



# ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

## FALL 2021 Newsletter



The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

**My Dear Sisters in the League:**

**From the President's Desk: Judy Look**

Today is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

There is just so much for which to be thankful. On the top of the list should be the three Fs: Faith, Family and Friends. All three probably played a serious part of your Thanksgiving celebrations. If there is one thing that COVID gifts us with is an appreciation of how important the three Fs are in our lives and never to be taken for granted.



Following the three F's might be the Catholic Women's League of Canada.

For the past several months the League has been there for us. Its outreach connected us as we struggled and continue to struggle with mask wearing, sanitizing, social distancing, and isolation. The ZOOM meetings gave and continue to give the gift of the faces of our sisters with their smiles and laughter as well as an opportunity to learn new technology. Most councils found and continue to find innovative ways to stay connected. Executives developed and continue to develop workshops and programs ready for our in-person meetings. All kinds of prayer and study groups were and continue to be offered so we can nurture our relationship with God and each other. The League also presented and continues to present opportunities to think and get actively involved albeit from home. Some of these opportunities were and are to volunteer for one of the working groups as the strategic plan continues to unfold; to dissect the Welcome Program and see what role members play; to continue with Care for Our Common Home, to study about and write letters on sanctity of life issues and adopt a baby in danger of abortion.

The amendments we received around this time last year require action. The amendments call us to look at the structure of our councils and how they will operate moving forward. It is also a good time to ask why we should be CWL members when we can do all that we do as a woman's group in the parish. Why is it important to be part of a national organization? Is it important to have a voice at the federal level? Is it important for the country to hear the voices of 70,000 plus women express themselves on sanctity of life issues, environmental concerns, human rights of women and children in third world countries and to join with our sisters as we learn how to walk with our indigenous brothers and sisters?

Continuing with the gratitude list is the executive members and spiritual advisors of our parish, diocesan, provincial and national councils. All the work above is due to their hard work. Never have there been so many meetings to discuss, strategize on how to stay connected, pray, and develop programs. Meeting upon meeting trying to work out the best way to meet the needs of their members has occupied much of their time. How can we communicate the amendments; how can we help councils who want to disband; how can we reach our members that are in lockdown in seniors' homes.

How can we make a difference in our members lives?

The final item on the list is you. Look in the mirror and express gratitude for you and your many gifts and talents. Without you there would be no League, no relationships to nurture, no one to laugh and cry with, no one to take life issues to the federal government, no one to study and pray with. Remember you are not a member by chance but a member by invitation. The Lord invited you at your Baptism to become an active member of your faith community and you accepted to do just that when you became a League member.

You, my dear sister is what the League is all about.

Yes ladies, as we sip from our cup of tea and look back there is so much for which to be thankful the gifts of gratitude, faith, hope and love those very gifts upon which we build our future. As the League is you, so is our future. Its time to think about the active part you will play moving forward. Will you let your name stand for the upcoming elections; join a working group; be part of a phoning committee; a letter writing campaign, a workshop facilitator? How will you share your gifts and talents to help your home council become strong and by doing so make the whole organization strong. Active involvement has nothing to do with age. You are not the same person you were last year, last week or even yesterday. You are a woman of many experiences garnered over the years and your council needs your wisdom as an active member. As the COVID fog clears we will have in person meetings, new executives, new governance structures, new members, new spiritual advisors in other words a new beginning with fresh ideas and energy.

Are you ready to be the face of the League of the future?

#### ENVISIONED FUTURE

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women inspired by faith. It is:

- A vital participant in the church;
- A valued partner for social justice;
- A respected advocate at all government levels;
- Connected to the world.



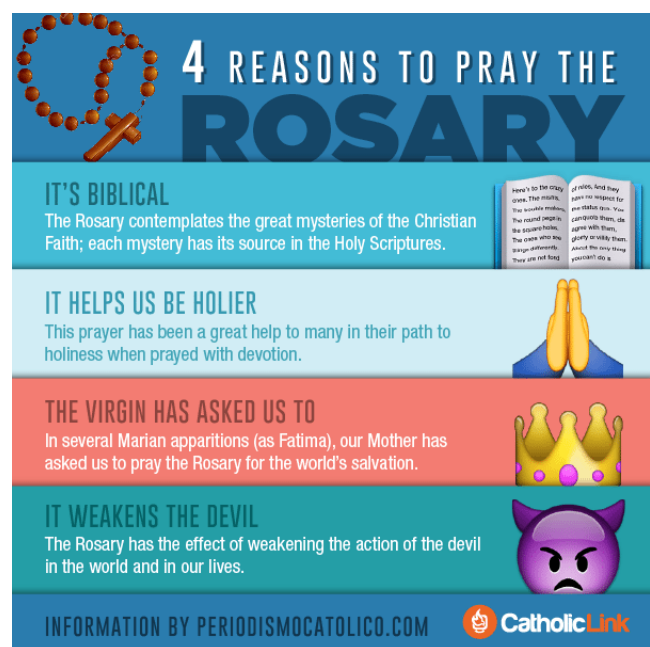
## October is the Month of the Rosary

President Judy Look has invited all to a Rosary Prayer session via ZOOM every Wednesday evening since May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The invite goes out to all diocesan presidents, usually the Sunday before and in turn is distributed to all council presidents to distribute to their members. The invite is also posted onto the ABMK website. The intention is to pray the rosary every Wednesday while the coronavirus grips our nation and the whole world. Members are invited to send Judy their prayer intentions weekly. Participation so far has varied between 20 to 75 people from all areas of the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council and from other provinces as well. At the end of the rosary, participants are put into break out rooms for a more personal meet and greet. This is a wonderful way to meet many of our sisters and pray for all in their hours of need. All can participate, you do not need to be a member of the CWL to join.

At the time of this writing, the Rosary would have been prayed over 75 times and will continue to be prayed moving into 2022.

Along with the usual Rosary prayers, prayers to the League, Prayer of St. Joseph, Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel and the Pope's Pandemic Prayer are also recited. All these prayers are available on the ABMK website under the Spiritual Development tab.

<http://www.cwl.ab.ca/index.php/committees/23-spiritual-development>



*"To recite the Rosary is nothing other than to contemplate with Mary the face of Christ."*

— St. John Paul II

*"When the Holy Rosary is said well, it gives Jesus and Mary more glory and is more meritorious than any other prayer."* — St. Louis de Montfort

*"The Rosary is a long chain that links heaven and earth. One end of it is in our hands and the other end is in the hands of the holy Virgin...the Rosary prayer rises like incense to the feet of the Almighty."*

— St. Therese of Lisieux



## Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Judy Look President's Oral Report



This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Today is such a blessing as we gather and see faces of sisters we haven't seen for a while and celebrate the work of so many sisters as we all continue our work for God and Canada. For many of you who know me I subscribe to a philosophy called Three Cups of Tea. It is rooted in the thinking that the first cup of tea is the beginning of a relationship or an idea ...if you decide you like the person or the idea then you move to the second cup which is the time and energy you put in to discovering who the person truly is or gather information about the idea. Once that process is complete the decision is made to continue with the relationship or idea, and you then begin to sip from the third cup. The first cup is we come as strangers, the second cup we get to know each other and the third is we become family and begin to work with each other to build a relationship or to make the idea happen.

With that in mind two years ago, when I became president of Alberta Mackenzie, I asked the newly elected executive to consider a new focus for the council, a provincial focus and all work accomplished was to be filtered through our relationship with God. The focus of provincial councils has been and is education. But in today's technological world many parishes and diocesan councils are very adept at educating their members as soon as documents, programs and workshops come from National. They have a clear idea of what is happening in their councils and know how to meet the needs of their members. Yes, provincial council plays a role but much more of a support role than the hands on of the past. It was felt that the provincial should include a provincial focus. The provincial officers were asked to focus on four provincial areas that involved the catholic community for there is a need for one strong catholic voice across the province. The four areas identified were catholic education with GrAce (Grateful Advocates of Catholic Education) as the go to group; health with Covenant Health being the catholic arm; the Alberta Sanctity of Life Team whose voice encompasses life from conception to natural death and our indigenous sisters. We made progress on the first three, but we are still sipping from the first cup of tea with our indigenous sisters. That is so regretful as right now with the discovery of the unmarked graves of 215 children it would be such a blessing if a statement could be made on behalf of the whole catholic community of Alberta. We had organized speakers for our provincial convention in Lac La Biche in 2019 to help us get to know our indigenous sisters and possibly develop workable strategies on how to reach out to them. Unfortunately, that convention was cancelled. I do want to express my appreciation to the ladies of St. Paul who had organized it. It was also felt that we should work more closely with the Knights of Columbus as they are the largest catholic men's group in the province. Although we have met with them, we are still on our first cup of tea. So, our work was before us.

All changed when In March 2020 the COVID cup of tea was placed on the table. It was full of surprises of which none were appreciated - social distancing, mask wearing, staying home, churches and businesses shut down. It became impossible to make plans as everything was in flux. Then another cup of tea appeared on the table that of virtual meetings. Many of us slowly sipped from it and began to mull the idea of how they would work. The more we thought about it we felt it could become our friend. So virtual meetings became the norm. But sometimes you can have too much of a good thing. Meetings were being scheduled at all levels for just about everything. It was a real smorgasbord of opportunities from speaker's series, retreats, governance, implementation working groups



not to mention our regular and executive council meetings. Then as I see it a final cup of tea was put on the table identified as COVID Fatigue. Diocesan and parish executives were working overtime to meet everyone's expectations and were being burnt out. A question began to percolate among the membership. If I can't get together with my sisters, why should I be a member? It all boiled down to the Catholic Women's League is about relationships...not virtual ones but physical ones manifested in hugs.

My work in the last six months included meeting with executives, small groups, large groups, governance, workshops, manual reviews, catholic partners and praying the rosary and through it ran a common thread - relationships ... why should anyone want to be a member of the Catholic Women's League or maybe more importantly why am I a member?

I took the opportunity to remind people that being a member of the Catholic Women's League is a privilege, a gift, and a calling. The privilege comes from Baptism where we become part of the family of God. Baptism calls each one of us to tell the world that God Is alive and well not only through our words but our actions. It calls us to repentance, forgiveness, and justice three very important gifts that the world needs. It calls us to love. It is a twofold gift one we give ourselves as we benefit from the companionship of faith filled women and it is a gift to the League as members gifts and talents are a necessity for our councils to thrive. It is a calling because we are not here by chance. God wants us here. He has placed nudges in front of us to encourage us as he knows we are the only one that can do this work. Summed up our membership is about the other. It is about the third world women who need our first world voice through WUWCO and Development and Peace. It is about legislators who need to hear our voice on the sanctity of life, about palliative care patients who know they are still of value and purpose, about the homeless for whom we buy a coffee and make visible, about the unborn child who has an inherent right to life, about the young seminarian who needs support and the retired priest who has nothing but our contributions to live on; about a sister in the League 's daughter who is dying and we lend our support through prayer and funding; about communities devastated by natural disasters and so we open our wallets, about the young woman in our pew who is needing to hear a positive word about her child, about the recently divorced person who needs to know she still belong and it is about the indigenous community that is grieving 215 children whose lives do matter. It is about the other and that other has the face of Christ. There is no room for I or me in the League just we. We who have been given the gifts of the Holy Spirit at our confirmation and celebrated each Pentecost take his voice to the ends of the earth through our membership. This membership is not passive. It requires thinking and work. We have been challenged to get involved in the Catholic Women's League Plans Strategically so our structure will support the work God has given us. If you have studied the Welcome Kit, you will see God written all over it. Be welcoming, care about each other, don't forget the sisters in nursing homes; plan a party to celebrate the members. Our God is a God of Joy, and He expects nothing less from us. If you studied the amendments, you recognized the beginning of the streamlining of our structure so our councils can run more efficiently and not wear out executives. But I want to give a word of caution... We need to be careful that our Blessed Mother does not become a battle ground...we ask her to give us the wisdom to know what is best for the League. We also need to be generous with our funds for if our membership has the power to do all the things, we know it can we also we have to support the organization which means giving a bit more through our membership fees. We are women who effect change because we love one another, and that love needs to radiate to our communities. We are the women of the League who have faced down COVID by changing its meaning from a killer virus to a Catholic Organization full of Vitality, Inspiration and Dedication. Why am I a member because I know that through the power of the Holy Spirit living in me, I can make a difference along with a community of faith filled women who put the needs of others before their own.

In saying all of that when I was at the Mackenzie Ft Smith convention their diocese had just been experiencing the devastating effects of the flooding of the Mackenzie River. Following their convention, I asked their Diocesan President if we could do something as a Provincial Council. She said all need prayers. Further to that she sent me a memo from Bishop Jon Hansen to his parishioners asking for a second collection. Reflecting on this I felt that if this was a normal annual meeting of members and convention the recommendation would be to give one of the mass collections to the diocese. But it is not normal times so I am going to ask the ladies present here if they would direct the money that they would normally give in collection to the Canada Helps donation link at the top of the Diocese of Mackenzie Facebook page at [facebook.com/diocesefmackenzie](https://facebook.com/diocesefmackenzie) or send a cheque to the Diocese. As well you could possibly donate from your councils.

As we approach our final year as executives, I ask each one of you to do **five things**:

*Number 1:* put on the top of your agendas the letters **AMDG** a Latin acronym for all for the honour and glory of God and refer to it during your meetings to make sure you are on track.

*Number 2:* place on your agendas a **study time for the Planning Strategically** document and educate your members so they can take ownership of their organization.

*Number 3:* **Encourage all your members to adopt a baby endanger of abortion** by naming the child and praying for him or her daily and when we can get together again every person will receive Archbishop Fulton's Sheen prayer card.

*Number 4:* Bishop McGrattan referred to **Pope Francis encyclical Fratelli Tutti** in his greetings in the annual report book. I encourage all councils study the encyclical. Make it part of your spiritual program at your meetings.

*Number 5:* **The final thing is to be grateful**...grateful for being a member of the Catholic Women's League; grateful for the opportunity to serve; grateful for the sisterhood, grateful for being called to build the kingdom of God but most of all be grateful that God loves us and wants us to be his face in our world.

This concluded my report

FYI:

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council Annual Meeting of Members (AMM) was held on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 via ZOOM. Over 75 members took part from all areas of the Provincial Council area. The meeting was considered a partial virtual meeting, making it an "actual" meeting. This was achieved by Secretary Gloria Lundberg and President Judy Look being in the same room (house). Gladys Brown presented a Memorial Service and Mary Hunt presented the Father Walter Krewski Awards. These are available on the website for viewing: <http://www.cwl.ab.ca/>

Many of the pictures of our ABMK council here in this newsletter are taken from ZOOM meetings screen shots held over the past year.



## NATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS – August 9,10 2021

Submitted by Mary Hunt – President Elect/Organization Chair

Madam President,

As per your request, the following is a summary/highlights of the Business Sessions of the Annual Members Meeting (AMM) on August 9th & August 10th, 2021:

The 100th and 101st National Annual Members Meeting and 2020 Annual Reporting were conducted according to the guidelines set out for all councils in keeping the protection of the health and safety of all in mind.

Please note that the decisions to increase annual membership fees and to replace our Patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel with Our Lady of Guadalupe had been deferred to the National Convention in 2022.

The Minutes of the 1999 National Convention were circulated just prior to the Monday AMM and were adopted as presented.

The Monday Registration Report indicated 45 Alberta-Mackenzie members in attendance.

Two decisions of the national executive that temporarily suspended sections of the Constitution & By-Laws in response to the public health restrictions imposed because of the global pandemic were deferred to 2021 and were ratified. They are as follows:

G.2020.04: Moved by National Officer Margaret Ann Jacobs that national council in national annual meeting of members assembled ratify the decision of the national executive to postpone all 2020 annual meetings of members to immediately precede 2021 national, provincial and diocesan meetings of members, so as to comply as closely as possible with the Canada Not-for-Profit Act's requirement to hold an annual meeting of members and not put the health of the membership at risk. Seconded by Life Member Barbara Jarvis. Adopted.

G.2020.05 Moved by National Officer Margaret Ann Jacobs that national council in national annual meeting of members assembled, ratify the decision of the national executive to make a one-time exception to Part XVI, Section 2(a) of the Constitution & Bylaws to read, "At the parish, diocesan, provincial and national levels, the term of office for elected officers shall be three years", applicable to all officers at all levels at the date of the decision i.e., May 6, 2020. Seconded by Life Member Barbara Thuen. Adopted.

Please note that it had been decided last year that if a person had put in her two years and could not do a third year, it is considered that she has completed her term.

Reports were presented by each of the provincial presidents. ABMK Provincial President Judy Look talked about our focus for the coming year which will include our relationship with our Indigenous Sisters & Brothers and Sanctity of Life. She mentioned a new initiative where ABMK councils will be encouraged to "adopt a baby, name the baby and pray for the baby" to reinforce the importance of the Sanctity of Life. Judy reported that Covid Fatigue in addition to a lack of personal connection were two areas the ABMK provincial council would like to address.

The 2025 National Convention will be held in Toronto. A motion was put forward and adopted in response to a letter that had been received from Cardinal Thomas Collins expressing a strong interest by the Diocese of Toronto in hosting the 2025 National Convention. They were to have hosted the 2021 National Convention if it had been held this year.

Some items to note:

- The 2022 National Convention will be held in Kelowna, British Columbia (for the first time it is not Vancouver) from August 13 thru 17 at the Grand Hotel. Convention presentation invited everyone to **Rejoice in the Vineyard of the Lord**.
- Membership statistics for Alberta-Mackenzie are as follows: January 1, 2020: 9,101 December 31, 2020: There were a total of 8,814 members which included 441 new members & 106 deceased members.
- Council statistics for Alberta-Mackenzie are as follows: January 1, 2020: 155 councils December 31, 2020: 150 councils [3 councils were unpaid and 2 councils had disbanded].
- It was announced that the 1% voluntary fund for Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace was reinstated in September 2020.
- An annual day of prayer for Christians in the Holy Land was initiated for September 21st.
- Discussions with regard to Honorary Life members are on-going.
- The implementation Strategic Plan continues to move forward and an excellent presentation was shown reporting the progress of the various Working Groups. It was gratifying to see that a number of Alberta-Mackenzie members had volunteered to serve in the Working Groups and contribute to determining the future of the League.
- The National Bursary will be awarded to six qualifying applicants. Each will receive \$6,912.00. The Alberta Mackenzie recipient is Pamela Benko from Holy Trinity Parish in Spruce Grove . It was noted that one council in Alberta Mackenzie initiated their own bursary for a graduate who exemplified the pillars of faith, service and social justice.
- A review of the 2020 audited financial statements was provided.
- Resolutions - discussion around approval of resolutions to be archived.
- **League Magazine** - As a cost-saving measure, the National Executive has on a trial basis decided to provide only an electronic version of the Fall League Magazine rather than a paper copy to League members. The Winter edition will be a paper copy mailout.

**Warmest Congratulations** to the Newly Elected National Executive for 2021-2023. The three names highlighted in blue are from Alberta-Mackenzie:

National President [Fran Lucas](#)

President-Elect Shari Guinta

First Vice President/Communications: Betty Colaneri

Second Vice President/Spiritual Development: [Cathy Bouchard](#)

Secretary-Treasurer Marie Rackley

Standing Committee Chairs:

Christian Family Life [Dorothy Johanson](#)

Community Life Faith Anderson

Education and Health Margaret Schwab

Legislation Glenda Carson

Resolutions Rolande Chernichan

Life Liaison Doreen Gowans



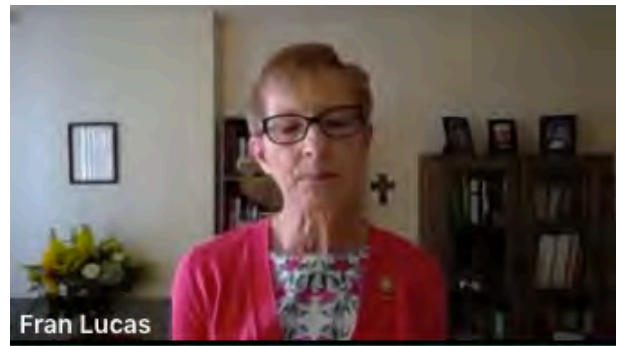
Please keep these faith-filled women in your prayers who have graciously agreed to take on their new responsibilities and roles in the implementation of the Strategic Plan.



The **2022-2023 National Theme** was announced by Fran Lucas:

**Catholic & Living It.**

She cited the Trinitarian Image of the stained glass window at St. Joseph's Basilica in Edmonton and the simple Catholic gesture of "**In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**" as sources of inspiration for her choice. Fran included the following prayer to accompany the new theme:



Loving Father, open our hearts to your infinite love for all people, and to your presence with us wherever we go in your name.

Lord Jesus, deepen the spiritual life of the Catholic Women's League.

Strengthen the faith and good works of our members, building-up life in the world by being Catholic and Living It!

May we imitate you with works of mercy, welcoming the forgotten, suffering or vulnerable wherever we encounter them.

Holy Spirit, strengthen us to live our faith, witnessing to life, peace and social justice daily wherever we are in Canada.

Through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel, may we be joyful and responsive to our Christian calling, by truly being Catholic and Living It!

We make this prayer through Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah, who lives and reigns with the Father and Holy Spirit, forever and ever.



There will be more information about the theme included in the Winter Edition of the League Magazine which will be sent out to all of the councils.

This concludes my summary.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hunt

Organization Chair/President-Elect  
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council  
Catholic Women's League of Canada

## Greetings from Your President-Elect – Mary Hunt

### Greetings Sisters in the League,

We are reminded that...



Our global family continues to be challenged by COVID amid the fears and isolation it has introduced into our lives. We all hope and long for a return to the life we enjoyed before the pandemic and took for granted where gatherings, travel and universal medical care was available in a system not so heavily burdened. When we count our blessings, membership in the Catholic Women's League should be included and it a blessing that we are encouraged to share with others.

It is meaningful to know that our shared **faith** and membership in the League provides us with opportunities to be spiritually blessed as we strive to unite with other Catholic women in a sisterhood whose goal is to further our **Catholic faith**, cultural and intellectual interests and to develop **service** opportunities to promote **social justice** through action.

Being a member means discovery, confidence, personal skills development, and provides opportunities to share one's talents along with other League sisters comprised of both old and new friends and having the privilege of helping others while growing through faith opportunities such as our weekly ABMK rosary.

During the past 18 months, membership numbers in the League have declined in many of our councils and sadly that decline has contributed to the potential disbanding of 6 councils in Alberta Mackenzie. Neighboring councils are encouraged to connect with members who are left without a council and invite them to one of your meetings, so they know they have a place to belong and are welcome.

Not all councils experienced losses, as was witnessed in councils applying for the **2020 Walter Krewski Annual Membership awards**. Several councils saw increases notably including St. John Bosco in Edmonton and St. Mary's Cathedral in Calgary. When asked, St. Mary's President, Sharon Bernard cited the offering by their council of new online faith opportunities as a contributing to their growth which included online bible study as well as spiritual retreats that were publicized in the Parish bulletin and through personal invitation. St. John Bosco's ability to attract young women to join holds future promise for their council. Application forms for the 2021 Walter Krewski Awards will be available on the provincial website starting November 1<sup>st</sup>. Additional information and forms will be emailed to councils in late November.

Councils may want to take this “slower pandemic time” to increase their knowledge of the League so that they may be inspired and renewed for the important work that lays before us. Some useful tools we have been given are the *Welcome Program*, the *Executive Orientation Program* and the newly released *videos* which promote the League and serve to dispel some of the possible misconceptions held in our parishes, even by our clergy.

A video introducing the *Welcome Program* is found at <https://cwl.ca/welcome-program-video/>

This resource is found at [http://www.cwlsk.ca/extras/Welcome-Program-\(2020\).pdf](http://www.cwlsk.ca/extras/Welcome-Program-(2020).pdf)

“This program is intended to assist you as you welcome members to your parish council and to encourage the involvement of all members. You spoke, and you were heard. Best practices and great ideas were researched from councils and external organizations. Included in this program are suggestions, ideas and resources for you to adapt and customize to use in ways that will work best for your council. Remember welcoming is not a one-time event. It is a continuous process and mindset that touches members on an ongoing basis. It is what will help members to feel that they are genuinely connected and part of the organization”.

The *Executive Orientation Program* was introduced in early June and is available on the national website: <https://cwl.ca/executive-orientation/> . The program consists of 10 modules that provide an introduction/refresher to various aspects of the League including:

1. History of the League
2. Structure of the League and the Promise of the League
3. Core Principles; Constitution & Bylaws; Policy and Procedure; Executive Handbook
4. Duties of Officers
5. Life & Honorary Life Membership
6. Strategic Plan Summary
7. Communication
8. Budgets
9. Member Recognition
10. Public Presence and Member Development

Councils are encouraged to view these modules at either executive meetings or general meetings as they serve as a great learning tool. It may be best to show one module at a time.

### **Videos Capturing Powerful Stories from Our First 100 Years:**

Nine videos have been created to inspire us in faith, service and social justice. They contain wonderful visual inspirational content that we are invited to download to show others in our parish, our community and beyond so they may view them and join our journey. They are found under the **To Inspire** tab on the national website: <https://cwl.ca/to-inspire/#100-years>

## Completion of Council Annual Reports:

As the year draws to a close, councils are asked to complete the annual report surveys and return them to Diocesan Officers by **January 15, 2022 digitally or by December 15, 2021 for paper copies**. In turn, a summary of the report surveys completed by the Diocesan Officers are sent to their Provincial counterparts who report to the National Officers. Please remember annual reporting captures the activity of our councils and provides information about the achievements of our councils and the challenges encountered during the past year in their work For God and Canada.

Paper copies of the surveys will be available on November 1<sup>st</sup> and may be obtained for councils by visiting <https://cwl.ca/resources-2/1000-series-annual-report-surveys>



### Fall Meeting, Mass & Gift Presentation to Fran Lucas:

After successful virtual meetings, a beautiful on-line Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph's Basilica which was followed by a virtual reception to celebrate the new National Executive including three members from Alberta Mackenzie: **Fran Lucas** as National President, **Cathy Bouchard** as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice - President & Spiritual Chair and **Dorothy Johansen** as Christian Family Life Chair. ABMK presented Fran with this caricature featuring the theme she announced for the next two years...

**With hope & joy, I am grateful for your membership in the knowledge that with God all things are possible...**

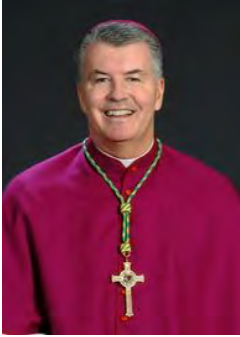
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## Bishop William T. McGrattan - Diocese of Calgary

In March of 2020, as the devastation of the pandemic began to impact the world, it was hard to imagine that months later, the world would continue to experience the ravages of this same pandemic. And yet here we are!

The risk and the effects of a global pandemic may have eluded our consciousness given the reassurance of living in a country with a world class healthcare system. However, as the professionals and staff of our healthcare systems continue to provide extraordinary and dedicated medical care service, we have also become aware of the fragility of our collective and our individual health. Some people are growing weary of the health precautions and others are mourning the deaths of family members or friends. It is an anxious time and sometimes, we see this anxiety spill over into frustration, anger, a complacency or an indifference that is promoted by individualism and the disregard for others in favor of freedom and personal rights.

This pandemic has been with us for a long while and it isn't under control and nor is it over yet. In the face of such uncertainty it is sometimes difficult even to awaken feelings of excited anticipation when so many plans have been changed or cancelled. We are living in a time of "perhaps" and "maybe it is possible." Perhaps it may happen...

As the pandemic impacts our everyday lives, it also has had an even greater impact upon the healthcare system. In a recent article, Dr. Helen Reiss MD reflected on the fundamentals that have sustained the healthcare system through this crisis and the following summarizes her findings, "*The best way to be resilient when crises strike is by viewing the healthcare professionals through the lens of empathy. Institutional values of safety, access to accurate and caring information, human connection, and emphasis on mental health, are hallmarks of resilient organizations and will result in resilient individuals.*"

Dr. Reiss' two points from her study on the resilience of the healthcare system are helpful for our own self-reflection as we continue to face this pandemic.

First, each person is created in the image of God and deserving of the empathy we should demonstrate toward one another. A friend recently showed me a Facebook post that read, "You know who's going through a lot right now? **Literally everyone.** Just be kind." This is true. Each person is finding a way to carry the burdens and the Cross which this pandemic has brought into their lives. The "lens of empathy" Dr. Reiss describes as being a true sign of charity and one that we are called in these challenging times to extend to one another.

Second, Dr. Reiss highlights the importance of institutions and organizations for the support of individuals – and in particular for the role of promoting and protecting **human connection**. Organizations with a common purpose such as the Catholic Women's League are critical for the support of one another as individuals. When I was invited to write this message for the Fall newsletter,



Judy Look told me that she had made a new acronym for COVID - Catholic Organization full of Vitality, Inspiration and Dedication. This re-scripting of the virus' acronym invites us to consider a new way of thinking during this pandemic – full of vitality, inspiration, and dedication.

In the Book of Acts, Luke describes the first community of believers in similar words,

*“Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:43-47)*

The vitality of the risen Christ was present when they gathered in community, in their human connection to one another, it was the Holy Spirit who inspired them to see in through the eyes of faith and directed their hearts to promoting the common good. It is this image of supporting one another in the faith and sharing with one another the joys and trials of life which fosters the strength and the resilience of the faith community. This description also points towards a hopeful future where others, who see in this witness the love and goodness of God, will join with the mission.

For the members of the Catholic Women's League, I encourage you to persevere in your resilience and dedication to good works and prayers. I also invite you to reach out to one another. The kindnesses shown to the other will shine brightly during this pandemic, for sure, and also promote the vitality, inspiration and dedication to your continued mission in the Church.

May our God who calls you to this service and witness in the Church and Canada sustain you with His Love and Grace.

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*Anne Gorman, National CWL President in her opening address on August 9<sup>th</sup>, displayed the following quote:  
(Anne Gorman is now Past-President of the National CWL)*



# ***ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL MEMORIAL SERVICE***

*On June 5<sup>th</sup> the Annual Meeting of Members for the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council was held via Zoom. A Memorial Service was held commemorating our deceased sisters for 2019 and 2020. Following are the names of our sisters from 2020. The names of our deceased sisters from 2019 are listed in our Fall 2020 newsletter. The 2021 Memorial Service is posted on the ABMK website under Spiritual Development under Reflections:*

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. Amen*

## **Book of Life 2020**

### ***Grouard–McLennan Diocese***

Mary Anne Burns  
Bridget Fehr  
Lorraine Fisher  
Anne Kuran  
Elizabeth Lim  
Betty Lindroos  
Carmelle Lizee  
Terra O'Connor  
Jean Quinn  
Paulette Salacki  
Esther Siry  
Mary Vant Erve  
Denise Winnicky

### ***St. Paul Diocese***

Diana Byrtus  
Lucille Kilar  
Rose Alice Patry  
Simone Semeniuk  
Eva Shank  
Carol Slusarski  
Margaret Styles  
Patricia Tourchette  
Louise Wulff

### ***Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocese***

There are no deceased sisters  
for 2020

### ***Calgary Diocese***

Sefa Ackermann  
Sheila Berke  
Helen Bolkart  
Anne Boras  
Jane Braat  
Kem Brewer  
Edith Brieskorn  
Hazel Cannon  
Mary Christie  
Amy Conroy  
Rose Desouza  
Anna Dietrich  
Doreen Drake  
Shirley Dufour  
Geraldine Dunsmore (2019)  
Ines Farmer  
Phyllis Frebrowski  
Julie Godwin  
Audrey Gouglas  
Euphemia Guckert  
Emily Hammel  
Margaret Heinen  
Patricia Heisie  
Vivienne Hiltermann  
Jeanne Hoffman  
Edna Hornett  
Jeanette Houtekamer  
Nancy Hriskevich  
Mary Ellen Johnson  
Debi Kennedy  
Esther Koester  
June LaGrandeur  
Anne Lazlock

### ***Calgary Diocese***

Gloria Martin  
Margaret Mazurek  
Colette McGowan  
Maureen McLaren  
Rosina Marie Mucciarone  
Nellie Nieckar  
Fleurette Olsen (2019)  
Mary Peeters  
Margaret Perry  
Rose Porter  
Anna Potter  
Marie Louise Praeker  
Mary Prucyk  
Anne Prystupa  
Jean Refbik  
Helen Reiser  
Avis Rettie  
Agnes Rewucki  
Joan Richard  
Karine Rietjens  
Sarah Roach  
Pierrette Robinson  
Lenore Rosgen Virginia  
Ruzicki  
Gloria Salcedo  
Carol Schlachter  
Lucille Schwartzengerger  
Helen Skippen  
France Slemko  
Betty Sobry  
Elizabeth Speltz  
Flo Steiert  
Josephine Stodalka

### *Calgary Diocese*



Mary Stuckey  
Ann Taylor  
Maureen Tremblay  
Maria Trinkaus  
Laura Tuchscherer  
Marilyn Wallace  
Elizabeth Watson  
Helen Werbisky  
Marge Wickenheifer  
Louise Young  
Anna Zalik  
Celeste Zeinstra  
Leah Ziegler



### *Edmonton Diocese*

Erine Baptist  
Claire Benoit  
Kathleen Berger (2019)  
Frances Berry  
Theresa Berstad  
Janet Blatz  
Connie Boehm  
Micheline Bouchard  
Yolande Bourdon  
Mary Briody  
Joan Carr  
Fanny Castillo  
Caring Cayabyab  
Annette Chase  
Dolores Coutu  
Jean Daley  
Emily Dalpe  
Bess Deboer  
Janette Dembicki  
Dolores Demone  
Rozalia Dzavik  
Yvette Dzieglo  
Kerry Egan  
Marguerite Evans  
Lorraine Foss  
Eileen Franchuk  
Victoria Fulguerinas

### *Edmonton Diocese*

Jean Gartner  
Giuseppina (Josie) Jagiello  
Elaine Jones  
Bette Klatchuk  
Kay Komarnicki  
Virginia Kostelyk  
Rose Kurjata (2019)  
Mary Anne Kuzminski  
Angie Laboucane  
Estelle Lambert  
Henriette Lamoureux  
Helen Lemay  
Bernadette Mahood  
Phyllis McAnally  
Emily Mikalonis  
Sandra Mikalonis  
Frances Mills  
Evelyne Mishio  
Joann Montegary  
Loretta Moran  
Linda O'Connor  
Yvonne Overgaard  
Bert Oyka  
Carol M. Paetz  
Margo Pals  
Anita Paproski  
Anna Pelletier  
Isabelle Perras (2019)

### *Edmonton Diocese*

Elizabeth Pertschy (2010)  
Betty Plester  
Bertha Rakoz  
Eileen Reinhart  
Peggy Rissling  
Gwen Robinson  
Marie Rondeau  
Kay Roth  
Louise Ryan  
Marina Sarabin  
Ingrid Schmidt  
Clara Schumacher (2019)  
Josephine Seibert  
Stella Shewchuk  
Rose Spencer  
Josephine Splawinski  
Dianne Thew  
Tharon E Thomas  
Phyllis Thygeser (2019)  
Doris Trahan  
Patricia Trudeau  
Josephine Vernon  
Flora Weiss  
Lillian Willette  
Marie Wilmot  
Louise Zdunich  
Lorraine Zimmer

## Greetings from Your Treasurer – Gwen Elliott

Dear Sisters in the League,

As we look toward the close of 2021, I am grateful and thankful for many things.



**Faith:** That we have been able to attend Mass in person, virtually, and pray the Rosary with our sisters on Zoom.

**Service:** That our councils and members have been helpful in serving our community and parish in innovative ways because of Covid restrictions.

**Social Justice** through maintaining support for needy organizations, educating members and speaking up about injustice. Expressing Gratitude for all those who have worked diligently throughout this pandemic to keep us safe.

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council has 2 Voluntary funds that need your support:

- **Nickels for the North** helps to support travel and programs in the Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocesan Council.
- **March for Life** fund helps toward the cost of putting on the Alberta March for Life in Edmonton.

Covid has affected the ability of councils to fundraise, as a result, donations to these voluntary funds have been reduced. Any donations from councils will be gratefully received.

Give thoughtful study of the proposed per-capita increase. Information from the new National Secretary-Treasurer, Marie Rackley, Communique #2: <https://cw1.ca/communique-2-secretary-treasurer/>

God bless and keep yourself and all safe!

### Thanksgiving Prayer for Canadian Gifts:

In this golden autumn air we turn our hearts in thanksgiving to the many gifts you have given us.  
Beauty of cedar; hemlock and fir rising above the inland sea that points up to the coastal range.  
Beauty of prairie skies over yellow canola fields. Beauty of stark jack pine on a Lake Superior headland.  
Beauty of London's red maple avenues. Beauty of snow geese flying south over La Pocatiere.  
Beauty of lobster pots on a Maritime harbour. Beauty of the deep fjord at Gros Morne.

We also confess our shortcomings as stewards of the gift:

When profit precedes respect for creation, When greed strangles compassion,  
When impatience outpaces grace, When ambition overruns wisdom.

Let our thanks be infused with a deeper gratitude:

A deeper longing to draw closer to you,

A deeper trust in your ways,

A deeper commitment to justice,

A deeper courage to bring healing to this fractured time.

We pray to you, Lord of the harvest, that our hearts will be ever more grateful for our gifts.

*By Les Miller, Northern Light: A Canadian Prayer Book (Toronto: Novalis, 2020)*

## Greetings from Your Spiritual Development Chair – Gladys Brown



Faith, Social Justice and Service - Spiritual Development falls in all of the three Pillars:

Spiritual development should focus on the spiritual and social aspects in councils and emphasize small Christian community model of “Pray, Reflect, Act”.

Spiritual formation should provide opportunities to increase women’s spiritually as a core objective. This spiritual dimension is what sets the League apart from all other women’s organizations.

The Catholic Women’s League members should assist missions at home and abroad and to promote collections for the Catholic Missions in Canada. Members take leadership in the church by attending scripture readings and by taking time to take leadership in the parishes.

Under the three pillars, members should continue to contribute to the progress of humanity by participation in cultural, social and economic life in their parish communities. We as members, work together with other churches preparing for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the World Day of Prayer. We all belong together as we are children of God.

Pope Francis invites everyone to renewed HOPE, for HOPE speaks to us of something deeply rooted in every human heart. HOPE together with PRAY, speaks to us of a thirst, an aspiration, a longing for a life of fulfillment, a desire to achieve great things, things that fill our heart and life our spirit to realities like truth, goodness, beauty, justice and love.

May you be blessed with a Happy Thanksgiving.

### **Thanksgiving Day Prayer (or a daily prayer)**

Father, all of Creation rightly owes you thanks and praise. Your justice, love and mercy abound.

We thank you this day for all that you have given us.

For the Passion and Death of your Divine Son we thank you Father, through the Cross,  
He redeemed the world.

For the Church, we thank you Father, it is our beacon for salvation.

For our loved ones and friends who have passed away and gone before us, we thank you Father,  
their love abides with us forever.

For the gift of children, we thank you Father, they are your precious gifts to us and to the world.

For the gift of our families, loved ones and good friends, we thank you Father,  
through them we see the reflection of your Son.

For our homes, jobs and all that we have, we thank you Father,  
give us only that which we need,  
as we seek Your Kingdom.

For the bounty we are about to eat, we thank you  
through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.





## Greetings from Your Past President – June Fuller

### Sisters in the League:

***“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10***



I just want to begin by saying that however difficult this past year and a half has been, I have been increasingly impressed and proud to be a member of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada. Even though we may not have been able to meet in the usual ways, the ladies found other ways to stay in touch whether it be praying the rosary virtually, or hosting zoom meetings, we have stayed connected and informed. This just goes to show the deep love for the League that so many women have.

It also makes me realize the importance of our history and how we need to keep that information ongoing. At the Provincial mid-winter meeting in January, 2021 it was decided that the Provincial Executive would like to do a supplement edition to the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial CWL History book that included the years from 1948-1998. In 2023, we will have the pleasure of celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council. Therefore, in recognition of this milestone, we have invited the ladies that have served as President from 1998-2023 to send us their stories during their tenure as President. Besides the President’s history, we would like to include pictures, information on award recipients and special events that occurred during that time period. We do have time to work on this project, but I am looking forward to receiving the information for this project so that we can put it together in a special edition book for our members.

I would also like to mention that next year will be an election year for both the Diocesan and Provincial council. Therefore, I highly encourage the eligible members to consider letting their name stand for a position on either one of these executives. It is through change and leadership that we will continue to grow the League and also continue the work that began in 1912 with the hope of helping and serving those that are less fortunate. God has given us all a special gift to share with others. Let us use them to the best of our abilities.

Blessings to all,

### **Faith in Action: Celebration of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada**

As the Catholic Women’s League of Canada enters its second century, The Catholic Register has produced a special 36-page magazine issue about the League — its proud past and the people that today continue to make it a vital part of our Faith in Action. If you are not a subscriber to *The Catholic Register*, you can order our special CWL commemorative magazine here. <https://www.catholicregister.org/magazine>



## Greetings from Your Education and Health Chair – Gerda Hazenburg



Greetings from Yellowknife from your Provincial Education and Health Chair! We are surrounded by the beautiful season of fall once again and once again we are called to be mindful of a global pandemic.

However, in 2021 a very painful portion of Canadian History has been brought to the foreground: the Indian Residential Schools. As I begin this small conversation with you in our annual newsletter I would like to quote the words that I heard just a few days ago from a Dene elder, leader and residential school survivor, Paul Andrew. He said that we must “talk to each other” as we move forward. Let us constantly be mindful of our Saviour’s words and truly listen to each other with the heart of Christ. As sisters in the CWL we are called to live the three pillars of FAITH, SERVICE, and SOCIAL JUSTICE. Under these pillars, let us look at how this speaks in the Education, Health/Environment envelope.

**EDUCATION** is key to evangelization. It is there that we speak and share our faith, be it in the church, classroom or online. Our Faith calls us to be engaged in our schools, sacramental preparation, and continuing education programs for adults. School Board elections are on the horizon and we are called to look carefully at our potential leaders and vote! We have so much to be THANKFUL FOR. Let us joyfully engage in advocating for Catholic Education.

**HEALTH and WELLNESS** are ways that we live out our calling to Service and Social Justice. Each one of us are called to live mindful of our own health as well as protecting the lives of others in our community and in the rest of our country. Never before has this command been more visible than now with the masking, social isolation rules and requirement that we all must be vaccinated. Our younger grandchildren are learning this lesson so clearly as we explain to them why they can’t come to visit us. (In Yellowknife we are not allowed any visitors at present. ) Younger children understand the need for masking so much better than adults. What a lesson our Lord is teaching us during this Pandemic. Many in our communities are struggling with Mental Health. Life has become so unpredictable and scary for people of all ages. Substance abuse is rising sharply. Our mandate is so clear: reach out to not only friends but all you can. Communicate by letters, texts, phone calls, leaving gifts on their doorsteps. We can not walk in another’s footsteps but we can walk alongside those that are suffering.

Our **ENVIRONMENT**, God’s Creation, is reminding us of our responsibilities as never before. The heat waves we experienced this past summer, even up in Yellowknife, reminded us of how we must be aware of the damage being done by our disregard. We have done an awesome job planting trees, cleaning up, and working on recycling programs. My sisters let's keep on loving our Earth in as many ways as we can.

In closing I would like to share with you a photo from Yellowknife of our houseboats as we are approaching freeze up. God Bless.



**APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2022-2023 CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM ARE AVAILABLE!**

Application Forms are now available for the 2022-23 Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation Program. The Certificate program, facilitated by the Providence School of Transformational Leadership and Spirituality at Saint Paul University (Ottawa) will run from May 2022 to June 2023, with both face to face and online courses. **The application deadline is November 20, 2021**

<https://www.cwlfcanada.ca/>

## Greetings from Your Resolutions and Legislation Chair – Betsy Fletcher



Due to the tragic loss of our Sharon Malec, our Legislation Standing Committee Chair, I will be assuming her position for the rest of this term, as well as filling my position of Resolutions.

In keeping with Strategic planning, perhaps it's time to examine where we are with regard to resolutions and legislation and the three pillars. Do we fall under faith, how about service, or maybe social justice? It only makes sense that we would fit under all three.

Let's start with faith. Everything we do under the umbrella of the Catholic Women's League of Canada begins with faith. We are informed by our faith. With faith, we love our neighbours. With faith, we can move mountains.

Do our resolutions and legislation studies reflect service to our fellow citizens? We'll use archived resolution 2008.03: Toxic Substances in Household Products, as an example of service. How many of us were truly aware of how toxic some of our household products were to us? We probably noticed the skull and crossbones on our bleach, but we used it anyway. How about that nifty skeletal hand in the bucket? It indicated the product could be corrosive, but some of us would use those products without rubber gloves on our hands. Our resolution urged the federal government to prohibit the use of suspected toxic substances and to require adequate warning labels. The government did address this issue.

Now we come to social justice. Social justice is not about making sure a convicted criminal goes to jail for a long time for his crimes. It's about making sure the people in our country do not get left behind because of poverty, racism, sexism, ageism, human rights, et cetera. Legislation research helps us to determine if a resolution should be pursued. Resolution 2019.01: Canada to Honour its Commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is one resolution that truly reflects the need for the resolution and the need for legislation to be enacted. This resolution came about because while Canada did ratify this Convention, it did not fully sign on. Changes in legislation were made to make life better for Children in Canada.

For information about resolutions, please refer to the Updated Resolutions 2020 Handbook and the Legislation Handbook. You can find them at [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca). Look for "To Organize", then go to "Resources". The Resolutions handbook is #618 and you can find the Legislation handbook in the Executive handbook #606.

Hopefully this information will help you to see how resolutions and legislation fit under the 3 Pillars

Links to your MLAs in Alberta and the Assembly Members in the Northwest Territories

<https://www.assembly.ab.ca/members/members-of-the-legislative-assembly>

<https://www.ntassembly.ca/meet-members/premier-and-ministers>



## Memorial for Sharon Malec (RIP) – Legislation Chair



Our dear sister Sharon passed away on August 8 2021, complications from a heart attack a couple of days previous. She had a passion for life, for her family, for her church, for music, for quilting and for the Catholic Women’s League.

Sharon had been a member of the Catholic Women’s League for over 45 years, beginning at Holy Cross, Fort MacLeod AB, followed by Christ the King in Claresholm, and ending in St. Martha’s, Lethbridge AB.

Joining the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council in 2017 she first served as Resolution chair and then in 2019, Legislation chair. She took her duties diligently and faithfully.

Working with other chairs of the ABMK Council, she presented a full provincial council charge on Bill C-7, encouraging all councils to email, write and call their MPs and others on this very serious and ethically charged Bill.

Sharon served on the Calgary Diocesan Council from 2007 to 2019, becoming president in 2015 (2015-2017). Of all the chairs she held, I am sure she enjoyed the Spiritual one the most. Here her love of God, the Church and the League really shone through. Sharon created several prayers including a Stole Liturgy, used when presenting a CWL stole to a Spiritual Advisor and a Quilt Blessing Service in 2017 along with Betty Anne Brown Davidson, a past National President. (The quilt blessing service is on the ABMK website under Spiritual Development)

As Liturgy Committee Chair for the National 2019 CWL convention held in Calgary, August 2019, she worked closely with the National Spiritual Chair and the National Spiritual Advisor to develop a thoughtful and spiritually powerful program. She also quilted a beautiful Madonna and Child banner for the National 2019 Prayer Room, as shown here.



Sharon loved The League – she was excited about the National Strategic Plan to move the League forward for the next 100 years. She was part of the National Implementation Committee – Working Group #3 – Spiritual Formation – developing a program to help councils and members create their own original prayers and spiritual programs. *I look forward to using the prayers that the National committee has created, knowing that Sharon was a part of this.*

Sharon loved to quilt and many have been recipients of her sewing ability from quilts, wall hangings, pencil holders, tea bag wallets, tissue holders and Christmas decorations - all sewn and given with love and care. When



Pencil case,  
Tissue holder,  
Tea Bag wallet

I consulted her on what parting gift she would like to receive as she transitioned from president to past president for the Calgary Diocesan Council, she suggested “fat quarters”. For all of you non-quilters this was a challenge! First of all, we had to figure out what “fat quarters” were and then where to find “them”!

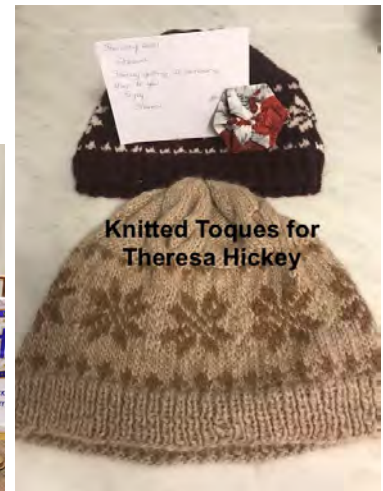
Jan Myhre,  
Sharon Malec  
(RIP), Carol  
Schlachter  
(RIP), Janet  
MacPhee.  
The four  
Calgary  
Diocesan  
Presidents that  
over saw the  
National 2019  
convention.







Although Sharon loved to quilt her first love was her music. She would often say “I have to go to my happy place” meaning her piano.



At the mass services held in the Chapel at the Star of the North Retreat Centre in St. Albert for the ABMK officers’ meetings, Sharon would be at the piano leading us in song. She loved her music – it made her happy!

She loved the League and attended many provincial and national conventions.

She managed to convince me to dress up at the Charlottetown 2017 National convention, This is one of my favorite photos and I am so glad it pops up on my Facebook!

L-R: Sharon, Dorothy, Judy L., Christine, Janet.

Following music and quilting she was also passionate about her chosen career - teaching - from kindergarten to grade 12 - teaching music, religion, foods and special education. Serving as the Religious Education Coordinator for Holy Spirit School District was one of her most rewarding assignments. She was privileged to be involved with programs for religious education when she served as president of the Religious and Moral Education Council of the ATA.

Rest in Peace dear friend and sister.



I will end this memorial with one of the prayers Sharon had when she was Spiritual Chair for the Calgary Diocesan Council:

*Friday Morning Opening Spiritual for the 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention, 2011*

*Closing Prayer:*

*You are a skillful net maker, O God, an adroit seamstress. You separate the stands of time and knot and spin them into the fabric of our lives. With delicate patience you weave the network, the tapestry of our beginning once upon a time. With intricate detail, you knot, weave and embroider your very presence into our heres and nows. With great promise you knit and knot together our hopes for living and working happily. Nothing can destroy your handiwork; nothing can rend or ravel the threads and knots of the stories you spin. Therefore, we thank you that we are so wonderfully made.*

*Response: Knots in the net, links in the chain. Always the fashion, in season and out. Be with us as we knot and weave together our ministerial network and tapestry. Amen. Sing the Sign of the Cross (Sharon loved to sing the Sign of the Cross!)*

Submitted by Janet MacPhee and Judy Look



In the Fall 2020 Newsletter Sharon invited all to take a virtual tour of our parliament buildings: “Have you ever been to the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, the Alberta Legislature Building or the Northwest Territories Assembly? Included is a list of virtual tours that you can take to these buildings.”

House of Commons

<http://www.ourcommons.ca/>

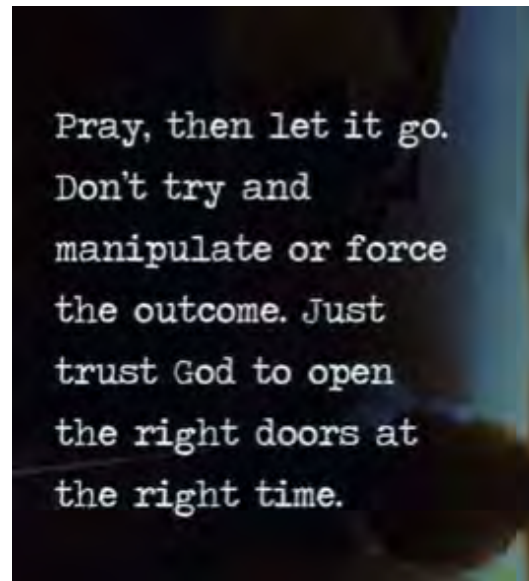
Alberta Legislature

<http://www.assembly.ca/>

Northwest Territories Assemble

<http://www.ntassembly.ca/>

As this pandemic continues virtual tours are an informative way to visit our government.



The Pope's Prayer Intention: October

Missionary Disciples: We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel.

The Pope's Prayer Intention: November

People who suffer from depression: We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

## Greetings from Your Communications Chair – Janet MacPhee

Here we are – a year later and still working with the restrictions of the CoVid-19. But there is HOPE as vaccines are available and the talents that our good Lord has given to scientists, virologists, medical personnel has allowed for procedures and methodologies to come into play to help control (as best as humanly possible) the brutal toll this pandemic has created worldwide. Let us GIVE THANKS to all that are working diligently to get this virus under control. We need to continue to do our part: get vaccinated (if you can), wash your hands, wear a mask, stay distanced.



In the world of communication, the CoVid-19 pandemic has spawned multiple media reports, media sites, and information – on both sides. As with matters that affect humans, trying to get information that is factual can take a lot of time – just putting the words “Covid 19 virus” into Google returns over 2 billion results in less than 2 seconds. Trusting your source that you go to for information is key. We also need to acknowledge that this is not just a “bad cold”. This virus is deadly!

Judy Look has made a new acronym for **COVID - Catholic Organization full of Vitality, Inspiration and Dedication**. Once again words that can inspire and help all get through this pandemic.

**The Gratitude Project:** *The centenary committee is encouraging members to participate in The Gratitude Project. Since the pandemic began, front-line workers, first responders, personal support workers and so many others have put their lives on the line to assist others. Essential workers and businesses held their course to ensure the needs of their communities endured due to the effects of lockdown restrictions. Join the centenary committee in extending gratitude to all those that have helped their community in any way. – Chairperson of the Centenary Committee Betty Colaneri*

Since the pandemic has not allowed celebrations and meetings the way we all wished, we do need to show our gratitude to the ones that were at the front of it. You can download the gratitude card from the National website <https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/324-Gratitude-Project-Postcard-2021.pdf> or if you prefer it without a year the Calgary Diocesan Council has created one (without the year) <https://www.calgarycwl.ca/news/797-gratitude-project> that can be downloaded and printed.

Your ABMK council also encourages sending cards, personal notes and thank yous’ to anyone you or your council feel has kept things going during this time. Small gestures of gratitude can go a long way.

- G – how grateful we are
- R – how much we appreciate your resilience and resourcefulness
- A – how amazing and awesome you have been
- T – that giving of your time and talents is greatly appreciated
- I – what an inspiration your courage has been
- T – how thankful we are that you were able to serve others
- U – that we understand your sacrifices
- D – your dedication did not go unnoticed
- E – that your service to others during a pandemic is Exceptional!



**Federal Election:** Unfortunately, when the Federal Election was called all bills have died on the order paper including:

[Bill S-216 – Modern Slavery Act](#)

*Sponsor: Senator Miville-Dechêne*

[Bill S-203 - Protecting Young Persons from Exposure to Pornography Act](#)

*Sponsor: Senator Miville-Dechêne*

[Bill C-302 – Stopping Internet Sexual Exploitation \(SISE\) Act](#)

*Sponsor: MP Arnold Viersen*

The good news is that three co-chairs of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) to End Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, Liberal MP John McKay, Bloc MP Andréanne Larouche, and Arnold Viersen were re-elected in this past election. As Senators are appointed, our fourth co-chair, Senator Julie Miville-Dechêne also continues in her role. This group look forward to continuing to raise awareness among Parliamentarians and advance policies to end exploitation and to bring all these bills back onto the floor as soon as possible.

*The above information was provided by Arnold Viersen, MP, Peace River/Westlock*

The APPG group will be bringing all these bills back to the floor. Therefore, we as members of the Catholic Women’s League must continue to send our emails, letters and postcards regarding these matters to our MPs and Senators. If you have a new MP, please bring them up to date on these issues. I strongly encourage all to send these cards out as the live streaming of pornography has greatly increased over the past year. We need to protect our children, our families and our society.



Should your council/parish require these cards please contact me as I do have a budget to mail out cards to you. Please send me an email or contact your Diocesan Communications Chairperson for cards. My email address is [abmkprovcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:abmkprovcommunications@gmail.com)

### **Psalm 100: Thanksgiving**

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands; serve the Lord with gladness;  
come before his presence with singing.

Know ye that the Lord he is God; it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise;  
be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting and his truth endureth to all generations.”



## Greetings from Your Community Life Chair – Theresa Hickey



A beautiful season when trees are changing colour, a blanket of colourful autumn leaves cover the ground. Fall is the time of year when we start back fresh to our schedules. Fall is called “*The Season of the Mists*” a time for harvest, cooling temperatures and darkening nights A time for new beginnings and renewed energy. We certainly are blessed and very thankful for sharing this beautiful land with our Indigenous sisters and brothers.

Here, in Yellowknife, St. Patrick's CWL along with Father Marek, our parish priest and Spiritual Advisor planted a tree on this land of Chief Drygeese Territory in our church courtyard in celebration of the 100 Anniversary (1920-2020) of the Catholic

Women's League.

What an amazing milestone and organization that we are joined together in Faith.

I am truly blessed; I had the opportunity spending a beautiful summer camping and fishing with family and friends. Now, it is time to get back to reality. Starting on my third term with the Catholic Women’s League as ABMK Provincial Community Life Chair, it certainly has been an exciting and rewarding few years. Despite Covid, social media along with zoom meetings, emails, and webinars, kept us connected. We certainly have been blessed with extended coverage from CWL masses to the National Convention.

Of the three pillars, Faith, Service, and Social Justice, Faith is the foundation integrated through service and social justice. The word Faith brings back great memories of growing up in Newfoundland and Labrador, raised in a Catholic home with my parents, my grandma and my eleven siblings. Every evening after supper, my grandma would say “OK children, time for the rosary” I remember her telling us about how we could help people and be kind to everyone if we just pray every day to God. She reminded us always to share with others. I recall her telling me in my teenage years, if you live a good Christian life and love helping others, it is a call from God. My grandma’s faith and words of wisdom stuck with me throughout my journey with the Catholic Women’s League. Today, I am thankful for my parents and grandma for teaching me the importance of a relationship with God and to see the face of Jesus in everyone I encounter.

As we grow and share our gifts, talents and charity with others, our members of the Catholic Women’s league help many charities and non-profit organizations. We continue our work with the Catholic Missions in Canada, donating funds which helps rebuild and prepare old churches across our province and territories. We are grateful to be connected to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. Please continue to share this website: [www.cmic.info](http://www.cmic.info) and e-mail: [magazine@cmic.info](mailto:magazine@cmic.info) with all your Parish and Diocesan Councils.

On September 15, 2021 St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) celebrated their 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in helping the poor. We celebrated the feast Day of SSVP on September 27/2021. Many members sit on committees at their church parish to seek where help is needed. Groceries are collected and delivered to families on the list for help. Donations of money are delivered to families to buy supplies and personal items for school children. Funds were donated to the flood relief this year that occurred with the spring breakup. Residents from those little communities of Fort Simpson and Jean Marie River in the Northwest Territories were ecstatic by the generous support from league members. One hundred and fifty single mattresses were delivered to homes and shelters who needed a bed. What a Blessing to have wonderful, caring volunteers in our communities.

Pope Francis declared the First World Day of the Poor on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Pope Francis quoted “Let us love, not with words but with deeds”. His Holiness Pope Francis has marked November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for the Fifth World Day of the Poor, “The poor you will always have with you” (Mk 14:7). To find out more on this wonderful organization, check out this website: [www.ssvp.ca](http://www.ssvp.ca).

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace partners with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) and is supported by parish collections, individual donations, and Government grants. The Catholic Women’s League continues to donate through the 1% program. Donations go to worldwide causes like natural disasters, earthquakes in Haiti and helping people in the global south to eliminate poverty. The Canadian Catholic Organization of Development and Peace helps with ending poverty and violence against women. The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) DOES NOT support “ABORTION” Website: [www.devvp.org](http://www.devvp.org). Please continue to pray for those affected by disaster.

Another wonderful organization is the Bishop Denis Croteau Development Foundation (BDCDF)

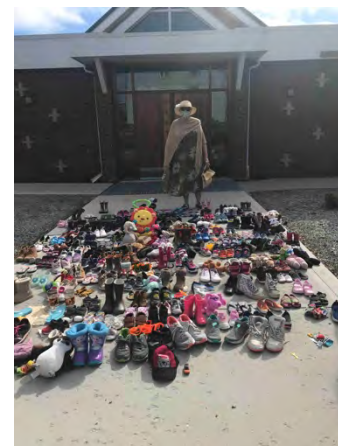
Bishop Croteau is a retired Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocese in the Northwest Territories. He has brought a new meaning to retirement. He still works faithfully in helping end poverty and bring smiles to children with the flow of clean water. Up to 2003 donations were processed through the Mackenzie Diocese recognized as a charitable organization. But as the involvement of Bishop Croteau in Third World Countries (today called developing Nations) became increasingly intense and involved more benefactors, the BISHOP DENIS CROTEAU DEVELOPEMENT was legally established. In 2006, it became a registered charity. This charity provides funds for projects in Burkina Faso, West Africa, digging of water wells and supports families in poverty-stricken countries. He has many benefactors who donates to his Foundation.



The ladies of the Catholic Women's League are good supporters both as a group and on a personal basis to this foundation. Check it out: google Bishop Denis Croteau Development Foundation. Bishop Denis has also authored a book called “SAGA OF A MISSIONARY BISHOP, a wonderful book to purchase and read about the history and life of a young priest and Bishop in the cold white north. Book can be purchased by email: [dcroteau@theedge.ca](mailto:dcroteau@theedge.ca)



Through these unprecedented times over this past year with difficulties from the pandemic affecting our duties with the League, we continue to keep a positive outlook, giving God thanks for helping the homelessness, attending mass with a mask, social distancing, washing our hands, enjoy the wonder of seeing a child smile at Christmas morning with their favorite toy under the tree. A toy program was coordinated by the ladies of the League to give to the Salvation Army to distribute to families in need. The ladies of Alberta Mackenzie had the opportunity on healing and reconciliation services presided by Diocesan Bishops on the missing 215 children found in unmarked graves from residential schools. Prepared special occasion dinners for senior lunches, lunch with the bunch. Walked in marches for social justice, the red dress program for missing and murdered



women and girls, orange shirt day to honor residential school survivors to help with healing and reconciliation.

Having faith and gratitude will certainly lighten the heart.

**Never give up HOPE, Hope grows strong in the heart that believes.**

In Gratitude  
Theresa



### The Canadian League Magazine, Fall 2021

is only available on line. Please download and print off copies for your members that do not have on-line access. There is a black and white printable version but a better option is to just print the coloured copy in black and white. The black and white copy has no pictures, just text.

### **LORD, GIVE ME A BIG HEART TODAY**

Lord, give me a big heart today, a generosity of spirit in all my encounters., especially the interruptions, the moments of grace by the side of the road, the chance to step in and help.

Give me the grace to be really present in the presence of others,

to see the “sacred grandeur” of my neighbour,

to listen well, to take the first step towards them,

to let go of my well-earned assumptions:

to give less offence, to take offence less easily.

Give me the grace to see the needs of the world around me, to see through normality,

to see injustice hidden in plain sight.

Give me the grace to see in the most ordinary moments of encounter the graced reality of our world.

*By Raymond Freiel and David Wells, At Your Side: Prayers for Messy, Delightful, complicated, Outrageous, Everyday Life (Toronto: Novalis, 2020)*



## Greetings from Your Christian Life Chair – Celine Berlinguette

Thanksgiving is a time when people reflect and give “thanks” for the good things that have happened in their lives during the past year.

During the past few years with the Covid-19 Pandemic, and the imposed restrictions on gatherings with family and friends it has led many to think that there is not much to be “thankful” for. True thanksgiving calls for a time of looking back and reflecting on the many blessings we’ve received in our lifetime and continue to receive on a daily basis.



Every day I give thanks to the Lord our God for:

- ✓ The gift of life – many are not given the chance to live
- ✓ The air I breathe – many die because their lungs cannot sustain life
- ✓ The food that nourishes my body – so many people are starving
- ✓ The roof over my head, as it protects me from the elements – so many are homeless
- ✓ My faith in God, that was instilled in me by loving parents – so many have not had the same opportunities as I have had
- ✓ For community, family and friends –many are alone and very lonely
- ✓ And most of all the gift of love – love for God, family, friends and community

Yes my friends, the above mentioned are only a few of the things that I am thankful for. Although the COVID – 19 Virus has put “restrictions” on life in general it has also given me many blessings;

- ✓ Time to get to know God, to pray, to study scripture
- ✓ Time to enjoy nature, God’s creation, take long walks
- ✓ Time to talk with family and friends on the telephone
- ✓ Time to spend with loved ones as they journeyed to their eternal rest

This pandemic has created difficult times for all people, however for the believer who knows the greatness of the Lord, will always have reason to give thanks. We know that God will never forget His children. We are a people of hope. We know that this pandemic has caused a lot of grief, pain and suffering for many people but living in the hope of eternal salvation is definitely something to be grateful for.

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



*Palliative care postcards are available from the Alberta Mackenzie communications Chair (free)*





**The Catholic Women's League of Canada**  
**Diocese of Mackenzie Fort Smith**  
**Shirley Gutierrez**

**Diocesan President Mackenzie-Fort Smith**



This global pandemic continues to challenge us and is getting worse here in the Northern part of our country. Some of our communities are alternating in lockdown since the end of August which seems to help as the covid cases are going down. However, new cases still appear in different places.

It might have changed the way we interacted individually and as a group of dedicated women to be witnesses for our 3 Pillars of Faith, Service and Social justice but we are here for one another.

Our sisterhood is alive!

And this pandemic won't stop us to enjoy the beauty of Autumn, my favorite time of the year. As the celebration of Thanksgiving approaches, I thank the Creator for all the wonderful blessings we received in spite of the challenges we are facing with the spirit of gratitude and full of hope.

**Here are the things I've done this summer:**

- I attended a wind up in one of the council-what a joy to share laughs and each other!
- Facilitated the AMM for Mackenzie Fort Smith diocese in May
- Spent 2 hours making flower arrangements for Moms in our local parish with CWL ladies and gave out on Mother's Day to mothers, grandmothers, aunts & caregivers
- Made mugs with goodies with our local CWL sisters for Dads and Grads mass and distributed after. I presented certificates for the grads after the mass
- I attended our Spiritual advisors' evening presentation on the 'Year of St. Joseph'
- Participated in the offering and fire dance to share in the sorrow of our indigenous brothers and sister in a memorial for the children whose remains were discovered
- Attended a webinar training before the National AMM
- Attended both the 100<sup>th</sup> and 101<sup>st</sup> National AMM in August virtually
- Attended the ABMK AMM in June and Fall meeting this September virtually

I just want to add that since this will be the last seating for our current Provincial council, I want you to know that I have learned so much about the league and experienced the actual hands on of how things are supposed to operate. Although we adjust and modify according to the needs of each council and dioceses, we have one common goal and set of rules that needed to abide by so that we're in one in every level of the league. I know I still have a lot more to learn, practice and follow but I have the needed knowledge of the how to do things and where to look for. For each and everyone in this provincial council, thank you so much for all the knowledge, support and assistance you have given me. I will miss all the love, hugs, and sisterhood that you shared to me. We lost a few of our sisters but

they left us a legacy of good memories to remind us why we were a member of this awesome Catholic organization. To each of you, thank you, thank you, from the bottom of my heart! I wish you good luck, stay safe, connected and more showers of God's blessings to us all!!! I hope and pray that we can meet one more time before we are done with our terms but please know that I had a fabulous time with you ladies and we'll be missing you all.

***Our upcoming Diocesan Fall teleconference is scheduled this October 27<sup>th</sup> thru zoom @ 7PM***

The 3 councils took their yearly break this summer and this September hopefully the councils will be able to get back in some ways or the other. With the current Covid situation here in the North, we are back to taking body temperatures, masking, handwashing and distancing. Also, the numbers of people allowed inside and outside were back to phase 2 of last year.

With God's grace, we continue to share the love in our works and show our presence to help, support and assist in our own little way.

**Congratulations to our new National executives!!!**

**Sharing some photos of our activities in the Mackenzie Fort Smith Diocese:**



***Attending the memorial for our found residential children with the ladies and their families***



***Dads/Grads- mugs and certificates***



*Hay River local council wrap up for the summer*



*Annual meeting of Members in May-Zoom*



*Flowers for Mother's Day*







**The Catholic Women's League of Canada**  
**ArchDiocese of Grouard-McLennan**  
**Christine Becher**  
**Diocesan President Grouard-McLennan**



Greetings to all from Grouard-McLennan Diocese. Fall is upon us and members are embarking on a new season of League activities. Some councils have not met throughout the pandemic, but all information has been passed on to their members. Others have been able to meet in accordance with CoVid guidelines. Most councils have continued their outreach projects and kept their parishes functioning.

We had hoped to have in-person meetings this fall. However, due to rising cases in this area the executive, in consultation with our spiritual advisor Father Cyril Joseph, decided to cancel the Fall Educational Workshop. We are trying to find a way to continue our activities that protects members' health while not excluding members lacking internet access.

Our incoming National President Fran Lucas has announced the new theme for 2022-2023: Catholic and Living It! There is a lot of information including communiques from the new committee chairpersons at [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca). The Fall League magazine is posted as well. We embrace the many changes that are coming as the Strategic Plan moves into year 3. This is an exciting time for the League!

May Thanksgiving be a time for you and your families to reflect upon and be grateful for the many blessings we enjoy in this great country.







The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
ArchDiocese of Edmonton  
Mary Molloy  
Diocesan President Edmonton



Sisters in the League:



What a year 2021 has been. We have experienced all kinds of twists and turns, but we seem to have made the best of it, keeping our families and friends safe by masking, social distancing and getting our vaccine shots. The work we have done in the last 19 months, amid upending events and uncertainty, has solidified our faith in God and commitment to the CWL.

The Edmonton Diocesan Council held its 2021 Fall Meeting on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. We opened our meeting with a prayer for reconciliation and solidarity with Indigenous Peoples following Canada's first Truth and Reconciliation Day. Our guest speaker for the meeting was Fr. Soosai Jesu OMI, Pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church of the First Peoples. His presentation was "Building a Relationship with Sacred Heart Parish of the First Peoples". This parish has a unique role in the archdiocese incorporating indigenous teaching, symbols, ceremonies, Catholic scriptures and customs reflecting a coming together of both traditions. Fr Soosai also outlined the vision of Sacred Heart Church to be a most loving and welcoming place by promoting Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He shared how this vision will be accomplished through the liturgical ministries as well as supporting the materially and spiritually poor, the homeless and the marginalized with their varied needs. Following the presentation, CWL members discussed way to support the parish and how to participate in the rebuilding project.

To maintain our relationships with our schools and provide resources to the school library, a **CWL Book Project** was launched. Each council was asked to donate a book to an elementary school beginning during Read in Week commencing October 4<sup>th</sup> with the theme "*To Each Their Own Story*" and concluding on Education Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup>. We will begin the project with a donation to the elementary schools by gifting the book "*Everybody's Welcome*" by Patricia Hegarty to be followed in January with books selected for junior and high school libraries.

Edmonton Diocesan Council will be hosting a Compassionate Community Care Workshop: ***Being With - Volunteer Training*** on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. The speakers for the workshop are Genevieve Schadenberg, Director of Compassionate Community Care, Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, and Kathy Costa. Information to register is on the Edmonton Diocesan website: [www.edmontoncwl.ca](http://www.edmontoncwl.ca). There is no cost to attend the workshop but registration is limited to 100 people.

Membership continues to be a concern. Our membership at the end of August 2021 was at 3,574, down about 650 members from 2020. In the past year we have had five councils indicate they have either disbanded or were in the process of disbanding. However, Diocesan Council has heard from parishes that either wish to reactivate or start a new council. One such example is Sacred Heart Catholic Parish of the First Peoples. Sacred Heart Parish had been one of the original parishes that met in 1912 to begin the CWL in Edmonton. We are excited to be able to welcome them back to the Diocesan Council. The installation of executive will take place in January 2022.

The 2022 Mid-Winter workshops will be held on Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. It is hoped these workshops can be in person but an online workshop will be planned as back up. We are looking forward to implementing the new national theme: *Catholic and Living It!*

Planning is underway for the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, to be held in Camrose April 29, 30 & May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. We are looking forward to being able to gather in person. We will be celebrating the recognition of council anniversaries, looking back over 100 conventions, recognize deceased members, retire the banners of disbanded councils, and most importantly have the election of Diocesan Officers for 2022 to 2024 term!

Edmonton Diocese was fortunate to have three members elected to the National CWL Board, Fran Lucas, National President, Cathy Bouchard, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Spiritual Development Standing Committee and Dorothy Johansen, Christian Family Life Standing Committee. We offer our prayers and congratulations to them for their work for God and Canada.

I close by reminding us with words of Joshua 1:9, "...Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Stay safe and God Bless


**Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples.** Located at 10821 96<sup>th</sup> Street, Edmonton AB

Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples is a community that holds together the pain and the promise of all peoples.




In Faith we see what we are called to be and how we have wounded each other.

Our Hope is God who is greater than our hurt and sin.

With Love we atone for the injustices of the past and build a new future.



**EVERY CHILD MATTERS**





The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Diocese of Calgary  
Jan Myhre  
Diocesan President Calgary



Greetings on behalf of the Calgary Diocesan Council.

We are entering our 100<sup>th</sup> year as a Diocesan Council and even though we continue to live through the pandemic, our councils are alive and well. We are proud of the accomplishments of our diocese as our 47 councils celebrate a century of service. Our success is attributed to generations of faith filled, dedicated women (moms, daughters, sisters, and grandmothers) who joyfully serve their parish, community and country.



One of the positives COVID-19 has brought us is how we can reach out through technology. Councils throughout the diocese offered bible studies, weekly rosary, prayer evenings, and year end celebrations, inviting members from all over the diocese to take part. What a wonderful way for us to celebrate our sisterhood.

We started out the year with a virtual three part *Laudato Si'* workshop facilitated by Jeannette Nixon of St. Patrick's council in Calgary and Diocesan Officer Kathleen Winter. We are very grateful to these ladies for sharing of their gifts and helping us to embrace our third core value of "social justice". Members from all levels of the League joined us, with over 60 in attendance each week. We were provided with many ways we can carry out our theme "*Care for Our Common Home – Stewards of Creation*"

Also in January, we welcomed our new Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Father Pilmaikén Lezano, who was ordained a priest in 2015 and brings a youthful energy to our diocesan council. When Bishop McGrattan officially installed Father Pilmaikén at our Annual Meeting of Members, the Bishop indicated it was the first time he had ever installed anyone virtually before, but it was a beautiful and spiritual ceremony none the less. Father Pilmaikén has provided a virtual Lenten Retreat, as well as inspiring and touching spiritual reflections.



Members remained active and engaged as they became techies. They became creative in their fundraising efforts, such as take-out meals, flower and chocolate sales, sales of fair trade products, cookie walks, and even a Valentine fundraiser called "Sweets for the Sweet". These fundraisers allowed them to continue to support their favored charities.

Many virtual meetings took place with our Diocesan Convention Planning Committee in the hopes that we'd be able to have an in person convention, however God had other plans, and on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> we held our virtual Annual Meeting of Members with approximately 100 members in attendance. Congratulations to St. Mary's Cathedral Council in Calgary who were the recipients of the Walter Krewski Award for the largest percentage increase in members for 2020. These ladies have become a real presence at the Cathedral, and their council grew by 29% even amidst a pandemic.

Diocesan President-Elect Renee Spohn introduced the Welcome Program to our members through various workshops as well as the Companionship program at Regional Meetings. Before we broke for the summer, an event was held to validate our members, and everyone in attendance had a wonderful evening.

Sadly, we lost our sister Sharon Malec on Sunday August 8<sup>th</sup>. Sharon was Calgary Diocesan President from 2015 – 2017, was very involved in the 99<sup>th</sup> National CWL Convention held in Calgary in August of 2019, and her input in the Spiritual Formation Working Group of the implementation committee of the strategic plan will be her legacy. Approximately 50 members from all over the Calgary Diocese honoured Sharon by attending her prayer service in Lethbridge on Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup>.



The next day, Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, many members then travelled to St. Mary's in Brooks for Carol Schlachter's Memorial Mass. Just prior to her passing at the beginning of the pandemic, Carol had been honoured with a Life Membership to the League, and although she didn't ever get to wear her pin, her husband Andy wore the pin on the inside of his suit jacket, next to his heart.

The gut-wrenching news of the finding of unmarked graves of indigenous children at residential schools shocked us all, and we are grateful to Bishop McGrattan for the work he is doing in the Diocese of Calgary to reach out to our indigenous brothers and sisters to assist them in Justice, Healing and Reconciliation. At our recent Diocesan Fall Meeting he shared a presentation with members of the Calgary Diocese, and responded to numerous questions.



We are grateful for our sisters in the League who continue to look out for each other, to pray for each other, to serve their parishes and each other. We pray we can gather together to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention April 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> & May 1<sup>st</sup>.

We place ourselves in the hands of our heavenly Father, grateful for the graces and blessings He has bestowed upon us, and pray to Our Lady of Good Counsel to intercede for us that we may be loving and courageous, and to know the will of Jesus her son.





**The Catholic Women's League of Canada**  
**Diocese of St. Paul**  
**Lolain Alsmo**  
**Diocesan President St. Paul**



Fall is such a season of thanksgiving – for another harvest completed, for the goodness from our gardens, for the beauty of our landscape dressed in autumn colour, and for the family and friends we are able to share all of this with. Truly we are blessed by God! I am so thankful for these blessings, and for the wonderful support of our members.

All three regular Diocesan meetings were held by Zoom in 2021, and it was wonderful to be able to see each other virtually. While I am so grateful for the technology that makes this possible, I remain mindful of the fact that it is not universally available, and that we must not forget nor leave behind our sisters who are unable, for many different reasons, to connect in this way. There was a time in our history when the telephone was new, and began slowly replacing letters and a knock at the door, so I think we are experiencing a similar transition – making use of the new while continuing to be sisters to each other and the community at large with a good old phone call, letter or card in the mail, or a knock at the door when and where this is possible.

We very regretfully accepted the decision of the ladies of St. Theresa's CWL Council of Breynat, who voted to disband this past summer. Membership in our Diocese for 2021 currently stands at 463, down from 554 in 2020.

At the end of June the parish of Morinville experienced the loss of the historic and beautiful church of St. Jean Baptiste due to fire. So we find ourselves with a new opportunity for prayer, for forgiveness, and for working together to build anew a place where, to paraphrase what our bishop said, our ancestors and elders all came as brothers and sisters in Christ to pray and to listen to Jesus.



Bishop Paul Terrio was able to join us for a portion of our Fall Diocesan meeting and presented updates on Morinville parish, the Diocesan Caritas, an upcoming ordination, and the results of the meeting of parish clergy and representatives from Indigenous parishes in our Diocese.

As Catholic Women's League members we will look for ways we can support and contribute to these efforts. In spite of the challenges, the ladies of the Catholic Women's League here in the Diocese of St. Paul have done their best to carry out their mission of growing in faith and witnessing to the love of God through ministry and service. As restrictions eased over the summer, a number of in-person memorials, welcome lunches, and fundraising activities were held. Inspired councils adopted and adapted new methods of fundraising like the bakeless bake sales, which allowed them to continue their support of many different charities, shelters, school graduates and school programs, clothing drives, and other local services in their areas while still following the evolving government guidelines. Plans are underway throughout the Diocese to continue with fall activities such as winter wear clothing collections, Operation Christmas Child, Food Bank and Santa's Anonymous. The photo is of the Community Christmas Card, used as a fundraiser by the Morinville parish CWL Council.



Many of our members across the Diocese are participants in the efforts to continue to have Mass celebrated within their parishes, as lectors, musicians, and volunteers assisting with the additional duties related to the pandemic. The restrictions on gatherings has also led to an increased **focus on prayer by many members, as it is the one thing we can all do at anytime, anywhere, every day.**

One phrase in our League Prayer is 'teach us to share with others, at home and abroad, the good things you have given us.' In some ways this phrase defines us, who we are as St. Paul CWL members, how we go about in ministry and service. We share our time, talents, strengths, weaknesses, our prayers and our passions, out of love for our God, with all our brothers and sisters, who we encounter at home, in our parishes, and in neighbouring communities across our Diocese. Through our support of international organizations and charities we extend that sharing abroad, to the whole world.

How thankful I am for what we have, and that we have so much to share.  
May Our Lady of Good Counsel ever pray for us!

