



President's Update

January 2024

Happy New Year.

Pope Francis' prayer intention for the month of February is for the terminally ill.

"When some people talk about terminal illnesses, there are two words they often confuse: incurable and un-careable. But they are not the same," the Holy Father said in a video released Jan. 30.

"Even when little chance for a cure exists, every sick person has the right to medical, psychological, spiritual, and human assistance," he said, adding: "Sometimes they can't talk; sometimes we think they don't recognize us. But if we take them by the hand, we know they are relating with us."

Pope Francis pointed out that "healing is not always possible" but that, however, "we can always care for the sick person, caress them."

The pope quoted St. John Paul II, who used to say: "Cure if it is possible; always take care." "And this is where palliative care comes in. It guarantees the patient not only medical attention but also human assistance and closeness," Francis said. The Holy Father emphasized that "families should not be left alone in these difficult moments."

"Their role is decisive," he said. "They need access to adequate means so as to provide appropriate physical, spiritual, and social support."

He concluded with a prayer: "Let us pray that the terminally ill and their families always receive the necessary medical and human care and assistance."

Remember to register for Development Day on Feb. 10 as the topic will be Compassionate Care. Councils will benefit from attending. Registration is through Shaila D'Souza at shailaflavy@gmail.com



Member Development



A workshop for new and returning Presidents and Vice-Presidents was held over two Saturdays in January (Jan.20 and 27). Total attendance was 43 members from 29 councils. Even members who have taken the positions previously reported learning something new. A special thank you to our hosting councils St. Mary's in Brampton and St. Leo the Great in Brooklin for being such gracious hosts and providing so much more than coffee. A sincere thank you also to Elizabeth Joseph, TDC Community Life Chair and Lucia Vacca, TDC website administrator for volunteering

to be table facilitators.

The various levels of the League continue to provide members with opportunities to learn. Here are a few.

From provincial council:

Upcoming League Development Zooms:

Want to see something on a particular topic, email preselectopc@tbaytel.net

Date	Time - EDST	Session Title	Presenter
Feb 19/24	7:30 PM	Calling all Members - to what?	Colleen Martin, Pres-Elect OPC
Mar 7/24	7:30 PM	What's your passion?	Colleen Martin, Pres-Elect OPC
Mar 18/24	7:00 PM	How is St. Patrick an example for Christians in today's world?	TBA
April 24/24	7:30 PM	What makes a team?	TBA
May 6/24	7:00 PM	Conflict Resolution	TBA
May 14/24	7:00 PM	Holy Spirit and Mary	Iris McNulty, Spiritual Chair, Toronto Archdiocesan Council

From Kate O'Quinn, President-elect/Organization chair and diocesan council:

Feb 10: Development Day - Putting Faith into Action

Feb 21: Parish Executive Training / Effective Meetings

For additional information, poster and registration go to <https://www.cwltoronto.ca/upcoming-events/>

Development and Peace (Service)



If your council contributes to the 1% Program, you may be interested in sharing the Annual Report from Development and Peace-Caritas Canada (CCODP). It includes information from their work on projects with partners across the Global South and their activities in

Canada with their members here in Canada. The report can be found at:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzGwJvnVVCwbwXZkkNXmwbwdZqbW>

Since 1969, the League has supported women's projects in developing countries funded by CCODP through the "1% Program." What can League members do? They can support the 1% Program by regularly setting aside 1% of their spending on personal items.

"Through your prayers and dedication each month, League members can turn one toonie into tens of thousands of toonies. Saint Mother Teresa said, "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." Be the stone

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that casts many ripples to help the marginalized in the Global South (Faith Anderson, former National Chairperson of Community Life)

Brochures are being updated but the previous version is still available at <https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/352-DP-Brochure-2022-DP.pdf>

A regional development officer for Caritas will be at our convention. Be sure to stop by and learn more.

Retreat at St. Leo the Great Parish: Life Member, Donna Shaddick would like to let members know of a half day retreat being held on Saturday, March 2 using the new national theme "Here I am Lord, send me". If interested please email Shannon, the Faith Chair at St. Leo's parish at smarogers@gmail.com to register or for further info.



This morning session will include presentation, music, prayer, small group sharing and a time for reflection. Trena Finnegan will be the Retreat director. Trena is a

- Graduate of Regis College, Toronto with a Diploma in Spiritual Direction
- Spiritual Director and Facilitator in the Diaconate Formation Programme at St. Augustine Seminary with the Wives of Deacon Candidates
- Co-coordinator of Ministry with Maturing Adults, St. Bonaventure Parish.
- Team member with Southdown Institute in doing Spiritual Life Assessments.

Also sharing is Rema Celio. She will witness to us about her calling and joyful service. Rema Celio an award-winning professional editor. She has worked in educational publishing for over 20 years. Rema is active in her parish of St. Benedict. Rema recently graduated with her certificate in Theological Studies from St. Augustine's Seminary/UofT. She is currently working on her Masters of Theological Studies.

Lay Associations and Bishop Robert Kasun CSB (Central Region Auxiliary Bishop)

All leaders of Lay Associations in the Diocese were invited to a special symposium on Saturday, January 27th. As this was the same date as the already scheduled President and Vice-President Workshop, diocesan 1st Vice-President, Connie Cristinziano attended in my stead. Here she is with Bishop Kasun and other CWL members who attended.



Archbishop Leo gave a message to the attendees before leaving. The event was held at St. Edward the Confessor Parish so Connie was able to reconnect with Msgr. Patrick O'Dea, past diocesan spiritual advisor.

Scarborough Region Winter Event

Despite the bitter cold outside, the annual Scarborough Region Winter Event held Sat. January 20, 2024, was a warm and welcoming affair hosted by St. Rose of Lima Council. Thank you to Liemy Tagsa and Jennifer Aguinaldo, outgoing and incoming Presidents respectively, and their team of helpers for keeping the coffee and snacks flowing.



Our keynote speaker Jennifer Mathieu, Community Donations Manager from Canadian Blood Services (CBS) provided some eye-opening and valuable information during her interactive session. She mentioned how only 4% of eligible donors in Canada actually donate and a Canadian needs blood every six minutes, so there is a chronic shortage of blood and CBS is always seeking new generous and dedicated blood (and plasma) donors. For the CBS donor-care is just as important as patient-care.

The CWL encourages members to donate blood; our Partners for Life group code with CBS is: CATH011269

Our Region's goal is to arrange a large group donation this spring. We are eager to check out the new CBS Donor Centre in Scarborough at 880 Warden Ave. While lounging in their comfortable refreshment area after our donation, we hope to make a commitment to be lifetime donors. Blood ...it's in us to give.

(contributed by Patricia Lobo, Scarborough Region Chair)

St. Bartholomew: Go Make a Difference

From October 2023 till early January 2024 our League *Made a Difference*. The League sent 59 shoeboxes filled with gifts to Operation Christmas Child a project of Samaritan's Purse that delivers gift-filled shoeboxes to children in need around the world.

From Christmas Eve until the first week of Jan. 2024 we placed a playpen in the foyer of our church to support Rosalie Hall in Scarborough to meet the needs of babies and young families in Scarborough and across Toronto. CWL members, parishioners donated baby items like clothes, diapers and the numerous items you can see in the second picture below. A cash donation of \$200/- was also given to Rosalie Hall.



Submitted by Sheilah D'Souza

St. John Chrysostom: Blessing of Icon

St. John Chrysostom pastor Rev. Fr. Landorff Garcia invited Archbishop Francis Leo to come and bless the newly acquired icon of St. John Chrysostom on Saturday, Jan. 27th. The beautiful icon was made in a monastery in Greece. At the mass member representatives of all parish ministries carried the icon to the front of the church. The procession aisle was flanked by members of the CWL and the Knights of Columbus.



After the mass, a reception was held in the church hall to allow parishioners to meet our new archbishop. At left: CWL Parish President Emily-Ana Filardo, His Grace Archbishop Leo, Grand Knight Vince Scarfone and Rev. Fr. Landorff Garcia.

(photo above courtesy of Gavin Gunther)

St. Bonaventure Parish Council Advent Luncheon

I was pleased to accept an invitation to this event and to present a certificate of appreciation to Tracy MacInnis for her dedication to the League.

Service pins were awarded to members and Celine Massaroni was awarded the Maple Leaf Service Pin for her exceptional service to the League.

The afternoon included a tasty lunch and wonderful entertainment.

It was a great opportunity for these ladies to get together and celebrate all that they do.



St. Martin of Tours Council

St. Martin of Tours Parish Council celebrated a remarkable milestone service award of 70 years for Helen Callery. Past presidents, current executive members, and Peel Chair Diana Gamboa, presented her with a Membership Scroll awarded by the CWL National Council and signed by Shari Guinta. We had an afternoon tea party at her retirement residential place and pictures of the past years, brought back beautiful



memories to reminisce with members. Helen's daughters were so grateful for this wonderful occasion celebrating Helen on her anniversary as a CWL member of 70 years.

Submitted by Lawina L. Notario, CWL Council President,

St. John of the Cross Council

Debbie Price, Council President wanted to share a picture from their New Year's Eve Fundraiser. "It was a delightful night filled with delicious food, captivating music, and lively dancing, marking the beginning of 2024. We raised over \$10,000 for St. John of the Cross Church" . And also a great parish community builder with the CWL leading the way!



Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Helen Lewis reports that their parish council had a successful Christmas bake sale. Volunteers are in the picture at left: Victoria DiGiulio, Joyce Otonglo, Helen Lewis (center), Jane Isaacs and Marguerita Baptista.



The parish council also recently re-opened their Religious Articles Booth as a service to the parish community. Pictured at right is CWL Treasurer, Marguerite Storey.

Happy Birthday Mary Quinlan

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Life Member Mary Quinlan celebrated a significant birthday milestone on her birthday December 25th.

Mary is a past Montreal Diocesan President (1968-1970) and Quebec Provincial President (1975-1977).

Mary now call Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Council her home.

At a celebration of the event Life Member Ann D'Souza and former Peel Regional Chair Melanie Nazareth were on hand to bring greetings on behalf of all of us.

Bonne fete, Mary!

Dates to Remember

February 10 TDC Development Day (virtual)

February 14 Ash Wednesday

February 20 World Day of Social Justice

February 21 CWL Wednesday

March 1 World Day of Prayer

March 10 Youth Awards Written Contests Deadline

March 16 Mary Matthews Diocesan Final Contest

March 19 Ordinandi Dinner

March 20 CWL Wednesday

March 31 Easter Sunday

April 29 and 30 TDC Convention

Regional Meetings: Check with your regional chair.

“Prayer is, therefore, the source and origin of every upward journey toward God. Let us each, then, turn to prayer and say to our Lord God: “Lead me, O Lord, on your path, that I may walk in your truth.” St. Bonaventure

As you receive your ashes on Ash Wednesday, may the Lenten practices of praying, fasting and alms giving lead you to spiritual renewal and bring you to the celebration of Easter with a joyful heart.

God Bless,

Sue Lubowitz

TDC President 2022-2024