



# THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALGARY, ALBERTA—August 26, 2019—Eight hundred forty six members, spiritual advisors and guests attended the 99<sup>th</sup> annual national convention of The Catholic Women's League of Canada at the Hyatt Regency hotel. From across Canada, they gathered to pray, to celebrate faith, to hear reports, to be inspired by outstanding speakers and to discuss issues facing the world today.

In his homily at the Opening Eucharistic Celebration, Bishop William McGrattan of Calgary noted that the League must be a voice in the world, a voice that dialogues and points to the integral dignity of each person. As Christians, League members bear witness, hear the cry of the earth and the poor, and recognize that without the cross the beauty and glory of creation will not be protected.

The theme *Care for our Common Home* was explored by a keynote speaker and in four breakout sessions. The keynote speaker Sr. Dorothy Ederer, a Grand Rapids Dominican sister and Catholic chaplain at Holy Cross Services, delighted, informed and challenged attendees in her presentation "What is our Common Home? We care for our homeland, our homes, our hearts." Breakout session presenters were: Dr. Peter Baltutis, assistant professor of history and Catholic studies at St. Mary's University in Calgary, whose topic was "Living *Laudato Si'*: Practical Tools on How We Can *Care for Our Common Home*"; Sr. Madeleine Gregg, fcj from the FCJ Retreat and Conference Centre who spoke on "Spiritual Practice and *Care for Our Common Home*"; Dr. Timothy Harvie, associate professor of philosophy and ethics, also with St. Mary's University, whose topic was "What the Catholic Church says about Care for Creation and Why It is Fundamentally Catholic that We Are 'Good Stewards' of the Environment"; and Marilou LeGeyt, formerly outreach ministries coordinator for the Diocese of Calgary, who shared "A Carbon Conversation: Why is it So Hard to Change? How can We Respond to the Cry of the Poor?"

Two resolutions were adopted by national council:

- Resolution 2019.01 Canada to Honour its Commitment to the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child* urges the federal government "to honour its legal commitment to the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child* by providing legal protection to children before birth."
- Resolution 2019.02 Canadian Support for the United Nations *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons* urges the federal government "to support, sign and ratify the United Nations *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*."

Other business included sending a letter to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops commending the conference for its document *Protecting Minors against Sexual Abuse: A Call to the Catholic Faithful in Canada for Healing, Reconciliation and Transformation*, approving one national day of prayer for Canadian missions and one for Christians in the Middle East, and providing the first strategic planning progress report, encompassing progress to date and projected time lines for accomplishing the five year task.

The League, founded in 1920, is one of the largest organizations of women in Canada, with over 77,000 members represented in every province and territory, with military representation as well. The League is organized to serve all citizens and has often received the commendation and keen appreciation of federal, provincial, and municipal authorities for the voluntary services ably performed by its national membership.