

# TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

## NEWSLETTER

### SPRING 2023

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## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Mary Antonio

Sub-Convener:

Charmaine Alweyn

This Spring issue is the first for the Toronto Diocesan Council for 2023. Thank you to the Councils and members who have subscribed.

The subscription forms can be found on our website at [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca) under Resources Newsletter - cost is \$12.00 for three issues. If you have any questions or there are address changes, please contact me at [newsletter@cwltoronto.ca](mailto:newsletter@cwltoronto.ca). We encourage and welcome members from your council who would like to subscribe for the remainder of the year.



It's a new year with more in-person events. Parish councils have begun meeting again with many new members and new executives. Some of the executive roles have changed and there will be a learning curve for some. There is always help from your Regional Chair.

In this issue, you will see:

- Information on the upcoming 102<sup>nd</sup> Toronto Diocesan Convention
- Many long-term Service Awards to members and Anniversaries of councils that are celebrating many years of service to God and Canada.  
So wonderful!

Council Presidents, please remember to submit the names of the Service Award recipients for the Fall issue by July 31.

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*“Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.” Pope John XXIII*

## **SPIRITUAL ADVISOR**

**Rev. Liborio Amaral**

Dear Sisters in Christ,

As the days now get longer and longer and the daylight increases, we are reminded that Christ is our Light.

In the Gospel of John, the Evangelist uses the theme of Light to signify what Christ has brought to the world and our life - light penetrates the darkness and hope is realized. Jesus desires that we live in His Light that we might not be in the darkness of sin and ignorance. As we move towards the Cross and from there the Resurrection, let us take time from our busy lives to encounter the Light of Christ.

Light is what is present on the day of our baptism, and it is Light that accompanies us at our Funeral Mass. Here I am talking about the “Easter Candle” which represents the “Light of Christ”.

The Easter Candle, that is blessed anew at every Easter Vigil celebration, is lit at our baptism. From it, we receive our own candle to signify that we are called to be Lights in the world of darkness. The symbolism of this transfer of light is a reminder that we are called to bring Christ’s Light of love and peace to the world. Yes, we need to light up our world and we begin with the small corner of the world we occupy. We are called to bring Christ’s light to our family members, our coworkers, our friends and to the CWL councils we are part of.

At our funeral mass, the Easter Candle will again be lit to remind us that we carry that light of Christ to the world that never ends, where there is no darkness but only light, peace and Joy for all eternity. And it is so appropriate in the “honour guard” that you CWL members provide for one of your own, you too carry your candles to light up the way for the deceased, towards the Light of Christ.

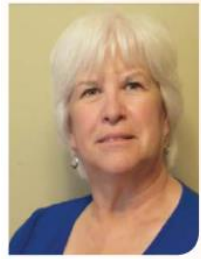
I invite you to live out your Light fully in the midst of the world you live in. Let your light shine so brightly that it will lead others to ignite their own light within them.

Please be assured of my continued prayers and success in your CWL endeavors - always for the Glory of God.



**Membership in the League**

The development of strong leaders is crucial in succession planning for all councils. The diocesan workshop *Leading Through Change-Parish Options* was held on January 28. Two main resources were used and referenced. They are #621 Welcome Program manual and #630 *The Joy of Leadership*. Here are some ways to promote leadership in members:



- Shared Vision: Members want to see how their service fits into the big picture and how it can positively impact others.
- Model Leadership: Modelling is doing work well, doing good work and working with others. It is ultimately about embracing the values and mission of the League and putting them into action.
- Embrace Change: Encourage new ideas, which can bring energy and freshness to the council.
- Empower Others: Leaders help others to recognize their own leadership potential, motivate and engage others, encourage participation and lead by example.
- Encourage Others: The best way to grow a sense of appreciation for someone is to get to know them in terms of where they come from, their background and life circumstances.

As Fr. Liborio Amaral mentioned at the fall regional meetings, we need to fight the urge to be “functional”, to simply keep doing the things in the same way. As council leaders, we need to take time to reflect on the gifts and talents of the members we have welcomed. This is not easy or quick, but you will find it can have dramatic results. As St. Paul tells us, *we are one body but many parts*.

**Unity Outreach Program**

During my visits to parish councils, since May 2022, I have seen the desire of parish councils to remain active in their parish and community. We have discussed leadership issues, training and member development. To help councils, a new national initiative will be launched over the next few months called *Unity Outreach*. This initiative will begin with national officers visiting every provincial executive, after which provincial officers will visit each diocesan executive. The Toronto diocesan officers will then meet with individual councils. The visit will be one of discussion and sharing of

specific council circumstances, particularly the council’s most significant need. More details will be available at your spring regional meetings.

### **National Convention**

The 2023 Annual Meeting of National Council will be held August 13-16 in Saint John, New Brunswick. Please note that this is not a convention and is by invitation only to voting and accredited members. Those eligible to attend in-person will soon receive their information. Those not eligible to attend but wishing to attend, can do so virtually as there will be a virtual option for non-voting members.

### **Ontario Provincial Convention**

Alexandria-Cornwall Diocesan Council will be hosting the 2023 Provincial Convention in Cornwall. This will be the last official function of this diocesan council as they will be amalgamated with the Ottawa Diocesan Council. This was necessitated because of the amalgamation of the two dioceses by the Holy See.

### **Toronto Diocesan Convention**

The diocesan convention will be held on April 24 and 25 at the Ajax Convention Centre. In feedback forms, members requested more time to get to know each other, as well as the possibility of a workshop. Diocesan conventions are a packed two days, but we have tried to incorporate your suggestions. On the evening of April 24, Tracy MacInnis has organized the *CWL Has Talent* evening which promises to be a great opportunity for everyone to have fun. On the second day, April 25, there are two workshops. The first workshop addresses the dignity of a person and will be on the topic of human trafficking. Our speaker is from BridgeNorth. The second workshop will be a roundtable format, where members will connect with others and share their story.

**Convention information is on the Toronto Diocesan Council website** and in the president’s package.

### **The CWL as a Nonpartisan Organization**

At last summer’s national convention, I had a conversation with Glenda Carson, our National Chairperson of Legislation during a break, after a somewhat heated discussion by others from the floor on a topic. As members, please be mindful of the following from the *National Manual of Policy and Procedures* (page 183): “Because the League is a Catholic lay association, its services and activities are important elements of the dynamic civil society life that is so vital to free democracies. Members should strive to be engaged citizens as well as faithful members of the church.

The following guidelines apply to all areas of League service:

1. Communicate and act in a manner that is consistent with the “supremacy of God and the rule of law” (Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms).
2. Promote justice in relationships with others, especially on behalf of persons in need.
3. Encourage informed public debate on issues of social and moral concern.
4. Foster responsible and active citizenship in a pluralistic, democratic country.

For further information, please read Glenda’s article in the Winter 2023 issue of *The Canadian League* (p.7)

I look forward to seeing you at the spring regional meetings.

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## SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Iris McNulty

Ascension Press is offering two webinar series to help the faithful develop a deeper understanding of the bible and the teachings of the Catholic Church. Father Mike Schmidt is hosting *The Bible in a Year and the Catechism of the Catholic Church in a Year*. They can be accessed at the following websites:

Bible In a Year:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLeXS0cAkuTPqFMtZQ379qdEmcfxO1SvXc>

The Catechism of the Catholic: (<https://tinyurl.com/y4e7as84>)

The Sisters of Life have written a Eucharistic Litany for Families: *Come Reign in Us* which can be used for personal or parish use. It can be copied from their website (with acknowledgement of the source) or purchased in bundles. Website: [www.sistersoflife.org/collections](http://www.sistersoflife.org/collections)

North American Lourdes Volunteers has released a book *Everyday Miracles*. The book is authored by the foundress of the organization, Marlene Watkins. It contains twenty life-changing stories about individuals’ experiences as a result of Lourdes.

*No Greater Love* is a documentary film on St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta. It was released in October and has recently been available in a limited number of Cineplex theatres across Canada. It can be livestreamed through Amazon for a small fee.



## **Ecumenism**

Do you know that there are two branches to the Catholic Church? They are the Western or Latin Rite and the Eastern Rite. The Sacraments including the Eucharist are the centre of their worship. The Western Rite is Roman Catholic in nature and is presided over by a pontiff or pope in Rome. The Eastern Rite has its own patriarch. However, it recognizes the pope and is in communion with the Roman Catholic Church. The Eastern Rite liturgy is celebrated according to historical traditions. It is distinct theologically, liturgically and spiritually. Specific customs, rituals and traditions are a part of the Eucharistic celebration. There are twenty-three distinct churches within the Eastern Rite of the Catholic Church. They include the Byzantine (Ukrainian), Coptic (Egyptian), Maronite (Lebanese), Chaldean (Iraqi) and Syro-Malabar (India) churches. *Orientalium Ecclesiarum*, a Vatican II document, supports the right of these Eastern churches to maintain their liturgical practices and to celebrate mass in their native language.

### **Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC)**

The World Day of Prayer is an annual event sponsored by WICC. This year it takes place on March 3. It is a world-wide event led by Christian women in 170 countries and has its origin in the *Fellowship of the Least Coin*. The movement aims to create a more just and peaceful world through prayer and action. A host country is selected to write the prayer service which includes prayers, readings, hymns and awareness raising about the host country. The prayer service for this year was written by the women of Taiwan. A fifty-five minute video of this year's prayer service has been created to use at homes and parishes at anytime. The content is based on this year's World Day of Prayer service hosting Taiwan. This video could be used at a meeting as a way to pray and to learn about the life of women in Taiwan. A *Kids Pray Too 2023* video has been produced. It contains prayer messages, choirs and performance by children's groups across Canada, story-time with family and crafts. The main WICC website contains workshop resources, how to set up small group studies, social justice and learning events, a *Pray Now* podcast which reflects on the effects of the pandemic. It also has a resource on gender-based violence called *Restore*. For further information:

<https://WICC.org>

### **Catholic Teachings and Church Documents**

His Holiness, Pope Francis has written three encyclicals during his pontificate. They are *Lumen Fidei* (2013), *Laudato Si* (2015) and *Fratelli Tutti*. *Lumen Fidei* acknowledges the fact that faith should guide our actions and how we live in community. It calls us to social action so that the well-being of every individual is upheld. *Laudato Si* speaks to the gift of Creation and how it sustains all life. Care of the earth and protection of its resources are the responsibility of everyone. *Fratelli Tutti* speaks to the importance of

caring for each another. It instructs us to have positive relationships with one another and to live peacefully in a community. Taking care of the poor and vulnerable is everyone's responsibility.

**Action:** Consider selecting one of these documents to discuss and reflect upon with your council membership. Fratelli Tutti has a condensed and very useful study guide.

*Manresa Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre* has a number of weekend retreats. The suggested fee is generally \$245.00. Registration is online:

[www.manresa-canada.ca/events](http://www.manresa-canada.ca/events)

March 17 -19: From the Ashes

March 24 - 26: Openness to Christ words

March 31- April 2: Pausing with Jesus Before the Resurrection

April 6 - 8 - Holy Week Retreat

May 12 -14 - Mother's Day Retreat

*St. Augustine's Lay Formation:* June 3: Shining with Joy for Their Maker.

[www.staugustines.on.ca/lay-spiritual-formation](http://www.staugustines.on.ca/lay-spiritual-formation)

## ORGANIZATION

**Kate O'Quinn**

Sub-Conveners:

On-Line Membership

Member Development

Philomena Menezes

Andrea Tjioe

A very warm welcome is extended to new Organization Chairs/Vice Presidents, as your council's elections in January/February have introduced the new League structure. How very exciting! Thank you for saying 'yes' to the call to serve. I look forward to working with you as we journey together in this awesome new role.

If you need assistance, please email me at:

[kateoquinn@yahoo.ca](mailto:kateoquinn@yahoo.ca)

My sub-conveners and myself are here to help in whatever way we can.

### **Membership: Recruiting and Maintaining**

As of December 31, 2022, membership for Toronto Diocese is 6,029, which is down 328 members, just over 5%, from December-31, 2021. We have many excellent resources on the National website to assist us with maintaining and recruiting new members. Under Resources, 300 Series: Promotional Materials, you will find postcards, bookmarks, posters and brochures. To highlight some: Membership Poster (#304), Welcome (Why I





Am A Member) Brochure (#308), Welcome Program Brochure (#313) and Embracing Diversity Graphic/Poster (#318). As well as the Welcome Brochures, there is now a [Welcome Program Video](#). (Go to- To Inform: Videos) [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca).

On our Diocesan website ([www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca)), under Resources: Reference Documents, you will find Membership Kit, what should go into this kit and welcome letters from Presidents at three levels of CWL (Diocesan, Provincial, National). You will also find an Elections document - *Key Points On Running An Election At The Parish Level*.

Membership fees are due at the national office by February 28, each year, but continue to recruit and send in fees (from new and returning members) as received. Be sure to always welcome new and returning members.

### **Strategic Plan Update**

An implementation committee update for the Strategic Plan is posted monthly on the national website. The January 2023 update is from Christa Grillmair, Goal 1 Lead. She notes that there has been an update to the national website in the quick links section for the Strategic Planning

### **Resources and Updates**

[cwl.ca/strategic-planning-resources-and-updates/](http://cwl.ca/strategic-planning-resources-and-updates/) now lists all resources available alphabetically. The list will continue to grow as more resources are developed and approved. Parish council Organization Chairs, you will find many ideas for both long and short term projects, as well as workshops to help you get started. Christa notes that the implementation committee's goal in 2023 is to continue to help councils increase their membership, grow in faith, serve their parish and community and work for social justice.

On the 'To Inspire' page, you will find short videos to share with your membership and to use in your membership drives on *Why Become a Member?* These videos are also great to enhance personal faith journeys.

### **Annual Reports**

The CWL experienced a new format for the 2022 Annual Report. Thank you to the seventy-nine of ninety-eight parish councils who completed the survey (80.6%)! Your responses will really help us at the Diocesan level, as well as Provincial and National levels. At the Diocesan level, I will be looking closely at the question: *Which one or two of the previous initiatives would your council be most interested in implementing?* to assist me in planning future CWL Wednesdays. At your Council level, when you sat together to complete the survey, you made note of an area you would like to introduce/improve at the parish level.

The numbers from the per capita December 31, 2022, will be used for the annual report book tables. This data will also be used for the certificates given to councils who experience an increase in membership numbers.

## **Leadership/Member Development**

*How to Prepare/Revise a Parish Manual of Policy and Procedure* was January's CWL Wednesday Virtual Presentation. Over seventy-five members attended the session, representing thirty-six councils from all seven regions. Thank you to all who were able to attend the presentation and for the great questions/discussion that followed. Thank you to Hilarion Mitchell, TDC Past President/Historian, for taking the lead role in the presentation.

Some councils held/are holding elections in January/February. Parish Executive Training (PET) virtual presentations will once again be offered on Tuesday, February 21 and Wednesday, March 1. An Effective Meetings presentation is scheduled on Monday, February 27. As these executives will now be on the new structure as per Strategic Plan and instructed vote, these presentations will reflect/focus on these changes.

The next-three CWL Wednesdays will be held March 15, May 17 and June 21. There is no CWL Wednesday in April due to the Diocesan Convention.

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## **PAST PRESIDENT/HISTORIAN**

**Hilarion Mitchell**

Spring represents new beginnings and an opportune time for past presidents/historians to focus on preparing and revising their council's policy and procedure manual. The updated ten page Past President Handbook (611) outlines the duties of the past president including:

- Facilitate and encourage the study and implementation of the Constitution & Bylaws.
- Assist the council in developing and revising a parish council manual of policy and procedure.



## **Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) 2022**

The League governance and affiliations outlined in the Manual of Policy and Procedure (section 11, page 151) includes the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations. The Constitution and Bylaws is a set of fundamental laws outlining the agreed basic principles, structure and purposes of an organization and the rights of its members. It defines the powers of officers, their selection and term of office. It states that bylaws are the basic rules of an organization, adopted by its members to control its affairs. The C&B is used with discretion, common sense and respect for

individual members, their rights, privileges, and responsibilities. It is to be reviewed and encourage members' awareness of how the organization operates.

### **National Manual of Policy and Procedure (P&P) 2022**

The governance section on page 155 provides direction on how to use the national P&P manual. "This policy is meant to provide a common standard for councils at all levels to follow when performing the work of the League. Proposed revisions to this manual may not conflict with existing League policy in the C&B". The P&P is complementary to the C&B, provides more detailed information and helpful examples on how to best implement League policies.

### **Council Manual of Policy and Procedure**

Instructions on *How to Prepare a Parish Council Manual of Policy and Procedure* (P&P) is in the Past President Handbook appendix and workshop 812 tab on the national website [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca) . A council P&P manual provides guidance on handling the council's affairs based on established practices, ensures consistency during meetings and events, helps to fulfill the League's Core Principles (Purpose, Mission, Core Values, Mission Statement), Objects of the League and serves as a training resource.

The following Do's and Don'ts are guidelines to assist councils when creating and updating their P&P.

#### **Policy and Procedure: Do's**

- Review current League resources such as the C&B, national, provincial and Toronto P&Ps, complimentary handbooks (i.e., past president, etc.)
- Ensure that the council's policies do not conflict with existing League policies and the C&B
- Update for the new League executive structure with council specific examples of events and activities undertaken.
- Ensure that policies state the actual practices within the council.
- Review and update every two years.

#### **Policy and Procedure: Don'ts**

- Keep previous League executive and standing committee positions.
- Use members names when designating responsibilities in the policy (use the position titles).
- Write specific monetary value for reimbursing members, donations, etc. (use funds permitting).
- Update policies without presenting them to the membership for review and a motion for adoption. Some updates will require a separate motion for inclusion in P&P if they are contentious.

## **2023 Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Award**

The deadline to nominate members for the 2023 Patricia Beattie Annual Memorial Mentoring Award is March 31. Members can be nominated for Category A (Parish Level) and Category B (Auxiliary Level) if they served beyond the parish level. The award guidelines, criteria and nomination form are on [cwltoronto.ca/forms](http://cwltoronto.ca/forms), through your regional chair or by contacting me. The recipients will be awarded at the 102<sup>nd</sup> Toronto Diocesan Council Annual Convention April 24 - 25. Return completed nomination forms to Hilarion Mitchell, Past President/Historian [mitchellsmith@rogers.com](mailto:mitchellsmith@rogers.com).

## **5<sup>th</sup> Moira Ste. Marie Memorial Lecture Series**

The goal for the Moira Ste. Marie Memorial Lecture Series is to bring awareness to members on societal issues from a Catholic bioethical perspective. For example, prolife (abortion, euthanasia), healthcare, palliative care, embryonic stem cell use, school education curriculum, food insecurity, social justice, etc. The fifth lecture series will be held virtually on Wednesday, September 27. More details will be circulated through the regional chairs and posted on the [cwltoronto.ca](http://cwltoronto.ca) once finalized.

A current council P&P will ensure the effective running of the council's affairs. Our experience and expertise as past presidents/historians will be valuable in this process. Councils may contact me for further assistance and templates, when preparing their manual. Do promote the mentoring award and the lecture series.

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## **RECORDING SECRETARY**

**Zenora Mahabal**

Hello and Happy New Year to all returning Recording Secretaries and welcome to those taking on the new combined role of Secretary. Spring is nearly here....new life and new beginnings. With the restructuring of the League, duties of the Secretary have changed. For returning secretaries, my suggestion would be to create a 'Cheat Sheet' as you go along this year, for your new sister secretary next year. With the new duties she will be assuming, it would help to simplify the transition.



The cheat sheet should cover:

- Motion - A concise description on the steps to follow, record the mover and seconder, votes for and against, how to number and remember to file in the motion book.
- Minutes - Any helpful hints and tips on recording and completing minutes, requesting executive reports before or at meetings, filing etc.
- Templates - for agendas, minutes, attendance sheets, executive contacts information and positions, anything you have and can share, so it would be easy to follow and flow smoothly for your sister secretary.
- Prayers - Perhaps you can add the league prayer, prayer to Our Lady of Good Council, land acknowledgement and a phonetic aid to help with the pronunciation of Indigenous names that can be included with or attached to the agenda.

For the new Secretaries, I hope this will be an exciting time for you as you learn everything about and in our League. Just remember to have your pen, paper, motion sheets, recorder (if possible) and keep documents properly filed for easy reference. Seek the assistance of your predecessor and collaborate with your sister to understand what is required to succeed in this position. Another great resource is the secretary's handbook, which is easily downloadable from the national website: [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) - To Organize - 600 Series: Manuals, item #612 - Handbook for Secretaries

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## TREASURER

**Lolita Perry**

Some councils have elected or appointed their treasurers for a new term. Thank you to all treasurers who have completed their terms, as your dedication and service to the League is greatly appreciated.

### **Signing Officers**

For councils that are starting the year with a new executive, you are reminded that banking information must be updated to reflect the new signing officers, with three banking signatories - president, treasurer and secretary. Cheques must be duly signed by two signatories. (Constitution and Bylaws 2022, Part XXII Section 8, Signing Officers)



## **Financial Projects**

At parish level, all financial projects shall be approved by members at a council meeting in consultation with the spiritual advisor. (C&B XVII, S2)

### **E-Transfers**

E-transfer is generally set for the purpose of transferring membership fees from a member's bank account to the council's bank account.

Things to consider:

- Money should be sent to the parish council's account and never to a personal account.
- The computer of the recipient should have a good anti-virus software and precautions should be taken with regards to any emails that are received.
- There may be a charge for the sender.
- E-transfers can only be used to receive money for the council and not to send money, as two signatures are required on council accounts.
- Fraud is NOT covered under the insurance that the League offers. Inquire with your banking institution if this is an option for your council and for more instructions.

As always, encourage members to pay their membership fees on a timely basis.

### **Fundraising**

Fundraising events assist councils in supporting organizations. When considering a donation to an organization, a council is responsible to vet the organization to ensure its practices are in accordance with the values and teachings of the Catholic Church. All funds written in the name of the parish council must be deposited in the council bank account. The Catholic Women's League of Canada is a Not-for-Profit organization and as such, receipts cannot be issued for income tax purposes. A supplementary report should be prepared, recording funds directed to other organizations or for gifts in kind, such as donations of food, drinks and supplies. In this way, the true cost of events will help in preparing yearly budgets.

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*"It is not enough to say we are Christians. We must live the faith, not only with our words, but with our actions."* Pope Francis

**The 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Toronto Diocesan CWL Convention  
Monday, April 24, 2023 and Tuesday April 25, 2023**



Ajax Convention Centre  
550 Beck Crescent, Ajax, ON, L1Z 1C9  
*Catholic and Living It! Called to Serve*

**CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS**

**Monday, April 24**

***“Catholic and Living It”***

- 9:00 a.m. Registration
- 9:30 a.m. Resolutions Dialogue
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Break
- 1:30 p.m. Opening Eucharistic celebration
- 2:15 p.m. Call to Order - Business Session
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner Break
- 6:00 p.m. Registration
- 6:30 p.m. Business Session
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Awards
- 7:30 p.m. Keynote Speaker: Education
- 8:00 p.m. Closing Prayer
- 8:05 p.m. Entertainment: CWL Has Talent
- 9:00 p.m. Visit Regional Rooms for socializing.

**Tuesday, April 25**

***“Go Make a Difference”- “Called to Serve”***

- 8:00 a.m. Registration
- 8:45 a.m. Opening Prayer
- 9:00 a.m. Instructed vote
- 9:50 a.m. Resolutions
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. Presentation of Certificates of Merit
- 11:00 a.m. Faith in Action Workshop
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Break
- 1:30 p.m. Round Table Workshop-My Story
- 3:30 p.m. Closing Eucharistic Celebration
- 6:00 p.m. Cocktail Reception – Cash Bar
- 7:00 p.m. Closing Banquet

**Keynote Address:  
His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins**

## HOTEL INFORMATION

### The Hilton Garden Inn

500 Beck Crescent, Ajax, ON, L1Z 1C9

By telephone: 1-905- 686-9400. Group code ID is: CWLOC.

Online:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=YYZAJGI&groupCode=CWLOC&arrivaldate=2023-04-23&departuredate=2023-04-26&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

Rates are \$159 per night, plus HST for double occupancy. There is a surcharge of \$10 per person for up to two additional persons—limit four people per room.

**Deadline to get this rate is March 23, 2023.**

Parking is free.

Monday lunch and dinner tickets and Tuesday lunch and Banquet tickets are available. Please fill out appropriate forms when registering.

**(The Convention Centre does not allow food from outside restaurants; and restaurants in the area you might wish to use are located in nearby plazas. You may be late returning for the p.m. sessions.)**

### INQUIRIES AND OTHER INFORMATION:

### THIS CONVENTION IS A SCENT- FREE EVENT

Website: [cwltoronto.ca](http://cwltoronto.ca)

### Convention Team:

Mary Hawkley	<u><a href="mailto:mahawkley@sympatico.ca">mahawkley@sympatico.ca</a></u>	905-668-1644
Mary Ellen Stinson	<u><a href="mailto:m.e.stinson2@hotmail.com">m.e.stinson2@hotmail.com</a></u>	905-666-3752
Lynette Mendes	<u><a href="mailto:lynettecwl@gmail.com">lynettecwl@gmail.com</a></u>	647-927-1136



## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

February 21/March 1	PET (Parish Executive Training) Virtual
February 27	Effective Meetings Presentation
March 15/May 17/June 21	CWL Wednesdays
March 19	Youth Awards Written Contest
March 26	Mary Matthews Final Speech Contest
March 31	Patricia Beattie Award
April 24 & 25	102 <sup>nd</sup> Toronto Diocesan Convention

## **SPRING REGIONAL MEETING DATES – 2023**

March 7	Humber Valley Region
March 13	Toronto Region
March 16	Durham Region
March 22	Northern Region
March 23	North York Region
March 27	Scarborough Region
March 30	Peel Region

### ***Happy Anniversary!***

*Immaculate Conception, Humber Valley Region - 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*St. Gregory, Humber Valley Region - 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*St. Padre Pio, Humber Valley Region - 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*St. Luke, North York Region – 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*Holy Spirit, Northern Region – 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*St. Andrew (Brechin), Northern Region – 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*St. Mary, Brampton, Peel Region – 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*Precious Blood, Scarborough Region - 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*St. Aidan, Scarborough Region - 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*St. Dunstan, Scarborough Region - 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

## **SERVICE AWARDS**

### **Maple Leaf Service Pins**

#### **Toronto Region**

St. John's Kingston Road      Carmen Vanderreest

#### **Scarborough Region**

St. Bartholomew      Theresa Greasley

### **75 Year Membership Pins**

#### **Durham Region**

St. Joseph the Worker      Rita Flintoff

### **70 Year Membership Pins**

#### **Northern Region**

St. Andrew's      Bernadette Readman      Madeline Windatt  
Bernice Lamb      Helen Cormack

### **65 Year Membership Pins**

#### **Toronto Region**

St. Pius X      Marin Demmery

#### **Durham Region**

St. Joseph the Worker      Bernadette Kerrigan

### **60 Year Membership Pins**

#### **Peel Region**

St. John Fisher      Lorraine Comeau

#### **Northern Region**

Our Lady of Lourdes      Anne Nahuis      Rollie Stephens

### **55 Year Membership Pins**

#### **Peel Region**

St. John Fisher      Brenda Wood

#### **Humber Region**

Nativity of Our Lord      Evie Adams

#### **Northern Region**

Our Lady of Lourdes      Diane Moreau

**Durham Region**

St. Joseph the Worker Carole Osier

**Scarborough Region**

St. Joseph Highland Creek Theresa Banks

**50 Year Membership Pins**

**Northern Region**

St. Paul The Apostle Anne Maher Madeline Skelton

Our Lady of Lourdes Lorraine Cobbett Margaret Ann Jacobs

Donalda Marchand Luella Simpson

Holy Martyrs of Japan Darlene Moniz

**Toronto Region**

St. John’s Kingston Road Celestine Hall

**Humber Region**

Transfiguration of Our Lord Karen McKeown Corey Van Stavern

**Durham Region**

St. Joseph the Worker Charlotte Mulhern

**Scarborough Region**

St. Joseph Highland Creek Judith Tieber

**45 Year Membership Pins**

**Humber Region**

Transfiguration of Our Lord Elvy Sandre

**Northern Region**

Our Lady of Lourdes Carol Hales Romelda Pottage

Karen Ritchie Catherine Verlaan

**Peel Region**

St. Joseph Streetsville Josie Carnevale

St. John Fisher Elizabeth Watson

**Durham Region**

St. Joseph the Worker Laverne Craig Mary Jo Dinan

**Scarborough Region**

St. Joseph Highland Creek Bette Loben Patricia Sheehan

**40-Year Membership Pins**

**Peel Region**

St. Joseph Streetsville Bev Wolkowich

**Northern Region**

St. Paul The Apostle Linda Beckstead Constance Orr

Our Lady of Lourdes Francie Hall Nellie Hubbard

Sacred Heart Shirley Dorion Martha Robitaille

**Humber Region**

Nativity of Our Lord Julia Nixon

**Toronto Region**

St. Pius X Mary Buckley Jane Cleary Alice Posivy

**Durham Region**

St. Joseph the Worker Dianne Faustino Maria McCarthy

**35-Year Membership Pins**

**Peel Region**

St. Francis Xavier Bertila DeSouza Maureen Rodrigues

St. Joseph Streetsville Cleone Wickramsinghe

**Humber Region**

Transfiguration of Our Lord Carol McErlain

Nativity of Our Lord Donna Fowler Anna Mielczarek

**Northern Region**

Our Lady of Lourdes Diane Kennedy Joyce Parent Pat Scott

**Toronto Region**

St. Pius X Madlene Cumbo

**Durham Region**

St. Joseph the Worker Vicky Mikalauskas Camille Torres Kathy Skribe

Mary Murphy Gloria Smith Teresa Lukasavitch

**Scarborough Region**

St. Joseph Highland Creek Mary Fisico

**30-Year Membership Pins**

**Peel Region**

St. Joseph Streetsville Susan Jurenas

St. John Fisher Winnifred Allison Ruth Bracken Eileen Castella

Judy Glyn-Williams Julie Montinaro

**Humber Region**

Nativity of Our Lord Mary Capobianco Mela Dacunha Alba Ferrao

Laura Fernandes Mary Foran Alice Mycan

**Northern Region**

Our Lady of Lourdes Ann Archer Anne Dempster Mary Sauve

Shelley Moreau Geraldine Tinney

**Durham Region**

St. Joseph the Worker Josephine Borg Helen LaFrance Carolina Pulla

Heather Meagher Isolina Ricciuto

Margaret Ricketts

**Scarborough Region**

St. Joseph Highland Creek      Lina Fisico      Bertha Redmond  
 Gertrude Seymour    Peggy Sheehan    Eral Zong

**25-Year Membership Pins****Toronto Region**

St. John's Kingston Road      Norma McCleverty

**Northern Region**

St. Paul The Apostle    Beatriz Baumfeld    Jane Jackson    Donna Lynch  
 Holy Martyrs of Japan    Clotilda Dureas    Terry Chambers    Rita Hunt  
 Sharon Bellon      Dina Gutta  
 Our Lady of Lourdes    Isabel Wilson  
 Sacred Heart      Carol Quesnelle

**Peel Region**

St. John Fisher      Christina Broccolo    Rose Keating  
 Hilarion Mitchell    Colette Rupolo

**Humber Region**

Nativity of Our Lord    Maria Dicarolo    Stella Relenski    Rosila Wilton

**Durham Region**

St. Joseph the Worker    Kathleen Pellarin    Diana Petre    Linda Rivers  
 Joan Barnes    Margaret Boehm    Stacia Cacciotti  
 Doreen Hickey    Thelma Hickey

**20-Year Membership Pins****Humber Region**

Transfiguration of Our Lord    Irene Culum  
 Nativity of Our Lord    Rita Daley    Clara Fernandes    Germana Pereira

**Scarborough Region**

St. Aidan      Florinda D'Costa    Shirley D'Mello    Teresa Seeley  
 Bernadette Singh    Artimizia Tellis    Rose Ylagan  
 St. Joseph Highland Creek      Monica Meharchand

**Northern Region**

Sacred Heart      Barbara Bruce

**Peel Region**

St. Francis Xavier      Teresa Rose Fernandes    Pamela Gomes  
 Lyra Gregorio      Lynette Mendes  
 St. Joseph Streetsville    Blanche Gomes      Melanie Nazareth  
 St. John Fisher      Trudy Hamma

**Toronto Region**

St. John's Kingston Road    Roseanne Nihtila  
 St. Pius X      Maureen Rogers    Vicky Dunwoody

**Durham Region**

St. Joseph the Worker    Mariam Price    Joan Randall    Diane Waclawek

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St. Anthony's Parish Brampton, Peel Region Celebrating 45 years.



Precious Blood Parish, Scarborough Region Celebrating 40 years

Sub-Convenor:

Kellie Hilliard

Many councils have now embraced the newly structured Catholic Women's League of Canada which is now being reinforced by the three pillars of ***Faith, Service and Social Justice***. Christian Family Life topics in those councils now fall under faith and service. Congratulations to all councils that have submitted their 2022 Annual Reports to showcase their good works.



## **Marriage and Family**

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has some excellent resources on marriage in the Catholic Church. Visit [www.cccb.ca](http://www.cccb.ca) for more information. You may also wish to check for any available parish program.

**Bill CC-265:** *An act respecting the development of a national perinatal mental health strategy* may be a topic of interest to your council, especially for younger members. Encourage members to read the bill and consider contacting their members of parliament and minister of health for further knowledge.

Pray for all families and find creative ways for their support at all stages of life. Invite families to your meetings and activities.

**International Family Day** to be held on May 15, 2023, is a United Nations observance, to remember the crucial role that the family plays in our world, cultures and societies. In past years, the CCCB has used the *National Week for Life and the Family* to propose ideas for its pastoral initiative for life and family. Google: *international day of the family* for more details.

## **Sanctity of Life**

Campaign Life Coalition organizes the *National March for Life* which will be held on May 11, 2023. Encourage your council to participate through prayer and action. The march is held on Parliament Hill to peacefully protest for the right to life for every human being.

**Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC)** EPC has a great and successful platform for pro-life. Although it is no longer a national CWL fund recipient, members are encouraged to make donations directly to the organization at [www.epcc.ca](http://www.epcc.ca)

## **Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)**

**Bill S-248:** An act to amend the Criminal Code of MAiD is currently in its second reading in the Senate. Please ask members to contact their MPs, provincial senators and minister of health to prevent the addition of pre-

consent, and also to prevent the disabled from being added to the criteria that are already in place.

### **Palliative Care**

*The Day of Prayer for Palliative Care* is scheduled for May 2023. <https://www.cwl.ca> . Adequate palliative/hospice care is greatly needed for all Canadians requiring such service. Does your parish have *Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care*? Let's pray for this!

### **Youth**

*The World Youth Day* will be held August 1- 6, 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal. Councils are encouraged to support their youth in the parish and community through prayer and service, to help make this event a spiritual, peaceful and memorable one for young people. <https://www.worldyouthday.com>

### **Seniors**

As our population ages, loneliness becomes a new problem for many who once lived a normal life. Encourage members to check on seniors through all possible ways. Volunteer at centres and keep them in your prayer.

### **Widowed**

The widowed have a lot of adjustment to make after the loss of their loved one. Does your parish host sessions for grief counseling like *Grief Journey* [www.griefjourney.com](http://www.griefjourney.com) ? Does your parish have any other program that could be shared?

### **Separated, Divorced**

*Annulments Today, Merciful and Just* brochure is available from the national website [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) for distribution to members, and possibly in your parish with the approval of your Spiritual Advisor.

### **Vocations**

*The World's Day of Prayer for Vocations* is Sunday, April 30, 2023. On this day (and all other days), we are all asked to pray for vocations for priests, seminarians, deacons, and other lay persons. The offering of a Mass for someone in need of encouragement would be appreciated.

### **Ecumenism and Interfaith**

On January 25, 2023, the *Toronto Area Interfaith Council* (TAIC) presented a Zoom meeting on The Government of Canada approach to improving Long Term Care (LTC) setting in Canada. The Guest Speaker was the Honourable Rob Oliphant, member of parliament, along with other notable members of the TAIC. The meeting concluded with lively discussions from participants including members from various levels of the CWL.

Revisit **Resolution 2016.05**: Amend the Canada Health Act to Include Home Care as an Insured Health Service.

**References:** OPC-CFL 2022 On-line newsletter; National-CFL October 2022 MEMO



## **Recommendations:**

Visit the websites of all levels of the CWL for invaluable learning resources:  
[www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) , [www.cwlon.ca](http://www.cwlon.ca) , [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca)  
*Be a mentor!*

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## **COMMUNICATIONS**

**Nenita MacKenzie**

Sub-Convener:

Lucia Vacca

### **Annual Reports**

Thank you to all parish councils for completing their Annual Communications Reports to National. As you know, these reports are very important resources. They provide great insight on what other councils are doing and may give you ideas as to what your councils can do.

Although not all councils have a Communications Chair, the good work should be reported and may be completed by the council presidents. You may even think that your council has nothing worth reporting but remember not to overlook that we do connect with our members in so many ways. Like, through telephone committees, sending emails, zoom and so on. Our responsibility as communication chair is to keep our members well informed and the communication line going.

### **League Magazine and Newsletter**

Please note that *The Canadian League* magazine spring issue in the future, will be in digital format only at [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) . Councils are encouraged to remind members to view online and where possible make copies for members without internet.

Have you subscribed to the Ontario Provincial Newsletter? Please go to <https://cwl.on.ca> to see all the great achievements of our CWL sisters from across the province which are featured on the On-Line Newsletter every month.

The Toronto Diocesan website at [cwltoronto.ca](http://cwltoronto.ca) has a new look. Please do check 'Upcoming Events' where you can find events and workshops offered to all members.

Does your council have a Parish Council Newsletter? If you are thinking of creating one, there is a newsletter template which can be found on the national website at [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca) To Organize – Resources – 100 Series, items #145a and #145b.



## **TDC Convention - Communications Table – Council Newsletters**

This is the great way to showcase your parish council newsletter at the TDC Convention (April 24 & 25). Convention registration can be found on the homepage of our website at [cwltoronto.ca](http://cwltoronto.ca) .

If your council has a newsletter, please contact me at

[nenitamackenzie@yahoo.ca](mailto:nenitamackenzie@yahoo.ca) or give me a hard copy, at our upcoming

Regional Spring General Meetings. For those councils who do not currently have their own newsletter, now maybe a good time to start creating one.

### **World Communications Day 2023**

Sunday May 21 marks the 57<sup>th</sup> World Communications Day with the theme “Speak with the heart: Veritatem facientes in caritate” (Speaking the truth in Love). Pope Francis' theme is a call for a peaceful dialogue that allows for uncomfortable truths to be spoken of, without resorting to contentious and hostile debate. Speaking the truth "means giving '*a reason for your hope*' and doing so gently, using the gift of communication as a bridge and not as a wall". Pope Francis also wants to show that in the global conflicts afflicting the world, “non hostile communication is more necessary than ever.” The world needs a communication that is “open to dialogue with the other” and that strives “to dismantle the ‘psychosis of war’ that lurks in our hearts.”

“It is an effort that is required of everyone, but in particular, of communication workers called upon to exercise their profession as a mission for building a more just, more fraternal and more human future”(Vatican News).

### **Catholic Register – Book**

“What is Christianity?” a book of essays written by Pope Benedict XVI from 2014 to 2022. In the preface, he asked that the book not be released before his death. An explanation of the aspects of "sacrifice and expiation" in the celebration of the Eucharist and, therefore, in the role of the Catholic priest was the focus of two of the new essays included in "What is Christianity?". Only four of the sixteen essays in the book are published for the first time. All of them were written between 2014 and March 2022. Elio Guerriero, who helped Pope Benedict compile the essays in "What is Christianity?" said the controversy over the book with Cardinal Sarah was what led Pope Benedict to insist on waiting to publish the collection of essays until after his death.

Spotlight: Continue to share your photographs of your council's events and activities to be featured in “Spotlight” and on social media. Any submission to “Spotlight” should be sent to Catherine at [digitalmedia@cwl.ca](mailto:digitalmedia@cwl.ca) .

Sub-Convener:

Yvonne LeGall

Welcome to all new and returning Community Life Chairs. Happy Spring!

**Homelessness and Under Housing**

Many communities are making strides to alleviate the shelter crisis in Ontario. In Durham Region, Ajax City council decided to use a building earmarked for condominiums, as a temporary thirty bed shelter for homeless individuals. On January 17, an open house was held, inviting citizens to support the homeless in their community.

In Kingston, Ontario, the city funded and converted a decommissioned learning centre into an emergency shelter for forty homeless individuals during the winter months. Individuals are provided with dinner and breakfast meals. In contrast, the city of Toronto does not have enough shelter spaces for individuals seeking shelter. The scheduled closure of five shelter hotels has further reduced shelter services and diverted individuals to emergency warming centres, that are only open during ‘a cold weather emergency’. (Stone Soup Network, January 2023).

The following life saving recommendations were made by Faith leaders:

- Have twenty-four-hour a day access to warming centres during the winter months.
- End encampment evictions and destruction of survival gear.
- Keep shelter spaces open, including the five shelter hotels scheduled for closure in 2023.
- Add 2,700 non congregate spaces within the regular shelter system (Rev. Alexa Gilmour, January 2023).

Recently, The Toronto Board of Health has been urging the city to keep its’ warming centres open for the remaining winter season. Physicians from St. Michael’s hospital “expressed concern about the health and well-being of unhoused individuals during winter” (Stephen Hwang, MD); and questioned “Why is it acceptable to continuously hold discussions about basic human rights, like people not freezing to death on the streets, instead of doing something about it ?” (Jacqueline Vincent, MD). Dr Hwang also expressed facing the “impossible dilemma” of discharging patients into the street and cold, after treating them over a long period, to help them recover from a serious illness; and mentioned staff in city hospitals are seeing an increase of homeless individuals visiting the Emergency rooms to keep themselves warm (January 2023).



The Diocese of London, in conjunction with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul are constructing sixty affordable rental housing units to help more than 2000 homeless persons in the city of London. The Indwell housing charity has received a donation of \$175,000 from London Direct Liquidation, to support two affordable housing programs and construction of 138 rental units.

**Action:** Support services to help with homelessness.

**Human Trafficking**

A new specialized anti-human trafficking training was unveiled for Police Officers in Peel region. This mandatory training “will provide officers with skills to detect instances of human trafficking and also help victims to shorten the time they are being trafficked”. (Chief Nishan Duraiappah).

**Action:** Monitor if other Regions uptake this training for their officers. Support services to help in human trafficking.

*Available resources: #614 Handbook for Chairpersons of Faith, Service and Social Justice; #712 Human Trafficking Prayer Service; #824 Trafficking of Women and Children Workshop*

**EDUCATION AND HEALTH**

**Andrea Smart**

Sub-Conveners:

Public Speaking, Poetry, Essay and Service Awards:  
St. Michael Scholarship:

Carolyn Meaney  
Catherine von Zuben

Each spring we think of new beginnings or renewals. We quite often do a spring cleaning to chase away all the dullness from the winter months. This year I encourage you to take a “me day” and make some quiet time for yourself.

**Health**

Bell Let’s Talk Day took place on January 25. The approach with this year’s campaign was different than in previous years. Instead of donating five cents every time Canadians used the phrase "Bell Let’s Talk" a lump-sum donation of \$10 million was given to charitable organizations supporting mental health. Looking after our mental health is just as important as our physical health. During the first wave of the pandemic, the federal government recognized that our mental health was going to suffer even more and created the program *Wellness Together Canada* (wellnesstogether.ca). It is a free program with a multitude of up-to-date resources to help us with mental health and addiction.



Toronto Western Hospital is building a first of its kind seniors emergency care centre thanks to a \$52 million donation by the John and Myrna Daniels Foundation. Instead of a nurse or doctor overseeing the patient, it will be a comprehensive team with geriatric knowledge that can provide more specific care. The centre will be responsible for training the next generation of providers to understand the needs of older patients and for researching the best practices and models for geriatric care in order to replicate in other places. The centre is expected to open in 2025.

### **Environment**

Climate change is becoming more serious as the years go by. It not only affects our weather with winters being much warmer than normal, summers with longer heat waves and more severe storms. Nature is also affected as animals' natural habitats become smaller. This is true for our native wild bee population. It has become threatened due to the loss of habitat and food sources, invasive plants etc. A recent blog "*Bee*" a champion for our local pollinators! (yourleaf.org) provides information on how you can help provide habitat and food sources in your own yard.

World Earth Day takes place on Saturday, April 22. This year's theme is *Invest In Our Planet*, which is focused on engaging governments, institutions, businesses, and the more than 1 billion citizens who participate annually in Earth Day, to do their part - everyone accounted for, everyone accountable. Starting January 1, the federal government's ban on single use plastics went into effect. All stores will or have already stopped supplying single use plastic bags. Plastic pollution is considered one of the most important environmental problems today (Earthday.org).

### **Education**

Catholic Education Week (#CEW2023) is April 30 to May 5. This year's theme is *We Are Many, We Are One* (#WeAreManyWeAreOne). The theme is reflected throughout the year in the classroom and liturgical resources developed by the Catholic Education Week Committee. The spiritual quote for Catholic Education Week 2023 is "We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members, one of another." (Romans 12:5). With the complexities of our world and our communities today, we can stray from the peace that comes when we are in communion with each other. In our unity, we celebrate our diversity, all uniquely created by God. We read in Corinthians that if one member suffers, we all suffer.

### **St. Michael's College Scholarship**

A reminder that applications for the Toronto Diocesan CWL St. Michael's Scholarship Fund are due on May 31. The scholarship is available to young women making St. Michael's College, University of Toronto, their first choice for post-secondary education. The University of St. Michael's College (USMC), established in 1852 and federated with the University of

Toronto since 1910, is a Catholic institution of higher learning founded by the Congregation of St. Basil. The criteria and other information including the application form can be found in the Forms section under Resources [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca)

### **National Bursary**

Margaret Schwab, National Education and Health Chair has reminded us that the deadline for applications to the National Bursary Fund is May 15. Qualified recipients may receive up to \$1,000 per year and up to \$4,000 in a lifetime. The National Bursary is available for all members and is generally under-utilized.

Refer to National’s website <https://cwl.ca/resources/500-series-forms/> for more information and application form.

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## **LEGISLATION**

**Mary Tuccitto**

Sub-Convener:

Suzanne Cockburn

Greetings and Happy Spring! Many thanks to all Legislation Chairs who completed their Annual Reports. This is the perfect way to capture your council’s activities through the year. So much has happened with regards to legislation since our Winter 2022 Newsletter. The state of our health care is still a major concern and because of so many inequities, the number of people seeking MAiD has become an urgent issue which needs our attention. **Bill-C 22** *An Act to reduce poverty and to support persons with disabilities by establishing the Canada disability benefit and making a consequential amendment to the Income Tax Act*, was amended in December 2022 to help support people to live with dignity and to give them hope and not turn to MAiD as an alternative. Recently, the federal government delayed plans to introduce **Medical Assistance in Dying** solely for mental illness, but it is no victory and we must continue to fight for our lives and those who have lost hope.



### **Federal Bills**

#### **Bill S-223: An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (trafficking in human organs)**

This bill received royal assent on December 15 of 2022. This act amends section 7 of the *Criminal Code* to create new offences as it pertains to trafficking in human organs and anyone who is involved in obtaining an organ, facilitating in the removal of an organ or does anything in connection with the removal of an organ from a person whose consent was not given, is

guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment. In addition it amends the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* stating that a permanent resident or foreign national is inadmissible to Canada if they have engaged in any activities in relation to the trafficking of human organs.

**Bill C-92: An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families**

This bill was introduced in February of 2019 and received royal assent, making this important piece of legislation which was co-developed with Indigenous, provincial and territorial partners, the law. Under Bill C-92, Indigenous communities will be able to take into account their histories, cultures and circumstances to develop policies and laws and to implement and enforce these policies and laws; to help guide the provision of Indigenous child and family services, in the best interest of the child. This Act is the result of advocacy and leadership of Chiefs and elders, parents and grandparents, youth and community members from across Canada, which began in 2018 and is in keeping with the Government of Canada's commitments to implementing the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's *Calls to Action*, and the ratification of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

**Provincial Bills**

**Bill 45: Building More Homes on Major Streets and Transit Corridors Act, 2022.**

This Bill amends the *Planning Act* to require official plans to authorize midrise housing developments ranging from six to eleven stories on major streets, including along transit corridors.

**Bill 53: Right to Timely Mental Health and Addiction Care for Children and Youth Act, 2022.** This Act requires the Minister to ensure that a person twenty-six years of age or less who resides in Ontario and has been deemed to require addiction or mental health services, receives access to these services within thirty days of being deemed to require such services.

**Bill 59: Making Sexual Assault Evidence Kits Available Act, 2022.**

This Act requires every hospital to have at least ten sexual assault evidence kits available at all times, as directed by the Minister of Health.

**Legislation Resources:** The Canadian League Magazine, national and provincial websites, communiqués and directives, federal, provincial and municipal government websites. Go to [www.parl.gc.ca/LEGISinfo](http://www.parl.gc.ca/LEGISinfo) to access information on legislation currently before Parliament. You may also access Legislative Information and follow Legislative proceedings live at [www.parl.gc.ca/housechamberbusiness/chambercalendar](http://www.parl.gc.ca/housechamberbusiness/chambercalendar)

For current bills in the Ontario Legislature go the Legislative Assembly of Ontario website at:  
[www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/current](http://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/current)

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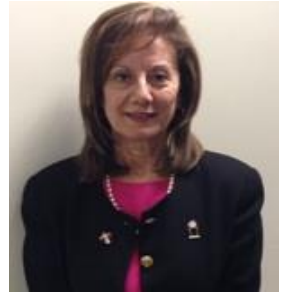
## RESOLUTIONS

**Connie Cristinziano**

Sub-Conveners:

Donna Capobianco  
Darlene Marino

As the League transitions and becomes streamlined to three standing committees, it is more than ever important for parish council executives to assume leadership about resolutions, to promote their development and to initiate action and awareness by members on adopted League resolutions. The ministry of resolutions, their development and the advocacy achieved through them, are a means to grow in faith and to witness being Catholic and Living it!



### **Convention News**

This year, one resolution will be presented at the Toronto Diocesan Annual Convention (April 24 and April 25).

- **TDC 2023.01 To Establish A Universal Intermittent Catheter Coverage for Individuals with Spinal Cord Injuries, Multiple Sclerosis, and Parkinson’s Disease**

Copies of this resolution were included in the convention packages distributed to council presidents. Presidents and Resolutions Standing Committee Chairs are requested to take time to read, study, review and discuss this resolution at one of your general meetings. Parish voting and accredited delegates should come to the convention with an **informed** vote from their council. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions concerning this resolution, please contact me by April 10, 2023, at [ccristinziano@rogers.com](mailto:ccristinziano@rogers.com) or 416 258-6678.

### **Resolutions Dialogue**

The resolutions dialogue this year will be held in person on the first day of the convention on **Monday, April 24 at 9:30AM to 11:30AM** and is open to all registered delegates. This dialogue gives delegates the opportunity to review, discuss and bring forth any suggested changes in the form of



motions to the resolution. It is also a great way to spark an interest in resolutions. The motions are then presented during the resolution process on the second day of the convention. In the second part of the resolutions dialogue, a mini workshop has been planned. The scope is to review action plans of existing/adopted resolutions and how this standing committee will be integrated under the new structure of the league under Faith, Service and Social Justice. This should prove to be an informative and engaging session for many members and will demonstrate how resolutions continue to be important for your council.

### **Resolutions Business Session**

This is scheduled for the morning of Tuesday, April 25. Members wishing to speak on the resolution, will be recognized by the chair, provided that they use the microphone and identify themselves by name and council and will be asked to keep within the time limit.

### **Resolutions Action Plan**

We are reminded that the most important component of the resolutions process is following through on the **Action Plan. The action plan is where the league makes the most impact.** Through action plans, members have the opportunity to become more knowledgeable about the issue, promote advocacy that will trigger the desired action and make the intent of the resolution a reality! There are so many adopted resolutions and action plans to choose from. These can be found on various websites: [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca); [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca); [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) .What better way to put our faith into action and demonstrate how we can make a difference in our parishes, communities and beyond. I encourage councils to participate in the ongoing OPC 2022-2024 Faith into Action - Making a Difference project.

### **Provincial update**

In a recent survey circulated by our Ontario Provincial Resolutions Chairperson Mary Capobianco, members were asked *why they are interested in resolutions and what fuels their interest in resolutions.*

Here a few highlights:

1. Resolutions are a powerful source of advocacy.
2. Resolutions bring change for Social Justice.
3. Resolutions help us to educate ourselves and others.
4. When we see injustice, we are fueled to do something about it.

Thank you to all Toronto Diocesan members who participated in this survey. The responses clearly exemplify the passion of league members to be an active part of the mission and advocacy of the League, to be that voice of the voiceless. Resolutions are still thriving and will continue to be so,

within the new structure of the League, through members as women of faith and action. Let us continue to keep the flame burning now and for future generations. Together we can **Make a Difference!**

### **Annual reports**

Thank you to all councils who submitted annual reports for this standing committee. I look forward in reading how your council promoted the development of resolutions, initiated action and awareness on adopted resolutions and how they will be important to your council under the new structure of the league. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our Toronto Diocesan Annual Convention.

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## **CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE “Go Make a Difference!”**

### **Faith In Action Project**

As advised by the Ciscily Winkler, Christian Family Life Chair, the project focus for this committee is on vocations.

From Provincial Directive #3: “In the light of all the issues surrounding the church (abuse, Indigenous issues, etc.) and recognizing that our priests, religious and deaconate must deal with personal stress related to same, I would like the focus for Christian Family Life Standing Committee to be directed towards ‘Vocations’

Suggested activities include the following:

- Offer a Mass for the intentions of your pastor.
- Offer a Mass for the intention for young persons to discern a vocation to the priesthood or persons in religious life.
- Offer a Mass for the intentions of any/all persons in religious life.
- Invite priests and religious to speak at your meetings on vocations. Pray for vocations.
- Send a “thinking of you card” or a “thank you” to your pastor and/or persons in religious life.
- Remember to congratulate them on their anniversaries, special occasions.
- Discuss vocations with your children, grandchildren and friends.
- Donate to the Bishop F. Pappin Bursary Fund.

- Adopt a seminarian or novitiate. Send him/her a card or note of encouragement during their studies. Send a Christmas card, invite them for a meal. Invite them to come to a meeting and speak about their journey.

From a council: The list of clergy and religious (prepared in 2018) was updated. Previously, individual prayer cards were made up for each person on the list. The cards were first distributed at a parish coffee hour sponsored by the CWL and later shared with all parishioners in a basket at the church entrance and through requests for prayer through the parish bulletin and CWL newsletter.

A sample prayer card:

**Let us pray for Fr. Michael and all other clergy, religious and seminarians serving in our Lord's name.**

***Lord, bless our clergy, religious and seminarians that they may listen to your voice and follow it with courage and joy.***

*“Let us set out each day praying for one another, working together as witnesses of the peace of Jesus, by persevering in the same journey by our practical acts of charity and unity. In all things, let us love one another from the heart.” Pope Francis*

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