

Welcome to The Catholic Women's League of Canada, the largest Catholic women's organization in Canada with approximately 80,000 members, and parish councils in every province including the Yukon and Northwest Territories, as well as on military bases. The national executive [board] is composed of 11 provincial presidents and 11 elected officers. The national office located in Winnipeg, Manitoba is staffed with five fulltime and two seasonal employees. With your membership, you will receive *The Canadian League* magazine published three times per year to keep you informed about League happenings. You may also access the national website [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca), to learn about current happenings or follow the League on Facebook or Twitter.

The mission statement changed in August 2018 and proclaims that "The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service". As a national organization, a delegation meets with the federal government annually in Ottawa to present resolutions which are generated by members like you at the parish level, who recognize an inequality or injustice and lobby for change. Through national voluntary funds, Coady International Institute, Catholic Missions In Canada, Catholic Near East Welfare Association and Euthanasia Prevention Coalition are supported. The League is also affiliated with the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO). Honorary Life Member Velma Harasen has just completed a four year term as the North American regional vice-president, and has been succeeded by Marusia Kobrynsky of the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada.

At the 98<sup>th</sup> annual pre-convention board meeting "*The Catholic Women's League of Canada Plans Strategically 2018-2022*" was adopted. An implementation committee was struck to bring the plan to life in parishes and will be in place until 2023. It will oversee several working groups, the progress of which will be presented to the board for consideration at its regular meetings. This is an exciting time for the League as members work to see the evolution of this tremendous and necessary organization. None of this would have been or will be possible without the voices from members of strong faith at the grassroots, who work diligently for the betterment of communities and the world.

What a wonderful gift to belong to such an organization. I encourage you to attend diocesan, provincial and national conventions where you will be able to experience with like-minded women the joy of belonging, and hear of the great work accomplished by women inspired by the Spirit. Faith, fun and fulfillment are the three prongs to meetings that make parishes strong and vibrant, especially in difficult times. You will most certainly make friendships within and without your local parish, and find affirmation and comfort from your new and renewed partnerships. There is much testimony to support these fruits of belonging.

The national theme *Care for our Common Home* invites members to reflect upon the gift of creation that God has given and to find ways to protect it for present and future generations. As one of the tenets of Catholic social teaching, members are reminded that all creation is gift; how members respect this gift and the Giver provides a base for spiritual development and spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

My prayer for my dear League sisters is that we live as Jesus lived, grow in faith, and share our tremendous womanly genius with our sisters and brothers in order to make the world a garden of peace, joy and fulfillment.

Thank you for joining The Catholic Women's League of Canada. It is a gift to yourself and the wider community, which continues to give the longer you belong. May you and your council flourish as you grow spiritually, learn more and widen your horizons as strong Catholic Christian women.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne-Marie Gorman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Anne-Marie Gorman  
National President