

# **TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **WINTER 2022**

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## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

**Mary Antonio**

Sub-Convener:

Charmaine Alweyn

Greetings my dear sisters in the League. This is the Winter and final edition of the Newsletter for 2022.

In this edition, you will find the registration form for Development Day, being held in February. You will also find information on the 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention being held in April.

The Patricia Beattie and the Youth Awards information are also included.



We congratulate you all for your milestone achievements. If you wish your service awards to be included in the next newsletter, please submit to me [m.antonio@sympatico.ca](mailto:m.antonio@sympatico.ca) by the deadline of January 30, 2023.

The Newsletter subscription renewal form can be found at the back of this newsletter, and also available on the website [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca). Please encourage all members to subscribe, as it is a great way to keep in touch with the happenings of the CWL. Subscription deadline is January 31, 2023.

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*“Even when alone, be cheerful, remembering always that you are in the sight of angels.”*

St. Theresa of Lisieux

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I was honoured to meet so many of you in leadership roles during our fall regional meetings. For those who were present, you heard me speak about the importance of finding the contemplative Mary that is within all of us. I used the example of Jesus visiting His friends, Martha, Mary and Lazarus.

During Jesus' visit, Martha was preoccupied by the "Stuff" that needed to be done. Mary, on the other hand, sat at the feet of our Lord listening to His words. When Martha complained that Mary was not helping her with the "Stuff" that needed to be done, our Lord reminded Martha that although her work was honourable, Mary had chosen the "better part" and it would not be taken away from her.

We know that as CWL members there is a tendency to be preoccupied by the "Stuff" that is required to be done throughout the year. But it's important that all members remember the Mary within them – that part of us that needs to contemplate the face of the Lord and His love for us.

As we enter the season of Advent and prepare for the visit of our Lord in the coming season of Christmas, let us not be preoccupied with the "Stuff" that requires our attention without allowing ourselves to FIRST sit at the feet of the Christ Child and contemplate the mystery of His Incarnation – that God became one of us.

I encourage you, if you can, to have a manger scene in your home and try each day to sit (or kneel, if your knees allow you) before the manger scene and contemplate this mystery. This will allow you to find the contemplative Mary in you.

I encourage all CWL councils to incorporate time in your gatherings to sit at the feet of Jesus Christ and hear His words spoken in your hearts. May each of your CWL councils strive, first and foremost, to have each and every member achieve their ultimate goal in life – which is to KNOW, LOVE and SERVE the Lord in this life, so that we can be with Him in the next.

I wish you and your family a most blessed and holy Christmas Season. And remember that Christmas is not just one day.

p.s. If you are finding it hard to reduce your focus the many "Stuff" that you think you need to do these coming weeks, then do what I do – just put that "Stuff" in the turkey, because that's where it really belongs... 😊😊😊



## **PRESIDENT**

**Sue Lubowitz**

Over the past few months there have been many milestone anniversaries celebrated. Members have enjoyed having the opportunity to get together and mark these special occasions. It was a privilege to attend the fall regional meetings and hear all about your contributions to your parish and community. You should be very proud of all that you have achieved during some very difficult times.



As we approach the end of the calendar year and start looking towards the new year with all its changes let's do more than plan events—let us be open to the possibilities that will stir a new spirit of enthusiasm for the League as it begins its next century of service to God and Canada.

You, as leaders, have both the privilege and special responsibility of overseeing the operation of the League at the local level. Ours is an organization that has the distinct mission of serving God's people. It is our responsibility to extend an invitation to all Catholic women in our parishes to join the CWL. Their place is among us.

Check your emails and the Toronto Diocesan Website for opportunities to join your sisters in activities, both virtual and in person, that will open the door of a more vibrant parish council. Check out all the resources available on the national website and plan out each month.

Your mission as a CWL leader is:

- To seek and invite new members (recruitment)
- To welcome and share League opportunities (various workshops)
- To achieve efficiency in leadership (sessions like Parish Executive Training)
- Build the League by building your team (know the roles of the executive)
- Enhance meetings (something to LEARN, something to SEE, something to HEAR and something to DO). Be creative.
- To acknowledge and show appreciation (service awards, special awards)

## **Council Elections**

Some of you may be holding council elections this fall. You will be the first among us to change over to the new League structure. Once your council elections are completed please remember to give your new information to

your regional chair and also send a copy to the Toronto Diocesan Corresponding Secretary and the Newsletter Editor

If you are nominated, please recognize the gifts that others have seen in you. Keep in mind “that great leaders aren’t born, they are made” (*Leading the League* manual). Members are encouraged to stretch and develop their potential by learning through the various workshops that are offered. The Toronto Diocesan Council will be offering a workshop on Saturday, January 28, 2023. This will be geared to Presidents and Presidents-Elect/Vice Presidents but anyone who is interested in the “Joy of Leadership” may attend. Stay tuned for more details.

### **Convention 2023**

The theme for the Toronto Diocesan Convention to be held on Monday, April 24 and Tuesday, April 25 will be “Called to Serve”. Our convention committee chaired by Mary Hawkley, Mary Ellen Stinson and Lynette Mendes have plans well in hand for an interesting and fun-filled two days. Councils should plan now to send a larger than normal group of members as we celebrate our achievements and our years of service. Information will be on the website as well as sent by email to council presidents. (More details are available on the convention information page).

### **Strategic Plan Implementation**

From Jacqueline Nogier, Goal 3 Lead, Mentorship

“The mentorship working group has started its work. The group is learning about mentors and mentorship. In addition, it wants to create a list of people willing to serve as mentors and is looking for members willing to share what they know. Do you have knowledge to share? It might be how to run a meeting or create a prayer shawl. It might be how to write a resolution or start a prayer group. Whatever your skill or knowledge - are you willing to share with your sisters. The working group will be creating two surveys. The first survey is for life members and regional, diocesan, provincial and national executive members. The second survey is for parish councils for discussion at a parish council meeting. Please look for these surveys, fill them out and return them when you receive them. Help the working group create a skills’ bank so it can share what members know with others and create a stronger sisterhood.”

In grateful appreciation for their service to the League and their work on the 2022 working groups, we thank:

Diane Lauziere (St. Joan of Arc Council, Toronto Region) Goal 3 Group: Networking with Catholic Organizations

Sheilah D'Souza (St. Bartholomew Council, Scarborough Region) Goal 3 Group: Intergenerational Activity Working Group (#634–To Organize on national website)

Philomena Menezes (Precious Blood Council, Scarborough Region) Goal 4 Group: Address Critical Issues (Strategic Leadership-Parish)

## Keeping in Touch

As I write this newsletter article there have been five (June to October) monthly president's updates circulated to councils in an effort to keep you informed. They are posted on the diocesan website. You are welcome to contribute pictures and events.

A number of council presidents have also taken advantage of my offer for "coffee and chat" where we discuss various issues at parish level. This has been either by phone or in person. Please continue to share your positive achievements and accomplishments as well as your frustrations and disappointments.

Christmas is the season of hope, when the birth of Jesus fills the world with His promise of salvation, lifting our spirits and strengthening our resolve to do what we can to make the world a better place, each in our own way. With that in mind, we look to the future with renewed prayers of hope. May your personal wishes find fulfilment in the coming year, and good health and blessings accompany you through 2023. Merry Christmas!

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## SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

**Iris McNulty**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will take place in Rome from October 4 to 29, 2023. The CCCB (Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops) has selected its delegates to the General Assembly. Representing the English Sector are The Most Reverend J. Miller (Vancouver) and the Most Reverend William McGrattan (Calgary). The Most Reverend Daniel Miehme (Peterborough) is the substitute.

The Holy See's General Secretariat of the Synod has issued the Document for the Continental Stage (DCS) of the 2021-2024 Synod. *For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission*. The DCS is the result of the discernment of 112 contributions from episcopal conferences, including the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB). The Document for the Continental Stage is available at [www.synod.va](http://www.synod.va)



National has prepared resources to assist councils in helping Spiritual Advisors understand their role. These include a power point presentation and a Guide for Spiritual Advisors brochure. To access: [www.cwl.ca/communique-9-spiritual-development](http://www.cwl.ca/communique-9-spiritual-development)

October 11 marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vatican II, sometimes referred to as the Second Vatican Council. It was convened by St. John XXIII and met over four sessions from 1962-1965. The Council produced a series of documents with the purpose to lead the Church into the twentieth century. *The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, The Decree on the Catholic Church in the Eastern Rite and the Decree on Ecumenism* are four important documents produced by the Council. Prior to Vatican II, the mass consisted of two distinct parts: the Mass of the Catechumens and the Mass of the Faithful. Following the Council, it showed four distinct parts: *The Opening Rites, The Liturgy of the Word, The Liturgy of the Eucharist and The Concluding Rite*. Vatican II was important because it attempted to guide the Church into the twentieth century. It gave laypeople a larger role in the Church and promoted Interfaith Dialogue. The study of some of these documents would make a suitable faith project for a council

**December 8 marks the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.** This date celebrates the belief that the Blessed Virgin Mary was free of original sin from the moment of her conception. Throughout the centuries, the Church magisterium had studied this concept. Pope Pius IX declared Mary's perpetual virginity as an official dogma (teaching) of the Catholic church based on studies of biblical texts over the centuries and in consultation with theologians and bishops.

**December 12 marks the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas.** According to tradition, Our Lady appeared to a young Indigenous convert by the name of Juan Diego on Tepeyac Hill outside Mexico City on December 9 and 12, 1531. She requested that a shrine be built on the site. One has existed there since 1556. Devotion to Our Lady grew and she was credited with ending an epidemic in Mexico City. Estimates indicate that over nine million native people were baptized within ten years of the apparition. Pope Benedict XIV approved devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe in 1754 and established the feast day of December 12. The people of Mexico and Central America have a great devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe. It remains one of the most visited sacred site by the faithful.

“A great sign was seen the heaven, a woman clothed with the sun...” (Revelation 12:1-2).

**Week of Christian Unity:** January 25, 2023 Theme: *Do good, seek justice.*

The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement sponsor a writing contest for students aged 13-19. This year's theme is focused on: “Do good; seek justice” (Isaiah 1:17). Resources: <https://bit.ly/3AgBy51>

### **Spiritual Growth of Members**

The Mary Ward Centre holds monthly contemplative afternoons from 2:30PM - 4:30PM. They begin with a prayer followed by private reflection time in the chapel. Registration is online; an offering of \$10.00 is suggested. The Centre is a ministry of the Loretto Sisters Centre for education, spirituality and justice. Catholic social teachings are the core of their ministry. The Mary Ward Centre sponsors events and workshops to create awareness and understanding of marginalized people. It “works collaboratively with other religious organizations, educational institutions, faith-based justice groups and civil society to improve the lives of God’s creation.” By accompanying vulnerable sectors of society, they aim to be agents of change to improve their lives. Information: [www.marywardcentre.ca](http://www.marywardcentre.ca)

**The Mystery of Advent:** *An Ignatian Reflection Series.* December 5, 12, 19  
Information: [info.marywardcentre@gmail.com](mailto:info.marywardcentre@gmail.com)

**A documentary film:** *Bridge of Roses* has been released by Dunn Media Entertainment. It is the story of Our Lady of the Cape, Cap de la Madeleine, Quebec. The film documents how a miraculous bridge of ice over the St. Lawrence River gave birth to the National Shrine near Trois-Rivieres, Quebec. To read the background to the film:

[www.sanctuaire-ndc.ca/en/bridge-of-roses](http://www.sanctuaire-ndc.ca/en/bridge-of-roses) To access the film at a low cost: [www.bridgeofroses.film.com](http://www.bridgeofroses.film.com)

**A Pastoral Letter from The Catholic Bishops of Canada to Young People:** Arise and Become Who You Are! See Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops: [www.cccb.ca](http://www.cccb.ca)



## ORGANIZATION

Sub- Conveners:

Online Membership  
Member Development

Kate O'Quinn

Philomena Menezes  
Andrea Tjioe

### Annual Reports

The 2022 Annual Report Surveys were made available to councils effective November 1, 2022. SnapSurveys will be used to collect the annual council activity information. This year there will be **one survey per council instead of one per position**. You are encouraged to work together at an executive meeting to complete the survey, then enter your responses digitally. If you have any issues, please contact national staff immediately at [info@cwl.ca](mailto:info@cwl.ca). The survey will definitely be used by all levels of the League when planning and continuing programs and initiatives for parish councils, but most importantly, as you work together as a team to complete the survey. It is an affirmation of all you have achieved as a council, despite all the challenges that come your way! **For councils using digital input (online), your due date for completion is midnight January 15, 2023.**



### Membership – Recruiting and Maintaining

Councils are now in the throes of membership drives. If you have not yet designated a weekend where you have membership pulpit talks at all the masses, please make sure to book a weekend soon. You are also encouraged to set up a table(s) where you can put out displays and/or literature on the League and you are physically present to meet and greet parishioners as they leave the church. Remember, the personal touch is always the most effective. The 300 Series: Promotional Material on the National website has literature you can download to assist you with your membership drive.

There is a new resource on the National website in the 600 Series: Manuals (#635) - *Actively Engage Members and Homebound Members*. This resource explains the stages of engagement that councils can use with ideas of communication, spirituality and activities.

Membership as of September 30, 2022 is 5894, down 615 from September 30, 2021. Maintaining memberships is also a challenge and needs to be addressed by councils. Organization Chairs, you may want to consider forming a committee and call members who have not renewed their membership to discover why and how your council can help.

Remember, per capita fees are submitted to National office by January 1, 2023 (this includes national, provincial and diocesan dues). Regional dues are sent directly to your regional treasurer.

Congratulations and welcome to Blessed Frederic Ozanam, Markham, North York Region, a new Charter Council in the Toronto Diocese!!

### **Leadership Development**

I am pleased to report that three Parish Executive Training (PET) sessions were offered in September. Over 150 members attended these virtual sessions, representing forty-five councils from the seven regions. Effective Meetings Virtual Presentation was offered in October as a CWL Wednesday session, with approximately sixty-nine members representing thirty-five councils from the seven regions. Thank you to all who were able to attend these sessions. Thank you also to our regional chairs and to Andrea Tjioe and Philomena Menezes, TDC Organization sub-conveners, who assisted with the presentations. As some councils will be holding elections in the new year, I will again offer PET and Effective Meetings Virtual Presentations early in the new year. Please note: you do not have to be an executive member to attend these presentations – all members are most welcome and encouraged to attend.

### **Development Day**

Development Day, to be held on Saturday, February 11, 2023, will be virtual. The day will centre on the provincial theme “*Go Make a Difference*”. The morning session will begin with a live stream Mass, celebrated by Fr. Liborio Amaral, our TDC Spiritual Advisor. I am so pleased to announce that our Keynote Speaker for the morning session will be Honorary Life Member, Barbara Dowding, speaking on “The Art of Accompaniment”. Some of our Toronto Diocesan Honorary and Life Members will be sharing their stories about who has accompanied them on their CWL journey. The afternoon session will focus on The Beatitudes: *Putting the Beatitudes Into Action*, challenging us as members to “*Go Make a Difference*”. Presenters will be our TDC Standing Committee Chairs. We will be using break out rooms in both morning and afternoon sessions. To help defray any costs for the day, there is a suggested donation of \$10.00/member or \$25.00/Council. Presidents, please register, online, all the members from your council who will be attending, and send cheques, payable to Toronto Diocesan Catholic Women’s League, to Shaila D’Souza.

## **Strategic Plan Update**

The Generational Activity Working Group has completed their resource - *The Intergenerational Activity Program* and it is now ready for use. This program outlines the importance of and offers suggestions for, intergenerational activity that can benefit all age groups in the league. It offers inclusiveness regardless of age. This resource can be found on the National website, 600 Series: Manuals (#634). There are many activities and ideas on how to reach out, welcome and learn from women of all ages.

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## **PAST PRESIDENT/HISTORIAN**

**Hilarion Mitchell**

Greetings past presidents/historians. We usher in 2023 and the new League executive structure as reflected in the revised Constitution & Bylaws (C&B) released in December. Updates will be made to the National Manual of Policy and Procedures (P&P), Handbook for Past Presidents and other League resources as they pertain to these changes.



## **Parish Council Elections**

The president appoints a nominations and elections committee which the past president may chair. The president as an ex-officio member and the chair of the committee (C&B, Part XVI, Section 3) are excluded as candidates. All members can vote during the elections. Council executive for the term starting 2023 now includes the executive officers (president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, past president) and the three standing committees' chairs (faith, service and social justice) reflected on the updated 2022 Nomination and Elections Form (#521) on the national website.

Members with paid membership for the current year are eligible to hold office at the parish and other levels of the League (as per stated criteria). The term of office remains two years and an elected or appointed officer shall serve only one term in the same office. The exception is the treasurer and the standing committee chairpersons who may be elected to a second consecutive term. The chairperson in a second term shall be assigned to a different standing committee. For more election's procedures, refer to the Eligibility, Nominations and Elections pages 101-109 in the National P&P.

## **Preserving Your Council's History and Archives**

It is important to maintain the council archives. This task is assigned to the past president/historian. The recording secretary should take precise and accurate minutes so that executive reports do not take up valuable space in storage. Purging must occur in managing the council's archives based on the guidelines below:

- Update and review the archives every two years.
- Include minutes, motion books, membership and deceased member lists, treasurer ledgers, photos, council's charter, etc.
- Use fire and waterproof lockable filing cabinet stored on church property or in a secure location but never at a member's private residence.
- Use acid free files and boxes for storage and an acid-free pen when labelling photos.
- Maintain three copies of the archival inventory in the archival files, past president's archival file and for the current president.
- Allocate funds in the council budget to purchase archival supplies (i.e., binders, filing cabinet, storage, etc.)
- Send a copy of the council's history book (if one exists) to the CWL national office at C-702 Scotland Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3M 1X5, marked 'Archives'.

The Archive Guidelines for League History (#601) and Archives Brochure (#601b) with more detailed information on managing the archives are available on the national website.

## **Past Presidents Summary of Term**

Each past president is encouraged to write two to three pages with highlights of her term as president, and it should be accompanied with photos of herself and the executive as they are a valuable historical record. The presidents, whose term of office occurred during the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversaries for national (2020) and Toronto (2021) and our councils' anniversaries, the COVID-19 pandemic, have much to say on their impact for future generations.

## **2023 Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Award**

Nominations are being accepted for the 2023 Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Award. The award recognizes members who exemplify the Objects of the League and the core values of Faith, Service and Social Justice through their active mentoring of other members. This is an excellent opportunity to recognize our fellow Sisters in the League who are truly *Catholic and Living It! Called to Serve*. We encourage any member or

parish council to nominate a member from within their council or another council who meet the Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Award criteria below:

- Category A: Parish Level: Members of the parish council.
- Category B: Auxiliary Level: Members who served at the regional, diocesan, provincial or national levels of the League.

The recipients will be awarded at the 102<sup>nd</sup> Toronto Diocesan Council Annual Convention April 24 - 25, 2023. Contact your regional chair or [cwtoronto.ca/forms](http://cwtoronto.ca/forms) for the guidelines, criteria, and nomination form, for more details. Completed nomination forms are to be returned to Hilarion Mitchell, Past President/Historian [mitchellsmith@rogers.com](mailto:mitchellsmith@rogers.com) by **Friday March 31, 2023**.

This new year represents exciting times for the League with the changes now unfolding for the longevity of this wonderful sisterhood of Catholic women. Best wishes to each of you and the League in 2023.

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## **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

**Shaila D'Souza**

As the corresponding secretary for your council, you should continue to stay connected with members during this season and beyond, by acknowledging special liturgical holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, sympathies, and other occasions through phone, regular mail/card, text, email, and social media.



As of the 2023 calendar year, councils holding elections will only have one secretary position, due to the Constitution & Bylaws amendments in August 2022. The current 2022-2024 Toronto Diocesan Council Executive ending April 2024 will be the last corresponding secretary position.

## **Emails Guidelines and Etiquette**

In-person communication is still the best way to stay in touch with others. Emails are widely used to conduct League and personal business as they are fast, cost-effective and provide a permanent record of correspondence. The League National Manual of Policy and Procedure (2022) was updated to include email guidelines to the privacy policy (page 178, lines 11-42) and that communication occurs by many methods (page 182, lines 1-13).

Sometimes, the intent in emails may be lost between the sender and the receiver. It is important to demonstrate that you are *Catholic and Living It!* by being respectful and mindful of good manners in email correspondence.

Email addresses are hidden on **Bcc** (blind carbon copy) but are visible to recipients on the **Cc** (carbon copy) line. Usually if you are on the **Cc** line, you are added as a FYI only so a response may not be needed from you.

Happy courteous emailing! As your diocesan corresponding secretary, I am looking forward to receiving your parish council corresponding secretary 2022 annual reports on your achievements and suggested improvements during the year. Your deadline to complete and submit your annual report is January 15, 2023. Wishing you, your council and your family a blessed Christmas and a beautiful 2023.

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## **TREASURER**

**Lolita Perry**

Once again it is the time to wrap up the current year and start planning for the upcoming year. It is a great time to sort through unwanted manual and digital documents. If you are ending your term, and in the process of preparing files for the next treasurer, ensure to include written lists detailing responsibilities.



### **2023 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. A budget is planned in consultation with the president and the executive. It is then presented to the general membership for discussion and approval, generally at a January meeting.

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 by subscribing to this newsletter - three issues for \$12 annually.

### **2022 Financial Statements**

It is the time to prepare your council's annual year-end Financial Statement so as to be in compliance with our Constitution & Bylaws and The Not-for-Profit Corporation Act. The Financial Statement is to be shared with

members at least twenty-one days prior to the meeting. Members are to be notified of the date and time this meeting is to take place. The Financial Statement for 2022 should be presented and voted upon by the general membership, in the beginning of 2023. 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.

### **2022 Voluntary Funds – Toronto Diocesan, Provincial and National**

All remittance forms are available at our website [www.cwl.toronto](http://www.cwl.toronto) and follow the tab.

The Toronto Diocesan Council voluntary funds are St. Michael's Scholarship Fund and Margaret Ann Jacobs-Catholic Children's Aid Foundation Scholarship Fund. It is important that all donations are received on or before December 31, 2022, to be reflected in the 2022 Annual Report.

### **Liability Insurance**

A liability insurance is needed to protect the CWL from financial loss. The cost of this insurance for 2023 is \$0.50 per member. This premium is in addition to your per capita fees.

### **2023 Membership Fees Submissions**

During the 102<sup>nd</sup> annual national convention, the instructed vote to increase the per capita fee was adopted. The breakdown of the per capita fee commencing January 2023 are as follows: National: \$25; Provincial: \$3; Diocesan: \$4; Liability Insurance: \$0.50

Total remittance to National: \$32.50. The regional fee is remitted directly to the council's designated region.

Some councils start off the new year with membership drives. Membership fees are to be remitted to the CWL National office by January 1, 2023, and should be completed by February 28, 2023, using *Parish Council Remittance Form* (form #516). Please refer to the national website <https://cwl.ca/resources/500-series-forms>

Parish councils are encouraged to enroll by the online membership program by filling out Form #515. All communications are received through email. The pre-authorized debit plan has been established to make the membership payment system more efficient.

### **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.

### **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 annual budget, have financial record audited or examined annually. The treasure should refer to communiques and/or annual reports from all levels; file with the recording secretary a copy of her monthly and annual report.

Any questions concerning your post as Treasurer, please feel free to send me an email : [lolitaperry@rogers.com](mailto:lolitaperry@rogers.com)

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## **CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE**

Sub-Convener:

The CWL Strategic Plan Implementation Working Groups are now entering year four. Existing standing committees have been reduced to three, named Faith, Service and Social Justice, reflecting the League's Mission Statement calling its members to *grow in faith, and to witness the love of God through ministry and service*. Christian Family Life focuses on faith and service through spiritual growth of others.

**Faith** entails, but is not limited to prayer, sanctity of life, Catholic teachings, role of women in the church, vocations, ecumenism and interfaith endeavours, acting on pro-life legislation, reproductive technology, and euthanasia.

**Service** entails, but is not limited to providing service to those in need, their parish, their local community, the country and the world. Members are encouraged to address the corporal works of mercy through volunteering activities, supporting areas of homelessness, human trafficking, poverty, bullying, racism, through educational endeavours and implementing action

## **Ciscily Winkler**

Kellie Hilliard





plans of adopted resolutions that pertain to service. Please check the CWL Constitution and Bylaws for updates to structural changes [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca).

## **National Christian Family Life Fall Memo**

The fall memo from national CFL chairperson Dorothy Johansen includes some excellent information and resources in Marriage and Family; Sanctity of Life; Ministry to: Youth, Disabled, Senior, Widowed, Separated and Divorced; and Vocations. Please visit website [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) to read this memo. Betsy Currier, provincial chairperson shared President Linda Squarzolo's theme "*Go Make a Difference!*" and the Action Plan for Vocations project. Councils are encouraged to offer a mass for someone who might need encouragement, and to liaise with parish and community services. Directives # 1, 2 and 3, [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca).

## **Sanctity of Life**

### **Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)**

MAiD has become the most controversial pro-life issue next to abortion. The debate continues about MAiD as Bill C-7, made law in March 2021, aims to expand euthanasia to individuals with mental illness, and with no further underlying medical condition or foreseeable death. Individuals with mental illness such as anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder, personality disorders, PTSD, etc. will become eligible for MAiD. While Canada is still determining who should be eligible for MAiD for mental illness, some experts say it could become the most permissive jurisdiction in the world. [www.https://nationalpost.com/health/Canada-mental-illness-maid-medical-aid-in-dying](https://nationalpost.com/health/Canada-mental-illness-maid-medical-aid-in-dying)

As of March 17, 2023, MAiD will be expanded to competent adults whose sole underlying condition is mental illness. This approach to MAiD and mental illness has invoked caution from many psychiatrists around the world. Some cite that there is a lack of prognostic predictability, and absence of scientific evidence to determine when psychiatric suffering has become irremediable and essentially incurable. Others suggest that MAiD should not become a substitute for equitable access to good care. The Canadian Mental Health Association said that 70% to 90% of people living with serious mental illness in Canada are unemployed, making isolation and poverty overlapping factors. Canada has been under the international microscope for the increasing use of medically assisted death for physical disorders. The latest Health Canada reports show a steady increase over the past six years to where 3.3% of all deaths in 2021 were from MAiD, this

compared with 4% for European average. In the Netherlands, 90% of requests do not end in MAiD, they are either retracted by the patients or denied by the psychiatrists.

## **Palliative Care**

Palliative Care improves the quality of life of patients, their families and caregivers when challenges of life-threatening illness bring on physical, psychological, social or spiritual changes. Sadly, not everyone has access to such care for many reasons, with the most common being insufficient palliative care centres, low staffing, and low salary and training of health professionals. Some, national health policies and systems often do not include palliative care.

**Horizons of Hope:** *A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes* on palliative Care is designed to help everyone: the sick and dying, family members and caregivers. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) formed a Joint ad hoc Committee on Palliative Care with other partners to address the complexities of end-of- life issues in Canada. Horizons of Hope is a national fund recipient of the CWL until August 2023. Please donate!

## **Recommendations**

Watch [youtube.com/marchforlifecanada](https://www.youtube.com/marchforlifecanada):

**I AM** Standing for **Life** National **PRO-LIFE** Roundtable

### **Revisit Resolutions**

2018.03; Designation of Hospice/Palliative Care Services in Facilities to Exclude Medical Assistance in Dying

2017.04; Protection from Coercion of Conscience for Healthcare Professionals

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*“Trust the past to the mercy of God, the present to His love, and the future to His Providence”*

St. Augustine



## **The Catholic Women's League of Canada Toronto Diocesan Council**

**Development Day 2023**

**Theme: *Go Make a Difference***

**Saturday, February 11, 2023**

**9:00 a.m. Live Stream Mass**

**Celebrated by**

**Reverend Father Liborio Amaral, Toronto Diocesan Spiritual Advisor**

**Morning Keynote Speaker: Honorary Life Member Barbara Dowding**

### **THE ART OF ACCOMPANIMENT**



**Afternoon Session (1:00 p.m.): THE BEATITUDES**

**Putting the Beatitudes into Action – To “*Go Make a Difference*”  
in your councils, community, world**

**Presenters: Toronto Diocesan Council Standing Committee Chairs**

**Cost is a Toronto Diocesan Council suggested donation:**

**\$10 per Member or \$25 per Council**

**RSVP: Shaila D’Souza: [shailaflavy@gmail.com](mailto:shailaflavy@gmail.com)**

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

**Presidents, when submitting your RSVP, please provide the following  
information for each member attending from your Council.**

Parish Council

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

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

NAME	PHONE #	Email

For inquiries: Kate O'Quinn, Toronto Diocesan Organization Chair  
[kateoquinn@yahoo.ca](mailto:kateoquinn@yahoo.ca)

### **Development Day 2023** **Program**

- 9:00 a.m. Eucharistic Celebration (Live stream)  
Rev. Fr. Liborio Amaral  
Toronto Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, St. Mary Brampton
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee Break (In your own home)
- 9:50 a.m. Reconvene with Zoom Access
- 10:00 a.m. Welcome/Introductions/Gathering Prayer
- 10:20 a.m. Keynote Speaker, Honorary Life Member,  
Barbara Dowding *"The Art of Accompaniment"*  
Includes: Toronto Diocese Honorary and Life Members  
sharing personal stories on who has accompanied them on  
their CWL journeys and Break Out room sharing
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. *The Beatitudes: Putting the Beatitudes into Action to*  
*"Go Make a Difference"*  
Presenters – Standing Committee Chairs and includes  
Break Out room sharing
- 2:30 p.m. Closing Remarks, Prayer

*"The Beatitudes are in some sense the Christian's calling card. They identify us as followers of Jesus. We are called to be blessed, to be followers of Jesus, to confront the troubles and anxieties of our age with the spirit and love of Jesus."*

Pope Francis

**102nd Annual Toronto Diocesan Council Convention**  
***Catholic and Living It! Called to Serve***  
**Monday April 24 and Tuesday April 25, 2023**  
**Ajax Convention Centre**  
**550 Beck Crescent, Ajax ON, L1Z 1C9**

We are pleased to let you know that we have a new venue for this coming convention, with hotels on the property, ample free parking and easy access from Highway 401.

For the first time, we are going to come together in the eastern part of the Archdiocese. So needless to say, we anticipate a great attendance from those in the near regions who have a shorter distance to travel and those from farther afield, who will come and experience the joy of meeting Sisters in the League in a refreshing new environment.

The hotels available right on site are:

**Hilton Garden Inn**, 500 Beck Crescent, Ajax, On., L1Z 1C9.

Phone: **905-686-9400. Group Code ID is CWLOC.**

If you wish to book your room online, the link is:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=YYZAJGI&groupCode=CWLOC&arrivaldate=2023-04-23&departuredat=2023-04-26&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

Rates are \$159 per night, plus HST, for double occupancy. There is a surcharge of \$10 per person for up to two additional persons- limit of four people per room.

***Deadline to get this rate is March 23, 2023***

**Homewood Suites**, 600 Beck Crescent, Ajax, ON, L1Z 1C9.

Phone: **905-686-5969.**

Rates are \$169 double occupancy, per night, plus HST. If you want to book a suite, please be in touch with Mary Ellen Stinson, the member of our team who is liaison with the Convention Complex. Contact information below.

Our theme from national this year is *Catholic and Living It!* As a Diocesan Council our sub-theme is *Called to Serve*.

The convention will open on Monday, April 24, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. with the Resolutions Dialogue. The Opening Eucharistic Celebration will take place at 1:00 pm.

More details will be provided in the Spring 2023 newsletter and on the Toronto Diocesan Council website at [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca)

**Your 2023 Convention Team contacts are:**

Mary Hawkley 905-668-1644 [mahawkley@sympatico.ca](mailto:mahawkley@sympatico.ca)

Mary Ellen Stinson 905-666-3752 [m.e.stinson@hotmail.com](mailto:m.e.stinson@hotmail.com)

Lynette Mendes 647-927-1136 [lynettecwl@gmail.com](mailto:lynettecwl@gmail.com)

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

January 15	Annual reports due by councils
January 28	Joy of Leadership workshop (Virtual)
February 11	Development Day (Virtual)
March 11	Mary Matthews Public Speaking contest deadline
March 14	Ordinandi Dinner
March 19	Deadline Mary Dobell and Jean McCann contests (Youth Awards)
March 31	Patricia Beattie Awards nominations deadline
April 24/25	102 <sup>nd</sup> Toronto Diocesan Convention in Ajax
May 31	St. Michael's College Scholarship submissions deadline

Also refer to item #622 Calendar of Social Justice events for more resources

## **SPRING REGIONAL MEETING DATES – 2023**

March 7	Humber Valley Region
March 13	Toronto Region
March 16	Durham Region
March 22	Northern Region
March 23	North York Region
March 27	Scarborough Region
March 30	Peel Region

## **Happy Anniversary!**

*Padre Pio, Durham Region – 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
*St. Gregory, Durham Region – 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
*St. Luke, North York – 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
*Holy Spirit, Northern Region – 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
*St. Andrew, Northern Region – 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
*St. Mary, Brampton, Peel Region – 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
*St. Dunstan, Scarborough Region – 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

## **SERVICE AWARDS**

### **70 Year Membership Pins**

#### **Northern Region**

St. John Vianney

Everdina Robinson

### **65 Year Membership Pins**

#### **Northern Region**

St. John Vianney

Maria VanDerMast Marg White-Jacobs

### **60 Year Membership Pins**

#### **North York Region**

Annunciation of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary

Sacred Heart

Anica Mikolich

Catherine O'Neill Anne Marsh

#### **Northern Region**

St. Patrick's, Stayner

St. John Vianney

Margaret Weel

Joan Wannamaker

### **55 Year Membership Pins**

#### **Northern Region**

St. John Vianney

Florence Dietrich

### **50 Year Membership Pins**

#### **Northern Region**

St. John Vianney

Mary Ann Collingbourne Ena Howercroft

Prima Parent Georgette Poliquin

#### **North York Region**

Sacred Heart

Grace Chennette Isla Pantele Joan Holloway

Lynda Lukovits Katharina Kohnen

Ella Unterlander

### **45 Year Membership Pins**

**North York Region**  
Annunciation of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary  
**Northern Region**  
St. John Vianney

Evelyn Fontana  
  
Ingrid Loeffler Theresa Mika

### **40-Year Membership Pins**

**North York Region**  
Annunciation of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary  
**Durham Region**  
St. Francis de Sales  
**Northern Region**

Mary Bjorkman  
  
Rosemary Plantinga  
Brenda Weel

### **35-Year Membership Pins**

**North York Region**  
Annunciation of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary  
St. Mary Immaculate

Patricia McKinnon  
Maura Moore Nadia Rivard

### **30-Year Membership Pins**

**North York Region**  
Annunciation of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary  
St. Mary Immaculate  
St. Patrick, Markham  
**Northern Region**  
St. John Vianney

Joan Missio  
  
Mary Barry Louise Wilson  
Marion Fullerton  
  
Rosella Barrie Cassandra Dopp

### **25-Year Membership Pins**

**North York Region**  
St. John Chrysostom  
St. Joseph the Worker  
  
  
St. Justin Martyr  
St. Mary Immaculate

Lorraine Erskine Grace Callow  
Cecilia Ferreira Joanne Tata Irene Sztuka  
Amelia Aliermo Carol Fernandez  
Caterina Gucciardi Lisa Caldarola Teresa Simone  
Fatima Gocool  
Ruth Fuyarchuk Joan Barrett  
Marlene Cowan Barbara Henderson Boots Montano



## **20-Year Membership Pins**

### **North York Region**

St. John Chrysostom  
St. Justin Martyr

Barbara Eaton Joan Fray  
Vicky Ton Christine Abela  
Janet Twaddle Carmen Galvan  
Heather Penny Angela Rambaldini  
Antoinette Stirling

### **Durham Region**

St. Francis de Sales

Loretta Lundy Vivian Henry

### **Northern Region**

St. John Vianney

Lisa Connell Valerie Egerton  
Elizabeth Moore Pat Smrcka

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## **COMMUNICATIONS**

**Nenita MacKenzie**

Sub-Convener

Lucia Vacca

A warm welcome to all newly elected parish council communications chairs. I am very excited to meet you at our various upcoming events this winter. Please do not hesitate to reach out for any assistance and support you may need in your new role. We play a vital role in keeping our members informed of events and activities.



### **League Magazines, Newsletter and Websites of Interests**

The fall 2022 issue of the *Canadian League* magazine will be in hard copy format and mailed to all paid members. Please inform your online administrator of any changes to members' address in order to receive it in a timely manner.

A National Media Assistant, Catherine, was hired when no one came forward to volunteer and perform the duties as social media assistant. Any submission to "Spotlight" should be sent to Catherine at

[digitalmedia@cwlc.ca](mailto:digitalmedia@cwlc.ca). Continue to send in photographs and information of activities from your council to be featured in "Spotlight" and on social media.

The National Board, in conjunction with Clark Communications, has developed and launched an engagement hub. The hub is intended to draw traffic to it and then redirect the traffic to the League's regular website. It

will generate new leads for recruiting and provide Clark-curated information to those who sign-up to receive updates. It may be found at [catholicwomenunite.ca](https://catholicwomenunite.ca). Please make members aware of this site. The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission for Canadians who are in need of immediate mental health crisis and suicide prevention intervention. Once implemented by telephone and wireless service providers, calls and texts to 9-8-8 will be directed to a mental health crisis or suicide prevention service free of charge. The implementation of 9-8-8, an easy to remember three-digit number will help reduce barriers to mental health and suicide prevention resources. For more information please visit

<https://www.canada.ca/en/radio-television-telecommunications/news/2022/08/crtc-to-implement-new-9-8-8-number-for-mental-health-crisis-and-suicide-prevention.html>

### **Ontario Provincial Council Online Newsletter**

The Ontario Provincial Council releases a monthly online newsletter with reports and highlighted events of one of the thirteen Diocese and Ontario Provincial Council Chairs. Toronto Diocesan Council will be featured in November 2023. Members are encouraged to subscribe to OPC online Newsletter. Please go to [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca) to subscribe. The online newsletter is free of charge and automatically arrives in your email inbox at the beginning of the month.

### **Christmas Postage Stamp and Truth and Reconciliation Postage Stamp**

Canada Post will release the Christmas stamp called Christmas Star on November 1. Council members are encouraged to purchase the Christmas stamps from the Post Office. For more information, please visit <https://www.rpsc.org/canadapost.htm>

Canada Post has unveiled four new stamps that encourage awareness and reflection on the tragic legacy of Indian residential schools and the need of healing and reconciliation. This stamp issue is the first in an annual series showcasing the visions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis artists. The stamps were released on September 29, in connection with the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30.

The three Indigenous artists are Jackie Traverse, First Nations artist (Lake St. Martin, Manitoba) – Anishanaabe, Ojibwe; Gayle Uyagaqi Kabloona, Inuit artist – Qamani'tuaq (Baker Lake, Nunavut); Kim Gullion Stewart, Métis artist – Athabasca, Alberta (currently lives in Pinantan Lake, British Columbia) and Blair Thompson, artist and graphic designer. We must do more than talk about reconciliation and challenge ourselves to deepen our collective awareness of our dark and painful history and learn the harsh lessons from it as we begin to walk the path of healing and reconciliation.

<https://www.canadapost-postescanada.ca/blogs/personal/perspectives/stamps-truth-and-reconciliation/>

### **Catholic Register**

This past July, Pope Francis undertook a penitential pilgrimage across Canada. A special Commemorative Magazine marks Pope Francis' historic penitential pilgrimage to Canada that endures as a key turning point in the reconciliation of Indigenous and non-Indigenous relations for Canada and the Catholic Church. The sixty-four page full colour magazine "Penance and Progress: Pope Francis maps a path of Hope" is now available at <https://www.catholicregister.org/papalvisitmagazine>

Remember....Please make use of all Catholic Women's League online resources, particularly the promotional and information pamphlets. Continue to practice WEB Wednesday by making an effort to visit the three levels of the League weekly at:

- Toronto [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca)
- Provincial [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca)
- National [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca)

Represent the League by proudly wearing Catholic Women's League scarfs and pins to all League events and activities.

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## **COMMUNITY LIFE**

**Elizabeth Joseph**

Sub-Convener:

Yvonne LeGall

### **Life and Dignity of the Human Person**

To ensure justice for survivors, families and future generations of Indigenous children, the Canadian government has appointed Kimberly Murray, an independent interlocutor to collaborate with First Nations, Métis and Inuit Leaders. The aim is to identify measures for a new legal framework "to ensure culturally appropriate treatment and protection of unmarked graves and burial sites of children at former residential schools" (Justice.gc.ca). Kimberly Murray will facilitate dialogue between territories, provinces, local communities and various churches. The process will include active listening and be guided by "culturally informed, trauma-



informed, appropriate and respectful conversations based on Indigenous customs, decision and consensus building practices” (Department of Justice Canada, June 2022).

### **Compassionate Community Care- ‘My Story’**

Compassionate Community Care has developed a program to combat the lack of companionship, reduce social isolation and loneliness experienced by seniors and those with disabilities and serious health issues. The program is highlighted through six chapters: Our Human Needs; Visiting Advice; My Story Matters; Communicating with People and Disabilities; Advocacy at the Doctor’s Office; Elder Abuse and Other Problems. The program also provides a “My Story” interview workbook to guide individuals.

### **Social and Economic Justice**

The Neskantaga First Nation, who has been dealing with a long-term boiled water advisory, has filed a court action against the Ontario Government arguing that it was not adequately consulted during environmental assessments that were completed in the region. Neskantagas Chiefs claims community evacuation due to unsafe water and effects of the COVID-19 pandemic hindered meaningful engagement in consultations on road development in the Northern region of the Ring of Fire. Consequently, the Neskantagas chiefs, in conjunction with other First Nation communities in the western James and Hudson Bay areas, have called a moratorium on mining developments. They are advocating to preserve land rights, water in the Attawapiskat River and the boreal peat carbon sink. Chiefs expressed having “token involvement in a federally-led regional assessment” of the Ring of Fire to develop three roadways that pave the way for a mining industry that can further impact the water quality, environment and their way of life.

To avoid a catastrophic climate change, Chiefs have proposed a “mutually and equally co-led, co-enforced, co-developed Indigenous Regional Impact Assessment” with Indigenous participation and decision making in development of their traditional lands and watersheds (TVO.org. 2019). Source: Canadian Mining Journal. [www.canadianminingjournal.com](http://www.canadianminingjournal.com)

### **Indigenous Child-Family Welfare Services**

Some Indigenous run Child and Family Services are being threatened by government’s changes to funding. Children and families will be left without services and prevention support. Originally the \$40 billion settlement

agreement assigned to child welfare has been cut in half and \$20 million is being redirected to communities for individual compensation. It means that some non-government child welfare agencies in urban areas may lose funding resulting in a massive increase of children entering the child welfare system. Indigenous Service Minister Hajdu claims changes to the welfare system will make services more responsive to families and communities. Funding changes will depend on the federal government's final agreement on long- term child welfare system reform by December 31, 2022; and endorsement of the \$20 million compensation package for individuals by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. The plan is to support First Nations' greater control and involvement in service delivery. Some agencies question service eligibility, only for First Nations children living on a reserve, or who have legal status under the Indian Act or those connected to their community but are living in Toronto. The issue is related to Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action 1.2 on Child Welfare. (Olivia Stefanovich, CBC News, October 2022).

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## EDUCATION AND HEALTH

**Andrea Smart**

Sub-Conveners:

Carolyn Meaney  
Catherine von Zuben

### Youth Awards

The Toronto Diocesan CWL has set dates for the 2023 Youth Awards contests. Email packages were sent to all the Regional Chairs for distribution to councils. Deadlines for the contests are: *Mary Matthews: March 11, 2023, Mary Dobell Poetry and Essay: March 19, 2023, Jean McCann Service Award: March 19, 2023.* Each region and parish council will set their deadlines based on the Diocesan deadlines.



### St. Michael's College Scholarship

Congratulations to Madelaine Kukovica, the 2022 recipient of the Catholic Women's League – St. Michael's College Scholarship. A congratulatory letter with an invitation to attend our 2023 convention in April will be sent to Madelaine. Catherine von Zuben is looking after the 2023 applications. The deadline for submissions is May 31, 2023.

## **Scholarships Funds**

Please continue to support the Toronto Diocesan Scholarship funds with your generous donations by using the *Toronto Diocesan Voluntary Remittance form* that can be found on the Toronto Diocesan CWL website. Remember the *St. Michael's College Scholarship and Margaret Ann Jacobs Catholic Children Aid Foundation Scholarship* are funded solely by your council's generous donations. Cheques are made payable to **The Catholic Women's League of Canada** and send to Lolita Perry, CWL Treasurer. Please remember to include these scholarships in your annual budget.

## **Change to National Bursary Criteria**

Margaret Schwab, National Education and Health Chair has advised of a change to the National Bursary criteria. The addition of education toward a nursing degree has been added. Each application will be examined on a case-by-case basis to ensure that the intent of the applicant is to provide ministry to life at all stages from conception to natural death. The updated criteria and application form are found on the [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca) website and the deadline for applying is May 15. The bursary gives up to \$1,000 to qualified applicants. All members should be made aware of this bursary and be encouraged to apply.

## **Blood Services Canada**

In her most recent communique, Margaret Schwab reminds us that the League has an ongoing commitment to provide 200 donations of blood this year in partnership with Canadian Blood Services (CBS). The CBS is in immediate need for new and returning blood, platelet and plasma donors. Today, CBS has 31,000 fewer active donors than at the beginning of the pandemic. This is the greatest decline in numbers in a decade. Please consider helping others in need by giving the gift of life. Perhaps you could take family members and friends along with you. All healthy individuals are able to give blood from age seventeen onward. There is no age which is too old to help. The League Partner ID with Canadian Blood Services is CATH011269.

## **Education**

The 2021-2022 Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) results, show most Grade 6 students are failing to meet provincial math standards with only forty-seven per cent passing the test. To address this, the government is deploying "math action teams" to underperforming school boards and making a Grade 9 online math course accessible. Schools will also begin screening the reading levels of students in the second year of kindergarten to Grade 2 and start regularly reviewing the curriculum to

ensure it is inline with skills needed in the workforce. The province's publicly funded tutoring program, previously introduced last April, will be extended. More details on Minister Lecce's announcement can be found on the News Ontario website:

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1002410/province-takes-action-to-ensure-students-catch-up>

### **Long-Term Care**

The Ontario Ministry of Long-Term Care announced in October it is investing \$5.91 million to create four new Behavioural Specialized Units (BSU) at long-term care homes in Ajax, Penetanguishene and Scarborough. The BSU units specialize in care for individuals with complex behaviours like dementia, by providing increased staffing, a tailored environment, focused behavioural assessment and enhanced care planning. With this announcement, there are a total of sixteen Behavioural Specialized Units with 322 beds at long-term care homes province wide. The province is also investing \$37 million in 2022-23, and additional funding annually moving forward, to expand access to a range of specialized services and supports to help people with complex needs such as bariatric, behavioural and dialysis. The investment includes \$20 million this year for a new Long-Term Care Local Priorities Fund to be administered by Ontario Health, an additional \$5 million this year for Behavioural Supports Ontario (BSO), \$2.6 million this year for the Baycrest Virtual Behaviour Medicine program, and \$4.5 million in one-time funding for a new, fifty-six unit, mixed-market seniors' housing complex in Kenora.

### **Health Care Force Expansion**

The Ontario Ministry of Health, the College of Nurses of Ontario and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, will support recruitment efforts and make it faster and easier for health care professionals trained in Ontario, other provinces and internationally to register and practice in Ontario. Changes that will come into effect immediately, include: allowing internationally educated nurses to register in a temporary class and begin working sooner while they work towards full registration. More details can be found on the Ontario Newsroom website:

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1002427/ontario-doing-more-to-further-expand-health-workforce>

## LEGISLATION

Mary Tuccitto

Sub-Convener:

Suzanne Cockburn

Welcome to the newly elected Legislation Chairs and those continuing in their second term. Under the new league structure, Legislation falls under Social Justice. All Chairs are encouraged to organize a sub-committee to help them to monitor and study legislation. The parliamentary system is complex. Keeping our members updated on municipal, provincial and federal legislation is critical to directing our actions on many important issues facing all Canadians.



Encourage letter writing as a means of keeping in touch with Members of Parliament. The CWL *Personal Letter Writing Guide* from national (To Organize #173) can help guide in this endeavour. There is “strength in numbers” and your voice counts. Members are also encouraged to study *Hansard* which is the official report of the day-to-day parliamentary debates. Go to [www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/house-documents](http://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/house-documents)

As noted in the CWL National Executive Handbook: “*Legislation is social justice in action. It is the carrying out of League resolutions to influence government policy*” and that, is Faith in Action!

### **Review and Action on**

**Bill C-242** *An Act to amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (temporary resident visas for parents and grandparents)* This act is an amendment to section 15 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, stating that health insurance purchased from an insurance company outside of Canada which is approved by the Minister, satisfies any requirements that a foreign national applying for a temporary resident visa in order to visit their Canadian citizen or permanent resident child or grandchild must have private health insurance if they are intending to stay in Canada for an extended period of time.

**Bill 7** *More Beds, Better Care Act, 2022*. There has been much interest and information in the media recently on Bill 7 and it was expedited through the Ontario Legislature completing First Reading on August 18 and Royal Assent 13 days later on August 31. This Bill adds a new provision to the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act 2021* for patients designated by an attending clinician who are occupying a hospital bed as requiring an alternate level of care. This provision authorizes limited actions without the consent of



patients. Having a placement coordinator determine the patient's eligibility for a long-term care home, selecting a home and authorizing their admission are some of the actions included in this Bill. These actions will not be performed without the consent of the patient or their substitute decision maker, however, we must remain vigilant on all issues relating to Long-Term Care.

### **Action**

Continue to write letters and monitor the outcome of this Bill.

**Bill S-219** *An Act Respecting A National Skirt Day* This Act obtained third reading and was passed by the Senate on May 10, 2022, officially making January 4, each year known as *National Ribbon Skirt Day* throughout Canada. This Bill is in keeping with Section 1 of Article 15 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which states "Indigenous peoples have the right to dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in the education and public information". The Bill also contributes to the education of all Canadians to learn about the true history of Canada and celebrate Indigenous Peoples' history culture, pride and diversity.

### **Action**

Share this information, invite a speaker, learn about the history and tradition, celebrate National Ribbon Skirt Day on January 4 each year.

To follow Legislative proceedings live, and access Legislation Information visit: [www.parl.gc.ca/housechamberbusiness/chambercalendar](http://www.parl.gc.ca/housechamberbusiness/chambercalendar)

or go to [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)

### **Proposal of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Ontario**

Members of the public are invited to participate in the redrawing of the province of Ontario's 122 federal electoral districts. By law, after a ten year census, Canada's federal electoral boundaries are reviewed and revised as necessary. This is done in consultation with the public to better reflect any growth or changes in population and therefore better represent the community. With these possible changes, moving forward your electoral district in which you live and vote for your Member of Parliament may change as a result; and will likely take effect after April 2024 for a general election. In-person and virtual public hearings to gather opinions on electoral district names and the proposed boundaries are taking place. For further information and participation, please go to:

[www.redistribution2022.ca](http://www.redistribution2022.ca)

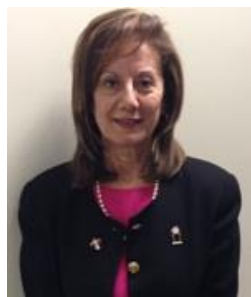
You may also request more details by calling 1-855-747-7224 (toll-free)

## RESOLUTIONS

Connie Cristinziano

Resolutions play a major role in the League's work. Through them, policy may be established, programs planned, or concerns and views expressed to government. Resolutions are the voice of the voiceless.

The league will emerge into a new era "The League of the Future" in 2023. As the further implementation of the strategic plan continues, I want to take this opportunity to thank outgoing and returning resolutions chairs for your efforts in promoting the action plans of each resolution. A very warm welcome to new resolutions' chairs. I look forward to working with all of you!



### National Resolutions Update

At the Annual National Convention in August, in Kelowna, BC one resolution was presented and adopted.

#### **2022.01 Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss Waste**

The resolution in its entirety is available to view or download on the National Website: [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) under To Act On and is also in the fall issue of *The Canadian League Magazine*.

### Provincial Updates

#### **2022 – 2024 Faith into Action – Making a Difference Project**

Ontario Provincial Council (OPC) Resolutions Chairperson Mary Capobianco reminds us "what better way to make a difference, than to use our resolutions action plans as our guide"

I encourage all parish councils to take part in this project. There are so many resolutions and action plans to choose from and so much we can do as members. Be sure to visit the Toronto Diocesan, OPC and National websites. Together we are stronger and what better way to put our Faith into Action and demonstrate how we can make a difference!

Additional information and **The Action Plan Report Form** can be found on the Ontario Provincial Council website:

[www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca) under Communiqués/resolutions directive #2. Please be sure to send me a copy of your completed Action Plan Report Form.

### **Toronto Diocesan Updates**

At the Faith and Action Workshop held on October 29, members were provided with an overview and life cycle of a resolution; how it links with legislation and communications (through advocacy and letter writing); the importance of the action plans; how they will be integrated under the new standing committees of Faith, Service and Social Justice. Members had the opportunity to formulate a resolution and its action plan. Resource packages were also provided. As the League transitions and becomes streamlined to three standing committees, it is more important than ever for parish council executives to assume leadership on resolutions, to promote their development and to initiate action and awareness by members on adopted League resolutions. The ministry of resolutions, their development and the advocacy achieved through them, are a means to grow in faith and being *Catholic and Living It!*

I encourage councils to include time at your council meetings for a group sharing session. Encourage members to bring forward a topic or issue in the news that concerns them and discuss whether a resolution could address the concern. This is a great way to spark interest in learning to research and develop a resolution. Seek members in your councils that are passionate regarding researching and developing resolutions. This is a great way to share the responsibilities and duties of this position, especially in councils that do not have a resolutions chair. Forming small groups and sharing current affairs and potential resolution topics are also part and parcel of *Catholic and Living It!*

### **2023 Resolutions Topics**

The Diocesan executive reviews and approves any resolution topic submitted by councils at their November meeting. The 2023 draft resolutions will be finalized in mid-January and will be included in councils' convention package. Be sure to review and discuss the draft resolutions and their briefs at your executive and general meetings, in

order that an informed vote can be made by the parish council voting delegate at the 2023 diocesan convention.

## 2022 Annual reports

It is very important that even though your council may not have a designated resolutions chair, a report should be submitted. I look forward to hearing how you and your councils, have worked on the action plans of the resolutions and your efforts in advocating for the most vulnerable.

Through resolutions, let us continue to be the voice of change! Our provincial theme invites us to “Go Make a Difference”

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The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Toronto Diocesan Council Presents

## Convention 2023 “Got Talent” Show

Two minute audition videos  
are now being accepted.

Email your submissions on or  
before January 31, 2023 to  
Tracy MacInnis at:

[t.macinnis60@gmail.com](mailto:t.macinnis60@gmail.com)





Show Date is:  
Monday, April 24,  
2023  
Show Time: 8:00 pm  
Ajax Convention Centre

Only 8 acts will be chosen to participate in the show. Start practicing now and get your auditions in ASAP! Chosen participants will be notified by email.

Be sure to include your name, phone number and email address with audition.

**2025 ANNUAL C.W.L. NATIONAL CONVENTION  
TORONTO, ONTARIO**

***APRON FUNDRAISER***



This handy apron, available in blue, with the CWL crest is one size with a neck strap and waist ties. There are two spacious front bottom pockets to hold pens, paper pads, your cell phone and other essentials. Great for those CWL functions.

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**Soon available in limited quantities!**

Members have asked about the CWL ribbon designed to hold your service pins and other CWL pins. We have been able to source out a supplier and are making them available to members. This new version has a magnetic back. Cost is \$10 each plus mailing charges. Payment is by cheque payable to Toronto Diocesan Catholic Women's League. Mail cheques to Sue Lubowitz, 201 Penn Avenue, Newmarket, ON L3Y 2S4

To order contact: Sue Lubowitz [jslubowitz@gmail.com](mailto:jslubowitz@gmail.com) with number required and address.

**Custom Cast CWL Crest**

- Includes Raised/recessed design (Royal blue fill)
- Blue Ribbon
- Overall size – 1.5" x 6"



Members from St. Joseph (Highland Creek) CWL in attendance at Rosary Sunday.

Faith in Action Workshop: Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>



*“When we are no longer able to change a situation – we are challenged to change ourselves”*

Viktor Frankl





Msgr. Patrick O'Dea's Appreciation Dinner Sept. 14



# Toronto Diocesan Council

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION - \$12.00 per year

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