



The Canadian League

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

OFFICERS

Spiritual Advisor: Most Rev. Gerard Bergie
Bishop of St. Catharines

President: Betty Colaneri

Vice-President: Glenda Carson

Secretary-Treasurer: Alice Noble

Past President: Shari Guinta

Faith: Karen Rossiter

Service: Madonna Clark

Social Justice: Jessie Parkinson

PRESIDENTS OF PROVINCIAL COUNCILS

Alberta Mackenzie: Jan Myhre

B.C. & Yukon: Christa Grillmair

Manitoba: Lea Colbeck

Military Ordinariate: Teena Cyr

New Brunswick: Leslie Carr

Newfoundland and Labrador: Rhona Hynes

Nova Scotia: Sandra O'Connell

Ontario: Karen McDonald

Prince Edward Island: Cheryl Boom

Quebec: Helen Pellerin

Saskatchewan: Donna Aldous

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Necole Sommersell
C-702 Scotland Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3M 1X5
Tel: (204) 927-2310
Email: info@cwlc.ca
Website: cwlc.ca

EDITORIAL BOARD

National Secretary-Treasurer:
Alice Noble

National President: Betty Colaneri

**Executive Director/Director of
Administration:** Necole Sommersell

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome New and Returning National Executive!	1
National President's Message	2
From The National Spiritual Advisor	4
<i>Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission:</i>	
Highlights from the 106 th Annual National Convention	5
106 th National Annual Meeting of Members Resolutions	9
Annual Disbursement of National Voluntary Funds	11
Congratulations to Councils Celebrating Anniversaries!	11
Updates from the National Officers	12
League Delegation Takes Grassroots Concerns to Parliament Hill	18
Introducing	19
Updates from the Provincial Presidents	20
Congratulations to 2026 Bursary Recipients!	29
2026 New Life Members	30
Happy Birthday!	34
Spotlight	35
Who Do I Contact?	37



Images courtesy of Maria O'Brien, The Unofficial Photographer

NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF DIRECTORY

Executive Director/Director of Administration:

Necole Sommersell director@cwlc.ca
(governance, strategy, policy) (204) 927-2313

Executive Secretary: Amanda McCormick..... communications@cwlc.ca
(magazine, recording/corresponding secretary, resolutions) (204) 927-2314

Senior Accounting Clerk: Valroy Anderson..... accounting@cwlc.ca
(orders, payables, per capita fees) (204) 927-2315

Membership Coordinator: Belinda Limqueko-Mag-uyon membership@cwlc.ca
(membership renewals, member records, years of service) (204) 927-2316

Social Media Assistant: Catherine C. digitalmedia@cwlc.ca
(website, social media)

Office Assistant:..... officeassistant@cwlc.ca
(archives, bursaries, council records, deceased records) (204) 927-2310

All other inquiries should be sent to info@cwlc.ca
for forwarding to the appropriate respondent. (204) 927-2310

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

Welcome New and Returning National Executive!



Back row, left to right:

Ontario Provincial President Karen McDonald
Quebec Provincial President Helen Pellerin
Manitoba Provincial President Lea Colbeck
Nova Scotia Provincial President Sandra O'Connell
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial President Jan Myhre
New Brunswick Provincial President Leslie Carr

Middle row, left to right:

Saskatchewan Provincial President Donna Aldous
National Chairperson of Service Madonna Clark
Prince Edward Island Provincial President Cheryl Boom

B.C. & Yukon Provincial President Christa Grillmair

Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial President Rhona Hynes

Front row, left to right:

National Spiritual Advisor Most Rev. Gerard Bergie (St. Catharines)
National Secretary-Treasurer Alice Noble
National Vice-President Glenda Carson
National President Betty Colaneri
National Chairperson of Social Justice Jessie Parkinson
National Past President Shari Guinta
Military Ordinariate Provincial President Teena Cyr
National Chairperson of Faith Karen Rossiter

President's Message

Betty Colaneri

National President



As I reflect on the past year as national president, my heart is filled with gratitude for each member's steadfast faith and the countless acts of love that continue to shape communities from coast to coast. So many moments reveal God's hand guiding us through challenges and opportunities and working through the generous hearts of members.

Guided by the national theme, *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission*, the League has embraced opportunities to strengthen the organization, foster meaningful connections and advance initiatives that support the spiritual growth and well-being of members. While challenges have arisen, they have also provided opportunities for growth, innovation and collaboration, reminding us that with faith and perseverance, great things can be accomplished. Together, members continue to build on the strong foundation laid by those who came before while preparing the way for future generations of Catholic women leaders.

The League's foundation is not simply historical—it is living and breathing. It is present in parish halls where meetings begin in prayer, in hospital rooms where members sit beside those who are ill and in efforts to support refugees, feed the hungry, comfort the grieving and advocate for dignity and justice. It is present in community outreach, advocacy and the unseen sacrifices made daily by women who serve with humility and

devotion. Each creates a spark that helps keep the League's flame burning brightly across Canada.

Passion is more than enthusiasm; it is faith in action. This has been a Road to Emmaus journey for members—a journey of faith, sisterhood and purpose. These stories rarely make headlines, yet they are the very heartbeat of the organization.

One of the greatest joys of serving as national president is being invited to attend conventions. I was blessed to attend three diocesan and six provincial conventions and would have loved to attend them all! At each, I met incredible women who have achieved so much through their careers, families, parishes and communities.



The much-anticipated national convention was certainly a highlight of the year. Those who were able to join us in Halifax, Nova Scotia, will surely agree it was wonderful! Members unable to attend in person could join via livestream. Sunday began with something new: a “Meet and Greet,” giving members an opportunity to meet the national executive and interact in a casual setting. It was a joy to see the excitement of members reunited. For some, it was a yearly reunion; for others, an opportunity to experience the joy of sisterhood for the first time. There were smiles, hugs and an abundance of contagious joy.

The convention also featured incredible speakers, including the inspiring presentations by Dr. Cory Andrew Labrecque and Most Rev. Alan Campeau (Thunder Bay), as well as an innovative presentation by Giancarlo Brotto, CEO of Pave Edu, Inc.



It was an awesome sight on Tuesday as members dressed in red, orange, yellow and white for Theme Day. On Wednesday, members participated in a living rosary. Hearing prayer offered in 13 different languages and seeing members form a heart around the room was moving. It was a beautiful reminder that at the heart of everything the League does is relationship—relationship with God and with one another.

The strength of our sisterhood is one of the League's greatest treasures. In times of joy, we celebrate together; in times of sorrow, we carry one another in prayer; in times of uncertainty, we stand united. It is a bond that stands the test of time, with hearts joined across Canada!

May we continue to be women who lead with heart, listen deeply, serve generously and walk faithfully together. With a strong connection, vibrant sisterhood and work united in purpose, let us continue to ignite our passion to empower His mission. Together, let us ensure the League continues to shine as a beacon of faith, service, social justice and hope for generations to come.



As the League moves forward, may the Holy Spirit continue to inspire us, with passion ignited by faith and empowered to carry out His mission with courage, conviction and joy. It is an honour to walk this journey with you.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus abundantly bless each of you as our passion continues, with hearts joined and committed to the mission entrusted to us. †



For God and Canada

From The National Spiritual Advisor

Most Rev. Gerard Paul Bergie, Bishop of St. Catharines

National Spiritual Advisor



A pastor was preparing for a Sunday parish barbecue. He purchased more than 100 frozen hamburgers for the event and placed them in the rectory freezer. On the morning of the barbecue, he walked by the freezer and noticed a trouble light flashing. He did not have time to check the freezer because he was running late for Mass. In the sacristy, he asked one of the ushers to check on the freezer. When Mass was over, the usher came to the priest and said, unfortunately, the freezer was not working. The priest then asked, "How are the hamburgers?" The usher responded, "Father, many are cold, but few are frozen."

Jesus tells us, "Many are called, but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14). As League members, you have also been called to be part of an incredible group of women who serve God, the church and the country with faith, hope and love.

Some were chosen to be part of an incredible event in Halifax. The 106th Annual National Convention of The Catholic Women's League of Canada took place August 9–12 at the Halifax Convention Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia. More than 400 members and guests gathered for these eventful days. They experienced inspirational talks, meaningful workshops, prayerful liturgies, great hospitality and plenty of fun and friendship. They also worked to adopt significant resolutions and made important decisions in support of the League's mission.

As national spiritual advisor, it was a true honour and

privilege to be part of this wonderful event with other spiritual advisors from across Canada. I could not help but feel inspired by what I saw and experienced prior to, during and after the convention.

During the beautiful Closing Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica, in the gospel of the Mass, Jesus stated, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20). Upon reflection, I realized many more than just two or three had gathered over the course of the convention, and I was able to see the Lord in action. I experienced the joy of being in the presence of the Lord found in each woman. This certainly fits with the theme, *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission.* I witnessed many women living His mission with great passion and love. Gathered together, they empowered each other with hope and the joy of belonging.



To be called and chosen is a great grace the League offers women from across our great nation. To be called to membership and then chosen to use unique gifts and talents for the good of others is a powerful way to ignite passion and faith.

At next year's national convention, let us hope many will

heed the call and even more will be chosen to come to Winnipeg. Let us not forget, "Many are called, but few are chosen." †

Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission:

Highlights from the 106th Annual National Convention

Nelly Kelders
Guest Journalist



In 2016, I decided to attend The Catholic Women's League of Canada's national convention in Halifax, Nova Scotia. At the time, I was the chairperson of education on my parish council. I had attended a few diocesan conventions but had never been to a provincial or national convention. I had also never been to Nova Scotia, so it seemed like the perfect opportunity to visit a new province.

The national convention intrigued me for another reason. In 2016, the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO) was holding its North American meeting in Halifax the day before the convention, and I wanted to learn more about it. I arrived with my travelling companion, Dorothy. We knew no one and were not sure what to expect. We knew there would be a cruise, guest speakers, a gala dinner and excursions.

By the end of those five days, I was hooked. The Masses, guest speakers, business of the League and fellowship were more than I had imagined. I returned home enlightened and inspired.

Fast forward to 2026. The 106th national convention was once again being held in Halifax. There was no

doubt in my mind I was going. Over the past 10 years, I had attended national and provincial conventions and served on provincial and national committees. When I arrived at the hotel, it felt like a homecoming as sisters from across Canada greeted me. What a difference a decade and involvement in the League can make!

Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission, the national theme, was evident throughout five days of faith, learning, service and sisterhood.

Faith at the Heart of the Convention

Faith was at the heart of the convention. Members were truly blessed to celebrate their Catholic faith with joy. Homilies offered by four bishops connected beautifully with the theme and the League's pillars of faith, service and social justice.

The opening ceremonies took place at St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica, where His Excellency Most Rev. Brian Joseph Dunn (Halifax-Yarmouth) welcomed more than 400 delegates to Halifax. In his homily, Archbishop Dunn reminded members and guests to recognize God's presence, find Him in the silence and





National President
Betty Colaneri



Honorary Life Members



trust He is present even during stormy seas. The cathedral resounded with voices raised in song and prayer.

On Monday, His Excellency Most Rev. Wayne Kirkpatrick (Antigonish) encouraged members to ignite their passion to serve the poor. Life can bring hardships and unfulfilled dreams, but with faith and hope, it can still bear much fruit. He encouraged members to remain open to the Holy Spirit and use the gifts they have been given.

Tuesday was the Memorial of St. Clare, foundress of the Poor Clares. His Excellency Most Rev. Alan Campeau (Thunder Bay) reflected on St. Clare, who was ahead of her time as a role model for women. He encouraged attendees to ask for her help in thought, faith, prayer and service to those in need.

Archbishop Dunn was the celebrant for the closing Mass. National Spiritual Advisor His Excellency Most Rev. Gerard Bergie (St. Catharines) gave the homily. Bishop Bergie reflected on St. Jane Frances de Chantal and her work with the poor. He also spoke about the sisterhood evident throughout the convention. Before the final blessing, the national officers came forward for a reaffirmation ceremony, pledging to continue serving their sisters, God and Canada.

Other meaningful moments of prayer included the commissioning of new life members and a remembrance of deceased sisters and spiritual advisors. A living rosary, prayed in 13 languages, celebrated the League's cultural diversity. As each prayer was led, a candle was lit until the convention hall glowed in a red heart, reminding members of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Learning and Growing

Guest speakers challenged members to consider how they live their faith in today's world.

Quebec Provincial Spiritual Advisor Dr. Cory Andrew Labrecque spoke about dignity, vulnerability and presence in a broken world. One message resonated with members: words matter. Words carry meaning and can affect people differently. He explained vulnerability touches

everyone and the wounds carried by others often remain unseen. Sometimes, a person's presence is all someone needs.

Bishop Campeau spoke about the 2025 Pilgrims of Hope pilgrimage to Rome. He explained a pilgrimage is not simply a tour—it is an opportunity to step away from ordinary life, discover something new within oneself and draw closer to God through prayer, silence and reflection.

On Wednesday, Giancarlo Brotto, CEO of Pave Edu, Inc., introduced members to the opportunities and challenges of artificial intelligence (AI). His presentation demonstrated how quickly AI is evolving and the responsibility Catholic women have to consider its safe and ethical use. It also raised an interesting question: Could social justice play a role in future discussions and resolutions about AI?

Workshops led by national chairpersons and provincial presidents gave sisters an opportunity to discuss and share ideas on faith, service and social justice. These conversations provided valuable opportunities to draw on the wisdom and experience of members nationwide.

The Business of the League

The annual meeting of members gave delegates an opportunity to learn about the work of the national executive. National President Betty Colaneri expressed gratitude to the membership and highlighted several initiatives, including the hiring of a new director of administration, the work of a task force examining League operations, meetings with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and participation in provincial and diocesan conventions.

Bishop Bergie shared observations from the spiritual advisors' luncheon. Advisors recognized the League's value in their parishes while acknowledging challenges facing both the League and the church, including an ageing population. They encouraged members to mentor younger women, demonstrate the joy of belonging to a community of women of faith and be bridge builders who welcome all women.



National Secretary-Treasurer Alice Noble highlighted her work supporting the League's communications and publications. She also reported on the League's financial position and stewardship of members' funds, including an explanation of the League's investment portfolio. Alice emphasized members' concerns remain at the heart of the national board's financial decisions.

Five resolutions were presented and adopted, addressing tethered bottle caps, attacks on places of worship, advance requests for medical assistance in dying, disability housing and a national guaranteed basic income framework. Congratulations and thanks were extended to the councils that originally submitted the resolutions and all those who continue to pursue important areas of social justice.

Honorary Life Member and WUCWO Regional Vice-President Barb Dowding provided an update on WUCWO and its work with approximately eight million Catholic women in 50 countries. The next WUCWO General Assembly will take place in Spain in June 2027.

Sisterhood and Celebration

Although the agenda was full, there was plenty of time for friendship and fun. A Halifax Harbour Cruise and a Walking Tour gave members an opportunity to enjoy the city. A "Meet and Greet" allowed League sisters to meet the national executive, and officers and provincial councils to showcase their projects. There was no shortage of conversation as old friendships were renewed and new ones began.

Monday evening brought a true taste of Nova Scotia at the Kitchen Party. After a delicious dinner featuring lobster, fish and other local favourites, young dancers performed traditional Acadian dances before members took to the dance floor. Others joined the music by playing spoons. The energy in the room proved once again there is no shortage of enthusiasm among members.

Ignite the Passion

Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission is more than a theme. It is an invitation to take what was experienced in Halifax and carry it home—to parish councils, dioceses, communities and members' daily lives. Theme Day brought even more colour and excitement. Red, yellow, orange and white filled the convention hall, creating an atmosphere of joy and celebration. Attendees received ribbon wands as a reminder to show their passion and live the national theme.

For those not quite ready to leave Halifax, Thursday offered a final trip to Peggy's Cove. Despite the cloudy weather, spirits remained bright. Participants photographed the famous lighthouse, admired the landscape, explored the shops and enjoyed one last taste of fresh Nova Scotia seafood.

And so, the 106th annual national convention came to an end.

Thank you to the wonderful Nova Scotia hosts for making the convention such a memorable experience. Thank you to the national executive, speakers, bishops, volunteers and, most of all, the League sisters who made the convention what it was.

I left Halifax with a heart full of joy, a head full of ideas, a soul refreshed and a renewed desire to continue the journey. Looking back to that first convention in 2016, I realize how much the League has given me. What began as an opportunity to visit Nova Scotia became a journey of faith, service, learning and friendship.

Ten years later, I returned to Halifax and found the greatest gift was not the destination, the speakers, the activities or even the beautiful setting. It was the sisterhood.

We are women of faith called to serve. We are women with gifts, ideas and experiences to share—women who can welcome others, mentor younger women, advocate for those in need and continue the work of social justice.

I am already looking forward to Winnipeg in August 2027. Will you join me?



106th National Annual Meeting of Members

RESOLUTIONS

2026.01 Amend Federal Plastic Regulations to Require Tethered Bottle Caps on Single-use Beverage Containers

Resolved, that national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 106th national annual meeting of members assembled urges the federal government to amend regulations under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*, including the *Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations 2022*, to require tethered bottle caps on single-use beverage containers.

Action Plan

1. Communicate with members of parliament, the minister of environment, climate change and nature and the minister of health, urging support for regulations under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act 2022* requiring tethered caps on single-use beverage containers. Refer to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* for options, including letter-writing, petitions and postcards.
2. Raise awareness within councils and communities about the impact of plastic pollution and the environmental benefits of tethered bottle caps.
3. Support and engage with environmental organizations (e.g., *Laudato Si'* Movement, Development and Peace—Caritas Canada, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society) that advocate for stronger plastic reduction policies in Canada.
4. Promote education and action within parishes and youth groups by encouraging the reduction of single-use plastics and participation in local environmental initiatives such as community clean-ups.
5. Monitor the federal government's response.

2026.02 Apply Existing Terrorism Laws When Prosecuting Arson Attacks on Places of Worship

Resolved, that national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 106th national annual meeting of members assembled urges the federal government to encourage the application of existing terrorism laws when arson attacks on places of worship are prosecuted.

Action Plan

1. Communicate with the prime minister and the minister of public safety urging the federal government to encourage application of existing terrorism laws when prosecuting arson of places of worship. Refer to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* for options, including letter-writing, petitions and postcards.
2. Educate members on the increase in the number of places of worship, including churches, synagogues and mosques, being deliberately burned in Canada and hold discussions on why this may be happening.
3. Monitor the federal government's response.

2026.03 Exclude Advance Requests for Medical Assistance in Dying

Resolved, that national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 106th national annual meeting of members assembled opposes all forms of medical assistance in dying and urges the federal government to exclude advance requests for medical assistance in dying (MAiD).

Action Plan

1. Communicate with the prime minister, the minister of health and local members of parliament (MPs), asking the government to exclude advance requests for medical assistance in dying (MAiD) and to provide solid support and appropriate funding for palliative care and caregivers. Refer to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* for options, including letter-writing, petitions and postcards.
2. Encourage members to support palliative care, hospices and organizations such as Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and Campaign Life.
3. Promote discussions and develop educational workshops, webinars and informational materials.
4. Monitor the federal government's response.

2026.04 Implementation of the Disability Housing Recommendations of the Canadian Human Rights Commission

Resolved, that national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 106th national annual meeting of members assembled urges the federal government to implement the disability housing recommendations of the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

Action Plan

1. Communicate with the minister of jobs and families and the minister of housing and infrastructure urging the federal government to implement the recommendations of the Canadian Human Rights Commission through a national disability framework. Refer to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* for options, including letter-writing, petitions and postcards.
2. Communicate with the minister of jobs and families and the minister of housing and infrastructure requesting an increase in the percentage of barrier free new builds and accessibility-related home adaptations under the *Build Canada Homes Act*. Refer to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*.
3. Encourage discussion and presentations related to affordable and accessible housing for Canadians living with a disability.
4. Monitor the federal government and the Office of the Federal Housing Advocate's responses.

2026.05 The Federal Government to Implement a National Guaranteed Basic Income Framework

Resolved, that national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 106th national annual meeting of members assembled urges the federal government to implement a national guaranteed basic income framework.

Action Plan

1. Communicate with the minister of finance and local members of parliament (MPs) encouraging them to advocate for a national guaranteed basic income framework. Refer to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* for options, including letter-writing, petitions and postcards.
2. Use strategies to educate members on the benefits of guaranteed basic income in the elimination of poverty in Canada, such as poverty simulation exercises.
3. Encourage discussion and presentations to members related to guaranteed basic income.
4. Monitor the federal government's response.





ANNUAL DISBURSEMENT OF NATIONAL VOLUNTARY FUNDS

The national voluntary funds are monies forwarded by councils to national office for annual disbursement to the appropriate organizations. Contributions received from July 1st to June 30th each year are totalled, including earned interest, and announced at the national annual meeting of members.

The 2025–2026 collection amounts for these funds are as follows:

Catholic Missions In Canada	\$35,206.56
Catholic Near East Welfare Association	\$16,531.30
Coady International Institute	\$18,537.84
Development and Peace—Caritas Canada	\$30,896.58

CONGRATULATIONS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO COUNCILS CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES!

105 YEARS

Our Lady of Mercy
Parish Council
Sarnia, Ontario

Pro-Cathedral of the
Assumption Parish Council
North Bay, Ontario

St. Francis Xavier
Parish Council
Camrose, Alberta

100 YEARS

Holy Cross Parish Council
Fort Macleod, Alberta

Our Lady of the Holy
Rosary Parish Council
Thorold, Ontario

95 YEARS

Little Flower
Parish Council
Regina, Saskatchewan

St. Michael's Parish
Council
Bengough, Saskatchewan

85 YEARS

Swift Current CWL
#942 Parish Council
Swift Current,
Saskatchewan

80 YEARS

Immaculate Conception
Parish Council
Delta, British Columbia

75 YEARS

Holy Cross Parish Council
Creston, British Columbia

St. Jean Brebeuf
Parish Council
Lasalle, Quebec



Anniversaries are submitted by councils and verified prior to publication.

Updates from the National Officers

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ADVISOR



Bishop Gerard Bergie
St. Catharines, Ontario

Thank you for this opportunity to serve you and please be assured of my prayers and best wishes.

In the spirit of the national theme chosen by National President Betty Colaneri, *Ignite Your Passion,*

Empower His Mission, I offer my report as your national spiritual advisor since January 2026. It has been both an honour and privilege to work with your national executive/board and national council over these past months.

I participated in the national administrative committee and national executive/board meetings that were held in Toronto from Wednesday, February 4th until Saturday, February 7th. My primary role was to act as a resource and to celebrate daily Mass with members. It was a beautiful experience for me as we focused on the good work that is being done by The Catholic Women's League of Canada. It was also a time to strengthen bonds of friendship.

I have also attended the monthly national administrative committee meetings held virtually. My purpose is to act as a resource and support for this group. As we efficiently move through the agenda of each meeting, I continue to be amazed at the hard work and expertise that I have witnessed in the committee members.

I have also worked closely with National Chairperson of Faith Karen Rossiter. I have assisted her in planning liturgies and in giving advice when asked. Of particular note was a healing prayer card composed by Karen for members' use.

Jesus was able to ignite the passion of those two disciples on the road so that they could share in His mission.

I attended two-day meetings of the resolutions subcommittee held July 10–11 in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Over these past seven months, I have realized that my most fundamental responsibility as national spiritual advisor is to be a source of encouragement to your president and national board.

I am also looking forward to hosting my first spiritual advisors' luncheon at this national convention.

A very significant contribution that I can make as national spiritual advisor is to be a source of encouragement. There is so much that happens around us that leads to discouragement. Those who are in leadership positions, are especially prone to being discouraged. When the flame starts to dim, we must try to reignite the passion. This happens when we focus on His mission.

One of the greatest sources of encouragement is to share in the mission of Jesus who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He encourages us to keep following Him (the Way), believing in Him (the Truth) and abiding in Him (the Life). We also need to be reminded of the encouragement that comes from not being alone and being part of an organization of Catholic women who make a profound difference in this world.

A great honour and privilege for me is to celebrate the Eucharist on a daily basis whenever I gather with the executive and administrative committee for meetings. Here we find the greatest source of encouragement as we hear God's word and are fed with His body and blood. Jesus comes to us to bring love, unity and to strengthen our faith. Jesus sets hearts on fire with love so that we can share in His mission of sharing the good news with the world. †

NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Betty Colaneri
Niagara-on-the-Lake,
Ontario

As I reflect on the past months of service as your national president, my heart is filled with gratitude, hope and enthusiasm for the mission members share. This journey has been one of faith, fellowship and purpose, made possible through the dedication and commitment of members across this great country.

The New Year brought the launch of a new theme, *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission*, the introduction of a new executive director/director of administration and the initiation of a new task force established in 2025. The task force has been diligently



examining how national office and the national executive/board can streamline operations for greater cost efficiency by modernizing processes, clarifying roles and building a sustainable foundation for today and the future.

One of the greatest joys of serving as national president was visiting nine diocesan and provincial conventions and witnessing firsthand how councils have embraced the new theme. Councils shared how members continue to answer God's call through service, advocacy, leadership and prayer, bringing hope and compassion to their communities and beyond. Their unwavering commitment to our core values is inspiring and reinforces the importance of the work we do together. By contributing to the national voluntary funds, members exemplified the national focus, "Blessed Are the Poor." This report is not simply a record of events but a testament to the collective passion, generosity and dedication of League members across Canada.

Connecting with members through occasions such as communion breakfasts, anniversaries, the Coldest Night of the Year walk and International Women's Day celebrations has created lifelong bonds of friendship and sisterhood.

Through letters, communiqués, webinars, articles in *The Canadian League* and social media posts, members were kept informed of the work the national board has been undertaking on their behalf.

Monthly meetings with the national administrative committee and provincial presidents provided an effective method of regular communication, keeping the national board informed of activities taking place across the country.

It was a privilege and an honour to serve as the minister of the word for the Daily TV Mass that the League sponsors annually on the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel. Another highlight was participating in a delegation that traveled to Ottawa to meet with government ministers or their aides, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the apostolic nuncio to discuss the League's resolutions.

Guided by the national theme, members have embraced opportunities to strengthen this organization, foster meaningful connections and advance initiatives that support the spiritual growth and well-being of members. While challenges have arisen, they have also provided

opportunities for growth, innovation and collaboration, reminding us that with faith and perseverance, we can accomplish great things.

Together, may we continue to be inspired by the Holy Spirit as we build upon the strong foundation laid by those who came before us while preparing the way for future generations of Catholic women.

In the months ahead, let us move forward together with courage, conviction and joy—

Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission! †

VICE-PRESIDENT



Glenda Carson

Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

The national theme, *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission*, has served as a compass and a catalyst during the first half of 2026, helping to shape the vice-president initiatives.

The year began with an article in *The Canadian League* that explored leadership through the lens of the national focus, "Blessed Are the Poor." The article reflected on what it means to lead with genuine humility and compassion, recognizing that true leadership in the League is not about position or prestige, but about service rooted in the gospel. It challenged leaders at all levels to ask themselves: How are we enriching and enthusing those who feel disconnected or overlooked? The article invited a renewal of spirit and a reorientation toward the mission that calls members forward. This served as a direct expression of the national theme, aiming to plant seeds of renewed commitment in the hearts of members and leaders across the country.

The two key initiatives under the national vice-president portfolio, the Brightspace online learning platform and R3 to 1, Unity!, are not simply program priorities. They are living expressions of the national theme, each addressing one of its two essential dimensions.

Brightspace directly answers the call to ignite passion. While still in its pilot phase, it provides accessible, engaging online learning that builds knowledge, fosters curiosity and cultivates enthusiasm across the membership. Project instructors develop content largely from resources created through the strategic plan initiative. Members are equipped through formation, enriched by education and inspired by new understanding. In turn, their passion is reignited

for their faith, for the League and for the mission entrusted to them.

Also still in its early stages, R3 to 1, Unity! reflects the theme by advancing Christ's mission through the renewed energy and unity of parish councils nationwide. Through visits and support to individual councils by the R3 to 1, Unity! leads across the country, the League's capacity to serve both now and in the future is strengthened. When parish councils are vibrant, connected and mission-focused, Christ's mission is carried forward in practical and meaningful ways.

In 2026, the national executive was proud to welcome seven new national life members in the League. These remarkable women are themselves a living expression of the national theme. Through their enduring commitment to service and their generous spirit of mentorship at every level of the organization, they embody what it means to ignite passion in others and empower the mission of Christ. Their dedication is an inspiration to all members and a testament to the transformative power of a life given in faithful service.

Together, these efforts, rooted in formation, energized by learning and directed toward unity, reflect a commitment to ensuring that the national theme is not merely a motto, but a call to action that ignites the hearts of members and empowers them to carry forward the mission of Jesus Christ. †

NATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER



Alice Noble
Candiac, Quebec

The national theme, *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission* and focus, "Blessed Are the Poor," calls members to reflect deeply on what it means to be poor and to respond with compassion, solidarity and prayer. Poverty and vulnerability take many forms—corporate, psychological, educational, spiritual and financial. The national chairpersons of faith, service and social justice provided the 2026 National Theme Activity Calendar to guide councils in meaningful actions that reflect the theme.

Financial poverty remains a daily struggle for many individuals and families. Numerous organizations work tirelessly to provide programs, housing, counselling, therapy and other essential supports. Their ability to serve depends heavily on financial resources, which are often insufficient through government funding alone.

This is where the generosity of members and councils become vital. Even when members cannot volunteer their time, their financial contributions help sustain these organizations and ensure their long term impact. Treasurers' annual reports consistently reflect the League's strong tradition of supporting groups that uplift the vulnerable.

The League's four national voluntary funds—Coady International Institute, Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace—Caritas Canada, Catholic Missions In Canada and Catholic Near East Welfare Association—each play a significant role in serving those in need. Members and councils were encouraged to continue supporting these funds and sharing information with others about the important work these organizations carry out on behalf of the poor.

Secretaries and presidents were reminded to report on council activities that support the national theme and focus. Reporting not only confirms how councils are embracing the theme but also provides a national picture of the League's collective commitment to walking in the footsteps of Christ. Through these reports, we witness how members live the gospel message by advocating for and supporting the vulnerable.

Councils were also encouraged to continue writing to government officials in support of legislation that protects and uplifts those in need. Letters requesting financial support for new and existing programs help draw attention to the realities faced by vulnerable populations and the organizations serving them.

In *The Canadian League's* spring issue, members were reminded that social media plays an important role in the League for members and councils at all levels to communicate, educate and inspire. Secretaries were encouraged to invite members to join a subcommittee to look after everything from receiving to disseminating information on League and council social media platforms. Social media can strengthen community and connection and can help to build stronger councils and confident leaders of tomorrow.

As we journey through this national theme, may we continue to ignite our passion by recognizing the many faces of poverty and responding with generosity, advocacy and prayer. Guided by the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*, our financial stewardship, record keeping and reporting become acts of service that strengthen the League's mission. Together, we empower Christ's work in the world by supporting those who are poor in body, mind and spirit. May our efforts reflect our faith in action and unwavering commitment to His mission. †

PAST PRESIDENT



Shari Guinta
Waterloo, Ontario

*"Trust the past to God's
mercy, the present to
God's love, and the future
to God's providence."*

(St. Augustine of Hippo)

The national theme,
*Ignite Your Passion,
Empower His Mission*, came

into effect January 1, 2026, with a focus on "Blessed Are the Poor" and was embraced by members across the country. The theme will continue until December 31, 2027.

So what is the passion of the past president? It continues to be the strength, health, progress and survival of the League. Even as a past president, reviewing council histories highlighted the many ways members serve the League, church and God.

Provincial reports indicated that some histories had not been reviewed for some time. Members took great joy in reviewing and updating the archives. One province encouraged councils to form a committee and update its history every two years. Another reported an annual review of the policy and procedure manual. Workshops on policy and procedure, elections, resolutions and archives were delivered, even travelling to meet with councils. Almost every council mentioned the importance of the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* and refer to it often.

Provincial past presidents indicated the importance of support for their president and the council, even in suggestions for topics for meetings and workshops concerning the national theme and focus on the poor.

As national past president, I encouraged these efforts and met regularly with my provincial counterparts. We had several conversations regarding archives, policy and procedure and elections. These are important duties and are all passions of the past president!

Providing information, teaching and informing members and councils of various responsibilities and also resources available remain a focus for me. A lot of work was done to prepare the proposed 10 amendments to the *Constitution & Bylaws* for consideration. The final vote will take place at the 2026 national convention. Having current, pertinent and timely information for members and councils is so important—a passion!

In May, archiving work was done with my committee, honorary life members Fran Lucas and Anne Gorman. We travelled to national office and reviewed the archives

stored there. Some work had to be done—filing and organizing—and will be done regularly. Discussions are underway regarding plans for a professional archivist and the digitization of files.

History and process are so important for a thriving organization and a vital future. This too may be considered a passion by some. It is the work we do for the church and for God—treasuring the past while looking to the future. †

NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON OF FAITH



Karen Rossiter
St. Peters,
Prince Edward Island

With a new national theme and my new role as national chairperson of faith, much exciting work was undertaken under the pillar of faith. *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission* and the theme's

focus, "Blessed Are the Poor," invites members to go out and spread the word.

The three national chairpersons of faith, service and social justice took a collaborative approach to several initiatives related to the new theme. The focus, "Blessed Are the Poor," was chosen at the October national board meeting. The chairpersons then developed the 2026 National Theme Activity Calendar, which provided activity suggestions for each month throughout the year. Councils could choose an activity to engage in for a particular month or undertake a different activity related to the theme focus. These suggestions offer additional options for councils as they plan their activities for upcoming months.

Other collaborative projects included a Lenten activity calendar for councils during the 40 days of Lent and a supplement to the "12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care" kit.

A virtual recitation of the Most Holy Scriptural Rosary was initiated for members on the first Monday of each month. The rosary is a very powerful form of prayer that can be easily shared and prayed individually or as a group.

In support of the theme, the (744) Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was added to the national website for members to access.

Several webinars have been hosted under the faith pillar. "Mary's Way of the Cross" for Lent is now available on YouTube for members to use. A webinar on deceased

member reporting was developed to explain reporting procedures, funeral protocols and honour guards. It is expected to be posted to the national website later this year. In May, members participated in “*Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission: A Reflection on the National Theme*” with guest speaker Sr. Libby Osgood, CND.

Members were encouraged to read Pope Leo’s first apostolic exhortation *Dilexi Te* (I have found you), which focuses on care for the poor. This exhortation builds upon work begun by Pope Francis and follows *Dilexit Nos*, emphasizing the inseparability of love for God and love for the poor.

Chairpersons of faith at all levels were encouraged to continue building relationships with their spiritual advisors and to engage them in planning spiritual programs.

Two articles published in *The Canadian League* magazine under the faith pillar were “My League Story,” which highlighted one member’s incredible League journey across nations, and “Renewal of the Whole Church,” which looked at Pope Leo’s call to “reform, renew, and simplify” the approach to church life, asking for a focus on overcoming self-reflexivity, enhancing communion with the poor and accelerating missionary outreach.

The dedication, commitment and devotion of the provincial chairpersons of faith and members of the national faith subcommittee are evident in all the work being accomplished.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel and the Holy Spirit continue to guide and inspire us on our League journey. †

NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON OF SERVICE



Madonna Clark
Fredericton, New Brunswick

As national chairperson of service, I encouraged members through communiqués to embrace the national theme, *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission*, by putting their faith into action through service, compassion,

advocacy and prayer. Chairpersons of service joined members in reflecting on the theme through a national webinar. Guided by the 2026 National Theme Activity Calendar developed by the national chairpersons of

faith, service and social justice, councils across Canada responded to the national focus, “Blessed Are the Poor,” by serving those experiencing poverty, illness, vulnerability and marginalization.

I was inspired by the dedication, creativity and leadership of chairpersons of service across the country. Through their commitment, members brought compassion and hope to those they served.

Prayer remained at the heart of service. Councils promoted faith formation opportunities, Marian devotions, spiritual reflections, palliative care prayer initiatives and *Laudato Si’* Week activities, deepening members’ understanding of compassionate service and environmental stewardship.

Members supported shelters, food banks, soup kitchens, seniors, single-parent families, pregnancy resource centres and women and children in need. Donations of clothing, blankets, food, diapers, baby supplies and care packages provided practical assistance. In Quebec, councils were introduced to the Dignity Bag program for individuals who collect recyclables to supplement limited incomes and were encouraged to support this initiative in response to the national focus. Councils also partnered with pregnancy support centres, pro-life organizations and educational programs such as Teen-Aid, promoting respect for life and supporting families facing challenges.

To better understand local needs, members participated in diocesan congresses, conventions, workshops and outreach initiatives. Councils welcomed speakers from charitable and social justice organizations, increasing awareness of opportunities to serve those most in need.

Advocacy and education remained important priorities. Members participated in Red Dress campaigns, Indigenous awareness and reconciliation initiatives, accessibility awareness projects and efforts to address human trafficking. Councils also raised awareness of issues affecting vulnerable people, including mental health, healthcare, long-term care, homelessness and access to safe drinking water, while supporting organizations dedicated to restoring dignity, healing and hope.

Members were encouraged to participate in the Coldest Night of the Year walk, support the renewed partnership with Canadian Blood Services, contribute to the national voluntary funds, promote charitable initiatives such as Art for Aid, and embrace stewardship of time, talent and treasure in service to God’s people.

In collaboration with the national chairpersons of faith and social justice, a “12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care” supplement was developed to provide resources for prayer, education and action. A highlight of the year was Ontario Provincial Council’s “12 Hours

of Prayer for Palliative Care” event on May 4th. I was pleased to participate and remain for the closing Mass. This grace-filled event brought together more than 500 participants and demonstrated a growing commitment across Canada to compassionate, dignity-affirming palliative care and support for those facing serious illness and end-of-life challenges.

Through prayer, education, advocacy, outreach and compassionate service, chairpersons of service and members truly ignited their passion and empowered His mission. By recognizing Christ in those who are poor in resources, health, support or companionship, they faithfully responded to the national focus, “Blessed Are the Poor,” bringing hope, dignity and compassion to communities across Canada. †

NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON OF SOCIAL JUSTICE



Jessie Parkinson
New Glasgow, Nova Scotia

The national theme, *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission*, is essential to the League’s work on social justice, as it calls members to action. The resolutions process requires members to identify situations requiring attention, become informed

and enthused about an issue and take action through the development of resolutions. When resolutions are adopted at national convention, members find even greater passion to write letters, sign petitions and meet with government officials to bring resolutions to life and ensure members’ voices are heard.

In May, a national delegation met in Ottawa to present the League’s 2025 resolutions to government officials, along with three previously adopted resolutions that had not yet been acted upon by government. The delegation was overwhelmed by the positive response received during meetings and felt a real sense of empowering His mission as we crisscrossed Parliament Hill. Our feet were tired, but our hearts were full as we shared with members of parliament (MPs) and their staff, young and old(er), the wonderful work undertaken by councils as their passion was ignited. “For God and Canada” was alive in us.

While in Ottawa, the delegation met with representatives of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and Apostolic Nuncio Most Rev. Ivan Jurkovič. We discussed the national theme and focus, “Blessed Are the Poor,” and received valuable insight from them on how the League might serve the church over the next year.

I continued to monitor legislation and wrote communiqués and memoranda encouraging members to contact their MPs regarding issues such as Bill C-9 *Combating Hate Act*, their support of Bill C-218 *Right to Recover Act* and information on Bill C-260 *Preventing Coercion of Persons Not Seeking Medical Assistance in Dying Act*. Unfortunately, Bill C-9 passed both the House of Commons and the Senate and is expected to become law. Members are reminded that the work does not stop when success is not achieved in the short term. God works in mysterious ways, so members must continue to pray for the country that it does not become unduly secularized.

Monthly meetings with provincial chairpersons of social justice centred on “Blessed Are the Poor.” Using the National Theme Activity Calendar developed collaboratively by the national chairpersons of faith, service and social justice, wide ranging discussions were held on how provinces were incorporating the theme and focus to guide activities. In addition to this calendar, other collaborative projects included the creation of a Lenten activity calendar and a supplement to the “12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care” kit.

In January, I reminded chairpersons of social justice that, based on 2024 data, women in Canada earn 13% less than men and that the gap is even greater for Indigenous, Black and other racialized women and women with disabilities. In creating a more equitable society, members must continue advocating to make sure this changes. At the current rate, it is estimated that women will not achieve pay equity for another 164 years!

On June 8th, I delivered a theme development presentation at the closing banquet for four councils in my area.

Members are reminded to cultivate poverty of the spirit and to approach service with humility, remembering our own need for God. Let us use our voices with charity and courage to support policies and legislation that protect the vulnerable and promote common good. †



League Delegation Takes Grassroots Concerns to Parliament Hill

Jessie Parkinson

National Chairperson of Social Justice



"After the adoption of resolutions at a national annual meeting of members/convention (AMM), it is tradition to schedule meetings with the prime minister and federal cabinet ministers or their designate to present and discuss the resolutions. Meetings are also arranged with like-minded organizations and individuals such as the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) and the apostolic nuncio to Canada. Meetings with senators or other members of parliament, including leaders of the opposition, are encouraged if time permits" (The Catholic Women's League of Canada).

On May 24th, a League delegation consisting of National President Betty Colaneri, National Vice-President Glenda Carson, National Chairperson of Service Madonna Clark and National Chairperson of Social Justice Jessie Parkinson, travelled to Ottawa to meet with government officials and present the League's 2025 Resolutions Brief.

The brief consisted of the following nine resolutions adopted by national council between 2022 and 2025:

- 2025.04 Federal Government to Complete the Development of the Office of Palliative Care
- 2025.03 Strengthen Support for Chaplains to Provide Faith-Based Care to Members and Families of the Canadian Armed Forces
- 2025.02 Amend the Canadian *Criminal Code* Section 223(1) Defining When a Child Becomes a Human Being
- 2025.01 Federal Government to Create a Unified and Centralized Cybercrime Reporting System for Individuals in Canada
- 2024.03 Grant the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise Legal Authority to Investigate Environmental and Human Rights Abuses
- 2024.02 National Universal Pharmacare Program to Include Coverage for Drugs Prescribed for Mental Illness
- 2024.01 Increase Supported Housing for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness with Mental Health and Mental Illness Issues
- 2023.01 Combating Textile Waste in Canada
- 2022.01 Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste



The three-day visit began with a morning Mass organized for the delegation on Parliament Hill and a reception, after which the delegation met with senior staff from the Department of Health to discuss the development of the office of palliative care and universal pharmacare. Members of the delegation were encouraged by the commitments to both initiatives while acknowledging differing priorities within government. Following this, the delegation attended a meet-and-greet with the member of parliament for Fredericton—Oromocto, who was enthusiastic and encouraging.

Tuesday was a busy day, with five meetings focused on international trade, defence, housing, environment and climate change. The League had not been able to arrange a meeting with the minister of defence; however, the delegation had an interesting, if somewhat

discouraging, discussion with his opposition counterpart. Staff representatives expressed great interest in the resolutions on textile waste and food loss. Housing continues to be a high priority for government and the League's supported housing resolution was well received. The delegation also met with the member of parliament for Niagara Falls—Niagara-on-the Lake and had a delightful and worthwhile chat.

On Wednesday, the League's delegation met with staff from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, who warmly welcomed the members, followed by a meeting with His Excellency Most Rev. Ivan Jurkovič, Apostolic Nuncio to Canada. That afternoon, the delegation attended

Question Period and was proud to see Canadian Olympic and Paralympic athletes welcomed into the Chamber. The concluding meeting was with the attorney general and minister of justice, where the delegation discussed amending the *Criminal Code* to define when a child becomes a human being.

Sadly, Resolution 2024.03 became moot in early June when the Office of the Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise was abolished.

In addition to the topics included in the 2025 *Resolutions Brief*, the delegation held wide-ranging discussions on Bill C-9 *Combating Hate Act* and Bill C-218 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)*, which were pertinent at the time of the visit. The delegation is grateful for the warmth extended by all those encountered during the visit and looks forward to another successful event to bring forward the 2026 resolutions in the fall. †

Introducing



Jan Myhre

Alberta Mackenzie
Provincial President

Jan was born and raised in Calgary, leaving in 1982 and returning 24 years later. After settling into her new home and parish at St. Peter's Church, she sought connections with women of faith and found

a warm welcome within St. Peter's Parish Council. Although she had not planned to become actively involved, Jan soon accepted the role of council treasurer—beginning a journey with the League that would deeply shape her life and faith.

Following her term as parish council president, Jan was appointed to Calgary Diocesan Council and was later elected as diocesan president from 2019 to 2022, guiding members through the challenges of the global COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, her motto became, "Jan makes a plan and God laughs," reflecting her trust in God's providence.

Professionally, Jan has served as a parish secretary, paralegal and contract analyst. She currently works at the Catholic Pastoral Centre in Calgary, viewing her role not simply as employment but as a ministry in service to the church.

Jan and her husband, Jim, share a blended family of seven children and many grandchildren. Family is central to her life, and she treasures time spent with them. She also enjoys travelling and has participated in numerous pilgrimages, further deepening her faith and sense of call.

Jan considers membership in the League a true gift. Through her involvement, her faith has grown, as has her appreciation for the vital role women play in both the church and society.

Jan became president of Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council at its 79th annual convention in June 2026, beginning her term in a spirit of faith-filled service. †



Lea Colbeck

Manitoba
Provincial President

Lea was born in Virden, Manitoba. She comes from a family of two boys and a girl, with her being the youngest. Over the years, she was employed with the local chamber of commerce and

later became a store manager and bookkeeper.

She married Ray, and they raised their family in Virden. They have three adult children (two sons and a daughter), two grandsons and three great-grandsons.

Over the years, Lea was very involved with her local parish. She served on the pastoral council for many years, taught catechism and worked with youth. She also served as parish secretary and bookkeeper and enjoyed working with the various priests.

Lea has served in many positions at the parish council level, but mostly as treasurer, secretary and president. On the Winnipeg Diocesan Council, she served as chairperson of Christian family life and spiritual development standing committees, recording secretary, treasurer, president-elect and president. On Manitoba Provincial Council, Lea has served as recording secretary, treasurer and vice-president. She became provincial president in June 2026.

Lea was co-chairperson of the 2017 provincial convention, a presenter of the *Catch the Fire!* workshop, recording secretary and secretariat on the planning committee for the 2018 national convention and chairperson of the 2023 diocesan convention. She is currently co-chairperson and treasurer of the 2027 national convention planning committee for the upcoming national convention in Winnipeg.

The League is a very important part of Lea's life, and she is grateful for the past 52 years as a member. She is truly honoured to be a life member of the League.

Her spare time is spent with family activities such as baseball, softball and curling, and she enjoys watching football and harness racing. †

Updates from the Provincial Presidents

ALBERTA MACKENZIE



Jan Myhre
Calgary, Alberta

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council continues to embrace the national theme, *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission*, through faith-filled leadership, service and advocacy across Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

A significant milestone was the chartering of St. Michael's Parish Council (Behchokò) in the Northwest Territories, expanding the League's presence in the Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith. Membership growth efforts also continued through the R3 to 1, Unity! initiative. Leadership development remained a priority through workshops, retreats, national meetings and opportunities offered through the Brightspace online learning platform.

Provincial and diocesan standing committee chairpersons met regularly to share resources and collaborate across the three core values of faith, service and social justice.

Faith formation remained a priority throughout the province. Members participated in retreats, bible studies, workshops, webinars and prayer initiatives. The provincial virtual rosary continues to unite members throughout Alberta and the Northwest Territories each Wednesday evening.

Service remains at the heart of League activity. Councils supported food banks, shelters, refugee initiatives, parish ministries, seniors, youth programs and families in need. Members generously shared their time, talents and resources while promoting care for creation, Indigenous relations and support for vulnerable populations.

Social justice efforts also remained strong. Members advocated for issues including human dignity, homelessness, human trafficking, disability supports, Catholic education and truth and reconciliation. The provincial council also endorsed a resolution supporting grandparents raising grandchildren, inspired by a member's experience caring for her grandchildren without government assistance. This initiative led to the development of support networks and resources for grandparents facing similar circumstances.

The five diocesan councils remain vibrant centres of faith and action. Calgary Diocesan Council celebrated the 100th anniversaries of two parish councils and strengthened its partnership with St. Mary's University through bursary and endowment initiatives. Edmonton Diocesan Council hosted regional workshops and its annual convention, focusing on faith formation, service and refugee support. St. Paul Diocesan Council welcomed National President Betty Colaneri as it celebrated its 70th anniversary and honoured its last surviving charter member. Mackenzie Diocesan Council welcomed a new executive and established St. Michael's Parish Council (Behchokò). Grouard-McLennan Diocesan Council celebrated its 89th anniversary, participated in the veneration of a first-class relic of St. John Paul II and celebrated the ordination of the first diocesan priest ordained in more than three decades.

Members were especially blessed by the ongoing spiritual guidance and support of Provincial Spiritual Advisor Most Rev. Gary Franken (St. Paul). Through his prayerful leadership, participation and unwavering encouragement, he inspires members to deepen their faith and serve with joy and purpose.

As Alberta Mackenzie looks to the future, members remain committed to building faith-filled communities, supporting one another in sisterhood, advocating for those in need and empowering women to lead with courage and conviction. Guided by faith and inspired by the theme, *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission*, Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council moves forward with hope, gratitude and a renewed commitment to serving "For God and Canada." †

B.C. & YUKON



Christa Grillmair
Nanaimo, British Columbia

During the first half of 2026, B.C. & Yukon councils used the activity suggestions provided by the national chairpersons of faith, service and social justice to support the theme and organize parish and diocesan activities. The following

highlights some of the many activities carried out by members for the parish and the wider community.

Service to Those in Need

- Donated warm clothing, blankets, toques, mittens and socks through the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul for seniors and people experiencing homelessness.
- Collected and donated clothing and winter items to women's shelters.
- Provided hampers for families in need within the parish.
- Visited the sick in their homes and in hospitals and brought communion.
- Picked up bread at a local bakery to bring to those in need.
- Worked with Society of Saint Vincent de Paul to deliver food and supplies to those in need.
- Volunteered at soup kitchens.
- Raised funds and donated items to local pregnancy centres and a Live Well clinic.
- Prepared meals for prison ministry.
- Prepared frozen breakfast sandwiches and muffins for an elementary school so teachers could provide food when needed.
- Provided gifts for baptism, first communion and confirmation.
- Prepared meals for families and caregivers visiting loved ones in hospice care.
- Assisted at a Grief to Grace event.
- Provided bursaries.

Faith and Spiritual Life

- Attended a Spiritual Care Learners' session at a community church.
- Celebrated World Day of Prayer with the parish Nigerian community by hosting or joining neighbouring churches.
- Attended a weekly adoration.
- Prayed the rosary in church and in virtual gathering spaces.
- Hosted and participated in stations of the cross during Lent.
- Attended women's retreats.
- Celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel with Mass and a coffee reception.
- Organized *lectio divina* gatherings and provided soup and buns for parishioners.
- Hosted the ALPHA program.
- Supported training in the Good Shepherd program.
- Hosted and participated in R3 to 1, Unity! workshops.

Advocacy and Social Justice

- Wrote letters to members of parliament and senators regarding Bill C-9 *Combating Hate Act*.
- Supported pro-life fundraising events.
- Supported Red Dress campaigns.
- Participated in the Coldest Night of the Year.

- Participated in a community road cleanup, followed by lunch.

Parish and Community Life

- Catered dinners for youth groups.
- Fostered hospitality by providing coffee and refreshments after Mass.
- Organized a soccer game between youth groups from two parishes.
- Held fundraising events such as bake sales, plant sales, bazaars and garage sales.
- Organized card-making, pie-making and perogy-making classes.
- Celebrated priests' birthdays and anniversaries.
- Organized used clothing sales.
- Hosted a social after Easter Mass with special treats for children.

Education and Leadership

- Attended diocesan conventions and participated in the workshop "Fuel for the Fire: Building a Mission that Lasts."
- Worked on resolutions for presentation at the provincial convention.
- Hosted a Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer to speak about cybercrime.
- In parishes with schools, some councils included students in activities such as assembling blessing bags for people experiencing homelessness.

Plans for the Next Few Months

- Planning a drive-through baby shower to collect items for Crossroads Pregnancy Centre.
- Hosting a used clothing sale.
- Planning summer social events such as teas and barbecues.
- Hosting a membership appreciation tea and presenting anniversary pins. †

MANITOBA



Lea Colbeck

Winnipeg, Manitoba

The following highlights activities reported by diocesan councils across Manitoba in response to the national theme, *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission*.

St. Boniface Diocesan Council

St. Boniface Diocesan Council challenged its 10 parish councils to track activities undertaken throughout the

year. At the end of the year, the council demonstrating the highest level of participation will win a yet-to-be-determined prize.

Activities reported to date included:

- Hosted a baby shower.
- Collected socks to donate to a homeless shelter.
- Visited members living in seniors' residences.
- Hosted World Day of Prayer.
- Volunteered at and donated to local food banks.
- Cared for a young family, financially and practically.
- Led the rosary before Mass.

While many councils had not yet had the chance to complete many of the suggested items yet, numerous projects are planned for the fall.

Winnipeg Diocesan Council

In January and February, members from St. James Assiniboia Parish Council (Winnipeg) supported the Main Street Project, a Winnipeg-based community health centre, by donating more than 250 kilograms of peanut butter and jam for sandwiches prepared daily to feed the homeless. At the council's invitation, representatives from the centre came to the council's general meeting and informed members of the centre's work.

In March and April, members donated clothing and household goods to Centre Flavie-Laurent, which supports immigrants and those in need. In May, members also prepared 25 tuna noodle casseroles, buttered bread and 130 dozen cookies for a community drop-in meal serving approximately 600 people. In addition, 145 packages of feminine hygiene products with eight pads in each bag, along with a card bearing the council's name and an inspirational verse, were assembled for distribution to the women who frequent the drop-in centre.

St. Augustine of Canterbury Parish Council (Brandon) provided support throughout the reporting period.

Members:

- Provided baby quilts.
- Donated food, clothing and financial assistance to Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.
- Donated cash to people in need.
- Provided a bed and bedding to someone in need.
- Donated food as requested on Facebook Ministerial Aid Page.
- Donated empty pill bottles for Bear Clan to use for lotions, etc.
- Provided clothing and blankets to the church and those in need.
- Offered a \$50.00 gas card and grocery staples to a single parent.
- Brought muffins to the unhoused.
- Visited seniors and shut-ins.

- Delivered newspapers to shut-ins living in personal care homes.
- Offered a puzzle to a woman living in a personal care home.
- Provided a quilt for a women's shelter.
- Volunteered with Samaritan House.
- Provided food, clothing and dishcloths to those in need.
- Crocheted hats and mittens for distribution through the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.
- Sang at personal care homes (monthly) and jails (bi-weekly).
- Donated food and household items to those in need.
- Donated food and clothing to Bear Clan and Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.
- Engaged in prison ministry monthly.

St. John Brebeuf Parish Council (Winnipeg) members:

- Donated to Immaculate Conception for food prepared in the parish kitchen.
- Participated in an ongoing Harvest Manitoba collection as a parish.
- Prayed the rosary, wore red in recognition of Red Dress Day and participated in a Respect Life Collection event in support of pro-life initiatives.
- Hosted a parish barbeque in June.

St. Vital Parish Council (Winnipeg), after completing Christmas outreach activities in December, took a brief break in activities in January.

- In February, members visited and shared lunch with a senior member who had been unable to attend Mass.
- In March, members participated in World Day of Prayer.
- In April, members volunteered with Harvest Manitoba's Meals2Go program, preparing lunch bag meals for school children to take home for the weekend.
- In May, members prayed the rosary with family. They also collected diapers and infant formula. Funds raised from the council's Least Coin, totalling \$83.00, were donated to mothers accessing pregnancy centres.

Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan Council

- The diocesan council held a novena to Our Lady of Good Counsel in April, followed by a litany prayed via Zoom.
- Parish councils participated in World Day of Prayer, with some involved on the planning committee. Councils also took part in Christian Unity Week, led a "Rosary for the Month of Mary," participated in weekly Wednesday rosaries hosted by councils before Mass and donated to women's shelters.

Manitoba Provincial Council

The provincial council planned and hosted a Divine Mercy Chaplet and half-hour of adoration for the provincial convention held June 13th. †

MILITARY ORDINARIATE



Teena Cyr

Colorado Springs, Colorado

I feel a sense of excitement as I prepare this report because one of the greatest privileges of my role is sharing the stories of the Military Ordinariate's base councils and the incredible work they do. Still, inspiration can be elusive and words sometimes escape me. To ground myself, I turned to a familiar source of reflection: "Hosanna" by Hillsong. Three lines always stir something deeper within me and remind me why our work matters:

"Show me how to love like You have loved me.
Break my heart for what breaks Yours.
Everything I am for Your kingdom's cause."

These words remind me that our worries are not God's worries. When we serve others with joy, our faith becomes visible—not through grand gestures, but through steady, concrete acts of love. The new theme, *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission*, speaks powerfully to that truth. Even the smallest action, offered with sincerity, places us firmly in the realm of doing God's work. This is lived daily in Military Ordinariate councils, where service is not an event but a way of being.

In preparation for our work within the theme's focus, "Blessed Are the Poor," the 58th annual provincial convention included presentations by National President Betty Colaneri on the national theme, National Chairperson of Faith Karen Rossiter and Provincial Past-President Theresa Schopf on the League pilgrimage to Rome, and representatives from Coady International Institute. Beyond convention, members continue to support their parish communities and local organizations in countless ways. They assist with children's liturgy, fundraising initiatives, choir participation, chapel faith activities and creative ministries such as making rosaries and mittens. Their service is not simply activity; it is an expression of joy—the joy that comes from helping others and honouring the dignity of every person they encounter. Their long-standing bonds of sisterhood make this possible. Each contribution, no matter how small, reflects a commitment to building community through compassion and presence.

Many councils also carry out work shaped by the military context of our communities. Members support the Poppy Fund, the Military Family Food Bank in Esquimalt and the Veterans' House in Ottawa. These

efforts reflect deep respect for those who serve or have served, acknowledging their sacrifices with gratitude and care. Through these initiatives, councils embody a spirit of solidarity that honours the unique needs of military families and veterans.

Connections formed during our previous focus on homelessness continue to bear fruit. Councils such as Gagetown remain committed to delivering warm clothing and personal care items to local shelters—small acts that restore comfort, dignity and hope. These gestures remind members that accompaniment often begins by meeting immediate needs while recognizing the inherent worth of every person.

Other councils have built meaningful partnerships within their wider communities. Borden continues its collaboration with the Good Samaritan Home in Alliston, collecting and wrapping gifts for residents. Cold Lake maintains its twice-yearly bingo visits to the Cold Lake Lodge, bringing companionship and joy to seniors. Trenton supports its local food bank by donating food and spice packages to help families prepare complete meals with dignity and ease.

Amid all this service, members also make intentional space for spiritual nourishment. Councils gather for the rosary, stations of the cross and visits to local pilgrimage sites—moments that root their work in prayer, reflection and community.

Across every base and every initiative, members embody a simple truth: when we honour the dignity of others through service, we reflect the heart of Christ. †

NEW BRUNSWICK



Leslie Carr

Fredericton, New Brunswick

It is hard to imagine what more parish councils in New Brunswick might have done to embrace the national theme and focus. The province is ablaze with energy and action.

The passion to share and deepen faith is evident in activities such as weekly group rosary recitations, ecumenical stations of the cross during Holy Week and participation in group study sessions during Lent. Enrolling in the ALPHA program was seen as a way to assist those who may be struggling with their faith while strengthening members' own faith. Councils assisted the diocese in organizing a "Rosary and Tea" event for women. Children and youth within parishes were celebrated with

receptions following first communion and confirmation and were recognized for their pastoral service.

Acts of service were widespread. Donations of food and clothing to food banks and shelters were abundant. Schools were supported through donations of backpacks, snacks, mittens, hats and socks, as well as through lunch programs. In one community, the “Socktober” campaign expanded to include all local churches and many businesses, resulting in thousands of pairs of socks, hats and gloves being distributed to organizations throughout the wider community.

Support for seniors took many forms, including drives to church and medical appointments, donations of bus passes for low-income seniors, meal delivery, grocery shopping, telephone wellness checks and visits to nursing homes. One council sponsored a community dinner on the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel. Members also supported a single mother struggling with addiction and offered grief counselling to those in need. Members participated in or donated to Coldest Night of the Year events in their communities.

Members addressed social justice issues by signing petitions and speaking with members of parliament regarding Bill C-9 *Combating Hate Act* and Bill C-218 *Right to Recover Act*.

Councils that were open to receiving the R3 to 1, Unity! presentations were re-energized when members recognized the many roles they play within their parishes.

The national focus, “Blessed Are the Poor,” is very familiar to councils in New Brunswick. Service is what they do best. Whether serving God by demonstrating their faith to others, performing acts of service within their communities and beyond, or speaking out against social injustices, members give generously and celebrate “JOYfully.” Their hearts are ablaze with passion to fulfil His mission. †

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR



Rhona Hynes

Mount Pearl, Newfoundland and Labrador

Passion is energy. It is the force that drives us, that fuels our dreams and propels us towards our goals. Passionate members inspire us, challenge us and leave a lasting impression on one another. Nothing

great in the world has ever been accomplished without passion.

Empowerment is built through self-reflection and action. It comes from understanding our strengths and weaknesses, as well as our values and goals. It is important to surround ourselves with positive and supportive people who provide encouragement, motivation, accountability and a sense of belonging and connection.

Leadership and stewardship define alignment and commitment. They inspire us to guide members as a team toward shared goals. Leadership is an action-oriented process that empowers members to achieve results.

The three pillars of faith, service and social justice reflect the core values of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada as members grow in faith and witness “the love of God through ministry and service.”

Councils throughout Newfoundland and Labrador are committed to the national theme, *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission*, through engaging in many activities and projects. New members are encouraged to join committee chairpersons and learn more about what the League has to offer.

Faith: Uniting members to grow in faith

- Preparing prayers and liturgies for meetings and special events.
- Leading the stations of the cross during Lent.
- Participating in interfaith events and World Day of Prayer.
- Organizing prayer services and spiritual reflections for deceased members.
- Participating in “12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care.”
- Celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel.
- Assisting with sacramental preparation for youth.
- Offering the Eucharist to seniors in nursing homes.
- Providing honour guards for deceased members.
- Actively participating in ministry within parish communities.
- Supporting the Thrive Outreach program for youth aged 16 years and older.

Service: The power of service to others

- Organizing fundraising activities, bake sales and special events.
- Providing free meals for seniors in local communities.
- Volunteering with food banks.
- Donating to charitable organizations.
- Supporting youth through bursaries.
- Assisting youth in the parishes to attend retreats and faith-based activities.
- Organizing clothing drives for youth and adults.
- Supporting school breakfast and lunch programs.
- Assisting with high school care cart programs for students.

- Visiting seniors and engaging them in activities such as bingo and card games.
- Sending cards to shut-ins, seniors and inmates on special occasions.

Social Justice: Everyone deserves equal rights, opportunities and fair treatment

- Advocating regarding Bill C-9 *Combatting Hate Act*. Members wrote letters to members of parliament (MPs) and participated in peaceful rallies in April 2026.
- Advocating regarding Bill C-218 *Right to Recover Act*, which seeks to amend the *Criminal Code* in relation to medical assistance in dying and mental illness. Members wrote letters to MPs expressing their concerns.

There are many faces of poverty: moral and spiritual poverty, cultural poverty, the poverty experienced by those living in conditions of personal or social weakness and the poverty of those who have no rights, no space and no freedom.

At the provincial convention, guest speaker Fr. Wayne Dohey presented on the national theme focus, “Blessed Are the Poor.” Members took time to reflect on the activities we have accomplished thus far and look forward to future initiatives that will excite them, bring joy and help them identify their passions and values.

Together, we will strive to uplift and inspire one another in the work we do within our own councils and throughout the League. †

NOVA SCOTIA



Sandra O'Connell
Sydney, Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia is blessed with two active diocesan councils. Both Antigonish Diocesan Council and Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Council have embraced the national theme, *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission*. Councils

throughout the province continue to meet regularly and use the monthly activity calendar provided by the national chairpersons of faith, service and social justice to support theme development and implementation in monthly activities.

Antigonish Diocesan Council held its convention/annual meeting of members (AMM) on April 25th. The theme was in full display throughout the meeting in both the décor and the reports presented. Diocesan

Spiritual Advisor Rev. Danny MacLennan focused his presentation on members. He reminded members that while they may not be what they once were, that is OK. Members were encouraged to recognize who they are today and resist the urge to measure and compare to the past. If hearts remain willing, the passion is still there!

Antigonish Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator Norma Blinkhorn also spoke on the theme. She explained that to ignite your passion is to allow God to rekindle within us the grace of baptism—a living fire of love, courage and compassion. Each person has received gifts for building up the Body of Christ. When that passion is awakened, we become a people of encounter: attentive to real lives, open to dialogue and ready to move toward those who are unseen or unheard. She further explained that to empower His mission is to place our passion at the service of the gospel in a synodal way—by living communion, widening participation and embracing mission.

Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Council held a workshop in March focused on the national theme. The three-part session explored the Sacred Heart of Jesus through “Ignite Your Passion,” discernment of our gifts to serve through “Empower His Mission” and the document of activities from the national chairpersons of faith, service and social justice through “Blessed Are the Poor.”

Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Council held its convention on May 2nd. Sr. Elaine Biollo spoke on the blessings of living in community and the connection to serving others. Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Fr. Robert Nichols also developed the theme.

On February 21st, the provincial chairperson of faith facilitated an online prayer service and seminar focused on human trafficking. Members throughout the province participated and engaged in discussion following the service.

In January, the provincial executive prepared communiqués providing parish councils with suggestions for theme development within their committees.

The 78th provincial convention/AMM was held on June 13th. National Chairperson of Faith Karen Rossiter developed the theme, speaking about the importance of being present and the need for faith and passion to empower His mission. She reminded delegates that it may not look like it used to, but it is still there. It can be a quiet commitment and a faithful presence. Karen asked delegates to consider the question, “How can I be the hands of Christ?”

Nova Scotia continues to embrace the national theme and will continue to implement the monthly activity suggestions to benefit the province. †

ONTARIO



Karen McDonald
Sudbury, Ontario

Ontario embraced the national theme, *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission*, by aligning the *ON-Line Newsletter* themes with the National Theme Activity Calendar for “Blessed Are the Poor.”

Along with encouraging members to continue serving joyfully, the newsletter was a great read. The national theme was proudly displayed on two six-foot by 10-foot banners and incorporated into prayer services and community service opportunities offered to delegates.

Diocesan councils highlighted the theme and focus during meetings/conventions and through prayer services, collections for those in need, presentations, themed centrepieces, displays featuring the gifts and fruits of the Spirit and more. Specific diocesan convention inclusions or projects included:

Hamilton: The theme, *Sparkle God's Way*, was prominent. Insight into the theme was offered in a presentation on letting your light shine. One statement particularly resonated with members: “I do what I can, and I continue.”

Hearst-Moosonee: A large, hand-painted depiction of the national theme was displayed at convention. Members created a Giving Tree and wrote on leaves describing how they had helped others. A workshop emphasized “the process of building the flame of passion from spark to full fire.”

Kingston: The convention invitation reminded members that “We are called to allow Jesus to make alive within us the passion to be nearer to Him and express that passion in service to all, especially the poor.” Members were invited to nurture their passion through prayer, conversation and friendship. The diocesan spiritual advisor’s presentation focused on the theme prayer.

London: A guest speaker delivered a powerful and compassionate presentation on homelessness in Canada. Members were invited to look beyond the statistics and see the human stories behind them while considering how faith-driven action can support the most vulnerable.

Ottawa-Cornwall and Timmins: Emotional presentations on human trafficking reminded members of the prevalence of this issue and encouraged greater awareness within local communities. Delegates donated to Baldwin House, a safe shelter for women in Cornwall.

Pembroke: Members promoted the prayer program and Compassionate Community Care to fight euthanasia. The theme prayer was incorporated into the convention, and a young priest shared his personal story related to his vocation call.

Peterborough: The national theme and focus were evident in pillar presentations on faith: *Divine Mercy*, service: “*Helping Hands Northumberland*” (volunteers repurpose donated items for persons in need) and social justice, featuring a presentation from Catholic Near East Welfare Association.

Sault Ste. Marie: Inspired by Mary, Mother of the Poor, councils participated in a service project supporting the Pregnancy Care Centre & Infant Food Bank. Members donated baby formula, diapers, lotion, receiving blankets and hooded towels. Members also contributed a sizeable monetary donation and a multitude of items were collected.

St. Catharines: Members supported the Coldest Night of the Year initiative. Support was also given to many organizations serving the unhoused population.

Thunder Bay: Provincial Spiritual Advisor Most Rev. Alan Campeau (Thunder Bay) unpacked the national theme and the Sacred Heart of Jesus, highlighting the theme’s richness.

Toronto: Members led a Light the CN Tower Blue initiative in recognition of the National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. The project ignited passion for justice, empowering Christ’s mission of dignity, compassion and hope. Councils across the province embraced the invitation to light the province blue.

Throughout Ontario, members joyfully ignited their passion and empowered His mission. †

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



Cheryl Boom
Kinkora, Prince Edward
Island

Activities undertaken during the first half of the year in support of the national theme, *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission*, included the following.

The Mid-Winter Meeting East was held March 21st at St. Mary’s Parish in Souris. Members reflected on the national president’s inspiration for the theme, which was drawn from the Sacred Heart of Jesus as a symbol of God’s infinite love. A workshop focused on reconnecting with the gifts God has placed within each person and renewing members’

sense of purpose within the League. Participants were invited to make a personal commitment by identifying one gift they would use more intentionally and one action they would take in the coming month to empower His mission. Guest speaker Bill Campbell of Kings Square Housing Authorities spoke about low-income and affordable housing.

The Mid-Winter Meeting West was held March 28th at St. Joseph's Parish in Kellys Cross, where the same workshop was presented. Bill Campbell again shared his message so that members across the Island could benefit from his presentation. The provincial chairperson of faith also reflected on passionate commitment, describing it as beginning in love, nourished by memory, sustained by courage, fired in passion, lived in solidarity and carried along by joy.

The provincial convention was held May 1–2 in Charlottetown, and members were blessed to welcome National President Betty Colaneri. Betty assisted with the “Sparks of Mission” workshop which focused on recognizing members’ gifts. There was time for personal reflection, table discussion and group sharing. Participants were asked to share one passion or gift God had given them and one way they could empower His mission in the coming year.

Betty also gave an inspiring and passionate presentation on the development of the national theme and logo. She reminded members that the theme comes with an invitation to go out and proclaim the good word. Her observation that “the most powerful thing on earth is a person whose heart is on fire for the Lord” called members to go out and allow the flames of passion to burn brighter than ever.

Through prayer, service and outreach, councils continue to ignite passion in faith and empower His mission within Prince Edward Island communities. Councils welcomed the National Theme Activity Calendar and its suggestions for actions and events that support each of the League’s three pillars.

Councils embraced renewal by supporting people experiencing homelessness through donations of warm clothing and prayer items. Members shared Christ’s love by visiting seniors with care packages and supporting the Coldest Night of the Year. During Lent, many councils participated in World Day of Prayer and served those in need through volunteer work at soup kitchens. In May, many prayed the rosary, supported Red Dress campaigns and collected baby essentials for mothers in crisis. Members also donated to the Island Pregnancy Centre and local hospitals.

Throughout the reporting period, councils:

- Ignited passion through renewed prayer, advocacy and community involvement.
- Empowered His mission by serving vulnerable populations, strengthening parish life and promoting justice and compassion.

- Lived the gospel in practical, visible and deeply meaningful ways. †

QUEBEC



Helen Pellerin

Dollard des Ormeaux,
Quebec

Councils throughout Quebec embraced the national theme, *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission*. Guided by the theme focus, “Blessed Are the Poor,” members engaged wholeheartedly in

charitable outreach, advocacy and spiritual growth, ensuring that compassion and care for those most in need remained at the heart of their initiatives.

Feedback from council presidents led to the creation of two workshop days focused on leadership development, spiritual growth, social justice and technical skills. The workshops were well received, increasing awareness and helping members feel more confident in their roles. Building on this success, additional workshops are planned for the coming year to expand on the foundations already established.

The increased use of technology has significantly improved accessibility and communication. Hybrid meetings have allowed more members to participate, while online prayer opportunities have fostered spiritual connection. Interprovincial collaboration has also strengthened. National and provincial leaders continue to enhance information-sharing through virtual meetings, *The Quebec CWL Journey* newsletter and regular updates in *The Quebec Newsflashes & Links* news bulletins. Councils increasingly rely on digital tools, including websites, virtual meeting spaces and online learning platforms like Brightspace, to support engagement and leadership development.

Membership growth and leadership development remain important priorities. Councils recognize the value of mentorship, life member involvement and ongoing training opportunities in ensuring long-term sustainability. To better prepare newly elected executive members, Montreal Diocesan Council offers Zoom training sessions for both new and current leaders. These sessions will equip members for their roles while fostering mentorship and support.

Faith remains central to council life and all activities. Many councils participated in Lenten retreats, deepening their spiritual foundation while strengthening community bonds and a shared sense of compassion.

Creative approaches to faith formation were also evident. One council incorporated the study of the writings of St. Augustine of Hippo into its meetings, enriching members' understanding and reflection. Councils also demonstrated their commitment to global outreach. For example, one council hosted a "Poverty Meal," raising significant funds for Development and Peace—Caritas Canada.

Advocacy continues to play a vital role, with councils addressing issues such as human trafficking, homelessness and immigration. Environmental awareness also increased through initiatives promoting reduced paper use and eco-friendly practices within communities.

Community support initiatives remained strong and varied. Councils participated in food programs, assisted local schools and developed creative outreach projects, including recycling initiatives that benefited individuals experiencing homelessness. Acts of individual generosity further reflected the spirit of service. In one council, a member transformed a donation of jewelry into support for community needs by cleaning, sorting and selling the items.

Councils also continued to engage in letter-writing campaigns, ensuring their voices were heard by members of parliament on important legislative issues.

Looking ahead, councils across Quebec are embracing empowerment as the foundation of their work. Through mentorship, collaboration and a shared commitment to their mission, members recognize both the challenges and opportunities before them. By nurturing each member's passion to serve and advancing His mission with dedication, councils across the province are well positioned to continue to grow and thrive. †

SASKATCHEWAN



Donna Aldous
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

The Saskatoon diocesan convention, held in Rosetown on May 4th, was the only in-person diocesan convention held in Saskatchewan this spring, as weather forced the other two diocesan conventions to be held virtually. A theme banner

created by St. Anne's Parish Council (Saskatoon) was prominently displayed.

The provincial council took great joy in promoting the national theme, *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission*, at the 78th annual provincial convention held May 31–June 1. A banner made by the host council, St. Joseph's Parish

Council (Kindersley), beautifully reflected the theme and was on display, with all the photographs taken at the podium showing the inspiring theme.

To have National President Betty Colaneri attend the convention was a blessing on many levels. Her presentation on the development and relevance of the theme was very well received, and delegates left with a deeper understanding of the thought and inspiration behind the theme and logo. The symbolism of the Sacred Heart of Jesus took on new meaning for many members, myself included. The presentation resonated so strongly that we asked to obtain a copy for councils wishing to share it with their members.

Roundtable discussions focused on the importance of members understanding Jesus' mission so that they might more easily understand what their mission could be. Members were encouraged to become more intimate with the Lord by becoming more familiar with His word. Resources were shared, including online bible studies, relevant podcasts and more.

Guest speaker Carol Anne Mitchell of Medicine Hat spoke about her personal struggles and sacrifices, which ultimately led her to discover her mission in life. An extraordinary prayer warrior, she uses God's word to bring people closer to Him. Witnessing the passion, faith and love of God in one individual inspires others to evaluate what they can do to further His mission.

Planning is already underway for the fall provincial workshop and executive meeting. Discussions will focus on looking for ways to encourage using the theme at diocesan and regional meetings.

Programs that help members zero in on what their passions might look like will be valuable in the coming months. The *Called & Gifted™ Discernment Process*, developed by the Catherine of Siena Institute, will help members uncover their spiritual gifts (charisms) and better understand God's call for their lives and service. This program explores 24 common charisms.

Councils in Saskatchewan will be looking to *The Canadian League* magazine for ideas on how others have incorporated the theme into programs and workshops. †





CONGRATULATIONS TO 2026 BURSARY RECIPIENTS!

In 1988, the League received two generous donations in response to the call for lay formation in Pope John Paul II's apostolic exhortation *Christifideles Laici*. In light of the expressed desire of the League to encourage members' service "For God and Canada," the national executive agreed by motion to establish a bursary fund using these donations.

The bursary fund is used to provide financial assistance to members pursuing studies, courses, seminars, workshops and diploma/degree programs that align with and promote the Objects of The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Bursary applications are available upon request from national office or can be downloaded from cwl.ca.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA IS PLEASED TO CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING BURSARY RECIPIENTS:

Tanya Bartram	Calgary	Alberta
Kathy Dahl	Kamloops	British Columbia
Cecilia Fenrich	Edmonton	Alberta
Maria Hamon	Combermere	Ontario
Miriana Hamon	Combermere	Ontario
Irena Ivancev	Saskatoon	Saskatchewan
Khrista Jeffrey	Halifax	Nova Scotia
Diane Nadeau	Kamloops	British Columbia
Annet Ndagire	Yellowknife	Northwest Territories
Rosemary O. Ogwuche	Kamloops	British Columbia
Grace Oryschak	Edmonton	Alberta
Karen Rossiter	St. Peter's	Prince Edward Island



Magazine Submission Deadlines

Winter issue
November 15, 2026

Spring issue
February 15, 2027

Fall issue
July 15, 2027

2026 New Life Members

June Brown

National Life Member Liaison



Life membership is not a retirement gift or a reward. The recipient has demonstrated her love of the League, her encouragement of others and her ability to participate in studies, research and workshops. She must be available and willing to continue serving the League at all levels upon the request of the national president. She has been nominated by her diocesan or provincial council in accordance with the established criteria.



Shelley De-Serres

Shelley has been a member of the League for 42 years, serving at the parish, provincial and national levels. Throughout her membership, she has held numerous leadership and executive positions and has contributed to the spiritual, social and organizational life of

the League.

At the parish level, Shelley has served as secretary, chairperson of organization, resolutions and legislation, education and health and community life standing committees, president and past president. Her service has included mentoring new executive members, encouraging leadership development and supporting member engagement and formation.

Shelley's service with the Military Ordinariate Provincial Council has included terms as secretary, chairperson of the organization, resolutions and legislation and education and health standing committees, president and past president. She has also served at the national level on the social justice working group for the strategic plan (2020–2023) and on the social justice subcommittee (2023–2025).

Education, faith formation and social justice have remained important parts of Shelley's League journey. She has presented *Catch the Fire!* workshops, encouraged participation in conventions and continued her own faith formation, graduating from the Atlantic School of Theology (2023) with a diploma in evangelization. Since 2018, she has also been involved with St. Andrew's School of Evangelization, an international Catholic lay ministry focused on sharing the gospel.

Shelley remains active in parish life through stewardship, pilgrimage planning, adult faith formation and the ALPHA program. Her commitment to community outreach also includes serving as a team lead for an emergency shelter that has provided shelter and necessities to people experiencing homelessness since 2023.

Her interest in social justice has extended to writing for *The Canadian League* magazine, including articles on sex trafficking and the Dallaire Institute's work related to child soldiers.

Over more than four decades, Shelley's League service has been marked by strong leadership, deep commitment to service and a passion for empowering women. Her experience spans governance, advocacy, education, community outreach and mentorship, contributing significantly to the mission and ongoing vitality of the League at both parish and provincial levels.



Susan Kaller

Susan grew up on a small farm outside Regina, Saskatchewan, and completed her bachelor of science in nursing at the University of Saskatchewan (1988). After marrying her husband, their growing family lived in several cities across the United States

before eventually settling in Candiac, Quebec, in 1998.

As a mother of three young children, Susan soon became involved with Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish Council (Candiac). She was grateful for the opportunity to spend time with a like-minded group of Catholic women in her community and found many wonderful mentors within the council. Her involvement

quickly grew as she took on various roles at the parish, diocesan and provincial levels. Over the years, she has contributed to numerous committees and projects, including organizing a Catholic Girls' League and serving on planning committees for various provincial and national conventions.

Susan was first elected to the provincial council in 2017 and has since served several terms as a committee chairperson. She currently serves as provincial treasurer. Susan enjoys working collaboratively with others, has presented numerous workshops and has contributed to special initiatives such as the Quebec Bouquet for Mental Health.

At the national level, Susan has participated in two strategic planning working groups and completed a two-year term on the national resolutions subcommittee (2023–2024). She has attended many national conventions and continues to find each one inspiring and motivating. One of her current activities is serving as one of the educators developing online courses for members through the D2L Brightspace learning platform.

Professionally, Susan has worked for many years as a college nursing teacher and clinical instructor, with particular areas of interest and specialization in mental health care, Indigenous culture and gerontology. She completed her master of education at the University of Sherbrooke (2023) and serves as a faculty representative on several college committees.

Susan remains very active in her parish, where she participates in the liturgical committee, baptism preparation and other ministries. She also volunteers, when possible, with a community-supported mental health housing project. Outside her professional and volunteer commitments, family and pets are an important part of her life. She especially enjoys spending time in nature and cherishes every opportunity for quality time with her granddaughter.

Through her faith, professional experience and commitment to service and social justice, Susan strives to encourage others to share their gifts and make a difference in their communities. She notes, "When we ignite our passion in any small way, we are bringing hope, compassion and Christ's love to those around us." This spirit of service and fellowship continues to inspire her journey with the League and in all aspects of her life.



Sue Lubowitz

Sue grew up in a small northern Ontario community and received her honours bachelor of arts degree from the University of Toronto.

Sue and her husband have been parishioners at St. John Chrysostom Parish in Newmarket since 1988. They

recently celebrated 45 years of marriage, have raised four children and now enjoy spending time with their two grandchildren. Sue serves as coordinator for the extraordinary ministers of holy communion and is part of a team that prepares a weekly meal for members of the community in need.

Sue's journey in the League began in 2006 with a personal invitation from a member of her local council to help with a presentation to the town council on a proposed water aquifer bylaw. At the parish level, she held positions as chairperson of the community life, resolutions and legislation standing committees and served as president. Her council has presented resolutions to provincial and national councils, one of those resolutions remains active at the national level.

Following her election to Toronto Diocesan Council in 2013, Sue served as chairperson of Christian family life. Other diocesan positions held included chairperson of the resolutions and education and health standing committees and president-elect. Serving as chairperson of organization during the COVID-19 pandemic presented many challenges, but Sue recognized that technology provided an opportunity to reach more parish councils more often. She began the monthly virtual "CWL Wednesdays," which helped keep councils engaged in the work of the League.

While serving as diocesan chairperson of resolutions, Sue also served as a subcommittee chairperson for the provincial legislation chairperson. As diocesan president-elect and chairperson of organization, Sue participated in a Year One working group (reorganization) for the implementation of the strategic plan, which resulted in the League's current structure.

As diocesan president in one of the largest dioceses in the country, Sue helped guide councils through the League's transition to an eight-officer executive structure. She led educational initiatives, hosted instructional workshops and presented virtual webinars to help parish councils understand and implement the new model.

Sue was a member of the planning committee for the 2025 national convention, serving as liturgy lead.

Sue also served on her provincial council as chairperson of service and as a member of the resolutions review committee during that term. She currently serves as administrative assistant to the provincial president.



Barbara McGrath

Barbara is a 47-year League member and presently lives in Holyrood, Newfoundland and Labrador. Her League journey began as a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Council (Labrador City). As a new resident and young mother, she was warmly welcomed by members who soon became like family. It was easy to become active in such a caring, vibrant organization.

In her second year, Barbara accepted a position on the parish executive. During the next 37 years, she served in many positions, including two terms as parish council president. Church life was an integral part of her life and volunteering for the many ministries in the parish became a way of life. During those years, she served on many committees in both the League and church community.

After 38 years in the teaching profession, Barbara retired and moved back to the island of Newfoundland, where she joined St. Anne's Parish Council (Conception Harbour). She continued her active involvement and became provincial president in 2016. She is presently an executive member of St. Thomas of Villa Nova Parish Council (Conception Bay South) and serves as provincial secretary. Her dedication to and love for the League continue.

Over the years, Barbara has met and worked with many of the League's life members and has been mentored by some of these passionate and knowledge women. She considers it an honour to join such a dedicated group of members.



Ellen Merrigan

Ellen was born and raised in Carbonear, Newfoundland and Labrador, with her six siblings—two sisters and four brothers. She married in 1986 and has two children, Mark and Emily, and three grandchildren. A retired teacher, Ellen taught primary school children for 32 years and remains heavily involved in church and community activities.

Ellen joined the League through an invitation to help revive the parish council at St. Patrick's Parish in Carbonear. Following the successful revival of the council, she became president-elect and chairperson of organization, beginning her League journey. In 2005, when the president vacated her position, Ellen became president and continued in the role for the next three years. She has been active at the parish level for 24 years, has held various positions and currently serves as treasurer.

During her years of service, Ellen has organized and presented spiritual workshops, workshops on *Laudato Si': Care for Our Common Home*, family and other topics related to national themes. As a member of the *Catch the Fire!* team, she presented workshops throughout the province. She received the maple leaf service pin in 2017.

Ellen became a member of the provincial council in 2010 and has remained active ever since. Her first position was treasurer, followed by chairperson of spiritual development and then of Christian family life, president-elect, president and past president. She currently serves as chairperson of service.

Ellen was honoured to receive her life membership, presented by Provincial President Rhona Hynes. As a life member, she looks forward to continuing to live her League life to the fullest, working "For God and Canada" and serving the League wherever there is a need.



Lucille Rossington

Lucille was born in Grand Falls, New Brunswick, the 10th of 12 children in the Bernier family—six boys and six girls. She worked in the admissions/outpatient and archives departments at the General Hospital before moving to Flin Flon, Manitoba, after marrying her husband, Ray, in 1978. There, she worked for an optometrist and supported her husband in many business ventures. They have two adult children, a son and daughter, and two grandchildren.

With a love of being surrounded by young children, Lucille served as a catechist for 25 years at St. Ann's Parish in Flin Flon.

Lucille has been a member of the League through St. Ann's Parish Council (Flin Flon) since 1990. She received the maple leaf service pin from her council in 2018 and was presented with life membership at Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan Council's annual meeting of members on May 2, 2026.

At the parish council level, Lucille has served in all convenorships and enjoyed every minute of the learning process. She remains very active in her parish and served as Keewatin-The Pas diocesan president for three terms plus an additional year during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lucille has helped present *Catch the Fire!* and S'Mores workshops as well as spiritual workshops on *The Bible and the Virgin Mary: Journey Through Scripture* (Scott Hahn) and *The Bible and the Sacraments: Journey Through Scripture* (Scott Hahn). She also gave a presentation on the 2015–2017 national theme in her diocese. At a diocesan convention in 2018, she helped raise awareness of human trafficking by arranging guest speakers, including a survivor of human trafficking. At a provincial convention

in 2023, she presented on women in the bible through a time capsule and, in winter 2024, presented a workshop with IWIN co-founders as part of the Manitoba Day of Celebration.

Lucille later joined the provincial council as chairperson of spiritual development. In August 2023, she became Manitoba provincial acting president and was elected president in 2024. She was honoured to represent Manitoba at the national table.

Lucille's hobbies include gardening, reading, travelling and enjoying time at the family cottage.



Angelina Stiglich

Angelina is a second-generation League member and has fond memories of helping her mother at her parish council events as a child and teenager. Her mother continued to encourage her to join St. Joseph's Parish Council (Langley), but Angelina resisted

because of work commitments. When she joined in 1999, she immediately became secretary and went on to serve as chairperson of legislation, chairperson of communications, president-elect, president and past president.

During this time, Angelina was a League representative on the multi-member community group, Buying Sex is not a Sport, which actively campaigned to raise awareness of human trafficking leading up to the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. Through her employer, she was chosen as a 2010 Olympic torchbearer because of her community service and carried the torch in Delta three days before the Olympic opening ceremonies.

Angelina was elected to Vancouver Diocesan Council in 2011 and served as chairperson of the resolutions (2011–2013) and community life (2013–2015) standing committees, president-elect (2015–2017), president (2017–2019) and past president (2019–2022), with the latter term extended because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Highlights from her service on the diocesan executive include helping bring forward three successful resolutions, working as a *Catch the Fire!* facilitator for six years, serving on the Vancouver Archdiocesan Anti-Human Trafficking Committee and giving presentations across the diocese during screenings of *Red Light, Green Light*.

Angelina was elected to the provincial executive in 2021 and served as chairperson of resolutions, adding the legislation standing committee to her portfolio during the second year of her tenure. She went on to serve as chairperson of social justice in her second term (2022–2025). During her tenure, two resolutions were successfully adopted. She served on the position paper committee and met regularly with other chairpersons of social justice across the country.

Angelina served as a member of Vancouver Archdiocesan Pastoral Council from 2021–2024. In 2025, she was appointed as the League's representative to Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle. In this capacity, she was a member of the Canadian delegation attending the International Conference on Catholic Indigenous in New Zealand in March 2026.

Angelina is currently board president of Domestic Abuse Services—Our Lady of Good Counsel Society, a role she began in 2023. She previously served on the board as treasurer (2012–2016) and has been an active fundraiser and volunteer for the organization for many years.

Professionally, Angelina has worked in banking for 38 years and currently works as a senior manager in commercial credit with RBC. She has earned two cruises as a top performer and was selected as a Global Citizen Award recipient in 2024 for her community service. She has been consistently recognized as a strong leader and mentor and has received top employee engagement scores from teams she has managed over the years.

Angelina is married to Angel Figueroa, with whom she shares two stepdaughters. She is an aunt to 14 nieces and nephews and a great aunt to 25 great-nieces and great-nephews.

Honoured to have received her life membership in May 2026, Angelina looks forward to continued service in the League. †



National Council Regretfully Advises The Passing of Life Member:

Florence Cardinal-Jackson
St. Lambert, Quebec

Muriel Murphy
Goderich, Ontario

Happy Birthday!

Congratulations to the following centenarians

Vivian d'Eon

105 years old on May 8, 2026
St. Ambrose Parish Council
Yarmouth, Nova Scotia

Mary Visutskie

105 years old on June 23, 2026
St. Francis Xavier Parish Council
Renfrew, Ontario

Rose Bourgeois

104 years old on May 18, 2026
Our Lady of the Assumption
Parish Council
Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan

Jeannine Mohns

104 years old on March 13, 2026
Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Council
Petawawa, Ontario

Marion Rutledge

104 years old on August 15, 2026
Holy Cross Parish Council
London, Ontario

Jeanne Allard

103 years old on February 10, 2026
Our Lady of the Assumption
Parish Council
Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan

Clara Brazeau

103 years old on July 13, 2026
Sacred Heart Parish Council
Roblin, Manitoba

Brenda De Jong

103 years old on August 28, 2026
Immaculate Heart of Mary
Parish Council
Grand Bend, Ontario

Elda Liberty

103 years old on March 26, 2026
Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption
Parish Council
North Bay, Ontario

Barbara Roy

103 years old on July 26, 2026
St. Charles Garnier Parish Council
Kelowna, British Columbia

Sr. Mary Sheridan

102 years old on October 26, 2025
Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption
Parish Council
North Bay, Ontario

Margaret (Phyllis) Carter

101 years old on January 5, 2026
Star of the Sea Parish Council
St. Catharines, Ontario

Rita Flintoff

101 years old on June 30, 2026
St. Joseph Parish Council
Oshawa, Ontario

Adele Molnar

101 years old on July 21, 2026
Sacred Heart Parish Council
Red Deer, Alberta

Celine Reghelini

101 years old on April 9, 2026
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Parish Council
Sherwood Park, Alberta

Chiara Altobello

100 years old on June 11, 2026
St. Patrick Parish Council
Wildfield, Ontario

Natalia Baran

100 years old on January 19, 2026
Holy Ghost Parish Council
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Luigina Bastone

100 years old on January 30, 2026
Sacred Heart Parish Council
Sioux Lookout, Ontario

Eileen Brow

100 years old on February 16, 2026
Regina Mundi Parish Council
Hamilton, Ontario

Paula Buyse

100 years old on May 14, 2026
Sacred Heart Parish Council
Langton, Ontario

Mela Dacunha

100 years old on January 16, 2026
Nativity of Our Lord Parish Council
Etobicoke, Ontario

Iona Ferdinands

100 years old on July 12, 2026
Immaculate Conception Parish Council
Delta, British Columbia

Rita Hogan

100 years old on May 18, 2026
Our Mother of Perpetual Help
Parish Council
New Liskeard, Ontario

Margaret Hummel

100 years old on May 12, 2026
Our Lady of Mercy Parish Council
Sarnia, Ontario

Jean Kealty

100 years old on July 30, 2026
St. Finnan Parish Council
Alexandria, Ontario

Mary Kreuzpainter

100 years old on August 1, 2026
Our Lady of Mercy Parish Council
Port Hope, Ontario

Kathleen (Kay) Lewis

100 years old on April 24, 2026
St. Mary's Cathedral Parish Council
Calgary, Alberta

Mary McLaughlin

100 years old on April 8, 2026
Sacred Heart Parish Council
Wetaskiwin, Alberta

Elisa Montin

100 years old on February 15, 2026
St. John the Baptist Parish Council
Guelph, Ontario

Ann Vincent

100 years old on May 13, 2026
St. Gabriel Parish Council
Athabasca, Alberta

Tina Zubkowski

100 years old on March 3, 2026
St. Francis Xavier Parish Council
Camrose, Alberta

Centennial birthdays and birthdays beyond 100 are submitted by parish councils.

Spotlight



St. Joseph Parish Council (Grimsby, Ontario) held its installation of officers' ceremony during a morning Eucharistic celebration. Following Mass, members gathered for a communion breakfast. Guest speaker and fellow member Bernadette Walsh spoke about her experience with Development and Peace—Caritas Canada during a recent trip to Peru. National President Betty Colaneri brought greetings on behalf of the national council and highlighted the new national theme. Pictured are the newly installed executive and national president.



St. Theresa Parish Council (Edmonton, Alberta) joined with the parish community to prepare sandwiches for the Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples' outreach program. The event brought members and parishioners together in fellowship and a shared spirit of service.



Holy Trinity Parish Council (Nanaimo, British Columbia) held its annual Membership Appreciation Strawberry Tea. Members enjoyed fellowship and celebrated recipients of service pins recognizing five to 40 years of membership.



St. Thomas of Villanova Parish Council (Conception Bay South, Newfoundland and Labrador) collected chocolate treats from members and parishioners for children of inmates at the penitentiary during Easter.



Mary, Mother of the Church Parish Council (St. Boniface, Manitoba) held its annual membership drive and CWL Sunday, followed by refreshments after Mass. Faith Anderson, Manitoba provincial representative for the R3 to 1! Unity task force, presented Josephine Phiri with an R3 to 1! Unity pin in recognition of her successful recruitment efforts.

2027 ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

COASTERS



Set of two
(size 4" x 4")

Cost: \$15.00 per set
Plus postage



SOLIDARITY MINI SASH KEY CHAIN

Colours are Indigenous and "CWL."
Wearing this mini sash expresses
your commitment to 'Walk Together'
with the Indigenous Peoples of
Canada in healing and reconciliation
and is worn with honour and respect.

Cost: \$10.00 per sash
Plus postage

WHEREVER BAG



This multi-purpose bag
can be worn around
the waist, crossbody or
over the shoulder.

Colours: Blue, Pink,
Black, Teal

Cost: \$18.00
Plus postage

TO ORDER CONTACT:

Marcia Porier
22 Williams Bay,
Lorette, MB R5K 1G8
Email:
marciapcwl@gmail.com
Telephone:
(204) 915-5484

Payments by e-transfer to:
cwlconvention2027@hotmail.com
or
Cheques made payable to
2027 National CWL Convention

AUGUST 8-11, 2027

Save the date and join us in Winnipeg for the
**107TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION OF
THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA.**

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, on
behalf of Manitoba Provincial Council,
looks forward to welcoming attendees to
Canada's heartland. Join League sisters
from coast to coast to coast for engaging
keynote presentations, lively discussions,
warm fellowship and plenty of fun.
Special events will also highlight some
of the best that Winnipeg has to offer.

Stay tuned to cwl.ca for more details.
Until then, know that we are excited to welcome you.

**SAVE
THE
DATE**



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.

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

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40007536

