



The Canadian League

St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Official Publication of The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Volume 102/No. 2/Spring 2026

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The Canadian League is published three times a year by The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Material may not be reprinted, in whole or in part, without permission of the publisher. Subscription rates: Annual national per capita fee of \$25.00 includes subscription rate of \$3.00. Non-members, \$8.00 per year. Agreement number 40007536
ISSN-0384-630

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Cover photo credit:
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Peggy's Cove Lighthouse,
Nova Scotia.

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National President's Message

Betty Colaneri

National President



"Blessed are the poor in spirit,..." (Matthew 5:3).

This Beatitude from Jesus is more than a comforting promise; it is a call to action. The national focus of "Blessed Are the Poor" reminds us that God's heart is especially close to the vulnerable, the struggling and those often overlooked. As members of the League, we are called not only to reflect on these words but to live them.

In every community across this country, League members are faithfully making a difference. Members gather in churches, parish halls and meeting rooms. We pray together. We plan together. We serve together. At the heart of all we do, we should ask ourselves a deeply personal question. What is our passion?

Passion is more than enthusiasm. It is the fire that stirs our hearts when we see a need. It is the gentle but persistent voice that says, "Do something!" It is the conviction that faith must be lived not only in words, but in action.

For some members, passion is rooted in direct service. It is preparing meals for those who are hungry, organizing clothing drives, visiting the lonely or supporting families in crisis. It is responding immediately and generously when disaster strikes, both at home and abroad. It is seeing Christ in the faces of the poor, the vulnerable and the forgotten, and serving with humility and love.

For others, passion is found in advocacy and social justice. "Blessed Are the Poor" challenges us to ask deeper questions. Why does poverty exist? Why are some voices unheard? Why do some lack access to basic necessities? Social justice calls members to address not only immediate needs but also the structures that create inequality. Writing letters, studying issues, raising awareness about human trafficking, mental health, poverty and homelessness, and courageously speaking up for the dignity of every human person are ways of living the Beatitude. These encounters leave an imprint on the heart. They awaken compassion and move us beyond comfort into commitment.

Educating others may be your passion. You may be the one who gathers resources, leads workshops or ensures that members are informed and engaged. Through knowledge comes understanding, and through understanding comes action.

Perhaps your passion is prayer. The quiet but powerful foundation of all service. Interceding for those who suffer,

those who mourn, for leaders who make decisions and for justice to prevail may seem like a small act, but it is deeply impactful. Prayer sustains the work of service and strengthens those who carry it out.

The beauty of the League is that there is room for every passion. Not all are called to the same work, but all are called to serve. When we recognize and honour each member's unique gifts, councils become vibrant, purposeful and united.

As League members, we are uniquely positioned to make a difference. We are women of faith, grounded in prayer, informed by Catholic social teaching and strengthened by sisterhood. Together, our collective voice carries weight. Together, our actions have an impact.

Take a moment to reflect and ask yourself, what stirs your heart? What issue keeps you awake at night? Where do you see Christ calling you to respond?

Share your passion with your council. Encourage others to share theirs. When members speak openly about what inspires them, something powerful happens. Energy increases, ideas flow and new initiatives are born. Long-standing projects are renewed with fresh enthusiasm.

Passion is contagious. When one member speaks with conviction about a cause close to her heart, others listen. They may discover a new interest or rediscover an old one. Councils grow stronger when members are invited not only to participate but to lead with what they love. Let us not underestimate the power of our individual passions united in a common purpose. A single spark can ignite a flame. Many flames together can light the way for an entire community.

As you continue your service in the months ahead, I invite you to prayerfully discern. "Lord, what is my passion? Where are You calling me to serve?"

Our world is in need of hope. Our communities are in need of compassion.

May we be women who allow our hearts to be moved. May we be women who act. And may our shared passion for service and social justice continue to transform lives.

"Blessed Are the Poor" is not a distant promise but a present mission. A call to *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission.* †

From The National Spiritual Advisor

Most Rev. Gerard Paul Bergie, Bishop of St. Catharines
National Spiritual Advisor



Road to Emmaus, Jesus Ignites Passion and Confirms His Mission

We are in the midst of the Easter season, a time of joy and new life. One of my favourite Easter gospel passages is the Road to Emmaus. In many ways, it captures the theme that National President Betty Colaneri has chosen for her presidency: *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission*. Jesus was able to ‘ignite the passion’ of those two disciples on the road so that they could share in His mission.

Catholics are told in the Gospel of Luke that on the morning of His resurrection, Jesus appeared to two of His disciples on the road; however, they did not recognize Him. We are told that they look sad, and Jesus initiates a conversation by asking them what they are talking about as they walk along the road. They share their story about being followers of Jesus and how they thought He would be a great leader who would save Israel. Unfortunately, He was not what they expected because He was arrested, tortured and crucified. To make matters worse, some women are also saying that angels told them that He was still alive. Confused and dejected, they are now returning to their hometown of Emmaus.



Jesus chastises these disciples by saying to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory” (Lk 24:25-26)? Jesus then interpreted to them the things about Himself in all the scriptures. He helped them to understand that the Messiah was to be a suffering servant not a political liberator. Jesus reveals how salvation history culminates in the Paschal mystery—His suffering, death and resurrection.

We are told that when they reach the village of Emmaus, the two disciples ask Jesus to stay and share a meal with them. When Jesus breaks the bread, we are told that their eyes are opened and they recognize Him. They then say to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” (Lk 24:32).

These disciples then ran back to Jerusalem to witness to the resurrection and to share how Jesus had become known to them in the breaking of the bread. They had become true missionaries of the good news.

In many ways, the Road to Emmaus is analogous to life. There are moments on the journey when we feel dejected, disillusioned and unsure of the future. There are times when the darkness intensifies, and it is difficult to navigate life. It is precisely at these moments that Jesus comes to walk with us. He initiates the conversation and invites us to share our burden with Him and not to carry it alone. Catholics must respond with openness so that we will not

become ‘slow of heart to believe.’ Jesus can change ‘slow hearts’ to ‘burning hearts’ if we enter that divine conversation where heart speaks to heart.

This is why it is so important to spend time in personal prayer. When we raise our minds and hearts to God, sharing takes place between friends. As St. Teresa of Avila states, we take the “time... to be alone with Him who we know loves us.”

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is considered the perfect public prayer as we enter the Emmaus experience as a community of believers. We recognize Jesus in His word and in the ‘breaking of the bread’ just prior to receiving Him in Holy Communion. He comes to feed us with Himself and then to send us forth with burning hearts to be missionary disciples.

Like the disciples on the Road to Emmaus, we need to share the good news about Jesus with others. We need to be invitational by being witnesses to His love.

You can also do this as members of the League. You provide an ‘Emmaus’ experience by opening eyes to see Christ in others, in the ‘breaking of the bread’ and in a community of love. You offer women an incredible opportunity to ignite passion in living out His mission. That is ‘good news’ indeed! †

Looking Forward With Hope: Strengthening Membership Through Unity And Innovation



Glenda Carson

National Vice-President

“The Christian life is not lived in isolation, as a kind of intellectual or sentimental experience, confined to the mind and the heart. It is lived with others, in a group and in community, because the risen Christ is present wherever disciples gather in his name” (Pope Leo XIV).

It is a Tuesday evening in a parish hall somewhere in Canada. The aroma of coffee fills the air as chairs are arranged for the regular parish council meeting of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada. Gathered around the table, members share wisdom, faith, laughter and commitment. It is in this small group and others like it that the heart of the League shines: women deepening their faith and serving “For God and Canada” as one.

Yet there is an honest awareness that the world around them is changing. Meeting attendance has declined. Five years ago, about 25 members gathered regularly. Now, barely 15 attend. Parishioners seem hesitant to join. Invitational emails and bulletin announcements generate only a handful of responses, and many who attend come only once or twice before stepping away due to busy schedules, family responsibilities or a lack of connection. Each year, fewer members renew.

The challenges facing this council are familiar to many across Canada. Even councils experiencing growth are being called to reflect on what will sustain and strengthen membership for the future. For women of all ages today, schedules are fuller, life’s demands are heavy, communication is more complex and expectations are different. Many need flexible, accessible options to participate meaningfully. Others may not fully understand the League’s mission or how they can participate, creating feelings of uncertainty about the value of involvement.

In response to this national conversation, League initiatives have been developed to strengthen the membership experience. Two key projects, the R3 to 1, Unity! taskforce and the D2L Brightspace online learning platform mark innovative steps for the League. A third initiative, the *Welcome Program*, emerged from the League’s strategic planning process (2017–2022). Together, these initiatives reflect the League’s shared commitment to unity, growth and renewal.

In a world that can often feel fragmented and where struggling councils may feel isolated, R3 to 1, Unity! strengthens communication, collaboration and connection

with a membership focus on “recruit, retain, regain.” Taskforce volunteers visit to support parish councils, not to take over. Unity becomes both a practical tool and a sign of hope. But R3 to 1, Unity! is not only for councils facing challenges. Even thriving councils benefit from the dialogue it fosters, generating new ideas and sharing best practices. Learning what works well is essential for the growth and vitality of every council and the organization as a whole.

D2L Brightspace is an online learning platform that offers membership formation and leadership development across Canada. Members can grow in faith, knowledge and leadership at their own pace, wherever they live. Material from the League’s recent strategic planning and orientation sessions, as well as information related to League initiatives and priorities, are available through interactive modules and facilitated by individual instructors. For rural councils, working women and those balancing caregiving responsibilities, the platform removes barriers.

The *Welcome Program* is a foundational membership initiative designed to ensure that every woman receives a personal invitation to join or remain a part of the League and feels meaningfully connected. At its heart, the program recognizes that women remain active and engaged when they experience a sense of belonging. This belonging encourages intergenerational and culturally diverse participation. Follow-up, mentorship and integration into council life help members understand the organizational dimensions of the League. A welcoming environment naturally identifies and nurtures future leaders, supporting succession planning, shared responsibility and a stronger national presence.

Membership is not just the paying of a fee. It is companionship in prayer, generosity in service and courage in advocacy. Embracing new ways of connecting with others will not change the League’s identity or purpose. Rather, it ensures that the heart of the League remains vibrant, sustainable and ready to serve “For God and Canada” for generations to come. From these honest reflections, renewal can take shape one cup of coffee, one conversation and one invitation at a time. †

Social Media: From Responsibility to Shared Ministry



Alice Noble

National Secretary-Treasurer

In today's digital world, social media has become an essential tool for League councils at every level. Social media offers councils a powerful way to communicate, educate and inspire. For council secretaries in particular, this responsibility can feel overwhelming. Messages must remain timely, accurate and respectful of League policy as technology continues to evolve. Yet, when approached thoughtfully and collaboratively, social media can become a powerful ministry of connection, leadership development and shared responsibility.

The *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* (Section 10: Media) reminds us that social media is a public forum. Every post reflects the League's values, mission and reputation. While communications fall under the council secretary's responsibilities, this work should never rest on one person alone.

One of the most effective solutions is to create a small social media subcommittee. Three or four members who are interested and willing to learn can successfully share the work and support each other. Technical expertise is not required at the outset—training and mentorship quickly build confidence. This team approach ensures regular monitoring, timely updates and consistent messaging.

A social media subcommittee does not need to create all content. Instead, it gathers information from council officers and members: meeting notices, upcoming events, photographs, prayers and stories of service. The committee filters and formats content, ensuring it complies with League guidelines and receives the approval of the secretary and president before posting. This process keeps communication accurate, respectful and aligned with League policy.

Education is an important part of success. A simple and enjoyable way to build confidence is to host a short, hands on "Social Media Mini Workshop" at a regular meeting or retreat. With cellphones in hand and coffee on the table, members can work together to draft a sample post, choose a photograph and practice writing a welcoming caption or prayer intention. Laughter often follows as everyone learns by doing, and no one needs to be an expert. This relaxed approach removes the fear of technology, highlights individual strengths and reminds members that social media is simply another way to share faith, friendship and service. Best of all, it turns a task into a moment of connection and fun. Remember, there are many free tools,

workshops and training videos online that social media committees can access.

For councils new to social media, starting small is key. One platform, such as Facebook, is often sufficient at first. National and provincial League platforms offer excellent examples and approved content that can be shared or linked. This not only reduces the pressure to generate original material but also strengthens unity and consistency across the League.

Organization and planning help reduce stress. Simple tools such as content calendars and templates for recurring posts save time and provide structure. Clear guidelines regarding who posts, who monitors comments and how concerns are addressed help ensure accountability and professionalism.

Social media also provides a valuable opportunity for leadership development. Members serving on subcommittees build communication skills, confidence and teamwork. As their comfort grows, many become more open to serving in other leadership roles. Knowledge is shared, friendships are formed and a natural succession plan develops.

Continuity is essential. Social media platforms should never be left unattended or outdated. By documenting procedures, securely sharing passwords and mentoring new members, councils ensure their online presence remains active even when roles change.

Secretaries are encouraged to seek support when needed. Provincial secretaries, neighbouring councils and national resources are valuable sources of guidance. Many members also find help from family members who are familiar with technology.

When managed collaboratively and responsibly, social media becomes more than a task—it becomes a joyful way to share the League's faith, service and social justice work. Social media can strengthen community and connection. Secretaries play a vital leadership role in guiding this effort, but they do not do it alone. Together, councils can build a vibrant, welcoming and sustainable digital presence that reflects the heart and mission of the League.

Gather a team, start small and take the next step together. Social media is a shared opportunity. By working together today, we build stronger councils and confident leaders for tomorrow. †

Realize Your Passion



Shari Guinta

National Past President

“Memories are the key not to the past, but to the future” (Corrie ten Boom, a Holocaust survivor).

Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission is a powerful theme that calls members, as Catholic women, to be involved and to work for the church and for the Catholic faith.

As past presidents, we still have a chance to ignite not only our own passion but also that of other women who may be searching for something—a stronger, more fulfilling faith and a way to serve others. We can facilitate that. We have memories and a history with the League. I invite you to share those memories, recall successes, challenges and accomplishments with your council sisters. That is history and can be used to build the future. We work, we pray, we learn.

Women of the League have had a passion for the church for more than 105 years. If we look back, we see outstanding accomplishments in social justice and service to people in parishes, communities, Canada and even the world. I invite you to research those accomplishments. Celebrate them and share them so that other women can ignite their passion for the work that we do.

The past president normally chairs the elections committee. Keep an eye out for an announcement of a planned fall workshop/webinar on elections. Proper procedures for the election process are important so that eligible women are contacted and encouraged to let their names stand for nomination. Proper procedure is crucial not only for the election but also for the election process itself.

Past presidents serve the League by supporting, advising and celebrating our history. I encourage past presidents at all levels to examine their council's history and archive it. At the national level, I will meet with the archives committee in the fall to visit national office and organize some of the historical files there. This is so important. I encourage councils to celebrate their past so as to value their future.

Even the mission statement, “The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service,” supports our passion for faith and service.

The *Constitution & Bylaws* (2023) outlines the duties of the past president:

- (a) serve in a consultative capacity
- (b) be responsible for archives and history
- (c) facilitate the study and implementation of the *Constitution & Bylaws*
- (d) perform other duties as assigned by the president
- (e) be chairperson of laws at national level

Past presidents have an important role in the councils. I encourage all past presidents to remain involved. Continue to advise, to encourage and celebrate the history with members. Keep the council's records so that others may also learn and celebrate the memories of the past that are key to the future! Celebrate your passion! †

2027 ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

Winnipeg, Manitoba

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\$15.00 per set plus shipping of \$3.50 each set and \$5.00 for two sets.



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Shipping cost for sashes

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WELCOME ABOARD



Join Us For The 106th Annual National Convention Of The Catholic Women's League Of Canada Halifax, Nova Scotia August 9-12

The 2026 annual national convention marks an exciting return to Nova Scotia after 10 years. The Halifax Convention Centre, centrally located in the vibrant heart of downtown Halifax, will host all activities.

Steps from the waterfront, the convention centre and nearby hotels are surrounded by restaurants, shops and cultural attractions, placing attendees at the heart of both the convention and the city's vibrant culinary and social scene.

Attending the convention opens the door to discovering one of Canada's most captivating regions. History comes to life at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, where stories of wooden boatbuilding, wartime convoys, the Titanic and the Halifax Explosion unfold with vivid detail. The Halifax Citadel National Historic Site overlooks the city and offers sweeping views of Halifax Harbour and an immersive glimpse into early 18th-century military life.

For millennia, *Kjipuktuk*—the "Great Harbour"—has been home to the Mi'kmaq people and a place of gathering. Beginning in the late 15th century, Europeans arrived to fish, trade and establish a military presence, shaping the city's evolving story. Nearby, at Pier 21, home to the Canadian Museum of Immigration, visitors can explore the moving stories of immigrants who first set foot on Canadian soil through this historic port.

As League sisters gather in August, they will meet in a place shaped by the sea and touched by a rich maritime spirit and salt-kissed welcome.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday, August 8th: Enjoy a 3-hour sunset Halifax **Harbour Cruise** aboard the Kawartha Spirit complete with food, entertainment and an unforgettable Maritime experience.

Sunday, August 9th: Begin a **Walking Tour** at the Historic Cable Wharf on the Halifax Waterfront and explore how the harbour shaped downtown Halifax. This 90-minute

guided tour highlights historic sites, monuments and public art, sharing stories from the Halifax Explosion to Pier 21, the gateway for millions of immigrants.

Join the **Opening Eucharistic Celebration** at St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica. Established in 1820, St. Mary's holds major historical significance as a cornerstone of Irish Catholic heritage in Nova Scotia. Recognized as a national historic site, it stands as a premier example of Gothic Revival architecture and features the tallest granite spire in North America. After Mass, participants are invited to a reception at the Halifax Convention Centre.

Monday, August 10th: Join a lively **Acadian Kitchen Party** featuring music, dancing and the flavours of Maritime cuisine. Arrive as you are or dress in traditional costumes to fully immerse yourself in Acadian culture.

Tuesday, August 11th: The **Life Members' Luncheon**, the **Spiritual Advisors' Luncheon** and the provincial dinners will take place as in previous conventions. Luncheons are reserved for life members and spiritual advisors; additional details are provided upon arrival.

Tuesday will also be national theme day. *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission* and come prepared dressed in the national theme colours.

Wednesday, August 12th: Return to St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica for the **Closing Eucharistic Celebration**, including the reaffirmation of national officers.

Following the closing celebration, participants are invited back to the Halifax Convention Centre for the **Gala Banquet**.

Thursday, August 13th: Visit Nova Scotia's most famous lighthouse on a guided **Peggy's Cove Tour**. Built over a century ago atop granite boulders, the lighthouse overlooks the Atlantic and offers stunning coastal views. Explore the fishing village below, including shops, dining and the William deGarthe Art Gallery. Exploring Peggy's Cove is considered an essential part of experiencing Nova Scotia. †



106TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION PROGRAM

(All events take place at the Halifax Convention Centre unless otherwise stated.)

Saturday, August 8

6:00–9:00 p.m. Harbour Cruise
(Event ticket required. Meet at Cable Wharf. Buses depart at 5:30 p.m., bus ticket optional)

Sunday, August 9

11:00–12:30 p.m. Walking Tour (Event ticket required. Meet at Cable Wharf. Buses depart at 10:30 a.m., bus ticket optional)

1:30–3:30 p.m. “Ignite Your Passion with the Joy of Sisterhood” Meet and Greet

7:00–8:30 p.m. Official Opening with Greetings from Dignitaries followed by a Eucharistic Celebration at 7:00 p.m., St. Mary’s Cathedral Basilica (Bus ticket required – buses board at 6:00 p.m.)

9:00–10:00 p.m. Reception at Halifax Convention Centre

Monday, August 10

8:30–9:30 a.m. Mass

9:45–10:00 a.m. Plenary Session I

- Welcome
- Introductions
- Greetings from Invited Guests

10:00–10:30 a.m. Refreshment Break

10:30–noon Plenary Session II

- *Stay Awake with Me: Dignity, Vulnerability, and Presence in a Broken World*, Keynote Speaker Dr. Cory Labrecque

Noon–1:30 p.m. Lunch (on your own)

1:30–1:45 p.m. Reconvening Prayer

1:45–3:00 p.m. Plenary Session III

- Resolutions Dialogue

3:00–3:30 p.m. Refreshment Break

3:30–5:00 p.m. Plenary Session IV

- Resolutions Dialogue
- National Voluntary Fund Presentations

5:00–5:15 p.m. Commissioning of Life Members

6:30–10:00 p.m. Acadian Kitchen Party (ticket required)

Tuesday, August 11

9:00–10:10 a.m. Mass

10:00–10:30 a.m. Refreshment Break

10:30–11:45 a.m. Plenary Session V

- *Pilgrims of Hope Pilgrimage*, Most Rev. Alan Campeau
- *Ignited to Lead: Women of Faith Stepping Bold into the Age of AI*, Giancarlo Brotto

Tuesday, August 11 (continued)

11:45–noon Memorial Service for Deceased Members

Noon–1:30 p.m. Life Members’ Luncheon (ticket required)

Noon–1:30 p.m. Spiritual Advisors’ Luncheon (ticket required)

1:30–1:45 p.m. Reconvening Prayer

1:45–2:45 p.m. Breakout Sessions

- *Faith: The Heart of Mercy and the Gifts of Grace*
- *Service: Heart Within a Heart*
- *Social Justice: The Wise Women Builds: Transforming Division into Unity*

2:45–3:15 p.m. Refreshment Break

3:15–4:15 p.m. Repeat Breakout Sessions

6:30 p.m. Provincial Dinners (see provinces on site for locations and times)

Wednesday, August 12

8:30–9:30 a.m. Living Rosary

9:30–10:00 a.m. Refreshment Break

10:00–noon Annual Meeting of Members

- Call to order
- Introductions
- Credentials report
- Adoption of Standing Rules
- National President’s Report
- National Spiritual Advisor’s Report
- National Secretary-Treasurer’s Report
- Presentation of Resolutions

Noon–1:30 p.m. Honorary Life Members Luncheon (by invitation only)

1:45–2:00 p.m. Reconvening Prayer

2:00–3:30 p.m. Annual Meeting of Members

- Presentation by 2027 convention committee
- WUCWO Report
- Catholic Women’s Leadership Foundation
- Presentation by St. Vincent de Paul National Housing Committee
- Registration Report
- Adjournment

5:00–6:30 p.m. Closing Eucharistic Celebration, St. Mary’s Cathedral Basilica (bus ticket required – buses board at 4:00 p.m.)

6:30–7:00 p.m. Pre-Banquet Reception (by invitation only)

7:00–10:00 p.m. Gala Banquet (ticket required)

Thursday, August 13

9:00–10:00 a.m. Post-convention Mass (open to all)

10:00–2:00 p.m. Peggy’s Cove Tour (ticket required)

The 106th Annual National Convention of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

SPEAKERS



Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Cory Labrecque, PhD, associate professor of bioethics and theological ethics, vice-dean and director of graduate programs (theology) at University of Laval (Quebec City).

Date and Time: Monday, August 10th at 10:30 a.m.

Title of Presentation: *Stay Awake with Me: Dignity, Vulnerability, and Presence in a Broken World*

Synopsis: Explore the ministry of presence, especially in the shadow of Canada's loneliness epidemic. This is deeply connected to the enduring commitment of League members to be instruments of God's love and light in the darkness of a world that is yearning.



Keynote Speaker:

Giancarlo Brotto, founder and CEO of Pave Edu, Inc., global education strategist and public speaker.

Date and Time: Tuesday, August 11th at 10:45 a.m.

Title of Presentation: *Ignited to Lead: Women of Faith Stepping Bold into the Age of AI*

Synopsis: Artificial intelligence (AI) is not coming—it is already here. It is in our homes, workplaces, children's classrooms and communities. The question is no longer whether it will shape our world. The question is: who will help shape it?

Women of faith are not called to step back from this moment—they are called to step boldly into it. This is your invitation to move from uncertainty to understanding, and from the sidelines to the frontlines of one of the most defining conversations of our time. You will walk away with a clear understanding of AI and how it already impacts your everyday life, the knowledge and skills to not just survive but lead in an AI-driven world, and practical, faith-grounded strategies for making wise decisions about technology at home, work and in your community. We will challenge common myths about AI, engage honestly with its ethical risks, and draw on the Vatican's powerful guidance on ensuring AI serves human dignity, the common good and Catholic values.



Speakers continued on next page

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

These sessions will be offered on Tuesday, August 11th at 1:45 p.m. and again at 3:15 p.m.

(Continued)

Title of Presentation: Faith: *The Heart of Mercy and Gifts of Grace*

Facilitators: National Chairperson of Faith Karen Rossiter, provincial presidents Lea Colbeck (Manitoba), Karen McDonald (Ontario) and Helen Pellerin (Quebec) and past president Lucille Rossington (Manitoba).

Synopsis: An interactive spiritual session focused on integrating the compassionate love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus with the transformative power of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. In a world often marked by indifference and coldness, this workshop invites participants to enter into the Sacred Heart of Jesus—the ultimate symbol of God’s mercy—and to live from it. By pairing the compassionate love of Jesus with the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, attendees will explore how to use those gifts and transition from simply knowing about them to living a life empowered by divine, natural grace. This session will integrate faith and action by exploring participants’ own charisms within the seven gifts and learning to apply them to produce fruits of the spirit.

Title of Presentation: Service: *Heart Within a Heart*

Facilitators: National Chairperson of Service Madonna Clark, provincial presidents Teena Cyr (Military Ordinariate), Rhona Hynes (Newfoundland and Labrador) and Sandra O’Connell (Nova Scotia) and past president Anna Bawer-Di Lallo (Quebec).

Synopsis: A service-centred workshop inviting you to pause, reflect and discover the quiet places where hope and loneliness meet—in the world and in yourself. Inspired by the national theme, *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission*, and the theme focus, *Blessed Are the Poor*, it draws you into the tender love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, whose compassion reaches especially to the poor, the marginalized and the forgotten. Through prayer, reflection, sharing and intentional planning, participants will hopefully commit to a meaningful act of service, putting their faith into action and helping build a community of love, belonging and compassion—truly a heart within a heart.

Title of Presentation: Social Justice: *The Wise Women Builds: Transforming Division into Unity*

Facilitators: National Chairperson of Social Justice Jessie Parkinson, provincial presidents Cheryl Boom (Prince Edward Island), Leslie Carr (New Brunswick) and Christa Grillmair (B.C. & Yukon) and past president Betsy Fletcher (Alberta Mackenzie)

Synopsis: Join us for an interactive workshop on conflict transformation. The wise woman builds relationships and transforms conflict through wisdom, care and intentionality. This approach relies on patience, respectful communication and prayer rather than ego and contention. Using the steps outlined in *The Little Book of Conflict Transformation: Clear Articulation of the Guiding Principles by a Pioneer in the Field*, by author and leading expert John Paul Lederach, we will explore the concept of transforming conflict into an instrument for change rather than simply putting a band-aid over the conflict.



Promo Code for Air Canada: C6TGTXQ1

Discount Details:

5% off Standard fares
10% off Flex fares and higher
12% off Business Class
(Exception: 5% on the lowest Business Class)

Booking Information:

Destination: Halifax, Nova Scotia (YHZ)

Eligible Travel Dates: August 1–20, 2026
Enter promo code before checkout to apply the discount.

Discounts apply to new bookings only.
Seats are subject to availability.

106th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

August 9–12, 2026

Halifax Convention Centre • 1650 Argyle Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia

REGISTRATION FORM

**PLEASE COMPLETE ONE FORM PER PERSON. SPECIAL EVENTS GUESTS MUST REGISTER INDIVIDUALLY.
INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JULY 15, 2026. REFUNDS ARE NOT GUARANTEED AFTER JULY 15, 2026.

Name (please print): _____

Address: _____ City/Town: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Diocese: _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Telephone: _____ Alt. _____

Dietary Needs: If you are attending events where meals are provided, please indicate if you have special dietary needs.

Dairy-free Diabetic Gluten-free Vegan Vegetarian

Other (specify): _____

Accessibility/Mobility Issues: _____

This is my first national convention: Yes No

I am attending the provincial dinner: Yes No

I am attending this convention as a: (Please select only ONE item in this section)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Resource person (speaker, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Voting delegate | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest at special event(s) only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial accredited delegate | <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibitor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diocesan accredited delegate | <input type="checkbox"/> Member of the hierarchy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honorary life member | <input type="checkbox"/> National spiritual advisor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life member | <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial spiritual advisor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Military Ordinariate member | <input type="checkbox"/> Diocesan spiritual advisor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Parish spiritual advisor |

Registration Fees

	<u>Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Monday, August 10	\$ 75.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday, August 11	\$ 75.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, August 12	\$ 75.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> All three days (<i>registration fee waived for honorary life members</i>)	\$ 175.00	_____

Registration Subtotal: _____

Please note that you are responsible for your own transportation to the Halifax Convention Centre.

The convention is a scent-free environment.

Questions? Feel free to email natnlcwlconv2026@gmail.com

106th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

August 9–12, 2026

Halifax Convention Centre • 1650 Argyle Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia

SPECIAL EVENTS

Date	Time	Description	Price	Total
Saturday, August 8	6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Harbour Cruise (Limited to 180 people) With food and entertainment! (Buses leave the Halifax Convention Centre at 5:30 p.m.)	\$ 110.00	
Sunday, August 9	11:00 a.m. –12:30 p.m.	Walking Tour	\$ 35.00	
Monday, August 10	6:30 p.m.	Acadian Kitchen Party (Check one)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Lobster Dinner	\$ 110.00	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Taste of Nova Scotia Buffet	\$ 90.00	
Tuesday, August 11	12:00 p.m.	Life Members' Luncheon (For life members only)	\$ 70.00	
	12:00 p.m.	Spiritual Advisors' Luncheon (For spiritual advisors and bishops only)	\$ 70.00	
	1:45 – 2:45 p.m.	Break Out Sessions – Select One (Check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Faith: <i>The Heart of Mercy and the Gifts of Grace</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Service: <i>Heart Within a Heart</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Social Justice: <i>The Wise Women Builds: Transforming Division into Unity</i>		
	3:15 – 4:15 p.m.	Break Out Sessions – Select One (Check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Faith: <i>The Heart of Mercy and the Gifts of Grace</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Service: <i>Heart Within a Heart</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Social Justice: <i>The Wise Women Builds: Transforming Division into Unity</i>		
Wednesday, August 12	7:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Gala Banquet	\$ 110.00	
Thursday, August 13	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Peggy's Cove Tour (Lunch on own)	\$ 90.00	

Special Events Subtotal: \$ _____

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OTHER OFFERINGS

Transportation Tickets

Select your Transportation Tickets

	<u>Price</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Opening Eucharistic Celebration Transportation (Sunday, August 9) <i>Buses start boarding at the Halifax Convention Centre at 6:00 p.m.</i>	\$ 14.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Closing Eucharistic Celebration Transportation (Wednesday, August 12) <i>Buses start boarding at the Halifax Convention Centre at 4:00 p.m.</i>	\$ 14.00	_____
Transportation Subtotal:		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> I require accessible transportation		
<input type="checkbox"/> To the Opening and Closing Eucharistic Celebrations		
<input type="checkbox"/> To the waterfront for the Harbour Cruise		

Pre-purchased Refreshments (must have applicable business session tickets)

Select your Refreshments Tickets

	<u>Price</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Monday coffee/tea and bakery items	\$ 10.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday coffee/tea and bakery items	\$ 10.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday coffee/tea and bakery items	\$ 10.00	_____
Refreshments Subtotal:		_____

Convention Fee Total:

Registration: _____

Special Events: _____

Transportation: _____

Refreshments: _____

Total Owing: \$ _____

For national office use only:

Cheque # _____ Amount Paid (\$): _____ Registration #: _____

Register online at cwl.ca or complete form and mail to: CWL National Office, C-702 Scotland Ave. Winnipeg, MB R3M 1X5
Please make cheques payable to The Catholic Women's League of Canada. The cancelled cheque will be your receipt.

Faith: Renewal For The Whole Church

Karen Rossiter

National Chairperson of Faith



Pope Leo XIV is calling for a “reform, renew and simplify” approach to church life. He is asking for a focus on overcoming self-reflexivity, enhancing communion with the poor and accelerating missionary outreach. He highlights the importance of building up priestly fraternity, encouraging structural transparency and navigating modernity without losing core doctrinal identity.

In his apostolic letter, “A Fidelity that Generates the Future,” the Holy Father speaks of fidelity in “times of trial and temptation,” reminding Catholics that it is “strengthened when we... remember the sound of the voice of the Lord who loves, chooses and calls us,” and by seeking the accompaniment of those experienced in the spiritual life.

We are in a time of crisis, the pope says, caused by abuses committed by members of the clergy. This “crisis of trust in the Church” has hardened some and filled them with shame. It “has called us to humility... [and an] urgent need for a comprehensive formation,” that can foster human maturity along with a “rich and solid spiritual life.”

Clergy today face many pressures and demands, not just looking after one parish but often a pastoral unit of two, three or more. As laypeople, we are here for the clergy but often wait for them to ask for help rather than reach out. They need our support and assistance. The Holy Father strongly suggests continued support for them, who, in turn, find freedom and relief in recognizing the gifts of laypeople through collaborative efforts working together toward a common goal. He says, “The ministry of the priest must move beyond the model of exclusive leadership, which leads to the centralization of pastoral activities and the burden of all responsibilities entrusted to him alone.”

Priests are facing new challenges related to “modern mobility and the fragmentation of society.” They find themselves more exposed to loneliness, which can lead to withdrawal and a sense of no longer being part of a unified, trusting community that historically supported their ministry. Their identity is linked to a mission that today faces significant temptations: an efficiency-driven mindset and a neutrality that moves away from evangelization. It is important not to move away from evangelization and bring the word of God back into our lives.

Synodality is particularly close to Pope Leo’s heart. He speaks about a more harmonious pattern of leadership, one

that is cooperative among its priests, deacons and the whole people of God. This style of leadership would see all aspects of the church working together to promote spiritual growth and enable a mutual enhancement of the fruits of all the charisms of the whole church, the same fruits which have been bestowed upon us by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Father wishes that all local churches focus on a renewed commitment that may lead to establishing and encouraging the potential shaping of community life, “in order to enable priests to find mutual help in cultivating the intellectual and spiritual life, to promote better cooperation among them in the ministry, to safeguard them from possible dangers arising from loneliness.” This is a responsibility for us all. We are all one community, and our mission is to work together toward the evangelization of Jesus’ message.

In his conclusion, Pope Leo asks us to focus on vocations that require both prayer and renewed pastoral creativity within our churches and communities. He is asking us to go forth to peripheries and bring the gospel to a world facing indifference and materialism, reminding us that continuing to serve the poor is a hallmark of faith and a path to holiness.

May we come together with the clergy and the help of the Holy Spirit, to grow in faith, love and community through the League’s pillars of faith, service and social justice, thus manifesting the mission of promoting Christian values in family and society, focusing on spiritual development, social justice and advocating for human dignity, life and religious freedom. †



When Called to Serve: Igniting Our Passion For His Mission

Janette Rieger

Life Member, National Service Subcommittee Member



In September 2025, I was at home one day, thinking about League initiatives that could be undertaken with my parish council or the Regina Diocesan Council in my position as past president. I had attended the national convention in Toronto in August and was still pondering the guest speakers, breakout sessions, Masses and liturgies, business sessions and, of course, the many conversations I enjoyed there. I was honoured to have been installed as a life member at that convention, following many wonderful women and knowing I would have big shoes to fill. When one's name is put forward as a life member, she agrees to continue working "For God and Canada" through the League. I agreed to continue contributing when I was nominated, but I honestly thought I would only be asked to commit to projects in my diocese or province.

I was quite surprised that day to receive a telephone call from National Chairperson of Service Madonna Clark, asking me to serve on the national service subcommittee. She explained the duties and activities that might be expected. Then she said something very interesting. She said that when she was provincial president (New Brunswick), she always encouraged members to let their names stand for a position on a higher-level council. Madonna felt it would have been hypocritical of her not to let her name stand for a position at the national level, when she had always encouraged other members to let their names stand for election at a higher level.

As she was saying this to me, I recalled a time when I was asked to create and present a workshop at a provincial convention. I had recently finished creating the (#630) *Joy of Leadership*, along with some wonderful members of one of the League's strategic planning working groups. When I created the workshop, I suggested that councils could benefit from the (#621) *Welcome Program* by having members complete the Membership Information Form. I then merged that idea

with the *Joy of Leadership* by explaining how, when we know members' God-given gifts and interests, we can encourage them to serve the League using those same gifts and talents. I stressed that they may not immediately take an executive position on their parish council (or even diocesan or provincial councils) as chairperson of faith, service or social justice, but they could be encouraged to serve on a subcommittee. After a period of time on the subcommittee, they could be encouraged to take a position on an executive team.

So, just as Madonna said she thought it would be hypocritical to not let her name stand, I thought the same about myself. Here I am being asked to serve on a subcommittee—how can I say "no"?

So, what was my answer? It was, "Can you give me a bit of time?" I needed to make the decision with my full consent and not because I felt pressured or flattered to have been asked. I talked about it with my husband, prayed about it, and then I said "YES!"

Consider what you can do when you take a position on an executive council—you can ignite your passion! Is your passion the sharing of your faith, a yearning to serve others or are you a social justice advocate? Whatever your passion, don't let it sit dormant and idle, for that is not honouring God. When we choose to serve Christ through our passion, we empower His mission! God has given you your own specific gifts to use for His kingdom.

Sometimes it can be scary to do something new, but when we are asked to take a new position, we should consult our loved ones if need be, pray about it and then, as many members before us have previously said, add this prayer to our positive reply: "I will with God's help." And then, *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission!* †



For God and Canada

A Song of Social Justice: The Magnificat And Standing With The Marginalized



Mary Hunt

Life Member, National Social Justice Committee Member

“The Magnificat” invites and urges us to reflect on how it continues to inspire movements for social justice and peace in the world today, reminding Catholics that true worship involves both praise and a commitment to social justice.

The Catholic Women’s League of Canada has long understood social justice as a core expression of Catholic social teaching. The League’s work blends advocacy, education and action, always rooted in faith and the League’s work to uphold the dignity of all people.

Did You Know?

“The Magnificat” isn’t just a prayer of praise—it’s one of the most radical, world-changing prayers in all of scripture. Looked at closely, it reads less like a hymn and more like a declaration of God’s justice and mercy. It challenges worldly values and highlights God’s commitment to the poor and the oppressed.

As Sister Elizabeth Johnson said, “The Magnificat is a revolutionary song of salvation whose political, economic, and social dimensions cannot be blunted. People in need in every society hear a blessing in this canticle.

The battered woman, the single parent without resources, those without food on the table or without even a table, the homeless family, the young abandoned to their own devices,

the old who are discarded: all are encompassed in the hope Mary proclaims”.

“The Magnificat” was banned from being sung or read in India under British rule. In the 1980’s, its public use was reportedly discouraged or restricted in Guatemala, and after the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo—whose children

disappeared during the Dirty War (1976-1983)—placed the song’s words on posters throughout the capital plaza, the military junta of Argentina is said to have outlawed any public display of “The Magnificat.”

“The Magnificat” or “Mary’s Song of Praise” is about the power of God and ultimately, the powerlessness of humankind.

In light of this, “The Magnificat” is not merely a hymn of praise and personal joy; it is a bold declaration of God’s transformative justice—celebrating His mighty deeds in history, especially His care for the lowly and His judgment against the proud and powerful.

“Mary’s Song of Praise” invites members to join in this vision of social justice, to live lives marked by humility, mercy and active concern for the marginalized. It challenges us to embody

the values of the kingdom of God here and now as members of the League. †

“The Magnificat” (Mary’s Song of Praise),
Luke 1: 46-55

My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on
the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations
will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown the strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the
thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful
from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to
the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Serving Hope: A Teal Tea For Ovarian Cancer Awareness

Joan Jeffery

St. Mary of the Purification Parish Council,
Mount Forest

Service is at the heart of the League. Across the nation, members live out their faith through acts of service, compassion, generosity and care for others. Sometimes that service takes the form of advocacy or community outreach; other times, it is expressed through deeply personal efforts to support those facing hardship. In Mount Forest, Ontario, one League member's determination transformed her own difficult journey into a powerful act of service for others.

St. Mary of the Purification Church Hall in Mount Forest was transformed into a tea lovers paradise on May 10, 2025, as a result of League member Brenda Meyer's vision for a fundraiser for ovarian cancer, a cancer she had been living with since 2016.

Brenda first broached her idea with St. Mary of the Purification Parish Council (Mount Forest) at its annual Christmas party in December 2024. Those present were on board from the start, for we knew that when Brenda planned something, she left no stone unturned!

Teal is the awareness colour for ovarian cancer, and so Brenda planned a high tea event with a teal colour palette. She enlisted help mainly from dedicated family members and friends and relied on a few League members to assist in the kitchen with tea preparation.

After a delicious high tea, consisting of scones, a variety of fancy sandwiches and delicious sweets and treats, Brenda had two of her cancer care specialists speak about ovarian cancer—a cancer that affects roughly 3,000

Madonna Clark

National Chairperson of Service

Canadian women each year. Juravinski Cancer Centre oncologist Dr. Nidhi Kumar Tyagi and Dr. Alicia Tone, PhD, a scientific advisor with Ovarian Cancer Canada, spoke in clear and concise terms about the need for early detection of ovarian cancer, leaving the audience with knowledge and hope.

In turn, Brenda spoke from the heart about her long and challenging journey with the disease. She shared her strong faith-based optimism, full of hope for the future, as research and treatments gain momentum through knowledge at events such as this. The "Teal Fundraiser" exceeded her fundraising goal, with donations surpassing the \$21,000 mark!

Through her courage and generosity, Brenda demonstrated what the League's call to service, "For God and Canada," truly means. Even while facing her own illness, she chose to raise awareness, support research and bring her community together in hope. Her efforts not only raised significant funds but also reminded everyone present that service—offered with faith and compassion—can touch countless lives.

Brenda continued to be challenged by this cancer throughout the year, and sadly, her journey ended on December 29, 2025. Although Brenda's passing leaves a huge hole in the entire community of Mount Forest, she has left behind a special legacy of faith, hope and love.

Service is a call to action. Turn your passion into a cause. †



Brenda Meyer with her grandchildren, Cece and Max.

Introducing

Rhona Hynes

Newfoundland and Labrador
Provincial President



Rhona was born in rural Newfoundland and moved to St. John's to resume her studies. She worked for 24 years at the Health Sciences Centre and 16 years at Memorial University of Newfoundland as a food service manager.

Rhona met and married her husband in 1975 and moved to Mount Pearl. They have two adult daughters and two grand-puppies, Zoe and Bella.

Having retired 15 years ago, Rhona continues to actively serve in her parish, volunteering for numerous programs. She is an ambassador for the education program at The Rooms and an ambassador for tourism, where she greets travellers from cruise ships that arrive in the city. She enjoys golfing, cycling and reading, and was a volunteer for the 2025 Canada Summer Games.

Rhona has been a member of the League at Mary, Queen of the World Parish Council (Mount Pearl) for seven years. In 2023, Rhona was elected to the provincial council as secretary, and in October 2024, she became interim president. In May 2025, she was elected president of Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Council.

Rhona wishes to acknowledge the guidance and support from other League sisters who have played a significant role in her League journey. The League has enabled her to meet many wonderful women and learn more about the organization. As provincial president, her focus is on being present and available to all members and working with council presidents and members to keep the councils going strong. †

Cheryl Boom

Prince Edward Island
Provincial President



Cheryl is filled with gratitude, humility and a deep sense of responsibility as president of the Prince Edward Island Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada for the 2025–2027 term.

Born in Carol Lake, Newfoundland and Labrador, Cheryl enjoyed her childhood years in the North until she moved to Amherst, Nova Scotia, in 1975. In 1981, she moved to Edmonton, Alberta, for work and spent 39 years there, raising her family. In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, she moved to Kinkora with plans to retire on this beautiful island.

Cheryl and her husband Lewis attend St. Malachy's Parish. They have been married for 39 years and have two grown children, Stephanie and Brandon, as well as three grandsons: Isaac, Erik and Noah, who live in Edmonton.

A member for 27 years, Cheryl joined the League at St. John Bosco Parish because she had no family in Edmonton, wanted to make friends, belong to a sisterhood and give back to her community. She received the maple leaf service pin award in 2011.

Cheryl was elected parish president after being a member for only three years. After serving six years at the parish level, she was elected diocesan treasurer (Edmonton) and served 13 years before moving to Prince Edward Island.

In January 2025, Cheryl retired from Alberta Health Services after 18 years as an executive assistant. She now works part-time as an office manager for Catholic Health Alliance of Canada. She met her current boss at a provincial convention, where he was a guest speaker.

Looking ahead, Cheryl prays that the provincial council will be a source of light—encouraging new voices, nurturing friendships and creating space for all women to feel welcomed, seen, heard and empowered in Christ. †



**National Council
Regretfully Advises The
Passing of Life Members:**

Shirley Arnilotta
Sicamous, British
Columbia

Jessie Bousquet
Cornwall, Ontario

Beatrice Gross
Brandon, Manitoba

Introducing Necole Sommersell, Director of Administration



Necole Sommersell

Director of Administration

Hello members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. I am both pleased and honoured to join this legacy organization as the new director of administration. It is heartening to work with and for women of faith who are actively using their gifts to build a safer, stronger and more loving Canada.

My career is rooted in the not-for-profit realm, including work in academia, healthcare and community-based groups. A driving goal of mine is to help organizations use data and evidence to make informed decisions and operate more effectively. I also believe that collaboration and communication are two of the strongest assets we can build on, and that shared

purpose and working towards common goals are key to a sustainable organization.

As I continue to work in conjunction with the national office staff and the support of the national executive, I am eager to continue to build on the past while looking to the future. I am looking forward to taking this journey with all of you to continue the wonderful work of the League and to leverage the League's past and current to ensuring a strong future.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can at the upcoming national convention in Halifax. Please do come by and say 'hello.' †

Spotlight!



St. Boniface Diocesan Council — League members responded to Most Rev. Albert LeGatt's (St. Boniface) invitation, forming an honour guard with the Knights of Columbus at St. Boniface Cathedral for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



St. Anne's Parish Council, Trochu, Alberta — St. Anne's Parish Council held a service pin ceremony, beginning with Mass and followed by a luncheon. The event included a reading of the League Prayer and a history of the League. Service pins were presented to Pat Vasseur (60 years), Jean Frere (50 years), Ruth Zook (40 years), Simonne Frere (35 years) and Kay Frere (25 years).



Annunciation Parish Council, Edmonton, Alberta — Annunciation Parish Council launched a campaign to help build a new church for parishioners. League members showed up in an amazing way by holding a cash calendar raffle that raised \$4,477.72. It was a great success!



St. Mary's Cathedral Parish Council, Calgary, Alberta — St. Mary's Cathedral Parish Council hosted a record-breaking I'm Worth it Now (IWIN) assembly. IWIN is a not-for-profit organization that provides care backpacks to survivors of human trafficking entering support programs. Each backpack contains new items, including a change of clothes, toiletries, a handwritten card of encouragement and a bracelet. A matching bracelet is given to a volunteer prayer warrior to support the survivor through prayer. Led by Chairperson of Social Justice Christi Lange, the council donated 82 backpacks!

Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the following centenarians!

Emma Carrier

108 years old on January 25, 2026
St. Michael Parish Council
Leduc, Alberta

Maria Hermes

102 years old on November 17, 2025
St. Martin of Tours Parish Council
Terrace Bay, Ontario

Margaret (Peggy) Helm

100 years old on January 24, 2026
St. Luke Parish Council
Hamilton, Ontario

Mabel Finch

107 years old on December 27, 2025
St. Michael Parish Council
Waterloo, Ontario

Mary Shrubsall

102 years old on March 4, 2026
Annunciation Parish Council
Prince Rupert, British Columbia

Marie Phillips

100 years old on December 23, 2025
St. John Bosco Parish Council
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Margaret (Peg) Clemow

106 years old on February 28, 2026
Our Lady of Fatima Parish Council
Renfrew, Ontario

Ellen Conway

100 years old on June 30, 2025
St. John the Baptist Parish Council
New Glasgow, Nova Scotia

Mary Seifried

100 years old on December 22, 2025
St. Mary of the Purification Parish
Council
Mount Forest, Ontario

Mildred Smith

103 years old on December 23, 2025
St. Croix Parish Council
St. Stephen, New Brunswick

Jean Egan

100 years old on February 13, 2026
Holy Name of Mary Parish Council
St. Marys, Ontario

Yvonne Stewart

100 years old on January 10, 2026
Holy Family Parish Council
Amherst, Nova Scotia

Betty Gauthier

100 years old on November 14, 2025
Sacred Heart Parish Council
Strathmore, Alberta

Congratulations

Congratulations to councils celebrating anniversaries!

100 YEARS

St. Francis De Sales
Parish Council
High River, Alberta

95 YEARS

St. Ann Parish Council
Abbotsford, British Columbia

75 YEARS

Sacred Heart Parish Council
Red Deer, Alberta

St. Theresa Parish Council
Rosetown, Saskatchewan

85 YEARS

St. Michael Parish Council
Pincher Creek, Alberta

50 YEARS

St. Luke Parish Council
Hamilton, Ontario

WUCWO News

Barb Dowding

Regional Vice-President North America, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations
Honorary Life Member



For 116 years, the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO), a global network of Catholic women's organizations, has come together to fulfil its mission to promote the integral human development of women and their full and co-responsible participation in all aspects of ecclesial and social life, encouraging them to live out their Christian vocation and their commitment to the world.

WUCWO offers its members close collaboration with various Holy See agencies and facilitates cooperation with other Catholic organizations and Catholic-inspired non-governmental organizations. It gives voice to the most vulnerable women through the World Women's Observatory, its networks and other media and communications channels.

The hope is that the women in member organizations learn about, understand and value what WUCWO does, take advantage of the services it offers and enrich it. League members at all levels do well to keep up with international activities and participate in common activities such as planting a tree and turning devices off.

Each year, on May 13th, League members joyfully celebrate WUCWO Day. What a cause for celebration indeed! It is a moment to give thanks and reaffirm our commitment to evangelization and the integral development of women, promoting and defending life and the family, and fostering peace, dialogue, religious freedom, cultural diversity and synodality.

There is a new prayer service written specifically for this year called "Women of Faith: Bearers of Peace and Hope," inspired by Mónica Santamarina's newsletter on hope at the beginning of 2026.

Councils and members are encouraged to celebrate WUCWO Day in ways that best suit them, such as:

1. Following the prepared liturgy, individually or in groups

2. Organizing a special Mass, social meeting or event
3. To support the work of WUCWO for women globally, visit wucwo.org.
4. Participating in an online multilingual prayer (details to come).

Whether you celebrate on May 13th or on another suitable occasion, be sure to share the good news about WUCWO and its importance in the church and world.

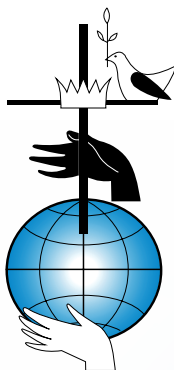
When parish council members see the immense value and commitment that WUCWO offers, they will be informed, edified and drawn to compassion for those among us who need help the most.

The WUCWO website (wucwo.org) is filled with amazing activities, information, workshops, events and more! The next WUCWO General Assembly will take place in Madrid, Spain, June 6–12, 2027.

As the synod's implementation stage continues to unfold, watch for more information and opportunities to participate in and learn more about WUCWO's School for Synodality and a new pilot project called National Missionaries of Synodality.

The emphasis is that everything lived, experienced and worked on during the synodal process and especially in the assembly, reaches all the people of God, particularly those members of the church who were not close to the synodal process. In doing so, the aim is to further contribute to the role of women in the church and to advance towards a synodal style church.

These projects focus on listening and giving visibility to the women who are in charge or are part of the team that coordinates the synodal process in a diocese, country or continent so they can express their experience and vision for the future. †



Magazine Deadlines

Fall issue

July 15, 2026

Winter issue

November 15, 2026

Spring issue

February 15, 2027



WHO DO I CONTACT?

Contact National Office For:

- Council anniversary requests
- Council news for posting to national social media
- Crest permission requests
- Development fund requests
- Forms
- Notification of deceased members
- Membership payments
- Membership records
- Orders of League supplies

For policy, programs, activities and all **other inquiries**, use the table below:

Person Inquiring	Person Who Responds
General and Associate Members	Parish President
Parish Executive Members	Diocesan Executive
Diocesan Executive Members	Provincial Executive
Provincial Executive Members	National Executive

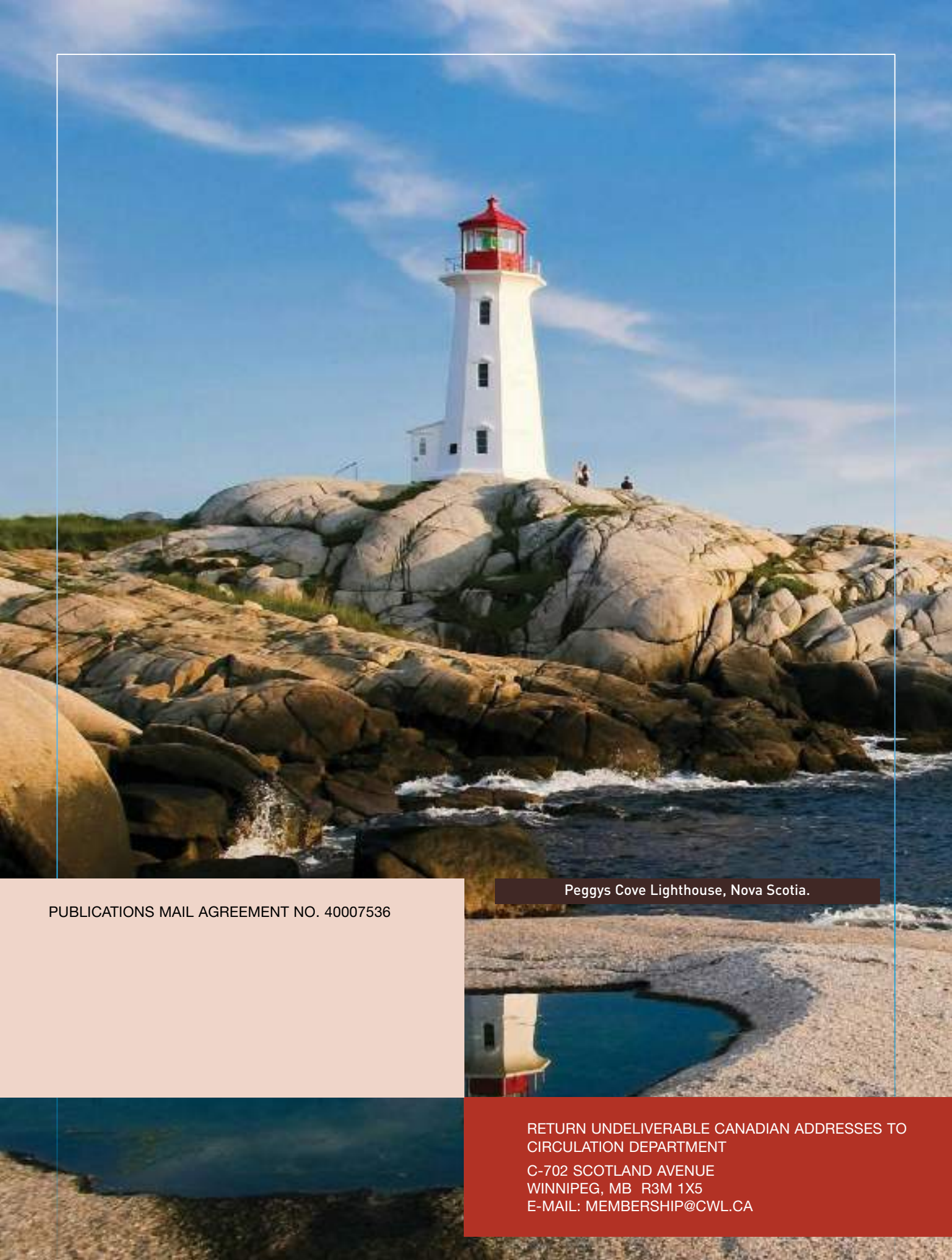
What if my question is about a national or provincial program or decision?

For matters of a national nature, members may inquire directly of the provincial president who represents them on the national executive. For matters of a provincial nature, members may inquire directly of the diocesan president who represents them on the provincial executive. For matters of a diocesan nature, members may inquire directly of the parish president who represents them on the diocesan executive. Contact information may be found at cwl.ca/contact/.

What if I am not satisfied with the response I receive?

1. Contact national office and request that the issue be escalated.
2. You will be asked to document the concern in writing and submit it to the office.
3. National office will forward the written document to both the original respondent as well as the respondent's more senior counterpart. (For example, if a parish executive member's question is referred to the diocesan executive, but the member is not satisfied with the response, both the diocesan and provincial president will be notified and asked to intervene.)
4. The respondent and her senior counterpart will examine the issue and respond directly to you.

All communications by members of the League and any member of the public with national office staff must be made with respect, kindness and consideration. Any communications that do not meet this standard will be returned to the person in question unaddressed or treated, along with this policy.



Peggys Cove Lighthouse, Nova Scotia.

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40007536

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO
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C-702 SCOTLAND AVENUE
WINNIPEG, MB R3M 1X5
E-MAIL: MEMBERSHIP@CWL.CA