

## **Bishop Joseph Dabrowski Brings Light, Hope and Joy to the 106th Hamilton Diocesan CWL Annual Meeting of Members and Convention**

It was both an honour and a blessing for the Hamilton Diocesan Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada to welcome His Excellency, Bishop Joseph Dabrowski, Bishop of Hamilton, to our 106th Hamilton Diocesan Annual Meeting of Members and Convention, held from May 29 to May 31, 2026, at the Affinity Conference Centre in Brantford and Sacred Heart Church in Paris, Ontario.

More than 250 CWL members from across our Diocese gathered for this special occasion, including a record-breaking 70 first-time attendees. Together, we celebrated a weekend filled with faith, fellowship, leadership, learning, and service. The convention opened and closed with beautiful Mass celebrations, ensuring that Christ remained at the centre of all we did.

As Diocesan President, I had the privilege of welcoming Bishop Dabrowski as our special guest. On Friday evening, prior to the Opening Ceremonies and Convention Mass, His Excellency joined us for dinner. The evening provided a wonderful opportunity for my executive, family members and I to spend time with our Bishop in a relaxed and welcoming setting. We took the opportunity to get to know Bishop Dabrowski. We learned of his family life as a child to adulthood and as the only boy in a family with four sisters, he was at home being among his sisters in Christ. Through meaningful conversation, shared stories, and heartfelt laughter, we strengthened the bonds that unite us as members of Christ's family.

For the second consecutive year, our President's and Spiritual Advisors Dinner Friday evening, was opened to all convention attendees. I was delighted to welcome several members of the clergy and a seminarian to join us. Their presence enriched our gathering and reflected the strong partnership that exists between the Catholic Women's League and the clergy who faithfully serve our Diocese. Several priests also served as concelebrants during our following liturgical celebration.

We were equally honoured to welcome a number of distinguished guests. Joining us were the Mayor of Brantford Kevin Davis, Indigenous Elder Wilamina McGrimmond, Amanda DiFalco, Chief Operating Officer of the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness, and Dr. Linda Dudar of the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation of Canada, where I am privileged to serve as a Board Member.

Both Dr. Dudar and Amanda DiFalco served as keynote speakers. Amanda's presentation explored our diocesan theme and the National CWL focus, *Blessed Are the Poor*, challenging and inspiring us to consider how we can better advocate for and support those most in need. Dr. Dudar spoke passionately about Catholic women's leadership and reflected on how our diocesan theme calls us to lead with faith, courage, and purpose.

During his homily at the Opening Mass, Bishop Dabrowski beautifully embraced our diocesan theme, *"Sparkle God's Way as Beacons of Hope and Light to All."* His reflections spoke directly to our shared call to joyful discipleship and faithful service. Drawing upon the words of Our Lord, he reminded us:

*"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."* (Matthew 5:16)

His Excellency's message encouraged each of us to continue sharing Christ's light through our words, actions, and service within our families, parishes, communities, and the League.

Following the Opening Ceremonies and Mass, our gracious host council welcomed attendees to a reception in the parish hall. Members enjoyed a wonderful evening of fellowship and hospitality. True to his warm and pastoral nature, Bishop Dabrowski made it a point to visit throughout the room, greeting members, engaging in conversation, and posing for countless photographs. With his characteristic sense of humour, he announced that each photograph would require the payment of one Hail Mary. Needless to say, CWL members throughout the Diocese will be keeping very busy in prayer.

The convention concluded on Sunday with a beautiful Closing Mass at St. Basil's Church in Brantford, celebrated by Monsignor Dennis Noon on behalf of His Excellency. Monsignor Noon also attended our Closing Banquet, where he brought gracious greetings and heartfelt best wishes from Bishop Dabrowski.

During the banquet, Monsignor Noon graciously accepted two presentations on behalf of Bishop Dabrowski. The first was the Hamilton Diocesan Council's annual donation to the Bishop's Charity Fund. The second was our donation in support of vocations for men and women discerning religious life in the Hamilton Diocese. These contributions reflect the League's longstanding commitment to supporting the pastoral mission of our Diocese and encouraging future generations of faithful servants within the Church.

Bishop Dabrowski's presence, leadership, warmth, and encouragement touched the hearts of all who attended our event. His participation enriched our convention immeasurably and served as a beautiful reminder of the close relationship between the Catholic Women's League and the shepherds who guide our diocesan family.

As I reflect on our 106th Hamilton Diocesan Annual Meeting of Members and Convention, I am filled with gratitude for the many blessings we experienced. It was a joyful gathering of faith-filled women united in prayer, friendship, service, and hope. The gracious presence of Bishop Joseph Dabrowski and our other clergy brothers helped make this convention especially memorable and will remain a treasured part of our collective memories for years to come.

*Written by Teresa DiFalco  
President, Hamilton Diocesan Council (2024-2026)  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada*



**Photo Caption:**

Members of the Hamilton Diocesan Executive pose with His Excellency Bishop Joseph Dabrowski during the 106th Hamilton Diocesan Annual Meeting of Members and Convention.

**Front Row (left to right):** Teresa DiFalco, Debra Noronha, Laura Grint, Mary D'Orazio, Maricris Limson, Colleen Ionson, Nancy Skiba, Joanne Palmer.

**Back Row (left to right):** Bishop Joseph Dabrowski, Megan Kadrigamar, Mary Clark, Joyce Cotter, and Kathryn Imperatore.