The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Antigonish Diocesan Council

Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission

TO: Parish Council Service Chairs
FROM: Diocesan Service Chair, Louise Campbell
DATE: September 7, 2026
SUBJECT: Loneliness Epidemic
MEMO: #1 (2026-2028)
CC: Parish Council Presidents, Diocesan Officers, Life Members, Provincial Secretary (for distribution to provincial counterpart)

Dear Sisters in the League:

This is my first memo as Service Chair. I hope to be able to provide timely, informative and useful memos as we move forward together over the next two years.

I had the pleasure of attending the National CWL convention in Halifax last month. One of the guest speakers, Dr. Cory Labreque gave an inspirational presentation which was, for me, one of the highlights of the Convention. The title of his presentation was ***Stay Awake with Me: Dignity, Vulnerability, and Presence in a Broken World.*** The words "Stay Awake with Me" refer of course to Jesus Christ's emotional plea to His closest disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night before His crucifixion. Dr. Labreque was asking all of us to "Stay Awake", to be aware of and responsive to the needs of the vulnerable in our communities.

As Jesus's disciples in this world, we were encouraged by Dr. Labreque to be present to the vulnerable in our "Broken World". He spoke of an epidemic of loneliness in our communities, whether it be our seniors, homeless, immigrants, sick or shut-ins. I am aware that many councils have programs for our seniors, immigrants, homeless and shut-ins and I encourage others to consider how they might be that presence as described by Dr. Labreque.

God Bless.
Your sister in the League,
Louise Campbell
Diocesan Service Chair