

# The Canadian League



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Anne-Marie Gorman**

National President and Chairperson of International Relations



When Christians profess their faith, they say God is “creator of heaven and earth”. The Nicene Creed is even more explicit, stating that God is maker of “all that is, seen and unseen”. Isn’t it interesting what a comma can do for understanding? Saying God is maker of all that is seen and unseen, has quite a different meaning from saying God is maker of all that is, seen and unseen. It really puts a point on what the earth is to humankind, and from whence it came. “All that is”, Christians believe, came to be through God’s own hands, which came from God’s love for what He made.

Further to the thinking of what God made from the very first cell in the universe, it was to prepare for the coming of God’s only begotten son, who made a new covenant with His people. In Mark’s gospel (12:28-34), Jesus tells the people of Israel that the “...Lord our God, the Lord is one”, and that “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength”. Please note that a choice was not given in this statement. Jesus said “you shall”, not “you may”. To be a Christian, it is not an option. He went on to say, “The second [commandment] is this, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself’”. This may be easy to hear but more difficult to live.

Imagine a world where the two new commandments are given more serious effort. To love God with

one’s whole heart, soul, mind and strength means people must strive to become what God has always intended for those of the earth. A work in progress! It is hard work to focus every fiber of our beings on loving God the way He loves us. Jesus goes on to instruct that Christians “shall” love their neighbour as themselves. Imagine a world where each person treats the other as a child of God. Is this Utopian? Farfetched? Impossible? As sinners, it perhaps is impossible, but for God, everything is possible. God made all of creation from the very beginning, and is still creating. The question then is how do Christians respond to the new commandment? Weekly or daily, members profess their faith. Weekly or more often, “amen” is said when receiving Jesus in the consecrated bread and wine. That indicates a resounding yes to signing on to be a disciple of Jesus, confirming the willingness to do what Jesus did. Wow!

If this is the reason for being, then good care of self is needed. According to the University of Arizona Andrew Weil Centre for Integrative Medicine, people need to consider good nutrition, proper rest, spending time in the outdoors, physical activity, spiritual exercises and stress management. This will take different forms depending on where people are on the journey. In order to become stronger and more resilient, an enriched soil should be created when making the decision to love as Christ commanded.



Studies show that the lack of self-care causes fatigue. In other words love yourself in order to love others. With this comes the ability to be more forgiving and compassionate with self and neighbour, which leads to a stronger connection to God's love and the joy in being one of His creatures. Only with the grace of God are the faithful able to take baby steps towards the pure love that He has intended, making care for creation such a simple extension of ourselves. By loving God, ourselves and our neighbour as ourselves, people will love the creation God



provided, the garden we are to cultivate and be cultivated in.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is an organization of Catholic women of strength and courage, whose core purpose is "Uniting Catholic women to grow in faith, and to promote social justice through service to the church, Canada and the world". I envision an organization where all Catholic women in Canada desire to

belong. May prayers, the Holy Spirit, the intercession of Mary and the efforts of members lead the League ever closer to this vision. ✚

## 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.*

## 100<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention 2020 Montreal, Quebec



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

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# THE LEAGUE OBJECTS CONTINUED

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



In the beginning, remember the end. In the spirit of that old saying, members should keep the League's goals in mind as the activities and responsibilities of parish, diocesan, provincial and national councils are discharged. Members need to keep before them the reasons that inspired the establishment of The Catholic Women's League of Canada almost a century ago.

The League Objects are goals that should inform decisions and activities at every level. In the Winter 2019 edition of *The Canadian League*, I reflected on the first four goals. I would now like to examine the remainder.

The fifth goal of the League is "to enhance the role of women in church and society." In the 1995 Letter of Pope John Paul II to Women, he recognized history in which, "Women's dignity has often been unacknowledged... they have often been relegated to the margins of society..." He then identified the needs women face where, "Women will increasingly play a part in the solution of the serious problems of the future...the quality of life, migration, social services, euthanasia, drugs, health care, the ecology, etc.". It is heartening to know that the League's priorities and actions express the directions identified by this prophetic pope.

The sixth object is "to recognize the human dignity of all people everywhere." In the face of the wholesale collapse of recognition and defence of the human rights of unborn, handicapped or terminally ill persons, the League's

advocacy for life is a crucial contribution to the solution of the most serious problems members face as a nation.

The seventh object flows naturally from this "to uphold and defend Christian education and values in the modern world." There are many individuals who want to exclude from the public square voices that express the timeless, ethical truths defended by the church. The League's role in educating its members about moral issues, advocacy with governments and the world of education and cultural forces is vital.

The eighth and last of the League's objects aims to "contribute to the understanding and growth of religious freedom, social justice, peace and harmony." These goals

may seem unattainable in the modern world. Religious freedom is threatened everywhere, even to the point of persecution. Economic and social inequalities grow around the world, threatening peace.

In the face of these challenging circumstances, recall the Lord's words, "...In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!" (Jn. 16:33). The work of Christians, individually or united in spiritual movements like the

League, is always an expression of the vocation to collaborate with Christ in His mission to transform the world into the Kingdom of God. The efforts members make every day in pursuit of the objects of the League contribute to that new world.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel keep members ever mindful of the eternal significance of their work and witness. ✚





# THE GENIUS OF WOMAN

**Shari Guinta**

National first Vice-President and Chairperson of Spiritual Development



Under the categories of the spiritual development committee falls the “role of women in the church”, a debated topic within and outside of the church for years. The debate may be thought of as concerning the ordination of woman to the priesthood. This article is not about that.

In reading apostolic letters and various articles from the papacy, particularly St. Pope John Paul II, St. Luke’s scripture passage the “feminine genius” is referred to and explained with grace and vision.

St. Pope John Paul II was the first, to my knowledge, who referred to the “genius of women”. I remember being intrigued by what he meant and thinking how awesome it was to hear a pope talk about how “Woman complements man, just as man complements woman...” Women have an important role to play within the Catholic church and beyond, particularly in ecumenical areas, but also in regards to social justice and education.

On June 29, 1995, Pope John Paul II issued a “Letter to Women”, published prior to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China. In the exhortation, the Holy Father thanked women for their contribution to society and went on to mention obstacles in parts of the world that prevent women from being “acknowledged, respected, and appreciated in their own special dignity.”

The article quotes Genesis 1:27, “God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” There are genius women in the bible – Ester, Ruth, Mary of Magdela and of course the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of God.

In this regard, the spiritual development standing committee lists six areas of work – spiritual growth of members, study of Catholic teachings, role of women in the church, evangelization and mission assistance, lay ministries, ecumenism and interfaith endeavours. The pope’s exhortations describe the work of the League perfectly!

Members, women of the church and the feminine laity,

are ministers of communion, ministers of the word, leaders of prayer and of children’s liturgy, youth leaders and pastoral workers. They are involved in and lead many ministries within the parish, are lecturers with masters and doctorate degrees in theology and church teaching, work in seminaries as teachers and work in chancery offices in many dioceses. Women have been invited to participate in forums in Rome such as the International Theological Commission, to which Dr. Moira McQueen from Ontario was appointed in 2014. As the feminine church, women should be proud of the role they hold and not be afraid to continue it in the best way possible.

I grew up in the 1960s and experienced the feminist movement, a movement that in some regards was misguided but truly affected how society regards women, particularly the western world. As the world grows smaller, issues regarding society’s treatment of women concerning violence, education and sexual assault become more in the spotlight, questioned and unaccepted.

In 2017 the Catholic News Agency reported Pope Francis as saying that, “Women have an essential role to play in interreligious dialogue given their natural ability to build relationships and fraternity, making their involvement necessary in all areas of society.” From the Vatican on June 9, 2017 the Holy Father went on to say, “Today more than ever, it is necessary that women be present. Women, possessing particular traits, can offer an important contribution to dialogue with their capacity to listen, to welcome and to open themselves generously to others.” This particular address by Pope Francis to the plenary session of the pontifical council for interreligious dialogue was particularly encouraging. It explored the theme of *The role of women in educating in universal fraternity*.

Women do indeed have a role, now more than ever as the League embraces planning strategically and re-branding itself to fit with the modern woman. The role will, in my opinion, become more pronounced and definite as the League reaches out to younger, more diverse women.

The church needs women and women need the church. There is much to offer each other. ✚



# Who? Me?

**Fran Lucas**

National President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization



**W**hat more can I do? How can I make a difference? Who hasn't had those thoughts, perhaps more than once, when it comes personal or work life? And what about League life? Many members feel unprepared or ill-equipped to put up their hand and agree to take on a new task. Many have been there before, struggling with thoughts of "it's someone else's turn", "I don't have the time" or "I don't know where to start". By finding the courage to try new things, most often the end result is fulfilling.

The *Handbook for Organization Chairpersons* indicates that one of the chairperson's roles is "...to fulfill League policy to develop leadership qualities and provide training to enable members to take active roles in the affairs of their faith, community and society". What has been offered to you as a member? If training and development opportunities have been absent, ask for them. Perhaps a member has skills to assist in the delivery of training. Maybe there is an honorary or life member in the area to help with such an initiative. The handbook is a beneficial resource to anyone interested in getting involved in a council in some way or just for more awareness and knowledge.

Even with well-honed skills, upgrading is always a good practice. Learning enhances the understanding of what is happening around us, provides opportunities and improves quality of life. The opportunities can be passive or active. Reading books or articles can pique interest and spur members on to action. For example, reading *Protecting Minors from Sexual Abuse: A Call to the Catholic Faithful in Canada for Healing, Reconciliation, and Transformation* published by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops brings awareness to the latest actions by the church in Canada on this topic, provides the ability to speak with knowledge on the subject, and helps others understand what is being done. Another example is Pope Francis' *Encyclical on Climate Change and Inequality: On Care for Our Common Home* which may spur additional fire in members hearts to identify actions to undertake at home or in councils as it ties to the *Care for Our Common Home* theme.

In addition to *The Catholic Women's League of Canada Plans Strategically 2018-2022*, the national executive has released a workshop entitled Guiding Principles to our Envisioned Future, available to all councils to ensure that members are versed in the League's new components and are excited about what is to come! This edition of the magazine contains more information on the strategic planning.

The national development fund is available for parish, diocesan and provincial councils to promote development workshops and leadership training. The need to educate members on the aforementioned areas is a reality. Funds to assist in education are available, and the expertise to make that happen is available or easily sourced. As of February 2019, the fund's criteria has been expanded to allow councils an opportunity to visit parishes without League parish councils in order to promote the benefits of membership. More information is available in organization communiqué #4 on the national website.

When looking to enhance personal League involvement, any of the above references may be of assistance. Additionally, if members are looking to take leadership abilities to the next level, check out the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation. [cwlfcanada.ca/](http://cwlfcanada.ca/).

What more can I do? How can I make a difference? I hope you now have some ideas to action those thoughts! ✚



# ANNULMENT PROCESS

**Pat Deppiesse**

National Chairperson of Christian Family Life



Canon 1055 §1 on marriage establishes that, “The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life and which is ordered by its nature to the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring, has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament between the baptized.”

Doreen Gowans, my predecessor as national chairperson of Christian family life, spoke eloquently during her term regarding programs to strengthen and perhaps save marriages in difficulty. However, some marriages just can’t be saved.

Sometimes separation and divorce are necessary in order to escape a detrimental and serious situation such as violence, hidden homosexual preferences, infertility, abuse or even incest. The church would never fault someone for doing what must be done to ensure the personal safety of the spouse and of the children of the marriage.

My former pastor, Msgr. Pedro López-Gallo, is the judicial vicar for the Archdiocese of Vancouver. I was honoured to publish two books of his columns issued in *The BC Catholic* newspaper over many years. From his book *The Rights of Children* many of the columns outline the procedures for the declaration of nullity of a marriage (annulment) and are the basis of this article.

League member Theresa St. Arnaud is the advocate for the petitioner in the Vancouver archdiocesan marriage tribunal and has presented a workshop regarding annulment procedures. She graciously supplied a copy from which I have quoted throughout this article.

Someone who has lived through a divorce may feel very isolated, lonely, vulnerable, sad, discouraged and abandoned, attempting to get her life back in order. She may feel people in her immediate circle are “watching her”, including family members. Wondering if she can go to church and receive Holy Communion, she is understandably relieved when informed that under certain circumstances she may still do so.

How can members help? It can be as simple as the greeting,

“I’m sorry for what you’ve gone through, is there anything I can do to help you?”

The day may come when she meets someone wonderful and falls in love again. “It is certainly a natural inclination for most people to want to share and to receive love and marital intimacy.” She may be unaware of how to make an application to have her former marriage examined with a view to having it annulled in order to enter into a new marriage in the church.

An annulment (formally known as a declaration of nullity) is a ruling that a particular marriage was null from the beginning. Namely, something was seriously wrong or missing from the parties’ consent at the time the wedding vows were made, preventing the sacrament of marriage from coming into existence.

“The annulment process offers a good balance between the Church’s mission to uphold the truth about marriage, while extending mercy and compassion for the imperfect way that we sometimes enter into commitments. While not without burdens, the process offers a unique opportunity to reflect on and confront important traits, behaviour patterns and personal choices that once recognized, often prove to be valuable in navigating future relationships. Many Catholics experience very profound feelings of closure and healing, and ultimately, God’s loving mercy and grace.”

Pope Francis recognizes the reality of people who suffer broken marriages and their feelings of disconnect from the church. He impresses upon marriage tribunals a pastoral mission of mercy and healing, and voiced agreement with the synod fathers’ observations “that divorced and re-married Catholics ‘need to be more fully integrated into Christian communities...’”. It would be good for members to consider themselves conduits of that integration.

Through love, prayers, compassion and supportive companionship, members can remind parishioners who have experienced a divorce and wish to remarry that there is hope. Encourage them to return to the graces of the church by petitioning for a declaration of nullity of their former marriage. In other words, get an annulment.





Have members been educated about what the annulment process entails? What can members do to help inform people of these procedures? Share information. Every diocese in Canada has a marriage tribunal. Some smaller cities may not, however pastors are prepared to start the procedures and have all the information required to recommend the nearest tribunal office.

Members may help to address misconceptions about annulments. For example having a marriage declared invalid does not make the children illegitimate. Also, the process is for all Catholics regardless of socioeconomic status. Using the Archdiocese of Vancouver for statistical purposes, almost

all of the applications presented are successful. Negative judgements are rare because during the preliminary meeting with a petitioner, strong advice is given on the likelihood of there being sufficient grounds to proceed.

May I recommend that parish councils investigate the nullity of marriage process in their diocese? Consider inviting a guest speaker from the tribunal office to make a presentation where parishioners may attend. A brochure entitled *Annulment Process* has been compiled and is available for use at [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca) or may be ordered through national office.

I look forward to hearing about council education endeavours. ✚

## ANGLICANS AND CATHOLICS TOGETHER FOR THE LOVE OF A COMMUNITY

**Marie Rackley**

National Chairperson of Community Life

**I**n eastern Canada sits New Brunswick, one of four Atlantic provinces. It borders the east on the Northumberland Strait and Nova Scotia, to the west at Quebec and the state of Maine, United States of America, to the south by the Bay of Fundy which flows into the Atlantic Ocean and to the north by the Bay of Chaleur and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Sitting next to the Bay of Fundy is the Loyalist City of Saint John.

Saint John has struggled with poverty, homelessness, employment loss (Saint John Ship Building, Atlantic Sugar Refinery, Simms Brush Factory and the Canadian National Railway) and a high teenage pregnancy rate. It was an active port for many years with a large demand of cargo vessels carrying such products as lumber, potatoes and refined sugar. Shipping declined over time and container ships replaced cargo vessels. Container ships still arrive today, but the majority of ships received are the seasonal cruise ships.

A joint venture to tackle cyclical generational poverty by the Roman Catholic Church and Anglican Communion in Saint John occurred in October 2018. Bishop Robert Harris (Saint John) and Bishop David Edwards of the Anglican Diocese of Fredericton signed a joint declaration of sponsorship to provide an early intervention program called “Dads and Tots”.

The initiative, the second one worldwide, is part of the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM). A Common Declaration was signed October 5, 2016 by Pope Francis and Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, in Rome, Italy, to work together on

collaborative missions. The first project began in September 2017 in Malawi, Africa providing children the opportunity to attend school through the St. Timothy Scholarship Programme.

Fr. Douglas McNeill of the Roman Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception leads the IARCCUM group in Saint John, along with Rev. Dr. John Paul Westin of Stone Church. The need for social outreach is great. According to a 2017 report by the Human Development Council, there is a 45% child poverty rate in Ward 3 in Saint John.

The “Dads and Tots” project allows up to six fathers and their pre-school aged sons to meet weekly with two father mentors, and nurture parenting skills in a safe, friendly and play-based environment. According to Leslie Allen, an early childhood intervention specialist who helped design the program, “Human growth and development is messy and so it’s different than measuring profits in a business and looking at the first quarter and the second quarter. You may see baby steps but baby steps are good steps”.

Organizers hoped to offer another series of “Dads & Tots” in early 2019.

Look at your community today. Is this a project that your parish would be interested in pursuing to tackle cyclical generational poverty? Pope Francis wants us to reach out and join faith communities together to work for the love of the children. The International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM) is there to assist. Call and speak to your parish priest. Consider taking the first step. ✚



# THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA DELEGATION VISIT TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NOVEMBER 2018

**Cathy Bouchard**

National Chairperson of Resolutions



One of the unique and special relationships that The Catholic Women's League of Canada has is the opportunity to meet with elected parliamentary officials and advisors. Since 1974, a delegation representing the League has brought members' voices and concerns to "the Hill". National President Anne-Marie Gorman, President-Elect Fran Lucas and I, in the role of national chairperson of resolutions, formed the delegation in November 2018. The following resolutions were discussed directly or indirectly with various federal government representatives including:

- 2018.01 Attestation Requirement on Canada Summer Jobs Program
- 2018.02 Setting a Standard for Products Marketed as "Flushable"
- 2018.03 Legislate Designation of Hospice/Palliative Care Services in Facilities to Exclude Medical Assistance in Dying
- 2017.01 Full Implementation of the Supreme Court Decision in *R. v. Gladue* for Indigenous Offenders
- 2017.04 Protection from Coercion of Conscience for Healthcare Professionals
- 2016.04 Amend the *Canada Health Act* to Identify Palliative Care as an Insured Health Service
- 2013.01 Building Relationships and Partnerships with Canada's Indigenous Peoples
- 2011.02 Children of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women
- 2001.04: Water Quality in Canada

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

We met with a policy advisor to share the League's actions in building relationships with Indigenous sisters and were

advised that the federal government has been working to lift all long-term public system drinking water advisories on reserves by 2021. This information speaks to resolution 2001.04.

For ongoing information please refer to [canada.ca/water-on-reserve](http://canada.ca/water-on-reserve). In response to resolution 2011.02 we were advised that a final report on the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls will be released in June 2019. Health Canada

We met with the chief of staff who was interested to learn about the problem regarding the lack of standards for "flushable" products. The League was encouraged to bring the concern to a member of parliament to present it as a private member's bill.

Most of the meeting time was spent talking about resolution 2018.03, hospice/palliative care and the parameters around assisted death. The department has quarterly data regarding people requesting the services. The Canadian Council of Academies has been tasked with examining the issues around mature minors, advance requests and requests where a mental disorder is the sole underlying medical condition and it will table its reports in the House of Commons.

We next met with the vice chair of the standing committee on health and her assistant. It appears there is no additional funding for palliative care in the updated budget. The topic of medical assistance in dying was also discussed with regards to resolution 2018.03. It was noted the federal government allocates money for health to the provinces but cannot direct how it is distributed. When funding comes from provincial governments to support services in hospitals, even if operated by religious organizations, they have authority. The concern was referred to provincial councils for action.

Department of Justice Canada

We met with a senior policy advisor about resolution 2018.03 and resolution 2017.04 regarding conscience rights and medical assistance in dying and were advised there is nothing



in the *Criminal Code* to say that a physician must recommend someone for medical assistance in dying. No law can infringe on the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Provincial councils were encouraged to make appointments with provincial governments and provincial college of physicians and surgeons to discuss the issue.

Regarding resolution 2017.01 on Gladue reports, we were advised the *Criminal Code* says in all circumstances, information collected and presented to the judge has to be taken into consideration. Provinces administer the federally provided funding for criminal legal aid and general social transfer and are responsible for the administration of justice. The federal government provides financial support through the Indigenous Courtwork Program to participating provincial governments and through Access to Justice Service Agreements with territorial governments.

With respect to resolution 2011.02, the Federal Victims Strategy (FVS) was discussed. It focuses on increasing access to services and support for victims and survivors post harm. The federal government can reliably report on the impact and on the experiences of family members and survivors who have taken part in the funded activities (ceremonies, healing circles, family gatherings) and services (police-based liaisons, Family Information Liaison Units). Early results and feedback from stakeholders indicate that the various FVS policy and program activities have had positive results.

#### Individual Member of Parliament and Organization Visits

We were fortunate to meet with members of parliament (MPs) that showed support and interest in the work of the League including the former deputy critic of human rights and religious freedom who asked the League to spread the word on issues of importance through social media. Discussions included resolutions 2018.01 and 2017.04.

We also met with a former minister of justice and attorney general of Canada who expressed interest in resolution 2018.02 on “flushable” products and suggested the League share information on social media regarding resolution 2018.03 on conscience rights to bring awareness when members

hear of people being coerced into medical assistance in dying. Regarding resolution 2018.01, the Canada Summer Jobs Program attestation, he indicated that many government programs could have an “attestation” attached to them in the future.

When asked the most effective way to get ideas and concerns to government (at any level), we were encouraged to make personal visits to

elected representatives and to connect with like-minded groups that are as effective as coalitions. He went on to say that letters sent by constituents to an MP must be answered, personalized letters are better than form letters, and it is considered that one hand written letter is equivalent to 1,000 people/votes.

Opportunities to meet with representatives of the Canadian Organization of Life and Family and the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops occurred. Discussions included the ongoing concern of physicians’ conscience rights being over ridden; the release of *Protecting Minors from Sexual Abuse: A Call to the Catholic Faithful in Canada for Healing, Reconciliation, and Transformation*; the Canada Summer Jobs Program attestation; and Development and Peace – Caritas Canada partner projects.

It is always a blessing to speak with people in Ottawa and share the policies and concerns of the League’s membership. Anne-Marie, Fran and I look forward to the next visit, making an impact with members’ voices on Parliament Hill. ✚





# COMMUNICATION — TIPS AND TOOLS!

**Doreen Gowans**

National Chairperson of Communications



“Communication has the power to build bridges, to enable encounter and inclusion, and thus to enrich society. How beautiful it is when people select their words and actions with care, in the effort to avoid misunderstandings, to heal wounded memories and to build peace and harmony. Words can build bridges between individuals and within families, social groups and peoples. This is possible both in the material world and the digital world” (Pope Francis).

## Strategic Planning

Changes are coming to the League! Have you heard about *The Catholic Women's League of Canada Plans Strategically 2018-2022*? If not, inquire about it through parish, diocesan or provincial councils. To ensure input from grassroots members, councils should keep the avenues of communication flowing as quickly and smoothly as possible throughout the organization! To assist members with strategic planning information, a quick link was added to the national website entitled “Implementation of the Strategic Plan”. The link currently provides an implementation committee announcement and the *CWL Prayer for Renewal*. Moving forward the link will provide members information on the strategic plan as it unfolds and how it may affect members and councils. View this link often to keep informed and to provide the implementation committee with thoughts and suggestions on the process. The committee wants to hear from members and prays for positive feedback, but concerns are welcome. Direct questions to the implementation committee via the contact button on the “Implementation of the Strategic Plan”



quick link on the national website. Please pray the *CWL Prayer for Renewal* at council meetings and various gatherings to help make the strategic plan a smooth transition over the next five years.

## Communication Tips

- Oral communication of key messages should be kept simple and repeated two to three times for members to retain them. Sometime less is best.
- In lengthy newsletters use lists or bullet points to call out action.
- The use of multiple platforms such as newsletters, communiques, website presentations, Facebook etc. may be helpful to communicate messages effectively.

## Media Relations

The national president is the official spokesperson for the League. As Catholic women, members are often called upon to express an opinion. Therefore:

- Identify a spokesperson(s) in advance.
- Provide media training where possible.
- A “fact sheet” containing information on regularly asked questions to answer in a concise, effective manner.
- Be pro-active, not reactive; try and keep the issues pro-active.
- Provide consistent messaging for membership is important.
- Ensure information is to the point.

## The Canadian League Magazine

Members may submit articles to the magazine, however submissions are subject to the approval of the editorial board and the availability of space. Members are encouraged to use the magazine:

- As a communication tool to share information.
- To strike up a debate on current issues.
- To promote the League.
- To become educated on resolutions from various standing committees
- To encourage members to act on the many issues Catholic women face daily.
- To increase members' spirituality.
- To become aware of the new mission statement, viewable in the magazine, along with the core purpose, values and envisioned future components of the strategic plan.
- To become acquainted with the new theme *Care for Our Common Home*, as featured in the winter edition of the magazine.

## E-mail

In today's busy world people communicate quickly and effectively through e-mail. When sending an e-mail to more than one person, use the "blind carbon copy" (bcc) field rather than the "to" or "carbon copy" (cc) field for the following reasons:

- The bcc field acts as an anti-spam precaution.
- The privacy of e-mail addresses is protected in the

original message or if the message is forwarded onto other recipients.

- In the event a recipient uses the "reply all" option, the reply will not be sent to the individuals in the bcc field.

For more information on how to use the bcc field, contact a technology savvy friend or Google "blind copy".

Communication is a wonderful tool if used properly and not offensively. Remember to communicate politely, wisely and affirmatively. ✚

# A MATTER OF WINE...

**Margaret Ann Jacobs**

National Past President and Chairperson of Laws



“ And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins” (Mk. 2:22).

This scripture passage from Mark's gospel challenged me to consider my role in the League, something that I think each member needs to do.

Are members like "old wineskins", stiff and stuck in old ways? What behaviours contribute to an unwillingness to change or become more flexible? Is it pride, selfishness, too much independence or too much exclusivity? Perhaps it's a matter of wanting things "our way" because it's just faster and easier, or agreeing with new innovations and changes only to fall back into old habits? Hmmm...

Quite a challenge, quite a necessary challenge while the League is in the "honeymoon" stage of strategic planning.

There is a new mission statement, redefined core purpose and values and an amazing envisioned future that would excite and inspire even members that have previously been inactive. The enthusiasm for change in the League is palpable.

But... what about the old wineskins?

Apparently old wineskins can be reconditioned, cleaned or soaked in oil. So too can members be reconditioned. Whatever debris is blocking flexibility needs to be cleaned – out with those old responses and in with a new outlook. It isn't easy to change and stretch, but with God's help, it is possible. Members need to soak in God's presence through prayer and ask for the strength of the Holy Spirit to keep on track to

becoming more flexible.

The challenge for the "old wineskins" is to become conditioned to hold this new wine of implementation as the League plans strategically for the future. Old wineskins can hold new wine which is rapidly expanding, but only if they are flexible.

Attitudes/behaviours are in need of change... but how?

Past presidents serve in a consultative capacity to:

- † help members recognize the need to change;
- † create the desire to make that change happen;
- † encourage members who want to grow in their faith; promote social justice; access service projects in the church, Canada and the world;
- † empower members by our optimistic support of their participation in the church;
- † encourage members' efforts toward social justice;
- † whet members' appetites to advocate government for change;
- † convince members that they can and will change the world.

Without change, there is a risk of losing not only the new wine but the old wineskins which were burst.

Many "old wineskins" are anxious to learn the plans that the implementation team has in store. And while not all of the plans being formulated for the League are known, members can be assured that this wine is being perfectly fermented. So ready the wineskins – recondition the old and reach out and welcome, encourage and support fresh new wineskins. ✚

**Communication Policy:** For all information, concerns and/or inquiries the flow of communication starts with the parish council and follows the chain of command to diocesan, then to provincial and then to national council. To endorse and promote this communication policy, the national executive has decided to discontinue the toll-free 1-888 telephone line effective June 30, 2019 as it will no longer be required. Thank you for your cooperation.

# ENVIRONMENTAL LAW, IT'S ALL AROUND US!

**Betty Colaneri**

National Chairperson of Legislation



A snowstorm was reported to be heading my way. While looking at the looming dark clouds, the power suddenly went out. I stood in darkness for a few moments before searching for a flashlight, reassuring myself that the power failure would not last long. There was an unusually eerie silence that took the place of the noise of cars rushing past. I've often thought that snow days were God's way of saying "take a break and stop for a moment." Realize how fast-paced society has become while taking things for granted. You don't realize how much electrical power is relied upon until it goes off. What if the power didn't come back on? Canadians are blessed and privileged to be living in a country rich in natural resources, and depend on the well-being of the natural environment to support health, economy and culture, particularly that of Indigenous brothers and sisters.

The new national theme *Care for Our Common Home* is the perfect opportunity to raise member awareness on ways to protect the environment and the world. A wonderful resource is Pope Francis' second encyclical *Laudato Si'*, his call to the people of the world to take swift and unified global action. The Holy Father also asks the very profound question, "What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us..." Following his election in 2013, Pope Francis "made the environment, sustainable development and just distribution of the earth's goods important concerns of his papacy." He urges humankind to be responsible for others and the future of the planet by following the example of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis' faith in God had become his mission for justice, peace and respect for creation.

What does the federal government have in place to address the environmental concern? The *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, 1999 "is an important part of Canada's federal environmental legislation aimed at preventing pollution and protecting the

environment and human health." The intent of the act was to look at sustainable development not only for today but to assist future generations with the ability to attain the sustainability to meet their needs.

The act:

- "makes pollution prevention the cornerstone of national efforts to reduce toxic substances in the environment
- "sets out processes to assess the risks to the environment and human health posed by substances in commerce
- "imposes timeframes for managing toxic substances
- "provides a wide range of tools to manage toxic substances, other pollution and wastes
- "ensures the most harmful substances are phased out or not released into the environment in any measurable quantity
- "includes provisions to regulate vehicle, engine and equipment emissions
- "strengthens enforcement of the Act and its regulations
- "encourages greater citizen input into decision-making"
- "allows for more effective cooperation and partnership with other governments and Aboriginal [Indigenous] peoples."

In the 2018 budget, the federal government realized the importance of this issue by investing \$1.35 billion to support work with other governments, Indigenous groups, non-profit and other organizations to improve Canada's natural environment.

Members have always been conscientious about the

environment, evident in adopted resolutions. These resolutions voiced members' concerns and have been instrumental in the implementation of certain laws. Resolution 2015.02 Ban Microbeads in Personal Care Products is a perfect example. Microbeads in toiletries was added to the list on Schedule 1 of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, 1999 and

became prohibited in products as of July 1, 2018.





This resolution joins an already impressive list of other environmental resolutions such as:

2018.02 Setting a Standard for Products Marked as Flushable  
2015.03 Banning the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides  
2006.04 Renewable Energy  
2005.06 Developing Countries and Water  
2004.07 Water Use in Canada  
2001.04 Water Quality in Canada  
1990.07 Environmental Concerns  
1999.09 Bulk Fresh Water Resources  
Active resolutions should be monitored. Revisiting

resolutions can bring about innovative ideas of how to address a situation further.

It is important to become aware of our surroundings. Caring for the environment is important to everyone. It is critical to work together and envision the journey ahead to attain a sustainable world for future generations. Ensuring legislation is in place to protect the environment is an essential component.

The next time you reach out to flip on the light switch, see if you can come up with a bright idea to *Care for Our Common Home*. The last thing you want is to be left standing in the dark! ✚

# IN CARE OF SELF AND HOME

**Faith Anderson**

National Chairperson of Education and Health



In today's society, there are many issues that fall under the education and health standing committee. Mental health and the world's water supply are but two that come to mind.

Members' overall wellness may be challenged by outside or inside influences. Are the home or workplace environments stressful? Perhaps members or someone in the family are contending with a serious health issue. Do reactions and treatment towards people with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or post-traumatic conditions differ?

## Mental Health

The Canadian Health Association states, "We are all human beings, and each of us has a physical body. We also all have a mind, and we all have emotions. In the same way that we all have a state of physical health, we all have a state of mental health. Mental health is more than the absence of mental illness." Furthermore, "...even if you don't have a mental illness, you may at times feel mentally unwell." Circumstances can place pressure on a person's mental health.

The federal government indicates that either directly or indirectly (through family, friends or colleagues), one in every three Canadians will experience mental illness during their lifetime. According to Live Life Happy, "You never know what people are going through and sometimes the people with the biggest smiles are struggling the most, so be kind." Take time to pause and reflect on these words.

## Environment

The national theme *Care for Our Common Home* is a gift to the environment. Although the first year's focus is on water,

a most precious commodity, members can also relate to the earth and ensure the sustainability of the environment for future generations. In Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, he refers to Pope Saint John XXIII, Blessed Pope Paul VI, Saint John Paul II and Benedict XVI who "echo the reflections of numerous scientists, philosophers, theologians and civic groups, all of which have enriched the Church's thinking on these questions", and attributes Patriarch Bartholomew's statement, "As Christians, we are also called 'to accept the world as a sacrament of communion, as a way of sharing with God and our neighbours on a global scale.'" At the conclusion of the encyclical, Pope Francis offers two prayers, A Prayer For Our Earth and A Christian Prayer in union with creation.

## Resolution

Resolution 2018.02 Setting a Standard for Products Marketed as Flushable urges the federal government to establish a national standard of testing and labelling of products marketed as "flushable", to solve an on-going issue within the scope of water and wastewater management and to reduce the high cost of sewer maintenance. Member awareness and action on this issue is important.

The brief quotes the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association where it states, "Only the 3Ps – Pee, Poo and Toilet Paper – should be flushed." In a June 2018 letter, Alberta Urban Municipality Association encouraged municipalities to join the movement advocating for standards to be applied to products labelled "flushable", in response to problems caused by non-flushable items being disposed into wastewater systems. ✚



# Catholic Women's LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

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## Empowering Catholic Women

### OUR VISION

Our vision is a just, merciful,  
and compassionate world  
nurtured by the genius of women

### OUR MISSION

Our mission is to fund leadership  
education that inspires Catholic  
women to be transformational  
and influential leaders where they  
live and work

## Empowering Catholic Women

The Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation offers a leadership program to Canadian Catholic women which integrates faith and life along with personal and professional leadership development. It is based on a philosophy that leaders are whole persons and for a leadership program to be effective it must take into account the whole leader. Personal development, professional development and faith development must work in concert to support the leader, to strengthen skills and to encourage women leaders wherever they work or live.



In February 2018, **14 Catholic women** from across Canada were selected to become part of the inaugural leadership program (May 2018 – May 2019), offered in partnership with the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation and Providence School of Transformative Leadership and Spirituality, Saint Paul University, Ottawa.

After five days of intense programming and relationship building, the participants returned to their homes in New Brunswick, Ontario, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Yukon, Newfoundland and Labrador, Alberta, and Nova Scotia. Although geographically separated, they continue their journey together online and support each other through reading, reflection, discussions, and coaching circles. In May 2019, these women will meet again at Saint Paul University to finish their Certificate Program and become transformative leaders wherever they are in service.



**LIZA JOSE** lives in Richmond, BC and works in the field of information technology (IT). In search of organizations that help uplift women in society, Liza found many global initiatives that offer sustainable solutions to challenges women face. However, most of these solutions are non-Catholic and some even oppose the Catholic faith. Liza embarked on this journey because she believes that we need more female leaders in the Catholic community who will advocate for sustainable solutions to challenges women meet and that preserve and respect our faith.

Liza's enthusiasm for the program continues as she notes, "It's been an awesome learning experience — one where I get to have a good illuminated view of my blind side, become more self-aware, become a better listener, deeply reflect on "stories" and make meaning, learn to connect to the Source of my being, and repeatedly ask myself what God wants me to become as a member (and leader) in His big family. Been such a blessing!"



**ALISON POWER** lives in St. John's, Newfoundland and has a genuine desire to make a difference in her community and place of work. The support and sense of trust that she receives through her work from the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy provides Alison with the inspiration to embark on learning opportunities that will enhance the

education and skills required to fulfill leadership expectations.

As Alison journeys through the program, she said, "It has been a very supportive learning environment! I feel fortunate to be a member of such a diverse group of women with similar goals."



**COURTNEY DUCKWORTH** lives in Simcoe, Ontario. Working with people in many capacities opened her eyes to the struggles that people encounter every day and motivates her to continually strive to better her church and wider community.

"This program has been a journey of self-discovery," said Courtney, "I have grown in self-confidence and have discovered an interior

relationship with my Lord and Saviour. I have met amazing Catholic Women from all over Canada, who have given me a renewed sense of hope for the role of women in the Catholic Church."

In May 2019, a new group of women from across Canada will embark on this wonderful journey into transformative leadership. Check out our website in April to meet these remarkable women.

In 2012 the Sisters of Service of Canada, looking to their legacy, approached the Catholic Women's League of Canada (League) with a gift and a challenge. Inspired by the shared mission of a just, merciful and compassionate world nurtured by women, the League and the Sisters of Service had a vision to transform the leadership landscape by providing education and training for Catholic women who will serve in leadership capacities. Together these groups provided the initial funding to launch the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation in 2015. Since then the Foundation is very thankful to the many other religious congregations, dioceses, parishes, CWL members, and friends who have so generously supported the Foundation.

## PRAY - DONATE - PARTICIPATE



### PRAY

For the women participating in the programs! Program!



### DONATE

Funds to continue the Program for Catholic women leaders



### PARTICIPATE

Apply to the Program and grow in your spirituality & leadership

Promotional materials to support the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation at your local, diocesan or provincial council meetings and conventions are available from or [cwlfcanda.ca](http://cwlfcanda.ca) or [info@cwlfcanda.ca](mailto:info@cwlfcanda.ca).



# 99<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention Program

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

## Saturday, August 17

**3:00-6:00 p.m.** Bus Tour of City of Calgary  
(ticket required)

## Sunday, August 18

**9:30-1:30 p.m.** Pancake Breakfast at Heritage Park  
(ticket required)

**10:00-1:30 p.m.** Tour of National Music Centre  
(ticket required)

**1:30-4:00 p.m.** Resolutions dialogue

**7:00 p.m.** Official opening, Eucharistic celebration and Opening Reception, St. Albert the Great  
(ticket required for transportation, buses leave at 5:00)

## Monday, August 19

**8:00-9:15 a.m.** Opening Eucharistic Celebration

**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
- Reports of provincial presidents

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

**11:00-12:00 p.m.** Business Sessions

- Reports of provincial presidents
- Report of national president
- Report of secretary treasurer
- Announcements and angelus

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

**1:45-2:30 p.m.** Business Sessions

- Report of executive director
- Review of resolutions process
- Report of spiritual development chairperson
- Report of organization chairperson
- Report of centenary committee

**2:30-3:00 p.m.** Health Break

**3:00-4:15 p.m.** Business Sessions

- Report of Christian family life chairperson
- Report of community life chairperson
- Report of education and health chairperson
- Report of communications chairperson
- Announcements

**4:15-4:30 p.m.** Commissioning of Life Members

**6:30 p.m.** Western Shindig (ticket required)

## Tuesday, August 20

**8:00-9:15 a.m.** Eucharistic Celebration

**9:15-9:45 a.m.** Health Break

**9:45-10:45 a.m.** Breakout Session I

1. *Living Laudato Si: **Practical Tools** on How We Can Care for Our Common Home*, Dr. Peter Baltutis, Assistant Professor of History & Catholic Studies, St. Mary's University, Calgary
2. ***Spiritual Practice** and Care for Our Common Home*, Sr. Madeleine Gregg, fcj; FCJ Retreat and Conference Centre Resource Team
3. ***What the Catholic Church says** about Care for Creation and Why It is Fundamentally Catholic that We Are "Good Stewards" of the Environment*, Dr. Timothy Harvie, Associate Professor, Philosophy and Ethics, St. Mary's University, Calgary
4. ***A Carbon Conversation: Why is It So Hard to Change? How Can We Respond to the Cry of the Poor?***, Marilou LeGeyt, Outreach Ministries Coordinator, Catholic Pastoral Centre-Calgary Diocese

**10:45-11:00 a.m.** Health Break

**11:00-12:00 p.m.** Breakout Session II [repeat as above]

**12:00-1:15 p.m.** Life Members' Luncheon (ticket required)

**12:00-1:15 p.m.** Spiritual Advisors' Luncheon  
(ticket required)

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

**1:45-3:00 p.m.** ***What is our Common Home?: We Care for Our Homeland, Our Homes, Our Hearts***, Sr. Dorothy Ederer, Grand Rapids Dominican Sister, Catholic Chaplain at Holy Cross Services

**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 21

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

**9:00-10:00 a.m.** The League of the Future: Year I, Fran Lucas [strategic planning progress report]

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

**10:30-11:45 p.m.** Business Sessions

- Credentials report
- Report of resolutions chairperson
- Report of legislation chairperson
- Announcements

**11:45-12:00 p.m.** Prayer and Angelus before Recess

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

**1:45-3:30 p.m.** Business Sessions

- Presentation by 2020 convention committee
- Report of legislation chairperson (cont.)
- Report of laws chairperson
- Report of international relations
- Report of national spiritual advisor
- Other business
- Registration report
- Adjournment
- Closing prayer

**5:00 p.m.** Closing Eucharistic Celebration & Reaffirmation of Officers, St. Mary's Cathedral ([ticket required for transportation, buses leave at 4:15](#))

**7:00 p.m.** Gala Banquet ([ticket required](#))

### Thursday, August 22

**7:30-3:30 p.m.** Tour of Badlands of Alberta ([ticket required](#))

**7:30-3:30 p.m.** Tour of Banff National Park ([ticket required](#))

Excitement is building for the 99<sup>th</sup> annual national convention August 18-21, 2019, in Calgary, Alberta. The convention committee members are putting the finishing touches on opportunities to be "Branded in Christ"! Many prospects have been made available to learn about the largest city in Alberta, its history, attractions and charms. The convention will give members a chance to deepen their faith, have fun, and learn things that will make parish, diocesan and provincial councils and members even more committed.



## 2019 National Convention, Calgary, Alberta

### BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

**CWL Pin Ribbon**  
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**To order contact:**  
**Bernice Thomas**  
348 Springborough Way WS  
Calgary, AB T3H 5M7  
1 (403) 238-0863 [bernicet@telus.net](mailto:bernicet@telus.net)

The implementation committee was formed with four members leading the four goals. By date of delivery, the national board will have discerned the activities of the implementation committee and the direction of the next step, which is the formation of working groups to begin the year one activities. Plans have

been made to follow in line with the strategies determined by the approximately 4,000 members that attended diocesan and provincial conventions, whose input directed the process.



## Goal 1:

Lisa Henry

“God is looking for ordinary people through whom He can do extraordinary things.” (author unknown)

Leadership and organizational transformation sees what’s possible and then takes the steps to inspire and unite people to create it. Spiritual leadership calls members to ask God where He wants them, knowing He will provide what is needed to accomplish it in His name. The League wants to be a leader of change by developing and taking women to build up His kingdom.

Implementing the strategies for this goal is an extremely delicate and complex process. A new capacity, vision energy and potential will be created and realized by inviting members to grow as leaders, experience meaning through service and contribute significantly to the organizational change.

The committee will incorporate new strategies,

**Members of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada grow in faith by sharing, witnessing and developing leadership skills to create positive change.**

structures and processes to provide focus, momentum and the support needed to thrive and remain relevant, while maintaining the very sacredness that defines the League and makes it uniquely different from all other faith-based organizations.

Over the next five years, the working groups for this goal will:

- Increase opportunities for spiritual development
- Increase membership
- Remove structural impediments to participation and action by increasing flexibility throughout the organization
- Increase the capacity and efficiency of leadership
- Increase the number and readiness of members to hold office
- Increase effectiveness of communication

Holding true to a clear mission and vision of the future, the committee’s work is to provide transparency about the goal and gather members together to fulfill the strategies. ✚

## Goal 2:

Sr. Susan Scott

The roots of faith lie in Hebrew scripture and its ongoing story of God’s fidelity and justice. The central, foundational story was the release of the Hebrews from bondage and slavery, endured for generations in Egypt. “But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream” (Amos 5:24).

What is this “biblical justice” that connects all things?

According to the Questions God website “Justice is, first and foremost, a relational term — people living in right relationship with God, one another, and the natural creation. From a scriptural point of view, justice means loving our neighbor as we love ourselves and is rooted in the character and nature of God.”

World Vision states, “The Bible makes social justice a mandate of faith and a fundamental expression of Christian discipleship. Social justice has its biblical roots in a triune God who time and time again shows his love and compassion for the weak, the vulnerable, the marginalized, the disenfranchised, the disinherited — you get my point. ‘For Christians, the pursuit of social justice for the poor and oppressed is the decisive mark of being people who submit to the will and way of God,’ writes Tim Dearborn in *Reflections on Advocacy and Justice*.”

As baptized followers of Christ, members take up His

**The Catholic Women’s League of Canada addresses and supports Catholic social teaching through advocacy. All things are connected!**

passion for fulfilling God’s reign, dedicating ourselves to justice, the pillar of His ministry. “The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners” (Is. 61:1).

Over the next five years, working groups for this goal will create tools to:

- Increase members’ knowledge of Catholic social teaching
- Increase the number of members trained to lead advocacy efforts
- Increase collaboration with faith organizations and governments

Members are called to advocate for the voiceless, or in the words of St. Teresa of Avila, “Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.” ✚



## Goal 3:

### Outreach and Service; All life valued with dignity and respect

Jacqueline Nogier

There are many analogies that could be used to describe the League and its role within the Catholic church in Canada. These analogies show the visible and invisible witness through actions.

The League is the tip of the iceberg that the larger community sees when members bear witness to Jesus' love for humankind, the roots of trees that give nourishment and stability to parishes and dioceses. No matter what kind of analogy is used to describe the League and its role within the church and society, the organization must stay grounded in the faith which gives purpose and then becomes the impetus for action.

The League must continue to "foster a culture where all life is valued with dignity and respect." There are many ways this will be accomplished through the strategies in Goal 3 during the next five years. Misconceptions about the League will be addressed and the diversity of councils and members embraced. An environment where all members will be actively engaged will be created,

including new members looking for a challenge, long-term members currently less active and homebound and where all Catholic women feel compelled to join. Parish councils will be encouraged to engage members in short term outreach and service projects.

The first strategy will be to enhance members' spirituality by focusing on the spiritual and social aspects of being a League member. The committee hopes to develop and deliver spiritual programs by reviewing existing spiritual programs, creating a list of prayer sources that members can easily access, creating new copyright free spiritual programs and creating a workshop to assist members in becoming more comfortable developing their own spiritual programs.

It is key to focus on staying relevant to the ever changing society, foster a sense of connectedness and belonging within the League, return to the organization's roots and centre on faith and action. ✚

## Goal 4:

### Address critical issues

Sharon Ciebin

"Give yourself fully to God. He will use you to accomplish great things on the condition that you believe much more in His love than in your own weakness" (St. Mother Teresa).

The Catholic church in Canada and the lives of thousands of women have been enriched by the League, a respected advocate in the defense of human rights and dignity of God's people. This organization's mission and structure has empowered women to accomplish great things. Women join the League for various reasons, are its greatest asset, are enabled to grow in God's grace and bring the face of Christ to a hungry world.

The national executive/board has the responsibility to set the organization's mission and values. In the last 99 years, the League has undertaken numerous studies to ensure its policies and programs support the vision which resulted in major structural changes to the *Constitution & Bylaws*.

The League is at the implementation stage of the latest study. To date, over 4,000 members shared

why they are proud to be a member, what should be emphasized and promoted, and identified the biggest challenges and opportunities facing the League. The roadblocks, or critical issues, to the envisioned future created goal four.

In the next five years members, working in teams called working groups, will plan and create procedures to mitigate issues that challenge the success of the mission. The areas being addressed include:

- Provide valid options in structure and meetings
- Address the lack of participation and engagement, disparity in engagement levels and competition for members and prospective members time
- Address the perception of the League, its marketing and promotion
- Address the lack of training of members and the resistance to taking on leadership roles
- Improve the use of technology, communication methods and tools.

Members' expertise and passion for the League are needed. Opportunities to join a working group will be posted annually in March. Please consider joining a team and become part of the journey. ✚

# Happy Birthday!

## Congratulations to the following centenarians!

### Évangeline Robicheau

108 years old on  
February 12, 2019  
St. Ambrose Parish Council  
Yarmouth, Nova Scotia

### Elizabeth Hancock

103 years old on February 11, 2019  
St. Mary of the Assumption  
Parish Council  
St. Catharines, Ontario

### Frances Giacomelli

101 years old on February 18, 2019  
St. John the Baptist  
Parish Council  
Burlington, Ontario

### Laura McArdle

101 years old on  
December 22, 2018  
Holy Family Parish Council  
Amherst, Nova Scotia

### Rita Schiller

101 years old on  
December 22, 2018  
Good Shepherd Parish Council  
Lakeshore, Ontario

### Annette Ball

100 years old on  
December 28, 2018  
St. Joseph Parish Council  
Kentville, Nova Scotia

### Lorraine Beler

100 years old on February 6, 2019  
St. Joseph Parish Council  
Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan

### Edith Bernard

100 years old on January 10, 2019  
Holy Angels Parish Council  
Weyburn, Saskatchewan

### Alyce (Alice) Booth

100 years old on  
January 20, 2019  
St. Aloysius Parish Council  
Kitchener, Ontario

### Angeline Charlebois

100 years old on  
December 18, 2018  
St. Bartholomew Parish Council  
Levack, Ontario

### Mary Gertrude Chisholm

100 years old on  
November 16, 2018  
St. Andrews Parish Council  
St. Andrews, Nova Scotia

### Dorothy Cuvillier

100 years old on  
February 29, 2019  
Holy Family Parish Council  
Amherst, Nova Scotia

### Eleanor Devine

100 years old on January 24, 2019  
St. John Vianney Parish Council  
Windsor, Ontario

### Mable Finch

100 years old on  
December 27, 2018  
St. Michael Parish Council  
Waterloo, Ontario

### Ann Madden

100 years old on August 20, 2018  
Our Lady of Lourdes  
Parish Council  
Scarborough, Ontario

### Phyllis McAnally

100 years old on  
December 26, 2018  
St. Joseph's Basilica  
Parish Council  
Edmonton, Alberta

### Catherine McDaniel

100 years old on  
October 26, 2018  
St. Patrick Parish Council  
Antigonish, Nova Scotia

### Rose Missouri

100 years old on  
December 8, 2018  
St. Augustine Parish Council  
Humboldt, Saskatchewan

### Allena Phillips

100 years old on  
December 15, 2018  
St. Patrick Parish Council  
Antigonish, Nova Scotia

### Isabelle Robdrup

100 years old on January 13, 2019  
St. Mary Parish Council  
Brantford, Ontario

### Catherine (Katie) Schafer

100 years old on February 9, 2019  
Holy Family Parish Council  
Medicine Hat, Alberta

### Alexandria Sutton

100 years old on January 21, 2019  
St. Monica Parish Council  
Toronto, Ontario

## Welcome to Reactivated Parish Council

### Holy Family Parish Council

Radville, Saskatchewan

## National Council Regretfully Advises the Passing of Life Members:

Joan Marie Hastie  
Etobicoke, Ontario

Shirley Hazen  
Calgary, Alberta

Wilma Pyplacz  
Surrey, British Columbia

Mary Sullivan  
Kensington, Prince Edward Island

Helen Turner  
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island



## MAGAZINE DEADLINES

Fall issue – July 15, 2019

Winter issue – November 15, 2019

Spring issue - February 15, 2020

## Letter to the Editor

Just received my league magazine and my husband read the president's message, then turned the page and in the picture for the Holy Land Pilgrimage, guess what is in the bottom picture there is a beautiful plastic water bottle, so what are we talking about? We need to practice what we are preaching, there are all kinds of water bottles that can be filled from our taps, where did her water bottle end up? Walk along any road or ditch and there you will find plastic bottles, we watched when there are water crisis, instead of bringing in water tanks to fill containers, there are cases of little plastic water bottles.....which of course end up in the landfills, or along the roads & ditches.....we are all guilty at some time or another, just was pointing out that people do read and do seek.....

Carol Robert

Blessed Sacrament Parish Council, Chatham, Ontario.

P.S. this is my own & husbands view.

Dear Carol:

Thank you for bringing the issue of the water bottles to the League's attention.

This is an excellent communication tool to bring awareness with respect to the use of water bottles to members across Canada, as the theme *Care for Our Common Home* is put into practice!

As you saw by the photograph, it was taken in an area where safe drinking water may not have been readily available. As such, members on the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) Holy Land Pilgrimage tour resorted to using the safest methods available at that time.

Respectfully yours,

The editorial board of  
*The Canadian League Magazine*

## Congratulations!

### Congratulations to Parish Councils Celebrating Anniversaries!

#### 95 Years

St. Stephen Parish Council  
Cayuga, Ontario

#### 85 Years

Holy Name of Jesus Parish Council  
Essex, Ontario

St. Andrews Parish Council  
St. Andrews (Antigonish), Nova Scotia

#### 80 Years

St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish Council  
Wooler, Ontario





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CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO  
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WINNIPEG, MB R3M 1X5  
E-MAIL: MEMBERSHIP@CWL.CA



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](http://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.