The Catholic Women's League
St. Joseph's Parish Highland Creek Council
Chartered: November 5, 1953 (T071)
200 Morrish Rd.
Newsletter for March April 2024

St. Joseph Council Executive for the Term of 2024-2025

Spiritual Advisor - Fr. Francis Folleh
President – Mary Kelly
Past-President – Therese Baduria
Vice-President – Raffaela Civello
Treasurer – Neela Saldanha
Secretary – Marguerite Civello

Faith – Isabella Fernandez
Service – Tania Mascarenhas
Social Justice –Nancy Jane Martineau

Spiritual Advisor - Fr. Francis Folleh

Dear Sisters of The Catholic Women's League,
I want to share my short message with you on your plan for the year. I am happy to say that the view of being ready to do the will of God within the League is so encouraging. "*Here I am Lord, send Me*" is all I hear among the group and this is the willingness that will make the League in the parish to be successful.

I encourage you all to be there to help each other in carrying out the plan we have set for our League for the year. The question is this. What do you want to do as an individual that can help the League to progress? This is what leads me to believe that if each member of the League takes ownership of the League surely, we will be able to achieve our goal for the year.
I take this opportunity to thank you all for you continue to do as an individual for the good of the League. May the good Lord continue to bless you all as League members.

Fr. Francis Folleh, CSSp
Spiritual Advisor

President - Mary Kelly

Moving through Lent to Easter and celebrating the Lord's redemptive gift to us, it is a good time to reflect on how we use the personal gifts he has bestowed so generously on each of us. I share this short poem with you for reflection.

TO EACH IS GIVEN
Isn't it strange that princes and kings
And clowns that caper in sawdust rings
And ordinary folk, like you and me
Are builders of Eternity.
To each is given a bag of tools
An hour-glass and a book of rules
And each must build e're life is flown
A stumbling block or a stepping stone.
(Author unknown)

What is in your tool bag? As we move through life, do we take the time to recheck the tools – the gifts and talents we develop as we move through life?

My wish for all our members and for our council is that using all our tools, together we will build a stronger League as we encourage and support each other.
Lord, help us to be stepping stones for our whole community as we serve and grow.

Vice-President -Raffaela Civello

103rd Annual Toronto Diocesan Council Convention – April 29-30, 2024

This event will take place at the Ajax Convention Centre (550 Beck Crescent) The theme from National this year is "***Here I am Lord, Send Me***" and the Diocesan Council sub-theme is "***Called to Serve***". Detailed information can be found on the Toronto Diocesan Council webpage www.cwltoronto.ca under Conventions for information. If you are interested in attending one day or both days, registration and banquet for our members are covered from our Council's budget. To register call Raffaela Civello 416-427-9005 ASAP. Deadline is before March 25th

77th Annual Ontario Provincial Convention – Saturday July 7th – July 10th

This year's convention will take place in **Sudbury,** at the Holiday Inn (1696 Regent St.) This is a great opportunity to meet our CWL sisters from a wider circle at the Provincial level. Elections for new Provincial Executive will be taking place. More information is available at www.cwl.on.ca Please contact Raffaela Civello 416-427-9005 if interested.

Calling for Volunteers to be part of our **Calling Committee**. We would like to ask you to help us out by volunteering as one of our callers to convey information to members who are not on email. Members who would like to hear a voice and have the connection with other sisters in the League. If you are interested in this very important service to our St. Joseph Council, please call Raffaela Civello 416-427-9005

Call Raffaela Civello
1) If you are interested in purchasing a CWL Blue Scarf $26.00
2) for a new 2023 copy of the Constitution and By-Laws booklet $8.00 each
3) If you are interested in subscribing to the Toronto Diocesan Council Newsletter the cost is $15.00 for three issues per year. This will give members a more in-depth understanding of the initiatives and events coming up in the Toronto Diocese. Contact: Raffaela Civello 416-427-9005

Secretary Marguerite Civello

We will be sharing in each newsletter the "**52 Reasons to Talk About the CWL!"** Words form our National Sisterhood Map.

1. **ACCEPTANCE**
   The gifts we have are made valuable only by sharing them with others. Your gifts are gratefully accepted by the Catholic Women's League where members willingly share the good things God has given them. We can't wait to meet you!

2. **ACTION**
   As a Catholic Women's League member, you are part of an organization of women who act through prayer, faith development, ministry, service, education and advocacy on social justice issues. Choose your action. Join us today.

3. **ADVOCACY**
   Catholic Women's League members educate themselves on how to make their voices heard by government and work together to address social justice issues. Join us. Be an advocate and let your voice be heard!

Faith - Chair Isabella Fernandez

Let us pray for Pope Francis intentions

MARCH – FOR THE NEW MARTYRS

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

APRIL – FOR THE ROLE OF WOMEN

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

FEAST of ST. JOSEPH - Patron Saint of our Parish and Canada

Pope Francis' message for Lent urges "To pause in prayer, to receive the word of God, to pause like the Samaritan in the presence of a wounded brother or sister. Love of God and love of neighbour are one love. As CWL sisters, we are all called to continue to support each other, with our prayers too.

On March 19, 2024, please join us and the St Joseph Parish community as we celebrate the Feast of St Joseph at the 7:30 pm mass, as part of our 170th Parish Anniversary celebrations.

Let us pray:

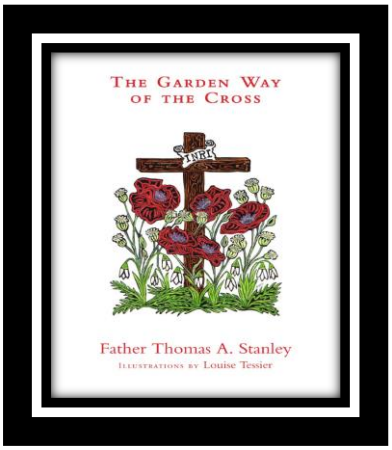
"Happy and blessed are you, O St Joseph, to whom it was given. Not only to see and hear what many kings desired to see and saw not; to hear and heard Him not; but to clothe Him and guard and defend Him. Pray for us St Joseph that we may be worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

March 20th - Toronto Diocesan Council –

THE GARDEN WAY OF THE CROSS –
virtual event 7:00 – 8:30 pm.

Register with Shaila D'Souza:
shailaflavy@gmail.com
By Tuesday, March 19, 2024
Presenters:
Kate O'Quinn, TDC President-Elect/Organization Chair and Iris McNulty, TDC Spiritual Development Chair

The Garden Way of The Cross



Join us for this Lenten Service, as we pray the Stations of the Cross, "journeying along the botanical path with Jesus"

Our Lady of Good Counsel Story and Novena – April 18th to April 26th

With unbounded confidence, two Albanian men followed the miraculous icon of Our Lady of Good Counsel to Italy, even walking on the waves of the Adriatic Sea.

Holy Virgin, moved by the painful uncertainty we experience in seeking and acquiring the true and the good, we cast ourselves at thy feet and invoke thee under the sweet title of Mother of Good Counsel. We beseech thee: come to our aid at this moment in our worldly sojourn when the double darkness of error and of evil plot our ruin by leading minds and hearts astray.

Seat of Wisdom and Star of the Sea, enlighten the victims of doubt and of error so that they may not be seduced by evil masquerading as good; strengthen them against the hostile and corrupting forces of passion and of sin.

Mother of Good Counsel, obtain for us our most urgent need..... ***(here mention your request)*** and secure for us from thy Divine Son the love of virtue and the strength to choose, in doubtful and difficult situations, the course agreeable to our salvation.

Supported by thy hand we shall thus journey without harm along the paths taught us by the word and example of Jesus our Savior, following the Sun of Truth and Justice in freedom and safety across the battlefield of life under the guidance of thy maternal Star, until we come at length to the harbor of salvation to enjoy with thee unalloyed and everlasting peace. ***Amen***

Say the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be, three times each.

Our Lady of Good Counsel Mass and New Members Ceremony Friday April 26th will be held at 7:30 p.m. celebrated by our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Francis Folleh. This year we welcome three new members to the St. Joseph's CWL Council. This mass is followed by reception in the Hall. Your generous contributions of goodies for this reception are most welcomed. All members are welcome to attend this annual mass to celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel. Let us all attend this special mass and show our support to our new members. For additional information give us a call.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This was hosted and celebrated on Friday March 1st at the Melville Presbyterian Church. The prayer service for 2024 was written from the women in Palestine with the theme of "*I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love"* Ephesians 4:1-3. St. Joseph was well represented by two of our members participating in the readings, Nancy Jane Martineau and Isabella Fernandez and over 13 members in attendance and two members on the Zoom link. In 2025, this event will be hosted by St. Dunstan's Anglican Church.

Prayer for All Members in the League

Dear God,
We entered into the stillness of this hour,
Coming from many different places,
Holding with us all the stories that make up our lives.
Each sharing a glimpse of our heart in our passing,
A hope for a deeper connection,
An offered hand in our times of need,

And a welcoming ear to lessen our burden.
Mary, Our Lady of Good Counsel, guide us on our journey.
In this life, help us to have the strength for the long road,
With love in our hearts,
Temperance in our words,
And the will to craft a world of justice and equity.
We know that we cannot do all this alone,
That we are more whole when we are in community with our Sisters in the League.
May we always be welcoming to new, homebound and renewing members.
May they find with us the home they need,
And may we find in them,
The companions we need, to continue along the road,
With grace and compassion. Amen.
revjudegeiger, https://revwho.com

Service - Chair Tania Mascarenhas

Toronto Diocesan Council – Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest will be held on Saturday March 16th at St. Roch Parish – 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. (2889 Islington Ave – Islington Ave and Finch Ave. West). All members are welcome to hear and support the finalists in this Youth Award contest. Go to www.cwltoronto.ca under Upcoming Events for poster and information.

TDC St. Michael's Scholarship: Just a reminder about, the Toronto Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada scholarship of $3000 to St. Michael's College. This scholarship is open to any young women who is of Catholic faith, who is completing her secondary school education and who has indicated on her application to the University of Toronto that St. Michael's College is her first choice. **The applications must be submitted by May 31, 2024.** Please contact me at 647-542-1274 for more details if required.

Food Bank Collection: As discussed at the January general meeting, we had our food bank challenge again on March 2 and 3. Thank you for all your generous donations. Last year the donations received were beyond generous and we hope we can continue to rise to the challenge again!! We continue to collect non-perishable items so that we can donate these items to the food bank before Easter or anytime.

Some of the requirements are: Larger bags of Flour, Rice, Sugar, Salt, Spices, Oats, Coffee and Tea, Condiments, Oil, Dried beans, Baby food, Treats (like cake mix, cookies, candy, pop cans, granola bars, etc), Peanut butter, Canned fish, packaged soup mixes, pasta sauces. Also new or open sanitary products, full or hotel size toiletries. Large bags of staples are re-bagged into zip lock baggies to serve more families and Items are chosen by the clients themselves. They are allowed to come "shop" at the Food Bank once a week. Your generosity would be really appreciated once we put out the dates!

Social Justice - Chair Nancy Jane Martineau

On September 30th, 2013, Canada first recognized "Orange Shirt Day", as a part of an effort to educate Canadians about the atrocities that were committed against Indigenous children at residential schools. As we know residential schools were government-sponsored religious schools that were established to assimilate Indigenous children into Euro-Canadian culture. Although the first residential facilities were established in New France, the term usually refers to schools established after 1880.

Some of the things we know that happened at residential schools are first any clothing from their homes were taken from them and replaced with the school uniform. Children were harshly punished for speaking their own languages. Staff were not held accountable for how they treated the children. We

know that thousands of students suffered physical, emotional, spiritual, mental and sexual abuse at residential schools. All suffered from loneliness and a longing to be home with their families.

The facts are that 150,000+ Indigenous children attended these schools (around ages 4-16).
We know that 1 in 25 children died in these schools due to poor conditions, not enough nutrition provided, and attempts to escape. The last Residential School only closed in 1996.

It is heartbreaking to think that these Residential Schools were established to intentionally remove children from the educational, cultural and spiritual influences of their families and communities. The Canadian government felt the Residential Schools would assist to "civilize" and "Christianize" First Nations children by replacing traditional Indigenous values with Euro-Canadian values. Parents who refused to allow their children to be taken were often imprisoned.

Research has shown that individuals of Residential Schools often experience post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anger, anxiety, depression, and overall mental distress often with devastating outcomes. On average, survivors are more likely to experience suicidal thoughts and attempts.

As a human race we cannot move forward and change, until we look back, name the truths, confess the facts, forgive and reconcile our relationship with others and Our God. This is a true loving gesturer.

The Orange Shirt Day that recognizes that "Every Child Matters", has enabled the schools to educate the next generation and brings heighten awareness to all.

Our CWL will have a Reflective Prayer Service this September to remember our Indigenous Brothers and Sisters. It is also important to note that both schools and the CWL begin their morning announcements and meetings with the Land Acknowledgement.

In previous years the CWL has had access to courses on Indigenous Culture and our CWL Book Club has read 2 books in the last year that explored Indigenous hardships.

In the past the CWL has written 2 Resolutions

1. ON.18.03 To fully implement alternative sentencing to incarceration of Indigenous Offenders.
2. ON.14.02Feathers of Hope, Empowering First Nations Youth.

These Resolutions were written to recognize and support the unique needs within the Indigenous Community.

Dates of Interest: Below are some other dates you may want to note:
March: Anniversary of the Death of Anne Frank (date unknown) March 8: International Women's Day March for Life and International Women's Day
March 21: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (United Nations)
March 22: World Water Day (United Nations)
March 25: International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade (United Nations)
March 26: Anniversary of the Publication On the Development of Peoples (Vatican) (as per Communique#7 – National – Glenda Carson)
April 4: International Day for Mine Awareness United Nations
April 11: Anniversary of Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth) encyclical, 1963 Vatican
April 22: Earth Day Earth Day

Past President & Historian Therese Baduria

Did you know that CWL National issued a ***revised CWL Constitution and By-Laws booklet 2023,*** incorporating some of the changes that were adapted in 2023? Within this booklet are the rules and parameters to abide by for the Catholic Women's League. This is what we, as executives, refer to for guidelines and protocols. On page 5, you will see the types of memberships which exist within the

CWL, such as: General Membership, Life Membership, Honorary Life Membership and Associate Membership. You can also find the responsibilities of the Executive Officers, Standing Committees Chairpersons, Structure of the League, Finances and Eligibility for Office and many more. If you are interested on having your own hard copy, you can purchase it for $8.00 or simply go to www.cwl.ca under Resources / Manuals #604 and download to view the content and become familiar with the League.

CWL St. Joseph BOOK CLUB for 2024

The following are the books we will be reading until June. If any of you are interested in joining this group, please call Jackie Nicholson at 416-266-4604

March	The Beekeeper of Aleppo	Christi Lefteri	2019	321 p.
April	Violeta	Isobel Allende	2022	322 p.
May	The Girl With The Louding Voice	Abi Dare	2020	368 p.
June	Five Little Indians	Michelle Good	2020	293 p.

In Other News...

Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary: *Best Wishes* to all our Members celebrating these special occasions during the months of ***March and April***. God Bless!

March birthdays

Yolande Fernandes
Marlene Campbell
Avrie Johnson
Kumuthini Prabhaharan
Paula Phang
Ingrid Hart
Patricia Sheehan
Yoshiko Huang
Andrea MacFarlane
Sarah Tellis
Eleanor Boyle
Maria Sol Tellis
Icilda Jackson
Lola Gray
Peggy Sheehan
Dagna Fonseca
Cecilia Chung
Auriel Cordeiro
Maria Teresa de Manuel
Melissa Yankech
Gloria Anok

April birthdays

Raffaela Civello
Carol Camilleri
Ruth Oliveros
Philomena Fernandes
Belinda Osarenoma Awandor
Christine Banks
Jennifer Fernandes
Bernadeth De Mel
Lavern Walters
Irene Dillabough
Sunita Dias
Delma Alphonso
Judith Tieber
Patsy Smith
Jocelyn Holder

For the Deceased

Pray for our Deceased Sisters and Family Members.
Eternal rest, grant unto them and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

IN MEMORIAM

Doreen Morse
CWL member for eight years.
Passed on February 13th 2024 her funeral mass took place on Friday March 8th.
A mass intention for our sister is set for **Friday, April 5th at 9:00 a.m.**
May her Soul Rest in Peace

Continue to Pray for Good Health for our CWL Sisters and their families. May Our Lady of Good Counsel keep you in her loving care. If you know of any of our Sisters in the League who is ill, please call Raffaela Civello.

General Meetings:

- We encourage members to bring their own mugs
- Bring a non-perishable food for our St. Joseph Outreach Ministry
- If you have cards you no longer wish to keep e.g. Birthday, Sympathy or Blank cards we would love to have them.

We encourage all members to become familiar with the following website:
www.cwl.ca – National --- Facebook https://www.facebook.com/cwlnational
www.cwl.on.ca - Provincial
www.cwltoronto.ca – Toronto

Follow our St. Joseph Facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/cwlstjosephhighlandcreek

Dates to Remember 2024

March 16 (Saturday)	Mary Matthews Public Speaking – St. Roch. 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. This is for the Toronto level – all are welcome to attend
March 18 (Monday)	**Bazaar Planning Mtg. 7:30 pm. Room 3**
March 19 (Tuesday)	**St. Joseph Feast Day 7:30 pm**
March 20 (Wednesday)	Toronto Diocesan Council – Workshop "*Garden Way of the Cross*" – virtual 7:00 p.m. need to register – Call Raffaela
March 21 (Thursday)	World Water Day (Social Justice Chair)
March 23 (Saturday)	Dynamic Women of Faith https://dynamicwomenfaith.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/DWF-flyer-2024-v8-digital.pdf
March 31 (Sunday)	Easter
April 6 (Saturday)	TDC Parish Effective Training/Effective Meetings – In person 9:00-11:30 a.m St. Edwards the Confessor Parish (75 Churchill Av. North York) registration required call Lucia 416-283-3536
April 8 (Monday)	Scarborough Region Spring General meeting 7:00 p.m. Virtual – this meeting is open to all members – join in. May have a location TBA Information Poster will be sent to our members
April 9 (Tuesday)	**St. Joseph General Meeting of members /Rosary 7:00 Meeting 7:30 p.m. in the HALL**
April 18 (Thursday)	Novena to Our Lady of Good Counsel begins
April 24 (Wednesday)	Ontario Provincial Council. "*What makes a team*?" If interested to join in this virtual workshop, call Lucia 416-283-3536
April 26 (Friday) FEAST DAY	**Our Lady of Good Counsel Mass & New Members Ceremony** at St. Joseph 7:00 p.m. – Reception to follow – Hall – your contributions of goodies are welcome.
April 29th (Monday) and 30th Tuesday	**103rd TDC Convention – Ajax Convention Centre** Registration is open www.cwltoronto.ca go to Conventions for all the details - we need to know if you are interested in attending. Registration and Banquet is covered for our members. Give Raffaela a call for us to register you. ASAP before March 25th
May 6 (Monday)	Ontario Provincial Council "*Conflict Resolution*" workshop virtual – call Lucia
May 9 (Thursday)	"March for Life" Rally – Ottawa
May 13 (Monday)	**General Meeting – in the HALL Rosary 7:00 Meeting 7:30 – Mother's Day Meeting – special prayers/hymns**
May 31 (Sunday)	St. Michael College Scholarship deadline