



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

Doreen Gowans
National 2nd Vice-President & Chairperson of Communications
C-702 Scotland Ave, Winnipeg, MB R3M 1X5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Winnipeg, Manitoba, August 20, 2018

"The Feminine Genius in the Heart of Canada" - Six hundred and eighty three members, spiritual advisors and guests attended the 98th Annual National Convention of The Catholic Women's League of Canada at the Delta Hotels by Marriott Winnipeg, August 12-15, 2018. Delegates gathered to pray, celebrate faith, hear reports and inspiring speakers, pass resolutions and deliberate on issues facing the League and the world today.

This was an election year at the national level and a new slate of officers was voted in by instructed vote of the provincial presidents. The new executive comprises National President and Chairperson of International Relations Anne-Marie Gorman, National President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization Fran Lucas, National 1st Vice-President and Chairperson of Spiritual Development Shari Guinta, National 2nd Vice-President and Chairperson of Communications Doreen Gowans, National Secretary-Treasurer Janet McLean, National Past President and Chairperson of Laws Margaret Ann Jacobs, National Chairperson of Christian Family Life Pat Deppisse, National Chairperson of Community Life Marie Rackley, National Chairperson of Education and Health Faith Anderson, National Chairperson of Resolutions Cathy Bouchard and National Chairperson of Legislation Betty Colaneri. After five years as National Spiritual Advisor, Bishop William McGrattan (Calgary) was succeeded by Bishop Stephen Jensen (Prince George). Starting in January 2019, a new theme, *Care for Our Common Home*, will guide League work for the next two years.

The Sunday Opening Eucharist was presided by Archbishop Albert LeGatt at St. Boniface Cathedral. As members stood and watched the Canadian, League, provincial and territorial flags process into the sanctuary, they were filled with the joy and pride of being a member. The Eucharistic celebrations at the convention were presided by at least five bishops and archbishops, priests and deacons, all spiritual advisors to the League. As members responded to prayers and raised their voices, the masses reflected the glory of heaven!

The gospel at the opening mass was proclaimed from the beautifully illuminated Saint John's Bible. In the homily Archbishop Legatt reflected on "meeting and moving on". St. Boniface has just celebrated its 200th anniversary of bringing Christ and the church to western and northern Canada. He noted the church has asked for forgiveness and another chance to build trust and relationships with the First Nations. He thanked God for the gift of women's faith in the last 200 years and for the League as evangelists. The League is vitally important because it is the voice of the "feminine genius" (Pope John Paul II). Archbishop LeGatt encouraged members to continue to come together, to multiply the love and work of God in the world.

Six workshops and the keynote speaker were the highlights of the Tuesday of convection. Workshops on the environment, Indigenous issues, human trafficking, homelessness, pornography and mental health addressed issues of concern to members. Keynote speaker, Archbishop Murray Chatlain (Keewatin-the

Pas) spoke on reconciliation with reflections on key parts of real reconciliation with a focus on indigenous reconciliation and “listening slowly”.

A five-year plan, *The Catholic Women’s League of Canada Plans Strategically 2018 – 2022*, was presented which encompassed all levels of the League in the process of giving new energy to the League for the future.

One of the most engaging areas of discussion were the three resolutions adopted at this convention.

- 2018.01 Attestation Requirement on Canada Summer Jobs Program
- 2018.02 Setting a Standard for Products Marketed as Flushable
- 2018.03 Legislate Designation of Hospice/Palliative Care Free From Medical Assistance in Dying

About The Catholic Women’s League of Canada

The Catholic Women’s League of Canada is one of the largest organizations of women in Canada with over 80,000 members represented in every province and territory and in the military. With a membership representing a wide cross-section of Canadian society, the League has received the commendation and keen appreciation of federal, provincial and municipal authorities for the voluntary services ably performed by its nationwide membership.

For further information, contact Doreen Gowans at (888) 656-4040 or e-mail communications@cwl.ca