

Ceremony for the Presentation of Service Awards

[A service award may include pins, certificates and/or other awards.]

Opening Prayer

Spiritual Advisor: Loving God, the women of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada in the [parish/diocese/province] of [name], are filled with gratitude and joy as they gather in Your name. We thank You loving God for calling us to share in Your mission. You have bestowed powerful gifts upon all members and empowered them to share in service through mutual support of one another.

[blessing of service awards]

All powerful and ever living God, we thank You for the many and diverse gifts that continue to be shared by League members toward the building of Your reign, enabling them to carry on the work of Christ at home, in the community and throughout the world.

Scripture Reading

Reflection on the Word of God (or silence)

Instruction

Chairperson of Organization: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 10 years to come forward. [call by name]

President: Like Mary, Mother of Jesus, may your “Yes” to God continue to shine forth in every dimension of your lives, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Chairperson of Organization: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 15 years to come forward (call by name)

President: Like Therese of Lisieux, may you remember and model the “little way” so that you will be a witness for all those seeking justice through gentleness, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Chairperson of Organization: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 20 years to come forward. [call by name]

President: Like Faustina, may you be an example of mercy to all as you live your life for others, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Chairperson of Organization: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 25 years to come forward. [call by name]

President: Like Catherine of Sienna, may you give enlightened leadership for the growth of the church and God's reign, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Chairperson of Organization: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 30 years to come forward. [call by name]

President: Like Marguerite Bourgeois, may you have the courage to work for needed improvements in the community which will be for the greater glory of God, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Chairperson of Organization: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 35 years to come forward. [call by name]

President: Like Marguerite d'Youville, may you continue to be charitable in your service to God and Canada, thus being a beacon of hope for the disadvantaged, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Chairperson of Organization: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 40 years to come forward. [call by name]

President: Like Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, may you respond with love to the image of Christ in the sick and suffering, the lonely and abandoned, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Chairperson of Organization: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 45 years to come forward. [call by name]

President: Like Kateri Tekakwitha, may your diligence, patience and devotion continue to assist you in your service to the League and the church, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**
Chairperson of Organization: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 50 years to come forward. [call by name]
President: Like Teresa of Avila, may your spiritual life flow from a deep and intimate union with God as you pray for others, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**
Chairperson of Organization: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 55 years to come forward. [call by name]
President: Like Anastasia, may your continued strong faith and prayer life give you strength to move the lives of those both bodily and spiritually imprisoned, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**
Chairperson of Organization: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 60 years to come forward. [call by name]
President: Like the great women whom you have known personally in The Catholic Women's League of Canada through the years, may your love of God continue to be an example to all, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**
Chairperson of Organization: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 65 years to come forward. [call by name]
President: May the vision of our foundress, Bellelle Guerin, continue to burn in your hearts so that "[the League] will arise fair and beautiful, strong and proud before the eyes of the world", for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**
Chairperson of Organization: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 70 years to come forward. [call by name]
President: Like Teresa Benedicta (Edith Stein), may your life of service in the cause of the faith, be a "light undimmed" for those women who follow in your footsteps and on whose shoulders they stand, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Chairperson of Organization: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 75 years to come forward. [call by name]

President: May your love of God and the League continue in prayer as an example for all League members, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Chairperson of Organization: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 80 years to come forward. [call by name]

President: Like the mother of Mary, (traditionally known as St. Anne) who by her nurturing led Mary to respond to God's request with faith, may your nurturing of the League demonstrated by your devoted service be a model to new and long-serving members, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Concluding Prayer (in these or similar words)

President: In support of one another, and in communion with all the saints in heaven, let us now pray with one heart and one voice.

All: **Our Father ...**

Blessing

Spiritual Advisor: Living God, Your Son's resurrection calls all people to a new and glorious life in You. Grant that we may bring this Good News to everyone through lives of joyful witness and service. We ask this blessing through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

All: **Amen**

Sign of Peace

Spiritual Advisor: Let us conclude our celebration by offering one another a sign of peace.

League Promise

For the glory of God and the good of God's people, I promise as a Catholic woman to honour, invoke and imitate our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel. I promise to be a loyal member of The Catholic Women's League of Canada and to promote its interest and growth in every way. I promise to cooperate with officers in all programs under their direction and to conform to the best of my ability to the bylaws of the organization in all League activities. Amen



League Prayer

We humbly pray You, O God our Father, to bless The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Bless our beloved country, our homes and families. Send Your Holy Spirit upon us to give light to our minds and strength to our wills that we may know and fulfil Your great law of charity. Teach us to share with others at home and abroad, the good things You have given us. This we ask through Our Lord Jesus Christ and the intercession of our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel. Amen