

Welcome to The Catholic Women's League of Canada – the largest Catholic women's organization in Canada with approximately 82,000 members and parish councils in every province including the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, as well as on military bases. The national executive is composed of 11 provincial presidents and 11 elected officers with a national office located in Winnipeg. With your membership you will receive *The Canadian League* magazine published three times a year to keep you informed about League happenings. You can access the national website www.cwl.ca, where you can learn about current happenings or follow the League on Facebook or Twitter.

The mission statement proclaims that the League is “a national organization rooted in gospel values calling its members to holiness through service to the people of God.” As a national organization, a delegation meets annually with the federal government to present resolutions which are generated by members like you at the parish level, who recognize an inequality or injustice and lobby for change. Through national voluntary funds, Coady International Institute, Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, Catholic Missions In Canada, Catholic Near East Welfare Association and Euthanasia Prevention Coalition are supported. The League is also affiliated with the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations and presently Honorary Life Member Velma Harasen serves as North American regional vice-president.

But, none of this work could be accomplished without activity at grassroots level – your parish council. Members' motivation and strength comes from a spiritual focus. Invite your council to share the Objects of the League with you. I hope they inspire you to become actively involved. Wonderful programs are available so I hope you can take advantage of them. Don't hesitate to ask about retreat and development days, leadership courses and programs like *Catch the File!* or *S'Mores*. Your interest may spark fresh enthusiasm in your parish council.

I encourage you to take advantage of opportunities to attend diocesan, provincial and national conventions. Here you will experience the passion and enthusiasm of other like-minded women whose zeal will truly inspire you. This is how all members have grown – through the faith, fun and fellowship they have experienced in their own parish and beyond.

The national theme *Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call* offers members an opportunity to become more aware of God's unconditional love for them, experience how empowered they can be with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and evidence the fruits of the Spirit in their lives.

I hope that through your parish council you will deepen your spirituality, develop lasting relationships with your fellow League sisters, and grow in knowledge and confidence as you respond in joyful service to God's call.

Thank you for joining the League. It is the greatest gift you could give yourself. It is my hope and prayer that it will provide the opportunities for you to enrich your life, deepen your faith and experience the fruits of the Spirit evidenced in the words and actions of your fellow members.

God bless,



Margaret Ann Jacobs
National President