



71st Nova Scotia Provincial Convention was held June 2019 with host council Holy Family Council, Amherst, Nova Scotia

As we entered the foyer of Holy Family Parish, we were amazed with the décor. Symbols of our new theme: Care for our Common Home and the many meaningful symbols of the use of water in our homes, adorned the church and hall.

Saturday morning began as the color party entered the church, followed by singing of O Canada. We could feel the Mary's presence and the love of the Holy Spirit as the beautiful liturgy was concelebrated by Rev. Craig Christenson, Rev. James Richards, and Deacon Rev. Mr. Howard Gotell.

Dianne Yarymowich thanked the Mi'kmaq people for the use of their land and introduced Fr. Jim, Fr. Craig, Deacon Howard and many local dignitaries, who offered encouraging words of praise to the CWL and its good work for the community and one another.

Nova Scotia Provincial president Glenda Carson officially opened the convention, speaking on the Care for Our Common Home and how the concern spreads to all our communities.

Fr. Jim Richards spoke on our theme with reference to Pope Francis' encyclical Laudata Si from 2015 – Care of Our Common Home. We have to protect this world God has given us. Father shared a prayer with everyone: A Christian prayer in Union with Creation.

Jessie Parkinson, Provincial Spiritual Development chair, presented an inspiring prayer service – Waters of Life. A minute of silence was held for deceased life members.

Our National President, Ann Marie Gorman spoke on the strategic plan. Numbers are declining and the National budget relies on per capita for income. The core purpose is Faith, Social Justice and Service. Ann Marie would like to see many goals achieved over the next 5 years: work to reorganize the league, marketing the league, educate on Catholic Social Teaching, validate members, include and affirm all members. Joline Belliveau presented Ann with a beautiful hooked "Star Fish" hanging.

Treasurer Sandra O'Connell stated a balance of \$ 15,165.89 with a GIC \$ 46,000.00

President Glenda Carson gave praise to the executive for their work & saying yes. The survey she distributed last year showed that the personal invitation to become a member of the CWL seems to be the better way to recruit.

Halifax/Yarmouth Diocesan president, Janet Terrio and Antigonish Diocesan president Janice Mac Dougall gave a brief outline of what has been happening in both our Diocese. Both are working on developing the new theme and recruiting new members.

Past President, Peggy Mac Neil spoke on elections and how we need patience and trust in the league to become receptive of the changes coming in the future.

Dr. Irene Le Fort spoke on the Leadership Foundation and encouraged members to become aware of this very worthwhile diploma program. Donations are always welcome.

Cecile Miller, Director of Lay formation presented a program with Maureen Campbell and Peggy Lamey concerning Human Trafficking with a Tag a Wrist exercise used as a commodity to show being bought and sold in trafficking. Over 150 billion dollars a year is being made in the Trafficking trade.

Jessie Parkinson led the group with a spiritual reflection Easter and how we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ.

Sunday opened with a spiritual reflection by Fr. Patrick O'Neil, Saying Yes to God, being a good Disciple of God and cooperating with God's plan. Fr. Patrick was named the new Nova Scotia Provincial Spiritual Advisor.

Jessie Parkinson gave a spiritual development report speaking about Via Lucis – Way of Light – Stations of Resurrection.

President-Elect Joline Belliveau asked "Why am I a member of the CWL?" Once a day, read an article related to CWL, write down one Joy or Happiness from the League.

Life Member Liaison, Pat Crossman reported that we now have 24 Life Members and 2 Honorary Life Members.

Christian Family life chair, Linda Howell distributed the new Pro Life brochures and spoke on a video from Life Canada.org site about Palliative Care.

Community Life chair Catherine Gonsales spoke on the Summer Jobs Program and how great it was for our voices to be heard. More volunteers are needed at soup kitchens, Loaves and Fishes, etc. Development and Peace are accountable for The Share Lent campaign across the country and Deloitte will oversee the review being carried out on its partners.

Rose Ann Heatherington's, Education & Health chair sent a report to inform members about the Barrier to Accessibility survey distributed to councils and they were asked to share experiences public & private. She suggested members check the websites:

www.healthredevelopment@novascotia.ca and www.afterthebell@foodbanks.ca

Communications Chair, Ann Myers reported the 1-888 number on the National website has been discontinued. Use email when contacting National office. Make sure you identify the author of any information taken from the internet.

Resolutions Chair, Liz Doyle spoke on the improvement on presentations on the National convention floor.

Mary Ten Brinke, Legislation chair listed some very interesting Bills before the House of Commons and the Senate.

Fr. Patrick O'Neil thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as Provincial Spiritual Advisor. He is looking forward to working with such a great group of people.

A new CWL Strategic Planning Adhoc Committee presented a report on the aging demographics, declining membership, financial constraints, membership numbers, etc.

Jessie Parkinson made a motion the Nova Scotia Catholic Women's League council structure continue as a provincial council and two diocesan councils with a re-evaluation in five years. Motion carried with one no vote.

Provincial executive was reaffirmed in a spiritual ceremony.

Everyone had such positive comments about the whole weekend. New friends were made and fun was had by everyone. Our Lady of Good Counsel blessed us as we developed our new theme, Care for our Common Home.

Respectfully submitted,

Earlene Landry

Antigonish Diocesan Education & Health chairperson