VANCOUVER DIOCESAN CWL NEWSLETTER- *November 2026*

Faith, Social Justice, Service

Fall days are here!

Hoping that you can enjoy the beautiful colours of fall – such a wonderful display of God's creation!

What If Your Next Council Election Didn't Have to Be a Struggle?

Parish Presidents – Bring the Elections Workshop to Your Council Executive!

Are you finding it difficult to encourage members to step forward and accept leadership positions? Are you concerned about filling all the positions on your council?

You are not alone – and you don't have to solve this challenge on your own!

This practical, interactive workshop brings your council executive together to explore why members hesitate to take on leadership roles, identify potential leaders, and develop strategies to inspire women to say "yes" to serving.

By the end of the workshop, your executive will have a concrete, achievable action plan for filling all council positions with enthusiastic, capable, and committed women.

Let's move from worrying about the next election to preparing for it with confidence!

Arrange an Elections Workshop for Your Council Executive

Contact: **pastpresident@vancouvercwl.ca**

Strong councils begin with women who are encouraged, supported, and inspired to lead.

We Need Your Help!

Our first step toward strengthening unity within our diocesan is by connecting role to role with clarity and building the league together.

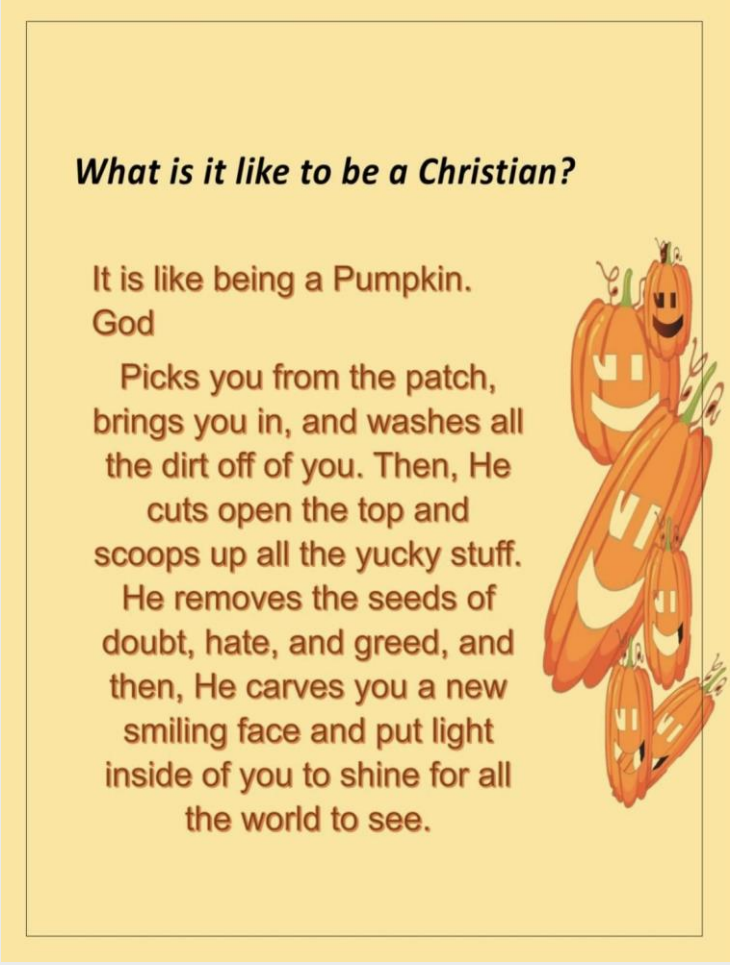
Many councils are having an election, and many parish executives are newly stepping into their roles, they deserve meaningful guidance, encouragement and support.

For this reason, the Diocesan Council is trying to connect each diocesan executive directly with her corresponding parish counterparts. In this way, they can share ideas, exchange information and foster clearer understanding of each role's direction.

To make this happen, we need your cooperation.

Please submit an updated list of your council's executive members to our secretary (secretary@vancouvercwl.ca) and don't forget to notify her of any changes to the contact list.

I hope this initiative will help every leader feel supported, connected and more confident. -Gladys Jung



IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS

Nov. 14 – Diocesan General Meeting at St. Clare of Assisi

Dec. 12 – Advent Retreat at St. Joseph's Langley

CONTACT INFO

Laura Wilson – Diocesan Secretary – secretary@vancouvercwl.ca

Thank you, Gladys, for finding this reflection (author unknown). Simple but meaningful and will put a smile on our faces!

Service Chair Report by Patricia Macdonald

Dearest sisters, as we journey together and navigate our understanding of Service in the League, it is my hope to provide opportunities for dialogue within your councils but also to hear from you.

Service means so much to many and although clearly defined in our Constitution and bylaws Part XIII:
(2) Service: Chairpersons of service shall encourage all levels to
(a) promote activities in service to members, the parish and the community
(b) advocate for and support services that include but are not limited to homelessness, human trafficking, poverty, bullying and racism
(c) educate members about charitable needs, especially mission assistance at home and abroad
We can still be left with either an overwhelming feeling of "oh my gosh this is so much - where do I start" or "we are a small group we can't do this"

So, let's begin the conversation and explore what we can do:



I would love to open a discussion with all the Service Chairs and hear your thoughts and ideas so we can share with each other and walk this journey together

What images come to mind when you think of Service? Do you immediately think the big thoughts / feeding the hungry, helping those in need?
Or do your thoughts go to the simple and impactful things like saying hello to a stranger, holding a door open, giving someone a ride to church?

As members of the League we have so much opportunity to be in Service but first we must recognize Service / start small then build - treat your two year term like a teacher plans her lessons - look at the whole two years - look at the monthly national and international awareness days, look at the needs in your parish and especially look at the needs of your council!

Let's begin the conversation together and build each month shall we?

Yours in Service, Patricia



Spiritual Reflection from Laura Carandang

A Communion That Death Cannot Break

November invites us to remember.

We begin the month celebrating All Saints' Day, giving thanks for the great communion of women and men who have gone before us in faith. The following day, on All Souls' Day, we remember and pray for all the faithful departed. Throughout November, the Church gently turns our attention toward those who have died and reminds us of something at the heart of our faith: **in Christ, we remain connected to one another.**

For many of us, the names we remember are deeply personal. They belong to parents and grandparents, spouses, children, siblings, friends, League sisters, priests, and others whose lives have touched our own. Some died many years ago; others much more recently. Their absence may still be felt around a family table, in a familiar pew, at a council meeting, or in the ordinary moments when we instinctively think, *I wish I could tell them this*.

Our Catholic understanding of the Communion of Saints offers us a beautiful image of hope. We belong to a family of faith that stretches beyond what we can see. Those who have died are not simply part of our past. We remain united with them in Christ through prayer, Eucharist, love, and the promise of resurrection.

Jesus tells us, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live" (John 11:25).

These words do not ask us to deny the pain of loss. Christian hope does not mean pretending that grief is easy. Rather, hope allows sorrow and faith to exist together. We can miss someone deeply while trusting that death does not have the final word.

November also asks us to notice those around us who carry loss. Sometimes accompaniment is very simple: remembering the name of the person who died, making a phone call, sitting beside someone, listening to a story we may have heard before, or simply saying, *"I remember with you."*

Perhaps this month we can each make a little more room for remembrance—remembering those who have shaped our faith, praying for those who have died, and accompanying those whose grief remains close.

And in doing so, may we remember that we too are part of this great communion; saints still becoming, walking together toward the fullness of life promised to us in Christ.

Faith in Action

This November, make remembrance an act of prayer by taking part in your parish's All Souls celebration. Spend time remembering family members, friends, League sisters, and others who have died, and take a few moments to pray for them by name. Within your own council, remember the members who have gone before you. Display your Council Book of Life, lighting a candle, or simply reading their names aloud in prayer, giving thanks for their faith and service.

Finally, reach out to someone who is grieving with a card, phone call, visit, or simple assurance: *"I remember with you."*

As you remember and pray this November, consider:

Who has helped shape the person of faith I am today, and how might I carry something of their faith, love, or witness forward?

Let us pray:

God of life and hope, we give thanks for all who have gone before us in faith. Comfort those who grieve and help us carry forward the love and witness of those we remember. May we trust always in your promise of resurrection and eternal life. **Amen**

Message from the Treasurer

2026 Diocesan Bursary Fund ($40)

If your council is financially feasible, please make a cheque payable to "Vancouver Diocesan CWL" for $40 and mail it to me at 1601 – 7831 Westminster Hwy, Richmond, BC, V6X 4J4. If your council is not able to contribute this year, please let me know the amount you can remit.

Annual Budget 2027

- It is time to prepare the coming year budget to be presented and approved at the council's fall meeting in 2026.
- Use active listening and patience during budget discussion among members about the priorities of your council.
- A budget consists of a 2027 budget column alongside with a 2026 budget column and a 2026 actuals column, supplemented with detailed line-item descriptions. Equivalent of two year's operating expenses is recommended to be kept on hand.
- It is recommended that each council has a recorded policy stating the maximum amount that the executive council can approve for small expenditures that arise unexpectedly. Should an expense go beyond this maximum amount from an approved budget, a motion is required at a general meeting for approval.

(consult *Guidelines for Treasurers* in cwl.ca manuals #609).

Canderlla Yip ***treasurer@vancouvercwl.ca***

Domestic Abuse Services
Invites You to

CELEBRATE THE CALL TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Valentine's Dinner & Dance

Feb. 13th, 2027 6 pm

St Matthew's Parish
16079 88 Ave. Surrey
Tickets $45
Music by Prime Time



Valentine's Day Dinner & Dance

PAY: CALL OFFICE:
604•585•6688 • CREDIT CARD E-TRANSFER
CWLSTMATTHEWSSURREY
@GMAIL.COM QR CODE

NOVEMBER LIFE MEMBER NEWS

Celebrating the Faith, Leadership & Stories of Our CWL Life Members

By Sharon Ciebin, Life Member Liaison

Celebrating Our Life Members
In this month's Life Member Questionnaire, I am delighted to introduce you to **Pat Battensby**. Pat is often referred to as the matriarch of the Diocese, and many of us owe our own journey in the League to this inspiring woman.

Please take a moment to read Pat's beautiful story – a story of the faith that has shaped her life, her inspirational leadership, and the many delightful quirks that make her so uniquely special. Pat's warmth, wisdom, faith and generous spirit have touched the lives of so many, and her influence on the League is a gift for which we can all be grateful.

Please join me in getting to know your CWL sister, Pat, a little better.

How Did Your CWL Journey Begin?

Why did you join the League? It began at an early age by the example set by my mother and aunt. In the late 1940's they made pies all summer for a PNE fundraiser for Our Lady of Sorrows CWL council. They were also knitting long scarves for sailors. This is when I learned to knit. Years later as a married mother of two children, I attended Saint Anthony's parish which did not have a CWL at the time. A few years later, Monsignor Mallon and Father Scott invited all women interested in the League to a meeting. Forty women attended and I became the 1st president.

Who first encouraged you to get involved? I would say it was the example of my mother and aunt from childhood and the support and encouragement received from these two priests, especially Father Scott's continued spiritual guidance.

What was happening in your life at the time that made the CWL especially meaningful to you? My life was very busy but I needed something for myself and the League certainly filled that void. The League provided an opportunity for growth as an individual, for my spirituality and friendship. Elaine Moonen, a member, invited two life members Kay Jones and Mary Newsomb to talk to our council. They inspired me to use League resources and to learn about the League. At my first diocesan convention the parliamentarian was extremely knowledgeable. She inspired me to be just like her!

Your Leadership & Legacy

Name one initiative from your time as Diocesan President that stands out to you. The one outstanding memory was the formation of Our Lady of Good Counsel Society as well as the initiation of the Priests' Appreciation dinner.

What accomplishment or moment from your CWL leadership still brings you joy? To witness the growth of these two initiatives brings me such joy. The society continues to thrive and the Priests' Appreciation dinner has grown from an initial 36 to over many hundreds of attendees.

What advice would you give to today's parish councils? To look at how you Welcome new members. New members need to be greeted at the door and taken to a table where she should be introduced. She should be asked where she is interested in serving and given an opportunity to do little jobs at first.

🌹 Becoming a Life Member

Why did you agree to become a Life Member? Meeting all of the criteria, Life Membership was the culmination of the work I had accomplished in the League. I agreed to become a life member because I was promising to keep on working for the League as long as I can.

What does becoming a Life Member mean to you personally? It means the world to me as I joined a group of women who work consistently in the League.

Are you currently involved in any initiatives that support the League's mission? Yes, I am involved in Domestic Abuse Society of which I am a founding member. I answer phones on the helpline one day a week.

🙏 Faith & Inspiration

Who is your favourite saint, and why? Saint Therese of Lisieux who lived her life in a very quiet manner by doing small things well with love. She did everything for the glory of God.

What Scripture passage, prayer, or devotion has guided you throughout your CWL journey? Reciting the Memorare and the prayer to my guardian angel.

What spiritual practice keeps you grounded in service? The prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel says it all.

🌱 Sharing Your Wisdom for the Next Generation

What is one thing you wish every new member understood about the CWL? I feel the CWL offers the most initiatives women can carry in our Church. We are the only Catholic organization that meets with government every year about resolutions. My recommendation is that the CWL is the best way for a woman to effect change.

What gives you hope for the future of the League? That women will continue to study and effect changes in our social justice and that they will take advantage of the opportunities for personal growth. Young women need to be involved in the League.

What message would you share with young women who are considering joining? My wish or recommendation to women who are considering joining the League, is that it is the best way to accomplish change in our community, in social justice issues and develop self confidence.

☕ A Few Light-Hearted & Fun Questions



Apples or oranges? Oranges

Coffee or tea? Coffee

Early bird or night owl? Night Owl

Favourite hymn? Sing of Mary Sweet and Holy

Favourite CWL convention memory? In 1994 the national convention was hosted at the Bayshore Hotel in Vancouver. At the President's luncheon, I met the President of Montreal and I still look forward to seeing her at conventions.

What is one thing people might be surprised to learn about you? I am a basically shy and am uncomfortable speaking in public.

A Final Thought

The CWL has shaped my life by… the spiritual growth I've experienced, the friends I have made and being part of this amazing organization.

Thank You, Pat!

Pat, thank you for sharing your heart, your wisdom, and your CWL journey with us.

May your continued service to the Catholic Women's League inspire many generations of women to come.

CWL Game Corner

FAITH ♥ FUN ♥ FELLOWSHIP

A little faith-filled fun to keep us connected!

CWL Scattergories — Game #1

Your Letter:

S

#	Category	Your Answer
1	A Saint	
2	Something you might see in a church	
3	A way to serve someone	
4	Something you might bring to a CWL meeting	
5	Something you are thankful for	
6	A food you could serve at a CWL event	
7	Something associated with prayer	
8	A place you could volunteer	
9	Something that makes you smile	
10	A word that describes a CWL sister	
BONUS	Something associated with St. Paul	

How to Play:

1. Set a timer for 5 minutes.
2. Write one answer for each category that begins with the letter S.
3. Try to think of something different from what everyone else will choose!

Scoring:

- 1 point for every acceptable answer.
- If playing together, score 2 points for a unique answer that nobody else has.
- The Bonus question is worth 2 points.

Some Possible Answers (just to get you thinking!):

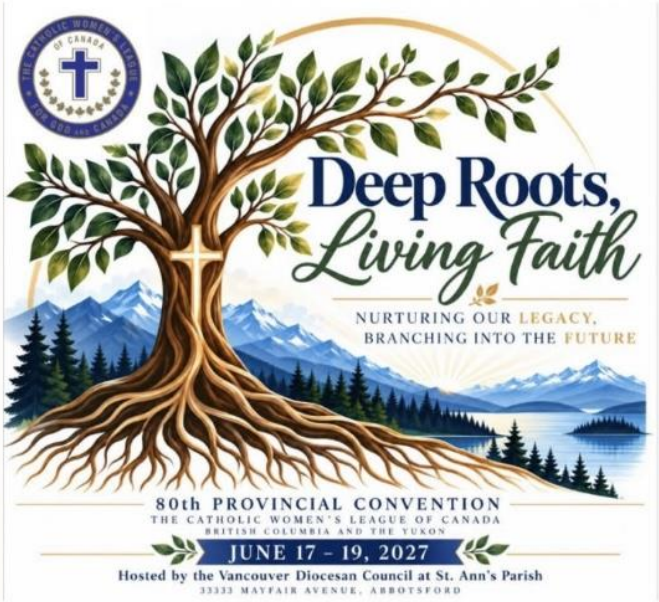
St. Stephen (Saint), sanctuary (church), support (serve), sweater (meeting), sunshine (thankful), sandwiches (food), Scripture (prayer), shelter (volunteer), surprise (smile), supportive (CWL sister), St. Paul (bonus).

♥ *Same Faith • Same Mission • A World of Possibilities* ♥

Remembrance Ceremony

We will be having our annual Remembrance Ceremony (where we honour our deceased members) at the next diocesan general meeting on Nov. 14th. Parish presidents are asked to bring your parish council's Book of Life and place it at the front of the altar before Mass begins. Please come and pray for our departed sisters.

BC & Yukon Provincial Convention Fundraiser





Pin Ribbon FUNDRAISER

$16 each

We encourage all Parish councils to support this fundraising initiative.

To Order:

Send an email advising your council name, delivery address, contact person, phone number and the number of ribbons you would like.

For orders and inquiries Email: Marg Rodrigues
mrodrigues@telus.net, (604) 551-3763

Thank you for your continued support.

FUNDRAISER

CWL Provincial Convention

June 2027



Silver coloured cross

$15



Gold coloured cross

$15

Contact Filippa at

(604) 897-1377

or scorp777@shaw.ca

Thank you for your support!

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE
Vancouver Diocesan Council

FAITH • SERVICE • SOCIAL JUSTICE

Reminding you it's

Membership Renewal time

Start 2027 connected, involved and ready to serve.

RENEW BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2027

Annual membership fees are due January 1.

1 Keep your membership active

Annual payment maintains your membership and its privileges. Renew early to avoid a lapse.

2 Keep your voice at the table

Be ready to vote at parish meetings, including the January or February annual meeting.

3 Be ready to lead

Paid-up fees are required to hold office and vote in elections. Other eligibility rules still apply.*

4 Maintain your years of service

Paying your annual fee in full maintains your years of service and your continuing membership record.

5 Stay connected through the magazine

Early renewal helps your council remit fees on time, supporting continued delivery of The Canadian League.

6 Help your council plan ahead

Give volunteers time to process renewals and remit fees that support diocesan, provincial and national work.

Your membership matters.

Renew with your parish council before the new year.

* Associate members may vote but are not eligible to hold office.

January 1 is the member due date; February 28 is the council's deadline to remit fees to national office.

Sources: CWL Constitution & Bylaws (2023), Parts VII, XIV §2(c), XVII §4(a); National Manual of Policy and Procedure (2025), pp. 25, 76, 85, 107–109. Early renewal benefits are summarized from these provisions.