

# FAITH IN ACTION



**NEWSLETTER OF THE  
OTTAWA DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF  
THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA**

**NOVEMBER 2018 ISSUE**

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## Reflection from our Diocesan Spiritual Advisor

Monsignor Joseph Muldoon, Holy Spirit Parish

An elderly priest was giving a talk to those in formation for the Religious Life. He shared a story of a young man who came to him complaining that he had lost his faith. The old priest said: You've lost your faith because you have lost your Mother, Mary. Sometimes we may lose sight of her Mary's motherly care for each one of us especially in our daily activities that are filled with multiple tasks.

As we enter into the season of Advent Mary plays a unique role in our Liturgical Readings. As the God-bearer Mary is the first evangelizer and messenger of the good news of her Son Jesus and directs our attention to Him as we see in her visit to her cousin Elizabeth. Saint Luke recounts that Mary went with haste to the hill country to be with Elizabeth who was soon to give birth to John the Baptist. She shares her cousin's joy and enthusiasm. She also shares her personal relationship with her Lord with all she meets. It is in her deep prayer life that Mary magnifies God's holy name and teaches us to do the same.

As Mother of the Church Mary fulfills her mission and goes forth with the apostles to transform the world in the image of Christ. This may seem like a daunting task for us to do yet by our baptismal call we are summoned by God to be the bearers of harmony and unity to all members of the League and the Church. This can be as simple as a visit or a call to a member in our Council or a parishioner or in our willingness to serve as we are able in our Parish. This service goes beyond the boundaries of our comfort zone to those who are vulnerable, or homeless or without friends. Genuine faith leads to service using all the gifts that God has given to us.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel be our inspiration and our courage in following more faithfully in the footsteps of her Son. Advent Blessings of goodness and light in the Lord.

## A Message from our Diocesan President

Mrs. Onagh Dooley, Our Lady of Fatima Parish

*"I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beseech you to walk worthily of the calling wherewith you were called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love; giving diligence to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."  
(Ephesians 4:1-3)*

Thanks to parish presidents who are soon to become 'past' presidents, for all the work and initiatives you have carried out during your term. I look forward to welcoming your replacement presidents in the new year.

The new mission statement, approved at the national executive pre-convention meeting is as follows:

"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"

The League's theme continues to be Inspired by the Spirit: Women Respond to God's Call, with the national focus on mental health. From your reports during the year, I know that the Ottawa Diocesan councils have made a tremendous effort in alleviating the plight of the homeless, in our City and Province.

The strategic plan 2018-2022, adopted by the national executive pre-convention meeting was rolled out at the 98th Annual National Convention in Winnipeg in August this year. Colleen Perry, OPC president-elect will roll it out for us on Saturday, November 10th, at St. Bernard parish hall. Please take advantage of this opportunity, so that you too, may "roll it out" at your council's general meeting for your members.

Bishop William McGratten, our past National Spiritual Advisor, reminded us and our spiritual advisors, in his report at National Convention, to be mindful of Bishop Murray Chatlain (Keewatin-The-Pas) words "that in transformative experiences, such as truth and reconciliation, the place of tension must be seen as a sacred place." Bishop McGratten states further "that the implementation of your strategic plan, especially in the area of spiritual development, is some of the organizational initiatives for renewal" and if we find ourselves in tension "maybe this is a sacred place and that this is where God's grace can be found in the life of the League".

2020 will see the League celebrating 100 years!. One of the Centenary projects is H.U.G. (Helping, Understanding, Giving) Packages put together by members for distribution at local women's shelters in your areas. Contacting local shelters to find out their needs is the best way to contribute.

## **President-Elect and Organization Chair**

Mrs. Lynn Lavictoire, Annunciation of the Lord Parish

*"Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds." (Proverbs 27:23)*

### **Membership**

It's that time of year again for our Membership Drives. Some of you have already let me know how enthusiastic you are at holding them. May the Holy Spirit be with you as your endeavours and love for the League flourish with new and returning members! May God continue to bless you with dedication and passion!

Our National Membership Coordinator Amanda McCormick informs us that the 2019 membership is now available for administration on the secure membership site. Here are her instructions:

1. The website address for the online membership is <https://membership.cwl.ca>.
2. Ensure all members are registered under their correctly spelled legal name.
3. Ensure accurate reporting of addresses including unit numbers for members living in multi-housing complexes.
4. For members who wish to receive the League - Winter 2019 magazine, all address changes must be submitted through the online system prior to December 20.

If you have any questions whatsoever, please feel free to contact Amanda at 1-888-656-4040 or by email at: [membership@cwl.ca](mailto:membership@cwl.ca).

### Annual Reports

Our Ontario Provincial President-Elect and Organization Chairperson Colleen Perry asks that parish councils complete and return the Annual Reports by December 15, 2018 if you are submitting them on paper. If you are filling them out online, you must submit them by January 15, 2019. The reports were available on November 1. All links begin with [www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=](http://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=).

National office is using a different software program from last year but it's basically the same. Additionally you will be able to complete the online surveys on a computer, a tablet, or a phone. Colleen cautions that although you will be able to log on to the reports as many times as you need to complete the report, once you submit it there is NO way for national office to allow you to make any further revisions.

Another change this year is you don't require a password. When you enter the survey, you will be prompted for a User ID which is your council's code. Council codes are found with the membership packages being sent out this month. Please print a copy of your survey before submitting it. This is for your records.

If you prefer to fill out the reports on paper, please contact national office and they will send you a link to a printable copy of the surveys. Colleen asks that you complete the surveys on the copy that you have printed directly from the pdf file. She adds that for your voice to be heard, you must mail clean, unfolded paper copies to national office. †

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Community Life Chair

Mrs. Rosanne Nadon, St. Martin dePorres Parish

*"The poor are at the centre of the Gospel. In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ."* (Pope Francis)

The World Day of the Poor will be observed on Sunday, November 18th. In his apostolic letter to close the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis suggested the Catholic Church set aside one day each year when communities can "reflect on how poverty is at the very heart of the Gospel." This day will now be celebrated on the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time each year.

A statement from the Government of Canada discussion paper "Towards a Poverty Reduction Strategy": "Poverty is more than just low income. It also includes hardships like food insecurity, social exclusion, inadequate housing and lack of access to transportation and other services. In Canada, 1.9 million families struggle to make ends meet."

Consider making donations to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. They are active throughout Canada, providing assistance to the less fortunate. Each year, the organization members give over 1,600,000 hours of their time in volunteer work, making about 250,000 home visits and helping more than 350,000 people across Canada.

The newly elected National Community Life Chairperson is Marie Rackley. Marie is from Saint John, New Brunswick. She joined the League in 1971 and is a third generation League member. She held the position of diocesan president from 1998 to 2000 and is completing her term as provincial president.

### **Social and Economic Justice**

What is social justice? By definition in the Oxford Dictionary it is “justice in terms of the distribution of wealth, opportunities and privileges within a society”. What is economic justice? By definition on the website Investopedia it is “a component of social justice. It is a set of moral principles for building economic institutions, the ultimate goal of which is to create an opportunity for each person to create a sufficient material foundation upon which to have a dignified, productive and creative life beyond economics” - taken from National Community Life chair communique #3.

### **Canada Summer Jobs**

It is not too late to voice your concerns....The 2019 Canada Summer Jobs application will soon be compiled and released in early January/February 2019. Now is the time to encourage members to write the prime minister and members of parliament to state that the attestation be removed from any future applications. Let our voices be heard...taken from National Community Life Chair communique #3.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Education & Health Chair**

Mrs. Sandra Blais, Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

### **Education**

A lengthy document titled “Sex Education” was sent on October 11th 2018 to all Education & Health Chairs. The deadline for action on the ‘Parental Consultation Process’ is December 15th. We encourage you to become familiar with this process offered by the Provincial Government. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/for-the-parents> There will be an online survey plus a schedule of town halls in the near future.

### **Health**

Prostate Cancer Canada and Movember Foundation announced on Oct. 23rd 2018 that \$4 million in funding was forwarded to Canadian researchers to advance research, treatment, and lessen the side effects and increase the survival rate. [www.prostatecancer.ca](http://www.prostatecancer.ca)

MOVEMBER CANADA is the leading global organization committed to changing the face of men’s health by speaking up. Men are facing a health crisis that isn’t being talked about. As wives’ sisters or mothers, we can focus on our love for our men folk to raise their awareness of the health issues of prostate cancer. Together we can spread the word to keep our men from dying too young.

### **Environment**

There are four “R”s: Reduce, Repair, Reuse and Recycle every day where ever we are. “Let

us be protectors of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in Nature, protectors of one another and of the environment", (Pope Francis).

## **Spiritual Development Chair**

Mrs. Nancy Grimshaw, Divine Infant Parish

As fall elections approach in some of our parishes, I would like to thank all those who served their councils as Spiritual Development chairpersons, for all the work you have done to enhance the spiritual journey of your members.

### **World Day of the Poor**

Sunday November 18th is the 33rd Sunday of Ordinary time, that Pope Francis established as World Day of the Poor. This year, the theme is "This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him" (Ps 34:6).

In a world where the poor often hear the harsh voices and rejection of those that disapprove of them, or see people who create distance between the poor and themselves, Pope Francis urges all Christians to combat this indifference to the suffering and marginalization of the most needy. He asks us to seriously examine our own conscience to determine if we are able to hear the cry of the poor. The Lord wants us to have a world of inclusion, not exclusion of those that some may deem as less worthy.

Instead Pope Francis asks us to consider Psalm 22:26, "The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied". The Lord calls the poor to himself and comforts them. We are also reminded that as Catholics we believe Christ is found in every human person.

As we prepare to begin Advent and the Christmas season, be mindful of our CWL provincial theme of homelessness and consider your own personal or family project that will support the homeless or poor this season. To read Pope Francis' full World Day of the Poor message please visit:

[w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/poveri/documents/papa-francesco\\_20180613\\_messaggio-ii-giornatamondiale-poveri-2018.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/poveri/documents/papa-francesco_20180613_messaggio-ii-giornatamondiale-poveri-2018.html)

### **Preparing a Prayer Service**

A power point presentation that was created by Jacqueline Nogier, past national spiritual development chair and Pauline Krupa, past Ontario provincial president, has been added to our diocesan website ([www.ottawa.cwl.on.ca](http://www.ottawa.cwl.on.ca)), under the prayer room heading. This may be helpful for preparing your own prayers for meetings, feast days or special events.

### **Advent Retreat**

Our Advent retreat this year will be at St. Isidore Parish in Kanata, on Saturday November 24. Advent begins Sunday December 2. The theme will be "A reflection on homelessness and poverty for the Holy Family, throughout the bible, and how it relates to society today." Our facilitator is Father Mark Slatter. Mass will be at 0930 and the day should end between 2:30 and 3pm. The deadline to register is November 8. Please visit the Ontario

Provincial Council website throughout December for Advent reflections and prayers at [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca)

### **Caring For Our Common Home**

Our new national theme as of January 2019, is Caring for our Common Home. This would be a good time to consider studying material related to caring for our planet, such as "Laudato Si, An Invitation to Change our Hearts" found on the national CWL website, [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) under the tab "To Organize", 800 series, 813.

### **Remembering Our Deceased Members**

Please keep me informed of any of your CWL members who have passed, so that we can record them and remember them at the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel in April 26. I urge you from time to time to check our diocesan CWL website at [www.ottawa.cwl.on.ca](http://www.ottawa.cwl.on.ca) and look under the prayer room for the current year and ensure that all your deceased members have been listed. If you notice any missing please let me know. The Diocesan mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel, April 26, 2019, will be held at St. Patrick's Parish, Fallowfield, and our deceased members from April 1, 2018-March 31, 2019, will be remembered at this service.

### **Evangelization and Mission Assistance**

From July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, councils and individual members donated \$37,039.38 to Catholic Missions In Canada, one of our CWL National Voluntary Fund organizations. Many of our missions are in remote communities where a single priest may be responsible for several parishes, separated by hundreds of km. Your support helps assist the valuable work of our missions. I have several copies of a DVD about Catholic Missions In Canada if you would like to view it or share it with your council. Please consider doing a collection at a council meeting, or consider making a donation when it time to consider disbursements of available council funds.

## **Christian Family Life Chair**

Ms. Teresa Psutka, St. Maurice Parish

It's been a little while since my last communique. I am doing well, with my two new knees. I thank our Dear Lord for this new lease on life. He will use my legs (and feet) to lead me to where He needs me to go.

On May 10th I was at the March for Life. It started at Parliament Hill but was suddenly rerouted due to protesters on Elgin St. There was a huge crowd with people from every age group from the very young to seniors. It was good to see the many young people who support the cause. I joined up with a group from the Toronto Diocese of the CWL as when I saw the CWL banner I went straight for it. I recognized many of the ladies from Provincial conventions.

In July, at the Provincial Convention in Toronto, there were various groups that support the homeless and seniors in the community.

The Life Chain took place on September 30th. I participated at Merivale Road and Meadowlands Drive. There were about 40 of us. We got many honks of support but also encountered some opposition. We quietly continued to pray.

On behalf of the Diocesan CWL council, I attended the Archbishop's Charity Dinner on October 17th. It was a full house with 725 people. The two charities that were supported by the evening's event were CNEWA (Catholic Near East Welfare Association), which the CWL supports, and the Kateri Native Ministry. CNEWA supports Christians in the Holy Land. Two short videos were shown about the work these charities do.

The Closing Rally for the 40 Days for Life took place on November 4th. Due to the good weather, there were about 65 of us. We encountered some opposition across the street while on Bank Street. Over 300 babies were saved during this year's campaign. We were told of the number of abortions that are carried out daily and the horrifying statistics on how many babies are aborted over the course of a year. We were reminded to not give up, to continue to pray. We then proceeded on the candlelight vigil from Queen and Bank streets to St. Patrick's Basilica on Kent St. All was peaceful along the way. We had a police escort due to the mid-rally being disrupted by protesters. Once we arrived at St. Patrick's, Reverend John Counsell gave a talk. He focused on the difficult times we live in today and compared that to the time Jesus was on earth. He related to many writings in the Bible.

Remember to give a smile to the homeless when you see them. They too are a child of God. Peace be with you. I would like to wish you all a festive Christmas season, full of joy and gratefulness. I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and all the best in the coming New Year. Our Lady of Good Counsel – Pray for us!

## **Communications Chair**

Mrs. Grace Buchmayer, Divine Infant Parish

Hello there! So nice of you to drop in. By now you must be well into all the exciting CWL events your parish CWL council has planned. If your CWL council is putting on a special event that you would like your sisters in the League across Ottawa to attend, let me know by clicking on the 'contact us' icon on the bottom of any page on the Ottawa CWL website, so I can post your information.

I hope you had a chance to read the various Provincial and National convention reports found online at the Provincial and National websites. They are truly inspiring. As a communications officer you should make sure your members receive information about all levels of CWL events in a timely manner. There are also opportunities to have expenses to these events subsidized. You or your members won't know unless you check out the Ottawa, Ontario, and National websites. Where do you start? Just go to the 'Useful Links' button at the top of the Ottawa CWL website and begin your journey.

How do you connect with your sisters in the League? In person, by phone, by email, a newsletter, perhaps a link on your parish's website, or a combination these? To connect with

every one of them you will probably need to use more than one approach, but remember that nothing beats a one-to-one connection. At least once a year we should reach out to each member and have a little chat. When I say we I mean anyone on the parish CWL executive. If each officer called a few members every month you'd probably be done before the end of the year, and just think how great those seldom reached or seen members would feel after a sister reached out to have a chat with them.

There's more I'd like to say about the challenges and joys of being a Communications Chairperson, but I'll leave those for our next chat. Don't forget the secret handshake when we meet. If you're reading this and not swatting flies with it, please [click here](#) to say 'Hi' and be counted. I'd love to hear about the innovative ways you are communicating with your members. Perhaps I can share them with other Communications Chairs, right here, in this space. I look forward to hearing from you. Until then, take care and God bless.

## Resolutions and Legislation Chair

Mrs. Claudette Langdon, Holy Spirit Parish

*“Ask Jesus what he wants from you and be brave!”* (Pope Francis)

Hello Sister's in the league, I am excited to take on the responsibility of the Resolutions and Legislation Chair at the Ottawa Diocesan Council. To introduce myself, I have lived in the Ottawa area my whole life. Family is important to me. My husband and I have two adult children and four wonderful grandchildren. I have been an executive member at the parish level for eight years with various responsibilities, and I am currently the Past President of the Holy Spirit CWL Council.

With Advent around the corner and the Christmas season approaching, we are busy but I ask you to reflect on considering action for social justice...your voices make a difference.

### Resolutions

I was fortunate in helping to formulate a few resolutions and going through the process for adaption at the provincial level. This was both a challenging and rewarding experience. As the National Chair of Resolutions Cathy Bouchard said, “We are the voice of those who cannot speak for themselves. Resolutions are one of the major ways we give voice to concerns of those God has entrusted to us, the weak and the vulnerable.” The National Resolutions Chair, Cathy Bouchard prepared a document entitled “Resolutions At-A-Glance” which highlights the key components of a resolution. Also many of your sisters can help and guide you along the process. If you need assistance email me.

At the 2018 annual national convention held in Winnipeg, three resolutions were adopted:

**2018.01 Attestation Requirement on Canada Summer Jobs Program** (Community Life)  
– urges the federal government to remove the attestation for all future Canada Summer Jobs programs.

**2018.02** *Setting a Standard for Products Marketed as Flushable* (Education and Health) – urges the federal government to establish a national standard of testing and labelling of products marked as “flushable” and that provincial councils become aware of this issue as it pertains to their province/territory and to work on it as deemed necessary/prudent.

**2018.03** *Legislate Designation of Hospice/Palliative Care, Free from Medical Assistance in Dying* (Legislation) – urge the federal government to legislate the designation of hospice/palliative care services in facilities to exclude medical assistance in dying and that provincial councils become aware of this issue as it pertains to their province/territory and to work on it as deemed necessary/prudent.

### Legislation

The National Legislation Chair, Betty Colaneri in her October communique discussed the new Cannabis Act and the important things that you should be aware of. The government said that this new act is to better protect the health and safety of Canadians but will have some issues in our communities. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) expresses its disappointment at the passage of Bill C-45, which legalizes cannabis/marijuana for recreational use. Information on the legalization and regulation of cannabis can be found on the Government of Canada website [Canada.ca/cannabis](http://Canada.ca/cannabis).

In closing, do you feel strongly about an issue? As Pope Francis said, “be brave!” Speak to your parish council about an important concern and consider submitting a resolution for next year!

I wish you and your families a Blessed Advent and Christmas! God Bless.

### Past President and Historian

Ms. Joanna Sisk, St. Ignatius the Martyr Parish

November is a month of remembering. As historians it is important to remember and record our history. Each past president is encouraged to review achieves of the council every two years. The Recommended Filing of Information was taken from *Archive Guidelines for League History*.

### CONTENTS OF BINDERS OR ARCHIVAL FILES

**a. Members:** Councils are encouraged to set up a binder with a page, in alphabetical order, for each member. This page will include information about the member, including the year she became a member, offices held (which should be updated if the member advances to other League levels), other League work (projects, convention convener, dinners, League community related activities, World Day of Prayer, etc.), ministries in the church, awards and pins received, a photograph of the member, and any other pertinent information as determined by the council. In large councils, a file box could be used for each member’s information. This page should be sent to the new council when a member moves. When the

member dies, this page should be transferred to a separate binder or file for deceased members, noting the date of death and including death notices and funeral cards where available (see “c” below).

**b. Past Presidents:** Each past president is encouraged to write two or three pages outlining the highlights of her term as president. These highlights become valued historical notes for future council histories. There should be a photograph of the past president and of the executive.

**c. Deceased Members:** When the council keeps a page record of each member (as indicated in “a”), the page will be kept in an archival binder, alphabetically or by the year of death, to be determined by the council. This file can be in addition to or as part of the Book of Life, in which the names of all deceased council members are kept.

**d. Minutes:** Past minutes are archived after six years. They should be retained in dated binders or files. These minutes are a permanent record of council activities and must be kept forever! (Council minutes are kept by the secretary for the current president’s term and the previous two terms for a total of six years before being archived.)

**e. Motions Books:** A motion book should be kept in an active file by the secretary for six years and then placed into an archival motion’s binder for historical purposes. Standing motions are retained in the active file until a motion is made to rescind that particular standing motion when it will be placed into the archival motion’s binder. Standing motions may be amended and as amended are kept in the current motions book.

**f. Annual Reports:** Annual reports of the council and standing committee chairpersons are kept by the secretary for six years and then retained in an archival binder for reference and indexed by the year the report was given.

**g. Miscellaneous Archives:** - list of presidents, spiritual advisors, addresses, terms in office, dates - list of the council’s executive for each year - list of recipients of awards, maple leaf service pins, other League pins, with date of presentation - list of life members, honorary life members, addresses and year awarded - correspondence of historical interest, i.e., letters from/to church, political or community leaders, congratulations, plaques, documents for anniversaries, special services, etc. - special projects, including financial statements of the project - copies of council newsletters (one per year, unless several were outstanding!) - a record of the charter, dates, names of charter members.

## Life Member Liaison

Mrs. Heather Sisk, Our lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish

## Life Members – A Powerful Prayer Network

Life members are usually thought of as the “old ladies” who get the good seats at conventions. They are also mentors and advisors to their parish councils, committee members and workshop facilitators at diocesan, provincial and national levels and generally

are available to share their experience and knowledge whenever requested.

What most CWL members may not know about Life Members is what a powerful prayer network they provide for each other and the League in general. Prayer requests come frequently through the Life Member Liaisons at national, provincial and diocesan levels – requests for prayer in situations of illness, bereavement, accidents or any other struggle a Life Member or her loved ones may be dealing with. These requests are sent out electronically to all other Life Members and potentially within hours we “storm heaven with our prayers”. We often receive thanks and updates from the member involved and always they attest to the incredible “Power of Prayer”. Each day Life Members are encouraged to pray the following prayer for each other.

Heavenly Father, through the intercession of our Patroness,  
Our Lady of Good Counsel,  
we ask you to hold in your hand all Life Members of  
The Catholic Women’s League of Canada.  
In particular, we ask you to bless those who are experiencing  
illness of the body, mind or spirit.  
May they be open to your healing love  
as they struggle with their their trials.  
We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus.  
Amen.

I, on behalf of the Life Members in Ottawa, pray for all CWL members across the diocese, for vibrancy in their councils, and health and happiness in their families. As the Advent and Christmas season approaches may the glory of the Christ Child bring them peace, hope and love.

## **Treasurer**

Mrs. Diana Baines, Our Lady of Fatima Parish

*“There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship.”*

*(St Thomas Aquinas)*

While doing some research the other day, I discovered the Patron Saint of Treasurers is St Erastus, a disciple of St Paul, who was martyred in the first century. According to the Epistle to the Romans, Erastus was a steward in Corinth, a political office of high civic status. The word is defined as “the manager of household or of household affairs” or, in this context, “treasurer”. The Church remembers St. Erastus on January 4 among the Seventy. So, if you’re having problems with your books or reports, maybe a prayer to St Erastus would help!

I recently forwarded Provincial Treasurer Pat Rivest’s latest directive to you. She included the 2018 Parish Treasurer’s Annual Report which asks you to detail charitable giving by your Parish Council. I will be sending out a revised edition of this report, which Pat has just sent to me, in the next few weeks, it will include a guide to filling it out. This is not the same as your Annual Report which is sent electronically to National office. Your President has received

information and directions for filling out that report to National from Diocesan Organization Chair Lynn Lavictoire. If you have questions about either report, or just a few general questions, feel free to contact me through the website 'contact us' link.

Many councils will soon be having elections. Do not be afraid to let your name stand for office. Joining the executive is a learning experience and you are never too old to learn something new. I spent most of my almost 40 year working career in finance, but that didn't stop me from serving in other Standing Committees and serving as President 5 times. When I moved to Ottawa in 1970, I joined the CWL in my Parish to meet new people, and now I have been in the League for 48 years, 20 of them with the Military Ordinariate, serving at parish, Diocesan and Provincial level. Many of my closest friendships have been made through CWL, I hope it is the same for you.

For those of you who are currently serving as treasurer at you Parish Council, remember you are required to have your books reviewed at year end. This is not a formal audit, and does not have to be done by an accountant. The person reviewing your books should have a good knowledge of bookkeeping practices and should provide your council with a statement as to the accuracy of the files and recommend any changes required. This report, along with all receipts and Bank Statements for the year should be retained in the Council's files for 7 years.

We are now into the season of Fall Bazaars, Harvest dinners and Christmas plans. Enjoy these activities. Your sister in the League.

## Letters to the Editor

“Impressions of My First Provincial Convention”  
Mrs. Leslie Jean Anderson, Our Lady of Fatima Council

*“May the blessings of the Lord be upon you, I bless you in the name of the Lord”*

As I write, our CWL prayer song permeates my first time impressions of our annual provincial convention, held in Toronto this year. Having never experienced the gift of attending a provincial convention before, I crossed the threshold into this “brave new world” with some trepidation.

I had naught to fret, for Onagh Dooley and Rosanne Nadon (my car pool buddies), took me under their seasoned wings and imparted a confidence that I was very eager to absorb and emulate. I quickly realized that I was surrounded by about 350 women with a positive common attitude: through prayer we can unite and effect change for the betterment of all!

Sunday afternoon was headed up by a resolutions dialogue that embodied well the desire for change for the common good. I found that all league members involved had really done their homework and were eager to present their research and hopes in the most convincing light possible. Here are the three proposed resolutions tackled:

1. Care for the nation's drinking water, in respect to the lack of a regulatory body

- governing all levels of dissolved pharmaceuticals present therein:
2. Implementation of Income Security for individuals receiving Ontario Disability Security Pension:
  3. Alternative Sentencing for Indigenous Offenders.

As a result of exceptional attention to research and detail, all three resolutions sailed through a final scrutinizing on Tuesday morning! Congratulations all round!

Cardinal Collins and Archbishop O'Brien were welcome celebrants, among many brother clergy, at Sunday evening's Opening Mass at the Nativity of Our Lord parish. His Excellency didn't mince any words over the federal government's anti-pro-life actions. He was pertaining to the lack of summer student grants, for those supporting life or not agreeing with all the gay, lesbian issues tabled. He called on the CWL members to work with all peaceful means, to end this travesty of justice.

On Monday morning, our keynote speakers, Namarig Ahmed and Rami Shami, presented a warm and impassioned workshop on the needs of Toronto's 300,000 homeless! They spotlighted their PEACH program which provides palliative care for the homeless; advocacy before and after palliative care; co-ordination between social services and endless amounts of time building trust with their fearful clients. They promise to go and find the homeless where they are at!

One of the truly lovely moments each day was the time set aside for the presidents' reports. Why is this? Because the reports were delicately tied to a revelation of one of the myriad titles of Mary our Mother. Our very own Onagh Dooley spoke so eloquently on Mary, Health of the Sick. She highlighted the many beautiful labours of love performed by the CWL in Ottawa. I was very proud to be counted in their ranks that day!

Our National President, Margaret Ann Jacobs, spoke many times throughout the convention to a rapt audience. Easy going and truly lovely of spirit, she encourages us all to embody the ideals of the League and find expression for them in dealing compassionately with our fellow man. She encourages all of us to service with good teamwork. Communicate to others their potential with a willing, open and humble heart. Make your team look it's best! Let us be servant leaders who listen well to what their peers are saying. Her own accomplishments were gloriously rewarded at the banquet on Tuesday evening in the main ballroom, when Cardinal Collins surprised everyone, but especially Margaret Ann, by presenting her with the Papal Medal "Pro Ecclesias", to honour her work in the church. What thunderous applause was hers in this magical moment and we are all so very proud of her achievements!

In conclusion, I wish to thank so very deeply the Ottawa Diocesan Council for supporting me financially and spiritually in making this voyage in the heart of love. I was one of two recipients of a national grant which is offered every five years. I was deeply blessed by the new friendships birthed there and for the chance to look up to what could possibly be ahead for me, in my quest to serve God and Canada, through The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

## “Experience on Resolutions”

Mrs Pauline Foley and Mrs Claudette Langdon, Holy Spirit Council

We have been asked to share our experience in presenting a resolution. Holy Spirit Parish created its first resolution to help Indigenous Women, which was adopted at the National Convention in 2017. We then began work on three other resolutions to build on our first and to address concerns raised by Senator Kim Pate from the Senate of Canada. Before presenting, we had a tremendous amount of work to do. Pauline Foley, our Parish President, inherited from our Past President, Claudette Langdon, the responsibility of pushing forward and supporting these resolutions.

We went from a Resolution Committee Member to CWL ladies taking the lead on the resolutions. Our first thought was that we would not do our resolution justice, a scary feeling.

But we were not alone; from the parish, diocesan, provincial and national levels, our fellow sisters were there to provide assistance along the way. Putting forward a resolution provided us the opportunity to work with many talented CWL women in the League. We knew that our League had many professional and talented women but to experience the exchange of information and receive such incredible help was amazing. These ladies worked so hard towards the common goal of a successful resolution. They showed us the true vision of our League.

Our past president quickly took the lead and became very familiar with the Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook, etc. This proved to be a treasure trove of information and we were very blessed and not disappointed with the tremendous work Claudette Langdon accomplished in a very short period of time. There were stumbling blocks along the way but, with help, we worked through these for the targeted outcome. We would not give up, no matter what, so that our goal would be achieved!

We would like to share a story. During the process, we discussed the resolutions at one of our Parish Council General Meetings. There was a lady at our meeting, a proposed new member, who was weighing whether or not the CWL was an organization she wanted to belong to. After the meeting, she came up to one of us and said that she was so moved that the CWL was an organization bringing forward change that she would not hesitate to join! Many ladies want to belong to an organization that enacts change and we do! Leading by example shows we “talk the talk and walk the walk”.

At the Ontario Provincial Convention, we had the honour to present our resolution to CWL ladies from across the province, and it was a humbling and rewarding experience. Even through questions were asked, we felt that our sisters were there to help lead us to success! It is difficult to explain the feeling at the point of presentation in front of 100s of our sisters but we both felt tremendous pride and the presence of the Holy Spirit with us. We recommend that you not be afraid to venture into the resolution world; it is a wonderful and educational experience. Our most unexpected gift was meeting so many wonderful and talented ladies. How Blessed we are to belong to such a caring organization with amazing women!

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