

The Catholic Women's League of Canada



Antigonish Diocesan Council

Here I am Lord, send me!

TO: Parish Council Faith Chair
FROM: Diocesan Faith Chair, Doreen Boudreau
DATE: October 18, 2025
SUBJECT: Call to Service
MEMO: #9 (2024-2026)
CC: Parish Council Presidents, Diocesan Officers, Life Members, Provincial Secretary (for distribution to provincial counterpart)

Sisters in the League:

In recent years, the talk at CWL conventions, conferences, and even at local parish meetings has been about the declining numbers of members. We have a wonderful history of brave women who have gone before us and paved the way for us that we might continue the work of the League. They did things their way! In the 100+ years since it began, the League has had one governing principle: **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.**

If we want our numbers to grow, we can't continue to do things as our mothers and grandmothers did. We must find new ways to attract younger women to join the League. How do we do this? How do we meet young women where they are in their faith journey? With technology moving at the speed of light, we must adapt to their reality. We need to show young women that they are needed and that they matter. Young(er) women use social media as their main source of communication. Let us tap into this with greater emphasis to attract them to join the League.

What other ways can we achieve this? A young woman is eligible to join the CWL at age 16. Does your parish have a youth choir? Sometimes just choosing hymns that are more contemporary will spark some interest and bring more young people to church. A youth group with faith-based activities would be another avenue to approach young women to give our League a try. Cursillo and challenge weekends are wonderful opportunities to approach young women to consider joining the CWL. Organize a mom and tot group for young mothers to socialize and discuss issues. Ask young women in your community to help at a function. Invite young(er) women to one of your social gatherings for special occasions (Christmas party, Council Anniversary) or to a fall conference as a guest. Welcome

newcomers to the community and introduce the idea of becoming a part of our wonderful organization. Invite someone to attend your next meeting as an observer.

Once they feel welcomed, they might be more willing to become part of our League. Validate their ideas. If we always say: "We tried that once and it didn't work"; why should they even propose anything to the group? Young(er) women might be more in touch with today's reality and bring a new perspective to our mission.

I am sure that each parish council has its own challenges; however, you know your own possibilities. Our parish priest always praises the CWL ladies in our community saying that, like the Nicene Creed, we are always doing good works that are seen and unseen. Making your activities known; showing the good works you do; having your parish priest promote the League--these are all positives.

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit and Our Lady of Good Counsel will instill a desire in our young women to answer the call with a resounding "Here I am Lord, send me!".

Your sister in the League,

Doreen Boudreau, Diocesan Faith Chair