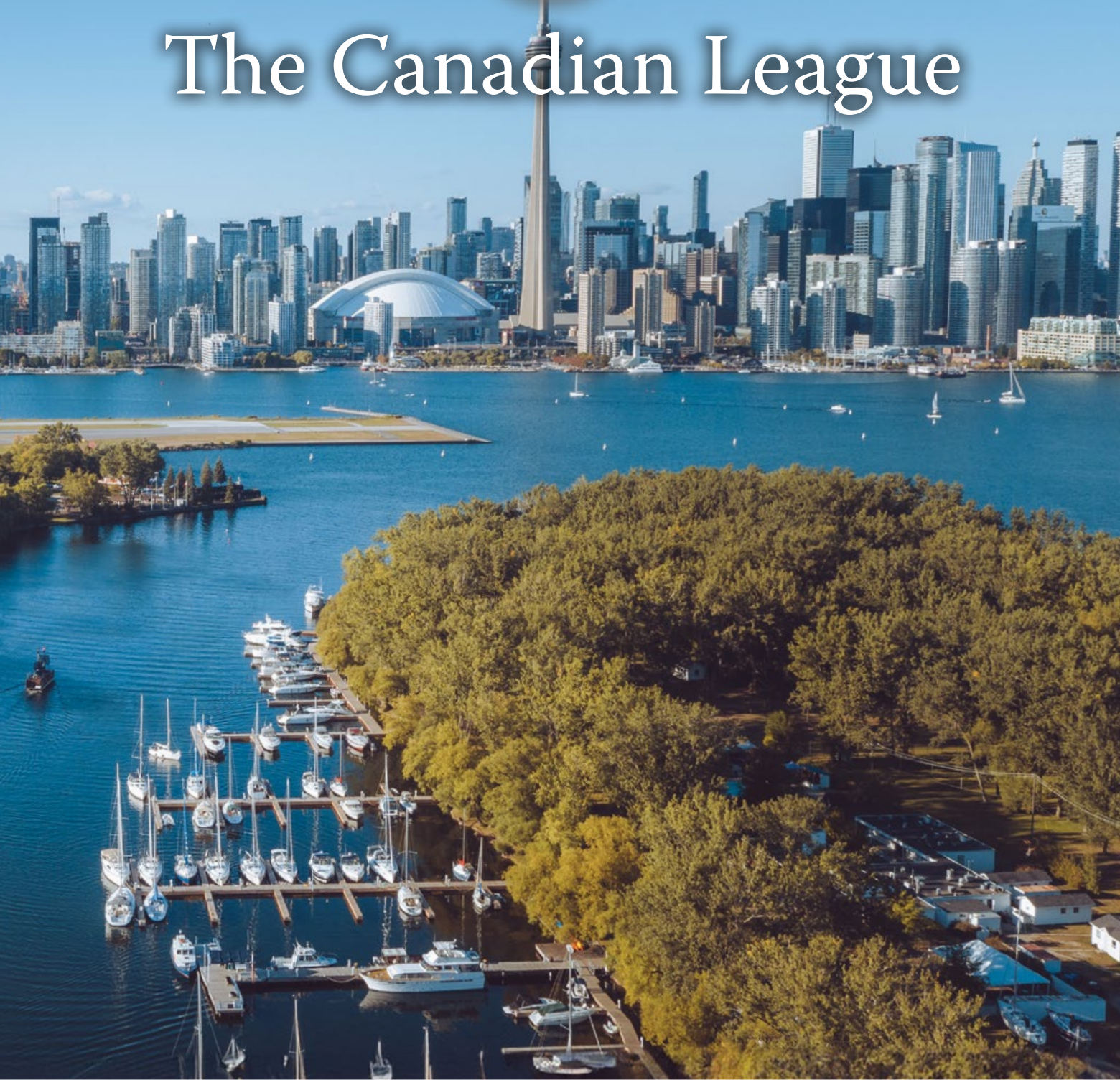




The Canadian League



Official Publication of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Volume 101/No. 2/Spring 2025

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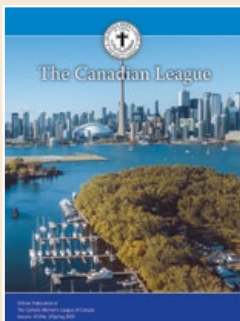
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National President's Message

Shari Quinta
National President



These last few years have been full of change for The Catholic Women's League of Canada—change in a good way. Change for the sake of change is not normally helpful, realistic or positive. The change within the League over the past several years has been focused and positive, however.

Positivity, maturity, focus and planning were all part of the strategy, and now we hope this will strengthen the League as never before.

The League has had many struggles, as other organizations have. Declining membership due to several factors has been a challenge, and that is why when the national executive/board looked at the League and its struggles several years ago, a plan was formed.

Seeing amazing women take on leadership and development roles has been a wonderful journey. Resources have been created that are incredibly positive and helpful. And these resources are there for all to use.

Any organization can face challenges, and if it is smart, it will analyze the problems and effects and then plan for an answer. The League did that.

I hope women in parish councils will realize the value of being a League member and will invite other women in

their parish to become members. That is often all it takes. The League has much to offer.

Members sometimes ask what the League has done for them. What does national do for members? Well, if a member is involved, if she reads this magazine or looks at the diocesan, provincial and national websites and reads the material, I think that member will see what the League has done and can offer. Attending a convention is also often an eye-opening event for women looking for faith-filled activity and social justice awareness and action.

We are called to serve. As Catholic women, we answer a call to serve our parish, community and, indeed, the world. I can only humbly ask women to join The Catholic Women's League of Canada and see what it has to offer and to also be prepared to be involved, as much as they are realistically able to be.

Answering that call, I can assure all Catholic women it will be rewarding in many ways. But don't take my word for it. The call to serve comes from another voice. I invite you to listen.

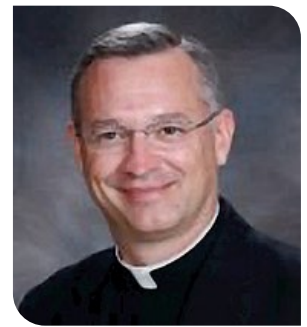
Here I am Lord, send me! †



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.

From the National Spiritual Advisor



Most Rev. Wayne Lobsinger, Auxiliary Bishop of Hamilton
National Spiritual Advisor

Spring and summer are my favourite seasons, primarily for two reasons. First, I do not like winter. I don't ski, skate or make snow angels. Second, I love to putter in my garden. I like to plant and tend to my flowers. It gives me joy and helps me to relax, digging in the earth and working with my flowers. I guess it is the connection to the earth and seeing new life growing right before me that helps me find my happy place and helps me experience the presence and life of God.

Each of us needs to find that place where we see and experience the new life God offers us. We experience God and his new life when we participate in the celebration of the sacraments. The new life in baptism, the Eucharist and penance connects us with God and renews us to be witnesses of this new life in the world. Some experience this new life in nature, in a sunset or a beautiful garden.

In addition, please God, we experience this new life of God in each other. Every human being is created in the image and likeness of God and carries the presence and life of God within. As Catholics, our task is to witness to God's presence within ourselves and to recognize the presence and life of God in others.

Members strive through faith, promotion of social justice and acts of service to be that living presence of God in their family, parish, community and world. If they are not going to witness to God, to faith, to service and

to social justice, who will? By baptism and confirmation, by membership in the League, members are called and have committed themselves to witnessing to God's love and mercy to all they meet—the stranger and those close to their heart.

What about recognizing and witnessing to God's presence in League sisters? Witnessing to God's love and mercy, to faith, service and justice, to parish council sisters and to sister members across the country? There

is opportunity every month, and probably more often, to witness to parish council sisters. Once a year, there is an opportunity to witness to sister members across the country at the annual national convention. This gathering is an opportunity to meet new sisters, to see God working through them, and to let them see the great things God



Bishop Lobsinger's Garden.

is doing through and with you. I encourage you to consider attending the convention this August. It is truly a moment of grace. God is there, and through each sister in the League, he makes his presence and his blessing known. I encourage you to come and be a witness to sisters from across this great country and to experience God working through sisters in the League.

Wishing all of you and your families God's continued and greatest blessings. May Our Lady of Good Counsel keep you under her maternal mantle of care. God bless. †

Building a Future of Hope for Migrants and Refugees



Barbara Dowding

Regional Vice-President North America
Barbara Dowding
World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO)

Why WUCWO and why now?

League members wait in joyful hope for signs that spring is approaching. Thoughts turn to planning for conventions and annual meetings as travel plans emerge in anticipation of getting together and celebrating a sisterhood.

Registration information for the national convention in Toronto is included in this magazine. In addition, you will see an extra special event that will take place on Sunday, August 10th.

The WUCWO North American Regional Conference, under the auspices of WUCWO and hosted by the League, will take place in Toronto prior to the annual national convention of The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

All League members are invited to attend and witness the richness of the wider experience and personal encounters of a regional meeting. A good number of participants from across Canada and the United States is expected.

The theme for this one-day conference, *Building a Future of Hope for Migrants and Refugees*, is taken directly from one of six resolutions adopted at the 2023 WUCWO General Assembly in Assisi, Italy.

The resolution asks WUCWO organizations to welcome, protect, accompany, promote and integrate migrants and refugees; promote volunteerism for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants; and eradicate human trafficking.

Canadians are very aware of the changing political landscape worldwide as well as the evil forces that continue to flourish, particularly in the areas of sex trafficking

and people smuggling. International outreach gathers momentum through WUCWO as its networks (organizations) collaborate and, most importantly, educate. Learning to identify "red flags" will go a long way toward finding and saving those who have been trafficked, sold for sex or had their dignity shattered in so many ways.

The North American region consists of four Catholic women's organizations that continue to press, advocate for and minister to migrants and refugees at home and abroad. They are the National Council of Catholic Women, Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada, Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary and The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Conference attendees will have an opportunity to learn more about these women and hear how they are taking action at the grassroots level.

The keynote presenter is WUCWO President General Monica Santamarina, who will bring her personal testimony and experience to life. You don't want to miss this day!

Why WUCWO?

The voice and actions of Catholic women around the world is well known and respected.

Why Now?

During this holy year of hope, members may be called upon to reach out even more to protect families and help the most vulnerable. And as always, Catholic women will be ready to go the extra distance to offer hope and help wherever they serve. †

106th Annual National Convention Fundraiser Halifax, Nova Scotia



Wear a daily symbol of thankfulness with this elegant Blessing and Gratitude Bracelet. Each bead serves as a gentle reminder to pause, reflect and acknowledge five blessings in your life—deepening your awareness of God's presence every day.

Buy one or more for yourself or as a meaningful gift. It comes packaged in a delicate gauze bag, and a heartfelt message:

"This is a Blessing and Gratitude Bracelet.

Whenever you wear it, acknowledge a blessing or something for which you are grateful.

God is present and active in our lives daily. We forget to thank Him for all we have and all we are.

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This gratefulness will help to grow awareness of God's presence in your day."

Price: \$10.00 per bracelet
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Order yours today by emailing
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Echoes of Kindness

Janet Brunger

Service Standing Committee



When I think of the word “service,” my mind instantly conjures up a flood of images. The most famous act of service would be the parable of the good Samaritan (Lk 10:25-37), where Jesus told a story about a man travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho. He was set upon by robbers who stole his clothes and possessions, beat him and left him dying by the side of the road. A priest and a Levite came upon the man and passed by on the other side of the road. But when a Samaritan came upon the man, he was filled with compassion. He poured oil and wine on the man’s wounds, bandaged him and transported him to a nearby inn, where he paid the innkeeper to look after the injured man and promised to make up any shortfall upon his return. Jesus told this story to demonstrate the meaning of kindness, compassion and love, and to emphasize that everyone in need is a neighbour and, therefore, deserves compassion.



Members of Holy Family Parish Council (Grimshaw)

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta is one modern-day exemplifier of service. She founded the Sisters of Charity with little to no resources and established schools, hospitals and orphanages. Under her guidance, the Sisters expanded into more than 70 countries. She dedicated her

life to ministering to the poor, the sick, orphans and babies, and profoundly impacted anyone who encountered her.

In perusing some back issues of *The Catholic Register*, one headline stood out—“No kind act will escape God’s notice” (Lea Karen Kivi). Naturally, members don’t do acts of service so that God will notice; they do these things because there’s a need, and they have the ability and means within themselves to step forward to make someone else’s load lighter. Members do these things out of the goodness of their hearts and for the betterment of the world they live in.

Service to others, particularly the less fortunate, the vulnerable and the challenged, can encompass many things. Some people are a living inspiration to all; they are known in their respective communities. Other people prefer to remain in the background; instead, donating from their resources to worthwhile charities to keep the good work going.

So why are members called to service? The League was founded on service to others, and one of the primary needs at the time was support and assistance to immigrants arriving from Europe and elsewhere. Over the past century, members have willingly stepped forward with open hands to provide whatever is needed. At the same time, through resolutions, countless people have benefitted from the forward-thinking actions of those who have gone before.

Currently, members’ acts of service in the name of the League are far reaching. From serving and donating to soup kitchens to collecting toiletries, winter wear, socks and clothing for the homeless, to visiting the sick, home-bound or hospitalized, to fundraising and donating the proceeds to worthy charitable organizations, to preparing and serving funeral lunches, and to remaining active within parishes, the League is front and centre.

Why do members do what they do? I can’t speak for everyone, but for me, it’s about stepping forward to help—to make a difference in someone else’s life, even if it’s just for a short time. Members might not think that they can do much, but collectively, members can—and do—make a significant difference.

Motivated by that knowledge, members can be empowered to extend their reach further and wider than before. Members must strive to leave a legacy behind to those who will follow and continue what has begun. †

Retaining Membership: Honouring Our Legacy

Betty Colaneri

National Vice-President



Belonging to an organization that upholds each member in prayer is a wonderful feeling! Across Canada, members are remembered daily in prayer, through Mass intentions and during conventions. Even after they are called to their heavenly home, members' names are placed in the national *Book of Life*, displayed at every national convention, ensuring the prayers continue. This is just one of the many meaningful reasons to be part of the League.

The '1 Campaign: Recruit, Retain, Regain' highlights the three essential elements of a thriving organization. While recruiting and regaining members are often emphasized, retention is just as crucial. Parish councils must take time to remind members of their value, recognizing their time and talents as treasures of the League. Honouring the incredible women who paved the way for members' current efforts ensures their legacy lives on.

Supporting Members Who Need Assistance

Provincial presidents recently shared how their parish councils assist members who may no longer be able to manage their memberships. These thoughtful initiatives ensure that no one is forgotten:

- **Personal Outreach:** Reach out to members who have not renewed their membership. While email is convenient, a telephone call or personal visit often makes a more significant impact.
- **Family Awareness and Engagement:** Reaching out to a member's family can be effective. Sometimes, relatives may not realize the importance of their loved one's affiliation with the League and how members continue praying for them. Engaging with family members can help maintain their connection.
- **Honouring Service:** Families may also appreciate that members can arrange for an honour guard at a member's funeral, reinforcing the League's enduring connection.
- **Membership Fund:** A 'loonie' or 'toonie' collection at monthly meetings can contribute to covering membership fees.
- **Angel Memberships:** Members may sponsor one or two extra 'angel' memberships for elderly members without family support.
- **Fundraisers:** Parish councils can hold an annual fundraiser dedicated to assisting those facing financial hardship or aging-related challenges.

- **Parish Support:** Parishioners with financial means contribute by placing an envelope labelled 'CWL Membership Assistance' into the collection.
- **Longevity Recognition:** Some parish councils cover membership fees for members with more than 50 years of service.
- **Age Considerations:** Some parish councils pay the dues for members over 80 or those residing in care homes, ensuring they remain involved through monthly updates and visits.
- **Dedicated Support:** A designated member can take responsibility for checking in on members who are unable to pay, fostering connection and support throughout the year.



*St. Paul Parish Council
(Richmond)*

Honouring members for their service is a way of expressing gratitude for their contributions. Even when they can no longer participate in meetings, presentations, social events or conventions, recognizing their impact and ensuring they remain part of the League is essential. By promoting the many good works of the organization and demonstrating the value of continued membership, we uphold the legacy of those who came before us. They have passed the torch to us. It is up to us to keep the flame burning. Retaining a member of the League is not just our duty—it is our honour. †

COME TO TORONTO... AND MEET THE WORLD!

JOIN US FOR

THE 105th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

TORONTO, ONTARIO AUGUST 10-13, 2025

No matter who the convention participants are, where they are from, or their mother language, they will find some of their heritage in Toronto. 'Toronto' is the Huron word for 'meeting place.' The very first national convention of The Catholic Women's League of Canada was held in Toronto in 1921. So it is fitting that members gather here again to celebrate the 105th annual national convention. Toronto is known for its diversity and multiculturalism, which is evident as one moves across the city.

From Chinese and Indian to Italian and Filipino, Toronto is home to various ethnic communities that contribute to the city's unique identity. Whether exploring the vibrant neighbourhoods of Chinatown or Little Italy or enjoying the flavours of Indian and Middle Eastern cuisine in the bustling Kensington Market, Toronto offers something for everyone. Each community brings its traditions, languages and customs, creating a tapestry of cultures that can be experienced throughout the city.

The official convention hotel is the Marriott Downtown Toronto Eaton Centre (525 Bay Street). This central location across from city hall is ideal for sightseeing and dining out and is adjacent to the iconic Eaton Centre—North America's busiest mall offering 250 stores and restaurants.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday, August 9th: Enjoy a fun evening at **Famous PEOPLE Players—Glow in the Dark Dine & Dream Dinner Theatre**. This internationally renowned black light theatre company of uniquely gifted performers offers a three-course meal followed by an evening of music, dance and special effects.

Sunday, August 10th: The **World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO) North American Regional Conference** will precede the convention at the host hotel. At the conference, participants are invited to share, listen and discern their role in this troubled world. The conference will begin Sunday morning and end before the convention's Opening Eucharistic Celebration.

The **Opening Eucharistic Celebration** will be at St. Paul's Basilica—the first Catholic church in Toronto. It was built by early Irish settlers to give glory and praise to God in their new homeland. Many of the settlers are buried in

the Irish cemetery near the church. Following the Mass, participants are invited to attend a reception in the church hall.

Monday, August 11th: Participants will have the opportunity to have lunch with a national officer of their choice. These lunches are intended for members at all levels.

For Monday evening, a fun interactive **Jukebox Dance Party** is planned. Participants are encouraged to dress up in 50's, 60's or 70's wear or come as their favourite celebrity from those eras. Hopefully, Elvis Presley, Marilyn Munroe, Lucille Ball, James Bond or even Minnie or Mickey Mouse will make an appearance!

Tuesday, August 12th: The **Life Members Luncheon and Spiritual Advisors Luncheon** will be on Tuesday, and provincial dinners will be organized as well, with more information provided on arrival. These events are restricted to life members and spiritual advisors.

Wednesday, August 13th: The **Closing Eucharistic Celebration** will be held Wednesday afternoon at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, the first home of the daily televised Mass seen on Vision TV. As this is an election year, the closing Mass will include the installation of newly elected national officers. Following Mass, participants will be bused back to the hotel for the **Gala Banquet**.

Thursday, August 14th: Consider the post-convention **Sea and Sky Tour**. Participants will be picked up from the hotel and bused south to Ripley's Aquarium of Canada, where they will be among the thousands of awe-inspiring aquatic animals and enjoy interactive, hands-on experiences and unique animal encounters.

For the "sky" portion of the tour, just steps away, participants will be guided to the CN Tower. The CN Tower construction was completed in 1976 and, at 553 metres (1,815 feet), held the record for the world's tallest free-standing structure until 2007. The Upper Observation Deck gives participants of every height a chance to see the full sweep of the city—the perfect setting for taking photographs. On a clear day, one can see as far as 160 kilometres from The Top—all the way to Niagara Falls and into New York State. Experience the Glass Floor, Outdoor Terrace and Artmosphere (an immersive, interactive art showcase) on the Lower Observation Level. After the tour, participants will be bused back to the hotel.

The convention committee looks forward to seeing you when you *Come to Toronto... And Meet the World*.

105th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION PROGRAM

(All events take place at the Marriott Downtown unless otherwise stated.)

Saturday, August 9

6:00-10:30 p.m. Famous People Players Dinner Theatre
(ticket required – buses board at 4:30 p.m.)

Sunday, August 10

9:00-10:30 a.m. WUCWO Regional Conference Session I
• Liturgical Service
• Opening Ceremony
• Greetings

10:30-11:00 a.m. Health Break

11:00-12:00 p.m. WUCWO Regional Conference Session II
• Report of WUCWO President General

12:00-1:30 p.m. *Mary, the Model of Synod*
Lunch with Dr. Josephine Lombardi

1:30-3:00 p.m. WUCWO Regional Conference Session III
• *Justice for Migrant Workers in Canada*, Leah Watkiss
• *Jubilee of Hope and the Women of WUCWO*, Bishop Lobsinger and Barbara Dowding

6:15-9:30 p.m. Official Opening with Greetings from Dignitaries followed by Eucharistic Celebration at 7:00 p.m., St. Paul's Basilica
(bus ticket required – buses board at 4:30 p.m.)

Monday, August 11

8:30-9:45 a.m. Mass

9:45-10:00 a.m. Plenary Session I
• Welcome
• Introductions

10:00-10:30 a.m. Refreshment Break

10:30-12:00 p.m. Plenary Session II
Mental Health and Social Justice,
Keynote Speaker Dr. Gerry Turcotte

12:00-1:30 p.m. National Officer Luncheons
(ticket required)

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

1:45-3:00 p.m. Plenary Session III
• Resolutions Dialogue

3:00-3:30 p.m. Health Break

3:30-5:00 p.m. Plenary Session IV
• Resolutions Dialogue
• National Standing Committee Q&A
• National Spiritual Advisor Q&A

5:00-5:15 p.m. Commissioning of Life Members

6:00-10:00 p.m. Jukebox Dance Party (ticket required)

Tuesday, August 12

9:00-10:15 a.m. Mass

10:15-10:30 a.m. Refreshment Break

Tuesday, August 12 (continued)

10:30-11:45 a.m. Plenary Session V
I am who I am – Living Hospitality of our World Today, Br. Richard MacPhee, Brothers of the Good Shepherd

11:45-12:00 p.m. Memorial Service for Deceased Members

12:00-1:30 p.m. Life Members' Luncheon (ticket required)

12:00-1:30 p.m. Spiritual Advisors' Luncheon
(ticket required)

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

1:45-2:45 p.m. Break Out Sessions
• *Lead us closer to you, Lord.*
- *An Interactive workshop on creating a prayer*

• *Call Me Lord to Lead and Follow*
• *Send Me Lord to Ignite Our Gifts*

2:45-3:15 p.m. Health Break

3:15-4:15 p.m. Repeat Break Out Sessions

6:30 p.m. Provincial Dinners
(see provinces on site for locations and times)

Wednesday, August 13

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

9:00-10:30 a.m. Annual Meeting of Members
• Call to order
• Introductions
• Greetings from Invited Guests
• Credentials report
• Adoption of standing rules
• National President's Report
• National Spiritual Advisor's Report
• National Secretary-Treasurer's Report

10:30-10:45 a.m. Refreshment Break

10:45-12:15 p.m. Annual Meeting of Members
• Presentation of Resolutions

12:15-1:45 p.m. Honorary Life Members Luncheon
(by invitation only)

1:45-2:00 p.m. Reconvening Prayer

2:00-3:30 p.m. Annual Meeting of Members
• Presentation by 2026 convention committee
• Elections
• Registration Report
• Adjournment

5:00 p.m. Closing Eucharistic Celebration & Installation of Officers, St. Michael's Cathedral
(bus ticket required – buses board at 4:00 p.m.)

6:30-7:00 p.m. Pre-Banquet Reception (by invitation only)

7:00-10:00 p.m. Gala Banquet (ticket required)

Thursday, August 14

8:00-9:00 a.m. Post-convention Mass

9:30-4:00 p.m. Sea and Sky Tour
(ticket required – buses board at 8:30 a.m.)

WORLD UNION OF CATHOLIC WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

SPEAKERS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2025



Speaker:
Mónica Santamarina,
president general of
World Union of Catholic
Women's Organizations

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Title of Presentation:
*Report of the WUCWO President
General*

Synopsis:
This presentation will include
WUCWO highlights, such as
resolutions and new endeavours,
as well as information about the
World Women's Observatory and the
amazing work being accomplished.



Speaker:
Dr. Josephine Lombardi,
award-winning author, film
maker, minister and founder of
the Experts in Humanity Project

Time: Noon

Title of Presentation:
Mary, the Model of Synod

Synopsis:
The work of the Synod on Synodality
has been entrusted to Our Lady.
Mary, as Our Lady of the Way,
has been presented as a model
of synodality, showing us how
to listen, understand, and act as
missionary disciples. Dr. Lombardi
will share some insights on a
Marian approach to synodality.



Speaker:
Leah Watkiss, ministry director,
ministry for social justice,
peace, and creation care for
Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Title of Presentation:
Justice for Migrant Workers in Canada

Synopsis:
Every year, temporary migrant workers
come to Canada to complete essential
work that sustains the Canadian
economy and communities. But
Canada's immigration system is
designed in such a way that many of
these workers end up experiencing
abuse, harassment and exploitation.
Learn more about this system and
what you can do to change it.

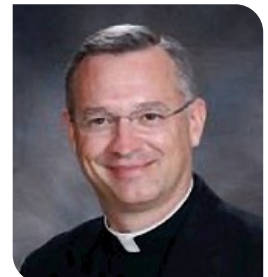


Speakers:
Barbara Dowding, WUCWO North American Region vice-president and
Most Rev. Wayne Lobsinger (Hamilton), national spiritual advisor of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Time: 2:15 p.m.

Title of Workshop:
Jubilee of Hope and Women of WUCWO

Synopsis:
What can WUCWO do for you to help you in your mission?
What can you do for WUCWO to ensure the great work and outreach continues?



THE 105th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

SPEAKERS

**Keynote Speaker:**

Dr. Gerry Turcotte, author and president of Corpus Christi College & St. Mark's College (Vancouver)

Date and Time:

Monday, August 11th at 10:30 a.m.

Title of Presentation:

Mental Health & Social Justice

Synopsis:

It would not be an exaggeration to say that we are in the midst of a mental health crisis. Statistics in North America alone show that millions of individuals, and an alarmingly high number of young people, cite mental health issues as a major factor in their daily struggles, so much so that Pope Francis once dedicated the month of November to those experiencing depression. In a now characteristic example of how the pope is attuned to the everyday realities of his flock, he offered a specific message of hope for those suffering seasonal affective disorder, work-related stress and burnout, even admitting that he himself was so consumed with anxiety in his youth that he needed the help of a psychologist. This presentation looks at this topic through the important and perhaps unique lens of Catholic social teaching, arguing that we are called on by our faith to be attentive to those in need.

**Speaker:**

Brother Richard MacPhee, OH, chief executive officer of Good Shepherd Centres and Good Shepherd Non-Profit Homes

Date and Time:

Tuesday, August 12th at 10:30 a.m.

Title of Presentation:

I Am Who I Am—Living Hospitality of our World Today

Topic:

Mental Health and Homelessness

Synopsis:

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called as we are to bring our woundedness, challenges and gifts to the hurting world around us.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

These sessions will be offered on Tuesday, August 12th at 1:45 p.m. and again at 3:15 p.m.

Title of Presentation:

Call Me Lord to Lead and Follow

Facilitators:

Provincial presidents Anna Bawer-Di Lallo (Quebec), Teena Cyr (Military Ordinariate), Betsy Fletcher (Alberta Mackenzie) and Sandra O'Connell (Nova Scotia) and past presidents Theresa Schopf (Military Ordinariate) and Madonna Clark (New Brunswick).

Synopsis:

At the heart of effective leadership lies a core of strong values and beliefs guiding decisions with compassion, leading with integrity and inspiring others to achieve their best. Leadership is a journey. By following Jesus' Waze, we will maneuver around the obstacles we encounter and reach our destination to become servant leaders.

Title of Presentation:

Send Me Lord to Ignite Our Gifts

Facilitators:

Provincial presidents Cheryl Boom (Prince Edward Island), Helen Kayfish (Saskatchewan), Colleen Martin (Ontario) and Rhona Hynes (Newfoundland and Labrador).

Synopsis:

An interactive, hands-on, joy-filled session using tools from the national strategic planning and training resources to identify a council's focus based on the current national theme focus, mental health, and creating a cohesive annual plan to meet your community's wants and needs.

Title of Presentation:

*Lead Us Closer to You, Lord—
An Interactive Workshop on Creating
a Prayer*

Facilitators:

Provincial presidents Lucille Rossington (Manitoba) and Leslie Carr (New Brunswick) and past presidents Catherine L'Heureux (B.C. & Yukon), Jessie Parkinson (Nova Scotia) and Karen Rossiter (Prince Edward Island).

Synopsis:

This workshop will guide attendees through the steps of creating a prayer and then expanding that theme into a prayer service.

105th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

August 10-13, 2025

Marriott Downtown at CF Toronto Eaton Centre • 525 Bay St., Toronto, Ontario
Registration limited to 450 people

REGISTRATION FORM

**PLEASE COMPLETE ONE FORM PER PERSON. SPECIAL EVENTS GUESTS MUST REGISTER INDIVIDUALLY.
COMPLETE ALL THREE PAGES. INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Name (please print): _____

Address: _____ City/Town: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Diocese: _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Telephone: _____ Alt. _____

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Member of the hierarchy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Voting delegate | <input type="checkbox"/> National spiritual advisor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial accredited delegate | <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial spiritual advisor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diocesan accredited delegate | <input type="checkbox"/> Diocesan spiritual advisor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honorary life member | <input type="checkbox"/> Parish spiritual advisor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life member | <input type="checkbox"/> Resource person — guest speaker, staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CWL member | <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibitor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Military Ordinariate member | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest at special event(s), no registration |

World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations' North American Regional Conference

<u>WUCWO</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Registration fee (Sunday, August 10)	\$ 75.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday morning (10:30 a.m.) coffee and muffin	\$ 10.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Luncheon (noon) with guest speaker Dr. Josephine Lombardi	\$ 70.00	_____
WUCWO Subtotal:		_____

The Catholic Women's League of Canada's Annual National Convention

<u>Registration Fees</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Monday, August 11	\$ 75.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday, August 12	\$ 75.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, August 13	\$ 75.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> All three days	\$ 175.00	_____
Registration Subtotal:		_____

Please note that you are responsible for your own transportation to the Marriott. The convention is a scent-free environment.
Questions? Feel free to email cwto2025national@gmail.com

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Date	Time	Description	Price	Total
Saturday, August 9	6:00 p.m.	Famous PEOPLE Players—Glow in the Dark Dine & Dream Dinner Theatre (Limited to 152 people)	\$ 100.00	
Monday, August 11	12:00 p.m.	Luncheon with a National Officer Select the national officer you will join:	\$ 70.00	
		<input type="checkbox"/> National President <input type="checkbox"/> National Vice-President <input type="checkbox"/> National Secretary-Treasurer <input type="checkbox"/> National Past President <input type="checkbox"/> National Faith Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> National Service Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> National Social Justice Chairperson		
	6:30 p.m.	Jukebox Dance Party (Limited to 300 people)	\$ 95.00	
Tuesday, August 12	12:00 p.m.	Life Members' Luncheon (For life members only)	\$ 70.00	
	12:00 p.m.	Spiritual Advisors' Luncheon (For spiritual advisors and bishops only)	\$ 70.00	
	1:45 p.m.	Break Out Sessions – Select One (Check one) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Call Me Lord to Lead and Follow</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Send Me Lord to Ignite Our Gifts</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Lead Us Closer to You, Lord—An Interactive Workshop on Creating a Prayer</i>		
	3:15 p.m.	Break Out Sessions – Select One (Check one) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Call Me Lord to Lead and Follow</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Send Me Lord to Ignite Our Gifts</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Lead Us Closer to You, Lord—An Interactive Workshop on Creating a Prayer</i>		
Wednesday, August 13	7:00 p.m.	Gala Banquet (Limited to 400 people)	\$ 110.00	
Thursday, August 14	9:30 a.m.	Sea and Sky Tour (Limited to 48 people)	\$ 96.00 General	
			\$ 73.00 65+	

Special Events Subtotal: \$ _____

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OTHER OFFERINGS

Transportation Tickets

Select your Transportation Tickets

	<u>Price</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Opening Eucharistic Celebration Transportation (Sunday, August 10)	\$ 14.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Closing Eucharistic Celebration Transportation (Wednesday, August 13)	\$ 14.00	_____

Transportation Subtotal: _____

Pre-purchased Refreshments (must have applicable business session tickets)

Select your Refreshments Tickets

	<u>Price</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Monday morning (10:00 a.m.) coffee and muffin	\$ 10.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday morning (10:15 a.m.) coffee and muffin	\$ 10.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday morning (10:30 a.m.) coffee and muffin	\$ 10.00	_____

Refreshments Subtotal: _____

Convention Fee Total:

WUCWO: _____

CWL Registration: _____

Special Events: _____

Transportation: _____

Refreshments: _____

Total Owning: \$ _____

OTHER INFORMATION

Dietary Needs: If you are attending events where meals are provided, please indicate if you have special dietary needs.

Dairy-free Diabetic Gluten-free

Vegan Vegetarian

Other (specify): _____

Accessibility/Mobility Issues: _____

This is my first national convention: Yes No

I am attending the provincial dinner: Yes No

For national office use only:

Cheque # _____ Amount Paid (\$): _____ Registration #: _____

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

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

The Joys of the "P&P" and Archiving

Fran Lucas

National Past President



One of the purposes of *The Canadian League* magazine is to educate. As national past president, most of my time is spent working with the *Constitution & Bylaws, National Manual of Policy and Procedure* (P&P) and archives. One day, I love working with archives—a past and present look at this beloved League—another time, I find myself living and breathing policy and procedure as the entire manual is reviewed by a committee! We each have some segment of League work that we love best. Through this article, I hope you may become a convert to the joys of archiving and policy and procedure or simply learn more about something you already enjoy.

During my time as national president, my main drive was on relationship building. I am still receiving emails from members across Canada who held a tea, which was a challenge I gave to all members to increase their circle of potential members or get to know members better. Some members hold repeat tea parties, and relationships continue to build and pay off in various ways. I mention this because your work creating or reviewing policy, setting up archives or filling albums are more tasks through which you can build relationships. Having other women to work with has many rewards, and I strongly advocate for the use

of a committee. Your baptismal call and God's plan for you have "relationship" written all over them.

Perhaps a few questions may whet your appetite to check out your council's policy and procedures or entice you to serve on an archive committee.

Did You Know?

The following from the 2024 updates to the P&P include:

- Each provincial and diocesan council has an email address on the national website's Contact Us page through which member questions and concerns can be answered (pg. 148).
- The role of the spiritual advisor in meetings is clarified (pg. 191).
- Best practices regarding motions books are outlined (pg. 203).
- Best practices for archiving written materials such as newspaper clippings are given (pg. 202).

There were many more updates that you are encouraged to become familiar with. It is recommended that every level review its policy and procedure manual every two years, coinciding with the past president completing her term. Archiving should ensure continual collection of the important information of a council, which should be added to the appropriate archive folder, box or album promptly.

So, are you ready to embrace the joys of archiving? Of working with policy and procedure? And especially doing so with a committee of your League sisters? †



National Archive Committee, left to right: Life Member Blanca Stead, National Past President Fran Lucas, Honorary Life Member Anne-Marie Gorman.



Here I Am Lord... Pilgrims of Hope

Rolande Chernichan

National Chairperson of Faith



“Hope is patience with the lamp lit” (Tertullian).

In 2023, Pope Francis unveiled Jubilee 2025, its theme, *Pilgrims of Hope* and logo, and the church embarked on two years of spiritual and prayerful preparation. The logo’s anchor symbolizes hope, and the cross that forms at its top is symbolic of being anchored in Christ. Drawing on the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans, the Holy Father echoes, “Hope does not disappoint” (Rom 5:5).

The image of the anchor calls to mind that the League has been, and continues to be, anchored in hope. Honorary Life Member Margaret Ann Jacobs (2016-2018) used two anchors within the wording of her theme that encircled an image of the Holy Spirit. At the close of her term and with the League’s centennial approaching, the League adopted its five-year strategic plan with much hope, intended to revitalize and rebrand the League for the future. Having weathered the global COVID-19 pandemic during the presidency of Honorary Life Member Anne-Marie Gorman (2018-2021) and highlighting its centenary, the League used an anchor on its postcard initiative, the “Gratitude Project” (2021-2022), to express appreciation to the many front-line workers whose service had given hope to many during the pandemic.

Jubilee 2025 beckons members of the League to be *Pilgrims of Hope*. According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Christian hope is “the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit” (1817).

Pope Francis envisioned this Holy Year “to be planned and celebrated with deep faith, lively hope and active charity... We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision.”

The Vatican website explains a jubilee’s characteristics, including pilgrimage, holy door, reconciliation, prayer, liturgy, profession of faith, indulgences and charity. Jubilee 2025 calls members to set out in pilgrimage, on a journey such that we change place physically and that the journey,

by its participants, circumstances, prayer, contemplation, sacred rites and liturgies also brings about change in ourselves—an “experience of conversion, of transforming one’s very being to conform it to the holiness of God.” The website also contains several examples of how pilgrims can obtain plenary indulgences, even for those who cannot travel, with norms and guidelines to obtain them.

Many have probably had the experience of taking part in a pilgrimage to a holy shrine, usually in the company of travelling companions. A CWL pilgrimage to Rome has been planned, including crossing the threshold of one of the holy doors of the four major papal basilicas. So that all can have a pilgrim experience during Jubilee 2025, Pope

Francis has asked Catholic bishops worldwide to designate certain locations within their territories as jubilee sites. Canadians can visit shrines in their province or territory or perhaps travel to one of six national shrines officially designated by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. Two of those shrines are dedicated to Canadian martyrs. The one best known is in Midland, Ontario, dedicated to the Jesuit martyrs St. Jean de

Brébeuf and his companions. The other is dedicated to Blessed Bishop Vasyl Velychkovsky, whose martyrdom and the decree of beatification were signed by Pope John Paul II in 2001. His relics, a fully intact body, are now enshrined in St. Joseph’s Ukrainian Catholic Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The Jubilee Prayer, gifted by Pope Francis, asks God the Father to reawaken in us the grace of blessed hope through our faith in Jesus Christ and the flames of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. We pray to be transformed into “tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel” so that the grace of the jubilee “spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.” As *Pilgrims of Hope*, we walk by faith, knowing that, “Faith is the bridge between where I am, and the place God is taking me” (unknown). The Jubilee Prayer is summarized by a short poem by another unknown author, “Faith is the seed, Love is the power, Hope is the light, Joy is the flower.” †



Good Council Financial Management

Dorothy Johansen

National Secretary-Treasurer



In a council, it is important to keep track of finances so that there is enough money to fund various activities and works.

To start, treasurers need to understand basic financial terms. Bookkeeping means keeping track of day-to-day revenue (money coming in) and expenses (money going out). Most parish councils will have a chequing bank account and use a spreadsheet or ledger either on paper or by computer to record the money in and out of the council and the source or destination of the funds.

Financial planning means looking at the spreadsheet's numbers and making decisions based on those numbers. Questions such as: Do we need to increase fees? Should we hold a fundraiser? Can we afford to send everyone we should to the convention and pay their expenses? Do we want to donate money to a good cause?

Reporting is about presenting the information to the executive or council members. Internal controls are the procedures in place to protect against fraud, theft and errors.

A financial management policy allows a council to determine what it is doing and how it does it. For example, is the council using the budget and reporting templates provided as a resource on the national website or is the council using something else? What categories do members want to use for money coming in and going out? Some common categories for revenue would be membership fees, fundraising efforts and donations. Common categories for expenses could be per capita fees, which include insurance, fundraising expenses, council activities, donations and convention expenses. These would also be in the budget, so the council knows how much it expects to receive and how much it will spend in a year. Many councils will start their budgeting process based on what was spent in the last year, then adjust as the members determine priorities for the upcoming year. Part of the financial reporting can be how often the information is presented to the executive and the council members. For most active councils, this is likely monthly.

It is possible the executive could spend time each quarter on the following to save time at every meeting. For example, one meeting late in the year to review and approve the budget for the upcoming year, a meeting to look at any fundraising required to meet the needs of the council and then the annual meeting to look at the past year to see what has been accomplished.

For internal controls, there are a few good practices that may keep everyone safe from theft, fraud and error. When handling cash, two people should be present to collect or count the money. This protects both the counters and the council from loss. To prevent fraud, each cheque or withdrawal must be made only after an expense claim has been made with receipts and approved by two members. And to keep free from error, everyone should look at the statements to see if everything is in the correct category to the best of their knowledge. Once a year, the financials should be reviewed by two council members, who will compare the paper copies to the reports.

The budget is a plan for the year—an expression of the activities to meet the Objects of the League in the parish council. Having an approved budget frees the council to allow expenses up to the budget amount without having to vote to approve every expense claimed.

The financial report is the revenue and expenditures report compared to the budget from the beginning of the year to the end of the previous month or year-end. Without the budget numbers present, this report is of little value. This is the report every council should regularly receive. How often though, is up to the membership.

Each council is expected to have a budget and a revenue and expenses report that is reviewed and approved by the executive each year and presented at its annual meeting. †



From Coast to Coast

Jessie Parkinson

Nova Scotia Provincial President



Last fall, I travelled to Kamloops, British Columbia, with my husband to help with his ageing parents. We were to be gone for two months, so I knew that I would miss my parish and provincial councils and their fall “busy-ness.”

My first Sunday at Sacred Heart Cathedral brought me face-to-face with Kamloops Diocesan President Kathy Dahl, who I had known from my work on the League’s marketing working group.

From there I went on to connect with Life Member Doreen Gowans. Doreen is a past national chairperson of communications and member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Council. They treated me like visiting royalty!

I attended the parish council meetings, chopped vegetables for an antipasto fundraiser, served supper for another fundraiser, was privileged to attend the funeral of Life Member and former B.C. & Yukon President (1996-1998) Lorraine Faherty, attended a retreat co-hosted by the lovely Kamloops Diocesan Chairperson of Faith Christine Mason and Life Member Nancy Simms in Salmon Arm, went to the fall meeting of Kamloops Diocesan Council in Lumby, prayed the rosary in a life chain and at a vigil... so much and surrounded by so much love.

What I experienced was the unselfish, dedicated, fellowship and support of beautiful, prayerful women. What I learned was that members are the same here in Nova Scotia. As I sat in a meeting in an unfamiliar church hall, I could have closed my eyes and been back in my own parish hall in New Glasgow. Prayer, business, fun—it was the same.

Unfortunately, my father-in-law passed away while we were there. Fortunately, I was surrounded by the compassion, care and prayers of my sisters from across the miles.

A word of advice: If visiting another parish, make sure to check out the Catholic Women’s League parish council. You will not be disappointed. †



Pictured left to right: B.C. & Yukon Provincial President Catherine L’Heureux, B.C. & Yukon Provincial Past President Sharon Geiger, Nova Scotia Provincial President Jessie Parkinson and Life Member Doreen Gowans.



Magazine Deadlines

Fall issue

July 15, 2025

Winter issue

November 15, 2025

Spring issue

February 15, 2026

We Got This!

Glenda Carson

National Chairperson of Social Justice



“Hope does not disappoint” (Romans 5:5).

With her arms outstretched and waving slightly, my young granddaughter tentatively places her foot on the narrow beam of the jungle gym. The beam looks impossibly high and narrow, and she is unsure she can do it. Doubt creeps in. What if she falls? Perhaps it is simply too much. Sensing her hesitation, her papa extends his hand to steady her first step, showing confidence in her ability to move forward on her own. Suddenly, a smile lights her face, and a newfound courage fuels hope. With determination, she declares, “I’m a big girl! I got this!” Though still shaky, she presses forward, one foot in front of the other. Glancing back, she smiles at her grandfather, her face alight with confidence and purpose, her hope for success affirmed with every step.

My granddaughter’s challenge mirrors the doubts we all face when confronting obstacles. Hope is found in the belief that we can overcome them. Her grandfather’s supportive hand symbolizes the love and encouragement that nurture hope. Just as he offered support, hope arises from knowing we are not alone. When she confidently declared, “I got this!” hope took hold, courage overcame fear and affirmed that progress was possible, even when the path was uncertain.

My granddaughter’s simple act of courage reflects a more profound truth—Pope Francis describes grandchildren as hope and a future for our world. The pursuit of a better future is envisioned through acts of social justice that address inequities and shape a more just world for future generations. This perspective calls on members to honour human dignity, safeguard the planet and foster a society where the promise of tomorrow is realized in every new generation.

However, Catholic social justice can feel formidable, as in my granddaughter’s initial encounter with the jungle gym beam. It’s not only about individual acts of kindness. It challenges us to confront long-standing social structures, economic inequities and cultural norms. This means questioning established norms that we may be comfortable with and addressing complex issues like poverty, racism and exploitation. Challenges can seem overwhelming, and goals can be threatened with failure. However, my granddaughter’s story ultimately demonstrates how hope fuels perseverance and growth

and a belief that even when the path seems daunting, we can move forward one step at a time. It also underscores hope’s vital role in empowering those we support to take steps toward a better, more just quality of life.

“Hope does not disappoint,” begins Pope Francis’ papal bull of indiction for Jubilee 2025, which is not merely an exhortation to greater faithfulness or courage but a call to action. Having hope in someone means believing in their potential—their ability to overcome challenges and grow despite difficulties. For my granddaughter, her papa’s belief in her ability fueled her confidence to overcome her challenge.

The theme, *Pilgrims of Hope*, invites members to walk together in unity, reinforcing the Catholic principle of solidarity—the call to stand with the oppressed and seek justice for all, as emphasized in Pope Francis’ encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* (On Fraternity and Social Friendship). In Catholic teaching, grandchildren embody the promise and continuity of life. They are a living reminder that our actions today shape the world they will inherit. This understanding aligns with *Pilgrims of Hope*, which emphasizes renewal, care for the marginalized and the restoration of justice.

The theme of hope for Jubilee 2025 is central to the social justice work of members. Hope is expressed through advocacy and a steadfast commitment to creating communities where everyone can live with dignity and opportunity. Through these actions, the spirit of the jubilee becomes tangible as a promise of renewal that begins with every act of compassion, justice and belief in the other. Just as grandparents nurture their grandchildren, Catholics are called to create a world where all current and future generations can thrive. In the same spirit of hope embraced by my granddaughter, members too can envision a future for all brightened by acts of social justice and, together, confidently proclaim, “We got this!” †

For God and Canada

HAPPY

Birthday

Congratulations to the following centenarians!

Emma Carrier

107 years old on January 25, 2025
St. Michael Parish Council
Leduc, Alberta

Mildred Smith

101 years old on December 23, 2024
St. Croix Parish Council
St. Stephen's, New Brunswick

Rose Greco

100 years old on October 3, 2024
Holy Redeemer Parish Council
Sudbury, Ontario

Angeline Charlebois

106 years old on December 18, 2024
St. Bartholomew Parish Council
Levack, Ontario

Mary Budz

100 years old on October 14, 2024
Holy Spirit Parish Council
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Theresa Hall

100 years old on July 24, 2024
Holy Spirit Parish Council
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Margaret (Peg) Clemow

105 years old on February 28, 2025
Our Lady of Fatima Parish Council
Renfrew, Ontario

Gloria Fortier

100 years old on January 8, 2025
Corpus Christi Parish Council
Windsor, Ontario

Gilberte Knapp

100 years old on January 26, 2025
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Council
Coquitlam, British Columbia

Reva Ovens

103 years old on February 4, 2025
Precious Blood Cathedral
Parish Council
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

Jeannette Godin

100 years old on August 28, 2024
Our Lady of Perpetual
Help Parish Council
Kamloops, British Columbia

Réjane Marier

100 years old on
September 21, 2024
Corpus Christi Parish Council
Windsor, Ontario

Josie Korte

102 years old on January 12, 2025
St. Ann Parish Council
Flin Flon, Manitoba

Carole Moss

100 years old on February 11, 2025
St. James Assiniboia Parish Council
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Congratulations

Congratulations to councils celebrating anniversaries!

100 YEARS

St. Michael Parish Council
Dresden, Ontario

90 YEARS

St. Clement Parish Council
McGregor, Ontario

75 YEARS

St. Francis Xavier Parish Council
Stoney Creek, Ontario

Introducing



Anna Bawer-di Lallo
Quebec
Provincial President

Anna has been a member of the League at Our Lady of Good Counsel at St. Raymond Parish in Candiac, Quebec, for 25 years and received life membership in 2021. She has

been active in her parish for many years by serving as a Eucharistic minister and as a member of the liturgical and fundraising committees.

Anna received a bachelor of arts degree from Sir George Williams University. She completed her master's in education at McGill University. Anna is trilingual and has worked for 35 years as an educator at elementary, secondary and continuing education levels.

As a member, Anna has served at the parish, diocesan and provincial levels. At the diocesan level, she chaired the education and health, resolutions, legislation and organization standing committees.

Anna was elected to the provincial council in 2017 and chaired the resolutions, legislation and organization standing committees. She has created several interactive resources for both committees.

In 2021, Anna was part of a committee to review the League's national position papers. In 2022, she was part of a national committee to develop policies regarding League briefs, postcards and petitions.

The League has given Anna the incredible opportunity to work alongside gifted and talented women, an experience for which she is deeply grateful. She acknowledges the guidance and support of the many mentors who have played an integral role in her League journey.

Anna hopes to inspire and empower members in Quebec to share their unique gifts and talents, to lift their voices in solidarity, and to advocate for those in need. She encourages her League sisters to answer the call with a resounding, *Here I am Lord, send me!* †



Helen Kayfish
Saskatchewan
Provincial President

Helen was born in St. Lambert, Quebec and raised across the country as her father was in the Canadian Armed Forces. Once he retired from the military, the family moved to Edmonton, Alberta.

In Edmonton, Helen completed high school, met and married her husband, Glenn, and began raising their children. Being from North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Glenn soon moved back home, bringing the family with him. They currently have four married children and 11 grandchildren.

Helen is a retired early childhood educator and remains working part-time in the field as a cook for a daycare. Helen's mother was a member of the Military Ordinariate, and it was then that she learned and began to know more about the League.

Helen is a 36-year member and has held many positions at the parish, diocesan and provincial levels. The Prince Albert Diocesan Council celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2024, and Helen, as the outgoing past president, was instrumental in the celebration of the anniversary.

Helen received life membership in 2023 and continues to share her knowledge of the League with others. She is willing to assist members across the province in any way she can. She engages in many parish activities in her home parish of Notre Dame de Lourdes, North Battleford, one of the pilgrimage sites for Jubilee 2025 in the Diocese of Prince Albert.

The League has enabled Helen to meet many wonderful women and allowed her to grow in faith and advance her leadership skills in ways she never thought possible. She is very passionate about the League and is working to keep it going strong in her province.

Helen encourages all members to speak to the women in their parishes and councils about joining the League or taking on an executive role. †



Spotlight!

St. John the Apostle Parish Council, Kingston, Ontario — On February 1st, St. John the Apostle Parish Council held its installation ceremony following a year of inactivity due to the pandemic and lack of new leadership. Two new members stood forward to serve on the executive. The council is grateful for the support and prayers from other parish councils in Kingston that helped get them to the point of reactivating and receiving 12 new members!



Notre Dame de Lorette Parish Council, Lorette, Manitoba — Notre Dame de Lorette Parish Council held a Soup Sunday event on November 3rd after Mass, with the recruitment of new members. Sixteen pots of homemade soup, desserts and beverages were served, and a free-will offering raised more than \$500 for The Cove, a local youth drop-in centre.



St. James Parish Council, Wilkie, Saskatchewan — St. James Parish Council helped pay for altar cloths its pastor, Fr. Rinesh Menambadath, brought back from India on his last home visit. They now have a complete set of colours for each liturgical season and celebration.



Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Council, Vancouver, British Columbia — Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Council members enjoyed a delightful evening at their priest appreciation dinner. The special gathering was a heartfelt way to honour and express gratitude for the priest's dedication and service to the community.



WHO DO I CONTACT?

CONTACT NATIONAL OFFICE FOR:

- Council anniversary requests
- Council news for posting to national social media
- Crest permission requests
- Development fund requests
- Forms
- Notification of deceased members
- Membership payments
- Membership records
- Orders of League supplies

For policy, programs, activities and all **other inquiries**, use the table below:

Person Inquiring	Person Who Responds
General and Associate Members	Parish President
Parish Executive Members	Diocesan Executive
Diocesan Executive Members	Provincial Executive
Provincial Executive Members	National Executive

What if my question is about a national or provincial program or decision?

For matters of a national nature, members may inquire directly of the provincial president who represents them on the national executive. For matters of a provincial nature, members may inquire directly of the diocesan president who represents them on the provincial executive. For matters of a diocesan nature, members may inquire directly of the parish president who represented them on the diocesan executive

Contact information may be found at <https://www.cwl.ca/contact/>.

What if I am not satisfied with the response I receive?

1. Contact national office and request that the issue be escalated.
2. You will be asked to document the concern in writing and submit it to the office.
3. National office will forward the written document to both the original respondent as well as the respondent's more senior counterpart. (For example, if a parish executive member's question is referred to the diocesan executive, but the member is not satisfied with the response, both the diocesan and provincial president will be notified and asked to intervene.)
4. The respondent and her senior counterpart will examine the issue and respond directly to you.



The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

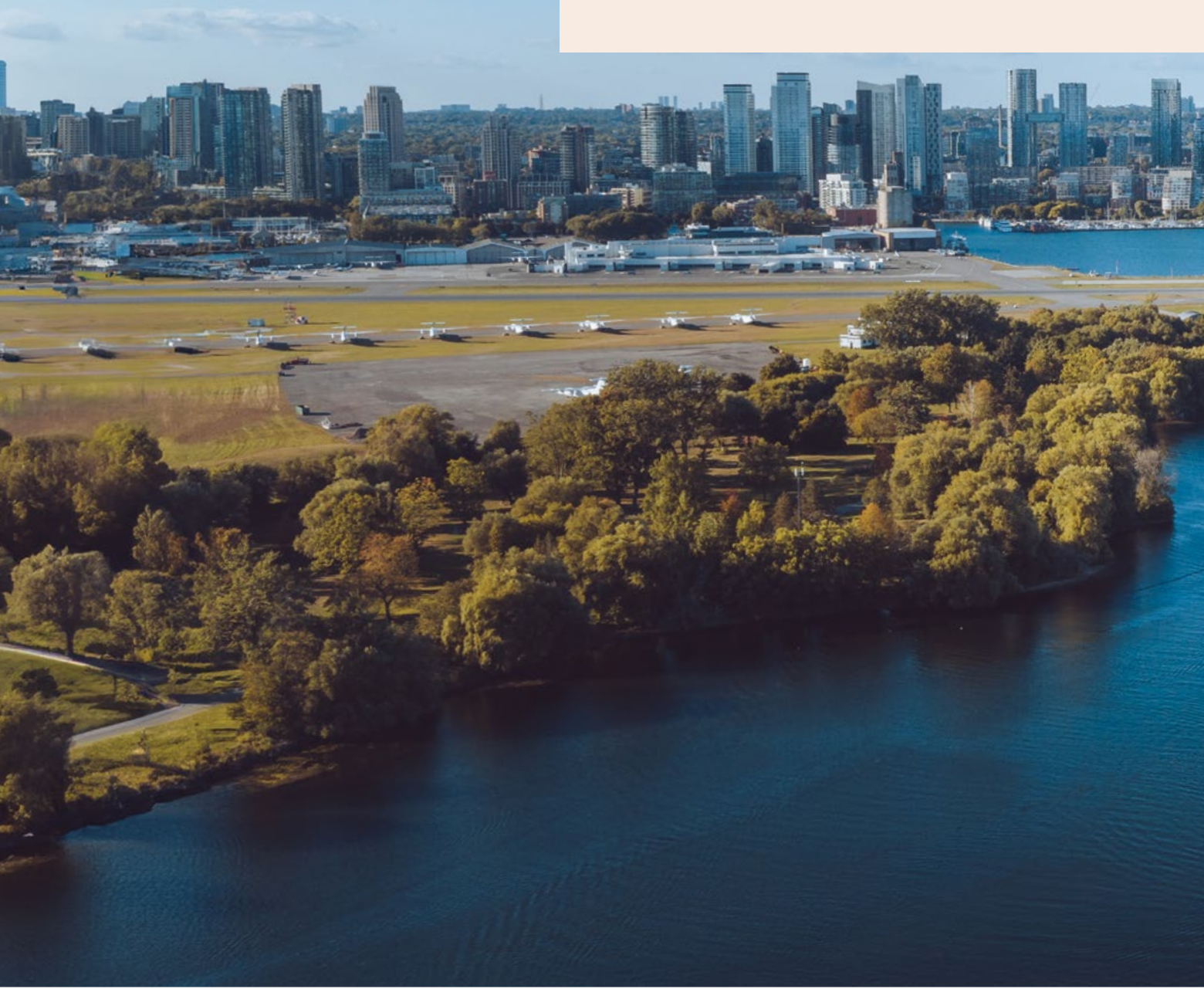
May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the
seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of
Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

(Pope Francis)

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RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO
CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT
C-702 SCOTLAND AVENUE
WINNIPEG, MB R3M 1X5