



The Canadian League

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Canadian Rockies winter.

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President's Message

Fran Lucas

National President and Chairperson of International Relations



The prayer for the national theme, *Catholic and Living It!*, contains the words, “Strengthen the faith and good works of our members, building-up life in the world by being *Catholic and Living It!*” Members’ faith and good work can be strengthened on their own or with the aid of others. Isn’t it more rewarding and possibly easier to do so with someone else? Yes, I am back to the relationship-building message! Benefits to good relationships include healthier behaviours, a greater sense of purpose and better healing. Members can all speak to such benefits first-hand after coming through a trying three years, often being alone, separated from loved ones for extended periods and longing to gather with others.

The desire of members to retain their parish council—to have a council that is meaningful to them, their parish and community—has been voiced many times. To be women of action, strong or even more vital than in the past, is always the intent. Only members can make that happen. Unfortunately, some have found themselves with a perceived need to become inactive or disband their council. I pray councils at that stage will stay strong for one more year to allow the League to implement a new national initiative, Unity Outreach.

This initiative will begin with national officers visiting every provincial executive, after which provincial officers will visit each diocesan executive. Then diocesan officers will meet with individual councils. Unity Outreach is an opportunity for every council in Canada to be visited by officers from the next level, engage in discussion and share their own council’s specific circumstances, particularly their most significant needs related to fulfilling their council’s objectives. An officer will visit from outside of the province or diocese. A second visit will be scheduled within a short timeframe to provide meaningful support to the council to address the specific needs expressed. The plan is to have all this happen across Canada within a 12-month period.

In a recent survey of Catholics, one result indicated a strong overall positive opinion (72%) of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada. With this knowledge, let’s continue to work to increase that percentage by inviting

more women to come and see the Mission Statement in action—“grow[ing] in faith,... witness[ing] to the love of God through ministry and service.” The League’s numerous initiatives and its meetings with government are means through which members make a difference. They are inspiring, essential aspects of League action. Members’ personal actions and those of councils, through prayer and service, also make a difference at home and abroad. In councils at all levels, members work to support women’s shelters, support the important work of Development and Peace in Afghanistan, the Sahel and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Catholic Near East Welfare Association in the Holy Land, Middle East and Ukraine, and take action on Resolution 2013.01 Building Relationships and Partnerships with Canada’s Indigenous Peoples, to name but a few of the hundreds of diverse ways in which members build up life in the world by being *Catholic and Living It!*

The following humorous but determination-filled experience was recently shared with me. Driving up to two hours to a diocesan meeting, members arrived to find the area in a power failure. No heat or electricity kept things cool, but then they realized that the hall had been burglarized the night before and the projector needed for the meeting had been stolen. Nevertheless, the members forged on, holding their meeting by candlelight! As members bumped into each other in the semi-darkness, introductions were made, and relationships strengthened as they depended on each other to make the meeting successful. Where there is hope and teamwork, anything can be accomplished! One member attending the above meeting shared that the council had 90 members seven years ago and today has 220, many having joined in the last three years. That only happens with keeping up relationships once the member has joined.

What relationship will you work on today? Who will you walk with to ensure that your council remains relevant and recognized in the parish and community for its good works, allowing for your council to be enjoyed by others for years to come? †

CATHOLIC
and **LIVING IT!**

From the National Spiritual Advisor

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



Over the last five years, the process known as the implementation of the strategic plan has been unfolding, an extraordinary initiative to prepare the Catholic Women's League for its second century. The work has involved thousands of hours devoted by hundreds of women in knowledge-based decision-making to align the League's activities with its purpose, values, goals and vision.

The strategic plan was a rare opportunity to identify objectives for the future, building on the solid foundation of the League's history. As a result, the planning process developed specific and measurable strategies to achieve those goals over time.

As the implementation of the strategic plan on a high level is nearing its completion, the work of making it a living instrument now belongs to each parish council. In many ways, that is where the League "lives" and achieves its purpose in the lives of Catholic women. It is at the parish level that members come together to form themselves for spiritual growth, participation and service

in the church and to act for the good of the broader community in pursuit of social justice.

Many of the strategies adopted in the plan have already been implemented, for example:

- Streamline the organizational structure of the League
- Employ new communication technologies and social media to improve outreach to potential members and provide better connectedness for those who already belong
- Provide training at every level for more effective advocacy efforts that can build a more just society

The mayor of the city where I once lived said, "We need to plan the work and then work the plan." The carefully developed road map of the strategic plan points the way forward, but now everyone needs to journey towards the goals so carefully and clearly identified. That will ensure the personal development of each member and the effectiveness of the League's common effort in service "For God and Canada." †

Have you visited the League's new engagement hub—catholicwomenunite.ca—yet?

The hub is a new communication tool intended to drive women interested in what the League is and what members do to the national website to learn more. Share the hub with your family and friends and encourage them to take their place among the membership!



The Dark Side—Online Crime



Betty Colaneri

National First Vice-President and Chairperson of Communications

The computer screen went blank, so I reached for my cell phone only to find that my Internet connection was down. For a moment, a feeling of anxiety came over me. Luckily, when the power came back on, the work I had saved reappeared, as did the contacts on my phone. What a relief! When the power goes out, the realization of how much people rely on technology turns on. The Internet has become a fundamental part of Canadians' daily lives. According to Statista Research Department, as of January 2022, Canada had 36.89 million Internet users— 96.5 % of the country's population. Of that total, 33.3 million were social media users. Unfortunately, there is a dark side to the convenience of technology. Approximately 35% of all Internet downloads are pornographic.

In 2020, there were many advantages to using technology when public health measures required virtual learning for children across Canada due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, spending more time indoors and increased use of technology (specifically the Internet), cell phones and other smart devices came with serious risks. It accelerated the victimization of children, making them susceptible to online sexual exploitation and abuse.

Reading a report on child sexual exploitation and abuse from Statistics Canada revealed a great deal of disturbing information. Between 2019 and 2020, cybercrime rose. The rate of police-reported child exploitation and abuse incidents has nearly tripled since 2014. During the first year of the pandemic, the rate of police-reported online child pornography rose 35% higher than in the previous year. There have been more than 40,000 incidents of online sexual offences against children. Seventy-three per cent of victims identified were girls aged 12 to 17, while 13% were girls under 12. Eleven per cent of victims were boys aged 12 to 17, and the remaining 3% were boys under 12.

The actual number of instances in Canada are vastly underreported—similar to human trafficking. The rationale behind it could be the inability of a very young child to report the incident on his or her own or a lack of knowledge or ability to convey what took place to the police.

Canada has a national tip line for reporting online child sexual exploitation called Cybertip.ca that processed more than four million reports between 2014 and 2020. However, during this time, only 36% of charges for child sexual offences committed online resulted in a guilty verdict. Tragically, 85% of child pornography incidents were not solved because neither a victim nor an accused could be identified.

The impact does not stop there. There are short- and long-term effects of sexual victimization. According to the *Survivors' Survey: Full Report 2017* from the Canadian Centre for Child Protection (CCCP), survivors often suffer a range of negative impacts, including “psychological difficulties, negative sexual development, and subsequent substance misuse and depressive symptomology.” They also continue to “experience victimization through the actual or threatened re-distribution of their images, long after any contact abuse has ended.”

It goes without saying that every child has a right to protection. So how can Canadians shield children from online predators? Members can do their part by being aware of online activities and, when necessary, report them! They can also provide awareness by communicating available resources such as the CCCP website, protectchildren.ca. The centre “is committed to providing the public with current and age-appropriate information and resources to help educate Canadians about how to keep children safe while online and reduce child victimization.” Cybertip.ca also offers information regarding the ever-changing online interests of children, the potential risks and proactive strategies to help keep them safe while online.

In 1991, Canada ratified the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, pledging to protect children from all forms of exploitation and abuse, among other forms of harm and endangerment. Members need to ask their members of parliament what is being done to reinforce this and what can be done in their community to keep children safe and to bring offenders to justice.

It is up to all members to shine a light on the dark side. †

The ART of Resolutions

Rolande Chernichan

National Chairperson of Resolutions



What is meant when something is considered art? *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines art as a “skill acquired by experience, study, or observation.” When looking at the overall development of a League resolution, it too can be considered art. The repeated application of the various policies and procedures to develop a resolution can be compared to the practice and repeated application of the basics necessary to produce a work of art, whether in music, painting, sculpture, literature, etc.

For me, the art of resolutions brings to mind the acronym ART—Awareness Research Topic. It also evokes thoughts of Advocacy Relevant Timely and Action Resolves Topic.

In keeping with the definition of *art* given by the dictionary, how best can one define the art of resolutions? My answer is that it:

Requires research that is relevant, timely and from reliable sources to support the intent of the resolution

Expresses the desired action by the level of government or organization to whom the resolution is directed through the resolved clause(s)

Seeks to address societal concerns or matters of social justice, but it must express views to government levels in a non-partisan manner

Outlines reasons for the resolution from the most important to those of lesser importance, and by employing a dignified and respectful tone throughout the supporting brief

Lists works cited and sources referenced to support the intent of the resolution, with quotations from the sources cited in the brief using in-text citations (parenthetical referencing)

Underscores the reasons for the resolution through a one-page brief that is concise, informative and contains persuasive and factual statements to support the resolution

Through its bridging clauses and after adoption at each level, it enables the resolution to be forwarded toward its intended destination within the League

Is a form of advocacy and Christian witness and can be a powerful tool “to infuse a Christian spirit into the temporal order” (*Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*)

Offers options and recommendations for awareness and action by members through the accompanying action plan

Needs to satisfy League criteria for acceptance, the requirements of the checklist, as well as review and vetting by a resolutions subcommittee

Serves to give voice to members’ concerns, is faith and service in action, and establishes a League position on the topic through members’ adoption of the resolution

With the amendments to the *Constitution & Bylaws* adopted at the national convention in August 2022, many familiar standing committees have been incorporated into faith, service and social justice. Resolutions will now be the responsibility of an appointed subcommittee that reports to the chairperson of social justice.

With the broader scope of the social justice standing committee, the League’s identity of advocacy through resolutions will remain a priority so that the *art* of developing resolutions remains strong. As the implementation of the strategic plan is fully achieved by spring 2024, the League’s goal is to maintain the interest in resolutions and to fuel new interest in them far into the future. The good news is there are members throughout Canada with varying degrees of experience interested in resolutions. They will become the driving force in their province, perhaps serving as leaders and mentors. Teams can be formed in each province, where members capitalize on the opportunity to network and share their passion for resolutions through virtual meetings and to partner in developing resolutions.

What does the future of resolutions look like? Members do not want resolutions to become a dying art—they continue to be the masterpiece and hallmarks of advocacy by the League. As members, we need the *resolve* to continue initiating resolutions and to promote their importance as the voice of the League. Think about it. New and returning resolution enthusiasts are always welcome! The League is counting on you. The gifts of your faith, service, time and talents in developing resolutions are an excellent way to share in the mission and envisioned future of the League and to be *Catholic and Living It!* †

League Membership: Our Deep and Profound Calling to Care

Mary Hunt

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial President



“And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”

[1 Corinthians 13:13]

The lasting nature of faith, hope and love makes them greater than all other gifts of the Holy Spirit.

One hundred and ten years ago, a group of faithful women gathered to form the Catholic Women’s League in Edmonton, Alberta. In 1920, this group, and others like it, would become nationally incorporated as the League members know today. Members are reminded, as they were, of their deep and profound call to caring as taught to them by Christ himself.

Members are His face, hands and voice when they let **LOVE speak** as they continue the journey with Indigenous persons as encouraged by Pope Francis in his Walking Together visit to Canada this past summer.

Members let **LOVE speak** in their communities as they care for newcomers from all parts of the globe, including Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and Ukraine.

Members let **LOVE speak** when they help those at home and abroad afflicted by natural disasters.

Members let **LOVE speak** when they care for the vulnerable, including children, families and victims of domestic violence.

Members let **LOVE speak** when they shelter and feed the poor and homeless.

Members let **LOVE speak** when they champion and assist those with disabilities and their families.

Members let **LOVE speak** when they serve their parish communities.

Please let **LOVE continue to speak** through you. I offer my sincere and humble thanks for all that members

do in service of the League.

Continue to share the vision of Katherine Hughes, Bellelle Guerin and the other women who founded the League many years ago. Without members, there would be no League—no relationships to nurture, no one to laugh and cry with, no one to take life issues to the federal government and no one to study and pray with. I am reminded by Alberta Mackenzie Past Provincial President Judy Look’s advice to “Remember you are not a member by chance but a member by invitation. The Lord invited you

at your Baptism to become an active member of your faith community and you accepted to do just that when you became a League member.”

Your voice—*the collective League voice*—is important to be heard at the community, provincial and federal levels as members express their views while learning to walk with Indigenous peoples or while sharing their opinions on sanctity of life issues from birth to natural death, on

environmental issues as they protect their common home, on the right to publicly funded Catholic education, on the human rights of women and children in third world countries and on the growing numbers of homeless Canadians and those living in poverty or facing hunger.

The League is undergoing renewal, regrowth and rebirth as an organization that members together envisioned. What talents and gifts will members share? No matter how small your contribution might be, collectively, it will have an impact. It is essential that members remember this as the League moves forward into the future with prayers, hope and **LOVE**. Blessings to you in your work “For God and Canada.” †



Looking Forward, Rather than Backward

Anne-Marie Gorman

National Past President and Chairperson of Laws



Sitting on my desk is a small model kangaroo, gifted to me by Quebec Provincial Spiritual Advisor Fr. John Torrance. While I have learned that at least two animals cannot walk backwards—the kangaroo and the emu—I have only the little kangaroo to remind me that I can learn from both of God’s creatures.

One would think the past president would spend a good deal of her time looking backward, but this is far from actuality. In her role, she focuses on supporting her council by looking forward while also being the keeper of the council’s story. It may sound somewhat contradictory, but I posit that those who have served in the many offices in their respective councils and gained wisdom from the experiences of their sister members and their own service are entirely prepared to help move the proceeding executive and entire council into the next phase to which the Holy Spirit is calling. What an exciting prospect!

The little kangaroo and emu may go around in circles, of course, but that would serve little purpose, comparable to going backward for them. Similarly, the membership is going forward—not only looking forward but moving forward. The League is a dynamic organization. By definition, it must move forward. The movement among the membership throughout Canada with duties under faith, service and social justice not only assists the member, her parish and her community but also, combined with the faith, service and social justice activities of members nationwide, brings Christian values to life throughout Canada. St. James, in his letter to the tribes, said, “Show me your faith without works, and I by my works will show you my faith” (2:18).

The League today is not the League of yesterday or

the League that will be tomorrow. There are, however, a few constants.

- Personal and collective spiritual growth is at the heart of each council.
- Christian values are demonstrated by the works of the membership in every walk of life.
- Belonging to a national sisterhood brings strengths that are not possible as an isolated parish group of women.

While each member and council has its charisms, the Holy Spirit continues to assist the League as members advocate for and serve the most vulnerable, all in the context of prayer. Jesus reminds Catholics, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Mt 6:21). Members work within their parish milieu but strive to see the positive ripples having an effect far beyond their small communities. The League is really a tangible treasure into which members invest their hearts.

There may be changes in the organization from time to time. When Jesus was in His public ministry, He really shook up the status quo. It must have amazed and puzzled even the simplest of citizens, but here people are today, able to practice their faith and serve God and one another. Matthew 6:34 says, “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” Members have the tools, the faith, the confidence and the all-consuming joy that propels them into courageously living their Catholicity. As St. Clement of Alexandria said, “The Lord has turned all our sunsets into sunrise.” What a beautiful reminder of the way to live the gospel, to look “forward ever, backward never” (Dr. Kwame Nkrumah). †



The Catholic Women’s League of Canada is governed by the authority of the *Canada Not for-profit Corporations Act*, followed by its *Constitution & Bylaws*. The League refers to *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised* for questions of parliamentary procedure.

The CWL as a Nonpartisan Organization

Glenda Carson

National Chairperson of Legislation



“If the Church were to start transforming herself into a directly political subject,... she would do less, not more, for the poor and for justice, because she would lose her independence and her moral authority, identifying herself with a single political path and with debatable partisan positions.”

Pope Benedict XVI

One of the League’s principal ministries is to represent Catholic women and their views on topics of national interest and importance and to communicate those views to the church, government and society. An essential part of this communication is maintaining the stance of a nonpartisan organization.

Nonpartisan usually refers to an organization that neither supports nor opposes political representatives or parties. Nonpartisan communication contains only factual and unbiased information about a party or that of a member of parliament or a senator. While governmental policies and actions can be critiqued, there is no direct or indirect evaluation of an individual political party, representative or candidate for public office. For example, the League may be public about its position on the dignity of life and a proposed legislation. Information may be provided regarding the support by members of parliament or legislators in a province, territory or municipal council. However, highlighting voting on the issue by a representative or political party would be considered a partisan action. Initiating dialogue with government representatives on topics of concern to the League or seeking a parliamentarian’s support through League-initiated actions such as a petition or letter writing are considered acts of advocacy and, therefore, not partisan.

Why is this stance important? In Canada, there are no limits on the political activities of nonprofit organizations if they are not considered charities. Why then does the League place importance upon neutrality, particularly regarding legislators and political parties?

A major reason for being nonpartisan rests with the League’s fidelity to the teaching of the church as described in the organization’s objects. Political representatives and parties rarely stand for everything the church teaches. In addition, it is not unusual for them to change their position in response to lobbying or pressure from their political base. The League could therefore appear in

conflict with church teachings and moral values due to a past or current affiliation with a politician or political party. The League must be viewed as a trusted and transparent messenger of Catholic values and adhering to its mission, objects and core principles. In addition, as followers of the Catholic faith, members are encouraged to exercise their individual rights as citizens to vote and to engage with the Canadian political community. This results in diverse political affiliations by members with legislators across the organization. A nonpartisan stance by the League helps prevent discord among members and challenges to the organization’s authenticity.

Being nonpartisan does not mean silence when it comes to government affairs. The public appearances and writings of Pope Francis are exceptional examples of nonpartisan social advocacy. He consistently weighs in on critical political concerns by addressing human injustices with nations, praying for peace while meeting with both sides of warring factions, and fostering diplomatic relationships. He has implored world leaders to be responsible in reducing the effects of climate change by addressing the United Nations and through the publication of his encyclical letter, *Laudato Si’*. While the church and government are considered autonomous and independent of each other, the greater their collaboration, the more effective their actions can be. And so it is with the League. Through its nonpartisan relationship with the Canadian political community, the League can address the political aspects of society as respected advocates for justice and morality.

Catholics are urged to become aware of their political climate locally, nationally and globally to be a voice for the principles of Catholic social teaching. Members can have an effective nonpartisan influence on the Canadian legislative process by deepening their knowledge of Catholic social teaching and being aware of the various political points of access, who to contact, how to advocate and what to say. This is truly being *Catholic and Living It!* †

Reducing Loneliness

Margaret Schwab

National Chairperson of Education and Health



*“Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.
Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distress.”*
(Psalm 25:16-17)

As many Canadians rush through their days, they cannot imagine what it is like to be truly lonely. But for many, loneliness is all they have, day in and day out. A 2019 Angus Reid survey found 40% of respondents reported they long for but do not have others to talk with them, while 62% would like family and friends to spend more time with them. Loneliness is described as a disconnect—a feeling of not belonging anywhere or to anyone.

Since the survey was taken, the world has experienced the COVID-19 pandemic, which has greatly increased anxiety and depression caused by extreme isolation and loneliness, leading to a sharp increase in mental health challenges. The American Psychological Association states that loneliness and social isolation cause an equal or even more significant health risk than other common risk factors such as smoking, obesity and substance abuse. In terms of the heightened mortality risk, loneliness is equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes daily.

The rapid expansion of technology, while creating a more connected world, has sometimes caused people to be so engaged with the online community that they no longer take part in person-to-person interactions. These relationships are vital to people’s health and well-being. People are meant to have relationships and thrive on being involved in relationship-based activities. The absence of this social part of life negatively affects individuals’ mental and physical health.

While members know of many older adults who suffer from loneliness, Statistics Canada (2021) reveals that, “More than 1 in 10 people aged 15 and older said that they always or often felt lonely...” Who are those most likely to live in a state of loneliness? They are those who are marginalized, living in poverty, Indigenous Canadians,

visible minorities, people with mobility issues, LGBTQ persons and, of course, the elderly.

As Catholic women, members are called to reach out to those suffering through the despair of loneliness on a continual basis. Members must constantly be aware of those around them who are sometimes invisible, to be the ones who make the telephone call, send the card and be willing to listen. Through patient listening, members will hear those who are lonely. Some may gratefully receive an invitation to come to a meeting, volunteer activity or another event. Others may be overwhelmed by such suggestions and prefer a one-to-one visit for some time before venturing further. Be very attentive to individual needs.

Parish councils should inform members and parishioners alike by inviting speakers from various organizations to speak on how to address the issue of loneliness. The national theme of *Catholic and Living It!* urges members to leave the comfort of their own lives and to become involved with those in need of companionship. It is easier to give money to a homeless person as one walks by rather than stop and listen to his or her story. To get really involved takes courage, compassion and a certain amount of wisdom. Members have these qualities and willingly use them to carry out their mission to serve Christ.

In the words of Pope Francis, “At times like these, more than ever do we need the reasons of the heart, which alone can help us understand the mystery which embraces our loneliness. How much sadness we see in so many faces all around us!”

I want to thank the Ontario Provincial Council for the gift of its research on the serious issue of loneliness and its effects on mental and physical well-being. †



Homelessness in Canada

Faith Anderson

National Chairperson of Community Life



Homelessness continues to be a widespread social concern. Statistics Canada reports more than 235,000 people in Canada experience homelessness each year, and 25,000 to 35,000 people on any particular night.

Homelessness is a state of not having a permanent address or residence. It also refers to a living situation where individuals are without stable, permanent, appropriate housing or the immediate possibility, financial means or the ability to acquire it. Systemic or societal barriers such as a lack of affordable/suitable accommodations, the economic, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges the people affected face and racism or discrimination often contribute to people being unhoused.

Chronic homelessness refers to people currently experiencing homelessness who have experienced at least six months of homelessness during the past year or for a cumulative duration of 18 months over the past three years. They may be staying with others temporarily, living on the streets or places not meant for habitation or in an emergency or overnight shelter.

In 2022, Statistics Canada reported that almost three per cent of Canadians “who make housing decisions for their household have experienced unsheltered homelessness [2.6% men and 2.3% women], while about 15% have experienced hidden homelessness [14.2% men and 15.0% women].” Individuals who have experienced unsheltered homelessness are those who, at some point in their life, have lived in a homeless shelter, on the street, or in parks, makeshift shelters or abandoned buildings. Hidden homelessness is when an individual has had to temporarily live with family, friends or strangers or in motels, hostels or rooming houses and those who reside in precarious or inadequate housing.

Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy is a federal government initiative to address homelessness.

It is a community-based program intended to prevent and reduce homelessness by providing direct support and funding to 64 designated urban communities, 30 Indigenous communities, three territorial communities and rural and remote communities across Canada to help address their local homelessness needs. The federal government has committed nearly three billion dollars over nine years to address homelessness through the program. The 2022 budget proposes to provide an additional \$562.2 million over two years to maintain its 2023-24 funding levels, beginning in 2024-2025. An August 2022 federal government news release stated, “The Reaching Home

program supports the goals of the National Housing Strategy by helping the most vulnerable Canadians maintain safe, stable, and affordable housing and eliminate chronic homelessness across the country.” The release also noted that, “Everyone deserves a safe and stable place to call home, but... recently in communities across our country, far too many Canadians face the daily, unacceptable reality

of homelessness, and the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the situation for those most vulnerable.”

Through the national theme *Catholic and Living It!* members can support unhoused persons in a variety of ways. Monitor and be educated on the Reaching Home initiatives in their province/territory. Provide resources and financial support to shelters. Provide basic need supplies to the homeless. And, advocate the provincial/territorial and federal governments to continue to work to improve affordable housing in their respective areas. Archbishop Rino Fisichella (Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization) stated on World Day of the Poor, “As Pope Francis repeats to us every day, the poor are close to us all the time. They are not invisible: they are persons who have dignity.” Being *Catholic and Living It!* is a challenge to go out to the peripheries and find ways to help the poor and marginalized “find a safe and stable place to call home.” †



See How They Love One Another: Answering God's Call to Ministry

Sharon Ciebin

Life Member and National Community Life Subcommittee Member



In her riveting book, *Out of the Shadows: A Memoir*, author and survivor Timea Nagy shines a light on human trafficking and the sex trade in Canada from 1987 forward. She describes in stark detail the control and brainwashing that occurs and her ultimate escape. She highlights how young women are lured from Europe and Asia through employment agencies to fulfil the toxic demand in the sex trade industry and labour markets.

Today, human trafficking is recognized as a massive global crime, with approximately 25 million victims in an industry that generates roughly \$150 billion annually. Social media and the low risk of prosecution have played a key role in its growth.

Human trafficking can be defined as the recruitment, transport and harbouring of a person by using threats, control and force for financial gain. It has been against the law in Canada since 2014. While strangers recruit most victims, it is becoming increasingly prevalent for sex trafficking victims to be lured by someone they know.

Human trafficking can happen to anyone at any time in major cities and small municipalities. Individuals can be lured from schoolyards, malls, parties and over the Internet. A Statistics Canada 2020 report stated that:

- 93% of human trafficking victims resided in Canada
- 25% are under 18
- 45% are between 18 – 24
- 30% are 25 or older

The federal government's *National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking: 2019–2024* report indicates those most susceptible to trafficking "generally include women and girls and members of vulnerable or marginalized groups such as: Indigenous women and girls; migrants and new immigrants; LGBTQ2 persons; persons living with disabilities; children in the welfare system; at-risk youth; and those who are socially or economically disadvantaged."

A Call to Action – Education, Prevention and Support

In Pope Francis' 2015 World Day of Peace message, he explained the world was "facing a global phenomenon that exceeds the competence of any one community or country," and therefore, "we need a mobilization comparable in size to that of the phenomenon itself."

The elimination of human trafficking is a priority of the church. Pope Francis' attention to the issue has garnered worldwide attention and increased awareness. Events and resources recommended for educational reference and action include:

- International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking is February 8th. Saint Josephine Bakhita, a survivor of human trafficking, is the appointed patron saint.
- *Pastoral Orientation on Human Trafficking* is a 42-page resource developed by church leaders in 2018 as requested by Pope Francis. Find it at migrants-refugees.va/trafficking-slavery/.
- *For Freedom Christ has Set us Free: Pastoral Letter on Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation in Canada* was released by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2021. The letter (cccb.ca) brings attention to the inherently exploitative and abusive nature of the purchase of sex and insists the practice must continue to be criminalized to protect the vulnerable. Find a study guide to accompany the pastoral letter on the Archdiocese of Vancouver website, rcav.org/aht/study-guide.

Prevention Organizations

- The Joy Smith Foundation (joysmithfoundation.com/) has established the National Human Trafficking Education Centre that offers free educational workshops both in person and online to school children and adults.
- Sexual Exploitation Education SEE (sexualexploitationeducation.com/) provides research-based free online and in-person workshops to school-aged children, teachers and adults to provide education on healthy communication and experiences.

Support for Victims

The Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking (canadiancentretoendhumantrafficking.ca) offers a 24/7 crisis hotline (833) 900-1010 that provides the following services:

- crisis response to people being trafficked
- referrals to social service providers and law enforcement (as requested)
- tip receipt and reporting
- general information provision
- tools and resources to build community responses to trafficking †

Pilgrims of Hope

Dorothy Johansen

National Chairperson of Christian Family Life



Pope Francis has approved “Pilgrims of Hope” as the motto for the Holy Year 2025.

“For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience” (Rom 8:24-25).

In 2008, Duane Bidwell, an associate professor of practical theology at Claremont School of Theology (Claremont, California), and his colleague Dr. Donald Batsky, a pediatric nephrologist at Emory University School of Medicine (Atlanta, Georgia) studied hope among children with chronic illness.

They identified five main pathways to hope. “They are:

- Maintaining identity by continuing to participate in activities and relationships that help patients retain a sense of self outside diagnosis and treatment.
- Realizing community through formal and informal connections that help patients understand they are not alone in living with disease. This community is made real through conversation, visitation, consultation and participation in daily activities.
- Claiming power by taking an active role in treatment by setting goals, self-advocating, monitoring and maintaining one’s own health.
- Attending to spirituality, activated through religious, spiritual and other contemplative practices.

- Developing wisdom, which involves both gaining pragmatic, medical wisdom derived from one’s own experience and finding ways to ‘give back.’”

The two colleagues noted not all pathways are required, and any one of the pathways can provide that much needed resource of hope. Everyone around the person can do things that help create and activate hope pathways. They explained that hope is present, ordinary and normal.

Hope is not about positive thinking. It is partly optimism and partly belief in the power that something good can happen. It is an active stance versus wishful thinking.

The League’s Mission Statement calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service. Use this information to help someone find the pathway that allows them to hope. †

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.



NATIONAL COUNCIL REGRETFULLY ADVISES THE PASSING OF LIFE MEMBERS:

Mary Jean Horne
Chatham, Ontario

Dorothy Meehan
Marmora, Ontario

Erica Perk
Orangeville, Ontario

Investing Time in the League

Implementation Committee

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11

In four years, how is success measured for a five-year renewal project in an organization that spans the country? How does one know when a ship changes direction and enters calmer, life-giving waters? First, spend some time becoming familiar with the 30 resources created by working groups. Spend time watching and listening to the inspiring and moving videos under the “To Inspire” tab on the national website. One can only feel proud to be a member after watching these videos. Listen to the “League of the Future” presentations given at national conventions by the implementation committee.

As members invest their precious time with these tools, they will be filled with the good news of the strategic plan—a plan that began eight years ago by canvassing members for their input on how the League could move into the next century of service to God’s people. Book a ticket on this ship as together, members continue to search for God’s will. No one said it would be smooth sailing. However, Jesus is always present, even if He is sleeping at the back as members take the lead and steer the ship into the night.

Goal 1, Christa Grillmair, Lead

The marketing working group is now finished after four years. Together with Clark Marketing Communications, the group developed many campaigns showcasing members’ faith, service and social justice actions. Look under the “To Inspire” tab on the national website to find videos *Powerful Stories*, *What’s Your CWL*, *Why Become a Member* and *Talking to the Audience*. The Share the Love campaign encouraged sharing social media posts and the Innovation Nation sisterhood map and Share the Words provided positive and affirming messages. Thank you to Connie Crichton, Kathy Dahl, Lisa Fillingham, Cathy McKinney, Jessie Parkinson, Sr. Susan Scott and Terry-Mae Sinclair for their creativity and dedication to helping increase awareness about the League within the church through marketing.

The effective communications working group has been developing a members’ communication guide and workshop. The training and development using technology working group has created a *Train the Trainer Guide* and a leadership workshop to accompany the *Joy of Leadership*

resource. The working groups will continue to review, revise and develop training to meet the League’s current demographic.

Goal 2, Sr. Susan Scott, Lead

Goal 2 “addresses and supports Catholic social teaching through advocacy.” The collaboration with faith organizations working group has been tasked with the final Goal 2 strategy and will come up with a list of ecumenical organizations (Christian denominations besides Catholic) or interfaith (organizations other than Christians) so that members can partner with them. These organizations share similar values and missions as the League. Councils will be encouraged to reach out on projects that will help the League further the priority of the Vatican II document, *Nostra Aetate* (In Our Time). This document encourages Catholics to have respectful dialogue with the major non-Christian religions of the world, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism.

The Goal 4 smartphone application working group is gathering information and cost estimates for consideration by the national executive/board.

Goal 3, Jacqueline Nogier, Lead

How often do members have a project they would like to do but are unsure of the steps? The mentor members working group is compiling a list of members from across Canada willing to become mentors to other members. The working group has asked members to share their names and expertise on various topics to create a skills bank of members. This skills bank will allow members to reach out to a League sister and get the help they need.

In 2018, the League released a new core purpose statement. How many members have studied that statement? Members may be able to identify the priorities of the League, but how many would be able to explain in detail what they are and how they affect what the League does? The education working group will produce resources to help members teach each other about the League’s core purpose and priorities. These resources will be available for parish councils to teach other Catholics and the general public about the League.



The League has been on a journey for four years. This journey has seen many changes to the organization that members know and love. There have been many resources created to help the League change with society. However, there is one last year left to complete. The implementation committee is looking for women who would like to help the committee cross the finish line and succeed in its mission.

There are five working groups that need to be formed to work on the following strategies:

- create tools that will help parish councils develop and grow local partnerships
- examine, evaluate and recommend changes to the criteria for who is eligible to run for office

- explore software that will make it easier and more efficient for members to work together
- create a guide to attract women who are parish leaders and influencers to become members. This will help the League meet its goal of increasing the number and readiness of women to hold office.
- create protocols for evaluating current League spiritual programs, including language, ease of use and relevance.

Consider looking carefully at the options for participation and submit your name to be part of this wonderful project that continues to renew the League and help create the “League of the Future.” Stay tuned to the national website and social media to see how you can get involved and make your voice heard! †

Is it Worth It?

Shari Quinta

National President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization



Some members may have questioned the increase in per capita fees or even left the League, citing the increased cost and the value of belonging to this Catholic women’s organization.

It is important that members bear in mind that the League is a national organization with staff and an office and functions as a not-for-profit corporation. The League serves thousands of women across the country and has a national and global voice. In my humble opinion, that, in itself, is worth it!

The national executive/board has discussed membership on many occasions and has launched a national Unity Outreach program. This initiative will include a visit from national officers to every provincial executive to offer a presentation that will be delivered to every diocesan executive and parish council. Members of the board want to listen! They want to know your challenges, but also, the board hopes for discernment on

members’ behalf about the League at the grassroots level.

Why do you, as a member, belong? What can be done for you at the other levels of the League? Members are all in this together. With strategic planning rolling out at lightning speed and with many resources for all to use, no member should be left behind.

I understand that some may question what they receive for their membership fee. I have written before about my love for the League, the benefits, the worth and my personal journey of learning about the church and the many areas of faith that I have been exposed to. I learned from speakers, workshops, presentations and my parish, diocesan, provincial and national sisters, as well as clergy. I quote Bishop Douglas Crosby (Hamilton), “The CWL is a powerhouse ministry in the church.”

I have often said I get so much more out of the League than I could ever possibly put into it. The League is a big part of my life. It is worth it to me—in fact, it is priceless! †



Magazine Deadlines

Spring issue – February 15, 2023

Fall issue – July 15, 2023

Winter issue – November 15, 2023

A Celebration of Service

Mary Molloy

Edmonton Diocesan Past President

Edmonton Diocesan Council hosted a celebration of service on November 13, 2022, at St. Joachim Parish (Edmonton, Alberta), the site of the very first League meeting in Canada. The national theme—*Catholic and Living It!*—provided the backdrop to give thanks to the pioneering women who, 110 years ago, began the League journey that current members walk today!

Although nationally incorporated in 1920, the League's origins began in Edmonton years earlier, in 1912. At the time, there were seven parishes—St. Joachim, Sacred Heart, St. Anthony, Immaculate Conception, St. Joseph (not yet a Basilica), the Franciscan Parish and the Jesuit Parish. Representatives from these parishes met and established the first branch of the League as members know it today. These women gathered to protect and support immigrant women and Canadian families and promoted temporal and spiritual works of mercy. It was fitting that the 2022 celebration of service honoured and reaffirmed the originating members' unselfish spirit, one that carries on in the League today.

At the celebration's opening, Lloyd Cardinal, a Nehiyawak/Cree drum holder, used the sacred voice of the drum to welcome and centre everyone to the service. During the ceremonial procession, representatives from three of the founding parish councils carried the flags of Canada, Alberta and the League, revealing how much the League has

expanded from coast to coast. Included were symbols of the League—the national insignia pin and crest, an icon of Our Lady of Good Counsel, the diocesan president's gavel, and the *Book of Life*.

Archbishop Richard Smith (Edmonton) wrote a letter of greeting, noting, "I am always struck by the origins of the CWL, in particular the prophetic and courageous leadership of women like Mrs. Samuel Gorman (first President) and Miss Katherine Hughes (first Secretary), who shared a vision to involve Catholic women in the mission of the Church through intellectual and religious formation... From these origins, we can see that the CWL—then and now—has always been driven by the same mission: calling your members to grow in Faith and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service."

At the brunch following, National President and Chairperson of International Relations Fran Lucas remarked on how the League, with more than 63,000 members across 34 dioceses and 1,125 councils, continues to influence and guide women today.

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial President Mary Hunt reminded all that, "Just as the women of faith who gathered 110 years ago founding the Catholic Women's League, we are reminded of our deep and profound calling to care as taught to us by Christ himself. When we let love speak, we are His face, hands, and voice."

Edmonton Diocesan President Clover Oryschak stated, "The work of the Catholic Women's League doesn't often call attention to itself, but many parishes and communities have benefited from the work of CWL members. Our mission has not changed over the past 110 years of service within the Edmonton Archdiocese. As members, we continue to help the most vulnerable in society, advocate for Catholic education, bear authentic witness to our Catholic faith, and much more."

Members were delighted to be together and share the League's long and vibrant history. The event highlighted the numerous League activities in the diocese, including ongoing support for Catholic Social Services and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, and the League's long history of helping to establish the Edmonton Women's Shelter.

During the brunch, a donation was made to the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Parish (Edmonton) for its Welcome Bag program in support of children fleeing the war in Ukraine. Funds for this program were raised from selling



Edmonton Diocesan President Clover Oryschak, National President and Chairperson of International Relations Fran Lucas and Alberta Mackenzie Provincial President Mary Hunt, all from Edmonton, attend the 110th anniversary celebration of the first CWL meeting.

blue and yellow lapel ribbons. Proceeds from the event were also donated to a League-inspired project to restore a stained-glass window destroyed by fire in 2020 at Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples in central Edmonton.

No better words summarize the reason members gathered to celebrate this historic anniversary than the inspiration given by Edmonton Diocesan Council's first president, Margaret Duggan, in her first annual report in

1922. "Now, ladies, our serious work must begin, and with God's help, it can be successfully concluded. We are here, not for our own selves, not for this hour, or this year, but to take up a work not made by the hands of man but fashioned in the realm of eternity. ... If we place the cornerstone and plan it rightly, others can complete the structure."

Members look forward to seeing what the next 110 years will bring! †

Holy Listening

Cathy Bouchard

National Second Vice-President and Chairperson of Spiritual Development



The League is preparing for outreach to its councils, to visit every parish council twice during the year. The first session will be a listening session, the second will provide training on a topic of the council's choosing. To roll out the plan, national officers will visit provincial executives. Provincial officers will visit diocesan executives, and diocesan officers will visit parish councils. The purpose of the outreach is to re-establish a connection between councils at all levels, especially parish councils, to help each discover its role in the League and to provide assistance to enhance that role.



One of the goals for the first session of listening is to discover what members need from the League. Christians are reminded to listen deeply and to listen for the voice of God through

other people. Members need to take the time to listen to what is behind the spoken word. As Archbishop Richard Smith (Edmonton) notes, "...listening requires hearts and minds open to the transformative power of the Holy Spirit, and voices speaking with a courage that springs from love

of the Lord Jesus and his church."

Author Lynne Baab, Ph.D. notes that "Good and careful listening has several purposes, all of which seem... to be holy:

- understanding the viewpoints of others in order to serve them, respect them, pray for them, or respond appropriately to what they have said
- allowing people to talk through the events and concerns of their life, so they can articulate the way their faith has intersected with those events and concerns
- paying attention to God's voice in order to draw near in love and obedience, for individuals and for groups"

How will this look? It might be much quieter than a usual gathering of Catholic women sharing common concerns, goals and lives. We will wait for the other to speak and not plan for what we will say. We will give more space between each response, letting the words sit with us and in us. An article about synodal listening from *The Pillar* explains, "An important lesson for [Catholics]... is that practicing attentive listening, spiritual encounter, and communal discernment is a spiritually enriching endeavor that brings us closer to Jesus Christ, and which Pope Francis invites us to experience as a 'season of grace.'"

Members pray together, "Oh God, we thank you for being with us in all parts of our lives. We ask you to be with us as we continue to grow as the League. Through our listening, we pray to 'see you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly.'" May you continue to guide us and help us to grow. Amen." †

Intergenerational Interaction Benefits Everyone

Generational Activity Working Group

Intergenerational interaction benefits both younger and older adults. Indeed “connections between generations are essential for the mental health and stability of a nation” (Margaret Mead).

It has been said that the older generation brings the resources and experience, the middle generation brings “muscle” and the youngest generation brings excitement. For the League to continue to flourish, it must encourage multi-generational and intergenerational activity and diversity in its activities at all levels to ensure it is the best and strongest League that includes all members who choose to have an active role.

The importance of inclusive planning that welcomes all members regardless of their generation is proving to be of growing importance. As of January 1, 2022, the League has more than 63,000 members, including 1,125 parish councils. One of its biggest challenges is to encourage younger generations to join.

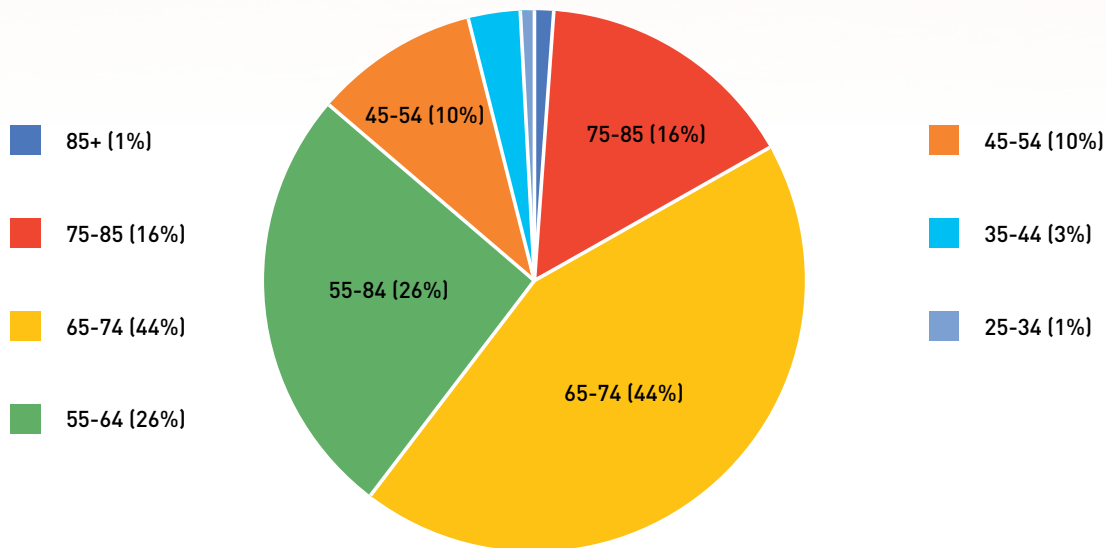
The first step in overcoming these challenges is identifying the source of the problem. Age segregation has become the norm in Canada, wherein older people are often alone at home or in retirement communities. At the same time, young and middle-aged adults tend to cluster at offices and worksites. As such, there is little interaction between generations. Moreover, there are generational differences, especially regarding technology and time. Retired individuals may question what they can do with the organization,

whereas the younger generation—often working and raising families—may question if joining the League is something they can balance with their limited time.

To overcome these differences, the League needs to focus on what each generation values in an organization. Communication methods must be considered, and to reach the intended audience, councils at all levels must include their audience’s preferred form of communication. For example, seniors often prefer in-person or telephone conversations and receiving hard copies of bulletins. In contrast, young adults may prefer communicating via text messaging and obtaining information from websites and social media. Councils must also recognize their biases and generational stereotypes and seek to bridge the gap. According to Liane Davey, author and team effectiveness advisor, “The key to preventing generational tension is remembering that everyone wants to feel valued.” The League is positioned to offer outreach to members in many ways. In its inclusive environment, a council can include multiple types of communication to reach members.

A Generations United survey of more than 2,000 American adults found that more than 90% felt both seniors and youth could benefit from multi-generational relationships within their communities. Nearly one-half of the seniors reported feeling occasional loneliness and 19% reported frequent loneliness. Seventy-seven per cent hoped for opportunities in their own communities for different age groups to meet and interact. The League has an opportunity

Age of Members (2019 Organization Annual Report)



to provide like-minded women of various generations a chance to meet and interact regularly.

Research shows there are major health benefits to intergenerational interaction for both the old and young alike. Benefits include a positive impact on mental, emotional and psychological well-being. Intergenerational activities can help build teamwork skills, provide an understanding of different ages and backgrounds, increase empathy, break down stereotypes, create a greater understanding and tolerance and create a better sense of community. Specifically, the BC Care Providers Association (BCCPA) notes, "Intergenerational projects have considerable benefits that include: strengthening communities to become more age-friendly by breaking down barriers between ages and stereotypes by one age group toward another; promoting understanding, respect, and sharing ideas, knowledge and experience; teaching the young about aging while teaching the aged about youth... [and] building self-esteem and satisfaction for both age groups through the learning of new skills."

Conversely, the BCCPA cautions that those without strong social networks may become isolated, which can lead to reduced physical and mental health, including depression. Intergenerational social connections produce solid social networks and happier people. When older people participate in their communities, everyone benefits.

John Roberto, editor of *Lifelong Faith*, wrote that bringing generations together within the church provides a further layer of benefit through a variety of blessings, including reclaiming God's intent for faith to be shared in community and across generations, affirming each person's value regardless of age and fostering a foundation of support of each other's faith formation, concerns, interests and activities. Certainly, in church small groups "one generation can speak truth and hope into another generation" (Peri Gilbert).

Benefits of intergenerational activities and relationships specifically to seniors include reducing isolation, depression and loneliness. Intergenerational activities have proven to energize older adults and give them a sense of purpose, especially when sharing their experiences and skills. Seniors may benefit from increased physical activity and even brain function when sharing or learning a new skill. According to All Seniors Care Living Centres, older adults who work with young children burned 20% more calories and had fewer mobility issues. They relied less on canes and were less prone to falls than those who did not regularly spend time with younger people. Linking Generations, an organization that promotes relationships between seniors and youth notes that intergenerational activities provide seniors with an opportunity to transfer knowledge, traditions and wisdom; acknowledge self-worth and feel they are contributing members of society.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has given the

opportunity to demonstrate the importance of older generations working with younger generations while adapting to various technologies and using these skills to maintain social connections and participate in League meetings, retreats and even mass.

The benefits of intergenerational activity specifically to younger members include helping them understand ageing and face their own more positively, teaching younger participants to value older adults and providing opportunities for finding positive role models. When youth find ways to engage and develop relationships with the elderly, these experiences can build self-esteem, develop leadership skills and encourage a lifelong commitment to volunteering.

It is clear organizations, including the League, benefit from intergenerational activity. Being aware of the advantages of intergenerational activity illustrates many reasons for women to become active and contributing members. This awareness may also offer support for women to bring their parents and children to League events and fundraisers. †

Originally published in the League's *Intergenerational Activity Program*.

Notice of Motion

Notice of Motion is hereby given that an amendment to Part XIV, Sections 2, 3 and 4 has been proposed as follows:

- Replace Section 2(f) with "The parish executive and parish council may meet virtually when circumstances preclude meeting in person."
- Replace Section 3(d) with "The diocesan and provincial executives and diocesan and provincial councils may meet virtually when circumstances preclude meeting in person."
- Delete Section 3(e)
- Replace Section 4(d) with "The national executive and national council may meet virtually when circumstances preclude meeting in person."
- Delete Section 4(e)

The motion will be voted on by voting delegates at the 103rd national annual meeting of members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in Saint John, New Brunswick on August 15, 2023.

Every member has the right to cast a vote on the matter with her parish council. Members are urged to seek out and attend their local parish council meeting where their vote may be cast in favour or against the proposal.

SPOTLIGHT



St. Michael's Basilica Parish Council (Chatham, New Brunswick) hosted a community-wide sock drive called "SOCKTOBER" in October. The council asked for donations of warm winter socks for those in need. Member Paula Trueman and President Linda Morris coordinated the event. More than 18 Christian churches and 11 car dealerships were contacted and asked if they would like to join the council in the project and were overjoyed to be included. Socks were also received from the Miramichi Lady Golfers club and the Newcastle Area Business Association. In addition, the Rotary Club of Chatham presented the council with a generous donation to buy socks. At the end, 7,222 pairs of socks were packaged and prepared for delivery to 24 local organizations that support those in need. Members warmed their hearts by warming the "soles" of others!

Immaculate Conception Parish Council (Delta, British Columbia) held a Strawberry Tea in October that had a fantastic attendance, including three women in their nineties who have been strong supporters of the League over the years. Members were blessed by the spiritual advisor who offered his support as the council's president had sadly passed away before the event was held.



Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains Parish Council (Peterborough, Ontario) was finally able to celebrate its 100th anniversary on September 18, 2022. National First Vice-President and Chairperson of Communications Betty Colaneri was the council's guest speaker. The event's theme was *Member Weddings*, and marvellous wedding dresses from members were on display. Members wore fashionable hats of the eras while they enjoyed their meal. Most Rev. Daniel Miehm celebrated mass, and Fr. Tom Lynch wowed the packed church with his homily.



At the end of September, B.C. & Yukon Provincial Council met in Kelowna for its semi-annual meeting at the Seton House of Prayer. In addition to the regular business sessions, the executive and diocesan presidents shared prayer and Eucharistic celebrations. Meals and evening socials enabled everyone to have fun and share stories.

St. John Vianney the Generous

Sue Gribbons Shrubsole

*One cold starry night in Allandale, St. John Vianney
CWL came to be.*

*Clever of forethought were the ladies, to start our family.
Our Lady of Good Counsel pray for us, for God and Canada
and for every need our parish has.*

To our community a friend.

*A sisterhood, a nation, fragile snowflakes that can grow.
To an avalanche, moving governments,
combining all we know.*

*Catering, bingo, bazaars and teas aided us in all we do.
With talented women over the years, the list of projects grew.*

Stations of the cross with soup and bread.

Christmas bazaars complete with tea.

*All Souls Day Mass, fellowship, raffles, roses or
whatever the need may be.*

*One day the need came for orphans and with
needle and thread in hand.*

*We sewed hundreds of pillowcase sundresses and
shorts for in the sand.*

*You will find the ladies at spring tea,
with a different theme each year.*

*Like the time we all jumped down a rabbit hole
and saw Wonderland appear.*

*We held the TDC 3rd Indigenous Mass, and
found Father Biju and I,*

*Having to speak in front of Mayor Lehman were
both a little shy.*

*The Indigenous Mass and reception was one
to beat the band.*

*Dancers, drums and songs so loud and our
ladies generosity showed first hand.*

*You will find them at convention or after mass
serving cake and tea.*

*You will find them creating colourful crafts
giving time so generously.*

They often work quite quietly stepping softly past at will.

*The giant footprints they leave behind give
us all big shoes to fill.*

The first 65 years have been busy. The next 65 will be too.

*As we continue to be of service, a friend to
all and to our sisters old and new.*

*Our Lady of Good Counsel pray for us,
a great future do I see,*

*For God and Canada and the CWL and for
the Generous St. John Vianney.*

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I have been a paid member of the CWL since 1979 or earlier, not sure. I have enjoyed working with my CWL sisters in whatever parish I have been in.

I have received the CWL magazine regularly, and have found some interesting articles. I was a journalist myself for our local paper for a few decades.

Reading your last few issues, I have come to the conclusion that while the articles are directed to our members, they are basically about the philosophy and running of the CWL, with articles also on current concerns.

I think you could get more members actually reading your magazine if you also included more information about individual efforts and councils.

For example, we have so many councils across Canada, could you ask for articles from individual councils, about their history, and perhaps different and interesting projects they created or were involved in? If you included one or two each issue from across Canada, you have enough material almost to the next millennium, and be more inclusive.

Just a suggestion,

Annie Boulanger

Dear Annie,

On behalf of the editorial board, thank you for your suggestion!

We've listened and are pleased to include various different articles in this issue, including one from Mary Molloy about 110 years of the League in Edmonton, Alberta, a poem from Sue Gribbons Shrubsole about a parish council in Allandale, Ontario and various Spotlight submissions. We hope to include more items such as these in the future.

Once again, we thank you for your suggestion. Input from members for the magazine is always welcomed and appreciated!

Betty Colaneri

National First Vice-President and Chairperson of Communications.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Congratulations to the following centenarians!

Flora Johnston

105 years old on
September 16, 2022
Holy Redeemer Parish Council
Saint John, New Brunswick

Angeline Charlebois

104 years old on December 18, 2022
St. Bartholomew Parish Council
Levack, Ontario

Loretta Meyer

104 years old in November 2022
Mary Immaculate Parish Council
London, Ontario

Mary Nowak

101 years old on January 9, 2023
St. Bartholomew Parish Council
Levack, Ontario

Nella Amaolo

100 years old on August 26, 2022
St. Ambrose Parish Council
Toronto, Ontario

Exzelia DesRoches

100 years old on November 12, 2022
St. Felix Parish Council
Tignish, Prince Edward Island

Ann Kowalski

100 years old on August 29, 2022
Sacred Heart Parish Council
Davidson, Saskatchewan

Alcea Spada

100 years old on October 22, 2022
St. Kevin Parish Council
Welland, Ontario

Julia Thrasher

100 years old on
September 10, 2022
Christ The King Parish Council
Courtenay, British Columbia

Congratulations!

Congratulations to councils celebrating anniversaries!

100 YEARS

Holy Redeemer Parish Council
Saint John, New Brunswick

St. Patrick Parish Council
Merlin, Ontario

95 YEARS

Saint Augustine Parish Council
Taber, Alberta

80 YEARS

St. Anne Parish Council
Osoyoos, British Columbia

2024 Annual National Convention

CWL Pin Ribbon



Back by popular demand! Showcase your League pins with pride with this beautiful ribbon.

Dimensions:
1.5" x 6.5"

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Introducing



Linda Squarzolo

Ontario
Provincial President

Linda was born in Timmins and raised in the town of Schumacher. After graduating from teachers' college, she moved to Sudbury. She married Tullio in 1970, and

they have two sons, a daughter and 11 grandchildren.

During her 28-year teaching career, Linda taught various grades and special education in Catholic schools in the Sudbury area. During this time, she took university courses and earned her bachelor's degrees in arts and education.

Linda's family then moved from Sudbury to the town of Coniston. In 1975, Linda joined the League at St. Paul the Apostle Parish to meet other women in the parish community. She became actively involved in council projects and served on the executive.

In 2002, after retiring from teaching, Linda was appointed to Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan Council as chairperson of the resolutions and legislation standing committees. During this time, she worked on four resolutions—one of which was adopted by the national council. Always having had a strong interest in social justice, resolutions became her favourite committee. She has developed and presented several leadership workshops throughout the diocese. She continues to serve as the archivist for the Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan Council.

Linda was elected to the provincial executive in 2013 and has since chaired several standing committees. Her greatest thrill was being a member of the provincial delegation to visit Queen's Park twice and directly expressing concerns to the provincial government.

Linda served on the implementation committee's reorganization working group tasked with restructuring the standing committees.

The League is also important to Linda's family. Her daughter, mother, granddaughter, two sisters and mother-in-law are all members. When her granddaughters turn 16, they know they will be welcomed as members.

Linda is a 20-year-plus breast cancer survivor and parishioner of Holy Redeemer Parish in Sudbury. Her favourite pastimes are reading, knitting, embroidery, travelling, spending time with family and, most of all, doing League work.

Her lifelong interest in social justice has led her to speak out against injustice and write letters to government expressing her concerns. In the League, she has found like-minded women who share her Catholic beliefs and an organization that gives voice to her concerns. †



Alice Noble

Quebec
Provincial President

Alice has been a member of the League at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish Council of Saint Raymond's Parish for 26 years and a life member

since 2020. She lives with her husband of 28 years in Candiac on the South Shore of Montreal. They are the proud parents of three young adult children.

Alice arrived in Canada at the age of five from England. She is fully bilingual (French and English) and also speaks Spanish. She holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Concordia University and has 32 years of experience as an independent self-employed advisor in the financial industry. She has been a member of various education and health boards.

Alice has been a warden, leader, reader and member of the evangelization project team in her parish. In her diocese, she was a member of the marriage preparation team for 20 years.

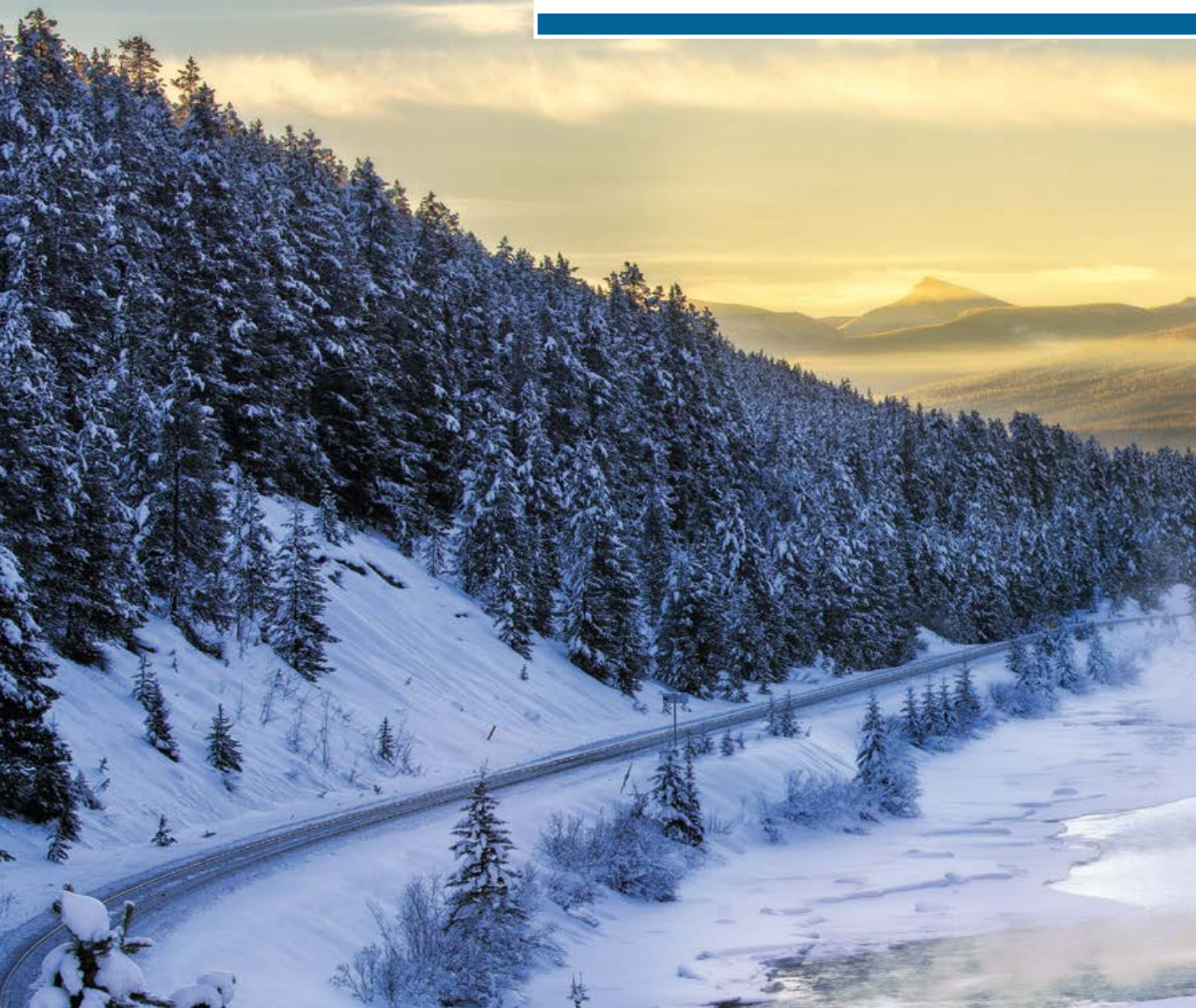
As a member, Alice has served at the parish, diocesan and provincial levels, chairing most committees and as treasurer and secretary. She has helped write three resolutions as well as policy and procedure manuals for her parish and diocesan councils. She was a member of two national convention planning committees.

Alice's special interests include resolutions, spiritual development and treasury. She enjoys giving presentations and helping with leadership development. Some workshops she has helped develop and present include Resolutions, Kindle the Fire: Treasurers, World Day of the Poor, The Art of Having a Great Meeting and Care for Our Common Home: Water. As provincial president-elect, she helped develop the national Executive Orientation Program workshops.

In Summer 2022, she joined the national executive as provincial president. Over the last few months, she prepared two workshops, Recruitment and Changes 2022, and has members of the provincial council meeting with every parish council in Quebec to present them. Her objective is to reaffirm the League's sisterhood across the province. Alice hopes to inspire and motivate all members in Quebec to share their gifts.

Such a journey is never undertaken alone and without help. Alice thanks her family and all her council members for their continued support and encouragement. †

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