



The Canadian League



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President's Message

Anne-Marie Gorman

National President and Chairperson of International Relations



I am writing as a sister would write a letter when unable to be together in person. As this is the case in most of Canada, it seems appropriate my last “letter” would be a fond farewell and wish for continued unrelenting faith in this exceptionally important organization that spans the entire country. It has been a difficult year, but not ever one that posed insurmountable challenges, though it may have seemed that way at times.

I return to the roots of this beloved League. This organization's first and most important object is “to achieve individual and collective spiritual development.” Headly words like “object” and “achieve” drove me to wonder how the founders and writers of the *Constitution & Bylaws*' earliest iteration came to choose them. Merriam-Webster defines an object as “something mental or physical toward which thought, feeling, or action is directed,” or “the goal or end of an effort or activity”. I think the two show how the Objects of the League lead members. The one I note here is the first of eight Objects. Jesus says the first and foremost command is to love God with one's whole heart, mind and soul, and to love one's neighbour as oneself. The League's first object coincides perfectly. Put God first, others second, self, last.

I have been giving a lot of thought lately to how much love the League as an organization has for itself. Do members always put God first? Do they always put “neighbour” before themselves? Do they treat others as they would like to be treated? Like Honorary Life Member Lorette Noble's theme during her term (2006-2008), *Love One Another*, it is easier said than done. It is particularly difficult when there is a lack of knowledge, an overabundance of emotion, and a crisis beyond members' control. When there is a confluence of these, there may be a tendency towards looking outward for a place to put one's frustration. I certainly have done this, though I am not proud to admit it.

Of late, I often reflect upon whether there is a loss of

peace, individually and collectively, within the League. Especially during the current confluence of challenges, I ask that members maintain the trust they have for the League. Decisions made by many heads much brighter than mine demonstrate the love to which Jesus refers, as more than 70,000 women are considered at every turn.

While members lives are so different this year, I believe this time provides an opportunity to again be in communion with the least of the least. Among them are those without adequate shelter, nourishment and medical help. Many women and men in other areas of the world live in refugee camps, unable to protect themselves and their families with even modest hygiene. In other regions, deadly fighting and malnourishment keep families divided and fearful.

There is so much to do, and the membership is exceptional at “doing”; however, members are first called to be grounded in Christ. This ties in perfectly with the object of spiritual growth as there cannot be one without the other. In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis says there is “a great cultural, spiritual and educational challenge... before us, and it will demand that we set out

on the long path of renewal.” In doing so, members will find peace, unlike anything they have experienced.

Bringing simplicity back into members' lives as they renew this national organization, a huge ship that requires a lot of time and space to maneuver, requires a solid yet simple faith that members as Christians aspire to cultivate in order to find “inspiration to take up the commitment to creation set before [them] by the Gospel of Jesus.” While being human means there will always include lots of misunderstanding among us, members can, as David Wells says in *The Reluctant Disciple: Daring to Believe*, “... absorb it, carry it, and in time just let it go.”

As Jesus looks on all of us with love, may we continue to model His love to others with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of our dearly beloved patroness.

Be not afraid. †



From the National Spiritual Advisor

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



The study of organizational health has developed a tool known as a SWOT analysis. The acronym stands for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Widely attributed to researchers at the Stanford Research Institute in the 1960s, it has become a much-used tool to take the pulse of a business or non-profit organization to understand its current situation and to make decisions that will ensure a strong future.

Now that the League has entered its second century, it is helpful to apply this lens to its situation, especially as members face challenges brought on by the global COVID-19 pandemic, a crisis that shows no signs yet of abating.

To consider the first element in a SWOT analysis—strengths—it is easy to identify one of them as the League milestone members have just observed. For 100 years, Canadian women of faith have exercised servant leadership in their parishes, dioceses and broader society, including important works of education and advocacy.

Another obvious strength is the national character of the League. Is there any other institution so effective in bringing together women from every province and territory and increasingly diverse backgrounds, mirroring Canada's immigrant society?

Considering weaknesses, the "greying" of the membership is a genuine concern. In part, it reflects the unhealthy demographics of the country, but also may indicate the perception of the League among Catholic women is deficient. Compounding the problem, the pandemic has isolated Canadians and pushed them towards using social media, conditions that have been a real challenge for many older members.

Allow me to switch the order of the last two categories. Speaking of threats, the declining membership numbers

stand out as a concern. The recent proposal to increase national per capita fees reflects the financial pressure to maintain an effective infrastructure for a national organization with the reduced support that corresponds with lower membership numbers. This is a moment when everyone has to decide if it is worth it to pay more to ensure the League retains its ability to effectively communicate with and serve its members.

Another threat is the relative failure to connect with younger Catholic women and women who belong to minorities in which the League has not been present historically. The League's ongoing viability requires that it reach the women of this younger and more diverse generation.

Finally, rather than being resigned to the continuation of trends observed today, there is reason to see opportunities for the League in the second century of its life.

It seems providential that long before the outbreak of the current worldwide public health crisis, the League's leadership had the foresight to embark

on a strategic planning process. Implementation of that plan is unfolding and seems to be precisely what is needed to respond to the new situation.

Long ago, then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who became Pope Benedict XVI, reflected on the state of the church in an interview that became a famous book. He suggested that, as has happened before in

history, the church may emerge from the troubles it faces in current times as a numerically smaller but more committed community that is more effective in its mission. The reform and renewal of the faith community is the constant experience of the church. With members' commitment, it can be the story of the League, too. †



Responsible Stewardship

Janet McLean

National Secretary-Treasurer



How many members can name the League's national officers and provincial presidents? (If you need help, refer to the inside front cover of the magazine.) Who are these women, and why should members want to know their names? These women are members of various parish councils across Canada—in other words, regular members. They have volunteered their time and talents throughout the years because of their faith in God, their willingness to serve, and their belief that a national organization of Catholic women is just as relevant in Canada now as it was when the League was founded in 1920.

These women are also directors of The Catholic Women's League of Canada and were duly elected according to the *Constitution & Bylaws*. As directors, they must comply with the rules contained in the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*, which states the following:

“Every director and officer of a corporation in exercising their powers and discharging their duties shall (a) act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the corporation; and (b) exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances.”

This means directors have a fiduciary duty to manage the League's assets so that its objects are realized. To manage these assets, the board has a duty to ensure the League's financial health.

This duty of trust led to the presentation, at the fall 2020 board meeting, of the Motion to Increase Per Capita Fees (motion) from \$13.00 to \$25.00. Despite annual operating costs being kept well below

inflationary increases, the five-year financial forecast clearly indicated that without a per capita increase, the League would be facing insolvency in 2025. The steady decline in membership for many years has taken its toll on the national treasury, and resources are required for implementation of the strategic plan beyond what the national treasury can bear.

Before the motion was approved by the directors, they discussed all of the motion's ramifications. In the end, it was clear the directors' fiduciary duty made it necessary to propose the per capita increase to the membership. The proposed motion, if adopted by the members, would have taken effect in 2022. However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, councils have now been given until March 2022 to conduct the vote on this critical motion, so if adopted, it would only become effective in January 2023.

The directors continue to monitor the League's financial position. Because the vote's outcome will not be known until the annual meeting of members in August 2022, difficult decisions will need to be made when the 2022 budget is presented this November. Services may need to be reduced or charges imposed for services rendered. The directors must continue to act in a fiscally prudent manner while waiting for the outcome of the vote.

The directors would like to urge all members to give serious thought to their decision when voting on the motion. The hope is that all members share in the envisioned future of the League as an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women, inspired by faith, as a vital participant in the church, a valued partner for social justice, a respected advocate at all government levels and connected to the world. To continue in this mission, a financially sound organization is required. †

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.

Letter to The Editor



Dear Sisters in the League,

One very important thing that I have learned as a CWL member is the importance of speaking up about issues that concern the League, our community, our country and the world. It is my time to speak up about the proposed National Per Capita fee increase from \$13.00 to \$25.00.

I can certainly understand that the League at the national level functions from monies collected from each member and I do know that the strategic plan and the implementation committee have created some expenses that were perhaps not forecasted. What I find troubling is the amount of increase that the national council is looking for. A 92% increase in fees will discourage members who have limited income to renew and will provide hardship for many struggling councils. In the Diocese of Vancouver we will have to charge a minimum of \$40.00 just to cover our per capita fees – this leaves nothing left for the councils. We know that the majority of our members are in the 60+ age group and many of them are not able to navigate the internet and so have no access to meetings via Zoom, Skype, etc. and no access to the online magazine. What exactly are they getting for their \$40.00?

I urge the national council to reconsider this proposed per-capita fee increase to one that makes more sense for our members and for our councils. Consider a two tier implementation plan – a \$6.00 increase in 2023 and another \$6.00 increase in 2028. This would provide the national council with increased income now and future increased income and would allow councils time to slowly increase fees and build up membership.

My love of The Catholic Women's League of Canada stems from a sisterhood of sharing our faith and working together to serve and respect others. Let us work together in the next year to come up with a proposal that best serves all of our members and councils. May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide us in all that we do.

Roxanne McDonald
Vancouver Diocese

Dear Roxanne:

I have been given the opportunity to reply to your letter regarding the proposed national per capita fee increase as I presented the motion to the national board at its fall meeting. After discussion and debate, the board agreed to present the motion to the members for consideration. It is the membership that will decide whether the increase will occur.

My responsibility as national secretary-treasurer is to look to the long-term financial viability of the League. In preparing the 2021 budget and examining the League's five year financial forecast, it was evident that the required investment reserve level of 50% of operating expenses would not be met in 2023. An increase of \$12.00 per year (which requires members save \$1.00 a month to pay the increase) would allow the League to be on solid financial ground for the next 10 years. Even given more recent figures since November 2020, a \$6.00 increase in 2023, as you propose, would only delay this situation by one year and so require the additional \$6.00 increase by 2024.

Regarding your question of what members receive for their \$40.00, I can only comment on the \$25.00 that would be used for national purposes. This money pays rent, including utilities, taxes, repairs and maintenance, staff salaries, benefits and government levies, office equipment, including computers and related support, software and support, copiers, office supplies, postage, bank charges and credit card fees, and telecommunications—in short all expenses incurred in having a national office. Other League expenses include national executive expenses, national convention expenses (net of registration fees paid which have been increased in recent years to better cover costs), production of the League magazine, development funds to, and training webinars for, members, promotion, advertising, and the projected expense over the next three years of \$1,000,000 for implementation of the strategic plan.

As you mention, the League is a sisterhood where we share our faith and work together. For those councils or members who may struggle to pay a membership fee increase, those League sisters or councils who can help could support them financially so we can all remain united as women of faith and action as sisters in The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Yours sincerely,

Janet McLean
National Secretary-Treasurer

Richly Rewarded

Margaret Ann Jacobs

National Past President and Chairperson of Laws



As a new bride in 1969, I eagerly joined the local Women's Institute (WI) branch. I was anxious to meet my new neighbours and thrilled to be welcomed so warmly into the community. Monthly meetings were held in members' homes and included so many opportunities to advance my knowledge, not just of rural affairs but on a much broader range of issues and challenges facing the world. Meetings were well run with interesting programmes, projects, workshops, fun and fellowship shared with an interfaith and intergenerational group of women. In the beginning, I was the only Catholic member. Check out the WI at fwic.ca/.

At the same time, I was invited to join the League at Our Lady of Lourdes. The women embraced me, and I thrived on the opportunity to get involved in parish ministry, parish council and all the activities prevalent in a country parish at that time. I chaired several committees, but I could not imagine how the League could ever offer the possibilities the WI I had grown to love could. That is, until I became parish president, attended regional, diocesan and provincial meetings, development days and retreats.

My whole world exploded! My horizons broadened as I learned about the scope of the outreach the League offers. Through phenomenal mentorship, encouragement and affirmation, I was privileged to facilitate grassroots, fieldworkers, spirituality day of discovery, teamwork and orientation sessions, leadership and public speaking courses, prepared resolutions and met with government representatives. I learned about issues faced by people worldwide through the focus on Coady International Institute, Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, Catholic Near-East Welfare Association and the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations.

Today, parish councils are being challenged to vote on a proposed per capita fee increase. I do not have to enumerate all the negative opinions that members have vocalized over this change. I need to express my support for this proposal. I believe this increase is necessary, warranted and timely. No parish group can offer the educational renewal and outreach opportunities offered by this national organization. For me, this will be money well invested in my future and that of countless other members, communities and beyond.

I still love my Women's Institute sister members and am

so proud of all that we accomplish working together. For this privilege, my yearly membership fee is \$57.00.

However, I value my membership in the League beyond measure. The ability to share my faith journey with sister Catholic women not just locally but across the country, indeed, around the world, fuels my desire to support and maintain my parish council. Members have fun and work, pray and laugh together as they endeavour to leave their mark on the world. The League needs this fee increase to continue its phenomenal work. I encourage members to support it.

I leave you with a prayer, one with which WI members open their monthly meetings. League members could benefit from the beautiful words and powerful message. †

Mary Stewart Collect

Keep us O Lord from pettiness, let us be large in thought, in word and deed,

Let us be done with fault finding and leave off self-seeking.

May we put away all pretence and meet each other face to face,

without self-pity and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgement and always generous.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straight forward and unafraid.

Let us take time for all things; make us grow calm, serene, gentle.

Grant that we may realize that it is the little things that create differences;

that in the big things of life we are one.

And may we strive to touch and know the great human heart common to us all, and O Lord God,

Let us not forget to be kind.

A summary report will be provided by National President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization Fran Lucas at the annual national meeting of members August 9-10, 2021.

In Year 3, the four leads and a team of 36 working group members will research opportunities and resources to fulfill nine additional strategies. Monthly updates continue to be provided on the national website at cwl.ca/implementation-of-the-strategic-plan/ and Facebook.

Each member plays an integral role in the success of the League achieving its envisioned future.

Pause, Reflect, Renew

Marketing the League, Goal 1 Lead Lisa Henry

As I write this article, Catholics have just entered the sacred season of Lent—a season of pause and reflection leading to a renewed spirit. Lent leads Catholics into the desert, which helps them look inward and take stock of where growth needs to occur. A place to encounter God and transformation. The League, too, is in this place of transformation.

As the work began, the marketing working group paused to acknowledge the work's inspiration—the members. The group's mantra, "By the members for the members," kept the group focused on its objectives and motivated its volunteers to make members proud of the cherished League to which they all belong. Reflecting on work that occurred in 2020, the group (Connie Crichton, Kathy Dahl, Lisa Fillingham, Christa Grillmair, Cathy McKinney, Jessie Parkinson, Sr. Susan Scott and Terry-Mae Sinclair), along with Clark Marketing and Communications (Clark), began to roll out the first of the marketing initiatives.

Team Clark rolled up its sleeves and began developing initiatives that would align with the stated priorities and objectives, such as increasing awareness of the League, changing perception, creating unity, and increasing membership, to name a few. Months of collaboration between Clark and the group members brought the initiatives to life. These women were busy gathering photographs, video footage, resolutions and inspirational quotes, which would, in turn, become the background to tell a story of the League throughout its past 100 years. One important thing discovered was that the League was well known, but not for what its members do.

The group started with brand positioning, a term for how the League could set itself apart from other similar organizations. Next came developing a short phrase (tagline), which would help identify the League using a main message. It was decided the new core values of faith, service and social justice captured that message. All of this was wrapped up in a new design vocabulary consisting of new colours, shapes and a tonality that is inspirational and engaging. The goal was shifting the visual representation of the League and balancing existing imagery with more contemporary imagery.



faith

service

social
justice

Website and social media content was developed, consisting of nine short video vignettes, longer videos and a series of inspirational quotes, which would help create awareness and engagement with current members and reach a new audience.



The League is many things to many people. It was important to hear why being a part of its sisterhood is fulfilling. Selfie videos were developed with members sharing their personal stories of "What's Your CWL." Members can make a selfie video and post it on their personal Facebook or Instagram page using the hashtag #WhatsYourCWL. Share why the League means so much to you!

But where would this all be shared? The To Inspire page was developed and added to the national website (cwl.ca/to-inspire/). There, members can find these amazing assets to download and share. Now more than ever, people are staying connected through digital means—a platform the group knew could cast a broader net to promote the League. The group used the League's existing social media platforms, including the national Facebook page, Twitter and YouTube, and then created a national Instagram page. Utilizing these social media platforms helped generate awareness and engagement with existing members and then a new audience.

Facebook



@CWLNational

YouTube



@CWLNational

Instagram



@CWLNational

Twitter



@CWLNational



Members can be “CWL champions” and play a part in helping grow the League! The League needs members to like, comment on and share these marketing assets on social media pages.

The group is now working with Clark to plan the Year 2 initiatives and looks forward to continuing this renewal process with God at the centre.

Parish Options-Strategic Leadership Goal 4 Lead Sharon Ciebin

Member engagement in leadership service is vital to the League’s future. In Year 2, working group members have been tasked with identifying current activities and developing a resource for project-based committees using the core values of faith, service and social justice. Five gifted women dedicated to the process have spent hours researching and connecting with members and share their experiences below.

Susan Kaller: Work has been done to see how projects have matched up with those proposed by the national council through communiques, parish mailings and *The Canadian League*. The process has offered a time for deep reflection and dialogue—this is where the excitement is. The group now has a better understanding of activities and possibilities for the future. This may involve a transformation, but it will be a positive one that will open the door for members to become more engaged. There is a leader within each member, and this group will set the groundwork for the training, support and encouragement to become one!

Diane Miedema: Each member is uniquely created, gifted and called to serve. I feel I have a role to play and am eager to contribute to the League’s vision, evolution and growth. It is truly a joy to devote time and energy toward the collective goal of committee-based leadership opportunities. Every woman is a leader and follower in various aspects of her life. Now is the time in my journey to serve, teach and inspire!

Philomena Menezes: I truly did not know what to expect when I applied to this working group. It was so exciting to meet the team—such warm, friendly, dynamic women with a passion for the League. Interestingly, even though we were all from various parish councils across the country, at different levels and varying years of experience, a common thread tied us together—our love for the League. I am amazed to learn how creative and talented members are and how many unique activities are undertaken in councils, no matter their size.

Janet Rieger: In Mark 1:29-39, after Jesus healed Simon’s mother-in-law, she immediately got up and “began to serve them.” She served not because she had to, but because she wanted to be a mirror for Jesus and wanted to serve because He serves. This gospel reminds me of members and how they serve in many ways.

Through research, the group has uncovered many women take on roles of service, not for glory or recognition and certainly not for pay, but as reflections of their love for Jesus.

Women are leaders in different ways. Some organize activities, but others lead by working alongside women and inspiring them with their presence—by accompanying them. Members are both Martha *and* Mary, not Martha *or* Mary. Leaders identify with Christ. Members know that “[they] can do all things through him who strengthens [them].” (Philippians 4:13).

Barbara Thuen: There are many benefits to participating in the working groups. I have appreciated the opportunity to connect with my League sisters across the country. This connection has reinforced the awareness that through differences and COVID-19 restrictions, resilient women find a way to get things done. Many members are taking on leadership roles—they just do not recognize them as such. One of the group’s tasks will be to develop a resource that identifies activities and resources as it moves forward. †

Picture Contest Winner!

Congratulations to Donna Candelaria of St. Peter Parish Council (Winnipeg), who correctly identified the most number of pictures from the spring 2020 issue of *The Canadian League*.

The Amendments Process

Margaret Ann Jacobs

National Past President and Chairperson of Laws



As past president, one of the duties is to facilitate the study and implementation of the *Constitution & Bylaws* (C&B). In a recent very “lively” discussion about the proposed amendments to the C&B, one member commented that there had never been such a focus or concern for the C&B. This is good, very good!

It seems many concerns and questions have arisen regarding the process for amending the C&B. Please refer to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* (P&P), page 151-155, for the complete outline of the process. The amending process from submission to voting and implementation takes two years to complete. The following is a brief outline of the procedure.

General Rules: There are rules regarding the submission of proposed amendments, i.e., for the betterment of the organization, substantive or permanent in content, sufficient rationale, not impose a financial burden... to name a few.

Initiating an Amendment: Any member may propose an amendment (submitted on the official amendment form available on the national website). The member submits the proposed amendment to the parish council regular meeting, where it may be amended, deferred or adopted by a two-thirds majority. If adopted, the proposed amendment is forwarded to the diocesan president, presented at the diocesan annual meeting of members and amended, deferred, or adopted by a two-thirds majority. The adopted proposed amendment is presented at the provincial meeting of members where it may be amended, deferred or adopted by a two-thirds majority. The adopted proposed amendment is forwarded to the national chairperson of laws before the August 31st deadline.

An officer at the national level may also submit a proposed amendment for approval by a two-thirds majority vote of the national executive/board before submission to the national chairperson of laws.

Considering the Proposal: The national chairperson of laws chairs the *Constitution & Bylaws* amendments committee with members appointed by the president. This committee reviews and considers all proposed amendments and has the authority to prepare recommendations for the consideration of the national board. The board reviews the proposed amendments and with a two-thirds majority vote,

may approve them for circulation to all parish councils.

Calling for the Vote: Once the proposed amendment is received by the parish councils, members are invited by the parish executive to vote on the amendment at a regular meeting. The proposed amendment is presented, debated and voted upon. The council is in support of the amendment if the motion is adopted by a two-thirds majority. This becomes the parish council’s instructed vote. This instructed vote is carried to the diocesan annual meeting of members where a two-thirds majority of parish councils must vote in favour for the amendment to be supported by the diocesan council. Similarly, the diocesan councils’ instructed vote is carried to provincial councils, and ultimately to national council in like manner. The proposed amendment is formally adopted by the League nationally if the provincial councils’ votes are two-thirds in favour of the amendment.

In 2020, the national amendments committee composed of honorary life members Joan Chesser, Velma Harasen and Claire Heron, National President Anne-Marie Gorman, National President-Elect Fran Lucas, Executive Director Kim Scammell, and myself met via teleconference on five occasions to review eight proposals submitted for consideration. The recommendations of each proposed amendment were reported to the national board for final determination. At the November 2020 teleconference of the board, proposed amendments were approved for circulation to the membership.

A comprehensive package including a cover letter from the national president, and a memo with attachments regarding the C&B was mailed to each parish council president in December.

Significant issues regarding the ability to meet in person because of the COVID-19 pandemic and concern members at parish level would be unable to make informed decisions led the board to defer voting on the proposed amendments at the annual national meeting of members until August 2022.

All members are invited to become informed and actively participate in the formation of these fundamental laws. †

National Annual Meeting Update

Anne-Marie Gorman

National President and Chairperson of International Relations



When the board met virtually at its fall 2020 meeting, three options for holding the annual national meeting of members in 2021 were provided after consultation with legal counsel. Plan A would be a full convention. Plan B would be a partially virtual annual meeting of members, limited to necessary business and open to voting and accredited delegates in-person, with members joining virtually. Plan C would be a partially virtual annual meeting of members, limited to necessary business, and attendance in-person would include board members only (11 voting delegates [provincial presidents] and 11 accredited delegates [officers]), and support staff. All other members would attend virtually.

In fall 2020, it was hoped the pandemic would allow for Plan B, and a decision was made to that end. The pandemic has continued to have varying effects on Canadians, so the subject was revisited at the board's winter meeting. The following considerations were taken into account:

- The target for completing mass vaccination is September 2021.
- Delays in vaccine production and delivery have disrupted vaccination plans.

- New and virulent variants of COVID-19 have been introduced into Canada.
- Heightened travel restrictions have been imposed inter-provincially.
- Toronto, the 2021 annual national meeting site, continues to have significant issues regarding the transmission of the virus.
- The proposed venue would not impose a cancellation penalty, provided the venue be offered for the event in 2025.
- With Plan C, the national board would be able to choose a new venue anywhere in Canada that is considered the safest and most accessible for all board members.

The board's decision, after a full discussion, was to move forward with Plan C.

Details will be shared with members as they are determined. The information will be provided to all provincial presidents and posted on the website and social media platforms.

COVID-19 has undoubtedly been a taskmaster and somewhat cruel teacher. We will continue to learn new things, also, so we count our blessings where we are able. God is good, all the time. Be not afraid †

National Annual Meeting of Members Register to Attend Virtually

Join League sisters from coast to coast as members gather virtually from the comfort and safety of their homes for the League's 100th and 101st annual national meetings of members. Hear from the board about the good works accomplished these past two years, learn about future plans, and welcome new national officers to the League's leadership team.

Registration will be available online at cwl.ca from June 1-July 31, 2021. The registration fee has been waived for all members.

Annual National Meetings Program

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

5:00-6:00 p.m. Opening ceremonies,
Eucharistic celebration

MONDAY, AUGUST 9

8:30-9:00 a.m. Morning liturgy

9:15-11:15 a.m. 2020 Annual Meeting of Members

- Call to order
- Opening remarks
- Introduction of head table
- Notice calling meeting
- Credentials report
- Adoption of standing rules
- Approval of agenda
- Report of national president (2020)
- Ratify decision deferred 2020 AGM
- Approval of previous minutes (2019)
- Report of secretary-treasurer (2019)
- Registration report
- Adjournment

11:15-11:30 a.m. Closing Prayer

1:00-1:15 p.m. Opening Prayer

1:15-3:45 p.m. 2021 Annual Meeting of Members

- Call to order
- Opening remarks
- Notice calling meeting
- Credentials report
- Adoption of standing rules
- Approval of agenda
- Correspondence
- Report of pre-convention meeting
- Reports of provincial presidents
- Report of national president (2021)
- Report of spiritual advisor
- Report of secretary treasurer

3:45-4:00 p.m. Closing Liturgy

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10

8:30-9:00 a.m. Morning Liturgy

9:15-11:45 a.m. 2021 Annual Meeting of Members

- Credential report
- Report of executive director
- Report of spiritual development chairperson
- Report of organization chairperson
- Report of Christian family life chairperson
- Report of community life chairperson
- Report of education and health chairperson
- Report of communications chairperson
- Report of resolutions chairperson
- Report of legislation chairperson
- Report of laws chairperson
- Report of international relations

11:45-12:00 p.m. Closing liturgy

1:30-1:45 p.m. Reconvening Prayer

1:15-2:45 p.m. 2021 Annual Meeting of Members

- Presentation by 2022 convention committee
- Presentation of implementation committee
- Announcement of 2022/23 theme
- Approval of previous minutes (2020)
- Other business
- Registration report

3:00-3:45 p.m. 2021 Annual Meeting of Members

- Elections
- Adjournment

4:30-5:15 p.m. Closing Mass & Installation
of Officers

The Many Faces of Leadership

Fran Lucas

National President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization



If there has ever been a time in which leaders were called upon for direction, it has been during the past 12 months! If you are a president or an executive officer at any level, an honorary life member, life member or someone sought out for your experience or good advice, you have likely received that call. On the telephone, by e-mail or through a one-on-one conversation while social distancing in a parking lot, it has happened across Canada, at all levels, and within all levels. Some of the answers or responses were easy, some not so much. Spoiler alert—leadership has a different look depending on the situation. It can be a long process of helping to put together a plan or a short conversation on how to approach a particular situation. All members have likely read articles on leadership and the many ways to do their best in this gallery. I offer a few thoughts for consideration in adding to that list.



The implementation committee and its working groups continue to work on fulfilling the strategies of the four goals outlined in the League's strategic plan. Visit the national website monthly for updates. Answers to many questions may be found there, and members can continue to learn about current progress and actions. This information is also available on Facebook and in various mailings.

In recent months, webinars on various topics have been shared by national staff and officers, and by provincial and diocesan councils. How great to see the invitation from a diocesan or provincial council being distributed to the rest of the country! Take advantage of these free learnings. Diocesan chairpersons are encouraged to share their offerings with their respective provincial chairperson, who in turn will share them with all provincial councils and the appropriate national chairperson. I challenge you to check with your provincial or diocesan president for opportunities.

The provincial presidents-elect have created and piloted an executive orientation, designed for all levels of the League. By the release of this magazine, it will be available. Executives will have opportunities to learn about several

topics relevant to their roles, ranging from the history of the League to duties of officers to communication, and much more.

During the spring season, members look for new things such as buds on trees or plants poking through warm soil. How about looking for an opportunity to be informed of one more guiding principle on leading or being a valued participant? Check out the following suggestions

that have been shared with me:

- *The 8th Habit: From Effectiveness to Greatness* by Stephen R. Covey. The eighth habit is “find your voice and inspire others to find theirs.”
- *The Leadership Challenge: How to Make Extraordinary Things Happen in Organizations* by James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner
- “10 Principles of Effective and Authentic Leadership” by Anush Kostanyan for HuffPost.

This past year has taught members a lot in terms of embracing new ways of leading, communicating, interacting, socializing, because they had to! As an example, some members participated in the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation and are now using their leadership training by participating in a working group for the strategic plan. Here is a challenge for each of you—develop one more leadership strategy for your personal toolkit. I know you can do it!

Members understand the importance of welcoming, affirming and recognizing both new and long-serving members alike. They also acknowledge the need to continuously bring more members into parish councils. It has been encouraging and rewarding to hear from councils that have successfully invited four, nine, and as many as 14 new members during the pandemic, and how they managed to do that even during this time of self-isolation and “new normal.” Perhaps it is easier now to get a “yes” as women understand the importance of having like-minded women around them for support. †

Sharing the core values



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of **faith, service** and social **justice**
with the next generations!

"Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation."

(Joel 1:3)



Connecting all generations to grow in...

**Faith
Service
Social Justice**
cwl.ca



The Catholic Women's League of Canada is rooted in five generations of the Varanes and Casato family.



St. Margaret Mary Parish Council, Woodbridge (Toronto Diocese)

What You Need to Know About Folic Acid and Neural Tube Defects



Faith Anderson

National Chairperson of Education and Health

Occasionally, requests are welcomed and received by members to address a particular topic. This is the case with folic acid and neural tube defects (NTD), which is important to members regardless of age.

Folic acid (vitamin B9) is a water-soluble B group vitamin present in foods as folate and supplements as folic acid. DNA synthesis and repair and in cell growth and division are some ways folate plays an essential role in the body. The human body uses folic acid to make new cells for tissues such as skin, hair and nails. Folate is found in leafy vegetables, legumes and red meat; however, up to 70% can be lost due to thermal degradation in cooking or dissolution in the water used for cooking.

Health Canada states “taking a vitamin supplement does not reduce or replace the need for a healthy, well-balanced diet,” and “... dietary sources on their own are not enough to reach the required folate level to protect against NTDs. You still need to take a multivitamin with folic acid.”

Health Canada describes neural tube defects. “The neural tube is the part of the developing baby that becomes the brain and spinal cord. NTDs occur when the neural tube does not fully close during the early weeks of pregnancy. This results in spine, brain and skull defects that can lead to stillbirth or lifelong disability. Spina bifida (when the spine does not close) and anencephaly (when part of the brain and skull are missing) are the most common NTDs.” NTDs represent one of the most common categories of congenital disabilities in North America.

In 1998 the fortification of flour and grain products at a rate of 150 µg of folic acid/100 g was made mandatory to reduce the birth prevalence of NTDs. After fortification,

spina bifida births fell by more than 50% and other NTDs by approximately one-third. The Canadian Paediatric Society states, “Despite overwhelming evidence that folic acid fortification is effective in reducing NTDs, a significant proportion of women remain folate-deficient in early pregnancy.”

Health Canada currently recommends “women ingest at least 400 µg of folate per day to reduce the risk of bearing a child with an NTD. It is not commonly possible for most people to achieve this level of folate intake from natural foods and for this reason many countries, including Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom, have introduced initiatives to increase folate intake.”

A paper published by Noam Ami *et al.* and the Canadian Paediatric Society indicates adequate folate intake can protect against NTDs. Health Canada states, folic acid, or folate, is one of the B vitamins essential for an unborn child’s healthy growth. Approximately 300,000 NTDs occur worldwide each year.

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates, “Neural tube defects (like anencephaly and spina bifida) happen in the first few weeks of pregnancy; often before a woman finds out she’s pregnant.” This is “why it is important for all women who could become pregnant to be sure to get 400 mcg of folic acid every day, even if they aren’t actively planning a pregnancy any time soon. By the time a woman realizes she’s pregnant, it might be too late to prevent these birth defects.”

Folic acid can benefit all women in helping their bodies make new cells and protecting against neural tube defects. It is always important to discuss any supplements or vitamins added to your routine with a physician or obstetrician. †



Magazine Deadlines

Fall issue – July 15, 2021

Winter issue – November 15, 2021

Spring issue – February 15, 2022

Mandatory Age Verification – The Time To Act is Now



Barb Renaud

Vancouver Diocesan President

In 2017 in Charlottetown, national council adopted Resolution 2017.02 Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornographic Websites. This resolution urges the federal government to enact laws requiring websites to use tools to verify that users are of legal age to view pornographic material. Although the resolution was adopted in 2017, recent developments in Canada have made this an ideal time to act on this issue.

In June 2020, an organization called The Reward Foundation sponsored its first virtual conference on age verification. The conference was a gathering of child welfare advocates, lawyers, scientists and others, discussing the need to regulate adult websites. They looked at evidence that showed the effects of exposure to pornography on adolescents' developing brains and explored practical ways to verify the user's age on adult websites. As the foundation stated in a July 20, 2020 news release, "Children have a right to protection from harm and states have a legal obligation to provide it." Conference presenter Gail Dines, founder and chairperson of Culture Reframed, says, "Ignoring the role porn plays in socializing our children and youth is a dereliction of our collective duty to protect the safety and well-being of the next generation."

In Canada, members already have the support of some elected representatives. The member of parliament for Peace River-Westlock wrote an open letter to the prime minister, published on the *Huffington Post* website. The blog post, dated December 20, 2017, asked the prime minister to consider the impact of violent pornography on sons and daughters and the damage to Canadian culture. The member of parliament is a vocal advocate and sponsored a House of Commons e-petition in support of age verifications.

That petition supported Bill S-203 *An Act to restrict young persons' online access to sexually explicit material*, introduced in the Senate. The bill is intended to allow the federal government to "require that steps be taken by Internet service providers to prevent sexually explicit material from being made available to young persons on the Internet." This is precisely the goal of Resolution 2017.02—to develop a way to ensure that children are protected from

viewing online pornography.

Bill S-203 acknowledges online pornography as a public health concern and that exposure to pornography at a young age can result in pornography addiction. Pornography is also associated with attitudes that objectify women and normalize sexual violence. Pornography today is extreme and violent, and easily accessed on tablets or smartphones. It is a huge problem that fuels many types of sexual exploitation, such as prostitution and sex trafficking. This issue is of particular importance during the COVID-19 pandemic, as many young people are spending more time on computers, tablets and smartphones, instead of socializing with peers.

Bill S-203 received second reading in the Senate on November 3, 2020; however, there are several more stages to go through. Once the bill passes in the Senate, it will be introduced in the House of Commons and will follow the same path through readings and study.

Recently, the founders of Mindgeek, a Canadian corporation behind many of the world's most-viewed pornography sites, were called

to testify before Canada's federal ethics committee. Hard questions were asked regarding child pornography and non-consensual pornography hosted on their websites.

The introduction of Bill S-203 provides members the opportunity to take action to protect youth in Canada. The bill's progression gives members an opportunity to contact senators who are hearing arguments for the bill. Members can use this time to discuss the issue with their members of parliament so that they are aware of the bill and ready to support it when it reaches the House of Commons. Members can educate themselves and others through organizations such as Defend Dignity and Culture Reframed, which provide information and resources for parents and ways to support the institution of age verifications.

Members have a unique opportunity to be part of a movement for change in society to better protect Canada's young people. This chance to hold the lucrative business of pornography to account must not be wasted. The time to act is now. †



Why?

Betty Colaneri

National Chairperson of Legislation



The year 2020 will be forever engraved in history as “the year the world battled a global pandemic”. People throughout the world expressed feelings of isolation, loneliness, anxiety and hopelessness from the lack of social interaction and spiritual fulfillment. Restrictions imposed to combat the virus led to unemployment, fear and uncertainty, adding stress to people’s physical and mental wellbeing. Now imagine this was life without the pandemic. This is a brief glimpse into the plight of the sick, the elderly and those with mental illness or disability. With mental illness and poverty numbers climbing faster than virus cases themselves, Canadians are also beginning to uncover the horrific living conditions in long-term care facilities. After the exposure of the damaged healthcare system and crucial social services, why has Bill C-7 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)*, reared its controversial head? One would think the bill would be low on the legal system’s priority list.

Bill C-7 results from the federal government choosing to succumb to one judge’s opinion, in one province. This judge decided unilaterally to strike down legislation that had been extensively debated and passed by both houses of parliament. The legislation could have been defended, but the government chose not to. Why?

Instead, Bill C-7 was introduced. The bill proposed to expand eligibility for medical assistance in dying (MAiD). The first track of this legislation was available to all Canadians equally approaching the end of life, once their natural death was reasonably foreseeable. The second track singled out people with disabilities to ensure they could also end their lives, regardless of an imminent natural death.

The criteria for the bill is a grievous and irremediable medical condition, which is defined as a serious illness or disability, causing “enduring and intolerable suffering” resulting in an “advanced state of irreversible decline in capability.” However, there is no classification for “serious” illness or “advanced state of irreversible decline.” Many, if not most, disabilities would fall under this criterion.

Instead of this inclusion, the focus should have been on offering necessities and support to assist individuals with disabling medical conditions, which would allow them to enjoy full and meaningful lives.

In a recent Angus Reid Group poll, Canadians were shown to have “deep and genuine concerns about the expansion of MAiD.” Canadians were disturbed MAiD could direct those with mental illness to death rather than towards other supports for their condition. To add to the concern, the United Nations released a report critical of Canada’s poor MAiD safeguards for the disabled. It focused on the lack of access to viable MAiD alternatives to steer these individuals away from thinking this was the best option to ease the burden for loved ones. It

further criticized Bill C-7 as a direct violation of Canada’s commitment as a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Finally, many Canadians worry that as MAiD becomes readily available, long-term care and chronic disease in the elderly will be ignored.

Just as a small snowball can start an avalanche, the original legislation on MAiD began a widespread and heated debate. The federal government stated there would be a five-year review of the legislation so Canadians would be assured the procedures and protocols that defined MAiD were not leading to undesirable results. That five-year review has not yet happened. Why? Physicians, nurses, Indigenous leaders, the disabled, faith groups and professional associations have all pleaded, but to no avail. Why? With Bill C-7, there is the real potential of taking the lives of valuable members of society that are not meant to be taken.

As Bill C-7 has received royal assent, it makes Canada the least restricted country in the world for MAiD. This legislation fails to explicitly require that all reasonable options be available and attempted first. The three other countries that allow MAiD treat it as the last resort, after all other options fail. Is this truly the legacy Canadians want to leave for future generations?

Members have asked why, now how do they move



forward? They must continue to be the security system of society. As members protect those most vulnerable, the challenge is to ensure MAiD is not a default decision because individuals feel there is no other road to take. When faced with debilitating pain, financial hardship, or the prospect of lingering in institutions without proper care, many may find MAiD attractive. Members need to ensure poverty, homelessness, systemic racism, or a lack of health care supports are not the reason to leave this world prematurely.

Palliative care is under attack. Already without proper funding, it now has to compete with MAiD in parts of the country. Current funding is being redirected to support MAiD, and hospices that do not offer MAiD are being closed. Let us focus on ensuring the security and right to life of the most vulnerable in society, so they are not compromised or threatened by decisions imposed by government.

Many members have loved ones who have suffered and are in their twilight years. On a personal level, I have experienced this with my mother. Having advanced dementia, she lived in a long-term care home during her

last years. Though she may not have been responsive at times, it warmed my heart to see her beautiful smile and the excitement in her eyes when she saw me. It was a small gesture that ensured me of her love and appreciation. I will always treasure our precious time together. Had she chosen to end her life at the onset of this terrible disease, the years filled with smiles, laughter and tender moments would have been lost.

Today, society puts a higher value on “dying with dignity” than “living” with dignity. Dignity stems from the love of those around us. It stems from an appreciation of life and the joys that come with it. But unfortunately, dignity has been used as camouflage for the true issues.

If patients are shown compassion and love, and are offered proper treatment options for palliative care, their reliance on a shortened life will be diminished, and an extended life will be celebrated. Members must be relentless in their plea for improved and attractive palliative care with accessibility for all. Hopelessness must be replaced with resources and options. If the resources are not accessible, as a right, to all Canadians, it begs the question, why? †



100th Anniversary Commemorative Coffee Table Book

The centenary committee is compiling the book as a memento to celebrate the past 100 years of The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Have you captured a memorable or interesting photograph of an event that took place in your parish diocesan or provincial council?

Send your photograph or a high resolution copy to national office.
You may find yourself captured on the pages of the League's history!

To pre-order your copy, send your information by e-mail
(info@cwlc.ca) to national office

The cost of \$50.00 is not required at this time.



Memories of the past and present to preserve for the future!

Make Valuable Use of This Time

Pat Deppiess

National Chairperson of Christian Family Life



It has been a long year of isolation, but Canadians are almost there! The COVID-19 vaccines are being administered over the next few months, and hopefully, members can all start getting back to normal, holding in-person meetings and seeing their dear friends.

As members are still practicing physical distancing and perhaps have some time on their hands, I would like to remind councils of the Christian family life resolutions that are still active. Hopefully members can take actions as indicated for each one, writing letters, etc. It is one activity member can still do, regardless of COVID-19 restrictions, and it would be such valuable use of their time!

After the recent retirement of some resolutions, members are left with the following list that is still actionable:

- 2019.01 Canada to Honour its Commitment to the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*
- 2011.01 Prohibition of Practices re Human Reproductive Material
- 2006.02 Legal Protection for All Those Who Object to the Solemnization of Civil Marriage for Same-sex Partners

- 2005.09 Support for Families Experiencing Perinatal Loss
- 2004.01 Protection of Human Life
- 2002.09 Human Stem Cell Research
- 2000.02 The Prohibition of the Sale of Human Embryonic or Foetal Tissue or Reproductive Services
- 1999.01 Elder Abuse/Assault Awareness
- 1996.03 Advance Directives for Health Care
- 1996.02 Natural Family Planning
- 1995.02 Abortion Funding
- 1992.05 Support Services for Pregnant Women
- 1989.04 National Strategy on Child Care
- 1984.06 Spousal Abuse
- 1975.02 Abortion Counseling
- 1971.04 Action on Abortion Issue
- 1965.05 Marriage Preparation Courses

All these resolutions and their action plans are on the national website under Resolutions: By Positions. I would ask that parish councils review them and see if they could use updating, or perhaps they might spur councils to write a new resolution!

In the meantime, stay safe, practice kindness and get your vaccinations! †

It is Not Too Late to Get a 100th Anniversary Souvenir Pin



Do you need a bag to carry papers to League meetings?

The Quebec 2020 convention committee has just what you need! A soft sided brief case with embroidered crest, and front and side zippered pockets to carry pens, sticky notes, a cellphone and water bottle.

Price: \$30.00 plus shipping.

100th ANNIVERSARY PINS

Price: \$10.00 plus shipping.



Please contact Janet McLean at (514) 631-5992 or 2020cwlmtl@gmail.com for more information or to place an order.

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cwl.pashmina@gmail.com



Handy Hints

Janet McLean

National Secretary-Treasurer



What a beautiful country Canada is to live in! In February, I had the chance to spend four days doing some cross-country skiing. The sun was shining in a clear blue sky, and not a cloud was to be seen. The light winds and the -10°C temperature were perfect weather for several hours on the trails each day. The national theme, *Care for Our Common Home*, came to mind, and the readings at mass that week, taken from the book of Genesis, were so appropriate for “indeed, it was very good.”

As I skied, I thought about the final message I wanted to give as national secretary-treasurer. Previous articles covered topics such as budgeting, council finances, stewardship of League funds, how the national per capita fee is used

and support for the per capita fee increase. These were all serious topics and could even be called rather “dry.” So, with tongue in cheek, this article will focus on some handy hints for getting the most “bang for your buck.”

Do you use elastic bands? They can come in handy in many instances, but there is no need to buy them. Some free sources available to members could include the band wrapped around the daily newspaper, grocery items (e.g. grapes) or mail, or dropped by post-people on the street or by community mailboxes. These sources have kept me supplied with elastics for years!

What about string? I do not use a lot but, by saving the string that ties the box of goodies purchased from a specialty bakery, I always have some available when needed.

Putting an abrasive on a walkway or steps in winter to make walking easier can be expensive. When cleaning my vestibule recently, I realized if I shook off all the abrasive tracked in by people’s boots and collected it, it could be

reused on the steps. However, I have yet to try this.

Going through old purses can be another source of “found” money, as are coats, jackets and pants that have been put away for another season. Members may even find a winning lottery ticket they did not realize they had! Remember to check that “junk” drawer for change hiding at the back or bottom of the drawer. It is amazing what can be found! Just thinking about this is almost enough incentive for me to give my house a thorough cleaning.

Do you ever need pencils? Of course, with computers and printers, pencils are not used as much as in the past. But, if you do happen to need them, perhaps for use in a workshop or when people are writing their name, e-mail or telephone number on

raffle tickets, ask any golfer in the group to check their golf bag. It is incredible how many pencils can be found in a golf bag. They may be short, but they are still useful.

For those who still use calculators with a paper roll, make sure to use both sides of the roll. Both money and paper can be saved by doing this.

I hope members find some of these suggestions helpful or at least amusing. One last tip, to get an extra workout while cross-country skiing—try skiing the wrong way on a groomed trail. Perhaps I was contemplating the beauty of nature and the wonder of God a bit too much as I found myself doing this on my recent ski excursion. What should have been a lovely long downhill run turned into a not so lovely long uphill climb. But then I reasoned I was certainly getting my money’s worth because of the extra workout I had. Just one word of caution, unless alone on the trail as I was, I would not recommend this. Keep well and stay safe. †



Reminder:

The next issue (fall 2021) 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.

What Is Truth? a Reflection on *Fratelli Tutti*

Christa Grillmair

Victoria Diocesan President



When I started reading Pope Francis' latest encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, I did not get much further than the first chapter when I read something that struck me. Number 14 states, "One effective way to weaken historical consciousness, critical thinking, the struggle for justice and the processes of integration is to empty great words of their meaning or to manipulate them."

A word that has been greatly manipulated lately is the word "truth." "Alternate facts" and "fake news" are expressions members hear daily. Rudy Giuliani, an American lawyer and politician, said, "truth isn't truth." On an interview on "60 Minutes," President Barak Obama (United States, 2009-2017) said, "what we've seen is what some people call truth decay... the sense that not only do we not have to tell the truth, but the truth doesn't even matter."

In today's social media world, rumours can spread like wildfire, and if the content is repeated often and gains many believers, it becomes the truth for them. If truth is not so much a property of thoughts and ideas but more of beliefs and assertions unique to that person, why are members not spreading their truth, or good news?

This brought me to thinking about B.C. & Yukon Provincial Council's theme, *Witnessing to the Truth*. In John 18:37-38, Pilate asked Jesus, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asked him, "What is truth?" Pilate was not the first, or the last, to ask this. St. Teresa of Avila said, "Truth suffers, but never dies."

The bible defines truth as being utterly reliable and

enduring. The reason is simple—authentic, biblical truth is linked to God's dependable, unchanging character. Members can trust everything He says. He never lies. He always keeps His word. He is faithful to all His promises.

By this definition, Catholics mean THE truth, something definite, not vague. Jesus came to confirm the truth to those who are seeking the truth. The bible identifies truth not simply as the absence of lies but as a quality intrinsic to God's very nature. Jesus not only

spoke true words, He was and is the ultimate expression of truth.

Pope Francis has called Catholics to accept the consequences of the truths fundamental to their identity as Christians and those truths that summon them to action.

By *Witnessing to the Truth*, members must not only say they are a Christian and follow Catholic rituals of prayer and

devotion, they may have to accept a series of hard truths—truths that may require metanoia, a conversion, or as Pope Francis states, "a change of heart, attitudes and lifestyles."

This is my challenge as I delve further into *Fratelli Tutti* and keep moving out of my comfort zone. As Pope Francis says, "Goodness, together with love, justice and solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day."

"Heavenly Father, you are the way, the truth, and the life. Give me wisdom today so that I can make good decisions. Help me to know the truth and share the truth with others. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen." †



Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the following centenarians!

Catherine (Kay) Higgins

106 years old on December 3, 2020
St. Anne Parish Council
St. Thomas, Ontario

Angeline (Angie) Charlebois

102 years old on December 18, 2020
St. Bartholomew Parish Council
Levack, Ontario

Mary Foster

100 years old on February 15, 2021
St. Patrick Parish Council
Mississauga, Ontario

Emma Carrier

103 years old on January 25, 2021
St. Michael Parish Council
Leduc, Alberta

Anna Stasia Brohman

101 years old on May 3, 2020
St. Joseph Parish Council
Fergus, Ontario

Barbara Kniert

100 years old on January 29, 2021
St. Andrew Parish Council
Fraser Lake, British Columbia

Martina Gutcher

103 years old on November 24, 2020
Sacred Heart Parish Council
Walkerton, Ontario

Marguerite Hilcox

101 years old on February 2, 2021
Immaculate Conception Parish Council
Stratford, Ontario

Joan Miller

100 years old on December 29, 2020
Sacred Heart Parish Council
Walkerton, Ontario

Blanche Keating

103 years old on December 25, 2020
St. John the Baptist Parish Council
Estevan, Saskatchewan

Elizabeth Beres

100 years old on September 16, 2020
St. Gerard Parish Council
Yorkton, Saskatchewan

Rita Perry

100 years old on November 28, 2020
St. Simon & St. Jude Parish Council
Tignish, Prince Edward Island

Rodina Moore

103 years old on October 26, 2020
Holy Family Parish Council
Sydney Mines, Nova Scotia

Lucy Bichel

100 years old on November 27, 2020
St. Bonaventure Parish Council
Calgary, Alberta

Clare Ternier

100 years old on August 4, 2020
St. John Vianney Parish Council
Kamloops, British Columbia

Edith Bernard

102 years old on January 10, 2021
Holy Angels Parish Council
Pangman, Saskatchewan

Rose Boulay

100 years old on November 22, 2020
St. John the Evangelist Parish Council
Belledune, New Brunswick

Argia Zanussi Haley

100 years old on December 9, 2020
Sacred Heart Parish Council
Rossland, British Columbia

Congratulations!

Congratulations to parish councils celebrating anniversaries!

100 YEARS

Cathedral of St. Peter-In-Chains
Parish Council
Peterborough, Ontario

St. Mary Parish Council
Welland, Ontario

90 YEARS

St. Ann Parish Council
Abbotsford, British Columbia

95 YEARS

St. Patrick Parish Council
Victoria, British Columbia

25 YEARS

St. Michael Parish Council

St. John Chrysostom Parish Council
Newmarket, Ontario

Is your parish council celebrating an anniversary of 25, 50, 75 years or more? Be sure to let the editorial board know by contacting them at communications@cwlc.ca.



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RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN
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