



January 2023 Update

Ready or not, 2023 is here, and with it time for a refreshing and a restart for all. As you reflect back on all 2022 held and look ahead to your resolutions for the New Year, it's also an opportune time to plan your council's activities. It would also be appropriate to see what gaps in your knowledge of League procedures could be filled.

Your diocesan council has planned some learning opportunities for January and February to help get you started:



Wednesday, Jan. 25th How to Prepare/Revise A Parish Council Manual of Policy and Procedure (virtual) 7-8:30 pm

This CWL Wednesday webinar will be presented by Past-President Hilarion Mitchell and President-Elect/Organization chair Kate

O'Quinn. They will have a lot of information for you on how to go about starting as well as suggestions for content.

If your council already has a manual it would still be beneficial to attend as they will also cover the new changes in the League structure and how to incorporate them.

Saturday, Jan. 28th Leading Through Change-Parish Options (virtual) 9:30-12:30 pm

Come learn about strategies to engage members, your leadership journey and becoming an effective leader, how to implement project based committees, and celebrating the uniqueness of each council. This is being led by me but there will be opportunities for breakout sessions to connect with other members and brainstorm ideas.



Saturday, Feb. 11th Development Day (virtual) 9am-3pm

The morning key note speaker will be Honorary Life Member Barbara Dowding who will speak on "The Art of Accompaniment".

The afternoon session will focus on the Beatitudes and putting them into action in keeping with the provincial theme of "Go Make a Difference".

We have suggested a donation of \$10 per member or \$25 council. If you have the technology available in your parish hall or meeting room, this would be a great opportunity to gather and share lunch as a group between the two sessions. If you decide to do it this way, be sure to let us know and send pictures!

Please send cheques, payable to Toronto Diocesan Catholic Women's League to Shaila D'Souza, 35 Lilac Ave., Thornhill, ON L3T 5K1

Please register for these three virtual events with Shaila D'Souza, Corresponding Secretary at shailyflavy@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.cwltoronto.ca/>

The Toronto Diocesan website has recently been updated with a fresh look that members should find easier to navigate. Be sure to check often for upcoming events as well as many available resources. This project involved many hours and my grateful thanks go out to Ann D'Souza (former Toronto Diocesan President), Lucia Vacca (Communications sub-convener) our web administrator and Nenita MacKenzie (Communications chair) in seeing this task to completion.



Toronto Diocesan Convention: April 24th and 25th "Called to Serve"

You will soon receive the information for this year's convention to be held at the Ajax Convention Centre, 550 Beck Crescent, Ajax. The registration form is available on the Toronto Diocesan website for your convenience.

The committee and executive are planning two days of activities that we hope you will find informative and useful. The opportunity to meet with your fellow sisters in the League is a wonderful experience.

Implementation Committee Update: "There has been an update to the national website, and the quick links section for the Strategic Planning Resources and Updates (cwl.ca/strategic-planning-resources-and-updates/) now lists all resources available alphabetically. The list continues to grow as

more resources are developed and approved. Here, parish councils will find many ideas for both long- and short-term projects, as well as workshops to help them get started.” Christa Grillmair, Goal 1 Lead

The strategic plan has been implemented and almost \$1,000,000 and thousands of volunteer hours have been invested in helping parish councils. But, for the League to be successful parish councils must participate in some way in the programs that are developed.

Which one or two of the initiatives listed in the update would your council be most interested in implementing? Please contact any one of us to share your thoughts. Your diocesan team will be in touch with you in 2023 to arrange a session.

Parish Council Events:

Saint Maria Goretti Council (Scarborough Region) organized a pilgrimage to some shrines in New York state and past-president Lillian D’Souza sent along this report:

“We had CWL members from so many different parishes, including Pickering and our own Scarborough Region. Our coach was full, the weather was perfect, and our coach operator was so cooperative and accommodating.

We met the parish priests at Our Lady of Fatima and Our Lady of Victory who took all the trouble to come and meet with us and give us their blessing. We had a tour of the Basilica with a very knowledgeable guide who was so thorough with the structure, design and the life of Fr. Baker, who built the Basilica.”



The group picture taken at the Basilica of Our Lady of Victory



St. Anthony of Padua (Peel Region) celebrated their 45th Anniversary on December 10th. The day started with a beautiful mass. Fr. Joseph C. Pham

was the celebrant. Members from across Peel Region were invited and came to mark the occasion. Also in attendance were Hilarion Mitchell (TDC Past-President), Connie Cristinziano (1st Vice-President/Resolutions) and myself. I was honoured to present them with their milestone certificate.

The mass was followed by a very tasty luncheon and the sound of music from both piano and steel drum. Multiple past council presidents were in attendance to cut the cake.



St. Gertrude's Parish Council (Durham Region) recently held a Christmas Luncheon with guest of honour, Fr. Michael Hughes. Father presented Ann Greenaway with her 65-year service pin. Ann started with St. Gertude's Parish Council when her mother-in-law, Mrs. W. J. Clancy, was the first President of this Council in 1952. Ann brought her mother-in-law's President pin to the luncheon to show everyone.

(Source: Spotlight from the national website <https://cwl.ca/>)

As always continue to send us your photos and stories so we can share.

I look forward to seeing you on our virtual events this month.

In Sisterhood,

Sue Lubowitz,

Diocesan CWL President 2022-2024