



President's Update

"When people love and recite the Rosary they find it makes them better." *St. Anthony Mary Claret*

A friend told me that when they were cleaning her grandmother's house they found rosaries everywhere. Rosaries were hidden, lost, or just purposefully put in the kitchen, inside clocks, behind drawers, in special boxes in special places, her bedside—everywhere! It was like she was trying to tell them that when they miss her, when they are sad, when they feel lonely, or when they need help making it through the day with a mother's heart, they should pick up a rosary.



Regional Meetings:

There is plenty to report to you about what has been happening around the parish councils so I will start with the some highlights from the regional general meetings. The purpose of the regional meeting is to bring us together and to take back with us ideas from other councils to do works of love for the greater glory of God.

We heard about food drives, toiletries drive for a woman's shelter, high teas, card making sessions, cake raffles, walk a thons, craft nights, pilgrimages, coat drives, a game night social and the painting of kindness rocks (a suggestion from national council).

Some different than usual events were an evening prayer service for Palliative Care Week, an information evening with York Regional Police on Human Trafficking, a deputation to Vaughn City Council to request a flag raising to declare a week of awareness against human trafficking (and success!), a polka mass and luncheon, line dancing evening, backpacks filled with school supplies delivered to the local food bank, the delivery of New Year's Day breakfast supplies to the local women's shelter. A few councils have started the process of writing a council Policy and Procedure manual. Congratulations to all councils on your excellent work and service.

A special thanks to the following councils who offered their hospitality for the regional meetings: Our Lady of Lourdes (Toronto Region), St. Margaret Mary (Humber Valley

Region), St. John Vianney (Northern Region), St. Francis Xavier (Peel Region), St. Edward the Confessor (North York Region), Sacred Heart (Durham Region), and Precious Blood (Scarborough). It was great to be together, talk and hug!

Parish Deceased Members Reporting Workshop



This was held virtually on Sept. 24 by the Provincial Spiritual Development Chair Wilma Vanderzwaag and the Keeper of the *Book of Life*, Cathy McKinney. If you missed it, it has been made available on the provincial website:

<https://cwl.on.ca/parish-deceased-members-reporting-workshop/>

You will be able to access the recording of the workshop as well as find the 2023 updated form and the reporting checklist.

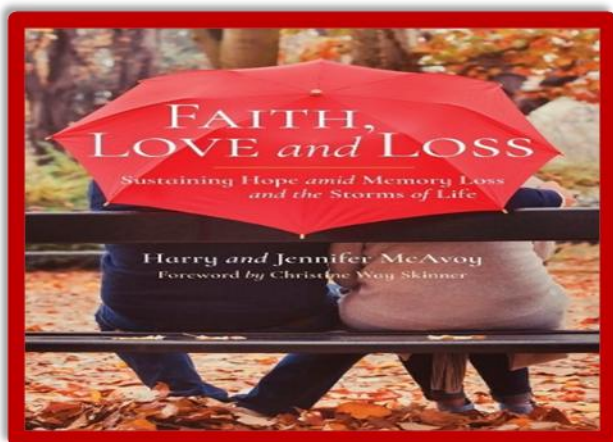
The *Book of Life* is used at national, provincial and diocesan conventions as a symbol of those faithful deceased members. Many parish councils have also made a *Book of Life* for use at special CWL Eucharistic celebrations or prayer services. National resource #603 *Ceremonies Booklet* has a blessing for a *Book of Life* if your council has not yet created one.

5th Moira Ste. Marie Memorial Lecture

This was a well attended virtual event hosted by Past-President Hilarion Mitchell. A suggested donation was requested from members and we are happy to report that \$1255 was contributed by individuals and councils and added to the \$500 the Diocesan Council provided. All funds will be shared between the Yonge St. Mission and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Thank you for your generosity.

Youth Awards Information Webinar

This was held on Oct. 4. Those in attendance received the PowerPoint presentation as well as notes from the evening. Forms for each contest are posted on the website and the regional chairs will inform you of the regional deadlines. Diocesan deadlines are March 10 for the Jean McCann Award and the Mary Dobell Poetry and Essay Contests. Diocesan Mary Matthews Contest will be held on March 24.



CWL Wednesday October 11

Harry and Jennifer McAvoy were the guest speakers for our latest CWL Wednesday from Kate O'Quinn (Organization Chair and President-elect). With breakout sessions to share our thoughts this was an evening that

resonated with members. Copies of the book can be purchased for \$17.95 from Novalis <https://en.novalis.ca>

Harry and Jennifer are also available to speak to your parish council to lead a discussion or a retreat.

The next CWL Wednesdays will be held on Oct. 23 (Leadership in the League) and on November 22 (Actively Engaging New Members and Homebound Members) so be sure to register with Shaila D'Souza (Corresponding Secretary) for either of these.

Christian Family Life (Service) Reminder

At the recent Ontario Provincial Council meeting I attended (Oct. 12-14), the Provincial Christian Family Life Chair, Betsy Currier, reminded us of the "Dignity Conserving Care" recording available on the national website:

<https://www.cwl.ca/dignity-conserving-care-webinar-recording-now-available/>

As proposals come forward for amending federal legislation to expand the availability of Canadians to access medical assistance in dying, it is important to be educated about palliative care and how Catholics can maintain their faith beliefs respecting life from birth to natural death. This resource is from May 2022 but is still a valuable resource to view.



National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

Regional Event: St. Gregory Parish Council hosted the Humber Valley Regional event. There was a prayer service and a presentation on the Seven Indigenous Grandfather Teachings.



The keynote speaker was Julia Kozak, a Nisga'a Nation artist. Julia was asked by the Archbishop of Edmonton last year to design and make the vestments for Pope Francis on his papal visit of reconciliation to Canada last July. The photo at left shows her wearing her button regalia coat from the Northwest Nations.



Council to Council event: Marlin Taylor, Life Member from St. John Chrysostom Parish



(Newmarket), Lynn Olenik, Life Member (Hearst-Moosonee Diocese) and Shirley Gravel, Timmins Diocesan President coordinated a visit to Moosonee and Moose

Factory in late September. The Hearst-Moosonee Diocese is trying to re-establish the council that existed many years ago in Moosonee. Along with Patricia Kloosterman (Social Justice Chair, St. John Chrysostom), they all went by train to visit. Members at St. John Chrysostom were asked to provide puzzles. The four of them helped organized a craft sale with items brought by Lynn and had a wonderful response from the community and as a result \$500 was presented to the local parish and Fr. Awowole. They visited the local Catholic elementary school and did crafts with the children. On September 30, they were able to go to a Truth and Reconciliation ceremony on Moose Factory Island and hear stories from survivors of residential schools.



The puzzles were presented to a local seniors home for their enjoyment.

Councils are encouraged to continue donating to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund set up by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. To send in donations by cheque, please forward your cheques to: Carol Bragagnolo Administrative Officer, IRF c/o 53 Glengrove Avenue West Toronto, Ontario M4R 1N8 For tracking purposes be sure to indicate in your letter that you are a CWL council from the Archdiocese of Toronto as they are tracking CWL donations separately.

Installation of New Council

On Sunday, September 17, at a parish mass, Toronto Diocesan's newest charter council, St. Charles Borromeo, held their Installation of Executive Officers and Spiritual Advisor. Council President, Gigetta Daudlin, was presented with the President's pin, Fr. Mario Cafarelli, his CWL stole and Spiritual Advisor's pin and Charter members their new member pins. Congratulations!



Social Justice Award

The Social Justice Award is a provincial award.

The nominating form can be found on the provincial CWL website: <https://cwl.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Social-Justice-Award-Nomination-Form.pdf>

Send your nominations to President-elect/Organization Chair, Kate O'Quinn by Nov. 8.

Council Events

A great number of events were posted in the Provincial newsletter. The newsletter is available on the provincial website if you have not yet taken a look at it. If you subscribe to it, it comes automatically to your email. Councils have returned to regular meetings and continue to be active:

At right: Holy Martyrs of Japan made fascinators at a general meeting in preparation for their high tea.



Kate O'Quinn and Durham Regional Chair, Alys MacAlister helped out with the membership drive at Immaculate Conception Parish in Port Perry.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Council (Toronto Region) joined their Parish Ministry Fair and had a successful information and membership drive. A smile is always a welcome sign to potential new members that they belong with us.



St. Bernard de Clairvaux (North York Region) requested a Unity Outreach Presentation.

Connie Cristinziano, 1st Vice-President and Resolutions Chair was pleased to be able to assist. The council enjoyed the presentation and found great benefit from it.



Joint Efforts



Maureen Cassidy from St. Bonaventure Parish Council is looking for likeminded members who would like to join together from across the diocesan council to work on a common goal. Blue communities (water focus) are one of her

interests. If you are interested, feel free to contact her directly by email: maureensurprise@gmail.com

November

November is devoted to the souls in purgatory.

Take a look at your bulletin's Mass list. Most churches put names next to the Mass.

Those people are in need of prayers and most of the time parishes pray for people who have passed on. Whereas canonized saints we know are in Heaven, we make sure to do all we can for others who have passed, especially those in most need, by praying that they, too, are in Heaven. November is



also a time that re-ignites the sense of grief and loss that many of us may feel. If you have a copy of *The Living With Christ Sunday Missal* (Novalis), I encourage you to read pages 593-596. It presents ways to "adapt the biblical prayers of lament within your family as a way to express the grief, disappointment, heartache or hopelessness" that we may experience. The five ways are:

- Invoking God's presence
- Naming the grief, loss or disappointment we are suffering
- Expressing confidence or trust in God's responsive love
- Requesting explicit help for our troubles
- Praising God for bringing us through our lament

Peel Regional and Scarborough Regional Chairs have confirmed that they will be holding a prayer service in November for deceased members. Contact them for more information.

Resource #603 *Ceremonies Handbook* contains "Protocols for Funerals of Deceased Members" (p.10) and "Memorial Service for Deceased Members" (p.14) and is available on the national website <https://www.cwl.ca/manuals/>

Thank you for your service to your parish communities and the League.

In Sisterhood,

Sue Lubowitz,
Diocesan President
2022-2024