



The Canadian League



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The Canadian League is published three times a year by The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Material may not be reprinted, in whole or in part, without permission of the publisher. Subscription rates: Annual national per capita fee of \$13.00 includes subscription rate of \$3.00. Non-members, \$8.00 per year. Agreement number 40007536
ISSN-0384-630

Printed in Canada

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President's Message



Fran Lucas

National President and Chairperson of International Relations

“God passes through the thicket of the world, and wherever His glance falls, He turns all things to beauty” (St. John of the Cross).

“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing” (1 Thess. 5:11).

One year into the role as national president I see and feel members embracing the theme, *Catholic and Living It!* One major goal of this theme is to build or rebuild relationships. The above two passages clearly show that God is always there, regardless of the circumstance, to turn things, relationships, into something beautiful. In the letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians, we are advised to encourage each other, which can surely help to attain the goal.

What will the second year of the theme be for you, your council as the League continues to build relationships? Focusing on the organizational aspect, the changes coming about in January 2023 of reducing standing committees to three – faith, service and social justice – will be a strong opportunity for executive

members to work together as this new structure is developed and used.

National convention in August in Kelowna was a great launch of ideas and affirmation on working together. Presentations by Honorary Life Member Barbara Dowding on “Act of Accompaniment” and Catholic author Elizabeth Tomlin’s “Joy of Momentum” did just that. “The League of the Future: Year 4” presentations spoke to the new resources available and those to come, once again helping to build relationships and strengthen the League.

The challenge now is to work with members to provide education on knowing what the League is about, why it exists, what are the individual roles and to offer training to create informed and strong leaders. Let us work on growing membership and ensure the League continues to move forward, using the new resources available and the strength of the will of the membership.

Catholic women are women of faith and perseverance and have a can-do attitude. With the help of Our Lady of Good Counsel, let us continue to be the same, bringing more women along with us to

know and enjoy the sisterhood in the League! †



SPOTLIGHT

St. Teresa of Avila Parish Council (Elmira) held an Installation of Officers Ceremony and June potluck to celebrate its 70th anniversary.

The council also unveiled a new plaque honouring its past presidents who led the council throughout the past 70 years.

From the National Spiritual Advisor

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



“It is good for us to be here...” (Lk. 9:33). The words spoken by Peter to Jesus at the Transfiguration sum up what everyone felt at the annual national convention in Kelowna in August. After years of restrictions, isolation and only online meetings, it was indeed good to gather in person.

This reflects our created nature. God made us body and soul, and we need that personal presence to each other to really live human relationships. No matter how impressive communications technology has become, it cannot replace the experience of being personally present to each other.

This also reflects our faith. The Lord Himself is the primary Sacrament of God – the Word made flesh – and the seven sacraments of the new covenant are the way He continues to encounter us in visible, tangible signs in time and place.



One of the lessons of the pandemic is the opportunity to appreciate that wise plan of God that brings us into living contact with the Lord and His body, the church, through the sacramental life that gathers the faithful together. The letter to the Hebrews says, “not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Heb. 10:25).

The convention was a wonderful spiritual and social event, as well as the occasion to transact necessary business and learn from impressive guest speakers. The time spent together in Kelowna was the relaunch of the tradition of national conventions. As members attest, “it is good for us to be [there].” †

SPOTLIGHT

Calgary Diocesan Council has been working to build a relationship with Stardale Women’s Group, which helps young Indigenous women learn life skills, foundational learning and literacy, and advocacy for themselves, their families and communities.

When asked how the CWL could help begin to build a relationship, it was suggested that the League provide Easter baskets for each of the 29 girls in the program. The diocesan council surpassed 29 baskets!



Welcome New and Returning National Executive!



Seated, left to right: National Second Vice-President and Chairperson of Spiritual Development Cathy Bouchard; National Past President and Chairperson of Laws Anne M Gorman; National President and Chairperson of International Relations Fran Lucas; National Spiritual Advisor Bishop Stephen Jensen (Prince George); National President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization Shari Guinta; National First Vice-President and Chairperson of Communications Betty Colaneri. Missing: National Secretary-Treasurer Marie Rackley.



Standing, left to right: Saskatchewan Provincial President Connie Crichton; Prince Edward Island Provincial President Marilyn Gay Garvey; National Chairperson of Community Life Faith Anderson; Nova Scotia Provincial President Joline Belliveau; Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial President Judy Hodge; Ontario Provincial President Linda Squarzolo; B.C. & Yukon Provincial President Sharon Geiger; Quebec Provincial President Alice Noble; Manitoba Provincial President Crystal Reiter; Military Ordinariate Provincial President Allison Klemen; Alberta Mackenzie Provincial President Mary Hunt; National Chairperson of Legislation Glenda Carson, New Brunswick Provincial President June Brown; National Chairperson of Resolutions Rolande Chernichan; National Chairperson of Education and Health Margaret Schwab; National Chairperson of Christian Family Life Dorothy Johansen. †

MEETING WITH JOY

Highlights from the 102nd Annual National Convention



Betty Colaneri
National Chairperson
of Communications



Sharon Ciebin
Life Member and
Guest Journalist

An air of excitement and celebration welcomed members and guests that attended the 102nd annual national convention of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in Kelowna, British Columbia, August 14th-17th under the theme *Catholic and Living It!*

While the national executive/board gathered in meetings, participants experienced tours of the diverse culture, lakes, orchards and vineyards in the surrounding Okanagan Valley. Travelling to Vernon, participants visited the historic O'Keefe Ranch and Davison Orchard. Tours located in the Kelowna area included a boat tour, wine tours and an extensive city tour that included the Kasugai Gardens (sister city in Japan), the Okanagan Wine & Orchard Museum and the Father Pandosy Mission. How fitting that Kelowna traces its heritage orchards and vineyards to the establishment of the Father Pandosy Mission in 1859. A pre-convention resolutions dialogue was held on Sunday afternoon that allowed members to preview and discuss the proposed resolution and become familiar with the resolutions process.

The opening Eucharistic celebration was held at Immaculate Conception Church, replete with beautiful

architecture, stained glass windows and the pageantry of the flag procession. Bishop Gregory Bittman (Nelson) was the celebrant along with National Spiritual Advisor Bishop Stephen Jensen (Prince George), Archbishop Emeritus Martin Currie (St. John's), several deacons and spiritual advisors. Mistress of Ceremonies, B.C. & Yukon Provincial President Sharon Geiger, was pleased to offer a warm in person welcome and read a letter from Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau who praised the League's commitment to helping others and making a difference in communities. B.C. & Yukon Provincial Spiritual Advisor Fr. David John rejoiced in the gift of coming together and invited all to *Rejoice in the Vineyard of the Lord*, the convention theme. Bishop Jensen and Knights of Columbus B.C. & Yukon State Council District Deputy #9 Doug Greenwood also brought greetings. National President and Chairperson of International Relations Fran Lucas welcomed members joyfully for this first in person convention in three years and declared the convention open. Following the opening mass, the Knights of Columbus hosted a wine and cheese reception.

Monday, the first day of the business sessions, began





with a Eucharistic celebration with Archbishop Currie as the celebrant. His homily focused on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Archbishop Currie gave examples of the suffering that Mary experienced in her life that highlighted her relevancy today and how we can relate to her in our own lives. She was, “A woman for all times and all seasons.” His moving homily can be found on the national website. The business session began with Fran welcoming participants. She knew that the theme *Catholic and Living It!* would be realized through relationship building. Attendees were encouraged to meet and chat with one another. The Ribbons for Ukraine initiative, 1,100 blue and yellow ribbons prepared by the provincial councils, were formed together into one large heart that was displayed in the convention hall. Attendees were invited to take two ribbons each – one for themselves and one to gift to another.

Reports presented by the provincial presidents conveyed the many works and activities members across Canada continued to do while dealing with restrictions. Fran gave her report with enthusiasm as she highlighted, “One would never know we were still feeling the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic by the action-filled reports of the provincial presidents and national officers.... Attending diocesan and provincial conventions afforded the opportunity to see and hear first-hand the actions already taken and plans being made to demonstrate without any doubt that the League is of course Catholic and assuredly living it!”

The secretary-treasurer’s report was given followed by the instructed vote on the per capita fee increase, which was adopted. Executive Director Kim Scammell presented her report followed by some of the reports by the national officers. National 1st Vice-President and Chairperson of Communications Betty Colaneri, chairperson of the centenary committee, reported on the huge success of the Gratitude Project, which provided thousands of cards to frontline and essential workers that served



their communities during the pandemic. Betty extended gratitude to all members for their participation as well as going above and beyond with each of the centenary projects over the years.

The papal blessing from His Holiness Pope Francis on the occasion of the League’s 100th anniversary was read by Betty and presented to Fran. Monday’s business session concluded with the commissioning service for the 26 new life members from the years 2020 and 2021. It is such a touching service to witness the new life members walking through the traditional arch of blessing formed by the hands of honorary life members and having their hands blessed by Bishop Jensen.

Oh, what a party! In honour of the League’s 100-year history, a Roaring 20s evening was organized. Attendees dressed in period attire and embraced the theme. They were transported back in time through the room’s eye-catching decorations and took advantage of a very popular photo booth which was full of period accessories. The fast-



paced music played by the Penticton Thursday Night Jazz Band was enjoyed and ensured the dance floor remained full of energy from flappers dancing all evening long. A 100th anniversary cake was cut by honorary life members and enjoyed.

Tuesday morning began with the Eucharistic celebration with Bishop Jensen as celebrant, followed by a day filled with two dynamic speakers. “The Art of Accompaniment” presentation by Honorary Life Member Barbara Dowding was interactive and gave relevant ideas as to how members could accompany one another. Numerous honorary life members shared stories on how the gift of service had impacted their lives. This talk was taped and is available on the national website. Catholic author Elizabeth Tomlin delivered a powerful presentation on accompaniment and the gift of women’s group ministry. The lively presentation included tools and ideas to cultivate vibrant women’s groups grounded in spiritual friendships. The day ended with a beautiful memorial service for deceased members and spiritual advisors. Each provincial president carried a red rose and placed it in a vase in front of the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Fran carried the white rose for the spiritual advisors.

Wednesday began with morning prayer. National President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization Shari Guinta presented “The League of the Future: Year 4,” the strategic planning progress report with leads Christa Grillmair, Sr. Susan Scott, Jacqueline Nogier and Sharon Ciebin. They provided detailed information and fielded questions on the resources completed in year three and information on the strategies that working group members would address next year. This session was taped and is available on the national website. The afternoon session began with a presentation by the 2023 host annual meeting committee followed by the remainder of the national officers’ reports. One resolution was brought to the floor, debated and adopted, Resolution 2022.01 Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste.

An informative presentation was given virtually by Life Member Colleen Martin, representing Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle. The group is a Catholic coalition of Indigenous people, bishops, clergy and lay members engaged in renewing and fostering relationships between the Catholic church and Indigenous peoples in Canada. The website <https://ourladyofguadalupecircle.ca/> provides relevant information and resources.

The instructed vote on the proposed amendments to the *Constitution & Bylaws* was conducted by National Past President and Chairperson of Laws Anne Gorman. All proposed amendments were adopted with the exception of the proposal to change the League’s patroness to Our Lady of Guadalupe. This proposal was defeated. A final registration report was given prior to adjourning the meeting. A total of 462 were registered for the convention.

Over the three days of business, several organizations addressed the convention. The groups acknowledged how the relationship with the League has enabled them to provide support to others. These include the World Union of Catholic Women’s Organisations, Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, Ukrainian Catholic Women’s League of Canada, Catholic Near East Welfare Association and Catholic Missions In Canada.

The closing mass was held at the Immaculate Conception Church with Bishop Jensen as celebrant. Prior to the final blessing, the reaffirmation of the national officers was held.

The final official convention event, the Gala Banquet was celebrated on Wednesday evening. The pageantry of a bagpiper and the clapping of attendees’ hands welcomed the arrival of the national executive, dignitaries and guests to the banquet. Convention Co-chairpersons Nancy Simms and Debbie Cloutier welcomed everyone. Fran addressed the attendees and thanked the Kamloops and Nelson diocesan councils, committees and volunteers for hosting a memorable convention. In celebration of the League’s 100th anniversary, Betty presented an enjoyable historical pictorial tribute to conclude the celebration that was to have taken place in 2020. After dinner, vocalist Michelle Allsop, accompanied on the piano by Graham Vink, delighted the crowd.



National 1st Vice-President and Chairperson of Communications Betty Colaneri presents National President Fran Lucas with the papal blessing from His Holiness Pope Francis.



On Thursday, August 18th, while the national executive attended a post-convention meeting, 75 members and guests took part in the Summerland Steam Train Tour. They were welcomed aboard the historic Kettle Valley Steam Railway established in 1916. Guests experienced the 110-year-old restored steam locomotive and open sided rail cars. These cars provided the perfect opportunity to enjoy the quilted patchwork of lush orchards, vineyards, fields of green, Trout Creek and a trestle bridge. A second stop was made at Summerland Sweets which provided an opportunity to purchase local-made pottery, jams, jellies and kitchen items.

Words cannot properly convey the spirit of a national convention or feel the sense of joy that fills the room. One needs to experience it to fully understand the feeling of spiritual connection in sisterhood—to share ideas and stories with friends, forge new friendships and celebrate being together while building relationships. The excitement of knowing the League makes a difference! Attendees left with an uplifted spirit and pride for the



League and what has been accomplished. The convention provided a renewed sense of commitment to service to God and His people. It reminded attendees of why they do what they do and why they love the League as they do. What a blessing to belong to such an amazing organization!

We came to pray (faith), conduct business, learn (fulfilment) and enjoy (fun). Thank you to Kamloops and Nelson diocesan councils for your warm, welcoming committees and the numerous volunteers for making our time with you so memorable! †



Oral Reports

NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Fran Lucas
Edmonton, Alberta

One would never know we were still feeling the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic by the action-filled reports of the provincial presidents and national officers. Watching all of that activity certainly added fuel to my fire and helped all of us propel the League through many challenges this year.

The excitement of attending conventions after trepidation that circumstances could change at any time was exhilarating but filled with caution. Masks and hand sanitizer were still my best friends as I happily travelled to diocesan conventions for Sault Ste. Marie (North Bay), Mackenzie (Yellowknife), Victoria (Nanaimo) and to provincial conventions for Prince Edward Island (Charlottetown), Quebec (Trois-Rivieres) and Ontario (Ottawa). Unfortunately, COVID-19 sidelined my attendance at the Manitoba (Neepawa) and Saskatchewan (Swift Current) conventions. In most instances, attendance was lower than usual, but more than many thought possible. Members cautiously joined League sisters after the lengthy absences to be rejuvenated by the reporting and by personal contact with others. The words of the theme *Catholic and Living It!* have taken on a vibrant life, which is not surprising and is both affirming and uplifting. Attending diocesan and provincial conventions afforded the opportunity to see and hear first-hand the actions already taken and plans being made to demonstrate without any doubt that the League is of course Catholic and assuredly living it!

To keep members informed of where I was, my president's outings were posted the first week of each month.

As in the previous year, participating in online meetings was the order of the day from strategic planning working groups to monthly administrative to many *ad hoc* meetings. Requests I made of executive members

were accepted willingly and with remarkable results. These included requests of:

- Cathy Bouchard, who worked with Chalice Canada on an event called *Love in the Kitchen: A Recipe for Holiness*, which resulted in a YouTube video that aired during Pentecost
- Faith Anderson, who wrote an article entitled "A Journey Through Life" for the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisation's (WUCWO) *Women's Voice* March magazine
- Margaret Schwab, who wrote article for WUCWO's *Women's Voice* on "From Celebration to Gratitude" which will be in an upcoming issue
- Chantal Devine, who organized the Ribbons for Ukraine project
- Glenda Carson and Rolande Chernichan, who worked for months on position papers
- Shari Guinta, who reviewed life membership
- Betty Colaneri, who is managing the website redesign
- Anne Gorman, who worked on a policy and procedure project
- Marie Rackley, who worked on a project tied to the amendment for a per capita fee increase.

A first for the national executive/board occurred when four standing committee chairpersons (Cathy Bouchard, Margaret Schwab, Dorothy Johansen, Faith Anderson) collaborated on a joint communique and project related to WUCWO's request for spiritual bouquets for Pope Francis. The spiritual bouquet was personally presented on June 11th by the WUCWO executive as it met with the pope.

Being part of Pope Francis' visit to Canada specifically in the Edmonton area was a definite highlight. Working on Archbishop Richard Smith's (Edmonton) fundraising committee was an honour as it was a tangible way to help with this historic visit. Through volunteering in various positions – before, during and after – and the many members attending the Eucharistic celebrations, the League was well represented. It was moving to see the great member support for the visit as it shows how much members recognize the importance of the healing that the pope's presence can bring.

Many opportunities offered me education in a variety of areas, including personal growth. I participated in: a meeting with convention planning co-chairpersons Nancy Simms and Debbie Cloutier, and Bishop Greg

Bittman solidifying the fact that we would, with God's grace, be having a customary convention; the 8th and final board governance session on Removing Structural Impediments to Participation and Action; monthly webinar sessions with provincial presidents; the Canadian Society of Association Executives forum on contracts for events; a session on *For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission*; WUCWO's webinar on Women, Crisis and Resilience; World Day of Prayer; Honorary Life Member Fireside Chat; and Edmonton and Hamilton diocesan online regional workshops. Fortunately, I was able to attend a few local parish council anniversaries and a meeting of a potential new council at an Indigenous parish. While in North Bay, I visited the office of Clark Marketing Communications, which works with the League's marketing working group and national chairperson of communications.

On January 1st I made two resolutions. The first one was to call two members each day in the month of January. The second resolution was to solicit sponsorships for the annual national convention. I am pleased to say, "Mission accomplished."

To ensure timely board action, two extraordinary meetings were called. One meeting was regarding the Ribbons for Ukraine provincial project and the second meeting involved a request for member donations to subsidize Pope Francis' visit to Canada.

Life Member Cecile Miller is the League's liaison to the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation (CWLF). She reports that:

- there were 15 graduates from cohort four in May 2022.
- thirteen members of cohort five began the program in May 2022.
- the board is looking into platforms that will allow cohort members to stay in touch with each other.
- St. Paul's University is launching The Institute for Transformative Leadership and the CWLF Program is to be the first program.
- the spring newsletter is available online and includes photographs of cohorts four and five.

On occasion I have been asked, even by members, about the relevance of the League. My response usually sounds something like this, "We are faith-based women with 102 years of working history. Not enough? We are the largest Catholic women's organization that gets to meet with and bring concerns to federal government and does so regularly. Still not enough? We are an organization of resolute women who see needs in their community or farther afield and take action to address them. That is plenty for me."

For those who need more: When a council with

slightly under 200 members can attract 10% more new members during a pandemic, when members who can no longer do their usual indoor good works pivot to cleaning community parks together, when councils use online formats to educate members in preparation for post pandemic days, when a vignette of a spiritual advisor is added to the website reflecting his total recognition of the League's good work, when *The Catholic Register* can produce a 35 page summary of the League's past 100 years while easily being able to double that content, when 27 parish and 17 diocesan councils have more than 100 years of service and aren't slowing down, I would safely say we are relevant!

My request of all parish councils is to spend time with members, now, reminding or educating their sisters of League relevance. We need to hear it, we need to talk about it, we need to live it! †

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ADVISOR



Bishop Stephen Jensen
Prince George,
British Columbia

I don't have too much to report. I think in your programs, you have this information. My activities include writing articles for *The Canadian League* magazine and attending the national executive meetings twice a year, in the fall and the winter. I also attended the national resolutions committee meeting in July. I must say I was very impressed with the painstaking and rigorous resolution process followed. When I saw the original resolutions that had come from the provincial councils, they all seemed good. But then, when you put the rubric next to them—the standards that have to be met, the clarity and the appropriateness—that is why some of them were returned. I saw in action the members of the national resolutions committee and they deserve a big load of gratitude from this body because they worked very hard and very professionally.

Yesterday, we had the spiritual advisors' luncheon and 22 priests attended—several more than who are actually attending the convention. I shared with them some of the things that we talked about, namely that provincial presidents are going to be encouraged to share resources that have been developed in their jurisdictions with others so that we do not have to

reinvent the wheel. We can benefit from our collective wisdom. It was also pointed out by one of our spiritual advisors that there is a document in place which is a comprehensive outline of what is expected of spiritual advisors. Like the 10 commandments, we do not have to invent something new—we just have to follow them. †

NATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER



Marie Rackley
Saint John, New Brunswick

The 2021 audited financial statement is included in the *102nd Annual National Convention Program and 2021 Annual Report*. I would like to

mention a couple of items. The League's 2021 fiscal year concluded with a deficit of \$127,665 but with the investment income of \$251,647, the national treasury ended the year with a surplus of \$123,982.

The revenue for 2021 was less than the proposed 2021 budget \$15,942 and compared to 2020 actual revenue was less by \$138,509. Two major areas of decrease were a membership decline of \$88,647 and the end of federal government pandemic wage subsidies to the tune of \$47,000.

Expenses were watched very closely in 2021. One of the major changes in the budget was to reduce the printing and mailing costs of *The Canadian League* magazine. By printing two instead of three issues, the national treasury saved \$80,000.

The year 2021 experienced an increase in League development expenses due to promotion (League history book to all councils; theme prayer cards to all members) and the strategic planning (marketing campaigns, social media curation, module design costs, promotional video and staff support).

The national executive/board met in a partial virtual setting in Winnipeg, October 2021, the first in person meeting since February 2020.

Office building janitorial service expenses increased to enhance sanitation (disinfecting) since the pandemic began. Rent and property tax increased by \$7,000 per annum as assessed property value increased by 33%. The alarm system needed to be replaced and one of the furnaces needed a motor replacement.

Operational costs were on budget but a 2020 invoice for computer support for \$20,000 was received

late in 2021. The bill included maintenance and improvement to the system, adding parish council insurance to the automatic billing system, generating individual billings for various level of fees, adding the option to identify associate members, and adding in a print or digital circulation option for magazine recipients.

Investment income for 2021 was \$251,647 with Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management. Qualified investments include 20% private debt, 20% of the total fixed investments and 60% socially responsible equity investments.

The first six months of 2022 shows a surplus as a majority of expenses do not occur until August. There will be a decrease in membership, product sales and convention registration fees compared to the 2022 budget passed in October 2021. The League is very fortunate to have several sponsors for this convention that have contributed over \$16,000 to subsidize some of the expenses.

Expenses for the first six months are on target, with an anticipated decrease in some expenses. A new company was chosen to print the magazine after the current supplier tripled its pricing. The expense of paper has raised considerably in Canada. A new casual position was created for a social media assistant. This will raise salaries and benefits higher than budget.

Interest and dividend income of \$40,458 was received. Share prices have dropped in 2022 resulting in an investment loss of \$166,220.

The S&P 500 closed lower for a third straight quarter and underwent its largest decline in the quarter since the beginning of the pandemic in the first quarter of 2020 as well as the largest on year decline since 1970. There was a number of moving elements affecting the market, but none more prominent than the topic of inflation and rate hikes, with May headline CPI coming in higher than expected at 8.6% year over year, largest amount increase since 1981.

The finance committee will continue to monitor investments and keep communication lines open with Canaccord.

Work has already started on the 2023 operating budget. The major source in revenue is the League's faithful membership and sales of products. However, membership continues to decline and 100 parish councils have yet to pay their current fees. Expenses will continue to rise with inflation and the board will have to work together to keep the League alive. Your help is greatly needed so we can continue to work and service God and His people in Canada and abroad. †

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Kim Scammell
Winnipeg, Manitoba

I am pleased to finally provide a report to the honourable members present here in Kelowna, after three long years of isolation. Little did we know, three years ago, that these opportunities for gathering were as valuable as they are. We had taken for granted that we would meet again in Montreal, and in Toronto. Finally, we can.

I'd like to refer briefly to my annual report and the function of the office. The national office provides administrative services to members and councils based on positions and job descriptions that the board determines are appropriate and necessary. The board alone, these fine women who sit at this head table, balance what services are offered to members with what the national treasury can afford to offer.

In terms of staffing, the board has directed the following positions and duties would be provided by national office:

- An executive director to take direction from the board and plan implementation of these directions within the office, including committee assistance, which is my position
- An executive secretary to coordinate meetings, manage presidential correspondence and typeset the magazine, which is what Amanda McCormick does
- An accountant to receive deposits, write cheques, and sell supplies, which is what Valroy Anderson does
- A membership coordinator to process memberships received from councils, which is what Belinda Limqueko-Maguyon does
- An office assistant to receive and forward inquiries to an appropriate respondent and to provide other clerical support, a position that is currently vacant
- A project assistant to provide administrative support for the implementation of the strategic plan, which is what Kerri Sylvester does
- A part-time digital media assistant to post updates to the website and social media, which is what Catherine Conforti does
- A casual office assistant, a data entry clerk and a convention coordinator, to be used only if and when necessary to effect timely administration. These casual

positions are filled by Deborah Woodbeck, Katrina Stratton and Monique Sass.

These are the approved positions and the tasks delegated to the office. †

LAWS



Anne-Marie Gorman
Fredericton, New Brunswick

The national past president's duties during the period January 1 to July 1, 2022 consisted for the most part in keeping abreast of questions regarding the instructed voting procedures for the proposed amendments to the *Constitution & Bylaws*. I was also involved in confirming the procedures at the diocesan and provincial levels. With the ability to consult with the executive director, honorary life members and parliamentarians, I was able to instruct and support the process to the best of my knowledge. I am pleased that councils were willing to seek answers actively as the amendments process occurs infrequently. Numerous questions also were posed and answered regarding vacancies in elected offices.

It is my duty to receive proposed amendments by August 31st of this year, after which the national president will appoint an amendments committee with myself as chairperson. At this writing, three proposed amendments were received. The committee will convene virtually to consider the proposals at a time suitable for committee members. The committee's recommendations will be communicated for consideration by the national executive/board.

A meeting with the provincial past presidents took place May 31st to discuss their progress in assisting with setting up manuals of policy and procedure for those parish councils that had indicated they desired to have a manual and needed assistance. Using the League's template from the website ("To Organize," 800 Series, #812), and sharing material from Vancouver Diocesan Council and Notre Dame De Lorette Parish Council (Lorette, Manitoba), there were sufficient details and samples for parish councils to set up a simple manual of policy and procedure. The goal is to have a tool that will save councils' valuable time. The effort to complete this initiative will continue throughout my term with the help of the provincial past presidents.

The fall will provide my first opportunity to work in the archives at national office in Winnipeg, to review material, and determine gaps, if any, that need to be filled. Going forward, there is an expectation that I will meet a second time in Winnipeg with the national archives committee, which consists of Honorary Life Member Margaret Ann Jacobs (Elmvale, Ontario) and Blanca Stead (Duncan, British Columbia). †

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT



Cathy Bouchard
Red Deer, Alberta

What a blessed time it is to be part of the League. New things are happening. The League is being invigorated and we are all part of this. We can look forward to

beginning work with new materials available to us.

I attended national administrative, executive and governance meetings and prepared liturgies for these as well as for the annual national convention. I represented the League at the Calgary diocesan convention and brought greetings from the national president to the Calgary and Saskatoon diocesan and Alberta Mackenzie provincial conventions, as well as served as parliamentarian at the same provincial convention. I was part of a committee to revise and update League documents and represented the League in a Chalice fundraiser connecting cooking with our faith.

Communiqués were written with information on National Faith Day, and the national days of prayer for Christians in the Holy Land and for Canadian home missions. Members were invited to pray with Pope Francis as he consecrated Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Lenten resources were shared. The collection received from July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022 for Catholic Missions In Canada was \$21,136.17.

Members joined in prayerful solidarity for those who met with the Holy Father for a true encounter on our journey toward reconciliation. In July we joined with Canadian Catholics to assist in and celebrate the pope's visit.

The World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO) requested input on a gift to be given to Pope Francis at their meeting in June. The national chairpersons of Christian family life, community life and education and health and I prepared a joint communiqué

asking for members' contribution. The gift for the pope had two components, spirituality and service. For the spiritual bouquet, League members and councils offered 729,719 rosaries, 8,574 sacrifice of the holy mass, 3,988 hours of adoration, 11,483 acts of self-denial, 6,606 chaplets and litanies, 166 novenas, and 93,839 prayers offered for the pope's intentions. The second part of the gift highlighted the League's gifts of service. WUCWO brought the League's gifts of faith, service and social justice to the Holy Father as a sign of members' commitment to being *Catholic and Living It!*

The Synod on Synodality was a focus this past year. Members across Canada participated in the listening sessions and responded. WUCWO asked for a response from the League on the synod, which was written by National Past President Anne M Gorman and myself. Pope Francis states that the act of synodality is the way of being the church today according to the will of God, in a dynamic of discerning and listening together to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

One of the goals in the strategic plan is that members grow in faith through spiritual development opportunities provided for them. New documents can be found on the national website:

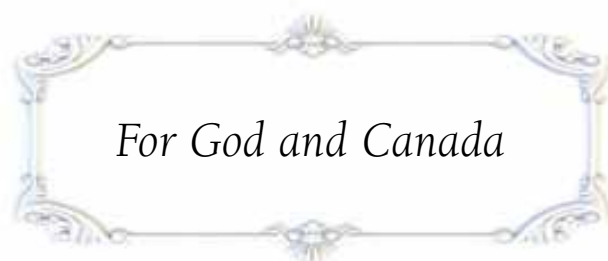
- "What We Do" (#325, 326, 327)
- *Prayers and Spiritual Programs* (#626) is immediately usable at council meetings
- *Retreat Centres for Spiritual Development* (#328)

A new pamphlet called *The Catholic Women's League of Canada: Faith - Service - Social Justice - Sisterhood* (#627) focuses on the social aspects of the sisterhood of the League.

Prayer Service Planning Workshop (#628) focuses on the spiritual and social aspects in councils to foster a culture where all life is valued with dignity and respect.

The faith life of members involves acting on social justice. *The Calendar of Social Justice/Catholic Social Teaching in the Church* (#622) module provides links to important dates to remember, while the resource *Care for God's Creation Resources* (#625) gives scripture and bible resources along with examens, prayers and quotes.

I encourage you to continue your spiritual growth individually and through the League, "For God and Canada." †



ORGANIZATION



Shari Guinta
Waterloo, Ontario

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, there was still some amazing work done in regard to membership, as well as offers of workshops and presentations. It was a pleasure to receive the provincial reports for organization and see the great work that was done, even though the pandemic wreaked havoc on the ability of councils to meet.

Many resources, especially new ones, were not always reported as being used; however, online meetings, information sessions, workshops and spiritual presentations were given. Even though challenges with computer skills were mentioned in numerous reports, 73% of parish councils reported using the online membership system.

Recruit Members and Maintain Membership

Personal invitation is most effective, while telephone calls, bulletins, parish announcements and comments from the parish priest were also effective. Even though only 20-30% were considered active members, calls were made to recruit and maintain members. All chairpersons reported recruiting members in the 35–40-year-old range; not a lot, but some.

Using subcommittee chairpersons and distributing the workload is effective. Creative ideas such as holding fundraisers or putting on a membership contest where every member was encouraged to recruit members were held to supplement membership fees.

Members and councils continued to decline. I want to emphasize that membership is every member's responsibility. This is a huge concern and I encourage all members to do their best to recruit members and diocesan or provincial councils to set a plan for membership and council retention in their regions.

Leadership Development

The *Executive Orientation* program was offered. Resources developed for the strategic planning initiatives were approved and placed on the national website. Online leadership programs were offered.

League Resource Material

The national website, other websites and *The Canadian League* magazine were reported as the most used resources. The League's website is important!

More councils began to use resources from the strategic planning working groups. *The Welcome Program* was one that was used. *Embracing Diversity: Tools for Council Use* resource was distributed and should be used. Education regarding social media and technology was mentioned often.

Annual Reports

There was much discussion regarding the online annual reporting surveys, and we listened. I met with all provincial chairpersons of organization on a regular basis, as well as with my subcommittee members. Revisions were offered to the board at its preconvention meeting. Simplifying and shortening the report and paying particular attention to word choices were all suggestions.

Life Membership

An *ad hoc* committee was formed with seasoned life members and honorary life members to discuss the criteria and some changes were made. This also was presented to the board at the pre-convention meeting. The moratorium on nominations to life membership is now lifted. †

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE



Dorothy Johansen
Edmonton, Alberta

Marriage and Family

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has a Standing Committee for Family and Life. It has many resources available for families to use throughout the year. The Vatican also has a valuable resource available in the wonderful Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

Sanctity of Life

It is very difficult to be pro-life in Canada right now, and it is very discouraging that there are no laws limiting abortion. Members need to continue meeting with young people to encourage them, letting them know that no matter what they will be supported when they choose life.

It is much easier to be there for elderly or any other people contemplating ending their lives early as members may be able to notice that they are in distress. Members can continue to advocate for palliative care or

supportive care to allow everyone to live with less pain as they fulfill their lives.

The League needs to continue to support Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC) in its work to limit or eliminate the continuing slippery slope of extending euthanasia or medical assistance in dying to yet another category of people. Last year the requirement for a reasonably foreseeable death was removed from the criteria. Next year, mental illness will be added as a qualifying criterion. Who will be next if members do nothing?

For the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 donations to the EPC temporary voluntary fund from councils and members totalled \$9,179.74. Thank you for your support.

Ministry to Youth, Disabled, Seniors, Widowed, Separated, Divorced

World Youth Day is an international gathering of young people aged 18-35 with the pope. It will be held in August 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal. Parish councils are encouraged to support the youth in their parish to attend; plans will be well underway this year.

I hope members established a new friendship or rekindle a relationship as a ministry to others. I have been blessed with getting to know a few people much better than in the past.

Vocations

As always, members need to support vocations. Priests, religious and those considering a vocation would appreciate having a mass said for their intentions. It would be great if members could fill the mass calendars of all parishes for November 4th the feast day of St. Charles Borromeo, the patron saint of bishops, catechists, cardinals, seminarians and spiritual leaders. †

another remarkable year of discovering, becoming aware of issues, and learning what this standing committee has to offer and the resources the League has provided. In short, what organization can offer an opportunity to live out our faith, live the gospel and act on important issues?

The national theme *Catholic and Living It!* brought about the Food Bank Project which ended in June 2022. An amazing \$42,969 and 36,378 pounds of food was collected and donated to food banks.

\$995.00 was donated to Mary's Meals and, although a smaller amount, the project created awareness on this important organization's services. It costs only \$26.40 to feed one child for a whole school year in some developing countries. Pope Francis has said, "There is always someone who is hungry or thirsty and who needs me. I cannot delegate this to another. This poor person needs me, *my* help, *my* word, *my* commitment. We are all involved in this."

A webinar on human trafficking was held with Joy Smith as keynote speaker. Ms. Smith indicated that education is the greatest weapon in the prevention of human trafficking. She states, "When we know who is most vulnerable and the signs to watch for, we can all take steps to prevent it from happening." She brought home, in her presentation, that human trafficking can be found anywhere, even in our own backyard.

To keep current on the national voluntary funds designated under the community life standing committee, there is a new Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) brochure available from national office and on the website. After an eight-year period, the projects supported by the League under Development and Peace-Caritas Canada (D&P) have been reviewed. A new brochure will be available in the fall parish council mailing. These brochures, available at only the cost of postage, can be used to inform members on how their monetary support is used.

For the remainder of the term there will be ongoing work in truth and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples as members become more aware and walk the road to reconciliation. The dignity and rights of the person continues to be a concern not only in Canada but in various countries around the world. Look for a webinar on domestic violence in the coming months.

Contributions for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 to the national voluntary funds of D&P totaled \$13,123.70 and to CNEWA totaled \$10,680.45. Councils and members are to be commended for continuing to provide monetary support in these unprecedented times. †

COMMUNITY LIFE



Faith Anderson
Winnipeg, Manitoba

The year 2022 began with receiving the community life annual reports from the provincial chairpersons.

These reports reflect the amazing work of the grassroots of the League, the parish councils. As national chairperson, this has been

EDUCATION AND HEALTH



Margaret Schwab
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

The last two years wreaked havoc on healthcare around the world. Anxiety and frustration increased the use of medical assistance in dying, making it more

important than ever to promote good palliative care.

This May saw the second annual webinar on palliative care with presenter Dr. Margaret Cottle who spoke on “Dignity Conserving Care: practical ways to accompany one another in faith, hope and love.” Dr. Cottle eloquently reminded attendees that caring is better than killing. The webinar is available on the national website.

Last November, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC) released *Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care*. It may be found on the CCCC website. Because of the need for good palliative care resources, last August at the national annual meeting of members, a motion was adopted to create a temporary national voluntary fund to collect donations to offset some of the toolkit costs. Members supported this fund with donations of \$2,129.97.

Members once again embraced the opportunity to make use of the *12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care* kit. Prayer is an important part of what members do. We must pray unceasingly for access to good palliative care for all.

In June, the national bursary committee met to review the 11 applications received. \$7,900 was awarded to candidates to assist in the areas of personal spiritual growth, palliative care training, leadership and family therapy.

The national bursary fund was generously supported by the membership with donations in 2021 of \$13,485 at a time when many parish councils were not meeting or able to fundraise. Their donations are received with gratitude.

Coady International Institute was supported through a national voluntary fund. From July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, \$13,051.15 was collected from members and councils. The League has a close relationship with Coady, which provides relevant programs that help graduates make a positive difference in their own communities.

Canadian Blood Services reminds us that blood is needed badly. Any healthy person over the age of 17 can donate. The League has a partnership with Canadian Blood Services. The blood donations of members, family and friends can all count toward the partnership.

As I complete my first year as national chairperson, I must say “education” was the key word. There were many learning opportunities and I dare say, there will be more to come. I was able to meet with some of my provincial counterparts virtually, which was a great experience. I look forward to year two. †

COMMUNICATIONS



Betty Colaneri
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

Technology is a new frontier for me, so I Google searched “communication” to see how best to tackle the art of communication in a technological world.

The answer I found is that it is the key, the lifeline and essential tool to any organization or relationship. Good communication is the bridge between confusion and clarity.

Members adapted to various ways of communicating with their sisters in the League across the country. Knowing just how important it was, members stepped out of their comfort zones and embraced technology to ensure that the lines of communication would remain strong. This has been a learning experience for all, especially with the “techy verbiage.”

“Hash” was chopped meat and “tag” was a game children played. Now combined as “hashtag,” it means a word or phrase preceded by a hash sign (#), used on social media, especially Twitter, to identify digital content on a specific topic.

“Notification” has been sent for a friend request. Weren’t we already friends? “Tick tock” was the sound a clock made. Now “TikTok” is a social media app where users create videos.

“Zoom” used to be something used to get a closer view. Now it is a videoconferencing platform. How many times did we hear, “We can’t hear you. You’re on mute”! But we persevered. We managed to adjust our monitors so we could see our whole face, not just the forehead, and to turn off the mute button to speak.

COMMUNICATIONS

- C: Connection, contact, conversation
- O: Outreach to members
- M: Members, the lifeline of the organization
- M: Magazine. *The Canadian League* remains a primary resource and powerful communication tool for articles on spirituality, advocacy, action, education and to share new ideas regarding the strategic plan.
- U: Uniting Catholic women through the Engagement Hub
- N: Notifying members of upcoming events such as the mass sponsored in honour of Our Lady of Good Counsel. This year it was held on April 28th due to a scheduling conflict. The date of April 26th has now been booked until 2036 to ensure that does not happen again.
- I: Information shared with members
- C: Correspondence through communiques
- A: Advertising important events such as the 56th World Day of Social Communications and the papal visit
- T: Twitter, a form of social media that uses hashtags
- I: Instagram another popular form of social media
- O: "On the Spot" has been changed to "Spotlight" to shine the light on members, councils and their projects
- N: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation was strongly promoted
- S: Social media assistant was hired to handle the high demand of posting to the website and social media. This needs to be done on a regular basis and in a timely manner to remain current and relevant.

Now that's communications!

CatholicWomenUnite.ca, the League's engagement hub is a new webpage dedicated to delivering marketing content to prospective and current members. Its purpose is to provide new opportunities to interact, continuously engage, and capture interest through lead generating content tactics. It will leverage current content with fresh appeal. This will be a true online engagement hub, delivering refined key messages appealing to the audience. As a highly visual hub, it can include multimedia content encouraging an audience to engage within a specialized platform while providing incentive. The initial webpage includes Unite for Change; Unite the Nation; and Share the Love. Moving forward there will be more content updates as well as related digital marketing campaigns to drive traffic to the hub.

An *ad hoc* committee was struck to address changes needed to the national website. The committee

submitted several recommendations to the board. The website will be a more user friendly, simplified, modernized and optimized site while not completely throwing everything out and starting from scratch. A homepage wireframe is the first step in the design that allows alignment on priority content which should be seen on the homepage.

These are exciting times! Pope Francis stated that, "Good communication helps us grow closer, to know one another better, and ultimately, to grow in unity." So, what's your profile hashtag? God has sent a friend request to communicate as joyful warriors to spread the good news. Let's all click the tab and accept His request. #joyfulwarriors

Communication, the final frontier. These are the challenges of the communications chairperson. My continuing mission: to explore strange technology; to seek out new ways to communicate; to seek out new URLs and new members; to boldly go where I have not gone before.

With technology and the personal connection, together we can do virtually anything, and the League will live long and prosper! †

RESOLUTIONS



Rolande Chernichan

Ils des Chenes E, Manitoba

I have good news! After a two-year hiatus, resolutions are back! The COVID-19 pandemic put a stop to in-person meetings and conventions and, as a result, the presentation of new resolutions could not occur because of limitations for debate. Last year the national annual meetings of members for 2020 and 2021 were held in a mostly virtual setting, and it provided an opportunity for the archiving of several resolutions. This year, we are thankful and filled with optimism to be able to resume business as usual.

A major change to the resolutions process, by doing away with the whereas clauses, was introduced at the last in-person national convention held in 2019. The resolved clause **IS** the resolution; it identifies the intent of the resolution by stating the topic, the desired action and to whom the resolution is directed. Emphasis and debate at annual convention now centres on refining the resolved clause to define the League's position on the

topic, supported by the brief and research from reliable resources.

Since the fall of 2021, a two-year position paper project was developed by a partnership of the national chairpersons of legislation and resolutions. We are happy to share that the project is progressing as envisioned. Through the assistance and teamwork of provincial chairpersons for resolutions and legislation, an extensive review of the League's 13 position papers is complete. Concurrently, the review and evaluation of 24 current resolutions, as well as 39 resolutions still relevant that were archived in 2021, was undertaken by national chairpersons to determine if position papers were warranted. Their work is also complete. Recommendations arising from all reviews were collated and submitted to the national executive/board.

The second year of the project will involve teamwork for the development and/or revision of position papers that will formally communicate the League's position on certain topics or issues. They will be a valuable resource for the development of future resolutions. Visitors to the national website can gain insight about the League and Catholic beliefs conveyed through these position papers.

National resolutions were last presented to the federal government in November 2018. Resolutions from the 2019 convention could not be presented because of the timing of a federal election and then the pandemic. The planning for a delegation to Parliament Hill will begin following this convention.

The League's strategic plan, supported by the pillars of faith, service and social justice, should be fully implemented in 2023. Necessary resources to fill the void created by the phasing out of the resolutions standing committee will be provided. Will resolutions continue to be part of the League's identity in the future? This is dependent upon all members, both present and future, to be interested and informed about social justice issues and government legislation, and to continue to be the voice for change.

The envisioned future of 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.

Resolutions are the voice of members and a voice for the voiceless! They are the hallmark of the League because of its advocacy to government. They are part and parcel of being *Catholic and Living It!* Your interest and involvement are always welcomed! †

LEGISLATION



Glenda Carson
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

There was much activity from a legislation perspective since the first session of the 44th Parliament resumed in 2022. The supply and confidence agreement between the Liberal and New Democratic parties was novel compared to traditional minority governments where coalitions may be formed, or cooperation occurs based on individual bills or business coming to the floor of the session. The agreement came with a promise for more legislative stability and positive action on items such as climate change, housing, and healthcare funding. It is uncertain how legislative concerns related to euthanasia and abortion will be affected. All of this begs close monitoring as the session proceeds.

Bill C-7 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)* came back into focus in the winter and spring of 2022. The required parliamentary committee was appointed to recommend safeguards for situations where mental illness is the sole underlying medical reason for the request for euthanasia. The national legislation spring parish council memo encouraged members to carefully monitor and critique the outcomes of the review. Ongoing concerns regarding the bill also remain, especially for Canadians living with disabilities and for emancipated minors.

In June 2022, the United States Supreme Court overturned the abortion law, *Roe versus Wade*, which had given Americans a constitutional right to abortion. A national legislation communique was released encouraging members to remain consistent and strong voices for parliamentarians to consider criminal code legislation regarding abortion and advocating for the recognition of unborn children as persons to be protected by law.

The legislation workshop, *Faith in Action*, was slow to be implemented last fall according to the 2021 legislation annual reports. Strategies are being explored that may be helpful in facilitating parish and other council levels to effectively use this valuable workshop. Knowledge regarding the often-complex parliamentary system is important if members are to remain active in monitoring and responding to legislation at all levels of government in Canada.

Despite the leadership challenges experienced with legislation standing committees across Canada, activity remained dynamic this year. Members wrote letters, signed petitions and supported briefs regarding legislation at national and provincial levels. Areas of particular concern included sex trafficking, legalization of prostitution, conversion therapy and environmental protection, especially for lakes and rivers. †

ALBERTA MACKENZIE



Mary Hunt
Edmonton, Alberta

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council is comprised of 159 parish councils with a membership of over 8,000 faith filled women who, with gratitude

and joy, are *Catholic and Living It!* We proudly celebrate members Fran Lucas, Cathy Bouchard and Dorothy Johansen as they assumed their responsibilities on the national executive. Members strived to meet the challenges of COVID fatigue and creatively did their best to connect with one another and keep councils intact. There was a renewed sense of caring for members and the strengthening of relationships. Members were reminded what a wonderful gift the League is. One-hundred-year anniversaries were celebrated for St. Francis Xavier Parish Council (Camrose) and Holy Name of Jesus Parish Council (Vermillion).

The provincial executive dedicates itself to promoting the many initiatives of the national executive, as well as a few of its own. Members embraced the Gratitude Project; hundreds of gratitude postcards and baskets were prepared for first responders, parish staff, medical staff, and others. Other initiatives included supporting Development and Peace-Caritas Canada, Catholic Missions In Canada and Catholic Near East Welfare Association. One parish council planted 100 tree seedlings and dedicated a park bench in a popular community green space.

A focus of the provincial executive is to educate. The executive informed members and the communities they live in about the insidious devastation of pornography. They supported and educated others about sanctity of life issues. Medical assistance in dying, euthanasia and abortion have become increasingly popularized. Our faith strengthened members' resolve to be involved

and share the pro-life position on these issues. Members actively participated in the Alberta March for Life and accepted an invitation to speak at its rally.

The executive promoted the right to publicly funded Catholic education through GrACE, which is an acronym for Grateful Advocates of Catholic Education. The bishops, Catholic school board trustees and Catholic superintendents founded this group and invited the League in Alberta to participate. The Catholic school system in Alberta is the last publicly funded institution that can speak freely about God, thereby having the important opportunity to teach about the inherent dignity of the individual and the sanctity of life from conception to natural death.

Mindful of the League Prayer which entreates, "Teach us to share at home and abroad the good things You have given us," members at the 75th annual convention approved financial donations to help flood victims in Hay River and the ongoing Ukraine relief and settlement efforts, as well as a contribution to offset the cost of the papal visit. Additionally, members helped through prayers, fundraising and efforts to resettle families escaping the war in Ukraine.

The executive meets in St. Albert at the Star of the North Retreat Centre, as it is central for all dioceses. A legacy donation was made to the centre's renovations and the executive was delighted when they were advised the beautiful "new" chapel would be named the *Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel*.

Honorary Life Member Ardis Beaudry and life members Sheila Houle and Anne Laskosky returned to the Lord and have found a special place in His Heavenly Kingdom.

Members were involved in various implementation committee working groups. Many valuable resources were gifted by the national executive that will serve as tools in recruiting and maintaining membership, filling leadership positions and meeting the needs of an aging population. Members in Alberta, guided by faith and hopeful optimism in the inspired vision of the strategic plan, dedicated leadership plans to focus on relationships, renewal and effecting change.

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council hopes to make a difference with Catholic sisters one woman at a time by living out the calling to faith, service and social justice confident in the knowledge that members are truly *Catholic and Living It!* †



B.C. & YUKON



Sharon Geiger
Salmon Arm, British Columbia

Members of B.C. & Yukon Provincial Council continued to persevere with good works “For God and Canada.” Members still found it difficult to meet in person at the beginning of the year, but this has changed as time has gone on. Councils did what they could to stay in touch throughout this time.

Connection was the most important part of keeping members involved. One diocesan executive started a monthly virtual meeting called “CWL Connects,” intended as a way for members to meet, ask questions, share ideas and stay informed while in person gatherings were not permitted. One 94-year-old member never missed a meeting.

Even though virtual meeting platforms provided connection, there were still other ways to reach out such as by telephone, mail, email, newsletters, special cards and, sometimes, personal visits. There were innovative ways to fundraise, as well as make members feel loved and valued. One parish council began an online rosary at the beginning of the pandemic, and they continue to meet and pray online to this day.

When restrictions were lifted, members felt very encouraged about meeting in person again. Councils restarted funeral catering. As well, many participated in the synod meetings.

The executive promoted individual and parish memberships in the Catholic Health Association of BC. It offers a spiritual program and advanced care planning workshops, including training for homes with Indigenous residents.

At the Vancouver Diocesan Council spring meeting, the spiritual program was “The Garden Way of the Cross” by Fr. Tom Stanley. In April, one diocesan council held a successful “Presidents Tea” which featured testimonials from executive members. This event encouraged eligible members to let their name stand for the upcoming election. And yes, it worked. There was an election.

I am so very proud of the work that members in B.C. & Yukon are doing even with the restrictions. Five of the six diocesan councils either had a diocesan convention or an annual meeting of members (AMM), and I know that

they were very excited to be together in person. I was able to attend two of them.

It was hard to decide whether to have a provincial AMM this year. Things looked very bleak for a while. In the end, a successful partial virtual AMM was held. We are proud to host this year’s annual national convention in Kelowna.

I am looking forward to the next year with excitement as I will be able to meet with members in person and remind them how wonderful and special they are and to encourage to keep up the good work in faith, service, and social justice. †

MANITOBA



Crystal Reiter
Riverton, Manitoba

League sisters in Manitoba continued to dig deep to demonstrate their caring and concern for each other through these trying times by reaching out via telephone and email and with their prayers for those in need.

On February 12th, members embraced the opportunity to participate in a virtual presentation for the Annual Day of Celebration. There was a very good turnout for the online event. The first speaker was Dr. Zita Somokoko, who spoke about domestic violence against women and shared her own testimonial. She spoke of the Rave Project (an initiative to assist families of faith impacted by abuse). She also spoke of a presentation “Welcome To The Stained Glass Story Of Abuse” by Dr. Nancy Nason-Clark, professor-emerita at the University of New Brunswick, which showed the different stages of abuse; the beginning, the chaos, the aftermath, rebuilding, renewal and new beginnings. The second speaker, Slobodan Mitrovic from Welcome House, spoke about raising awareness on issues faced by new Canadians. The Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council Inc. offers several programs for new Canadians, and he explained the difference between immigrants and refugees and the different challenges faced by each. Following a short break for lunch, attendees enjoyed an online townhall hosted by myself, called “Breaking the Barriers of Apathy in the League.” Many ideas were shared and discussed. Evaluations indicated attendees were enthusiastic in their praise for an excellent program.

St. Boniface Diocesan Council's annual meeting of members (AMM) was held in person on April 23rd. It was a very successful event, and newly-minted Lacey Bernardin moved the event along seamlessly.

Winnipeg Diocesan Council's AMM was held on April 29th and was a hybrid event, with some people in person and most attending virtually. This was election year, and new president Chris Carlyle also has a new executive.

Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan Council's AMM was held on April 30th. Due to the pandemic and proximity to the Winnipeg Diocesan Council's AMM, there was very limited attendance from the south; however, Bernadette Benson's first convention went smoothly.

Manitoba Provincial Council's AMM was an in person event held June 3rd-4th, and although a couple of last-minute hiccups occurred, thanks to a dedicated effort from members, the event flowed well. It finished with elections and installation of officers, and I took the helm as newly minted president!

On June 24th St. James Assiniboia Parish Council was able to complete a centenary project started pre-COVID! The council delivered 1,000 hand-sewn bags to people as part of End Homelessness Winnipeg.

With a careful eye on possible restrictions, the executives are proceeding with plans to hold in person events in the fall, including the Winnipeg diocesan fall meeting and workshop and the St. Boniface Day of Reflection. Parish councils are hopeful they can proceed with their end-of-year events and fundraisers. Members are excited to use some of the new tools as part of the workshop at the fall meeting. †

MILITARY ORDINARIATE



Allison Klemen
Nepean, Ontario

As you know, the women of Military Ordinariate Provincial Council serve God and Canada from wherever in the world a military member can be posted, deployed or retired. Members cherish the sisterhood they find in the League, and those still in service to the Canadian Armed Forces as a family member or uniformed member find comfort in knowing that a League sister most likely waits for them at their next posting.

This year at the provincial convention, the focus was on how this cherished aspect of membership helps us to be

Catholic and Living It! The convention theme was *Sowing Love through Sisterhood* and base council presidents were asked to reflect on this theme in their oral reports. Their reports were excellent, and it was inspiring to hear how members were taking care of each other and sowing love in their communities. They reported sowing love through outreach projects such as sending cards and letters to deployed chaplains, hosting a mother-daughter tea for the community and preparing care packages for soldiers attending mass during basic training. They reported strengthening sisterhood through the care and inclusion of ill and isolated members, the effort to welcome and recognize new ones and the nurturing of friendship among all.

The convention itself represented a first for the provincial council – it was planned and hosted by provincial officers rather than a volunteer council, and it was held entirely at a retreat centre without the involvement of a military base. It was a real labour of love and, under the leadership of past-president Tawnya Stringer, it was a very successful event. The theme could have been *Flexible and Living It!* because at almost every turn there were unexpected obstacles, from having to redistribute duties after a team member could not attend, flight cancellations that kept both guest speakers from being able to attend in person, having to find a last-minute celebrant for mass, on-the-fly program changes, and even a brief power outage. We rolled with it all, keeping the theme in mind and the goal to focus on sisterhood at the forefront. If you have been to one of our conventions, you probably remember late nights and fun times. Thankfully nothing interfered with that! The chairperson of communications Teena Cyr managed the tech like a pro and made the effort to include those who could not attend in person through Zoom meetings, Facebook live updates, and live streaming of the ceremonies and masses. It was so good to be together, and to be able to extend that love outward virtually to members who could not travel.

My goals for my term were to help members manage transition, embrace new ideas, encourage outreach and build some bridges. At the halfway mark, I believe the council is on its way, at least in the bridge department. There is a special friendship with military sisters in Christ in the protestant chapel guild, and I enjoy regular chats with their president. I hope we can join forces on a project together in the coming year. Also, international bridges are being built with the Military Council of Catholic Women in the United States. I had so much fun attending their conference in Tampa, Florida and learned a lot about their approach to service. I was grateful to be able to share greetings from both presidents at the convention.

Another bridge under construction is with the military itself. The provincial council depends on its chaplains to connect the council with the military, and the constant turnover in postings makes it challenging to operate on a military base. Not all Catholic chaplains know about the League, and base councils often depend on chaplains of other faiths for support, who are even less likely to know about the League. In June, I sent a letter to chaplains as they gathered for their annual exercise, something the provincial president has always done. Two things happened immediately afterwards. Two female chaplains asked to become members, and someone from the ordinariate reached out to ask if the provincial council could help support them as they co-host the upcoming Canadian Canon Law Society convention. That they would ask us for support from a high level demonstrates a recognition of the value of the League as part of the military faith community.

As the strategic plan continues to unfold, I hope to progress toward my other goals by ensuring base councils are receiving information and are confident in managing change. They are doing such a good job already of taking care of each other and reaching out into their communities. I truly believe that if members hold fast to the love and connection felt at convention, and sow that love in councils and communities, we will truly be *Catholic and Living It!* †

NEW BRUNSWICK



June Brown
Rothesay, New Brunswick

New Brunswick Provincial Council has been able to maintain 37 parish councils. Although all have not been active due to the ongoing pandemic, some have moved

along by meeting when times allowed. Perhaps their faith and love of the League has been their mainstay, so through it all, their obligations were met. With most councils being parish and community minded, they were able to hold yard sales, takeout dinners and teas.

Meetings were held, with pins and awards being handed out. If recipients were not at a meeting, the pin was delivered to their door. Trees were planted and prayer gardens made during the centenary project were well maintained.

GoToMeeting was quite popular with generally the

same women logging in each month. Due to limited Internet service in rural areas, connections were often not great.

The provincial executive was able to hold a day long, in person meeting in the spring. The 74th provincial annual meeting of members was held in Saint John at Villa Madonna Retreat House. Attendance was low but the room was full of joy. Members and spiritual advisor Fr. David Fulton were happy to be able to meet in person. Reports were given, anniversary certificates were distributed, and a resolution was presented on the topic of enhanced home schooling guidelines. The resolution was adopted and the provincial executive is looking forward to meeting with provincial officials. Bishop Christian Riesbeck (Saint John) spoke to attendees about his spiritual journey which lead him to become bishop. A memorial service for deceased members was held. The weekend was a great success with beautiful prayers, great meals and renewed friendships with League sisters.

President-Elect Madonna Clark and Chairperson of Communications Leslie Carr were busy preparing a workshop that will incorporate the *Welcome Program*, strategic planning and the *Executive Orientation Program*. Starting in September, Madonna and Leslie will travel around the province sharing their talents.

Anniversaries for 2022:

- St. John Bosco (Dalhousie) 100 years
- Our Lady of Good Counsel (Saint John) 90 years
- St. Raphael (Blackville) 90 years
- Immaculate Conception (Rexton) 85 years
- St. Joachim (Saint John) 80 years
- St. Joseph (Bath) 70 years

It is my hope and prayer that parish councils will be able to meet in person beginning this fall. A good number of members are getting along in age and are not always willing to meet in person. We trust that Our Lady of Good Counsel will guide them and keep them safe as they continue to be proud League members who are *Catholic and Living It!* †

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.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR



Judy Hodge

St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

It gives me great pleasure to be here in beautiful British Columbia. I bring greetings from Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Council.

The past two- and one-half years have not been good in the province. Just to provide a brief snapshot, on January 15, 2020, the City of St. John's experienced the worst snowstorm in its history. It lasted eight days; people were homebound for up to 14 days; some streets were not plowed for 21 days; and a month later a global pandemic struck, which is still around.

In January 2022 the provincial council had 16 parish councils. Today, I am very sad to say that four of them have disbanded, and by the end of this year there may be even fewer. Overall, there are less than 300 active members. However, some councils are very strong and vibrant in their local communities. They are a resilient group and very loyal to the League, and I commend them for that. Councils were involved in grassroots initiatives, making donations to women's shelters and food banks, having food drives, and donating all season greeting cards to inmates at the local penitentiary. With those cards inmates can connect with their spouses, children or parents. Members volunteered in their churches, hosted church socials and fundraisers, held book and bake sales, and sent out cards of gratitude to front-line workers. Holy Redeemer Parish Council (Corner Brook) organized and celebrated a mass and ceremony to honour local residents who passed away during the pandemic. Many people attended this service and were very moved and grateful. This celebration was seen as a healing process.

Over the last three years, there have been approximately 15 new members provincially. The provincial council anxiously waits for the strategic plan to yield results. It is a struggle to maintain numbers as members are aging and unwell. Young ladies with fresh minds are needed to take over what their mothers and grandmothers have started.

On May 28th the provincial council held its annual meeting of members. It had planned for a one day in person meeting with National Past President Anne Gorman as the guest speaker. When we realized members were very hesitant about attending in person,

we switched to a virtual meeting. Anne was still the guest speaker, but she joined virtually. She gave a very enlightening talk on the church and discussed how to market the League when churches were without people in the pews. Spiritual Advisor Fr. Edward Terry spoke about resilience and staying the course despite setbacks and challenges. Past Provincial President Ellen Merrigan led a beautiful and heartfelt service for deceased members; there were 19 during 2021. Fr. Terry celebrated a live-streamed mass at his parish.

The greatest struggle in the province right now is the closing of churches in the Archdiocese of St. John's where many councils are located. Churches are being sold and this is leaving councils without a church, meeting room and storage space for their valuable documents and archives. As a result, they are choosing to disband.

In the face of all this darkness, my League sisters are proud and courageous and strong and have faced great adversity, and I do believe they will weather the storm. Please pray for us that we will come out of this darkness bigger and better.

My goals for the coming months are to help remaining councils stay strong and to encourage them to be present and visible so that others can see what we do and learn from us as we continue to serve God and Canada. †

NOVA SCOTIA



Joline Belliveau

Overton, Nova Scotia

From January until March, Nova Scotia was under a state of emergency, as it had been since March 2020. On March 21st, the state of emergency was lifted, and suddenly social distancing and masks were no longer mandatory. Even to this day, I follow imaginary arrows in the grocery store, and if I need to back track, I still follow the imaginary arrows instead of just turning around. So too, churches no longer face restrictions and parishioners are allowed to attend, yet parishioners are still apprehensive.

After the February national executive meeting in Toronto, the provincial executive met in Halifax. Most members were there in person; three members joined via Zoom. The topics discussed were disbanding councils (eight in the last year and possibly more to come) and what to do with the funds raised to attend the cancelled

2020 annual national convention in Montreal. A motion was made to use the funds to help members attend the 2023 national annual meeting of members in Saint John, New Brunswick. Other items discussed included locating venues for provincial conventions, moving archives to another location, hosting a leadership retreat in September 2022, the online membership system upgrade, and a call for a day of prayer in Canada.

Provincial President-Elect Jessie Parkinson spoke about a resolution that was forwarded to national council in 2016. The resolution related to dental care for seniors. Since it was announced that dental care is under consideration at the federal level, it was decided that the provincial council would wait to see what the provincial government presents to the public.

Early in the month of May provincial executive members Glenda Carson, Sandra Kline, Cathy Targett and myself met with Fr. Craig Cameron to discuss reactivating a parish council at St. Mary's Basilica in Halifax. Cathy was able to find the old charter and will begin meetings in the fall. It is refreshing to see this and have Fr. Cameron's support. The support of Catholic priests is so crucial to the League.

The Antigonish Diocesan Convention was held on May 7th in Sydney where I brought greetings. It was awesome to see 93 members in person and to meet up with so many women I hadn't seen in years. Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick (Antigonish) was the guest speaker and spoke on the Synod on Synodality. He explained how the synod is a process of sharing, reflecting and listening, involving all the faithful at all levels of the church, with an aim to renew the church to better carry out its mission. The memorial service for deceased members was incredibly touching, with way, way too many roses.

Held the same weekend as the Antigonish Diocesan Convention, I was not able to attend the virtual Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Convention.

The provincial convention was held on June 11th. Guest speaker and Life Member Joan Bona developed the theme *Catholic and Living It!* She really outdid all expectations. Joan's presentation can be viewed on YouTube. Despite the necessity to go with a virtual meeting, it went off without any hiccups.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, councils at all levels were forced to use technology they would never have otherwise used. When a challenge confronts members, they evolve, they adapt.

In your day to day lives, look for the spiritual, the mystical, however humdrum or quiet your life appears. Carry your faith with you outside of the Catholic church and use your faith to think outside the box. †

ONTARIO



Linda Squarzolo
Sudbury, Ontario

Although COVID-19 continued to challenge everyone, the 30,000 members in Ontario made every effort to live out the Objects of the

League.

Although most meetings were held virtually, members kept informed about current issues and new programs through directives, emails and monthly articles in the *ON-Line Newsletter*. Members not only met virtually, but they also prayed virtually and celebrated the Eucharist virtually. When the war in Ukraine began, one group began to meet online daily to pray the Divine Mercy and they continue to do so. Each diocesan council was offered a subsidy to help defray the costs of accessing a virtual platform for their members.

In 2022 about one-half of the thirteen diocesan councils held in person conventions. The provincial council also enjoyed welcoming members to Ottawa in July for an in-person convention with 226 in attendance. Members focused on the provincial theme of *Loneliness* and embraced the national theme *Catholic and Living It!* A new executive was elected and a new theme, *Go Make a Difference!*, was introduced.

Telephone calls were a lifeline for the isolated and lonely. Parish councils were urged to call members and maintain contact with them. Cards and gift cards were sent to emergency workers as well as frontline employees in grocery stores and pharmacies. The sisterhood of the League flourished despite restrictions.

The provincial council's website was revamped and made more user friendly. Members were encouraged to visit the site and to read the monthly *ON-Line Newsletter*, the latest directives and recent postings.

Members supported the work of the implementation committee by completing surveys and participating in working groups. Whenever new workshops were released, members were informed and encouraged to make use of them.

The discovery of unmarked graves at the former residential school in Kamloops led many members to question what they could do to help. After much discussion, the provincial executive established an *ad hoc* Truth and Reconciliation Working Group whose goals were to be aware of the past, to be inclusive in the

present, and to strive to do better in the future. This sub-committee of the community life standing committee developed a resource page on the provincial website that provides links to various resources, both technical and spiritual, and a calendar of upcoming events.

To support the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishop's Indigenous Reconciliation Fund, the provincial council is making a \$25,000 donation over five years. It also donated to the fund to cover the costs of the pope's visit to Canada.

The support of clergy is vital to all councils. Annually, a meeting is held with the executive of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario. This past year the visit was an opportunity to address the full plenary of Ontario bishops. The presentation included the current state of the League in Ontario, the topics of upcoming resolutions and the hope that members could meet in person in 2022. An offer of League support was made for any project that the bishops felt needed the attention of members.

Long-term care and mental health concerns were the top political issues on the minds of members. Letters were sent to provincial and federal politicians to request improvements to long-term care and call for greater access to mental health resources. Two resolutions were adopted at the convention; they focused on long-term care and loneliness.

Despite many traditional fundraising events being cancelled, members donated over \$600,000 to charities, locally, nationally and beyond.

Ontario Provincial Council continues to work "For God and Canada," facing its challenges with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and Our Lady of Good Counsel. †

theme *Catholic and Living It!* has had a great effect on everyone.

The provincial council recognizes and has special appreciation for priests who play a vital role. As they retire, extra work is being allocated to younger priests. Most members are helping where needed as lectors, Eucharistic ministers, catechists, etc. The question is, "How can the League be of more assistance?"

Prayers for vocations have always played an important role. One parish council started a program called "Adopt a Seminarian" where they give support through special prayers and cards of support.

Parish councils and members were very involved in praying the rosary for peace in Ukraine and the world, collecting funds and articles to send to Ukraine, making ribbons to show their support, and praying the rosary with Pope Francis to consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on March 25th.

Members participated in the synodal process, "12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care," World Day of Prayer, Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel, CWL Sunday, PEI Life Baby Bottle Campaign, papal visit fundraising and more.

On February 26th, because of Omicron restrictions, the provincial executive opted for a Zoom meeting instead of the usual in person area meetings. National President Fran Lucas presented from Edmonton on the topic of "Catholic and **Loving It**," plus Provincial Spiritual Advisor Fr. Brian MacDougall and local parish priest Fr. MacDonald shared on the theme. There were breakout sessions, which increased member participation. It was a learning experience and proved to be a beneficial way of communicating. Those not able to attend were able to view it at their convenience.

The PEI Catholic Girl's Bursary provided 12 bursaries. The fund also received an endowment. Eight PEI Provincial Subsidy applications were received from parish councils to promote the theme *Catholic and Living It!* through workshops, guest speakers and retreats for their own and neighbouring councils.

As restrictions were lifted, the provincial council held an in person 100th annual convention and anniversary celebration with a great turnout of 147 members from 30 parish councils. Fran Lucas engaged attendees with everything from the national theme to the strategic plan to a workshop on misconceptions to Ribbons for Ukraine and more. Lieutenant Governor Antoinette Perry gave words of recognition and encouragement, Poet Laureate Julie Pellissier-Lush captivated attendees with stories of her Indigenous culture, and Life Member Elaine Black took attendees 100 years back in history when two island women were instrumental in forming the League as a national organization.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



Marilyn Gay Garvey
Bethel, Prince Edward Island

The League is alive and active on Prince Edward Island. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, members ministered to their councils, parishes and community.

They maintained precautions when and where necessary, but in general they looked forward to restarting meetings. The number of parish councils decreased from 33 to 30, and membership from 1,700 to 1,600, yet members were still happy to belong. The new

I am very thankful for the good work accomplished by Prince Edward Island Provincial Council and its members. I am also proud to announce that President-Elect Karen Rossiter completed the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation Program in May 2022.

Before closing, I reviewed the recent League workshop on *Life and Dignity of the Human Person*. This comes at an opportune time when members need to be a voice in the world to promote the sacredness and dignity of all life. †

QUEBEC



Alice Noble
Candiac, Quebec

Quebec Provincial Council is on the move! Each year as organization chairperson, the oral report delivered at the provincial annual meeting of members had a theme: *As We Look Forward (2020)*; *As We Look Forward: "A year of building challenges" (2021)*; and *As We Look Forward: "A year for rebuilding" (2022)*.

It is important to note the provincial government maintained some of the strictest COVID-19 pandemic restrictions in the country, up to and including the ban on all gatherings from March 2020 to nearly February 2022. This hampered the way councils functioned. Many adapted as best they could and valiantly tried to maintain contact between members through social media, Zoom meetings, calls, cards and more. Yet, 2022 has a big drop in membership renewals. Parish council presidents reported members were feeling disconnected, apathetic, uninterested and unmotivated. Members willing to take on leadership roles are few.

There has been a reported disconnect between the provincial council and its parish councils. Even before the pandemic, the provincial council acted more as a conduit of information. National communiques were received and then a provincial communique sent. Over the years the provincial council hosted an annual workshop day in Montreal. However, members had to come to us and those from outlying regions could not attend unless they could stay somewhere for the weekend. If any council wanted additional training or just a visit, the impetus had to come from them. The provincial executive is out to change this!

The new provincial executive's most immediate mission is to reach out to every parish and diocesan council through "A Year of Rebuilding," the purpose of which is to establish what councils need, what their concerns and issues are, and what their strengths are. To this end, a presidents' meeting was held via Zoom in June to pose these questions. The top requests for support were in leadership development and recruitment of younger members. Training on the new structure of the League will also be needed. I confirmed the provincial executive is coming to visit them soon!

Members of the new executive were assigned the task of viewing the national *Executive Orientation Program* modules and all new implementation committee materials. In September, a training session will be held on how to deliver a workshop, followed by the presentation and practice of a few key workshops. Starting in October teams of two, accompanied by me as often as possible, will visit parish councils to deliver these workshops. Teams will rotate and visit a second council over the next two years. Critical to these visits will be a time for members to ask questions, express concerns and share ideas.

The provincial spiritual advisor has been asked to prepare a workshop on conflict resolution and forgiveness. This workshop will be given to all spiritual advisors, and they will be mandated to deliver it to League members at a meeting. It is hoped that a direct objective for the year will encourage them to be more actively involved in their councils.

The provincial executive will try a new communications approach, sending a newsletter every two months on a specific date as opposed to sending communiques. Each newsletter will feature a few parish council successes. Links will be provided for national communiques and important projects and events will be highlighted.

"A Year of Rebuilding" begins with more active roles of the provincial executive at parish level. The executive will reach out, be visible, listen, communicate and respond to the councils' needs. It will remind members of the joys of belonging and the strength of sisterhood, rebuild and strengthen membership, motivate members to invite others to join and increase membership. Every council and every member are needed and have a valued role to play. The League is a sisterhood built on faith and love. We are *Catholic and Living It!* †

SASKATCHEWAN



Connie Crichton
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

I am honoured to be representing the 5,200 plus members of 124 parish councils in three dioceses in Saskatchewan. In 2021, Saskatchewan experienced a

severe drought; 2022 has brought much needed rain and moisture. This is not unlike the renewal councils now are feeling in parishes since being able to meet in person. We hope this will bear new fruit for them.

Diocesan presidents have worked hard to reach out to all parish councils through the “Staying Connected” project. Feedback was very positive, and it was reassuring to hear of the many ways parish councils were keeping their members connected through phone calls, newsletters and gratitude cards. To assist with the project, the provincial executive offered to reimburse postage. It was money well spent.

In the first few weeks of my term as president, St. Joseph Parish Council (Moose Jaw) invited me to attend its 100th anniversary. It was a wonderful way to embark on the future with a reminder of all the successes of the past. This council also is in its second year of having a Catholic Girls’ League.

I would like to acknowledge two members from Saskatchewan who completed the Catholic Women’s Leadership Foundation program this spring, Tina Claxton and Ann Donald. In addition, there were four women selected for the 2022 cohort. Six members participated in implementation committee working groups, Janette Rieger, Linda Maddeford, Margo de la Gorgendiere, Rosalie Boots, Diane Cote and myself.

Spiritual Advisor Fr. Peter Nnanga was very active in his role and encouraged other priests to be involved with their councils. He reminded members to treat spiritual advisors well by praying for them, acknowledging special anniversaries, and including them in celebrations. He wrote weekly reflections on the Sunday readings for the provincial Facebook page since April 2020. We have been blessed.

The provincial executive is witnessing parish councils slowly resuming activity. Parish councils in the Diocese of Prince Albert took part in an outreach project for a northern community collecting and donating needed supplies. At the in-person convention in North

Battleford, there were a group of women interested in forming a new council in an Indigenous community. A parish council that began a “spiritual motherhood” of priests has grown into a regional project. These are signs of bearing new fruit.

Parish councils in the Diocese of Saskatoon raised money for IWIN, a project that assists women leaving the sex trade. Combining a red sand service, which brings awareness to human trafficking, with fundraising events, parish councils have raised over \$2,400 to provide backpacks containing basic supplies. The diocesan executive has used virtual technology to hold Advent and Lenten retreats. It was also able to hold an in-person convention in Macklin.

Regina Diocesan Council held a hybrid annual meeting of members, with most attending virtually. A resolution presented by St. Joseph Parish Council (Indian Head) was adopted at this meeting, as well as at the provincial convention.

At the provincial convention banquet, President Chantal Devine’s theme *Inclusion* was certainly evident. The special guest was Lieutenant Governor Russ Morriesty, a member of the Lac la Ronge Indian Band, who began his talk in his first language, Woodland Cree. The banquet entertainment was a Filipino singing group that sang songs in Tagalog, and Fr. Nnanga sang the closing prayer in his native African language. Truly the richness of diversity in the province was present at this gathering. The mass collection was sent to the Archdiocese of Regina to be added to the fund for covering costs for the papal visit.

Diocesan councils in Saskatchewan are committed to providing members with workshops and information sessions as they are eager to hear about the new resources and what the future holds. Also looking to the future, we will adopt Pope Francis’s theme for his visit to Canada, *Walking Together*, and will be encouraging parish councils to find opportunities to engage members in walking the road of reconciliation and building God’s kingdom here on earth. †



Magazine Deadlines

Winter issue – November 15, 2022

Spring issue – February 15, 2023

Fall issue – July 15, 2023

102nd Annual National Convention Resolution

**Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council
Community Life**

2022.01 Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste

Resolved, that national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 102nd annual national convention assembled urges the federal government to enact legislation to reduce food loss and waste in Canada's agri-food, industrial, commercial and institutional sectors.

Action Plan

1. Write letters to the prime minister, minister of environment and climate change, minister of health, minister of agriculture and agri-food, with copies to local members of parliament urging the federal government to enact legislation to reduce food loss and waste in Canada's agri-food, industrial, commercial and institutional sectors.
2. Write letters to provincial, territorial and municipal governments urging them to collaborate with the federal government to reduce food loss and waste in Canada's agri-food, industrial, commercial and institutional sectors.
3. Raise awareness that could include inviting speakers and providing information and resources to members and the public about reducing food loss and waste.
4. Monitor the federal government's response to the resolution. †

ANNUAL DISBURSEMENT OF NATIONAL VOLUNTARY FUNDS

The national voluntary funds constitute monies forwarded by councils to national office for disbursement annually to the appropriate agencies. Collected from July 1st to June 30th each year, the amounts are announced at the annual national convention. The 2021-2022 collection amounts for these funds are as follows:

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace	\$13,123.70
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops Palliative Care Kit	\$2,129.97
Catholic Missions In Canada	\$21,136.17
Catholic Near East Welfare Association	\$10,680.45
Coady International Institute	\$13,051.15
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition	\$9,179.74



National Council Regretfully Advises the Passing of Life Members:

Dr. Rayleen de Luca
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Sheila Houle
Morinville, Alberta

Dorothy McGuigan
Toronto, Ontario

Congratulations to 2022 Bursary Recipients!

In 1988, the League received two generous donations in response to the call for lay formation in Pope John Paul II's exhortation, *Christifideles Laici*. In light of the expressed desire of the League to encourage members' service "For God and Canada," the national executive agreed by motion that these donations be used to establish a bursary fund.

The bursary fund is used to provide financial assistance to members pursuing studies, courses, seminars, workshops and diploma/degree programs in areas of, spiritual growth, adult faith formation, youth ministry, ministry to patients in palliative care, ministry to shut-ins, parliamentary procedure and literacy tutoring.

Bursary applications are available upon request from national office or can be downloaded from www.cwl.ca.

Congratulations to the following recipients!

Christine Coyle	Windsor, Ontario
Sarah Donald	Rocky Mountain House, Alberta
Katrina Hamon	Combermere, Ontario
Jasper Leung-Chau	Windsor, Ontario
Alison Nicholas	Comox, British Columbia
Terry Mae Sinclair	Salmon Arm, British Columbia
Christine Taylor	Renfrew, Ontario
Diane Waldbillig	Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



SPOTLIGHT

St. Clement Parish Council (McGregor, Ontario) decorated its church for Divine Mercy Sunday and invited parishioners from the Central Essex County Family of Parishes. The devotion began at 3:00 p.m. with the Divine Mercy Chaplet, led by the council president, followed by the Litany of Divine Mercy, led by the chairperson for spiritual development. Fr. Pio Doria concluded the celebration with the rosary and a final blessing.



In preparation for the national convention, New Brunswick Provincial Council executive members met over a cup of tea and a plate of sweets to put together ribbons in support of Ukraine.

The ribbons were distributed at the council's annual meeting of members at the end of May and displayed on a runner made for a Ukrainian fundraiser.

Are You Ready?

Marie Rackley

National Secretary-Treasurer



The lazy days of summer have come and gone, and we are now getting ready to meet the busy challenges of another season. Soon we will see the rich colours of gold, crimson red and harvest orange as we say goodbye to green foliage and bright summer flowers.

Along with the challenges of another season, comes a challenge of the fall start up of parish councils. At the 102nd annual national convention held in Kelowna, August 14-17, 2022, the instructed vote to increase per capita fees was revealed and introduced to the membership.

As your treasurer I would like to speak to you on the impact of the per capita fee increase, which was adopted at the convention with seven provincial councils in favour and four provincial councils opposed. Each parish council in good standing was eligible to vote. These votes were carried to diocesan conventions, then provincial conventions, and finally to the national convention for the final vote.

Effective with the 2023 membership year, the national per capita will be \$25.00 per member per year. This certainly will have an impact on parish councils that struggle to maintain their membership. We must remember, though, that the national per capita fee is the only revenue source to offset expenses of The Catholic Women's League of Canada at the national level. With expenses increasing annually, it was necessary. The last increase took place over 10 years ago when it was set at \$13.00.

To address a growing deficit, expenses were reduced over the last two years. However further reductions in expenses are not always a positive move as it results in a loss of necessary communication. Up to date information becomes less available and less timely, and upgrades to programs are delayed because of the lack of availability of cash resources.

One of the most devastating impacts of the deficits of fiscal 2021 and 2022 was the difficult decision to print

only two copies of *The Canadian League* magazine. With the increase in funding, the national executive/board is anticipating a return to three print copies of the magazine. At present it costs over \$80,000 to produce, print and deliver one issue. In regard to managing these costs, a new printing company with lower cost was sought. However, no printing company has control over the price of paper, which has increased by upwards of 25% recently. The board realizes that the paper copy is important to most members because the magazine is full of useful information. It often sits for days on the coffee table and is picked up and read again and again.

A reduction in expenses will take place when the national executive shrinks from 22 to 18 members in August 2023. There will be seven national officers and 11 provincial presidents at the board table, providing savings in travel, accommodations, meals and supplies at mid-year meetings and conventions.

An area of great concern that was identified in the strategic planning was the need for belonging and for leadership development. Plans are already underway to implement the programs of the implementation committee. For example, the *Welcome Program* was designed to welcome new members within councils. *The Joy of Leadership* was designed to help develop joyful and enthusiastic leaders in the League. Leadership development funding will be made available to present these programs.

Change is hard. To move forward is difficult. We are people of habit. But we must change and adjust to the fast-moving world that we live in. Time waits for no one.

The board has worked hard to make the League the organization that is needed today in Canada and the world. To stand up for what is just, to be there to help others, to walk the talk and not turn our back on our sisters and brothers. We are God's people and will continue to serve God's people at home and overseas. We are *Catholic and Living It!* †



Report to Celebrate!

National Organization Standing Committee Sub-Committee Members Life Member Jacqueline Nogier, Life Member Janet McLean, Military Ordinariate Provincial Past President Tawnya Stringer

Celebrating council accomplishments and successes is very important; it reinforces the great work being done! Parish councils are the lifeblood of the League and amazing things are accomplished at this level. While no report can adequately summarize the invaluable contributions made by the over 1,100 parish councils, the online annual surveys try to summarize these contributions based on the duties listed under the various standing committees. The information which could be gathered is necessarily limited, and councils sometimes felt their specific activities could not be adequately reported.

Several years ago, the reporting format was changed from an anecdotal written report to an online questionnaire with specific questions pertaining to each standing committee. Since the change, some members have missed sharing the details of projects undertaken by their councils and have communicated that they wish there were more opportunities to share the great work being done in their councils. The national executive hears you and loves to celebrate the great work you are doing in your communities and parishes. The annual reports are part of that celebration, albeit at times, the less dazzling reporting, of what we do.

Annual surveys help the national, provincial and diocesan executives to identify the programs and direction; they are not meant to be an evaluation of the great work done in councils, but rather they are a specific lens which helps identify areas in need of better communication, support and development of interest. In an organization like this, with varied interests and thousands of projects undertaken yearly, creating a snapshot of the work is so important, and the surveys to help develop that snapshot. Opportunities to share council stories, successes, and fabulous projects can also be celebrated in oral reports at conventions and gatherings, and through League

magazine articles, websites, and Spotlight (on the national website).

Councils also felt that some questions dealt with sensitive issues, particularly questions on ethnicity. Questions such as these may seem odd for the League to include in the annual survey, but they had a very specific purpose. In year two of the implementation of the strategic plan, one of the working groups was tasked with creating tools to embrace diverse cultures and ages. One of the ways that this group received information with which to understand the cultural diversity of councils was by asking these types of questions.

The working group's task was "to increase participation of diverse cultural and generational groups" to 15-25% of the League in five years. The questions asked in the annual survey helped create a baseline for this measure. The categories used for the different ethnic groups were the same categories that the federal government uses in the national census.

In the words of dear Mary Poppins, a spoonful of sugar, or may we suggest sweets, snacks or beverages, help the medicine go down. When doing the annual surveys, some councils celebrate their work by gathering to complete them in a group, making it a social event. Members who are tech savvy can be asked to assist, and this also provides opportunity for those who may not be on the executive, to get involved. To further celebrate the works in councils, share the results when the survey is complete so that the council sees what has been accomplished.

The surveys have been revised from year to year to reflect current projects and interests, and further revisions will be necessary as the proposed changes to the standing committees become part of the *Constitution & Bylaws*. Members concerns are being addressed and suggestions and constructive criticism are always welcome. †

SPOTLIGHT



Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Council (Petawawa) held a members' banquet earlier in June. One of the highlights of the evening was seeing Parish Council President Joanne Jeffries present Jeanine Mohns with her 80-year pin. Jeanine's mother (and Joanne's great-grandmother), Valerie Charette, was the charter president of the council in 1938!

In Grateful Appreciation for Service to the League

Implementation Committee

With deep appreciation and gratitude, the implementation committee recognizes and thanks the members of five working groups on the successful completion of seven strategies. Members volunteered over 2,150 hours and produced numerous resources.

GOAL 3:

Through outreach and service, members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada foster a culture where all life is valued with dignity and respect

LEAGUE MISCONCEPTIONS WORKING GROUP

Strategy covered: Address misconceptions about the League.

The League misconceptions working group was tasked with addressing misconceptions about the League to increase participation of diverse cultural and generational groups and produced three separate deliverables. The first, a proposal to the national board to create a "National Faith Day" so all members and parishioners at local parish councils can pray together for the League, embracing diverse cultures and generations. September 19th has been set aside for National Faith Day. The group also created an adaptable newsletter template for councils to download and make their own. The newsletter template and editing instructions can be found for download on the national website under 100 Series: Crest, Stationary and Other Council Supplies. The final resource that this busy working group created was an adaptable workshop titled "Telling the REAL Story, Eliminating Misconceptions about the League." This workshop can be found for download on the national website under 800 Series: Workshops.



Mary Hunt
Edmonton, Alberta



Sylvia Jurys
West Kelowna,
British Columbia



Karen Rossiter
St. Peters,
Prince Edward Island



Laura Wilson
Anmore,
British Columbia

NETWORKING WITH CATHOLIC ORGANIZATIONS WORKING GROUP

Strategy covered: Network with other Catholic organizations to capitalize on existing programs.

The women of this working group worked collaboratively to connect with Canadian Catholic organizations to learn about retreats and other programs members might be interested in accessing. The group produced a brochure and plain Word document listing 18 retreat centres in every region of Canada. These documents can be found for download on the national website under 300 Series: Promotional Material.



Elaine Black
Cornwall,
Prince Edward Island



Annette Chaplin
Deep River, Ontario



Diane Lauziere
Toronto, Ontario

GENERATIONAL ACTIVITY WORKING GROUP

Strategy covered: Encourage multi- and inter-generational activity, and diversity.

The members of the generational activity working group wrote a three-page article explaining the importance of intergenerational activities for both younger and more experienced people. Included in the article is a resource list for people who are interested in learning more about the benefits of intergenerational activities. This group also created a resource document full of activity suggestions and resources for parishes wanting to encourage this interaction. The article and resource document have been approved by the implementation committee and have been gifted to the national executive. This resource has not yet been released.



Sheilah D'Souza
Scarborough, Ontario



Rose Marie Geonzon
Calgary, Alberta



Cynthia Hellsten
London, Ontario



Jennifer Wallace
Kamloops,
British Columbia

INCREASE CONNECTEDNESS WORKING GROUP

Strategy covered: Develop tools to increase connectedness among members.

The increase connectedness working group created two documents. The first contains ideas for parish council members to stay connected to each other between meetings. It also has ideas for diocesan council executives to stay connected to their parish council counterparts between meetings. This resource has not yet been released.

The second document contains ideas and suggestions to help members across Canada become more connected with each other. This document has been submitted to the national board for its consideration.



Louie Beggs
Stittsville, Ontario



Christine Doraty
Oliver, British Columbia



Sharon Martin
Ripley, Ontario



Donna MacDonald
London, Ontario



Marilyn Martin
West Vancouver,
British Columbia

GOAL 4:

Address critical issues

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP – PARISH OPTIONS WORKING GROUP

Strategies covered:

- Restructure the existing standing committee structure at the parish level to respect the uniqueness of councils
- Introduce project-based committees beginning at the parish level
- Capitalize on members' willingness to take on short-term leadership responsibilities

Dedication, commitment and tenacity best describe the tireless efforts by the women in this working group. Embracing three diverse leadership strategies and spending hundreds of hours in collaboration, *The Joy of Leadership Through Engagement in Ministry Guide* was developed for parish councils. The extensive guide provides parish councils a list of potential opportunities for non-elected leadership as well as identifies and highlights the vital role leadership plays. The downloadable guide released in September is located on the national website under To Organize Tab: 600 Series Manuals.



Susan Kaller
Candiac, Quebec



Janette Rieger
Emerald Park,
Saskatchewan



Philomena Menezes
Scarborough, Ontario



Barb Thuen
Winnipeg, Manitoba



Diane Miedema
Coaldale, Alberta

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Congratulations to the following centenarians!

Rita Andrews

105 years old on April 11, 2022
St. Luke Parish Council
Calgary, Alberta

Dorothy Lutz

105 years old
St. John the Baptist Parish Council
Kitchener, Ontario

Mafalda (Folly) Markle

104 years old on April 1, 2022
St. Patrick Parish Council
Sudbury, Ontario

Kay Schell

103 years old on May 27, 2022
St. Michael Parish Council
Calgary, Alberta

Margaret Gorman

102 years old on April 7, 2022
St. Mary Magdalene Parish Council
Fredericton, New Brunswick

Rita Dion

101 years old on January 15, 2022
Start of the Sea Parish Council
White Rock, British Columbia

Barbara Kniert

101 years old on January 29, 2022
St. Andrew Parish Council
Fraser Lake, British Columbia

Beth Piche

101 years old on August 17, 2022
St. Joseph Calasanctius
Parish Council
North Battleford, Saskatchewan

Helene Seager

101 years old on February 21, 2022
Saint Benedict Parish Council
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Jane Anderson

100 years old on January 16, 2022
St. Michael the Archangel
Parish Council
Belleville, Ontario

Rose Bazylewski

100 years old on May 7, 2022
St. Ann Parish Council
Flin Flon, Manitoba

Rose Bourgeois

100 years old on May 18, 2022
Our Lady of The Assumption
Parish Council
Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan

Ella Cameron

100 years old on August 12, 2022
Sacred Heart Parish Council
Northern Port McNicoll, Ontario

Edith Hamilton

100 years old on July 22, 2022
St. Pius X Parish Council
Brantford, Ontario

Doris Lynch

100 years old on February 28, 2022
Our Lady of The Assumption Parish
Edmonton, Alberta

Clara Mitchell

100 years old on February 8, 2022
Sacred Heart Parish Council
Red Deer, Alberta

Marion Rutledge

100 years old on August 15, 2022
Holy Cross Parish Council
London, Ontario

Rita Tevlin Cullen

100 years old on July 14, 2022
Immaculate Heart of
Mary Parish Council
Ottawa, Ontario

Congratulations!

Congratulations to councils celebrating anniversaries!

100 YEARS

St. John Bosco Parish Council
Dalhousie, New Brunswick

St. Joseph Parish Council
Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan

St. Michael Parish Council
Cobourg, Ontario

St. Michael Parish Council
Ridgetown, Ontario

80 YEARS

Saint Joachim Parish Council
Saint John, New Brunswick

75 YEARS

Kamloops Diocesan Council

Sacred Heart Parish Council
Denzil, Saskatchewan

Introducing



Mary Hunt

Alberta Mackenzie
Provincial President

Mary has been a League member for 27 years, after a friend invited her to a council meeting at Good Shepherd (Edmonton). As an only child, she had always longed for siblings and the League represented a graced opportunity for sisterhood and to grow in her Catholic faith. She was blessed to serve as Edmonton Diocesan President from 2015-2017 and is currently serving as provincial president until 2024.

Mary remains a parishioner of Good Shepherd Parish where she served on the parish pastoral council, as chairperson of the liturgy committee, and as Eucharistic minister and lector ministry coordinator. Since 2001, she co-chaired the Jasper Place Warming Ministry that feeds the poor and homeless during the winter months. From 2019-2022, Mary served as chairperson of the Alberta March for Life Association that promotes the sanctity of life from conception to natural death. She also served as a League representative for the GrACE initiative (Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education). Mary is passionate about all matters related to Catholic education and promotes it whenever possible.

During Mary's working career, which spanned 28 years with the Province of Alberta, she had the honour of working for five lieutenant governors. She served as chairperson of the Monarchist League for Northern Alberta for five years and remains a board member. She also serves on the boards of directors of the Royal Commonwealth Society and the Edmonton United Services Institute. Volunteering has been an important part of her life. Mary has found many opportunities to grow in faith through service.

Along with her husband Larry, Mary has two grown children (son, Ryan and daughter, Clarissa), two granddaughters (Sierra and Hanna) and a grandson (Kael), who are all a source of joy and keep them busy. In Mary's spare time, she enjoys creative writing, theatre, gardening, music and reading.

Mary's goal for the next two years is to GROW the League by building relationships throughout Alberta Mackenzie. If every member would invite one other woman to join, membership would double...together we can make it possible! †



Crystal Reiter

Manitoba
Provincial President

Crystal is the oldest of three children, born in 1965 and not joined by her sister until later in 1970, she has always been a leader! She was born in North Battleford, Saskatchewan and spent her early years in that area. She graduated from North Battleford Comprehensive High School in 1983 and went on to obtain a Bachelor of Science in physical education at the University of Saskatchewan.

As often happens during the four years of obtaining a degree, Crystal met and fell in love with Daren, who comes from a small town in Saskatchewan and has a strong Catholic upbringing. Not a "cradle Catholic," Crystal feels this led her to read and learn about many aspects of the faith. Marrying Daren brought her to Manitoba where his eventual employment with Manitoba Hydro led to living in various locations. Crystal has three sons, two daughters-in-law and three fabulous grandchildren. Family is a very important focus of Crystal's life!

When the children were eight, six and four years old, Crystal, with the profound support of Daren, decided to embark upon a new career and obtained her Bachelor of Nursing from the University of Manitoba. She worked in orthopedics and medicine where she became the clinical resource nurse for the medicine ward at Selkirk and District General Hospital. She was able to obtain her certification as a hospice and palliative care nurse during these years. The last job she had was as the educational nurse at Betel Home in Selkirk.

Crystal was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2007, which led to the eventual end of her nursing career, but it opened up so many other opportunities! In 2013, Crystal and Daren were part of group with Ovarian Cancer Canada that fundraised for the opportunity to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro! This is a feat of which Crystal is quite proud – hardest thing ever! She has also been able to increase her activities within the League. Daren signed her up – before she really even knew what the CWL was about – "It's what Catholic women do," he said!

Well, after a first convention, she was hooked! This organization was on fire and the idea of lobbying the government and actually making a difference in the world was so exciting! †

WELCOME NEW AND REACTIVATED PARISH COUNCIL!

St. John of the Cross Parish Council

Mississauga, Ontario



You are invited to the WUCWO General Assembly! May 14-20, 2023 Assisi, Italy

Women of WUCWO, artisans of human fraternity for world peace



PROGRAM

- MAY 13:** Audience with Pope Francis for WUCWO women (optional)
- Morning in Paul VI Hall at the Vatican
 - Afternoon Thanksgiving mass in the Basilica of Saint Peter
- MAY 14:** Transportation from Rome to Assisi
- Check-ins and registration to the assembly throughout the day
 - Afternoon: opening mass and opening ceremony
- MAY 15:** Study Day
- Theme: *Women in the Church*, panels, working groups, etc.
 - Exhibition of the activities of member organizations
- MAY 16-19:** Statutory Days
- Reports, regional meetings, statutes and bylaws reforms, new projects, resolutions, priorities, election of the board, election of president general, etc.
 - Visit to the Town of Assisi
 - Cultural dinner
 - Daily mass and closing mass
- MAY 20:** Departure from Assisi to Rome

REGISTRATION

National office will be coordinating the Canada contingent. If you wish to participate, please contact info@cwlc.ca for information on how to register.

FULL PARTICIPATION

SINGLE ROOM:

\$1,100.00 USD

DOUBLE ROOM:

\$935.00 USD

TRIPLE ROOM:

\$780.00 USD

Full participation includes return transportation between Rome to Assisi, accommodations in Assisi, three meals per day, Town of Assisi visit, cultural dinner, WUCWO scarf and bag, participation in all sessions of the general assembly and assembly materials. **It does not cover accommodations, meals or other expenses for May 13th.**

PARTIAL PARTICIPATION:

\$440.00USD and includes return transportation between Rome to Assisi, WUCWO scarf and bag, participation in all sessions of the general assembly and assembly materials.



With Profound Gratitude

Betty Colaneri

Centenary Committee Chairperson

Members across Canada responded to this project showing essential workers their gratitude for their hard work and commitment to remain of service to their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thousands of cards were distributed to frontline workers, doctors, nurses, ambulance attendants, personal support workers, firefighters, police, local hospitals, long term care facilities, retirement facilities, assisted living facilities, hospice, daycares, soup kitchens, food banks, women's and homeless shelters, pharmacists, school staff, hotel staff, janitorial staff, businesses and grocery stores. Some cards were given to members, diocesan presidents, parishioners, parish employees, spiritual advisors and clergy.



Masks were made and donated along with face shields to local nursing homes. Personal support workers received Tim Hortons and Starbucks gift cards donated by members, as well as coffee and treats being provided for staff at various locations on a regular basis. Meals and desserts were packaged and delivered to hotels where people were in isolation. Desserts were individually packaged and delivered to three nursing homes for staff on a total of ten shifts, and twice to a homeless shelter.

"Thank you" posters and letters were presented to every store department, from cashiers to store clerks to

stock clerks. Postcards were displayed on billboards for clerks and home care workers for the staff to see how much they were appreciated. Several councils rented billboards in their communities with thank you messages to front line workers and healthcare workers who persevered to keep us all safe. The gratitude electronic billboard message ran for six seconds every minute throughout the entire day (24 hours).

Masses and prayer services were also said for front line workers and healthcare workers by councils. The League's Gratitude postcard was put into parish bulletins and posted on parish and council websites. Those that received the cards expressed their appreciation for being acknowledged for their service, dedication and commitment to helping others. They felt it helped to

boost their morale. One of the hospitals posted a picture of the card on its own Instagram page.

On behalf of the centenary committee, I extend our sincere heartfelt gratitude to all members that not only participated in the Gratitude Project, but also gave their time and talents to help their parish councils or communities in any way during the pandemic. To all members across Canada for your participation and for going above and beyond with the centenary projects over the years, please accept our profound gratitude. †



SPOTLIGHT

St. James Assiniboia Parish Council (Winnipeg) organized and contributed an incredible 1,100 welcome bags to be donated to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Each tote bag contained items such as books, snacks, toiletries, accessories and more. It was a wonderful opportunity for members and other parishioners to be involved and volunteer in the spirit of kindness and generosity.



PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40007536



RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO
CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT
C-702 SCOTLAND AVENUE
WINNIPEG, MB R3M 1X5
E-MAIL: MEMBERSHIP@CWL.CA

