



May 2023

President's Monthly Update

Dear Sisters in the League,

The fact that the weather is improving is just one more reason to get excited about May. May is when the chill of winter finally dissipates and things begin to really grow. It's when those April showers pay off with some beautiful May flowers, as the old saying promises. My tulips are in full bloom!

As women of the League we are also aware of the Marian Feast Days in May which include:

- May 13 – Our Lady of Fatima (on which you can receive an indulgence)
- May 24- Mary Help of Christians (a good day to pray for our brothers and sister around the world)
- May 31- The Visitation (a good day to pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary)

Mass of Our Lady of Good Counsel

Some members of the executive along with Wilma Vanderzwaag, Ontario Spiritual Development Chair, and Betty Colaneri, National 1st Vice-President and Communications Chair were able to attend the taping of the mass for Our Lady of Good Counsel celebrated this year by Msgr. Pat O'Dea. I hope that you were able to watch it on April 26th. (Photo courtesy of Msgr. O'Dea).



2023 Provincial Convention

This year's Annual Provincial Convention will be held at the Cornwall Civic Complex, 100 Water Street East, Cornwall.

The registration package for the provincial convention is posted on the provincial website but I have also attached it to this update for your convenience.

The deadline for registration is June 1st. There is a \$10 late fee if registering after June 1st. Registration can be done electronically (with e-transfer payment) or mailed hard copy.

No refunds after June 19th

Each parish may have **one accredited delegate**. The accreditation form should be sent with the registration forms to the provincial convention registration chair.

If you are looking to share accommodations that you have booked, please let your regional chair know so they can coordinate.

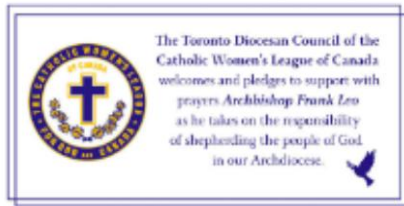
The Catholic Register

symbolism, and rich in spiritual and pastoral teachings. According to the Gospel writer, it is the first miracle

Beloved Disciple, making her the universal Mother and specifically Mother of the Church. The motto underscores the

Catholic faith.

Archbishop Leo's is drawn from four aspects and devotion and ministry, and is the shield in four quadrants. In the upper left is found one of the spread Christologic characteristic symbols: the pelican opening its own flesh to feed its young; the pelican that flows from it. It refers to Christ Him the "Piepelisane" or the Adone Te Devoti



The Toronto Diocesan Council placed a welcome message in the April 2nd special edition of The Catholic Register to welcome His Grace Archbishop Leo to our archdiocese. This notice was sent to members on May 8th by our Diocesan Communications Chair, Nenita MacKenzie. She also provided a link to an article that their reporter did

about our latest convention. You can find the article in this link:

<https://www.catholicregister.org/features/retreat-a-renewal-centres/item/35455-cwl-still-making-impact-102-years-on>

It continues to be important to support Catholic media, so please consider a subscription (electronic or paper) to The Catholic Register. They were also generous in donating copies of a recent edition for delegates at the convention.

Horizons of Hope Zoom Presentation

Thank you to all of you who attended the provincial presentation of the Horizons of Hope Toolkit hosted by Hilarion Mitchell, provincial Education and Health Chair and led by Dr. Moira McQueen and Life Member Shirley Christo. Hilarion reported that 60% of the registrations were from our Toronto Diocese.

Two councils (St. Joseph the Worker-Durham Region and St. Joseph Highland Creek-Scarborough Region) offered hybrid options that were well attended.

You can access the Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care resources on the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops website (www.cccb.ca) and in the link below.

<https://www.cccb.ca/faith-moral-issues/suffering-and-end-of-life/horizons-of-hope-a-toolkit-for-catholic-parishes-on-palliative-care/>

You can also access other resources on the CCCB website including:



- Open Letter to the Federal Government and a Message to the Catholic Faithful on Permitting Persons Living with Mental Illness to Access Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide

- National Family and Life Week Toolkit (can be used all year)
- “That We May Walk Together”: a series of pastoral letters on reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

Life Membership: Ann D’Souza

In The Catholic Women’s League of Canada, life membership gives to the recipient, in addition to the honour, a permanent place on the national council, the same voting privileges as accredited delegates at an annual meeting or convention [C&B, Part XIV, Section 2 (c)], a voice in its affairs and eligibility for a national appointment.

Life membership is not intended to be a reward for years of service or a retirement gift. There are appropriate ways of honouring members for their dedication to the League, such as the Bellelle Guerin award, certificates of merit and maple leaf service pins. Privilege entails responsibility. National council requires support and active service from its life members. Only diocesan and provincial executives are entitled to submit nominations for life membership in accordance with the established criteria.



After a moratorium by the National Council that delayed the diocesan submission of Ann D’Souza, former Toronto Diocesan President, we were notified that Ann would receive her Life Membership. This most deserved honour was presented to Ann at our convention banquet by one of her mentors, Life Member Mary Capobianco.

Patricia Beattie Mentoring Awards



At our convention in April the Patricia Beattie Awards were presented to:

- Maryse Ristuccia, St. John Council, Toronto Region with the parish level award
- Lucia Vacca, St. Joseph Highland Creek Council, Scarborough Region

Maryse “will go to any length to provide sound guidance and trusted advice for those seeking it. Over the years her mentorship has drawn many members up through convenor and executive positions.” “She helps members find their strengths and encourages them to develop those attributes. ... is a wonderful CWL cheerleader! “...is a role model, teacher and mentor for all League members. She is always encouraging parishioners to become members “and to bring a friend!” She respects and supports others in their ideas and contributions.”

Lucia “is a dedicated member who mentors any sister in the League by sharing her knowledge and experience and helping her understand how the CWL operates and how to fit her talents in a particular role.”; “... give great advice, is an excellent mentor and is always there when you need her. She is knowledgeable in all areas of the CWL and never hesitates to lend a hand to whoever

needs”; “She possessed all the important characteristics like patience, wisdom and sharing her experience with others.”

The awards were presented to these two worthy recipients by last year’s recipients Sonia DeCosta Spence (parish level) and Life Member, Mary Hawkley (auxiliary level).

Bellelle Guerin Award

I received a letter this past week from Shari Guinta, National President-elect and Organization chair that Nancy Joncas (St. John Vianney Council, Northern Region) was nominated by her council for the Bellelle Guerin Award. Nancy’s love of the League, demonstrated by her words and actions, is an inspiration to other council members.



On behalf of the Toronto Diocesan Council, I extend our deep appreciation and gratitude for her continued dedication to the League. May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide and inspire her work "For God and Canada"

Information on the Award:

Bellelle Guerin was the first president of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada. This award is being presented to individuals who have worked tirelessly to keep the spirit of the League alive in the spirit of the first president. The League’s roots began in 1920 with its first National President, Bellelle Guerin, who had a vision, faith and a dream “to see it [CWL] rooted in every major centre from Halifax to Victoria.” At the first convention, Toronto 1921, she stated, “We have before us some days of serious and strenuous work. Let us approach it with all the zeal and good will that is in our souls. Shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart, let us go forth from this convention bound by a solidarity that nothing can break, gentlewomen, but brave soldiers holding aloft our banner of patriotism to our beloved country and of inviolable fidelity to our glorious faith!”

The women nominated should be individuals who have kept the vision and the dream of Bellelle Guerin alive in Canada and the world by dedicating themselves to the work of the League in their parish, diocese and/or province.

Nominating councils are reminded that the nominees must be exemplary members of the League who are not now and will not ever be eligible to provide service to national council as a life member.

Thank You

Thank you to all of you who completed the convention feedback survey as it provides us with much useful information in planning next year’s convention. Most of you who responded seem to have enjoyed yourselves and found it very beneficial. A large part of the success of the convention can be attributed to our wonderful convention committee (from left to right), Lynette Mendes, Life Member Mary Hawkley and Life Member Mary Ellen Stinson. They dedicated hundreds of hours and drew from their vast experience to ensure that all went as planned. If there was anything that did not go right....you know who you can blame!! (Sue!☺)



Blood Services Canada

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. Encourage members along with their family members and friends to help this situation by giving the gift of life. All healthy individuals are able to give blood from age 17 onward. There is no age which is too old to help.



Photo: (L-R) Canadian Blood Services Donor Strategy and Planning Manager SIMRAN, Liaison Official (and Member of Parish Hospitality Ministry/Bereavement Ministry) VIRGINIA, and Catherine Sanchez-Estuart, Council President, St. Marguerite D'Youville parish. The council had an awareness presentation at their general meeting in April.

The League Partner ID with Canadian Blood Services is CATH011269.

"Members wishing to donate blood are to visit blood.ca/, and select ways-donate/partners-life/group-donations-and-pledge-based-partnerships. Members will need to complete the registration to set up a new donor account if they do not have one. Once the account is set up, then choose Partners for Life to join an existing team which is the "The Catholic Women's League of Canada." Ontario Education and Health Directive #2 (Jan. 3, 2023)

New Members Ceremony: Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

As members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, we are guided and inspired by our Mission Statement. "The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service." Recently, Our Lady of Miraculous Medal held a reception of new members ceremony. This is a beautiful ceremony, where the pins to be received are blessed by the spiritual advisor and the League promise is recited. Congratulations to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal on the reception of 10 new members! May they wear their pins in pride, honour and loyalty as they work in service to God and Canada. (League Resource to use #623 Ceremonies Handbook)



Novena to Our Lady of Good Counsel Travelling Kit

Kate O'Quinn (President-elect/Organization) and I attended weekend masses at St. Boniface Parish at the end of April to help the local council with their membership drive. While there, we met some past members. The organizers inform us that they have six new members and a potential member willing to take on the role of president. St. Boniface has been listed as "inactive" because of reluctance in membership in taking leadership roles but the diocesan and regional council have been supporting them in their efforts to refresh their membership.

Rosemary Gaglione, our contact person, mentioned the use of a "Travelling Kit". This was an idea that she had heard about at St. Joseph's Council. She thought it was a wonderful idea to help increase their members' knowledge and devotion to our Patroness. And, more recently with COVID, and not being able to meet in person, she thought this would be an effective way of keeping connected with members and encouraging their faith development.

Mary Tuccitto (Diocesan Legislation Chair) and Lucia Vacca (Diocesan Web Administrator) who are both members of St. Joseph's Council were able to help Rosemary with some detail.

Our Lady of Good Counsel

capo 3 (C) (Em) (Fmaj7) (C/E) (Dm) (G7) (C) (G7)
Intro E^b G m A^bmaj7 E^b/G F m B^b7 E^b B^b7

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass
Piano

mf Our La-dy of Good Coun - sel, please be our dai - ly Guide.

So, St. Boniface Council put together a Binder (CWL Blue of course!) with the following pages / items:

1. A synopsis of the story of Our Lady of Good Counsel
2. The CWL prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel
3. The Litany to Our Lady
4. The Novena to Our Lady
5. A small votive candle in a little pouch which can

be hung from the binder rings

6. A Rosary, also in a small pouch

7. A picture of Our Lady (laminated at Staples)

The above and a few other prayers and even a music sheet of a song were obtained from the National Web site. They asked Father Peter Marr, parish and regional spiritual advisor, to look it over before it was 'launched' it at the Feast Day Mass (April 26th), when he spoke about it and blessed it.

The 'kit' is circulated among those members who wish to use it prayerfully in their homes. They can keep it for two to three weeks. There needs to be a member or executive member who takes on the task of keeping a record of the whereabouts of the kit.

The kit can be returned to the parish office and that can also be a pick up or drop off location.

Lucia Vacca informs me that the Travelling Kit was a brainchild from Lillian D'Souza when she was Scarborough Regional Chair (2007-2009). The presidents were each given this kit at one of the executive mtgs. with the intent that members to take it for one month and then pass it on to another member.

Other councils may wish to consider using this as another way to keep members connected.

St. Gregory's Parish Council 65th Anniversary



Humber Valley Regional Chair and I were pleased to attend the 65th Anniversary Celebration at St. Gregory's Parish in Etobicoke. It was a wonderful event, from the mass to the final music played by the band of young men at the luncheon. There were so many memories rekindled and the photo booth was kept busy.

These events are worth celebrating as they reaffirm our commitment to the League!

The Visitation

From a reflection at <https://catholic-link.org/5-feminine-virtues-visitation/>

"The first thing the Virgin Mary did after her *fiat* was to go out. *Caritas urget*. The living love of Christ, nascent almost secretly in Mary's womb, compels her outward in love and service of her pregnant cousin.

Let us ask our Blessed Mother to help us as women to be more giving of love in hospitality to our sisters. Do we build them up? Do we care for them? Do we anticipate their needs? Do we squash our jealousies and make ourselves available? Do we make time and space for the other, in our hearts, our schedules, our budgets, our homes? Do we bring them Jesus?"

Wilma Vanderzwaag, Provincial Spiritual Development Chair will be hosting an online prayer service and recitation of the Rosary on the Feast day of the Visitation, May 31st at 7 pm. Registration is required. You can register at

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsf-yppjIrHdPg8A4xKDWIAmymIYZ4XUyk>

This is a provincial event and registration is NOT through the diocesan corresponding secretary, Shaila D'Souza. Poster is attached.



National 2025 Convention Fundraising Gala

National Convention Committee co-chairs Life Member Mary Capobianco and Debbie Bates ask that you be reminded of the Gala taking place on Friday, October 20th. The poster is attached. Please consider attending as a parish council as all proceeds will go to defraying the cost of the national convention to be held in 2025 in Toronto. Your generous support is greatly appreciated.

The Holy Father's Intention for May is for church movements and groups: *We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.*

Continue to reflect on how you can place your talents, time and treasure to the service of the League as well as the larger community.

In Sisterhood,
Sue Lubowitz,
President 2022-2024
Toronto CWL Diocesan Council