



The Canadian League

*Rejoice in
The Vineyard of The Lord!*

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President's Message

Fran Lucas

National President and Chairperson of International Relations



It is November 2nd (All Souls Day) as I begin the first draft of this article. My days begin in prayer, and today a prayer in *Living with Christ* called “Remembering Our Loved Ones” gave me cause to read the following lines several times. “Dear God, we thank you for the wonderful memories we have of our departed loved ones. We are grateful when these memories bring us happiness and comfort.” All Souls Day is a time of commemoration of all the faithful departed. For me, memories go first to my closest family members and friends. In those memories is my mom, who is with me always. She was a faith-filled and hard-working woman who taught me so much about important elements of life, including knowing God, that hard work builds character and is good for the soul, and that helping others is not a suggestion—it is a necessity. I think of many others, including Bellelle Guerin, who I pray for in thanksgiving. Had she not had the vision and determination to ensure that a Catholic Women’s League be formed in Canada, members would not have the current sisterhood they are privileged and proud to be a part of. It is hard to think of not having and being members of such a strong and determined organization with more than 100 years of history and service. Think about the immeasurable value derived from the past and present resolutions, projects and voluntary fund donations. The League’s work will never be finished, as is



evident in the daily circumstances of Canadians and people throughout the world. In line with the new theme *Catholic and Living It!* how can all members be engaged as their baptismal call requires of them?

At the fall national executive/board meeting, the 2022-2023 national theme *Catholic and Living It!* was discussed to determine how members could “live it” out. It was clear that the core values of faith, service and social justice would be easily tied to any actions undertaken to advance the theme. Led by the Spirit, how would the mission of service to others and walking together be embraced? How will members continue to assist in the areas where the Catholic church has fed, healed and housed more than any institution in history?

Provincial presidents agreed they could develop the theme in their regions in a manner that would resonate with members. Applying the theme’s overarching message of relationship-building, councils may begin by bringing families closer. For example, in celebrating *Amoris Laetitia* Family Year ending June 26, 2022, perhaps have an event where mothers, daughters, daughters-in-law, granddaughters, etc., come together. Or undertake a provincial initiative where councils contribute to a specific Chalice project. It was determined a single cross-Canada project was not necessary—but that does not prevent one from surfacing in the months ahead.

All members have felt the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic

restrictions. I hear and see members wishing to become more engaged, more social—more “normal.” Each member has a personal barometer of how much “normalcy” she is ready to embrace. Yet all members know how important getting back to normal is personally and for the League. The longing for a deep purpose and mission keeps members going and makes them strong. At the fall meeting, a retreat was led by Sandy Prather, HOMI, provincial animator of Oblate Associates for OMI Lacombe Canada Province. Ms. Prather stated that Pope Francis asks Catholics to be a synodal church, which means walking together. That is how new relationships are forged and established ones made stronger. That so exemplifies the League’s sisterhood! If there was ever a time for a greater need for strong relationships, it is now. She went on to say that members need to be in communion with one another and feel the Holy Spirit with them in their meetings and anytime they are together. She reminded the national executive that the stained-glass image on the *Catholic and Living It!* prayer card shows the relationship of three: God pours out love to His Son, and the Son pours His love to the faithful by way of the Holy Spirit. The dynamism of love is never-ending and helps foster effective relationships.

Ms. Prather also reminded the executive members of the following points, but I am sure they are equally crucial for all. Members:

- are servant leaders, and through their baptism, they are called by God to participate in service as they each have been given unique gifts.
- need to know what their gifts are and to deny them is false pride.
- need to cherish their gifts and bring out the best in themselves.
- must tend to their gifts by using them appropriately and not squandering them.
- need to share and return their gifts and help one another to know each other’s gifts.

The theme prayer calls members to mission and invites them into the fullness of life. It speaks to building community, sharing their energy and decision-making and recognizing and valuing the gifts of all.

As members continue their valued work, with their heads held high and with the fortitude of the originating members, let them be reminded of the League mission statement and core values of faith, service and social justice and remain strong being *Catholic and Living It!* †

CATHOLIC and **LIVING IT!**

**Loving Father, open our hearts to
your infinite love for all people,
and to your presence with us
wherever we go in your name.**

**Lord Jesus, deepen the spiritual
life of the Catholic Women’s League.**

**Strengthen the faith and good
works of our members,
building-up life in the world
by being Catholic and Living It!
May we imitate you with works of mercy,
welcoming the forgotten,
suffering or vulnerable wherever
we encounter them.**

**Holy Spirit,
strengthen us to live our faith,
witnessing to life, peace and
social justice daily wherever
we are in Canada.**

**Through the intercession of
Our Lady of Good Counsel,
may we be joyful
and responsive to our
Christian calling,
by truly being Catholic and
Living It!**

**We make this prayer through
Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah,
who lives and reigns with the
Father and the Holy Spirit,
forever and ever.**

Amen.

From the National Spiritual Advisor

Most Rev. Stephen Jensen, Bishop of Prince George
National Spiritual Advisor



As the second anniversary of the outbreak in Canada of the global COVID-19 pandemic approaches, the virus continues to mutate into new forms, and there are few signs of an end to this disastrous situation. At the same time, the march of radical anti-life agendas in western society poses an even greater threat to individuals, families and the wider community.

Given these unprecedented developments, it is hard to foresee what the future will bring for the church and the League. Nevertheless, some prophetic words of wise pastors in the past can help members understand the present situation and see the vocation their faith gives them more clearly.

Almost 40 years ago, the future Pope Benedict said, “Today more than ever the Christian must be aware that he belongs to a minority and that he is in opposition to everything that appears good, obvious and logical to the ‘spirit of the world’, as the New Testament calls it. Among the most urgent tasks facing Christians is that regarding the capacity of nonconformism... to oppose many developments of the surrounding culture.”

Long before those words were spoken, Bishop Fulton Sheen, soon to be declared “Blessed,” reflected on the challenge facing Christians in an increasingly secular world, “It is so true in our present age that our nation is full of people who cry down, down with churches, down with teachers, down with governments, down, down, but you cannot build anything down. We must begin to use the word up, up from this filth, up from injustice, up from indifference, up to God. We must build up if we are

to proclaim the Kingdom of God. The destruction of order is everywhere; the more we increase in faith, the more we are equipped to overcome the worldly evil.”

In every age, this is the vocation of the church—to bring the light of gospel truth and hope to a world in the darkness of ignorance and sin, to reveal God to the spiritually poor by the Christian charity evident in each disciple and the community of believers. There are many ways that structures in the church help Catholics give that witness. The parish community is the primary venue for living the life of faith and witness—the League is another.

Members walk together to grow in faith and work together in the cause of the gospel at the local, provincial and national levels. In the face of developments in the world that threaten to pull them down as persons and in life together in marriage and family, the collective actions of the League can help move society up—“Up from this filth, up from injustice, up from indifference, up to God,” as Bishop Sheen declared.

Members cannot predict the future of the pandemic or most other things that pose threats to their physical and spiritual well-being. Still, they know what prophetic voices have declared throughout salvation history—God is at work in His friends to bring about a kingdom in this world. I ask our Blessed Mother Mary to inspire members with the trust she lived as they, too, cooperate with grace and work together “For God and Canada.” †

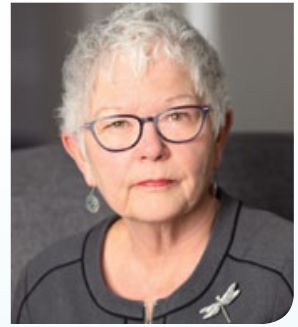
National Council Regretfully Advises the Passing of Life Members:

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Honorary Life Member
Edmonton, Alberta

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Camrose, Alberta

Yolande Perry
Gagetown, New Brunswick

We are **CATHOLIC** and **LIVING IT!**



Shari Guinta

National President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization

With a new national theme for 2022-2023 gifted to members from National President and Chairperson of International Relations Fran Lucas, I cannot help but comment on how appropriate this is for members as Catholic women.

I recently spoke with a new member in my parish council, and also, being a new Catholic, she was eager to learn about her faith. I told her as a new member myself back in 1986, I learned so much about the Catholic faith and the church in general as I journeyed within the League. This is one of many things I love about the League—members learn and grow in their faith and knowledge of what Catholicism is all about and can participate in their parishes and communities.

In a wonderful book by Brandon Vogt, entitled *Why I Am Catholic (and You Should Be Too)*, he offers a refreshing explanation of the Catholic faith. Mr. Vogt says, “In addition to teaching people, the Catholic Church has also fed, healed, and housed more than any institution in history.” He goes on to say, “Although

you may not find it celebrated in many textbooks, the Catholic Church has contributed a massive amount of good to Western civilization and has been, perhaps, its most indispensable builder.” Quite an accomplishment, I would say. Is this not *Catholic and Living It!?*

The work of the League is incredible in many sectors of society—social justice, social awareness, missions to those in need, helping those experiencing poverty, resolutions concerning the protection of life, palliative care, hospice service, soup kitchens, clothing the poor and more. Members’ hands, minds and voices express their beliefs.

I encourage members not to keep this to themselves and challenge them to reach out to women in their parish and invite them to join the League. Members just have to ask, reach out and invite. Let women in Canadian parishes have the chance to be women who can learn about their faith and then serve humanity the way God meant them to. That is *Catholic and Living It!* †



Ministry to the People of God

Dorothy Johansen

National Chairperson of Christian Family Life



One of the Objects of the League is to recognize the human dignity of all people everywhere.

“A certain rich man came up to Jesus ‘as he was setting out on his journey’” (Mk 10:17). The gospels frequently describe Jesus “on a journey;” He walks alongside people and listens to the questions and concerns lurking in their hearts. He shows us that God is not found in neat and orderly places, distant from reality, but walks ever at our side. He meets us where we are, on the often rocky roads of life”.

As Catholics initiate the two year synod process of reflection and sharing of the church, they too “are called to become experts in the art of encounter. Not so much by organizing events or theorizing about problems, as in taking time to encounter the Lord and one another... True encounter arises only from listening... Finally, discern. Encounter and listening are not ends in themselves, leaving everything just as it was before. On the contrary, whenever we enter into dialogue, we allow ourselves to be challenged, to advance on a journey”.

Members should be able to do these three actions—encounter, listen and discern.

If they are not ready to encounter (meet) a complete stranger, starting with someone they already know might be the easiest. I recently heard a homily which mentioned that the second commandment to love one’s neighbours as oneself requires Catholics to actually know their neighbour first. And love requires Catholics to *want* to do something for them, not to *have* to do something for them due to feeling obliged.

Most people would appreciate someone who will listen to their story or their concerns, even for just a few minutes at a time. Perhaps listeners could remember something they said and ask them about it later, or they could ask them about how they are doing and actually listen to their answer. If members could focus on just one person at a time, they may learn something about them and be able to support them in some way, especially in praying for their intentions and perhaps becoming a friend to them.

Once members have taken the time to really encounter someone they already know, members might be ready to meet a new person and continue their journey by making a stranger into a neighbour. They could gather up their courage and perhaps, together with some of their League sisters, go farther afield and find people who are obviously in need. By meeting them, listening to their stories and then providing what they need, members will show they are *Catholic and Living It!* †

Help Me To Discern

Today, O God of all days,
give me an experience of Your heart.
Draw me deep into Your very being,
into the core of Your love for me,
others, and the world.
Give me a glimpse of others
the way You see others:
loving them, forgiving them,
and delighting in the way
they give glory to God
through their very existence.
Help me to discern out of that
open place of deep affection
so that I too might be a useful
vessel of Your love in the world.

(Author Unknown)

Catholic and Living It! – The Adventure of Walking Together



Cathy Bouchard

National Second Vice-President and Chairperson of Spiritual Development

Pope Francis has gifted Catholics with a synod that compliments the new national theme, *Catholic and Living It!* “Celebrating a Synod,” Pope Francis said in his homily for the opening of the Synod of Bishops, “means walking on the same road, together.” He emphasized living out the three verbs that characterize a synod, “encounter, listen, and discern.” *Catholic and Living It!* means members become “enlightened by the Word of God and, united in prayer... [they will] seek God’s will and pursue the pathways to which God calls [them] – towards deeper communion, fuller participation, and greater openness to fulfilling [their] mission in the world”.

Catholic and Living It! calls members to become experts in “the art of encounter... Not so much by organizing events or theorizing about problems as in taking time to encounter the Lord and one another,” to devote time to prayer and adoration, and to listen to what the Holy Spirit wants to say to the church. Every encounter requires “openness, courage and a willingness to let ourselves be challenged by the presence and the stories of others” the pope said.

Catholic and Living It! is about living in synodality. According to Julian Paparella, special advisor to the Synod of Bishops in Rome, “Walking together’ is at the heart of what the Church is all about, as the People of God on pilgrimage in the midst of the world. ...Synodality is a way of renewing the Church from her deepest roots, in order to be more united with one another and better carry out our mission in the world. Concretely,

being ‘synodal’ is a way of being and a way of working that takes a more grassroots, collaborative approach, taking time to discern the path forward together. It highlights the fact that we all have something precious to contribute to the Body of Christ. In this way, a ‘Synodal Church’ is a Church that listens: ‘It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. The lay faithful, the bishops, the pope: all listening to each other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the “Spirit of truth” (Jn 14:17), in order to know what He is saying to the Church’’. Synodality will “naturally call us to change our ways of doing things, in order to become more and more who we truly are as a Church [and as a League]: walking together, amidst the entire human family humanity, guided by the Holy Spirit”.

In the next two years, at every level of the League, from the parish to diocesan to provincial and to the national level, members are called to renew the League by re-visioning it through the pillars of faith, service and social justice. Just as members can participate with their parish councils in the discussion work of the synod, they can ask the same questions the synod asks, “A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, ‘journeys together.’ How is this ‘journeying together’ happening today in our particular Church [and in our CWL council]? What

steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our ‘journeying together’?”

There is a dedicated website to the synod documents at synod.va/en.html. *Vademecum for the Synod on Synodality: Official Handbook for Listening and Discernment in Local*



Churches is available at synod.va/en/news/vademecum-for-the-synod-on-synodality.html.

Paraphrasing Pope Francis, “It is not enough to say we are [members of the Catholic Women’s League]. We must live the faith, not only with our words, but with our actions.” This is what it means to be *Catholic and Living It!* †

Prayer for the Synod

(From the *Vademecum for the Synod on Synodality: Official Handbook for Listening and Discernment in Local Churches*)

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us
down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever.

Amen.



Change – A Way of Life

Marie Rackley

National Secretary-Treasurer



It is a cold winter morning with the wind blowing and snow whirling around. The sky is dark and overcast. Will 2022 change from the previous two years? The global COVID-19 pandemic is still present and has uprooted many communities across Canada. How long will members live in such an up and down world?

Things have changed. From the *Oxford Canadian Dictionary of Current English*, the meaning of change is “an act or process through which something becomes different; an alternation; a new experience; variety; an exchange; a replacement.”

In the financial world, change is “money given in exchange for money in larger units; money returned as the balance of the sum paid; coins.”

Disaster has hit provinces and territories from East to West during the past few months. Communities have been displaced due to fires and floods, while the lives of many have been destroyed. With this comes the process that things will become different as people try to rebuild homes, churches, stores and communities.

Crops, produce, livestock, fields and barns were also destroyed, along with farming machinery. Replacing and rebuilding will cost more as the price of materials has increased. The cost of dairy, fresh produce, beef and poultry will increase. Most significantly, the environment has been affected. Waters that have seen years of many varieties of fish are in danger. Gas prices have increased, and with most supplies requiring transportation, prices will soar.

The Catholic Women’s League of Canada is no exception. The League has struggled to maintain its membership throughout the past few years. Its structure and programs needed to be reviewed and revamped,

and leadership development lacked. Thus a strategic plan was developed and is being implemented over a five-year period. The membership approved this process and funds are being drawn from investments to cover these costs.

The League has been incurring operating losses as the membership has declined. If membership continues to fall and the vote to increase per capita fees is rejected by the members, the national executive/board will

have no choice but to continue to review the services provided, such as the publication of the magazine, to balance the budget annually.

At the board level, there was a great deal of discernment regarding the impact a digital-only format of *The Canadian League* on members, especially the elderly. However, many members have adapted to this technological world and

have created innovative ways to bring the magazine to sister members. The board also acknowledges the concern of the cost to councils printing copies of the magazine.

The board will continue to work on serving the membership and will continue to look for new ideas to help with both the revenue and expenses of the operating budget.

Change is not easy. It is a process through which something becomes different—a new experience.

As the national secretary-treasurer, I ask for members’ prayers as I continue to serve the League and its membership. May Our Lady of Good Counsel bless all members as they continue to serve God’s people. †



Ending Poverty in Canada



Faith Anderson

National Chairperson of Community Life

Despite Canada's wealth and resources, poverty affects millions of Canadians. Recent estimates indicate that more than 14% of Canadians suffer from low income, while others are at risk of falling into poverty. On any given day, more than 150,000 Canadians are estimated to be homeless. To address this, on June 21, 2019, the federal government passed the *Poverty Reduction Act* to "support continuous efforts in, and continuous monitoring of, poverty reduction in Canada."

Opportunity for All – Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy states, "While poverty affects everyone differently, when some Canadians are left behind, all Canadians are impacted. Poverty affects the strength and resilience of our communities. People living in poverty are more likely to face health-related setbacks, to have difficulty finding and keeping a job, to find themselves in the criminal justice system, and to need various social supports and assistance. Also, children who grow up in poverty are more likely to remain in poverty as they age."

The document also states, "Opportunity for All is about working together to end poverty so that all Canadians can live with dignity, have real and fair access to opportunities to succeed, and be resilient enough to get through difficult times. Living with dignity means that Canadians would be living without hunger and would have enough income to meet their basic needs; having access to opportunities means that Canadians would be able to move out of poverty and acquire the skills, education and jobs they need to be at their best; and being resilient means Canadians would

have the income security and social supports they need to rebound from life's setbacks."

Globally, Goal 1 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals is to "end poverty in all its forms everywhere." In 2015, more than 700 million people globally lived in extreme poverty; the COVID-19 pandemic will push an estimated additional 71 million people into extreme poverty. Even before the pandemic, baseline projections indicated six percent of the "global population would still be living in extreme poverty in 2030".

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on December 22, 1992, declaring October 17th of each year the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. This day can be traced back to 1987 when more than 100,000 people gathered where the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* was signed in 1948 to honour victims of extreme poverty, violence and hunger. On that day, it was "proclaimed that poverty is a violation of human rights and affirmed the need to come together to ensure these rights are respected" (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

Canadians can monitor the progress made by *Opportunity for All – Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy* as it affects each province and territory and the collaborative efforts between the federal and provincial/territorial governments (see baseline incomes below). One of its pillars is to focus government actions on reducing poverty by ensuring basic needs such as reasonable housing, nourishing food and health care are met. †

In 2020, the federal government announced the Market Basket Measure (MBM), which is currently under review by Statistics Canada, would be used as Canada's Official Poverty Line. A report from Statistics Canada stated, "The MBM is a measure of low income which is based on the cost of a basket of goods and services that individuals and families require to meet their basic needs and achieve a modest standard of living. Wherever individuals and families are living across the country, if they cannot afford the cost of this basket of goods and services in their particular community, they will be considered to be living below Canada's Official Poverty Line." The federal government uses Canada's Official Poverty Line to measure progress toward reducing the poverty rate by 50% from its 2015 level by 2030.

The MBM in Canada ranges from approximately \$38,000 in small communities in Quebec to \$50,000 in Vancouver, British Columbia. In the Maritimes, the MBM is between \$40,000 and \$45,500 in most areas, with the highest being more than \$46,000 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In the Prairies, the MBM is in the \$40,000 to \$50,000 range with specific thresholds of \$45,164 (Winnipeg, Manitoba), \$46,654 (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan), \$48,967 (Edmonton, Alberta) and \$49,462 (Calgary, Alberta). These figures represent the income Canadians required in 2019 to meet their basic needs with a modest standard of living.

Providing Spiritual Care: An Evolving Role For Members

Shirley Christo

Life Member and National Education and Health Sub-committee Member



The spiritual development of members has always been a *raison d'être* for the League. With the realities of ageing populations and the global COVID-19 pandemic, one way of fostering spiritual development is by providing spiritual care for each other. Members can do this through nurturing faith, hope and love in all that they do. Ongoing changes in health care and modified societal norms make providing spiritual care challenging, but more than 100 years of League practice addressing Jesus' gospel mandates to "... proclaim the good news..." (Mk 16:15) and "...to heal [the sick]" (Lk 9:2) can help the League make it happen. The three main goals of the strategic plan align beautifully with the three pillars of providing spiritual care.

FAITH: When someone is ill, members champion intercessory prayer. Scripture says, "...whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours" (Mk 11:24). At the 2008 national convention, Honorary Life Member Agnes Bedard verified this power of intercessory prayer when, after thanking members for "praying her through her cancer journey," she asked how many present were cancer survivors. Roughly 75% of the room raised their hands! What an asset for the League to connect across Canada to support local, national and international healing prayer intentions. Traditionally, members seek the intercessory help of Our Lady of Good Counsel and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to aid them in their ministry and the new national theme, *Catholic and Living It!* prayer does the same.

Moving forward armed with the awareness of the privileges of the Holy Spirit and the intercessory guidance of Our Lady for providing spiritual care, imagine how members can expand on *Catholic and Living It!*

HOPE: A second pillar for providing spiritual care is restoring/maintaining hope by reminding of scripture passages such as, "Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful" (Heb 10:23). Hope is also about ensuring individuals and families that the League will persist with advocacy for the sanctity and dignity of their lives and will continue to use the resolution process to lobby for related health care. The numerous resolutions that have been raised asking for better palliative care in Canada and the evolution of the

current national *Action Plan on Palliative Care: Building on the Framework on Palliative Care in Canada* is an excellent exemplar of the advocacy outcomes that the League is capable of attaining. The second strategic goal to "address and support Catholic social teaching through advocacy" maintains the League's legacy of instilling hope. Imagine what members could elicit if they were to purposefully engage the women of all Catholic health care organizations and services across Canada to join them in membership to use their gifts to help advocate for restoring the sanctity and dignity of life from cradle to grave?

LOVE: The final pillar for spiritual care is based on Jesus' commandment "... Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (Jn 13:34). From inception, the League has reached out in service to journey with the marginalized and vulnerable. Even during the pandemic when direct contact was restricted, members found ways to share the love of Christ. Special efforts were made to arrange for thoughtful deliveries, telephone calls or virtual connections for the lonely and homebound. Those working in health care have donated countless hours to help with vaccination efforts or filled the void for deployed colleagues. Moving forward with goal three of the strategic plan "to foster a culture where all life is valued with dignity and respect," members will be challenged to journey with those needing spiritual care. Consider the implications of the League taking collaborative leadership for organizing parish volunteers to help launch initiatives such as the recently released Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishop's *Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care* project. Through contributing to the circle of support needed, individuals could experience the love of Christ while remaining in their preferred residence and parish!

As the League moves into its second century, it is essential to consider the impact on members' spiritual development of nurturing spiritual care ministries. Through addressing the three pillars of faith, hope and love parallel to the three goals of the strategic plan, members will not only realize the importance of spiritual care ministry in parishes but will also come to know what it means to be *Catholic and Living It!* †

We Are Catholic—Now, We Must Live it

Anne-Marie Gorman

National Past President and Chairperson of Laws



The Catholic Women's League of Canada is an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women inspired by faith. It is:

- A vital participant in the church;
- A valued partner for social justice;
- A respected advocate at all government levels;
- Connected to the world.

*(The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Plans Strategically)*

It cannot be said often enough that members are inspired by faith to live out their baptismal promises of service and advocacy—locally, nationally and internationally. When Bellelle Guerin said in 1921, at the first convention in Toronto that “we may be said to be laying the cornerstone of an edifice that will arise fair and beautiful, strong and proud before the eyes of the world,” she was prophetic. Through its more than 100 years in existence, the League has documented the growth in faith through this enormous sisterhood that extends to almost 100 countries across the world. Imagine the good that has been achieved for those who cannot speak for themselves.

So much has been made of the membership's adversity these days. The League has declining membership; it has a need for education still on who, what and why it exists. The League's need to continue its advocacy efforts to help others and, in doing so, continue Jesus' teaching, is at the heart of the work that needs to continue. After all, the few early followers, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, have translated to more than two billion Christians worldwide in two millennia. If the word of Jesus and the new covenant to love one another is to spread, it is members who must pick up their collective cross. I would posit this is truly *Catholic and Living It!*

The proposed amendments circulated in December 2020 to every parish council have now been voted upon and returned to national office. The parish councils each carry one vote to their respective diocesan annual meeting of members (AMM); the diocesan councils each carry one vote to their respective provincial AMMs. In the case of the Military Ordinariate, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island provincial councils, the parish councils take their votes directly to their provincial AMMs. Members will know in August the results as the 11 provincial presidents bring the votes generated from the parish level to the national annual meeting. Each member's voice will have been heard through this process. They are *Catholic and Living It!*

Once the results of the vote are known in August 2022, it will determine how this beloved national organization moves forward. The amendments to the constitution that are adopted will come into effect; the per capita fee increase, if adopted, will come into effect in the 2023 membership year. †



Rejoice in the Vineyard of the Lord!

Join Us for the 102nd National Annual Meeting of Members and Convention of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

August 14-17, 2022, Kelowna, British Columbia

Excitement! Anticipation! On Fire! Can you tell how we feel about hosting the League's 102nd anniversary in sun-kissed Kelowna, British Columbia? Members in Kamloops and Nelson dioceses' hearts are overflowing as they think about *Rejoicing in the Vineyard of the Lord* with their League sisters from across Canada! Kelowna is surrounded by mountains, orchards, vineyards (more than 40!) and of course, the Okanagan Lake. One must visit the Okanagan Valley to know how truly beautiful it is. Kelowna's population of more than 143,000 people enjoy a bustling urban centre that offers a large variety of restaurants and shops, as well as museums and live entertainment. The official floral emblem of Kelowna is the Okanagan Sunflower, and during your stay in this beautiful city, we extend a challenge to see who can count the most sunflowers!

The Delta Hotels by Marriott Grand Okanagan Resort at 1310 Water Street is anxiously awaiting to welcome members and guests to the convention. It is situated in the heart of the city's cultural district, with a picturesque waterfront boardwalk right outside the hotel doors.

Aside from the long-awaited opportunity to reconnect with League sisters, the planning committee has put together some exciting activities to highlight this region of British Columbia. Registrants arriving on Saturday are invited to join one of two tours. Enjoy the taste of enticing wines on the **Wicked Wine Tour**—a three-hour tour of the best Kelowna wineries, breweries and distilleries. The bus will leave the hotel at 10:30 a.m. and arrive back at 1:30 p.m. Or, go back in history on a self-guided tour to the **Historic O'Keefe Ranch**, founded in 1867 by Cornelius O'Keefe and his prominent Catholic family. The original Catholic church still stands on the ranch. Enjoy the scenery of the area on the one-hour bus ride which departs from the hotel at 9:00 a.m. On the way back to the hotel, attendees will stop at **Davison Orchards**, a family farm since 1933. Here they grow a wide variety of quality Okanagan produce. Davison Orchards specializes in fresh-pressed apple juice, freshly baked pie and treats along with a vast assortment of homemade jams and preserves. Attendees will take an orchard tour, learn a little history about farming in the area and return to the hotel by 4:00 p.m.

On Sunday, we are excited to offer a **Distinctly Kelowna City Tour** inclusive of lunch from 10:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. This tour includes a visit to the: Kasugai Gardens (a

hidden gem in downtown Kelowna with its tranquil Zen demonstrating the friendship and union between Kelowna and its sister city in Kasugai, Japan), Okanagan Wine & Orchard Museum (soak in the ambiance of the province's oldest fruit packinghouse) and Father Pandosy Mission (many original buildings remain from when Fr. Charles Pandosy worked and lived with the people from 1859 and on). The tour will finish at the Summerhill Organic Bistro at Summerhill Pyramid Winery for a scrumptious lunch.

We recommend taking in the scenic **Kelowna Cruise** for those wanting to ensure they are back in time to join the convention's resolutions dialogue. What better way to see the city of Kelowna than by viewing it on the beautiful blue waters of Okanagan Lake while enjoying lunch with your League sisters.

Buses will be available to transport members and guests to the opening and closing masses at Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church. We look forward to welcoming you after opening mass to a wine and cheese reception.

Come prepared with your "roaring 20s" outfit to dance the night away at the **Roaring 20s Night Dinner** on Monday night. Because didn't the 2020's come in with a roar? Since members could not gather in person to celebrate the League's 100th anniversary, what better way to celebrate being together again than by honouring the past from 1920 to the current years of the new 20s!

The planning committee is working diligently to make the gala banquet a night to remember! We hope you will stay with us for at least one more day to take in the **Summerland Steam Train with Detour to Summerland Sweets** on Thursday, August 18th. We invite you to join us on the only preserved section of this historic railway—ten miles of beautiful vistas, from lush orchards and vineyards to a spectacular view of lake and land from the Trout Creek Bridge, 238 feet above the canyon floor. The sight and sound of the restored 1912 steam locomotive the "3716," will bring the era alive as you ride along on this 90-minute journey in a vintage passenger coach or open-air car.

We cannot wait to be together again so that together, we can *Rejoice in the Vineyard of the Lord!* †

Public health orders in place in Kelowna from August 13-18, 2022 will be strictly enforced. Registrants are advised to become familiar with the orders prior to arrival.

102nd Annual National Convention

August 14-17, 2022

Delta Hotels by Marriott Grand Okanagan Resort • 1310 Water Street • Kelowna, British Columbia V1Y 9P3
Telephone: (800) 268-1133 • Please mention The Catholic Women's League of Canada National Convention
Registration limited to 900 people.

PLEASE COMPLETE ONE FORM PER PERSON. PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SIDES.

Registration Deadline: July 15, 2022. Refunds are not guaranteed after July 15, 2022.

Name (please print) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ Diocese: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Telephone: _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Reg. #:	_____
Chq. #:	_____
Paid \$:	_____

I am attending this convention as a: (Please check ONE item in this section)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Member of the hierarchy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Voting delegate | <input type="checkbox"/> National spiritual advisor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial accredited delegate | <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial spiritual advisor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diocesan accredited delegate | <input type="checkbox"/> Diocesan spiritual advisor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honorary life member (registration fee waived) | <input type="checkbox"/> Parish spiritual advisor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life member | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CWL member | <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibitor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Military Ordinariate member | |

Other:

This is my first national convention: Yes No

I am attending the provincial dinner: Yes No

Dietary Needs:

Dairy-free Diabetic Gluten-free

Vegan Vegetarian

Other (specify) _____

Accessibility or Mobility Issues (please describe):

Registration fees for business sessions

	<u>Price</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Monday, August 15	\$ 75.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday, August 16	\$ 75.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, August 17 OR	\$ 75.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> All Three Days*	\$ 175.00	_____

Registration Subtotal: (carry subtotal over to next page) \$ _____



Coupon Code for WestJet: Z56YP8U
Promotion Code: YBF17
Website: westjet.com/conventions

2%, 5% or 10% off selected fare classes
Travel from August 7-25, 2022.

Questions? Contact the planning committee at pp@nelsondiocesecwl.org.

Special Events

Date	Time	Description	Price	Total
Saturday, August 13	9:00 a.m.	O’Keefe Ranch and Davison Orchards A seven-hour trip including round trip transportation from the convention hotel, admission and picnic lunch. Return by 4:00 p.m.	\$ 80.00	
	10:30 a.m.	Wicked Wine Tour Take a three-hour tour of award-winning wineries and learn about their surroundings, history and production. Taxes, facility tasting fees, gratuity and round trip transportation included. Return by 1:30 p.m.	\$ 165.00	
Sunday, August 14	10:00 a.m.	Distinctly Kelowna City Tour Visit the Kasugai Gardens, Okanagan Wine & Orchard Museum and Father Pandosy Mission, complete with lunch at Summerhill Organic Bistro at the Summerhill Pyramid Winery. Includes transportation, tour guide, entry fees, water, taxes and gratuity. Return by 4:30 p.m.	\$ 141.00	
	10:00 a.m.	Kelowna Cruise Take a two-hour private chartered cruise while you enjoy a light lunch. Departs at 10:00 a.m. from Kelowna Commercial Pier (230 Queensway Ave.) and returns at noon.	\$ 50.00	
	5:30 p.m.	Transportation to Opening Mass at Immaculate Conception Church (30 minute walk)	\$ 10.00	
Monday, August 15	6:30 p.m.	Roaring 20s Night Dinner Enjoy dressing up in the style of the 1920s as The Dreamland Band, a 17 piece big swing band, plays the night away.	\$ 65.00	
Tuesday, August 16	Noon	Life Members’ Luncheon (for life members only)	\$ 56.00	
	Noon	Spiritual Advisors’ Luncheon (for spiritual advisors and bishops only)	\$ 56.00	
Wednesday, August 17	4:00 p.m.	Transportation to Closing Mass at Immaculate Conception Church (30 minute walk)	\$ 10.00	
	7:00 p.m.	Gala Banquet Enjoy the Gala Banquet with entertainment by Michelle Allsop and Tony Serka.	\$ 90.00	
Thursday, August 18	9:15 a.m.	Summerland Steam Train with Detour to Summerland Sweets A six-hour trip including transportation, 1.5 hour train ride, lunch and a stop at Summerland Sweets and the Sleeping Giant Fruit Winery. Return to hotel by 2:45 p.m.	\$ 100.00	

Total Special Events Fees:	\$ _____
Registration Subtotal (from front):	\$ _____
Total Fees Enclosed:	\$ _____

Register online at cwl.ca or complete form and mail to:
National Office • C-702 Scotland Ave
Winnipeg, MB R3M 1X5

Please make cheques payable to:
The Catholic Women’s League of Canada.
The cancelled cheque will be your receipt.

Register by June 1st and be entered in a draw to win one of three prizes!

1st prize: Registration refunded • 2nd prize: a banquet ticket • 3rd prize: Roaring 20s Night Dinner ticket

You are responsible for your own transportation to the Delta Hotels by Marriott Grand Okanagan Resort.

A complimentary shuttle is available from the airport to the hotel for those with reservations at the resort.

The convention is a scent-free environment.

Public health orders in place in Kelowna from August 13-18, 2022 will be strictly enforced. Registrants are advised to become familiar with the orders prior to arrival.

Catholic And Living It! – Responding to a Special Call



Glenda Carson

National Chairperson of Legislation

The work of the legislation standing committee tends to be a bit of a dark horse. It can be difficult to recruit leaders for the standing committee, with members often citing a disconnect or challenge in understanding its significance to the work of the League. Others relate feeling overwhelmed when it comes to the complexity of the mechanisms of government. Still, others feel discomfort in exercising a “religious” viewpoint in a world with a secular government. And for some, the work of government is less relevant and sometimes even dull compared to the work of other standing committees. While authentic, the above views do not represent the true significance of the relationship of the legislation standing committee to the work of the organization.

In addition to papal encyclicals, Vatican documents and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the League’s objectives speak to the importance of members engaging in a knowledgeable reflection and dialogue related to the work of governments and their legislative bills. The power of the League’s collective voice as Canadian Catholic women should never be underestimated. With numbers comes influence—with influence comes the greater opportunity to address the social justice concerns for those less fortunate in the world and help ensure equality within Canadian democracy. These are all important expectations of members as followers of Jesus Christ.

Understandably, there may be hesitation and even discouragement among some members when reflecting on the work of legislation. This is especially true if there is a perception that their voices, as Catholics, lie in the margins of democracy and therefore are considered irrelevant. In Canada, however, religious rights are embedded as a basic freedom in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom*. While government is to be free

to enact legislation, Canadians are free, from a religious sense, to “speak [their] minds, listen to views of others and express [their] opinions in creative ways.” Further, the work of legislators is “people oriented,” obliging them to hear views and concerns. This includes everything from meeting with executive members regarding resolutions to individual members signing petitions and sending personal letters of concern and calls for action. It is true that a particular politician may not embrace members’ views, but that speaks more to the partisan nature of the political system and the importance of taking part in elections.

When it comes to legislation, government proceedings can be slow to the point of plodding and often appears convoluted with its parliamentary nature. However, when the enactment of a bill is part of a political agenda, it can move with great speed, often leaving concerned citizens scrambling to respond to the repercussions of the bill. Therefore, there needs to be consistent vigilance and knowledge of the legislative process to be effective responders to legislation. In response to members’ requests, Betty Colaneri, past national chairperson of legislation (2018-2021), developed a legislation workshop that addresses the Canadian legislative process. This informative resource is not only helpful to guide chairpersons of legislation at all levels, but it will aid members as a whole in becoming more knowledgeable and effective monitors of the work of provincial and federal governments.

The work of the legislation standing committee can present a unique challenge for engagement, but it also affords opportunities for all members to respond to the call to live their Catholic faith. Members can truly be *Catholic and Living It!* †



The Journey of Renewal

Implementation Committee

As this article is being written, Catholics are preparing to enter the season of Advent—a season to prepare hearts and minds to receive the light of Christ. The Advent wreath's symbolic circle and candles representing hope, faith, joy and peace invite Catholics to pray and welcome Christ's light to be signs of love in the world and their lives.

Members wait in hope and faith as the League enacts its renewal through the strategic plan. By God's grace and members' joyful service on working groups, completing surveys, joining focus groups and prayer, all strategies in Year 2 have been successfully completed.

The four leads and nine working groups comprised of 36 members have successfully completed Year 2 strategies covering such topics as Catholic social teaching, diversity, League misconceptions, prayers and prayer services, adaptable toolkits, meetings, simplifying procedures, leadership, reducing standing committees to three, streamlining executive positions, examining current levels and marketing. Resources, prayers, promotional material, toolkits, workshops and marketing material are available (or soon to be) on the national website (cwl.ca) under the To Organize tab—300 series (promotional materials), 600 series (manuals) and the 700 series (prayers). In addition, members are encouraged to watch *The League of the Future—Year Three* presentation located at cwl.ca/implementation-of-the-strategic-plan/ for detailed information.

The committee is pleased to advise that the League is at the halfway point in its five-year plan. An update on Year 3 working groups is provided below.

Goal 1, Christa Grillmair, Lead

I have recently accepted the position of Goal 1 lead. First, I want to thank Lisa Henry for her vision, commitment to excellence and guidance in bringing the implementation committee to Year 3 of the League's strategic plan. I have held several leadership positions on the local, diocesan and provincial levels and look forward to continuing Lisa's work with the dedicated women who have contributed hundreds of hours to research, develop and deliver on the Goal 1 strategies.

Marketing Working Group

This working group (Connie Crichton, Kathy Dahl, Lisa Fillingham, Cathy McKinney, Jessie Parkinson, Sr. Susan Scott and Terry Mae Sinclair) continues to work with Clark Marketing Communications to develop programs to increase awareness of the League within the church through marketing. Campaigns such as Innovation Nation



focus on showcasing the national sisterhood. Personal testimony of members and non-members in the Talking to the Audience videos put a face to the action of the League. Regular postings of quotes, FAQs, League trivia and holiday celebrations postings on Facebook and Instagram ensure the momentum continues, and the League maintains visibility. The marketing message on the various social media platforms is designed to spark interest in the League, engage the audience to share with their friends and encourage Catholic women to join.

Effective Communication Working Group

The effective communications working group led by Marilyn Blew is tasked with improving, streamlining and expediting internal and external communications. The group (Catherine Boudreau, Lisa Fillingham, Anita Kreutzwiser, Sr. Susan Scott, Maria Tejero and Jackie Van Ryswyk) has conducted a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis of all current communication methods. The group is working on a survey to key stakeholders that will be distributed in early 2022. It will conduct further research with focus groups to ensure the content of a procedural guide for effective communications meets the needs of all levels of the League.



Training and Development Using Technology Working Group

Leading the strategy to employ technology to develop training tutorials to meet the needs of the current membership is a task Mary Capobianco, Gail Kopp, Julie Lelievre, Lynette Mendes and Anna Tremblay have accepted. Under Mary's leadership, the group has developed



and distributed a survey to help determine what type of technology members have access to, find out where they currently get their training, pinpoint any obstacles and

identify training needs. Results of the survey will form the basis for developing future training programs.

The work cannot be done without the support of the membership. The members of the Goal 1 working groups hope members continue to participate in surveys and contribute their opinions, be inspired to share their stories, and invite others to join the membership to ensure the League thrives for another 100 years.

Goal 2, Sr. Susan Scott, Lead

How very fortunate members are to be disciples of Christ today! His call to each member to follow in His ways of love and service screams for attention. In the words of Jim Wallis:

“It is time to reclaim the neglected common good and to learn how faith might help, instead of hurt, in that important task. Our public life could be made better, even transformed or healed, if our religious traditions practiced what they preached in our personal lives; in our families’ decisions; in our work and vocations; in the ministry of our churches, synagogues, and mosques; and in our collective witness. In all these ways we can put the faith community’s influence at the service of this radical neighbor-love ethic that is both faithful to God and the common good.”

Catholic Social Teaching Working Group

The Catholic social teaching (CST) working group (Shelley De-Serres, Belinda Halbach and Linda Maddaford) will complete its action plan by May 2022 (two years ahead of schedule) with the submission of its research on the remaining five principles of CST. The completed work available on the national website includes a Social Justice Calendar and extensive resources on the primacy of Catholic social teaching, care for creation and the dignity of work and the rights of workers.

Advocacy Working Group

This Year 3 working group (Margot de la Gorgendiere, Sylvia Jurys, Glenda Klein and Diane Lemay) is well on its way to implementing the action plan. A request went out to councils to share any resources they may hold relating to advocating. These resources will be collected and added to the research to uncover online resources, workshops and presenters, trainers and speakers. The group will synthesize all relevant and valuable resources to develop at least one advocacy workshop that will ultimately be made available to parish councils. This final product will be created with the specific intention of being easy to use at the parish level without having to pay for or wait for a presenter to give the presentation.

Collaboration with Government Working Group

The collaboration with government working group (Ruth Boden, Diane Cote, Janice Graham-Migel and Claudette Langdon) has likewise made significant progress in meeting the deadlines of its action plan. An invitation was distributed to parish councils in the fall parish mailing, requesting examples of shared stories of interactions with government (at any level, not exclusively related to national resolutions). Some of these councils will be asked to be part of this working group’s three-year action plan to follow their journey in collaborating with governments. Executive Director Joe Gunn of Centre Oblat – A Voice for Justice has been invited to present two training sessions to the group and national chairpersons of resolutions and legislation, which will help train them and provide some resources to include in their final deliverables. These deliverables will be tools designed for use at the parish level, where most collaboration with government occurs. The group anticipates the tools will be available by the end of 2022.

Members are encouraged to keep all of these women in their prayers, not only through praying the Prayer for Renewal but also through actively and regularly visiting the national website for updates. Perhaps parish councils could add a regular agenda item related to strategic plan implementation updates.



Goal 3, Jacqueline Nogier, Lead

Networking with Catholic Organizations Working Group

Networking is the act of reaching out to people that one does not know—it is a give-and-take relationship. Members of this working group (Elaine Black, Annette Chaplin and Diane Lauziere) will create a document listing various Catholic organizations with spiritual programs that members can access. The group has reached out to nearly 100 organizations that offer spiritual programs to ask for information to include in the final document. A fact sheet has been shared to help these organizations learn about the League in return.

Actively Engage Members Working Group

Fellowship and prayer when gathering are a few things that many members value the most when attending League functions. However, many different personal situations might prevent members from attending meetings or functions regularly. Members of this working group (Rosalie Boots, Maureen Fadum, Ann Myers and Iris McNulty) are looking to promote ways that will allow new members and homebound members to become more involved in the League. The group has done several things to investigate and learn what parish councils are doing to include these members. Two focus groups have been struck to explore what is currently done and what more could be done to involve new and homebound members. The group will create a resource kit that parish councils will be able to use to actively engage their membership.

Generational Activity Working Group

The church is at its best when people of all generations attend. When Catholics sit in the pews beside young people starting their lives, young families with small children, people nearing retirement and those long retired, all stages of life can be seen—each with something to offer up to God. The League is no different. It is at its best when all generations of women are welcomed and feel comfortable. This working group (Rose Marie Geonzon, Sheilah D'Souza, Cynthia Hellsten and Jennifer Wallace) has written an article stressing the importance of intergenerational activity. There are many benefits to all members, and those of different generations have different skills and knowledge. When members work together and play together—and most importantly pray together—they are stronger together.

Increase Connectedness Working Group

Canada is a vast country, and Canadians are used to travelling great distances to connect. With the availability of new technologies, this has become easier in some ways and more difficult in others. The best way to communicate with League sisters is to sit across the table and share

a cup of tea and a laugh, but this is not always possible. This working group (Louise Beggs, Christine Doraty, Donna MacDonald, Marilyn Martin and Sharon Martin) is searching for ways to help members make and maintain meaningful connections on three levels:

- Parish level: looking for ways that will help members stay connected between meetings
- Diocesan level: looking for ways that will help parish and diocesan executives create a sense of community and belonging
- National level: researching ways to increase a sense of belonging and connectedness among members across Canada

Goal 4, Sharon Ciebin, Lead

Smartphone Application Working Group

This working group (Marilyn Blew, Susan Kaller, Ingrid LeFort and Kari Schwab) has embraced the task of creating a smartphone application for the League. The recommended features and functions of the application will promote the League's objectives and keep users up to date and informed. Based on the members' expertise on the subject, a comprehensive, collaborative course of action was developed. The plan includes offering an



Pamela Gregorchuk

online survey, researching external organizations' applications (Catholic and secular) and hosting follow-up focus groups. The ultimate goal is to develop a detailed business case for presentation to the national executive/board at the fall 2022 mid-term meeting. The online survey has been completed, with results far exceeding

expectations. Representation from all provinces and the Military Ordinariate, and at all levels, including honorary life members and non-members, was received. One hundred St. Christopher medals, rosaries and a grand prize of a virtual coffee with National President Fran Lucas have been awarded. The group is pleased to announce Pamela Gregorchuk from Sechelt, British Columbia, was the grand prize winner.

Committee Update

In early February, the implementation committee will advertise for members willing to share their time and talent on numerous strategies for Year 4. The post will be available at cwl.ca/implementation-of-the-strategic-plan/. Travel is not involved as the work is accomplished via teleconference. The committee looks forward to having interested members join the journey! †

Masking How We Communicate

Betty Colaneri

National First Vice-President and Chairperson of Communications



They come in different colours and designs to help people deal with the mandatory requirement of wearing masks far longer than anyone had anticipated. A smile camouflaged behind a curtain of safety patiently waits to brighten someone's day. Unfortunately, the global COVID-19 pandemic has deprived people of seeing that smile. The pandemic has severely affected the way the world communicates. Daily face-to-face communication that one may have taken for granted became a challenge when protective measures of physical distancing and facial masks were implemented. With the pandemic still looming worldwide, the struggle to maintain connections continues. Physical distancing has widened personal spaces, removed the human element and forced people into virtual communication of online existence. Even though this can be considered a positive outcome for becoming better at using communication-related technology, it can never replace face-to-face interaction. Facial expressions and gestures play significant roles in interpreting and delivering communication. Masks have prevented people from picking up on important facial cues and diminished the impact of the information being conveyed. Mask wearers are now mindful to project their voices more to combat the muffling effect of the mask while being careful that their intended tone of friendliness is not perceived as angry. Clear and concise communication is the very fibre of human existence, yet it is one of the hardest things to do well. Still, people strive to work together to pave a road to a solid relationship with good communication running in both directions.

Communication helps facilitate the exchange of information and knowledge and develop relationships with others. Without connections, people are struggling, experiencing depression or feeling a lack of belonging. Now more than ever, it is critical to stay in touch with people regularly to help alleviate the feeling of being disconnected. Members cannot underestimate the importance of communication skills in their day-to-day lives. Communication is not done once and considered complete—it is an ongoing tool and learning process. Effective communication sounds like it should be instinctive, but as Pope Francis states, "Communications requires study, preparation, and a special attention to truth,

goodness and beauty."

In this technological world, e-mails are often sent without the niceties of formal letters and can be interpreted as cold or harsh. Text messaging can also cause problems when the autocorrect feature replaces originally intended words. Pope Francis expressed it perfectly at the 50th World Communications Day. "What we say and how we say it, our every word and gesture, ought to express God's compassion, tenderness and forgiveness for all. Love, by its nature, is communication; it leads to openness and sharing."

Many may think talking is the primary way of communicating, but people's entire non-verbal communication behaviour can speak louder than words. Body language constitutes 55% of overall communication. Without saying a word, facial expressions, gestures, hand movements, crossed arms and eye contact can say it all. With my Italian background, my passion is often expressed with my hands. If I did not use them, I would be speechless!

Humans seek closeness at every stage of life, when they are vulnerable, lonely, frightened, unwell and especially when they are grieving. God has deeply enclosed in Christians the characteristic of longing for the comfort of human touch, which is why they also yearn to comfort others when they are suffering. Body language can show empathy and help alleviate suffering with the power of touch. Unfortunately, the pandemic has created an absence that reminds members just how precious human behaviours are and how they are the hardest to replace. A world without communication is unimaginable.

Personally, I love giving hugs. This gesture was the most difficult to refrain from because it symbolizes more than a physical embrace. A hug says I am happy to see you, I care about you, and I am here to support and listen to you.

Remember, the words said, the e-mail or text sent, or what is posted on the Internet is like toothpaste. Once it is out there, it cannot be taken back. Stay on the right track by ensuring the words speak the same language as the voice and body. Speak more clearly, write more concisely and make the eyes more expressive to convey a smile.

Until members can unmask how they communicate to reveal their smiles again, the eyes have it! †

The Mystery And Ministry of Resolutions

Rolande Chernichan

National Chairperson of Resolutions



Statistically, the mention of resolutions evokes intimidation and a fear of the unknown in most members. To be appointed to serve as a chairperson of resolutions often has the initial impact of being assigned an insurmountable task. The resolutions annual report for the 2018 reporting year stated, “Slightly more than one-half of councils across Canada used the online annual report form. From these respondents, less than one-half of positions were filled.” Sadly, annual reports reveal the chairperson of resolutions role is often vacant at the parish level. Over time, the same position has

become harder to fill at the diocesan and provincial executive levels. Despite the League’s longstanding history with resolutions, they remain a mystery to many members and the Christian ministry achieved by them is often understated or misunderstood.

I was introduced to resolutions by Honorary Life Member Evelyn Wyrzykowski (1988-1990) while she was serving as national past president. Evelyn and her husband were parishioners in my home parish of Notre Dame de Lorette. I was aware that Evelyn’s expertise with resolutions at the provincial level had resulted in her being directly appointed national chairperson of resolutions without having to serve as provincial president.

It was 1991, and news headlines featured leaking silicone breast implants and the disastrous results many women were experiencing. It was a serious health issue impacting women, which I felt warranted a resolution. I was painfully aware I had only a high school education and believed I did not have the educational skills to match those with post-secondary education. Evelyn encouraged me and provided me with copies of a few adopted national resolutions to serve as a guide. My first resolution attempt was adopted the following year at the parish, diocesan and provincial levels.

I have always been interested in news and social events, so researching and developing that first resolution ignited an unintended passion. Encouraged by the awareness and education in members that resolutions could achieve, I was motivated to try to interest members of my parish council in joining me to research and develop resolutions. Those efforts paid off as members grew in the knowledge of the process and impact of resolutions. The council became a regular contributor of resolutions to the League on a wide variety of issues.

So why is there fear, mystery, avoidance or indifference when one hears the word “resolutions”? Is it because the word is a reminder of often-failed personal New Year’s resolutions? Resolutions are a unique platform for change. So through avoidance, are members not shortchanging themselves and those who could benefit from their advocacy through resolutions?





Being a part of a resolutions committee or serving as chairperson contributes to the special ministry of resolutions. Encouragement found in the introductory message of the *Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook* says it best: “Resolutions play a major part in the League’s work. Through them, policy may be established, programs planned, or concerns and views expressed to governments. Resolutions can be a powerful tool ‘to infuse a Christian spirit into the temporal order’ (*Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*). The League can serve the church’s mission and be a Christian witness through resolutions.” Inspired by its core values of faith, service and social justice, the League’s resolutions are a voice for social justice and Christian witness!

Members are proud of the impact that resolutions have. Many have heard the thunderous applause when a resolution is adopted at convention. That applause is an expression of approval, appreciation and affirmation of the intent of the resolution, as well as the efforts that went into the development and final wording of the resolution that was arrived at through the adoption process. Members know that the *development* of a resolution is often the work of a few committed committee members. However, the *adoption* of a resolution is the first step of

its intended advocacy through its resolved clause(s).

“All adopted resolutions constitute the League’s official opinion, policy or request, and implementation of resolutions is a large part of the yearly work for League members” (*Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook*). Members across Canada share in the work and advocacy of a resolution when they *act* on the various proposals of its action plan after it has been adopted at the final level of its intended destination. The real impact happens through the action plan, where members are encouraged to become knowledgeable about the issue and write letters to express their support for the resolution. The largest part of the *shared ministry* of resolutions is brought to fruition when members do individual advocacy by writing letters to government. What an incredible opportunity for Christian witness by giving added voice to a single resolution!

Members are blessed that the League has developed the tools for them: the *Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook*, which was updated in 2020, and the double-sided *Resolutions Guide* leaflet where vital information is presented for easy referencing in an at-a-glance format.

My involvement with resolutions has given me:

- new knowledge acquired through research on topics
- improved skills in composing and editing resolutions
- new computer skills learned from committee members
- experience in online research and developing all components of a resolution electronically
- confidence to develop and facilitate resolutions workshops
- affirmation and encouragement of sister members
- faith, fun and fulfillment

I have been rewarded by seeing the ‘spark’ ignited in someone attending a resolutions workshop or through personal mentoring. I have had the honour to meet with the premier and cabinet of my province to present League resolutions. I have met several women who share my passion for resolutions, and I have been gifted with new friends and sisterhood through our shared endeavours. What is holding you back? Are you willing to be fearless in exploring the mystery of resolutions and sharing in the ministry served by them? †

Mission Statement

The Catholic Women’s League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

Introducing



Joline Belliveau

Nova Scotia
Provincial President

Joline is the oldest of six children and believes it helped her become a leader. She was born 68 years ago in Quebec City, where her father was finishing his

education. Her parents eventually moved back to Nova Scotia, their home province. Joline is of French Acadian descent, and thanks to her mother, who only spoke French in the home, she can speak French reasonably well. Joline's family settled in Yarmouth, where she attended grade school. She then attended Mount Saint Vincent Academy, followed by Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, where she obtained her university degree.

Joline describes her childhood as "fairly uneventful." Some of her favourite memories include attending the 1967 International and Universal Exposition in Montreal with her parents and siblings and spending part of her summers with her grandparents and cousins on the "French" shore, swimming in the cold Atlantic ocean. Another of Joline's fondest memories is her 14th birthday, when her father took her to Harris' Seafood Restaurant for supper, well known for its great reputation and Clara Harris' "Mile High Meringues," which had been featured in an article in *Gourmet* magazine.

Joline worked at Export Development Canada (Ottawa, Ontario) for 12 years before moving home to Yarmouth, where she currently works as a medical secretary. She is single and lives with an almost 11-year-old English springer spaniel named Noel and five cats (Joy, Lucy, Oliver, Rusty and Stormy).

Travelling and running are two of Joline's most recent interests. A few years ago, she ran a marathon, coming third in her age group.

Joline joined the League 20 years ago at the invitation of a friend and quickly became very involved. She loves the League and is blessed to have made many great friendships since joining. As a member, aside from forming great friendships, Joline believes the League has helped her grow as a Catholic woman by encouraging her to challenge herself, learn to listen to others and gain a deeper insight and respect for women. †



Marilyn Gay Garvey

Prince Edward Island
Provincial President

Born and raised in Toronto, Ontario, Gay was blessed to receive a Catholic education. She graduated from St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing with

a diploma as a registered nurse in 1965. Following graduation, Gay worked at Scarborough General Hospital and, during this time, met her future husband, Tom. They married in 1967 and moved to the United States to be close to his family in Philadelphia and to complete his university studies. Following this, they moved to Prince Edward Island in 1971, where they raised their five children. Unfortunately, Tom passed away in 2015 after a lengthy illness. Not long after, Gay's oldest son Michael died. Although greatly missed, she knows they are at home and at peace with the Lord. Gay's four surviving children and 11 grandchildren are the joy of her life and keep her very busy.

A member for 37 years at St. Dunstan's Basilica Parish Council (Charlottetown), Gay was on the provincial executive from 1998-2002 and again more recently, from 2016 to the present. Her introduction to the League was shortly after the birth of her third child when two members of the local parish council brought her a small gift and invited her to attend one of their meetings. She was impressed with the pleasant visit because, at this time, she was a "stranger" and new to the parish. Gay became a member, but it was only in time that she began to understand the complexity and value of the organization.

In 1988, Gay became involved with a Canadian youth pro-life organization as a parent volunteer to educate youth on chastity and pro-life issues. This resulted in increased time commitments with annual conferences and meetings. St. Dunstan's Parish Council said it could help her promote the conferences through the parish councils. Indeed it helped greatly and propelled Gay into the League's mission and purpose, with the Objects of the League particularly resonating with her. Since then, Gay has been actively involved with the League in some capacity, currently as president and previously with most committees, except during times of family

illness. Other areas of interest and organizations she has been involved with include Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and palliative care, PEI Right to Life Association and Ignatian Spirituality Exercises and Prayer Group. Her parish involvement includes assisting with Teen Encounter, catechetics, as Eucharistic minister, in the choir and most recently, assisting the COVID ministry. She was also a volunteer with the 4-H Club as a parent leader and baseball coach when her children were young.

Gay worked for 22 years at the Dr. John Gillis Memorial Lodge, long-term-care facility near Eldon. She was the director of nursing for 12 years and then a staff registered

nurse until her retirement. At the same time, she obtained her registered nurse certification in gerontology, which gave her a greater understanding of the ageing process and the need for more home care and palliative/spiritual care, as well as resources for dementia and mental health.

Gay feels it is an honour to work with so many dedicated members concerned about caring for their environment and its people, their relationships with Indigenous peoples, pro-life issues, and more. Women guided by their faith, whether at the parish, provincial or national level, who serve “For God and Canada” are indeed a blessing for Gay. †

In Memoriam

(Helen) Ardis Beaudry Honorary Life Member



It is with great sadness that the family announces the death of Ardis Beaudry, on Saturday, December 4, 2021, at the age of 93 years.

She is survived by four children, Denis (Betty-Ann) Beaudry, Lorraine (Sandy) Anderson, Roxanne (Ian) McDonald, and Michelle (Kelly) Simpson; twelve grandchildren; fourteen great-grandchildren; and

sister, Kay Walker. She was predeceased by her husband of 51 years, Guy, in 2000 and her sister, Betty Kenny, in 2005.

Born and educated in the Viking district of Alberta, Ardis attended the University of Alberta and taught school in rural areas until her marriage in 1949.

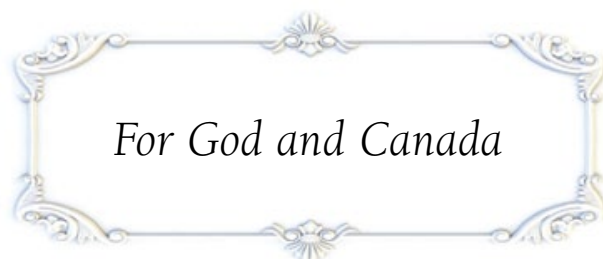
Ardis's deep faith guided her and led her to become an advocate for women throughout her life. This was especially evident in her many leadership roles with The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Ardis joined the League in 1950 and served at all levels, being elected Edmonton Diocesan President (1970-1972) and Alberta Mackenzie Provincial President (1977-1979). A member for over 70 years, she served as national president from 1984 to 1986.

Her community involvements outside the League have been numerous, e.g. she served on or chaired many boards, including the John Howard Society, Catholic Social Services of Edmonton and as the Canadian Board Member to the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO) and WUCWO Vice-President for North America. In this latter capacity, she convened the first-ever North American Regional Conference held immediately prior to the League's 70th annual national convention.

In 1989, Ardis was honoured by the federal government when she received the Citation for Citizenship Award. She was also inducted as a Lady of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

A founding member of WIN House (shelter for battered women), she was involved in the sheltering movement for more than 20 years. In 2019 she was a recipient of the Founders of the First Women's Shelters in Canada award from the federal government, for her pioneering work in providing safe haven for victims of domestic violence. In the last three years of her life, Ardis was instrumental in the writing of *WINning: The Trials, Tribulations and Triumphs of Opening a Women's Shelter*, a history of sheltering in Edmonton. †



Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the following centenarians!

Flora Johnston

104 years old on September 17, 2021
Holy Redeemer Parish Council
Saint John, New Brunswick

Marie A. Dubreuil

101 years old on August 20, 2021
St. John The Baptist Parish Council
Estevan, Saskatchewan

Lydia Reichert

101 years old on August 25, 2021
Holy Family Parish Council
St. Albert, Alberta

Olga Dramnitzki

100 years old on September 24, 2021
St. Gerard Parish Council
Yorkton, Saskatchewan

Beatrice Geldart

100 years old on September 2, 2021
Saint John XXIII Parish Council
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Petronella (Nelli) Gubbels

100 years old on August 11, 2021
Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish Council
Delhi, Ontario

Emilia (Millie) Kuchma

100 years old on November 5, 2021
Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish Council
Rainy River, Ontario

Theresa Light

100 years old on September 19, 2021
St. Mary Parish Council
Barrie, Ontario

Josephine McKeough

100 years old on September 8, 2021
St. John The Divine Parish Council
London, Ontario

Mae L. Tremblay

100 years old on September 28, 2021
St. Simon & St. Jude Parish Council
Belle River, Ontario

Congratulations!

Congratulations to councils celebrating anniversaries!

100 YEARS

Our Lady of La Salette
Parish Council
La Salette, Ontario

Sacred Heart Parish Council
Bathurst, New Brunswick

St. Ambrose Parish Council
Yarmouth, Nova Scotia

St. Bernard Parish Council
Moncton, New Brunswick

St. Edward Parish Council
Westport, Ontario

St. Michael's Basilica Parish Council
Chatham, New Brunswick

St. Ninian Parish Council
Antigonish, Nova Scotia

St. Simon & St. Jude Parish Council
Tignish, Prince Edward Island

75 YEARS

Resurrection Parish Council
Fort St. John, British Columbia

St. Joseph Parish Council
Eatonia, Saskatchewan

50 YEARS

St. Joseph Parish Council
Huntingdon, Quebec

On The Spot

In fall 2020, **Holy Trinity Parish Council (Parkland, Alberta)** participated in the 2020 Centenary Project by planting 50 trees generously donated by member Elaine Dextrase and her husband Gene in the Willow Park Natural Area in beautiful Stony Plain. Members and residents neighbouring the park helped with the planting and providing water and snacks!

Following the success of the 2020 planting, the council, in May 2021, planted another 50 trees—for a total of 100 trees for 100 years of The Catholic Women's League of Canada!

To complete the council's tree-planting project, the idea of a park bench was hatched. Following much planning, the council hosted a dedication for the garden bench to commemorate the League's 100th anniversary in the Willow Park



Natural Area and the planting of 100 trees. National President Fran Lucas, Alberta Mackenzie Provincial President-Elect Mary Hunt and Edmonton Diocesan President Mary Molloy were in attendance to help celebrate and Fr. Joselito Cantal, associate pastor at Holy Trinity Church (Spruce Grove), graciously gave a blessing.



St. Cecilia Parish Council (Regina, Saskatchewan) took the Gratitude Project to great heights by purchasing space on an electronic billboard to display a message of thanks to essential workers in the community. The message ran for six seconds, every minute, for 24 hours! The council also provided postcards for parishioners to give to first responders and plans to continue to encourage members and parishioners to let frontline workers know how much their dedication and commitment are appreciated.



Notre Dame de Lorette Parish Council (Lorette, Manitoba), was named a recipient of the premier's volunteer service award! The award "honours the efforts and dedication of outstanding volunteers in Manitoba; and recognizes and encourages the valuable services performed by volunteers throughout the province." The parish council has been involved in many volunteer initiatives, including adopting a highway!

Continued on next page ▶

On The Spot

Continued

In honour of the League's 100th anniversary, Holy Family Parish Council (Whitby, Ontario) planted a Magnolia tree in the church gardens. With the council's executive members in attendance, the tree was blessed by Parish Spiritual Advisor Fr. Laszlo Nagy.



Members of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Council (Labrador City, Newfoundland and Labrador) made beautiful quilts and donated them to the chemotherapy unit at the local hospital.



Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish Council (Candiac, Quebec) planted a lilac tree to commemorate the 100th anniversary of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Municipal Councillor Mr. Daniel Grenier was also in attendance. Parish President Edith Mészáros said, "Lilacs also belong to the same family as the olive tree, a symbol of peace. Like branches of a tree, we come together to form one beautiful entity, the Catholic Women's League. We each bloom at our own pace with our strengths and talents while remaining firmly rooted in our faith."

The tree was planted outside the Complexe Roméo V. Patenaude, where St. Raymond Parish has its masses, and the parish council meets throughout the year. The council members are committed to bringing beauty to their homes and community while serving "For God and Canada." †



Letter to The Editor

Dear Sisters in the League,

Our council was saddened to hear the news that *The Canadian League* magazine would be going to an online version in the fall.

So many of our members are older (I'm sure many other councils can echo the same statistic), and not only can they not navigate the internet, many do not even have access to internet service.

Our older members and special needs members will be most affected by this change and they love the paper copy and look forward to receiving this mail. It represents the tangible link from national to our grass roots. CWL members have grown up on paper copies and prefer that method of consuming information.

Reality is the CWL membership are mostly senior members, not many are under 50 yrs. Although we share in the future vision of the League, we must not lose the interest and support of our current membership, especially when national office is proposing a raise in the membership dues. This magazine is the simplicity in members lives, they cherish the tactile experience of print. They can hold it, read it, re-read it, refer to it, save it and it is portable.

We pray, hope and trust that the national executive will re-visit this decision following the fall online version and return to a paper edition.

Yours in Christ,

Linda Morris

Dear Linda,

Thank you for expressing your concerns regarding *The Canadian League* magazine. The switch to a digital format for the fall 2021 issue was a very difficult decision the national executive/board made after taking many



factors into consideration. A significant factor was the cost of \$250,000 to produce and mail three magazines each year. The greater portion of that cost is reflected in postage. With the startling decrease in membership over the past years, it is becoming more challenging to cover the increasing costs. For eight of the past ten years, the League has been operating with a deficit that has been covered by investment income and the sale of investments. There are considerable savings by having one magazine in digital format, which will help reduce the deficit.

There was a great deal of discernment regarding the impact a digital format would create for members, especially elderly members. Many councils have had to adapt to this technological world and have developed innovative ways to bring the magazine to members. When restrictions allow, and it is possible to do so, councils are encouraged to take a copy of the magazine to members in person. Reading and discussing the articles would be an excellent opportunity for members to feel connected to their CWL sisterhood. This could be a wonderful opportunity to fulfill our ministry of reaching out to members to foster discussion and share ideas. The board also acknowledges the concern of the cost to councils downloading and making copies of the magazine. Perhaps a portion of the year's fundraising efforts can be dedicated toward this cost so that individual members would not have to acquire that cost personally.

Once again, thank you for voicing your concerns. The board is optimistic that the strategic planning that has been taking place will assist with increasing membership so that this decision can be revisited.

Sincerely,

Betty Colaneri
National First Vice-President and
Chairperson of Communications

Notice:

The next issue (spring 2022) of *The Canadian League* magazine will only be available online at cwl.ca. Should you require a print copy, please request one from your parish council.



Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, Honorary Life Member Danielle McNeil-Hessian (2008-2010) and former National Spiritual Advisor Most Rev. Martin Currie, Archbishop Emeritus of St. John's, held a surprise honorary life member pinning ceremony for National Past President and Chairperson of Laws Anne-Marie Gorman in Nova Scotia in fall 2021.



Magazine Deadlines

Spring issue – February 15, 2022

Fall issue – July 15, 2022

Winter issue – November 15, 2022



Front

Back

To: _____

The members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada wish to thank you for helping those in your community.

We want you to know...

- G** – how grateful we are
- R** – how much we appreciate your resilience and resourcefulness
- A** – how amazing and awesome you have been
- T** – that giving of your time and talents is greatly appreciated
- I** – what an inspiration your courage has been
- T** – how thankful we are that you were able to serve others
- U** – that we understand your sacrifices
- D** – your dedication did not go unnoticed
- E** – that your service to others during a pandemic is Exceptional!

Anchored in faith, the blue butterfly a symbol of honour and joy, yellow flowers a symbol of abundance, survival and spiritual enlightenment.

We honour your service, dedication and gracious spirit with sincere gratitude!



“Wrapped in our Mother’s Arms”



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