



The Catholic Women's League
St. Joseph's Parish Highland Creek Council
Chartered: November 5, 1953 (T071)
200 Morrish Rd. Toronto, ON M1C 1E8
Newsletter for September October 2025



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

Spiritual Advisor - Fr. Francis Folleh

President – Raffaella Civello

Past-President – Therese Baduria

Treasurer – Neela Saldanha

Secretary – Marguerite Civello

Faith – Isabella Fernandez

Service – Tania Mascarenhas

Social Justice – Nancy Jane Martineau

Membership – Lucia Vacca



Spiritual Advisor - Fr. Francis Folleh

Dear Sisters of the League,

How is everyone with the Summer season so far? Hope all is going well with the plans for the season. I wish all those who have travelled a safe summer season. This is a reminder that this is your election year and some members will be called to serve in certain positions in league. This is an opportunity to see that each of you has been called and blessed by God to give your time and talent for the good of the league. As part of this noble organization, you have been given the honor to share with all the members in a way that only you can do so and may never understand why.

I pray that if you are one of those that is called, please pray that the good Lord will bless you with the wisdom, courage and strength that you will need to do for the good of the league. Yes, I know that you may not want to accept to serve in that position, but first pray about it and then to ask yourself why not accept the position. I am sure that each of you has a part to play in order that the league in our parish will continue to remain strong and active. I pray that the coming election will be a successful one for the good of our council. Let us pray for the spirit of unity, peace and strength for all the members. Amen.

President – Raffaella Civello

Welcome back everyone! Summer will be over soon, and as we wistfully look back on new memories made, we excitedly look forward to the remaining months of our term on this Executive team. During the summer we have successfully sent out financial support to the approved budgeted charities and they are grateful of our continuous support.

Many activities are being planned for your participation and enjoyment.

To name a few: planning for the Christmas Bazaar, Red Sand Prayer Service, Life Chain, Apple Pie making, Rosary in our Cemetery, Scarborough Region Fall meeting, join in the mass celebration and

reception for our dear Pastor and mentor, Fr. Francis Folleh, on his 25th anniversary of Ordination, our annual Potluck service award dinner etc... Your presence is welcomed as we continue to build our sisterhood.

We continue to collect milk bags for making mats; making pneumonia vests for new born babies; collecting pop tabs, food items for our Outreach group. These are just a few ways we are making a difference to those in need.

By now you have received the Nomination package for the election of the next CWL Executives (2026 - 2027). Please fill in your nominees, sign your forms and submit them before October 14. Call on the Holy Spirit to guide you. If you are nominated, have the courage to say YES, and make this YOUR time to be part of the continued the success of our Council.

We have all been blessed with our individual God given talents ... join us and discover yours as we continue to serve with love for God and Canada.

May God bless us all.

Raffaela Civello

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN FOR NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS
FOR THE NEW EXECUTIVE TEAM FOR 2026-2027

Elections will be held on November 10th, 2025 at our General Meeting

Dear sisters in the League, by now you will have received your Nominations and Election Package. Please be sure to complete the Nominations form and returned it by either placing it in a collection basket during mass, mail it in the return envelope enclosed in your package or you may drop it off to the Parish Office by the **deadline of Tuesday October 14th**.

Note: Any nomination forms received after that date will be destroyed by the Committee.

Please take some time in quiet prayer to ask Our Lady of Good Counsel to accept the nomination if you are called. The Nominations and Elections Committee is comprised of Mary Tuccitto, as Chair of Elections, Eral Zong and Grace Beardsworth. Remember, if a member of this Committee calls you, then this means that you have been nominated to a position for the 2026–2027 Executive and that someone has seen a special God given talent or gift in you. It is through your acceptance of this nomination that a healthy election can bring about a new and vibrant Executive to lead our Council for the next two years. I encourage you to accept the nomination with an open heart, joyously giving of your service to our members, our community and our charities - ***“For God and Canada”***.

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.”*** Serving on an executive team is a great opportunity for personal growth and a wonderful way of fulfilling your commitment to the CWL.

Here is what you need to know in making an informed choice in nominating someone for election:

Some names will **not appear** on the Eligible Members List which was included in your package.

Mary Tuccitto is Chair of Nominations and Elections Committee, and is not eligible for nomination therefore she has been omitted from the eligible members list as well as others who are not in a position to direct the council. Some skills are required to perform the duties of these positions e.g. be able to use email and internet, have knowledge of Word and Excel (Treasurer) etc... There are many former executive members and members at large who have much CWL experience who can act as mentors to help the new executive team. **Ladies, be not afraid to say ‘YES’ as you are called to “Serve God and Canada”.**

Membership – Lucia Vacca

Sunday June 1st St. Joseph Parish Parish Ministry Fair after the 9:00 am and 11:00 am Masses was a great success. We had 15 prospective parishioners who are interested in joining the CWL. It's also up to you to encourage those who are not currently member to join us.



105th Annual National Convention – 2025 was held in Toronto - August 10-13

Delegates attended from across the country a total of 450. We had five of our members attend. Resolutions were discussed and adopted during this time and many friendships were made. Next year 2026 Annual Convention will take place in Halifax. Nova Scotia.

Here is a summary from one of our delegates to this convention.

2025 National Convention Highlights

The three day National Convention held here in Toronto August 11 to 13 was a lively and informative gathering of about 450 sisters and Spiritual Advisors. Since the theme of “*Here I am Lord, Send Me*” has guided our league for these past 2 years, the presenters gave talks on Mental Health and Social Justice, Mental Health and Homelessness and workshops on leadership skills in the CWL, creating plans for community projects and creating prayers to weave into a prayer service. We were blessed with the presence of our National Spiritual Advisor, Bishop Lobsinger, who talked of how to engage and create a good relationship with our parish priests.

On Sunday, August 10, before the start of the CWL convention was the WUCWO (World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations) Conference. We heard from the President General, Monica Santamarina, about some of the resolutions they are focusing on, the most notable being the World Women's Observatory (www.womensworldobservatory.org) and the important work they are doing around the world with violence and discrimination against women. Other presentations talked about the Temporary Foreign Workers Program here in Canada and the problems (for the workers) of this program, as well as Bishop Lobsinger discussing Sodality and the Jubilee of Hope.

As interesting as all the business aspects of the 4 days were, there were also many opportunities for prayer and reflection, as well as after-hour fun activities.



To see more pictures of the masses and events go to: <https://www.facebook.com/cwlnational> or www.cwl.ca
 NOTE: if you are interested in joining the Scarborough Regional Choir give me a call.

CWL Membership Renewal for 2026 - Is due to National before January 1, 2026. The November/December Newsletter will include the Membership Renewal Form for 2026. The form will also be available at our General Meetings. If you are receiving your Newsletter by email, please ensure that you print the form which will be a separate attachment and follow the instructions to submit your prompt payment. If you have moved, are in the process of moving or have had any change in your contact information, we need to have your correct information for our records and for the National Office. This will ensure your receipt of your League Magazine.

Calling Committee - Volunteers NEEDED!!

Our Council now has over 209 members and we need YOU to help in connecting with our members. This is a great way to be involved and make a connection with our sisters in the League, particularly with those who don't often come out to events, or are no longer able to. You would be required to make only a few calls once a month to say "Hello" and share with our members, information on upcoming events and generally let them know we are sisters, looking out for one another. Please call me: Lucia 416-283-3536

Remember... The Catholic Women's League is a living, breathing call to service and as women of faith, this is not an "option" - it is who we ARE! Be proud and invite others to join us.

Please contact: lucia.vacca@sympatico.ca or call 416-283-3536

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 are ill, please call Lucia.

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

Laura Campbell

was our CWL member of 12 years.

Passed on July 12th 2025
Celebration of Life mass
was held on Friday July
25th at St. Joseph.

A mass intention for our
sister is set for
Wednesday, August 27th
at 9:00 a.m.

May her Soul Rest in Peace

*Dear God,
We thank you for the wonderful
memories
we have of our departed loved ones.
We are grateful when these
memories
bring us happiness and comfort.
Help us to continue to keep
the memories of our loved ones
alive
by living out the gifts and virtues
we treasured so much in their lives.
May our remembrance of them
in this way help their spirit to live
on in us,
and may the virtues contribute to
building
your kingdom here on earth.
Amen.*

*(Praying November: Prayers for
Grieving and Remembering Loved
Ones – From Living with Christ)*

Secretary - Marguerite Civello

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

31. MEANING

Life has meaning when you recognize your God-given gifts and share them with others. Join the Catholic Women's League and celebrate the meaning of life as you share your gifts.

32. MENTORSHIP

Mentorship includes guidance, inspiration and encouragement. The Catholic Women's League is a sisterhood of mentors willing to walk with you. Come be part of the journey.

33. OUTREACH

"For it is in giving that we receive." Members of the Catholic Women's League strive to reach out to those in need. Won't you help us reach further? Come and join us.

34. PEACE

The Catholic Women's League helps members grow in their relationship with God and with each other, a true peace. Find peace with us.

35. POWER

Power is the ability to influence the course of events. Catholic Women's League resolutions have changed lives. By joining us you will be part of the power of resolutions.

Our Annual Summer Sisterhood Luncheon took place after the 11 am mass at the Mandarin Restaurant on June 29th. We had about 30 CWL St. Joseph Highland Creek sisters and Fr Francis. We had Fr Francis bless us before heading out to the buffet tables... We all enjoyed our time together as we ate, caught up with stories, laughed, and sang the "birthday song" to Fr Francis Folleh and Tania Mascarenhas... shared with one another our fortune cookie messages



Monday September 22 – Fall Bazaar Planning Meeting at 7:00 pm. Room 3

Calling all members to join us to plan the Christmas Bazaar (November 15th).

Need your ideas and time. We need leaders for the various areas of the bazaar.

Vendors, Treasure table, Kitchen, Bake Table, Raffle, Apple Pies, International Foods (Indian, Italian, Filipino, Tea Room etc...) need your ideas and involvement to succeed. Your support is appreciated.



COME ONE, COME ALL!

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

November 15, 2025
Saturday
9:30 am - 2:00 pm

St Joseph Church Hall
200 Morrish Road Scarborough

An extraordinary holiday shopping experience with our VENDORS

- Treasure Table**
- Bake Table**
- Apple Pies**
- Tea Room**
- International Foods**

CONTACT: LUCIA 416-283-3536
MARGUERITE 416-388-6162

Need your help to locate 6 of our CWL Aprons, which have gone astray since our last Bazaar in June. If you have one, please return it and drop it off at the office or in the Kitchen Pantry. Thank you!



We need your help with this annual apple pie making project. A great way to meet our sisters in the League and building our sisterhood as we work together.

Yes it's Apple Pie Making Time!

Welcome to come and join us, your CWL Sisters
In the St. Joseph Parish Hall

Thursday, **October 2nd** from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, **October 9th** from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, **October 16th** from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

All are welcome



Contacts:

Marguerite Civello 416-286-6162

Ingrid Hart-Noble 416-906-5947

Dates; Thursdays, October 2nd, October 9th
and October 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00
p.m.



Faith - Chair Isabella Fernandez

Pope Leo XIV monthly intentions

SEPTEMBER

For Our Relationship with All Of Creation

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

OCTOBER

For Collaboration Between Different Religious Traditions

Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

Holy Manners

Our Commitment to each other:

- Keep God at the centre of everything we do
- Speak for oneself
- Separate people from problems
- Allow for full and equitable participation
- Listen carefully without interruption
- Welcome the conflict of ideas
- Take a future orientation
- Demonstrate appreciation
- Honour the decisions of the body
- Commit to holding one another to account when we do not keep our holy manners
- Keep the discussion at the table
- BE mindful of our body language
- Check in about good use of time
- Allow the quiet people to speak, with an invitation to speak
- Sincerely say what we really feel

Service - Chair Tania Mascarenhas

Here are two dates to note:

International Day of Peace (Sept. 21),

World Day of Migrants and Refugees (Sept. 28)

Did you know about:

The Ask For Angela campaign, it originated in England in 2016, following the femicide of Angela Phillips (Crompton) who was killed by her husband in 2012, with her name becoming the code word for people to use to seek help. If you are feeling unsafe at a bar, ask for **Angela** to a staff member to get help. The campaign has since spread to the United States, Argentina, New Zealand, Australia and Canada.



The following are the four resolutions adopted at the National Convention 2025 which will be discussed in Parliament in the Fall.

Go to <https://www.cwl.ca/resolutions/> to read each in detail

2025.04 Federal Government to Complete the Development of the Office of Palliative Care

2025.03 Strengthen Support for Chaplains to Provide Faith-Based Care to Members and Families of the Canadian Armed Forces

2025.02 Amend the Canadian Criminal Code Section 223(1) defining when a child becomes a human being

2025.01 Federal Government to Create a Unified and Centralized Cybercrime Reporting System for Individuals in Canada

Read the article on CWL in the Catholic Register Aug. 20 2025 issue

‘This is our time’: CWL on path to renewal at 105th national convention’

Respect for life in the Criminal Code

The federal government should amend Section 223(1) of the Criminal Code to recognize human life from conception. Delegates pointed to modern scientific evidence and said the change would extend legal protection to preborn children in line with Canada’s commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Cybercrime reporting

The government should create a centralized system for Canadians to report cybercrime. Inspired by the auditor general’s 2024 report on combating cybercrime, the resolution notes that current reporting channels serve institutions better than individuals. With fraud losses topping \$647 million in 2024, CWL members called for stronger victim support, particularly for seniors, and closer coordination among law enforcement, agencies and educators.

Office of Palliative Care

Health Canada should complete the development of the Office of Palliative Care, first promised in its 2018 framework and 2019 action plan. The resolution says too many Canadians — especially seniors and dementia patients — still lack access, with only 58 per cent receiving palliative care in 2021–22. The league emphasized the need for national standards to make palliative care a universal right as recognized by the World Health Organization.

Support for military chaplains

Ottawa should give chaplains in the Canadian Armed Forces more resources, staff and time to serve soldiers and their families. The resolution also urges the government to scrap a 2023 directive that bans chaplains from offering public prayers and to reject proposals that would dilute or redefine chaplaincy. Delegates said chaplains are essential for building spiritual strength and helping troops heal from the moral wounds of war.

(taken from the Catholic Register)

Social Justice - Chair Nancy Jane Martineau

September 30th National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day)

The Meaning Behind Orange Shirt Day

The orange shirt is a symbol of the injustices faced by Indigenous children in residential schools. It also represents the commitment to ensure that every child matters.

The inspiration for Orange Shirt Day comes from Phyllis Webstad's story. When she was six years old, Phyllis's grandmother bought her a bright orange shirt for her first day of school. However, when she arrived at the residential school, her shirt was taken away from her, along with her dignity and identity. Her story symbolizes the deep and lasting impacts of the residential school system and serves as a reminder of the resilience of survivors. *(taken from Mikisew Group)*

On September 30th, when we wear our Orange Shirts to remember our Indigenous brothers and sisters, the CWL Executive wishes to invite you to The Red Sand Ceremony.

The ceremony starts with prayers and explains the issue. We concluded after each reading to pour Red Sand into the cracks in the sidewalk. The Red Sand symbolizes the Blood of Christ and the cracks show how these vulnerable people are missed. We must be mindful not to walk over or past the marginalized in our community.

The Red Sand Prayer Service, also known as the Red Sand Project or Red Sand Awareness Campaign, is a campaign designed to raise awareness about human trafficking and modern slavery. It involves sprinkling red sand into the cracks of sidewalks or other public spaces to symbolize the cracks in the system that allow vulnerable people to fall through and become victims of trafficking.

Here's a more detailed explanation:

Awareness:

The Red Sand Prayer Service aims to bring attention to the widespread issue of human trafficking and modern slavery, which affects millions of people worldwide.

Symbolism:

The red sand is used as a symbolic representation of the blood of Christ poured out for all, and the cracks in the sidewalks represent the vulnerable people who are often overlooked and exploited.

Action:

Participants are invited to actively engage in the service by sprinkling red sand, which can be seen as a form of "sidewalk art" and a visual reminder of the issue.

Community Involvement:

The Red Sand Prayer Service often involves community members, religious groups, and individuals who are passionate about raising awareness and taking action against human trafficking.

Initiatives:

The Red Sand Project is often sponsored by organizations like the Catholic Women's League or other groups that work to combat human trafficking.

Impact:

The Red Sand Prayer Service can help to create a sense of urgency and awareness about the need to protect vulnerable people from exploitation and slavery.

From Chairperson of Social Justice, Christina Boyle: “I am delighted to report that **Resolution ON.25.02 Federal Government to Create a Unified and Centralized Cybercrime Reporting System for All Canadians**, and **ON.25.03 Federal Government to Develop the Health Canada Office of Palliative Care**, were adopted by majority during the business session of the Ontario Provincial Convention on July 9, 2025. These resolutions will be forwarded to the National review team to determine if they will be advanced and presented at the National Convention, August 10-13. Congratulations to the Resolutions Committees of St. Joseph, Streetsville and Peel Region, and the OPC Resolutions Review Committee, who have worked on these two important topics to advance them to their current stage.”

Life Chain – Sunday October 5th from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

“Life Chain is a peaceful and prayerful witness to the sanctity of all human life. This annual demonstration brings awareness to the ongoing injustice of abortion and the harm it inflicts on mothers, fathers, and the community at large” (*taken from the Campaign Life Coalition*). <https://www.campaignlifecoalition.com/life-chain> Supporting life from conception to natural death.

We will gather once again this year for this silent protest at the corners of Lawrence and Kingston Rds. From 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. The Knights of Columbus will be handing out the signs for us to hold during this silent protest. We encourage you to join us for this annual event.



(last year 2023) would like to see more of our members join in this event.

September Online Courses Available!

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is excited to provide these courses for members to expand their knowledge and involvement with the League. To register or to get more information, please send an email to cwl.brightspace@gmail.com

<https://www.cwl.ca/september-online-courses-available/>

Calling all CWL sisters!

Are you interested in learning more about the League?

Are you comfortable using your computer and learning online?



D2L
BRIGHTSPACE

Available Courses:

Core Purpose and Objects of the League

The Joy of Leadership Courses

- ✓ Module 1: Ministries
- ✓ Module 3: Leadership in the League
- ✓ Module 4: Discovering New Opportunities
- ✓ Module 5: Leadership Beatitudes

Registration open until Sept. 10, 2025

Courses start Sept. 15, 2025

To register or get more info email us at:

 cwl.brightspace@gmail.com



CWL St. Joseph BOOK CLUB for 2025

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



- Sept: I Wasn't Supposed to Be Here: Finding My Voice, Finding My People, Finding My Way
by Jonathan Conyers 2023 – 302p.
- Oct: On Isabella Street
by Genevieve Graham 2025 – 420p.
- Nov: That Bird Has My Wings: The Autobiography of an Innocent Man on Death Row
by Jarvis Jay Masters 2009 – 281p.
- Dec: Miss Morgan's Book Brigade: A Novel by Janet Skeslien Charles 2024 – 318p.

General Meetings:

- 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 websites:

www.cwl.ca – National - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cwlnational>

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

www.cwltoronto.ca – Toronto

go to <https://cwltoronto.ca/upcoming-events/> for more information of events coming up.

www.stjosephstoronto.org - St. Joseph's Parish

Follow our St. Joseph Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/cwlstjosephhighlandcreek>

In Other News...

Friday September 19th the 50+Club of St. Joseph is sponsoring a Euchre Night. There will be door prizes, cash prizes, refreshments. Registration begins at 6:30 pm. For tickets call: Gloria Moniz 416-286-4878 or Jean Pinto 416-287-0850 Open to everyone. Start time 7:00 pm sharp. Limited space. This club is very supportive for the CWL let's support them in return.

Best Wishes to all our Members celebrating their Birthday during the months of September and October.
God Bless!



September Birthdays

Rohini Fernandes
Alicia Siervo
Winnie Yan
Suanne O'Neill
Millie Tavener
Jean Lewis
Neela Saldanha
Debra Silveira
Monica Meharchand
Maria Steger
Thelma Fernandes
Ave Fernandes
Patricia Furtado
Therese Calderon
Charmaine Fernandes
Patricia Hall
Tina Zappulla

October Birthdays

Natasha Fernandes
Loretta Riberdy
Ju-Ann Miranda
Colette Fernandes
Teresita Resurreccion
Collette Alvares
Juanita MacLean
Hyacinth Fernandes
Chiara Grande
Jean Shillingford
Rose Rozinka
Chioma Mbonu
Annjudine Fernandes
Shauna Haly
Erlinda Maestrado
Elma D'Souza
Ann Marie Alkins
Gertrude Seymour
Jean Fernandes
Cheryl Lobo
Nancy Jane Martineau
Rosemary Hunt
Bette Loben

Dates to Remember

SEPTEMBER	
September 15 (Monday)	General Meeting –in the HALL Rosary 7:00 Meeting 7:30 --- Year to date Budget vs Actuals to be presented.
September 16 (Tuesday)	<u>TDC Fall Regional Mtg. Zoom 7:00 p.m. Registration required.</u>
September 21 (Sunday)	International Day of Peace (Sept. 21)
September 22 (Monday)	Bazaar Planning Mtg. @7:30 p.m. Room 3
September 28 (Sunday)	World Day of Migrants and Refugees
September 30 (Tuesday)	<u>National Day of Truth and Reconciliation - Orange Shirt day – Indigenous</u> – Prayer Service – Red Sand 7:00 p.m. in front of the Church.
OCTOBER	
October 2 (Thursday)	Apple Pie making from 9:30 to 3:00 p.m. in the Hall
October 5 (Sunday)	Life Chain – (Kingston Rd. & Lawrence 2:00-3:30 pm) Be there! We should make an effort to be present for this silent protest.
October 9 (Thursday)	Apple Pie making from 9:30 to 3:00 p.m. in the Hall
October 14 (Tuesday)	General Meeting 7:00 p.m. Rosary –in the HALL – <u>deadline for Nominations for the 2026-2027 Executive</u>
October 16 (Thursday)	Apple Pie making from 9:30 to 3:00 p.m. in the Hall
October 20 (Monday)	Rosary in the Cemetery – 7:00 p.m.
October 30 (Thursday)	Scarborough Region Fall General Mtg. – 7:00 p.m. mass at Precious Blood Church (1737 Lawrence Ave. E.) followed by meeting– all members invited to attend. This is an in person event.
NOVEMBER	
November 10 (Monday)	General Mtg. – Rosary 7:00 – in the HALL- ELECTIONS
November 14 (Friday)	Setup for Bazaar (11:00 – 9:00)
November 15 (Saturday)	Bazaar Day 8-4 (9:30 – 2:00)
November 26 Wednesday	Bazaar Wrap up meeting @7:30 p.m. Rm. 3