



**September 2023 Edition**

Featuring the Toronto Archdiocese and OPC Community Life Chair

**CATHOLIC**  
and **LIVING IT!**



*Linda's League Letters*

**My Dear League Sisters,**

The summer of 2023 will go down in history for a number of reasons. Tragedy affected parts of our country with flooding on the east coast and parts of Ontario. Forest fires were a concern in many areas, especially in British Columbia and in the north. The summer will also be known as the hottest summer ever recorded. Climate change is becoming noticeable in so many ways.

The summer of 2023 was also be remembered by many League members. In July the provincial convention was held in Cornwall, organized by the CWL members of the former Alexandria-Cornwall Diocesan Council and led by Jeannie Coleman and Emma Rose Rayburn. Everyone was inspired by the messages of keynote speaker Father Eugene O'Reilly who encouraged us to make the most of each day and to live the beatitudes. Officers and diocesan presidents delivered reports giving ideas on how to make a difference and offered mini-workshops to provide suggestions for future projects. The convention left the 210 attendees feeling entertained, well-fed and enriched by the

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experience.

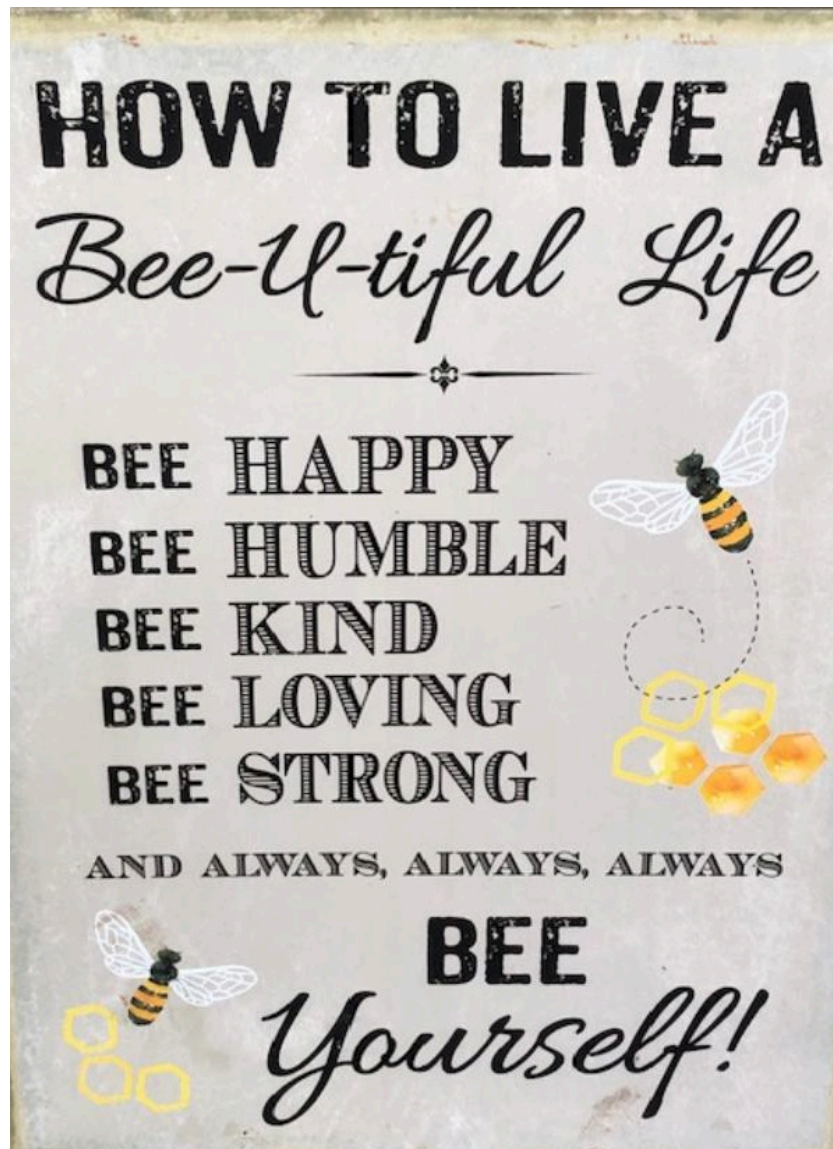
In August the national council hosted its first-ever annual meeting of members, in St. John, New Brunswick. Only voting and accredited delegates were invited to attend but members could register to view the meetings virtually. Reports were delivered by provincial presidents and national officers and elections were held for a new national executive.

This spring, when the Unity Outreach meetings were held across the province, members expressed their views about what they liked and didn't like. As we move into September, look forward to hearing about having a second meeting with your presenter and about some of the new initiatives that will be implemented over the next few months.

Have fun **BEE**-ing busy in the months ahead!



Your League Sister,



## Toronto Archdiocesan Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

### Durham Region CWL Outreach to Gate 3:16 Homeless Mission June 10 and 24, 2023

Gate 3:16 in Oshawa is an outreach centre for individuals experiencing homelessness and is open five days a week. Mary Anne Belanger, a CWL member from Holy Family Parish (HFP) in Whitby saw the need to provide a hot meal on the weekends. With a small group of CWL members and parishioners she arranged for the "The Gate" to be opened one Saturday a month to provide a hot lunch. Over the past ten years, support has grown, and she is now able to provide, with the HFP Homeless Mission Ministry, a lunch on two Saturdays a month. With the coordination of the Durham Region Spiritual Convener, Mary Leslie-Stitt, the CWL members of Durham Region were offered the opportunity to volunteer in the kitchen on June 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The spots were enthusiastically filled by members from St. Mary of the People, St. Gertrude, St. John the Evangelist, St. Leo and Holy Family. This was a truly rewarding experience as can be seen in the testimony below:



"Members from the region baked and provided lots of fruit. There was fellowship, many smiles and one could see that the guests were very touched with our visit. It was truly a pleasure to participate. It was very uplifting to see everyone getting "lots to eat"."

Cindy Merey  
Holy Family CWL

"I just want to say thank you for the opportunity to volunteer at Gate 3:16 on Saturday at the BBQ. The staff (sic) and volunteers were great. Their interaction with the people who came in was quite impressive. They greeted them all with a smile and made sure everyone got as much to eat as they wanted, and even made up some packages for them to take home.

I was also impressed by the people who were there for lunch. Even though times were tough with them, they smiled, laughed and were very polite to all the workers. Everyone waited their turn and you could see how grateful they were when they came up for their meal.

I'm so thankful that there are people like the HFP Homeless Mission Ministry that help out at Gate 3:16, who take time out of their day to help others in need. It gives us all hope. God bless you all. "

Joan Willems

St. John the Evangelist CWL



"I thought I would send along a little note to thank you so much for the opportunity to serve at Gate 3:16 on June 24th. A new member from St. John's, it was a lovely to meet fellow CWL members from the various parishes and to join in serving our community alongside them. It was a tender experience, seeing so many in great need, and humbling to be sincerely thanked by them for doing so little. I left feeling that I had received much more than I had given. Please can we do this again? "

Thank you, Catherine Phillips - St. John the Evangelist Parish CWL

I congratulate all our sisters who came out to "Go Make a Difference".

Alys MacAlister Chair, Durham Region 2022-2024

Toronto Diocesan Council

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Council hired a bus and took a group of approximately fifty parishioners to Our Lady of Grace Shrine at Marylake. It was a beautiful day, and we were all looking forward to this visit.

We started our pilgrimage off with Mass, celebrated by our Spiritual Advisor, Father Joseph Chandrakanthan. Following Mass, we had a picnic lunch on the beautiful grounds and then we were ready for our walk.



As we walked along the rosary path, fifty voices joined in saying the rosary together as we walked. It was a wonderful sound to hear fifty voices raised in prayer together.

Our journey ended but our excitement and satisfaction of our day followed us home. It was a very successful day.

Submitted by Helen Lewis  
Council President

St. John of the Cross Parish Council was formed in 2022.

The council members participated in the Feast of the Lady of Mount Carmel on July 15 with a parish picnic. The ladies of the CWL handed out Freezies to the parishioners as we celebrated our Lady.

Submitted by Debbie Price  
President, CWL St. John of the Cross



Hurray! After five years in our new parish in northeast Markham, Blessed Frederic Ozanam Catholic Church (without an actual building), now has a Catholic Women's League Council. Our council started out with members from St. Patrick CWL who moved over to Blessed Frederic Ozanam on September 15, 2022. We started with 30 members. It was sad separating from St. Patrick Markham but at the same time we were excited to start our new council. We were handicapped in starting projects without a building to meet in but the first thing we did was to help with the bake sale in October to raise funds for the building of the church. Until the church is built our number one priority is to help with fundraising as much as we can. We were able to obtain a permit from the York Region Catholic District School to hold our monthly meetings in St. Julia Billiard Catholic School Library in person and our Executive Meetings on Zoom.

We did a joint Zoom with the Knights of Columbus for the Stations of the Cross. We had a mini pilgrimage last May to do the Rosary on the Rosary Path at Marylake. The installation of Blessed Frederic Ozanam CWL was Sunday, February 5, 2023, after 9 am Mass. Pictured are the members with the spiritual advisor Rev. Ricardo Davis.



Recently we held a kindness rock painting session as suggested by the National Community Life Chair. Rocks were painted with encouraging words and left in the garden at Woodhaven Long Term Care Home to brighten someone's day.  
Submitted by Carmela Ientile  
Council President

Our Council at Good Shepherd Parish, Thornhill, conducted a food drive in the spring of 2023. We were successful in providing significant donations to the Food Bank operated by St. Philip Neri Parish in neighbouring Downsview. We were happy to further the efforts of our membership and parish community in helping local Catholics and others in real need, many of whom are recent immigrants and refugees. We are grateful for the opportunity the food drive provided to connect with parish staff and volunteers at our own parish and at St. Philip Neri, all of which strengthens our mission as a council.

Submitted by Catherine Bates  
Good Shepherd Parish Council



## St. Gregory's Parish, Etobicoke, Celebrates 65th Anniversary.

St. Gregory's Parish in Etobicoke celebrated its 65th anniversary on May 7, 2023. This day was memorable and marked with joy and thankfulness. It began with a mass celebrated by Father Sean Lee Lung. Beauty was added with the singing by the junior choir, violinist, a CWL member played Ave Maria during the presence of the Eucharist and members had the privilege bringing forward the Offertory gifts at the mass representing Faith, Love and Joyful Service. On display was our new picture of Our Lady of Good Council gifted to us by a member.

After mass we proceeded to the parish hall, home to many past gatherings, for a luncheon. Guests for the luncheon included former parish priests, Regional and TDC Executives and current and past members of the parish council. Diocesan President Sue Lubowitz presented us with an Anniversary Certificate from the CWL Canada. Several awards given out included three Maple Leaf pins and three Certificates of Merit. Four Mass cards were given to those who have been members for over 50 years. All who attended received a 65th Anniversary keepsake, which included a special Anniversary Prayer written by one of our members.

The hard work of our Celebration Planning Committee whose hearts, minds and love for the CWL made this day of celebration possible for all. We also had a CWL family member providing photography and the live music was provided by a member's grandson and his band. Lastly, in honour of our 65th Anniversary of service, we introduced the charity that was chosen for our fundraiser. We are selling candles across the parish community to help raise money for Mary's Meals. This organization helps provide meals to children in their place of learning throughout the world's poorest communities and St. Gregory's CWL is a proud supporter of their good work.

We will forever hold the memories and joy from this celebration in our hearts.

(Below: Council Presidents - past and present)





St. Barnabas Parish Council (Scarborough) organized a pilgrimage mass and rosary procession to Our Lady of Grace Shrine at Marylake in King City.

The day's event also included a BBQ enjoyed by all.

Submitted by Maria Fan, Council President

**The St. Ignatius Loyola Council**

**Remembrance Candle Lighting Ceremony** was held at the November General Meeting. Members were invited to form a semi circle around the altar and after a prayer service each member lit a candle in memory of a loved one. Additionally, five candles were lit for our council's deceased CWL sisters and two pillar candles were lit - one to remember all the Indigenous children who died at the residential schools and the other to remember all the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.



**The St. Ignatius Loyola CWL Father's Day Cake Raffle** annual fundraiser held after all Masses on Father's Day weekend was a great success again this year. There was a variety of 35 delicious baked goods donated for the raffle and seven lucky winners went home after each Mass with their treats.

**Front row: Rozanne Zammit and Linda Quinn. Back Row Soledad Lopes, Joanne Gilmore, Debbie Bates, Sonja M and Marian Foster**

## St. Bartholomew Parish Council, Scarborough

### Project: "Go Make a Difference"

In late February 2023 our council worked on a project based on the CWL theme *Catholic and Living It* aligned with the core values of Faith, Service and Social Justice.

Service - We worked together on March 4th and 5th on a Food Drive for the Indigenous Youth in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). We donated 30 bags (292 pounds) of foodstuffs to the Native Child and Family Services of Toronto and the Yes Group in support of Indigenous youth and the families in the GTA.



### Maple Leaf Service Merit Pins Presented To:

Anne Wylie: Our Past President proudly introduced technology to our council. At the very onset of the pandemic, with her assistance, we had executive and general zoom meetings and she made tech a lifeline for us at the CWL.

Theresa Greasley: Theresa was one of the founding members of our Council who work tirelessly to shape our council with budget planning, financial reporting, record-keeping and managing incoming and outgoing funds for many years until we were established.

Submitted by Sheilah D'Souza, Council President

## St. John Chrysostom Parish Council, Newmarket



Each summer, the CWL council at St. John Chrysostom parish runs a "Backpack Program" to collect school supplies that will be distributed by the Newmarket Food Pantry to those families that are struggling to purchase basic school supplies for their children. This year's campaign was incredibly successful thanks to the generosity of the parish community. Close to 30 backpacks were collected along with countless reams of paper, binders, math sets, pens, markers, crayons, lunch bags... and the list goes on and on. To support the campaign, the granddaughter of Life Member Marlin Taylor, along with her friend, set up a lemonade stand at the entrance of a nearby golf club and used the proceeds to purchase 10 backpacks each filled with activity books and crayons. The attached picture shows the results of only the first half of the campaign. After these items were delivered to the Food Pantry, the bin was once again filled to overflowing a week before the end of the campaign.

Submitted by Emily-Ana Filardo Council President



In March Saint Maria Goretti Council (Scarborough Region) organized a pilgrimage to some shrines in New York state and past-president Lillian D'Souza sent along this report:

"We had CWL members from so many different parishes, including Pickering and our own Scarborough Region. Our coach was full, the weather was perfect, and our coach operator was so cooperative and accommodating.

We met the parish priests at Our Lady of Fatima and Our Lady of Victory who took all the trouble to come and meet with us and give us their blessing. We had a tour of the Basilica with a very knowledgeable guide who was so thorough with the structure, design and the life of Fr. Baker, who built the Basilica." The group picture taken at the Basilica of Our Lady of Victory



### **St. Matthew Parish Council**



Agnes Passee, president at St. Matthew's Parish Council (Toronto Region) held a membership drive and information coffee hour on January 22. The day was greatly supported by the parish spiritual advisor, Rev. Andrzej Grecki SVD and Toronto Regional Chair, Mary Jane Domingo and Diocesan President, Sue Lubowitz. This is a trilingual parish and the outreach was done in English and Portuguese. A Power Point presentation on "Why I Am A Member" was also shown."

### **Precious Blood 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

Precious Blood Parish Council (Scarborough) held their celebration on January 29. The Diocesan Council was well represented by Connie Cristinziano, 1<sup>st</sup> VP (Resolutions) who brought greetings. By all reports, it was a very well attended celebration and a good time was had by all.



### **Sacred Heart Parish, Port McNicoll (Northern Region)**



Dianne Hunter, Northern Regional Chair and Diocesan President, Sue Lubowitz were pleased to present this council with its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary certificate. The parish church itself closed at the end of April, but these ladies are continuing their membership at neighboring councils. What a wonderful group of women and we thank them for their years of service to the League and Canada.

## Development Day (February 11, 2023)

Barb Dowding (Honorary Life Member), five of our own Toronto Diocesan mentors (Honorary Life Member Margaret Ann Jacobs and Life Members Mary Ellen Stinson, Mary Hawkey, Donna Shaddick and Marlin Taylor) and executive standing committee chairs provided excellent food for thought.

This was a virtual event with over 300 members attending from across the province (250 virtually, and 56 gathered in 5 councils). Members attended from Toronto Diocese as well as the Dioceses of Pembroke, Peterborough and Thunder Bay. Wilma Vanderzagg, OPC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Spiritual Development Chair and Maria Bertoldo, Thunder Bay Past President were also in attendance. Councils who attended virtually, together in their parish hall gave good feedback on the experience. Below are members from Our Lady of Miraculous Medal and St. Ambrose Parish Councils (left) as well as members from St. Gregory Parish Council (right) who watched from their parish halls.



## World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is an annual event that brings together people to observe a common day of prayer and learn from women in different countries. This year's WDP was **Friday, March 3**, and focused on Taiwan with the theme, "I have heard about your faith," based on a passage from the Book of Ephesians in the Bible.

On March 4, Our Lady of Lourdes Church and CWL parish council hosted the local World Day of Prayer Service and reception. It was a success and despite the winter storm, about 50 people attended. Submitted by Prescy Alumaga, Council President



## New Council Formation: St. Charles Borromeo



On March 15, at a meeting attended by women of the St. Charles Borromeo Parish, a new CWL council was formed for Humber Valley Region. The meeting was attended by the pastor, Fr. James (Jim) Reposkey, who voiced his approval and encouragement for the women to join. Fr. Reposkey was a former Toronto Region Spiritual Advisor. The newly elected president is Gigetta Rizzo Duadlin. "The birth of a new Council means the CWL continues to fulfill the needs of women in the parish. May our Lady of Good Counsel inspire more women to know and experience the benefits of a membership in the CWL." (Diana Gamboa, Peel Regional Chair)

## Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest



Mary Matthews was a past Toronto, Ontario and National President and Toronto holds a yearly public speaking contest as part of its Youth Awards Program. St. Edward the Confessor Parish Council (North York Region) hosted the final of the Mary Matthews contest this year.

The winner of the Mary Matthews, Neo Smolders, is surrounded by members from his parish CWL and regional chair, Diana Gamboa.

Neo attends Guiding Light Academy is a member of St. Joseph's parish. Neo repeated his speech ("Why baseball is God's favourite sport") at the Youth Awards evening on the first evening of our convention.

## Mass of Our Lady of Good Counsel

Some members of the executive along with Wilma Vanderzwaag, Ontario Spiritual Development Chair, and Betty Colaneri, National 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and Communications Chair were able to attend the taping of the mass for Our Lady of Good Counsel celebrated this year by Msgr. Pat O'Dea. (Photo courtesy of Msgr. O'Dea).



## Bellelle Guerin Award

Nancy Joncas (St. John Vianney Council, Northern Region) was nominated by her council for the Bellelle Guerin Award. Nancy's love of the League, demonstrated by her words and actions, is an inspiration to other council members.

Toronto Diocesan Council extends our deep appreciation and gratitude for her continued dedication to the League. May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide and inspire her work "For God and Canada"





## Patricia Beattie Mentoring Awards

At our convention in April the Patricia Beattie Awards, named after a past diocesan president were presented to:

- Maryse Ristuccia, St. John Council, Toronto Region with the parish level award
- Lucia Vacca, St. Joseph Highland Creek Council, Scarborough Region

Maryse "will go to any length to provide sound guidance and trusted advice for those seeking it. Over the years her mentorship has drawn many members up through convenor and executive positions." "She helps members find their strengths and encourages them to develop those attributes. ... is a wonderful CWL cheerleader! "...is a role model, teacher and mentor for all League members. She is always encouraging parishioners to become members "and to bring a friend!" She respects and supports others in their ideas and contributions."

Lucia "is a dedicated member who mentors any sister in the League by sharing her knowledge and experience and helping her understand how the CWL operates and how to fit her talents in a particular role."; "... give great advice, is an excellent mentor and is always there when you need her. She is knowledgeable in all areas of the CWL and never hesitates to lend a hand to whoever needs"; "She possessed all the important characteristics like patience, wisdom and sharing her experience with others."

The awards were presented to these two worthy recipients by last year's recipients Sonia DeCosta Spence (parish level) and Life Member, Mary Hawkley (auxiliary level).

## New Members Ceremony: Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

As members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, we are guided and inspired by our Mission Statement. "The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service." Recently, Our Lady of Miraculous Medal held a reception of new members ceremony. This is a beautiful ceremony, where the pins to be received are blessed by the spiritual advisor and the League promise is recited. Congratulations to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal on the reception of 10 new members! May they wear their pins in pride, honour and loyalty as they work in service to God and Canada.



## Toronto Diocese at Provincial Convention

The Toronto Diocesan Resolution was accepted by the assembly. Congratulations to Elizabeth Joseph and her council St. Francis de Sales and Connie Cristinziano, Diocesan Resolution chair for their success in having this resolution pass. The final resolution will be posted on the provincial soon.



## New Life Member Ann D'Souza



At the provincial convention, Toronto retiring Diocesan President was presented with her Life Membership. Here she is seated (middle) surrounded by Honorary Life Member Margaret Ann Jacobs (seated right) and Life Members Marlin Taylor (seated left) and standing front right to left Life Members Patricia Cross, Carole Pitcher and Mary Capobianco. We are blessed to have Ann in the Toronto Diocese.

Monday was Diocesan Night with the theme of "Good Things Grow in Ontario". Thank you to Marg Gombita, Lucy Sewell and Connie Cristinziano (all from Humber Valley Region) who repeated the "Ode to the CWL" from our diocesan convention. Kate O'Quinn sang "Leaving On A Jet Plane", strummed on her guitar and led audience participation in singing. The full complement of members from Toronto Diocese sang "The Ontario Convention Ballad" to the tune of "This Land Is Your Land" with words by Kate.



Toronto Diocesan President, Sue Lubowitz, was pleased to accept, on behalf of St. John the Evangelist Parish Council (Durham Region), a certificate from Provincial Legislation Chair Joanna Sisk. This past fall the Legislation project **Go Make a Difference** was a huge letter writing campaign related to resolution **ON.22.01 Improve Long Term Care Homes in Ontario**. St. John the Evangelist Parish Council wrote the most letters of any council in the province—well over 300! Congratulations to Lynne Childerhouse, council president and the members for their commitment to make a difference.

Submitted by Sue Lubowitz  
Toronto Diocesan President

## "Community Life News" ...

*"The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
will become an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women inspired by faith."*

*(CWL Faith-Service-and Social Justice Guidelines, page 1)*

In July 2024, the Ontario Provincial Council will continue living out its mission statement under the *faith, service, and social justice* committees.

Until then, we continue under the **Community Life** standing committee covering these topics: *dignity and rights of persons; social and economic justice; refugees, immigration and citizenship; Development and Peace; and developing countries.* Under the new committees, the first two will fall under **social justice** and the last three will fall under **service**.

\*\*\*\*\*

We wish to highlight a few League resolutions (national and provincial) that remain 'on the books' under Community Life or involve Truth and Reconciliation.

### **2022.01 Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste**

**Resolved** clause asked, "That national council ... urges the federal government to enact legislation to reduce food loss and waste in Canada's agri-food, industrial, commercial and institutional sectors."

(full text found at: <https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Resolution-2022.01-Enact-Federal-Legislation-to-Reduce-Food-Loss-and-Waste-Final.website.pdf>)

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### **ON.22.01 - Improve Care in Long-term Care Homes**

**Resolved** clause asked, "That the Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada urge the Ontario Provincial Government to prioritize and increase funding to improve long-term care homes by:

- regulating and upgrading training for personal support workers (PSW);
- increasing staff to resident ratios;
- updating infrastructure and increasing the frequency of scheduled and unscheduled provincial inspections for long-term care homes in Ontario in order to maintain the dignity of residents and provide quality and compassionate care."

(full text found at: <https://cwl.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/ON.22.01-Long-Term-Care-Homes.pdf>)

\*\* While this resolution falls under Education and Health, we mention it here since it speaks to the **dignity and rights of persons** which is a responsibility of the Community Life standing committee.

## **ON.18.02 – Immediate Implementation of Income Security: A Roadmap for Change for Ontarians with a Disability**

**Resolved** clause asked, "That the Ontario provincial council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 71<sup>st</sup> annual convention assembled urge the Ontario provincial government to immediately implement the recommendations of *Income Security: A Roadmap for Change* pertinent to Ontarians with a disability, and be it further

Resolved, that this resolution be forwarded through the national executive to the other ten provincial councils, urging them to become aware of this issue as it pertains to their province/territory, and to act on it, as deemed necessary/prudent."

(full text found at: [https://cwl.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ON\\_18\\_02-Immediate-Implementation-of-Income-Security-A-Roadmap-for-Change-for-Ontarians-with-a-Disability.pdf](https://cwl.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ON_18_02-Immediate-Implementation-of-Income-Security-A-Roadmap-for-Change-for-Ontarians-with-a-Disability.pdf))

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## **ON.18.03 – To Fully Implement Alternative Sentencing to Incarceration of Indigenous Offenders**

**Resolved** clause asked, "That the Ontario provincial council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 71<sup>st</sup> annual convention assembled request national council to urge the federal government to fully implement sections 81 and 84 of the Corrections and Conditional Release Act, and be it further

Resolved, that this resolution be forwarded to national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada for consideration at 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention August 2018."

(full text found at: [https://cwl.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ON\\_18\\_03-To-fully-implement-alternative-sentencing-to-incarceration-of-Indigenous-Offenders.pdf](https://cwl.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ON_18_03-To-fully-implement-alternative-sentencing-to-incarceration-of-Indigenous-Offenders.pdf))

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## **2017.01 - Full Implementation of the Supreme Court Decision in *R. v. Gladue* for Indigenous Offenders** (gifted by Ontario Provincial Council)

**Resolved** clause asked, "That national council ... urge the federal government to fully implement the *R. v. Gladue* decision by directing the courts of Canada to ensure that Gladue reports are provided to all judges before sentencing Indigenous offenders."

(full text found at: <https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Convention-2017.01-ON01-Gladue-Ontario-Provincial-Council-August-9-2.pdf>)

Members are asked to review the resolutions and to follow up on the Action Plan(s). With action ... our resolutions become more than words on a page!

Submitted by 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. & Community Life Chairperson/  
OPC Truth and Reconciliation Working Group Chairperson Karen McDonald

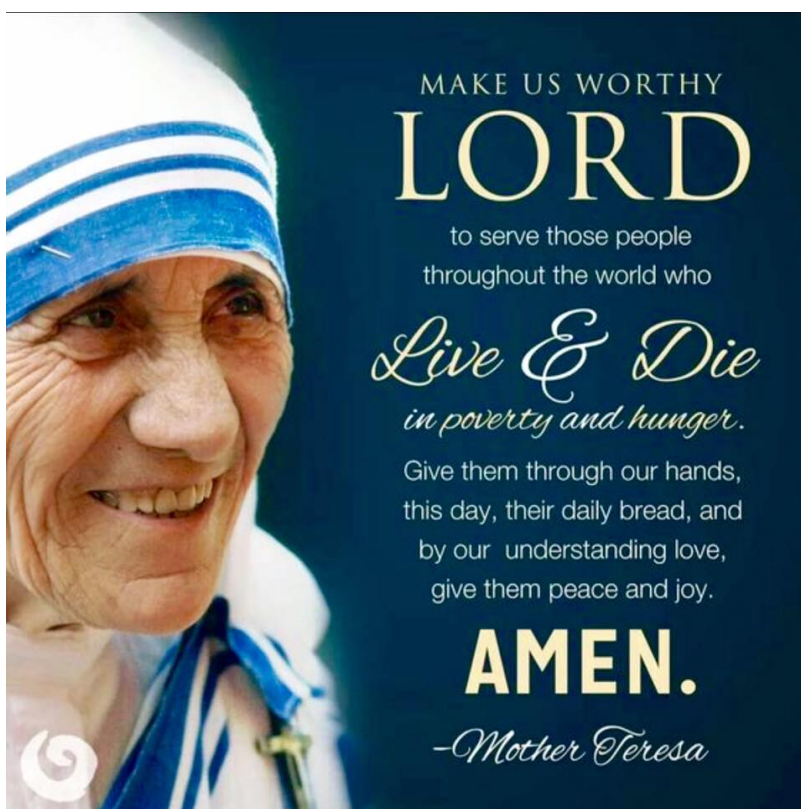
## Homelessness

Even a cursory study of the homelessness issue draws attention to its complexity. It becomes obvious that there are few people who could not be impacted by homelessness or housing insecurity these days. They may range from individuals and families on the lower income levels, those affected by domestic violence, people being released from prison, people affected by mental health issues or addictions, people with disabilities, people estranged from family or without family support, students, temporary foreign workers, Indigenous community, refugees and asylum seekers, to seniors reaching an age where the ability to live on their own is limited. The more one looks at the issue, the longer the list becomes.

The situation is compounded by the rising cost of purchasing and maintaining a home, the rising cost of renting, and the scarcity of affordable housing. The pressure is seen even among those in higher income brackets whom we would normally expect to be able to cope. Individuals and families on waiting lists for affordable housing are burgeoning. Cities and municipalities across the country are experiencing the need for affordable housing and are compelled to address the issue. Interested parties have formed groups on their own to look for solutions.

The "**Bee Compassion Into Action Challenge**" (<https://cwl.on.ca/community-life-directive-4/>) developed by the Community Life committee encourages members to **go make a difference** by becoming more aware of issues in their community (*homelessness, human trafficking, truth and reconciliation*). As members take the challenge and explore what is happening, we encourage you to seek out available resources, look for solutions currently being implemented, and for ways that your group can contribute to easing the situation. Narrow your focus to one area, something achievable ... your small steps could '**bee**' the difference in someone's life.

Submitted by Pat Weller, Community Life sub-committee





**"When we know better, we can do better."**



In 2021, the Ontario Provincial Council established a **Truth and Reconciliation Working Group**. It is the responsibility of the Community Life standing committee.

The main goals of this working group are **Learning, Listening, Actioning ... Working Our Way Towards Reconciliation**.

On the Ontario provincial website ([www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca)), under Resources, there are links to information to assist in our journey toward reconciliation and understanding.

### **Important Dates**

**September 30<sup>th</sup>** is **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** to honour those children who did not return home, and the Survivors of residential schools, their family and communities.

**Orange Shirt Day** also takes place on **September 30<sup>th</sup>**. We show our support by wearing orange to raise awareness of the impact of residential schools and to honour the Survivors.

**December 12<sup>th</sup>** is the feast of **Our Lady of Guadalupe** and the Church in Canada celebrates **National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples**.

Bill S-219, *An Act respecting a National Ribbon Skirt Day*, received Royal Assent on December 15, 2022. It "**designates the 4th day of January in each and every year as 'National Ribbon Skirt Day'**."

Let us continue to pray for healing and reconciliation with the First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples across Canada.

Submitted by 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. & Community Life Chairperson/  
OPC Truth and Reconciliation Working Group Chairperson Karen McDonald

### ***More Indian Day School Records to be Digitized.***

Library and Archives Canada received \$25 million dollars in the 2022 federal budget for a three year project to identify, digitize, and transfer 6 million pages of federal Indian day school records to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR).

The July 2023 Senate report, ***"Honouring the Children Who Never Came Home: Truth, Education and Reconciliation" - Interim report of the Standing Senate Committee on Indigenous Peoples***, listed 6 recommendations including an expeditious transfer of all records related to residential schools to NCTR and extension of funding for the Residential Schools Missing Children Community Support Fund.

[https://sencanada.ca/content/sen/committee/441/APPA/reports/APPA\\_Report\\_InterlocutorNCTR\\_e.pdf](https://sencanada.ca/content/sen/committee/441/APPA/reports/APPA_Report_InterlocutorNCTR_e.pdf)

Much of this speaks to Indigenous Communities having a strong participation in, and control of, the work required to find information on missing children associated with residential schools.

### ***Other Agreements and Programs of Note***

**Indian and Residential School Settlement Agreement:** announced in 2006, it included financial compensation to eligible students of former Indian Residential Schools; independent assessment process (IAP) for claims of sexual and serious physical abuse; support for healing; commemorative activities; establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

**Survivors Circle of the NCTR:** serves to, "Ensure that Survivors' voices and perspectives remain central to NCTR programs and policies; Provide guidance and advice to NCTR, the Governing Circle, the University of Manitoba and partners on anything important to the broader Survivor community". Link to read about members of the Survivors Circle: <https://nctr.ca/about/who-we-are/meet-the-survivors-circle/>

**Residential Schools Missing Children - Community Support Fund:** established to "conduct research and knowledge gathering; memorialize and commemorate burial sites, unmarked graves and Survivors; fieldwork investigation, identification and repatriation of remains". <https://rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1622742779529/1628608766235#s1>

### **Unmarked Burials Associated with Former Residential Schools Maps:**

To view maps produced by Canadian Geographic, refer to: <https://pathstoreconciliation.canadiangeographic.ca/unmarked-graves-and-burial-sites/#mainmap>

### **Family Information Liaison Units:** Government of Canada

Established as a "one-stop information service" to help Indigenous families access all available information from government agencies about the loss of their loved ones. Units co-ordinate information gathering from a wide range of federal, provincial, and territorial government agencies. (<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/fund-fina/cj-jp/fund-fond/mmiw-fada/info.html>)

## ***Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)***

The final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was issued in June 2019 and laid out 231 Calls for Justice.

It looked at four pathways:

- Historical, multigenerational, and intergenerational trauma
- Social and economic marginalization
- Status quo and institutional lack of will
- Ignoring the knowledge and expertise of the Indigenous community

The report was the result of three years of hearings and testimony from survivors and from loved ones of those who did not survive. It defined the Calls for Justice as "legal imperatives" and declared their implementation "not optional". ([https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Calls\\_for\\_Justice.pdf](https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Calls_for_Justice.pdf))

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) produced an investigative feature called "***Mother.Sister.Daughter: An MMIWG Project***". It tracked the Calls for Justice and found that, as of June 5, 2023, only two of the Calls for Justice were complete, 123 had not been started, and 106 were in progress. The feature also tells a number of stories by Indigenous women and girls about their experiences of a loved one, either missing or murdered, or a personal journey exacerbated by lack of supports, resources, or acknowledgement of their dignity as an Indigenous person. These stories are tied to the Calls for Justice and highlight the necessity for timely implementation (<https://www.cbc.ca/newsinteractives/features/mother-sister-daughter>)

*(\*while the Ontario Provincial Council ('OPC') is committed to supporting Truth and Reconciliation, the posting of this article does not represent the OPC's support or agreement with any other articles produced by The CBC\*)*

### **Reconciliation and Healing Comes Through Many Means**

One of the important messages in the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) National Inquiry report is the need for recognition of the distinctiveness of Indigenous Communities across the land: First Nation, Inuit, and Métis, their distinct geographic homelands, and their residency whether it may be on or off reserve, rural or urban, or remote. Part of the reconciliation process is becoming aware of the diverse nature of Indigenous Communities and the importance of acknowledging their individual cultural traditions.

An example of this was the "***Red Amautit Project***". Supported by the Manitoba Inuit Association, and in response to the MMIWG National Inquiry, women's sewing workshops were formed. They provided a safe space for Inuit women and their families to come together and share stories of their lost or murdered loved ones while they sewed. What transpired was a redesigned traditional Inuit women's parka, the amauti, worn by Inuit women to carry their babies. Like the Red Dress is a symbol of all murdered and missing Indigenous women, the "Red Amautis" were sewn as a symbol of remembrance of Inuit women and girls lost to violence. The "Red Amautis" were shown in an exhibit at the Winnipeg Art Gallery between October and November 2022 (<https://www.wag.ca/art/past-exhibitions/?y=2022>).

The project gave Inuit women and their families a way to heal while partaking in traditional skills. It is also a reminder to us of the intimate connection of all Indigenous communities to culture and traditional ways.

Submitted by Pat Weller, Community Life sub-committee.

# Spiritual Development/Faith Pillar



## Let's Learn Together-

Cathy McKinney, Keeper of the Ontario Provincial Book of Life will be hosting a virtual seminar to review how to report the dearly departed members of our parish councils. This will be most beneficial for parish and diocesan council spiritual development chairs or faith pillar chairs. Any other members wishing to learn are welcome to join in too. Mark this date on your calendars, **Sunday, September 24, 2023**. This webinar will be one hour in length and will begin at **1:30pm**. Let us all join and learn how to make sure that our departed sisters in the League are remembered and listed in our Book of Life. Here is the link to join the webinar:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82698510126?pwd=aC9sS1pCeTVObjVoL0xIOHp2UkVkUT09>

Meeting ID: 826 9851 0126

Passcode: 3P7aMw



### *Prayer for Healing and Reconciliation*

*“Who is this that comes forth like the dawn,  
as beautiful as the moon, as resplendent as the  
sun....?” Song 6:10 (Vg)*

*O Blessed Virgin Our Lady of Guadalupe  
intercede for us with your Son that we who  
live in this land, Indigenous and non-*

*Indigenous together may experience healing and reconciliation, on a renewed journey for  
justice and peace for our children. Mother of the Church, pray for us.*

Wilma Vanderzwaag  
Ontario Provincial Council  
Spiritual Development Chair



*Compassionate  
Community Care*

is hosting

**Being With  
Volunteer Training**

***Gain the confidence to journey and visit with those who are suffering, socially isolated, sick, or dying, to renew their hope and purpose in life.***

**FREE Visitor's Training – Live and on Zoom!**

**Saturday September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. EST & 1 p.m.- 3 p.m. EST**

**In person Session: Saint Joseph's Church, 409 Paisley Rd, Guelph, ON N1H 2R4**

Workshop is two sessions, each session is two hours. There will be a 1 hour lunch break in between the two sessions. Bring your own lunch, coffee and tea will be provided. For in-person session, please RSVP to Jakki Jeffs by email: [aflo@mel.ca](mailto:aflo@mel.ca) or call: 519-820-3399. For those joining online, please click on link below and use the same link to rejoin the session in the afternoon.

**Register Now:** Online meeting capacity is limited to 100 participants.



With Kathy Matusiak Costa, Executive Director of Compassionate Community Care, and Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition.

**[www.beingwith.org](http://www.beingwith.org) > Events**

***Event Sponsored by Guelph & Area Right to Life***



Compassionate Community Care: 383 Horton St. E, London, ON N6B 1L6

Office tel. 519-439-6445 • [info@beingwith.org](mailto:info@beingwith.org) • [www.beingwith.org](http://www.beingwith.org)

CCC Helpline: 1-855-675-8749 • Charitable registration # 824667869RR0001

*Compassionate*  
Community Care

## **PATIENT ADVOCACY TRAINING**

***Gain the skills and confidence to be an  
advocate in the healthcare system.***

**FREE Online Training – Live on Zoom!**

**Wednesday, September 27th, 2023 from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

***Register Now!*** Meeting capacity is limited to 100 participants.

**[Click on this link to register in advance.](#)**



**With Kathy Matusiak Costa, Executive Director of Compassionate Community Care,  
and Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition.**

*Empowering you to empower others.*

**Compassionate Community Care: 383 Horton St. E, London, ON N6B 1L6  
Office tel. 519-439-6445 • [info@beingwith.org](mailto:info@beingwith.org) • [www.beingwith.org](http://www.beingwith.org)  
CCC Helpline: 1-855-675-8749 • Charitable registration # 824667869RR0001**

## **News from OPC Legislation Chair**

Greeting to all members and especially Diocesan Chairs of Legislation and Social Justice. This year we had a letter writing campaign to the Provincial Government regarding Long Term Care Homes. Diocesan Legislation Chairs were asked to let me know the number of letters sent by council members. At the OPC convention in Cornwall, we congratulated the parish council that reported sending the most letters.

The council was St. John the Evangelist (Whitby). I presented pens with Go Make a Difference Ontario CWL to Toronto Diocesan President Sue Lubowitz who will present them to St. John the evangelist council at a fall meeting.

Thank you to everyone who wrote to the government. Improvements are happening in long term care homes perhaps not as fast as I would like.

The changes in the League's structure allows for more participation by members overall; this puts more responsibility on members collectively to ensure the League remains a strong and active voice in government matters.

Social Justice is one of the core pillars of the League and we must keep up with what is going on and understand what the government debate is at all levels, otherwise we risk falling short as a representative of this powerful organisation.

It has been expressed for many years by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops "that the Catholic Women's League has more clout with the government than the Bishops of Canada do". Looking forward to discovering new ways we can make a difference.

Submitted by  
Joanna Sisk, OPC Legislation Chair

For your information the following is taken from **the Family Council of Ontario Bulletin June 28, 2023**  
The government is working on fixing long-term care to ensure Ontario's seniors get the quality of care and quality of life they need and deserve both now and in the future. This work is built on four pillars: staffing and care; quality and enforcement; building modern, safe, and comfortable homes; and providing seniors with faster, more convenient access to the services they need.

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## **Quick Facts**

- The province has also announced Local Priorities Fund projects in the [Niagara Region](#), [Ottawa](#), [Brampton](#), [Mississauga](#), [Windsor-Essex](#), [Eastern Ontario](#) and [Hamilton](#).
- Ontario's over \$120 million investment in specialized services and supports in 2022-23 included up to \$20 million for the Ontario Health Local Priorities Fund referenced in today's announcement, \$5.91 million for [four new Behavioural Specialized Units](#) in long-term care homes, an additional \$5 million for [Behavioural Supports Ontario](#), \$2.6 million for [Baycrest's Virtual Behaviour Medicine program](#), and \$4.5 million to build dedicated spaces for health care at a [new seniors' housing complex in Kenora](#).
- Through a \$6.4 billion investment, Ontario now has more than 30,000 new and 28,000 upgraded beds in development across the province. This will help increase overall bed capacity, address long-term care waitlists and hallway health care, and provide our seniors the care they deserve.
- The Ontario government is providing up to \$1.25 billion this year to long-term care homes to hire and retain thousands more long-term care staff. This is part of the government's historic four-year, \$4.9 billion commitment to increase the provincewide average direct care time provided to residents to four hours per day by March 31, 2025.

The Ontario government is investing \$16.5 million to train up to 600 new personal support workers across the province as part of its commitment to ensure long-term care residents receive an average of four hours of hands-on direct care each day by 2025. The Learn and Earn Accelerated Program for Personal Support Workers in Long-Term Care (LEAP LTC) is an online program in partnership with Humber College that accelerates the training of existing long-term care staff, such as resident attendants and dietary aides, to become personal support workers.

## League Development Zooms 2023-2024

Just getting organized for the League Development Zoom schedule for the next several months. There will be a smattering of events each month on different days and at different times to hopefully allow more members to attend. Here's the offering for September:

September 14, 2023 7:30 pm EDST BYOD&Eats ... let's get together and share some news on our councils as we begin to reengage after the summer months. Bring your own drink and eats and be reconfigured into breakouts every 20 minutes to meet others from around the province.

Register here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrd-mggjstGNKDCaWJbyjrjPtpHCs-inTh>

## Recruitment does not end with the annual membership drive!

(Reprint from earlier newsletter)



Contrary to popular opinion, recruitment lasts all year. Here are a few things every member can do to assist with promoting the League in their ordinary everyday activities. Ordinary invitations can grow extraordinary relationships and future members.

1. Attending an appointment where there is a waiting room with reading material? Done with a previous issue of the League Magazine? Consider dropping one in the waiting room for others to see and make sure it has contact info for your parish or organization person.
2. Carry a welcome brochure (your council can order or create their own simple handout) in your purse with contact info. When something related to League activity comes up in conversation, offer the brochure so she can learn more.
3. See someone new to the parish at mass? Ask if they are new and looking to meet other women in the parish? Make sure she knows she is welcome at any meeting/event even if not a member. Offer a ride or to connect them to another member if they need one and you are unable to.

## 2023 Provincial Convention Mini-Workshops

Madame Provincial President Linda Squarzolo asked the Ontario Provincial Council executive members to come up with a mini-workshop to be delivered at a table in the convention room, 4 times over a one-hour period. Holy Spirit is amazing and members of the OPC executive came up with 23 unique ideas on knowledge to share with their sisters. A summary of the workshop short descriptions and a booklet with the handouts is posted on the provincial website under <https://cwl.on.ca/forms/> scroll down to workshops. With our new found love of zoom, perhaps you might ask one of these amazing women to present virtually their idea to your council or parish or group at another level of the League. ❤️



**Toronto Diocesan Council**  
5<sup>th</sup> Moira Ste. Marie Memorial Lecture Series

**ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY**

Food insecurity is the inability to acquire or consume an adequate diet quality or sufficient quantity of food in socially acceptable ways, or the uncertainty that one will be able to do so. Household food insecurity is often linked with the household's financial ability to access adequate food. (Health Canada)

Food Insecurity is a serious public health issue in Canada. **Statistics Canada's Canadian Income Survey (CIS), in 2022, 18.4% of people in the ten provinces lived in a food-insecure household which, translates to 6.9 million people, including almost 1.8 million children. This is a considerable increase from 2021 with 15.9% of households in the ten provinces, translates to 5.8 million people, including 1.4 million children.**

**Note: Info taken from [PROOF](#), an interdisciplinary research program at the University of Toronto.**


**Come out to learn more on how to address this social justice issue as individuals and collectively as councils.** Members, non-members, clergy, parishioners, parish ministry groups, schools, family and friends are invited to attend. See poster with registration details.


*The right to a truly human life logically leads to the right to enough food to sustain a life with dignity.  
(Catholic Social Teaching and Agriculture)*

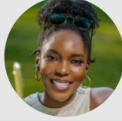
**The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Toronto Diocesan Council  
5th Moira Ste. Marie Memorial Lecture Series**

**ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY**  
*The right to a truly human life logically leads to the right to enough food to sustain a life with dignity. (Catholic Social Teaching)*

Featuring guest speakers from the **YONGE STREET MISSION (YSM)**, a Christian development agency specializing in poverty-related challenges, to help individuals, families, children, youth, and entire communities to rise out of poverty.

  
**Angie Peters**  
President, CEO

  
**Sandra Seaborn**  
Senior Director Programs

  
**Ann Mary Nakayima**  
Community Support Services  
Program Coordinator

**DATE: Monday September 25, 2023**  
**VIRTUAL: Zoom**  
**TIME: 7:00 pm-8:30 pm (EST)**

**GOAL:** To provide background on food insecurity and our part as individuals and councils in addressing the issue.

**REGISTRATION DONATION**

- A suggested registration donation of \$10 per person or \$25 per council.
- All registration donation fees and additional donations will be shared between the Yonge Street Mission and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Toronto.
- *The CWL is a not for profit corporation so tax receipts are not issued.*
- Make cheque payable to the Catholic Women's League of Canada, Toronto Diocesan Council and indicate on the memo line 2023 MSMM Lecture Series
- Mail one cheque per council to **Shaila D'Souza, 35 Lilac Ave., Thornhill, ON L3T 5K1**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE**  
Register with Shaila D'Souza [shailafavy@gmail.com](mailto:shailafavy@gmail.com)  
Login details provided after registration.  
Registration Deadline: **Saturday September 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
*\*We are not able to accept late registrations\**

  
The late Moira Ste. Marie, Past President, Life Member,  
Toronto Diocesan Council

## CWL Convention Report Timmins Diocese

May 6-7 was a special weekend for the CWL groups from St. Anthony of Padua and Sacred Heart churches as they came together to host the 89th Diocesan Convention. Delegates from around the diocese arrived in Timmins to pray, and celebrate together. As the first face to face convention since the pandemic lockdowns there were many reasons to enjoy the company and fellowship of the women in our diocese. It was an honour to have Linda Squazolo, Provincial CWL President, attending as well as the diocesan executive. The weekend featured the Catholic Schools in Timmins. Students in the elementary grades created placemats and corsages for delegates, while students from O’Gorman high school served at the luncheon, sang in the choir, worked as ushers at the dinner and played music throughout the banquet. It was a beautiful way to demonstrate service in action.



The highlights of the meeting were the Parish reports that focused on the theme Go and Make a Difference. Holy men and women were presented as models of faith and service. Guest speaker Tricia Weltz, the Director of the Northeastern Catholic District School Board, also spoke about opportunities to make a difference in the lives of students in our Catholic Schools. Linda Squarzolo in her speech talked about ways we can invite other women to our membership to work in “joyful service” of the league.

There were many opportunities to visit and make new friends as breakfast, lunches and dinner were shared together in fellowship. The Diocesan Executive reaffirmed their commitment to their work in the league and the convention ended with mass celebrated by Bishop Serge Poitrais.



The weekend would not have been such a success without the work of members who donated baking, made soup and sandwiches and used their skills and talents to organize a well-run and successful convention.

### Kindness Rock Project

Holy Trinity CWL, Englehart, Ontario, of the Timmins Diocese, did the Kindness Rock Project in May 2023. A group of members went to Kap-Kig-Iwan Park to collect rocks for the project.

Left to right: Wilma Peeters, Marie Black, Bernice Duncan, Claudette Black, Frances Freeman





Walking down the rock steps. Sitting on the rocks, taking a break. Looking for the perfect rock. Having a little snack while sitting on the rocks.



Left to right: Marie Black, Frances Freeman, Claudette Black, Bernice Duncan, Wilma Peeters, Shirley Gravel



Holy Trinity CWL members painting. Some of the painted rocks.



Showing off their Kindness Rocks.  
Back row, left to right, Wilma Peeters, Anne Bougie, Frances Freeman, Lynne Rowlandson, Claudette Black, Marie Henhoeffler, Shirley Gravel  
Front row, left to right, Marie Calaiezzi, Line Gillett, Carmen Chenier, Bernice Duncan. Missing from photo is Paulette Desilet

Shirley Gravel placing a Kindness Rock on a dock.

The CWL members enjoyed all aspects of this project; the collecting, the painting, and the drop off



We became aware of an opportunity to support the Ukrainian-Canadian Sunflower Camp for displaced children last summer. Our council joined with the organizers and volunteers to provide much need items to the camp to provide a safe environment from the war raging in their home country. This successful endeavor whetted our appetites and when we learned of a request from a doctor in a hospital in the Ukraine urgently needing men's pajamas, underwear, socks, and T-shirts we engaged our parish and in seven short days from donation weekend (May 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>) the special volunteer delivered the clothing (35 pounds) to the hospital in Odessa (May 14<sup>th</sup>). (See picture outside of the hospital.) The second shipment will be sent shortly.



Our members are excited to support the Sunflower Camp again this summer and have already begun to collect items for the children. We will support 30 children plus those able to attend special day trips with items ranging from bug spray, sunscreen, toilet paper, bedding, toys, craft, school and dental supplies, and nonperishable food items to teddy bears, jigsaw puzzles, towels, and hygiene products for children. The camp will run from July 30<sup>th</sup> to August 8<sup>th</sup> and if possible, more weekends. (See picture of children sitting on our woven "Sitting Mats" last summer.)

It is truly a joy to Make A Difference and to be so graciously thank for our support!

Our Lady of the Visitation  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Sandra Blais, President



## Newly formed Diocese of Ottawa-Cornwall

On June 10, 2023 The Ottawa Diocesan Council and the Alexandria/Cornwall Diocesan Council officially amalgamated and became Ottawa-Cornwall Diocesan Council. May the dynamic members of the new diocesan council, embrace the amalgamation and support the newly elected officers. Congratulations!

Left photo – a shot of all in attendance. Charter members (such an honour)

Photo to the right – the newly elected Diocesan Council.  
<https://ottawa.cwl.on.ca/AboutOurCouncil.html>



## 76TH ONTARIO PROVINCIAL CONVENTION

The former Alexandria Cornwall Diocese hosted the 76<sup>th</sup> Ontario Provincial Convention July 09-12, 2023. It was wonderful to be able to get together and as a tribute to our diocese celebrate with our sisters across the province in person as we hosted the Provincial convention.

The events began on Saturday evening with dinner and a mini tattoo sharing our Celtic roots and on Sunday there was a historical bus tour of The Lost Villages. The Sunday celebration of the opening Mass celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Thomas Dowd at St. Andrews Church was the perfect way to start our journey over the next few days.

Our guest speakers: Father Eugene (Red) O'Reilly, C.Ss.R. provided us with many laughs and stories (like only the Irish can) however his message to grow in love and how we can make a difference was very impactful.

We were blessed to have our National President, Fran Lucas attend and share her message. Our Ontario Provincial President, Linda Squarzolo commanded a great convention. Her theme: "Go Make a Difference" and symbol, "The Bee" we reflected in the reports from provincial chairs and diocesan presidents to skits and decorations! Many busy bees across our great province – Good things do grow in Ontario!

From the opening Mass, the crowning of Mary, engaging business sessions, blessings of new Life Members, reports from provincial chairs and diocesan presidents, guest speakers, presenting and approving a resolution to National we celebrated our time together being proud members of the Catholic Women's League. The "speed dating" oops I mean workshops were the talk of the town! Survey says - they would like to see more!



The winner of the Registration Draw was Glenda Klein, congratulations! A big thank you to all who supported our fundraising efforts we were very happy to be able to meet all our financial needs. On behalf of the former Diocese of Alexandria and Cornwall we wish to thank you all for making the 76<sup>th</sup> Ontario Provincial Convention such a blessed and happy event.

Congratulations to Denise Filliol the happy winner of our Canadian Christmas Quilt. Her smile says it all!!

Our closing act – We are one!





**Does anyone recognize this  
"photo bomber"?**

**London Diocese is offering a reward!!**

**Introducing our new National Executive!**



Back row, left to right: B.C. & Yukon Provincial President Catherine L'Heureux, Alberta Mackenzie Provincial President Mary Hunt, Prince Edward Island Provincial President Karen Rossiter, Manitoba Provincial Vice-President Lucille Rossington, Military Ordinariate Provincial President Theresa Schopf, New Brunswick Provincial President Madonna Clark, National Chairperson of Social Justice Glenda Carson.

Middle row, left to right: National Chairperson of Service Joline Belliveau, National Chairperson of Faith Rolande Chernichan, Nova Scotia Provincial President Jessie Parkinson, Saskatchewan Provincial President Connie Crichton, Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial President Linda Corbett, Ontario Provincial President Linda Squarzolo, Quebec Provincial President Alice Noble.

Front row, left to right: National Secretary-Treasurer Dorothy Johansen, National Past President Fran Lucas, National President Shari Guinta, National Vice-President Betty Colaneri, National Spiritual Advisor Most Rev. Wayne Lobsinger (Hamilton).

Missing: Manitoba Provincial President Crystal Reiter

## Eat the Comb



Little yellow bees, flowers, pollen, hives, queens and workers...have you ever thought about the marvelous process of **honey**-making?

We serve a Creator-Designer who hardwired complexity and beauty into everything.

**Honey** is no ordinary substance. It's sweeter than sugar and contains trace vitamins, minerals and antioxidants. It's used in some beauty products because it's a natural humectant that's good for skin. Studies show it's also effective in treating some cold and sore throat symptoms.

Natural, healing, nutritious, sweet, pleasant, making one beautiful...what a great picture of God's Word:

The decrees of the LORD are firm,  
and all of them are righteous.  
They are more precious than gold,  
than much pure gold;  
[they are sweeter than honey,](#)  
[than honey from the honeycomb.\\*](#)  
[Psalm 19:9-10](#)

Let's take time today to marvel at our Creator and taste the sweetness of His Word.

-----  
\*The most natural way to get honey (the sweetest form) is in the comb—straight from the bee hive.

<https://biblelovenotes.blogspot.com/2016/01/eat-comb.html>



## **Paddy's Passion**

The New School Year approaches fast, I am sure the children are all excited and with that comes anxiety.

Get your child to start their routine a few days before school starts, develop a sleep routine, getting up the same time every morning.

Label your children's clothing and items, please make sure their own personal name is **not** on their backpack so a stranger can call out their name. Instead of putting a cool color key chain or laminating a picture of their favorite character as their ID you can be creative.

Many schools are already linked to Mabel Labels, they're wonderful for dishes and clothing and last for years. At the same time your school receives a rebate for your purchase.

If your child walks to school, practice the route now and get them comfortable, if they're riding a bus, take them on the route.

The night before have your child lay out their clothes for the morning and have them start packing most of their lunch the night before. A great adventure is having baskets set up in the fridge, one for fruit and one for vegetables already in smaller containers ready to go. The child can pick one from each. The same thing a basket in your pantry with granola bar, cookie etc., pick only one. This starts your child off with making decisions of their own.

When you are taking your child to school or picking them up from school. Take that time to put your cellphone on mute and listen to your child's stories of the day. They're excited to share with you and they need your full attention.

At dinner time, once again leave your phone off and the TV and ask 2 questions, what was your favorite thing that happened today? What did you enjoy most today? Did anything funny happen? You can make a list of questions and place them in a jar and each night pull out two to start with. It's important that your child is heard, start it off when they're young and build the trust that you are always there for them.

Let's all make sure we give extra room for school buses, children walking and those riding bikes.

Paddy Fitzgerald Nolan  
Communications Sub-Committee



## WELCOME TO LISA'S LIBRARY



If you would like to share one of your favourite books or a review to one of our picks, we would love your feedback please send an email to [emmacwl4life@aol.com](mailto:emmacwl4life@aol.com) or [lisafillinghamcwl@outlook.com](mailto:lisafillinghamcwl@outlook.com).

September is World Alzheimer's Month

Adults:

### **The Peace With Dementia Rosary: Education, Intentions, Community (Volume 1)** by [Matthew Estrade](#)

Inspired by his mother who was the sole care partner for his grandfather with dementia, Matthew Estrade found his calling. He began facilitating care partner support groups, writing a blog, educating the public and care teams, producing The Peace with Dementia Podcast and completed graduate school in Gerontology. Matthew brings you his most current project that draws upon the beauty and strength of the Holy Rosary, where knowledge, love, and faith intersect. Dementia is a broad term used to describe a group of chronic symptoms that may include memory impairment disrupting everyday life, diminished judgment, inability to plan, challenges with words and communicating, disorientation of time and place, and other symptoms. Dementia can be caused by Alzheimer's disease, Dementia with Lewy Bodies, vascular dementia, frontotemporal degeneration, or other irreversible diseases. In The Peace with Dementia Rosary, Matthew walks along your journey of dementia offering Education, Intentions, and Community. Education presented through each of the 20 Mysteries of the Holy Rosary, features important lessons to improve the quality of life for persons living with dementia and their care partners. Intentions found in the book will focus your prayers on specific moments and challenges during the journey of dementia. The companion website has a Dementia Prayer Wall, where visitors can post prayer requests, as well as pray for others' requests. An "I prayed for you" button alerts the person that someone prayed for them. Community is created when we pray for each other and when we create in-person and online support groups. Imagine having a Peace with Dementia Rosary group at your church. Imprimatur Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond Archbishop of New Orleans June 6, 2019

### **Listening to Indigenous Voices** **A Dialogue Guide on Justice and Right Relationships** Edited by Mark Hathaway, Victoria Blanco, Jayce Chiblow, and Anne-Marie Jackson

As the Truth and Reconciliation Commission reminds us, "reconciliation is not about 'closing a sad chapter of Canada's past,' but about opening new healing pathways of reconciliation that are forged in truth and justice." This process entails "awareness of the past, acknowledgement of the harm that has been inflicted, atonement for the causes, and action to change behaviour."

To engage in this process, we need to listen deeply to what Indigenous Peoples are saying, open ourselves to be transformed by their words, and act based on what they are telling us so that we can begin to address injustices, heal relationships, and bring about a post-colonial Canada.

Listening to Indigenous Voices explores Indigenous worldviews, examines the history of colonization, and concludes with sessions on righting relationships, decolonization, and indigenization.

The guide features writings from authors such as Arthur Manuel, Beverly Jacobs, Lee Maracle, Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair, Sylvia McAdam Saysewahum, John Borrows, and Robin Wall

Kimmerer, along with works from a variety of Indigenous artists including Christi Belcourt and Kent Monkman.

Each session includes questions to guide sharing circles as well as curriculum ideas for use in secondary and post-secondary educational settings.

Novalis.ca and jesuitforum.ca

Article on this book: <https://www.catholicregister.org/item/32743-new-book-a-guide-on-reconciliation-path>

Children:

## **Great Nanny Doesn't Remember Me: Dementia Explained To Kids**

by [William G Bentrin](#)

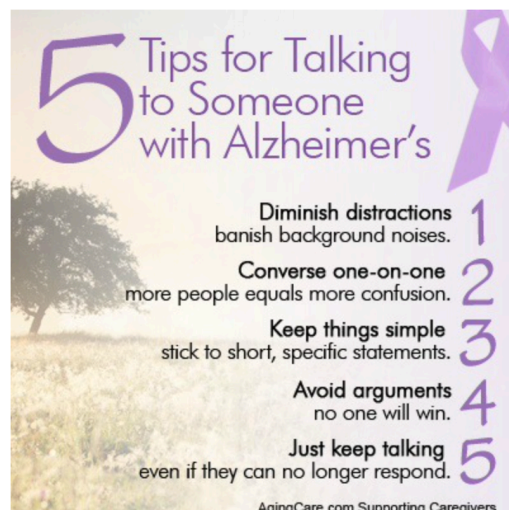
Dementia is a frightening thing to adults so it is hardly surprising that it's frightening to children. Dementia is a general term for a decline in mental ability severe enough to interfere with daily life. Memory loss is an example. Alzheimer's is the most common type of dementia. It may be on a sliding scale of total confusion to just occasional memory lapses. All dementia is not Alzheimer's disease and many people show moderate memory loss without ever being diagnosed with Alzheimer's. This book is not an attempt to define the disease or to suggest a cure or treatment. The goal of this book is to provide a simplistic explanation of general dementia to a primary-age child. Kids are amazingly resilient if they are provided with explanations for confusing things in their lives. My hope is this book will provide children a modicum of illumination on a confusing issue.

## **Phyllis's Orange Shirt**

by [Phyllis Webstad](#)

Phyllis's Orange Shirt is an adaptation of The Orange Shirt Story which was the best-selling children's book in Canada for several weeks in September 2018(Book manager). This true story also inspired the movement of Orange Shirt Day which could become a federal statutory holiday.

When Phyllis was a little girl she was excited to go to residential school for the first time. Her Granny bought her a bright orange shirt that she loved and she wore it to school for her first day. When she arrived at school her bright orange shirt was taken away. This is both Phyllis Webstad's true story and the story behind Orange Shirt Day which is a day for us all to reflect upon the treatment of First Nations people and the message that 'Every Child Matters'. Adapted for ages 4-6.





For those of you who are on facebook we do have a dedicated page for the Ontario Provincial Council, please come and give us a like! I realize a lot of dioceses and councils have their own facebook pages which is a great form of communications. However, we don't always get to see everything you all posted and as your sisters in the league we would love to share in your joys and be there for you in your tribulations.

<https://www.facebook.com/cwl.on.ca>

If you would like me to share your news on the facebook page please email me at [Emmacwl4life@aol.com](mailto:Emmacwl4life@aol.com). Make sure pictures are JPEG format ☺

Don't forget to check out our website regularly at [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca) the OPC executive will be sharing all the pertaining information to their chair there.

If you would like to post something in the newsletter please send an email to Madame President Linda Squarzolo [presidentontario@gmail.com](mailto:presidentontario@gmail.com) and cc myself at [emmacwl4life@aol.com](mailto:emmacwl4life@aol.com). We look forward to hearing from you.

...submitted by Emma Rose Rayburn OPC Communications Chair

