

Pembroke Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada
Spring Zoom Meeting March 26, 2022, Oral Report
Joan Lemay, President

My Dear Sisters in the League,

This has been a tumultuous three years for our League, with a pandemic occurring as the CWL reorganizes and makes the necessary changes to function into the future. As with any change, it can be painful, and it can be liberating. Growth is often a struggle at first, but as we move along the curve, things become more clear and the changes become a new way of life.

In her report on Laws, *The Canadian League Fall 2021*, Margaret Ann Jacobs stated: "The League remains a vital participant in the church; a valued partner for social justice; a respected advocate at all government levels and connected to the world."

There is no better way to see the larger picture of the CWL than to attend an annual meeting and convention of the various levels of the league. Over the next 5 months we will have diocesan, provincial and national conventions.

The Pembroke Diocesan Convention, hosted by St. Francis Xavier Parish Council in Renfrew, is on May 14, 2022. The "package" for the convention, the invitation, the registration form and credentials form, is published in the *Blue and Gold* newsletter and is on the diocesan website (pembroke.cwl.on.ca). It will also be sent by email to all council presidents early next week. Each parish president is a voting delegate. I urge every president to attend and to bring your instructed vote, so that your council's voice is counted. If for some reason the president is unable to attend, please designate another member as the voting delegate at your next council meeting. We will also be voting on a resolution from Our Lady of Fatima Council, Renfrew: Quality and Compassionate Care with Dignity, for Long Term Care Residents in Ontario. And this is an election year for the diocesan executive for 2022-2024. Letters have been sent, inviting eligible members to let their names stand for election to council executive. Let us pray for a full executive. We work as a team and it is rewarding and exhilarating. If you received the invitation to let your name stand for diocesan council, please consider saying yes. Diocesan meetings are a great opportunity for newer league members to see the work of the league beyond the parish level. It is a one-day event, it is affordable and fun. I'm hoping that we can fill the hall with members from across the diocese.

We are blessed this year to have the Ontario Provincial Council Convention in Ottawa, July 11-13. Please check out the details at cwl.on.ca. Consider attending for 1 day, 2 days or the full event. There will be several members, from diocesan council and some parish councils, attending. Let us know if you are attending, so we can connect. You will not be alone. My first provincial convention was in 2008 in Arnprior, hosted by Pembroke Diocesan CWL. I was so impressed with the speakers, the prayer services and the workshops. This was an organization that I could commit to!

The National Convention is not so close to home this year. It is in Kelona BC. See pages 12-14 of *The Canadian League, Winter 2022*. If you have the urge to see that part of our beautiful country and to experience a National Convention, I'm sure you will not be disappointed. Flights are a good price right now. National conventions had been planned for Montreal in 2020 and Toronto in 2021. Unfortunately COVID-19 restrictions prevented those from taking place. But they will return within a few years.

The CWL's work is not done. We have more resolutions to formulate, more governments to meet with, more letters to write, so many issues to address and prayers to pray. Let us remain strong and vital.

Respectfully submitted