



A Guide for Spiritual Advisors: Why Spiritual Advisors?

Spiritual advisors play a vital role in the growth of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, especially in their parish.

There is a correlation between the support of a spiritual advisor and the positive growth of the League. By your presence and support, you guide members as they pursue their call to grow in faith and to promote social justice through service to the church, Canada and the world.

By active participation, you demonstrate the value of the League in the life of the parish. By promoting League membership and activity, you help the council achieve success. By giving your support, you aid in developing communication and fellowship among members and parishioners. By encouraging League activities, you enable women to develop skills and abilities they will use in serving others "For God and Canada."

What is Expected of You as Spiritual Advisor?

As a spiritual advisor, you will:

- i. Provide advice and guidance for the spiritual program
- ii. Receive due notice of all executive and general meetings and conventions and shall participate in such, when possible, in an advisory capacity (*Constitution & Bylaws, Part IX*).

Councils anticipate that you will:

- Take an interest in the spiritual life of members and the council by consulting with the president and chairperson of faith.
- Maintain open communication with the president on all League matters, making her aware of your concerns and being updated if you have missed a meeting.
- Give a message of encouragement and support at council meetings.
- Promote League membership drives and other projects by speaking frequently and positively to the parish about the League.
- Assist the League to avoid conflicts in dates with other parish events.
- Recognize the value of a League representative as a liaison on the pastoral council.
- Be familiar with League protocol for deceased members, including a mass offering, honour guard and prayer service at the funeral home, luncheon, etc.
- Serve on the nominations and elections committee.
- Prepare for your role in the installation or reaffirmation of officers and, if possible, conduct these in the context of a Sunday liturgy.

- Attend meetings and conventions at the next level whenever possible and participate with members.
- Honour the patroness of the League, Our Lady of Good Counsel, by celebrating with members on her feast day (April 26th).
- Use the League motto, “For God and Canada,” when speaking of the League.

Rooted in Gospel Values

“Under the guidance of the spiritual advisor, in cooperation with the chairperson of faith, the spiritual program shall express the religious renewal of the people of God as envisioned by the documents of Vatican II.” (*Constitution & Bylaws*, Part VI)

The League has, as a founding principle, the gospel of Christ. The priority of the spiritual program at all levels is to foster and advance the spiritual growth of members. Spiritual exercises at monthly meetings, spiritual enrichment and study programs are offered through publications and programs prepared by national and provincial officers for use by members. Through these, members use their gifts as they implement and sustain ongoing programs and share their spirituality with others. With a firm spiritual foundation based on the teachings and example of Christ, League affairs are conducted in a prayerful and Christian atmosphere.

What is New with the League?

The League has recently undergone strategic planning efforts to set its direction and outline measurable goals. Strategic planning guides the League’s short- and long-range plans. The League has renewed its core purpose, core values, Mission Statement and envisioned future.

The Core Purpose of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada is:

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, 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.