



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA  
TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL  
**102<sup>nd</sup> Convention Oral Report**  
**April 24 and 25, 2023**  
**Ajax Convention Centre**  
**550 Beck Road**  
**"Called To Serve"**



Name: Kate O'Quinn  
Standing Committee: Organization/President-Elect  
Share the Word: Friendship

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Madame Chair

*"Friends are like flowers, beautiful flowers,  
Friends are like flowers in the Garden of Life"*

And what a beautiful garden of friendship is the Catholic Women's League!! Since becoming Organization Chair, I have been blessed with opportunities to renew and start anew friendships with CWL ladies across the Toronto Diocese, through my presentations and workshops.

My goals/priorities for my term as Organization Chair include: first, planting the seeds of faith, service and social justice, as I assist councils to move into the new structure of the league through Parish Executive Training and Effective Meetings presentations. To date, 5 PET's and 2 Effective Meetings, all virtual, have taken place. Second, is promoting mentoring in the League, which will definitely blossom into friendships. Using Development Day as the springboard, our very own Life and Honorary Life Members shared who has mentored them in their CWL journey and the life friendships they have developed as a result of mentoring. The Welcome Program, offered virtually in March, has a component on companionship – matching new with 'seasoned' members, again, emphasizing mentoring and developing friendships. A third goal is increasing membership. We have seen our garden grow as we welcome 3 new charter councils to our family. Taking part in membership drives at different parishes, I am in awe of the dedication and commitment from all of you in working together to 'grow' your council. Why Am I a Member and Welcome Program Brochures are excellent resources to display as you host your membership drive.

To further enhance my profile and meet new friends across the province, I will continue to attend the leadership sessions and Diocesan Organization Chairs meetings hosted by Colleen Martin, our Ontario Provincial Council Organization Chair.

I will continue to host CWL Wednesdays. Topics will include your responses from the annual report on what resources/assistance you wanted at the parish level. As



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well, I will be using the Tool Kits on the 3 core values and programs that have been written by the strategic plan working groups to provide league development. This spring and fall, I will be offering in-person workshops, using hands-on activities to further assist you in putting the new league structure into practice and to 'grow your CWL friendship garden' .

And now, my CWL friends, take a look at the ladies you are sitting with – are these ladies your favourite flowers in our League garden, ladies you have been friends with for years? Now, look all around the room – look at all the friendships waiting to blossom!! One of the strengths of the CWL is based on friendship – my challenge to you - reach out and over these two days, grow your flower garden – make at least 5 new friends!!

My written report can be found on page 14-16 of the Annual Report.

This concludes my report,  
Kate O'Quinn,  
President-Elect/Organization Chair