

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and New Year, enjoying the precious company of family and friends. May 2025 bring you immense joy and may you find that your hopes and dreams are fulfilled.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, I have been appointed as the Interim BC & Yukon Vice-President, effective immediately and up to the provincial convention in June. My intent, with this communique, is to give you a brief introduction of myself (for those who do not know me), to inform you of events coming in the near future and of subsidies and other information for the upcoming provincial convention in June.

Briefly, Laura's involvement with the Catholic Women's League? I joined the Catholic Women's League 32 years ago. In 1999 I became parish president. I have served and continue to serve on the Prince George Diocesan Council Executive for many years and was Diocesan President from 2012 – 2014. I was appointed to the BC & Yukon Provincial Executive in the middle of a term as Communications chairperson in 2015. I continued in that role from 2016– 2018, was Provincial Secretary 2018 – 2021, Spiritual Development Chairperson 2021 – 2023 and appointed as Service Chairperson from 2023 – 2025. I will complete my term as Service Chairperson with the elections in June 2025. I was honoured to receive my Life Membership pin at the Prince George 2023 Diocesan convention. I am passionate about the League. Members make positive differences in churches, communities and the world at large. I believe in "*the big picture of the Catholic Women's League*" and attend as many conventions as I can. You learn about the scope of our incredibly important organization and I value the knowledge I have gained and the friendships I have made through attending these conventions.

Information on the Provincial Website – Due to some recent changes, information on the provincial website is being revised. Look for these changes in the very near future. There have been changes made for contact persons, for the subsidies and other things.

Subsidy to Attend the Provincial Convention –. This is a \$500.00 subsidy to help with expenses to attend the provincial convention. Revisions have been made for this subsidy. There are twelve subsidies granted each year. After applications are received, two members from each of our six dioceses are chosen to receive the subsidy. Everyone can apply for one of these subsidies. Preference will be given to first-time provincial convention attendees and to those looking to move up into any executive position. Look for information about this subsidy on the provincial website. Go to www.bcyukoncw.com then Resources then Provincial Convention subsidy.

Subsidy for Diocesan Presidents to Attend the National Convention – A reminder that Diocesan Presidents can apply for this subsidy once in their two year term. Please email Renee Johnson, our Provincial Treasurer to inform her of your wishes. Her email address is ProvTreasurer@outlook.com

League Development Fund – The guidelines for this fund have also undergone revisions. The fund is meant 1) to assist provincial and diocesan councils to educate members about the scope and responsibilities of Officers and Chairpersons of Standing Committees, 2) to assist diocesan and parish councils in providing education and events that encourage members to further their understanding of the Core Purpose of the League with emphasis on the issues described in the Resolutions and Position

Papers, 3) to help set up new councils. The complete guidelines, workshop application and report form are on the provincial website. Go to www.bcyukoncw.com then Resources then League Development Fund for the application and report.

Recruiting Members – When was the last time you personally asked women in your parish if they would like to join the Catholic Women’s League? We have many women who are probably wondering what we are about. Invite them to come and see (perhaps at an event, perhaps listening to a speaker, perhaps to a meeting, etc). We have many newcomers in our parishes especially from overseas. Did you know that in some countries all women are expected to join their equivalent of our League? Wow! What a difference to our numbers that would make. It has been shown, many times over, that the best recruiting tool is the personal invitation, so why not ask a woman or two or many if they would like to “Come and See”?!

Annual Reports – The annual report templates for each Diocesan Executive position and 2024 survey report results for each diocese were sent out by Catherine L’Heureux to the Diocesan Presidents earlier this month. Diocesan Vice-Presidents, please remind everyone on your diocesan council executive that diocesan executive members report to the Diocesan President and their Provincial counterpart by Feb 15th and that Diocesan Presidents report to the Provincial President by March 1st. It is very important that these reports are sent in on time. Thank you.

I will end this communique with two quotes from one of my favorite saints, Mother Teresa who said,

“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”

“Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin.”

As we begin this new year of 2025, let us look to our Holy Mother to guide us to our Lord, her Son. She gave us great wisdom when we learn of what she said following Jesus’ first miracle - “Do whatever he tells you.”

Our Saviour is the way, the truth and the Life.

Ciao for now and God bless. Laura Esposito