

The Canadian League



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Anne-Marie Gorman

National President and Chairperson of International Relations



O Lord,... all that we have done, you have done for us.
(Is. 26:12)

On a beautiful sunny fall day in New Brunswick, I completed my readings for All Saints Day. Matthew reminds us how Jesus instructed the crowds with whom He knew He would be spending only a little time. Blessed are the poor in spirit..., the meek..., the merciful..., the peacemakers..., and finally, "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven..." (Mt. 5:1-12a). How that passage speaks to the cry of the poor!

This passage reminds me that there is a prescribed period of time with which to do whatever God has in mind for us. Although the allotted time is unknown, we do know that we must make good use of each breath, as it could be the last. Keep in mind that building the kingdom of heaven on earth stands behind every decision we make. If what we choose to do as Christians does not help build the Kingdom of God, then we must rethink it. Caring for creation, the seventh tenet in Catholic social teaching, instructs us to care for what has been gifted by God. Knowing this, how does the League build the kingdom through *Care for our Common Home*?

Time is on my mind a lot lately. The news is full of messages from scientists. They tell us humanity has about a dozen years to try to reverse the direction of the planet, including the warming of the oceans, before reaching the point of no return. Others would say this point has already been passed. It is a very sobering thought. So, what are we to do? Throw our hands up into the air? Give up? I believe we do what we can, what I call ants' work, to mitigate in every area possible, the devastating effects of climate change

most significantly caused by overuse of the planet's resources, especially in my generation's lifetime.

Members are almost 80,000 strong, committed, Catholic Christian women, with spouses, children, siblings, parents and extended families. This raises the number to the hundreds of thousands! What can be done from the individual places in Canada that have been gifted with so much, benefiting us for generations? Perhaps, along with families and friends, examine the resources taken for granted. Attempt to eliminate as much waste as possible, especially the use of water.

Start small if you haven't already done so. Turn off the tap. Use the water from washing dishes, dehumidifiers, and eaves troughs for other purposes. Educate members and parish communities on the amounts of water used for various things such as the raising of the meat supply. Compare it to the amount used in the production of vegetable protein. Eliminate the use of plastic in every form possible. As a council, look at the beautiful communities around and decide how to help sustain and foster a healthy planet, while repairing the damage already done.

More sobering and almost unimaginable is that there are places where safe drinking water is not a given. Requiring deeper thought, it may mean lobbying governments at all levels to ensure that everyone has a safe and sustainable water supply. ... "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done..."

While there seems to be only bad news, as Christians, we focus on the Good News. "But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Mt. 6:33). Christians believe that God will answer prayers in a time known only to God. This teaches patience. However, be mindful that every action taken on earth with regard to caring for this precious planet will have an effect on the poorest sisters and brothers. It focuses us on the immediacy and urgency of the actions.



**Care for our
Common Home**

At the fall national executive board meeting, important decisions were made regarding implementation of the strategic plan, anticipated to ensure the League's vitality well into the future. Because this organization is essential to the good of the church and greater community, it is vital that the League flourishes. Four women have graciously accepted leadership on the implementation committee (see page 16) and will play a key role in taking the League to the next step. Pray for them.

The board was updated on serious concerns regarding Development and Peace – Caritas Canada together with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) and discussed present and future implications for the League. Bishop Stephen Jensen (Prince George), national spiritual advisor, addressed the sexual abuse scandal that continues to plague the church. He spoke to the updated document by the CCCC, *Protecting Minors from Sexual Abuse: A Call to the Catholic Faithful in Canada for Healing, Reconciliation, and Transformation*.



Having returned from Dakar, Senegal, for the quadrennial World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO) conference, the theme of which was *WUCWO Women, Carriers of 'living water' to a world which thirsts for Peace*, I give thanks for the unique privilege of representing the League's membership. This representation also provided me an opportunity to meet two recipients, from the African region, of the League's Coady International Institute bursary. Both women are fully employed and were pleased to be able to thank the League in person.

The theme reminded everyone gathered that both physical and spiritual blessings are received through water (see page 14). By circulating among the worldwide sisterhood, one is reminded that God truly does great things and we must respond with thanks through action.

May all of us be granted the courage and strength to respond to the call to holiness through *Care for our Common Home*. ✚

Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) Holy Land Pilgrimage for CWL members

June 22 – July 3, 2019

Cost: \$3,375 includes return airfare from Toronto, hotel (double occupancy), bus, guide, daily breakfast and supper. Space is limited.

Discover the holy sites, walk where Jesus walked and meet Christians in Israel and Palestine while visiting local projects, including those funded by The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Contact: Melodie Gabriel
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www.cnewa.ca/web/cwltrip



THE LEAGUE OBJECTS

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



In the beginning, remember the end. This maxim from the church's philosophical tradition can help keep members on track towards the goals of the League in the midst of the everyday activities of parish, diocesan, provincial and national council roles and responsibilities. To be most effective, members must continually keep before them the reasons that inspired women almost a century ago to establish The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

The League Objects presented on the national website are a powerful list of goals that should inform decisions and activities at every level. These goals are remarkably timely in the context we find ourselves in as members of the church and participants in the political and social culture of Canada today. In this edition of *The Canadian League* and the following one, I want to reflect on the goals that should orient members' work.

"The Objects of the League shall be to unite Catholic women of Canada." This promotes members' vocation as lay faithful in the mission of the church. The League provides a means to accomplish things that would often be beyond the ability of individuals or small groups to achieve. By providing Catholic women a national voice, the League can influence decisions and policies that affect everyone in the country.

The first object of the League is "to achieve individual and collective spiritual development." The goal rightly comes first, since without this purpose the League would no longer be "salt and light" for the church community and the world. The truest measure of success for the League is its members' growth in holiness, which means union with the Risen Lord. Through His grace the Kingdom of God is built in a time and place on the level of family, parish, local, provincial and national communities.



The second object is "to promote the teachings of the Catholic church." Every day there is evidence of confusion and the outright denial of truth in the media and academic and political worlds. This cultural environment surrounds us like the air we breathe and inevitably conditions peoples' perceptions and attitudes towards ethical issues. The widespread collapse of understanding about what it means to be human, male and female, the nature of marriage and the family, and the intrinsic value of every human life, are all symptoms of a world that needs the light of truth. The faithful in the church have the vocation to witness to the truth that shows the dignity and destiny of the

lives entrusted to us by our Maker. Working together, League members help spread that light.

Pope St. Paul VI said, "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses." That truth is reflected in the third object of the League, "to exemplify the Christian ideal in home and family life." People should

never underestimate the power that witness can have in communities, where many do not experience family life as God intends. Members can help parishes to become "extended families" for those in need.

The fourth object is a natural complement to the witness to family life, "to protect the sanctity of life." The gift of life is under attack at every moment of vulnerability, from before birth to times of sickness and dying. The work of the League to influence public opinion, laws and policies is needed more than ever in the great cause of defense of life.

The above mentioned are the first four Objects of the League. In the next issue of the magazine, I'll offer some thoughts on the remaining four goals that should guide the work of councils. ✚

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN...

Shari Guinta

National First Vice-President and Chairperson of Spiritual Development



It is said that the Father in heaven wants to have a conversation with us, a relationship with us. In order to do that, we must engage, talk and converse with Him. I have heard this from clergy, liturgists, theologians and presenters of all kinds.

I have learned that God listens and He answers my prayers. My personal prayer life has changed over the years. It has become much more personal and intimate. I can ask God anything.

In an insightful little book entitled *On Earth as it is in Heaven*, author Dr. Josephine Lombardi writes about healing. Each chapter ends with reflection questions and a prayer. She goes through The Lord's Prayer, reflects on each petition, and describes how Jesus spoke about healing from sin, guilt and shame. "The diverse healings Jesus performed show that illness has many different causes."

Dr. Lombardi goes on to say that today environmental pollution is everywhere and can cause illness. How poignant, seeing as the new national theme is *Care for our Common Home* which attempts to bring awareness about the environment and natural resources. Members often pray for healing for themselves, others, the environment and the world.

Peoples' lives are busy, maybe too busy. I have presented a workshop called "Trying to be a Mary in a Martha World", and in this presentation I refer to scripture passage in Luke 10 where Jesus and His disciples descend on Mary and Martha's home. Martha immediately goes to the kitchen to prepare a meal for the hungry travellers while her sister Mary goes into the living room and sits at the Lord's feet to listen to Him. Martha becomes rather annoyed and confronts Jesus by saying, "Tell her then to help me". Jesus tells Martha that, "Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

Prayer is important to Christians. We are taught at an early age to pray and have many standard prayers known by heart. The point I want to make is that although these prayers are

taught to us and perhaps make it easier to pray, we still need to "pray" them. I have been in a setting where the rosary was prayed and recited quickly. To me, this is not praying. It is reciting but not really praying. What's the rush? Catholic prayers are beautiful and meaningful. I suggest to slow down and "say the prayer, not just recite it." I experienced this "slow down and pray" when I attended mass many years ago at the Carmelite monastery in St. Agatha, Ontario. When it came time to recite the Our Father, the sisters behind the screen were praying very distinctly and slowly in unison. The focus in life at the convent is prayer, contemplative prayer. And I got it!

Are we too busy to pray? Are we too busy to have a chat with God? Sometimes there is a struggle to make time for prayer. Different styles of reflection can help bring us closer to God, and there are many different approaches.

Let go of the computer or phone and take a few moments in a quiet space to centre yourself and take a deep breath. Gently remind yourself of the presence of God. You can use

one word to help focus, even just saying "Jesus". A few minutes a day is therapeutic. Start small. Try dedicating everything you do today to God... that is a prayer. Pray as you drive home. Reading scripture and reflecting on it is also prayer. Read the scripture passage, reflect on it, and then read it again.

Through the national executive, I have become familiar with *Shorter Christian Prayer*. This is taken from the *Liturgy of the Hours* and is described as an exchange or dialogue between God and human beings in which "God speaks to his people ... and his people reply to him in song and prayer." The *Liturgy of the Hours* is the prayer of the entire church. It can be said by oneself or within the community. The introduction to the book of *Shorter Christian Prayer*, is beautiful in itself and explains that Jesus encouraged us to pray. Let's have that chat with God...it's the best conversation imaginable! ✚



PERSONAL BUDGETING FOR PEACE OF MIND

Janet McLean

National Secretary-Treasurer



Treasurers at all levels know the importance of preparing an annual budget for the council. However, budgeting is not just for treasurers. Everyone should have a budget to keep personal finances in order. Statistics show that more than one half of Canadians are in debt, with little, if any, savings available for emergencies. While a budget doesn't guarantee you won't have debt, it can help you take charge of your personal finances.

To prepare a budget you must know your income and expenses. Begin by listing everything you spend in a day by cash, cheque, debit or credit card, for an entire month. Be sure to list every expense including rent or mortgage payment, food, household utilities (hydro, heat, water, landline and cell phone, internet, cable or satellite television), repairs, life and property insurance, daily coffee and pastry, visits to a hairdresser, personal and property taxes, charitable donations, health-related expenses, loans payable, interest on loans or credit cards, public transit, gifts, vacations, Christmas, meals out, entertainment (movies, theatre, concerts), car expenses, donations to a street person, and contributions to Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSP), Tax Free Savings Accounts (TFSA), and Registered Education Savings Plans (RESP). In short, include absolutely everything. Unless this is done, you will never be able to budget properly. Determining income is normally simpler and

includes revenue from all sources.

Once these steps have been completed your budget can be prepared. Preparing a budget on a monthly basis may be the easiest way to start. Any income or expenses which occur once during the year may be divided into monthly amounts. If expenses are less than income, great! If expenses exceed income, then choices are required. Are there expenses that can be reduced, eliminated or for which more economical substitutes are available? Can you increase income? Can you take advantage of tax strategies available? Do you get income tax receipts for all donations to reduce personal income

taxes? Are you eligible for free services, subsidies, reduced rates or tax deductions from your community, province or country for expenses incurred such as rebates for home repairs or health services, senior discounts or family discounts? Is a credit card with a lower interest rate available?

Some helpful hints for spending less include contributing to an RRSP, TSFA or RESP directly from your paycheque so that you never "see" the money. Have a portion of your paycheque deposited into a savings account which cannot be accessed when using

a debit card. Paid on a bi-weekly basis? Setting aside \$40.00 per pay will give you over \$1,000 in one year. Use only one credit card, and pay the full balance each month.

A budget can be an important tool in helping to better understand personal finances and, hopefully, provide financial peace of mind. ☛



COMING TO FRUITION

Betty Colaneri

National Chairperson of Legislation



While sitting in my car waiting for the traffic light to change, I wondered what it would be like if legislation had not been put in place to have them installed. What chaos! In fact, we don't have to look far to realize that many things have been introduced due to legislation. The seat belt I was wearing, the cell phone that I couldn't pick up while driving, and the bicyclist that rode past who must wear a helmet. Yet, we may be unaware that it had been considered by a lawmaker.

From the time I can remember, I have had a fascination for how things came to be. Who invented it? Why? What's the story behind it? Everything we have or do comes from a need. Utensils, appliances, food, clothing, shelter and jobs. These exist because someone answered the call for that particular need. It is the same for the League, why it began and why resolutions are formed. Over the past two years, the theme expressed how women inspired by the Spirit answered God's call. Members from the grass roots brought forward concerns to each standing committee at every level. Their dedication and perseverance formed resolutions to be presented. One of my favourite quotes comes from St. Mother Teresa. "I alone cannot change the world but I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples." Members have cast stones across the water through resolutions to regulate the concerns and safety of communities. Now it is time for legislation.

According to a federal government website, legislation is defined as follows, "Legislation, also known as the acts, are forms of law that can provide the authority to make regulations." It can also be looked at as the final chapter of an interesting story.

The first chapter introduces a concern or idea that has taken the form of a bill to be read as the first reading in the House of Commons.

In the second chapter, the bill is given a second reading and debated to see if it is beneficial to the needs of the people. The suspense continues to see if it will reach the third reading.

The third chapter finds the bill at the committee stage to be studied carefully. Suggestions or amendments may be made by the committee when it presents its report. This is an interactive story because the committee usually seeks out the review of interested parties, including the public. This is an important and critical time as members' can share input and express views that can change the outcome of the story.

Chapter four is the report stage when the committee reports the bill back. All parliamentarians can debate on it then.

On to chapter five when the bill is called for a third reading. This offers parliamentarians another chance to debate the bill. The changes or amendments made in committee may not be something they agree upon. The bill is then voted on. If passed, it goes to the Senate where the bill undergoes the same stages.

One serious issue adopted at the annual national convention falls under the legislation standing committee, Resolution 2018.03 Legislate Designation of Hospice/Palliative Care Services in Facilities to exclude Medical Assistance in Dying. Take time to encourage members to follow the action plan:

1. Write to the prime minister, ministers of justice and health, and your member of parliament urging to government to legislate designation of hospice/palliative care free from medical assistance in dying.
 2. Educate members on keeping hospice and palliative care free from medical assistance in dying.
 3. Where hospices are performing medical assistance in dying, withdraw all funding. Write to the board of directors of hospices stating the reason for the withdrawal of donations.
 4. Monitor the federal government's response to the request contained in the resolution.
-

The final chapter becomes the final stage of the enactment of the bill. Once both the House of Commons and the Senate have passed the bill with the same wording, it is given to the governor general for royal assent and becomes law.

There may be times when we don't like the story line or how the story ends but it is imperative that we are aware of how the story impacts our lives.

Once such example happened recently when Canadians witnessed history in the making on October 17, 2018, as Canada became the second country in the world to fully legalize the use of marijuana with Bill C-45 *Cannabis Act*. This act amended the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, the *Criminal Code* and other acts. Canadians can purchase fresh cannabis, dried cannabis, cannabis oil, cannabis seeds or cannabis plants from licensed producers or retailers authorized by provinces or territories at various retail locations.

You may have seen the advertisements that ask the question why cannabis has become legal. According to the federal

government website, the top priority of the *Cannabis Act* is to better protect the health and safety of Canadians, to keep cannabis out of the hands of youth and to keep profits out of the hands of criminals and organized crime. It places a new and strict framework for controlling the production, distribution, sale and possession of cannabis in Canada.

Legislation may not be the story you choose, but it is an intriguing opportunity to see how the democratic system works.

The more the legislation system is understood, the better the appreciation for and realization of how essential it is in our everyday lives.

Once you begin reading, you may find yourself so captivated that you won't want to put the story down. Members given the privilege to serve on the legislation standing committee become the story tellers to share how the fascinating story unfolds and comes to fruition. ✚

CANNABIS

Life Member Dr. Rayleen De Luca, C. Psych, C.M., O.M.
National Sub-Committee Chairperson of Education and Health



On October 17, 2018, Canada became the first industrialized nation in the world, and the second country following Uruguay, to legalize the use of recreational cannabis. Cannabis, also known by its street names, marijuana, weed, grass and pot, is the most commonly used [formerly] illicit drug. Canada has one of the highest rates of such use. The utilization of cannabis among Canadian youth aged 15-24 is almost three times higher than that of adults.

Bill C-45 *Cannabis Act* put in place a new strict framework for controlling the production, distribution, sale and possession of cannabis. Although the federal government licenses and regulates a group of cannabis owners, it is up to each province and territory to decide how the drug is sold and distributed. The legal age of consumption for most provinces is 19, with the exception of Alberta and Quebec, where it is 18. Growing up to four plants is allowed in every province, except Manitoba, where growing cannabis for personal use is not permitted. Each province has rules as to where the drug may be used.

The legalizing and regulating of cannabis was fraught with controversy due to potential economic, social, moral and health impacts. Indeed, there are both positive and negative aspects associated with its use.

Some of the positive aspects associated with the legalization of cannabis include the dismantling of the black market, improved quality and safety control, increased tax revenue and increased availability of medicinal cannabis. It has become a huge industry resulting in an increased workforce generating many new job opportunities. There is some evidence indicating therapeutic benefits of cannabis use in a number of areas, including neuropathic pain, inflammatory bowel diseases, chemotherapy symptom management and treatment-resistant epilepsy in children.



There are also many negative aspects associated with the legalization of cannabis. It has long been considered a gateway drug where once a person tries cannabis, he or she may be more susceptible to trying more dangerous drugs. According to the CAMH (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health), regular usage of cannabis is associated with a number of health risks including problems with healthy brain development among youth, depression, anxiety, lung and respiratory problems, schizophrenia and addiction. Moreover, the danger to children exposed to secondhand smoke appears serious. For example, asthma can become worse and the risk of respiratory and ear infections increases.

A report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF's Report Card 11, *Child Well-Being in Rich Countries: A comparative overview*) placed Canadian teens and children as the highest users of illegal marijuana among 29 of the world's developed economies. According to the report, 28% of Canadian youth (age 11-15) had used marijuana illegally in the past year. Clearly, Canadian youth are at risk.

As a clinical psychologist who works with children and adolescents, I am very concerned.

In my opinion, it is critical for prevention that an innovative method of cannabis education be developed and implemented in Canadian schools so that youth may make informed choices.

Research has shown that cannabis use, especially early and frequent use, impacts learning in a negative way. Unfortunately, there are many areas associated with health and the use of cannabis that have not been investigated and there is a prevalence of misinformation. Now that Canada has taken the huge step of legalizing cannabis, it is critical that measures are taken to promote more research and education on the recreational use of this altering mood and cognition drug. ✚

ALBERTA - REMEMBER TO BREATHE!

JOIN US FOR THE 99TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA AUGUST 18-21, 2019 CALGARY, ALBERTA



Come and experience Calgary's Western hospitality first hand and be "Branded in Christ"! The Hyatt Regency Hotel (Hyatt), in the heart of Calgary, Alberta, will be home to the 99th annual national convention. Here is a sneak peak of the events in store for you.

Saturday, August 17: Get to know our beautiful city through a three hour City of Calgary Tour. Buses will depart the Hyatt at 3:00 p.m. to first transport you to the historic Fort Calgary and on to the Stampede Grounds, home of the world-renowned Calgary Stampede, "The Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth." The tour continues to St. Mary's University, home of the CWL Chair for Catholic Studies and *The St. John's Bible*, then on to Canada Olympic Park to visit the Sports Hall of Fame, an informative and interactive masterpiece of sports memorabilia. Buses will return to the hotel by 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 18: Experience a traditional Calgary Stampede style Pancake Breakfast at Heritage Park and a one hour guided walking tour. Buses depart the Hyatt at 9:30 a.m., transporting you back in time to visit Gasoline Alley. Ride the Sternwheeler across the Glenmore Reservoir, tour the Famous Five House plus several other restored buildings of the early 1900s, ride the original Canada Pacific train, visit the First Nations encampment, shop at the stores on Main Street, visit the Wainwright Hotel, and take in the amusement park. Buses will return to the hotel by 1:30 p.m.

Alternatively, you may take in a 10:00 a.m. walking tour of the famous Studio Bell at the National Music Centre in downtown Calgary. There are interactive displays of music memorabilia from every genre along with the Canadian Music Hall of Fame. You may discover a hidden musical talent within you! Tour guides will be available for assistance. Return to the Hyatt by 1:30 p.m.

The opening Eucharistic celebration at 7:00 p.m. will take you to St. Albert the Great Church. This parish, consecrated on January 5, 2003, is located in South East Calgary. Transportation to the church takes approximately 30-35 minutes and is not within walking distance. You will board a bus at the Hyatt at 5:00 p.m. A wine and cheese reception will be hosted by the Knights of Columbus in the church hall after mass. Return transportation to the hotel via bus will follow the reception.

Monday, August 19: Come experience an interactive evening of western food, fun, music and dance at a Western Shindig at the Hyatt. Pack your cowboy hat, western outfit and boots for this exciting, fun-filled evening. Special guest entertainment will make sure you get to kick up your heels!

Wednesday, August 21: Closing mass will be held at St. Mary's Cathedral at 5:00 p.m. Previously a mission church, the parish was canonically erected on April 26, 1910, by Bishop Emile Legal under the name of the Immaculate Conception. In 1957 the new cathedral was completed and consecrated on December 11th. Buses will depart the Hyatt. If you wish to walk, the cathedral is eight blocks away.

After a busy and productive week you will gather at the Hyatt to enjoy a special evening of Alberta beef, fun and entertainment at the gala banquet. Be a part of the celebration! Be "Branded in Christ"!

Thursday, August 22: Venture east to the Badlands of Alberta and tour Drumheller. Buses depart the Hyatt at 7:30 a.m. Explore Horseshoe Canyon, the Hoodoos, the Rosedale Suspension Bridge and The Little Church. Ticket price includes lunch at the Canadian Badlands Passion Play site, where the story of the life of Christ has been presented in a stunning natural amphitheater for the past 25 years. Shop in the gift shop and enjoy a unique, behind the scenes site tour. Experience how the actors make their way through hidden tunnels. See the wardrobe and armory of over 500 costumes while you learn the play's history. It is a truly memorable trip to enjoy. Buses will return to the hotel by 3:30 p.m.

Then again, you may wish to venture west to Banff National Park and Lake Louise. Buses depart the Hyatt at 7:30 a.m. Explore the Rocky Mountains and experience the splendour that Alberta has to offer. Remember to bring a camera as the scenery is breathtaking at that time of year. The journey continues to the Town of Banff where you will have free time for shopping and lunch (not included in the ticket price). The streets of Banff are lined with shops, restaurants, art galleries and museums. Buses will return by 6:30 p.m.

Albertans await you with open arms! Come and experience true "Western hospitality" as we continue to count down to the centenary of The Catholic Women's League of Canada! ✠

**99th Annual National Convention
August 18-21, 2019**

Hyatt Regency Hotel • 700 Centre St. SE • Calgary, AB T2G 5P6
Telephone: (800) 233-1234 or (403) 717-1234 • Please indicate you are with CWL convention

PLEASE COMPLETE ONE FORM PER PERSON. PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SIDES.

Registration Deadline: July 18, 2019. Refunds are not guaranteed after July 18, 2019.

Name (please print) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Diocese: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Telephone: _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Reg. #:

Chq. #:

Paid \$:

I am attending this convention as a: (Please check ONE item in this section.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Member of the hierarchy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Voting delegate | <input type="checkbox"/> National spiritual advisor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial accredited delegate | <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial spiritual advisor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diocesan accredited delegate | <input type="checkbox"/> Diocesan spiritual advisor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honorary life member (eligible for discount) | <input type="checkbox"/> Parish spiritual advisor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life member (eligible for discount) | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CWL member | <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibitor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Military Ordinariate member | |

Other:

This is my first national convention: ☐ Yes ☐ No

I am attending the provincial dinner: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Dietary Needs:

☐ Dairy-free ☐ Diabetic ☐ Gluten-free
☐ Vegan ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Other (specify)

Accessibility or Motor Issues (please describe): _____

Registration fees for business sessions

	<u>Price</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Monday, August 19	\$ 40.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday, August 20	\$ 40.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, August 21 OR	\$ 40.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> All Three Days*	\$ 100.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Deduct \$50.00 for registration types HLM or LM	\$ -50.00	_____
Registration Subtotal: (carry subtotal over to next page)		<u>\$</u>



Promotion Code for WestJet: 3M7S5VI
Website: westjet.com

10% off all fare classes (basic excluded).
Travel from August 8-26, 2019

Questions? Feel free to e-mail cwl2019yyc@gmail.com

99th Annual National Convention

August 18-21, 2019

Hyatt Regency Hotel • 700 Centre St. SE • Calgary, AB T2G 5P6

Telephone: (800) 233-1234 or (403) 717-1234 • Please indicate you are with CWL convention

Special Events

Date	Time	Description	Price	Total
Saturday, August 17	3:00 p.m.	Bus Tour of City of Calgary Includes Fort Calgary, Stampede Grounds, St. Mary's University, Canada Olympic Park – return to Hyatt by 6:00 p.m.	\$ 30.00	
Sunday, August 18	9:30 a.m.	Pancake Breakfast at Heritage Park Includes a pancake breakfast and walking tour of Heritage Park – return to Hyatt by 1:30 p.m.	\$ 40.00	
	10:00 a.m.	Tour of National Music Centre Tour of the famous National Music Centre, walking involved – return to Hyatt by 1:30 p.m.	\$ 25.00	
	5:00 p.m.	Transportation to Opening Mass at St. Albert the Great (40 minute bus ride – not walking distance)	\$ 12.00	
Monday, August 19	6:30 p.m.	Western Shindig Interactive evening of western food, fun, music and dance	\$ 65.00	
Tuesday, August 20	9:45 a.m.	Theme of Breakout Session 1: <i>Care for Our Common Home</i> (Registration required)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Practical Tools <input type="checkbox"/> Church Teachings	<input type="checkbox"/> A Carbon Conversation <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Practice	\$ 0.00
	11:00 a.m.	Theme of Breakout Session 2: <i>Care for Our Common Home</i> (Registration required)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Practical Tools <input type="checkbox"/> Church Teachings	<input type="checkbox"/> A Carbon Conversation <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Practice	\$ 0.00
	Noon	Life Members' Luncheon (for life members only)	\$ 40.00	
	Noon	Spiritual Advisors' Luncheon (for spiritual advisors and bishops only)	\$ 40.00	
Wednesday, August 21	4:15 p.m.	Transportation to Closing Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral (10 minute bus ride – 8 blocks from Hyatt)	\$ 8.00	
	7:00 p.m.	Gala Banquet	\$ 85.00	
Thursday, August 22	7:30 a.m.	Tour to Badlands of Alberta Includes travel to Drumheller, the Horseshoe Canyon, Hoodoos, Suspension Bridge, Little Church, then on to the Passion Play site for lunch and tour of the site – return to the Hyatt by 3:30 p.m.	\$ 100.00	
	7:30 a.m.	Tour to Banff National Park Includes admission to the national park, Lake Louise, Moraine Lake and Banff – return to the Hyatt by 6:30 p.m.	\$ 75.00	

Total Special Events Fees:	\$ _____
Registration Subtotal (from front):	\$ _____
Total Fees Enclosed:	\$ _____

Register online at cwl.ca or complete form and mail to:

National Office • C-702 Scotland Ave

• Winnipeg, MB R3M 1X5

Please make cheques payable to:

The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

The cancelled cheque will be your receipt.

You are responsible for your own transportation to the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

The convention is a scent-free environment.

Questions? Feel free to e-mail cwl2019yyc@gmail.com

IT IS TIME TO TAKE ACTION — ON RESOLUTION ACTION PLANS

Cathy Bouchard
National Chairperson of Resolutions



Within the League each member has a voice that adds influence and support to a national sisterhood of Catholic women when promoting awareness and responding to political and social issues affecting Canadians. Members represent families, friends and parishes, and speak on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves. This voice to speak as a Catholic woman is a powerful gift. The creation of resolutions is one of the most important ways members have influence. Members become more active in using this influence particularly when engaging in the action plans of a resolution. The resolutions cycle is fuelled by member's passion to affect change.

When attending an annual national convention, the resolutions dialogue is a highlight. Many members (and a few spiritual advisors) come to hear what the new ideas are and to have a "say" or "input" on what will later come to the convention floor.

In the *Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook*, it states the following three points:

1. Resolutions play a major part in the League's work... Resolutions can be a powerful tool 'to infuse a Christian spirit into the temporal order' (*Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*). The League can serve the church's mission and be a Christian witness through resolutions.
2. When directed *within the League*, [a resolution's] purpose is to propose a plan, establish a policy, recommend action or censure. When directed to a group outside the League, its purpose is to influence others to take action that the League itself cannot take, to state the League's position on an issue, to petition or to express concern.
3. An action plan is developed to implement action on the resolved clauses i.e. for members to become aware...; invite speakers...; write letters to...; become familiar with a particular law, publication, government stand, etc. The action plan supports the objective of the resolution.

The action plan provides direction to members on what can be done to make the resolution a reality. In fact, members' action brings the resolution to fulfillment. What do successful councils do? They review the resolution and their members develop messages based on this study. Participants think creatively to discover ways to increase members' passion and interest on the topic such as visiting government officials, having a speaker, or providing an educational program followed by concrete action. Meeting time is set aside for the purpose of letter writing and the *Personal Letter Writing Guide* is made available, along with paper and envelopes.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has developed a tool called "The Two Feet of Love in Action". On one foot are the many works of charity, "the simple response to immediate needs and specific situations..." which is what the League has done since its inception. The other foot addresses the "root causes of problems facing our communities by advocating for just public policies and helping to change the social structures that contribute to suffering and injustice at home and around the world."



It may be easier to do the first foot, the charitable portion of social justice, because it often does not oblige us to change our behaviour or way of life. The second foot, that of social justice, is where resolution action plans require member involvement. It is a response to the social injustice recognised by League sisters. Conscience calls members to the action of the resolutions and to be part of the change that makes the world a better place.

It is the responsibility of each member to make the resolution a reality.

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of them who are members of my family, you did it to me'" (Mt 25:37- 40)

Loving God, help us to put love into action. ✚

JESUS – THE BEST COMMUNICATOR!

Doreen Gowans

National Second Vice-President and Chairperson of Communications



We communicate daily with many people whether a spouse, children, family, friends, associates, parishioners or workplace colleagues. Sometimes the circumstances are such that we are not sure what to say at a time of need.

At the time of writing this article, I was faced with, “What do you, the members, want to hear from me?” I decided to give it to God and took my dog for a walk. During the walk the Holy Spirit shared with me the following insight, that Jesus is the best communicator and teacher of communication. How? In the scriptures many instances show Jesus answered those who trusted, believed in or sought help or answers of Him, not always in the form of miracles but in the form of support and guidance.

Have you ever given something to God in prayer or in conversation? Perhaps you were in a situation and were unsure how to handle it or wanted to help someone, or like me, not knowing what to share with members. I gave it to God and asked Him to guide me. In many instances, I would awaken in the middle of the night with an idea. It would be my answer. That is Jesus’ way of communicating with us through the Holy Spirit.

Communication can take many forms – writing a letter, sending an e-mail, texting or phoning. With Jesus, we talk to Him through prayer, thoughts, words and actions. He has asked us to talk to Him. We can have a conversation with Him just like we would with a best friend. Is Jesus your best friend? He knows every need, but asks us to seek His guidance and advice. Jesus provides the time to talk to Him, but do we take those opportunities? When asking for help, and by waiting for a response, that is communication with Jesus, God the Father and the Holy Spirit. Be patient, listen and wait for His reply.

Sometimes what we ask for is not what we receive. Be open to His way which is the best way. Jesus invites us to speak to Him. When was the last time you had a conversation?

By having a conversation, listening and following His direction, Jesus will provide us with peace, happiness and security. Isn’t that what human beings are looking for? ✚

An updated pornography hurts postcard that includes Resolution 2017.02 Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornographic Websites is available on the national website. Encourage members, friends and parishioners to send the postcards, no postage required, to the prime minister, members of parliament and the federal minister of justice requesting legislation be enacted to ensure that adult websites verify the age of users. Including a question on the postcard provides the recipient an opportunity to reply. The replies may influence how members vote in the federal election in 2019. Statistics Canada reported in 2017 that child pornography increased over 200% within the last decade. Canada currently does not have an age verification requirement, therefore minors can accidentally or knowingly access websites containing pornography.

Now more than ever members must communicate their faith. In order to do this completely, have a conversation with Jesus. Ask Him to lead and guide you in everything you say or do. Show others that members are people of faith! Communicate with the best communicator, that is Jesus!

Welcome to Newly Organized

Holy Redeemer Parish Council
Kanata, Ontario

CORE PURPOSE

Uniting Catholic women to grow in faith, and to promote social justice through service to the church, Canada and the world

CORE VALUES

FAITH – following Catholic teaching

SERVICE – local, national and international

SOCIAL JUSTICE – actively involved in society

MISSION STATEMENT

The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

ENVISIONED FUTURE

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women inspired by faith. It is:

A vital participant in the church;

A valued partner for social justice;

A respected advocate at all government levels;

Connected to the world.

100th Annual National Convention 2020 Montreal, Quebec

Do you need a bag to carry papers to League meetings?

The Quebec 2020 convention committee has just what you need! A soft sided brief case with embroidered crest, and front and side zippered pockets to carry pens, sticky notes, a cellphone and water bottle.

Price: \$30.00 plus shipping.

Please contact Janet McLean at 2020cwlmtl@gmail.com for more information or to place an order.



THE ROAD TO SENEGAL

Velma Harasen

Honorary Life Member



My term as Canada's representative to the board and regional vice-president for North America concluded at the general assembly of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO) in Dakar, Senegal, a term that began in Fatima, Portugal in 2014. Having attended regional conferences and general assemblies prior to 2014 and having a love for WUCWO, it was in 2014 that I was elected to the board.

To share just a few highlights of the four years:

- Attended the public audience with the pope while attending an annual board meeting in Rome, Italy and sat in the front row at St. Peter's Basilica on Pentecost Sunday.
- Met with the Pontifical Council for the Family as well as the Pontifical Council for the Laity.
- Attended the Second International Conference on Women in Rome, Italy at the invitation of Cardinal Peter Turkson (Ghana) and the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.
- Met with the women of the Middle East in Bari, Italy.
- The North America region engaged to assist with building a well in Senegal, a water distribution system in rural Argentina and a water system for a school in the Philippines.
- Arrived in Dakar, Senegal, Africa!

The opening mass at Our Lady of Victories Cathedral was followed by the opening ceremonies in colourful, jubilant style evident throughout the assembly. The Senegalese women welcomed the arrival and greetings from the President of the Republic of Senegal Macky Sall.

The first two days of the general assembly were study days which included panelists and 11 working groups. Women from around the world got acquainted, shared similarities and differences, and discussed the realities and priorities in each country. The common threads were the environment, youth and family.

Chairing the regional meeting saw 16 women from Canada and the United States participate. The purpose was to look at the resolutions, narrow them down and choose a top priority. Knowing that we could not accomplish all that was set out, the group focused on what was doable in the next mandate.

Reports were presented by the president general, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and international representative. League Executive Director Kim Scammell and

I reported on the Canadian Endowment Fund and presented a cheque to the WUCWO president general.

I was invited to chair the Saturday morning session where the 2014-2018 board members who served were acknowledged. Candidates for the next mandate were introduced followed by the election. Delegates proudly welcomed Marusia Kobrynsky of the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada, a lawyer from North Battleford, Saskatchewan. Marusia will be the Canadian representative for the next four years. The candidates for president general were introduced and given an opportunity to speak. Maria Lia Zervino from Argentina was elected. She has served as WUCWO secretary general for the past five years and resides in Rome, Italy. Maribeth Stewart Blogoslawski from the United States will serve another term as vice-president general.

It was encouraging to witness the young people who were sponsored to attend. These young women participated in the proceedings, presented a report and will continue as a youth group under the leadership of Sarolta Gyulay, a 22-year old board member from Hungary.

Delegates were offered a tour of Gorée Island, a short ferry ride from Dakar just off the coast of Senegal. It was operated as a large slave-trading centre from the 15th to the 19th century. The small island serves as a reminder of human exploitation.

A cultural dinner with entertainment was enjoyed the evening prior to Sunday morning's closing mass at the Shrine of Popenguine.

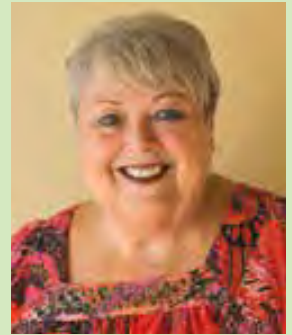
It was a time to say goodbye to the board members I served with, a group of wonderful women from around the world who became friends. Margaret from Ghana, Bernadette from Malawi, Jennifer from South Africa, Mary from Zambia, Rosaline from Cameroon, Catherine from Australia, Helen from South Korea, Araceli from Spain, Edelma from Cuba, Virginia from Venezuela but to mention just a few! Will I ever see them again? Not likely, but am grateful to have known them and to spend that time together.

I left the 2018 WUCWO General Assembly with a great sense of gratitude for the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people and to be so enriched by serving on the world stage. And all this was possible simply by joining The Catholic Women's League of Canada! ✚

LISTEN IN SILENCE...

Marie Rackley

National Chairperson of Community Life



Following three days of torrential rains and strong winds at the time of writing, I sit and look at a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon with bare trees and brown coloured grass, reassured of how fortunate I am to have wintered this storm. Canadians have experienced much flooding, severe forest fires that have devastated communities, and most recently a tornado that touched down in Ottawa last fall. No strangers to hardships that follow such disasters in communities, we are fortunate to have the resources available to rebuild homes and communities through the help of families, neighbours and volunteers from other provinces.

Canada, however, stills lacks in the resources to help those in great need of shelter and food. Thank you to communities and volunteers for food banks and soup kitchens that serve thousands of Canadians each day, offering a hot meal and shelter to keep the homeless out of the earthly elements for the night.

In early 2018, Pope Francis visited a day centre for the homeless in Dublin, Ireland, operated by the Capuchin friars. He praised the order for opening its door to whomever knocked yet not asking any questions upon entering. He said that this “is a sign of clients’ dignity” and spoke of the prodigal son upon his return to his father. “That father did not sit in a confessional and start asking question after question. He accepted the son’s repentance and embraced him.”

Today people have a tendency to ask too many questions before helping those in need. Learn to reach out in faith, accepting that the person requiring or requesting help is sincere. Remember what Jesus did when he reached out to

comfort those in need. He gifted us with The Beatitudes. Have you reviewed them recently?

While growing up you may have heard your mother say, “You haven’t listened to a word I have said.” We were not focused on what she was saying to us, but maybe were thinking of getting our lessons done so we could watch television or go outside. This is so true today. Often as adults we do not listen to what is being said. Our mind is racing onto other thoughts and we are not focused on the present conversation.

Pope Francis reminds us to listen to the cries of the poor and asks us, “Are we really capable of listening?” In order to help those who are suffering and respond with love, we must learn to be silent and listen. We must hear what they have to say. Love must be the key to reach out and comfort. It is not easy to take the first step forward and welcome the brother or sister who has fallen into despair. It is hard to realize that someone would let themselves deteriorate. This is when we remember we are giving our service to God by helping His people.

In a message released to the public on June 14, 2018, Pope Francis stated, “In the immense world of poverty, our capacity for action is limited, weak and insufficient.” He suggested that, “The church cooperate with others so joint efforts can reach their objectives more effectively.” The message was presented at World Day of Poor, marked each year on the 33rd Sunday in ordinary time.

Many times when we are silent that is when God makes His visit and talks to us. Listen to the words that God speaks as He will guide you on the journey to serve His people. We know what is needed to help, but first we need to listen to hear what they need. We are all children of God. ✚

Magazine Deadlines

Spring issue – February 15, 2019

Fall issue – July 15, 2019

Winter issue – November 15, 2019

PATHWAY TO A NEW LEGACY

Fran Lucas

National President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization



Many members may have *The Catholic Women's League of Canada Plans Strategically 2018-2022* booklet, or have participated in a diocesan/provincial information session outlining the details. Copies are available at \$2.15 plus postage through national office.

The planning is moving forward with great enthusiasm and excitement! Unanimous approval of the strategic planning document presented at the annual national convention last August resulted in the following processes.

Notices were sent to members asking anyone interested in being a part of the implementation committee to send in an application form, resume, references and an essay outlining the importance of the League in four specific areas. In turn, the submissions were reviewed by the national administrative committee and four individuals were chosen as committee leads. The task was a tremendously onerous one as all the applicants had incredible skills and attributes to be evaluated.

The four leads include:

- Vice-Chairperson and leader of Goal 1: Lisa Henry, North Bay, Ontario.
- Secretary and leader of Goal 2: Sr. Susan Scott, Stony Plain, Alberta.
- Leader of Goal 3: Jacqueline Nogier, Snow Lake, Manitoba.
- Chairperson and leader of Goal 4: Sharon Cieben, Coquitlam, British Columbia.

Ex-officio committee members National President Anne-Marie Gorman and Executive Director Kim Scammell, and I as committee liaison met with the newly appointed committee November 13th and 14th in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The first tasks were to discern which goal (please refer to pages 34-36 in the Fall 2018 edition of *The Canadian League*) each

lead would be responsible for and who would take leadership positions within the committee.

Over the course of the meetings, the committee brainstormed and agreed upon the key measures for 17 objectives. These measures were presented to the national executive on November 15th for review and approval. The committee was advised it could move to the next step: preparing an initial strategy map, including timelines (start and end dates) for each objective/critical issue. They will also identify key risks of implementation and how to overcome them, and prepare a high-level overview of capital, operating, staff and volunteer resources required to achieve each strategy.

The strategy map will be brought to the national executive for approval at the winter meeting in February 2019.

Upon approval, the year one working groups will be struck and charged to create detailed action plans for each strategy. The action plans will be submitted to the committee in June 2019 for approval and then the work will begin.

Although this article is being read in February, working groups will be determined in early March and set to work. An article in the spring issue of *The Canadian League* will continue from that point to keep members informed.

Following an extensive consultation process, which included members from across Canada to set the priorities, the steering committee needs to be commended for laying the down the groundwork for the League to be at this stage of the strategic plan.

I am thrilled to be working with Sharon, Lisa, Jacqueline and Sr. Susan through this process that will change the League forever. And you can say you were there to help make it happen! ✚

Implementation Committee

l-r: National President Anne-Marie Gorman, National President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization Fran Lucas, Executive Director Kim Scammell, Sharon Cieben, Lisa Henry, Jacqueline Nogier, Sr. Susan Scott.



THE TIME TO IMPLEMENT

In her article “Pathway To a New Legacy” National President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization Fran Lucas introduces the four newly appointed leads of the implementation committee. This group of talented ladies, has taken on the arduous task of steering the League in its time of change. Hailing from different regions of this great nation, the committee members embarked on a journey of uncharted waters, with the League’s future as the beacon.

Committee members were invited to share a bit of information about themselves to better acquaint members.

How do you feel about being on the implementation committee?

Sharon Ciebin: “I was very honoured and excited to be chosen as one of a team of four. I am extremely humbled to be able to use my skills and talents gained through my professional and volunteering experiences to bring to life the Strategic Plan that was so thoughtfully created by dedicated League sisters.”

Lisa Henry: “I feel incredibly honoured to be able to serve the Catholic Women’s League of Canada in this capacity. Being a part of the committee that will shape the future of the CWL helps provide a voice to members across Canada.”

Jacqueline Nogier: “Having the privilege to have been at the national table, I was present when the strategic planning was taking place. I was interested in the opportunity to continue to serve the League in any way possible. The League is an integral part of the Catholic Church in Canada. I am blessed to be able to continue to serve the League in this way.”

Sr. Susan Scott: “In a word – humbled. In a second word – apprehensive. In a third word – excited, very excited! The next five years we will do our best to honour the wishes of our members and bring about change that will enrich, re-create, rejuvenate, revitalize and re-form the League:

What is your experience with the League?

Sharon: “Over 30 years. 1st Parish [council] Our Lady of the Assumption, Port Coquitlam, assisted with organizing a Vancouver Diocesan Convention. [Many roles at many levels] and currently the Resolution Chair[person] for B.C. & Yukon Provincial Council.”

Lisa: “I have served two terms at Diocesan level in the diocese of Sault Ste Marie and [am] currently serving as 2nd Vice-President and Education and Health Chairperson. I am currently on the sub-committee for Communications with the Ontario Provincial Council.”

Jacqueline: “I joined the League in 1997 with my mother Ella.” Jacqueline served as Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan

President, leading to the role of Manitoba Provincial Council president. Jacqueline served at the national level as resolutions chairperson from 2014-2016 and as spiritual development chairperson from 2016-2018.

Sr. Susan: “My personal experience with the League has primarily been a positive one. As a woman religious, I was formed in community where everyone had a voice. In the League, I have found an organization that treats me in a manner which is too often lacking in the church outside the League. We have a unique gift of healing and love that we can offer our faith community that is in deep need of justice, faith and service.”

What is something unique about yourself that you’d like the members to know?

Sharon: “I have always had an interest to see the world and in my early twenties I travelled around Europe visiting 14 countries in 4 months. Once I finished travelling, I lived in London, England and worked at the First National City Bank of New York.”

Lisa: “I am recently retired from the Royal Canadian Air Force. Military service has provided so many wonderful opportunities both professionally and personally. Being able to serve this great country as well as move around North America and meet so many incredible people has been a tremendous blessing.”

Jacqueline: “I think that my ‘uniqueness’ is that I am not unique and am like ‘any member’. I live in a small town, work full time, have 2 sons. I live down the street from my mom and am a member in the parish where I grew up. This past June within a span of 4 days I was privileged to first witness my youngest son graduate high school with distinction and then my husband receive ordination as a permanent deacon.”

Sr. Susan: “Something unique about myself is that I will likely be the only nun you ever meet who played for the Canadian National Field Hockey team in a world championship. I have also been inducted into the University of Toronto Sports Hall of Fame – twice! Once for being a member and co-captain of the U of T women’s team to have won a National Championship, secondly as an individual for my accomplishments and contributions to the university in the area of sports and leadership.”

Suffice it to say, members can be rest assured that with this team of ladies at the helm, the journey through the turbulent waters of the strategic plan’s implementation should lead to a future of smooth sailing for the League! ✚

NEW MISSION STATEMENT

The Catholic Women’s League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

TRANSFORMATION, METAMORPHOSIS, TRANSITION

Margaret Ann Jacobs

National Past President and Chairperson of Laws



Being national president was truly an awesome experience! Those that preceded me can attest to this undeniable reality. Today I welcome another transformation, passage, metamorphosis really, as I transition into the role of past president.

At different levels of the League, most often parish level, I've experienced past presidents who have just faded away. I fear it is a response to burn out, possibly from staying on (and on ...) as president. Who would take on the role of president if she didn't? Perhaps executives have chosen not to "overburden" these seemingly busy women (NOT!) or maybe they just weren't inspired to recreate themselves into a new role/responsibility. John Maxwell is credited as saying, "Change is inevitable. Growth is optional."

So, my challenge is to change and grow into this new role, transition, and welcome this chance as another kind of awesome experience.

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary defines transition as "passage from one state, stage, subject, or place to another: change".

I welcome this change. Neil Pasricha ascribed "the three A's of Awesome" to specific qualities — attitude, awareness and authenticity. These are qualities that past presidents must recognize and work toward attaining. Just consider the rich blessings received from the ability to serve others whether at parish, diocesan, provincial or national level. We are sisters and brothers of the Risen Lord, inspired by the Spirit to recognize in each other the tremendous possibilities for hope to change the world. Consider the opportunities garnered to experience the League in such diverse economic, cultural and demographic settings, affording awareness of the powerful influence that it

can and must have on the social fabric of communities and the country.

Members need to be aware of the great gifts possessed by League sisters and take the time to affirm and nurture these abilities. It is the role as past president to be present, guide, encourage and mentor. Embrace this new role. Challenge yourself to seek out opportunities to support the council president. Reorient your service as helper and guide to "promote social justice through service to the church, Canada and the world". Redefine your role as mentor promoting the "core values of faith, service and social justice".

George Bernard Shaw tells us that, "Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything."

As the League embarks upon specific plans to implement an envisioned future, members' ability to accept and embrace change is crucial. To be "a vital participant in the church; a valued partner for social justice; a respected advocate at all government levels; connected to the world", it is up to members to "be the change they wish to see in the world".

What an exciting time in the League! New president, new theme, new role as past president, new envisioned future! Let us practice new phrases. "Great idea!" "What can I do to help?" "Can I join your team?" "Let's get started!"

Be aware of the role you play. Approach the future with an attitude of empowerment, and do it authentically. Members have the power to change the League, to change the world.

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2). ✚



Care for our
Common Home

In keeping with the League's new theme *Care for Our Common Home*, along with the potential opportunity to reduce production costs, please note that *The Canadian League* magazine is available online at cwl.ca. Should you prefer to view the magazine online, kindly notify national office and your name will be deleted from the hard copy distribution list.



Happy Birthday!

Congratulations to the following centenarians!

Patricia Mulroney

110 years old on November 13, 2018
St. Carthagh Parish Council
Tweed, Ontario

Madge Broty

100 years old on October 1, 2018
St. Anthony of Padua Parish Council
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Bernadette Lynch

100 years old on August 21, 2018
St. Julia Parish Council
St. Catharines, Ontario

Viola Larose

104 years old on November 5, 2018
St. Mary Parish Council
Almonte, Ontario

Helen Chwalka

100 years old on August 2, 2018
St. Pius X Parish Council
Toronto, Ontario

Loretta Meyer

100 years old on November 10, 2018
Mary Immaculate Parish Council
London, Ontario

Alice Welwood

102 years old on March 30, 2018
St. Mary Parish Council
Chilliwack, British Columbia

Joan Coe

100 years old on August 30, 2018
St. Mary of the People Parish Council
Oshawa, Ontario

Alexandra Radzynski

100 years old on February 27, 2018
Holy Ghost Parish Council
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Martina Gutter

101 years old on November 24, 2018
Sacred Heart Parish Council
Walkerton, Ontario

Karolina Dziedziuch

100 years old on October 22, 2018
St. James Parish Council
Vernon, British Columbia

Mary Richards

100 years old on October 5, 2018
St. Rose of Lima Parish Council
Saint John, New Brunswick

Annie Smigelski

101 years old on December 10, 2018
St. James Parish Council
Oyen, Alberta

Mary Fernandes

100 years old on September 21, 2018
St. Barnabas Parish Council
Scarborough, Ontario

Florence Schumacher

100 years old on October 30, 2018
Sacred Heart Parish Council
Walkerton, Ontario

Alice Arsenault

100 years old on July 30, 2018
Resurrection of Our Lord Parish
Council
Ottawa, Ontario

Barbara Lenk

100 years old on November 19, 2018
St. Joseph Parish Council
Belleville, Ontario

Isabelle Wyatt

100 years old on September 16, 2018
Saint Rose of Lima Parish Council
Fall River, Nova Scotia

Congratulations

Congratulations to parish councils celebrating anniversaries!

95 Years

St. Joseph Parish Council
Powassan, Ontario

85 Years

St. Mary Parish Council
Chilliwack, British Columbia

50 Years

St. Monica Parish Council
Middleton, Nova Scotia

St. Patrick Parish Council
Maple Ridge, British Columbia

INTRODUCING



Hazel Robichaud

New Brunswick
Provincial President

Hazel was born in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island and is the sixth of nine children. Influenced by her mother and grandmother, Hazel joined the League in Petawawa, Ontario as part of the Military Vicariate in 1981. After moving to various bases and cities from coast to coast, including four years in Lahr, Germany, she and her husband Rob settled in Dieppe, New Brunswick in 1989 upon his retirement from the air force.

Hazel has been a member for 37 years and began as a parish council secretary in Petawawa. In 1989, she took the role of secretary with St. Theresa Parish Council (Dieppe) and then was president of the council for two terms. She has also been parish council president for one term at St. Bernard Parish Council (Moncton). In addition to being secretary with the Moncton Diocesan Council, she also served as president for two years.

Her roles in New Brunswick Provincial Council have been as chairperson of legislation, spiritual development and organization, as well as treasurer. She became provincial council president in May 2018.

Hazel co-chaired the provincial convention in 2005 and chaired the 2012 provincial convention, both held in Moncton. In 2014, she was chairperson of the registration

committee for the annual national convention held in Fredericton.

She received her life membership in 2014 and was so pleased to have her husband, daughter, son and grandson in attendance.

During her working years Hazel was in accounting and administration roles both in the private sector and for the federal government. She worked for 18 years at a minimum security prison in Dorchester, retiring in 2008.

Hazel's husband is very supportive of her roles in the League and continuously assists in many of the duties, especially computers and photography. She is the proud mother of two grown children, Angela and George, and two grandsons, Campbell and Quinn.

Hazel has been a volunteer at the Moncton hospital in a pastoral care role for the past 18 years. She assists with the Christmas box campaign at St. Bernard and has been teaching catechism to grades 1, 2 and 3 for the past two years. In addition, she was on a committee welcoming a Syrian family that immigrated to Canada. This was a very rewarding experience.

All in all, Hazel is a very busy woman, but so very happy to be part of the wonderful organization of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. ✚

National Council Regretfully Advises the Passing of Life Members:

H. Maureen Barry
Saint John, New Brunswick

Clare Flagler
Bancroft, Ontario

Gertrude Parsons
Corner Brook, Newfoundland

Mary Ward
Mount Pearl, Newfoundland

Lottie Wihak
Melville, Saskatchewan



Glenda Carson

Nova Scotia
Provincial President

Glenda grew up on a farm in the small town of Golden Prairie, located in the south west corner of Saskatchewan. Although very small, the Catholic community helped plant the strong roots of faith also fostered by her family. Glenda eventually moved to Saskatoon where she studied nursing and met her husband George. After living in Saskatoon for a couple of years, George joined the navy and they were eventually transferred to Halifax, Nova Scotia. The prairies never really left Glenda's heart, as all of her family was there, but following the birth of her two children the small family and the beauty and warmth of the Maritime people cemented the feeling that Nova Scotia was also home.

Feelings of belonging in her adopted province were greatly fostered over the years by the wonderful relationships formed through St. Clement Parish Council, as well as the diocesan and provincial councils. Although her mother had been a faithful member, the League was not particularly on Glenda's radar as something to join until she was invited to a meeting by a St. Clement council member. Being a new mother and spending a lot of time alone, as George was often at sea, the invitation seemed like a good thing to try out. The League became the central focus of Glenda's volunteer work. For more than 30 years Glenda has served on many standing committees and in leadership roles. League

service was often a tenuous balance between a demanding career as a clinical nurse specialist, lifelong studies that led to a doctorate in nursing, and trying to always be there for her family. It was the special Christian compassion of many League sisters, as well as the strong spiritual connection and social justice focus of the League that kept Glenda faithful in her membership.

The significance of League connections became especially evident when Glenda's mother died during a visit to Halifax. Devastated by the loss, comfort was immediately found through her sisters at St. Clement. Her mother's funeral took place in Saskatoon where Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Council played a major role in providing comfort and solace for a grieving family and daughter, both by hosting the funeral reception and through the many hugs and beautiful smiles given and received. The burial occurred in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan. Standing at her mother's graveside, Glenda looked up. At the edge of the graveyard were three women, lifelong friends of her mother, in League scarves. These women were part of Glenda's life and faith community as a child. This unique and beautiful cross-Canada spiritual connection of the League will be forever etched in Glenda's mind and spirit, carrying her forward in faithful service "For God and Canada" for as long as she is able to do the journey. ✚



2019 National Convention, Calgary, Alberta

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