

February 2024

President's Recap

Dear Sisters in the League,

It is my pleasure and honour to invite you to the 103rd annual Toronto Diocesan Convention which will be held on Monday, April 29 and Tuesday, April 30, 2024. This is an exciting year as we will elect a new executive for the first time under the new structure of the League.

Convention News

Deadlines

President's Packages were sent out on Feb. 9th and all forms are also now available on the Toronto Diocesan Council website. Please adhere to the deadlines.

Registration and Banquet deadline is April 8th with no refunds as of that date. Both can be done online with payment by e-transfer. Register through the portal on our website at <https://www.cwltoronto.ca/>

To **Hilarion Mitchell**, Past-President and Historian: by March 30 the Patricia Beattie Mentorship Award and the Instructed vote for diocesan elections.

To **Connie Cristinziano** by April 10 any changes to the proposed resolution. No motions for amendments will be taken from the floor. All amendments must be presented to Connie after the resolution dialogue on the proper motion form.

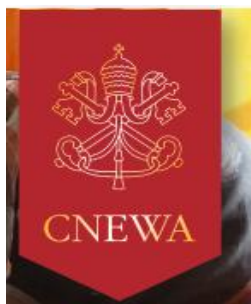
To **Iris McNulty** by April 14: Spiritual Bouquet form for the Diocesan Spiritual Advisor

To **Shaila D'Souza** by April 1: Spiritual advisors luncheon form

Speakers

On Monday evening of convention, our guest speaker will be Kathleen Ancker, who before her retirement was the national director of development for Catholic Missions in Canada. She will be telling us about her experience with the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation.

On Tuesday morning our guest speaker will be Father Eugene O'Reilley or as he may be better know Fr. "Red" O'Reilley who will speak to us on the new national theme and our response of "send me" and what that means.



Mass collection

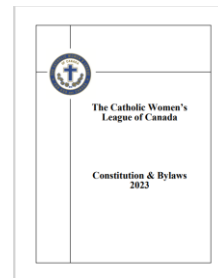
Each year, at the convention closing Mass, a collection is taken up and divided between two chosen charities. This year, your contributions will

be directed towards Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) and Serra House. Please be generous.

Other News

Constitution and Bylaws

The Constitution and Bylaws booklets are available for purchase from the National Office at a cost of \$8.00. Every member of the executive, at all levels, should have a copy in their files for reference for quick reference. It would also be a useful item to include in a new members package. The C&B is also available online.



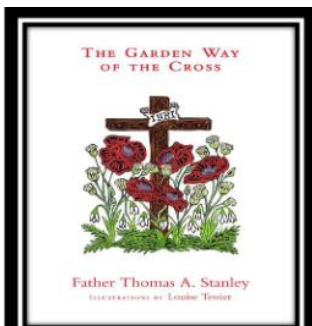
Development Day



Development Day was virtually held on Feb. 10th. The keynote speakers were Kathy Matusiak Costa, Executive Director of Community Compassionate Care (CCC) and Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPA). Members were given an overview of what



CCC does how they could become involved community volunteers to those who need them most. We were also given updates on the widening of Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) for mental health reasons. Mary Capobianco, gave a presentation on next steps as to how it applies to the provincial resolution on CCC. Councils and members were asked to donate a nominal amount and a total of \$1115 was raised. Thank you for your generosity.



Member Development

The last CWL Wednesday for this executive term will be a Lenten reflection based on the book "Garden Way of the Cross". For more information, please contact Kate O'Quinn kateoquinn@yahoo.ca. Registration is through Shaila D'Souza (Corresponding Secretary) shailaflavy@gmail.com

Join us for this Lenten Service, as we pray the Stations of the Cross, "journeying along the botanical path with Jesus".

From Ontario Provincial Council:

Colleen Martin, President-elect will be scheduling five more opportunities for members to enrich their CWL experience. Please register directly with [Colleen Martin](#). Of special note,

is a session being led by Iris McNulty, Toronto Diocesan Executive Council, on May 14. Here is the list for your review:

Upcoming League Development Zooms:

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

Date	Time - EDST	Session Title	Presenter
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?	Colleen Martin, Pres-Elect OPC
April 24/24	7:30 PM	What makes a team?	Colleen Martin, Pres-Elect OPC
May 6/24	7:00 PM	Conflict Resolution	Lisa Henry, President, Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan Council
May 14/24	7:00 PM	Holy Spirit and Mary	Iris McNulty, Spiritual Chair, Toronto Archdiocesan Council

Council Activities

St. Martin of Tours (Peel Region)

Membership Drive at St. Martin of Tours Parish Council is usually scheduled on a hosted Coffee Sunday in November. A picture collage was created to show the various activities of our CWL Council and pamphlets were handed to prospective members. We had the reception of 14 new members, with a celebrated Mass on January 31, 2024. An Orientation and Welcoming of New Members was held on February 17, 2024 and "New Member's Kit" containing welcome letters from presidents from National, OPC and Parish Council, C & B copy, and various League prayer cards, were handed out. New members were so engaged and shared their stories on how and why they joined the Catholic Women's League



Submitted by: Lawina L. Notario, CWL Council President

Coldest Night of the Year

The Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) is a winterrific family-friendly 2 or 5 km fundraising walk in support of local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness. Each year in February, tens of thousands of Canadians step outside the warmth and comfort of home to shine a light of welcome and compassion in their communities. Since 2011, the Coldest Night of the Year has raised over **\$75,000,000** across Canada in 190 Canadian communities – 100% of net proceeds stay local to support CNOY charity partners.

Three CWL councils reported participating.



St. Francis Xavier CWL Council (Peel) participated in the 2km walk- proving a triumphant debut, showcasing community engagement, and fundraising prowess. Dedicated to supporting Armagh, aiding victims of domestic abuse, the event united diverse participants, raising \$43,000+ for Armagh, with St. Francis Xavier CWL contributing \$1,150. Notable

achievements include an impactful awareness campaign and valuable networking opportunities. Challenges like weather resilience and fundraising were overcome. Future recommendations emphasize year-round engagement, collaborative initiatives, education programs, and diversified fundraising. The event epitomizes CWL's commitment to the Service pillar, inspiring ongoing support for Armagh and domestic abuse combat. This success forms the foundation for sustained community outreach efforts in the future. Thank you to all our generous donors who supported our maiden efforts supporting this worthy

Submitted by St. Francis Xavier CWL Parish Council President Olivia de Souza

On Saturday, February 24th, **St. Joseph CWL** (Peel) participated in numerous activities, living the objects of the League- Faith & Service.

The day began with members attending the Stations of the Cross walking along the perimeter of the church. The Stations of the Cross was installed by the CWL 2 years ago to commemorate our 65th anniversary. Following which Members prepared and served Meals at our Open Door Project. Attendees called it a "Feast". The members did not stop there! This



was followed by members attending and completing the 2K and 5 K walk as part of the Coldest Night of the Year challenge. We helped to make a difference in our community by raising \$4,786.00 for Armagh House, a second-stage, longer-term housing for abused women and their children who are fleeing the devastating effects of domestic violence. Armagh House reached 85% of their total goal, raising \$42,773 and counting. It is fundraising like this that helps provide hope and shelter for those in need. As the sun set, members ended the day by serving food at the Tent encampment outside the PEEL family Shelter. We at the Council are blessed with Members who always rise to the Call of action. A Big shout out to our outreach Team and Membership at St. Joseph Streetsville.

Submitted by Rashmy Lobo, Council President



Ten members from **St. John Chrysostom CWL Parish Council** (North York) wore their CWL sashes and participated to raise \$3264 for the local shelter, Inn From the Cold. A bake sale was held the week before the event to add to the total raised by pledges from the parish community. One of the members also

helped out at the event kitchen to prepare the after walk chili. The citizens of Newmarket raised more than \$172,000 locally, far surpassing the target of \$90,000.

Councils may wish to consider joining in next year's walk to raise funds in support of this effort.

Resource: From the Archdiocese of Toronto

Ministries of Care & Ministry with Maturing Adults

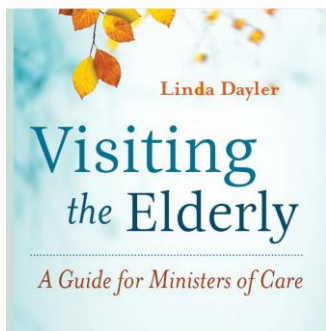
Pope Francis' monthly prayer intentions for December 2023 was 'For people with disabilities': "We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation."

Pope Francis stated in the [video message](#) that "People with disabilities are among the most fragile among us. Some of them suffer rejection, rooted in either ignorance or prejudice, which then marginalizes them... Programs and initiatives are needed that promote their inclusion. Above all else, big hearts are needed who want to accompany."

The booklet [Visiting the Elderly](#) by Linda Dayler is a wonderful resource that will help ministers of care accompany the elderly with disabilities. It includes practical suggestions for visiting the elderly who are dealing with pain, dementia, neuromuscular disorder, or mental health issues. This important outreach will help the elderly stay connected with their parish community and experience inclusion.



Saulina (Sally) Amaral
Diocesan Coordinator, Ministries of Care
and Ministry with Maturing Adults
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☎ 416-934-3400, ext. 518



This short booklet is a resource that councils may think about purchasing to gift to ministers of care at their parish to instruct them on how to visit the elderly and/or sick in hospitals or homes. In it, they will find practical-based ABCs of visiting with suggested prayers, and very straightforward advice what to say or not say, and how to act. A page at the end is adaptable for writing down important local information, such as local phone numbers, agencies for referral.

Regular price \$3.95 through Novalis

In Closing

As we continue our journey "up to Jerusalem" during the month of March, three prominent ideas are proposed for our contemplation by the liturgy of Lent: the Passion and Resurrection of Christ, baptism, and penance.

The entire month of March except the very last day falls during the liturgical season of Lent which is represented by the liturgical color violet or purple — a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart.

Here and there in the stark March landscape, a few plants and trees are beginning to give evidence of the new life that winter's frost and chill had concealed from our eyes. Snowdrops in my garden have showed their bloom and tulips are starting to pop through the earth. The Church's vibrant new life has been obscured, too, by the austerity of the penitential season of Lent. But that life is indisputable, and it will burgeon forth on Easter as Christ coming forth from his tomb!

"We do not pretend that life is all beauty. We are aware of darkness and sin, of poverty and pain. But we know Jesus has conquered sin and passed through his own pain to the glory of the Resurrection. And we live in the light of his Paschal Mystery – the mystery of his Death and Resurrection. **'We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!'**" (St. John Paul II, Australia 1986)

May our Alleluias resound loud and clear.

A blessed Lent and a joyful Easter to you and your families,

In Sisterhood,

Sue Lubowitz

Toronto Diocesan President 2022-2024