witte on *5 Steps for Praying When You’re Overwhelmed*, that you may find of interest.

### **National Indigenous Peoples Day Mass**

Sunday, June 20, 2021, will be our Toronto Diocesan CWL National Indigenous Peoples Day Mass. Further information to follow. Please save the date.

In harmony with the words St. Paul spoke to the Thessalonians, St. Teresa of Calcutta has further words of advice as you conduct your great labours in faith, love and hope: *“Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God’s kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile.”* Ladies, you are the core and the strength of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada – let us continue our good works for God and Canada with kindness, as we move into our next century ‘acting with justice, loving tenderly and walking humbly with our God’.

## 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 National Annual Report Surveys were available to councils effective November 1<sup>st</sup>. The surveys this year were adapted as much as possible to reflect how members were working within the COVID-19 protocols. Parish council presidents should share the information with their council executives in order to ensure all information is captured. All surveys should be completed even if there is no member filling the position. This information is used by regional, diocesan, provincial and national officers when planning and continuing programs and initiatives for parish councils. **Deadline for online completion is January 15, 2021.**



### Recruitment of Members and Maintaining Membership

Councils should be in the midst of planning their recruitment drives blitzes and designate a Sunday in January to execute the drive. The best recruitment tool for any membership drives is a visible and effective organization. Membership as of September 30<sup>th</sup> stood at 6,453 members. Over 700 members in the Toronto Diocese have not renewed their 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.

Per capita fees for 2021 are submitted to national office by January 1<sup>st</sup> and regional dues early in the year to the regional treasurer.

### Leadership Development

The Diocesan council is pleased to offer the Parish Executive Training Course to members through virtual technology. This is a perfect opportunity to combine groups from various councils as well as regions for the one-day course. 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.

## **Development Day**

Development Day will be held on Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. Due to the uncertainty of future meeting protocols the day's program will be delivered virtually. We will begin our day with a Eucharistic celebration presided by Rev. Monsignor Patrick O'Dea. Our keynote speaker that day will be His Holiness Pope Francis. We will view his talk *The Only Future Worth Building Includes Everyone* and continue with panel discussions on the three themes presented. This will be a shortened day but there will not be any cost.

Councils are encouraged to view at home or even in small parish groups if protocols at that time allow. See pages 21-22 for more details.

## **Strategic Plan Update**

The implementation committee for the national strategic plan will be seeking volunteers for the next round of working groups for Year 3 strategies. The national website, The Canadian League magazine and the CWL's Facebook page will have details. Keep a watch for ways to participate.

The Year One Reorganization Working Group completed their work and submitted their recommendations to the national board. These recommendations involved reducing the number of standing committees to three, examining the levels of the League and streamlining the number of executive members at each level. Pending approval of the national board, councils will receive notice to these possible changes to the League's By-laws to be voted on at the parish, diocesan, provincial and national levels during next year's meetings and Annual General Meetings. Please be sure that your council allows time at a February or March meeting to hold an instructed vote on these matters.

## **Care for Our Common Home**

This theme continues. Pope Francis has written another encyclical. This new encyclical is titled *Fratelli Tutti* and is generally considered a continuation of *Laudato Si*. In this unprecedented time, Pope Francis' words are a reminder that:

*"Each day offers us a new opportunity, a new possibility. We have the space we need for co-responsibility in creating and putting into place new processes and changes. Let us take an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies."* (Fratelli Tutti, 77)

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## PAST PRESIDENT/HISTORIAN

**Ann D'Souza**

Nature gives each season its unique beauty, we all know that the fall season is just a gateway to winter. Most of us would look forward to winter as it leads to Advent and start counting the days until Christmas, but now the situation is very different with the impact of COVID-19. In these unprecedented times each of us is faced with difficulties and challenges to find creative ways to keep in touch with our CWL members. With the flu season and COVID-19 the fear of the unknown is tugging at our hearts, what could happen can be overwhelming, forcing us to isolate and creating loneliness, which increases stress and anxiety. Please reach out to your council members, if your council does not have a calling tree, help to create one.



Technology has been playing a vital role these days more than ever, due to the pandemic. It was good to see members logging into the virtual regional meetings. Hearing the reports and the many methods that councils have adapted to keep the work of the council going was very touching, keep up the good work.

Your role as past president is important as you may find members reaching out to you for your guidance, your mentoring demeanors will come into play. For your position to help in a consultative role you have to keep yourself updated with all that is taking place, be it at diocesan, provincial or at national level.

Check the national website for strategic planning updates and review the excellent presentation uploaded on the site. Keep yourself current by regularly visiting the three websites (all levels).

Read all the National Council's Fall memos that were forwarded to you by your President, you are required to read not only of your position but read the others chairs reports too, so that you are aware what is going on. Here are a couple of action items taken from Margaret Ann Jacobs, National Past President and Chairperson of Laws addressing past presidents:

- ❖ You are most aware of your responsibility to maintain your council's archives and history. I encourage you to use this time of

limited activity to access parish files, update and organize them (see National Manual of Policy and Procedure, pg. 202-204).

- ❖ With the exciting new changes being recommended by the implementation team for strategic planning, as past president take an active role informing members about current progress and their role as these changes will require an instructed vote.
- ❖ Members will have an opportunity to vote on changes to the C&B as part of the strategic plan and other important matters. (1) The votes must be conducted in person. (2) The votes must be scheduled in all parish councils for January/February meetings. (3) Detailed instructions and forms will be distributed in December. Watch for the package. (4) The immediate task: Set a date and start “Save the Date” communications, so members do not miss the opportunity to have their say in the League of the Future.

### **Archives**

Since archives and history is the responsibility of the past president, ensure that your council has kept a record of the history. As you will see in this newsletter, Mary Hawkey, Life Member, Chairperson of the TDC 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is asking for records and important events that took place in your council. You must help your council president to dig out these important events so that it gets included in the Toronto Diocese’s History Book (1921–2021) which is being updated by life members Patricia Cross and Carole Pitcher.

Liaise with your council’s corresponding/recording secretary to ensure membership information is up-to-date.

The diocese is waiting to hear back from provincial on what guidance national will give to conduct our forthcoming convention in 2021.

I will keep you updated on the Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Award.

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*“Remember the past with gratitude,  
live the present with enthusiasm,  
look forward to the future with confidence.”*

- St. John Paul II

## CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

**Nancy Fenech**

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the corresponding secretary and all executive positions are continuing into 2021 as no elections were held in 2020. For the corresponding secretaries appointed into the role and starting new in 2021, welcome! With the start of a new year, it is an excellent opportunity for the corresponding secretary to review the roles and responsibilities of this position.



Start the New Year by ensuring that the council executive list is updated with the address, email and phone numbers of each executive. This is important to maintain accurate records so that the regional and diocesan levels can communicate to their parish council counterparts. Changes to your parish executive list are to be sent to your regional corresponding secretary or regional chair using the Parish Information Form template. This form can be found on the website: [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca) under Resources/Forms. The information will be forwarded to me your diocesan corresponding secretary, so that our records are updated and accurate for the Elections Register. There will be amendments to the Constitution & Bylaws in 2021 and informed votes will take place the Annual General Meeting in April. Your updated parish executive list will ensure that we have the correct council president who will be the voting delegate.

As the corresponding secretary, you manage incoming and outgoing correspondence. The corresponding secretary does not act on her own initiative but works in consultation with the president. Our task is to channel the correspondence received (email or regular mail) and work with the president to ensure members are aware of what has been received in a timely manner, bring and read a summarized version of the correspondence at the next executive and general meeting meetings.

This position includes sending cards to members such as birthdays, congratulations on anniversaries and milestone events, thinking of you, Mass, sympathy cards etc. These cards should be handwritten to add a personal touch and mailed out through Canada Post or hand delivered. Record the date of incoming correspondence. In addition, work with the president to prepare and send formal correspondence such as special council anniversaries and celebrations on behalf of the president to other levels of the League, special invited guests, etc.

Please remember to purchase your Canada Post religious stamps at your local post office. They are available to purchase on the first Monday in November and can be used all year round. Do remember to complete the 2020 corresponding secretary Annual Report Survey before the January 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. This will ensure your council's corresponding secretaries' achievements will be summarized in the 2020 Toronto Diocesan Council Annual Report Book and other levels of the League.

Your role as the corresponding secretary is very important to keep in touch with members during this pandemic which has resulted in an increase social isolation and loneliness. Have a productive 2021.

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## **TREASURER**

**Lolita Perry**

### **2021 Budget**

The annual budget is one of the most integral financial accountability tools available to ensure councils at all levels meet their goals and sustain stewardship among members. A budget is planned in consultation with the president and the executive. It is then presented to the general membership for discussion and approval normally at a January meeting. It is also recommended



to ensure councils allocate funds towards League voluntary funds and charitable organizations in need of support due to COVID-19. Parish councils are encouraged to put aside funds in their 2021 budget to create incentives or rewards for members during this difficult time as they prepare for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Toronto Diocesan Council.

The approved budget will serve as a guideline in allocating funds for your donations and known expenses. It is highly recommended to include a portion of your funds for membership development. Perhaps your resources are very limited due to the unrepresented time. However, a good way for all members to learn more about our good deeds is to encourage them to subscribe to the TDC Newsletter (3 issues for \$12.00 annually).

### **2020 Financial Statements**

It is also the time to prepare your council's annual year-end financial statement. In compliance with our Constitution & Bylaws and with The Not-for-Profit Corporation Act. The financial statement is to be sent to members at least by 21 days prior to the meeting. Members are to be notified of the date and time that this meeting is to take place. The financial

statement for 2020 should be presented and voted upon by the general membership in the beginning of 2021. Further information can be obtained on the TDC website: [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca) on the Resources tab; scroll down to the reference documents for treasurer. This also includes the “Treasurer 101” workshop that was held a few years ago.

### **TDC 2020 Voluntary Fund Donations**

Parish councils are encouraged to make donations to the Toronto Diocesan Voluntary Funds for donations to St. Michael’s College Scholarship and for the Hope for Children Foundation Scholarship. Although donations to these two important funds are accepted throughout the year, in order to be included in the 2020 Toronto Diocesan report, they must be received before December 31, 2020. Kindly refer to [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca) website for a copy of the remittance form with all the necessary information.

All cheques at any level of the League are made payable to “The Catholic Women’s League of Canada” with the name of the charity to which the donation is being made on the subject line.

Fundraising events and activities have been limited, scarce and have been challenging for councils in 2020. Yet, it gives the council an opportunity to show their creative ability, the power of teamwork and collaboration. Should your designated or allocated amount be less than that approved in the budget, ensure the council sends the changes out for approval and then these changed be ratified at an in-person meeting.

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

### **Liability Insurance**

As good stewards, we must do all that we reasonably can to protect the CWL from financial loss. The national office no longer covers the cost of the liability insurance for parish councils. All councils paid the parish liability insurance of \$0.50 in 2020 which was submitted with their capita fees. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, national negotiated with the insurers for a lower rate as very few meetings and activities were taking place. Insurers across the board were taking a hard line, but national was able to reduce the liability insurance to \$0.45 per member for 2021. Liability insurance is for the good of the members – much like wearing a mask to protect others during the pandemic.

## **Membership Fees and Per Capita Fee Submissions**

Some councils start off the new year with membership drives. Membership fees are to be remitted to the national office by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and should be completed by February 28, 2021. The membership fees are set by each council and must include the national per capita fees, regional dues and the portion that remains at the council. The \$20 sent to national is broken down as follows; national \$13, provincial \$3, diocesan \$4 and \$0.45 insurance per member using Parish Council Remittance Form for Per Capita Fees (form 516) on the national website. The treasurer is responsible to submit the per capita fees promptly to the national office. This will ensure the records of years of service are kept up-to-date and that there is no delay in members receiving their copy of The Canadian League magazine.

## **Duties of a Treasurer**

The treasurer shall maintain the financial records; receive all League monies; pay all accounts authorized; be a signing officer for all official documents; maintain financial records; present a report of revenues and expenditures at the meetings; prepare and monitor the annual budget; have financial records audited or examined annually. The treasurer should refer to communiques and/or annual reports from all levels; file with the recording secretary a copy of her monthly and annual report; refer to communiques and/or annual reports from all levels; file with the recording secretary a copy of her monthly and annual reports.

## **Financial Records of the Council**

Accurate record keeping is essential to knowing how well-planned goals were achieved and in determining what future possibilities exist. The treasurer shall maintain an account, receipt and deposit book; keep books updated; retain cancelled cheques and receipts; balance the account book to the bank statement monthly; keep cheque statements of receipt and disbursement books on file for five years

## **Receive all League Monies**

Per capita fees are the means by which the League carries out its programming at national, provincial and diocesan levels. The treasurer shall ensure per capita fees are remitted to national office by February 28<sup>th</sup> of each year; collect and remit to diocesan council or national office all donations made to the national each year; **ensure all members approve all fundraising activities.**

**Pay all Accounts**

Proper disbursement procedures ensure that all legitimate expenses have been properly authorized and paid. The treasurer shall always pay by cheque, and ensure there are two signatures on every cheque

**Signing Officer**

As one of the signing officers, the treasurer has a fiduciary responsibility for League funds and is accountable for all distribution of monies and arranging for three signing authorities (president/treasurer/and one other).

Communication is an important key to success in any chair position. Any questions concerning your post as Treasurer, please feel free to connect with me via email: [lolitaperry@rogers.com](mailto:lolitaperry@rogers.com)

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**ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL  
2020 Social Justice Award Recipient  
Miranda Pinto  
St. Barnabas Council, Scarborough Region**



## *Happy Anniversary!*

**Good Shepherd, North York Region – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**St. Bonaventure, North York Region – 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**St. John Chrysostom, North York Region – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Our Lady of Lourdes, Toronto Region – 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**St. Helen, Toronto Region – 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**St. John Bosco, Toronto Region – 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

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### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

February 20	Development Day – Virtual
February 27	Lift Jesus Higher Rally
March 2	Ordinandi Dinner - Virtual
March 6	World Day of Prayer
April 26	Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel
April 29 & 30	TDC Annual General Meeting/Convention
May 31	St. Michal Scholarship deadline
June 20	National Indigenous Peoples Day Mass
July 11-14	Provincial Annual General Meeting
August 8-11	National Annual General Meeting

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### **REGIONAL MEETING DATES – 2021**

These meetings are tentative dates which will be  
Virtual or Teleconferencing Meetings

Detailed instructions will be forthcoming from the Regional Chairs

March 16	<b>Durham Region</b> General Meeting 7:00 pm
March 17	<b>Toronto Region</b> General Meeting 7:00 pm
March 22	<b>North York Region</b> General Meeting 7:00 pm
March 25	<b>Scarborough Region</b> General Meeting 7:00 pm
April 8	<b>Humber Valley Region</b> General Meeting 7:00 pm
April 13	<b>Northern Region</b> General Meeting 7:00 pm
April 15	<b>Peel Region</b> General Meeting 7:00 pm

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# **100<sup>th</sup> Annual Toronto Diocesan CWL Convention/Annual General Meeting**

*Care for our Common Home  
Loneliness  
Celebrating Our Cultural Diversity  
Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the Toronto Diocesan Council*

**Hold the Dates: Thursday April 29 and  
Friday April 30, 2021**

**Potential Location: Toronto Airport Marriott Hotel  
901 Dixon Road, Toronto ON M9W 1J5**

**\*\*NB\*\* THE TORONTO DIOCESAN CONVENTION COMMITTEE IS WORKING DILIGENTLY WITH THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL TO ENSURE THAT OPTIONS ARE IN PLACE FOR CELEBRATING OUR 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TORONTO DIOCESAN CONVENTION!!**

We are monitoring COVID-19 public health guidelines ongoing and the planning has started. The contract for each convention year is signed 18-24 months ahead of time so we are collaborating with the hotel management to minimize any losses. It is our intent to provide every council of the Toronto Diocesan CWL with an opportunity to support and actively participate in a successful Convention /Annual General Meeting celebrating 100 years!!!

We will provide an update by email early in 2021 or on the Toronto Diocesan website at [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca) as information becomes available.

Your Convention Conveners are:

Shirley Christo	<a href="mailto:cwllmshirl@gmail.com">cwllmshirl@gmail.com</a>	905-793-0156
Margaret Arangio	<a href="mailto:margarangio@gmail.com">margarangio@gmail.com</a>	416-371-9923
Elisabeth Quail	<a href="mailto:eijq@rogers.com">eijq@rogers.com</a>	416-788-0858

*Please be safe during COVID-19 by wearing your masks  
and maintaining physical distancing.*



**Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Toronto Diocesan Council  
DEVELOPMENT DAY 2021**

**Date: Saturday, February 20, 2021**

Time: 9:00 am live stream Eucharistic celebration

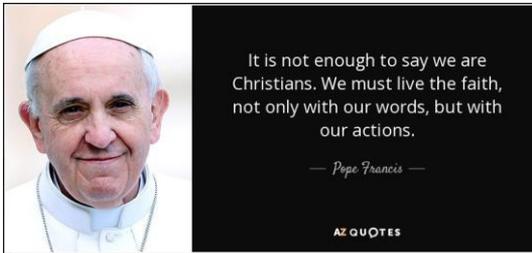
Rev. Monsignor Patrick O'Dea,  
Toronto Diocesan Spiritual Advisor

10:00 am Virtual Zoom Conference

Cost: Free

**Theme: "The Only Future Worth Building  
Includes Everyone"**

**Keynote Speaker: His Holiness Pope Francis**



Pre-registration is a **MUST**. Registration opens **Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>**.  
Registration will be cut-off when the maximum has been reached.

RSVP for conference access: Shaila D'Souza, Toronto Diocesan  
Recording Secretary: [shailaflavy@gmail.com](mailto:shailaflavy@gmail.com)

When submitting RSVP, please provide the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Council: \_\_\_\_\_

Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Inquiries: Sue Lubowitz, Toronto Diocesan Organization Chair  
[jslubowitz@gmail.com](mailto:jslubowitz@gmail.com) 905-898-7372



## DEVELOPMENT DAY 2021 PROGRAM

- 9:00 am Eucharistic Celebration (live stream)  
Rev. Monsignor Patrick O’Dea,  
Toronto Diocesan Spiritual Advisor  
St. Edward the Confessor Parish
- 9:30 am Coffee, Tea & Muffins (in your own home)
- 10:00 am Reconvene with Zoom access  
Welcome/Introductions/Gathering Prayer
- 10:20 am “The Only Future Worth Building Includes Everyone”  
Keynote speaker: His Holiness Pope Francis
- 10:40 am Stretch Break
- 10:45 am Panel Discussions on the three themes  
from the keynote address:  
- interdependence  
- inclusion  
- hope and tenderness
- 11:30 am Steps forward for councils  
by diocesan committee chairs
- 12:00 pm Closing remarks and prayer with final blessing



## SERVICE AWARDS

### 60-Year Membership Pins

#### **Toronto Region**

Holy Cross: Mary Keane

### 50 Year Membership Pins

#### **Durham Region**

St. Gertrude: Maureen McAvoy  
St. Gregory the Great: Noreen Krupica  
St. Joseph the Worker: Angela Jones Mary Valckx  
St. Mary of the People: Veronica Hodgkinson Cheri Noordman

#### **North York Region**

Holy Spirit: Willy Vanderpost

#### **Scarborough Region**

St. Joseph Highland Creek: Agnes Fowler Roma O'Meara

### 45-Year Membership Pins

#### **Durham Region**

St. Gertrude: Vera Tandy  
St. Joseph the Worker: Marian Brady Mary Lynch

### 40-Year Membership Pins

#### **Durham Region**

St. Gertrude: Hilda Rembala  
St. Gregory the Great: Marie Carver  
St. Joseph the Worker: Rita Woodley  
St. Mary of the People: Elsa Lack

#### **Scarborough Region**

St. Joseph Highland Creek: Barbara Clifford

### 35-Year Membership Pins

#### **Durham Region**

St. Gertrude: Angela Herd

#### **Scarborough Region**

St. Joseph Highland Creek: Lina Civello

#### **Toronto Region**

Holy Cross: Marnie O Leary Claudette Wilson

### 30-Year Membership Pins

#### **Durham Region**

St. Gertrude: Pauline Korkush Marlene Pulla  
St. Joseph the Worker: Lois Minnie Margaret Boehm

#### **North York Region**

Holy Spirit: Dorine Dubreul

#### **Scarborough Region**

St. Joseph Highland Creek: Irene Dillabough

**Toronto Region**

Holy Cross: Maria Cervanters Marie Anderson Barbara Pell  
 Margaret Ferry Anita Murnaghan Glendora Wielder

**25-Year Membership Pins****Durham Region**

St. Gertrude: Helen Feeney Marion Lukow Ann Olesky  
 Diane Vesters

St. Mary of the People: Isabelle Kovacs Sylvana Tersigni

**Scarborough Region**

St. Bartholomew: Norma Hing Annette van Kempen

St. Joseph Highland Creek: Justine Csenge Pierrette Emerson  
 Joy Ezemenari Mary-Ann Lewis Rameriz  
 Juanita MacLean Jocelyn Holder Tina Zappulla

**20-Year Membership Pins****Durham Region**

St. Gertrude: Evelyn Hunter Lois Martin Mary Ann Yurchi  
 St. Gregory the Great: Pat Daley Jenny Evans Antonietta Romano  
 Isolina Valene

St. Joseph the Worker: Joan Gayhart Gayl O'Brien

**Scarborough Region**

St. Bartholomew: Carmela Burdi Desiree Vical

St. Joseph Highland Creek: Mary Cunningham Rose Joseph Winnie Yan

**Toronto Region**

Holy Cross: Karen Duomouras Maria Dawson

**CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE****Iris McNulty**

Sub-Convener:

Philomena Menezes

**Sanctity of Life**

The Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF) has written an open letter to Canadians voicing strong opposition to Bill C-7, *An Act to Amend the Criminal Code* (MAID). It was introduced by the federal government on October 5. Over 50 religious leaders signed the letter on October 14. Bill C-7 would expand access to euthanasia and assisted suicide. The letter advocates for quality palliative care and the sanctity of all life. Please continue to advocate for palliative care services in your community by contacting elected officials.



COLF along with concerned groups across the country are requesting the ethical development of a vaccine for COVID-19. A letter was sent to Patty Hajdu, Health Minister, stating that the use of abortion-derived cells in a vaccine is unethical. Using abortion-derived cells in the development of a vaccine is opposed to the Sanctity of Life.

### **Update on Petition of One Million Signature Campaign**

Ted Falk, MP, presented 35,255 signatures to Parliament on October 5<sup>th</sup>. The petition requested Government to grant full legal protection to the unborn. Although the petition did not reach its target of obtaining one million signatures; the campaign was successful. It demonstrates the importance Canadians place on protecting the unborn. Other campaigns often generate much lower public engagement. The government has 45 days to file its response. Please continue to express your support to government of protecting life in the womb. Science continues to speak volumes when defining *Life!*

### **Marriage and Family**

A Zoom session on *Family at the Heart of Formation* is being sponsored by the Archdiocese of Toronto on Saturday, November 28, 10:00 am - 9:15 pm. Parents and children of all ages are invited to join in for prayers, worship, praise, scripture and activity challenges. The event is structured with online and offline activities. Each online activity is about 90 minutes in length. A parent talk will be featured with Patrick Douglas, creator of *Me and My House Catholic Parenting Program*. Cardinal Collins will answer questions on Faith and Family. Registration is free but space is limited.

Information: [pdouglas@archtoronto.org](mailto:pdouglas@archtoronto.org) or 416-934-3400, #509.

Registration: [www.archtoronto.org/family](http://www.archtoronto.org/family).

Brick by Brick: Building a strong family that would not lose their faith in a secular culture is a book co-authored and edited by Andre & Angele Regnier (founders of Catholic Christian Outreach), their five children and their in-laws. It focuses on parenting; youth and faith formation. For more information on the book: [www.sophiainstitute.com/products](http://www.sophiainstitute.com/products). Sophia Institute has a variety of book themes including spirituality, Mary, faith development and prayer.

### **Seniors & Disabled**

Seniors Helpline: call 211

To be connected to a phone service: 416-217-2077. By calling this number, seniors in the Toronto area can receive the latest information on COVID-19, learn about available supports, request emergency food provisions and/or

receive crisis counselling. Telephone service is available in multiple languages.

Ontario is the first province to pass a law to improve accessibility for seniors and the disabled. Improved access must be in place by 2025. The law aims to: a) reduce physical barriers in public areas restricting access; b) increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities; c) improve public understanding and awareness regarding barrier-free access in public spaces. To learn about: the law, the accessibility framework, barrier-free requirements or to report non-compliance, contact: Raymond Cho, Minister Responsible for Accessibility: [www.ontario.ca/page/ministry/seniors](http://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry/seniors)

The Alzheimer Society of Canada is looking for volunteers to reflect their experiences of living with dementia. Its goal is to bring together individuals from across the country who either have dementia or who live with an individual with dementia. The particular focus is to: a) create educational materials in terms of dementia and reducing stigma; b) advocate to the federal government for supports in terms of lived experiences. Opportunities exist for former or current caregivers of people living with dementia, to form a sub-group. The levels of participation for the volunteers are varied and open-ended. There will be opportunities to connect with individuals with similar lived experiences. Email: [advisorygroup@alzheimer.ca](mailto:advisorygroup@alzheimer.ca).

## **Youth**

Catholic Christian Outreach provides an active missionary presence on university campuses across Canada. Its goal is to build up future leaders of faith while focusing on outreach and discipleship. CCO has an international presence where it accompanies youth on their spiritual journeys. The organization actively engages youth on mission trips, annual conferences and retreats. Global health situations are currently being monitored so as to decide how future mission projects could be carried out. It sponsors the annual Rise Up conference. Some components of it are: Praise and Worship, Testimonials, Dialogue on Vocation. This year the conference will be a unique opportunity as it will be carried out online. Date: December 28 & 29. Theme: *To the Heights*. Registration: online. Cost: \$7.00. Daily start time: 12:00 noon. Councils are encouraged to promote this event within their parishes.

## **Vocations**

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Ordinandi Dinner will be held on Tuesday, March 2, 2021. It will be a virtual event which will be livestreamed and posted on YouTube.

Seven men will be ordained to the priesthood; three of them are from Toronto. Donations can be sent to St. Augustine's Seminary. An information letter and a Spiritual Bouquet form have been sent to Regional Chairs and Parish Council Presidents. Please note that the Spiritual Bouquet Form should be received by either Imelda Santos or Philomena Menezes by Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

Father Matthew McCarthy is the newly appointed Vocations Director for the Office of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto. To access daily video reflections prepared by Father Matthew: [www.vocations.toronto/youtube](http://www.vocations.toronto/youtube).

### **Christian Family Life 2020 Annual Reports**

Christian Family Life Chairs are reminded to complete their Annual Report. Paper copies are due to the National office by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Electronic copies should be sent by January 15<sup>th</sup>. Regional Standing Committee Chairs should follow up with individual councils. A report should be submitted by each council even if there is no CFL Chair. This would reflect the good works accomplished by a council in the absence of a committee chair.

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## **COMMUNICATIONS**

**Mary Tuccitto**

For many Communications Chairs, this year was like no other. We have had to learn new technology and creative ways to keep our members informed and engaged as activities are still taking place at all levels of the League, despite the pandemic. I know some of you were looking forward to “retirement” as you would have completed your two-year term and for others, this is still year one and you are just getting comfortable in your position. Things are not going quite as we had planned and at every level, all executives have been asked to stay on an extra year. I think of this as a blessing as with all the uncertainties surrounding us, this makes for continuity of the League, for stability to your CWL sisters and for an opportunity to discover, grow and polish our talents so we can continue to serve God and Canada with joy and inspiration.



### **Communications 2020 Annual Report**

By now you should have completed and submitted your Communications Chair Annual Report Survey, due to National by January 15 2021. Once completed and before you submit, print a hard copy to have on file as a backup for sharing with future communications chairs and as a guide in

planning activities. Follow the instructions detailed in the information received by your council president in October (2020). Even if your council does not have a Communications Chair please complete the report and share how your council has kept members informed and connected to the League.

### **Canadian League Magazine, Directives, Communiqués and CWL Websites**

As part of our membership we receive The Canadian League Magazine from national. It is a wonderful resource providing a wealth of information through articles submitted by our national executive. As a special gift during these difficult times, the Fall 2020 issue has been mailed to all, 2020 members regardless of their renewal for 2020. Read it from cover to cover, and share it with a friend, inviting her to become a member. This along with a smile (under your mask) and the many other recruitment items found on the national website will help in your efforts to keep the League vibrant and growing.

In August, national presented the first ever online Summer Speaker Series which are still posted on the national website [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) under To Inform: “Videos”. Councils are encouraged submit your activities to the national *On the Spot*, also found on the website. The Ontario Provincial Council continues to update their website with directives from each chair’s position and provides an avenue to celebrate parish councils and dioceses from across the province, with their On-Line Newsletter. Go to [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca) and register for yours. Promote *Website Wednesday* as a reminder to all members to visit our TDC website at [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca) for updates and resources through the many links. Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions on how we can continue to keep you informed.

### **Movies and Books**

Kevin Dunn, Canadian three-time Gemini Award nominee has produced a new film entitled *Bridge of Roses*. It chronicles the story of the miracles which took place on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River near Trois-Rivieres. The church in Cap-de-la-Madeleine was built and is now a national shrine and an international pilgrimage destination which has more than 430,000 people visit annually. In the documentary, the filmmaker recreates how the townspeople prayed the rosary for a miracle and a bridge of ice was formed across the St. Lawrence River providing a pathway for food and supplies to cross. This documentary also depicts the miracle witnessed by three priests, when the eyes of statue of Our Lady were opened for nearly ten minutes. A must see, *Bridge of Roses* will be unveiled in the Fall of 2021 on the 450<sup>th</sup> feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary. Other films

produced by this Catholic filmmaker are *Fatal Flaws: Legalizing Assisted Death* and *The Euthanasia Deception*.

*A Child is Born* is a series of Christmas poems written by Msgr. Thomas Raby. His poems were featured for almost four decades from 1967 to 2004 in the Catholic Register during the Christmas season and now, for the first time, all 37 of those poems are bound together in paperback, sure to bring wonder, joy and good humour while proclaiming the birth of Christ. Other books of interest are, *Written on my Heart*, by Michael Swan and *Discover Your Devine Investment: The Path to Spiritual Joy*, by Fr. Stan Chu Ilo.

On a final note, always refer to the Catholic Women`s League in full rather than just using the CWL acronym. This is especially important for parish and bulletin announcements. Remember to wear your Catholic Women`s League scarves and pins proudly, we **ARE** a National Organization!

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## COMMUNITY LIFE

**Ciscily Winkler**

This winter emerges with trailing memories of the previous one regarding the resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Times have been challenging as we have all been impacted by these unprecedented and sometimes cruel times, especially with the loss of loved ones, a job, psychological instability and a sense of hopelessness in our lives. On the bright side we have learned a lot, through public health advisory measures, to enable us in the mitigation of this second and hopefully last wave of this pandemic until a safe vaccine is available.



Our CWL sisters are showing great resilience in combating loneliness among us. They have kept members engaged as evident in the reports of all seven TDC Regional Fall General Meetings presented virtually through Zoom. Let`s congratulate all members for their valiant and dedicated efforts in helping others while keeping the League alive and active.

### **Issues Concerning Dignity and Rights of Persons**

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the many areas of societal inequality and inadequacy by exposing them for immediate action. The Long-Term Care homes for our beloved seniors have seen the greatest

casualties in this pandemic. Inefficiencies, overworked and underpaid caregivers who have been trapped in these situations tell the tale of what lies behind the scene from the general public. Ontario Premier Doug Ford has been critical of many of these LTC providers during the pandemic and believed that some have shown gross negligence. This is in light to of the new COVID-19 liability legislation that is intended to protect LTC providers from being sued for negligence and loss of lives. Revisit Provincial Resolution ON.19.03 Long Term Care Beds in Ontario.

**Homelessness**

Homelessness had reached a critical crisis prior to the pandemic and will now see an infusion of support from all levels of government. The Ontario government is investing nearly one billion dollars in 2020-2021, as part of the community housing renewal strategy to help sustain, repair and grow community housing and help to end homelessness in Ontario. The social infrastructure fund is part of the federal-provincial investment in an affordable housing program which provides funding for affordable projects across Ontario. ([smartin@yrmg.com](mailto:smartin@yrmg.com))

The **Indigenous Peoples** of Canada have suffered inequality compared with non-Indigenous, especially where basis need such as clean drinking water is concerned. Canada has the world’s third largest per-capita fresh water reserve, yet the water many Indigenous communities depend on is contaminated, sometimes with oily sheen and hydrocarbon. Water crisis caused illness and evacuation of hundreds of people from Ontario First Nations and has been described as “dehumanizing” by one of their Community Chiefs. Many communities have been under boil-water advisories for over two decades. The United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples provides a roadmap and an agenda for effective, clear and specific action, but this has been tied up by vague and complex legislation. In 2016, the government announced new commitments and funds to end all long-term boil-water advisories by 2021. Revisit Provincial Resolution ON.11.01 Safe Potable Water for First Nations Communities.

**Action:** Check with government counterpart to see if they are on target with this promise.

**Human Trafficking** received a lot of attention prior to the pandemic, but the worry is: how is this multi-billion-dollar industry doing in this depressed economy? A recent editorial showed that survivors of human trafficking are getting involved in suggesting ways to stop this heinous crime. These suggestions are taken to people in power for an action plan. Among the suggestions are better training for everyone from family services to police,

and the adding of human trafficking lessons to the Ontario school curriculum. (Source: Online series called #HighwayPirates) Revisit National Resolution 2009.01 Exit Strategies for Prostituted Persons

### **Systemic Racism**

The recent Angus Reid survey found that nearly two-thirds of participants agree that systemic racism is a serious problem for the RCMP, and seventy-three percent say that police in Canada interact inappropriately with non-white people at least some of the time. These surveys are taking place across the country, some showing a “pattern” of mistrust in police among Black and Indigenous peoples. Twenty-seven percent say that systemic racism is a serious problem in their own community. (Source: Canada News-Castanet.net/edition/news-story...4.htm). Sixty-three percent of Canadians across the country would rather see investment in social welfare strategies rather than increasing police presence in high crime areas. A recent report by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will see the government working closer with the RCMP to reduce systemic racism across the country; and will hold institutions accountable for systemic racism against Indigenous and racialized individuals. Ontario’s Minister of Education Steven Lecce will join with the rest of Canada to put an end to the “applied” and “academic” streaming in all Ontario high schools. Studies show that more Black, Indigenous and low-income teens were in applied classes compared to others.

### **Loneliness**

An online questionnaire by Statistic Canada was filled out by 32,000 parents with children up to age 14. Findings suggest that seventy-one percent of participants are very or extremely concerned about their children’s social lives during the pandemic. More than half are really worried about their kids being socially isolated; three in four said balancing child care, schooling and work was a chief concern; forty-three percent said they themselves are very worried about staying connected with family and friends. (Source: items on Navigator curated from the National Post News services) During this pandemic, food insecurity has increased by 39% with many people struggling to have enough food on their table. Facing immediate financial anxiety are those who are marginalized by poverty, oppression and inequality; also heightened, are those in need of critical basic support services like elder care, child care and transportation. An increase in mental health, depression, and opioid use is exacerbated by loneliness and isolation due to the public health precautionary measures of social and physical distancing.

**Action:** Keep in touch with others, at least virtually, watch webinars on ways to detect, avoid/cope with depression. Keep a healthy mind.

### **Climate Change**

“Our health, wealth, and wellbeing rely on the health, wealth and wellbeing of our environment” (Nick Ostle, a researcher at the CEH Lancaster Environment Centre). The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) prevents biodiversity loss within the international accord similar to the Paris Agreement. The challenges of this pandemic have highlighted the importance of working in synchrony with nature to redeem the greatest benefits. It is disappointing to learn that Canada currently recycles less than ten percent of the three million tons of plastic it produces each year.

**Action:** Say No to plastic and help to keep our environment healthy.

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## **EDUCATION AND HEALTH**

**Connie Cristinziano**

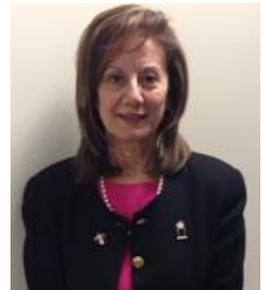
Sub-Conveners:

Youth Awards  
St. Michael’s Scholarship

Val Egerton  
Donna Capobianco

### **Youth Awards 2019-2020**

In my last newsletter (Fall 2020) the 1<sup>st</sup> place winners of our Mary Dobell Pro-Life Awareness Essay and Poetry Literacy Awards were announced. Congratulations to our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners.



### **INTERMEDIATE ESSAY**

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Carolina Knights  
Jean Vanier High School Collingwood, St. Mary’s  
Church Collingwood, Northern Region  
3<sup>rd</sup> place: Linette Borjes  
Philip Pocock Catholic School Mississauga, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Peel  
Region

### **SENIOR ESSAY**

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Richard Nanhuzhy  
All Saints Catholic Secondary School, St. Francis de Sales Parish, Durham  
Region  
3<sup>rd</sup> place: Abby Darbyshire  
All Saints Catholic Secondary School, St. John the Evangelist Parish,  
Durham Region

## **INTERMEDIATE POETRY**

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Joshua Tang

Nativity of Our Lord School, Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Humber Valley Region

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Melanie Dias

St. Bonaventure School, St. John XX111 Parish, North York Region

## **SENIOR POETRY**

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Kennedy Knight

All Saints Catholic Secondary School, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Durham Region

Toronto Diocesan Council extends its congratulations to all the students who participated in the Youth Awards and to all the teachers and parents who supported their efforts.

## **2020-2021 Youth Awards Program**

Due to the evolving nature of COVID-19 and restrictions that are in place **ALL** youth contests are cancelled at this time with the **exception of the scholarships.**

## **TDC CWL Scholarships**

The Catholic Children's Aid Foundation Scholarship (formerly Hope for Children Scholarship) 2020 recipient is Whitney Nguyen who is currently enrolled in Psychology at Carleton University.

The St. Michael's Scholarship the recipient for 2020 is to be determined.

The representatives from St. Michael's College and the Catholic Children's Aid Foundation have expressed their gratitude to CWL members for the ongoing support of these scholarships. I ask that you keep these worthy scholarships in mind when next allocating your donation funds. Voluntary Form and instructions, visit TDC Website:

[www.cwltoronto/resources/forms](http://www.cwltoronto/resources/forms).

## **Family Literary Day, January 27, 2021**

This is a national awareness initiative created by ABC Life Literacy Canada in 1999 to raise awareness of the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. Setting aside time in our busy everyday life, to read or do a learning activity with children, is fundamental to a child's development.

## **CWL National Voluntary Funds**

National Bursary Fund; established in 1990, is used to provide financial assistance to members who meet the established criteria and who want to pursue studies in adult faith formation and/or youth ministry. There were eight bursary recipients for 2020, two of which were from Ontario. The

application form can be downloaded from the National’s website: [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca)

### **Coady International Institute**

Coady has been partnered with The Catholic Women’s League of Canada since 1961 (established by St. Xavier University). It is through the generosity of CWL councils and members that annual scholarships have been provided, and that has enabled women community leaders from around the world to benefit from these programs. The 2019-2020 collection from July 1<sup>st</sup> –June 30<sup>th</sup> was \$21,380.55. The National Voluntary Fund Remittance Form can be found on the national website: [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca)

### **Environment and Care for our Common Home**

Personal protective equipment litter are causing environmental and safety issues. Personal protective equipment is not only essential for health-care workers, but has become part of our everyday lives. The problem is they are disposable and they are ending up in our rivers and oceans. As a result a mountain of single-use masks and gloves can be often seen being discarded on sidewalks, parks and in parking lots. Anything that is thrown into the street can end up in the sea. Disposable masks are manufactured using polymers that take decades or centuries to decompose. Be mindful of products that can be reused that will not end up in a landfill or our oceans.

Often it is difficult to find a disposable mask that fits the shape of your face, homemade masks are recommended as the natural fabrics are more breathable for extended use. They can be washed and reused and not discarded carelessly. When worn properly, a person wearing a non-medical mask or face covering can reduce the spread of your own infectious respiratory droplets. For additional information and videos visit: Public Health Agency of Canada: [Canada.ca/coronavirus](http://Canada.ca/coronavirus). I encourage you to also visit the links related to *COVID-19 Disinfectants, sanitizers, cleaners and soaps*.

***Remember wearing a face mask or face covering alone will not prevent the spread of COVID-19. You MUST also wash your hands often, practice physical distancing and stay home if you are sick.***

### **Health**

Flu season is upon us! “This year, more than ever, it is important for everyone six months and older to get the flu shot. This will help prevent the flu and flu-related complications. Preventing the flu will also help reduce stress on the health care system during the COVID-19 pandemic” (*Public*

Agency of Canada). Check with your health provider to confirm that you are a candidate for the vaccine.

### Annual Bell Let’s Talk Day

It will be the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Bell Let’s Talk Day on January 28, 2021.

For more information and ways to help end the stigma of mental health, visit: <https://letstalk.bell.ca/en/>. When it comes to mental health every action helps.

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## LEGISLATION

Sub-Conveners:

**Elizabeth Joseph**

Suzanne Cockburn  
Sonia Da Costa Spence

As we enter the colder months amidst this second wave of the pandemic, let us embrace the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons and allow the Christ child to warm our hearts and guide our minds.



### Prorogation

Legislature is prorogued by the Governor General, based on the advice of the Prime Minister. According to the House of Commons Procedure and Practice, Third Edition, 2017, “Prorogation of a session brings to an end all proceedings before Parliament. With certain exceptions, unfinished business ‘dies’ on the Order Paper and must be started anew in a subsequent session.” This means that all legislative work stops, but it does not affect legislation that has already been passed. Members of Parliament were released from their parliamentary duties until September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Prime Minister and Members of Parliament retain their positions, rights and privileges during prorogation. The elected government also remains in power even though the House of Commons and Senate are shut down. Proroguing Parliament is not the same as dissolving Parliament, which happens before a federal election. (Betty Colaneri, National Chairperson of Legislation, October 9, 2020).

### Federal Bills

**Bill C-7: An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying).** This Bill would amend the Criminal Code to permit MAID for individuals whose natural death is not reasonably foreseeable. It would continue to prohibit MAID for individuals whose sole underlying medical

condition is a mental illness. Two different sets of safeguards would be created for those whose natural death is reasonably foreseeable and for those whose death is not reasonably foreseeable. For individuals whose natural death is reasonably foreseeable, the safeguards under the existing law would continue to apply, subject to two modifications. First, the patient’s written request for MAID would only have to be signed by one independent witness, rather than two. Second, the 10-day reflection period would be eliminated. (House of Commons, October 21, 2020).

**Action:** Petition MPs to oppose this Bill.

### **Single-use Plastics Ban**

The federal government will start a plan to ban grocery bags, cutlery, straws, stirring sticks, six-pack rings and food ware made from polystyrene by the end of 2021. Environment Minister Johnathan Wilkinson said the government chose these six items to ban because they frequently become litter and have readily available alternatives. “The ban is really on those things that are difficult to recycle therefore they should be taken out of circulation to not be throwing them in the landfill or dumping them in the ocean” (October 7, 2020).

**Action:** Monitor this Bill. The ban resonates with Resolution 2006.05: Plastic Bags: The High Cost of Convenience.

**Bill S203: An Act to restrict young persons’ online access to sexually explicit material: Short Title - Protecting Young Persons from Exposure to Pornography Act.** This enactment makes it an offence to make sexually explicit material available to young persons on the Internet. It also enables the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness to require that steps be taken by Internet service providers to prevent sexually explicit material from being made available to young persons on the Internet. The Bill had First Reading on September 30, 2020.

**Action:** Monitor this Bill. It resonates with CWL’s Pornography Hurts Campaign.

### **Provincial Bills**

**Bill 203: More Than a Visitor Act (Caregiving in Congregate Care Settings), 2020.** This Bill enacts three requirements of the Minister. 1) To respect and promote certain rights for persons receiving care, support or services in congregate care settings and their designated caregiver. 2) To safely integrate designated caregivers that were excluded because of the COVID-19 pandemic back into congregate care settings. 3) To improve respect for the role of the designated caregiver within congregate care

settings and to develop and implement a caregiving strategy in consultation with specified stakeholders.

The strategy is to be reviewed and updated every five years and is to be published on a Government website. An interim strategy that incorporates the rights of individuals receiving care, support or services in congregate care settings to have meaningful access to their designated caregiver is to be in effect for the first year. The Bill had 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading on September 24 and was sent to Committee on Social Policy.

**Action:** Monitor this Bill.

**Bill 13: Time to Care Act (Long-Term Care Homes Amendment, Minimum Standard of Daily Care), 2020.** The Bill amends the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007* so that a long-term care home will have to provide its residents with at least four hours a day of nursing and personal support services, averaged across the residents. The minimum hours may be increased by regulation. The Bill had 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading on October 28 and 29 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Policy.

**Action:** Monitor if the Minister of Long-Term Care votes for this Bill.

To access Legislation information and follow Legislative proceedings, visit the following websites:

[www.parl.gc.ca/housechamberbusiness/chambercalendar](http://www.parl.gc.ca/housechamberbusiness/chambercalendar);

[www.parl.gc.ca/LEGISInfo](http://www.parl.gc.ca/LEGISInfo)

For access to the Ontario Legislature website:

[www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/current](http://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/current).

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## RESOLUTIONS

**Andrea Smart**

Sub-Conveners:

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

There have been so many changes that we have had to endure and adapt to this year. To say this year has been a challenge is an understatement! However, with all the frustrations we have experienced, it was so good to hear at the regional meetings how councils found ways to be supportive of their members, frontline workers and residents of long-term care homes.



## **National Resolutions Update**

Cathy Bouchard, National Resolutions Chair, has created an excellent new resource on resolutions. This new Resolutions Guide takes you through all the stages of developing a resolution. It is important to remember resolutions directed to members for awareness, e.g. health issues that come to the national resolutions committee, will not be presented as a resolution but will be recommended to the national executive/board for education through standing committee chairpersons. For proper bridging, please use the appropriate bridging clause(s). The Resolutions Guide is located on National's website: [www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/620-Resolutions-Guide-2020.pdf](http://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/620-Resolutions-Guide-2020.pdf).

With regard to resolutions submitted to Diocesan Councils in 2020, Cathy Bouchard states "Resolutions passed at your 2021 Provincial Convention and at the National 2021 Convention will all be titled as 2021. National and Provincial councils will have no resolutions passed as 2020. If no Diocesan Councils held conventions in 2020 (and passed no resolutions as 2020), then the Diocesan level would have no resolutions with a designation of 2020. If a parish council passed a resolution at their level in 2020 that would be directed to another level of the League, the rest of the process continues in 2021. This is because no Diocesan Councils held their annual convention in 2020."

## **Provincial Resolutions Update**

In her most recent directive, Ontario Provincial Council Resolutions Chair Wilma Vanderzwaag encourages members to write to local MPPs, the Premier, Minister of Health and Minister of Long-Term Care regarding the pressing issues around long-term care in Ontario. The pandemic has prevented members of the OPC executive from meeting with the Ontario government this fall. Instead, OPC President Colleen Perry has sent a letter along with a copy of the 2019 resolutions including their briefs and action plans to Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Health Christine Elliott and Minister of Long-Term Care Merilee Fullerton. St. John the Evangelist Council, Durham Region organized a successful letter-writing campaign with members, Knights of Columbus, other parish ministries and the community. They mailed 322 letters to Minister Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Long-Term Care in late October. If your council sent letters and has had a response from Premier Ford or the Minister of Health or Minister of Long-Term Care, please let me know.

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

St. Mary's Council, Peel Region was the author of this resolution passed at all levels of the League in 2019. The council recently shared the good news from Pax Christi International that the nuclear ban treaty had the 50 ratifications needed to make nuclear weapons illegal, with Honduras becoming the 50<sup>th</sup> member state to ratify the agreement on October 24<sup>th</sup>. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons comes into effect on January 7, 2021. This means that nuclear weapons will become illegal in the countries that have signed the Treaty. Our work on this resolution's action plan is not yet completed. Canada has still not signed the Treaty. Write a letter to your local MP and Prime Minister Trudeau in support of Canada signing the Treaty.

**Bill C-7 An act to amend the Criminal Code (Medical Assistance in Dying)** This Bill ties into 2018.03 Legislate Designation of Hospice/Palliative Care Services in Facilities to Exclude Medical Assistance in Dying. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has issued a statement regarding the expansion of the eligibility criteria for euthanasia and assisted suicide. Please take time to write to the Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and the Minister of Health expressing opposition to this Bill. The Federal Government should be providing more education about palliative care and making it widely available and accessible across the country.



### **The Catholic Women's League of Canada TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

*One Hundred Years: Growing in Faith, Love and Service*

Madam Presidents,

We still have some questions for some of you.

At the end of October 2020, we sent each Parish Council President and Regional Chair a questionnaire - eight questions that we asked specifically to gain a snapshot of your council's special activities and events that have honoured your members. We asked that they be returned by November 30, 2020.

We are so grateful to those of you who have already answered our call.

Many councils have been celebrating major anniversaries, events and have presented awards to members. It's important to document those celebrations, enhanced with the photos we asked you to send, and pass them on to Patricia Cross at [pcpat@rogers.com](mailto:pcpat@rogers.com) and Carole Pitcher at [cpitcher@bell.net](mailto:cpitcher@bell.net) so your history will be recorded in our updated history book due to be published in 2022. We also want to remember the great contributions all our Spiritual Advisors have made over the years to all councils, whether at the Parish, Regional or Diocesan level.

If you have not been able to meet the original deadline, we are still happy to receive your submissions. Your successes are important, and we want all the councils to know how each is contributing to the vibrant life of the League in the Archdiocese Toronto.

Given the ongoing uncertainty of what emergency measures may be in place during the last week of April, 2021, we are waiting to hear what the format will be for meeting in convention. Nevertheless, we are determined to find a way to exhibit, talk about and show your great deeds from your councils.

We are also discussing ways in which we can celebrate all our Spiritual Advisors over the years.

### **Don't Forget the High Tea**

We still are holding the date in late May 2021 for our celebration, postponed from last May. It will be a wonderful chance to get together and socialize. Keep your best frilly frock and spectacular hat or fascinator handy.

### **Closing Mass for the Centennial Year**

We have traditionally celebrated a Mass to which all members are invited, when important milestones of the Council are recognized. So, it seems appropriate to celebrate the end of our centennial year. At this Mass, we would have the Time Capsule formally blessed and closed until the next major celebration. We are in the midst of determining what this celebration will look like and we will inform you of the details closer to the date.

We look forward to 2021 and trust God's plan will include the departure of the pandemic. We ask Our Lady of Good Counsel to be with us in all our efforts for the good of the League.

Mary Hawkey  
Chair  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee  
Toronto Diocesan Council

2021  
ANNUAL CWL NATIONAL CONVENTION  
TORONTO, ONTARIO

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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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**or Call: (416) 283-3536**



**TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

Virtual Celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Wednesday June 17, 2020 7:00 PM

Join in by video or teleconference



**Toronto Diocesan Council**





**TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL  
NATIONAL CENTENARY 2020 TREE  
PLANTING PROJECT**



**Saturday September 19, 2020**

Gore Meadows Community Centre, 10150 The Gore Road, Brampton

*Celebrating our “roots” from the past century as we look into the future and “branch out” into the next century.*

**115 Trees Planted!**

- Cornus alternifolia (Alternate Leaf Dogwood)
- Viburnum dentatum (Arrowwood)
- Acer saccharinum (Silver Maple)
- Amelanchier laevis (Serviceberry)
- Aronia melanocarpa (Black Chokeberry)
- Diervilla lonicera (Bush Honeysuckle)
- Spiraea alba (Meadowsweet)
- Cornus racemose (Gray Dogwood)
- Quercus macrocarpa (Bur Oak)
- Viburnum lentago (Mammyberry)
- Rosa blanda (Meadow/Smooth Rose)



**Toronto Diocesan Council**

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**187 Calverley Trail, Scarborough ON M1C 3Y4**

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