



April 2023

### Transitional Executive

President: Maryse Ristuccia  
Secretary: Celestine Hall  
Treasurer: Joan Beal  
Spiritual Development: Karen Eckert  
Community/Family Life: Jenni Commanda  
Dorothy Currie  
Education: Corinne Santianni  
Health: Krysia Theriault  
Geri Crisci  
Communications: Carmen Vanderreest

Contact information for the executives can be found at the end of this newsletter.

### CWL Websites

National: [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca)  
2023 theme: *Catholic and Living It!*  
Provincial: [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca)  
2023 theme: *Go Make a Difference*  
Diocesan: [www.cwltoronto.ca](http://www.cwltoronto.ca)  
2023 theme: *Called to Serve*

The Catholic Women's League of Canada (CWL) is a sisterhood, rooted in Gospel values that, "Calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service". The CWL is guided by its motto "For God and Canada".

Patroness of the CWL is Our Lady of Good Counsel whose feast day is April 26<sup>th</sup>.

### Parish Website

<https://stjohnsto.archtoronto.org>  
This is the website for all matters relating to our church. Use it for all contact information and its many links to items such as the weekly Bulletin and other great resources for our parish and for the Archdiocese.

### Parish YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8pLWrdARlezRMzjHZJv9aQ>  
Use this link to view all videos posted by our church including Sunday Masses. Be sure to "like" the channel.

### Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>** in the Upper Room, above the rectory's garage. We will enjoy a café style set up with light refreshments and everyone has a free chance for a gift basket! There are other fun activities planned for you to join in on. All are welcome to bring a friend or partner.

If you are able, please bring a donation for our local food bank – they are in need of canned vegetables & fruit, canned fish, meat & beans, cereals, pasta sauces, any nut butters and baby diapers sized 1 to 5.

### Come Pray the Rosary

We pray the Rosary every Friday night at 8:00 p.m. online via Zoom. Prayers matter, prayers support and uplift. If you have a special prayer request for our Rosary night please let Maryse or Carmen know. Cameras do not have to be on and everyone will be asked to mute their microphones at the beginning of prayers. Only those leading the prayers will be heard. Everyone is welcome to follow along. The link below is the same link used every Friday:  
<https://zoom.us/j/94327881622?pwd=UWpCTJR4cjFldGc5Yjk4bE5nbEg0dz09>

If needed: Meeting ID: 943 2788 1622  
Pass code: 263230  
Dial up: +1 647 374 4685 Canada  
+1 647 558 0588 Canada

### Prayers

Let us remember these fellow sisters in our prayers:  
*Elizabeth Barrett Marlene Libbus Carmel Richard*

### Help is Here

We have members who are happy to help anyone needing assistance to attend Mass, with grocery shopping, errands or appointments. Please contact Maryse at: [maryse.ristuccia@gmail.com](mailto:maryse.ristuccia@gmail.com)

### Message from Maryse

Happy Easter to all our members and their families! I hope that Holy Week was a beautiful time of reflection and closeness to Our Lord and Easter Day dawned full of joy for you. The sun was shining and hints of spring reflected the exultation we celebrate in the Risen Lord. The Easter season continues and I hope that new habits of the Lenten journey also continue to make your

relationships with Jesus and with others fruitful.

Spring has finally sprung with the sun making more of an appearance, which was a very good thing for our CWL walking team that hit the boardwalk for the annual Beaches Spring Sprint. It was a fun morning sharing a healthy walk in companionship. It is this companionship, this sisterhood, that we try to foster through our CWL network and at our meetings. The April general meeting was in the Upper Room where we had an opportunity to develop our friendships and knowledge of each other as well as discuss ideas and work through some necessary business items.



CWL walking team (l to r) Karen, Geri, Corinne, Maryse, Jenni

As the spring brings more hours of daylight we have returned to our evening meetings in the Upper Room. Although we don't have lunch together, we do have coffee and treats while we enjoy each other's company. One member told me that being in the Upper Room always makes her feel that The Spirit is truly with us in the smaller setting. Please join us for our next General Meeting on Tuesday, May 2nd. If you need a ride to get to the meeting, just let one of the executive members know --- we will get you there and back home.

April's meeting had a bit of everything. I reported that the milk bag project continues and brought two finished mats for members to see and told about my great experience going to Senator O'Connor High School to teach the Ecology Club students how to prepare the bags and crochet the mats; so exciting to see young people working to make a difference! I also shared with them the story of our greatly missed sister, Ulrike Licht,

who began the project. I truly hope that the students will continue with this worthwhile activity.

There are other plans in the works for May and June. Please come, join in and experience growth in faith, some fun and lots of fulfillment. Of course, all these things that we plan and present, whether it is a bake sale, a meeting, special speakers or a spiritual event, they all take preparation. This preparation and execution of any activity doesn't happen without volunteers. Volunteer Appreciation Week (April 16 – 22) is all about acknowledging the countless hours of time and talent that people give from their heart. A big thank you to our executive members who make all these things possible. Thank you also to those members who volunteer for different events. We even have a couple of parishioners who are not members but always volunteer to help. Your sharing of the gifts you have been given makes everyone's life, our parish and our world a better place. Thank you!



#### **Message from Fr. James**

Dear sisters in Jesus Christ, I am writing this to congratulate you for all the marvellous work that you are doing as the Catholic Women's League. Sometimes you may feel that you are not accepted by the others. Occasionally, you are encouraged to do more, at times you are in a dilemma. Today, Mary Magdalene is giving you an example as we are celebrating the Easter time. Mary Magdalene was a sinner, she was called by Jesus, she experienced the love and mercy of Jesus. Once she had encountered Jesus and felt the beauty of God's grace, she could not stop proclaiming the good news. She was walking with Jesus all the time without any fear, without any shame and she did not think of anything like, what will the others say? That's why she was able to go up to the Cross to be with the Blessed Mother Mary and with John to witness the death of Jesus.

She was the first person to whom Jesus showed himself after his resurrection, calling her by name, awakening this faithful woman from the pain of sadness, making her a witness of the Resurrection and hope. Moreover, by the gestures of closeness that she exchanges with Jesus and a faith that led her to proclaim the life of the

Son of God, Mary Magdalene has been a model for Catholic women.

As Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Good Counsel who submitted herself completely to the will of God, each and every one of you are called, to surrender yourself to the will of God, seeking the counsel of Blessed Mary and Mary Magdalene, to be bold to bring truth and justice to society, and seek the needy and the poor in establishing the Kingdom of God.

During these six months, I have seen the good work that you are doing. I appreciate all your dedication and commitment. I am so happy to see this.

I wish you all the best, and I pray that you be an instrument of Jesus Christ, and of the Blessed Virgin Mary in building up the parish community of St. John's. May the Risen Lord bless you, and be with you and may Blessed Mother accompany you.

### **Spiritual Development**

By Karen Eckert

Family Schmamilly

Wherever you go, you see stickers, plaques and magnets advocating for THE FAMILY as if it is on a par with Teddy bears, Rainbows and Sunsets. But family life and families in general are complicated things. G. K. Chesterton got it right when he said that the family is a good institution precisely because it is uncongenial; it is wholesome because it exposes us to the variety of mankind and, from the moment of our birth, takes us on a true adventure.

I don't know about the rest of you, but my family challenges me to love and grow in forgiveness more than any other group of people. No one has hurt me more than my youngest sister; no one has disappointed me more than my older brother; no one has frustrated and embarrassed me more than my youngest sibling. When I watched the movie *The Banshees of Inisherin*, I was in agony, huddled up in a ball, because that movie reminded me of the years I was rejected by my youngest sister. The lead actor captured the hurt and confusion so well. Had my youngest sister been a friend, I would have let her go long ago, but because she is my sister, she remains in my life.

Families can help you grow in love, faith and forgiveness because they touch you deeply even when they are flawed – or perhaps – precisely because they are flawed. You know them and you love them. And, boy, can it be hard to forgive them! However, if you model yourself on Christ, and ask for help, and never give up, all things are possible.

### **Bread Sale Fundraiser**

More than 50 loaves of Irish soda bread were baked and sold at our recent parish wide Lenten bread sale! Many thanks to member Kay Ainey for sharing her bread recipe with us and thanks to all the bakers, buyers and to those who simply donated funds!



### **Spring Wreath**

We held a raffle for a lovely spring wreath handmade and donated by Matina, a friend of member Maryse Ristuccia. The winner's name was drawn at our March general meeting and it went to Sue, who is a friend of member Norma McCleverty.



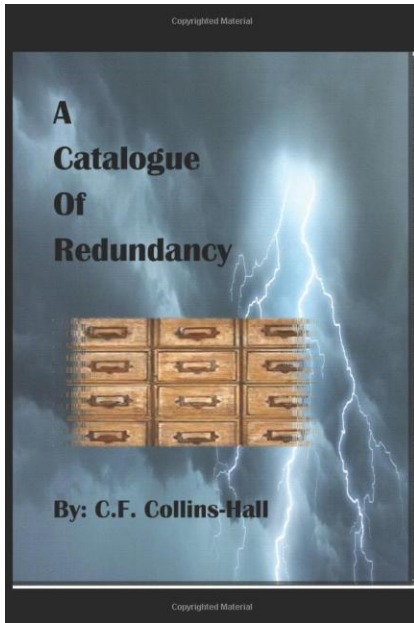
### **Congratulations!**

Our CWL Life Member Celestine Hall has recently published a suspense novel titled *A Catalogue of Redundancy*. Taken from the book's back cover, Celestine writes, ". . . I have a wide range of work experiences that was the inspiration for 'A Catalogue of Redundancy'. I decided to have the murder around a

place of employment. I worked in the Banks, Horticulture Field and as a School Librarian. The story for 'A Catalogue of Redundancy' grew out of watching the effects on company personnel who received letters of redundancy usually by email."

This novel is available online through this Amazon link:

[https://www.amazon.ca/Catalogue-Redundancy-Celestine-Frances-Collins-Hall/dp/B0BW283PCZ/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?keywords=catalogue+of+redundancy&link\\_code=qs&qid=1682006917&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.ca/Catalogue-Redundancy-Celestine-Frances-Collins-Hall/dp/B0BW283PCZ/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=catalogue+of+redundancy&link_code=qs&qid=1682006917&sr=8-1)



### **Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel**

Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> is the feast day of Our Lady of Good Counsel, patroness of the Catholic Women's League of Canada. Instead of arranging a separate Mass as in past years we are simply inviting all members to attend the 8:15 a.m. Mass this coming Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. After the Mass we will provide light refreshments in the Upper Room, above the rectory's garage, for all to enjoy. Hope to see many of you in attendance.

Let Us Pray

Lord Jesus, Author and Dispenser of all good, who in becoming incarnate in the womb of the Blessed Virgin has communicated to her lights above those of all the heavenly intelligences, grant that in honouring her under the title of Our Lady of Good Counsel, we may merit always to receive from her goodness, counsels of wisdom and salvation, which will conduct us to the port of a blessed eternity. Amen.

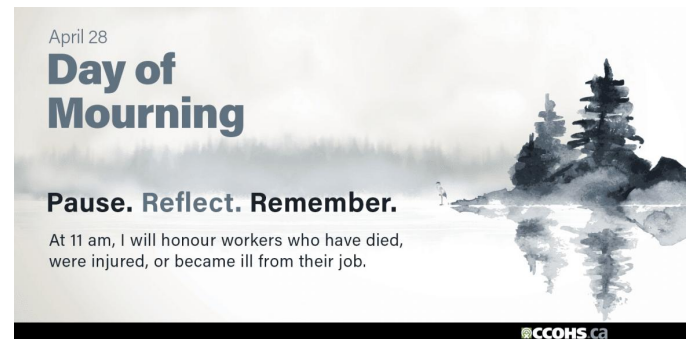
To pray the Litany to Our Lady of Good Counsel please click on this link:

<https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/716-Litany-of-Our-Lady-of-Good-Counsel.pdf>

*Our Lady of Good Counsel* is the title given to this painting said to be miraculous, now found in the thirteenth century Augustinian church at Genazzano, near Rome, Italy. The image is a fresco on a thin layer of plaster no thicker than an egg shell.



### **National Day of Mourning**



Marked annually in Canada on April 28<sup>th</sup>, the National Day of Mourning is "Dedicated to remembering those who have lost their lives, or suffered injury or illness due to workplace related hazards and occupational exposures."

It is also a day to collectively renew commitments to improve health and safety in the workplace to prevent further injuries, illnesses and deaths.

Traditionally, on April 28<sup>th</sup>, the Canadian flag has flown at half-mast on Parliament Hill and on all federal government buildings.

All are encouraged to pause at 11:00 a.m. on April 28<sup>th</sup> for a moment of silence to honour the working lives lost, injured or made ill.

### **2023 Membership Drive**

**The annual membership fee has increased to \$35.**

There is confidential assistance for any woman needing help to pay her membership - please contact Maryse [maryse.ristuccia@gmail.com](mailto:maryse.ristuccia@gmail.com)

Any female 16 years or older is welcome to join!

The annual fee can be paid in one of the following ways:

By e-transfer to our new council account at: [jaybeescwl@gmail.com](mailto:jaybeescwl@gmail.com) or a cheque sent by regular mail to Maryse's address below or drop off a cheque or cash payment into her mailbox or Carmen's mailbox:

Maryse Ristuccia  
87 Coalport Dr.  
Scarborough, M1N 4B5

Carmen's mailbox – 66A Osborne Ave.

Cheques are payable to "St. John's CWL".

**Please be sure to include your name, address, phone number and email address so we can update our records. Please PRINT.**

**The name and number of a contact person in case of emergency or difficulty reaching you would also be appreciated.**

If these payment methods are not convenient for you, contact Maryse to pick your payment up:

[maryse.ristuccia@gmail.com](mailto:maryse.ristuccia@gmail.com)

### **Calendar**

April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Earth Day

April 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> – CWL's 102<sup>nd</sup> Toronto Diocesan Convention in Ajax

April 26<sup>th</sup> – Feast day of Our Lady of Good Council

April 29<sup>th</sup> – Feast day of St. Catherine of Siena

May – The month honouring Mother Mary

May 1<sup>st</sup> – Feast day of St. Joseph the Worker

May 2<sup>nd</sup> – CWL General Meeting

May 5<sup>th</sup> – National Red Dress Day

May 14<sup>th</sup> – Mother's Day

### **April Celebrations!**



**Happy birthday** to everyone celebrating a birthday this month including:

→ **Iris Savage** on the 22<sup>nd</sup>!

### **Congratulations to:**



**Maryse Ristuccia** and her husband Ross on celebrating their 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the 29<sup>th</sup>!

Please share your birth date or anniversary date with Carmen so it can be celebrated [here!](#)

### **Virtue of the Month**

From the Toronto Catholic District School Board:

April virtue is Justice.

- “God has told you, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”  
(Micah 6:8)
- “Seek good and not evil, that you may live; And thus may the LORD God of hosts be with you, Just as you have said! Hate evil, love good, and establish justice in the gate!”  
(Amos 5:14-15)
- “If you want peace, work for justice.”  
(Paul VI)
- “The dead cannot cry out for justice. It is the duty of the living to do so for them.”  
(Lois McMaster Bujold)
- “Without justice there can be no peace.”  
(Martin Luther King Jr.)



### **50/50 Lottery**

Tickets are on sale for the 2023 Knights of Columbus 50/50 draw in support of Ontario Food Banks and the Special Olympics. There are four quarterly draws and the second one will be on **April 30<sup>th</sup>** – jackpot is based on total ticket sales. Tickets are 15 for \$10, 40 for \$20 or 100 for \$40 for each quarterly draw. Ticket numbers are computer generated and emailed to the buyer. When ordering tickets there is a drop-down menu under “Organization” to choose the parish council you support – St. John's Council number is “Scarborough Beaches 7008”.

For full details and to purchase your tickets go to:

<https://www.kofcontario5050.com>

### **Milk Bag Project**

We still need members to crochet milk bags into mats for our city's homeless. If you cannot attend meetings or be active in our volunteer work, this is a way you can contribute from your own home. It is a simple crochet stitch that results in a useful mat, helping someone in need. Call or email Maryse to learn about this simple way that you too can be involved: 437-983-0557 or [maryse.ristuccia@gmail.com](mailto:maryse.ristuccia@gmail.com)

When saving milk bags for this ongoing project please fold or roll clean and dry outer milk bags together instead of crinkling them up. This makes it easier for

cutting them into strips to be woven into mats. Any that you have collected can be dropped off to the front porch of either:

Maryse's house at **87 Coalport Drive**

Carmen's house at **66A Osborne Ave.**

### **Catholic Family Services**

A wide variety of programs and services are offered through Catholic Family Services of Toronto. Their counsellors "are prepared to work with the needs, strengths, values, and goals of individuals and families. We also recognise and sensitively respond to differences in cultural, racial, gender, and religious backgrounds of clients."

Please call **416-921-1163** (Central Toronto office) or **416-222-0048** (North Toronto office) and leave a message with your name and contact information.

A staff person will contact you and provide you with further information." You can also send an email to this email address: [info@cfstoronto.com](mailto:info@cfstoronto.com)

FEE FOR SERVICE:

Counselling fees are charged according to a client's income level. No one is denied service because of his/her inability to pay fees." For more info go to:

<https://www.cfstoronto.com>

### **CWL Bursaries**

CWL's National Bursary Fund was established in 1990 and provides members with financial assistance while pursuing studies, courses, seminars, workshops and diploma/degree programs in areas of, spiritual growth, adult faith formation, youth ministry, ministry to patients in palliative care, ministry to shut-ins, parliamentary procedure, and literacy tutoring.

**New this year! The addition of education toward a nursing degree!**

**Deadline to apply is May 15<sup>th</sup>.** Members use this bursary opportunity to take online courses and workshops. One thousand dollars can be awarded per year to a maximum of \$4,000 in a member's lifetime. Refer to item #552 on the League's national website for criteria and application information. The League brochure is found at:

<https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/312-National-Bursary-Fund-Brochure-2019.pdf>

### **CWL National Webpage**

In ongoing efforts to inspire you in faith, service and social justice the League is happy to introduce a new permanent webpage that has been added to the CWL

national website. "To Inspire" is the home for inspirational messaging and videos promoting the League: <https://cwl.ca/to-inspire/>

### **WUCWO**

The Catholic Women's League of Canada (CWL) is officially recognized by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) as a lay association of women and is affiliated with the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO), a world-wide federation holding membership in the conference of International Catholic Organizations. Go to this link to discover all that WUCWO does and to read their monthly newsletter:

<https://www.wucwo.org/index.php/en/>

### **The CWL & Canadian Blood Services**



**There is still an immediate need for new and returning blood donors!**

**The urgent need for blood, platelet and plasma continues across our healthcare system.**

**There are 31,000 fewer active donors than at the beginning of the pandemic** – donations are urgently needed!

There are three permanent Canadian Blood Service centers in Toronto: 2 Bloor Street East, 67 College Street, and 163 King Street West. If you're in good health, please visit [blood.ca](http://blood.ca) to book an appointment or call 1-888-236-6283.

Everyone has the privilege to donate blood and encourage others to donate. CWL members are asked to give the gift of life and to register with Canadian Blood Services "Partners for Life" program using the League's unique Partner ID **CATH011269** to record donations.

For information on Blood Services go to:

<https://www.blood.ca/en>

### **Genetics**

On the topic of Genetics, you can monitor and study the advantages / disadvantages of scientific developments in light of teachings of the Catholic Church through the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute (CCBI). Current information is available regularly on the CCBI website.

<http://www.ccbi-utoronto.ca/>

## **St. John's CWL Council Contact Information**

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