

FAITH

Annual Report: 2025

of councils reporting: 20/27

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the councils who took the time to respond to the Annual National Survey. The following is a summary of your responses:

2025 was a Jubilee Year in the church. Please check all activities that your council encouraged its members to do:

The response to this question was fantastic! You encouraged your members to engage in increased prayer and participate in locally organized workshop events (90%); to be a source of hope for their families and communities (84%); to practice the corporal works of mercy (79%) and to practice the spiritual works of mercy (68%); to attend the sacrament of reconciliation (63%); to receive a plenary indulgence (32%); to participate in a pilgrimage to a locally designated holy door (21%), and to visit one or more of the major papal basilicas in Rome (5%).

In the Winter 2025 edition of *The Canadian League*, the national chairperson of faith encouraged members to learn more about female vocations. At the end of the article, some actions were suggested. Please choose all actions that apply to your council.

Pray for women religious (88%), Partner with religious communities (31%), Offer financial assistance to women in formation (25%) and other (6%).

A Novena for Members was published on pages 9-12 of the Winter edition of *The Canadian League*. Did your council use and/or promote the novena?

Fifty percent answered yes and fifty percent answered no.

Did your council participate in any of the following events?

World Day of Prayer (80%), March for Life (53%), Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (40%), National Life and Family Week (20%) and Seasons of Creation (13%).

What was the most engaging or stimulating spiritual event your council took part in or hosted this year?

Your councils participated in a great number of events, among which are: Truth and Reconciliation, Mini retreat (Explaining the mass in detail), Day of spiritual reflection hosted by 3 councils, 12 hours of prayer for palliative care, MAiD talk and presentation given by Dr. Jeanne Ferguson, Prayer service for Our Lady of Sorrows, Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Community walk with the blessed sacrament, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Retreat and stations of the cross, Mass for deceased members, Monthly rosary for members, World Day of Prayer, and your council's Christmas Party.

Please list what spiritual event your council is most looking forward to in the coming year.

National convention in Halifax, participating in church ministries and surviving as a council, Lent activity, a variety of retreats, our annual prayer breakfast, 3 sessions on Living with Christ, Dying with Hope, Rosary in May, World of Prayer in March, Care for Creation in Sept/Oct and Mass for Shut-Ins, Hosting the Diocesan Convention and prayer services.

Diocesan Chair Activities

On a personal note, I would like to report that I have:

- participated in several executive meetings via ZOOM and in-person,
- prepared memos for councils and articles for the spring and fall newsletters,
- attended the Provincial Convention and represented our Provincial Faith Chair who was ill,
- prepared and delivered a workshop entitled *The Catholic Women's League of Canada addresses Mental Health and Mental Illness* (a three-pillar approach) along with Service chair, Rita Wojtyniak,
- prepared and delivered a workshop entitled *Putting the Pillars into Action* (focusing on Human Trafficking) along with our Vice-President, Laurena Greencorn and Treasurer, Louise Campbell,
- continued to source out and prepare spiritual reflections and prayers for our meetings,
- continued to monitor the national website and familiarize myself with memos from counterparts,
- participated in Mass for Shut-Ins on several occasions,
- participated in a ceremony for Truth and Reconciliation prepared by St. Louis Parish Council in Louisdale,
- have maintained the Book of Life and prepared the Deceased Members Ceremony and liturgy booklet for our AMM/Convention.

I am always available to answer your questions.

In conclusion, let us remember that the parish level is the grassroots of our League. It is important that each council report on their activities so that we might get a true picture of what is being done in the whole of Canada. What you do is important—don't forget that! Also, the activities you report on might motivate another council to adopt some of your ideas which they might not have thought of. We are all in this together. Whether actions are seen or unseen, every good deed you perform matters! Let us continue to respond with a resounding "Here I am Lord, send me!"

Doreen Boudreau
Antigonish Diocesan Faith Chair