

The emphasis of all vocations is exemplified, once again, in the action guide. “The promotion of vocations to ordained ministry and consecrated life cannot be understood in isolation from the universal baptismal call to holiness and service. Vocations to ordained ministry and consecrated life – and to single and married life, to lay ministry and Christian witness in a secular society – will flourish in a Church where each member can identify and concretely live out the Father’s call to life and holiness, the Son’s call to discipleship and communion, and the Spirit’s call to witness and mission.

“For vocation ministry to be effective, there needs to be a fostering of personal involvement in a precise life choice. If we all are ‘called on a mission to love and serve the Lord’ and His people, we do not all do so in the same way. Some of us are called to do so in marriage and family life, others in the single

life. Some enter ordained ministry and religious life, while others serve in recognized lay ecclesial ministries.

“This universalization of the notion of vocation in no way trivializes it. It acknowledges that a vocation is not something chosen one day, and given up the next. To live one’s true vocation presupposes both the ability to discover God’s call, and the willingness to respond to it at the deepest level of one’s being. It requires a capacity to discern the most appropriate response to the call, a response that takes into account not only one’s own personal talents, limitations, and practical life-situation, but no less, the needs of the Church and the world. It must become a life-project in which the desire for holiness and union with God, and the willingness to hear God’s call in the hungers of the world, are encountered and embraced continuously.” †

# CWL: A LEAGUE OF GREAT, LOVING CATHOLIC WOMEN

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*Katherine Hughes was one of the key founders of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada.*

**T**he two legs on which a typical Canadian parish stands are the Knights of Columbus and The Catholic Women’s League of Canada. Both of these institutions were established during the papacy of the great Pope Leo XIII. I would like to give credit to the largest organization of Catholic women, the League.

In 1912, Katherine Hughes of Edmonton, a woman full of courage and conviction, initiated a grassroots movement in Canada, based on the guidelines of other Catholic women’s organizations in England. Eight years later, in 1920, The Catholic Women’s League of Canada was founded.

Over 100 councils were organized within the first year by dedicated women who travelled across the country by train to visit small towns and large cities in each diocese. “For God and Canada” was their chosen motto.

Local church authorities and the Roman hierarchy soon noticed and applauded the work these women were doing to advance the guidelines and social principles espoused by the Vatican, especially those pertaining to the dignity of women.

Various popes have commended the League for its good works. Popes Pius XII, John XXIII, Paul VI and John Paul II all

recognized that these women have had great input into the social fabric of the church and society in Canada.

In a country where lawmakers and political opinion have promoted a culture of death with the legalization of abortion on demand and the clamour for assisted suicide, the League continues to be alert and actively promote the culture of life. But much more important than their social agenda is their dynamism.

By the example of her Christian life, each member commits herself to the holiness so essential in illuminating and improving the moral and social life in Canada. Only by being the light of the world and the salt of the earth can each one be the support needed so badly in every parish in this country.

Certainly a parish could become a city of God with the generosity, eagerness, and commitment to defend Catholic values that these women possess. They feel concern and anguish for this changing world, which is creating a godless society as it rages against natural and divine law. †

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