



# President's Update

## August 2023

Dear Sisters in the League,

Here we are already at the end of August with September just around the corner! It seems to come quicker each year.

Most councils have been taking a hiatus from activities over the summer, but we know that they are starting to plan for the fall. This update will provide you with a recap of the national annual meeting of members as well as some things that are upcoming and that you should plan on attending.

But first, a reminder that Toronto Diocesan Council will be hosting the National Convention in 2025 (delayed from 2021) and fundraising has been on-going. The next opportunity for councils to support this effort is the fall gala dinner dance.

**FALL GALA DINNER DANCE**  
Fundraiser for the 2025 C.W.L. National Convention

*Date:* Friday, October 20, 2023

*Venue:* LA PRIMAVERA EVENT SPACE  
77 Woodstream Blvd  
Vaughan, Ontario L4L 7Y6

There is still time to get your ticket for event of the year! Doors open at 6 pm. You will enjoy a 4 course dinner with wine. The committee has been busy planning the dinner and dance as well as the silent auction, raffle

and draws. Councils are invited to purchase tickets individually or for a table and have an evening of friendship. For tickets and information contact:

Lucia 416-283-3536 at [lucia.vacca@sympatico.ca](mailto:lucia.vacca@sympatico.ca)

Connie 416-258-6678 at [ccristinziano@rogers.com](mailto:ccristinziano@rogers.com)

Ann 905-502-1610 at [ant\\_dsouza@hotmail.com](mailto:ant_dsouza@hotmail.com)

We hope to see you there.

### **CWL Annual Meeting of Members**

After the instructed vote to amend the *Constitution and Bylaws* held last year, the term "annual meeting of members" (AMM) is used instead of "convention".

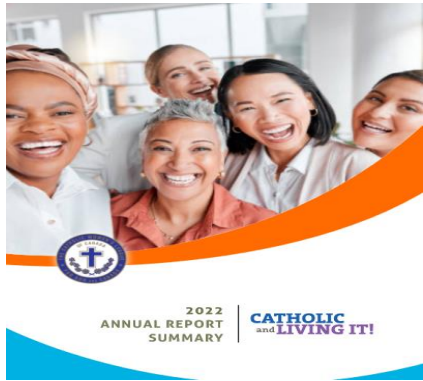
This year because of limited space, resources and volunteers the AMM was by invitation only to voting and accredited delegates. At the national level the voting delegates are the provincial presidents and the accredited delegates:

**Voting Rights Chart**

Level	Annual Meeting of Members		
	Diocesan	Provincial	National
Parish *	1 voting, 2 accredited	1 accredited	-
Diocesan	-	1 voting, 2 accredited	2 accredited
Provincial	-	-	1 voting, 2 accredited

*National Manual of Policy and Procedure: Quorums, Meetings, Conventions* page 85

The meeting was held on August 13-15 in Saint John, New Brunswick. Toronto Diocesan Accredited Delegates Kate O’Quinn (President-Elect/Organization) and myself, as your president, did not attend in person as a cost-saving measure. The meeting was available virtually and we attended in that manner. Other diocesan executive members also attend virtually and I am hoping that many of you also did.



Registration to attend virtually cost \$5 to help cover the cost of mailing the annual report as well as the annual report summary. The daily liturgy book was also sent and can be used as a parish resource. The annual reports and annual report summary can now be found at <https://www.cwl.ca/annual-reports/> One hundred and nineteen voting and accredited delegates attended in person and 178 members attended virtually. The theme was Catholic and Living it! The opening Eucharistic celebration was held at

Holy Redeemer Church in Saint John.

The 103rd national meeting of members opened with reports presented by provincial presidents and national officers that conveyed the many works and activities members across Canada have completed over the past year. These oral reports will be available in the fall issue of *The Canadian League* magazine.

National council adopted **Resolution 2023.01 Combating Textile Waste in Canada**. The resolution urges the federal government to establish new programs and expand established subsidies aimed at reducing textile waste in Canada. The full text of the resolution may be found on the national website, [cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca). Diocesan Resolutions Chair, Connie Cristinziano will inform further in the fall.

National President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization Shari Guinta and the lead members of the strategic planning implementation committee gave a presentation on the progress of the working groups. The presentation can be found at <https://www.cwl.ca/the-league-of-the-future-year-five/> Councils may wish to use this PowerPoint during a council meeting.

The national election was held on Tuesday, August 15. The League welcomes a new slate of officers to the national executive/board, including National President Shari Guinta, National Vice President Betty Colaneri, National Secretary-Treasurer

Dorothy Johansen, National Past President Fran Lucas, National Chairperson of Faith Rolande Chernichan, National Chairperson of Service Joline Belliveau and National Chairperson of Social Justice Glenda Carson.

The closing mass was held at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, with Bishop Jensen as the celebrant. Bishop Riesbeck, Most Rev. Douglas Crosby (Hamilton) and newly appointed National Spiritual Advisor Bishop Lobsinger were concelebrants. Prior to the final blessing, the installation of the national officers and the national spiritual advisor was held.

More detailed information will be given to members at the fall regional meetings.

### **Ontario Provincial Council ON-Line Newsletter**

Thank you to councils who responded to the call for submissions. Toronto was originally scheduled for the November issue but because there are five new diocesan presidents, we were asked to move our date ahead. Your submissions were collated and sent to the provincial editor who makes the final decision. The newsletter will be posted on September 1.

One of the activities that a few councils reported on was a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Grace Shrine at Marylake (King City). Typically, Mass was celebrated, Rosary along the Rosary Path and then a picnic or BBQ lunch was held. These events were open to the entire parish community. Photo at right is courtesy of Helen Lewis, Parish Council President, at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church (Scarborough Region).



### **Planning Ahead**

As Councils plan ahead for their fall and winter meetings there are many opportunities available for them.

Many events that councils hold are used as fundraisers for their allocated charities. Councils are reminded to keep in mind the permanent national voluntary and temporary funds in their donations. The average and maximum donation to each fund nationally last year was:

FUND	AVERAGE/COUNCIL	MAXIMUM/Council
Catholic Missions in Canada	\$92.64	\$3,500
Catholic Near East Welfare Association	\$57.18	\$1,774
CCCB Palliative Care Kit *	\$9.39	\$200
Coady International Institute	\$31.07	\$310
Development and Peace	\$74.84	\$4,070
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition **	\$26.89	\$400

\*Fund ended on August 31, 2023

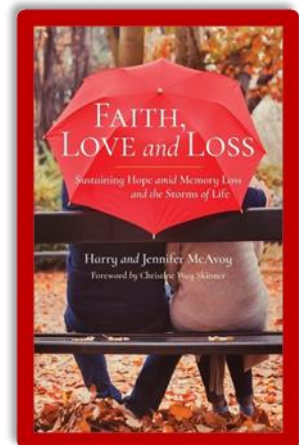
\*\* Fund ended on August 17, 2022



The League celebrates its National Faith Day on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>. This is an opportunity for members to explore what they believe and how they live their faith. The League also recognizes Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> as the organization's National Day of Prayer for Christians in the Holy Land. October 1<sup>st</sup> is the League's National Day of Prayer for

Canadian Home Missions.

As one of the Objects of the League is "to exemplify the Christian ideal in home and family life" the diocesan council will be offering a webinar for the CWL Wednesday on October 11<sup>th</sup>. This session will be an action to support families and marriage. The guest speakers will be Harry and Jennifer McAvoy authors of the book "Faith, Love and Loss". The book is available from Novalis. If Wi-Fi is available in your meeting space, then I suggest you make this open to all married couples in your parish. An invitation to your pastor and/or spiritual advisor would also be a good idea. Register at [shailaflavy@gmail.com](mailto:shailaflavy@gmail.com)



To support the parish work being done on **Resolution 2022.01 Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste** the topic of food insecurity will be discussed at this year's Moira Ste. Marie virtual lecture. Hosted by Past-President/Historian Hilarion Mitchell, the speakers will be from the Yonge Street Mission. Suggested registration donation of \$10 per person or \$25 per council.

**Register at [shailaflavy@gmail.com](mailto:shailaflavy@gmail.com)** More information is available from the diocesan website: [cwltoronto.ca](http://cwltoronto.ca)

**Councils are reminded to register early for both events. Registering late does not guarantee a spot as these 2 events will be open to the full membership of the CWL across the country and the plan available will be limited.**

## Youth Awards



The Youth Awards package will be posted on the website and sent to council presidents by the regional chairs on Monday, Sept. 4. The submission process this year will be a little different. If you are interested in learning more about how to go about running a contest in your parish, Education and Health Chair Andrea Smart and her sub-committee will be hosting an information meeting to be held virtually on Wednesday, Oct. 4. By that time, councils will have had time to review the documents and bring their questions to the session. Tips for success will also be shared. If you're curious, have insights to share are looking for more information be sure to join us. Register with Diocesan Corresponding Secretary, Shaila D'Souza at [shailaflavy@gmail.com](mailto:shailaflavy@gmail.com)

## Unity Outreach

The Unity Outreach Program will end its in-person sessions as of October 31<sup>st</sup>. To date a good number of councils have participated and many more are scheduled for September. There are still some dates available for October. If you would like to book a session for October be sure to contact me ([jslubowitz@gmail.com](mailto:jslubowitz@gmail.com)) and we will try to arrange to have a member of the executive team come to your parish.



As a final outreach, we are planning to host a Diocesan Town Hall on Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> to allow anyone interested in giving their responses to the program consultation questions. More details will be forthcoming at a later date.

## Organizational Renewal



The League now stands with 60,000 members. Twenty nine councils chose to leave the organization and 21 others choose not to renew their memberships of women in their councils. There is cause for celebration however, as 17 councils returned and two new councils were formed (in Toronto!!).

There were almost 3,800 members who were either new to the League or had chosen to renew their memberships after a pause.

Kate O'Quinn, Diocesan Chair of Organization (and President-Elect) will again be offering training sessions through the CWL Wednesdays as well as the Parish Executive Training. She will have more information in her Fall newsletter article as well as online.

### **SEASON OF CREATION 2023**

The annual event of the Season of Creation begins on September 1 (the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) and ends on October 4 (the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology). Each year a theme is chosen by an ecumenical steering committee and in 2023 inspiration is taken from Amos 5:24 that proclaims, "Let Justice and Peace Flow" and the symbol is "A Mighty River." An introductory video and resources to observe this season at home and school may be found at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/bdwu2acs>



Additional resources can be found at <https://seasonofcreation.org>

Please consider the following prayer devotionals in your daily spiritual moments for the care of creation:

Holy Hour Eucharistic Adoration <https://seasonofcreation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Holy-Hour-PRAYER-FOR-THE-CARE-OF-CREATION.pdf>

Care of Creation Rosary <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/pray-the-rosary/care-of-creation-rosary>

Novena to Saint Francis <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/prayer-resources/novena-to-st-francis>

Also from the national website under manuals:

#625 Care for God's Creation Resources <https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/625-Our-Common-Home-A-Crash-Course-Module.pdf>

625A Our Common Home: A Crash Course (PowerPoint, attachment 1)

625B Our Common Home: Speaker's notes

Your love of the League and your deep commitment through your generous offering of your time and talent is awe-inspiring to me. I look forward to seeing many of you at the fall general meetings. Until then, may Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide you.

Sue Lubowitz

Diocesan President, 2022-2024