

**The 100th and 101st Annual National Meeting of Members
THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
August 9-10, 2021**

On Sunday, August 8, all members were asked by the First Vice-President and National Spiritual Development Chair Shari Guinta to attend Sunday Mass and to pray for The Catholic Women's League of Canada, its members and for a successful, first of its kind, GoToWebinar national annual meeting of members.

On Monday, August 9, the morning began at 9:30am with the 2020 Annual Meeting of Members. It was very straightforward with business as usual. Our National President Anne-Marie Gorman welcomed all members attending the meeting. There were over 500 attendees across Canada. In his greeting, National Spiritual Advisor Bishop Stephen Jensen mentioned that, in these unprecedented times, this was an opportunity to learn new technologies together. Greetings were also given by Cardinal Gerald Lacroix who reflected on the Olympics where 75% of the Canadian medals were won by strong women and made the analogy that the Catholic Women's League (CWL) together are strong, perform works of love, and serve in ministry. Then it was on to normal business although there were no reports except for the national president's report. Anne-Marie's report included a PowerPoint with the *Care for our Common Home* logo, updates on the Goal 1 Strategic Planning, updates on the *Constitution & Bylaws*, and she mentioned the \$12,000.00 we raised for Development and Peace for wells in India and Ethiopia. The 2020 Annual Meeting of Members ended around noon.

The 2021 Annual Meeting of Members began in the afternoon at 2:30pm. The session began in the same manner as in the morning. This time our Secretary-Treasurer Janet McLean read the correspondence which was followed shortly thereafter by the provincial presidents' reports. Once again, our Ontario Provincial President Colleen Perry represented us well. Then Anne-Marie did her report which began with a video on the Earth and God's work in our own lives. In her oral report, Anne-Marie mentioned that the pandemic gave her an opportunity to attend many events virtually throughout our country. I was moved when the first event mentioned was the Ottawa Diocesan Council's two League Development Days. After her report, our National President-Elect Fran Lucas presented Anne-Marie with a gold cross on a chain in gratitude for all the work she did as president over the last three years. The afternoon recessed at approximately 4:30pm and concluded with a closing prayer.

On Tuesday, August 10, the morning began at 9:30am with an opening prayer. We heard reports from all the national executive. All were informative and inspiring. These were followed by the Ceremony to Archive Resolutions which I found quite interesting. It made me realize how much work towards promoting changes in society our sisters in the League have accomplished. Before we recessed for lunch, we prayed the League Prayer and Bishop Jensen led us in the Angelus.

At 3:00pm, after lunch, there were presentations by the 2022 Convention Planning Committee (the convention will be held in Kamloops, BC) and an hour presentation from the Implementation Committee. Fran Lucas announced that the new national theme for 2022/2023 is: ***Catholic and Living It!*** This was followed by the Memorial Service for Deceased Members. After the break, there was the Election of national officers. They are:

President:	Fran Lucas	
President-Elect:	Shari Guinta	Organization
1 st Vice-President:	Betty Colaneri	Communications
2 nd Vice-President:	Cathy Bouchard	Spiritual Development
Secretary-Treasurer:	Marie Rackley	
Chairpersons:	Faith Anderson	Community Life
	Glenda Carson	Legislation
	Rolande Chernichan	Resolutions
	Dorothy Johansen	Christian Family Life
	Margaret Schwab	Education and Health
Past President & Chairperson of Laws:	Anne-Marie Gorman	

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

Following the elections was the Installation Ceremony of the newly elected officers. This concluded the 2021 National Annual Meeting of Members.

I also participated in the Closing Mass which was live-streamed from Sacred Heart Cathedral in Prince George, BC at 6:00pm. The presider was Most Reverend Stephen Jenson, our National Spiritual Advisor. You may still watch it on this link: <https://m.facebook.com/cathedraldpg/>. Look for the Mass entitled, "Feast, St. Lawrence, deacon & martyr."

It was an honour for me to represent the members of the Ottawa Diocesan Council as an accredited delegate. I felt part of the history of the League in participating in this first ever partially virtual national meeting. What I enjoyed was the way we were voting; having two screens to toggle through made it interesting. Watching and listening to videos of our country was different and calming. I was also very impressed with the technical team on how they worked together and their patience in handling any technical difficulties. They did a wonderful job to ensure the success of the 100th and 101st Annual National Meeting of Members!! Thank you.

Love, Peace and Joy,

Lynn Laviolette

President, Ottawa Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada