

## 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Ontario Provincial Convention



### Greetings!

Co-convenors Debbie Bates and Mary Capobianco and the Toronto Diocese have been working very hard to ensure that we have the best possible experience at this year's convention July 7 – 11, 2018.

We are honoured to have His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins celebrating the Eucharist for the Opening Mass on Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup> and to be joining us for the Closing Eucharist on Wednesday, July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Our theme of Homelessness will be showcased throughout the convention. The Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Naheed Dosani, speaking about PEACH: Palliative Education and Care for the Homeless, a mobile medicine service. He will describe for us his program and experiences as he dispenses much-needed health care to a vulnerable and marginalized population — many of them at the end of their lives.

The Toronto Airport Marriott Hotel has multiple meeting rooms, allowing us the unique opportunity to offer breakout sessions on Tuesday afternoon. Members will pre-select two one-hour sessions to attend. The speakers will be, in alphabetical order:

- ✦ Covenant House, a homeless youth shelter;
- ✦ Homeshare, a program that recognizes that two people have needs and something to offer. A home provider offers accommodation to a housemate in exchange for an agreed level of help;
- ✦ Ontario 211, award-winning telephone helpline (2-1-1) and website provide a gateway to community, social, non-clinical health and related government services;
- ✦ Saint Elizabeth Homecare on their new joint initiative *Journey Home Hospice*, palliative and end-of-life care for the homeless;
- ✦ Sistering – A Women's Place, a woman's shelter; and
- ✦ The Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

**We are asking all members to bring an item(s) to be added to "Blessing Bags", such as small toiletries, personal items, socks, etc.** that will be donated to local shelters for distribution to their clientele.

Looking forward to spending time with you at convention in July!

Your humble servant,  
Anne Madden, President,  
Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada