

Oral Report to 102nd Annual National Convention
2nd Vice-President and Chairperson of Spiritual Development Cathy Bouchard

What a blessed time it is to be part of the League. New things are happening. The League is being invigorated and we are all part of this. We can look forward to beginning work with new materials available to us.

I attended national administrative, executive and governance meetings and prepared liturgies for these as well as for the annual national convention. I represented the League at the Calgary diocesan convention and brought greetings from the national president to the Calgary and Saskatoon diocesan and Alberta Mackenzie provincial conventions, as well as served as parliamentarian at the same provincial convention. I was part of a committee to revise and update League documents and represented the League in a Chalice fundraiser connecting cooking with our faith.

Communiqués were written with information on National Faith Day, and the national days of prayer for Christians in the Holy Land and for Canadian home missions. Members were invited to pray with Pope Francis as he consecrated Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Lenten resources were shared. The collection received from July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022 for Catholic Missions In Canada was \$21,136.17.

Members joined in prayerful solidarity for those who met with the Holy Father for a true encounter on our journey toward reconciliation. In July we joined with Canadian Catholics to assist in and celebrate the pope's visit.

The World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO) requested input on a gift to be given to Pope Francis at their meeting in June. The national chairpersons of Christian family life, community life and education and health and I prepared a joint communiqué asking for members' contribution. The gift for the pope had two components, spirituality and service. For the spiritual bouquet, League members and councils offered 729,719 rosaries, 8,574 sacrifice of the holy mass, 3,988 hours of adoration, 11,483 acts of self-denial, 6,606 chaplets and litanies, 166 novenas, and 93,839 prayers offered for the pope's intentions. The second part of the gift highlighted the League's gifts of service. WUCWO brought the League's gifts of faith, service and social justice to the Holy Father as a sign of members' commitment to being *Catholic and Living It!*

The Synod on Synodality was a focus this past year. Members across Canada participated in the listening sessions and responded. WUCWO asked for a response from the League on the synod, which was written by National Past President Anne M Gorman and myself. Pope Francis states that the act of synodality is the way of being the church today according to the will of God, in a dynamic of discerning and listening together to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

One of the goals in the strategic plan is that members grow in faith through spiritual development opportunities provided for them. New documents can be found on the national website:

- “What We Do” (#325, 326, 327)
- *Prayers and Spiritual Programs* (#626) is immediately usable at council meetings
- *Retreat Centres for Spiritual Development* (#328)

A new pamphlet called *The Catholic Women’s League of Canada: Faith - Service - Social Justice - Sisterhood* (#627) focuses on the social aspects of the sisterhood of the League.

Prayer Service Planning Workshop (#628) focuses on the spiritual and social aspects in councils to foster a culture where all life is valued with dignity and respect.

The faith life of members involves acting on social justice. The *Calendar of Social Justice/Catholic Social Teaching in the Church* (#622) module provides links to important dates to remember, while the resource *Care for God’s Creation Resources* (#625) gives scripture and bible resources along with examens, prayers and quotes.

I encourage you to continue your spiritual growth individually and through the League, “For God and Canada”. †