



March/April 2024 President's Update

Dear Sisters in the League,

This is the final President's Update of this executive term. What a wonderful journey shared with you over the last two years: council anniversaries, new member ceremonies, fundraising ideas, loss and memorials of members. All your work and efforts for were for "God and Canada". I applaud you. As St. Francis Xavier said:

"It is not the actual physical exertion that counts toward a person's progress, nor the nature of the task, but the spirit of faith with which it is undertaken."

Pope's Intention for April 2023



Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month.

For the month of April the intention is for the role of women:

"We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world."

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, an organization that works to encourage Christians to respond to the Pope's appeal and to deepen their daily prayer posts the prayer intentions and the video. This month's video can be found at https://youtu.be/OMUs5H_pVFU

National Family and Life Week 2024

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) warmly invites the Catholic faithful to celebrate **National Family and Life Week 2024 (NFLW)**, which will take place from **13 – 19 May 2024**.

This year's theme, "Love hopes all things," is inspired by the words of Saint Paul, the Apostle: **"[Love] bears all things,**



believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Corinthians 13:7). This theme, linked to *Amoris Laetitia*, a discourse on love by Pope Francis, guides us towards hope, a theological virtue that renews our relationship with God and others.

The CCCB Standing Committee for Family and Life and its corresponding Office have developed a pastoral toolkit specifically designed for the "domestic church" in our national context. Each day of National Family and Life Week 2024 is built around specific themes, proposing prayers and activities adapted to different ages, cultures and circumstances.

Concluding on the Solemnity of Pentecost, National Family and Life Week 2024 offers a special opportunity to ask the Holy Spirit to accompany us in this celebration of life and the family. To access the English toolkit just click on this link"

[NFLW 2024 – Resource page on the CCCB website](#)

Increases in Membership

We continue to see increases in membership in almost half of the parish councils. This is very encouraging for the long term stability of the League. Thank you for making this a priority.

At the spring regional meetings, certificates were presented to councils who increased their memberships by 1 to 9. Councils with increases of 10 or more will receive their certificate at convention.



Increase in membership certificates presented at the North York Spring Regional Meeting to:

Blessed Trinity (+7), Good Shepherd (+5), Our Lady of Annunciation (+1) St. Bernard de Clairvaux (+3) St. Edward the Confessor (+6) St. John Chrysostom (+8) St. John XXIII (+9) St. Patrick, Markham (+3) St. Timothy (+8)



And at the Scarborough Spring Regional Meeting Precious Blood (+3), St. Aidan (+5), St. Bartholomew (+4) St. Boniface (+9) and St. Joseph, Highland Creek (+8)

New Members Ceremonies

Councils who have signed up new members are reminded that there is a "Reception of New Members Ceremony" that can be easily done at a start of a meeting or at the end of a council mass. I have been to a few and have found them to be inspiring. The *Ceremonies Booklet* (Resource #603) can help with your planning. It can be found at: <https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/603-Ceremonies-Handbook-2022.pdf>

St. Frances de Sales parish council president Marylou Galapin reported that her council held the ceremony recently:



St. Gregory's Council welcomed our newest members of the CWL on February 27 with a Ceremony that began following the Eucharistic Celebration. Fr. Sean Lee Lung was the celebrant and offered a special blessing for these new members.

All in attendance were invited to the parish hall for the cake cutting to celebrate the new members joining. There were approximately 40 members in attendance. Each new member introduced themselves and shared why they chose to join. We all felt as though we got to know one another a little better.

It was a great evening of support to our sisterhood, and to know we are able to lean on one another. (Submitted by Council President Darlene Pedlar)



St. Aidan Council also had a New Members Reception Ceremony for two members at their general meeting on Thursday March 21, 2024.



Pictured are new members Zena Vaz and Aramita Monteiro with Fr. Steven Szakaczki, Spiritual Advisor

Submitted by Artimizia Tellis
Council President

Council events

From **St. Martin of Tours Council**:

On March 9, 2024, the CWL Council hosted a Lenten Soup and Samosa Dinner Night. Tickets were totally sold out and a few more tickets sold at the doors. The event brought together family and friends for a delightful gathering of a bowl of warm soup, which was prepared by our own members, with the crispy goodness of samosas and garlic bread. Not all those seated in table know each other, however, everyone managed to create pleasant conversations filling the room with laughter and chatter. The table centerpieces complemented a cozy ambiance of the Lenten season, using almost "no added cost" that contributed to a warm family gathering. At the end of the night, only positive feedback was heard of doing a "repeat event" in the coming fall. (Submitted by Lawina Notario, CWL Council President)



St. Joseph Council (Highland Creek)



"Our Council continues to foster our sisterhood at our general meetings. On February 12, 2024, we wore red to show our love for each other on Valentine's Day. On March 11, 2024, our green theme honours St Patrick. "Here I am Lord, send me".

Submitted by **Thérèse Baduria**
Past President, CWL St Joseph Council

From St. Mary Immaculate Council



St. Mary Immaculate Parish Council (North York) held its Lenten Recollection on March 16th with guest speaker Allan Smith who spoke about the Holy Face Devotion and the writings of Archbishop Fulton Sheen.

Submitted by St. Mary Immaculate Council President, Maria Bizjak

From St. Helen Parish



St. Helen's is one of our smaller parishes but keeps the community involved in their activities. An update from Council President Susana Pimentel:

"We are going to give the 31 children celebrating their First communion at our parish on April 14, 2024 with a Prayer card and rosary. This will be given out by my ladies when they will be exiting the church.

On April 28, 2024 our council will have a mass at 10:30 am to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel. During that day we will be having a bake sale at the back of our Church."

Clergy retirements



As announced by the Archdiocese of Toronto with the recent clergy changes announcements, the following CWL parish council spiritual advisors will be retiring as of June 26:

Rev. David Bollo
St. Mary of the People (Durham)

Rev. Regulo Imperial
St. John Fisher Parish

Rev. Keith Wallace
Immaculate Conception Parish (Durham)

Rev. Msgr. Michael Busch
St. Jerome Parish (Peel)

Rev. Msgr. Edgardo Pan, St. Rose of Lima Parish (Scarborough)

They have served the Lord and the League tirelessly and with great devotion. They have made a difference in the lives of so many. As they retire, may the Lord continue to richly bless them and keep them in His loving care.

Clergy changes

If you are receiving a new spiritual advisor because of clergy changes, it is suggested that you make available to the new pastor the following as found on the national website (<https://www.cwl.ca/>)

- ❖ Resource #167 Guide to Spiritual Advisors (pictured at right)
- ❖ Resource #168 League Prayers
- ❖ Resource #603 Ceremonies Handbook
- ❖ Resource #613 Handbook for Spiritual Advisors

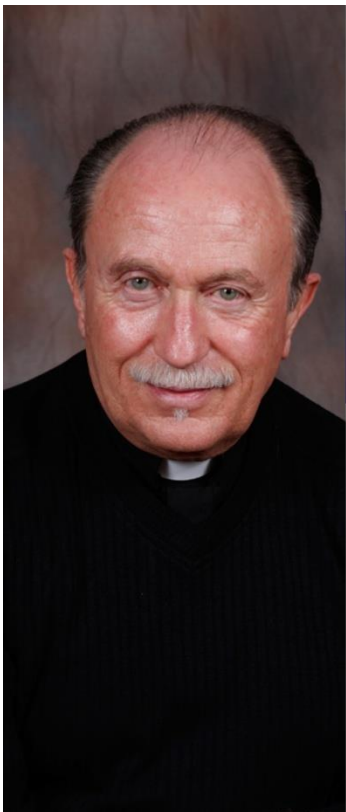
Councils may also want to take a look at Resource #832 (A to E) for the *Workshop for Spiritual Advisors Package*.

Don't forget to also install your new spiritual advisor! From the National Policy and Procedure Manual (2024) p. 71 (C&B PART IX):



At all levels, the spiritual advisor's role is valued. The spiritual advisor is installed, using Installation of a Spiritual Advisor found in the *Ceremonies Handbook* available on the League's website or in print from national office.

In Memoriam: Rev. James Martin Reposkey, C.P.P.S.



Rev. James Martin Reposkey C.P.P.S. , who devoted an astounding 50 years to his service as Missionary of the Most Precious Blood, Atlantic Province, passed away peacefully, on April 9, 2024

Following his ordination on May 4, 1974, Fr. Jim served as an Associate Pastor at St. Roch's Church, Toronto, and later became its Pastor. In 1992, he was assigned to St. Alphonsus Church, Toronto, where he served as Pastor. His final assignment as Pastor in 2016, was at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Toronto.

Fr. Jim was known for his compassionate heart and inability to refuse anyone in need. He served as a spiritual advisor for the Catholic Women's League in the Central Toronto Region for many years, held memberships in the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher and the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, Council 1388. He took immense pride in wearing the religious habit and missionary cross.

The CWL was well represented at his funeral by the Diocesan Council as well as by many members of the Toronto Region. Fr. Reposkey will be greatly missed by the CWL.

"May the choir of angels, Come to greet you. May they speed you to

paradise. May the Lord enfold you In His mercy. May you find eternal life.”

Thank You



God molds us and shapes us into the people that God dreams us to be by placing us in circumstances that insist we become those people. He cultivates patience in us by putting us in situations where we need to practice it. He nurtures our capacity for courage by putting us in situations that require it. If we are to grow in hope, then he opens our eyes to the possibilities if we let our light shine!

At each Eucharistic celebration we ritually bring those activities of our lives as a gift to God. In essence, we acknowledge that everything we have received is a gift from God and return it for it to be transformed by the Holy Spirit so that it contributes to God’s plan for the world.

“Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them...” Romans 12:6

Thank you for sharing your gifts over these last two years.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide us in our work for God and Canada.

Sue Lubowitz
Toronto Diocesan Council President 2022-2024