

**Pembroke Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada
Annual Diocesan Convention, Chalk River, May 25, 2024, Oral Report
President Annette Chaplin**

2002 - Cast Out into the Deep
2004 - Companions on the Journey
2006 - Love One Another
2008 - Women of Peace and Hope
2010 - Centred on Faith and Justice
2012 - We Have Seen the Lord!
2014 - One Heart, One Voice, One Mission
2016 - Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call
2018 - Care for Our Common Home
2022 – Catholic and Living It
2024 – Here I am Lord, Send me

All of these national themes have the great ability and the planned effect of taking us out of our comfort zone, especially, I think the first one from 2002, Cast Out into the Deep and the our current one - Here I am Lord, Send me.

To be honest, when I heard Shari Guinta give us the national theme at last year's AMM in New Brunswick, my first thought was NO NO NO, I do not like this, I do not like Here I am Lord, Send Me. It should be Here I am Lord, let me stay here – I like it here. You know – the comfort zone – that easy safe place with no stress, no work required, no biting of the tongue, no putting yourself out there, no vulnerability, no chance of making mistakes, (or in my case a fool of myself). No growth. no stepping aside, No letting someone else do something that you think you can do better, No deepening of faith. No new friendships, no new skills. No new information about ourselves that will cause us to stop and reevaluate our practices and beliefs.

I know that the CWL is a place for those who need comfort and friendship, but it is also a place of fierce tigers, of gophers and bees, because they defend those who are vulnerable, they dig deep into their faith, and they get things done.

The CWL is for the faint and not-so-faint hearted – so make way for greatness – your own and your sister's.