

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

*98th Annual National Convention
Program &
2017 Annual Report*



*August 12-15, 2018
Winnipeg, Manitoba*

Mission Statement

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
is a national organization
rooted in gospel values
calling its members to holiness
through service to the people of God.

SERVICE – FAITH – JUSTICE

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
C-702 Scotland Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3M 1X5
Telephone: (888) 656-4040 Facsimile: (888) 831-9507
E-mail: info@cw1.ca Web site: www.cw1.ca

Contents

Where is it? What time does it open?	2
Greetings.....	3
98 th Annual National Convention Program.....	8
Business Sessions Agenda.....	10
Standing Rules of the 98 th Annual National Convention.....	12
National Elections Procedure.....	16
Convention Planning Committee.....	19
Annual Report 2017.....	20
President.....	21
Spiritual Advisor.....	25
Executive Director.....	26
Secretary-Treasurer.....	28
Standing Committees	
Spiritual Development.....	50
Organization.....	52
Christian Family Life.....	59
Community Life.....	64
Education and Health.....	68
Communications.....	72
Resolutions.....	74
Legislation.....	78
Laws.....	82
Provincial Presidents	
Alberta Mackenzie.....	85
B.C. & Yukon.....	88
Manitoba.....	94
Military Ordinariate.....	100
New Brunswick.....	103
Newfoundland and Labrador.....	105
Nova Scotia.....	108
Ontario.....	112
Prince Edward Island.....	116
Quebec.....	119
Saskatchewan.....	121
2018 Life Members.....	126

Where is it? What time does it open?

REGISTRATION, TICKETS

Kildonan Room

Saturday, August 11	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, August 12	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Monday and Tuesday, August 13 & 14	7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 15	8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS DIALOGUE

Ballroom

Sunday, August 12	2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
-------------------	-----------------------

PRAYER ROOM

Saint Boniface Room

Sunday, August 12	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Monday and Tuesday, August 13 & 14	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, August 15	8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Holy Names House of Peace, located at 211 Edmonton Street, has a priest available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturdays between 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and Tuesday - Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

EXHIBITS

Charleswood B Room

Monday and Tuesday, August 13 & 14	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 15	8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

SALES OF NATIONAL OFFICE SUPPLIES

Charleswood A Room

Monday and Tuesday, August 13 & 14	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 15	8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

SECRETARIAT OFFICE

Transcona Room

Monday - Wednesday, August 13 - 15	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
------------------------------------	-----------------------



**Most Rev. Albert Legatt
Archbishop of St. Boniface**

Greetings and welcome to Winnipeg, ten kilometres away from the longitudinal centre of Canada and the gateway to Western and Northern Canada for all railway and land transportation. I mention these geographical details because they indicate Winnipeg is indeed a city at the crossroads of Canada, one of the most important gathering places in this huge country.

For many Indigenous peoples, this place has been so for thousands of years. Starting in the eighteenth century, fur traders from several European nations came to meet those First Nations to trade, to share. Ultimately, there arose a new people, the Métis, whose homeland is here.

Then, 200 years ago, on July 16, 1818, the first three Catholic missionaries arrived, led by Fr. Norbert Provencher. With their arrival at the fork of the Red and Assiniboine rivers, ongoing contact began between the Catholic Church and the original inhabitants. All the peoples from across the globe would eventually come, one after another. Each came with their own language, culture, values, spirituality and faith. On that day 200 years ago, and ever since, people of faith have offered to all people a contact, an encounter, a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and His Body, the church!

Today, you come. Welcome. Thank you for honouring this 200th anniversary with your presence. Throughout your stay, may you also encounter Christ and know the power of the Holy Spirit throughout your convention. Blessings upon all of you.

Rolande Chernichan
Manitoba Provincial President



Bienvenue! Welcome! to Manitoba, the keystone province of Canada, and the land of 100,000 lakes! Welcome to Winnipeg, its capital city, built on the fur trade and the gateway to the prairies!

On behalf of Manitoba Provincial Council and members throughout Manitoba, I am honoured and delighted to welcome you to the 98th annual national convention of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. National convention is one of many events during this milestone year marking the 200th anniversary of the church in Western and Northern Canada. It is fitting that the League is gathered in Winnipeg to celebrate in convention, recalling its contribution to the rich history of the church in Canada through prayer, service and evangelization.

Members have been afire with enthusiasm to make this your best convention experience! The site visits and events are a sampling of the cultural and historical opportunities that await your "friendly Manitoba" visit. You are wished joy and laughter as you renew friendships and make new ones. May you be enriched by the opportunities for prayer, education and dialogue of this convention.

As the League journeys towards its 100th anniversary in 2020, my hope is that your time with us will leave you energized and affirmed, and that you will be inspired anew to make Christ known and loved, for, "Through Him, with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours Almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen."

Fr. Paul Bringleson
Manitoba Provincial Spiritual Advisor



My Dear Sisters in the League,

I offer greetings at the beginning of the 2018 annual national convention here in Winnipeg and St. Boniface, the birthplace of the church in Western Canada.

Undoubtedly we come together from many parts of this beloved country with our own story and journey of faith. The League that you know today came into being for the simple reason that women like yourselves were inspired by an act of faith in the life and ministry of Jesus. This must be remembered and embraced.

There will be much by way of agenda that will be offered to you in the course of this convention. I invite you to keep in mind the inevitable successes or failures of our ministry is not nearly as important as the relationships that will be formed, solidified and challenged in our time together. We remember it is Christ who calls us to community and to reveal the Good News of His love and mercy in the League.

At the end of this convention it will be the strength of personal relationships that will bring about the revelation of God's wisdom in our work more than anything legislative or policy driven.

I pray God's richest blessing on you all and assure you of my fidelity to your ministry and to your person.

Margaret Ann Jacobs
National President



Salutations to my League sisters across this great nation! It is with joyful anticipation that I welcome you to Winnipeg to celebrate the 98th annual national convention and the 200th anniversary of the Catholic Church in Western and Northern Canada.

The host committee has actively pursued opportunities to showcase the province. Take advantage of the special events. I look forward to the address of Archbishop Murray Chatlain (Keewatin-The Pas) and hope you will participate in the workshops arranged for you. May you go home armed with an appreciation of your special giftedness, a broader understanding of some of the issues facing fellow citizens and empowered by the knowledge that you can make a difference.

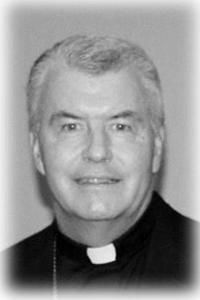
It is truly amazing how members have embraced the national theme and responded to God's call through active service. It is time to celebrate your overwhelming accomplishments this past year. Truly, you are inspired by the Holy Spirit!

In *Gaudete et Exsultate*, Pope Francis writes, "Each community is called to create a 'God-enlightened space in which to experience the hidden presence of the risen Lord.'...A community that cherishes the little details of love, whose members care for one another and create an open and evangelizing environment, is a place where the risen Lord is present, sanctifying it in accordance with the Father's plan. There are times when, by the gift of the Lord's love, we are granted, amid these little details, consoling experiences of God."

I believe you have created that "God-enlightened space" in your councils, allowed others to experience "the hidden presence of the risen Lord" and been granted "consoling experiences of God".

May this 98th convention be for each of us a time of renewal, inspiration and enlightenment as we celebrate past accomplishments and share a vision of a League for the future full of hope and confidence.

Most Rev. William McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary
National Spiritual Advisor



As you gather for your 98th annual national convention in Winnipeg, I offer you my greetings and heartfelt thanks for the unique witness of faith and service you give within the parishes of your respective dioceses and throughout Canada. The theme, *Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call* invites you to embrace your baptismal call, to be led by the Holy Spirit to serve the people of God.

I pray you will continue to “lead a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God,” (Col. 1:10). The fruits of the League are never hidden but are always public. Indeed, your work this year nationally has been a strong sign of faith. I thank you personally for the many letters written to government leaders and others in support of the dignity of each human person and especially those most vulnerable. I also acknowledge and thank you for the great love shown in your parishes through the various ministries you undertake.

Pope Francis invites the entire church to become “missionary disciples.” Our Lord’s call to mission is very clear. An authentic disciple of Jesus Christ is one who first listens to His Word and then puts it into practice. This year I encourage each member of the League to be “inspired by the Spirit” and to continue to spread the love of God in your families and parishes. This love involves acts of service, but also includes the proclamation of the gospel to all, teaching and caring for others.

As you gather to share prayer, friendship and reflection, I pray this convention will be an encounter with our Lord and one another through the Spirit. May Our Lady of Good Counsel assist the Catholic Women’s League in all of its endeavours.

98th Annual National Convention Program

(All events take place in Delta Winnipeg unless otherwise stated.)

Saturday, August 11

6:30 p.m. Canadian Museum for Human Rights tour
(ticket required)

Sunday, August 12

9:00 a.m. City of Winnipeg bus tour (ticket required)

9:00 a.m. The Hermetic Code walking tour (ticket required)

2:30-4:00 p.m. Resolutions dialogue

7:00 p.m. Official opening, Eucharistic celebration and Opening
Reception, St. Boniface Cathedral

(bus transportation available, leaving at 5:45 p.m.)

Monday, August 13

7:30 a.m. Guest event, St. Andrews Country Club

8:00-9:15 a.m. Eucharistic celebration, St. Mary's Cathedral

9:30-10:30 a.m. Business sessions

- Call to order
- Opening remarks
- Introductions
- Notice calling meeting
- Credentials report
- Adoption of standing rules
- Approval of agenda
- Approval of previous minutes
- Convention committees
- Correspondence
- Report of pre-convention meeting

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

10:45-12:00 p.m. Business sessions

- Reports of provincial presidents
- Report of national president

1:30-1:35 p.m. Reconvening prayer

1:35-2:45 p.m. Business sessions

- Report of secretary-treasurer
- Report of executive director
- Review of resolutions process
- Report of spiritual development chairperson
- Report of organization chairperson
- Report of CWL Foundation
- Report of Christian family life chairperson
- Report of community life chairperson

2:45-3:00 p.m. Health break

3:00-4:15 p.m. Business sessions

- Report of education and health chairperson
- Report of communications chairperson

4:15-4:30 p.m. Commissioning of life members
6:30 p.m. 200th Anniversary dinner (ticket required)

Tuesday, August 14

8:00-9:15 a.m. Eucharistic celebration, St. Mary's Cathedral
9:45-10:45 a.m. *Breakout session I, Convention Centre*
10:45 -11:00 a.m. Health Break
11:00-12:00 p.m. *Breakout session II, Convention Centre*
12:15-1:30 p.m. Life members' luncheon (ticket required)
12:15-1:30 p.m. Spiritual advisors' luncheon (ticket required)
1:30-1:45 p.m. Reconvening prayer
1:45-3:00 p.m. *Keynote speaker, Most Rev. Murray Chatlain, Archbishop of Keewatin-the Pas*
3:00-3:15 p.m. Health break
3:15-4:15 p.m. Keynote continued
4:15-4:30 p.m. Memorial service for deceased members
7:00 p.m. Provincial dinners

Wednesday, August 15

8:30-8:45 a.m. Morning prayer
8:45-10:00 a.m. *Building on Foundation, the League of the Future*
10:00-10:15 a.m. Health break
10:15-11:30 a.m. Business sessions

- Report of resolutions chairperson
- Report of legislation chairperson

11:30-11:45 a.m. Prayer service to close the morning
1:30-1:35 p.m. Reconvening prayer
1:35-2:50 p.m. Business sessions

- Presentation by 2019 convention committee
- Report of centenary committee
- Report of laws chairperson
- Report of international relations
- Report of national spiritual advisor
- Announcement of new theme
- Other business
- Registration report

2:50-3:05 p.m. Health break
3:05-3:45 p.m. Business Sessions

- Rite of election
- Adjournment

5:00 p.m. Closing Eucharistic celebration & installation of officers, St. Mary's Cathedral
7:00 p.m. Gala banquet

Thursday, August 16

9:00 a.m. Tour of Mennonite Heritage Village (ticket required)

Business Sessions Agenda

1. **Call to order:** National President Margaret Ann Jacobs
2. **Opening remarks:** Margaret Ann Jacobs and National Spiritual Advisor Bishop William McGrattan
3. **Introductions:** Margaret Ann Jacobs
4. **Notice calling meeting:** National Secretary-Treasurer Janet McLean
5. **Credentials report:** Chairperson of Registration Suzanne Moore
6. **Adoption of standing rules:** National Chairperson of Laws Barbara Dowding
7. **Approval of agenda:** Margaret Ann Jacobs
8. **Minutes of the 97th annual national convention:** Janet McLean
9. **Convention committees:** Margaret Ann Jacobs
 - a. **Registration and credentials:** Suzanne Moore
 - b. **Resolutions:** Margaret Ann Jacobs, National President-Elect Anne-Marie Gorman, National Chairperson of Resolutions Joan Bona, National Chairperson of Legislation Nancy Simms, Life Member Debbie Samson, Life Member Margie Royle
 - c. **Minutes review:** Janet McLean, Ontario Provincial President Anne Madden, Saskatchewan Provincial President Margaret Schwab, Life Member Marie Rackley
 - d. **Elections committee:** National Past President Barbara Dowding, Honorary Life Member Marie Cameron, Honorary Life Member Joan Chesser
10. **Correspondence:** Janet McLean
11. **Report of pre-convention meeting:** Janet McLean
12. **Reports of provincial presidents:**
 - a. **Alberta Mackenzie:** June Fuller
 - b. **B.C. & Yukon:** Gisela Montague
 - c. **Manitoba:** Rolande Chernichan
 - d. **Military Ordinariate:** Tawnya Stringer
 - e. **New Brunswick:** Hazel Robichaud
 - f. **Newfoundland and Labrador:** Barbara McGrath

- g. **Nova Scotia:** Glenda Carson
 - h. **Ontario:** Anne Madden
 - i. **Prince Edward Island:** Shirley Pierce
 - j. **Quebec:** Linda Chisholm
 - k. **Saskatchewan:** Margaret Schwab
13. **Report of national president:** Margaret Ann Jacobs
 14. **Report of national secretary-treasurer:** Janet McLean
 15. **Report of executive director:** Kim Scammell
 16. **Review of resolutions process:** Joan Bona
 17. **Reports of national chairpersons:**
 - a. **Spiritual development:** Jacqueline Nogier
 - b. **Organization:** Anne Gorman
 - c. **Christian family life:** Doreen Gowans
 - d. **Community life:** Betty Colaneri
 - e. **Education and health:** Fran Lucas
 - f. **Communications:** Shari Guinta
 - g. **Resolutions:** Joan Bona
 - h. **Legislation:** Nancy Simms
 - i. **Laws:** Barbara Dowding
 - j. **International Relations:** Margaret Ann Jacobs
 18. **Report of centenary committee:** Betty Colaneri
 19. **Report of national spiritual advisor:** Bishop William McGrattan
 20. **Announcement of new theme:** Anne-Marie Gorman
 21. **Other business:** Margaret Ann Jacobs
 22. **Registration report:** Suzanne Moore
 23. **Rite of elections:** Margaret Ann Jacobs
 24. **Adjournment:** Margaret Ann Jacobs

Standing Rules of the 98th Annual National Convention

Registration

1. Each person attending this convention shall register at the convention registration desk and shall be required to wear the official convention badge for admission to all meetings.
2. Registrants shall be classified as voting delegates [provincial presidents], accredited delegates [national officers, provincial accredited, diocesan accredited, honorary life members, life members], CWL members, spiritual advisors and guests.
3. The registration and credentials committee, at the beginning of the first business session, shall provide a credentials report summarizing the number of voting members registered at the convention. When adopted, the credentials report shall be the official roll of voting members. If additional voting members register after the report has been adopted, a supplementary report shall be given and adopted at the beginning of the next day's business session.

Publicity

4. Official public statements of the national council shall be released by the national president or the national administrative committee only. Interviews about the work and policies of the CWL shall be at the discretion of the national president.
5. All publicity shall be under the supervision of the convention communications chairperson in cooperation with the national chairperson of communications. Registrants with news items are requested to submit them to the national chairperson of communications.

Seating Arrangements

6. The business sessions of the convention shall have a designated area in which all voting members will be seated. All members

are requested to be in their seats at least five (5) minutes before the scheduled sessions open.

Debate

7. The mover of a motion, or her designate, may speak to open and close debate. No other member shall speak more than once on the same motion on the same day, or longer than three (3) minutes without permission of the assembly granted by a two-thirds vote without debate.
8. Those wishing to speak shall use the floor microphones; take a place in line and, upon being recognized by the chairperson, state name, status, diocese and province.
9. When time is of the essence, voting members shall be given priority to speak over non-voting members.

Voting

10. Voting cards shall be issued to voting members and these cards shall be exhibited when a member votes.
11. The chairperson shall ask for affirmative and negative votes only. A voting member wishing her abstention to be recorded in the minutes shall request same before the vote is taken.

Motions/Resolutions

12. Five (5) copies of substantive motions or amendments to resolutions shall be prepared in advance of the time of presentation to the assembly: four (4) copies submitted to the executive director and one (1) retained by the mover.
13. Only resolutions submitted to the resolutions committee by provincial councils or national chairpersons by the deadline date set by the national resolutions chairperson shall be considered for presentation to this convention.
14. Resolutions concerning urgent matters may be accepted after the deadline date and shall be presented to the convention at the discretion of the resolutions committee.

15. The procedure for presenting resolutions to the business sessions shall be:
 - i. the resolutions chairperson shall read the resolutions after the appropriate chairperson's report
 - ii. the president of the province submitting the resolution shall move its adoption; if more than one province has submitted the resolution, the provincial presidents concerned shall decide prior to the meeting who will move its adoption
 - iii. the president of the province submitting the resolution, or her designate, shall speak first to the resolution
16. Final wording of titles and briefs shall be the responsibility of the resolutions committee.
17. Grammatical or minor changes to a resolution may not need to be formally amended but may be given to the resolutions committee prior to the resolution being presented to the assembly.
18. Adopted resolutions shall be printed in the fall issue of *The Canadian League* and posted to the website of The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Miscellaneous

19. Registrants are asked to refrain from photography and/ or electronic recording of the convention proceedings. An official photographer has been appointed and copyright laws forbid the electronic recording of speeches or convention sessions.
20. No materials shall be distributed, displayed or sold at this convention without the prior approval of the national administrative committee.
21. No appeals for support or collections of any kind shall be made unless a written request, clearly stating the purpose and identifying the persons making the request, is presented in advance to the national president and approved by the national executive.

22. Any motion adopted at this convention shall become effective at the adjournment of the convention unless an alternate time for the action to become effective has been stipulated in the motion.
23. Minutes:
 - i. The national president shall appoint a minutes review committee to verify the minutes of all meetings of the convention.
 - ii. The national executive shall approve the minutes of this convention at its winter meeting. If corrections are necessary after approval, they may be made by motion at a convention.
24. The national executive shall approve the audited financial statements at its winter meeting. These approved audited financial statements will be presented to the assembly by the national secretary-treasurer.

Notes

Voting

- Provincial presidents shall have the power to vote on all questions.
- Accredited delegates may vote on any question except the election of officers, amendments to the *Constitution & Bylaws* and increases in per capita fees.
- A parliamentarian (advisor on procedure and rules) may be appointed for the convention at the discretion of the national president.
- Non-voting members and spiritual advisors may speak at business sessions when recognized by the chairperson, but shall not introduce motions or vote.

National Elections Procedure

National elections are conducted in accordance with the *Constitution & Bylaws*, Part XVI, Section 5, and the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*.

1. Voting delegates shall be seated in a way that ensures balloting secrecy.
2. The election of officers is conducted within the context of a liturgical service and according to the Rite on the Occasion of the Election of Officers as outlined in the *Ceremonies Booklet*.
3. A complete slate of candidates shall be posted at the commencement of elections.
4. The president shall remain in the chair to preside over the convention, which is still in session. At the request of the president, the elections chairperson provides a brief overview of the elections procedure and introduces the candidates for office.
5. Prior to voting, the executive director, acting as secretary of elections, will show each voting delegate her province's nomination form.
6. Each voting delegate (presidents of each provincial council or their designate) carries an instructed ballot on the first ballot only. On the second through fourth ballots, where necessary, each voting delegate carrying an instructed vote exercises a free vote.
7. Any voting delegate not carrying an instructed vote forfeits her privilege to vote on any ballot for that office.
8. Election shall be by ballot vote unless
 - a. There is only one candidate for office or only the required number of candidates for standing committees.
 - b. The nomination forms indicate a clear majority for a candidate (candidates in the case of a plurality vote).
9. A member may be a candidate for more than one office and, when elected to an office, her name shall be stricken from the

candidates list for all other offices. When this happens, voting delegates who have been instructed to vote for this candidate are released from their instructed vote and may vote for the candidate of their choice.

10. Where balloting is required, the election committee will distribute ballot slips to each voting delegate for completion.
11. The election of officers shall be by majority vote.
 - a. If a majority vote (more than half) has been obtained by nomination AND no voting delegate has been released from her instructed vote, no ballot shall be taken. The president shall declare the candidate elected.
 - b. If any voting delegate has been released from her instructed vote as a result of the withdrawal of a candidate or the removal of a candidate due to her election to another office, a first ballot shall be taken. If the first ballot produces a majority, the president shall declare the candidate elected.
 - c. When no majority vote has been obtained on the first ballot, a second ballot will be taken and, if necessary, a third. It shall be the decision of the voting delegates as to whether the results of any ballot shall be made available for their review.
 - d. If three ballots fail to produce a majority vote for one candidate, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie vote on the third ballot, a fourth ballot, using only the names of the tied candidates, shall be taken.
12. The election of chairpersons shall be by plurality vote.
 - a. The elections chairperson announces the number of chairpersons required to be elected. Chairpersons are not elected to a specific standing committee. Standing committees are assigned by the incoming national president in time for the executive meeting immediately following election.

- b. If the nomination forms indicate which candidates have the highest number of votes, without a tie for the final position, AND no voting delegate has been released from her instructed vote, no ballot shall be taken. The president shall declare the candidates, in alphabetical order, elected.
 - c. If any voting delegate has been released from her instructed vote as a result of the withdrawal of a candidate or the removal of a candidate due to her election to another office, a first ballot shall be taken. Voting delegates indicate the names of the candidates for whom they wish to vote on one ballot. They may vote for the required number or less. Voting for more than the required number of candidates results in a spoiled ballot. If the first ballot results in a list of candidates with the highest number of votes and without a tie for the final position, the president shall declare the candidates with the highest number of votes, in alphabetical order, elected.
 - d. In the event of a tie involving the final position of the required number, balloting will continue, with all of the candidates listed, until a ballot results in a list of candidates with the highest number of votes and without a tie in the final position. It shall be the decision of the voting delegates as to whether the results of any ballot shall be made available for their review. Once a ballot indicates a list of candidates with the highest number of votes and without a tie in the final position, the president shall declare the candidates, in alphabetical order, elected.
13. When results of the election have been duly recorded, the nomination forms and the ballots shall be destroyed.

Convention Planning Committee

Chairperson: Susan Bernier

Sub-Chairperson: Suzanne Moore

Secretary: Lea Colbeck/Colleen Zaluski

Treasurer and Budget: Janice Butler

Accommodations and Reservations: Suzanne Moore

Decorations: Irene Bialek

Exhibits: Crystal Reiter

Fundraising: Suzanne Kiazuk

Hospitality and Support: Helen Patterson/Lucille Chay

Liturgy: Jolene Capina/Dianne Fox

Printing: Suzanne Moore

Protocol: Faith Anderson

Public Relations and Publicity: Eva Arsenault

Registration and Credentials: Suzanne Moore

Sale of League Supplies: Lindsay Bouchard

Secretariat Office: Lea Colbeck/Colleen Zaluski

Special Events: Paulette Chase

Transportation: Rose Anne Seymour

Photographers: Krystle Seymour/Eva Arsenault

The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Annual Report 2017

(Contains full reports of national officers
and provincial presidents)



Margaret Ann Jacobs
National President and Chairperson of International Relations



The national theme, *Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call* was truly reflected in the phenomenal outreach members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada provided in their communities, provinces and abroad. The dedication, pride and joy of members were evidenced in all annual reports.

Provincially, the percentage reporting ranged from 45-84. Ontario Provincial Council proudly boasted two diocesan councils with a 100% completion rate. It is hoped diocesan and provincial presidents will use the extensive statistical feedback to analyze current trends and mould programs for the future.

Presidents at all levels represented the League in the best possible way and modelled what the League believes. Duties of the president are varied with their activities outlined below.

Members were enlightened by information primarily from *The Canadian League* magazine, diocesan newsletters and national communiques. Other sources of information included national, provincial and diocesan websites, newsletters, parish bulletins as well as Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) and Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF) websites, and Google searches.

The most noted national priorities acted on through presentations, discussions and speakers included palliative care, physician assisted suicide, limiting access to pornography, conscience rights of health care providers, refugee crisis, home care and youth mental health.

In order to foster open communication, over 50% of parish council presidents met monthly with spiritual advisors, with over 90% reporting their spiritual advisor was supportive of the League. It was

noted having the moral support of the spiritual advisor made a significant difference in vitality of the council, even if time constraints prevented regular attendance at meetings.

Resources most used by presidents included the *Constitution & Bylaws*, parish council manuals of policy and procedure and the *Executive Handbook*, with the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*, *Parliamentary Procedure* and *Robert's Rules of Order* also providing assistance in presiding at meetings.

Documents most cited requiring signing authority were cheques and banking documents. Letters directed within and outside the League, and petitions were also signed by the president.

Parish council presidents capably provided active leadership representing councils at church functions, diocesan meetings and conventions, funerals, special masses, World Day of Prayer, fundraising events, conferences, workshops, regional meetings, sacramental events, school ceremonies, anniversaries, provincial meetings and conventions, retreats, Remembrance Day services and pro-life events. Few presidents met with politicians. Only 12% of presidents attended national convention. Although 60% of parish councils paid for presidents to attend diocesan conventions, presidents paid their own expenses to attend conferences, fundraising dinners, workshops, and provincial and national conventions. What an attestation to their commitment to enhance learning and skills!

Of the 823 respondents, 349 new policies were initiated for inclusion in council manuals of policy and procedure. Do access diocesan and provincial annual reports for ideas and suggestions.

To keep executives informed, most presidents used the *Executive Handbook* and provided either an oral or written report at their annual meeting.

Other committees where the president served in an advisory capacity included annual events (teas, bazaars...), social events, fundraising, scholarships and bursaries, visitation, donations and catering.

Presidents served as official spokesperson for membership, council social events, local charitable projects, palliative care, scholarships/

bursaries, pro-life issues and against pornography. League letterhead was most often used and only membership for the council represented was referenced in external correspondence.

The greatest assistance for the president in her role was attributed to immediate and former past presidents and current executive with specific reference to the secretary and treasurer.

In transitioning into the role of president, the greatest challenges faced included keeping members interested, not having a full slate of officers, amount of paperwork, recruiting, time commitment involved and technological change.

Phenomenal, vastly unique and life-changing projects were reported as women embraced their call to service. The personal rewards were reflected in these comments:

- “As a first time, first year president, I have had exceptional back-up, information, assistance and over all positive feedback. I am definitely part of a team of women that I love and respect. Go us!”
- “The council I have the great pleasure to work with are an outstanding group of women. Every meeting they take my breath away with their zeal and imaginative good works. This is all done with devout and reverent gentleness. I am so proud to be a member of this group.”

Recommendations:

- hold mentoring sessions
- provide training modules for councils
- save files to flash drives
- keep running lists of activities (past and future)

As national president, I was privileged to attend conventions, anniversaries, gala dinners, receptions, development days, conferences and VisionTV masses on members’ behalf. Other events included: a COLF seminar in Gatineau, Quebec (*Sex, Gender and Ideology*); National Council of Catholic Women conference in Dallas, Texas (*Catholic Women: Living the Joy of the Gospel*); CCCB plenary assembly in Cornwall, Ontario; CCCB forum for national Catholic movements and associations meeting in

Chateauguay, Quebec (*Co-workers in the vineyard*); and a Catholic Missions In Canada trip to Fort Alexander's Sagkeeng First Nation. Articles were contributed for *The Canadian League*, *On the Spot* and *Women's Voice* (World Union of Catholic Women's Organization).

Extraordinary efforts were made to promote quality, universal hospice palliative care through "12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care". This initiative continued for a second year.

Preparation for the League's 100th anniversary in 2020 focused activity on the creation of lap quilts which were donated to local hospices.

At the invitation of the CCCB, the League appointed Life Member Colleen Martin to participate in Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle, a partnership in the spirit of reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous people.

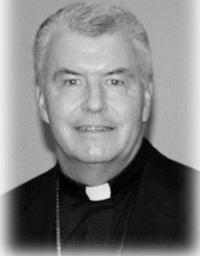
Formal approval was given at the winter meeting of the national executive to begin the process of planning strategically for an envisioned future for the League. The "presidents three" (National Past President Barbara Dowding, National President Margaret Ann Jacobs and National President-Elect Anne Gorman) with Executive Director Kim Scammell, plus Ontario Provincial Past President Pauline Krupa, Quebec Provincial Past President Ingrid LeFort, Vancouver Diocesan Past President Roxanne McDonald and Honorary Life Member Danielle McNeil-Hessian formed the steering committee. Donna Dunn, Tecker International, was hired as consultant. Extensive preparation with research and consultation took place, including a town hall session at national convention and presentation at provincial/diocesan executive meetings formulating draft vision, mission, values, goals, objectives and critical issues which were presented to the national executive. Approval was given at the fall national executive meeting to accept draft documents. Following the meeting, sub-committees were struck to develop strategies to meet each of the 17 objectives or critical issues.

The 97th annual national convention in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island attracted over 750 members and guests. Speakers included Ken Yasinski ("Becoming a Living Thank You" and "A Catholic Identity Crisis"), Dr. Reginald Bibby (current state of

Catholic Christianity in Canada) and Dr. June Webber, Director of Coady International Institute, Antigonish, Nova Scotia. The program also included a live stream of the town hall session with facilitator Donna Dunn and a presentation by the planning strategically steering committee. It truly was an historic moment. East coast hospitality and entertainment, live feedback during the town hall and a prayer service for the presentation of lap quilts were highlights of an exceptional convention.

It is with pride and gratitude that I acknowledge all faith-filled, dedicated efforts by members across this great country who continue to demonstrate love and compassion to affect positive change in the world. For indeed, *Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call*.

Bishop William McGrattan
National Spiritual Advisor



This past year I attended all national executive meetings and offered ongoing support to National President Margaret Ann Jacobs and National Chairperson of Spiritual Development Jacqueline Nogier. Masses were celebrated for deceased members of the League and their families.

At the annual national convention, I met for lunch with bishops and diocesan spiritual advisors who were present. Discussions focused on how their roles might become a source of support and encouragement for the strategic planning process which was underway to address the future of the League in Canada at parish, diocesan, provincial and national levels. The ideas and suggestions that surfaced were provided to the steering committee.

Throughout this past year, I provided consultation to standing committee chairpersons who requested advice. The spiritual

development standing committee chairperson asked for input on prayers and rituals for the installation of officers and in planning liturgies for executive meetings and the national convention. The Christian family life and education and health standing committee chairpersons asked me to review letters and briefs to the federal government and Development and Peace, and to promote palliative care and conscience rights in light of medical assistance in dying that is now legal in Canada. I was present for the national resolutions committee deliberations for consultation if needed.

I also submitted articles to *The Canadian League* called “Veni, Sancte Spiritus” and “World Day of the Poor – ‘Let Us Love, Not with Words but with Deeds’”, following the first World Day of the Poor held November 19, 2017.

As this is my final annual report I acknowledge and thank all members who have inspired me in serving as your national spiritual advisor. I specifically offer my gratitude to honorary life members Betty Anne Brown Davidson, Barb Dowding and Margaret Ann Jacobs for their confidence to seek advice and counsel in strengthening the relationship between the bishops of Canada and the League.

Kim Scammell
Executive Director



National office is responsible for the daily administration of League affairs at the national level. This is done to allow the national executive to focus on projects and priorities in keeping with objects of the League and to allow timely response to current issues.

Financial Resource Management

Expenses were processed, on average, within 15 days of receipt. Monthly unaudited financial statements were prepared and distributed to the finance committee, along with quarterly investment statements.

National office deposited and disbursed over \$2,273,000, \$425,300 of which was deposited through electronic funds transfer (\$321,000 in 2016). More than 2,400 orders for supplies were processed, averaging about nine per business day.

Membership packages sent to parish councils in October 2016, 92% of which were returned to national office and processed by May 31, 2017, comparable to the previous year. Over 81,000 membership payments were processed, averaging 389 memberships or about six parish councils per business day.

Investments were managed through consultation with CIBC Wood Gundy. Three fixed income instruments matured and one was sold before maturity. Some of the proceeds was reinvested in two bonds generating annual returns of 1.81%; the balance was used to cover the planned operating deficit (\$101,962) and to fund an investment in enterprise software (\$56,674).

Human Resource Management

As of December 31st, national office had five full time and three seasonal positions, positions that are established by the national executive. The positions of executive director, senior accounting clerk, membership coordinator, office assistant and executive secretary are full time and the positions of shipper/receiver, data entry clerk and convention and events coordinator are seasonal. The position of executive secretary was filled in March. No other staffing changes were made during the year.

Employees were formally introduced to time tracking software that allowed for self-reporting of attendance and the ability to record time spent on various standard duties and specific one-time projects. The task tracking provides information to assist in managing and organizing staff schedules and track the real cost of projects.

The ten most labour intensive staff responsibilities in 2017 were:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Membership processing | 923 hours |
| 2. Answering member e-mails | 574 hours |
| 3. Mail order of national office supplies | 551 hours |
| 4. Answering member telephone inquiries | 550 hours |
| 5. National convention duties | 431 hours |
| 6. National executive meeting duties | 344 hours |

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 7. Enterprise software project | 314 hours |
| 8. Parish council mailings | 209 hours |
| 9. Parish council administration | 206 hours |
| 10. Strategic planning committee assistance | 197 hours |

These ten tasks using about 4,300 hours represent almost 60% of staff scheduling.

Technological Resource Management

The capital asset policy allows for the replacement of computer workstations every five years. Three computer workstations were scheduled for replacement in 2017 at a total cost of \$5,212. Additionally, \$56,674 in development fees were paid and \$8,164 in staff time was incurred to develop new enterprise software, just over ½ of the \$102,947 (plus taxes) contract price for the software development.

Janet McLean
National Secretary-Treasurer



Secretary

Secretaries across Canada worked hard taking and transcribing minutes, distributing documents, updating executive lists, keeping in touch with their members, learning new skills and increasing their League knowledge. It has been a challenge for some as the level of technical expertise varies among members; however, all are doing their best for the good of

the council. Some provincial secretaries reported increases from 2016 in the number of parish councils completing the online survey as members adjust to this new way of reporting. There were still some technical problems; however, generally reports were positive with respect to online reporting.

Provincial council secretaries summarized the responses of parish councils to online questions and a number of responses deserve mention:

- on average, approximately 15% of secretaries held the position for more than six years
- about one-half of secretaries were signing officers in their council
- motion books were not common in councils but some reported interest in starting one
- good Internet access was not always available throughout the province
- most secretaries still recorded minutes by hand at the meeting
- recording secretaries appreciated receiving copies of reports given by the executive at meetings
- e-mail was used increasingly to circulate minutes to members
- clearer guidelines on the procedure for archiving minutes would be appreciated

All reports received were most informative. Some raised questions on different procedures or requirements which need to be clarified so parish council secretaries have a better understanding of their duties. While there were problems with access to some information in the online reports, provincial council secretaries are to be commended for their work in submitting the reports.

My role as national secretary would be quite demanding were it not for the dedicated staff at national office. They performed all necessary tasks regarding letters or memos sent with my signature. At national executive meetings and national convention, two provincial presidents sat on the minutes review committee with me. All meetings were recorded and transcribed by the executive secretary who sends them to the committee for review. At the annual national convention, Life Member Carol Richer most ably assisted the minutes review committee for business sessions of the convention.

Treasurer

The provincial council treasurers' reports provided a snapshot of information parish councils submitted through the online reporting system. Completion of reports by parish councils in each province varied from 38% to 69%. Most treasurers submitted a report of revenues and expenditures at each meeting. Some councils

completed budgets and had the books reviewed annually. One comment which struck me was the report made by a parish council treasurer that “our council is small but mighty.” This is an important point to consider in analyzing any data.

Because of problems encountered with the data collection system, provincial council treasurers did not receive all financial information normally available to them. However, the executive director was able to provide me with certain figures and they are impressive. Parish councils reported total donations of \$224,968 to the five national voluntary funds – Catholic Missions In Canada (CMIC), Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), Coady International Institute, Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) and Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC). Donations were down for CMIC by \$3,800 and for CNEWA by \$5,000, while donations were up for CCODP by \$1,795 and for EPC by \$2,075. Donations for Coady remained the same as in 2016. Amounts donated under the various standing committees totalled \$1,679,194 and donations to parishes totalled \$1,160,819. These figures total \$3,064,981 but are only part of the story as not all parish councils filed reports.

The League’s financial position for 2017 was stable. Investments total \$2,108,102, with \$1,044,000 in fixed income investments and \$1,064,102 in equitable mutual funds with a socially responsible focus. Revenues, which totalled \$1,289,251 remained virtually unchanged from 2016, with a decrease in per capita fees of \$31,278 offset by an increase in product sales of \$32,796.

Expenditures were up \$40,965 from last year but were considerably under budget. Regarding the annual national convention, it should be noted meeting room costs of \$37,000 were omitted in the 2017 budget so this expense is right on target. Convention costs for 2017 were higher than those for 2016; however, this was expected as the convention was held in the birthplace of confederation during Canada’s 150th anniversary year. Expenses for international relations were down \$9,000 from last year as no international conferences were attended and the World Union of Catholic Women’s Organizations North American regional vice-president

had just one trip to Rome. Magazine costs were \$23,000 below budget as an anticipated postage increase did not take place. National executive expenses were right on budget.

The League had a net operating expense of \$101,963 which was reduced to a net operating expense of \$39,341 by investment income of \$62,622. It is important to note that other than in 2015 when the League made a significant donation to the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation, the last deficit incurred by the League was in 2011. As a not-for-profit association, net income years must necessarily be offset by planned negative years as long as those negative years are not intentionally wasteful.

During the past year I reviewed the League's financial documents monthly and reviewed the annual audited financial statements before approval. National office staff provided me with any supporting documents I requested and were available to answer any questions I had with respect to all financial matters of the League. With membership continuing its downward trend and certain expenses continually increasing, the finance committee has looked at ways to reduce costs or increase revenues while continuing to provide services members expect. These are exciting times for the League as members look forward to the centennial year and continued service to the people of God for the next 100 years. Inspired by the Spirit, nothing is impossible.

**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2017**

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

February 17, 2018

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2017, and the statements of revenues and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an

opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Catholic Women's League of Canada as at December 31, 2017, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Other Matter

Our examination did not extend to the budget which has been provided as additional information and therefore we do not express an opinion concerning the budget.

Scarrow & Donald LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants
Winnipeg, Canada

For this communication, together with the work done to prepare this communication and for opinions we have formed, if any, we accept and assume responsibility only to the addressee of this communication, as specified in our letter of engagement.

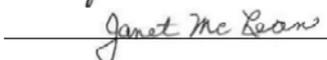
SCARROW & DONALD, CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS, LLP
100 – Five Donald Street • Winnipeg, Manitoba • R3L 2T4 • Business: (204) 982-9800
• Fax: (204) 474-2886 • www.scarrowdonald.mb.ca

Scarrow & Donald, Chartered Professional Accountants, LLP is a Canadian owned Limited Liability Partnership established under the laws of Manitoba.

**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

	<u>December 31</u>	
ASSETS	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 224,551	\$ 324,305
Accounts receivable	19,431	15,481
Inventory	138,581	116,560
Prepaid expenses	<u>30,157</u>	<u>28,356</u>
	412,720	484,702
Capital assets (Note 3)	83,980	18,803
Investments (Note 4)	<u>2,108,102</u>	<u>2,182,154</u>
	<u>\$ 2,604,802</u>	<u>\$ 2,685,659</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accruals	100,047	113,751
Government remittances	628	335
Deferred revenue	177,596	205,350
National voluntary funds (Note 5)	<u>69,423</u>	<u>69,774</u>
	<u>347,694</u>	<u>389,210</u>
NET ASSETS		
Internally restricted to fund bursaries	157,055	153,149
Investment in capital assets	83,980	18,803
Unrestricted net assets	<u>2,016,073</u>	<u>2,124,497</u>
	<u>2,257,108</u>	<u>2,296,449</u>
	<u>\$ 2,604,802</u>	<u>\$ 2,685,659</u>
Commitments (Note 8)		

APPROVED BY THE BOARD

 National President
 National Secretary

**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**

Year ended December 31

	2017 Actual	2017 Budget	2016 Actual
Revenues:			
Per capita fees	\$ 1,063,361	\$ 1,084,500	\$ 1,094,639
Product sales (Schedule B)	188,636	157,600	155,840
Registration fees	28,720	28,500	28,090
Magazine subscriptions	4,808	4,200	4,888
Life memberships	900	800	1,900
Bursary donations	1,611	-	407
Miscellaneous	1,215	-	2,093
	1,289,251	1,275,600	1,287,857
Expenditures: (Schedule C):			
Convention	182,657	147,800	134,566
Insurance	49,264	49,800	48,795
International relations	5,642	13,700	14,740
League development	115,623	213,600	109,735
Magazine	230,171	253,300	257,334
National executive	127,314	128,900	106,178
Office building	65,739	65,900	65,578
Office equipment	47,157	34,800	52,994
Operating costs	83,553	68,600	80,122
Product sales	123,664	119,300	113,888
Staff	360,430	375,700	366,319
	1,391,214	1,471,400	1,350,249
Difference between revenues and expenditures from operations	(101,963)	(195,800)	(62,392)
Investment income (Schedule A)	62,622	106,300	148,933
Difference between revenues and expenditures	\$ (39,341)	\$ (89,500)	\$ 86,541

**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**

Year ended December 31

	Internally Restricted to Fund Bursaries	Invested in Capital Assets	Unrestricted Net Assets	2017	2016
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 153,149	\$ 18,803	\$ 2,124,497	\$ 2,296,44	\$2,209,908
Transfer	2,245	-	(2,245)	-	-
Difference between revenues and expenditures	1,661	(4,858)	(36,144)	(39,341)	86,541
Purchase of capital assets	-	70,185	(70,185)	-	-
Proceeds on sale of capital assets	-	(150)	150	-	-
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 157,055</u>	<u>\$ 83,980</u>	<u>\$ 2,016,073</u>	<u>\$ 2,257,10</u>	<u>\$2,296,449</u>

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	<u>Year ended December 31</u>	
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Cash flows from:		
Operating activities -		
Difference between revenues and expenditures	\$ (39,341)	\$ 86,541
Items not affecting cash -		
Amortization	5,008	6,604
Gain on disposal of capital assets	(150)	-
Gain on disposal of investments	(268,682)	(72,397)
Unrealized loss (gain) on investments	<u>271,056</u>	<u>(37,782)</u>
	(32,109)	(17,034)
Net changes in non-cash working capital affecting operations (Note 6)	<u>(68,937)</u>	<u>44,406</u>
	(101,046)	27,372
Financing activities-		
Change in national voluntary funds	(351)	6,645
Investing activities -		
Purchase of capital assets	(70,185)	(2,316)
Proceeds of sale of capital assets	150	-
Change in investments	<u>71,678</u>	<u>(3,773)</u>
	<u>1,643</u>	<u>(6,089)</u>
Change in cash	(99,754)	27,928
Cash, beginning of year	<u>324,305</u>	<u>296,377</u>
Cash, end of year	<u>\$ 224,551</u>	<u>\$ 324,305</u>

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

1. Purpose of the Organization:

The Catholic Women's League of Canada, founded in 1920, is a non-profit organization federally incorporated on December 12, 1923. The Mission Statement is "The Catholic Women's League of Canada is a national organization rooted in gospel values calling its members to holiness through service to the people of God." For Canadian income tax purposes, the League is qualified as a not-for-profit organization, which is exempt from income tax under the Income Tax Act (Canada).

2. Significant accounting policies:

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. An assumption underlying the preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations is that the entity will continue for the foreseeable future and will be able to realize its assets and discharge liabilities in the normal course of operations.

The financial statements include the following significant accounting policies:

a) Critical accounting estimates and judgements-

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reported period.

Accounting estimates are included in financial statements to approximate the effect of past business transactions or events, or to approximate the present status of an asset or liability. It is possible that changes in future economic conditions could require changes in the recognized amounts for accounting estimates. These estimates are reviewed periodically, and, as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in the period in which they became known.

Significant areas of estimation by management include the impairment of non-financial assets, the useful lives of capital assets and the fair value of financial instruments.

Management bases their judgments, estimates and assumptions on factors they believe to be reasonable in the circumstances, but which may be inherently uncertain and unpredictable.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

b) Inventory-

Inventory consisting of goods available for sale is valued at the lower of cost, on a first-in, first-out basis, and net realizable value. The cost of inventories comprise the purchase price, non-recoverable taxes, transport and handling costs directly attributable to the acquisition of inventories, net of any discounts or other rebates.

c) Capital assets-

Capital assets are recorded at cost and amortized over their estimated useful lives, except for donated assets which are recorded at fair market value at the time of the donation. This requires estimation of the useful life of the asset and residual value. When a capital asset no longer has any long-term service potential, the excess of its net carrying amount over any residual value is recognized as an expense. As is true for all accounting estimates, it is possible that changes in future conditions could require changes in the recognized amounts for accounting estimates.

Capital assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset as follows:

Computer equipment	20%
Furniture and fixtures	10%
Leasehold improvements	straight line over life of the lease

d) Revenue recognition-

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonable assured.

Investment income includes interest, realized and unrealized investment gains and losses. Interest revenue is recognized on a time proportion basis. Other investment income is recognized as received. Unrealized gains and losses on held for trading financial assets are included in the statement of revenue and expenditures in the year that they are incurred.

e) Internally restricted to fund bursaries-

The national bursary fund was established by the national executive with the interest earned on the fund to be used for business. These internally restricted amounts are not available for other purposes without approval of the board of directors.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

f) National voluntary funds-

Contributions are received by the League designated by the donor to these national funds. Monies are forwarded annually to the appropriate organization.

g) Donated materials and services-

Donated materials and services are recorded at fair market value. Volunteer time is not recognized in the financial statements because of the difficulty of determining fair value.

h) Financial instruments-

Except for certain related party transactions, financial instruments are measured at fair value on initial recognition adjusted by, in the case of a financial instrument that will not be measured subsequently at fair value, financing fees and transaction costs that are directly attributable to its origination, acquisition, issuance or assumption. Transaction costs related to financial instruments that will be measured subsequently at fair value are recognized in net income for the period incurred.

In subsequent periods, investments in equity instruments that are quoted in an active market and certain derivative contracts are measured at fair value without any adjustment for transaction costs that may incur on sale or other disposal. The Organization may elect to measure any financial instrument at fair value when the asset or liability is first recognized or for equity instruments that previously measured at fair value when the equity instrument ceases to be quoted in an active market. Other investments in equity instruments are measured at cost less any reduction for impairments. All other financial instruments are measured at amortized cost. Amortized cost is the amount at which the financial instrument is measured at initial recognition less principal repayments, plus or minus the cumulative of any difference between that initial amount and the maturity amount, and minus any reduction for impairment.

The Organization measures cash, accounts receivable and accounts payable and accruals at amortized cost. Investments are measured at fair value.

The Organization assesses impairment of all its financial assets, except those measured at fair value. Management considers whether there has been a breach in contract, such as a default or delinquency in interest of principal payments in determining whether objective evidence of impairment exists. Impairment is included in current earnings.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

3. Capital assets:

	December 31			
	2017		2016	
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Cost	Accumulated Amortization
Computer equipment	\$ 208,734	\$ 129,756	\$ 144,122	\$ 131,740
Furniture and fixtures	46,770	41,768	46,770	40,349
Leasehold improvement	92,368	92,368	92,368	92,368
	\$ 347,872	\$ 263,892	\$ 283,260	\$ 264,457
Net book value	\$ 83,980		\$ 18,803	

4. Investments:

	2017	2016
Fixed income investments	\$ 1,044,000	\$ 1,276,521
Portfolio Canadian equity investments	1,064,102	905,633
	\$ 2,108,102	\$ 2,182,154

Fixed income investments bear interest at 1.81%-2.72% (2016 - 1.91%-5.50%) with maturities from January 2018 through August 2021 (2016 - January 2017 through August 2021).

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

5. National voluntary funds:

	Balance beginning <u>of year</u>	Contributions <u>received</u>	Interest <u>earned</u>	Contributions <u>forwarded</u>	Balance end of <u>year</u>
Catholic Mission in Canada	\$ 17,328	\$ 34,713	\$ 148	\$ (35,551)	\$ 16,638
Coady International	11,705	28,070	96	(27,720)	12,151
Canadian Catholic Development and Peace	25,285	64,798	256	(66,190)	24,149
Euthanasia Prevention	6,660	17,830	67	(15,774)	8,783
Catholic Near East Welfare Association	<u>8,796</u>	<u>15,477</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>(16,642)</u>	<u>7,702</u>
	<u>\$ 69,774</u>	<u>\$ 160,888</u>	<u>\$ 638</u>	<u>\$ (161,877)</u>	<u>\$ 69,423</u>

6. Cash flow statement:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Net changes in non-cash working capital affecting operations -		
Accounts receivable	\$ (3,950)	\$ 734
Inventory	(22,021)	7,020
Prepaid expenses	(1,801)	6,809
Accounts payable and accruals	(13,704)	20,745
Government remittances	293	(532)
Deferred revenue	<u>(27,754)</u>	<u>9,630</u>
	<u>\$ (68,937)</u>	<u>\$ 44,406</u>

During the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 the League did not pay any interest and was not subject to income taxes. Cash receipts of interest and dividends included in net income for the year ended December 31, 2017 was \$70,594 (2016 - \$61,913).

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

7. Risk Management:

Management's risk management policies are typically performed as a part of the overall management of the League's operations. Management is aware of risks related to these objectives through direct personal involvement with employees and outside parties. In the normal course of its activity, the League is exposed to a number of risks that can affect its operating performance. Management's close involvement in operations helps identify risks and variations from expectations. The League has not designated transactions as hedging transactions to manage risk. As a part of the overall operation of the League, management considers the avoidance of undue concentrations of risk. These risks include, and the actions taken to manage them are as follows:

Liquidity risk-

Liquidity risk is the risk that the League cannot meet its financial obligations associated with financial liabilities in full. The League's main sources of liquidity are its operations and investment. The funds are primarily used to finance working capital and capital expenditure requirements and are adequate to meet the League's financial obligations associated with financial liabilities.

Interest rate risk-

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in market interest rates may have an effect on the cash flows associated with some financial assets and liabilities, known as interest rate cash flow risk, or on the fair value of other financial assets or liabilities, known as interest rate price risk. Fixed income investments with fixed interest rates minimize cash flow risk.

Credit risk-

Credit risk arises from the possibility that debtors may be unable to fulfill their commitments. For a financial asset, this is typically the gross carrying amount, net of any amounts offset and any impairment losses. The League has credit policies to address credit risk on accounts receivable, which may include the analysis of the financial position of the debtor and review of credit limits. The League also may review credit history before establishing credit and reviews credit performance. An allowance for doubtful accounts or other impairment provisions are established based upon factors surrounding credit risk, historical trends and other information. No allowance for doubtful accounts has been recorded as at December 31, 2017 (2016 - \$nil).

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

7. Risk Management (continued):

Other price risk-

Other price risk is the risk that changes in market prices, including commodity or equity prices, will have an effect on future cash flows associates with financial instruments. The cash flows associated with the Leagues' investments are affected by investment performance.

8. Commitments:

The League has committed to office and equipment leases with expiration dates ranging from 2018 through 2025. The following is a schedule of minimum payments required under the leases:

2018	\$	49,621
2019		40,560
2020		41,716
2021		44,520
2022		44,520

9. Contingency:

In the normal course of operations, the League is subject to legal and other claims. It is not possible to reasonably estimate the maximum amount that may have to be paid under such claims and no amount has been accrued. The amounts are dependent upon the outcome of the future contingent events, the nature and likelihood of which cannot be determined at this time. The League feels that claims are without merit and does not expect to incur any potential payment in connection with these contingencies that could have a materially adverse effect on its financial statements.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

Schedule A

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT INCOME

	Year ended December 31	
	2017	2016
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Investment Income:		
Interest	\$ 34,438	\$ 37,131
Realized gain on disposal of investments	268,682	72,397
Dividends	<u>36,156</u>	<u>24,782</u>
	339,276	134,310
Less: investment counsel fees	5,598	23,159
Unrealized (loss) gain on investments	<u>(271,056)</u>	<u>37,782</u>
	\$ <u><u>62,622</u></u>	\$ <u><u>148,933</u></u>

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

Schedule B

SCHEDULE OF PRODUCT SALES

	Year ended December 31	
	2017	2016
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Pins and crests	\$ 90,000	\$ 70,397
Manuals, programs and books	7,962	8,536
Brochures and leaflets	10,729	4,485
Specialty products	11,905	12,448
Certificates and forms	3,006	2,874
Cards and paper	15,449	15,262
Gift items	49,585	41,838
	<u>\$ 188,636</u>	<u>\$ 155,840</u>

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

Schedule C

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES

	Year ended December 31		
	2017 Actual	2017 Budget	2016 Actual
Convention:			
Annual Convention	\$ 182,657	\$ 147,800	\$ 134,566
Insurance:			
Parish Liability	43,831	44,300	43,738
Other	247	-	(32)
National directors and liability	5,186	5,500	5,089
	<u>49,264</u>	<u>49,800</u>	<u>48,795</u>
International Relations:			
Conferences	3,137	8,000	6,011
Membership fees	1,244	1,200	1,203
WUCWO board member	1,261	4,500	2,048
WUCWO NARC Conference	-	-	5,478
	<u>5,642</u>	<u>13,700</u>	<u>14,740</u>
League Development:			
Advertising	14,585	24,600	15,215
Bursaries	2,875	3,200	5,975
Development fund	17,893	23,700	32,051
Promotion	66,979	147,100	46,494
Provincial council grants	13,291	15,000	10,000
	<u>115,623</u>	<u>213,600</u>	<u>109,735</u>
Magazine:			
Design	16,730	17,700	18,509
Mailing	12,033	12,700	12,439
Postage	151,897	166,500	153,495
Printing	49,511	56,400	72,891
	<u>230,171</u>	<u>253,300</u>	<u>257,334</u>
National Executive:			
Conferences	5,038	3,800	5,792
Donations	5,000	-	-
Mid-year executive meetings	66,034	68,000	64,837
National committee meetings	36,333	43,600	22,815
Standing committees	3,920	1,100	1,090
President and spiritual advisor	9,740	10,400	7,591
Subscriptions	1,249	2,000	4,053
	<u>127,314</u>	<u>128,900</u>	<u>106,178</u>
Office Building:			
Janitorial	4,339	4,500	5,152
Rent, taxes and common area	54,813	55,300	54,626
Repairs and maintenance	2,220	1,100	933
Utilities	4,367	5,000	4,867
	<u>65,739</u>	<u>65,900</u>	<u>65,578</u>
Sub-total	<u>776,410</u>	<u>873,000</u>	<u>736,926</u>

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

Schedule C

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES

	Year ended December 31		
	2017	2017	2016
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Sub-total from previous page	\$ 776,410	\$ 873,000	\$ 736,926
Office Equipment:			
Amortization	5,008	4,500	6,604
Disposal of capital assets	(150)	-	-
Equipment leases	27,125	26,600	29,380
Equipment maintenance	6,298	3,700	17,010
Research and development costs	8,876	-	-
	<u>47,157</u>	<u>34,800</u>	<u>52,994</u>
Operating Costs			
Archives	-	500	440
Bank charges	3,058	2,500	2,446
Computer support	11,088	8,700	4,060
Courier	770	600	585
Printing	12,616	5,800	16,669
Postage	21,956	18,700	20,397
Professional fees	7,811	8,700	9,402
Supplies	16,025	12,000	15,055
Telecommunications	10,229	11,100	11,068
	<u>83,553</u>	<u>68,600</u>	<u>80,122</u>
Product Sales:			
Cost of sales			
-Pins	49,919	39,000	42,760
-Manuals, programs and books	2,459	5,900	3,357
-Brochures and leaflets	5,396	2,500	198
-Specialty products	7,560	11,100	11,227
-Certificates and forms	(228)	600	1,923
-Cards and paper	4,706	6,300	4,264
-Gift items	21,850	29,400	24,957
Credit card fees	7,834	4,800	5,966
Inventory obsolescence	5,694	300	3,825
Shipping supplies	1,333	1,600	792
Parcel postage	17,141	17,800	14,619
	<u>123,664</u>	<u>119,300</u>	<u>113,888</u>
Staff:			
Employee benefits	16,784	19,000	18,034
Group benefits	5,721	6,200	5,884
Recruitment	1,704	2,000	-
Retirement plan	13,767	16,200	15,673
Salaries	314,540	325,700	316,949
Staff development	7,914	6,600	9,779
	<u>360,430</u>	<u>375,700</u>	<u>366,319</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 1,391,214</u>	<u>\$ 1,471,400</u>	<u>\$ 1,350,249</u>

Jacqueline Nogier

Chairperson of Spiritual Development



Members were active in many ways and the area of spiritual development was no different. Members learned about their faith and demonstrated growth through action, within and out of the church community. They were rooted in gospel values and lived their lives in service to the church and the people of God, showing their love for the League, parish councils and communities through prayer and action.

Spiritual Growth of Members

Members' spiritual growth was a priority for all levels of the League. Reports show members continued to create and discover many ways to learn about the Catholic faith as individuals and in groups. Thirty-seven percent of members reported having enrolled in programs for personal spiritual growth. Sixty-eight percent reported one-third of time spent at meetings was spent on spiritual programs. Spiritual development chairpersons reported a large variety of activities were held throughout the year including:

- mass on the Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel
- reciting of the rosary
- stations of the cross
- studying the saints
- praying novenas
- honour guards at funerals

Members embraced the new theme *Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call* in a variety of ways. They held prayer services and retreats, and invited guest speakers to meetings. Fifty-three percent reported the theme was reflected at meetings. Thirty-seven percent reported they did not study the theme at all, with some of those being unaware resources surrounding the theme existed. A priority for parish council chairpersons was to create or provide prayer services for meetings and gatherings. Members reported 32%

used the League website for prayer services and 32% created their own.

Members used a variety of sources for prayer services with the majority using:

- *Ceremonies Booklet*
- *CWL Prays*
- *The Word Among Us*
- materials provided on the theme

Members valued the input of spiritual advisors at all levels. Forty-three percent reported the spiritual advisor attended monthly meetings sometimes and 21% reported the spiritual advisor almost always/always attends meetings.

Study of Catholic Teachings

Parish council chairpersons reported members were involved with many lay formation programs including Nathanael in Manitoba.

The article on the instruction of burial of deceased in the winter edition of *The Canadian League* did not have an impact at the parish level, with only seven percent having discussed it at a meeting with their pastor. Few parish councils reported discussing or studying papal encyclicals, with 82% reporting they did not study encyclicals at all.

Role of Women in the Church/Lay Ministries

Parish council chairpersons reported they promoted awareness of women's important role in church and society. Members were involved in parish councils and in the church community. They filled many, many roles in the parish and continued to increase learning about women's role within the church. Some activities included taking leadership roles in parishes such as: lectors, catechism bearers, sacristans or extraordinary ministers of holy communion; serving on pastoral councils, finance committees or liturgy committees; leading Liturgy of the Word services; or serving as chaplains and participating as a member of the military chaplaincy team. "Often our ministries are hidden works of love in service of the Church and the broader community." (Whitehorse)

Evangelization and Mission Assistance

As Christians in an increasingly secular society, members were called to be the face of Jesus in the world. They supported many organizations with gifts of time, money and donations, including Catholic Missions In Canada, ESK-OMI Mission and St. Francis Xavier Mission. Members worked with local Knights of Columbus in the annual Keep Christ in Christmas campaign. One parish council reported a member facilitated a rosary club at school for young people.

Ecumenism and Interfaith Endeavours

Members made connections with the larger Christian community in many ways. Members hosted and were involved in events such as World Day of Prayer, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Fellowship of the Least Coin, Women's Inter-Church Council and joint prayer services with other churches.

Anne-Marie Gorman

**National President-Elect and Chairperson of
Organization**



As per the *Constitution & Bylaws*, the 11 provincial councils completed annual organization reports following the sub-headings. Women of compassion, courage and confidence worked diligently to keep the important work of the League moving forward in spite of parish closures and amalgamation of parishes and dioceses. Change is a part of life, and changes will be seen over the next several

years, just as changes have occurred over the past 97 years. Members find it within themselves through tremendous faith and work ethic to promote the objects of the League, and they understand the vital need to maintain the organization that has given so much to Canada and the world.

Beginning more than one year ago, the League began a massive process of planning strategically to address challenges noted in most annual reports. Members have been blessed with more than 97 years of committed women working in the vineyard of the Lord “For God and Canada” and must continue to find ways to do God’s work in the new reality of this fast paced world. Attendees felt the energy at the annual national convention in Charlottetown and it continued to permeate the national board that represents all members. What happens next is in God’s hands; members are those hands. It was a privilege to serve with the members of the strategic planning committee where at every step, the membership was consulted via the provincial presidents and the entire national executive. The first phases of the process, conducted in 2017, were professional, organized and engaged in quality control through several workshops, and members were ready for whatever the Holy Spirit would have in store for Catholic women in Canada. I could not be more proud to be one of the “presidents three” who represented members as past national president, current national president and future national president.

The final phases of the process were planned to be conducted by August 2018, and the organization will have determined by then the direction it wishes to take for the next several years. What began in 2000 and 2008 with reports about challenges will have been addressed, and members will cast off into the future with God’s guidance and the intercession of Our Blessed Mother. May God bless The Catholic Women’s League of Canada.

Recruit Members and Maintain Membership

Membership as of December 31, 2017 stood at 80,169. “Recruitment is work that can never stop. It takes energy and needs that touch of sincerity and passion for our organization” (Glenda Carson, Nova Scotia). Keeping active as well as less active members abreast of activities in parish councils was one way members showed their attention to their sisters. The personal approach remained the single-most successful method of recruiting members, while advertising in various publications, holding “come and see” sessions, subsidizing membership fees for those aged 90 and over, speaking from the lectern at masses, welcoming prospective members when parish

councils celebrate feast days for Our Lady, and circulating pamphlets and other League literature within the parish were also common. Social events engaged women of all ages, and social media, especially Facebook, was a more recent method used for recruitment. Parish councils also made and displayed promotional posters that attracted prospective members. Prizes were offered to parish councils that recruited the largest number within provinces. CWL Sunday and gift memberships were successful.

The following were also familiar and useful ways to recruit and maintain membership: welcome kits, mentoring workshops, new member ceremonies, service pins, invitation cards, certificates, prayer cards, display tables at parish events, membership teas, telephone trees and being visible through wearing of League pins and/or scarves. One provincial chairperson noted success in recruiting was very much a function of the encouragement of the spiritual advisor, also.

Keeping “faith, fun and fulfillment” uppermost when planning made for great fellowship as well as work accomplished. To maintain membership, parish councils held special events with potlucks or catered by groups other than themselves, and with guest presenters on various topics of interest. This engaged members and reminded all of the far-reaching work of the League. Making new members feel welcome at meetings was seen as an important way to assure they would return. The sense of belonging must be a part of membership. One parish council noted taking the meeting “on the road,” having it at a long-term care facility where several members reside. Member recognition was completed in many different and creative ways. Members came because they were invited; they stayed because they were fed spiritually and socially, and challenged to make parishes and communities better. Newsletters within parishes supported those unable to attend meetings in person. Getting members to an annual convention, whether local or national, was an excellent way to motivate and see value in keeping the League viable.

Attendance at meetings was a challenge for various reasons, but members and prospective members attended sessions that had a

focus on spirituality, a social or fundraising event. This bore repeating.

Leadership Development

Several parish councils were awaiting the Holy Spirit to move women to accept the position of president-elect. This speaks to the importance of having leadership workshops, inviting women whose gifts have been identified to run for office and supporting women at all stages of their lives as women of compassion, courage and confidence. Training sessions for all standing committees gave prospective leaders confidence to serve. Subsidies and financial assistance locally and through the national development fund were used to support training: mentoring, executive education, leadership training, specifically, as well as “Find your Voice”, “The Partnership of the Spiritual Advisor”, *Catch the Fire!/S’Mores*, and retreat days.

The majority of provincial chairpersons reported believing attendance at a national convention was one of the great motivators for members to accept future leadership positions. Parish councils recognized the many challenges with an aging population and difficulty in getting members to accept executive positions, but “...councils seem to have accepted this reality and are moving forward with innovative ideas to meet these challenges” (Judy Look, Alberta Mackenzie).

League Resource Material

The League has a wealth of resource material that has been accessible on cwl.ca for some time with the click of a button. This made searching for information so much simpler, regardless of where a council is located or how many members are in said council. As long as one member had access to the Internet personally or at a public place (library, school, town hall, community centre, for example), it increased the opportunity for all members to become educated. Also, most resources were printable for parish needs. *The Canadian League* was used most to keep members (and their families) aware of issues affecting the church and the organization.

Annual Reports

Generally, more than 60% of parish councils completed the online survey, which allows the League to glean valuable information to

develop programs and assist councils. When councils could not complete the survey online, the provincial chairpersons reported that hard copied reports were completed and forwarded. One provincial chairperson noted completing the survey with this information.

Working in groups made this a less onerous task, but whether done individually or in a group setting, information compiled is invaluable to the organization as a whole, but also to individual parish councils that may use methods other than the annual online survey to collect information for members. While having to write an annual report at the parish level may have struck fear within members previously, the online survey has made the task much more palatable. It will only get easier and more effective.

One must remember that information gathered in the annual survey sent directly to national office forms a database of information for the entire country. Individual parish councils that wish to support and recognize members will find ways to collect this information for their own uses.

Life Membership

A wealth of experience, wisdom and service made for a vibrant list of life members. Life members did and would continue to use their wisdom as mentors, workshop presenters, and to support and build their parish councils. The national executive was pleased to welcome nine new life members who were accepted by motion at the 2017 winter executive meeting in Toronto:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Hilda Aube | Oromocto, New Brunswick |
| Anna Brady | Brantford, Ontario |
| Mary Capobianco | Etobicoke, Ontario |
| Jeannie Coleman | Maxville, Ontario |
| Louise Doiron | Summerside, Prince Edward Island |
| Sharon Geiger | Salmon Arm, British Columbia |
| Gisela Montague | Chilliwack, British Columbia |
| Jean Reader | Regina, Saskatchewan |
| Suzanne Wiseman | Lachine, Quebec |

Membership Statistics for the Year Ended December 31, 2017

Provincial Council	Jan 1 2017	New	Reinstated	Didn't Renew	Paid Members	Deceased	Dec 31 2017
Alberta Mackenzie	9,566	559	230	949	9,406	94	9,312
B.C. & Yukon	8,863	520	323	1,085	8,621	90	8,531
Manitoba	2,408	78	26	192	2,320	32	2,288
Military Ordinariate	318	15	4	34	303	1	302
New Brunswick	2,061	49	3	86	2,027	36	1,991
Newfoundland and Labrador	552	13	3	32	536	9	527
Nova Scotia	4,093	94	41	194	4,034	54	3,980
Ontario	45,174	1,933	1,093	3,757	44,443	428	44,015
Prince Edward Island	2,004	43	1	83	1,965	27	1,938
Quebec	848	57	32	59	878	10	868
Saskatchewan	6,654	186	42	377	6,505	88	6,417
Total	82,541	3,547	1,798	6,848	81,038	869	80,169

Council Statistics for the Year Ended December 31, 2017

Provincial Council	Jan 1 2017	New	Reactivated	Amalgamated	Inactive	Disbanded	Dec 31 2017
Alberta Mackenzie	160	-	3	-	3	3	157
B.C. & Yukon	129	-	-	1	2	1	127
Manitoba	47	-	-	-	-	-	47
Military Ordinariate	14	-	-	-	-	1	13
New Brunswick	46	-	-	-	-	-	46
Newfoundland and Labrador	18	-	-	-	-	-	18
Nova Scotia	73	-	-	-	1	1	71
Ontario	529	2	3	-	1	1	532
Prince Edward Island	35	-	-	-	-	-	35
Quebec	18	-	-	-	-	-	18
Saskatchewan	138	-	2	-	-	3	137
Total	1,207	2	8	1	7	10	1,201

Doreen Gowans

National Chairperson of Christian Family Life



Christian family life standing committee chairpersons engaged members by promoting all aspects of the committee as it related to family, sanctity of life, various ministries and vocations. Starting with two national sub-committee chairpersons, Life Member Marg McCallum continued to complete a Christian family life workshop entitled “Reflection On Ministry as Family”, and Life Member Glenda Klein participated in an information session on “*Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love)” and wrote an excellent article for *The Canadian League* entitled “Vocations: Responding to God’s Call”. A summary of the exemplary work members produced follows.

Marriage and Family

Parish council chairpersons used websites to locate resources that enhanced meetings and assisted in program planning. The Catholic Organization for Life and Family’s (COLF) website and its publication “*The Joy of Love*” at *the Heart of the Family* were most popular. Chairpersons promoted family enrichment programs, marriage preparation courses, encounter weekends for engaged/married couples, programs to support happily married couples, natural family planning and programs for single-parent families.

Community family support groups held a drop-in play group in the church facilities one morning a week for parents and grandparents to have an opportunity to socialize and learn from each other. Members attended workshops and seminars on the topic of family life using resources from COLF, celebrated National Family Week and promoted the World Meeting of Families to be held in Dublin, Ireland in 2018. Various resources were used such as the *Pocket Prayers for Parents* and *Prayers and Rituals for the Home* booklets,

and the website of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life. Members assisted with family advent wreath programs and Christmas campaigns.

Recognition was given to parishioners celebrating weddings and milestone anniversaries, and gifts were given to newborns, newlyweds and new mothers. Mother's Day and Father's Day were recognized and receptions for couples renewing wedding vows were held. Family-led stations of the cross were widely held.

Sanctity of Life

An impressive number of parish councils and members held membership in pro-life organizations. Members participated in 40 Days for Life, Life Chain, March for Life, Hike for Life, pro-life walks/dinners and National Week for Life and the Family events. Prayers were said for the unborn, pro-life masses and vigils, and the rosary was recited before mass in support of pro-life issues. Members collected baby clothes and layettes for Birthright International. Financial support was given to Birthright International, crisis pregnancy centres, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Life Canada, pregnancy and family support services, Campaign Life Coalition, Project Rachel, hospice, COLF, pro-life legislators, Catholic Civil Rights League and programs for unwed mothers.

Members knit booties and mittens for newborns and premature babies in hospital. One parish council placed a bassinette in the church vestibule for members to donate baby items which were given to babies in the parish. Another parish council distributed plastic baby bottles during Lent for parishioners to fill with monetary donations for the local pregnancy care centre.

Ministry to Youth

Parish councils sponsored programs for young people, while encouraging youth to share their gifts in ministry. They sponsored Catholic Christian Outreach, leadership camps, summer camps, Catholic Girls League councils, Girl Guides of Canada, NET Ministries of Canada, Catholic Youth Organization, Steubenville youth conferences, Sunday school, bible school, Youth for Christ, youth fairs and festivals, choirs, mission work and retreats, and

promoted World Youth Day in Panama City, Panama in 2019. Subscriptions to Catholic magazines, videos or books for use in the community, school or parish library were provided.

Youth ministries included teaching catechesis and teaching students to pray the rosary. Parish councils involved youth in parish suppers and picnics. One parish council ran two projects, KIDS choir and Kids for Christ Ministry to help children grow in their relationship with Jesus. Parish councils promoted the Vatican's online questionnaire for youth in preparation for the October 2018 synod on youth. A pro-life youth team gave a presentation and workshop on abortion. One parish council sponsored a youth to attend the national pro-life conference.

Ministry to Disabled

Encouragement was given to the disabled to take part in liturgical celebrations at care homes. Parish councils urged communities to make churches and public buildings more accessible for those with disabilities. Members reached out to the disabled through prayer, prayer lines, taking communion, telephoning, sending cards, giving gifts, sharing meals and organizing special events. They visited shut-ins and were present to listen to individuals. They provided food, pastoral care at hospitals, transportation to church or shopping and respite for caregivers. Members organized and participated in support groups, and financially supported shelters and programs to assist the disabled. Members made and presented quilts and prayer shawls, and offered companionship and friendship.

Ministry to Seniors

Parish councils provided programs and activities that enriched the lives of senior members and parishioners. Programs regarding euthanasia such as airing the film *Euthanasia Deception* were initiated to help seniors understand the church's teachings on issues of today. They gifted senior members with membership and gifts, invited newly retired women to join the League, encouraged seniors to share their faith story, and involved seniors in intercessory prayers and League events, as well as sent cards of encouragement.

Councils initiated social programs and celebrations, and entertained at local nursing homes and hospitals. They promoted awareness of

advanced health care directives, representation agreements through workshops/seminars and programs such as Capsule of Life, a life-saving program providing emergency numbers and assistance. They hosted the general meeting at seniors' residences where a number of members live, and organized a weekly activity night for seniors. Senior members and life members were valuable to councils as they had a wealth of knowledge to share about the history of the League and information on past service.

Members distributed communion, prayed in seniors' homes, provided transportation, shared meals, visited and involved seniors in League events. They provided respite for caregivers of seniors, and made and presented quilts, prayer shawls and palm crosses.

Ministry to Widowed

A common thread in ministering to the widowed was arranging memorial services, preparing and serving funeral lunches, organizing honour guards, encouraging participation in grief counselling programs, sending mass and condolence cards, offering support following the death of a spouse and getting involved with bereavement ministries. Members visited funeral homes and lead the rosary to support bereaved parishioners. One parish council established a bereavement program and invited those experiencing grief to participate in community gatherings and League events. Gifts of prayer shawls were presented. One provincial chairperson reported a decrease in the number of parish councils able to provide funeral lunches.

Ministry to Separated/Divorced

Members served separated and divorced persons through access to counseling or support groups, providing babysitting services and inviting them to join group outings. They helped by listening to their stories and offering prayers. Separated and divorced women needed a feeling of belonging and some needed a confidant.

Vocations

Families were encouraged to discuss vocations with children and to invite priests and religious into their homes to speak about vocations. Priests, deacons and religious were hosted at luncheons where they shared their vocation journey. Parish councils acknowledged

anniversaries of ordination, and adopted seminarians and women religious by providing financial support and spiritual bouquets, and participating in prayers and masses for an increase in vocations. Parish councils supported travelling chalice/crucifix programs, priests' retirement funds, bursaries for seminarians, gifts for special occasions and Serra Club. The prayer for vocations was recited after mass and at the end of League meetings. One parish council sent a donation to a Trappist monastery to have monthly masses said for vocations. Parish councils in Ontario shared information regarding the Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Memorial Bursary for seminarians.

Chairpersons' Activities

- prepared communiques, reports and newsletter articles
- attended diocesan, provincial and national executive meetings and conventions
- attended March for Life and Life Chain
- helped with the petitions for palliative care and rights of conscience for physicians
- took action on resolutions on issues such as euthanasia and abortion by writing letters to local newspapers, members of legislative assemblies, members of parliament and the prime minister
- kept abreast of current events
- communicated with other levels

At the national level, three articles were submitted for *The Canadian League*, two articles were submitted for the spring and fall parish mail-outs and three communiques were written, as well as attending to numerous e-mails and letters from members. Reports were researched and compiled on *CWL's response to WUCWO on Youth Synod* and *Addictions and the Family*. The COLF workshop, *Sex, Gender and Ideology*, was attended.

“For God and Canada”

Betty Colaneri

National Chairperson of Community Life



Sub-Committee Chairpersons:

Poverty: Sarah Guinta

Catholic Near East Welfare Association: Life Member Anne Plaunt

The community life standing committee is a call to action by obeying the spirit of the law of Jesus to serve one another. Reports from parish councils conveyed amazing works done “For God and Canada”. Some parish councils did not have a chairperson of community life; however, the wonderful works that fall under this standing committee were still done by members.

Dignity and Rights of Persons

Members worked for the betterment of humanity and themselves by standing up for the dignity that belongs to all. The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* has served humanity for 70 years and parish councils took steps to become more familiar with it. The areas of highest support undertaken related to those suffering from poverty caused by homelessness, domestic violence, human trafficking, incarceration, racism and bullying.

Through workshops and presentations with guest speakers, members became aware of programs dealing with affordable housing, drop-in centres, homeless and emergency shelters, domestic abuse shelters, employment and skills training, single parent resources, restorative justice and violence prevention. In a stand to stop violence against women, members participated in the Take Back the Night vigil.

Members knit scarves, caps, socks and gloves for homeless programs. Members volunteered at soup kitchens, emergency centres for homeless, thrift stores benefiting victims of violence, food banks and prison ministry. One parish council’s unique activity

included making bandages, diapers and receiving blankets from old sheets for Canadian Food for Children.

In response to the action plans of resolutions, members were encouraged to write letters to local government officials and invite guest speakers to address the concern in the resolution. Members recognized the importance of work still to be done on resolutions not yet archived.

Members extended a hand of friendship to Indigenous peoples and invited Indigenous sisters to speak at meetings. Workshops and information sessions were hosted on the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous sisters. Parish councils donated clothing, hats, mittens and scarves knitted for school children in First Nations northern communities and to the North of 60 Project of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

As an expression of unity, members attended or participated in events such as the KAIROS blanket exercise, mass on the federal government's National Aboriginal Day, Walking with Our Sisters' Commemorative Art Installation, powwows, the Sisters in Spirit campaign, Native Women's Association of Canada's Faceless Doll Project and the Red Shawl Campaign hosted by the Mi'kmaq-Wolastoqey Centre. They also hung red dresses from downtown lamp posts and street signs as a way of bringing attention to missing and murdered Indigenous women.

To achieve a better understanding of the strife of Indigenous women, members participated in sharing circles and a walk for awareness, and worked with Indigenous women who were incarcerated and those recovering from cancer treatments at a healing lodge. Significant support was given to organizations assisting Indigenous peoples through restorative justice programs.

Parish councils monitored governmental responses to Resolution 2017.01 Full Implementation of the Supreme Court Decision in *R. v. Gladue* for Indigenous Offenders. Letters were written and sent to the prime minister and other ministers to ensure judges, lawyers and legal personnel used Gladue reports in correctional decision making and before the sentencing of Indigenous offenders.

Social and Economic Justice

Parish councils attended workshops relating to social and economic justice and participated in the work of organizations caring for those in need. The highest level of financial support was given to emergency shelters for those experiencing domestic abuse, food banks and food hampers. The outpouring of generosity continued as members: gave supplies to women's, men's and children's shelters and orphanages; supported, cooked and served meals at local drop-in centres; and prepared Christmas baskets and hampers.

Members responded with compassion by giving of themselves and their time to community organizations like soup kitchens, food banks, thrift shops, transition homes, community clothing drives and depots, community gardens, anti-poverty foundations/campaigns, nursing homes, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Habitat for Humanity and Meals on Wheels. Members participated with the online forms for the Canada's Poverty Reduction Strategy and supported Dignity for All: the campaign for a poverty free Canada.

Refugees, Immigration and Citizenship

Members educated themselves about the difference between temporary foreign workers, immigrants and refugees. Parish councils monitored the federal government's response to Resolution 2016.011 Equal Access to Permanent Resident Status, an Amendment to the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*.

Parish councils invited guest speakers to inform members about Canada's official immigration and refugee policies to gain insight into the needs of immigrants and refugees in the community. Members sponsored families, highlighted the refugee crisis in Syria, joined refugee committees, supported refugee employment services, provided financial assistance for food and rent, provided transportation, assisted with Citizenship Court by sponsoring a lunch and attended citizenship ceremonies.

As all Canadians observed the 150th birthday of Canada, members celebrated in various ways. They participated in "150 things to do" or donated 150 items to local drop-in centres or organizations in developing countries. Some members were torch bearers.

In appreciation of past and present Canadian troops, members participated in Remembrance Day services, hugely supported The Royal Canadian Legion's Poppy Campaign, wore red on Fridays and assisted with the needs of the Military family resource centres.

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace

Development and Peace was supported by most parish councils through the 1% Program. At council meetings contributions were made, speakers from Development and Peace were invited and the League's slide presentation was shown. Development and Peace was also supported by: encouraging membership and various activities; promoting the Women at the Heart of Change campaign, Share Lent, disaster relief funds and THINKFast; and collecting postage stamps.

Developing Countries

Through parish councils, members supported many international organizations with monetary donations, awareness and prayer. Some organizations supported were Chalice, Pennies for the Poor, Save a Family Plan, Call of the Poor, Child Care International, Doctors Without Borders, Don Bosco Missions, Free The Children, Holy Childhood Association, Canadian Red Cross, Operation Eyesight International, Servant's Heart Ministries, Buy-A-Net Malaria Prevention Group, Operation Christmas Child, Samaritan's Purse, Days for Girls International, World Vision, leprosy relief (knit and crocheted bandages for lepers), mats for beds made from plastic milk bags and the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign in Africa. One parish council made 108 dresses for African girls. Members participated in a mission trip to Nicaragua bringing water to 47 homes. Generosity continued as members collected mitts, clothing, hats, scarves, blankets, food, money, pop tabs, milk bags for mats and used stamps.

Parish councils became aware of child labour laws in developing countries with an understanding of the implications of trade laws and practices. Members were encouraged to be vigilant regarding purchases that may exploit child labour or sweatshops. Guest speakers from developing countries were invited to attend meetings to explain and clarify situations in their homeland.

The Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) was promoted with brochures and supported in councils. Parish councils donating to CNEWA supported Christian families in the Holy Land. Two projects being supported were the Infant Welfare Centre in Jerusalem which provides critical support to at-risk teenagers for them to stay in school and The Shepherd's Field Hospital in Beit Sahour which provides health care to the poorest mothers and babies, near Bethlehem.

The community life standing committee showed how faith becomes powerful and accomplishes marvellous deeds when joined to the immense outpouring of service as members fulfilled the theme, *Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call*. By giving their time, talent and generous donations, many deeds were accomplished over the past year.

Fran Lucas
National 1st Vice-President and Chairperson of
Education and Health



Sub-Committee Chairpersons:

Catholic Education – Life Member Gabriele Kalincak

Wellness and Sickness/Disease – Life Member Becky Kallal

Environment – Rita Janes

The national standing committee worked diligently to offer members a wealth of information that was shared directly through e-mails, articles and every other mode of communication available. Committee members attended conferences and participated in webinars, always focused on sharing information that was current and relevant. “12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care” was revamped and once again was embraced by parish councils.

Catholic Education

All provincial executives, whether their province/territory offered Catholic education or not, were aware of the manner through which religious education was delivered at the parish level. This was also the case for military chapels and base schools. A few members served on local school boards, while others helped at schools with breakfast or lunch programs, school supervision, clothing drives, extracurricular activities and tutoring. They assisted by reading to students and providing supplies. Closure of schools in smaller communities made it impossible to support some of the foregoing. One diocesan council continued a long history of essay writing or poster drawing for all grade levels based on the national theme.

Rites of Christian Initiation programs were offered and in many instances were facilitated by members. Hosting retreats for those receiving first communion and receptions for baptism and confirmation events was one way members were able to assist with spiritual growth.

Literacy and Continuing Education

Members encouraged and supported literacy and continuing education. With increased immigrant and refugee populations, parish councils stepped up to assist with literacy skills teaching. Some members were full-time educators in English and/or French languages. A CWL education day and workshop by one diocesan council was well received by its northern parish councils.

Scholarships and Bursaries

Numerous councils at parish, diocesan and provincial levels offered scholarships ranging from \$100.00 to \$1,000 for members, as well as for high school students and those attending post-secondary institutes. One provincial council provided a bursary to 12 individuals. Supporting those attending Coady International Institute continued to be a favourite.

The national bursary fund received increased support, as it was added to the national voluntary fund form. The League gratefully acknowledges the following council donations designated to enhance the national bursary fund.

- Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Nipigon 100.00
- Christ the King, Courtenay 500.00
- Good Shepherd, Thornhill 100.00
- Holy Family, St. Jerome 50.00
- Immaculate Conception, Surrey 40.00
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Labrador City 50.00
- St. Aidan, Scarborough 75.00
- St. Anthony, Drumheller 100.00
- St. Columba, Souris 25.00
- St. Francis of Assisi, Cornwall 65.00
- St. Joseph Basilica, Edmonton 100.00
- St. Leo the Great, Brooklin 50.00
- St. Margaret Mary, Hamilton 50.00
- St. Mary, Chilliwack 30.00
- St. Paul, Summerside 200.00
- St. Peter, Port Hood 50.00
- Swift Current, Swift Current 25.00

Wellness and Sickness/Disease

Particular attention was given to current and past resolutions in the way of research, speakers and writing letters to influential people, including the prime minister. National organizations such as the Heart & Stroke Foundation, MaterCare International, Canadian Cancer Society, Diabetes Canada, CNIB and The Arthritis Society were supported. Some parish councils urged the federal government to revise *Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide* while others studied marketing by the food and beverage industry to the detriment of children. The Heart & Stroke Foundation's *The kids are not alright. How the food and beverage industry is marketing our children and youth to death. 2017 Report on the Health of Canadians* was an eye-opener for many.

Mental health conversations with youth were found to be fruitful, while concern for timely access to mental health professionals and follow-up programs was expressed. Right By You campaign resources were used by members to provide parents with tools and guidance to have more impactful conversations with their teen and support their teen's mental well-being.

As “12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care” was offered for a second year, it grew in form and participation. Visiting palliative care units was a common act of mercy. Making and presenting lap quilts or prayer shawls continued with some including a pocket with a League crest on the front and a rosary or prayer card inside. Most parish councils participated in the national lap quilt challenge, which culminated with quilts being taken to the annual national convention.

Members benefited from discussions on palliative care, chemical and environmental sensitivities, labeling on food and drug products, and blood donations. Meetings with ministers of health appear to have increased. Meetings with chief executive officers or directors of local health organizations enabled members to convey concerns on availability of patient care, caregivers and facilities. Members wrote letters of support to the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada for its promotion of services that respect the dignity of the patient and rights of healthcare professionals. A few parish councils reported providing healthy food choices at meetings.

Environment

Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si’* was a popular resource for the protection of the environment. Parish councils strove to reduce paper use at meetings. Elimination of the use of Styrofoam, plastic water bottles and bags continued, while carpooling was a new initiative and participation in recycling was a focus. Shopping at and donating to thrift stores and flea markets was noted. Climate change and water resources were discussed across all provinces. Some parish councils also studied renewable energy and wind turbine technology. Recent environmental resolutions were acted upon.

Genetics

Reports indicated a need to become more knowledgeable regarding advantages and disadvantages of technological development in light of the teachings of the Catholic church. Only one parish council reported having subscribed to the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute newsletter.

Comments

Writing letters to members of provincial/territorial governments and members of parliament, visiting them in person or phoning

continued to be actions required to address numerous concerns voiced through resolutions. Uniting in one voice was a powerful tool to help enact change.

Shari Guinta

National 2nd Vice-President and Chairperson of Communications



Six provincial chairpersons reported. It was encouraging to see most parish councils have communications chairpersons.

The Canadian League Magazine

It was encouraging to learn that every provincial chairperson reported members read and enjoyed *The Canadian League* and it was used as a constant resource. Articles on palliative care were popular as were “Keep in touch, Get

Involved—Communicate!” and “Resolutions—Inspired Women Responding to God’s Call.” Spiritual development articles and messages from the national president and national spiritual advisor were also mentioned.

Media

All provincial chairpersons reported some members had viewed the annual national convention speakers online and participated in the townhall for strategic planning. Many members however did not know about or could not participate in this.

It was encouraging to note media was used to publicize the League, as well as functions parish councils planned. Local newspapers, church bulletins and websites were used for distribution of information.

Salt + Light TV, VisionTV and Catholic newspapers were viewed and used. It was reported however that Salt + Light promotional videos had not been utilized. All provincial chairpersons mentioned

disapproval of the Global Television Network's series *Mary Kills People* and councils had voiced their disapproval.

There was a definite increase in Facebook, websites and newsletters. In a digitally technological age, councils and members utilized the tools at hand. Councils at all levels were developing their own websites. I was surprised to see every provincial chairperson reporting that parish councils still used telephone trees.

Media Relations

Parish councils invited local media to events and some reported a good rapport with them.

Pornography

Parish councils reported investigating and watching articles and documentaries on the pornography issue including viewing *Over 18* and having information sessions on the harmful effects of pornography. The Pornography Hurts postcard campaign was still popular and councils chose a month on their own to send postcards to government. There were also petitions.

Summary Comments

- While reviewing reports from the provincial chairpersons, going forward I might suggest livestreaming be utilized as it seemed to be popular with some and this could grow.
- *The Canadian League* continued to be an important tool for members; it was popular and well utilized.
- Members and parish councils were becoming more and more “tech savvy” and responded to various technological initiatives.
- Parish councils responded to news alerts and requests for action, but connecting with and contacting members was not always easy or timely. Perhaps technology could be utilized even more for these efforts.
- The national website was not mentioned as much as I thought it should or could be.
- The pornography issue gained momentum within parish councils. This issue, although an older one, is every bit as prevalent today as it was several years ago. With the focus on

the Internet, pornography has become a phenomenon. Much work needs to be done in this area.

- It was interesting to see parish councils do not subscribe necessarily to publications; however, many members do subscribe and publications are read, viewed and used.

Joan Bona

National Chairperson of Resolutions



Creativity, insight and wisdom of members who have an avid interest in resolutions was evident in the annual reports. Members were determined to bring to the forefront issues that mattered.

Four resolutions were adopted at the 97th annual national convention in Charlottetown:

- 2017.01 Full Implementation of the Supreme Court Decision in *R. v. Gladue* for Indigenous Offenders
- 2017.02 Mandatory Age Verification Mechanism for Adult Pornographic Websites
- 2017.03 Zero-Rated Status Under the Goods and Services Tax Provisions of the *Excise Tax Act* for Child Safety Products
- 2017.04 Protection from Coercion of Conscience for Healthcare Professionals

Research and Preparation of Resolutions and Briefs

Responses to the question, “Have you considered and studied issues that might become resolutions?” were varied. Responses showed there is interest to discuss issues that might be considered as a resolution at council meetings. Responses were indicative of the diversity of the council wherein more experienced members and life members who take an avid interest in resolutions are excellent resources for councils. One suggestion was to have an active committee (including council president) to work together on a resolution rather than one member tasked with doing it all.

Study and Implementation of Resolutions Adopted at Other Levels

The most prevalent resolutions which parish councils studied and followed up on were on the topics of physician assisted death/freedom of conscience, medical assistance in death, euthanasia, palliative care, pornography, Indigenous issues, healthy eating (food labeling), needs/abuse of seniors, universal pharmacare and youth mental health.

Parish councils reported studying their provincial resolutions, to which some address social justice, community and provincially based issues. Reasons for not preparing a resolution were no chairperson or lack of interest among council members, to name a few. One parish council reported it began the year planning to focus on euthanasia. When legislation was passed, it shifted focus to advocate on hospice care. The most prevalent forms of communication in bringing awareness to adopted resolutions were making members aware through meetings, e-mail and newsletters, and arranging for a guest speaker.

Letter Writing

Letter writing continued to be the most prevalent form of support for resolutions. Areas which councils specifically followed through on were the abortion pill (RU-486), refugees, the environment, resolutions adopted in the past three years, home care and the federal government's Poverty Reduction Strategy. Some parish councils organized a letter writing campaign. Signing petitions was a common approach among some reports.

At Provincial and National Levels, Presentation of Resolutions to Government

The national delegation was unable to secure meetings with the federal government in 2017 to discuss resolutions. Several provincial executives noted they meet regularly with provincial government representatives to discuss issues from a provincial perspective. Some provincial executives that were unable to secure meetings provided information packages to elected representatives in anticipation that a date would be suitably arranged.

Challenges

As membership declines, recruitment of members to serve as resolutions chairpersons continued to be challenging. Provincial chairpersons cited the inability of parish councils to complete reporting online led to inaccurate and incomplete information.

One provincial chairperson suggested as part of the national resolutions dialogue session, proposed resolutions and supporting documentation be made available earlier in order to make informed decisions. It is noteworthy to share the national resolutions committee works on resolutions two days prior to the annual national convention. Delegates to the national convention must keep in mind that proposed resolutions are brought to the national executive for consideration one day before the resolutions dialogue session and may only be circulated following approval. Another suggestion was to allow more time for discussion, if possible.

Respondents noted the lively discussion at the national convention on resolutions. When provincial and diocesan councils engage in lively discussions regarding resolutions, members become more informed and comfortable with the process. Debates and proceedings offer delegates clearer understanding and speak volumes to the wisdom of members at every level who wish to express an opinion on matters. Reports noted members in attendance were extremely pleased with the dialogue and debates.

Accomplishments

Some provincial chairpersons noted leadership development through resolutions workshops was helpful as it assisted members in delineating and tweaking resolutions at various levels. One provincial chairperson held an interactive workshop to reduce the stigma around resolutions. Another provincial chairperson shared ideas on how each level of the League could follow through to make a resolution acceptable at the appropriate level.

Conclusion

Some final thoughts shared by members in the annual reports noted the very long and complicated process, wasted time on debate that turned out to be redundant and more teaching on amendments/more time on discussion, to name a few. When members journeyed

through the traditional route of a resolution, opportunity for growth and knowledge demystified and alleviated fears surrounding resolutions.

There are many stages in the lifespan of a resolution from its inception to eventual archival. Throughout its lifespan, members are encouraged to keep informed on its status and action plans. While it is not always necessary to have councils research and develop resolutions, it will remain a priority to keep a valid interest in the outcome of any resolutions. Most annual reports noted this remains important in their work.

It was evident the resolutions dialogue is an integral part of the national convention. There were various suggestions for preparedness and dialogue. There was a common theme prevalent to reports in that members wished to receive topics early in order to be more prepared in discussing resolutions at their annual convention.

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call. The hallmark of advocacy of members throughout was inspiring and tremendous efforts were put forth to support and uphold resolutions. Annual reports were very informative and offered some valid suggestions which will be shared with the incoming chairperson. It was encouraging to read input provided by parish councils and how they perceive resolutions and the many suggestions to clarify the process at all levels.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. May the Holy Spirit continue to inspire members to work diligently with renewed vigour and hope.



Nancy Simms
National Chairperson of Legislation



Sub-Committee Chairpersons

Life Members Ann Devlin and Dorothy Johansen

Two resolutions were adopted under the legislation standing committee, Resolution 2017.03 Zero-Rated Status Under the Goods and Services Tax Provisions of the *Excise Tax Act* for Child Safety Products and Resolution 2017.04 Protection from Coercion of Conscience for Healthcare Professionals. Parish councils took action on these resolutions through various forms

of contact with all levels of government.

Members acted on Resolution 2016.05 Amend the *Canada Health Act* to Include Home Care as an Insured Health Service by writing letters, signing petitions and hosting guest speakers, and Resolution 2016.04 Amend the *Canada Health Act* to Identify Palliative Care as an Insured Health Service by participating in the petition to “...specifically identify hospice palliative care as a defined medical service covered under the *Canada Health Act*...”. The petition garnered over 32,000 signatures and was presented in the House of Commons by the member of parliament from Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo.

Parish councils kept informed on bills, federally and provincially, that pertained to League resolutions, and members attended public forums at various levels of government. Some accessed Hansard to keep up to date on current bills.

Reported Action Taken on Federal Legislation

- C-16 *An Act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code* (received royal assent on June 19, 2017): national president’s letter urging the federal government to

provide assurances the Catholic viewpoint would not be viewed as hate of those living with gender dysphoria.

- C-45 *Cannabis Act* (first reading in the Senate on November 28, 2017): most provincial executives monitored how this act would be implemented within their provinces and took action accordingly.
- C-211 *Federal Framework on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Act* (first reading in the Senate on June 19, 2017).
- C-214 *An Act to Amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (appeals)* and C-255 *An Act to amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (appeal process for temporary resident visa applicants)* (first reading in the House of Commons on January 28, 2016 and March 24, 2016 respectively): Resolution 2016. 01 Equal Access to Permanent Resident Status, an Amendment to the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*.
- C-254 *An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act (baby products)* (first reading in the House of Commons on March 24, 2016): Resolution 2017.03 Zero-Rated Status Under the Goods and Services Tax Provisions of the *Excise Tax Act* for Child Safety Products.
- C-257 *An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act (sugar content labelling)* (first reading in the House of Commons on March 24, 2016).
- C-262 *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and C-332 *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Reporting Act* (first reading in the House of Commons on April 21, 2016 and December 14, 2016 respectively): Resolution 2013.01 Building Relationships and Partnerships with Canada's Indigenous Peoples and 2017.01 Full Implementation of the Supreme Court Decision in *R. v. Gladue* for Indigenous Offenders.
- C-277 *Framework on Palliative Care in Canada Act* (received royal assent on December 12, 2017): Resolution 2016.04 Amend the *Canada Health Act* to Identify Palliative Care as an Insured Health Service.

- C-350 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (trafficking and transplanting human organs and other body parts)* (first reading in the House of Commons on April 10, 2017): Supports all human trafficking resolutions.
- S-225 *An Act to Amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (substances used in the production of fentanyl)* (bill passed by Senate on June 16, 2016, not introduced into House of Commons): Resolution 2005.07 The Illegal Manufacture and Trafficking of Crystal Methamphetamine.
- S-230 *Drug-Impaired Driving Detection Act* (bill defeated at second reading in the House of Commons on October 25, 2017): Resolution 2005.07 The Illegal Manufacture and Trafficking of Crystal Methamphetamine and Resolution 2004.12 Marijuana Possession/Use - A Criminal Offence.

Reported Action Taken on Provincial Legislation

Manitoba:

- Bill 34 *The Medical Assistance in Dying (Protection for Health Professionals and Others) Act*: (received royal assent on November 10, 2017).

Nova Scotia:

- Bill 27 *Intimate Images and Cyber-protection Act*: (received royal assent on October 26, 2017).

Ontario:

- Bill 33 *Time to Care Act (Long-Term Care Homes Amendment, Minimum Standard of Daily Care), 2017*: (referred to committee on November 2, 2017).
- Bill 84 *Medical Assistance in Dying Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017*: (received royal assent on May 10, 2017).
- Bill 148 *Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017*: (received royal assent on November 27, 2017).
- Bill 163 *Protecting a Woman's Right to Access Abortion Services Act, 2017*: (received royal assent on October 25, 2017).

Prince Edward Island:

- Bill 13 *Water Act*: (received royal assent on December 20, 2017).

Provincial Chairpersons' Comments

- “learnt a great deal about legislation”
- “tried to add educational components regarding bills”
- “there is a need for councils not to be fearful of becoming a legislation chairperson”
- “facilitated legislation workshops that were well received by members”
- “councils suggested ‘10 minute workshops’ and with so many important bills, that more direction be given on what to concentrate on”
- “councils were pro-active on issues and involved their parishes in letter writing and education through guest speakers”
- “legislation (and letter-writing) workshops be held at convention to create awareness of importance of this committee as it relates to our resolutions”
- “future goals of councils are to make local councils aware of government legislation, to educate, to read and discuss legislation and to write more letters regarding legislation and resolutions”

Many parish councils do not have legislation chairpersons and did not send in reports, yet I am convinced through individual actions councils performed great deeds in the legislation standing committee. I believe Quebec’s provincial legislation chairperson’s closing remark captures the true work of legislation. “By stepping out of the box, we acquire greater vision of the goal, namely bringing about change and having a voice.”

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to let the League’s voice be heard.



Barbara Dowding

National Past President and Chairperson of Laws



At this point in time, the *Constitution & Bylaws* lays out very clearly the responsibilities associated with the role of past president. At all levels this role includes serving in a consultative capacity; being responsible for archives and history; facilitating the study and implementation of the *Constitution & Bylaws* (C&B); and performing other duties as assigned by the president. At the national level, the role includes being the chairperson of laws. (Part XIII, Section 1(10)).

Serve in a Consultative Capacity

The past presidents who reported are positive, supportive and anxious to help the council president do a good job. Past presidents report feeling useful to the president in most cases and report having enough work to do. Reports indicate this role is respected and appreciated. However, it is a sign of the times to see a good number of past presidents are recycled and find themselves being president again. This situation seems to be relatively common particularly at the parish level. In one province eight of 20 active councils report having no past president. Even the most diligent past presidents had huge challenges in collecting reports. The reasons are not clear; however, the statistics on reporting are alarming, even more so than usual. One provincial president noted her report statistics were almost identical to those from last year, suggesting the role does not change. In addition, she noted, there is little new to report that has not been said before.

Archives and History

Most past presidents report looking after archives as part of their role. They feel, given the importance of maintaining history and records, this is an area where more education and direction is needed.

One past president initiated a new way of keeping archives that is easier and saves space. Still others report seeking direction from the national level looking for advice and are grateful for the recently reviewed guidelines that can be found on the League website. Photograph albums continue to be a popular way to create lasting memories and history of the council. In fact in one area, photograph albums are the main source of history. Some use memory sticks, CDs, and even DVDs. It seems to be pretty even how many photograph albums are kept in relation to history books! There is great disparity in how long various files are to be kept. In some cases, archives and history are given to another chairperson or volunteer. Past presidents who have difficulty with this task could consider inviting a volunteer with expertise and love for archives and history to assist. One past president reminded others not to wait until the big anniversary arrives to start researching council archives.

Study and Implementation of the *Constitution & Bylaws*

Reports indicate this is rarely done outside of a workshop setting and then only once in a while. It was noted helping members become familiar with the bylaws makes them more appreciative of how things work. Finding time and an interesting way to deliver these basic “rules” is the challenge. The C&B defines procedures while policy manuals explain how to get things done depending on local circumstances. The *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* is also underused possibly because members have quick access to the national website where most questions can be answered. Councils at all levels are encouraged to have their own particular policy manual; however, it is clear more than one-half of parish councils do not. Even the newest executive member can see what the council has done and why – an invaluable resource if it is kept up to date.

Other Duties as Assigned

Duties reported were varied and expected depending on the level. Almost all are involved in nomination and elections procedures and in recruiting members to stand for office. They assist or represent the president when asked. For the most part, they are happy and willing to take on activities as needed, most often involving fundraising or charring events such as conventions, meetings and workshops. One past president put it this way, “As past presidents

we embrace this opportunity as a privilege and blessing in offering our knowledge, wisdom and support to our council members.” The burden lays heavily on those past presidents who are asked to become president again. Our bylaws preclude this, but councils feel compelled to keep things going and do so however possible.

National Chairperson

As national chairperson of laws, I was called upon many times to help members understand and work within the League’s framework. Sometimes it was a simple case of clarification regarding terminology, while others took much time and careful consideration. As members and councils struggled to adapt to their own circumstances in order to keep the League going, more and more innovation and unique ways were used to get work done. Everyone who sought advice did so with respect and love for the League.

I sat on the national strategic planning committee along with others who have been presidents at all levels. The committee worked hard to listen to League sisters and called upon lived experiences when working in person and by conference call. So many issues in this report and no doubt in many of the others are relevant to going forward with a new vision.

My duties included writing memos, communiques and articles for the *The Canadian League*. I was privileged to assist in revising the “Archive Guidelines for League History” after visiting the archives at national office in Winnipeg. The strategic plan was highlighted through the League magazine, “The Art of Remembering, Joy of Discovery.” Through online reporting, a few revealing comments served to remind past presidents of the reality that is their role:

- “The new president is a fairly new member, so we spend a lot of time reviewing upcoming meeting agendas to ensure that we are serving the needs of our council. We chat biweekly or whenever a new issue comes up.”
- “My successor has been president more often than I have, so advice is rarely required.”
- “We don't have executive meetings – all of our meetings are regular meetings – otherwise no one would come.”

Past presidents at all levels have knowledge, expertise and a profound love of the League. They hold all of us up and will surely play a large part in the future of the League.

June Fuller

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council President



The presidents of the diocesan councils in Alberta Mackenzie were: Janet MacPhee, Calgary; Cheryl Boom, Edmonton; Irene Brassard, Grouard-McLennan; Gerda Hazenberg, Mackenzie; and Celine Berlinguette, St. Paul.

Approximately 61% of parish council presidents completed the online annual reports. This equated to 104 of 159 parish councils that reported. The membership for the provincial council as of December 31, 2017 was 9,312 members.

Councils embraced the national theme, *Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call*, and used it as inspiration for meetings, retreats, workshops and spiritual programs.

Priorities

Parish council presidents indicated the following priorities were introduced, discussed or acted upon by members:

- physician assisted dying
- palliative care
- refugee crisis
- home care
- youth mental health
- conscience rights of healthcare providers
- limiting access to pornography
- warning labels on food and drug products
- *Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide*
- rights of Indigenous offenders

Spiritual Advisors

Several parish councils reported being grateful for support received from spiritual advisors. Some reported not receiving the support they needed, whether it be spiritual advisors too busy with the parish workload or those without an understanding of the League's work. Some reported not having a spiritual advisor.

Resources

Presidents indicated using the following resources:

- *Constitution & Bylaws*
- council policy and procedure books
- *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*
- *Executive Handbook*
- *The Canadian League*
- diocesan/ provincial/ national website
- communiques and newsletters
- *Robert's Rules of Order*
- Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops communications

Leadership

Parish council presidents represented their members at the following:

- diocesan/regional/provincial/national meetings and conventions
- anniversaries, church functions and special masses
- events such as World Day of Prayer, chrism mass, pro-life walks and Remembrance Day services
- conferences
- meetings with politicians
- retreats, sacramental events, workshops, school ceremonies, funerals and fundraising dinners
- archdiocesan youth rallies, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (prayer for youth) events

The majority of parish council presidents had their expenses paid to attend diocesan conventions. Several indicated expenses for presidents attending provincial or national conventions, conferences or workshops were not covered.

Ninety percent of presidents indicated having read and used the *Executive Handbook*. They reported annual summaries were shared

with the membership either by e-mail, written/oral reports, newsletters or parish bulletins. Most of them reported having council policies and keeping them updated; however, it was noted some councils do not have policies.

Other Committees

Separate from standing committees, 47% of parish council presidents indicated having committees for the following:

- annual teas, bazaars, funeral lunches, meals on wheels and prayer break-fasts
- fundraising, catering, letter writing and newsletters
- parade float and refugee committees
- prayer shawl and card ministries, and parish council representatives
- nominations and education scholarship committees

Challenges

Members indicated the role of parish council president was challenging but also rewarding. Many indicated receiving support from immediate past presidents, life members, current executive members and spiritual advisors. Some challenges faced were:

- not having a full slate of officers
- finding the time
- keeping members interested
- the amount of paperwork
- feeling undertrained and inexperienced in recruiting and technology
- limited membership in the small councils and an aging membership

Overview

Members continued to serve the League in many capacities, supporting parishes and communities to the best of their abilities. From the reports I read, members were committed to helping those in need because they had been inspired by the Spirit and they had responded to God's call.

“For God and Canada”

Evelyn Rigby

B.C. & Yukon Provincial Council President



Statistics

There were 128 parish councils in B.C. & Yukon Provincial Council, of which 89 chose to participate in the annual survey. Two parish councils did not have a president and a few councils rotated the presidency.

Sources for Informing Membership

Most popular sources of information starting with the highest were *The Canadian League*, diocesan newsletters and communiques, the provincial website with provincial communiques and parish bulletins.

Current National Priorities

Topping the list of issues introduced, discussed or acted upon by parish councils were palliative care, assisted suicide, the refugee crisis, conscience rights of healthcare providers and pornography. Lowest were rights of Indigenous offenders and the Goods and Services Tax exemption on child safety products.

Methods Used to Introduce these Topics

Time was allotted at meetings for discussion, the standing committee chairpersons gave reports and speakers on the topic were invited to meetings.

Foster Open Communication

One-half of parish councils met with their spiritual advisor monthly, while one-third rarely met. Over 10% of reporting councils met weekly, while less than 10% met annually. Most councils were well supported by their pastors, however nine councils reported the pastor was not supportive. Some pastors were too busy to pay attention to the League and/or its priorities. One pastor did not want to support one specific group. Several heartening comments reflected efforts to improve bonds with new spiritual advisors.

Resources Used to Preside at Meetings

Two-thirds of councils used the *Constitution & Bylaws*, and more than one-half used council policy and procedures manuals and the *Executive Handbook*. Less than one-half used *Robert's Rules of Order* and the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*.

Signing Authority

Parish council presidents most frequently signed cheques and banking documents. More than one-half of them signed petitions and letters directed within the League. It was disappointing to learn only one-third of them directed letters outside the League since letter writing is one of the main ways of supporting resolutions.

Provide Active Leadership

Almost all parish council presidents represented their members at church functions, funerals, diocesan meetings and conventions. More than one-half attended conferences, fundraising dinners and events. Just under one-half attended special masses, workshops, provincial meetings and conventions, World Day of Prayer and pro-life events. Few reported attending a national convention. Only one-tenth of them visited politicians.

Subsidizing Presidents to Attend Events

Just over one-sixth of presidents had their way to conferences fully paid and another one-sixth had to foot their own bill. For workshops, one-third paid all their own expenses. Approximately one-half were fully financially supported to attend diocesan conventions.

New Policies

Seventeen parish councils made changes to the financial section of council policy and procedures with most related to funeral costs. Funeral protocol also figured in changes. Three councils reviewed bursary/scholarship amounts. Two councils reviewed the council donations policy. Single items concerned archiving files, license for fundraising baskets, changing the expense sheet and cash sheet reporting form, limiting fundraising events, payment of dues for seniors in care homes, increase in per capita fees, youth evangelization support and \$500.00 set aside for president or designate to attend a national or provincial convention. Thirteen

councils reported making no changes, while a couple were still developing a council policy and procedure manual.

Executive Handbook

Seventy three of 84 parish council presidents read the *Executive Handbook* to understand the duties of the executive team. Seventy four indicated it had been helpful! Those that read it stated it had assisted in overseeing operations of the council. Ten presidents did not find it helpful; one found consultation with senior members to be a better alternative. One thought it lacked a code of conduct and procedures, although some aspects were helpful. One was too busy, and another was too sick to read it. One had three people on the executive, while another felt it unnecessary since they are “very low key.”

Annual Summary

One-half of parish council presidents gave an annual summary in the form of an oral report at the annual meeting. More than one-third provided a written report. One-third e-mailed the summary to members. Less than one-quarter reported in a newsletter or a parish bulletin. No reports were issued by one-quarter of the presidents.

Committees Other Than Standing Committees

Parish council presidents used other kinds of committees in addition to standing committees. The most numerous committee reported was running annual events such as teas and organizing bazaars. Approximately one-half of them had committees for fundraising, scholarships and bursaries. Next came social events and other catering. About one-quarter had visitation, donations and miscellaneous committees. Seven councils reported having no other committees.

President as Official Spokesperson

Almost three-quarters of parish council presidents spoke about membership, with over one-half speaking about social events and less than one-half addressing palliative care. One-third promoted bursaries and scholarships. Three presidents spoke about Indigenous issues. Ten presidents did not speak publicly. Other topics in descending order were local charitable projects, euthanasia, pornography, pro-life issues, refugees and mental health.

Use of League Letterhead

Close to two-thirds of parish councils used League letterhead when corresponding outside the League. Fourteen councils however, did not reference the membership total for the council in all external correspondence.

Greatest Assistance

Two-thirds of parish council presidents stated they received the most help from their immediate past president when assuming the presidency. Former past presidents also helped. The current executive, with secretary and treasurer singled out, also smoothed the way. Life members were mentioned as well.

Greatest Challenges

Most challenges resulted from not having a full slate of officers, closely followed by the difficulty of keeping members interested. Recruitment of new members followed. The amount of paperwork and meeting expectations were reported equally as the fourth most common challenge, with finding the time and feeling overwhelmed following.

National Theme

Three-quarters of parish council presidents found it beneficial to have a national theme and/or logo.

Additional Comments

There were 61 additional comments. Of these, 36 councils appeared to be doing well, with four neutral and 25 experiencing difficulty.

Provincial President's Activities During 2017

- Delivered speech at the Vancouver archdiocesan sisters' appreciation dinner
- Planned and ran two provincial mid-term meetings
- Attended March for Life with new provincial banner
- Brought greetings to Military Ordinariate provincial convention in Comox
- Attended two national executive meetings and the national convention meetings and prepared reports

- Brought greetings and presented workshops at Prince George and Victoria diocesan conventions
- Planned and presided at provincial convention in Kelowna
- Attended Life Canada's second annual gala dinner in North Vancouver, and four other local events

Other Matters

- Sent a provincial annual report to national
- Brought one quilt to the national convention and presented an oral report using PowerPoint
- Distributed electronic copies of the parish mailing from national to the provincial executive
- Received and replied to hundreds of e-mails
- Reviewed minutes of two mid-term, pre- and post-convention executive meetings, and business sessions
- Collaborated on the "HMCS CWL Refit" provincial workshop for diocesan conventions
- Delegated the past president to investigate and recommend change of status for Whitehorse Diocesan Council
- Delegated presenters for Vancouver, Nelson and Kamloops conventions to first and second vice-president
- Delegated the first vice-president to attend a Serra celebration in Kamloops
- Posted spring and fall issues of *The Communicator* on the website
- Co-wrote a report for the fall edition of *The Communicator*
- Decided to develop a new provincial website with Status Holdings and intervened when necessary
- Canceled a spring meeting with government due to flip flop after the provincial elections
- Promoted writing letters to federal members of

parliament (MPs) about Bill C-51 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Department of Justice Act and to make consequential amendments to another Act*

- Wrote a letter to an MP requesting the removal of Section 176 from Bill C-51
- Sent a provincial petition regarding conscience rights and concerns regarding assisted suicide to the legislature
- Requested an interview with local staff of the

Royal Canadian Mounted Police re Bill C-36 *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*

- Requested the appointment of a new provincial spiritual advisor after the former's retirement
- Tried to resolve a sensitive membership issue and obtain a policy from national for any parish involved
- Commissioned a video of a pro-life activist who was unable to attend convention

Achievements and Challenges

I found answering e-mails very burdensome however this was outweighed by the knowledge that the executive worked as a great team, and if a problem surfaced, there was always someone to pick up the slack. I want to acknowledge the strong support I have received from them all, especially my past president and president-elect. Any achievements I have accomplished are theirs too.



Rolande Chernichan
Manitoba Provincial Council President



Manitoba's 2,200 plus members within three dioceses have been afire in response to the national theme, *Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call*. The St. Boniface Diocesan Council president is in the second year of her term. Winnipeg Diocesan Council welcomed a new president following elections in 2017. The northern diocesan council of Keewatin-The Pas is led by the past president who also serves as acting president. Twenty seven of 47 parish councils participated in online annual reporting. This report is a glimpse of activities and good works by members in Manitoba in 2017.

Winnipeg Diocesan Council's fall meeting and workshop featured a speaker on formation of priestly vocations, presentation about electronic reporting and leadership training for treasurers. St. Boniface Diocesan Council's Day of Reflection featured the founder of Open Doorways Orphanage in Haiti, which is supported by parish councils. Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan Council featured a full day workshop on "The Bible and the Virgin Mary Journey Through Scripture".

Parish council presidents informed members of the League's position on current issues, priorities and new programs primarily from *The Canadian League* magazine, national communiques, diocesan newsletters and the national website. National priorities introduced included physician assisted dying (100%), palliative care (88%) and conscience rights of healthcare providers (76%). These topics were presented at general meetings, through standing committee chairpersons and through guest speakers. Members participated in letter-writing campaigns and signed petitions in support of conscience rights of healthcare workers. Parish councils

responded enthusiastically to the lap quilt/blanket project and participated in “12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care”.

Over one-half of parish council presidents met with the spiritual advisor monthly; one-third rarely met with him. Most (88%) reported the spiritual advisor is supportive of the League; offset by pastor disinterest or lack of a parish priest. Diocesan presidents met and communicated with bishops less frequently. One diocesan council hosts an annual pot-luck dinner with its bishop.

Resources used by presidents included *Robert’s Rules of Order* (73%), council policy and procedure manual (73%), *Constitution & Bylaws* (69%) and *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* (53%). Members appreciated online access to League resources. The *Executive Handbook* read by most presidents, assisted in the responsibility of overseeing council operations. They sought direction about how to deal with executive members who didn’t fulfill their duties.

Presidents represented parish councils at diocesan meetings and conventions (96%), church functions (92%) and funerals (76%). Provincial meetings/conventions were attended by fewer than one-half and were not fully subsidized by the council; one-half who attended diocesan convention had their expenses paid fully. Surprisingly, workshops and conferences were attended by more presidents than those who attended provincial convention, despite all expenses not being paid for almost half of them. Fewer than half who attended provincial convention had all expenses paid. Members were encouraged to attend League development events, leadership training, workshops, conventions and retreats; however, participation was low. Reasons are many and varied. It appears members lacked understanding of the importance of active participation in League events beyond the parish level. Financial support to fulfill presidential duties could be improved.

One-half of parish councils had committees for annual events such as teas, bazaars and fundraising; others had committees for scholarship/bursary, social events and visitation. Councils initiated or added policies to their manual namely award recipients, expenses, funeral/honour guard protocol, funeral lunch, financial audit date,

recurring donations, mass stipends, spiritual content in meetings, honorariums, membership of older members and financial commitments.

Most presidents provided an annual summary of council activities to members through e-mail or newsletter (42%), and by oral report at annual meetings (34%). Minutes and chairperson reports were most valuable in completing annual reports. Presidents were the official spokesperson for the council concerning palliative care (57%), membership (50%), local charitable projects and euthanasia. League letterhead was used when corresponding outside of the League; almost all reference only the membership total for the council they represent in external correspondence. Most presidents signed cheques on behalf of the council, as well as banking documents and letters within the League.

The greatest challenges faced in transitioning into the role of president included recruiting (65%), incomplete slate of officers (53%), keeping members interested (53%), amount of paperwork (50%) and finding the time (46%). One-quarter reported being challenged by technology. Over one-half received the greatest assistance from a former past president; additionally from the immediate past president, the current executive and diocesan level. Ten parish councils had a life member from whom they could receive guidance, mentoring and support in various ways. There also were 16 Bellelle Guerin recipients who freely step forward to assist wherever needed.

Most parish councils found it beneficial having a national theme and/or logo as a focus for activities. *Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call* was explored through spiritual programs, prayers and workshops.

Members sought spiritual development by participating in Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults classes, study of the bible, saints and Catholic teachings; and prayer initiatives for World Day of Prayer and Christian Unity Week. Online and printed League resources were used frequently. Members served in ministries of the mass, as lay presiders, as catechists, in faith formation and sacramental preparation, leading small prayer groups and leading the rosary.

Masses were prayed to the intention of councils and deceased members. Members of the north accompanied the priest to outlying parishes when needed. Ecumenical in their outreach, when a local church had closed down, they invited the community to join them in Sunday prayer.

Organization chairpersons promoted recruitment with positive results; personal contact and support of the spiritual advisor was key to recruitment. Elderly members, no longer able to participate, were kept abreast of League happenings by invitations to events, newsletters and/or minutes. They received phone calls, cards and notes, personal visits, communion and even baking! Parish councils reported affirming and honouring members through the Bellelle Guerin award, certificates and making use of the League's incremental years of service pins. A 65-year pin was awarded to a charter member. Prayer councils endeavoured to stay connected with the League and do good works in the community.

Members sourced *The Canadian League* and communiqués for information about Christian family life. They watched daily televised mass and attended Chrism Mass and other special masses. Councils supported daily praying of the rosary on radio through the sale of angel ornaments. Members participated in pro-life events and the annual March for Life, and supported fundraising events of pro-life organizations. They did visitation ministry to homes, senior manors and hospitals and compassionate ministry through mass cards on special birthdays and anniversaries or the loss of a loved one. Diocesan priestly vocations were supported by financial donations and prayers. Councils organized screenings of *Euthanasia Deception*, and promoted NET Ministries of Canada, Catholic youth camps and World Youth Day in Panama City, Panama in 2019.

Through community life initiatives, parish councils sponsored a child through Chalice, Plan International and similar agencies. They donated money and food for hampers and food banks, and filled shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse. Donations were made to Catholic Missions In Canada, Catholic Near East Welfare Association, Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) and several other agencies. Used stamps were collected

for CCODP and members contributed to the 1% national voluntary fund program. Pop can tabs were collected for a wheelchair project. Members helped out at soup kitchens. Councils partnered with Knights of Columbus to co-host parish events. Members supported the Legion poppy campaign, participated in Remembrance Day services and showed support of Canadian troops by wearing red on Fridays.

Education and health information to members included chemical and environmental sensitivities, obesity, blood types, increase of sexually transmitted infections in retirement communities and lack of counselling, genetically modified foods, unfair marketing practises, labelling on food and drug products, new rules for blood donations, and the difference between right and left thinking. Many parish councils awarded scholarships to high school graduates and donated to Coady International Institute. Councils financially supported Canadian Cancer Society, Canadian Red Cross, MaterCare International and the Heart & Stroke Foundation. Councils acted on Resolution 2016.02 *Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide* and Resolution 2015.01 Increased Early Access and Intervention to Children and Youth Mental Health Services.

Communication between all levels continued to be a challenge. Many councils used phone trees to relay information. Diocesan presidents were the valuable link to transmit information from national and provincial levels to parish councils. Councils used parish bulletins, radio, local newspapers and personal invitation to promote events. Newsletters were circulated primarily by e-mail. Councils submitted to government the Pornography Hurts postcards calling for mandatory age verification mechanisms for adult pornographic websites.

There was interest in resolutions in all three dioceses. Manitoba's resolution on multiple chemical sensitivity and environmental sensitivities was circulated nationally via education and health chairpersons for awareness and education. Fifty percent of parish councils reported members wrote to government. A legislation educational booklet about how bills are developed and processed by governments was circulated to all parish councils.

Other council initiatives included hosting Citizen Court for new immigrants and fundraising for a ‘mercy fund’ donated to the parish for those seeking help. Prayer councils remained involved in the parish/community, socialized and maintained League visibility.

Councils reported concerns of being elderly, not having fluent English speaking/writing skills, not having computer skills, having difficulty to fill president/executive positions and to organize events/fundraisers. Having to respond in the negative to the annual survey leaves councils feeling not having accomplished much.

Insightful comments from members:

- Canada’s 150th birthday was occasion to pray the League Prayer 150 days preceding Canada’s birthday, be torch bearers, donate 150 school supplies to a drop-in centre, donate 150 notebooks and pencils to the Mennonite Central Committee, participate in a living flag photo shoot, make a financial donation to an immigrant family, and host citizenship ceremonies.
- Members found the resolutions dialogue at national conventions educational and informative. They planned to continue attending but recommended more time for discussion.
- Diocesan presidents were invaluable; they worked tirelessly to promote the League, keeping membership informed and encouraging participation in League events.

The provincial council hosted its annual Day of Celebration featuring a workshop by National President Margaret Ann Jacobs on the theme. The day included interviews with four life members based on the television program *The View*.

The provincial convention hosted rurally featured a historical tour of the town. The keynote speaker spoke passionately about her work with homelessness and poverty; food items brought to convention were donated for the cause. The national theme was explored through a workshop. Following elections, the new executive and new spiritual advisor were installed.

Resolutions workshops have been offered annually for over ten years. A workshop about legislation, held in conjunction with the resolutions workshop, culminated in letter-writing in response to Resolution 2017.04 Protection from Coercion of Conscience for Healthcare Professionals.

Parish councils are the “heartbeat of the League” as women continued to respond to their faith through involvement in the League. Bravo for the dedication and engagement by members despite the challenges! They have participated in the ‘leap of faith’ taken by the League through strategic planning and ongoing consultations that will help shape its future. The future of the League beyond its centennial in 2020 looks bright. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel, and inspired by the Spirit, women will continue to respond to God’s call. May they, in turn, be inspiration to others to respond in the same way!

Coreena Cole

Military Ordinariate Provincial Council President



The annual report of Military Ordinariate Provincial Council identifies some of the challenges parish councils faced as well as some of the more rewarding victories. Following the perusal of executive committee reports and eight of 13 council reports, it was welcoming to know regardless of councils’ specific issues, i.e. aging members, recycled executives and small councils, members continued to prevail, supporting the chapels and community.

As in 2016, councils discussed or acted upon palliative care and physician assisted dying issues. Other priorities listed in order of importance included the refugee crisis, home care, limiting access to pornography, warning labels on food and drug products, youth mental health, *Eating Well with Canada’s Food Guide*, conscience rights of healthcare providers, rights of Indigenous offenders and

Goods and Services Tax exemptions on child safety products. All information brought forward via standing committee chairpersons was discussed and acted on by setting time aside at a general meeting (75%) and arranging for a speaker on the topic (25%).

The treasurer's annual report indicated charitable giving per standing committee focused on the standing committees of community life (64%), education and health (31%) and Christian family life (five percent).

The top three responses of where parish councils received information were *The Canadian League*, provincial council websites/newsletters and the national website. Other sources of information included national communiques, parish bulletins, local newspapers, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Organization for Life and Family websites, diocesan newsletters and Google searches.

Annual summaries of parish council activities were provided to members by 75% of councils reporting. These reports were provided in various ways, oral, written and by e-mail.

All parish councils reported the spiritual advisor was supportive of the council and that they met with the spiritual advisor monthly (five), weekly (two) and rarely (one).

Parish council presidents reported receiving the greatest assistance from the treasurer (50%), secretary (25%), current executive (25%) and personal mentor (25%) when assuming the role. Credit was also given to a former past president, immediate past president, life members and members at the provincial level. The biggest challenge presidents faced was recruiting. Other challenges listed by at least two councils were keeping members interested, member conflict, member negativity/criticism, not having a full slate of officers, resistance to new ideas and trying to please everyone. Public speaking, running meetings and technology were also concerns.

While presiding at meetings, all parish council presidents reported using the *Constitution & Bylaws*. As well, most of them reported using the council's policy and procedure manual, *Executive Handbook* and the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*. More

than one-half reported using *Robert's Rules of Order* and a couple of them reported using the *Parliamentary Procedure* manual. Two councils reported new policies being included in the council policy and procedure manual (expense policy, outreach policy and meeting protocol). Most found it beneficial to have a national theme and/or logo through which they could focus council activities.

One-half of parish councils reported having committees for: annual events such as teas, bazaars, etc.; fundraising; scholarships or bursaries; and social events. Three had a donations committee, two had a catering committee, and one had a visitation and policy committee.

Parish council presidents reported representing their members at: church functions (100%); special masses (87.5%); World Day of Prayer and sacramental events (75%); provincial meetings and conventions, fundraising dinners and events, and Remembrance Day services (62.5%); funerals and retreats (50%); conferences (37.5%); national convention, workshops and anniversaries (25%); and diocesan meetings or conventions, pro-life events and school ceremonies (12.5%).

Parish council presidents spoke, on behalf of their members on: council social events (87.5%); membership and local charitable projects (75%); palliative care, scholarships, bursaries and other awards (37.5%); mental health (25%); and euthanasia and refugees (12.5%).

Five presidents reported the following about their term or council:

- “A great two year term! I have always said that ‘leadership is not a position, it is action’. Based on that I feel my term was a gift from God for me.”
- “We are a small council but we do what we can in our community and for the League.”
- “We are a small and dedicated council, we take pride in everything we do for our Chapel.”
- “We are re-building our council now, the progress is slow but steady.”
- “We try very hard to make a difference in our military communities near and far, and we try to stay abreast of civilian

CWL activities and participate when able. I see it as positive; it keeps us on our toes, better informed and educated.”

The year 2017 was an exciting year for councils as they were able to financially assist 14 members to attend the annual provincial convention in Comox, British Columbia and ten members to attend the annual national convention in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

Although parish councils struggled, members vowed to continue. They committed to work on communication and mentoring. My term was an awesome ride representing Military Ordinariate Provincial Council at the national level. I look forward to my next role as past president.

Marie C. Rackley

New Brunswick Provincial Council President



Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God’s Call was a true statement in the Province of New Brunswick as members continued to serve church and community.

Members chose a provincial theme, *Embrace the Grace of Belonging* to—an organization rooted in gospel values, sharing of talents with one another, finding friendships that would last a lifetime and serving God and Canada.

Membership continued to be a concern for most parish councils as it declined from 2,061 to 1,991. Councils were able to secure 49 new members. Despite older members not renewing and grieving 36 deceased members, the spirit of service continued.

In December, St. Ann Parish Council (Kingsclear) and Holy Family Parish Council (Moncton) decided to close. Members were encouraged to join councils close to them, and special letters of invitation were sent.

Members were active in the parish serving as lay providers, Eucharist ministers, lectors, altar servers, religious education teachers and pastoral council members. Members fundraised for church activities and supported charities such as New Brunswick Right to Life, Canadian Cancer Society Relay for Life, Development and Peace, Catholic Missions In Canada and Mass for Shut-ins. Many parish councils provided bursaries to local graduating students from the community. Members visited those in nursing homes, the sick and shut-ins and volunteered at local food banks, Meals on Wheels, and breakfast and school lunch programs.

Parish councils continued to write letters to members of the legislative assembly and members of parliament to express concern about abortion, limiting access to pornography, palliative care, physician assisted dying, the conscience rights of healthcare providers and home care.

The provincial executive divided “12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care” among its four diocesan councils. For 12 consecutive hours, masses, rosaries, prayer meetings and personal prayers were offered. Members met with other faith communities to attend World Day of Prayer and Week of Prayer for Christian Unity services.

All four diocesan councils voted to disband effective December 31, 2017. A new era would begin for the provincial council as 46 parish council presidents would become members of the provincial executive on January 1, 2018. The diocesan executives planned to conclude all procedures and complete their 2017 year, filing final annual report booklets for their archives.

In the fall, the provincial executive met for a two day workshop to develop the structure and a new policy for the provincial council. A team of six executive members travelled to all seven regions sharing this valuable information. The meetings were well attended, with much dialogue occurring. The presentations were well received and the evaluations indicated a job well done. There was a great deal of excitement among members as they saw the restructuring as a plausible change.

The year 2017 was extremely busy for the provincial president, traveling, attending meetings, writing letters and meeting with parish

councils to assure they would not be forgotten. I have certainly enjoyed every minute of each day. The members I worked with on my executive made it a rewarding experience for me. We laughed together and cried together; this made us stronger. People make friends, but God chose these friends for me through the Catholic Women's League.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to bless each of you as you work for your church, community and God and Canada.

Barbara McGrath
Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial
Council President



This year has truly been a learning experience, but it has been a very rewarding and special year of my life. Eighteen parish councils worked diligently to meet the objects of the League. As I read the year end reports it becomes abundantly clear that although small in number, great work was done by parish councils in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Through highlighting the objects, the dedication of members became obvious.

To Achieve Individual and Collective Spiritual Development

Members devoted a great deal of time to spiritual development through prayer services at meetings, novenas, “12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care”, Divine Mercy Sunday services, the rosary during the month of May, World Day of Prayer, stations of the cross, prayer corners for individual devotion and reflection, ecumenical services and many other special celebrations and events.

To Promote the Teachings of the Catholic Church

Members constantly found ways to educate their sister members and members of the faith community in the teachings of the Catholic church. Although there are only two Catholic schools in the

province, members continued to support the education of youth through mentoring, volunteering and helping with the catechetical and sacramental programs offered in parishes. Parish councils subscribed to Catholic magazines and encouraged members to avail of literature to become more informed about present day issues in the church. Faith literature was supplied whenever possible.

To Exemplify the Christian Ideal in Home and Family

Members struggled to live the Christian ideal both in homes and families, but continued to exemplify the ideals in any way they could. Members who were seniors, parents, grandparents or concerned members of the Catholic communities tried to be diligent in this role and did whatever they could to help younger generations live the Christian way. Parish councils offered support, living the word and praying for the continuation of the moral way.

To Protect the Sanctity of Human Life

The sanctity of life was foremost on the minds of members. Many members supported the Centre for Life and took part in discussions of the importance of life from conception to death for all members of society. Members respected life by supporting pregnant mothers through baby showers and donations. Members tried to support youth by helping with activities organized for them. Many members helped enhance the lives of seniors by visiting them at home and in senior care homes. Members tried their best to respect life at all stages.

To Enhance the Role of Women in Church and Society

Members lived out the theme, *Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call*, any way they could. Many members played important roles in church communities such as leadership roles on pastoral councils, liturgy committees and in ministry. Support for the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation showed commitment to enhancing the role of women in church and society.

To Recognize the Human Dignity of All People Everywhere

Members demonstrated respect for all people everywhere through different projects. They supported people in need throughout the world by donating to Development and Peace and other relief funds in times of unexpected disasters in the global community.

The theme of the provincial executive's fall meeting was *Living the Corporal Works of Mercy*. Guest speakers spoke about people living on the streets, inmates of the penitentiary and patients at psychiatric hospitals. Members heard about their plight and were given suggestions as to how they could help. Members collected greeting cards and supplies to be used by the resident chaplains and donated hygiene supplies for people living on the street. Members made a monetary donation to The Gathering Place for people who are homeless, live in less than desirable housing conditions, are unemployed or do not have adequate social supports.

Members laid wreaths on November 11th and July 1st to respect those who fought for freedom and continued to serve and protect.

To Uphold and Defend Christian Education and Values in the Modern World

Members supported family catechesis programs in communities and parishes through the delivery of these programs. Many parish councils gave sacramental candidates small tokens such as prayer beads, prayer cards and medals. They took part in an anti-pornography campaign in hopes that children and members of society would not be adversely affected by this disregard for Christian values.

To Contribute to the Understanding and Growth of Religious Freedom, Social Justice, Peace and Harmony

Members wrote letters to government in support of Resolution 2017.04 Protection from Coercion of Conscience for Healthcare Professionals. Social justice issues were at the forefront in discussions, and the appointment of a provincial senior's advocate was an example of the success of persistence.

These are just a few examples of how members lived their commitment to the objects of the League.

“For God and Canada”

Peggy MacNeil

Nova Scotia Provincial Council President



Inspired by the Spirit, members in Nova Scotia responded to God's call as they came together committed to pray, support, serve, share and celebrate their work "For God and Canada". Their faith and love for each other and for the League gave them the strength they needed to carry on their work.

Parish councils contributed to the spiritual growth of members by hosting workshops, prayer services and retreats, and inviting guest speakers to develop the theme. They referred to resources on the national website and developed and provided their own prayer services. Liturgies and spiritual programs were developed by members using the League's *Ceremonies Booklet*, *CWL Prays* booklet, Alpha course and the Cursillo Movement's Challenge and Ultreya programs. Some familiarized themselves with the church's protocol for cremation with the assistance of their spiritual advisors. Some in the Diocese of Antigonish reported studying *Laudato Si'*. Funeral honour guards were held for the 54 deceased members.

Members participated in World Day of Prayer, stations of the cross, Our Lady of Good Counsel Feast Day, rosary, reflection, adoration of the blessed sacrament, women in scriptures studies, pilgrimages, crowning of Mary, candlelight vigils, litanies, novenas and prayer breakfasts. Members were very active in lay ministry, served in parish leadership roles, and on parish and diocesan committees. They supported the Knights of Columbus and Catholic missions, and reached out to other faith denominations by inviting women to various events. They financially supported and participated in Mass for Shut-Ins and were involved with activities in nursing homes, group homes and hospitals, in keeping with the ministry of compassion and caring.

Members demonstrated faith with a genuine desire to affect positive change in the world. Religious education was delivered at the parish level. Parish councils supported Steubenville, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, and baptismal and marriage preparation programs. They encouraged and monetarily supported the educational and spiritual growth of high school, university and postgraduate students through scholarship and bursaries offered annually. The provincial Marion Hepditch Littlepage Award was raised to \$500.00. Parish councils reported an awareness and financial support for the National Bursary Fund, Coady International Institute, NET Ministries of Canada and Catholic Christian Outreach.

Prominent among issues affecting members was concern for ensuring timely access to mental health professionals and follow-up programs, particularly for young adults. Another issue of concern was palliative care and hospice. Prayer shawls were provided to the sick and elderly. Senior safety sessions were facilitated by local police departments. All parish councils remained active in outreach with organizations such as The Arthritis Society, Canadian Cancer Society, Autism Canada, Canadian Diabetes Association, Heart & Stroke Foundation, Children's Wish Foundation of Canada, Cystic Fibrosis Canada, CNIB, transition houses, youth clubs, soup kitchens, MaterCare International Inc., Project Rachel and Birthright International. They also shared a common interest in protecting the environment.

Fifty percent of parish councils participated in completing annual reports. Smaller councils reported facing challenges in leadership development, recruiting and maintaining members. Councils reported attracting members through activities such as presentations, fairs, social media, parish bulletins, presentations, displays, gift memberships, celebration dinners, new member kits and mentoring. Recruitment required energy, sincerity and compassion for the League. Membership recognition was also an important focus. Pins, certificates, awards and thank you cards were presented. Encouragement and a welcoming approach with good mentorship and involvement were strategies used. Online membership, telephone calls and e-mails were used by many councils. Parish

councils availed themselves of League materials, and life members served as mentors and facilitators, providing guidance on issues of concern. Members attended conventions when possible. Eighty members attended the annual national convention in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and family websites were used for information and resource material. Parish councils promoted encounter weekends for engaged couples, marriage encounter weekends, parenting courses, anniversary milestone celebrations, programs to support life from natural life to natural death, pro-life walks and masses, March for Life, Life Chain, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and travelling chalice/crucifix programs. One council completed and presented 18 lap blankets for palliative care. Youth were supported through shelters and programs for at risk students, summer camps, Sunday school and World Youth Day. The young were encouraged to share their gifts in ministry. Members reached out to the disabled and seniors by providing programs to enrich their lives. They were prayed with, visited, called and sent cards. One council celebrated mass once per month at the nursing home in its parish. Priests were invited and included in events. Spiritual bouquets and priestly retirement funds were also supported by members.

Past presidents embraced the opportunity to share knowledge, wisdom, support and encouragement to councils. They chaired nominations committees and kept involved through various forms of fundraising and events. Challenges were cited as lack of active past presidents and the need to serve as president for multiple terms due to an inability to recruit. The transition to technology in reporting was problematic for some. Past presidents remained focused on preserving history through various norms such as filing cabinets, CDs, scrapbooks, albums and memory sticks. National website resources and *The Canadian League* articles proved helpful for many. Parish councils used a record retention template as a resource and guide for future past presidents. Many had their own policy manual supplement to guide council decisions.

Parish councils reported increased knowledge in laws and efforts in the fight against human trafficking. They supported minority groups and contributed time and money for those suffering from bullying, domestic violence, homelessness, poverty and racism. Some supported Dignity for All: The Campaign for a Poverty Free Canada, local foodbanks, St. Vincent de Paul, shelters, Hope Cottage, Canadian Red Cross, Chalice, breakfast programs, quilts for seniors and refugee families. Financial assistance was offered to immigrants and refugees for food and rent, as well as to Development and Peace. There was an increase in awareness of the conditions faced by child labourers and economic conditions in developing countries. Organizations supported in developing countries include Operation Christmas Child, Holy Childhood Association and Samaritan's Purse. One council made 140 dresses for children in Africa. Members attended workshops related to social and economic justice.

Parish councils responded favourably to *The Canadian League*. Members acknowledged favourite articles, especially on palliative care. Most councils subscribed to Catholic periodicals, newspapers and/or magazines. It was heartening to note some members watched the 2017 annual national convention speakers on livestream. Using Facebook, websites, e-mails, newspapers and bulletins remained favourable in promoting League events. Some councils viewed Salt + Light Catholic Media Foundation's *Woman on a Mission* and the League's testimonial video. Newsletters were a great way to keep members informed. Pornography Hurts postcards were distributed and forwarded by councils. The provincial website was kept up to date with all relevant information.

In both dioceses parish councils discussed and studied the topics of palliative care, medications, food labelling, pornography, cannabis and mental health. Actions were taken through petitions, e-mails, telephone calls and letter writing on resolutions adopted at the 2017 annual national convention. One parish council from the Diocese of Halifax-Yarmouth authored a resolution to ban the marketing of foods and beverages to children. While not adopted nationally, the council was informed that if insufficient action was not taken by the federal government the resolution would be reconsidered. A resolutions workshop was presented in the Diocese of Antigonish.

To keep up to date on current bills, parish councils reported accessing Hansard. Councils monitored issues associated with various federal bills, signed petitions and strove to keep members informed. Many were in touch with government representatives at all levels. Councils wrote letters to the prime minister and attorney general supporting the national president's letter regarding Bill C-16 *An Act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code*. Councils monitored provincial legislation concerning cyber-bullying, the abortion pill being available at no cost, sentencing for violent offences against Indigenous women, assisted suicide and issues surrounding the legalization of marijuana.

I thank God for the pleasure of serving as for the past two years with my sisters in the League.

Anne Madden

Ontario Provincial Council President



Statistics

- From across Ontario over 76% of presidents filled in the annual report; two dioceses had 100% completion rate. A total of 405 parish council presidents responded.
- Most councils (98%) had a president and 91% filed their own annual report.

Inform the Membership

Where did members get information from which to inform their members?

- national meetings, directives, research, media and League websites
- issues of concern from the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO) re: Call for Conscience Campaign, euthanasia, availability of palliative care in all communities, physician-assisted dying and gender identity

What national priorities were introduced to and discussed or acted upon by councils?

- palliative care, strategic planning, 100th League anniversary
- directors and officers insurance

What methods were used to introduce these topics?

- For “12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care”, all diocesan and provincial councils participated in the national quilt competition and donated the quilts to palliative care.
- held town hall meetings during annual national convention to garner ideas for strategic planning
- members chaired and served on committees and the provincial executive publicized national 100th anniversary celebrations
- sent emails/phone calls re: statistics and details on insurance coverage

Foster Open Communication

- *ON-line Newsletter/website*
- oral reports at executive meetings
- directives from provincial officers to counterparts
- many provincial bulletins about urgent matters
- personal and conference phone calls and e-mails

Preside at Meetings

What resources were used to preside at meetings?

- *Constitution & Bylaws*, national and provincial policy and procedure manuals, *Robert's Rules of Order*, national communiques and knowledge gained from attendance at national meetings

Signing Authority

What types of documents were signed by the provincial president on behalf of provincial council?

- worked with provincial treasurer and recording secretary (when needed) to review claim forms and sign cheques
- letters, cards, certificates, invitations, e-mails sent by administrative assistant on my behalf

Provide Active Leadership

At which events was the provincial council represented?

- all 13 diocesan conventions
- development days, workshops, retreats, special council anniversaries and events

Council Subsidies to Attend Events

- Euthanasia Prevention Coalition symposium in October

Initiate Policy

- provincial manuals (policy and procedure, convention guide and provincial guidelines) were updated, made searchable and added to the website

Keep Informed

- All executive members read and understand the *Executive Handbook* and duties of the executive team.
- Provincial executive members were encouraged to visit national and provincial League websites on “Website Wednesdays”.
- Reports submitted by every executive member were shared via e-mail with all other executive members and posted on the website.

Advisory Capacity

What committees, other than standing committees, does the provincial council have? The following committees were appointed:

- administration committee
- policy, guidelines and convention guide review committee
- registration and credential committee
- resolutions review, reading, government visitation and archiving committees
- minutes review committee
- Bishop Bernard F. Pappin bursary committee
- social justice committee
- nominations and elections committee
- annual report book committee

On what issues did the provincial president speak on behalf of the council in the past year?

- represented the province at the national table
- attended meeting with ACBO executive in September with president-elect
- had representation at special anniversaries, award ceremonies, funerals as requested or as needed
- administration, executive and president's meetings were arranged, and executive members engaged in dialogue on relevant topics.

President's Activity Report

- attended national executive meetings / convention as required and gave written and oral reports
- worked with administrative assistant to send letters for a variety of reasons (congratulatory, sympathy, information, etc.)
- prepared monthly submissions to *ON-Line Newsletter*
- selected guest speakers for annual convention in keeping with the national theme and the provincial theme of *Homelessness*
- secured a parliamentarian
- accepted requests to speak at meetings in own diocese

Recommendations

- new executives hold a mentoring session soon after election, with their previous counterparts, to swap materials and glean ideas and tips for ongoing success
- save files to flash drives for ease of access and to decrease amount of paper transferred and stored
- presidents keep a running list of activities for future counterpart

“For God and Canada”

Irene Gallant

Prince Edward Island Provincial Council President



Prince Edward Island Provincial Council had 22 parish councils report through the online reporting system. Here are a few highlights from the reports:

- Councils used various ways to inform the membership including national communiques, provincial websites or newsletters, and *The Canadian League*.
- Councils discussed or acted on conscience rights of healthcare providers, palliative care and physician assisted dying. Most introduced these topics by setting aside time at the general meeting.
- Some councils met with their spiritual advisor at least once per month; however, several councils did not appear to meet with them at all. Almost all councils indicated the spiritual advisor as supportive.
- Most indicated the parish council president represented her council in a number of ways including funerals, anniversaries, church functions, World Day of Prayer, provincial meetings and conventions, and workshops, with various funding from councils ranging from all expenses to no expenses paid.
- Presidents indicated experiencing the greatest assistance was received from past or former past presidents, as well as their executive.
- The greatest challenges faced in transitioning into the role of president included keeping members interested, delegating, recruiting and the amount of paperwork.
- Presidents found it beneficial to have a national theme and/or logo.
- Some responses shared, “It is difficult at times to keep up with all the paper work – you may just have to pick and choose”; “pleased with the cooperation of the membership – they are very supporting”; “I learned a lot about myself and boosted my

self-esteem”; and “We have very helpful members who work well together – we don’t always follow official procedures but do good work”.

Parish councils focused on the national theme and on palliative care. This was accomplished through retreats, guest speakers and the sharing of personal experiences. The provincial executive approved 16 subsidies to assist parish councils with costs associated with these activities. In reading follow-up reports, all indicated the success of these events. A number of councils decided to start monthly meetings with mass first, a spiritual and loving way to begin. Other spiritual actions included prayers for deceased members, prayer lines and reciting the rosary before weekday masses or during the months of May and October. Events included mass and prayers on the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Chaplet of Divine Mercy and a pilgrimage for St. Anne. Councils participated in Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, World Day of Prayer, Mary’s Way of the Cross during Lent and prayer groups, and supported Mass for Shut-Ins.

In March, the provincial executive lead four area meetings. Presenters were three executive members so each had an opportunity to deliver her part of the meeting. These meetings were positive, with great attendance and wonderful comments.

Provincial convention was held in early May and featured a number of guest speakers. It was gratifying to see one of the largest number of registrants. Time was provided for spiritual enrichment, open discussion, and an opportunity to renew friendships and make new ones. As usual, registrants enjoyed the life members’ skit. The mass collection totaled nearly \$1,000 and was donated to Catholic Missions In Canada. There were a number of members who participated in the March for Life, many with council banners. I was invited to be one of the speakers and was honoured to do so.

In August, the provincial council hosted the annual national convention. Every parish council contributed in some way to make this convention one of the best. The organizing co-chairpersons worked with amazing sub-committees to ensure everything was looked after. Volunteers felt like this was welcoming family home

for vacation and as such ensured meals, events and entertainment were of the highest quality. There were over 750 registered for convention and local members were over 200 in number. In October a wrap up party was held for committees and their members. Thank you to so many who contributed to the success of the convention.

In September, the provincial executive welcomed Honorary Life Member Danielle McNeil-Hessian who came to conduct a workshop on the strategic planning process and allowed members an opportunity to comment on the process to date and next steps. Participants appreciated the opportunity and looked forward to further development of the strategic plan. Also in September, members participated in the pilgrimage for Canadian Martyrs with the Knights of Columbus. The first fall conference was held in September and the second in October, both well attended and with wonderful guest speakers on the theme *Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call*.

Members remained active in parish life as well as within the community and further afield. They generously shared financially, giving to local hospitals, hospice/palliative care, food banks, St. Vincent de Paul, PEI Catholic Girls Bursary, Catholic Missions In Canada, Development and Peace and Catholic Near East Welfare Association, to name a few. I was pleased to bring greetings to the Knights of Columbus state meeting, United Church Women, Anglican Church Women and Presbyterian Women's Missionary Society. It was a wonderful way for all Christians to know they are on similar paths in response to the needs of the church and world.

I want to thank Bishop Richard Grecco (Charlottetown) and provincial spiritual advisor Fr. Brian MacDougall for their prayers and guidance. I also thank the executive and all members for their continued support and friendship. I have certainly experienced sisterhood in the League. May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to bless members and the League.

“For God and Canada”

Linda Chisholm
Quebec Provincial Council President



My first year as president of Quebec Provincial Council was one of learning. Working with the provincial executive, as well as meeting and sharing with provincial presidents across Canada, was positive and enjoyable. Participating in national meetings led to an appreciation for the functioning of the League on a larger scale. It was apparent that all are dealing with the same challenges to various extents, those of maintaining memberships, recruiting new members and filling leadership roles. While some parish councils were unable to fill all positions, provincial membership reported growth, even as the national trend reflected a decline.

The provincial executive offered workshops that focused on the roles of parish council secretary and treasurer. These workshops were well attended and appreciated by participants. It remained a priority to deliver workshops that would train members to take on leadership positions within councils.

The provincial council was blessed with the hard work of its spiritual advisor Fr. John Torrance. At convention, he led a beautiful spiritual activity during which victims of the Holocaust were remembered. Two provincial retreats were held in collaboration with Holy Cross fathers at St. Joseph's Oratory. Members were blessed to live in a province so rich in religious history and home to so many beautiful churches and cathedrals.

The goal of my first year was to improve communication and transmission of information from one level to the next. In an effort to create more unity between provincial and parish councils, provincial executive members were each assigned to a parish council to act as a liaison. In some cases this was embraced and a greater sense of connection was established. Other parish councils were

more reluctant to welcome these changes, and it became evident this would be an ongoing process.

All communications, including standing committee communiques, were sent by the provincial secretary, who was a great source of support. There were mixed responses to this process. Some members missed the individual contact with standing committee chairpersons, while others received communiques for the first time. More work is planned before a complete evaluation of the process can be made. I commend provincial executive members for their efforts; they really worked well as a team. I feel parish and diocesan council presidents also felt a bond of friendship.

Many members remained actively involved in parish life and were found helping out in every ministry. Members were leaders in faith education programs in parishes, helping to form young members in the communities. Members grew in faith through personal prayer, by taking courses and by participating in bible study groups. Devotion to Mary was apparent in the many services organized to honour her, particularly for the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel. On this occasion some parish councils hosted a “CWL Sunday” complete with a flag procession at mass.

Parish councils were busy with various fundraising events that allowed them to support a number of causes in the communities and give generously to national voluntary funds. All councils promoted the protection of life from conception until natural death. This was accomplished by supporting pro-life initiatives, attending workshops and information sessions, and devoting time and talents to palliative care residences. Members were active in writing letters on several resolutions adopted at the national level in recent years. Councils were active in the Pornography Hurts postcard campaign. A provincial motion was carried to recognize First Nations territories where official gatherings are held. This was a natural follow up to long term efforts by the provincial executive to build bridges and friendships with Indigenous sisters through events and workshops that foster a greater understanding and compassion.

Parish councils contacted members through various means including Facebook pages and visits to shut-ins. Members were encouraged to

check the website often for updates and to refer often to *The Canadian League*. Provincial and national communiques were the greatest avenue of communication to members.

Preparations were well underway for the 2020 annual national convention in Montreal, which will unite members from across Canada to celebrate 100 years of service and accomplishments of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Committee members worked together to plan for the best celebration Quebec Provincial Council can deliver.

Margaret Schwab

Saskatchewan Provincial Council President



In 2017, fewer parish councils took advantage of online reporting than in 2016. This was common across all three dioceses in Saskatchewan. There were a few who did not receive information about how to access the online process and a few who sent in a hard copy. This process seemed to be difficult for councils. Some parish councils did not have anyone who could enter reports via the Internet, others were uncertain as to how to go about this. It was felt more training on this

subject was necessary, perhaps a sample training module that could be loaded onto a computer and taken to workshops, where participants would practice logging in, completing brief mock-ups of the survey and saving files. It was felt a similar mock-up could be used for online memberships as this too seemed intimidating for parish councils.

Inform the Membership

Most parish councils used *The Canadian League*, national communiques, parish bulletins and diocesan newsletters to inform members. Websites, both national and provincial, were increasingly in use, but still less preferred than paper sources. Other sources listed were the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic

Organization for Life and Family websites, and faith-based and secular newspapers. Some used technology, either through sending text messages to members or sending group e-mails from a League e-mail account.

Palliative care and physician assisted dying topped the list of priorities in all dioceses with many parish councils spending time discussing or acting upon these topics. There was also a high interest in limiting access to pornography, youth mental health and the refugee crisis. The diocesan annual reports reflected that parish councils took an interest in all national priorities to some degree. Most councils set aside some time during a meeting to discuss and inform members about these issues, using their standing committee chairpersons to lead the discussions. Use of speakers was much lower; however, it must be noted many councils did not have access to speakers in their community.

Foster Open Communications

While almost all parish councils felt their spiritual advisor was supportive, and many were able to meet with the spiritual advisor regularly, it seems few spiritual advisors were available to attend meetings or conventions.

Preside at Meetings

The *Constitution & Bylaws* and *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* were the most commonly used resources. Approximately one-half of parish councils had their own policy and procedure document. Other resources used, to a lesser degree, were the *Executive Handbook*, *Robert's Rules of Order* and *Parliamentary Procedure*.

Signing Authority

Most parish council presidents had signing authority, which included banking documents, cheques, petitions and lottery licenses. This authority also applied to letters directed within and outside of the League, for example to government.

Provide Active Leadership

There was strong representation by parish council presidents at church functions as well as at diocesan conventions. Many were present at special masses, events such as World Day of Prayer, and

other conferences. Regional meetings and the annual provincial convention showed a drastic drop in representation. The annual national convention received a very low representation.

Most councils paid all or one-half of the cost of attending a diocesan convention. Subsidized attendance at provincial and national conventions was minimal, with most councils reporting no subsidy at all. One diocesan report indicated a moderate number of councils subsidized workshops and conferences, while in others, there was no subsidization.

Initiate Policy

Parish councils initiated new or updated policy in funeral protocol, expense policy, year-end reporting, bursary application, donation protocol, protocols for fundraising and criminal checks/reporting process.

Executive Handbook

Most parish council executive members read the *Executive Handbook* and felt it was a valuable resource. A few felt too busy for extra reading; that it was not necessary; that it was not a help.

Annual Summary

One-half of parish council presidents gave an oral annual report to members. Other methods used, in lower numbers, were reporting by e-mail, parish bulletins and newsletters. There was a small number that did not provide an annual report to members.

Advisory Capacity

Most parish councils had committees for teas, donations, fundraising, social events, scholarships or bursaries, and visitations. A few reported not having other committees.

Official Spokesperson

Parish council presidents spoke most often on social events, membership, palliative care, local charities, euthanasia and scholarships/awards. Other topics addressed to a lesser extent included pro-life issues, mental health, pornography, Indigenous issues and refugees. Only one-half of councils used League letterhead when corresponding outside the League; however, a large

majority ensured they reference only the membership number for the council they represented.

Summary and Final Thoughts

Most parish council presidents received assistance from former and immediate past presidents, and current executive members, including secretaries and treasurers. A few had personal mentors or a connection to a life member. Very few reported assistance from diocesan or provincial levels.

Greatest Challenge

There were many challenges listed; however, most involved keeping members interested, recruiting, not having a full slate of officers and finding time to do the tasks. Others that received mention were the amount of paperwork required and feeling inexperienced. Some met with resistance to new ideas, negativity/criticism from members, difficulty in pleasing everyone and challenges with technology. Almost all reported it beneficial to have a national theme and /or logo through which to focus activities.

Additional Comments

Parish council presidents listed many activities councils either led or took part in including World Day of Prayer, way of the cross, memorial masses for the deceased, Our Lady of Good Counsel Feast Day celebrations, publishing newsletters, gathering clothing and food for the poor, financial support to parishes and beyond, special projects for underprivileged children, brunches, teas and a large variety of social functions. Parish councils were as active as the number and age of the membership allowed. Wonderful work was going on everywhere.

Unfortunately, many parish councils struggled to find members to fill executive positions, causing the president to be overburdened. It was difficult to get younger women to attend meetings regularly; however, some found these younger women would help with short-term projects. Many councils were just coping trying to get done what needed to be done in the parish. Some were simply overwhelmed by changes to technology, finding online reporting difficult to find and complete.

As I read through reports from diocesan presidents, I was still amazed at all that was accomplished with few members. As a provincial executive, more efforts are needed to better assist councils and better train members for changes bound to happen as the world becomes more and more technological. The provincial executive also needs to encourage more members to give and receive the valued experiences that can come from mentorship.

As the national level underwent the process of planning strategically, it was hoped the future of the League will appeal to new members and rejuvenate existing ones. From the submitted annual reports, I see the Holy Spirit is indeed inspiring members of Saskatchewan as they respond to God's call in so many ways.

END OF ANNUAL REPORT

2018 Life Members

In The Catholic Women's League of Canada, life membership gives to the recipient, in addition to the honour, a permanent place on the national council, the same voting privileges as accredited delegates at an annual meeting or convention (C&B, Part XV, Section 2(c)), a voice in its affairs and eligibility for a national appointment. Privilege entails responsibility as national council expects support and service from its life members. Life members are expected to maintain their memberships by paying annual per capita fees through their parish councils and to provide research, present workshops, and actively respond to requests made to them by national, provincial and diocesan councils.

Life Member

Ruth Boden
Marjorie D'Entremont
Mary Dobbelsteyn
Joanne Hough
Joyce LeBlanc
Judy Look
Lynn Olenik
Genevieve Sexton
Stephanie Spinelli
Sharon St. Jean

Nominating Council

Mackenzie Diocesan Council
New Brunswick Provincial Council
New Brunswick Provincial Council
Peterborough Diocesan Council
New Brunswick Provincial Council
Calgary Diocesan Council
Hearst Diocesan Council
Hearst Diocesan Council
Kingston Diocesan Council
Ottawa Diocesan Council

The Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council
invites League members from
across Canada to attend the
99th Annual National Convention
of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada
August 18-21, 2019
in
Calgary, Alberta