



**POST CONVENTION PRESS RELEASE  
For General Release**

**Brian Patterson, the Mayor of Kingston proclaims July  
13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> CWL week in the City of Kingston, ON!**

More than 400 delegates, representing 13 Ontario Arch/diocese, converged in Kingston for the 72<sup>nd</sup> annual Ontario Provincial Catholic Women's League (CWL) convention from July 13-17<sup>th</sup> at the Ambassador Hotel and Conference Centre in Kingston, ON

The Ontario Provincial Council, representing over 48,500 women in Ontario gathered to showcase the theme of **"Care for Our Common Home"** throughout the convention. The festivities began with the CWL flag rising at Confederation Park in Kingston. Provincial President, Anne Madden and Diocesan President, Nancy Richer brought greetings!

The official opening began with the Celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup>, with the Most Reverend Archbishop Michael Mulhall and Most Reverend Archbishop Emeritus Brendan O'Brien, the Provincial Spiritual Advisor, at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral. After mass, we were welcomed by Nancy Richer, Kingston Diocesan President, Rev. Dale Wright, Kingston Diocesan Spiritual Advisor; Mark Gerretsen, Member of Parliament; Gregory Ridge Member of Provincial Government-representative; Wayne Fink, Knights of Columbus, Training Director; Maureen Sills, Anglican Church Women's Diocesan President; Nancy Sutherland, National Past President United Church Women; Donna Shaddick Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada-representative; National President of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, Anne Marie Gorman; Ontario Provincial Spiritual Advisor, Most Reverend Brendan M. O'Brien, Archbishop Emeritus of Kingston; Ontario Provincial President, Anne Madden, and our Mistress of Ceremonies, Kathy Huffman. Stephanie Spinelli, Administrative Assistant, officially declared the convention open. The greetings were followed by a bountiful reception, catered by Caroline Manley, from Our Lady of Lourdes and her team along with Madeleine Picard.

All of our mornings were started with complementary breakfast, with lots of goodies provided by various local parishes.

On Monday, our keynote speaker, Professor Hazel Markwell, from St. Paul's University in Ottawa, spoke on "Dignity for All". She elaborated on

how the change in medicine has changed our view of life and about the right and wrong of why we make certain choices or do certain things. There are different types and approaches to ethics. No one model is sufficient, and in clinical practice they often use the best. The goal of medicine is to cure, provide relief, comfort and palliative care, and avoid premature death. She says that life is a gift to you and your family.

In the afternoon, she spoke on the meaning of dignity and that all humans have dignity regardless of looks, orientation etc. She reminded us that a nation's greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members. She touched on MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying) and some of the criteria, not necessarily followed. She also recommended certain actions that could be taken to help loved ones die with dignity such as 1) Be present and listen. 2) Find something to like or love, 3) Walk the wounded path, 4) Practice fidelity to your profession and your faith and 5) Live out humility.

Five new Life Members were introduced: Anne Vincelli, Alexandria/Cornwall; Ana Sousa, Hamilton; Marie-Theresa Lamphier, London; Anna Tremblay, Sault Ste. Marie and Shirley Christo, Toronto.

Anne Marie Gorman, the National President, commended Anne Madden, Provincial President on a job well done in representing Ontario at the National table. Anne Marie also gave us an update on the happenings at the National level. She also gave us some insight as to how the National theme "Care for our Common Home" came about. Other members of the Strategic Implementation team were introduced. Lisa Henry, vice-chair of the strategic implementation team, presented an update of where we have been and where we are going and the progress so far. She encouraged everyone to submit an application to work on the strategic implementation team over the next 5 years.

On Tuesday, the Diocesan Presidents and Officers presented their oral reports based on their "environmental term" and updated us on projects done on behalf of the "Homeless" and "Care for their Common Home".

Four resolutions were presented with efficiency and all passed by the membership as follows:

- ON-19-01 Psychotherapy Pilot Project for Adults
- ON-19-02 Abortion and the Effects on Mental Health
- ON-19-03 Long Term Care Beds in Ontario
- ON-19-04 Canadian Support for the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

The Social Justice award recipient was announced: Doris Labelle from St. Kevin, in the diocese of Sault Ste. Marie was honoured. As she is 93 years old and not able to attend, a group of the executive went to her home in the spring to present her with this well-deserved award.

Marilyn McLean from Kingston Street Mission spoke to us in the afternoon and all were amazed at all the work that was being done by her

volunteer group. It was agreed by the membership to take a collection, and \$1,630 was raised to continue the good works at Kingston Street Mission.

On Wednesday morning a lovely workshop on water was presented and an update from Development and Peace presented by Tara Hurford. Archbishop Brendan O'Brien was presented with a spiritual bouquet on his retirement as the Provincial Spiritual Advisor.

The elections were held on Wednesday morning, and as there was a majority per the instructed vote, all the positions were filled as follows with the exception of recording secretary:

President: Colleen Perry (Ottawa)  
President-Elect: Linda Squarzolo: Organization (Sault Ste. Marie)  
1st Vice President: Colleen Martin: Christian Family Life (Thunder Bay)  
2nd Vice President: Wilma Vanderzwaag: Resolutions (St. Catharines)  
Past President: Anne Madden: Historian (Kingston)  
Recording Secretary: To be announced  
Administrative Assistant: Anna Tremblay (Sault Ste Marie)  
Treasurer: Marie-Theresa Lamphier (London)

#### Standing Committee Chairpersons

Anna D'Sousa: Communications (Toronto)  
Karen McDonald: Education & Health (Sault Ste Marie)  
Emma Rose Rayburn: Spiritual Development (Alexandria-Cornwall)  
Margie Royal: Legislation (Kingston)  
Mary Capobianco: Community Life (Toronto)  
Life Member Liaison: Jeannie Coleman (Alexandria-Cornwall)

A delightful invitation was extended to all members to attend the 2020 Provincial Convention in Kitchener next year. The installation of the elected officers was held at the closing mass at St. Joseph's Church. The banner was then passed on to the President of the Hamilton diocese, and this ended the 72nd Ontario Provincial Convention. Congratulations to Anne Madden, Provincial President for a very wonderful and successful convention!

Pictures may be seen at the following link:

<https://shelleymstepanuik.smugmug.com/CWLOntario2019>

Password: Kingston