



Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Provincial Convention 2019  
Kingston, Ontario

# Here's what happened on the weekend

Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019



We kicked off our festivities by raising The Catholic Women's League flag at Confederation Park in Kingston. We were welcomed by the Kingston Diocesan President, Nancy Richer as well as our Provincial President, Anne Madden. Watching the flag be raised to the top of that pole filled us all with pride.



Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019



## Murder Mystery Dinner and Show

Our pre-convention activities continued Saturday as 130 delegates were invited to help solve a 'Murder at the Catarqui Cemetery'. Donna In Charge introduced us to 11 'suspects' in the murder of Sarah MacDonald Stewart, granddaughter of Sir John A, including Father Rodeo Rider (shown here). As the clues were unveiled, we got closer to the truth. Wonderful cast and a fun night!



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Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### Wine Tour - Sandbanks Winery & Huff's Estate Winery

What a wonderful morning! 30 delegates headed off early to Prince Edward County to sample some of the local wine. On the trip there, we prayed the Rosary for a successful convention. Betty Anne Brown-Davidson, who resides in the area, acted as our tour guide.



### Resolutions Dialogue

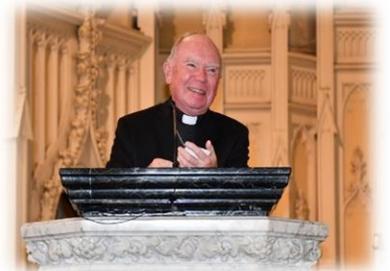


Prior to our business sessions over 100 delegates reviewed 4 resolutions that will be presented on Tuesday for approval. Grouped at tables, the members read, discussed, and proposed amendments to the resolutions.

### Opening Eucharist



Our Opening Mass was celebrated at St. Mary's Cathedral by Archbishop Michael Mulhall of Kingston and Archbishop Emeritus of Kingston, Brendan O'Brien, the Provincial Spiritual Advisor.



After the Eucharistic celebration, greetings were brought by local dignitaries and our League presidents.

A reception followed with refreshments and social time.



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## Here's what happened Monday

Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### Eucharistic Celebration

We started our day with Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Emeritus of Kingston, Brendan O'Brien, Provincial Spiritual Advisor. Music was provided by Our Lady of Lourdes Choir. A beautiful and prayerful way to begin the day. We thank the girls from Prescott's Catholic Girls League for serving at the Eucharistic Celebration.



### Keynote Speaker: Professor Hazel Markwell - Dignity for All



Professor Markwell, Bioethicist at St. Paul University, Ottawa spoke with passion and left us with much to think about. She strongly suggested the need to have conversations about end of life issues with family and friends. She described the need to acknowledge a person's fear of being a burden. She differentiated between searching for 'dignity' vs 'autonomy' in the choice one makes. She reminded us "There is always an obligation to care."

### New Life Members

Five new Life Members were recognized. Congratulations to

- Anne Vincelli, Alexandria/Cornwall
- Ana Sousa, Hamilton
- Marie-Therese Lamphier, London
- Anna Tremblay, Sault Ste Marie
- Shirley Christo, Toronto

Thank you for your dedication to the League.





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**National President, Anne-Marie Gorman - Message & Theme**

Anne-Marie Gorman provided an update on the work National Council has been focused on. She then gave us insight on her National Theme: "Care for Our Common Home".

Did you know a balloon takes 6 months to disintegrate; plastic bags take 10 to 20 years while a diaper or a plastic water bottle takes 450 years!

She suggested viewing and sharing a video found on YouTube called "CST101 Care for God's Creation".



**Strategic Planning Committee, Lisa Henry**

Lisa Henry provided an update on the latest work being done by the Strategic Planning Committee. She challenged us to always be prepared to answer the question, "What does the League mean to you?"

**Crowning of Mary**

While we sang Marion Hymns, Anne Madden placed a crown of flowers on Mary.



**Diocesan Dinners**

The delegates headed out to various restaurants around the city for their diocesan dinners then returned to a fun night with music and dancing to 'The Doherty Brothers Band'.





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## Here's what happened Tuesday

Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### Eucharistic Celebration

We were blessed again to begin our day with Mass in honour of Our Blessed Mother Mary as the intention.

*'Mary, model of discipleship, continue to guide us in our work.'*

### Presentation of Resolutions



4 Resolutions were presented, and all were accepted. 3 will be brought to the Provincial Government while 1 will move forward to the national resolution committee for consideration.

We thank the many ladies who worked tirelessly to gift us with these resolutions.

### Business Session

Tuesday is the day of reports. The diocesan presidents, provincial officers and standing committee chairs based their oral reports on an environmental term they chose and focused on how they addressed the national theme, *Care of Our Common Home* and the culmination of the provincial theme, *Homelessness* in their respective dioceses and committees. The reports provided interesting perspectives, summaries of what was accomplished in the past year and great ideas for us to take back to our councils. Great job ladies!

Colleen Martin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Resolutions Chair led all of the delegates in Pope Francis' *Laudato Si* pledge.

### Social Justice Award

There were 5 nominations put forth this year for this award. This year's winner is 93 year old Doris Labelle from St. Kevin Parish in Sault Ste Marie Diocese. Unfortunately, she was unable to be with us, so members of the provincial executive travelled prior to convention to present the award to her in person.

Congratulations Doris!





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**Guest Speaker: Marilyn McLean - Kingston Street Mission**

Marilyn informed us about 'The Kingston Street Mission', a not-for-profit, volunteer run, and donation based ministry. She described it as a 'safe haven', and a place of friendship and warmth open from October to April each year from 8 pm to 11:30 pm. She tries to 'Change Judgement Into Compassion', one person at a time. 'Look them in the eye and just say hi.' She expressed gratitude for donations received from many organizations including CWL councils. She brings hope.



**Closing Prayer**

The business session concluded with the diocesan presidents presenting red roses as a living memorial of our deceased members, and Father Dale Wright presenting one white rose in memory of our departed spiritual advisors.

**Banquet**

Nearly 300 members, clergy and guests attended the convention banquet, including Anne Madden's family. We were blessed to have not one, not two but three Archbishops! Following dinner and speeches, we were treated to music and 'jokes' from our own 'Clerical Crew'. The evening concluded with dancing to popular tunes from disc jockey, Patti Webster.





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# Here's what happened Wednesday

Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## Morning Prayer Service



Our opening prayer service honoured Water: Sacred Gift, Sacred Trust. As we listened to the 'Welcoming Waters Ritual', water was carried from the four corners of the province. The presidents: East - Lynn Pomainville (Alexandria-Cornwall); South - Rebecca McCarrell (London); West - Maria Bertoldo (Thunder Bay); North - Lorraine Cusson-Arnold (Hearst - Moosonee) brought the water from their diocese to represent the four corners of the province.

## Provincial Spiritual Development Chair, Anna Tremblay - Workshop on Water

Cathy McKinney, Diocesan President Sault Ste Marie, presented this workshop of behalf of Anna. Each table was given 7 cards expressing statements on water and delegates were asked to prioritize them. We listened to a video entitled: 'The Story of Bottled Water' and we were made to realize that there are more environmental impacts than simply plastic in our landfills. Very thought-provoking.



## Elections

Past President Pauline Krupa guided us through the election process resulting in our newly elected officers for the 2019-2021 Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada.





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**Development & Peace – Caritas Canada, Tara Hurford**

Development & Peace will soon be launching their own 'For Our Common Home' Campaign, much in line with our National theme.

Tara presented very thought provoking statements, "1% owns 50% of the planets wealth" and "20% consume 80% of the world's resources". She helped us visualize this by inviting us into a demonstration.



**Invitation to Hamilton Diocese 2020**



Our sisters from the Hamilton Diocese along with their Spiritual Advisors invited us, through song and video, to the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ontario Provincial Convention of The Catholic Women's League of Canada being held at the Crown Plaza in Kitchener Ontario from July 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**Closing Prayer Service**

We ended the morning session with a powerful prayer for the homeless including a video entitled 'Thank You' by Ray Boltz. Check it out on YouTube.



**Closing Eucharistic Celebration and Installation of Newly Elected Provincial Executive**



Our Closing Mass was celebrated at St Joseph's Church by Most Reverend Terrance Prendergast, Archbishop of Ottawa, Bishop of Alexandria/Cornwall and newly appointed Ontario Provincial Spiritual Advisor and concelebrants, Archbishop Emeritus of Kingston, Brendan O'Brien and visiting Spiritual Advisors.

Following the Eucharistic celebration, the newly elected officers were installed, and the Ontario Provincial Banner was passed from Kingston to Hamilton.