



# June/July 2023

## President's Monthly Update

(Photo courtesy of Kay Newbold)

Dear Sisters in the League,

The Sunday readings over the last few weeks have been filled with images of seeds and growth. As we anticipate our harvests of tomatoes, beans and other planted items, it is good to sit by the garden and allow the Holy Spirit to enter our minds and hearts in a sort of vacation of the soul. This rejuvenation will be very helpful as councils plan out the upcoming year of their councils. The photo above is of Kay Newbold's Mary Garden that was started last year and continued this year again with her mother's statue of Mary. Kay is a member at St. Marguerite D'Youville Council in Peel Region.



Our newsletter editor, Mary Antonio also shared the Mary Garden that she has placed on the balcony of her condo (picture on right). I hope you have also found a special corner where you can let the rhythms of grace enter within yourself.

### **Ontario Provincial Convention: July 8-12**

Toronto Diocesan Council was represented at the provincial convention in Cornwall by 20 members. I was your voting delegate and Kate O'Quinn, as President-elect/Organization and Connie Cristinziano, Resolutions chair were the diocesan accredited delegates.



### **Sunday, July 9**

While provincial officers and diocesan presidents were in a pre-convention meeting, members were able to have a bus tour of the area.

In the afternoon, the Resolutions Dialogue was held and two resolutions were discussed including the resolution submitted from Toronto Diocese.

The **opening mass** was held at St. Andrews Parish. This parish was founded in 1784 by 38 families of Scottish descent. A replica of the original log church was erected in 1784. The pioneer graveyard is the burial site of Ontario's First Premier John Sandfield MacDonald as well as the explorer Simon Fraser. A second church in stone was completed in 1801 and is the oldest remaining stone structure in the province erected as a church. It

was used as a hospital during the War of 1812. The third and present church was completed in 1864 and the interior is beautiful.

Fran Lucas, National President, carried the flag of Canada, Linda Squarzolo, Provincial President, the flag of Ontario and Melina Nobert, as Diocesan President of newly formed council of Ottawa-Cornwall, the CWL flag.

### **Monday, July 10**

Mass was celebrated by Bishop Dowd and concelebrated by Father Liborio and other diocesan spiritual advisors.

The keynote speaker was Fr. Eugene (Red) O'Reilly (C.Ss.R) who spoke on how to make a difference. To make a difference we start with who we are as a person. Christians were initially called "People of the Way". Fr. O'Reilly reminded us that the Beatitudes need to take root in our hearts and show in the way we live our lives. His talk was thought provoking but laced with humour.

After the morning keynote, members were introduced to the new Life Members including retiring



Toronto Diocesan Past-President, Ann D'Souza. Betsy Currier (Sault Ste. Marie Diocese), Rebecca McCarrell (London Diocese) and Joan Schurter (Hamilton Diocese) joined Ann to receive the Life Member's blessing from Bishop Thomas Dowd.

In the afternoon, the crowning of Mary and the Deceased Members ceremony was held. I placed a red rose for deceased members from our diocese and Honorary Life Member, Margaret Ann Jacobs lace a single red rose to represent all the dearly departed spiritual advisors from across the province.

Monday was Diocesan Night with the theme of "Good Things Grow in Ontario". Thank you to Marg Gombita, Lucy Sewell and Connie Cristinziano (all from Humber Valley Region) who repeated the "Ode to the CWL" from our diocesan convention. Kate O'Quinn sang "Leaving On A Jet Plane", strummed on her guitar and led audience participation in singing. The full complement of members from Toronto Diocese sang "The Ontario Convention Ballad" to the tune of "This Land Is Your Land" with words by Kate.



### **Tuesday, July 11**

The business sessions resumed after the morning Eucharistic celebration. The diocesan presidents' reports were followed by the provincial officers' reports. After Hilarion Mitchell's report as Provincial Education and Health chair, Provincial Resolutions chair Mary Capobianco introduced the two resolutions to the assembly. The Toronto Diocesan Resolution was accepted by the assembly. Congratulations to Elizabeth Joseph and her council St. Francis de Sales and Connie Cristinziano, Diocesan Resolution chair for their success in having this resolution pass. The final resolution will be posted on the provincial and diocesan website soon.



I was pleased to accept, on behalf of St. John the Evangelist Parish Council (Durham Region), a certificate from Provincial Legislation Chair Joanna Sisk. This past fall the Legislation project **Go Make a Difference** was a huge letter writing campaign related to resolution **ON.22.01 Improve Long Term Care Homes in Ontario**. St. John the Evangelist Parish Council wrote the most letters of any council in the province—well over 300! Congratulations to Lynne Childerhouse, council president and the members for their commitment to make a difference.

To finish the day's business a set of mini workshops were held. The options were held in a variation of "speed dating". Attendees had a list of the 23 workshops available. Each workshop was 15 minutes long and had a take away information sheet. Members chose four topics. The topics ranged from membership ideas, building relationships with clergy, how to change a negative attitude and to PowerPoint instructions.

### **Wednesday, July 12**

The instructed vote on the use of virtual meetings was held and passed. More information on correct process will be forthcoming. We also heard the report from our National President Fran Lucas, the Provincial Spiritual Advisor's Report and the report from our Provincial President, Linda Squarzolo. After the invitation to attend next year's convention in Sudbury and a final credentials report we were bused to the closing mass at St. Peter Parish which included the re-affirmation of provincial officers. After lunch, diocesan presidents and provincial presidents held their post-convention meeting before their return home.

Start making plans to attend the next provincial convention July 7-10, 2024.

Reminder: You can attend the national convention virtually to be held August 14 and 15th. Click here to register for the 2023 National Annual Meeting of Members Live stream:

<https://event.gotowebinar.com/event/53508b5b-88c1-4151-8fa6-a5306f798b9d>

### **Council Planning:**

Councils are reminded that September 30<sup>th</sup>, National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (also known as Orange Shirt Day), is a parish or





regional based event. At the diocesan webinar on June 21<sup>st</sup>, councils were given a resource package that will be useful in planning their event.

Other days that may be of focus are:

Dec. 12 National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples (liturgical feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe). See the website of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (cccb.ca) for more information.

January 4 National Ribbon Skirt Day. Passed unanimously into law by Canadian Parliament in 2023

March 31 National Indigenous Languages Day. Councils may want to ask how many Indigenous Languages are there in Canada and which one is spoken most?

May 5 National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (also known as Red Dress Day).

### **Save the Dates**

Please make room in your parish council calendar for the following:

**Sunday, September 10** Rosary Sunday (poster attached)

**Friday, October 20** The 2025 National Convention Dinner Dance Gala (poster attached). Please consider attending as a parish council to ensure the success of this event. National convention chairs Mary Capobianco and Debbie Bates have provided a hotel link in case you wish to stay overnight. From a previous email from Mary:

- The link was created for Gala2023 so please do ignore any mention to WEDDING event. (They gave us the wedding group rates).
- This link will lead you to all available hotels in the area. Holiday Inn Express and Elements are the two closest distance wise.
- This link does not expire but the rates and availability are changing all the time. The rates can fluctuate and sell out at any time so it's advised to book sooner rather than later.

<https://groups.questreservations.com/EventPage7347538>

I wish you a blessed and restful summer and I look forward to seeing you at the fall regional meetings.

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