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 November December 2025

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

Spiritual Advisor - Fr. Francis Folleh
President – Raffaela 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,

This is to take the opportunity to say thank you for all you continue to do as a council. I am happy to say that you are able to achieve a lot due to the sacrifices and the support you have been able to do. Looking back to all that has happened and the wonderful things that were done, I am writing to encourage you all to continue to do all that is possible.

The achievements are due to good leadership, good support and collaboration that is going on among you all. I am happy to say that I am blessed to be your Spiritual Advisor and I am always happy to tell my fellow Spiritual Advisors how blessed I am to be working with you.

I pray that the support and collaboration that is going on among you will continue and to be shown to the new leadership that has taken up the responsibility of leading the council forward. May the good Lord who has called you to be members of this Council in our parish will continue to guide and direct you in your decision making. May you remain blessed. Amen.

Fr. Francis Folleh CSSp

President – Raffaela Civello

As my two year term on this Executive comes to an end, first as Vice-President, and then culminating in the role of President, I wanted to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you. It has been a privilege and an honour to serve in these roles, especially during this Jubilee Year of Hope 2025, and I am truly grateful for the trust and confidence you have placed in me during our faith journey. Together, we achieved many things, and shared rewarding experiences.

These successes were a result of the collective effort, dedication, and passion of our incredible Executive team, the hard work of our members, the many volunteers, and the unwavering support and mentorship of the past executives.

My time as President has been a rewarding experience, filled with valuable lessons and meaningful connections. I will cherish the memories we have created and the challenges we have overcome together… I know these things have made me a better person.

By the time this Newsletter is published, a new Executive will be elected, to lead and guide our Council, and I leave with full confidence in their ability toward new achievements. I wish them all the best and remind all members that it is our duty to support and mentor each other. Our continued commitment, enthusiasm, participation and sisterly love for one another is what makes St. Joseph Highland Creek Council unique, strong and special.

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel, let us always be aware of the hopes and needs of others. Let us serve selflessly and always with love, for God and Canada.

Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas, and a New Year filled with abundant blessings.
With sincere appreciation,

Raffaela Civello

Membership – Lucia Vacca

CWL Membership Renewal for 2026 - Is due to National before January 1, 2026.
Your renewal for membership is now due. An email was sent with the form and the instructions for your renewal. There are also envelopes/ forms in the Narthex and in the West entrance to the church. We invite you to ask other women in our Parish to join us and be part of this Organization. Our strength is in numbers when our National Executive meets with Government.
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 Canadian League Magazine. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call me. 416-283-3536.
All those who have paid their membership by Monday, December 8th will be eligible to win a $25.00 gift card at our Advent Service Potluck Dinner.

Potluck Advent Dinner will be on Monday December 8th at 7:00 p.m. We ask that you bring food to share for this delicious table. Once again, we will be collecting for the **Good Shepherd Centre** – socks, underwear, gloves, hats, undershirts etc… as in past years. Helping the needy to stay warm in the winter months… ***please*** give generously.

We are also collecting donations for **Sisters of Life** for the mothers and babies they support: Suggested **Items for Moms**: diaper bag backpacks; lotions, candles, floral journals, Catholic Bibles, scarfs, hats, gloves, comfy socks with grips (for the hospital), Gift Cards (Tim Hortons, Walmart, groceries, etc.)
Items for Babies: Baby Lovey toys, baby grooming, receiving blankets, warm blankets, baby clothes (boys/girls size Newborn / 3-6 months/ 6- 9 months : sleepers, onesies, outfits, baby socks, baby hats, baby wipes – All items gratefully accepted.

We will be honouring 29 members who have reached milestone years of service in our Council who will also be receiving service pins at this dinner.

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 unable 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.

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.

Secretary - Marguerite Civello

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

36. PRIDE
We in the Catholic Women's League take pride in our accomplishments. We are a sisterhood of women dedicated to service to God and Canada. Join our sisterhood today!

37. PURPOSE
Faith, Service and Social Justice are the cornerstones of the Catholic Women's League. They give purpose to our lives. Come and grow with us.

38. RESILIENCE
The Catholic Women's League celebrated 100 years of service in 2020. The resilience over the next 100 is in your hands. Come and be part of the journey.

39. RESPECT
We are all God's children, created in God's loving image and deserving of compassion and respect. The Catholic Women's League's core values go beyond this, caring for all God's creation. Join us and experience the joy of love and respect.

40. SERVICE
Baptism Calls us to witness to God's love – especially for the outcast and vulnerable in this world – be they human or other. Catholic Women's League members witness this service in many ways. Come be a part of this compassionate service.

Apple Pies sessions were held over three consecutive Thursdays in October. Thank you to the members who helped with this project. Those who made the dough, bought the apples, washed the apples, peeled the apples, mixed the apples, rolled and assembled the apple pies. All hands made light work.

Galaxy S21 FE 5G

Galaxy S21 FE 5G

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Our Bazaar is around the corner.
Saturday November 15th.

We ask all our bakers to create their delicious goodies and bring them on Friday, November 14th for our Bake Table. Need your gently used items for our Treasure Table.

We would like to see many of you to help us out in the various tasks to make this Bazaar successful.

Faith - Chair Isabella Fernandez

Pope Leo XIV monthly intentions

NOVEMBER
Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

DECEMBER
Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

Rosary at the Grotto
On Monday, October 20th CWL sisters gathered in front of the newly built grotto to recite the rosary to commemorate the month of October.

October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary beginning with the feast of our Lady of the Rosary on October 7th. It was a beautiful Fall evening, we also had a few people who joined us while on their walk and noticed the rosary being recited and decided to join us.

The Grotto illuminated with bright flowers and lights looked spectacular and surreal.
The Rosary was dedicated to deceased sisters of the CWL and for Fr. Folleh and the pilgrim group who were in their pilgrimage in Europe.

Following the rosary all were invited to join for coffee and fellowship hosted by the CWL.
On another note, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the sisters of the CWL for supporting me in my two years term as Faith Chair, as my term comes to an end in December. The league brings out your talents and leadership skills for a greater cause and I encourage every CWL sister to contribute your God given skills and talents for the glory of God and for the Catholic Women's League in whatever capacity you could. Thank you!

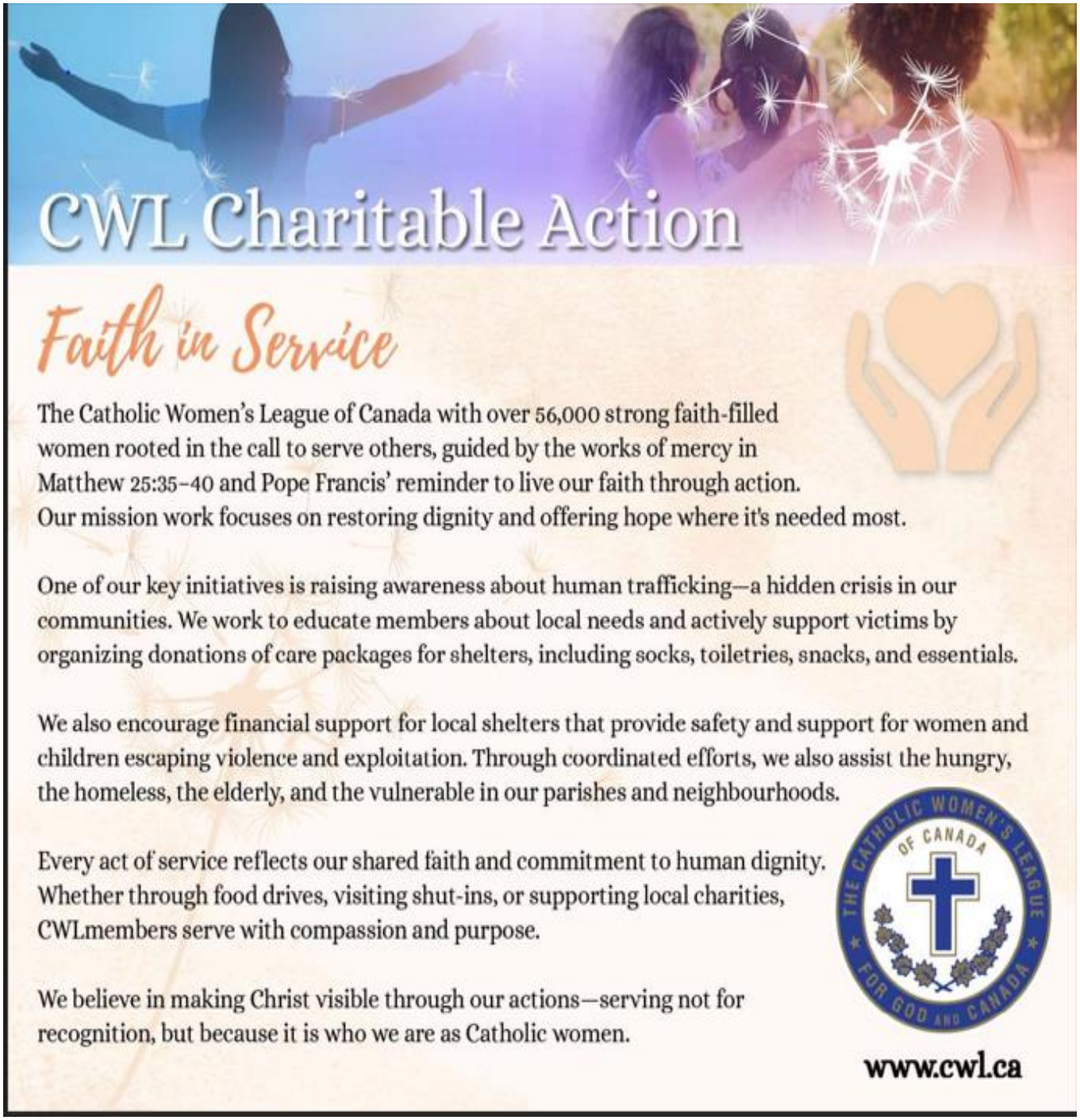
Please do not lean on the fence or allow children to play around it.

Service - Chair Tania Mascarenhas

St. Joseph's Parish is blessed to have the commitment of Carmela Gaudet and others in her family to assist so many families who need food every month for the Outreach Ministry. She was our speaker at our October General Meeting.

Our monthly contributions to the Outreach Ministry food bank are greatly appreciated as there is always a need for food in our community.

During my 2 years as Service Chair, I have felt blessed that you ladies have always been so supportive and ready to donate willingly to so many causes - whether to the food bank or Sisters of Life God bless you all!!



Social Justice - Chair Nancy Jane Martineau

Our St. Joseph's Highland Creek Council gathered together wearing our Orange Shirts on September 30th in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation with a prayer service. The Orange Shirts to honour and remember the Indigenous children who were taken from their families and placed in residential schools-many who never returned home. We also blended the Red Sand Prayer Service with Orange Shirt Day to educate and bring awareness to Human Trafficking. Our CWL council felt that both voices of these marginalized groups deserved to be heard.

We thank IWIN (I'm Worth It Now) for their permission to perform the Red Sand Prayer Service.

I can’t express my gratitude enough for the women who volunteered on the 2024-2025 executive. Your actions, commitment, support and effort to care for the marginalized in our community, educate our members, fundraise for the charities and lead us in enriching our Catholic Faith as women, speaks volumes. These qualities and effort have only brought us to a deeper relationship with Our Sisters in the League, Our Mother Mary and Christ Jesus.

It has been an honour and pleasure to serve with all of you. Thank you for sharing your numerous gifts. You were amazing!

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

Thank you to those who joined us in this event, would like to see more members join in.

Past President – Historian Therese Baduria

I am humbled to have served the Executive Committee for the past 4 years: 2 years as President and 2 years as Past President.

It was indeed an amazing experience: learned a lot of how CWL functions, established better relationships with the sisters in our Council and other Councils, met new friends. Sadly, I was not able to devote all my time lately as required but I value every opportunity to be available for CWL.

Thank you for the friendships we nurtured. I enjoyed serving you all!

As Pilgrims of Hope during this Jubilee Year, may you be inspired to continue sharing your time, talent and treasure for building up the mission and vision of CWL.

Romans 8:28: "*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him*"

CWL St. Joseph BOOK CLUB for 2025

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

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.
Jan:	Standing in the Shadow:	by Peter Robinson	2023 – 368 p.
Feb:	The Wind Knows My Name	by Isabel Allende	2023 - 260 p.

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 are collecting egg cartons and milk bags.**

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…

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

November Birthdays

Valerie Pais
Lina Fisico
Almas Jahargir
Rosemary Grosky
Cheryl Mascarenhas
Natalia Leong
Anna Vigliatore
Elizabeth Oliver
Chantal Schweitzer
Roma O'Meara
Joy Ezemenari
Jessica Hall
Kathleen Mills-Reece
Nancy Morana
Jackie Nicholson

December Birthdays

Joanne Cline
Najaf Lobo
Cristina Grande Delle Fave
Elizabeth Mora
Giovanna De Acetis
Marguerite Civello
Linda Martino
Linda De Acetis
Neva Liverpool
Sharon Sequeira
Christine Domingo
Amparo Dicioco
Philomena Traynor

Dates to Remember

NOVEMBER	
November 10 (Monday)	**General Mtg. – Rosary 7:00 – in the HALL- ELECTIONS for 2026-2027 Executives**
November 14 (Friday)	**Setup for Bazaar (11:00 – 9:00)**
November 15 (Saturday)	**Bazaar Day 8-4 (9:30 – 2:00)**
November 19 (Wednesday)	**TDC Mentoring – virtual 7:00 to 8:30 p.m**. registration required
November 20 (Thursday)	Annual Scarborough Regional Mass for Deceased Members – 7:00 p.m. at TBA – all members welcome to attend this memorial mass
November 24 (Monday)	TDC Presidents Workshop – registration required
November 26 (Wednesday)	Bazaar Wrap up meeting @7:30 p.m. Rm. 3
November 26 (Wednesday)	TDC Social Justice zoom 7:00-8:30 registration required
DECEMBER	
December 6 (Saturday)	**CWL Retreat 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 (mass followed by retreat) Speaker Fr. Arinze**
December 8 (Monday)	**Potluck Dinner 7:00 p.m. Service Awards – need help to setup the room etc....**
December 12 (Friday)	National Day of Prayer for Indigenous People Our Lady of Guadalupe