

The Catholic Women's League of Canada



Antigonish Diocesan Council

Here I am Lord, send me!

TO: Parish Council Presidents
FROM: Diocesan President, Anne McCormick
DATE: October 18, 2025
SUBJECT: Take Time for Reflection
MEMO: # 5 (2024-2026)
CC: Parish Council Presidents, Diocesan Officers, Life Members, Provincial Secretary (for distribution to provincial counterpart)

Dear Presidents:

Last October in my first memo as diocesan president, I shared several initiatives for presidents and councils to consider. As we mark a year since then, I invite you to take a few moments for reflection.

- Has your council formed standing chair subcommittees?
Standing chair subcommittees are an ideal way for members to learn more about the League and will provide valuable support for the chairperson. Standing committee chairs are encouraged to form subcommittees by reaching out, for example, to members, young people, those who are homebound, and perhaps to non-member parish leaders. An invitation to non-member parish leaders will build relationships, will provide an opportunity to share passions and may stimulate their interest in the League.
- Are the three standing committees of faith, service and social justice in your council working together on projects and initiatives?
While the three chairpersons may lead individual initiatives, they are encouraged to “collaborate on projects that integrate spiritual reflection, charitable works and justice-oriented actions”. See the updated Handbook for Chairpersons of Faith, Service and Social Justice at <https://www.cwl.ca/manuals/> Try it. Choose a project and work on it together using a three-pillar approach; the handbook outlines how this can be done using human trafficking as an example.
- Have you reached out to work collaboratively with neighboring councils?
When councils work together, they combine talents, experiences, and perspectives, sparking fresh ideas and innovative solutions. By working side by side, councils not only accomplish more—they also grow together in friendship and purpose. This is shown when councils co-host conferences and conventions, for example.
- Do you nurture and develop future leaders in your councils?
One of the roles of president is to encourage and support members in taking on projects. Mentor members and set them up for success. When members recognize their own leadership qualities and skills, they are more likely to consider future leadership positions in the League, including elected positions.

I encourage you to keep working on these initiatives in the year ahead.

Presidents, as you complete your term as council president, thank you for the many ways you have shared your time, energy, and love of the League. You carry with you a wealth of insight, skills, and relationships that can continue to bless our League. These skills are not meant to be put to rest but to be shared. I invite you to prayerfully consider how you might stay involved beyond your parish council presidency. Stepping into a diocesan role offers a wonderful opportunity to share the leadership experience you've gained while helping to shape the future of our League.

In her article in the Fall 2024 issue of *The Canadian League*, Past President, Fran Lucas, stated: "*Here I am Lord, send me* is our reminder that the gifts God has given us are meant to be used for the glory and benefit of others. To not explore where you can share your gifts with others is to miss out on many possibilities." <https://www.cwl.ca/> She goes on to ask us to think about where we are being "sent" – possibly to an executive position on the diocesan level? We often need to find the courage to try something new. As you discern a call to serve on diocesan council, know that you are never alone. It is a well-known truth within Catholic spirituality that when God calls us, for example to a position of leadership for the good of His people, He does not leave us alone. "God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called!" Pray for wisdom and know the Holy Spirit will guide you.

Maybe you want to consider developing your leadership abilities. If so, check out the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation at <https://www.cwlfcanada.ca/> Our Antigonish Diocesan 2025 Fall Newsletter contains an article on the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation and an inspiring testimonial by one of its graduates.

Finally, I would like to extend an invitation to councils to consider offering to host an upcoming diocesan convention or fall conference. Thank you to St Theresa CWL who have offered to host spring convention 2026. Think about it! Pray on it! Will your response be: "*Here I am Lord, send me!*"

Please be assured that your diocesan council is here to support you in your role. Please reach out to us.

I ask for your prayers and support as I look forward to the second year of my term.

Your sister in the League
Anne McCormick
Antigonish Diocesan CWL President