

This year, I was fortunate to have attended conventions at all three levels of the League. I noticed positive changes and took it all in like a breath of fresh air. The national, provincial and even the diocesan conventions, in lesser or greater extents, had agendas that limited or did away with oral reports. Having the executives at both levels sitting shoulder to shoulder with attendees as opposed to in tiers made for open dialogue and created an atmosphere of unity. I think the investment of time, treasure and volunteer hours creating the Strategic Plan is paving the way for the League to adapt to the times we live in.

I hope you are all keeping well and find something in this communique to share with members of the League in your dioceses. At the provincial convention in Kamloops, National President Shari Guinta spoke about the League core values of Faith, Service, and Social Justice. I will focus on the Faith segment of her speech. She emphasized our responsibility to **evangelize**.

*The primary reason for evangelization is to **spread the love of Christ for the eternal salvation of all**. The only desire of authentic evangelizers is to give freely what they themselves have freely received: "From the very origins of the Church, the disciples of Christ strove to convert men to faith in Christ the Lord; not, however, through coercion or tactics unworthy of the Gospel, but above all **by the power of the word of God**". The Word of God is given to us in **sacred Scripture** as an inspired testimony to revelation; together with the Church's living Tradition, it constitutes the supreme rule of faith.' Excerpt taken from www.Vatican.va*

She asked that we promote **spirituality**. The word spirituality attracts people who are searching for greater meaning and faith. St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, developed a way of praying that helps people "find God in all things." St. Teresa of Avila tells her sisters that prayer cannot be accompanied by self-indulgence. Prayer is a going out of oneself to God while self-indulgence is a concentration on self. Teresa lays down three attitudes which are vital in a life of prayer: **love of neighbor; detachment from earthly things; and humility**.

At the provincial convention in Kamloops, Ms. Guinta encouraged us to create or write our own prayers and to organize retreats regularly. She reminded us to use the **2024 version 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care Kit (2024)** which can be found at cwl.ca under Resources. Prayers are needed for the vulnerable, the terminally ill, those advanced in age, health care workers and providers and Canadian lawmakers. Prayers for those who require access to palliative and hospice care are needed. She reminded us that the three pillars of Faith, Service and Social Justice may form sub-committees under each pillar and that this could make our work lighter.

She suggested that we update our members on the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, commonly referred to as the **Synod on Synodality**. *It is an ongoing synod of bishops of the Catholic Church which will conclude in October 2024 and has as its theme "For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission".*

We are urged to continue to read up on the Synod. There is a series of videos on YouTube covering talks of guest speakers at the national convention held in Saskatoon in August. I highly recommend the talk given by Bishop Lobsinger, spiritual advisor for National on the Synod national called "Walking Together in Synodality". This is the link to the video <https://youtu.be/6yDSmmkpMA4> His talk begins at 1:08:43.

More to come after the next communique of national chairperson for Faith is circulated. Reminder to all diocesan Faith Chairpersons to please call or email should they have a question or suggestion and to confirm availability for regular Zoom meetings at your earliest convenience. Please continue to remind your councils to be vigilant with the reporting of newly deceased members. We do not want any name to be missing from our Book of Life.

May the Holy Spirit continue to inspire us, and our Lady of Good Counsel guide us!

*Words in italics are taken from reliable sources on the www