



April 2023

President's Monthly Update

Dear Sisters in the League,

March held all seven of the regional general meetings and it was wonderful to see such great attendance. Members enjoyed seeing each other after a long winter and I witnessed many hugs being shared. Increase in membership certificates of 1 to 9 were presented to councils (at right Therese Baduria, St. Joseph Council, Scarborough receiving an increase certificate). Regional chairs ensured that their meetings were enjoyable as well as informative. I recall a modeling of CWL scarves by certain spiritual advisors, a PowerPoint presentation on the Objects of the League, an awareness of our role in the health of the earth by using a computer projector instead of printing, a reflection on the mission statement and the diversity of parish councils as well as the final president's report from Sacred Heart Council in Port McNicoll.



At the Northern Region meeting, Dianne Hunter delivered her last report as Northern Regional Chair. Dianne has served admirably in her role. Her region is large and encompasses urban as well as rural councils and the distances can be challenging. She has been a wonderful role model, for the presidents in her region and for us all, of a servant leader who keeps faith at the center of everything she does. We will miss her!

Convention 2023

The final countdown has begun and the diocesan executive is looking forward to seeing you at the Ajax Convention Centre on April 24 and 25 for two days of faith, fun and fulfillment.



Remember to bring:

- Your CWL scarf and pins. Wear them to highlight your membership and sisterhood. A name badge will be provided when you sign in at the registration desk.
- Tote bag(s): if you have a tote bag, please bring it with you. This year, in an effort to be more environmentally aware, no 2023 delegate bags were

purchased. There will be a few of the 2022 delegate bags available at a nominal cost in the Registration Room.

- Donations: Please support the special collection taken at the closing mass on Tuesday. Cheques from councils will be accepted.
- Meals: Stay in fellowship and gather at the Ajax Convention Centre for all lunches and suppers. Registration required. No outside food is allowed in the convention center.
- Cash/Credit Cards: Our vendors will be available to help you with a variety of items for purchases. The CWL tables will also have an assortment of items including aprons, blue pin ribbons, history books and stationery.
- Sweater/Shawl/Wrap: in case of drafts
- Pens, paper etc: anything else you will need to take notes.
- NO SCENTS IS GOOD SENSE! Please do not wear perfume or scented products to the convention. They can trigger allergic reactions, migraine headaches, nausea and asthma attacks. Thank you for sharing the air with others.

Your convention committee is ready to assist you with any last minute questions:

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Convention Mass Collection:

As an expression of our gratitude to God for the many blessings He has given us the offertory collection for the closing mass will be distributed equally to these two causes: Indspire and St. Augustine Seminary

Indspire is a national Indigenous registered charity that invests in the education of First Nations, Inuit and Métis for the long term benefit of these individuals, their families and Canada through Indigenous education and by inspiring achievement.

In 2021-2022, Indspire donors helped give bursaries and scholarships to 6,612 Indigenous students across the country. Among those students are 895 future STEM professionals, 1,160 doctors and nurses of tomorrow, 1,127 aspiring social workers and counselors, 214 students studying law, and 639 future teachers and educators.

St. Augustine Seminary: In gratitude of His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins' many years of support to the members of the Toronto CWL councils as well as his faithful spiritual leadership, we make this donation in his name.

Since 1913, St. Augustine's Seminary has formed over 2,000 priests who have served dioceses across Canada, the U.S. and other international dioceses and Religious Communities. As St. Augustine's Seminary celebrates its 110th

Anniversary, we are grateful to Almighty God for all that is being accomplished in the service of the Gospel. Please continue to pray for the Seminary, its life, its mission, and for the Seminarians as they continue their journey of formation with the Lord.

Unity Outreach Program

Three Zoom sessions were held for council presidents on the Unity Outreach Program. Fifty six presidents (or their representatives) were in attendance at one or the other of the 3 sessions. We can now proceed to the next step. The diocesan councils have been subdivided into zones and assigned to members of the diocesan executive. A member of the executive will contact each council in their zone to arrange a mutually agreeable time to offer the presentation to the general meeting of a council. This will take place sometime during the period of April to June and may need to continue into the fall.

World Day of Prayer



World Day of Prayer is an annual event that brings together people to observe a common day of prayer and learn from women in different countries. This year's WDP was **Friday, March 3**, and focused on Taiwan with the theme, "I have heard about your faith," based on a passage from the Book of Ephesians in the Bible.

"On March 4, Our Lady of Lourdes Church and CWL parish council hosted the local World Day of Prayer Service and reception. It was a success and despite the winter storm, about 50 people attended."
Submitted by Prescy Alumaga, Council President

Ordinandi Dinner



The 33rd annual Ordinandi Dinner took place on the evening of Thursday, March 9 at the Pearson Convention Centre in Brampton.

At this year's dinner, organized by local Serra International clubs, members heard eight transitional deacons share their vocation stories with more than 1,000 people from the larger Church community as they themselves prepare for their upcoming priestly ordinations.

The Ordinandi class of 2023 includes men who studied at St. Augustine's Seminary as well as Redemptoris Mater Seminary and when ordained priests, will serve in their home dioceses. I was privileged to offer them the spiritual bouquet offered by all of you and collected by Ciscily Winkler, Christian Family Life chair and her sub-convener Philomena Menezes. The bouquet numbered a total of 295,547 prayers, masses, communions and other devotions. For other possible ways of supporting vocations, see the Christian Family Life Project on the diocesan website under the "Projects" tab.

New Council Formation: St. Charles Borromeo



On March 15, at a meeting attended by women of the St. Charles Borromeo Parish, a new CWL council was formed for Humber Valley Region. The meeting was attended by the pastor, Fr. James

(Jim) Reposkey, who voiced his approval and encouragement for the women to join. Some of you may remember Fr. Reposkey as a former Toronto Region Spiritual Advisor. The newly elected president, Gigetta Rizzo Duadlin will be at convention on the second day. Be sure to say hi. Thank you to Mary Jane Domingo, Agnes Passe, Connie Cristinziano and Karen McKeown who aided in the formation at various steps along the way. Peel Regional Chair Diana Gamboa, said it best when she thanked in an email those involved "for the hard work and your generosity of time, talent and commitment. The birth of a new Council means the CWL continues to fulfill the needs of women in the parish. May our Lady of Good Counsel inspire more women to know and experience the benefits of a membership in the CWL."

Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest Final

St. Edward the Confessor Parish Council (North York Region) hosted the final of the Mary Matthews contest this year. This was Mary Matthews' parish as Msgr. Pat O'Dea mentioned in his opening remarks. Thank you to the regions

and parishes who participated. A special thank you to Andrea Smart (Education and Health chair), Elisabeth Quail (North York chair), Marie Berry (St. Edward the Confessor parish council) for the hall and food; to Kim Beatty and Carolyn Meaney for registration and coordinating the event; to Life Member Pat Cross, Life Member Marlin Taylor and TDC Past-President and Ontario Education and Health chair, Hilarion Mitchell for being the judges of the event. Be sure to keep promoting the St. Michael's College Scholarship. The deadline for submission is May 31st.



The winner of the Mary Matthews, Neo Smolders, is surrounded by members from his parish CWL and regional chair, Diana Gamboa.

Neo attends Guiding Light Academy is a member of St. Joseph's parish. Neo will repeat his speech at the Youth Awards evening on the first evening of

convention. Other Youth Awards recipients will also be there.

From the Newsletter

Newsletter editor, Mary Antonio was at regional meetings to remind councils what a valuable resource the diocesan newsletter has become for many members in planning their activities and for general knowledge of what is happening in the League. Copies of previous newsletters will be available at the convention. From the Spring 2023 issue you will find the following dates and information:

Page 23: International Family Day (May 15) and March for Life (May 11) information from Christian Family Life chair, Ciscily Winkler

Page 26: World Communications Day (May 21) and the pope's message from Communications chair, Nenita MacKenzie

Page 29: World Earth Day (April 22) and Catholic Education Week (April 30-May 5) from Education and Health chair, Andrea Smart.

Online Member Development

Opportunities continue for members to learn more across a spectrum of topics. Kate O'Quinn, President-elect/Organization, will be offering two more sessions of her CWL Wednesdays on May 17 and June 26 before we break for the summer. Stay tuned for details.



Provincially, you can take part in a reflection to be presented by Bishop Thomas Dowd, Provincial Spiritual Advisor on April 19th. His topic will be "Why Did God Give Us Personality and Free Will? The provincial May topic is on public speaking and the last date is June 14 with a topic yet to be determined. To register preselectopc@tbaytel.net Send your name, CWL parish council and the date(s) you wish to register

Hilarion Mitchell, provincial Education and Health chair will be hosting a second "Go Make A Difference" webinar on Monday, May 8th at 7 pm for National Hospice Palliative Care Week (May 7-13). More information can be found on the poster on the Toronto Diocesan website under "Projects" and in the "Upcoming Events" tab. More information can also be found in the provincial CWL newsletter:

https://cwl.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2023_Apr_ON_line-newsletter.pdf

A recording is available of the national webinar "Act Justly" is now available on the national website for those of you who missed the initial presentation. Another webinar on leadership will be available. (**Who Me? A Leader?** Sat, April 15, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM):

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/regi.../1731296934923758172>

Installation of Archbishop Francis Leo

I had the pleasure of attending the Installation Mass of our new Archbishop on March 25th as your representative. Attending with me were Margaret Ann Jacobs, Honorary Life Member, and Ciscily Winkler, Christian Family Life Chair. It was wonderful to come together as a larger faith community with other lay associations, clergy, education and faith partners to witness his commitment to our Archdiocese.

A regional Mass of Welcome will take place in each region of the Archdiocese, providing an opportunity for the faithful to welcome Archbishop Leo to the archdiocese. See the attached poster to find the nearest mass to your council. A reception afterwards is planned for each occasion. Please see the attached poster.

Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth)

April 11 marks the 60th anniversary of the publication of the encyclical *Pacem in Terris* by St. Pope John XXIII in 1963. This encyclical is only twenty pages long and I will try to make it my Good Friday reading with prayer for peace in Ukraine. If you are interested in reading it here is the link:

https://www.vatican.va/content/john-xxiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_j-xxiii_enc_11041963_pacem.html

From the encyclical and pertinent to the Easter Season is this quote: *"The sacred liturgy of these days reechoes the same message: "Our Lord Jesus Christ, after His resurrection stood in the midst of His disciples and said: Peace be upon you, alleluia. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord." (72) It is Christ, therefore, who brought us peace; Christ who bequeathed it to us: "Peace I leave with you: my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, do I give unto you."*

The Holy Father's Intention for April is for a culture of peace and non violence: *We pray for the spread of peace and non violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens*

May the joy of the risen Lord flood your hearts and give you peace this Easter season. I am wishing you a wonderful celebration of Easter with loved ones by your side.

In Sisterhood,

Sue Lubowitz,
President 2022-2024
Toronto CWL Diocesan Council

