



# The Catholic Women's League of Canada

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Kim Scammell, CPA

December 5, 2016

Most Rev. Luigi Bonazzi  
Apostolic Nunciature  
724 Manor Ave.  
Ottawa, ON K1M 0E3

Your Excellency,

The Catholic Women's League of Canada, founded in 1920, is the largest national organization of women in Canada, with in excess of 83,000 members represented in every province and the military. The League has often received the commendation and keen appreciation of federal, provincial and municipal authorities for the voluntary services ably performed by its nationwide membership and is organized and pledged to serve all citizens of goodwill.

In honour of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, the League undertook a project in tandem with its theme, *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission: Palliative and Hospice Care*. Parish councils were asked to focus the service in their communities towards palliative and hospice care and on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. They were asked to report back about the works performed and offer them up as a spiritual bouquet for His Holiness Pope Francis.

Over 4,000 pledges were received from individuals and parish councils specifically reporting on the good works they have completed during the year. Members reported on *feeding the hungry* with donations of money, food and most importantly, time to the elderly and shut-in and to needy families. Members *clothed the naked* by making donations of clothing and personal care items to shelters, refugee families and teens in need. A traditional support that members undertake to help *bury the dead* is to provide many services surrounding funerals which include serving funeral lunches and providing an honour guard. In honour of the focus on palliative and hospice care, members sent in pledges informing of the many good works they undertook when visiting the sick. Members gave the most important thing to those in need, their time. They *visited the sick* in hospitals, hospices and palliative care facilities to accompany people on their final journey home. Members spoke of their commitments to volunteer in hospice facilities in various positions from board members to companions to special events organizers.

League members continued in their journey to *instruct the ignorant* by committing to advocacy to the federal and provincial governments through signing petitions and writing letters. They attended and encouraged others to attend workshops on a variety of topics important to them as Canadian Catholic women, most specifically surrounding the need for increased equal access to palliative care throughout Canada. Members continued to *pray for the living and the dead* by reporting on 45,000 prayers offered.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is grassroots organization with individual parish councils being the heart of all activities in Canada. Members have offered these actions to the Holy Father as a spiritual bouquet of mercy in honour of the Extraordinary Year of Mercy.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Margaret Ann Jacobs  
National President  
JN/maj

C-702 Scotland Avenue Telephone (204) 927-2310  
Winnipeg, MB R3M 1X5 Facsimile (204) 927-2321  
www.cwl.ca Email info@cwl.ca