



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL
102nd Convention Oral Report
April 24 and 25, 2023
Ajax Convention Centre
550 Beck Road
"Called To Serve"



Name: Sue Lubowitz
Office: President
Share the Word: CHANGE

Dear Sisters in the League:

In 2018, after the Toronto Diocesan Council hosted the provincial convention, I was asked to take part in one of the first year Implementation Working Groups. The group I was assigned to was asked to consider changes to the structure of the League in order to reduce the number of standing committees to reflect the fundamental work that the League does in Canada. It was my pleasure to serve on that committee along with our current Provincial President, Linda Squarzolo.

By way of a history lesson, twelve changes were made over the first 75 years in this organization since 1923 to accommodate the needs of the membership and the evolution of governance. Yet, none have been made since 1993—30 years! Some of you have made that change with the election you held in the fall. The diocesan executive will make that change at the end of this current term.

These implemented changes will help members of the CWL grow in faith by sharing, witnessing and developing leadership skills to create positive change.

I would like you to take a closer look at the process of change and what that implies for all of us as members.

Change requires making choices...it's not enough to dream of changing. To change we must make a decision to choose the change. Change is intentional. It requires a choice. There is no growth without change.

And change means that you have to let go some of some of the old things in order to grab hold of some new things.

There is an image that may be helpful as we navigate change over the next year. On the screen, you see a flying trapeze artist. This could be you, me or the League. In order to make a successful transition from one trapeze bar to the other, we must do two things at once.

Embrace the new and release the old.

This is the ultimate acceptance of change. If, as the trapeze artist we fail to release the old while embracing the new then we are pulled in two opposing directions and are sure to fall. You can call that a "leap of faith".

Our current situation requires all of us to conduct a flying trapeze maneuver by releasing our old structures and embrace the new League structure.

But as we face the next 100 years of the League, it is equally important to look back in gratitude to those amazing women who navigated change through the years on their own flying trapezes. Some of those women like Mary Matthews, Jean McCann and Mary Dobell you learned about last night. There were other women in our councils who worked quietly and diligently for God and Canada. Women like Mary Lynch, Maureen Bunce and Ella Cameron. You may have never heard of these women but they were important to the success of their councils. These women are now



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part of our Book of Life and we owe them a debt of gratitude for their commitment to the League. It is now up to us now to ensure the continuance of this vibrant, strong organization for the next 100 years.

Looking to the second year of my term, I foresee the beginnings of a change that will be welcomed by the membership and a renewed interested by our members.

Each council has available for use a large array of workshops. The hard part will be choosing which one. It doesn't matter which one you choose; it matters only that you choose one! We should all recognize the need for leadership and I believe that this is a step in the right direction.

As your president along with this wonderful executive we pledge to continue to help you figure it out together with us through presentations, workshops, webinars and activities that will showcase your pride in the League as well as make use of your God given talents.

I look forward to the next year as I continue to serve as your president.

My written report can be found on pages 3 and 4 of the on-line Annual Report book.

This concludes my report.