

WELCOME TO THE
ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

We're so glad you're here!

An old man got on a bus one February 14th carrying a dozen red roses. He sat beside a young man. The young man looked at the roses and said, "Somebody's going to get a beautiful Valentine's Day gift." "Yes," said the old man. A few minutes went by and the old man noticed that his young companion was staring at the roses. "Do you have a girlfriend?" the old man asked. "I do," said the young man. "I am going to see her now. I'm taking her this." He held up a Valentine's Day card. They rode in silence for another 10 minutes, and the old man stood to get off the bus. As he stepped out into the aisle, he suddenly placed the roses on the young man's lap and said, "I think my wife would want you to have these. I'll tell her that I gave them to you."

He left the bus quickly, and as the bus pulled away, the young man turned to see the old man enter the gates of a cemetery.

Do you know the history of Valentine's Day? **READ MORE...**



Happy Valentine's Day



THE DOVE - Aura (symbol of the Holy Spirit) is a companion on the journey. The dove is also a symbol of purity, the search for God, freedom, and a messenger of peace.



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Follow us to stay updated on CWL events and information:



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[Ontario Provincial Website](#)



The Federal Government Consultation on Euthanasia Advance Requests Medical Assistance in Dying (euthanasia)

opened on Dec. 12, 2024

Betsy Currier, Life Member, Sault Ste. Marie Diocese

Some of the questions in the consultation are misleading as they imply support for euthanasia. Before completing, read Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. **READ MORE...**

Deadline Response: Completed before Feb. 14, 2025.

Ontario and Federal Elections

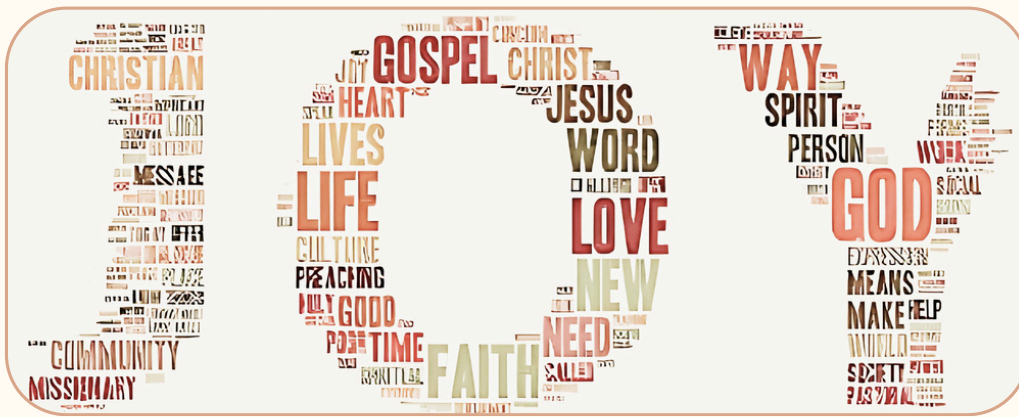
Betsy Currier, Life Member, Sault Ste. Marie Diocese

Make your voice heard! Premier Doug Ford confirmed that an Ontario general election will be held on February 27, 2025. The federal election is looming with the resignation of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. **READ MORE...**



Colleen's Message of Joy

Well ladies another turn of the moon around the earth and here we are in the month of love. I started thinking about love and what it means to have a life well-lived. In reading Pope Francis', The Joy of the Gospel, he expresses "great gratitude to all those who are committed to working in and for the Church."



He then goes on to describe the contribution of the Church in today's world as "enormous ... Christians are giving their lives in love. They help so many people to be healed or to die in peace... are present to those enslaved to addictions ... care for the elderly ... educate children and young people ... communicate values in hostile environments ... dedicated in so many ways to showing an immense love for humanity inspired by the God who became man ... joyfully sacrifice their lives and their time" and so much more. It reminds me of reading annual reports of your council activities. I believe through my faith that giving of oneself is necessary for a life well-lived. *Love one another as I have loved you* John 15:12. **READ MORE...**



Pearls of Wisdom

OPC Past President Linda Squarzolo

Each council of the League must keep a record of their history. The past president is responsible for maintaining and preserving the archives which are the permanent history of the council.

When the National Manual of Policy and Procedure was recently updated, the information in Append 5: Archives Guidelines for League History Provincial, Diocesan and Parish Councils was also amended. Past presidents are encouraged to become familiar with the policy to learn where archives must be located, updating and indexing archives, how information should be filed and what information should be archived. A summary of this information is available in the updated "Archives Pamphlet", as well.

WEBINAR!

"Everything You Wanted to Know about Archives"

Monday, February 24, 2025

from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.



Join us for a webinar that's open to all members – a chance to reflect on where we've come from and where we're going.

We particularly invite those who have dedicated themselves to safeguarding council history: current diocesan past presidents and parish members. Let's honor our past as we build an even brighter future. Don't miss this important event!

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85643806356?pwd=VublphQehVqzpPfrXqWv2NYrYXldlR.1>

Meeting ID: 856 4380 6356

Passcode: 320460



Vice President's Corner

OPC Vice President Karen McDonald

As February unfolds, we are reminded of the importance of love and connection. What better time to share the incredible gifts of the Catholic Women's League with women who may not yet know the joy of our sisterhood.



Inspired by National Vice-President Betty Colaneri's **"1" Campaign**, let us each extend a warm sisterly invitation to one person this year.

As Betty so beautifully stated, *"Members know that God is love and His love is felt and shared every day"* ... and we want everyone to experience that!

Let's spread the love of God and the uplifting spirit of the League by inviting **one** new member to join us! Together, we can grow our circle of sisterhood and create even more joyful moments!



Here is the link to Communique #3 where The **"1" Campaign** was first introduced

<https://www.cwl.ca/communique-03-national-vice-president/>

It really does begin with 1!

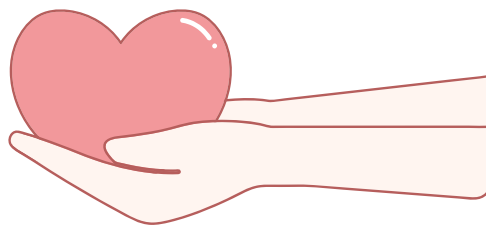
Inspire - Promote - Recruit - Celebrate

Minute By Minute

Little Tips Shared by
Diocesan Secretaries



As love fills the air this February, let us turn our hearts to those who quietly, yet powerfully, shape our councils: our secretaries.



"Secretaries are the authors of the CWL story" - those words, spoken by Anna Tremblay, Past Secretary for the Ontario Provincial Council at the 77th Annual Provincial Convention, carry a profound significance. Indeed, the role of a secretary is far more than just taking notes. They nurture our bonds, remembering and reaching out with the warmth of a personal card - a small gesture that carries so much meaning. It's about weaving together the threads of our shared experiences, balancing a deep concern for the legacy of our past with a steadfast faith in the future we are building together.

Stepping into the position of Secretary is an act of dedication. It demonstrates a true belief in the importance of our work, and a willingness to contribute to the very fabric of our movement. It signifies a commitment to not just record our actions, but to be an integral part of the narrative itself. The secretary is the keeper of the milestones, the architect of our collective journey, and the champion for the stories yet to be written.

On behalf of the Ontario Provincial Council, we extend our love and appreciation to our council Secretaries who, in their tireless devotion, keep our stories alive and our connections strong.

Hope is Born of Love with Joy

"My God, I love Thee above all things, and in all things, with my whole soul, because Thou art worthy of all love!"

Short Act of Perfect Love

This Year of Jubilee is a time of spiritual renewal and transformation that is celebrated every 25 years. It is a time to reconnect with God, strengthen relationships, and appreciate creation. We are invited to put our trust more deeply in God.

We are all on a journey of hope with the help of the Holy Spirit. Hope is rooted in our Baptism; faith, hope, love, and patience sustain us.

Spirituality nourishes us on our faith journey. We believe in the gift of spiritual joy, one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. With the Holy Spirit in our hearts, we are inspired to share joy with others. The joy that does not fade, it "multiplies when it is shared with others." **READ MORE...**



Saint Philip Neri who lived in Rome five centuries ago is the Patron Saint of Laughter and Joy. In short, Philip was an evangelist. He loved to share the Gospel and help people to find or rediscover their faith in Jesus Christ. He said "Cheerfulness strengthens the heart and helps us to persevere. A servant of God ought always to be in good spirits. Charity and cheerfulness, or charity and humility, should be our motto." Sounds like a motto we can live by. **READ MORE...**

Prayer to St. Philip of Neri

St. Philip, you converted countless souls to a greater love for God by befriending them and treating them with courtesy and kindness. Please pray for us to grow in the virtue of affability and joyfulness, which shone through all your words and actions, so that we, too, may win many souls for Christ. Amen.

service

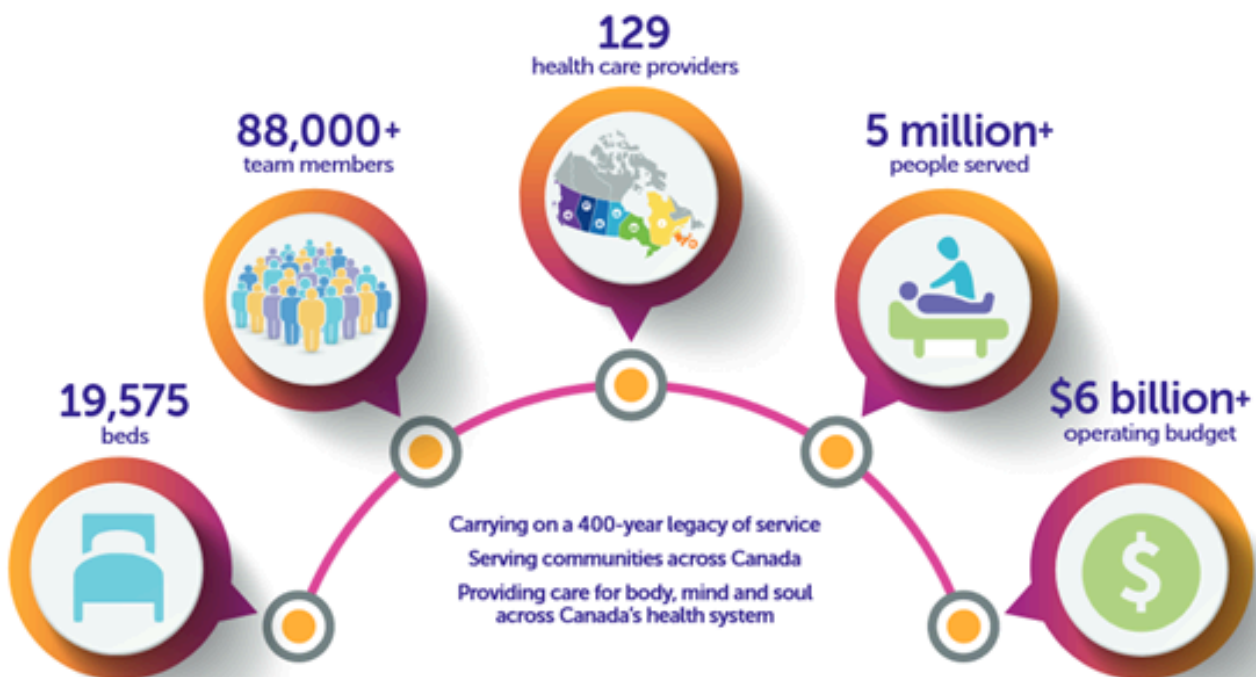
Sue Lubowitz

The Joy of Catholic Health Care

To care for the sick thus means above all to care for their relationships, all of them: with God, with others—family members, friends, healthcare workers—with creation and with themselves.

– Pope Francis

Catholic health care facts at a glance



Catholic Health  Alliance catholique

From February 2 to 8, 2025 we mark National Catholic Health Care Week across Canada, recognizing the important work of Catholic health organizations in our province and across Canada. The week leads into the World Day of the Sick, February 11, a Catholic day of observance established by Pope John Paul II to encourage prayers and reflections for those who are ill and for those who care for them. Want to know more? **READ MORE...**

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Hilarion Mitchell



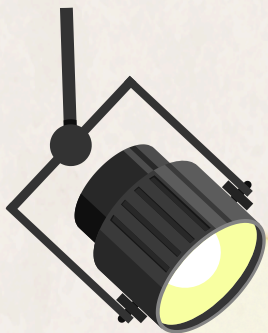
Catholic Social Teaching (CST)

The CCCB-Human-Trafficking-Pastoral-Letter-2021, the act of buying sexual services violates CST and in particular

- *The Life and dignity of the human person*
- *The rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person*
- *The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers*

Feast of Saint Josephine Bakhita (February 8)

St. Josephine Bakhita is the patron saint of victims of Human Trafficking. She was born in 1869, in a small village in the Darfur region of Sudan. She was sold into slavery at age nine and her captors named "Bakhita," meaning "fortunate" in Arabic.



Spotlight on Human Trafficking

What is Human Trafficking?

What are the Warning Signs?

Who are the Highest Risk Groups?

Paddy Fitzgerald Nolan, Life Member, Peterborough Diocese

Victims suffer physical or emotional abuse and often live and work in horrific conditions. They may also face fatal consequences if they attempt to escape. This crime represents a consistent and pervasive assault on the fundamental human rights of its victims. (Department of Justice Canada).

READ MORE...

A New Initiative!



Prayers Across the Province

Faith Chair, Claudette Langdon

I am overjoyed to write about a new Ontario Provincial Catholic Women's League (CWL) initiative, 'Prayers Across the Province.'

OPC Policy states that monthly Mass Intentions should be offered. Colleen Martin, our Ontario Provincial President had an idea and working together it was decided to have monthly Mass intentions for all members and the Ontario Provincial Council (OPC) executive across the province.

We were so excited about the possibility of celebrating Masses all across Ontario, but we could not implement this alone. Support was needed of our sisters in the League and our Spiritual Advisors.

Diocesan Faith Chairs all over Ontario worked diligently with their Spiritual Advisors on the proposed initiative. **READ MORE...**

Celebrating Faith and Sisterhood



On the Feast of the Epiphany, the **Hamilton Diocese were the first Catholic Women's League (CWL) diocese in Ontario to celebrate the first 2025 Mass intention** for the Ontario Provincial CWL Executive team, and its first monthly Ontario Provincial Mass intention for all CWL members of the Hamilton Diocese. **READ MORE...**

Events Coming Your Way!



WEBINAR!

February 24 – 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Everything You Wanted to Know About Archives

[See info on pg. 4 – click here](#)

Save The Date



Wellness Webinar

February 12

Stay tuned on Facebook and the OPC website for more details coming soon!

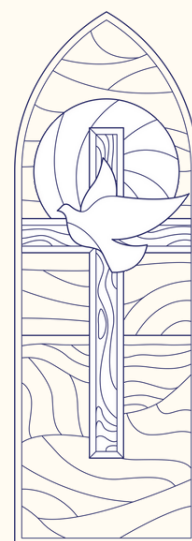
Horizons of Hope – Toolkit on Palliative Care

May 6, 7, 13 & 14, 2025

Presented by:

- Dr. Moira McQueen
- Sr. Mary Rowell
- Shirley Christo, Life Member

Stay tuned for more details coming!



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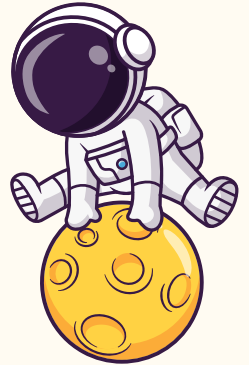
Provincial Convention

July 6-9, 2025, London, ON

**NEW
UPDATE**

Dear League sisters:

We are over the moon with your response to this year's provincial convention! So much so, that the only rooms available at the host hotel, Four Points by Sheraton, are beautiful king bed suites. This just goes to show the power and connectedness of our League community. We look forward to sharing a memorable and uplifting experience with you all... and of course, lots of hugs!



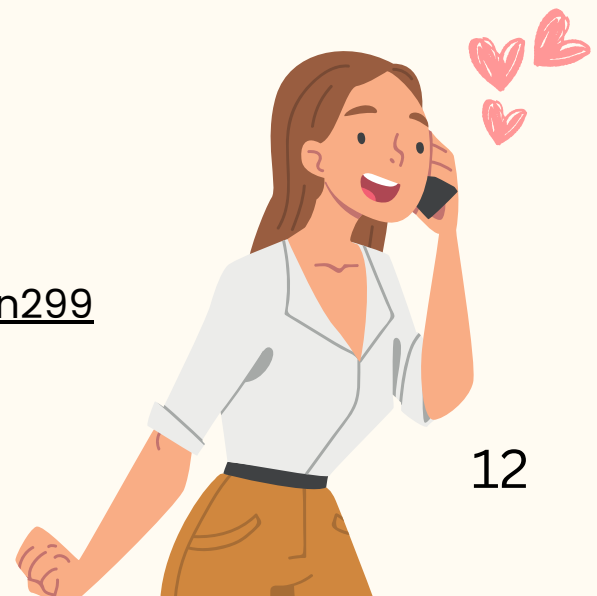
The **good news** is that **the convention planning committee has secured a block of 20 double queen suites at the Comfort Inn Suites** (1120 Dearness Dr., London, ON) at a rate of \$149 (plus taxes), includes a hot breakfast. It is **steps away** from the Four Points by Sheraton. You don't even have to cross a street!



You can call the Comfort Inn Suites to book a room by calling their Reservations Department at: 226-785-3484 and quote group name: 'Catholic Women's League'

Check out Comfort Inn Suites at:

<https://www.choicehotels.com/en-ca/ontario/london/comfort-suites-hotels/cn299>



National Convention

August 10 - 13, 2025 - Toronto, ON

Greetings Everyone,

As the new year unfolds, we're filled with excitement and anticipation for the 2025 National Convention! We know many of you are eagerly planning your journeys and finalizing arrangements, and it's truly inspiring to see such dedication and enthusiasm. Thank you!

We've been receiving many wonderful inquiries, and we want to ensure you have the information you need to move forward with confidence. To that end, we're addressing some frequently asked questions and sharing some updates from the national level.

Now, you're probably used to finding all the convention details in the Winter issue of the Canadian League Magazine. This year, however, we've listened closely to your valuable feedback from last year's evaluations. As a result, the national team has decided to publish the convention program, detailed agenda, and registration specifics in the Spring issue of the magazine, which will be available in May 2025.

We understand that this change might require a slight adjustment to your planning.

Therefore, we're absolutely thrilled to offer a special **SNEAK PEEK** at the amazing events we have in store for you! **The 2025 Planning Committee has prepared a document found on the next page** outlining the core activities we have in mind. While we are still finalizing the full program agenda and keynote speakers, this "taste" of what's to come will, we hope, assist you greatly with your travel and accommodation plans. We encourage you to share this preliminary outline with your fellow members so everyone can begin looking forward to a truly enriching and unforgettable convention experience.

*For information re: Convention Accommodations, **READ MORE....***

We believe that this convention will be an incredible opportunity to connect, learn, and grow together. So, let's begin building our excitement now!

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at CWLTO2025National@gmail.com. We're here to help make your journey to the convention as smooth and enjoyable as possible.

With heartfelt anticipation,

The 2025 National Convention Planning Team
Mary Capobianco and Debbie Bates
Co-Chairs, 2025 National Planning Committee

A Sneak Peek at Events Planned for the 2025 National Convention



Saturday, August 9th, 2025

A fun evening at **Famous PEOPLE Players – Glow in the Dark Dine & Dream Dinner Theatre** has been planned. This internationally renowned black light theatre company of uniquely gifted performers offers a three-course meal followed by an evening of music, dance and special effects.

Sunday, August 10th, 2025

The **World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations** (WUCWO) North American Regional Conference, will precede the CWL 105th National Convention at the Marriott Hotel in Toronto.

The conference will feature speaker Monica Santamarina, WUCWO President General. The conference will begin Sunday morning and will end prior to the CWL Convention Opening Mass.



The **Opening Eucharistic Celebration** will be held at St. Paul's Basilica – the first Catholic church in Toronto. It was built by early Irish settlers to give glory and praise to God in their new homeland. Following the opening Mass, you are warmly invited to attend a reception in the church hall.

Monday, August 11th, 2025

Members will have the opportunity to have **lunch with the National executive** member of their choice. These lunches are for all members at all levels.

For Monday evening a fun interactive **Jukebox Dance Party** event has been planned. You are invited to dress up in 50's, 60's or 70's wear or come dressed as your favourite celebrity from those eras. We hope to see such celebrities as Elvis, Marilyn Munroe, Lucille Ball, Double 007 or even Minnie and Mickey Mouse joining us that evening. Be as creative as you like!



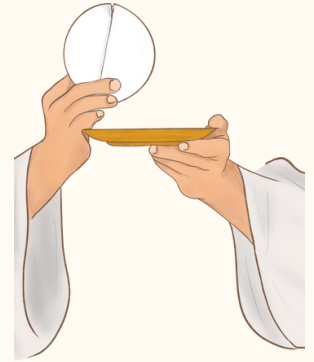


Tuesday, August 12th, 2025

The Life Members Luncheon and Spiritual Advisor Luncheon will be held Tuesday. Tuesday evening the provinces can choose from a wide variety of restaurants for their dinners.

Wednesday, August 13th, 2025

The **Closing Eucharistic Celebration** will be held Wednesday afternoon at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica. As this is an election year, the closing Mass will include the installation of the newly elected National Executive. Following the Mass, you will be bused back to the hotel for the closing **Gala Banquet**.



Thursday, August 14, 2025

A post-convention activity **Sea and Sky Tour** has been planned. You will be picked up at the hotel and bused south to Ripley's Aquarium of Canada. There you will be immersed among thousands of awe-inspiring aquatic animals and enjoy interactive, hands-on experiences, and unique animal encounters. For the Sky portion of the tour, just steps away, you will be guided to the CN Tower. On arrival, you will take one of the 11 elevators to the Upper Observation Deck for panoramic views. The window walls give guests of every height, the chance to see the full sweep of the city, the perfect setting for taking photos. On a clear day you can see as far as 160 kms from The Top – all the way to Niagara Falls and into New York State. On the Lower Observation Level, you can experience the Glass Floor, Outdoor Terrace and Atmosphere – an immersive, interactive art showcase. After your Sea and Sky Tour is completed, you will be bused back to the hotel.

We look forward to seeing all of you when you Come to Toronto....

And Meet the World!

***Come
Join!
Us!***