



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



**Newsletter for March April 2026**



*"Blessed are the Poor"*



**St. Joseph Council Executive for the Term of 2026-2027**

**Spiritual Advisor** - Fr. Francis Folleh

**President** – Louise Thorne

**Vice-President** – Kim Deans

**Treasurer** – Ruth Oliveros

**Secretary** – Joanne Spencer

**Faith** – Virgilia Pazzano

**Service** – Tierney Thorne

**Social Justice** – Tina Zappulla

**Membership** – Lucia Vacca

**Past-President** – Raffaella Civello

## ***Spiritual Advisor – Fr. Francis Folleh***

At the time of putting this newsletter together our Spiritual Advisor Fr. Francis Folleh is taking his well-earned vacation. As we learned from the amazing presentation that he graciously gave us last year it is not a time of rest. He is humbly continuing the work on community projects in Sierra Leone to provide another water well, school uniforms and furniture.

This is especially fitting as we celebrate World Water Day on March 22, 2026, with the theme “Where Water Flows Equality Grows”.



**Let us continue to pray for and support Fr. Francis Folleh in his mission.**

## ***President – Louise Thorne***

Snow is still on the ground, and it may not feel like it, but Spring is around the corner. It has been a cold, and harsh winter, keeping many of us indoors. As we move into the Spring months let us take the time to connect with each other and strengthen our sisterhood. I saw a quote “What if Jesus meant that we should love our actual neighbours?” I would encourage everyone to look at the scheduled CWL upcoming events and participate as you are able. There will be opportunities for prayer, service to the community, social justice initiatives and good company.

This is the Jubilee year of St Francis of Assisi, and his message could not be more relevant than now. He is the patron saint of ecology and celebrated for promoting peace. “For it is in giving that we receive.”

World Day of Water March 22, Earth Day April 22 are opportunities for us to show we care. Pope Leo XIV has called us to listen to “The Cry of the Earth and the Poor”. Please send any ideas or things you may already be doing that we could champion in our group.

Let’s get together! Kindness connects us!

### **Installation of the New Executive 2026 – 2027 – January 18, 2026**





### ***Vice-President – Kim Deans***

Dear sisters, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to make every effort to register for workshops that are being offered and special events e.g. TDC Development Day and Scarborough Region Winterfest, Conventions and other events which will be coming up. This is where new ideas are discovered for us to put in place as well as great opportunity to meet other CWL members.

### **105th Annual Toronto Diocesan Council Convention – Monday, April 27th to Tuesday April 28th.**

This annual event will take place at the Ajax Convention Centre (550 Beck Crescent) The theme from National this year is ***Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission*** and the Diocesan Council sub-theme is ***Be Eucharistic***. If you are interested in attending, registration and the banquet (if attending for at least one day) is covered for our members by our council approved budget. **Contact: Kim Deans 416-206-6341** to ensure your registration. ASAP.

For details and events <https://cwltoronto.ca/conventions/>

### **79th Ontario Provincial Convention – July 5 to July 8, 2026 in Thunder Bay**

Location: Valhalla Inn Call in: (807) 577-1121, (807) 964-1121

email: [reservations@valhallahotel.ca](mailto:reservations@valhallahotel.ca)

To ensure receiving the special group rate, quote: Ontario CWL 2026 Convention (CI) 1371903

Additional Information: [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca)

For full registration and events schedule <https://cwl.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2026-OPC-CONVENTION-PKG-F1.pdf>

Here is the link for the Ontario Provincial Newsletter for March

<https://cwl.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/MARCH-2026-NEWSLETTER.pdf>

## Toronto Diocesan Council – Development Day – Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

A very interactive day of workshops to “Ignite the Flame” and gather new ideas to implement.



### ***Membership - Lucia Vacca***

**REMINDER:** It's important that we keep our records accurate. One of the reasons that you may not receive the CWL National Magazine is if your address is incorrect. Therefore, if you have a change in your status e.g.: name, phone number, address or email, please notify me 416-283-3536

If you are interested in purchasing a CWL Blue Scarf for \$26.00, call me.

If you have multiple service pins and wish to keep the most current, you can return the previous pins to me, and we will be able to continue to circulate to others and save in further purchases. Give me a call.

**The Canadian League – Magazine – Winter 2026** – by now you should have received it. Be sure to read the articles and read the Prayer for Passion on the Mission. Take a look at pg. 19! Anyone you know?

We encourage all members to become familiar with the following websites:

**National** Website [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) & Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/cwlnational>

**Provincial** Website [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca) - Register for the monthly *Online Newsletter* to be sent to your email.

**Toronto** website [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca) – go to Events & Projects - Upcoming Events – workshops are offered. <https://cwltoronto.ca/upcoming-events/> be in know.

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

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 Prabhakaran  
 Paula Phang  
 Ingrid Hart  
 Patricia Sheehan  
 Yoshiko Huang  
 Andrea MacFarlane-Grieve  
 Sarah Tellis  
 Eleanor Boyle  
 Vilma Santos  
 Maria Sol Tellis  
 Icilda Jackson  
 Lola Gray  
 Peggy Sheehan  
 Dagma Fonceca  
 Cecilia Chung  
 Auriel Cordeiro  
 Maria Teresa de Manuel  
 Melissa Yankech

**April birthdays**

Raffaella Civello  
 Carol Camilleri  
 Louise Thorne  
 Ruth Oliveros  
 Philomena Fernandes  
 Christine Banks  
 Jennifer Fernandes  
 Caterina Grande Delle Fave  
 Bernadeth De Mel  
 Lavern Walters  
 Irene Dillabough  
 Sunita Dias  
 Delma Alphonso  
 Judith Tieber  
 Patsy Smith  
 Jocelyn Holder

♥ **Spring Cleaning**

**Big vs Little**  
 Find out if doing the big stuff first will make you more motivated or little stuff will make you less overwhelmed.

**Get Rid of Things You Don't Need**  
 How many times have you used it in the last year? Can you live without it?

**Start With Decluttering**  
 Get rid of the little stuff. Junk mail, magazines, broken toys, etc.

**Digital Decluttering**  
 Delete old apps, programs, pictures, and old files on your devices.

**Get Spiritual**  
 Add in a spiritual element like blessings, prayers, or music.

**Make your own cleaning supplies**

**Make it fun!**

SelfLoveRainbow

## ***Secretary - Joanne Spencer***

We will continue to share in each Newsletter the “**52 Reasons to Talk About the CWL!**” Words from our National Sisterhood Map. These are the last set. We hope that you have enjoyed reading these reasons.

### **46. STRENGTH**

The Strength of belonging to a sisterhood of thousands of women is powerful and our impact makes a difference in our parishes, communities, country and beyond. The Catholic Women’s League is the largest women’s organization in Canada. Imagine the many gifts and talents shared for the good of others. There is strength in numbers. Come join us!

### **47. TRUTH**

We are more than sandwich makers! Yes, service is part of our ministry – as we feed many in sadness, friendship and celebration – but we are so much more. Did you know members of the Catholic Women’s League donate more than a million dollars to charities across the country per year as well as thousands of volunteer hours? Truth be told – we can do more – with you on our team!

### **48. UNITY**

The core purpose of the Catholic Women’s League is to unite Catholic women to grow in faith and to promote social justice through service to the church, Canada and the world. Did you know members celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020? We are a nation of unified women – one voice, one heart, one mission and there is always room for you.

### **49. VALUES**

The Catholic Women’s League is an organization built on Catholic values, embracing all aspects of Christian family life. Standing together, members grow in faith and witness to the love of God through ministry and service. To be the cornerstone for women who believe helping one another is a call for all. If you believe – your place is with us!

## ***Faith – Chair - Virgilia Pazzano***

### **Let us pray for Pope Leo’s intentions**

**March – For disarmament of peace.** Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

**April – For priests in crisis.** Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

### **Spiritual Bouquets For 2026 Ordinandi – Dinner Tuesday March 24th**

Thank you for your support in the Annual Spiritual Bouquet offered by CWL members and supporters. These will be presented by Toronto Diocesan Council President, Kate O’Quinn at the Ordinandi Dinner on Tuesday, March 24th which will be held at the Pearson Convention Centre – 2638 Steeles Ave. East, Brampton (Airport Road and Steeles Ave)

**We collected a total of 8098. Thank you for your continued support.**

Masses: 1805, Communion: 1081, Rosaries: 1790, Eucharist Adorations: 231

Blessed Sacrament Visits: 436, Stations of the Cross: 195, Sacrifices: 36, Prayers: 2524

## Our Lady of Good Counsel Novena – April 18<sup>th</sup> to April 26<sup>th</sup>



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.

### **A Lenten Prayer**

**Fast** from judging others; **feast** on the Christ dwelling in them.

**Fast** from emphasis on differences; **feast** on the unity of all life.

**Fast** from apparent darkness; **feast** on the reality of light.

**Fast** from words that pollute; **feast** on phrases that purify.

**Fast** from discontent; **feast** on gratitude.

**Fast** from anger; **feast** on patience.

**Fast** from pessimism; **feast** on optimism



*Feast of  
Our Lady of  
Good Counsel*  
WELCOME  
NEW MEMBERS

**SATURDAY,  
APRIL 25, 2026  
11:00 am**

Join the St. Joseph CWL as we come together to celebrate the Feast Day with a joyous Holy Mass. All are welcome!

Celebrant:  
Fr. Francis Folleh,  
Spiritual Advisor

St. Joseph Parish  
200 Morrish Rd  
Scarborough

### **Our Lady of Good Counsel Mass and New Members**

**Ceremony Saturday April 25th** will be held at **11:00 a.m.** celebrated by our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Francis Folleh. This year we welcome four 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 mass and show our support to our new members. For additional information, give us a call.

### **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.*

**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 416-283-3536.

### **World Day of Prayer – Will take place on Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**



"Rest for the Weary" By Gift Amarachi Ottah

The theme for this year is: *"I Will Give You Rest: Come"* Matthew 11:28-30 from the Women in Nigeria. See the bulletin boards in the Narthex with additional information on this event once available. We are the hosting Parish. This event will take place on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Reception to follow in the Hall.

We need your support for the reception by contributing to the refreshment table.

For more information on Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada go to [www.wicc.org](http://www.wicc.org) or

<https://worlddayofprayer.net/index.html>

### ***Service Chair - Tierney Thorne***

Dear fellow sisters, in this Lenten season of reflection and repentance, as many of us give up small pleasures or indulgences, I find myself thinking about how I can go beyond resisting temptation and live better by embracing the lessons of Christ in my everyday actions. In conjunction with that thought someone recently said to me, 'you haven't done anything today, unless you did it for someone else'.

It is with this in mind that I take inspiration this month from **St. Katharine Drexel** (feast day: March 3rd), a woman dedicated to a life of service with a commitment to marginalised communities.

While she was able to perform acts of service on a much grander scale than what I hope to achieve, acts don't need to be grand gestures to show someone love and care. Something as small as a smile or as simple as holding open a door or as big as opening a school dedicated to the marginalised, the intentions are the same. To open your heart to all and live everyday as an instrument of God, ready to serve.

### **St. Michael's College Scholarship**

The Toronto Archdiocesan CWL is accepting applications for St. Michael's College Scholarship (University of Toronto). Any young woman completing her secondary education who will be attending St. Michael's College for her first choice for post-secondary education may apply. The Scholarship now consists of a Bursary of \$3000. **Application Deadline is May 31, 2026.**

Call (647-378-7895) or email ([t.meghan.t@gmail.com](mailto:t.meghan.t@gmail.com)) me for applications and information.

### **Coldest Night of the Year was held on February 28, 2026!**

On **February 28<sup>th</sup>** our council participated in the **Coldest Night of the Year**. Our team joined over a hundred other walkers and volunteers to raise awareness about the struggles faced by the vulnerable populations in our community. Thanks to the efforts of our dedicated walking team, volunteer and the generous donations made to us, we were able to raise **\$4,310** for our community charity **Fernie Youth Services**.

Fernie gives opportunities to young people that have been given up on, often based on their position in society. They offer compassionate community, residential, and employment programming to at-risk youth across the GTA, transforming their lives and creating safer communities for a lifetime. By “caring beyond reason®” and always going above and beyond, they give the next generation hope to become the best versions of themselves.

This work was additionally acknowledged with the awarding of a certificate from the city by Neethan Shan, the Scarborough Rouge River Councillor. In total the Scarborough East region raised over **\$23,000** to support Fernie programs that help combat these struggles and create a better, stronger community.

As CNOY is a national event, CWL councils from all over Canada also participated in this walk. With our fellow sisters, the CWL raised more than **\$92,000**, a whopping 380% of the fundraising goal set.

Although our walk is over, **CNOY does accept donations until March 31<sup>st</sup>** if you would still like to give to our team. I'd like to thank all our members for supporting this event and congratulate all our walkers for surviving the **COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR!**





## ***Social Justice Chair - Tina Zappulla***

Our February General Meeting was focused on Human Trafficking and Anti-Bullying. We wore pink for the Anti-Bullying and Blue Hearts for the Human Trafficking.



**We exchanged Valentine messages at our social time and spent a short time on Valentine games.**



There are two Resolutions proposed to be tabled at the Toronto Diocesan Convention in April  
**TDC 2026.1** Federal Government to fund additional Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia (HHT) treatment and screening centres across Canada.

**TDC 2026.2** Federal Government to implement the disability housing recommendations of the Canadian Human Rights Commission through the National Disability Housing Framework.



**Human Trafficking – CN Tower turned BLUE – Sunday, February 22, 2026**

We travelled as a group of 6 from St. Joseph to take part in a prayerful service against Human Trafficking. This will be an annual event organized by the TDC. There was a total of 25 members from various parishes. There were two other locations across the GTA gathered to highlight the awareness of Human Trafficking.

**General Meetings:**

- We are collecting Milk Bags, Egg Cartons and pop tabs and non-perishable food items

**CWL St. Joseph’s BOOK CLUB for 2026**



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

<b>March:</b>	Hope: the autobiography	by Pope Francis	2025 – 302 p.
<b>April:</b>	Mrs. Quinn’s Rise to Fame	by Olivia Ford	2024 – 307 p.
<b>May:</b>	The Silent Patient	by Alex Michaelides	2019 – 387 p.
<b>June:</b>	The Women	by Kristin Hannah	2024 – 471 p.



**March 17<sup>th</sup> – St. Patrick’s Day.**  
*May the road rise up to meet you.*  
*May the wind be always at your back.*  
*May the sun shine warm upon your face;*  
*the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,*  
*May God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

## Dates to Remember

March 8 (Sunday)	Spring forward – clocks move ahead an hour
<b>March 9 (Monday)</b>	General Meeting – in the HALL – Meeting starts at 7:00 pm – “Mary’s Way of the Cross”, Amendments to the C&B 2023, Toronto Diocesan Convention Resolutions– April 27 & 28.
<b>March 11 (Wednesday)</b>	<b>WDOP 7:00 p.m. – St. Joseph Parish – Nigeria – Prayer Service open to all</b>
<b>March 16 (Monday)</b>	<b>Bazaar Planning Mtg. 7:30 pm. Room 3</b>
March 19 (Thursday)	St. Joseph Feast Day – Mass at 7:00 pm – light refreshments to follow in the hall
March 22 (Sunday)	World Water Day
March 24 (Tuesday)	<u>35<sup>th</sup> Ordinandi Dinner</u> –5:00 pm. Pearson Convention Center, 2638 Steeles Ave. East, Brampton; ( <i>northwest corner of Airport Rd. &amp; Steeles</i> ) <i>Sold Out</i>
March 28 (Saturday)	<u>Earth Hour Lights out from 8:30 to 9:30 pm.</u>
March 28 (Saturday)	Lift Jesus Higher Rally – Toronto Convention Centre
<b>APRIL</b>	
April 13 (Monday)	General Meeting /Rosary 7:00 Meeting 7:30 p.m. in the HALL – Spring decor and wear your Easter Bonnet or favourite hat
April 18 to 26	Novena to Our Lady of Good Counsel begins
April 22 (Wednesday)	Earth Day
<b>April 25 (Saturday)</b>	<b>Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel and New Members Ceremony – mass 11:00 a.m. – refreshments to follow in the hall.</b>
<b>April 27<sup>th</sup> Monday and 28<sup>th</sup> Tuesday</b>	<b>105<sup>th</sup> TDC Convention – Ajax Convention Centre</b> (Contact Vice-President for registrations and banquet)
<b>MAY</b>	
May 5 (Tuesday)	Red Dress and Red Sand Prayer Service – 7:00 pm.
May 3 – 9 (Sunday to Saturday)	“12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care” National Hospice Palliative Care Week – <a href="http://www.cwl.ca">www.cwl.ca</a>
May 11 (Monday)	General Meeting – in the HALL Rosary 7:00 Meeting 7:30 – Mother’s Day Meeting
<b>May 25 (Monday)</b>	<b>Rosary in the Cemetery – 7:00 p.m.</b>