



Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel

A Mass was celebrated on Saturday, April 26, 2025 at Immaculate Conception Church. Sixteen CWL members were in attendance. The Rosary was led by Loretta Gismondi (Faith co-chair) before the Mass started. Loretta and Linda Beckstead, read the prayers of the day for the Novena for Our Lady of Good Counsel. The Mass was celebrated by Father Norberto. The 1st reading was read by Beatriz Baumfeld. The Responsorial Responses was led by Pattie Oliveira (Faith co-chair). The prayers of the faithful were led by Suzanne Hayes.

Mass was followed by eating breakfast at the Symposium Restaurant in Alliston. Nine ladies enjoyed a delicious meal as they socialized with their fellow sisters. Unfortunately, this was the first year where we omitted taking pictures of our smiling group!



Loretta is now on her way after mass to post up the garage sale notices on the church bulletin board.

The interior of Immaculate Conception Church



Toronto Diocesan Council 104th Annual Convention

Loretta Gismondi and Dawn Westcott represented our council at the convention on April 28-29, 2025, at the Ajax Convention Centre. On the Sunday night, Loretta and Dawn ironed 15 albs for the priests attending mass on Monday. Then we assisted in setting up the prayer room with Diane Hunter and Susan May from our Northern Region. We were finished at 10:00 that night! All attendees at the convention were welcome to visit the prayer room over the two convention days.

On Monday the first day started with the opening Eucharistic Celebration celebrated by Bishop Vincent Nguyen. Loretta and I also met Father Edwin from Holy Martyr's of Japan Church in Bradford. 270 CWL members attended the mass with a procession of 12 priests. We also spoke to Deacon David Quail who we see every year at the convention. His mother, Connie Quail, was one of our founding CWL members.

After a coffee/tea break the business session was comprised of the Land Acknowledgement, League Prayer, Opening Prayer, Welcome from Toronto Diocesan President Kate O'Quinn, introduction of the Toronto Diocesan Spiritual Director Father Liborio and the Crowning of Mary by Mary Capobianco, CWL Life Member. The morning session commenced with the reading of the Standing Rules of the 104th Annual Diocesan Convention before any voting took place throughout the two days.

After a lunch break, CWL members reconvened and then met for an hour for the Resolution Dialogue at the various table groupings with a moderator at each table. Feedback was recorded and given to the Resolutions Chair, Christina Boyle, in preparation for the voting on the second day.

Committee reports were given and can be found on the website: www.cwltoronto.ca . A Deceased Members' Prayer Service took place with the executive members each carrying a single red rose, while Father Liborio carried a single white rose for Pope Francis. Mary Capobianco, Life Member, crowned the statue of Mary.

After supper the youth awards were presented. The Keynote speaker was Father Tim Hanley who spoke on the "Pilgrims of Hope" which he eagerly supports in the Jubilee Year 2025. He told us that every 25-50 years the Catholic Church celebrates a Jubilee Year, which is different from an ordinary year. There are open doors and places of pilgrimage and indulgences can be gained, thus Father said he sees signs of hope in our world, and it is gradually changing. We should end our pilgrimage with Reconciliation and Confession if possible. We ended the evening by reciting the Jubilee Prayer. Then Loretta and I were dancing with our sisters to the disc jockey D J. TeeCee's music. Later, we dropped in for a while to visit with our Northern CWL sisters.

On Tuesday several awards were presented. The Patricia Beattie Mentoring Award went to Diana Gamboa, Alice Warford won the Auxiliary Mentor Award. TDC 2025.01 **Resolution**- Federal Government to create a Unified Cybercrime Reporting System for All Canadians- **Passed**

TD 2025.02 **Resolution** -The Federal Government to Follow Through with Formation of a Health Canada Office of Palliative Care- **Passed**

The two Resolutions will now be presented at the upcoming CWL Provincial Convention in July in London, Ontario.

Closing Mass

Part of the collection taken up went to Margaret Ann Jacobs Catholic Children's Aid Foundation Scholarship Fund- \$2,710.00 and Silent Children's Missions received \$1,355.00.

Silent Children's Mission

The Silent Children's Mission serves four countries most in need, two being Sierra Leone and Guatemala. It was founded by Dr. Andrew Simone and his wife Joan. It started in 2005 as a charity to Canadian Food for Children. The Silent Children's Mission has been a registered charity since June 14, 2011. More information is found on the web-site www.silentchildrensmisson.com

Toronto Diocesan Spiritual Advisor's Report

Father Liborio said he has seen so much positivity in the various parishes and that has made him happy. We have been busy carrying out various programs, initiatives, palliative care work, various functions and working with the children in our schools. We should focus on our faith and our relationship with Jesus. Some of the CWL Councils carry out vibrant and alive programs; while others need recruitment and new members in order to thrive. The Toronto Diocesan Council presented Father Liborio with a Spiritual Bouquet which numbered 92,631 prayers in total which were offered up to him.

Closing Banquet

The closing banquet was greatly enjoyed by Loretta and myself. As we were only two ladies from our council, we enjoyed chatting with some ladies from Durham Region. The keynote speaker was Margaret Ann Jacobs who related the journey it took over several years to revamp the CWL to make it more relevant to us today. The previous eight chairs on each council were reduced to three – Faith, Social Justice and Service, in order to encourage more membership by members on committees etc. and ensured we are working together towards a common goal.

It took us one hour in order for all the cars to leave the parking lot as over 2,500 people were in attendance. Thank you St. Paul's Council as our registration, half of the banquet cost and the hotel rooms were covered as we represented our President at the convention as accredited and voting delegate. It is well worth attending a convention as a lot of learning takes place about the League and over the years we meet old friends and make new friendships.



Northern Region Banquet Attendees

Loretta Gismondi, Doreen Dubreuil, Dawn Westcott, Diane Hunter and Susan May in the front.

Shower for Charlotte Traverse

Some of you might not know who Charlotte is. Donna Jebb is our President now, Martha Whelton was the President before Donna and then Charlotte was the president before that. There was a fire at their former residence in Alliston and she and her husband had to vacate their home due to heavy smoke damage. Our CWL had a shower for her in the parish hall on Thursday, May 22nd. There was a great turnout with some other ladies from Colgan in attendance and she received many useful household gifts. Charlotte said she is known more for giving help and not so much receiving help and gifts from others, but she was so glad to receive the gifts as they were greatly needed. They are now renting a new townhome in Barrie until they rebuild. It was so heartwarming to see the number of ladies who attended. Thank you also to the members who provided refreshments for the evening. We did enjoy socializing with our friends.



CWL General Meeting

The last meeting before the summer holidays will take place on **Thursday, June 19th at 7:00** in our meeting room. It will be a “cool” meeting.

CWL Annual Fall Dinner – information to come soon . . .

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