



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



Newsletter for May June 2026



Ignite Your Passion
Empower His Mission

"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

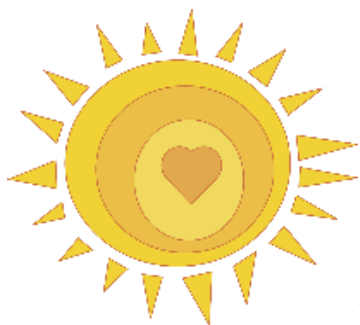
Spiritual Advisor – Fr. Francis Folleh

Dear Sisters of the League,

I want to start by wishing you a blessed Easter Season. We are Easter people and Alleluia is our song. We live, in the hope of a better future for our League in St. Joseph's Parish. The hope for a better future for the League can only be achieved when we live the faith in action by supporting, sacrificing and doing the necessary things required of all the members. We cannot do it on our own without the grace of God.

As we look forward to the feast of Pentecost, we pray for the gifts that will help each member of the League to grow in strength so as to continue to do the good work that began long ago in this Parish. What gift of the Holy Spirit that you need as an individual in order to help the League to grow? I pray and encourage you to pray about that gift so that when you receive it all the members will be blessed through you. Amen.

President – Louise Thorne



Here comes the Sun!

We are in the season of Hope, Renewal, and Growth.

As we move through Easter to Pentecost we journey from salvation to empowerment.

“While Easter is God for us, Pentecost is God in us, giving believers courage to continue Jesus’ mission.”

This further reinforces our CWL National theme for me “Ignite your Passion, Empower His Mission.”

As the disciples before us, we pray together for an inner peace and transformation to “Ignite our Passion”. We reflect on the importance of being kind to ourselves to enable us to help others. As a diverse group we are solidifying our unity and sisterhood.

I wish to offer my gratitude for all the members participating in meetings, prayer services, supporting at parish and CWL events, awareness advocacy and support for the marginalized in our community, educating themselves at CWL webinars, attending the Diocesan convention, and countless other often unseen acts of support. Taking part in prayer services like The Way of Mary and Rosary for Peace at meetings was moving and sharing social time getting to know everyone has been a joy.

We are at an in between phase in our CWL journey for 2026-2027. In our personal life, our parish, our communities, internationally; we cannot escape hardships. God has a plan for us, and it will require effort and trust to lead us through. I am putting out the call to all CWL members to look within and find your spark. Do what you can as you are able, and we will be a support for each other. Our parish needs us; our community needs us. Look at upcoming events and pick one or more to engage in and be of service.

Let kindness connect us! Nurture our council and see it grow! We are stronger together! Diverse and beautiful!

Show up! Sign up! Shine!



Vice-President – Kim Deans

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

This annual event was attended by 16 of our members, at the Ajax Convention Centre. The theme from National this year is *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission* and the Diocesan Council sub-theme is *Be Eucharistic*. Our sisters participated in many activities.

Here are some highlights:

- Dialogue and voting on the two TDC resolutions, which have been adopted to go to the Provincial Convention.
- Instructed votes for the Constitution and Bylaws 2023 amendments.
- Election of our new TDC Executive Council members. New President is Connie Cristinziano.
- Hosting the winners of the Youth Awards for Public Speaking, Essay and Poetry. Listening to their amazing public speaking and essays.
- A keynote speaker from Aid to the Church in Need Canada (ACN). As a pontifical charity, the ACN acts on behalf of the Church, working under the guidance of the Bishops and enables Canadians to support persecuted Christians worldwide. Their website is: www.acn-canada.org
- There was opportunity for prayers throughout the 2 days, as well as opening and closing masses, celebrated by Fr Liborio Amoral and Bishop Vincent Nguyen respectively.
- There were vendors, a peaceful prayer room, author Mark Creedon reading from his book and dancing to DJ TeeCee, as well as many opportunities to meet sisters from around the Diocese.
- Our sisters who stayed for the closing banquet not only enjoyed a lovely meal with those around them but were delighted to have Msgr. Pat O’Dea as the keynote speaker.
- Four of our St. Joseph CWL members were part of the Scarborough Regional choir (Tierney, Tina, Nancy Jane and Lucia).
- Fr. Francis Folleh concelebrated both in the opening and closing masses.
- The Convention was a wonderful time for companionship, networking and sisterhood!

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

Location: Valhalla Inn Call in: (807) 577-1121 email: reservations@valhallahotel.ca

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

Additional Information: 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>

106th Annual National Convention – August 9-12, 2026 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Hotel is

The Sutton Place Hotel Halifax. For further information go to the National website: <https://www.cwl.ca/> <https://cwl.amsoftlive.com/Apps/Pages/ams-event-details/6499?isPreview=False> details of registration, events and special activities.

National website: www.cwl.ca

Provincial website: www.cwl.on.ca

Toronto website 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>

Our Lady of Good Counsel Mass – Saturday April 25th

It was exciting to have all four of our new members attend the Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel and be part of the New Members Ceremony the Mass was celebrated by Fr. Francis Folleh, our Spiritual Advisor. Following the mass, refreshments (in beautiful china cups/saucers) and delicious snacks provided by those in attendance, gave everyone an opportunity to socialize and welcome our new sisters: Isabel, Veena, Clara and Blanche.



**JUNE
BAZAAR**

SATURDAY JUNE 20, 2026
 St. Joseph's Parish (200 Morrish Rd)
9:30AM - 2:00PM
Vendors - Treasures - Food - Plants

Contact: 416 - 283 - 3536

Here we are again!

Now is the time to start planting, baking, collecting items and getting all together for another successful June Bazaar.

As always, we will accept your baked goodies, items for the treasure table, plants etc...the night before the event. Friday, June 19th from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Your help is invaluable, please let us know when you are available to help out and what area you are more comfortable in helping.

On the Bazaar Day June 20th we need help from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. *Many hands make light work.*

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.

50. VISION

The Catholic Women’s League envisioned future is to be an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women – inspired by faith. Its vision is to ensure that it remains a vital participant in the church, a valued partner for social justice, a respected advocate at all government levels, and connected to the world. Come and see!

51. VOICE

If you only knew....the Catholic Women’s League has a ‘voice’ to created change! Backed by thousands of Canadian Catholic women – it meets with government and influences laws, stands up for social justice and speaks up for those who do not have a voice. Is there a cause or issue you would like to see brought to the attention of government? Your voice matters – we can help!

52. WELCOME

My Catholic Women’s League is a place of comfort as I share a seat with like minded women of faith and purpose. With councils across Canada – I am confident of a warm welcome no matter where I visit. Our sisterhood spans the nation. Come be a part of our family!

World Social Communications Day – Sunday, May 17th marks the 60th World Day of Social Communications and the theme from Pope Leo XIV is: *Preserving human voices and faces.*

Faith – Chair - Virgilia Pazzano

Let us pray for Pope Leo's intentions

May – That everyone might have food

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

June – For the values of sports

Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.

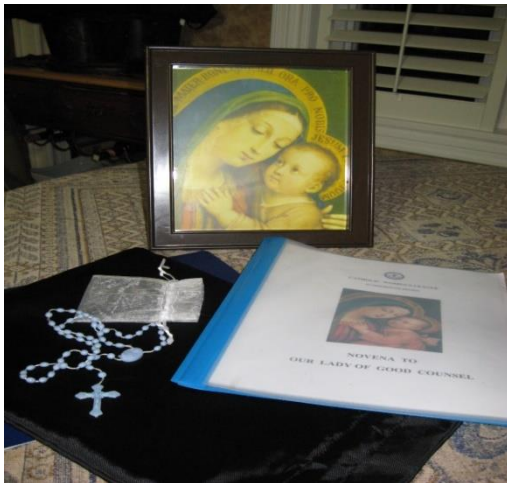
July – For respect for human life

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

August – For evangelization in the city

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

Travelling Kit of Our Lady of Good Counsel



The Month of May, dedicated to Mary, our Mother. We will continue the "Travelling Prayer Kit" of Our Lady of Good Counsel from house to house of our CWL members, who are interested in praying to our Lady. Our Lady of Good Counsel is our advocate, mentor, our guidance the patroness of the CWL, let us continue to bring this special devotion to our homes. A sign in sheet will be made available at our General Members Meeting for those members wishing to participate.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – March 11, 2026

What an amazing evening of prayer, songs, joy and a wonderful variety of foods. It was truly a well attended celebration with our parish and Nigerian community. Many thanks, to those who participated and attended this event. A special thank you to Fr. Arinze, for his support in the planning and execution of this event. We collected \$1,740 for the WICC





St. Joseph's Feast – March 19, 2026

All our ministries and parishioners came together to honour St Joseph the namesake of our parish. The Solemnity of St Joseph (Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary) is a major feast day that allows Catholics to break Lenten fasting.

The evening began with the celebration of Mass. The statue of Saint Joseph was placed at the side of the altar with white lilies placed to symbolize integrity, obedience, and purity. At the end of the service many paid honour to the Guardian of the Holy Family before proceeding to the hall.

A traditional St Joseph's Table was set up, and celebration cake was served. Many smiling CWL faces were on hand to provide refreshments to all the attendees. It was a great turn out with the hall at capacity. Isis Rebello and the Tech committee hosted a Lenten Quiz enjoyed by many and with a prize to the winner. It is always good to test our religious knowledge and study up for next time.

Thanks to all the CWL members that attended the event and offered their help to make it such a wonderful Feast!





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.

Service Chair – Tierney Thorne

Dear fellow sisters, as we get closer to our summer break from meetings I’m reminded of school holidays, a schedule free time where I’m ready for relaxation and the ease of my workload. So how can we keep ourselves open to hear the call of God and indulge in this childhood whim of freedom?

I think the answer comes in our CWL national theme “**Ignite your Passion, Empower His Mission**”. To fulfil this, we must also replenish our spirit. We cannot have passion, and we cannot serve, if we

burn ourselves out. As such, while I encourage you to continue to find ways to be of service that inspire you, be that through events with the CWL or other projects, I also urge you to take time for yourself when you need it. May we all practice self-care to keep our minds, bodies and spirits healthy, so we can continue our service in His mission. I look forward to seeing you all reenergised, refreshed and ready to answer His call.

Indigenous Red Dress Day – May 5

On **May 5th** our council held a **Red Dress Day** event. A combined effort by our Faith, Service and Social Justice Chairs to bring awareness to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people.

National Red Dress Day began with the “**REDress Project**”, created by Métis artist **Jaime Black** in 2010. The haunting sight of empty red dresses hanging in public places, is meant to call attention to the startlingly high rates of violence that Indigenous women experience. Indigenous women and girls make up less than 5% of the Canadian population but represent approximately 24% of all homicide victims. The final report from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, contains **231 Calls for Justice**, directed at governments, institutions, social services, industries and all Canadians.

As we progressed through our event, members were encouraged to consider how they can give life to the Calls for Justice and what answering them may look like in our daily life. **Call 15.1** “To denounce and speak out against violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people”, is one we can all act on by further educating ourselves on these issues and supporting projects like advocating for a nation-wide **Red Dress Alert**.

To stand in solidarity and show ally ship to our Indigenous sisters, our members dressed in red and participated in the **Red Sand Prayer Service**, a human trafficking awareness campaign supported by **IWIN (I’m Worth It Now)**. Participants read aloud a short prayer service and then filled sidewalk cracks with red sand. The red sand symbolizes that we cannot walk over the most marginalized people in our communities, those who fall through the metaphoric cracks. To IWIN, the red sand also represents Jesus’ blood poured out for all of God’s children. We closed out the night with Lucia Vacca and Tierney Thorne leading members in singing “**Remember Me**”, a song by **Fawn Wood**.

We’d like to thank all our members for coming out and supporting this event and hope to see even more of you next year!





Rosary Sunday at Martyr’s Shrine is on September 13, 2026

Our council is organizing a coach bus for the event. The bus will be leaving from St. Joseph’s Highland Creek Parish at 7:00 AM and return around 6:30 PM. Participants are asked to bring their own lunches. Seats are \$50 per person and open to all (CWL members, parishioners, family and friends). Payments can be made by cheque (St. Joseph’s CWL) or e-transfer (stjosephscwlhc@gmail.com). Please remember to write Rosary Sunday and the names of who you’re paying for in the memo line to help avoid confusion. To reserve your seat, you can contact Tierney by e-mail (t.meghan.t@gmail.com) or phone (647-378-7895).

Social Justice Chair – Tina Zappulla

MAID (Medical assistance in Dying)

MAID is constantly evolving adding new diagnoses to the criteria. Initially MAID started with chronically ill patients, Cancer patients who were terminally ill, eventually adding mental illness and depression. Now eating disorders have been added. This is something that we need to keep an eye on to protect the public and be in the know. Go to <https://epcc.ca/> Euthanasia Prevention Coalition.

There were two Resolutions tabled at the Toronto Diocesan Convention in April. Both resolutions were adopted to move to the Provincial Council to be reviewed and tabled at their Convention in July. **TDC 2026.1** Federal Government to fund additional Hereditary Haemorrhagic 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.

Past President – Raffaella Civello

I recently attended the 105th Toronto Diocesan Annual Convention held in Ajax, listening to the many TDC Executive reports, participating in the Resolution dialogue and eventual voting which allowed the two Resolutions to be adopted and move forward to the Ontario Provincial Council. I was reminded that well run Councils, at all levels of the CWL, don't just happen. They are the result of the many Catholic women within those councils, focused on working together...eagerly, selflessly, and passionately, for God and Canada. As your Past President for the term 2026-2027, my role...quietly, and somewhat behind the scenes, is to provide guidance and mentoring to the Executive and to the Council members, using the CWL Constitution and By-Laws and our CWL Policy and Procedure Manual. These are rules, regulations and procedures used within our Council to allow for transparency and accountability. If any member wishes to review these, or you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at: civellor@aol.com. I will be happy to connect with you.

Included in the position of Past President, is also the role of Historian, which requires keeping the Council's archives up to date and organized in an orderly fashion. By the time you receive your May/June 2026 Newsletter, this task will already be underway. It is my duty to get the files within the archives reviewed, culled and sorted. They will be catalogued to ensure that there is a clear, accurate record of the Council's history – past and present, which is accessible to all members on request. My commitment is to get this completed during the first year of my two year term, leaving behind clear, concise procedures for the next executive to follow.

“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love. Spread love everywhere you go.” St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)

General Meetings:

- We are collecting Milk Bags, Egg Cartons and pop tabs and non-perishable food items (Outreach for St. Joseph) for the food banks.
- If you have blank cards or birthday cards, we would love to have them..

CWL St. Joseph's BOOK CLUB for 2026



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

Book Club Review

For March we read '**Hope: the Autobiography**' by **Pope Francis**. In this book Pope Francis discusses war and peace, migration, the environmental crises, social policy, the position of women in the Church, sexuality, technological developments and the future of the Church. He also talks about his family life

and how it is important for him to be in the company of others. Throughout this book Pope Francis' humanity and humility shine through.

We all agreed that this book was very inspiring and showed us how we should live our lives.

May **The Women** by Kristin Hannah 2024
June **The Secret War of Julia Child** by Diana Chambers 2024

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



May Birthdays

Mary Fisico
Leo Shiekh
Maureen van Pinxteren
Veronica Baduria
Isabella Fernandez
Kimberli McIntosh
Cecilia Mendes
Lina Civello
Rosemer Enverga
Danielle Giggie
Anne McDonald
Mai Tran
Alice Billones
Therese Baduria
Joan Doyle
Clare Gotera
Lucia Vacca
Isabel Alleyne
Nenita Cuenca
Juanita Supnet-Parucha
Deborah DiSalle
Grace Beardsworth
Sophia Carter-Hosein

June Birthdays

Jane Taylor
Leela Kinoshita
Elizabeth Fernandes
Elizabeth Ticsay
Margaret Ayres
Maureen McGrath-Corrado
Maria Luz Puno
Eileen D'Souza
Denise Bacon
Vilma D'Souza
Tania Mascarenhas
Costanza DeLuca
Joan Impraim

RECIPE CORNER

Sample Cake
Tried and True - Isabella Fernandes



Apple Coffee Cake

Mix together in a bowl

- 1 ½ cups flour
- 1 cup of sugar
- 1 tbsp Baking Powder
- 1 pinch salt
- 4 chopped apples

Separate bowl mix

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1 tbsp vanilla
- 1 cup yogurt or apple sauce

Add apple mixture to wet ingredients a little at a time.

Pour into spring form pan (9 inch)

Top with apple slices, sliced almonds

& mixture of 1 tsp cinnamon, 1/3 cup sugar & 2 tbsp. butter.

Bake at 350 F for 45 min.

Note: Check after 40 min.

Submitted by: Virgilia Pazzano

Dates to Remember

May 24 (Sunday)	Pentecost – 11:00 a.m. mass – reception in the hall
May 25 (Monday)	Rosary in the Cemetery – 7:00 p.m.
JUNE	
June 8 (Monday)	Ignite Your Passion Café 7:00 p.m. in the Hall – Get together
June 19 (Friday)	Setup for Heritage Day Bazaar 11:00 to 8:00 p.m. Hall
June 20 (Saturday)	Heritage Day June Bazaar – Plants and Treasures Outside All else inside 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
June 21 (Sunday)	National Indigenous Day
June 24 (Wednesday)	Wrap up Meeting for Heritage Bazaar – 7:00 Board Room 3
July 5 - 8	Ontario Provincial Convention – Thunder Bay Diocese - www.cwl.on.ca for additional information
August 9 - 12	106th National Convention – Halifax, Nova Scotia hosting this convention. www.cwl.ca
SEPTEMBER	
September 13 (Sunday)	Rosary Sunday – Midland Martyrs Shrine Bus has been arranged. Cost per person is \$50
September 14 (Monday)	General Meeting –in the HALL Rosary 7:00 Year to date Actuals vs Budget to be presented.