

## **National Chairperson of Education and Health Margaret Schwab**

Madame president,

Members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada continue to very actively support and pray for access to good palliative care throughout our country. Through the media, we hear so-called success stories about medical assistance in dying, but where are the success stories about good palliative care? We must speak louder and pray harder.

The *Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care* is a good place to start. Many councils have made use of this to educate their members and parishioners. For the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, councils have donated a total of \$4,862.97 in support of this fund. The deadline for donations to the Horizons of Hope Toolkit through the national voluntary fund is August 31, 2023.

Once again, members were invited to take advantage of the national webinar on palliative care. The presentation, "At the Foot of the Cross," was given by Ana Gheysen, a spiritual care practitioner working at Hospice at Glengarda in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Ana's presentation has been described by attendees as practical, helpful, reassuring and passionate. It is available for viewing on the national website, [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca).

In June, the national bursary committee met to review applications from 12 candidates. Eight thousand seven hundred dollars was allocated to assist in the areas of personal spiritual growth, evangelization and leadership. Every year, the committee sees funding requests for new and different types of programs. Members are extending themselves in an effort to actively live out their faith. There are many opportunities out there.

The National Bursary Fund has been supported by the membership through donations of \$2,988 from January 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year. Donations from parish councils and their members are instrumental in keeping this fund viable.

Coady International Institute has also been supported by members through the national voluntary fund. From July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, \$13,312.65 has been donated to Coady by generous councils. With the assistance of League members across the country, Coady continues to provide programs that help others make a positive difference in their own communities. Information on these programs can be found at [coady.stfx.ca](http://coady.stfx.ca).

The partnership between Canadian Blood Services and The Catholic Women's League of Canada currently has 258 members. Since January 2023, these members have made 170 donations, which is a great start to the 200 that we commit to each year. Remember, friends and family can sign up as partners with us as well.

Members continue to strongly support Catholic education, be it through Catholic school divisions or through parish programs. At a time when it is perhaps difficult to stand up and be counted as Catholic people, we recognize the value in raising children who will grow to be people of faith carrying on our theme, *Catholic and Living It!*

This is my last report as a national officer. My journey has been shared by subcommittee chairpersons Shirley Christo (Ontario), Irene Gallant (Prince Edward Island) and Susan Melchiorre (Saskatchewan). It has been a privilege and an honour for all of us to serve the League in this capacity.

This concludes my report. †