



Care for our
Common Home

2020 Annual Report Summary

National Spiritual Advisor's Message



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



The restrictions on travel and gathering brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic curtailed much of the League's activities at the national level. Nevertheless, some undertakings were possible.

On September 15th, I gave an online presentation to about 500 members on the topic, Women in Mission.

I produced articles for the fall, winter and spring issues of *The Canadian League magazine*.

Though in-person gatherings were cancelled, I participated in the fall, winter and spring teleconferences of the national executive/board, via GoToMeeting.



National President's Message



Anne-Marie Gorman
National President

As 2020 was unlike any year in the 100-year history of the League, it was essential that the reports of the 11 provincial presidents be compiled with all the salient points that gave an accurate and true snapshot. The year began as any, but the business of the League was soon diverted towards dealing with a global pandemic, commonly known as COVID-19. This insidious virus took over all aspects of the organization and required new ways of communicating and operating if, in fact, this would even be possible. The provincial councils demonstrated leadership and stellar faith, as would be evident in this report. Much of what proceeds is reported more extensively by the respective standing committee chairpersons.

To a provincial president, the tone of each report was positive and realistic. While unable to physically attend events, conduct regular meetings and report fundraising efforts from the parish councils in the customary ways that had been used for decades, the provincial leadership found new and creative ways to continue their respective missions.

It was a year of education. The leadership realized early that if the provincial councils were to function, they had to learn how to communicate with members using technology. While not perfect, every provincial council used one or more of the many ways to connect virtually through GoToMeeting,

Zoom, or other platforms. In areas where Internet service was inadequate or non-existent, the leadership used the telephone and photocopied materials to do the best they could at keeping councils informed. Through e-mail and on paper, information was communicated to all diocesan and parish councils that comprise the respective provincial councils. One provincial council hosted a monthly Zoom teleconference for members to receive updates and, just as importantly, to be “together.” All presidents looked for resources for guidance for their membership.

The second year of implementing the planning strategically process began to see the rollout of much-awaited materials. The Welcome Program was really welcomed in the provincial councils that were able to use it. It was anticipated that once parish councils were able to meet, it would be an excellent resource. The feedback was very positive. While membership declined, some parish councils welcomed new members, so there was an ebb and flow to the year regardless of the hardship resulting from the pandemic. New members tended to be anywhere from their thirties to their fifties. Significantly, some parish councils gained more new members than in many previous years. Parish councils’ creativity was demonstrated through drive-through membership events in some areas.

Presidents reported spending much time in the early weeks and months of the pandemic, reassuring members the League was still very much active since many assumed the organization had temporarily shut down. Nothing could be further from the truth, as was evidenced in the reports.

Parish council members became more aware of each other, and members became more aware of people in their parishes and communities regarding the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. The isolation and loneliness that came to people were mitigated by members reaching out to their sisters and brothers. All efforts were made through telephone chains and outdoor meetings of small groups of physically distanced members to bring some semblance of normality and supplement the necessary virtual teleconferences. The shutdown gave councils time to educate themselves more fully on the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure, Executive Handbook and Constitution & Bylaws*. Parish council presidents visited the national website and Facebook page more often than previously. *The Canadian League* magazine continued to be the asset that reaches all members—it





was reported to be read and used for parish council meetings. Resources on the national website were downloaded and used extensively to inform and educate members. Communiqués from national officers were a considerable source of information for direction, and parish bulletins, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Vatican websites, and Google searches were great resources. The number of parish and diocesan councils with policy books varied. All noted it was important to have one, but some needed assistance in preparing. *Robert's Rules of Order* and local newsletters were used extensively.

Priorities for the year included supporting the national theme, *Care for Our Common Home*, with additions to support the provincial councils' themes, such as *Loneliness and Building Relationships and Effecting Change*, and goals such as those related to mental health. Parish councils wrote a myriad of letters to provincial and federal government officials on life issues, especially regarding the extension of medical assistance in dying (MAiD), specific letters regarding Bill C-7 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)*, protecting palliative care and hospice sites from MAiD, and rights of the pre-born. Petitions on these issues were prepared and submitted to provincial and federal levels. Military Ordinariate Provincial Council reported weekly discussion sessions with its executive team on the book, *Joyful Momentum: Growing and Sustaining Vibrant Women's Groups* by Elizabeth A. Tomlin.

Parish councils generally noted having the support of their spiritual advisors, whether they were the parish priest, a deacon, a religious or laywoman. Sadly, many advisors were unable to attend meetings due to their extensive duties, or there lacked a tradition of the advisor's presence at meetings. Having said this, one spiritual advisor hosted a virtual daily rosary for members, while another provincial spiritual advisor provided a weekly spiritual message. The spiritual advisors' support is one of the key elements to successful councils, so this was one challenge that would need to be addressed.

The overwhelming challenges reported were a lack of prospective leaders, inability to fill executive positions, recruitment, declining membership, and a lack of training

and education of members and future and current leaders. Most provincial councils were able to fill all executive positions, thankfully. Disbanding of parish councils and the amalgamation of councils also posed challenges since decisions had to be made about how to proceed. The cancellation of the League's centenary celebration in Montreal was a huge disappointment to all but especially Quebec Provincial Council. The council had prepared for several years and was ready to welcome members from across Canada. Most provincial councils reported a lack of parish council policy manuals. Also, while most believed having a policy manual is a good idea, all said they would need instruction, something for future assistance. B.C. & Yukon Provincial Council reported one of its diocesan councils had a workshop available for presentation for parish councils seeking help in preparing a manual.

Generally, councils provided very little funding for members to attend conventions at other levels. There was little in-person gathering for any meetings, but traditionally, parish councils offered little or no financial support for diocesan or provincial conventions, the most considerable amount reported being 15%.

While there were unprecedented circumstances, the provincial councils accomplished the most impressive things. Councils at all levels returned to their most fundamental and important spiritual roots. One provincial council summed up what all had stated, "The pandemic made us thirst for spiritual fulfillment." While the national chairperson of spiritual development and national secretary-treasurer have reported the spiritual and corporal works of mercy of the membership and how this translated into financial generosity, and all standing committee chairpersons reported incredible accomplishments in light of a unique year, what flowed throughout every provincial president's report, was that without question, members returned to their most important work—prayer. Councils at all levels kept members together while apart through prayer services, daily and weekly rosaries, retreats, and celebrations of life in cemeteries. As one president noted, there was an expression of pride and joy in being "part of a faith-based organization where members demonstrated their faith in serving God and neighbour... [where] work was accomplished

in an harmonious and cheerful manner.” The pandemic may have curtailed regular parish council activities, but what was gained through much more communication between and among members was not only remarkable but inspired. Members returned to the most important aspect of being Catholic Christian women, and it showed. Another president noted, “In many ways [the pandemic] brought the ladies closer together.” Leaders were responsible for all the good things the League represents, “community, collaboration, sisterhood, support, spirituality, forgiving, together, helpful.”

For the national president, the year began with monthly administrative teleconferences and implementation committee teleconferences and the in-person national executive/board meeting in Toronto in February. Also, in February, I was able to travel to Winnipeg for Manitoba Provincial Council’s annual day of celebration, with the theme *Laudato Si’* and present to my League sisters there. I sat in on many working group teleconferences of the strategic plan to listen to the exciting work being done. When March arrived, the League went into a new level of decision-making dictated by the onset of the pandemic. While the board naively expected June to be the return to regular League activity and gatherings, after several teleconferences with the administrative committee, the results meant no annual conventions at any level. While I registered for the National Presbyterian Women’s Gathering to be held in May and planned to attend the National Council of Catholic Women’s centenary in Baltimore in August, they were ultimately

cancelled. Milestone anniversary greetings and report book messages for diocesan and provincial councils were completed.

The year’s emphasis could be summarized by the following:

- 1) Learning how to live within a pandemic-strained country while continuing to serve and communicate with members and how to continue to work diligently within the legal framework through virtual teleconferences. The most significant and necessary decision was to extend each executive’s term by one year (the 2018-2020 national officers would conclude their term instead, in 2021).
- 2) Moving forward with the strategic plan through attendance at working group teleconferences and monthly implementation committee teleconferences, and the requisite amendments procedures and instructed vote.
- 3) Mitigation of medical assistance in dying.
- 4) Learning more about what governance meant as a national board.
- 5) Connecting members through retreats, webinars for education, and personal growth, especially regarding the theme *Care for Our Common Home*, particularly from a spiritual context.

Webinars:

- ecological conversion
- “Praying for our Lives: The Examen” by Becky Eldredge





- speaker series to replace the keynotes planned for August 2020, sponsored by national council
- “A Fireside Chat” with the honorary life members, sponsored by national council
- “The Power of Values Thinking: How to Give Members What They Really Want” by David Allison, sponsored by the Canadian Society of Association Executives (CSAE)
- “Can a Catholic really Evangelize at a time like this?” with Josh and Lisa Canning and Michael Dopp, sponsored by U Evangelize
- “Solidarity and Synodality: Thinking about the Church in the time of the Coronavirus,” by Fr. Gerard Whelan, SJ, sponsored by the World Union of Catholic Women’s Organisations (WUCWO)
- WUCWO Day celebration
- *Laudato Si’* week
- “Leading into our New Future: Canada’s Recovery Plan and Christian Charities,” sponsored by Global Leadership Network Canada
- board education on strategic planning by Michael Anderson, sponsored by CSAE
- governance webinar by Donna Dunn of Tecker International
- “Women in Mission” by National Spiritual Advisor Bishop Stephen Jensen (Prince George), sponsored by national council
- “How to Complete an Annual Report,” sponsored by national council
- “*Fratelli Tutti*” by Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle
- “This is a Time to Go Slow... a Time to Pause on the Advent Journey in a Time of Uncertainty,” a spiritual retreat by Rev. Con O’Mahony, sponsored by national council
- “Online Membership—Everything You Need to Know,” sponsored by national council
- “Witnesses of Hope,” sponsored by Catholic Near East Welfare Association

Appointments: *Ad hoc* committee on life membership (Honorary Life Member Vivian Bosch (chairperson), life members Eleanor Arless, Glenda Klein and Suzanne Kiazzyk) and the national amendments committee (National Past President and Chairperson of Laws Margaret Ann Jacobs (chairperson), honorary life members Claire Heron, Joan Chesser and Velma Harasen, National President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization Fran Lucas, Executive Director Kim Scammell, and I). Reports and recommendations were submitted to the national board for consideration at its fall teleconference.

Correspondence: Correspondence was written regarding Bill C-7 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code of Canada (medical assistance in dying)*, the ongoing review of the

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, members’ issues of concern, Adventures with Anne, greetings to provincial and diocesan councils for milestone anniversaries, welcome and thank you letters to working group members, and a two-page summary of the League for Most Rev. Luigi Bonazzi, apostolic nuncio to Canada.

Meetings and decisions: Regular monthly administrative committee and implementation committee teleconferences were held. Others included virtual conference calls with provincial presidents, virtual national bursary committee, board and finance committee teleconferences, and meetings with the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada, and with the corporate lawyer regarding partially-virtual annual meetings. Some decisions made included those regarding annual meetings of members—fluid due to pandemic data, postponements and cancellations (and continual review), and the centenary committee—how and when to celebrate.

Regular tasks: Reviewed all communiqués and magazine article content as part of the communications committee, appointed members to committees, attended subsequent meetings, wrote articles for *The Canadian League* magazine, wrote spring and fall parish memos, met with the executive director, and completed reports, including the 2019 annual report from reports of 11 provincial presidents and an annual report review.

Special: Summer Speaker Series invitations and presentation; virtual celebrations: Military Ordinariate Gathering Day, Toronto Diocesan Council celebration, and Montreal Diocesan Council celebration; interviews with Catholic newspapers.

While staff falls under the work of the organization chairperson, I must note the executive director managed the League’s operations under very adverse conditions while keeping the staff safe and working. All faced numerous challenges due to Manitoba’s shutdown but managed to continue to complete work for the organization, answer members’ questions, and a myriad other duties as required. Thankfully, technology allowed conditions to be such that the staff could work remotely while intermittently being permitted into the office for printing, mailing and other tasks unable to be completed remotely. The organization could not have continued to operate in 2020 had it not been for Kim’s leadership, creativity and deep faith.

With the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of Our Lady, the entire organization has managed throughout a very difficult time. Members learned the organization could survive only with prayer and faith in the need for the continuance of this national body we simply call the League.

Representing Catholic Women

“Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy” (Proverbs 31:8-9).

The national president had limited opportunities to represent the League on the national and international stage in 2020 due to the pandemic. While being physically present to represent the League was curtailed, the president did write a letter to the prime minister of Canada, all members of parliament and all senators sharing that the League strongly objected “to the intent of Bill C-7 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)*. The bill introduces contingencies and extensions to the original Act that will affect adversely the most vulnerable citizens and continue to downgrade the value of life.” She urged, “Please give consideration to all citizens in this country. I implore you as prime minister to advocate for increased palliative care, mental health, disability support and counselling services rather than what is intended in Bill C-7.” Many members and councils across Canada wrote similarly in support of the League’s position of the inherent dignity of all human life. Fifty-five per cent of parish councils reported they had also been monitoring the bill.

While members displayed reluctance to talk to elected representatives in person at all levels, an activity that could not occur in 2020 anyway, the preferred method of sending e-mails and letters continued the League advocacy efforts on topics of concern to members. Parish councils contacted representatives regarding municipal concerns (25%), provincial representatives (33%) and federal representatives (40%), revealing a high degree of interest in social justice issues.



Advocacy through Resolutions and Legislation

It was impossible to consider the League’s work without considering the effect the pandemic had. Members were hampered in the usual manner that they conduct business, particularly with regards to resolutions. Members could not gather to discuss and research resolutions. Without the annual meeting of members to present them, resolutions were not adopted at the different levels.

A meeting with the federal government was also not possible, so the 2020 spring meeting to present 2019 resolutions adopted by national council did not happen. On the other hand, members were more active in letter writing and made their voices heard because they had time to write. Issues did not go away just because of the pandemic, and members responded with e-mails and letters to government officials when issues were





presented to them. Members were encouraged to address issues with their elected representatives.

Legislation monitored at the federal level included:

- Bill C-3 *An Act to amend the Judges Act and the Criminal Code* Intended to restrict eligibility for judicial appointment to persons who participate in continuing education related to sexual assault law.
- Bill C-4 *An Act relating to certain measures in response to COVID-19* Intended to authorize the payment of the Canada recovery benefit, sickness benefit and caregiving benefit in response to COVID-19.
- Bill C-6 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (Conversion therapy)* Intended to make certain acts of regarding conversion therapy an offence under the Criminal Code.
- Bill C-7 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)*.
- Bill C-13 *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act*. Intended to implement certain income tax measures in response to the pandemic.
- Bill C-14 *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act, No. 2*.
- Bill C-15 *Canada Emergency Student Benefit Act* (43rd Parliament, 1st Session). Intended to authorize payment of emergency student benefits to students due to the pandemic.
- Bill C-233 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (sex-selection abortion)*
- Bill S-203 *An Act to restrict young persons' online access to sexually explicit material*.



National Standing Committee Highlights

► Spiritual Development:

Embracing technology and capitalizing on the many opportunities members had for personal and spiritual development while sheltering at home during the pandemic, two webinars were arranged and offered. One was *Women in Mission* in September and the other was *This is a Time to Go Slow... a Time to Pause on the Advent Journey in a Time of Uncertainty* in December. Other foci for the year included the League's National Day of Prayer for Canadian Home Missions (October 1st), suggesting councils read *Protecting Minors from Sexual Abuse: A Call to the Catholic Faithful in Canada for Healing, Reconciliation, and Transformation*, the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel, and prayers for Nova Scotia as the province experienced an unprecedented violent incident.

► Organization:

Three key strategies were fully in play to move the League towards its envisioned future. The affirmation working group completed its mandate and launched the Welcome Program in early fall. The program included suggestions and resources to help parish councils "build a culture of welcome and community for all members, ensuring every member of the League feels welcomed, affirmed and validated." The program now falls under the purview of the organization standing committee at all levels.

The encourage diversity working group was in the midst of planning to address a reported lack of diversity in cultures and ages in the League. In order for the group to understand the extent of the concern, it asked some questions surrounding ethnicity through the organization standing committee annual report. At the national level, this information was important to say confidently, "The League was ethnically diverse." Without those statistics, it could have only been guessed that the League was diverse. This information obtained indicated that it was; however, it could certainly do better. Members were encouraged to help ensure diversity continued to be a priority.

► Christian Family Life:

The Christian family life standing committee became even more significant in 2020, particularly in its efforts to provide ministry to others. Despite shutdowns, physical distancing, social isolation, mask-wearing and hand sanitizing, members strived to do what they could to keep things as normal as possible. Members excelled at role-modelling with an incredible commitment to helping their neighbours, friends and parishioners who were suffering from loneliness and isolation during the various pandemic shutdowns across the country. Members were especially attuned to the increased number of families experiencing domestic violence, not being able to receive respite or abuse services in potentially explosive home environments.

► Community Life:

Relief efforts were the focus of councils in 2020. While unable to volunteer at the many worthy organizations, members' fundraising and other charitable efforts would not be deterred by a pandemic. Overwhelming support was received from parish councils regarding the announcement that the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace had reached an agreement and that contribution to the national voluntary fund could resume. Two notable projects were approved at the winter meeting of the national executive/board held in Toronto. The first was the Pieta Bhavan project (India) to replace the roof on the community's primary water well. The second project was to support children in the Diocese of Adigrat (Ethiopia) with the remaining funds by providing lunches for students attending school.

► Education and Health:

Despite the closing of many churches due to the pandemic, 64% of parish councils still found creative ways to engage in the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care initiative. It continued to prove to be the most popular national League initiative, as it has been so for the past number of years.

With the continuance of the theme, *Care for Our Common Home*, and in celebration of the League's 100th anniversary, efforts persisted in the area of plastic and waste cleanup in communities, elimination by members and councils of the use of single-use plastics, conservation of water with the national water pledge, and the planting of trees.

► Communications:

Four strategies were addressed under the auspices of the communications standing committee by the marketing working group. With the engagement of a professional marketing firm, the League began its promotional efforts, a focus that the grassroots members and councils communicated as being one of the most important issues that required national attention. Beginning in mid-December, the League released a series of video vignettes on the topics of vaping, youth mental health, resolutions, and the environment. Also released was a video celebrating the 100th anniversary of the League. More social media channels (Instagram and Pinterest) were also established in addition to the existing website, Facebook, YouTube and Twitter media channels.

Councils continued to focus on evaluating content found on air and in the media, often writing to express concerns about the appropriateness of the material. They also continued to promote the Pornography Hurts campaign through the use of postcards, e-mails and letter-writing campaigns.

11

Provincial Councils

34

Diocesan Councils

1,162

Parish Councils

70,660

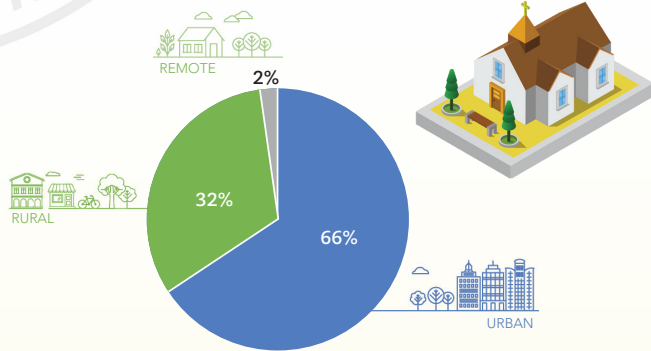
Members

The Catholic Women's League

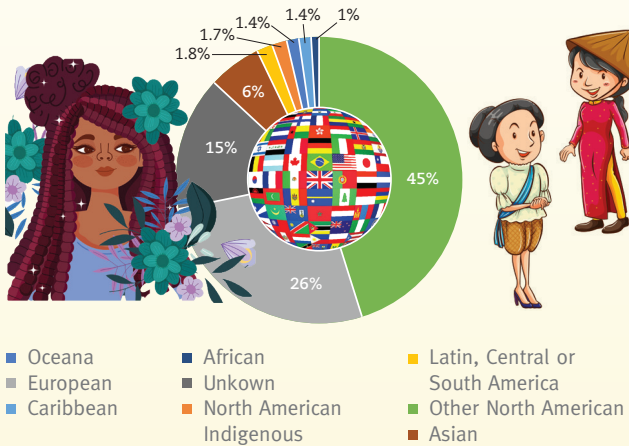
Organization Annual Report Questionnaire 2020:

Generational & Cultural Diversity For CWL Parish Councils Across Canada

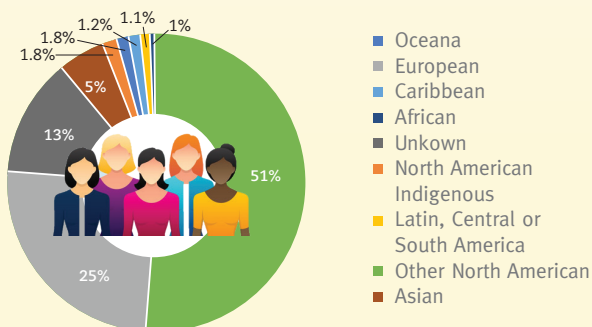
CWL Parish Councils across Canada



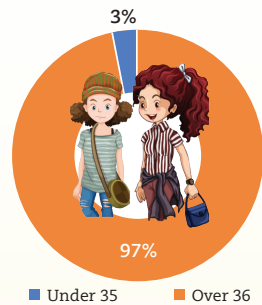
Ethnicity Percentage of Membership across Canada



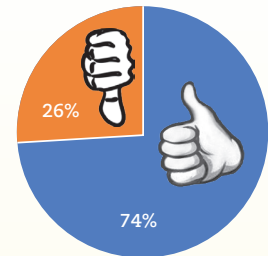
Ethnicity Percentage of Executives



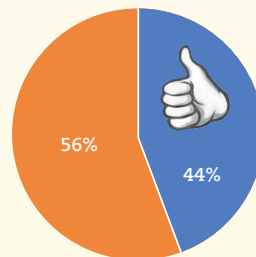
What percentage of members are under 35?



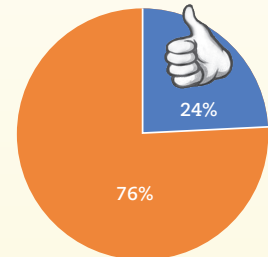
Does your council membership reflect the cultural diversity of the Parish and the community?



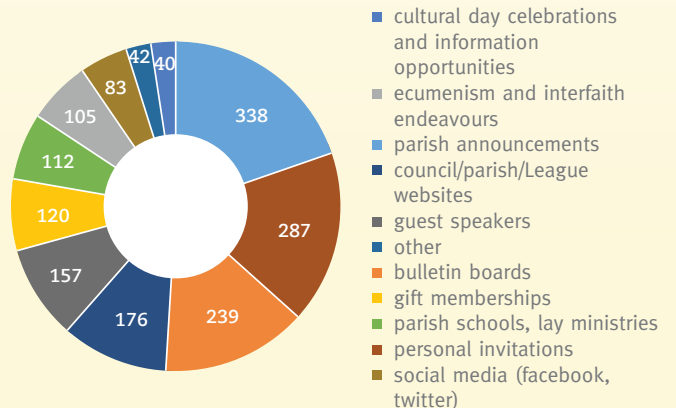
Does the age distribution reflect the age diversity of the Parish?



Does the age distribution reflect the age diversity of the general community?



What methods has your council used to encourage cultural & generational diversity?



The League grieved the loss of 23 parish councils that chose to leave the organization but celebrated the return of nine others, which was seen as a sign of renewal. The League gained 4,022 members who either were new to the League or had chosen to renew their membership, while it lost 7,661 members who decided not to renew. In addition, 1,164 members were called home, for a net reduction in membership of 6.4%.

Organizational Renewal

Recognizing the service-oriented mission of the organization demands youthful energy and action, and further recognizing a resistance of existing members to take on leadership roles to help the League achieve its mission, the national executive struck a committee in 2017 to develop a strategic plan to address these and other issues faced by the membership.

Continuing with the 18-month plan to research and produce not just a static strategic plan, the steering committee generated 50 strategies to move the League in the direction set in the 17 objectives approved in 2017. These 50 strategies were tested at diocesan and provincial conventions. With feedback from more than 4,000 members from conventions, the steering committee determined which strategies would have the most significant impact and should be addressed first over a five-year period of implementation.

The success of the strategic plan depends on the depth of planning and effectiveness in implementation. Chosen leaders Lisa Henry of North Bay, Ontario, Sr. Susan Scott of Stony Plain, Alberta, Life Member Jacqueline Nogier of Snow Lake, Manitoba, and Sharon Ciebin of Coquitlam, British Columbia, began the second year of the implementation phase in 2020. They entered the year leading three working groups and initiated nine more during the year.

The year one working groups—affirmation, marketing and reorganization all bore much fruit that was greatly celebrated in 2020. The affirmation working group concluded its work with the launch of the Welcome Program, as mentioned in the organization standing committee highlights. The marketing working group began to release videos to promote the League as mentioned in the highlights of the communications standing committee. The reorganization working group completed two-thirds of its work by providing recommendations for structural change to the national executive for consideration. These changes—to reduce the number of standing committees and eliminate the positions of president-elect, second vice-president and combine corresponding and recording secretary—were circulated to the membership for consideration, as only the membership can decide, through the process of instructed voting, to change the structure of the organization. All members would wait for the final vote to be announced at a future national annual meeting of members.

New working groups established included one group each:

- to provide resources on Catholic social teaching
- to recognize and offer options for various forms of leadership at the parish level
- to address commonly-held misconceptions about the League
- to encourage diversity within the League
- to provide faith, service and social justice toolkits for parish councils
- to provide resources to enhance spiritual formation within parish councils

Love for the League and the deep commitment of these members who so generously offered their time and talent to embrace the future was awe-inspiring for all who witnessed their work.



Leadership and Recognition

Through its system of election to office and its organizational structure, The Catholic Women's League of Canada offers opportunities for leadership, personal and spiritual development with increasing levels of responsibility and at a pace chosen by the member. With 11 positions at the national level, 132 at the provincial level and 408 at the diocesan level, a total of 551 senior leadership opportunities to serve "For God and Canada" exist.



Seventeen members were recognized for their extraordinary leadership in the League, when they received the second highest honour the League has to offer, life membership. They are:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Janet Brunger | Winnipeg, Manitoba |
| Glenda Carson | Dartmouth, Nova Scotia |
| Madonna Clark | Fredericton, New Brunswick |
| Lea Colbeck | Virden, Manitoba |
| Doris Dickson | Perth-Andover, New Brunswick |
| Elizabeth Doyle | Dartmouth, Nova Scotia |
| Irene Gallant | Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island |
| Patricia Hannan | Montreal, Quebec |
| Colleen Holloway | Richer, Manitoba |
| Karen McDonald | Sudbury, Ontario |
| Alice Noble | Candiac, Quebec |
| Sandra O'Connell | Sydney, Nova Scotia |
| Carol Schlachter | Brooks, Calgary |
| Joanna Sisk | Ottawa, Ontario |
| Carol Lynn St. James Fascia | St. Constant, Quebec |
| Wendy Tedford | Douro-Dummer, Ontario |
| Patricia Weller | Douglas, Ontario |

While it was difficult to gather to celebrate the fine achievements of members in 2020, some councils found creative ways to honour their members. Four members were added to the rolls of Bellelle Guerin award recipients, bringing the total to 211 members or 0.3% of the membership. An additional 504 members received a maple leaf service pin, bringing the total to 3,999 members or 5.7% of the membership.

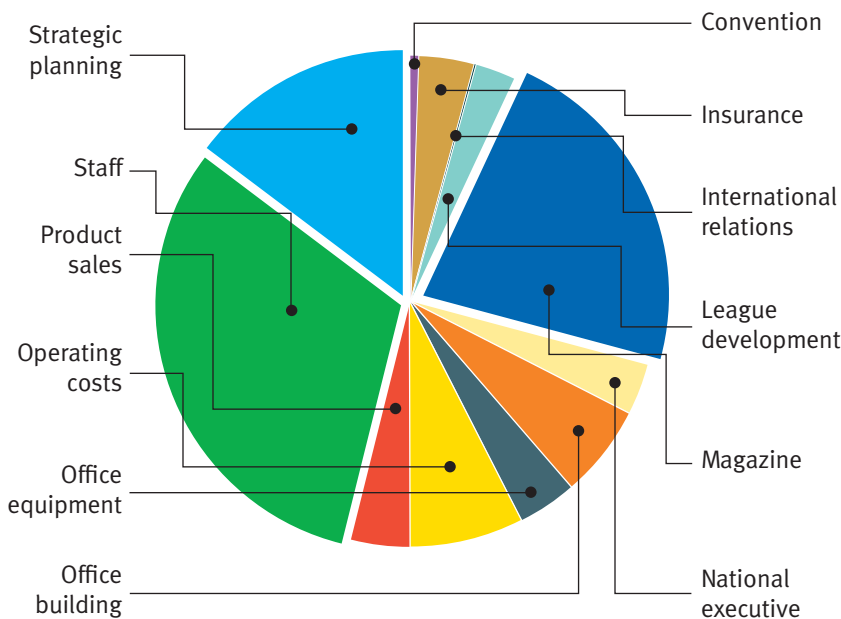
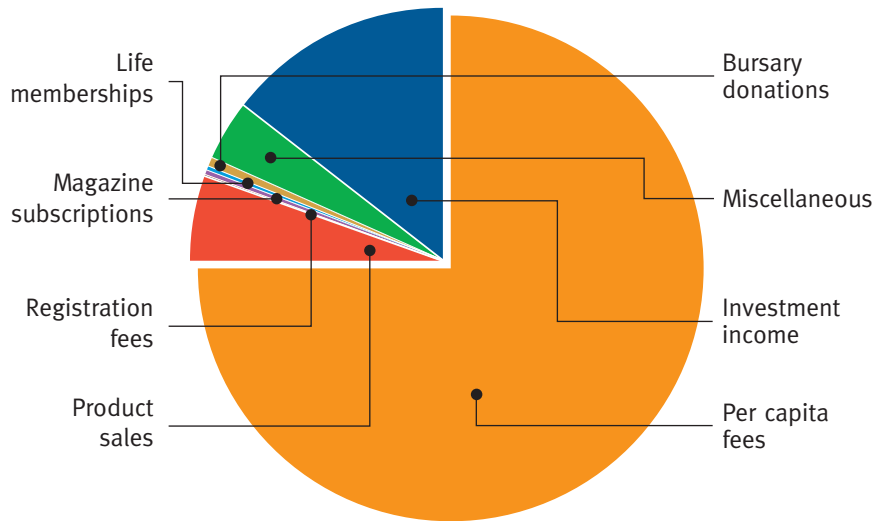
Financial Information

Recognizing the League had experienced operating deficits in five of the past six years and also that an investment of more than \$1,000,000 would be needed to revision the League so it could evolve into the organization members had been requesting for almost two decades, the national executive took the courageous step to request a per capita increase of the membership. A Notice of Motion was distributed to all parish councils in December to gather the votes of individual members, the results of which would be announced at a future national annual meeting of members.

REVENUE RECEIVED

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Per capita fees | \$ 945,841 |
| Product sales | \$ 68,426 |
| Registration fees | \$ — |
| Magazine subscriptions | \$ 3,984 |
| Life memberships | \$ 3,400 |
| Bursary donations | \$ 6,960 |
| Miscellaneous | \$ 47,838 |
| Investment income | \$ 180,082 |

\$ 1,292,549



EXPENDITURES

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Convention | \$ 7,214 |
| Insurance | \$ 43,198 |
| International relations | \$ 805 |
| League development | \$ 30,913 |
| Magazine | \$ 255,105 |
| National executive | \$ 38,950 |
| Office building | \$ 70,435 |
| Office equipment | \$ 47,135 |
| Operating costs | \$ 84,604 |
| Product sales | \$ 45,887 |
| Staff | \$ 362,224 |
| Strategic planning | \$ 166,875 |

\$ 1,153,345

Summary

There was much excitement and anticipation as members entered into 2020, the 100th anniversary of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Plans were made throughout the League to hold celebrations in recognition of the achievement of reaching the centenary. But God had other plans.

There was no shortage of challenges faced by the League in 2020—from the shutdown of parish councils, to the loneliness and isolation faced by many, to the inability to raise funds or offer volunteer support to worthy charities, to accepting change while the League moved towards its envisioned future, to becoming immersed in new technologies that allowed for communications, to exploring solutions to enable the League to

continue to operate, if even on a virtual basis, to considering the future financial stability of the League. These were all very critical issues facing the League.

Members are to be commended for their creativity and resilience in the face of so many sudden changes. In 2017, at the beginning of strategic planning, the steering committee was asked, "Is the League still relevant today?" The answer was a resounding "Yes!" Members this year have proved this to be true. The League is still relevant and worth "fighting for." The year 2020 may not be a year remembered for its celebrations, but it will be a year long-remembered as a pivotal moment in the League's history.





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