



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

VANCOUVER DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Communiqué

Diocesan Theme – Restore All Things in Christ

Chairperson: Marilyn Martin
Committee: President

Date: September 13, 2025
No: 3 of 4

This year has been a wonderful year of celebration for the Vancouver Diocesan Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. We have served our diocese for ONE HUNDRED years!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Vancouver Diocesan Council 100th Anniversary Mass on November 29th at 2pm.

Most Reverend Richard Smith, Archbishop of Vancouver will be the Main Celebrant

Let's fill the Cathedral with women proudly wearing our scarves!

The parish councils are the GRASS ROOTS of our organization, and we were able to reach this milestone because of the hardworking women that came before us. As a parish president, it is important to understand your role in the League. You and your council are the liaisons between the Diocesan Executive and your Parish Council.

I have often heard the comment that there is so much information on the website that councils don't know where to start. I encourage you to start with contacting your diocesan counterpart and having a conversation about what is working in your council and what is not. Alternatively, contact your Region Liaison.

Here are some discussion topics:

1. Some executive positions are vacant/women don't want to step up to executive positions
2. We don't have many members come to meetings
3. We have lots of members, but no one wants to volunteer
4. Women don't want to join our council

SWOT Analysis

Have you ever participated in a SWOT analysis? What is it?

S = Strengths

W = Weaknesses

O = Opportunities

T = Threats

Many businesses conduct a SWOT analysis periodically to see where they are doing well and where they can improve. It is an easy exercise that can be done by any group, even a CWL parish council! I encourage you to go through this exercise at an executive meeting or a general meeting to get a sense of how your council sees itself and how to create goals.

Email: president@vancouvercwl.ca

Here is how to conduct a SWOT

Internal	Strengths – What do we do well? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Active members• Successful events• Community Outreach• Others?	Weaknesses – What can we improve on? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low membership• Limited resources (volunteers and financial)• Poor communication• Others?
External	Opportunities-What can help? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partnership with other ministries• New outreach programs• Diocesan/provincial or national initiatives• Others?	Threats – What can prevent progress? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Declining membership• Competing priorities• Lack of funds• Others?

To begin, gather council members for a dedicated session focused on reflection and strategic thinking. Begin with prayer. Consider the [Prayer for Renewal](#)

Then, start by identifying **Strengths**—what does your council do well? Consider active membership, successful events, or strong community ties. Next, explore **Weaknesses**—areas that need improvement, such as low engagement, limited resources, or communication gaps.

Then, shift to **Opportunities**—external factors that could benefit your council. These might include partnerships with other parish groups, new outreach programs, or diocesan initiatives. Finally, examine **Threats**—challenges that could hinder progress, like declining membership, competing priorities, or budget constraints.

Encourage open dialogue and record all ideas. Consider using the Synodal format for discussion where each person takes one minute to give her ideas with everyone listening. Everyone, one at a time, takes one minute to express what she heard. When that is complete, have a discussion and make a plan!

End with prayer. Perhaps The League Prayer.

This process not only clarifies your council's direction but also fosters unity and purpose among members. Councils can strengthen their mission, respond to change, and serve their parish communities with renewed energy and focus. Make sure to briefly review progress with your members at each general meeting. As members become invested in the goals, you will see more volunteers and more members stepping up to take on leadership roles. It is very important to have a clear focus for your council.

We have many past diocesan executive members who would be able to help you. Please reach out and let us know what you would like to do. We are happy to walk with you in your journey as president of your council.

Respectfully Submitted.

Email: President@vancouvercwl.ca