



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Ceremonies Handbook

Revised 2022

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All information contained in this booklet may be reproduced for use by members, or additional copies may be purchased from national office.

League Objects

The objects of the League shall be to unite Catholic women of Canada

1. to achieve individual and collective spiritual development
2. to promote the teachings of the Catholic church
3. to exemplify the Christian ideal in home and family life
4. to protect the sanctity of life
5. to enhance the role of women in church and society
6. to recognize the human dignity of all people everywhere
7. to uphold and defend Christian education and values in the modern world
8. to contribute to the understanding and growth of religious freedom, social justice, peace and harmony

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.

Reception of New Members

Invitations: Invite the husbands and children of prospective members to be present and extend an invitation to CWL parish councils of neighbouring parishes and the diocesan spiritual advisor.

Materials:

- bible
- candles or tapers for each new member
- flowers
- lit candle (Pascal candle may be used outside of Lent)
- picture of Our Lady of Good Counsel
- table covered with a white cloth

Reception Committee: spiritual advisor, president, vice-president, chairperson of faith

The ceremony for Reception of New Members may take place at a Eucharistic celebration following the prayer after communion and before the concluding rite, or right after the homily. (*Start at Invitation to New Members*)

If the ceremony takes place outside of a Eucharistic celebration, follow the format below.

Opening Hymn

Introduction

Spiritual Advisor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Spiritual Advisor: The grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Opening Prayer

Spiritual Advisor: Let us pray:

Blessed are You, loving God.

Bless us in our work and our prayer, “For God and Canada,” and grant that our lives may give You glory through our words, our witness and our worship.

We give You praise, gracious God, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, in the communion of Your Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

All: **Amen**

Scripture Reading

Reflection/Silent Contemplation on the Word of God

Invitation to New Members

Vice-President: I invite the following new members to come forward. (*Name new members*)

Instruction

President: We welcome all new and current League members and visitors. We pray that your membership will be challenging and fulfilling. As Christians, we have been given a great mandate. As expressed in the documents of the Second Vatican Council, the laity “must assist one another to live holier lives even in our daily occupations. In this way, the world is permeated by the Spirit of Christ and more effectively achieves its purpose in justice, charity and peace.

The laity have the principal role in the universal fulfilment of this purpose.” (The Church, No. 36)

As members of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada, we are guided and inspired by our 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.”

Vice-President: Today, as never before, the church needs an enlightened and dedicated laity. Through the League, you will acquire greater knowledge about our faith. You will become involved in a supportive community. The Catholic Women’s League of Canada is an organization that will help you grow in your relationship with Christ and the church. Through the League’s standing committees, you will be able to carry on the work of Christ at home, in the community and throughout the world.

Intercessions

President: Christ cared for us so much that He laid down His life for us, conquered death and thus sanctified our life’s work. May Christ teach us how to love!

All: **Those who belong to Christ will be known by what they do.**

President: While on earth, Christ reached out in compassion and healing to all those in need. May we be inspired by the Holy Spirit to reach out to the needy in our own community and in our world.

All: **Those who belong to Christ will be known by what they do.**

President: The mission of Christ continues on earth through each of us. Christ teaches, comforts and shows mercy through all of us who profess His name. May Christ strengthen us to be faithful disciples.

All: **Those who belong to Christ will be known by what they do.**

Symbol

A candle should be given to each new member and then lighted.

President: You have been given lighted candles as a reminder of the candle you received at your baptism. Let your light shine before all, so that your good works may give glory to God.

Please join in the League promise.

All: **For the glory of God and the good of God's people, I promise as a Catholic woman to honour, invoke and imitate our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel. I promise to be a loyal member of The Catholic Women's League of Canada and to promote its interest and growth in every way. I promise to cooperate with officers in all programs under their direction and to conform to the best of my ability to the bylaws of the organization in all League activities.**

Alternately, the CWL Promise may be led in the following manner.

President: Repeat after me:

For the Glory of God and the good of God's people,

I promise, as a Catholic woman,

to honour, invoke and imitate our patroness,
Our Lady of Good Counsel.

I promise to be a loyal member of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

and to promote its interest and growth in every way.

I promise to cooperate with officers in all programs under their
direction,

and to conform to the best of my ability

To the bylaws of the organization in all League activities. AMEN.

The spiritual advisor then blesses the League pins.

President: Wear this emblem with pride, honour and loyalty.

The new members return to their places after all have received their pins.

Concluding Prayer

Spiritual Advisor: In support of one another, and in communion with all the saints in heaven, let us now pray with one heart and one voice. Our Father ...

Blessing

Spiritual Advisor: May God bless us and keep us. Amen

May Jesus Christ graciously smile upon us. Amen

May the Holy Spirit, Giver of life, grant us peace. Amen

Sign of Peace

Spiritual Advisor: Let us conclude our celebration by offering one another a sign of peace.

Installation or Reaffirmation of Officers

The ceremony for Installation or Reaffirmation of Officers may take place at a Eucharistic celebration following the prayer after communion and before the concluding rite, or right after the homily. If it takes place outside of a Eucharistic celebration, follow the format below.

The role of the retiring past president in this service may be taken by the spiritual advisor or a previous president of the council. In the case of a new council, the diocesan/provincial president may assume this role.

NOTE: Word changes for the reaffirmation ceremony are in brackets.

Materials:

- copy of the League Promise
- gavel
- list of names of officers
- lit candle (Paschal candle may be used outside of Lent)
- petitions for the prayers of the faithful
- tapers or candles for each officer (for installation)
- or a bowl of blessed water (for reaffirmation)

Opening Hymn

Introduction

Spiritual Advisor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Spiritual Advisor: The grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Opening Prayer

Spiritual Advisor: Let us pray:
Blessed are You, loving God,
You have made a covenant with Your people:
You called us to be Your holy people,
to sing Your praises at all times.
Bless us in our work and our prayer,
“For God and Canada,”

and bless the officers we have chosen
to lead us in the Catholic Women's League.
We give You praise
through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer,
in the communion of Your Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.

All: **Amen**

Scripture Reading

Reflection/Silent Contemplation on the Word of God

Instruction

Retiring Past President

or Spiritual Advisor: Dear people of God, through baptism we are called to work together as members of the Body of Christ. Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit, to bestow upon us gifts of many kinds to complete God's work on earth and bring us the fullness of grace.

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.

As a League member, each woman uses her gifts and talents to share the good news of her Christian calling to love and serve God and neighbour in her parish, diocese, province and country. These women are your elected officers of the N... executive.

In your presence and with your prayers, we now install (reaffirm) them in their respective offices for the coming year.

Commitment

Past President: N..., as past president it is my privilege to present you (once again) with this gavel as a sign of your office as president.

Will you (continue to) be faithful to your call, and help all League members through your faith, love and prayers?

President: I will, with God's help.

The past president presents the president's pin to the president. The president then presents the past president pin to the past president.

Retiring

Past President: As retiring past president, it is my privilege to install (reaffirm) you as the new executive officers.

You have been chosen by the members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada because they recognize in you the gifts of service to the League at the N... level. We thank you for your willingness to accept your office.

Will you (continue to) be faithful to your call and help all League members, through your faith, love and prayers?

Officers:

I will, with God's help.

For the glory of God and the good of God's people, I promise as a Catholic woman to honour, invoke and imitate our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel. I promise to be a loyal member of The Catholic Women's League of Canada and to promote its interest and growth in every way.

I promise to cooperate with officers in all programs under their direction and to conform to the best of my ability to the bylaws of the organization in all League activities.

Alternately, the CWL Promise may be led in the following manner.

Retiring

Past President:

Repeat after me:

For the Glory of God and the good of God's people,

I promise, as a Catholic woman,

to honour, invoke and imitate our patroness,

Our Lady of Good Counsel.

I promise to be a loyal member of

The Catholic Women's League of Canada

and to promote its interest and growth in every way.

I promise to cooperate with officers in all programs under their direction,

and to conform to the best of my ability

To the bylaws of the organization in all League activities. AMEN.

Retiring

Past President: May God keep you faithful to these promises and bring them to fulfilment.

Spiritual Advisor: Members of the League, at this time, I affirm (reaffirm) my commitment to assist the executive and members of the League in their work “For God and Canada.”

Symbol

It is suggested that the candle be used for the installation ceremony and a bowl of holy water used for the reaffirmation ceremony.

For Installation

Candle: The president lights individual candles from the Pascal Candle and passes one to each officer:

President: Bring Christ’s light to the world.

Each Officer: **Amen**

For Reaffirmation

Water: *Water is presented to the celebrant to be blessed.*

The water is then carried by the president to each officer.

President: May the grace given to each of us in our baptism be shared with all God’s people through Jesus Christ.

Each Officer: **Amen**

Blessing of the Officers

Spiritual Advisor: Blessed are You, O God, Ruler of the universe,
and Healer of a broken world:

Look with kindness on these women.

They have been chosen to serve
as officers of the N... executive of

The Catholic Women’s League of Canada.

In Your love and mercy,

Bless † all their works.

May Your glory be manifested in all they do
for You and for Your church.

All praise and glory to You, God
through Jesus Christ,
in the love of Your Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

All: **Amen**

The officers extinguish their candles and return to their seats.

Acclamation

Retiring

Past President:

Dear sisters and brothers (assembled at this gathering of The Catholic Women's League of Canada),

These women have been chosen (reaffirmed their commitment) to serve the church through the N... executive of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. I ask you to welcome their gift (recommitment) of themselves, their faith and trust in God, and their love for the church, the League, and Canada.

(If the installation or reaffirmation of officers takes place within a liturgy of the Eucharist, this section is omitted.)

Concluding Prayer

Spiritual Advisor:

In support of one another, and in communion with all the saints in heaven, let us now pray with one heart and one voice. Our Father...

Blessing

Spiritual Advisor:

May our Creator God bless us and keep us. Amen

May Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, graciously smile upon us. Amen

May the Holy Spirit, Giver of life, grant us peace. Amen

Sign of Peace

Spiritual Advisor:

Let us conclude our celebration by offering one another a sign of peace.

Protocol for Funerals of Deceased Members

Materials:

- candles (one each for the members of the honour guard)
 - candles may be new tapers or battery-operated candles, as determined beforehand by the parish priest in consultation with the council president
- League pin
- League scarf or sash

Protocol

If invited or requested, members of the CWL parish council may assist the priest and family with the organization of the funeral and during the preparation, and the priest and family may request a prayer vigil. Assistance may also be offered with the choice of readings, hymns and readers.

During these preparations and in consultation with the parish priest, family and funeral director, the council president (or her designate) may request that members be permitted to form an honour guard at the funeral. If there is to be an honour guard, the president (or her designate) will provide the priest and funeral director with an approximate number of members who will participate so as to ensure sufficient reserved seating and to receive directions on alignment of the members for the reception of deceased (i.e., casket or urn), entrance procession and the prayers of final commendation prior to the dismissal. At this time, request from the priest and funeral director any further instructions for the day of the funeral.

Members should:

- arrive at the church at least 45 minutes prior to the funeral and await directions
- follow the directions from the funeral director when moving into the aisle of church to receive the deceased (i.e., casket or urn) and the family
- wear the League pin and, where possible, the League scarf or sash
- each hold a lighted candle in a uniform manner before the funeral liturgy begins and maintain a dignified upright posture

If reserved spaces have been made available, members file into the designated pews after the entrance procession and family have moved to their pews. Following the concluding funeral rite and prayers of commendation, members will again assume their honour guard positions for the recessional hymn and procession out of the church. Candles may be lit uniformly at the outset, as determined prior to the funeral liturgy.

Other Considerations:

1. To emphasize the importance of the person's baptism, the church in Canada encourages the use of a simple white funeral pall at the liturgy. This pall is a reminder of the white baptismal garment, the sign of the Christian dignity of the person. This makes the statement that she is a sister of Christ, a member of the church. The pall is placed on the coffin during the reception of the body but is not used for an urn with cremated remains. *(The blue CWL pall is not placed on the coffin but may be placed at the ambo or in another appropriate place.)*
2. In the case of a member who was in the military, the Canadian flag could be located near the entrance of the church where it is visible to all. If the family wishes to drape the flag over the coffin, it may be done only when the deceased is transported to and from the church where the funeral liturgy is to be celebrated. The flag can then be removed and folded with appropriate ceremony and respect just before the funeral pall is to be placed on the coffin during the welcoming rite for the deceased. Following the conclusion of the liturgy, the pall is removed and the flag may once again be placed on the coffin for transport out of the church *(Catholic Funerals and Eulogies, the Pall and the Flag, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, March 5, 2010).*

Prayer Service for a Deceased Member

Hymn

Introduction

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Leader: The grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Welcome

Leader: We, the members of the Catholic Women's League of *N...* parish are gathered here today to commend our deceased sister *N...* to God. We recall in silence her loving service to others and pray that God will welcome her into eternal glory.

Prayer

Leader: Loving God, You promised fullness of joy to those who seek Your face. Trusting in Your word, we pray to You for our sister *N...* who sought to further Your reign on earth by her service in the Catholic Women's League "For God and Canada." Though we are saddened that she is no longer with us, we entrust her to You with confidence. May she now live in peace, joy and happiness.

We ask this in the name of Jesus who is God. **Amen**

Scripture Reading

Reflection/Silent Contemplation on the Word of God

General Intercessions

Leader: Gracious and loving God, in Your mercy You have chosen us in Christ to be part of Your family. In Christ's name, we pray for our deceased sister, for the church and the world.

Assistant: We pray for our sister *N...* who was baptised into Your everlasting life. Receive her now into Your eternal embrace.

All: **Hear our prayer!**

Assistant: Give strength to her family and friends who mourn. Help us to bear the burden of sorrow in a spirit of faith and hope.

All: **Hear our prayer!**

Assistant: We pray for all our deceased members who have died in faith, may they be raised up on the last day.

All: **Hear our prayer!**

Leader: Creator God, hear our prayers. Welcome our sisters into paradise and strengthen our hope that we will share in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You forever and ever.

All: **Amen**

Conclusion

Leader: May our sister *N...*, who adopted Our Lady of Good Counsel as her patroness through League activities, rest in peace, through the mercy of God.

All: **Amen**

Leader: May God bless us all, through Jesus, our Redeemer, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Memorial Service for Deceased Members

This service is designed to honour the memory of members who have passed away during the year. It may be conducted in the church or in a meeting room. Members of the family of the deceased may be invited to attend and place a rose for their relative or a League member may do so. The leader is the spiritual advisor, the president or her designate.

Shrine to Mary: A table is placed where it can be seen by all in attendance. The table is draped in white and a statue of Our Lady is placed on it.

Materials:

- *Book of Life*
- candles
- shrine to Mary
- names of deceased members
- roses

Hymn

Invitation to Prayer

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Leader: The grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Instruction

Leader: We gather tonight/today as members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada to honour the memory of... [number] members of N... council, who have gone from this life to their eternal rest in Christ.

We welcome the family members who are with us to join in the memorial for our departed sisters: ... [read names].

In the world of today, as perhaps never before, the church needs an enlightened and faithful laity. Dedicated members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada live their faith by serving others and thus discover Christ through relationships with others.

The members we honour today openly made a solemn commitment to be witnesses of Christ, carrying out the mission of Christ at home, in the parish and in the whole community.

We recall now their service to others, and we pray that the God of all has joyously welcomed them into the fullness of life, where they rest in peace and love.

Opening Prayer

Leader: Gracious God, to whom mercy and forgiveness belong, hear our prayers on behalf of Your faithful servants whom You have called into the light of Your presence. May they be welcomed joyously into heaven. We ask this through Christ, our Redeemer.

All: **Amen**

Scripture Reading

Reflection on the Word of God

Memorial Rose

(A candle for each region/diocese/province is on the shrine to Mary. The regional chairperson/president places the rose in the vase and then lights the candle for those she represents.)

Leader: God is the glory and joy of each of our departed members whose memory we celebrate today. A rose, a symbol of life in Christ, will now be presented as a living memorial for each one.

Chairperson of Faith
(optional):

We thank God for the gift of *N...*, who You shared with us.

All: **Amen**

Hymn

Closing Prayer

Spiritual Advisor: Compassionate God, Mary, the mother of Jesus, gave of herself completely. Blessed is she who gave humanity to Jesus, and blessed are our sisters who spent their lives serving others in God's name.

We join Mary in proclaiming Your greatness and in thanking You for giving us life through death and resurrection of Jesus. We proclaim Jesus and the gift of Your life-giving Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Leader: Eternal rest grant unto them.

All: **And let perpetual light shine upon them.**

Leader: May they rest in peace.

All: **Amen**

Final Blessing—Form A

Spiritual Advisor: May the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and in the grace of Jesus Christ.

All: **Amen**

Spiritual Advisor: May almighty God bless † you, in the name of the Creator God, Jesus our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Final Blessing—Form B

Spiritual Advisor: May the love of God and the peace of Jesus Christ, bless † and console us, and wipe every tear from our eyes: in the name of our Creator God, Jesus our Redeemer and the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Sign of Peace

Leader: Let us conclude our celebrations by offering one another a sign of peace.

Blessing for the *Book of Life*

The *Book of Life* should be blessed when it is used for the first time. The blessing praises God for the people whose memories are honoured in this book.

If the *Book of Life* is blessed at a Eucharistic celebration, the appropriate time to bless it is following the prayer after communion and before the concluding rite, or following the homily. Holy water may be used to bless it.

The *Book of Life* may be placed in a designated place near the Paschal candle before the Eucharistic celebration. The proclamation of the names of the deceased members may be read at the prayer of the faithful.

Prayer of Blessing

Leader: Ever-loving and gracious God,
we thank You for the gift You gave Your church
in the people whose names are inscribed in this *Book of Life*.
You called them
to be salt of the earth
and a light to the world.
In their families and in this parish
they let their lights shine before all
so that their good works
gave glory to You,
and were an example and encouragement for all of us.
As we hold close to our hearts
the memory of those who are inscribed in this book,
we ask you to bless † this *Book of Life*
and to bless those members of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada
who we honour in this book.
We ask this blessing through Jesus Christ
and through the intercession of our patroness,
Our Lady of Good Counsel.

All: **Amen**

Installation of a Spiritual Advisor

The installation is done by the bishop, the retiring spiritual advisor or the League president. It could be done at the end of a League Eucharistic celebration, before the final blessing, when the spiritual advisor assumes his or her role at the first meeting they attend. This installation is appropriate for parish, diocesan, provincial and national spiritual advisors.

It would be appropriate to give a spiritual advisor's pin at this time as a symbol of the role.

Leader: *N...*, you have been invited to serve the parish of/diocese of/province of/national church in Canada as spiritual advisor for the parish/diocesan/provincial/national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

May you be inspired by the Holy Spirit in offering support, encouragement and guidance to the officers and members of the League.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is an important work in the mission of Christ's church in Canada. May your collaboration in League activities bring growth and blessing to the members and their communities.

Creator God, sustain all Catholic Women's League spiritual advisors with Your divine grace and grant them peace and joy in serving You. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

All: **Amen**

Rite on the Election of Officers

The president remains in the chair to preside over the annual meeting of members, which is still in session. The chairperson of elections provides a brief overview of the elections procedure and introduces the candidates for office.

Instruction

Chairperson
of Elections:

Members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada:

The moment has arrived at this annual meeting of members to elect the officers who will serve this organization for the next two years.

The elections process will take place in the context of a prayer service.

In the community of disciples, Jesus reminds us that authority is a call to serve: "The greatest among you must become the slave of all, and servant of all."

Several members have presented themselves to serve on the [appropriate level] executive of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Those who will be elected to office will be called upon to unite themselves in a special way to Christ, the servant of all.

Prayer

Spiritual Advisor:

Jesus, our Redeemer, You promised that You would be present with those who gather in Your name.

Show us the ones You have chosen to lead The Catholic Women's League of Canada at the [appropriate] level. Help us to receive Your choice with trust and faith.

All praise and glory to You, God, through Jesus Christ, in the love of Your Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

All:

Amen

Elections Process

Following the elections, the chairperson calls those who have been elected to come forward and be introduced, each accompanied by her [appropriate level] spiritual advisor or bishop, if in attendance. They are invited to face the assembly.

Concluding Rite

Chairperson:

Let us listen to the instruction of Jesus for us, as recorded in the Gospel of John (John 13:12-17).

Immediate

Past President:

When Jesus had washed their feet and put on His clothes again, He went back to the table. “Do you know,” He said, “what I have done to you?”

“You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

“Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them.”

The spiritual advisor invites the members of the assembly to extend their right hands toward the newly elected officers, in silence and prays. The hand of the spiritual advisor may be placed on the shoulder of the president.

Spiritual Advisor:

Creator God, we extend our hands toward these, Your servants, seeking Your gifts of unity and peace.

Through Your Spirit, You prompted each one to offer herself for the service of the League at the [appropriate] level.

May those chosen to lead, and those who offered themselves so generously, be filled with gratitude and praise for the gift of Your Spirit, the gift of Your church, the gift of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada and the gift of each one present here. We ask this through Christ, our Redeemer.

All:

Amen

Sign of Peace

Spiritual Advisor:

Let us conclude by offering one another a sign of peace.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the elected officers return to their seats.

Ceremony for Presentation of Service Pins

Opening Prayer

Spiritual Advisor: Loving God, the women of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in the parish/diocese/province of [name] are filled with gratitude and joy as they gather in Your name. We thank You, loving God, for calling us to share in Your mission. You have bestowed powerful gifts upon all members and empowered them to share in service through mutual support of one another.

Priest or deacon blesses the service pins. If the priest or deacon is not the spiritual advisor, the pins may be blessed ahead of the presentation of the service pins.

All powerful and ever-living God, we thank You for the many and diverse gifts that continue to be shared by League members toward the building of Your reign, enabling them to carry on the work of Christ at home, in the community and throughout the world.

Scripture Reading

Reflection/Silent Contemplation on the Word of God

Instruction

Vice-President: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of five years to come forward. [*Call by name*]

President: Like Ruth in the Old Testament, may you find that your faith grows and becomes richer as you serve the church with your sisters in Christ, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Vice-President: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 10 years to come forward. [*Call by name*]

President: Like Mary, Mother of Jesus, may your "Yes" to God continue to shine forth in every dimension of your lives, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Vice-President: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 15 years to come forward. [*Call by name*]

President: Like Therese of Lisieux, may you remember and model the "little way" so that you will be a witness for all those seeking justice through gentleness, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Vice-President: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 20 years to come forward. [*Call by name*]

President: Like Faustina, may you be an example of mercy to all as you live your life for others, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Vice-President: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 25 years to come forward. [*Call by name*]

President: Like Catherine of Sienna, may you give enlightened leadership for the growth of the church and God's reign, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Vice-President: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 30 years to come forward. [*Call by name*]

President: Like Marguerite Bourgeois, may you have the courage to work for needed improvements in the community that will be for the greater glory of God, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Vice-President: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 35 years to come forward. [*Call by name*]

President: Like Marguerite d'Youville, may you continue to be charitable in your service to God and Canada, thus being a beacon of hope for the disadvantaged, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Vice-President: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 40 years to come forward. [*Call by name*]

President: Like Teresa of Calcutta, may you respond with love to the image of Christ in the sick and suffering, the lonely and abandoned, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Vice-President: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 45 years to come forward. [*Call by name*]

President: Like Kateri Tekakwitha, may your diligence, patience and devotion continue to assist you in your service to the League and the church, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Vice-President: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 50 years to come forward. [*Call by name*]

President: Like Teresa of Avila, may your spiritual life flow from a deep and intimate union with God as you pray for others, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Vice-President: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 55 years to come forward. [*Call by name*]

President: Like Anastasia, may your continued strong faith and prayer life give you strength to move the lives of those both bodily and spiritually imprisoned, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Vice-President: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 60 years to come forward. [*Call by name*]

President: Like the great women whom you have known personally in The Catholic Women’s League of Canada through the years, may your love of God continue to be an example to all, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Vice-President: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 65 years to come forward. [*Call by name*]

President: May the vision of our foundress, Bellelle Guerin, continue to burn in your hearts so that “the League will arise fair and beautiful, strong and proud before the eyes of the world,” for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Vice-President: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 70 years to come forward. [*Call by name*]

President: Like Teresa Benedicta (Edith Stein), may your life of service in the cause of the faith, be a “light undimmed” for those women who follow in your footsteps and on whose shoulders they stand, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Vice-President: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 75 years to come forward. [*Call by name*]

President: May your love of God and the League continue in prayer as an example for all League members, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Vice-President: I invite those members who have served the League for a total of 80 years to come forward. [*Call by name*]

President: Like the mother of Mary (traditionally known as St. Anne), who by her nurturing led Mary to respond to God’s request with faith, may your nurturing of the League demonstrated by your devoted service be a model to new and long-serving members, for this we pray:

All: **O God, empower us!**

Concluding Prayer

President: In support of one another, and in communion with all the saints in heaven, let us now pray with one heart and one voice.

All: **Our Father...**

Blessing

Spiritual Advisor: Living God, Your Son's resurrection calls all people to a new and glorious life in You. Grant that we may bring this good news to everyone through lives of joyful witness and service. We ask this blessing through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

All: **Amen**

Sign of Peace

Spiritual Advisor: Let us conclude our celebration by offering one another a sign of peace.

Liturgical Planning

CWL members often gather to pray and to celebrate the Eucharist. The full, conscious, active participation of all the people in liturgy is the aim to be considered above all else. Liturgies should be the expression of the experience and the spirituality of women as well as men.

The League recommends that each council carefully prepare all liturgical celebrations well beforehand, planning for the active participation of all members, i.e. by means of acclamations, readings, psalms, hymn singing, etc. to ensure that liturgies are relevant and adapted to the particular needs of participants, paying special attention to the use of inclusive language in the selection of hymns, prayers, petitions or other texts chosen for liturgical services. There are a variety of resources to help members plan liturgies available on the national website.

Miscellaneous

League Promise

For the glory of God and the good of God's people, I promise as a Catholic woman to honour, invoke and imitate our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel. I promise to be a loyal member of The Catholic Women's League of Canada and to promote its interest and growth in every way. I promise to cooperate with officers in all programs under their direction and to conform to the best of my ability to the bylaws of the organization in all League activities. Amen

League Prayer

We humbly pray You, O God our Father, to bless The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Bless our beloved country, our homes and families. Send Your Holy Spirit upon us to give light to our minds and strength to our wills that we may know and fulfil Your great law of charity. Teach us to share with others at home and abroad, the good things You have given us. This we ask through Our Lord Jesus Christ and the intercession of our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel. Amen