

Implementation Committee — August 2020 Update

Sr. Susan Scott

Following a lengthy period of waiting, it is a joy to introduce the members who form the first working group for the core value of social justice and Goal 2: The Catholic Women's League of Canada addresses and supports Catholic social teaching through advocacy. This year, the group will work to gift the League with a vast array of references and information that will help members learn more about the foundational nature of Catholic social teaching to faith. Within the year, members will have resources that will enable them to share on the following topics:

- Knowledge of Catholic Social Teaching
- Two of the Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching:
 - Care for God's Creation
 - Dignity of Work and The Rights of Workers

Shelley De-Serres, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Shelley loves to learn and finds being on a working group to be a wonderful opportunity to learn about the changes to the League firsthand. She has certificates in Catholic studies from Newman Theological College in foundations in faith and social justice. As a person who has suffered from mental health issues, she has experienced the stigma it can cause. Shelley believes human dignity is a right, but not one that all people enjoy equally. This belief and her faith have made her want to make a difference for those who cannot stand up for themselves. Shelley's dream is for everyone to live up to their full potential and have whatever means necessary to do so.



Belinda Halbach, Beaumont, Alberta

Belinda is a convert to the Catholic faith, a graduate of the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation program and has a master of divinity degree. While studying at Newman Theological College, she was able to take a course with Robert McKeon, a champion for social justice in the Archdiocese of Edmonton. Before this, she was unaware of the history of social justice in the Catholic church. Belinda believes that many people are also unaware of the role the church has played in this area. She wanted to be a part of this portion of the strategic plan's implementation so that she could introduce this subject to her League sisters and encourage others to work together to make the world a better, more equitable place to live. As Catholic women, members are leaders, called to speak out for those who are unable to speak for themselves, and for the care and protection of the environment.



Linda Maddaford, Yorkton, Saskatchewan

Linda has been involved in her parish and community service since her early high school years—service is not something she would ever opt out of. She believes people are called to share their gifts with one another and with the world and feels a profound responsibility to answer this call to serve through the League.



Linda's reason for serving on this committee for the implementation of the strategic plan is that by developing the materials and resources for the Catholic social teaching components, her group will help enlighten members on the vital role to which women in the Catholic faith are called. She trusts that the work done will enrich not only the League and each member, but also their families, parishes and the community. Linda's vision is that the work completed helps lay the foundation for the League's future and frame the service, spirituality and advocacy of which she believes the League is capable.

