

**Pembroke Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada
Annual Meeting of Members, May 13, 2023, Oral Report
Joan Lemay, Past President**

In her report in the *Canadian League*, Spring 2023, Anne Marie Gorman, National Past-President reflects on lessons she has learned in her journey through the CWL. I will reflect on five of these lessons that she identified.

#1/“Attending a convention is an excellent way to learn and become more committed to the work of the CWL”. (*The Canadian League*, Spring 2023). I have attended most of the diocesan conventions since 2008. They are a learning experience. I've learned about the work that the League does, the spiritual programs have been uplifting, the speakers inspiring and I've met so many godly women who are a part of the CWL.

I have attended numerous provincial conventions and several national conventions and these have energized and inspired me. They have given me a bigger picture of the work that the CWL does both at home and abroad.

#2/ “Disagreement and discussion ultimately move the League forward in a positive way.” (*The Canadian League*, Spring 2023). Because we bring prayer to all that we do, we are able to move forward in a positive way. Remember disagreement is healthy and it does move us forward. If a council finds that there is an issue that is causing a rift among members, it is so important to spend time in prayer about it. This may also be a time to enlist the help of your spiritual advisor, or someone from another level of the League.

#3/ “A national office is the best investment in keeping the members organized and the organization intact”. (*The Canadian League*, Spring 2023). Anyone who has searched the cwl.ca website knows the plethora of resources on it, from prayers to manuals, videos and teaching programs.

#4/ “Prayer strengthens this huge organization”. (*The Canadian League*, Spring 2023). Prayer keeps us focused on who is our true head, and through Christ and the wisdom of Our Lady of Good Counsel, we will always find love, support and strength.

#5/ I've saved my favourite lesson for last. Anne-Marie states, **“Members in the parish are the heart and soul of this organization”**. Many of our councils are small in number of members. But CWL members have **Soul**.

Councils' yearly reports for the Diocesan annual report book indicate that you honour and celebrate your members with milestone pins in recognition of their service. And you demonstrate that you participate in activities which show your respect for the earth and service to God's people. We aren't measured by our numbers, but by our **hearts**. And the heart is a symbol for love. You, live the love of God.

We are Catholic and Living It.

Respectfully Submitted