



February 2023

President's Update

Dear Sisters in the League,

It is my pleasure and honour to invite you to the 102nd annual Toronto Diocesan Convention which will be held on Monday, April 24 and Tuesday, April 25, 2023. This is an exciting year as we will be celebrate Mass and take part in business sessions, workshops and enjoy our banquet at a new venue—The Ajax Convention Centre. Registration forms are available on the Toronto Diocesan CWL website and the council information package will be sent to presidents by Development Day (February 11).

World Water Day March 22, 2023

This information was contained in National Education and Health Communiqué #8 (January 24)



The World Water Day 2023 campaign is now live. This year, the focus of the UN observance is on accelerating change to solve the water and sanitation crisis. The global campaign, called *Be the change*, encourages people to take action in their own lives to change the way they use, consume and manage water. The promises made by individuals on the campaign website will contribute to the Water Action

Agenda - a main outcome of the UN 2023 Water Conference, which opens on World Water Day, 22 March 2023. Please pray for a successful conference.

To find out more about Word Water Day go to: <https://www.worldwaterday.org/>

To make your own Water Action list: <https://www.unwater.org/bethechange/>

Councils may wish to work on this through prayer, education and action.

Human Trafficking

Day 2 of our diocesan convention will feature a speaker from BridgeNorth, a non-profit organization committed to ending sexual exploitation in Canada. Did you know that 97% of sex trafficking victims are female and that half of these victims are under the age of 25? Seventy five percent of reported trafficking cases in Canada occur in the GTA.

The International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking is February 8, 2023, the Feast Day of Saint Josephine Bakhita.

For councils who would like to do something at their next council meeting, an online Pilgrimage of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking will be held Wednesday,

February 8th, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (CET). The theme is *Journeying in Dignity*. To join the pilgrimage, please visit preghieracontrotratta.org/participate. To check the time zone in your area, visit greenwichmeantime.com/time/to/cet-canada/).

A prayer from Pope Francis, information on the theme, downloadable documents such as Vigil of Prayer 2023—*Journeying in Dignity*, and other resources are available on the website prayagainsttrafficking.net (Communiqué #15 Community Life, January 27)

Instructed Vote

“By now, each council has received the proposed amendment adopted at the fall 2022 executive meeting of the national executive/board. The parish councils will be hosting their annual meetings, at which time they will vote. The procedure should be familiar to parish councils as they have just completed a vote in 2022. Instructions were included on the triplicate forms sent, which should make the process manageable.” Anne Gorman.

Councils should send their **yellow** form to me at my home address by April 10th at the latest:

201 Penn Avenue, Newmarket, ON, L3Y 2S4

The voting delegate brings the white form to the convention. Only the voting delegates in attendance (parish presidents or designates) may vote and they must vote as instructed by their parish council. Per capita fees must be up to date in order to vote. Voting will be held on Tuesday, April 25 in the morning.

Development Day



If you have not yet registered yet for Development Day, there is still time. Development Day is February 11.

The morning keynote speaker is Honorary Life Member Barbara Dowding who will speak on *The Art of Accompaniment*. Five other Life Members will also add their voice.

The afternoon session will focus on putting the Beatitudes into action—To “Go Make a Difference”

in your councils, community and world. More information can be found on the diocesan website www.cwltoronto.ca under the “Upcoming Events” tab.

Member Development

The next opportunities for member development provided by Kate O’Quinn, the Toronto Diocesan Chair of Organization, are another session of the Parish Executive Training on Feb. 21 and Effective Meetings on Feb. 27. These sessions are open to anyone, not just executive members and have been modified to include the new structure of the League.

For more information, please contact Kate O'Quinn kateoquinn@yahoo.ca. Registration is through Shaila D'Souza (Corresponding Secretary) shailaflavy@gmail.com

Council Activities

St. Matthew Parish Council

Agnes Passee, president at St. Matthew's Parish Council (Toronto Region) held a membership drive and information coffee hour on January 22. The day was greatly supported by the parish spiritual advisor, Rev. Andrzej Grecki SVD and Toronto Regional Chair, Mary Jane Domingo. This is a trilingual parish and the outreach was done in English and Portuguese. A Power Point presentation on "Why I Am A Member was also shown."



Precious Blood 40th anniversary



Precious Blood Parish Council (Scarborough) held their celebration on January 29. Because of a travel advisory and snow accumulation in my area, I was not able to attend. The Diocesan Council was well represented by Connie Cristinziano, 1st VP (Resolutions) who brought greetings.

By all reports, it was a very well attended celebration and a good time was had by all.

In Closing

February is dedicated to the Holy Family. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are often represented humbly in artwork. Even the glow around their virtuous heads is usually simple, at least when they are represented as the Holy Family.

Not every family is perfect, and after the holiday season, our dysfunctional families may be fresh in our minds. We are called practicing Catholics because despite any struggles in our families we still keep **practicing**. Remember that even though Mary and Joseph lost Jesus for three days, they are still saints. Even if we feel like we've failed, we can still be saints, especially if we ask for the help of the Holy Family. Let's focus on our families and helping each other grow in holiness.

As we observe Ash Wednesday on Feb. 22, let us be mindful of the need to keep practicing in our families as well as with our CWL families.

In Sisterhood,

Sue Lubowitz
Toronto Diocesan President 2022-2024