



## Faith Community Nursing Interest Group newsletter)))

### President's Report

Since my last president's report on December 2021, my activities include the following:

In February 2022, I communicated with the Inclusion, Diversity and Equity (IDE) committee at Lakeridge Health Oshawa (LHO). The IDE committee includes Belinda Gruber (social worker at LHO), Unwali Sauter (Equity and Inclusion Program Manager), Ananta Sawh (Clinical Supervisor and organizes Critical Care Unit Ethics Debrief sessions virtually) and I. The goal is to reconvene in the ending of March 2022 to discuss important issues facing nurses at the Critical Care Unit (CCU) including topics on inclusion, diversity and equity and issues of racism, discrimination, cultural competence, and diversity.

On February 23, 2022, I spoke with Catherine Ryan, a FCNIG member and Parish Nurse (PN) who is a retired Registered Nurse (RN) and currently works in a volunteer position as a PN in a United Church parish at a rural and remote community. She demonstrated interest in being paid for her work. We discussed about the pay for PNs and how to negotiate pay with her regional pastoral board.

On February 25, 2022, I attended the RNAO Assembly Meeting and Interest Group Chair Meeting that had around 106 and 30 attendees respectively. The presentation focused on the "in focus" webpage (<https://rnao.ca/in-focus>) on the RNAO website that organizes important topics such as Black nurses, Indigenous health, 2SLGBTQI+, RNAO's Long-Term Care (LTC) Best Practices Program, Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners and many more on a single webpage to make it easily accessible and user-friendly. Please connect with Christina Pullano at [cpullano@rnao.ca](mailto:cpullano@rnao.ca) to collaborate and provide feedback on "RN in focus" webpage. Additionally, I encourage you to register for The Leading Change Toolkit: National Webinar and Launch on Oct 5, 2021, 12:00pm - 1:30pm by visiting the RNAO website (<https://rnao.ca/events/leading-change-toolkit-national-webinar-and-launch>).

"The Leading Change Toolkit™ is a new evidence-based online implementation resource developed by RNAO in partnership with Healthcare Excellence Canada (HEC). This national webinar will showcase how the toolkit can support change teams in the successful uptake of knowledge through two complementary frameworks: the Social Movement Action Framework (Grinspun et al., 2020) and the Knowledge-to-Action Framework (Graham et al., 2006). Join the webinar to hear from members of the toolkit's development team, expert panel and from our co-sponsor HEC. Watch a live

demo of the toolkit's website and learn more on how this resource will support transformational change.”

Ontario Nurses for the Environment Interest Group (ONEIG) would love to talk to students about the environmental and ecological determinants of health. Please contact Josalyn Radcliffe, the chair of ONEIG, at [josalyn@gmail.com](mailto:josalyn@gmail.com) or [oneigrnao@gmail.com](mailto:oneigrnao@gmail.com). You may also visit their YouTube webpage at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCefXR5-b8l4W-ki3RXIqYZA>

Discussion at the RNAO Assembly meeting was also centered on the importance of self care. The Staff Nurse Interest Group, represented by Una Ferguson (RNAO BOD Region 10) indicated that “Self Care” is their focus. Shauna Graf, the president of the Mental Health Nursing Interest Group (MHNIG) stated that their IG has funds available for research in nursing, and encourages everyone to apply if interested.

Doris Grinspun, CEO of RNAO, emphasized that RNAO (Heather McConnell) needs to be contacted if you plan to present on behalf of RNAO or use the RNAO logo in your presentation. Heather McConnell’s email address is [hmcconell@rnao.ca](mailto:hmcconell@rnao.ca). Also, anyone can use the content from the RNAO website but with citation. Furthermore, Rob Minan, RNAO Membership BOD, is creating a YouTube video to showcase nurses talking about ‘what RNAO means to you’. If you are interested in being part of this video, send an email to Rob ([rmihan@rnao.ca](mailto:rmihan@rnao.ca)) with the subject heading: RNAO video.

On March 10, 2022, I attended the ‘Wellness for the Helper’ virtual seminar offered by the Central East Regional Cancer Program (CE RCP) Indigenous Team, which discussed methods of self-care and healing for healthcare workers during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Joanna Vautour, Anishinaabe Kwe, MSW, RSW is the Regional Indigenous Cancer Care Lead for Toronto.

On March 18 and 19, 2022, I attended ‘Prayer School’ virtual seminars via Zoom that focused on the theme, “teach us to pray” using words from the bible. On March 22, 2022, I attended the RNAO webinar titled, ‘Strategies for teams who lead change’ which was presented by Katherine Wallace, RN, MHS, RNAO Senior Manager, Implementation Science, Project Lead-Leading Change Toolkit. Katherine Wallace discussed the Knowledge-To-Action (KTA) framework for the implementation of evidence-based research into clinical practice. Contact Andrea Stubbs at [astubbs@rnao.ca](mailto:astubbs@rnao.ca) if you will like to register for future events.

On March 24, 2022, I attended the RNAO Best Practice Champions Virtual Workshop, which was an informative session that discussed about the RNAO's Leading Change Toolkit and provided opportunity to apply the information in exercises through the use of the ‘Best Practice Champions Virtual Workshop Activities Booklet’. I encourage you to register for the next virtual workshop by visiting the RNAO website.

I’ll be attending the ‘2022 Caring for the Human Spirit Conference & International Westberg Symposium’ which is a virtual seminar. It is 3-days in duration from March 28, 2022 to March 30, 2022. It promises to be very informative. The Keynote speaker is Ira Byock, M.D., FAAHPM Founder and chief medical officer of the Institute for Human Caring, a component of Providence St. Joseph Health. Ira Byock will be discussing, ‘Evidence Of Spirituality In Healthcare Is Everywhere (When We Know How To Look)’. To register for the conference, please visit the Spiritual Care Association website. Other topics that will be presented include, ‘Crisis Intervention Overview: The Model & Tools utilized by First Responder’.

FCNIG will have elections for executive positions during the period of April 1, 2022 to August 1, 2022. If you are interested in an executive position in FCNIG, please respond to email communications from RNAO by voting or nominating yourself.

### **Proposed goals for 2022**

The proposed goals for 2022 are to advance our Interest Group (IG) profile through Social Media platforms, develop best practice guidelines for spiritual care and increase our revenue and membership numbers. To aid in the recruitment of members, we have made it free for students to join FCNIG.

I appreciate all you do as parish nurses or faith community nurses, and I am proud to be part of FCNIG!

Respectfully submitted on March 24, 2022

Ola Babalola, Nurse Practitioner- Primary Health Care, MN, BScN, Critical Care Nursing

## **A Reflection of Queen's Park Day Feb 24-25 2022**

The two day program was fast-paced with RNAO staff and membership identifying the current and critical challenges in the nursing profession in Ontario. The four top challenges are:

- 1) **Shortage of nurses in all areas of health care.** This has had a big impact on nurses and on nursing care. A survey revealed that 12.6% of nurses plan to leave the profession within a year and 29.4% plan to retire within a year
- 2) **Home care:** 900,000 Ontarians receive home care yearly with 730,000 receiving home care through the Ontario Publically funded system. This means that several hundred thousand Ontarians receive reduced home care or none at all
- 3) **Bill 124 froze nurses' salaries in 2019 - 2020.** In "real dollars", this is reflected as a 4% decrease in hourly salary in 2021-2022
- 4) The delay of the **internationally educated nurses** actively pursuing registration with the College of Nurses of Ontario

### **Solutions proposed by the RNAO membership**

A. Nurses Seeking to:

- 1) Revoke Bill 124 immediately
- 2) Increase the supply of RNs by increasing enrolment in the 4 year BScN program. Increase second entry and RPN to RN bridging by 10% per year for 7 years. Compress RPN to BScN bridging to 2 years in length. Expedite applications and funding for Internationally Educated Nurses to become NP, RN and RPN s in Ontario

B. Ontario to invest in home care by:

- 1) Having all first Home Care visits to be done by an RN
- 2) Passing the RNAO's Nursing Home Basic Guarantee into legislation

C. Advocate the 625 Public Health Nurses positions that are working in Ontario schools into permanent positions

D. Expand the scope of practice for RNs and NPs

E. RNs to prescribe common medications, order and perform diagnostic tests

F. NPs can order MRI, CT scan, EEG, ECG for non-complex patients and perform point of care testing

RNAO Membership proposes:

Senior Care

- 1) Expand and extend current level of Public Health Funding for Senior Care
- 2) Enshrine RNAO Nursing Home Basic care Guarantee into legislation
- 3) Embed RNAO Best Practice Guidelines into Patients' Electronic Health Records
- 4) Move Retirement Home residents with complex needs to LTC lists. The 3 major ailments of LTC residents are heart disease, dementia and diabetes
- 5) Mandate 1-1 RN to patient ratio in ICU
- 6) Surge funding and staffing to clear backlogs in ICU, Mental Health, Children and Youth Mental Health and "safe discharge from hospital"
- 7) Support and fund Safe Consumption Sites
- 8) Enhance Health System Integration by supporting OH teams throughout Ontario
- 9) Ensure LTC is incorporated into community care plans with funding rather than being absorbed into acute care hospital management and administrative structures
- 10) Provide access to non-urgent health care 24x7 by expanding interprofessional models such as family health care teams, community health centres and doubling the number of NP led clinics
- 11) RN care coordinators in primary care settings to integrate patient care needs to health and social service systems
- 12) Every Ontarian to have their own electronic health care plan

13) More progressive tax system to better fund essential health, health care, social and environmental services

There are 174 participants attended RNAO's 2022 Provincial Platform for the Queen's Park Event

Attending and speaking were

1) Andrea Horvath - NDP leader promising that Public Health Care would be a primary issues with a focus on hiring and retaining nurses

2) Mike Shreiner - Green Party leader and MPP Guelph promising to support party that will work to make public health care primary issue

3) Steven DelDucca - Liberal leader and MPP Vaughn promising to build the economy, address nursing shortage, appeal Bill 124, provide adequate PPEs and safe working conditions

4) Doug Ford/Christine Elliott/Paul Calandra. Premier Doug Ford had to leave the meeting before it ended. Questions were answered by MPP Christine Elliott, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier, with support from MPP Paul Calandra

RNAO focused one session on all Interest Groups (IGs). This was chaired by RNAO President Elect (Dr. Claudette Holloway). Several RNAO IGs were asked to present their **"Wish List"**

1) Ontario politicians reflect their own personal biases and should visit Indigenous burial sites and walk with Indigenous communities

2) Ontario needs to ensure safe places to live and have livable incomes

3) LTC facilities should have 1 NP per 120 residents

4) Politicians and Nurses need to come together to address the issue of Black Nurses

5) Strengthen political will and funding to support and strengthen health care in Ontario

6) Politicians must not only talk the talk but walk the walk

7) Prioritize Environmental issues

8) Prioritize Social Determinants of Health

Queen's Park Event Closed with RNAO encouraging membership to:

1) Starting Feb 26/22 - write letters to the Editor/Social Media outlining your concerns as a nurse working in health care

2) Starting April 1/22 - organize issue-based debates. Continue letter writing the editors and social media

3) May 5/22 - Provincial Government will "**Drop the Writ**" signaling a Provincial Government Election

4) June 2/22 - RNAO members are encouraged to participate in a) all candidates' meetings b) issue-based debates c) writing letters to the editors d) engaging in social media

Emphasis - Revoke Bill 124

- Nursing Crisis

- Crisis in Public Health Care

Need help? - contact RNAO. Your membership organization is there for its members. They will help you.

Remember **Nursing Week on May 9-15 2022 and RNAO AGM on June 9-11 2022**

Respectfully

Dot Klein RN BScN

RN Emeritus (RNAO designation)

Chair RNAO FCNIG PPAN Executive Officer

### **Feature Article: Created in His Image**

Gerry comes to see me about once every couple of weeks. A physical health assessment reveals moderate hypertension, effective glucose control, no weight issues, no history of diabetes. Instead, a long history of smoking, prior surgeries, and dependency on non-prescription drugs. High anxiety and loneliness are his constant companions. They never really go away.

Wes comes to see me every three weeks. He struggles with obesity. He smokes heavily. He was at one time addicted to street drugs. He sold them. He has since stopped using and selling them. He too is very lonely. He admits it, which is rare in this setting. No one wants to admit their weaknesses. Not here. It is associated with vulnerability.

Norm sees me a few times a week. He telephones multiple times a day if the building is closed to in-person clients. He drinks alcohol every day. He lives in fear; made much more pronounced after he was assaulted three years ago. He suffers from crippling loneliness and no real sense of belonging.

Does nursing practice here reflect faith community nursing? Where is the church, the chapel, the temple, or the synagogue? I see no stained glass windows. There are no pews, choir members, or clergy in their vestments. There is



me: a middle-aged woman with wrinkles and glasses. A registered nurse. A Christian.

Does Jesus consider this work valuable? I ask myself this, and the question leads me to evaluate what it means to minister. I remember when I was titled “parish nurse” and worked in a church. There, many members had achieved economic success. Outwardly, they appeared successful. Life had, for them, been relatively good. I remember that with many demonstrations of wealth and privilege, so often the parishioners struggled with deep loneliness. They struggled with anxiety and family dysfunction. They were people, first of all, and their economic status neither protected them from sorrows nor caused their sorrows. Wealthy or poor, aspects of life’s challenges affect humanity unilaterally, but not equally.

I ponder the New Testament accounts of Jesus interacting with people. Some were considered outcasts, some highly successful. Jesus did not minister to the wealthy exclusively; nor just the poor. The Scriptures remind us that we are all created in His image, and so we can deduce the message: We are all both in need of Him, and deeply sought by Him.

“We don’t always *live what we profess to believe*, but we always *live what we believe*.” This is a quote from a writer (Sandra Wilson). It is something I truly believe. I read this somewhere and it was so impactful, I copied it down on a little card and taped it to my wall. Years later, it is still taped to my wall, still bearing witness to the message I need to be reminded of, regularly. I profess to be a Christian; let me live to represent that belief.

In my experience, the sacred setting in which a parish/faith community nurse is found is not always supportive of this ministry. Is it surprising that sometimes a secular setting is more accepting of the nature of this work, than many faith communities? What is the basis for this? Is it seen only occasionally, or more often than we care to know? The clergy sometimes view parish nursing ministry as optional in the life of the faith community. Some of the comments include: Let the volunteers do this. It will be more cost-effective. We do not really need a parish nurse. We should be focusing on those outside the church. Let’s do more to attract youth and children. We can’t afford this. It is not important. It is a risk. We might have a lawsuit on our hands. What exactly does the PN do, anyway? Wait, I don’t have time for this, so it really doesn’t matter.

Years ago, I completed parish nursing preparation through McMaster University and soon after, a lengthier parish nursing education program through Interchurch Health Ministries. I was not aware I would one-day practice parish nursing in a secular setting. At that time, I associated parish nursing ministry with organized faith structures. In my understanding, this meant a *church*. What I have found, since I have been working in my current setting is, I am still practicing faith community nursing. This time, without having to defend its existence. This time, without having to explain its relevance. This time, without getting the sense from others around me that it is not important.

We are all created in His image, and therefore whether in a secular setting or within the walls of the faith community, I am still touching lives with the Love of God. To do so, is my motivation.

Proverbs 31:8 “Speak for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of those who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly, defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

Submitted by Maureen McNeish, RN, FCNIG member

Note: All names used are fictitious to protect client confidentiality.

**Health Care in Crisis/Pandemic Takes its Toll**  
**Interview with "The Catholic Register: *Catholic health feeling***  
***pandemic pain*"**  
**(Published weekly nationally)**

On behalf of the Faith Community Nursing Interest Group of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, I was glad to contribute to the above article. The interview was completed by reporter Michael Swan from the Catholic Register:

<https://www.catholicregister.org/item/33918-%20catholic-health-feeling-pandemic-pain>

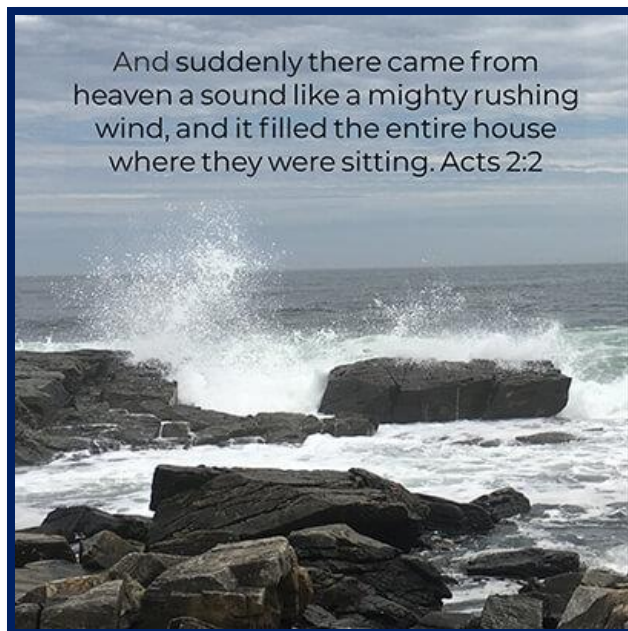


### Closing Prayer

*“A Rushing Wind”* from Joyce Rupp’s book entitled *“May I have this dance?”*

*“Spirit of God, you are the stirring in our hearts. You urge us to get going. You prompt us to follow. You encourage us not to give up. You call us to open our minds and our hearts to receive your energizing, transforming radiance. Make us receptive so that we will follow your loving movement within our lives. We trust in your powerful presence within us. Amen.”*

*Lily Cugliari-Kobayashi*



And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Acts 2:2



## **The Prayers of the People**

Leader: Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of war and ask that God may give us peace: for the men and women who have died in the violence of the invasion of Ukraine, each one remembered by and known to God; may God give peace.

**All: God give peace.**

Leader: For those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss; may God give peace.

**All: God give peace.**

Leader: For all members of the Ukrainian and Russian armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return; may God give peace.

**All: God give peace.**

Leader: For civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity; may God give peace.

**All: God give peace.**

Leader: For peacemakers and peacekeepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free; may God give peace.

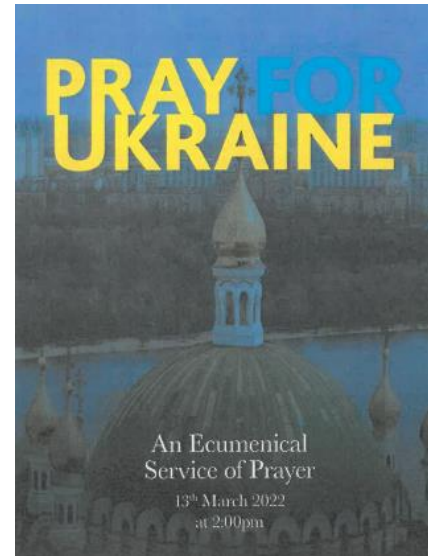
**All: God give peace.**

Leader: For all who bear the privilege and burden of leadership, political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace; may God give peace.

**All: God give peace.**

Leader: O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish to harm others; for you are the source of life and hope, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**



This Liturgy has been offered to the glory of God and for Peace in Ukraine by the communities of the following churches on The Hill in Forest Hill, Toronto:

- Calvin Presbyterian Church
- Christ Church Deer Park Anglican Church
- Deer Park United Church
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic church
- Yorkminster Park Baptist Church

I was very touched to be one of the "readers" when praying The Prayers of the People

Lily Cugliari-Kobayashi, RN

Parish Nurse

YorkminsterPark Baptist Church and

Council Member Holy Rosary Parish Church

**stations of the cross**  
**Crossings**  
A Contemplative Public Arts Exhibit  
set in 16 Central Toronto Locations

Visit Crossings' distinctive art works created by Canadian artists specifically to capture the meaning of the iconic biblical story expressed in the Scriptural Stations of the Cross. Sixteen visual art installations will draw from the Passion narrative and express its unique relevance for the challenges of contemporary life.

Crossings is part of a series of exhibitions that has featured distinguished artists and unique exhibit pieces in international cities such as London, Washington, New York, and Amsterdam.

This all-outdoor exhibition will offer a mini-pilgrimage experience travelling between several theological Colleges on the University of Toronto Campus and to five locations in the Yonge and St. Clair area of the city. For a complete list of locations see the website.

You are invited to sign up  
for Information and Updates  
**CrossingsToronto.com**

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# A Tribute to Mary Teresa Lynch

## Parish Nurse



Mary Teresa Lynch of Oshawa, Ontario, passed away suddenly on March, 8th, 2022. She was born Mary Theresa Egan in Boyle, Ireland, on April 8th 1945. Daughter of the late Elizabeth and Patrick Egan, beloved sister of Margaret (Fred) Wheeler and John (Mary) Egan.

She is survived by loving husband Gerard Lynch, children Vincent, Margaret, and Brian Lynch, their spouses Simon Wilcox and Paula Stavro-Leanoff, grandchildren David Jabal, Aiden Lynch, and Isaac Rosas Wilcox Lynch, and David's mom Analyn.

Known lovingly by her community and family as a modern day saint, she devoted her entire life to helping others. From emigrating to Canada as a nurse in 1968 where she went above and beyond the call of duty for +50 years to her countless hours of volunteering with St John's Ambulance, Catholic Women's League, St Joseph The Worker Parish, Meals on Wheels.

She also volunteered at The MS Society, Daughters of Isabella, St Vincent's Kitchen, Canadian Federations of Parish Nurses, March of Dimes, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Jaycettes, Street Ministry, and Chaplaincy at Lakeridge Health among others.

She was a firecracker to those who knew her, always charming and fond of a laugh. To the thousands who needed her help she never hesitated to create a tidal wave of caring that would help the person in need to work through incredible hardships and find their feet.

She took in dozens of people to live in the family home, gave everything she had without any expectation in return, and cherished the act of being generous even to total strangers. She wasn't always perfect but she tried her best and her heart was always in the right place.

While to the outside world she was a saint to her family, she was a loving mom, grandma, and wife who always made you feel safe and loved. Mary will be desperately missed. Her passing left a giant void but also a template for others who want to truly make a difference with their life.

*"Give rest, O God to your servant Mary with your saints, where sorry and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace. Amen. (taken from the Kontakion of the Departed)*

## **Remembering Mary Teresa Lynch**

How can we best honour the life and legacy of Mary who we lost so recently and unexpectedly? The members of PNIG/FCNIG will miss her presence and contribution to parish nursing. Her dedication to nursing and deep personal faith grounded in the values of the Roman Catholic Church, were the essential qualities that made her a champion of the nursing profession and parish nursing.

In preparation, I began by looking through past newsletters from October 2002 to the present. "Finding Mary" was an easy task. She was there at PNIG, RNAO, CAPNM, and Westberg Conferences and Annual General Meetings. She was visible as one of the founding members of PNIG, as an executive member and RNAO voting delegate.

Here is a summary of the highlights.

Mary is seen in a photo taken at the first PNIG meeting at the RNAO AGM on April 20, 2002. Here she is listed on the executive as member-at-large representing Oshawa. From March 2003 until April 2008, she held this position.

Mary attended PNIG's AGM at the Sheraton Parkway, Richmond Hilton, April 29, 2006. The minutes record a motion she made that a "PNIG member attend the CNA AGM in June with expenses paid". This was to support our 'spiritual well-being' resolution to be presented at this meeting.

Mary can be found in a group photo of PNIG members at CAPNM's AGM, May 2007 held in Edmonton.

Mary wrote an article about her Prayer Shawl Ministry as the parish nurse at St. Joseph's R.C. Church in Oshawa. She describes the recipients of the shawls, "babies hooked up to intravenous in incubators", an "oncology patient with a poor prognosis being sent home", a parishioner living in a long term care, "upset that her prayer shawl was sent to the laundry".

In a photo taken at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and AGM of CAPNM, Mary is wearing her nursing school uniform.

At PNIG's 7<sup>th</sup> AGM held at the Hilton Suites in April 2008, Mary became the president- elect

Mary and I attended RNAO Assembly in September 2008 and joined other RNAO members in a march to Metro Hall bearing the slogan "health care for people, not for profit". We added our voices to protest the eroding of our health care system. This event is recorded in a photo on our banner.

In our 2009 Spring Newsletter, there is a photo of Mary and Shirley Christo with Premier Dalton McGuinty. This was at RNAO's Annual Day at Queens Park. At lunch, they had an opportunity to address the 'Healthy Aging at Home' program with the Premier.

Mary's Incoming presidents message appears in the January 2011 newsletter. She begins it with the following prayer. "Let us be thankful for the blessings we receive, let us be thankful for others ... Let us say these thanks in prayer to God, for the gifts he has given us." In her Presidents Message in the 2012 Spring Newsletter she is reflective. "As we move into our

second decade, let us strive first and foremost to strengthen our personal relationships with the Lord”.

As PNIG president Mary was a voting delegate representing RNAO at CNA’s AGM in Ottawa, attended the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Day at Queens Park, and in September 2011, the IPNRC Westberg Symposium in St. Louis Missouri.

At a special ceremony on January 23, 2013, Mary was honoured with the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal. She was recognized for her community and volunteer service and great skills in advocating for those in her care.

At RNAO’s AGM in 2013 PNIG had the honour of Host Interest Group, and in her role as past president, Mary can be seen welcoming members and bringing greeting at the opening ceremonies.

After completing her term as past president Mary was the Membership Executive Network Officer for six years and Region 8 Representative, a position she held until the present.

In a photograph in the December 2015 newsletter, Mary is seen attending RNAO’s Queen’s Park on the Road for the Durham Northumberland Region. Also in the photo is Ola Babalola’, then PNIG secretary treasure, meeting with MPP Jennifer French.

A photo taken at RNAO AGM Banquet in 2019, Mary is looking elegant along with other FCNIG executive members, Dot Klein and Ardys Brenneman. Also in November 2019, Mary and Nancy Truscott hosted an information booth and enjoyed introducing nursing students to RNAO and FCNIG at a Trent University Student Fair.

During the pandemic Mary continued to attend the virtual conferences and meetings. One meeting she missed in September, was because it was her “first weekend off since March”. When the churches opened briefly in summer 2020, her ministry at St. Josephs was remarkable. She writes “we have 5 masses every Sunday, now well attended, daily baptisms for babies born during the shutdown, and had the first mass in a local retirement home”. The residents were emotionally moved, some crying and happy. Mary’s loss will be felt in many ways and places.

*“Receive Mary into the arms of your mercy O God, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light”. Amen.*

(Taken from the *Book of Alternative Services* of the Anglican Church of Canada, Funeral Liturgy.)

Gloria Wiebe



## Graduation from InterChurch Ministries Parish Nurse Course in 2002

That was a large graduating class!!



**PNIG was the Host Interest Group at RNAO 88<sup>th</sup> AGM in 2013.**

**Mary brought greetings to members.**

### **PNIG was Host Interest Group at RNAO AGM 2013**

The PNIG had the honour of being the Host Interest Group at the 88th RNAO AGM. Part of the role was greeting, directing traffic, and taking tickets for the President's banquet. The highlight of this role was Past President Mary Lynch's greetings/

introduction during the opening ceremony. Our PNIG members rose to the occasion and represented PNIG very well. We met as a group on the Saturday, and had opportunity to share highlights of Parish Nursing, and discuss ways to strengthen our interest group.



*Above: Mary Lynch welcomes members and bringing greetings at the 88th RNAO AGM Opening Ceremonies. Right: Members of PNIG present at RNAO AGM April 2013 Photos by M. O'Rourke.*



*PNIG Newsletter: Fall 2013 2*

The RNAO AGM Banquet was attended by FCNIG members Mary Lynch, standing, Dot Klein, right, and Ardys Brenneman, centre, who sat at dinner with others, including the nurse on the left who was interested in finding out more about Faith Community and Parish Nursing.



**Mary had a political bent, often meeting politicians in her area and attend RNAO Queens Park events and rally!!**

### **Speaking out for Health at Pre-Election Rally at Metro Hall Square, Toronto**



RNAO "speaking out for health care", at a pre-election rally in Metro Hall Square (Toronto) September 20, 2008. L-R Mary Lynch, PNIG President-elect; Wendy Fucile, RNAO President; Mary Ferguson-Pare, RNAO Immediate Past President; Gloria Wiebe, PNIG President.

### **RNAO Queen's Park Events**



Shirley Christo, Political/Policy Action Officer, and Mary Lynch, President-elect, meeting the Ontario Premier at Queen's Park.



Jeanne Lambert and Mary Lynch pause under this inspiring painting in the Legislature Building during Queen's Park Day.





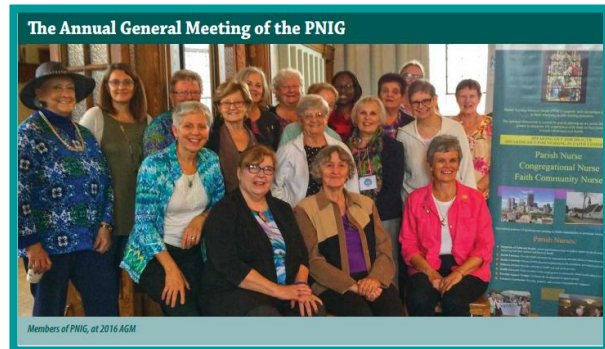
Queen's Park on the Road, Durham Northumberland Region, Nov 2015  
Mary Lynch, PNIG Membership Coordinator on right; w/ from left to right, RN Julia Fineczko, the political and action officer for the Durham chapter of RNAO, Ola Babalola, PNIG Secretary Treasurer, meet with Jennifer French, MPP for Dundas Northumberland, holding Ola's baby Joy.



Jennifer French, NDP MPP for Didsbury, Nurse Julia Fineczko with her infant daughter, and Mary Lynch, Membership ENO for PNIG



## FCNIG (Former PNIG) AGM/Education Day







## CAPNM Conferences



### 2013 Honouring Mary Lynch with Diamond Jubilee Medal



## Wall of Tributes to Our Mary Teresa Lynch

RNAO joins with a broken heart the loss of long time RNAO member and Faith Community Nursing Interest Group (FCNIG) Mary Lynch who passed away suddenly on March 8. Speaking with Mary's husband, Gerry, was a blessing as we shared the many beautiful memories about his dear spouse.

Mary was FCNIG's president for two years, membership executive network officer for six years and most recently held the region 8 representative position for the interest group. She was a nurses' nurse, and one of the kindest persons I know. Mary will be sorely missed at our Assembly, QPD and AGMs. We are grateful for Mary's incredible contributions to the profession and mourn the loss of a friend and colleague.

Rest in peace dear Mary, knowing that we will carry your love and our love for you in our actions.

Hugs,

Dr. Doris Grinspun  
Chief Executive Officer  
Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO)

Mary was always welcoming to me and I remember her warm smile. I also admired her strong faith and acknowledgement of the importance of spiritual care in nursing.

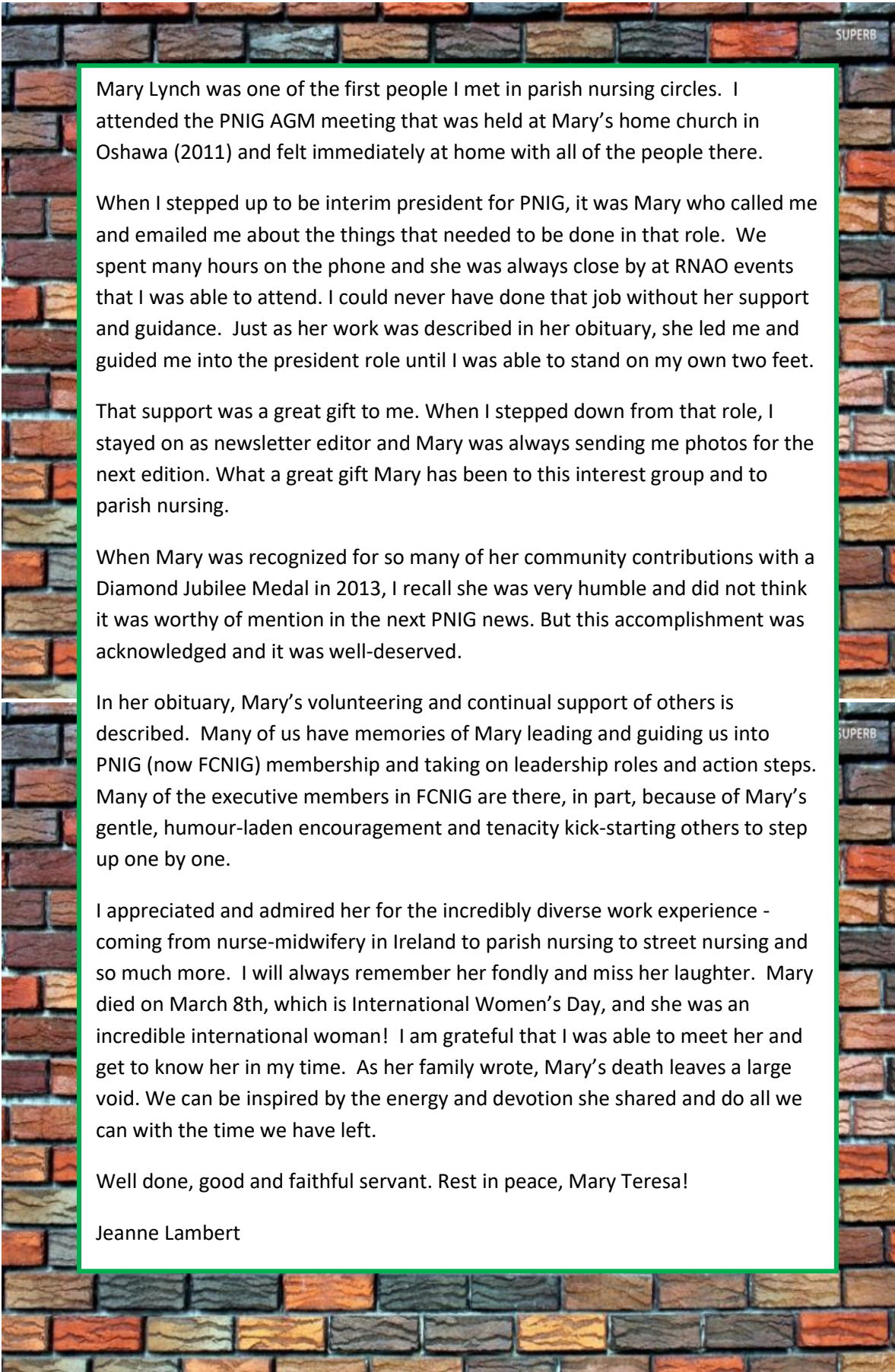
Dr. Claudette Holloway  
RNAO President Elect



Mary was fond of red roses!! Red rose symbolizes for commitment, love and passion!!

Thank You, Mary for your commitment, your love and your passion to nursing for the last 50+ years!!





Mary Lynch was one of the first people I met in parish nursing circles. I attended the PNIG AGM meeting that was held at Mary's home church in Oshawa (2011) and felt immediately at home with all of the people there.

When I stepped up to be interim president for PNIG, it was Mary who called me and emailed me about the things that needed to be done in that role. We spent many hours on the phone and she was always close by at RNAO events that I was able to attend. I could never have done that job without her support and guidance. Just as her work was described in her obituary, she led me and guided me into the president role until I was able to stand on my own two feet.

That support was a great gift to me. When I stepped down from that role, I stayed on as newsletter editor and Mary was always sending me photos for the next edition. What a great gift Mary has been to this interest group and to parish nursing.

When Mary was recognized for so many of her community contributions with a Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2013, I recall she was very humble and did not think it was worthy of mention in the next PNIG news. But this accomplishment was acknowledged and it was well-deserved.

In her obituary, Mary's volunteering and continual support of others is described. Many of us have memories of Mary leading and guiding us into PNIG (now FCNIG) membership and taking on leadership roles and action steps. Many of the executive members in FCNIG are there, in part, because of Mary's gentle, humour-laden encouragement and tenacity kick-starting others to step up one by one.

I appreciated and admired her for the incredibly diverse work experience - coming from nurse-midwifery in Ireland to parish nursing to street nursing and so much more. I will always remember her fondly and miss her laughter. Mary died on March 8th, which is International Women's Day, and she was an incredible international woman! I am grateful that I was able to meet her and get to know her in my time. As her family wrote, Mary's death leaves a large void. We can be inspired by the energy and devotion she shared and do all we can with the time we have left.

Well done, good and faithful servant. Rest in peace, Mary Teresa!

Jeanne Lambert



The **Easter Lily** is a symbol of peace in Ireland. The flower's distinctive shape symbolizes unity, equality, and prosperity for all Irish people. Its colors, which share the same colors as the Irish flag, are also symbolic. The green stem represents the ancient Celtic people, the orange represents Ireland's Protestant settlers, and the white symbolizes the peace and respect between the two.

Mary Lynch made a tremendous positive influence in my life. She was a dear friend to me and I have known her for over 10 years. She introduced me to Parish Nursing Interest Group (PNIG) which is now known as the Faith Community Nursing Interest Group (FCNIG) when she walked up to me after church mass at St. Joseph the Walker parish in Oshawa. She was always supportive, dedicated and hard working. Mary Lynch will be greatly missed.

Ola Babalola

Bog-rosemaries are wildflowers native to Ireland and are found in the country's center. They are extremely small, and, considering their height, they're easy to miss amid the surrounding moss. Bog-rosemary flowers bloom in early May. By June, they have usually settled into a pale pink color





Mary was more than a Leader in Nursing. She is a "builder and a fisherman" - a "come and see" person. Mary Lynch was a mentor for nurses who "felt a call from the Divine" to develop and respond to the need to bring the spiritual component of wholistic Health Care into their communities - their church communities, their work communities, their neighbourhood communities, their educational communities and every other community where wholistic health care is essential.

Dot Klein

You are now with God, Mary. May you Rest In Peace.

Marg Black

Mary is our modern day 'Andrew'!! She was the one that encouraged me to join the former Parish Nurses Interest Group. I couldn't resist her passion and her energy of the interest group, so I joined this group and shortly after, I become a member of the executive committee. I also saw Mary in action at the Queen's Park Day every year when she met with MPPs and spoke assertively and passionately to them about different nursing issues. There is a great rejoicing in heaven as she was ushered into the presence of our almighty Lord!! May you enjoy the presence of our Lord, Mary!!

May Tao

I met Mary @ an annual RNAO convention, just a few years ago, as I was embarking on a career change, in becoming a parish nurse/faith community nurse. Mary impressed me with her immediate support, guidance and encouragement for all parish nurses, right up to this very month. I would like to dedicate this prayer to Mary.

#### **Prayer for Mary**

"O god, in Your mercy and compassion,  
I humbly pray for my brothers and sisters in Christ,  
For my relatives, friends, and benefactors who have passed from this life.  
I beg Your mercy, through the intercession of Blessed Mary, ever virgin, and all of Your Saints,  
that they may be joined into everlasting life with You  
And may have a share in Your eternal happiness.  
I ask this in Jesus' name.  
Amen"

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (1992)  
Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, Illinois

Blessings for Peace and Comfort to all of Mary's friends, family and colleagues.

Lily CK, RN (Parish Nurse) @ YMPB Church/Toronto  
FCNIG/RNAO Member  
Holy Rosary Catholic Women's League, Executive Member

She and I had communication more than once and Friends on Facebook.

Mary was a women of faith her love for God was evident only all she did.

May she rest in Peace and rise in Glory.

Jean Hoover

Mary was a dear friend in faith, an active committed member of the Catholic Women's League and a valued pioneer and mentor in parish nursing at the provincial and national levels. She will be very much missed by so many.

May she rest in peace!  
Shirley Christo

I met Mary at the FCNIG's AGM in 2019 held at Lily's parish and could sense her years of wisdom both within the nursing profession and in her faith community. May her soul rest in the presence of our Divine Creator God, sending light, love and much peace to those who cherished and benefited from her presence, and in providing comfort to her family, friends, colleagues and those that she ministered to

Maria Lipa



**Sheep's bit** is a scrappy purple flower similar to the Scottish thistle but with rounder heads and thinner leaves. The flowers thrive in dry, grassy locations, bloom between May and September, and grow in large numbers. You can easily tell that you've spotted them when you find the round flowers that are a mix of blue and purple.

A **shamrock** is a symbol of Ireland. It has three leaves, representing the Holy Trinity – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It also signifies the concepts of faith, love and hope.





In heaven, there is great rejoicing for Mary's arrival into eternal life. That is the goal of her journey here on earth. I am certain that she was greeted with "Well done, you good and faithful servant." We were so blessed to have her fellowship and encouragement over the last 20+ years and she will be very greatly missed by me and all of us.

Blessings to you all in your grieving.

Elsie Millerd

When I think of Mary ..... I remember her warm welcoming manner whether you were an old friend or someone she was meeting for the first time. So open and welcoming!

She truly lived her faith!

May she Rest in Peace.

Louise Trapp



Mary's cherished canine companion.

**Tobie**

## REMEMBERED JOY

I could not stay another day,  
To love, to laugh, to work or play;  
Tasks left undone must stay that way.  
And if my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joy.

[www.irelandcalling.ie](http://www.irelandcalling.ie)



Mary Lynch attended the Parish Nursing Interest Group Inaugural Meeting on April 20, 2002 and remained a committed member throughout the years. Soon after the initial meeting, Mary accepted the position of regional representative for Region 8: Durham, Northumberland, Quinte and Kawartha Victoria, which included Oshawa. Mary encouraged and built many support relationships among parish nurses and registered nurses alike.

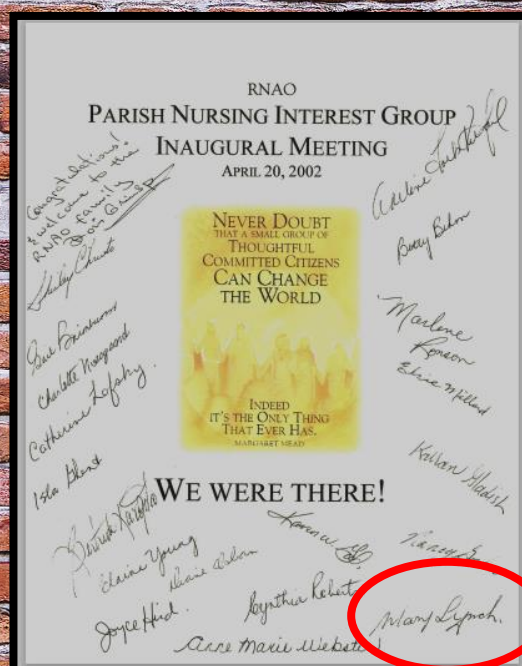
As busy as Mary was, when the call went out for someone to fill the position as PNIG president after Gloria Wiebe, our third PNIG president, Mary did not hesitate, which initially shocked, surprised and delighted us as she was already involved in a myriad of outreach ministries.

Even though Mary had enrolled and graduated with a certificate in parish nursing from the InterChurch Health Ministries in Oshawa, Mary also enrolled in the Foundations in Parish Nursing Certificate Program associated with St. Peter's Seminary in London. On completing the latter program, Mary commented that she considered this program as being a retreat, a time for personal reflection and personal growth in addition to being an opportunity to develop additional skills as a parish nurse.

With her big heart and boundless energy, Mary took on many additional parish nursing-related challenges, even after her formal position as a parish nurse had ended. Her passion for parish nursing ministry and pastoral care led her to grow in her faith, knowledge and ministry. Mary's standing up for issues, and service to many and her love has left an indelible impression on all whose lives she has touched. She will be remembered.

Betty Behm, PNIG's first president

Anne Marie Webster, PNIG's first secretary-treasurer





Mary Lynch and I shared hotel rooms when we attended RNAO AGMs and CAPNM AGMs from 2017 - 2019. She encouraged me to consider Parish Nursing as another chapter in my nursing career. Who could ever doubt that Mary Lynch was a messenger from the Lord. I responded, took the courses and started another chapter in my life. Mary Lynch always the cheer leader, always enthusiastic, always full of joy and excitement

Dot Klein

### Old Irish Blessing of Peace

**A Tribute to Mary Teresa Lynch 1945-2022**  
**From Dot (Dorothy) Klein - friend and colleague**

Deep peace I breathe into you;  
Oh weariness here, O ache, here!  
Deep peace, a soft dove to you;  
Deep peace, a quiet rain to you;  
Deep peace, an ebbing wave to you!  
Deep peace, red wind of the east from you;  
Deep peace, grey wind of the west to you;  
Deep peace, dark wind of the north from you;  
Deep peace, blue wind of the south to you!  
Deep peace, pure red of the fame to you;  
Deep peace, pure white of the moon to you;  
Deep peace, pure green of the grass to you;  
Deep peace, pure brown of the living earth to you;  
Deep peace, pure gray of the dew to you;  
Deep peace, pure blue of the sky to you!  
Deep peace of the running wave to you;  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,  
Deep peace of the quiet Earth to you,  
Deep peace of the sleeping stones to you,  
Deep peace of the yellow shepherdess to you,  
Deep peace of the Flock of Stars to you,  
Deep Peace of the Son of Peace to You,  
Deep Peace, Deep Peace.

This prayer is from the Interfaith Prayer Book (Connecting our Hearts to God and Each Other through Prayers) <https://interfaithresources.com/>





## Monthly Memorial Mass

for

**Mary Teresa Lynch**

to be celebrated on

Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 7 PM (evening)

At Holy Rosary Parish Church

354 St. Clair Ave. West, Toronto, ON M5P 1N4

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lily Cugliari-

Kobayashi: Email: [illuminate56@gmail.com](mailto:illuminate56@gmail.com) or

[parishnurse@yorkminsterpark.com](mailto:parishnurse@yorkminsterpark.com)

Home Phone Line: 416-481-0802

St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Oshawa, ON

*"Dear parishioners,*

*I am sad to announce the passing of one our Parish Staff and dear parishioner, Mary Lynch. Mary passed on Tuesday, 8th of March. It was indeed shocking for us all. Mary served our parish dedicatedly for several years as our parish nurse and pastoral outreach coordinator. She has equally been involved in several groups and initiatives in the parish. She will truly be missed by us all. Please keep her and the family in your prayers. We are confident in the love of our eternal Shepherd who leads us all into the fullness of life. May he grant unto Mary the reward of her arduous labor in His vineyard. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen."*

*- Fr. Victor Amole*







## May the Road

rise up to meet you.

May the wind be ever  
at your back.

May the sun shine warm  
upon your face, and  
rains fall soft upon  
your fields, and until  
we meet again,  
may God hold you  
in the palm of His hand  
Amen.



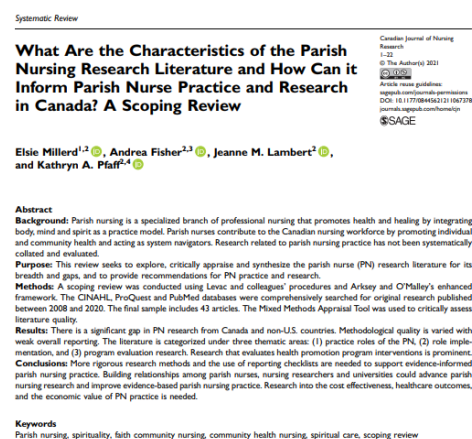
## Congratulations to Elsie Millerd, Andrea Fisher, and Jeanne Lambert and Kathryn Pfaff!!

A research article on the scoping review of parish nursing research was given "open access" status and so can be read online for free. It is available

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/08445621211067378>

The name of the article is **What Are the Characteristics of the Parish Nursing Research Literature and How can it Inform Parish Nurse Practice and Research in Canada? A Scoping Review.**

The authors are Elsie Millerd, Andrea Fisher, Jeanne Lambert and Kathryn Pfaff, all are RNAO members!!



## News from Interchurch Health Ministry (ICHM) Canada

Alive & Well Series explores Spiritual Aspects of Dementia

ICHM began the New Year with an Alive & Well podcast on the topic of Dementia. Our featured guest was Rev. Dr. John Swinton, Professor and Chair in Divinity and Religious Studies at the University of Aberdeen. John has published widely within the area of mental health, dementia, disability theology, spirituality and healthcare. In his book *Dementia: Living in the memories of God*, Swinton redefines dementia in light of the transformative counter story that is the gospel. Watch on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/ZwleWkpiCmQ>

Our next podcast will feature Canadian Virtual Hospice in conversation about My Grief.

**ICHM Virtual Annual General Meeting June 8 at 6:30 pm.**

Details to follow. We are looking for parish nurses, clergy, and other professionals to join our board. Contact Anne Marie Mohler at [amohler@sympatico.ca](mailto:amohler@sympatico.ca) for more information.

## Special Discount for the Nurses Christian Fellowship Membership

NCF (Nurses Christian Fellowship) is running a special for FCNs: use coupon code "FCNSpecial" takes 15% off <https://ncf-jcn.org/>

NCF is a professional and ministry organization for students, nurses and educators. They publish the Journal of Christian Nursing (JCN). Join at [ncf-jcn.org](https://ncf-jcn.org). Use coupon code FCNSpecial at check out!!

You can purchase JCN for your FCN network at a reasonable cost! Email [NCF@InterVarsity.org](mailto:NCF@InterVarsity.org) and let them know you would like to look at getting JCN for your network.



### A SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PRESENCE

IN SOLIDARITY WITH  
THE FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES OF UKRAINE

Sunday, April 3, 2022    12 Noon PDT

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
4745 Wheeler Ave., La Verne, California 91750

The Reverend Liz Kronenberg  
With Readings By Faith Community Nurses  
From The US, Germany, England, And Ukraine

Live Chorale Music Offerings  
Nevenka Folk Ensemble Of Los Angeles

Facemasks Required In The Church  
Tune In Online:  
<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1qz5AoxjIKcPAbsv4lpQ>

Free Will Offering ☺ Donations To Support Ukrainian Nurses



12N PDT, 1p MT, 2p CT, 3p EDT, 8p London, 9p Paris, 10p Kyiv, Taipei +15hrs /3a, Sydney +18hrs/6a

### **FCNIG Executives: 2021-2022**

President/Chair: Ola Babalola

Past President: Anne-Marie Mohler

Finance Executive Network Officer (ENO): May Tao

Membership ENO: Lily Cugliari-kobayashi

Communication ENO: Gloria Wiebe

Social Media ENO: Maria Lippa

Policy and Political Action ENO: Dot Klein

Student ENO: Dominic Stewart

### **Regional Representatives**

Lily Cugliari-Kobayashi/Maria Lippa (Region 6),

Gloria Wiebe (Region 7),

Jeanne Lambert (Region 9), Dot Klein (Region 11)

