



**ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF
THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
COLLEEN MARTIN, PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT**

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NEW MEMBERS WELCOME 2026

Dear Sister in the League:

We are honoured to welcome you to membership in The Catholic Women's League of Canada in Ontario. You have come to us at a most exciting time as we reimagine the meaning of 'belonging in the League' in Ontario. The new structure adopted recently focuses our efforts into three pillars: faith, service, and social justice. Amazingly, these titles parallel the areas of discerning leadership and women's ministry, deepening our faith, sharing God's love, and ensuring stewardship of all creation including all peoples.

Late in 2025, Pope Leo released an apostolic exhortation *Dilexi Te* of the Holy Father Leo XIV to all Christians on love for the poor. This complements our current national theme of **Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission** with a focus on 'Blessed Are The Poor.'

Paragraph 3:

*For this reason, in continuity with the Encyclical [Dilexit Nos](#), [Pope Francis](#) was preparing in the last months of his life an Apostolic Exhortation on the Church's care for the poor, to which he gave the title *Dilexi Te*, as if Christ speaks those words to each of them, saying: "You have but little power," yet "I have loved you" (Rev 3:9). I am happy to make this document my own — adding some reflections — and to issue it at the beginning of my own pontificate, since I share the desire of my beloved predecessor that all Christians come to appreciate the close connection between Christ's love and his summons to care for the poor. I too consider it essential to insist on this path to holiness, for "in this call to recognize him in the poor and the suffering, we see revealed the very heart of Christ, his deepest feelings and choices, which every saint seeks to imitate."*

Together, as we continue to fulfill our mission "to grow in faith, and witness to the love of God through ministry and service", may Our Lady of Good Counsel wrap us all in her loving embrace and continue to guide our steps closer to her Son.

On behalf of all of your League sisters, welcome! Please do not hesitate to reach out through the contact page on our website at www.cwl.on.ca if we can be of assistance in your journey with the League. We sincerely hope we have an opportunity to meet sometime in person.

Colleen Martin
Provincial President (2024-2026)

Karen McDonald

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Provincial President (2026-2028)