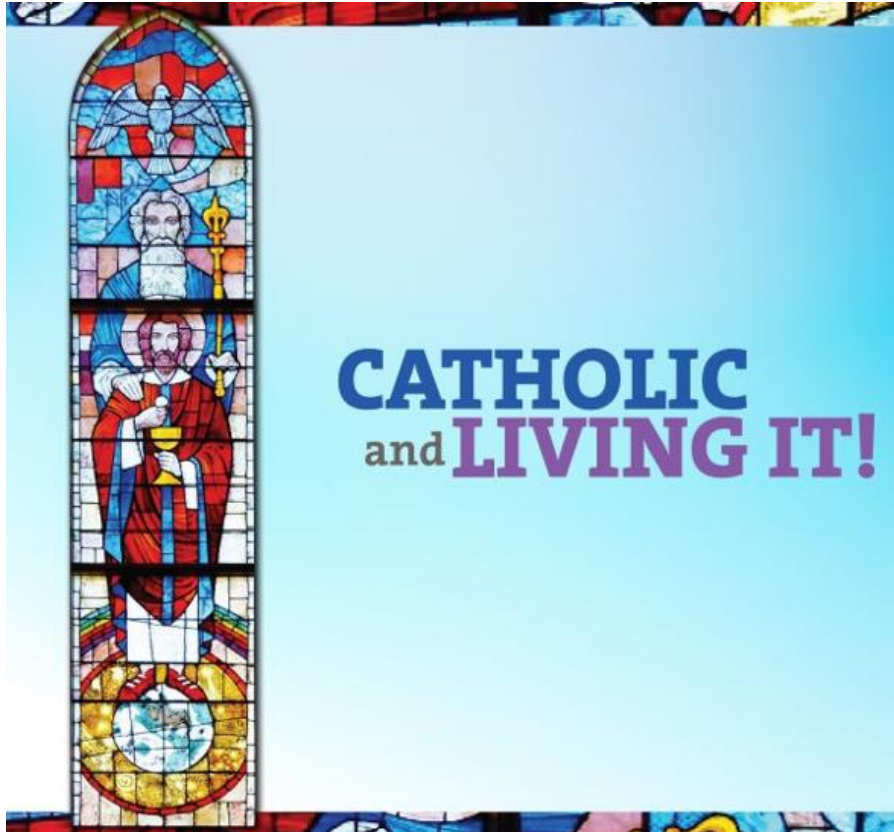


**The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council  
76<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**



**Convention Program  
2022 Annual Reports  
Spiritual Booklet**

**June 2 – 3, 2023  
Edmonton, Alberta**





## **Our Mission**

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.

## **League Promise**

For the glory of God and the good of God's people,  
I promise as a Catholic woman to honour, invoke and imitate our patroness,  
Our Lady of Good Counsel.

I promise to be a loyal member of The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
and to promote its interest and growth in every way.

I promise to cooperate with officers in all programs under their direction  
and to conform to the best of my ability to the bylaws of the organization  
in all League activities.

Amen

## **League Prayer**

We humbly pray you, O God our Father, to bless  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Bless our beloved country, our homes and families.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us to give light to our minds and strength to our wills  
that we may know and fulfill your great law of charity.

Teach us to share with others at home and abroad the good things you have given us.

This we ask through our Lord Jesus Christ

And the intercession of our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel

Amen



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## Acknowledgement of Treaty Lands

The Alberta Mackenzie Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada  
thank God for all of creation.

We acknowledge that we are on Treaty Lands.

We acknowledge the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit  
whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries  
and whose respectful stewardship have enabled us all  
to enjoy the riches of the Creator's blessings.

We are all treaty people, and we thank God for this great land  
and pray that we may care for Mother Earth  
in a more loving thoughtful way



## Schedule

### Friday, June 2, 2023

Pre-Convention Meeting  
8:00 a.m.  
Registration

Corpus Christi Catholic Church  
2707 – 34 Street  
Edmonton

Spiritual Advisors Meeting  
12:00 noon -12:45am

Corpus Christi Catholic Church  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Board Room  
2707 – 34 Street  
Edmonton

Eucharistic Celebration  
7:00 p.m.

Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples  
10821 – 96 Street  
Edmonton

Official Opening Ceremonies  
8:00 p.m.

Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples  
10821 – 96 Street  
Edmonton

Reception to follow

### Saturday June 3, 2023

76th Annual General Meeting  
8:00 a.m.  
Registration

Corpus Christi Catholic Church  
2707 – 34 Street  
Edmonton

Eucharistic Celebration  
4:30 p.m.

Corpus Christi Catholic Church  
2707 – 34 Street  
Edmonton

Convention Banquet  
6:30 p.m.

Corpus Christi Catholic Church  
2707 – 34 Street  
Edmonton

## Message From Most Reverend Archbishop Richard Smith

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OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

June 2022

Dear Sisters of the Catholic Women's League,

It gives me great joy to offer greetings and blessings to every one of you on the occasion of your Annual Convention, held this year at Corpus Christi parish in Edmonton.

I want you to know how much the Catholic Women's League means to me personally, to our Archdiocese and to the whole Alberta/Territories region. You are actively engaged in every corner of the region, giving concrete expression to the faith lives of Catholic women and families; putting faith into action through so many charitable and spiritual works.

I am especially pleased to learn about the "Walking Together" work that you have undertaken with Indigenous sisters and brothers, through the Truth & Reconciliation Working Group. This is most important work in our time: it carries forward the promise made by the Holy Father during his recent pastoral visit to our province and the commitment that the bishops of Canada have made to seeking healing and new ways forward in our relationships with the First Peoples of this land. May the Lord bless you abundantly in this work and bring about true reconciliation through your efforts.

We praise and thank God for the blessing that CWL members are to our province, and for all that you continue to offer in seen and unseen ways. I pray that your convention is both fruitful and joyful. Be assured that you remain in my prayers.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

✠Richard W. Smith  
Archbishop of Edmonton

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8421 - 101 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T6A 0L1 ♦ T 780.469.1010 ♦ F 780.465.3003 ♦ www.caedm.ca

## Message From Alberta Mackenzie Spiritual Advisor Reverend Andrew Bogdanowicz

June 2023

Dear Sisters in Christ,

This continues to be an important post pandemic time of renewal and rebuilding for the Alberta Mackenzie Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada.

The past few years have been a struggle for many councils due to their inability to meet due to the many restrictions of COVID protocols. As most protocols have now lifted, there is a need for renewed energy for meeting, building relationships and involvement in all things CWL.

This year, the ABMK convention theme is *Catholic and Living It: Walking Together!* It is important for us not to forget the visit of Pope Francis to Canada and his example of building relationships with our Indigenous Sisters and brothers.

This convention promises to be an interesting and informative one with a compelling group of Speakers including National CWL President Fran Lucas, Archbishop Richard Smith and Chief Wilton Littlechild who was instrumental in bringing Pope Francis to Canada.

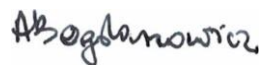
As Provincial Spiritual Advisor, I am encouraging Spiritual Advisors throughout ABMK to attend the convention as a sign of support for the CWL members in their parishes who through COVID and now work to keep their parishioners connected.

I look forward to the Convention Opening Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church of The First Peoples where we will experience the Catholic faith as celebrated in an indigenous way. We hope to have several Spiritual Advisors present to concelebrate Mass with the Archbishop.

Thank you for being a gift to our parishes through your tireless work in our churches.

May our loving God continue to bless you as *Women of Faith, Service & Social Justice...*

With sincere appreciation, your brother in Christ,



Rev. Andrew Bogdanowicz, Provincial Spiritual Advisor  
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

## Message From National CWL President Fran Lucas



### The Catholic Women's League of Canada

My dear League sisters,

It is my pleasure as national president to bring greetings to my sisters in Alberta Mackenzie on the occasion of your 76<sup>th</sup> annual convention. The last few history-making years are behind us, with challenges overcome and the future full of hope and new opportunities. It will be a joyful occasion to gather once again in the presence of your sister members and know you are in solidarity with your more than 60,000 sisters throughout Canada as you return to a more normal life, a more normal way of being a League member. God is good!

How blessed you are to gather and celebrate your good work. Sharing reports and hearing how challenges were overcome and abundant accomplishments were realized can only be uplifting. Future plans will be decided, allowing history to continue to flourish. I look forward to hearing about all those plans.

While you celebrate the accomplishments you made happen, please take time to reflect upon the blessing and privilege of being a part of an organization that continually strives to be the best it can be. May the League's core values of faith, service and social justice and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, help you live out the national theme, *Catholic and Living It!*

May God bless you as you continue your work for The Catholic Women's League of Canada at a time when your work is more important than ever, particularly in supporting your council and the people of Ukraine and through national voluntary fund contributions.

Your sister in the League,

Fran Lucas  
National President and Chairperson of International Relations

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C - 702 Scotland Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3M 1X5 Tel. (204) 927-2310



## Message From Alberta Mackenzie Provincial President Mary Hunt

My Dear Sisters:

Welcome to the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council of the CWL as we gather in Edmonton to be inspired, challenged and to learn ways to celebrate and bring authentic and active witness to our Catholic faith through service and social justice.

Our convention theme is ***Catholic & Living It: Walking Together*** which speaks to our desire to support the promise made by Pope Francis last year during his visit to Canada to seek healing and new ways to move forward in our relationships with our *First Peoples of Canada*. We have not forgotten our commitment to reconciliation and the promise of a better future. Our Opening Mass & Ceremony will be held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church of the First Peoples which promises to open the minds and hearts of all of us to the reasons why reconciliation is important. Congratulate

Our councils are using the ***Welcome Kit*** to assist them in implementing the strategic plan while striving to make a difference in our Alberta Mackenzie communities. We are prayerfully discerning our charisms in living out our calling to care. Our councils are participating in **Unity Outreach Presentations**. The hope is to extend a listening ear to everyone and gather information about the charisms, passions, challenges and obstacles of CWL members from coast to coast to coast. I urge you to participate in a session when it comes to your council which will help make a difference in the future of the League.

If you have not already done so, please check out our new Alberta-Mackenzie website. It is easy to navigate and it will continue to be updated and improved in the months ahead. Thank you for your interest and contributions.

As we go to print, wildfires are burning/raging in our communities threatening the homes of our members and their neighbours. Please pray for the many people in Alberta-Mackenzie displaced by wildfires this spring. Many communities, such as Hay River, Drayton Valley, Fox Lake, Garden River, Rainbow Lake, Chateh, East Prairie, Peavine, Atikameg, Gift Lake, Sturgeon Lake and Valleyview, have been or continue to be under evacuation order. We pray that they will receive the necessary aid and support they need and will soon be able to return safely to their communities. Sadly, Grouard has lost due to fire the historic St. Bernard Catholic Church. The 121-year old church, one of the oldest in the archdiocese, burnt down on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. In the days ahead, I invite you to stand by our proud tradition of *“Leave No Woman Behind”*

Our CWL sisterhood is an opportunity to get to know sisters in our neighboring parishes as well across the province, please be sure to enjoy this opportunity to the fullest this weekend. Have a great two days and remember, we are passionate women of faith, hope and love but as is stated in 1 Corinthians 13:13 the greatest of these is ***love...***

Mary

## Alberta Mackenzie Honorary Life and Life Members

### Honorary Life Members

Agnes Bedard ..... 2006  
Vivian Bosch..... 2002  
Marie Cameron ..... 2004

### Life Members

Mary Antonio ..... 2011	Doreen Lecky .....1983
Joan Baudais .....1998	Judy Look..... 2018
Florence Bernakevitch .....2012	Fran Lucas..... 2011
Ruth Boden ..... 2018	Gloria Lundberg..... 2012
Cathy Bouchard.....2014	Connie McBride .....2003
Natalie Carley..... 1975	Rose-Marie McCarthy .....1987
Janet Cook ..... 2006	Aurore McCleary .....2006
Hattie Eherer ..... 1991	Barbara McDonald..... 2005
June Fuller .....2016	Lucille Partington.....1997
Mary Heinzlmeir ..... 2006	Lynne Persson..... 2005
Pamela Hill.....1997	Donna Prevost..... 2011
Dorothy Johansen..... 2011	Jean Reader..... 2014
Rebecca (Becky) Kallal..... 2002	Mary-Lou Veeken.....2006
Jeanette Laforce .....2008	Mary-Anne Warren ..... 1979
Vi Lake .....2012	

## Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

Hierarchy ..... Most Reverend Archbishop Richard Smith  
Spiritual Advisor ..... Rev. Andrew Bogdanowicz  
President ..... Mary Hunt  
President-Elect /Organization..... Vacant  
Organization..... Betsy Fletcher  
Vice-President /Spiritual Development ..... Janet MacPhee  
Secretary .....Jan Myhre  
Treasurer..... Celine Berlingette  
Past President / Archives..... Judy Look  
Service Chair ..... Mary Molloy  
Social Justice Chair.....Denise Blackstock  
Faith Chair .....Suzanne Sherry  
Communications Chair ..... Gloria Lundberg  
Life Member Liaison.....June Fuller



**Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council**

**Standing Rules for the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention 2023**

1. *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall be the parliamentary authority in all cases not covered by the *Constitution & Bylaws* of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, in particular the handling of resolutions and motions.
2. Each person attending the convention shall register at the registration desk and shall be required to wear the official convention name tag for admission to all meetings.
3. Voting members include:
  - Voting delegates (the five diocesan presidents or designates) who may vote on all questions.
  - Accredited delegates (provincial officers; honorary life members; life members, each diocese may send two; each parish may send one) who may vote on all questions **except** election of officers, amendments to the *Constitution & Bylaws*, and increase in per capita fees.
4. Voting by registered members shall be by voting card only, which is issued upon registration.
5. Motions and amendments must be submitted in writing to the secretary, signed by the mover and seconder. Only Voting and Accredited delegates may move or second a motion.
6. The member presenting a resolution or main motion may speak for a maximum of three minutes and, when discussion on the resolution or main motion is to be concluded, that member or her designate may have a further two minutes for closing comments, if desired.
7. Any person may speak only once to any motion for a maximum of two minutes (unless permission is granted by the assembly by a 2/3 vote without debate).
8. Upon recognition by the Chair, non-voting CWL members and spiritual advisors may ask questions in discussion or speak to any motion, but they may not introduce motions or vote. When time is of the essence, voting members shall be given priority to speak over non-voting members.
9. Those wishing to speak shall take a place in line at the microphone(s) and, upon being recognized by the Chair, state their name, delegate status, council, and diocese.
10. No materials shall be distributed or displayed at the convention without prior approval of the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial President.

## Friday, June 2, 2023 - Pre-Convention Meeting Agenda

- 9:00 a.m. Call to Order  
Acknowledgement of Treaty Lands  
Morning Spiritual  
Welcome and Introductions  
Recognition of first time Provincial Convention attendees
- 10:00 a.m.- Fran Lucas, National President  
*Catholic and Living It! National Updates*
- 11:00 a.m. Archbishop Richard Smith  
*Walking Together to Build God's Kingdom in our Alberta Mackenzie Communities*
- 12:00 Noon Announcements  
Regina Caeli  
Grace
- 12:05 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Reconvening Prayer -
- 1:15 p.m. Chief Wilton Littlechild  
*Shares his passion & story of bringing Pope Francis to Canada and offers suggestions on how we can continue our Reconciliation Journey*
- 2:15 p.m. Health Break
- 3:00 p.m. Workshop – Presented by Judy Look  
*Change Is Here/Embrace It/Love It*
- 4:00 p.m. Announcements  
Adjournment  
  
Dinner on Your Own
- 6:00 p.m. Buses leave for Sacred Heart Church (ticket needed)
- 7:00 p.m. Eucharist Celebration Sacred Heart Catholic Church of the First Peoples
- 8:00 p.m. Opening Ceremonies Sacred Heart Catholic Church of the First Peoples
- 8:30 p.m. Reception Sacred Heart Parish Hall
- 9:15 p.m. Buses Leave to Return to Corpus Christi

## Saturday, June 3, 2023 - Convention Business Meeting

### 8:30 a.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Acknowledgment of Treaty Lands
3. Opening Prayer
4. Memorial Service for Deceased Members
5. Welcome and Introductions
6. Notice of Annual Convention and Meeting
7. Roll Call
8. Credentials Report
9. Recognition of first time Provincial Convention attendees
10. Approval of Standing Rules
11. Approval of Agenda
12. Approval of Minutes of the 75th Annual Meeting of Members 2022
13. Correspondence
14. Report from Pre-Convention meeting
15. Mass Collection Disbursement

### 16. Reports

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| a. President      | Mary Hunt           |
| b. Secretary      | Jan Myhre           |
| c. Treasurer      | Celine Berlinguette |
| d. Past President | Judy Look           |

### 17. Standing Committee Reports

- |                                     |                   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| a. Spiritual Development            | Janet MacPhee     |
| b. Organization                     | Betsy Fletcher    |
| Father Walter Krewski Award Winners |                   |
| c. Service Committee Chair          | Mary Molloy       |
| d. Social Justice Committee Chair   | Denise Blackstock |
| e. Faith Chair                      | Suzanne Sherry    |
| f. Communications                   | Gloria Lundberg   |

### 18. 12:00 Noon

- Announcements  
Regina Caeli - Spiritual Booklet  
Grace

### 19. 1:00 p.m.

Reconvening Prayer

**20. Diocesan Presidents Reports**

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| a. Calgary   | Renee Spohn                  |
| b. Edmonton  | Clover Oryschak              |
| c. Grouard – McLennan  | Lucille Partington           |
| d. Mackenzie Fort Smith  | Sheila Domingo               |
| e. St. Paul  | Kathryn Bourque              |
| 21. Life member Liaison Report   | June Fuller                  |
| 22. Spiritual Advisors Report  | Father Andrew Bogdanowicz    |
| 23. Invitation to Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Convention 2024 Calgary Diocese     |                              |
| 24. Invitation to CWL National AMM 2023 St. John, New Brunswick                    |                              |
|  | [Voting Delegates & Virtual] |
| 25. Instructed Vote- Constitution and By-Law Amendment Voting Delegates (Red Card) |                              |
| 26. Closing Spiritual  |                              |
| 27. Adjournment  |                              |
| 28. Retiring of Flags  |                              |



# Financial Statements – Year Ended December 31, 2022

ALBERTA MACKENZIE COUNCIL  
OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

DECEMBER 31, 2022

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(COMPILATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT)

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Compilation Engagement Report

Statement 1 - Financial Position

Statement 2 - Operations

Statement 3 - Changes In Net Assets

Notes to the Financial Statements



**COMPILATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT**

On the basis of information provided by management, I have compiled the balance sheet of ALBERTA MACKENZIE COUNCIL OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA as at DECEMBER 31, 2022, and the statement of income and retained earnings for the year then ended, and Note 1 which describes the basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the compiled financial information.

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial information, including accuracy and completeness of the underlying information used to compile it and the selection of the basis of accounting.

I performed the engagement in accordance with Canadian Standard on Related Services (CSRS) 4200, Compilation Engagements, which requires me to comply with relevant ethical requirements. My responsibility is to assist management in the preparation of financial information.

I did not perform an audit engagement or a review engagement, nor was I required to perform procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion, or provide any form of assurance on the financial information.



Lac La Biche, Alberta  
April 24, 2023

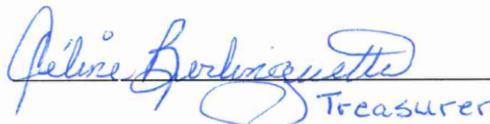
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT

\*Denotes Professional Corporation

ALBERTA MACKENZIE COUNCIL  
OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA  
FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2022  
(COMPILATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT)

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 60,154	\$ 77,937
Term Deposits	94,203	93,680
Prepaid expenses	<u>932</u>	<u>404</u>
	<u>\$ 155,289</u>	<u>\$ 172,021</u>
<b><u>LIABILITIES</u></b>		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,155	\$ 1,154
<b><u>NET ASSETS</u></b>		
NET ASSETS	<u>154,134</u>	<u>170,867</u>
	<u>\$ 155,289</u>	<u>\$ 172,021</u>

APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

 Director  
Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_ Director

## STATEMENT 2

ALBERTA MACKENZIE COUNCIL  
OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA  
OPERATIONS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022  
(COMPILATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT)

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
REVENUE		
Provincial per capita assessment	\$ 46,308	\$ 52,068
Provincial convention	8,007	-
Provincial convention mass collection	971	-
Support for the North	4,117	2,141
March for life	550	400
Interest	920	574
	<u>60,873</u>	<u>55,183</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Donations	30,000	16,750
Travel meetings and conventions	22,374	1,063
Provincial convention	11,581	-
Provincial convention mass collection	971	-
National convention	3,816	-
Support for the North	2,182	2,141
Insurance	1,500	1,560
Professional fees	1,155	1,155
Training and conferences	1,037	425
Office, administration, postage	787	553
Videos, books, materials	749	-
Awards and gifts	550	320
Special projects	465	480
Advertising and promotion	224	576
Interest and bank charges	194	152
Miscellaneous	21	4,025
	<u>77,606</u>	<u>29,200</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES FROM OPERATIONS	<u>\$ (16,733)</u>	<u>\$ 25,983</u>

STATEMENT 3

ALBERTA MACKENZIE COUNCIL  
 OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA  
 CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022  
 (COMPILATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT)

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING	\$ 170,867	\$ 144,884
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	<u>(16,733)</u>	<u>25,983</u>
NET ASSETS, CLOSING	<u>\$ 154,134</u>	<u>\$ 170,867</u>

ALBERTA MACKENZIE COUNCIL  
OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022  
(COMPILATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT)

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICY

The basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the balance sheet of Alberta Mackenzie Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada and the income statement and changes in net assets for the year then ended is on the historical costs basis, reflecting cash transactions with the addition of:

- accounts payable and accrued liabilities

## **Acknowledgements**

### **Exhibitors and Vendors**

Development and Peace  
A Gift of Faith - Stony Plain  
Alberta March for Life – Pro Life  
2024 National Convention Planning Committee Saskatoon  
Gianna Centre – Pregnancy Care Centre  
Cards from the Heart – Calgary Mission Council  
EWTN (Global Catholic News Network)

### **Acknowledgement & Thanks**

Father Michael Troy Council #15290 (Corpus Christi)  
Corpus Christi CWL  
St. Theresa's CWL  
Cathy Bouchard, Convention Parliamentarian

### **Convention Planning Committee:**

Marcella Sevigny, Convention Chair  
Pam Petrushik, Convention Registrar  
Lil Fedechko, Spiritual Liaison  
Fern Hardie & Margaret Korte, Decorating  
Lucia Newn-Yee, Meal Planning  
Marilyn Smith, Bus Coordinator  
Janet MacPhee  
Betsy Fletcher  
Clover Oryschak  
Jean Ashdown  
Celine Berlinguette  
Mary Hunt

*Thank You!*

# The Catholic Women's League of Canada

## Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

### 2022 Annual Report Book



# The Catholic Women's League of Canada

## Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

### Alberta Mackenzie Provincial President Annual Report

The almost 8,000 paid members in the 160 councils in the five dioceses of Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council began the year looking forward to returning to normalcy. They eagerly sought to welcome members to in-person winter, regional, and executive meetings, and conventions to celebrate ***Catholic and Living It*** and with it the opportunity to build relationships and implement the changes outlined in the National Strategic Plan. We were elated to finally be able to host a well-attended provincial convention in early June in Lac La Biche. Provincial and Diocesan executives had worked hard to maintain communication with their perspective levels to help members remain positive and eager to reignite their councils. Gradually ZOOM meetings were replaced by in-person meetings as members looked for ways to reconnect and re-energize their councils. Members of Alberta Mackenzie, guided by faith and hopeful optimism in the inspired vision of the strategic plan, focused on relationships, renewal and implementation of changes.

Councils are excited about the **League Structure Changes** and appreciate being able to focus on the three committees of faith, service and social justice. They feel filling positions especially in smaller councils will be more manageable with the deletion of redundant positions. They are using the resources provided by National to implement the new structuring. Councils believe the new structure will be more attractive to new members. Many councils have delivered the **Welcome Program** with success. Parish councils have been working on identifying their unique charism that brings light and life to everything they do.

The National Theme: ***“Catholic and Living It”*** has been embraced by councils and they use the themed prayer cards at gatherings, meetings, and events. The theme has inspired councils to place a greater focus on outreach with one another, community organizations and local Catholic schools. It impacted their spiritual program and widened their vision of faith by connecting their spiritual words to actions. Councils were more willing to try something new and some councils noted that the theme has led to members becoming more involved in visible ministries. All dioceses commented that our faith clearly unites us in fellowship and drives our desire to work hard through service and to make a difference through social justice. Members reflected on being proud to be Catholic and being authentic witnesses of faith, treating each other with respect and warmth, and giving voice to new ideas for a more vibrant CWL full of action and purpose.

With respect to **Spiritual Advisor Support and Engagement**, many parish councils reported feeling supported and are promoted in the Parish by their Spiritual Advisor which members very much appreciate as is their Priest's willingness to listen and at times serve as a counselor sometimes to assist with conflict. Increasingly priests do not have time to attend CWL gatherings and events due to busy schedules that prevent them from getting more directly involved. Some councils indicated that they have not had a consistent priest and hopefully will have the blessing of their support soon.



**Streamlined Annual Survey Format** was well received by most councils. Most thought the survey was best completed as a group. They liked that it was collaborative but thought it took a lot of time to compile the information to complete the survey and were concerned that it failed to capture a lot of the work being done in councils.

**Additional Comments:** Some presidents noted how the increase in per capita fees has affected their councils. For some councils, the increase in per capita fees continues to cause discontent. Some councils had “*angel*” initiatives where one member anonymously helps cover the cost of another member’s membership, other councils rely on fundraising help cover the difference. Because the pandemic curtailed almost all council fundraising, some councils indicated they are not able to pay for members who are not able to afford to pay the fee increase. However, councils were hopeful that with the return to fundraising again, this issue might be resolved over the coming year.

- Councils would like the National Board to be financially wise and accountable
- National should assign a person to trouble-shoot or assist with the Annual Survey
- Has the Strategic Plan paid off? We are not seeing the numbers of members increase overall in relation to the amount of money that has been spent.
- *We are getting to be less of a grassroots organization and more like a business or corporation.*
- Mackenzie Fort Smith mentioned that the \$10,000.00 donated by ABMK was presented to help those in Hay River as well as the K’atl’odeeche First Nation where the need is the greatest aft the floods. The Hay River Council were most grateful for the donation.
- Edmonton Diocesan Council was grateful for the spirit of generosity that was demonstrated by CWL members who looked after handing out all the Papal Visit Volunteer Accreditation Packages for Alberta.

ABMK representatives met with two Provincial Cabinet Ministers to discuss various areas of concern and our commitment to bring a moral compass (not just the bottom line) to government decision making which included:

- Growing need for an **Independent Seniors Advocate** reporting to the Legislative Assembly (not just health: housing, income support, transportation, loneliness, senior abuse, end of life issues etc.)
- **Need for Good Palliative Care:** a recent study indicates at only 12 percent of Albertans wanting and needing palliative care are receiving it. Canada is becoming known as the worst global example of the legalization of euthanasia & MaiD for mental health reasons including depression.
- **Our Belief in the Sanctity of Life from Conception to Natural Death.** Support for the March for Life on Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>
- **Our Opposition to Pornography.** Since our meeting the Canadian Senate passed Bill S-210 which marks the most significant progress in Canadian history for legislation designed to prevent children from accessing pornographic content online. All CWL members should be proud of the national postcard campaign we have continued for many years...we can congratulate ourselves.
- **Resolution 2022.1: Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste:** which was brought forward by the Diocese of Calgary. Bother ministers were very interested in what we had to say and saw provincial implications as well.
- **Reaffirmation of our support for Publicly Funded Catholic Education.**

Provincial officers continued to post communiques keeping the membership informed on such topics as pro-life issues, pornography, mental health, House of Common and Senators bills and the importance of indigenous relationships. The links for communiques from their national counterparts helped the membership to engage in national initiatives that included webinars, prayer services, letter writing, supporting Development and Peace, Missions Canada and CNEWA. Members were encouraged to send Mandatory Age Verification and Pornography Hurt cards to their MP's as well as write to their MPs on conscientious rights of medical professionals, and the need for good palliative and hospice care.

Every Wednesday evening members from across Alberta and the NWT joined the **Alberta Mackenzie Prays the Rosary**. A virtual **Lenten Retreat** was led by Sister Susan Scott that attracted 180 CWL members; some from every province.

On November 13, 2022 Edmonton Diocesan Council hosted a celebration of service at St. Joachim Parish, the site of the very first League meeting in Canada to give thanks to the pioneering women who, 110 years ago, began the League journey.

We were proud to introduce a new ABMK website to meet our communications needs (cwlabmk.ca) Please check us out...

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the installation of the new Sacred Heart Catholic Church of the First Peoples which was an exciting development encouraged by the visit of Pope Francis last summer.

In conclusion, the work of the Catholic Women's League in Alberta and the Northwest Territories continued to flourish under effective leadership at all executive levels. These women contributed and made a significant difference not only to the League but to their local communities, their province, Canada and beyond. As strong women of faith, voices of advocacy and grateful for the blessings received from God, they shared their blessings with others. They again felt the joy of personal touch (hugs), laughter and tears knowing that the Holy Spirit was with them and they prevailed through the challenges of COVID. Albert Einstein once said *There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.*

As Catholic women we are profoundly grateful for our deep calling to care as we nurture relationships, laugh with one another and cry with one another as we live out our *Mission: 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.*

Respectfully submitted  
Mary Hunt



## Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Organization Annual Report

Diocesan Organization/Presidents-Elect:  
Calgary: Kathleen Winter  
Edmonton: Jean Ashdown  
Grouard-McLennan: Linda Vandenberg  
Mackenzie-Ft. Smith: Wendy Ross/Shannon Buckley  
St. Paul: Annette DeBoer

Since the end of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, councils have been slowly getting back on their feet. Being able to meet in person again has brought life back to our members. Meetings are happening both in person and on Zoom. Zoom has proven to be a valuable tool for committee meetings.

### **Membership Information**

Reports show that many councils have seen a drop in membership, but there have also been some with increases. Some councils have not yet paid their memberships and unfortunately there have been some that disbanded.

Councils have been holding membership drives and have used various strategies to attract new members and retain current ones. Membership dues are routinely collected in January. Membership and recruiting strategies usually begin in the Fall. Some councils host weekly fellowship events for all ladies of the parish where they might work together on CWL projects. Subsidies have been used to help members with the new increase in per capita fees; letters have been sent to all members of the council to remind them of the beauty of belonging to The League; one council left brochures at their town office to be put in welcome bags for new residents; continental breakfasts have been offered with a CWL power point as the entertainment. Promotional Videos from National office have been shown before weekend Masses. Of course, the personal invitation is still a favourite way to recruit new members.

### **Recognition**

People in general like to be recognized for their efforts. Our CWL sisters work hard for The League. Service pins are just one way to show appreciation for service. Members in our province have received membership pins for 10, 25, and 50 years of service, Maple Leaf Service Pins have also been presented. One council in St. Paul has celebrated 65 years as a council!

### **Information Sessions**

Recruitment of new members continues to be a challenge. Councils are doing their best to provide information to parishes regarding the joy of belonging to the Catholic Women's League. Some councils held information programs after Masses in November. Members spoke about their membership in the CWL and how it has impacted their lives, both through faith enrichment and learning new skills. Parish presidents have made their annual reports available to parishioners through bulletin inserts and posted in the church for non-members to read. Inserts informing of what The League is all about are also posted in the bulletin. Council newsletters are a valuable tool for informing both members and non-members. Welcome packages have been created for prospective members; CWL bulletin boards are used; and in this age of technology, some councils use email and Facebook groups to communicate. Some councils have invited counterparts at the next level of The League to meetings to provide information and training. Speaker Nights proved to be popular events with speakers on all sorts of topics. One council hosted an event to provide members and non-members with information about Hospice Care, as well as a session on bereavement.

## **League Development**

It appears that Covid-19 and The Strategic Planning process has hampered councils when it comes to league development. While many councils are embracing the new direction The League is taking, some are finding it a bit intimidating. Further information, training and accessing the league development strategies and programs on the National website will help. Members are trying to become more informed by using the National website for resources. For example, a few councils are using the Welcome Program

## **General Information**

Councils are looking for more information about: recruiting new members; the new configuration of councils stemming from the Strategic Planning process; leadership training; Spiritual Development; guidance for smaller parish councils; prayer service resources; and help with strategic planning resources.

Members appreciated the new more streamlined and relevant Annual Reports, but some questions left councils feeling a bit out of the loop. They missed out on some activities that they might have participated in. Perhaps this is due to lack of knowledge of the activity or lack of members able to participate. One council recommends finding a new way of structuring the annual reports so that councils will not feel that they have missed an opportunity.

Over all, our councils seem to be feeling hopeful and enthusiastic but still are still concerned about declining membership and recruitment. Nevertheless, most are doing their best to continue with the activities of The League with gusto!

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Fletcher,  
Alberta Mackenzie Organization  
Standing Committee Chair.



## **Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Faith and Spiritual Development Annual Report**

5 of 5 Diocesan Councils Reporting (three from the president's report)

As restrictions from the CoVid-19 and all of its variates were lifted in various stages, councils moved from the previous chairs into the Faith, Social Justice, Service pillars during the year of 2022. Councils, including Diocesan Councils, transitioned into the 3-Pillar structure even before the instructed vote was carried out in August. Transitioning had its challenges but many councils never lost sight of the importance of faith and spiritual development for their members and parishes.

The following is a synopsis of the reports provided by the dioceses:

“Keeping the spirituality of your membership in the forefront provides councils with strength to go forward with the work of the League.” – Edmonton Diocesan Council Spiritual Development Chair

How did our councils achieve this?

- Provided messages and connections through the parish bulletins and newsletters.
- Participated in retreats, days of reflection or online webinars of a spiritual nature, virtual rosaries.
- Accessed sites such as Vatican News, the CCCB site, their own Dioceses websites and newsletters such as Faithfully from the Calgary Roman Catholic site and Windows from the Archdiocese of Edmonton, along with the news and letters from their Bishops.
- The National CWL site and communiqués from National are reviewed and shared regularly.
- Councils celebrated 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care
- Some councils held bible studies; and the study of Saints lives
- Councils encourage volunteering in the church ministries; taking seniors to appointments, or shopping; visiting the sick and/or working many hours at the community thrift stores

Vocations Support:

- Councils pray regularly for vocations and had mass intentions given
- Adopting a seminarian and/or a woman religious group
- Gather food/produce to give to the religious

Councils provided financial support – to Christian Catholic Outreach (CCO), Newman Theological College, St. Mary’s University, and the Serra Club

It was noted that there were no questions regarding the Synod of the Catholic Church. The Edmonton and Calgary Diocesan Councils offered Synod Listening Sessions to their members which were very well attended.

The ABMK Provincial Councils were gifted with the Papal Visit in July of 2022. CWL councils, especially from Edmonton, helped physically with the events and members attended the events that they could or observed the televised events from home.

### **Janet’s Comments:**

2022 was an interesting year for the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council. With our first provincial convention in 3 years, we were also in transition – basically ending up with a hybrid council. Some positions old and others new.

As vice president / spiritual development, I created the spiritual programs for our executive meetings – these programs were shared with the Diocesan Spiritual Chairs.

### **Suzanne’s Comments:**

It has been quite a learning curve for me to work through the expectations of this committee. However, after having spent time understanding and implementing this new format, it has become very clear to me that the entire reason for the existence of CWL is solely based on FAITH. All else follows if we understand our Faith. All of the beliefs of our Catholic Faith are based on Faith, Service and Social Justice, calling us all to discipleship. It became apparent to me that being so closely connected creates a very powerful team who in turn are simply putting our Baptismal promises to work.

I had the pleasure of attending the online course “4 Seasons of Reconciliation” which I found to be very informative.

My greatest joy this year was in planning the Zoom Lenten Retreat - an activity which brought the Service and Social Justice Committee Chairs together to assist with the plan.

This concludes our report.

Your sisters in Christ,

Janet MacPhee – Spiritual Development Chair

Suzanne Sherry – Faith Chair



## Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Secretary Annual Report

### Diocesan Secretaries:

Calgary	Anthea Berdan
Edmonton	Pat Keith
Grouard-McLennan	Shelley Mainville
Mackenzie-Fort Smith	Julie Bordey
St. Paul	Vacant

When asked if councils read their monthly minutes at each meeting, each area of ABMK responded differently to this question. It appears that Minutes to general meetings are circulated via email to members who have computers and email addresses, allowing them the opportunity to read them ahead of the next meeting to address any necessary corrections. For those members without email, councils reported that Minutes were distributed in a number of ways such as mailed through Canada Post, left at the church for pick up, or paper copies were made available at the meeting. It appears that approximately half of the councils continue to read the Minutes aloud at the general meeting, which takes up time that could be used for other things.

An average of 85% of secretaries reported that they keep in contact with their members regarding special events. A large majority of secretaries indicated that a quarterly report of all council activities is not sent out to members, as the information is covered in their meeting Minutes, or the newsletters that some councils prepare. Members are kept up to date on council events through emails and phone calls. It is noted that some of the council executives prepare a calendar of events for the whole year and distributed to their members once it has been approved.

One of the challenges secretaries shared is the use of technology. It seems that technology is required for the majority of information, however and many rural councils don't have that technology, or wifi is not predictable, making it difficult. Being aware of the CWL activities, the secretary is expected to provide information to members who do not have access to computers, the internet, and social media. To address this concern, copies of the general meeting minutes with upcoming meetings and events are printed and mailed by the secretary to members who do not have computer access. Some councils reported they don't have a permanent secretary, and members alternate in Minute taking.

Councils agreed that the "Communications during Transition" Communiqué by Betty Colaneri to ensure communication moves smoothly and swiftly during the transitional period is important until such time as all councils have changed their executive to the newly adopted Constitution & Bylaws.

The change in the Constitution & Bylaws means that secretaries will be taking on the added responsibility of communications, which caused some concern. However, secretaries are encouraged to have a subcommittee, to help assist in their role.

Alberta Mackenzie is slowly transitioning to the new model, and it was felt there was a need to incorporate the three core values of Faith, Service & Social Justice into new Gmail addresses. Therefore the previous Gmail addresses were retired, and new ones were created. Although the Communications committee was transitioned into the Secretary role this year, ABMK kept it as a separate committee chair. Also, because each province is transitioning differently, national office is now sending all Communiqué's through the Provincial President and Provincial Secretary, to be distributed to the appropriate committee.

Throughout the pandemic, ABMK sent Christmas cards to all councils, which was repeated again this past year.

The Handbook for Secretaries on the national website has been revised, and this is a great resource for Secretaries to help them in their role.

Respectfully submitted  
Jan Myhre



# Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Treasurer Annual Report

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Treasurer  
Annual Report

A sincere “Thank you” goes out to all the CWL Parish Council Treasurers for the maintenance of their financial records and the reporting to their Diocesan counterparts.

Although the new reporting survey to the CWL National Office seemed to be better received by Council’s this year, it wasn’t without a few glitches. At the council level, some were unable to print their reports. In conversation with the National Office, I was told that there was no report available that I could access. Therefore, the following information is based only on the Diocesan Treasurer reports, noting that only three out of five Diocesan Councils sent in reports.

The treasurer for each of the Diocesan Council is as follows:

Calgary	Julie Rose
Edmonton	Mariette Huot
Grouard-McLennan	Shelley Mainville
Mackenzie-Fort Smith	Julita Bordey
St. Paul	Rita Firtig

The information received indicated that 65% – 67% of the councils responded to the annual survey.

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council has a “Voluntary Fund” that supports two purposes: the first being: “Nickels for the North” in support of the Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocese. Travel costs are very high in the North and these funds are used to assist the councils with their travel costs. In 2022, a total of \$4,117.31 was collected and a cheque in the amount of \$4,100.00 was issued in 2023. The second voluntary fund is for the Alberta March for Life Association. In 2022 donations of \$550.00 were made and a cheque for that amount was issued in 2023.

The following is based on the information provided:

**NATIONAL VOLUNTARY FUND**

Coady International Institute.....	\$ 525.00
Canadian Catholic Organization of Development & Peace.....	\$ 3,128.00
Catholic Missions in Canada.....	\$ 1,800.00
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition.....	\$ 900.00
Catholic Near East Welfare Association.....	\$ 1,975.00
National Bursary Fund .....	\$ 0.00
<b>National Voluntary Fund Subtotal .....</b>	<b>\$ 8,348.00</b>



**ALL DONATIONS**

National Voluntary Fund Subtotal.....	\$ 8,348.00
Parish Donations.....	\$ 11,570.00
Other Donations.....	\$255,817.68
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$275,735.68</b>

Since COVID restrictions have been lifted, Parish Councils have been busy fund raising. This is evident by the amount of donations made in 2022, a huge increase (48%) over 2021. Bravo!

I am grateful for to all the treasurers that serve in their parish councils and diocesan councils, your work is imperative to the League.

I look forward to our continued work together.

This concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted,  
Celine Berlinguette, Treasurer  
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

**“Alone we can do so little; together, we can do so much.”  
— Helen Keller**



## **Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Past President Annual Report**

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

Past presidents began their 2022 term with COVID restrictions being relaxed and churches reopening. Many councils were returning to in person meetings and looking to the future which included smaller executives a result of a motion adopted at the 2022 National Convention in Kelowna.

The current diocesan past presidents are the presidents from the COVID years. They brought the determination of survival from those years to their work as past presidents helping councils to recover and the League to grow. They contributed not only to their areas of responsibility but gave of their time and talent wherever necessary. Flexibility was one of their great strengths as they helped the current diocesan presidents to adapt to the strategic plan and to understand it is not business as usual.

Mentorship/consultation, archives, history books, Constitution and By-Laws, council manuals, elections all comprised the areas of responsibility for past presidents. The diocesan past presidents reported that most of their work was concentrated around mentorship and consultation. They worked with their own diocesan presidents as the presidents transitioned from president elect to president as well as transitioning in many cases from Zoom meetings to in person meetings. They helped parish council past presidents with instructed voting, guided new officers in their roles, and helped some councils embrace the new committee structure. They often filled in wherever necessary as many councils did not have full executives.

They reported that “Catholic and Living It!” was well received and thus the theme permeated all the reports. Their involvement with archives included archiving minutes; annual reports; deceased member lists; financial information; encouraging history books as well encouraging councils to have a secure place for their archives. Some diocesan past presidents helped with understanding the Constitutions and By-laws, the instructed vote process and developing a parish council policy manual.

Mentoring and consultation was a good part of the work of the provincial past president as well. Facilitating the Alberta Mackenzie Prays the Rosary every Thursday evening, presenting workshops on the Three Pillars/Three Committees all in the context of Three Cups of Tea, chairing the Walking Together – A Path for Healing and Reconciliation committee, attending the Alberta Alberta Catholic School Trustee Association convention, attending the installation of St. Mary’s University Calgary new president in November was all part of her work. Participating in a symposium on food scarcity, a lecture on the Role of the Catholic University in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a webinar on Maid/Palliative Care, the work on the Pastoral Discernment Committee for the Diocese of Calgary and a member of the pastoral council of Holy Spirit Parish, Calgary kept her in touch with the greater catholic community.

In conclusion the past presidents are women of strength who are credible leaders of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada as they continue to work for God and Canada and witness to “Catholic and Living It! “

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Look

## Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Service Annual Report

The 2022 annual reports outlined the importance of giving back and discovering how CWL members have supported each other and how they are beginning to embrace the new structure of the League. Three of the five dioceses reported transitioning into the new Faith, Service and Social Justice committee structure. This report will reflect the beginnings of this period of transition in 2022.

Service is a core value of a solid and vibrant CWL. It is the role to inform, educate and challenge members to take action on the corporeal works of mercy. The Service's annual reports focused on human trafficking, senior care, Ukraine and refugee assistance, homelessness & food banks, youth and Catholic education in Alberta. The reports showed the time and effort that was given freely by the members is faithful service to God, Canada, and the community!

Human trafficking is the illegal trade and exploitation of human beings for various purposes, including forced labor, sexual exploitation, and organ trafficking. It is a form of modern-day slavery that affects people of all ages, genders, races, and nationalities. Edmonton and Calgary diocese invited IWIN (I am Worth It Now! Initiative) to bring awareness of human trafficking to their members. IWIN supports survivors fleeing trafficking by providing backpacks of necessities, clothing, toiletries, journals, and paired with a prayer warrior. Some councils used the Red Sand Prayer ceremony to raise awareness of the issue by holding these services in their parishes. Some councils supported the Joy Smith Foundation and attended webinars to bring further understanding of this issue.

Often overlooked, the elderly population in the community and senior care is an issue that requires special attention. In 2022, councils partnered with local Catholic schools to organize visits to senior care homes. In addition, volunteers also spent quality time with residents, sharing stories and listening to their experiences, and led Sunday liturgies at lodges, bringing communion to those who were shut-ins. Often CWL councils would hold meetings at the places where senior members reside and circulate meeting minutes to those who were unable to attend. Council continued to write letters and petition the provincial government for an independent senior's advocate responsible for dealing with issues related to seniors. We urge Councils to continue to advocate, as many of our members are seniors.

The ongoing crisis in Ukraine and other countries has resulted in a massive displacement of people, with millions forced to flee their homes in search of safety and security. Many refugees have fled their homes with little more than the clothes on their backs and have experienced unimaginable trauma and hardship. Members of the CWL have taken on the responsibility to take action and support those who are vulnerable. CWL councils raised money to donate to refugee efforts in Ukraine and Canada. Councils prepared gift bags, collected furniture, food, and clothing, and sometimes hosted Ukrainian families and provided other supports where needed. The Edmonton Diocesan Council continued with the Refugee Welcome Bag project using the program to support new refugees in the diocese. The project continues to be successful, presenting 232 Welcome bags supporting 561 recipients arriving in Edmonton.

Homelessness is a complex social issue when people cannot secure and maintain a stable and safe place to live. It can have various causes and can severely impact an individual's well-being and lead to health problems, hunger, and social isolation. For people experiencing homelessness, access to basic needs like food, shelter, and clothing becomes a daily struggle.

Several councils have ongoing food bank projects. These projects occur when the need is most felt, such as Christmas, Lent, and Advent. Councils hosted food drives and monetary donations projects or volunteered at soup kitchens. Some Edmonton councils are directly involved with Sacred Heart Parish of the First People's food bank and lunch bag project. Councils are also partnered with St. Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army, Veteran's Food Bank, and Come to the Table among the agencies throughout the province. One council collected socks for people without housing over Christmas and donated 85 pairs of girl's socks and 209 pairs of men's socks, and other miscellaneous winter clothing items.

There is a strong response by the membership to support Catholic education, especially during Catholic Education Week and Catholic Education Sunday. Many of the councils are supportive of GrACE. (Grateful Advocates of Catholic Education). Members presented communicants and confirmation recipients with gifts and cards and hosted receptions and retreats. Several councils provided scholarships and bursaries, contributing to the youth groups and supporting the youth preparing to attend World Youth Day. The Calgary Diocese supports St Mary's University, Edmonton Diocese Newman Theological College and St Joseph's Seminary. One diocese sponsors a Books for Schools Project by donating books to an elementary school library in their parish.

Through our work, CWL has significantly impacted communities; together, through our example, we build stronger and more caring communities for all.

"Just as the son of man came to serve, not be served, and to give his life for the ransom for many."  
(Mt:20-22)

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Molloy  
Service Standing Committee



## **Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Social Justice Annual Report**

Madam President,

After COVID-19 and the pandemic restrictions, councils slowly returned to meetings, workshops, Fall and Mid-Winter meetings.

As the transition from the standing committee chairs is moving into the 3 Pillars, I am reporting on the Social Justice, Resolutions and Legislation Standing Committees.

- Edmonton Diocese - 40 of the 62 councils responded to the National Annual Report.
- Mackenzie Fort Smith Diocesan Council has 92 members: 28 in Yellowknife, 57 in Hay River and 7 in Fort Smith. (Fort Smith has still been inactive since last year).
- Grouard-McLennan has approximately 20 new members in the diocese.
- St. Paul Diocese have 17 councils – 3 councils did not send in membership for 2022, though they have not officially disbanded. Their membership total is 437 in 14 councils. 11

councils responded to the online annual report and two president's reports submitted by hardcopy.

- Calgary Diocese – 4 councils reporting have a Resolution Chairperson.

Regarding implementing resolutions with the phasing out of the Resolutions Standing Committee, many councils stated they will continue to study resolutions passed at the various levels of the league and will encourage members to act on them as recommended, even though most councils report no chairperson for resolutions and/or legislation. If a topic requires an answer, they will research and develop the resolution from a committee. One Council said, "If our hearts call us to do it, then we know there are the resources to do it." Many councils found this a difficult chair as it requires a lot of work to bring forth a topic, research it and compile a resolution. One council stated "Due to our size and age, generally we will act on resolutions presented but at this time (there is) not enough time to create and work on a resolution.

Resolution 2022.01 Food Loss and Waste was created by St. Patrick's council in Calgary, was adopted at national level. Several councils worked on the action plan of this resolution by having presentations and writing letters to government officials. Several councils suggested that the council or the Social Justice Chair will ensure members are made aware of the importance of resolutions and their impact on society.

Asked members' awareness and level of knowledge related to: Bill C-230: Protection of Freedom of Conscience and Bill C-7 Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) most councils are aware of and understand these issues. Councils monitored and acted upon Bill C-265 Re: an act respecting the development of a national perinatal mental health strategy, Dental Care for K-12, Obesity, Interprovincial protocols for children in the welfare system, the reinstating the senior's advocate, and the impact of Human Trafficking, through letter writing, sending emails, and telephone campaigns to their local, provincial, and federal government representatives. Some councils participated in the webinar on human trafficking and as a result are now supporting IWIN and bringing awareness of the human trafficking situation in Canada and supporting the survivors of human trafficking as well as providing contact inform for IWIN and holding Red Sand Services in their parishes. Two parishes had members who met with their MLA to talk about the position of Independent Seniors Advocate.

Some councils said that they would probably never propose a resolution, they would however definitely support any resolutions passed at conventions.

One council stated "Large issue require lots of resources to manage properly. Having individual parishes 'inventing the wheel', with one person or so representing Resolutions in each parish, is wasteful of people's time and talents. Issues such as MAiD, for example, should have Resolutions representatives working together across the Diocese and building effective plans and executing those across the parishes.

Some councils participated in Compassionate Community Care Being With volunteer training which is intended to help the sick and dying renew their hope and purpose in life rather than turn to MAiD. In honor of the National Truth and Reconciliation Day, some councils wore orange shirts, one council donated \$500.00 to Truth and Reconciliation, prayed and participated in online activities, hosted speakers at their general meeting and adopted land acknowledgment statements. Some completed the Four Seasons of Reconciliation program, are supporting the Moose Hide Campaign. The Welcome Bag Project supports refugees – 232 welcome bags supported 561 recipients.

Members continue to serve their community through volunteering, ministries, hospitality, visiting the sick and taking seniors to appointments or shopping. Some work many hours at their

parish thrift stores. Many councils have ongoing Food Banks projects which include Christmas, Lent and Advent food drives, monetary donations, volunteering at food bank, providing food to street people, and partnering with St. Vincent de Paul Society, Salvation Army, Veteran's Food Bank, St. Anne's Pantry, Holy Name Cares and Come to the Table. One council collected 600 pounds of food for their local food bank and many members made personal monetary donations. Pin ceremonies to acknowledge the members' service as well as welcoming new members to their councils. Participating in the 12 hours of prayer for palliative care and distributed carnations to moms and grandmothers for Mother's Day. Annual Grads and Dads with distribution of chocolates for dads, uncles, and grandpas in their parish. One council resurrected their annual "Junk in the Trunk" and experiences once more how it felt to interact with the community. Councils continue to have bake sales and Christmas bazaars as fundraising. One council distributed their annual Christmas donations to the Women's Shelter, local soup kitchen, manor, warming shelter, palliative care, Chalice, extended care, secret Santa, school breakfast program, assisted living, and family support center.

One Diocese has no report since they were unable to get their reports back from national office. They did have a few interesting initiatives including reading to children in schools, working hard to support Afghan and Ukrainian refugees with food aid, furniture, and clothes (over 30,000.00 worth of aid) and helping refugees with English. Many councils became involved in providing support in many ways to Ukraine some sent money through Development and Peace, some packed boxes of food, some purchased handmade bracelets (blue/gold) with "all" proceeds going to assist Ukrainian refugees. They support Pro-Life organizations and causes were very strong in the parishes. All councils were asked to recruit new members.

16% of councils reported yes to using the Development and Peace – Caritas Canada brochure, available from national office and 84% responded no. 2% responded yes to using the Catholic Near East Welfare Association brochure available from national office to promote projects supported by the League while 94% responded no.

Councils stay up to date with current resolutions and legislation, what's going on in government, provincially and nationally, Letter have been sent voicing concern against expansion of Medical Assistance in Dying, and postcards demanding access to quality palliative care available to all Canadians. Postcards asking government to ensure that pornographic websites have age verification by law, in order to protect our children have also been sent.

Some councils have looked at the 94 Calls to Action, both to learn what is being done and what they can do and to monitor what has been completed. Mass was said for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman and Girls. Many members attended the Mass celebrated by Pope Francis at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton.

The environment is on the minds of members as they seek to reduce the use of plastics and Styrofoam, reuse by hosting garage sales and encouraging recycling. One council reported supporting a water project in El Salvador and had an information session.

Several parishes reported participating in activities that uphold the life and dignity of the human person including pro-life events, sending Pornography Hurts postcards, participating in palliative care events, and donating blankets to palliative care units.

The legislation chair monitors government actions and makes councils aware of issues which impact us as Catholic women. The levels of awareness of councils vary with the federal government as the highest awareness (90% of councils are very aware or have some knowledge). Provincial government is at 85% of councils and local government is at 87% of councils. The

National Position Papers are not as well-known as only about 50% of councils are very aware or have some knowledge of them.

Other federal or provincial bills that councils monitored and/or acted upon include: Bill C-97 Federal Housing Advocate; Bill S-211 Fighting against forced labour and child labour in Supplies Chain Act; and Bill C-11 Online Streaming Act. For Bill S-210 (S-203) An Act to restrict young persons' online access to sexually explicit material, several councils provided the Mandatory Age Verification/Pornography Hurts Postcards provided by the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council to members to send to government officials.

Several councils expressed members will continue to need to know about the legislation presented at the various levels of government and will need to continue to act. Several councils have not had a legislation chair and will find it difficult to monitor ongoing legislation. Some suggestions that may be helpful to the monitoring of legislation within the League were given. These include: putting links to all current legislation on the national website; have National, Provincial and Diocesan Social Justice chairs share information on specific Bills; and under the Social Justice chair have a subcommittee that monitors legislation which could include past diocesan presidents. Councils wish to continue letter - writing campaigns now that the federal government is not too engrossed with Covid-19. A council suggested using a dedicated position or lobbyist to communicate from a regional level so that the information can be streamlined to councils. Another council suggested to choose legislative items using thoughtful criteria, based on, for example: impact and implications to society; ethical/moral considerations; unintended consequences; and potential impact/conflicts for Catholics/Christians. Keep the list manageable and compact.

While many councils indicated they still needed to fill this position, they were firmly committed to being kept informed on issues. The councils will look to the provincial officer to keep them updated and aware of specific legislation at the provincial level and the national officer on legislation at the federal level. A few councils indicated they will seek help from the diocesan officers for guidance and workshops to address these emerging issues.

Respectfully submitted,  
Denise Blackstock



## Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Communications Annual Report

What were the primary methods of communication for councils to be informed of information and resources at various levels?

- The primary method of communication was by email
- Other methods were:

Phone  
The church bulletin  
CWL parish website  
Meetings  
Posters  
Buddy system

Monthly newsletters  
Face to face contact  
Canada Post  
Websites  
Facebook

What types of social media have been used by your councils to promote activities and events?

Facebook  
Instagram  
Parish websites

Twitter  
Many councils reported they do not use social media

Does your council use the national website

- Most councils use the national website
- The website is used to find information and resources which included:

Manuals  
Ceremonies  
Prayers  
New documents  
Brochures  
Posters

Strategic plan  
Resolutions  
Policies and procedure  
Welcome program  
Joy of Leadership program

- Some councils reported that only the president or executive used the website
- Members were encouraged to use the website
- Some members use the website when given a link for specific information
- Some found that the print used on the Joy of Leadership program was too small and the PowerPoint presentation was too long to use at a meeting

Is your council aware of the resolutions relating to inappropriate internet use and the behaviours associated with it?

- Approximately half of councils responding were aware of the resolutions

Unfortunately, it was difficult to get a complete overview as all diocesan councils were unable to submit a report.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gloria Lundberg





## Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Life Member Liaison Annual Report

Madam President

It was truly an honor to be asked by Alberta Mackenzie Provincial President, Mary Hunt, to be the ABMK Life Member Liaison during her term from 2022-2024.

Alberta Mackenzie is proud to have 3 Honorary Life Members and 28 Life Members. As most of you know, the criteria to be an Honorary Life Member is that individual has had to have been a National CWL President. Next year, we will look forward to adding our current National President, Fran Lucas to this prestigious group.

What is the criteria for a Life Membership' in the League? The nominee must meet 20 criteria items that is listed in the application forms. This is not an award, but rather a commitment to demonstrate her love for the League, her encouragement to others and her ability to participate in study, research, presentations, workshop, etc. She must be available and willing to continue to serve the League at national level on committees, preparing briefs, researching reports to name a few. The detailed criteria and process for this membership can be found in the CWL National Policy and Procedures on pages 32 & 33.

As provincial Life Member Liaison, I am the conduit between the National Life Member Liaison Doreen Gowans and our members in Alberta Mackenzie. Once a month, prayer requests, information about special events such as birthdays and anniversaries are sent to Doreen so that she can do a communique that is sent out to all the National HLM/LM's and National Officers, in order to keep us connected. I also look after the book of Life for this group of ladies.

I have so appreciated keeping in touch with our members either by email or by phone to share information. This past Christmas I sent out Christmas cards to our HLM's/LM's. I also sent out get well cards to any ladies that are in need of healing prayers and good wishes.

A highlight during my past year was being able to attend the Edmonton Diocesan CWL 110th anniversary celebration of the formation of the first group of women that would become known as the Catholic Women's League. A mass was celebrated with Edmonton Diocesan CWL Spiritual Advisor, Father Simmy Joseph at St. Joachim Catholic church. This was followed by a lovely brunch at the Chateau Louis Hospitality centre. I look forward to the next year and staying connected to these wonderful ladies.

Respectfully submitted,

June Fuller  
Provincial Life Member Liaison, Alberta Mackenzie Council  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



## Calgary Diocesan President Annual Report

Madam President,

The Calgary Diocese had 34 of 47 councils report, all five regions were represented.

This report includes the return to pre-pandemic activity, League structure changes and how councils are preparing, their use of the National theme, and their Spiritual Advisor's support. In addition, it summarizes their feedback about using the new streamlined survey and what they want the National Board to know about.

Councils reported that most (72%) had returned to pre-pandemic activity.

**League structure changes:** 46% of the councils did not ask for guidance from the Diocesan or Provincial officers. Of the remaining councils 36% found the assistance very helpful and 18% still need more guidance.

Councils are excited about the changes, appreciate being able to focus on the three pillars and only a few activities. Filling positions especially in smaller councils is more manageable with the deletion of redundant positions. They are using the resources to implement this structure and hopefully?

it will result in more participation and attract younger members. They are interested to know if it may alleviate the stress of being a long-term chair or having the executive plan everything. It allows the general members or a committee to take a leadership role on a short-term project. Some mentioned they're not sure about how to go forward and they worried about too few leaders to accomplish the ministry their council did previously. For some councils, there was no change as they have not been able to fill all the positions for years.

Many councils are preparing for the structural change by using the resources available on the National website and consulting with Diocesan and Provincial officers. Some councils used monthly newsletters and emails to introduce the changes. Then followed up with several executive and general member discussions to provide information and obtain feedback on how to implement the three positions. Others formalized the process with strategy meetings, organization chart, and creation of a council policy and procedure manual. Councils can easily fill the three positions but are still having difficulty succession planning a President and Vice-President.

**National theme, "Catholic & Living it!"** is used by many councils. A few councils stated that they do not use it. The prayer is recited at meetings and the logo is on their minutes, emails, newsletters, and parish bulletin board. One council had it on their parade float. It impacted their spiritual program and widened their vision of faith by connecting their spiritual words to actions. Most councils explored many methods of prayer, rosary, bible study, retreats, and Catechism. They reflected on what this means for daily life, going outside of their parish into the community to spend time with and care for the elderly, poor, and homeless. From the comments our faith clearly unites us in fellowship and drives our desire to work hard in service and make a difference through social justice.

**Their Spiritual Advisor supports their council and promotes the League.** He attends their general meetings and provides a reflection, celebrates Mass for them, leads their retreat, designed their website, and participates in their membership drive and social events. He is a good

listener and counselor. He assisted with executive conflict and motivated the members through all the changes. Overall, the comments were positive, with most councils having a good relationship and appreciating their Spiritual Advisor. Together they worked for the betterment of the parish and the League. This is very encouraging and exciting!!!

**Streamlined Annual Survey:** Most councils liked the streamlined format of the annual survey. Some commented that it was easiest with one responder but the majority thought it was most effective to complete as a group. They enjoyed that it was collaborative allowing them to share their comments as a team. However, they felt it took a lot of time to compile the information and complete the survey. A concern was that the questions did not capture most of the work occurring in the councils. There were still some comments that it was too long and more than half the questions did not need to be included or were not relevant to a smaller council.

**Councils would like the National Board to know:**

- Finances: Be a wise spender and accountable!
- There is a disconnect between parish council executives and National. Do you remember what it is like to be a grassroots member?
- Leadership is a huge challenge, how is it best to keep going?
- They appreciate and use the resources! Suggestion: Transition from communiqués and memos to videos and power points that can used at council meetings easily.
- The cwl.ca search engine needs improvement.
- National should have an assigned person to trouble-shoot or assist with the Annual Survey

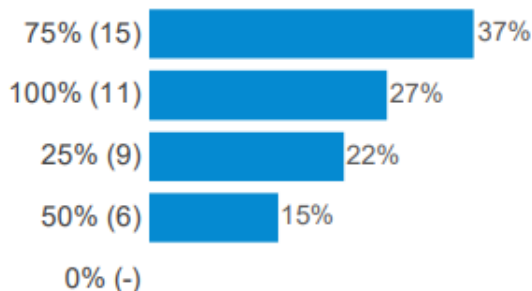
Respectfully Submitted  
 Renee Spohn  
 President, Calgary Diocesan Council



**Edmonton Diocesan President  
 Annual Report**

Madam President,

I am pleased to report that during 2022, all parish councils returned to in-person activities and meetings once pandemic restrictions lifted. However, the degree to which a council returned



varied. Councils expressed optimism to have routines return to normal and to be able to participate in more activities than had been possible during covid lockdowns. Councils also really appreciated the number of new resources being made available through Strategic Planning initiatives to help with recruiting new members, including social media vignettes that promote awareness of the League or can be used on video displays in the foyer of the local

church. However, most councils commented on how much they were looking forward to having a smaller executive when elections were held next. Along with this, many councils are seeking more flexibility (less rigidity) in parish council structure in order to allow councils to operate as works best in their parish. While National has provided guidance on how old committees fit with new committees, councils liked the flexibility to decide these things for themselves or to use a triune model instead, where Faith, Service and Social Justice elements are integrated into all council activities. To prepare for changes in council structure, almost all councils noted help provided by diocesan council through workshops and presentations. Through these changes, councils are aiming to reduce the number of reports while also engaging more non-executive members in projects and promoting more opportunities for team work and collaboration.

Edmonton Diocesan Council officers worked hard to develop projects parish councils could rally behind like the school book project, which showcased four books by Indigenous authors. Our Diocesan officer team also continued to journey with a group of motivated women at Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples interested in reactivating their parish council charter. Throughout 2022, this journeying involved helping them learn the structure of the League, identifying projects, and recruiting new members, in addition to patiently waiting for church renovations to finish and celebrating with the community when the new altar was dedicated just in time for Pope Francis's visit to their church!

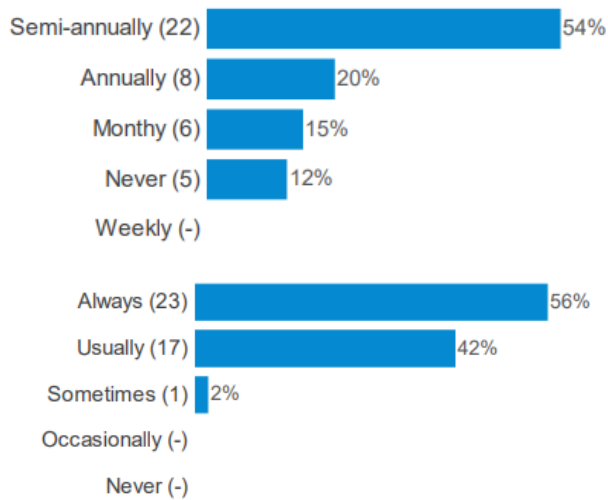
Following the Midwinter Regional Workshops held in November 2022, some parish councils began developing new council policies or updating existing policies to reflect changes to officer positions. Parish councils have also been working on identifying their unique charism that brings light and life to everything they do.

The National CWL theme of 'Catholic and Living It!' has been welcomed by parish councils as they use the themed prayer cards at gatherings and events. The theme has also inspired councils to place a greater focus on outreach (eg with one another and community organizations and local Catholic schools). For example, gratitude cards continue to be sent out along with personal cards of support to shut ins. Councils provided numerous examples of ways in which the theme reinvigorated them to 'lead by example, with our faith front and center'. One council noted that the theme has built confidence among council members to take a chance and try something new. Another council indicated the theme has led to members becoming more involved in visible ministries in the local parish (eg serving as greeters at mass). One council has begun listening to Catholic podcasts (eg bible in a year, catechism in a year, Upfront with the Archbishop) and participating in a bible study together. Members reflected on being proud to be Catholic and being authentic witnesses of the faith, treating each other with respect and warmth, and giving voice to new ideas for a more vibrant CWL full of action and purpose.

Regarding spiritual advisor support and engagement, almost all parish councils reported feeling supported by their spiritual advisor. However, councils often commented that while priests have been supportive of the CWL, regularly celebrate mass for councils, actively try to help promote the League during mass announcements, and answer any questions councils have, most priests in the diocese do not have time to attend CWL gatherings and events due to increasingly busy schedules that prevent them from getting more directly involved. Many councils report their spiritual advisor is kept busy trying to look after multiple parishes.

Some presidents noted how the increase in per capita fees has affected their councils. For some councils, the increase in per capita fees continues to cause discontent. While some councils had 'angel' initiatives where one member anonymously helps cover the cost of another member's membership, other councils rely on fundraising to help cover the difference. Because the

pandemic curtailed almost all council fundraising, some councils indicated they are not able to pay for members who are not able to afford to pay the fee increase. However, councils were hopeful that with the return to fundraising again, this issue could resolve over the coming year.



More than any other level of the League, parish councils reported reaching out to Diocesan Council most often for assistance whenever needed. And, councils were significantly more satisfied with the communication they received from Diocesan Council compared to other levels of the League.

Parish councils expressed appreciation for additional resources being made available by National as a result of Strategic Planning, but expressed concern that information from National Office is often not reaching them in a timely manner.

In late 2022, National announced its Unity Outreach project which involves every parish council being visited during the coming year by Diocesan Council. These in person visits are intended to help parishes navigate any specific challenges they are facing and to provide feedback directly to National Council about their concerns.

Overall, parish councils indicated they remain hopeful and ‘believe very strongly that the Catholic Women’s League is THE place for women to find connection, knowledge, support in their faith and a chance to bond ourselves to other women intent on bringing about God’s Kingdom in our homes, parish and country’.

On a special note, I would like to personally thank all the CWL members throughout our diocese for your generosity of spirit and help with the Papal Visit in July 2022. CWL members from the Edmonton Diocese were specifically asked by Papal Visit Coordinators to oversee handing out all of the Papal Visit Volunteer Accreditation Packages for Alberta. It was an extraordinary request with a very short time in which to do it. Your response was inspiring! Thank you for helping to make the Pope’s visit go smoothly as His Holiness came to the Edmonton area on pilgrimage to Walk Together with our Indigenous brothers and sisters and set us on a path towards meaningful reconciliation.

Respectfully submitted,

Clover Oryschak  
 President, Edmonton Diocesan Council



## **Grouard-McLennan Diocesan President Annual Report**

Madam President,

Since we have been unable to get our reports back from the national office and we did not ask our parish chairpersons to do reports to the diocese, we have no reports but we did have a few interesting initiatives including reading to children in schools, working hard to support Afghan and Ukrainian refugees with food aid, furniture and clothing (over 30,000.00 worth of aid) and helping refugees with English, and the President and President Elect helped many councils with some still to visit to transition to the new pillars. Support for Pro-Life organizations and causes was very strong in the parishes. All councils were asked to try to recruit new members and we believe we have about 20 new members in the diocese.

Respectfully Submitted  
Lucille Partington, President  
Diocese of Grouard-McLennan



## **Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocesan President Annual Report**

Dear Sisters in the League,

As I reflect on the year 2022, I am reminded of two things. First, God is still good, and He is still at work. Second, we are still united in finding creative ways to minister to those in our lives.

Mackenzie Fort Smith Diocesan Council has 92 members: 28 in Yellowknife, 57 in Hay River and 7 in Fort Smith. Unfortunately, Fort Smith has still been inactive since last year.

I had the privilege of going to my very first Provincial Convention in Lac La Biche, Alberta and the National Convention in Kelowna, BC. I witnessed how these empowered women work towards calling their members to grow in faith and to witness the love of God through ministry and service.

Our diocese continues to serve the community through many volunteers, ministries, hospitality, visiting the sick and taking seniors to appointments or shopping, plus working many hours at our parish thrift stores. We say rosaries every Monday and Tuesday for our prayer intentions at both parish levels.

In February, both Yellowknife and Hay River did their membership campaigns, and gained new members.

In May, one council held a pin ceremony to acknowledge the members service as well as welcoming new members in their council. Both councils participated in the 12 hours of prayer for palliative care and distributed carnations to moms and grandmothers for Mother's Day.

In June, one council held their annual Grads and Dads and distributed chocolates for dads, uncles, and grandpas in their parish. The grads received certificates and gifts.

At the provincial convention in La La Biche, Alberta Mackenzie donated \$10,000 for Hay River Flood Relief. The fund will be used to help both those in Hay River as well as the K'atl'odeeche First Nation to where the need is the greatest. Sr. Maggie, Shirley Gutierrez and I presented the cheque personally during the Hay River Council meeting.

In August, one council resurrected their annual "Junk in the Trunk" after COVID and experienced once more how it felt to interact with the community.

Both Hay River and Yellowknife completed their Annual Online Reporting in November. Both councils had a bake sale and Christmas bazaar as fundraising to continue to support their local community.

In December, one council distributed their annual Christmas donations to the Women's Shelter, local soup kitchen, manor, warming shelter, palliative care, Chalice, extended care, secret Santa, school breakfast program, assisted living, and family support center. Councils celebrated their Christmas Party. It was a night of laughter and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheila Domingo, President  
Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith



## **St. Paul Diocesan President Annual Report**

Madam President,

Councils in the diocese of St. Paul are reporting that they are getting back to "Normal" after two years of either not meeting at all or meeting sporadically or virtually. We have 17 councils in the diocese, although 3 councils did not send in membership for 2022, though they have not officially disbanded. Our membership total for the remaining 14 councils is 437, which is down by 37 members from last year. This report is compiled from the responses of 11 councils on the online annual report and two president's reports submitted by hardcopy.

Councils are looking forward to working with the new structure of three standing committees following the three pillars of Faith, Service and Social Justice. A more streamlined structure with fewer vacant executive positions is attractive to councils. They are hoping for less paperwork and fewer initiatives to try to focus on and easier reporting. Some believe that the new structure will be more attractive to new members as well. In order to make the most of these changes, councils

are looking to the National website for resources and the Provincial & Diocesan councils for guidance in the way of workshops and communiques.

The theme “Catholic & Living It!” has been enthusiastically embraced with the decision to produce theme pins to sell to members and others as a fundraiser. One council spearheaded this project with the councils able to purchase the pins at cost and then sell them for a small profit for their council. The pins were also brought to the provincial and national conventions where they sold like...well...like hotcakes on Shrove Tuesday! Thank you to all members at all levels who supported this initiative to spread the word about our National Theme. The money realized by the diocesan council has only partially been given out with a donation going to the St. Jean Baptiste Church Rebuild in Morinville and councils have been asked to think about other recipients. Living the theme in their ministries, work, projects and 2022 reports indicate that they are truly Catholic & Living It!!!

Spiritual advisors support councils in various ways, from promoting their work at Mass to attending meetings and offering diocesan updates and answering theological questions. While most councils can say that they feel and appreciate the support of their spiritual advisors, a couple of councils have not had a consistent priest and hopefully will have the blessing of their support in the near future.

Councils share information with members and the parish through newsletters, parish bulletins, and announcements after Mass. Minutes are shared by e-mail &/or read at meetings. Some councils report not having a permanent secretary and so members take turns taking minutes. In fact, we have done this at the diocesan level for several meetings.

Despite decreased activity in 2022, councils were able to meet their financial commitments donating locally, provincially, nationally and abroad, including to Catholic Missions in Canada, the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, Matercare, Coady Institute, the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition as well as local food banks, shelters, pregnancy care centres, pro-life organizations and palliative care.

Because our diocesan council did not have all of the chairs filled under the “old” structure, it was decided to adopt the “new” structure a little earlier than proposed, in the diocesan council as well as some parish councils, so this report will follow the new structure of three chairs.

## **Faith**

Spiritual development of members remains an important aspect of the League and is met in a variety of ways with days of reflection, retreats, both in person and via zoom, virtual rosaries. Programs from the national website are used as is information from a variety of Catholic websites and sources. Some councils lead bible studies for both the parish and their councils focussing on women in the church and/or women in the bible. Members attend Celebrating the Word weekly to look at and study the coming readings for Mass.

All councils report having a spiritual aspect to their meetings, aiming for one-third of the meeting, but not always successful, depending on the agenda. Saints’ lives, feast days and liturgical seasons are cited as regular topics for discussion. Councils use prayer programs from the National website as well as spiritual programs from past meetings and conventions. Several councils report holding a “12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care” open to the parish.

As with CWL councils across the province, indeed the country, members are active in all ministries of the church.



## **Service**

Councils offer support to seniors in a variety of ways including leading the Sunday Liturgy at lodges, bringing communion to shut-ins, having the occasional meeting at a local seniors' lodge where members reside. Cards for birthdays are sent out and minutes are circulated to those who can't come to meetings. Transportation is provided as needed, to meetings or appointments.

Support for the family and married, singles, widows and widowers as well as newcomers to the community and country is offered in the way of welcome coffee parties and invitations to CWL or parish events. Couples are encouraged to participate in Marriage Encounter weekends. Refugees from Ukraine have also been supported financially and with items needed to get set up in their new country.

Support for youth in general is shown with Grade 12 scholarships and bursaries, contributions to the diocesan youth camp and donations to NET Ministries. Members are also actively involved in children's liturgy, religious instruction and sacramental preparation for students not in a Catholic school and assistance with Vacation Bible School.

Members are also very active in their Parish Pastoral Councils. They support seminarians and youth discerning a vocation with prayer and financial assistance. Members volunteer for various organizations including food banks, long-term care centres and schools' reading programs.

## **Social Justice**

Councils stay up to date with current resolutions and legislation, what's going on in government, provincially and nationally, even though most councils report no chairperson for resolutions and/or legislation. Letters have been sent voicing concern against expansion of Medical Assistance in Dying, and postcards demanding access to quality palliative care available to all Canadians. Postcards asking government to ensure that pornographic websites have age verification by law, in order to protect our children have also been sent.

National Truth & Reconciliation Day, September 30th, members attended local indigenous events to mark the date. Some councils have looked at the 94 Calls to Action, both to learn what is being done and what they can do and to monitor what has been completed. Some councils had a Mass said for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Many members attended the Mass celebrated by Pope Francis at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton this past summer.

The environment is on the minds of members as they seek to reduce the use of plastics and Styrofoam, reuse by hosting garage sales and encourage recycling. One council reported supporting a water project in El Salvador and had an information session.

Postcards were sent to federal government on Palliative Care and the Pornography Hurts campaign. Councils are also mindful of the human trafficking issue.

With the war in Ukraine, councils have reported supporting families both financially and with items for setting up households. They offer rides to appointments. Some have volunteered in the schools to translate for newly arrived students.

An independent Senior's Advocate is still on the agenda with letter writing. This is a topic of interest since most of our members are seniors! Members have supported Bill C-230 calling for the protection of freedom of conscience, for those medical workers not wanting to participate in Medical Assistance in Dying.

It was very exciting to hear that the council in St. Paul started meeting again in the fall of 2022! Under the leadership of a young enthusiastic woman, they have continued to meet and welcome new-comers with a primarily spiritual development focus. They have made solid connections with the Poor Clare Sisters in the Stella Maris Monastery in St. Paul and are obviously benefiting from their prayers and presence in the community.

Councils expressed joy and gratitude for the streamlined reporting system! They liked that they could expand answers with written responses. They would like more questions about local projects as that is where a lot of the focus is aimed. They await workshops and communiqués and guidance on how to implement the new structure. They have raised questions about the Strategic Plan and has it paid off? We are not seeing the numbers of members increase overall for a great deal of money having been spent. Some comments have been made that we're getting to be less of a grassroots organization and more of a corporation.

In closing, I think that it is safe to say that the year 2022 was a step towards returning to the "normal" work of the League and councils embraced that work whole-heartedly. As we move forward in faith, may we continue to witness to the Love of God through ministry and service.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathryn Bourque  
President, Diocese of St. Paul



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council  
76<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**

**Spiritual Program**

**CATHOLIC**  
and **LIVING IT!**



## **Catholic And Living It!**

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 and 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 the Holy Spirit, forever and ever.

Amen.

## **Prayer To Our Lady of Good Counsel**

God of heavenly wisdom,  
You have given us Mary, Mother of Jesus, to be our guide and counselor.  
Grant that we may always seek her motherly help in this life  
and so enjoy her blessed presence in the life to come.  
O Mother of Good Counsel,  
Patroness of the National Council of Catholic Women,  
Intercede for us, that we may be wise, courageous,  
and loving leaders of the Church.  
Help us dear mother, to know the mind of Jesus, your Son.  
May the Holy Spirit, fill us with reverence for God's creation,  
and compassion for all God's children.  
May our labors of love on earth enhance the reign of God,  
and may God's gifts of faith and living hope prepare us  
for the fullness of the world to come.

## The Angelus

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,  
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, etc...

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.  
R. Be it done unto me according to Your Word.

Hail Mary, etc...

V. And the Word was made flesh,  
R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, etc...

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.  
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord,  
Your Grace into our hearts;  
that as we have known the incarnation of Christ,  
your Son by the message of an angel,  
so by His passion and cross  
we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.  
Through the same Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

## Grace

Bless us, O Lord,  
and these Thy gifts,  
which we are about to receive from Thy bounty,  
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## Friday Morning Opening Spiritual

**Janet:** Good Morning. It is wonderful to see you all here.

As Catholics we have just ended the liturgical calendar of Lent and Easter. Just over 25% of the liturgical calendar is spent on Lent and Easter. As we move into Ordinary time let us reflect on one of the readings that is presented three times during the Easter season.

As we gather today, may we center ourselves to listen and walk together with the words from the gospel of Luke.

Please note that responses change.

**Fr. Andrew: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.**

On the first day of the week, two of the disciples were walking to a village called Emmaus, about eleven kilometres from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

**Response:** *As we walk together, may we be reminded of the words and actions of Jesus Christ.*

**Fr. Andrew:** While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And Jesus said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?”

**Response:** *As we walk together, let us be reminded of others who have not yet heard the words of Christ the Lord.*

**Fr. Andrew:** They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” Jesus asked them, “What things?”

**Response:** *As we walk together, let us find the words to profess our faith as we glorify our risen Lord.*

**Fr. Andrew:** They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.”

**Response:** *As we walk together, may we be reminded of the love of our God, who gave His only Son so that we may all have eternal life.*

**Fr. Andrew:** “Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.”

**Response:** *As we walk together, let us be reminded that faith is to believe what we cannot see.*

**Fr. Andrew:** Then Jesus said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”

**Response:** *As we walk together, we are reminded of the sacrifices the Lord Jesus suffered, bringing light and salvation to the world.*

**Fr. Andrew:** Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were walking to, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them.

**Response:** *As we walk together, the Lord Jesus opens the Scriptures to us, making our hearts burn with love when He speaks.*

**Fr. Andrew:** When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus; and he vanished from their sight.

**Response:** *As we walk together, let all who seek the Lord rejoice in the breaking of the bread. Alleluia!*

**Fr. Andrew:** The two disciples said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us as we walked on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” The same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.

**Response:** *As we walk together, let us go out to the world and tell the good news of the Risen Lord. Alleluia!*

**Fr. Andrew:** These were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then the two disciples told what had happened as they walked on the road to Emmaus, and how the Lord had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**Response:** *As we walk together, the crucified is risen from the dead and has redeemed us. Alleluia!*

**Reflection: Father Andrew .....**

**Janet:** As I mentioned at the beginning, this reading was given three times within the Easter Season this year. The first on Easter Sunday - it is offered for an afternoon or evening Mass, the second on the Wednesday right after Easter Sunday and the third on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter. We all know that when we hear something at least three times we will remember and reflect on it. Our faith is tested with this reading – after such a dramatic ending to Jesus’s time walking on this earth, is it possible for us to believe in the Risen Lord? We are given this reading three times in a short timeframe – this tells us that YES we can believe in the Risen Lord.

Let us put ourselves on the road walking where the two disciples were walking:

- 1) What are your thoughts and feelings if you were present at the time of Jesus's crucifixion?
- 2) Do you think you would have recognized Jesus at that time when he came to walk with the disciples?
- 3) Let us say together:

**Their hearts burned – their eyes were opened**

**Their hearts burned – their eyes were opened**

**Their hearts burned – their eyes were opened**

*silently reflect on these words*

**Fr. Andrew:** As children of the Lord, may we walk the road as the disciples did, calling to mind that nothing is impossible with God and He is at our side always.

**Response:** AMEN

**Janet:** Let us sing: **“Two Were Bound for Emmaus”**

**Fr. Andrew:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Response:** And with your spirit

**Fr. Andrew:** Let us offer each other a sign of Peace.

**12:00 noon**

**LUNCH: The Angelus - Page 56**

**Meal Prayer - Page 56**





## Friday's Reconvening Prayer

**Litany of the Saints** (Proper for Canada)  
(717 – Catholic Women's League, shortened)

**Leader 1:** *ring bell (supplication to God)*

Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All:**

Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Leader 2:** *ring bell (invocation of the saints)*

Holy Mary, Mother of God  
Saint Michael,  
Holy angels of God,

pray for us.  
pray for us  
pray for us

**Leader 3:** *ring bell (prophets and precursors of the faith)*

Abraham, Moses and Elijah,  
Saint Joachim and Saint Anne,  
Saint Joseph,  
Saint John the Baptist,

pray for us.  
pray for us  
pray for us  
pray for us

**Leader 4:** *ring bell (apostles and followers of Christ)*

Saint Peter and Saint Paul,  
Saint Andrew,  
Saint John,  
Saint Mary Magdalene,

pray for us.  
pray for us  
pray for us  
pray for us

**Leader 5:** *ring bell (martyrs)*

Saint Stephen,  
Saint John de Brebeouf and the Holy Canadian Martyrs,  
Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity,  
Saint Agnes,

pray for us.  
pray for us  
pray for us  
pray for us

**Leader 6:** *ring bell (bishops and doctors)*

Saint Gregory,  
Saint Augustine,  
Saint Catherine of Sienna,  
Saint Teresa of Avila,  
Blessed Francois de Laval,  
Saint John Paul II

pray for us.  
pray for us.  
pray for us.  
pray for us.  
pray for us.  
pray for us.

**Leader 7:** *ring bell (priests and religious)*

Saint Benedict,  
Saint Francis and Saint Dominic,  
Saint Francis Xavier,  
Saint John Vianney,  
Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys,  
Saint Marguerite d'Youville,

pray for us.  
pray for us.  
pray for us.  
pray for us.  
pray for us.  
pray for us.

**Leader 8:** *ring bell (laity)*

Saint Monica,  
Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha,  
All holy men and women,

pray for us.  
pray for us.  
pray for us.

**Leader 9:** *ring bell (Invocations to Christ)*

Lord, be merciful,  
From all harm,  
From every sin,  
From all temptations,  
From everlasting death,  
By Your coming among us,  
By Your death and rising to new life,  
By Your gift of the Holy Spirit,  
Be merciful to us sinners,

Lord, save us.  
Lord, save us.  
Lord, save us.  
Lord, save us.  
Lord, save us.  
Lord, save us.  
Lord, save us.  
Lord, save us.  
Lord, hear our prayer.

**Leader 10:** *(petitions)*

Bless the fruits of the earth and all human labour,  
Deliver us from disease, hunger and war,  
Bring all Christians together in unity,  
Grant eternal rest to all who have died in the faith,

Lord, hear our prayer.  
Lord, hear our prayer.  
Lord, hear our prayer.  
Lord, hear our prayer.

**Leader 11:** *(conclusion)*

Jesus, Son of the living God.  
Christ, hear us.  
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

Lord, hear our prayer.  
Christ, hear us.  
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

**Leader 1:**

Let us pray.

God, source of all holiness, You have enriched Your church with many gifts in the saints. Direct, O Lord, our actions by Your holy inspirations, and carry them on by Your gracious assistance, that every prayer and work of ours may always begin with You, and through You be happily ended. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen

*Faith* TO LIGHT THE DARKENED SKY,  
*Strength* TO CARRY ON,  
*Love* TO TOUCH AND HEAL THE SOUL,  
*Hope* TO GRACE THE DAWN

## Friday's Closing Prayer:

### Prayer for Truth and Reconciliation

(Prayer of repentance and solidarity with Indigenous Peoples following  
Canada's Truth & Reconciliation Commission)  
T. Cosentino, Renfrew County CDSB, 2017

**LEADER:** O God, Great Spirit and Creator,  
We praise you for your gifts that surround us –

**Right Side:** For the gift of the land that gives us food, shelter and water;  
For the gift of the sun that gives warmth and light to all that grows;  
For the gifts of the moon and stars which you have arranged for your glory;  
For the gifts of language and culture, through which your peoples praise you, and share  
the most deeply held values you have engraved on their hearts.

**LEADER:** Come upon us, O Divine Healer and open our eyes –

**Left Side:** To the injustices brought against our Indigenous Peoples, their language and culture  
in Canada's Indian Residential Schools.

**LEADER:** Give us repentant hearts –

**Right Side:** That ache with sorrow for their violence against First Nations, Métis, Inuit families  
and their children.

**LEADER:** Give us determined hearts –

**Left Side:** That refuse to stand by when the dignity of our Indigenous brothers and sisters is  
trampled.

**LEADER:** Give us healing hearts –

**Right Side:** That beat with the drum of Jesus' Gospel, to defend and honour our Indigenous  
neighbour, their language and way of life.

**LEADER:** Give us flaming hearts –

**ALL:** That burn with love for you, who come to us  
in every human face  
in every language and culture  
in every gift of creation.

**LEADER:** Make us stewards –

**Right Side:** Of one another's dignity,  
Of one another's safety,  
Of one another's lands,

Of one another's right to a cultural identity:  
as unique peoples,  
as gifts to the human family,  
as your beloved children.

**LEADER:** Pour out your healing love on all who suffered in Canada's Indian Residential Schools;

**Left Side:** on bodies, minds and spirits wounded through abuse,  
on hearts wounded through separation and disdain,  
on families wounded through trauma and anguish that still torment over the course of  
generations.

**LEADER:** Jesus – gentle Saviour, forgiving and humble of heart,  
Good Shepherd, Divine Healer,  
Great Lover of all peoples:

**Right Side:** We offer you our sorrow for the wrongs committed  
Against our First Nations' children in Canada's Indian Residential Schools.

**Left Side:** We offer you our desire  
To walk with our First Nations, Métis and Inuit brothers and sisters;  
To journey with them on the path of truth, healing and reconciliation,

**ALL:** As we share this earthly pilgrimage to our heavenly homeland,  
Where every tear will be wiped away  
And every sorrow will be turned to joy.

**Leader:** Give us one heart and one mind  
To walk forward together along this path  
In the love and strength of your Spirit,  
In truth, reconciliation and peace.  
We make this prayer In the power of your Most Holy Name.

**ALL:** Amen

**Fr. Andrew:** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning and is now and ever shall be, world without end.  
**Amen.**

**Fr. Andrew:** In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

**Janet:** Our Lady of Good Counsel

**ALL:** Pray for us

**Janet:** Let us sing: *Change our Hearts* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucQbq1Sq-Gg>

**Opening Mass – Sacred Heart Church of the First Nations., 7:00 p.m.**

## Saturday Morning Opening Spiritual

**Janet:** My dear sisters and brothers. As we walk together today let us do so in Faith, Hope and Love.  
The intentions are on your table and the overhead screens.

### Memorial Service for Deceased Members

**Janet:** The names of our deceased members will be scrolling on the overhead screen as we proceed with the ceremony.  
The Book of Life is located at the shrine to Mary that is set up along with the candles, to be lit and a vase for the roses to be placed by each diocesan president and spiritual advisors.

**Fr. Andrew:** Let us pray: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen

**Janet** We gather today as members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada to honour the memory of the 221 members this Province, who have gone from this life to their eternal rest in Christ.  
We welcome of you present here today to join in this memorial for our departed sisters.  
In the world of today, as perhaps never before, the church needs an Enlightened and Faithful laity. Dedicated members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada live their faith by serving others and thus discover Christ through relationship with others.  
The members we honour today openly made a solemn commitment to be witnesses of Christ, carrying out the mission of Christ at home, in the parish and in the entire community.  
We recall now their service to others, and we pray that the God of all has joyously welcomed them into the fullness of life, where they can rest in peace and love.

### Opening Prayer

**Fr. Andrew:** Gracious God, to whom mercy and forgiveness belong, hear our prayers on behalf of Your faithful servants who You have called into the light of Your presence.  
May they be welcomed joyously into heaven. We ask this through Christ, our Redeemer.

**All:** Amen

### Scripture Reading

**Fr. Andrew:** A reading from John 10:27-29

My sheep recognize my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life and they shall never perish. No one shall snatch them away from me,

for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else, so no one can kidnap them from me.

**Reflection on the Word of God:**

**Janet:** We invite you to offer a moment of silence to reflect on this reading and take comfort in knowing our sisters are in His glorious presence.

**Memorial Roses and Lighting of Candles**

**Janet:** A candle will now be lit and a red rose placed in the vase by each diocesan president.

**Mackenzie-Fort Smith – Sheila Domingo**

We thank God for the gift of our sisters who went to their eternal rest in 2022 in the Diocese of Mackenzie Fort Smith. *(1 member)*  
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord.

**All:** And let perpetual light shine upon them.

**Grouard-McLennan – Lucille Partington**

We thank God for the gift of our sisters who went to their eternal rest in 2022 in the Diocese of Grouard McLennan. *(14 Members)*  
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord.

**All:** And let perpetual light shine upon them.

**St. Paul – Kathryn Bourque**

We thank God for the gift of our sisters who went to their eternal rest in 2022 in the Diocese of St. Paul. *(13 members)*  
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord.

**All:** And let perpetual light shine upon them.

**Edmonton Diocese – Clover Oryschak**

We thank God for the gift of our sisters who went to their eternal rest in 2022 in the Diocese of Edmonton. *(109 members)*  
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord.

**All:** And let perpetual light shine upon them.

**Calgary Diocese: Renee Spohn**

We thank God for the gift of our sisters who went to their eternal rest in 2022 in the Diocese of Calgary. *(84 members)*  
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord.

**All:** And let perpetual light shine upon them.

**Fr. Andrew:** *(places a white rose)*

We thank God for the gift of all of our Spiritual Advisors who have gone to their eternal rest.  
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord.

**All:** And let perpetual light shine upon them.

## **Blessing of the Book of Life:**

**Fr. Andrew:** Gracious God, we thank “You” for the gift “You gave” your Church in the people whose names are inscribed in this “**Book of Life**” . We ask you to bless this “Book of Life” and to bless those members of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada whom we honour in this Book. We ask this Blessing through Jesus Christ and through the intercession of our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel.

**All:** Amen

## **Hymn**

**Janet:** All are invited to join in the hymn “Make Me a Channel of your Peace.....”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLmwAKg5gtg>

## **Closing Prayer**

**Fr. Andrew:** Compassionate God, Mary, the mother of Jesus, gave of herself completely. Blessed is she who gave humanity to Jesus, and blessed are our sisters who spent their lives serving others in God’s name. We join Mary in proclaiming Your greatness and in thanking You for giving us life through the death and resurrection of Jesus. We proclaim Jesus and the gift of Your life-giving Spirit.

**All:** Amen

**Fr. Andrew:** Eternal rest grant unto them.

**All:** And let perpetual light shine upon them.

**Fr. Andrew:** May they rest in peace.

**All:** Amen

## **Final Blessing**

**Fr. Andrew:** May the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and in the grace of Jesus Christ.

**All:** Amen

**Fr. Andrew:** May almighty God bless you, in the name of the Creator God, Jesus our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen

**Fr. Andrew:** Let us conclude our celebrations by offering one another a sign of peace.

**12:00 noon –**

**LUNCH:**

**The Angelus - Page #56**

**Grace - Page #56**

## Saturday Reconvening Prayer

### LITANY OF OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL (716 – Catholic Women’s League)

**LEADER 1:**

Lord have mercy on us.  
Christ have mercy on us.  
Christ hear us.  
Christ graciously hear us.  
God the Father of Heaven,  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
God the Holy Spirit,  
Holy Trinity, one God,

*have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.  
have mercy on us.*

**LEADER 2:**

Holy Mary,  
Holy Mother of God,  
Holy Virgin of Virgins,  
Mother of Good Counsel,  
Daughter of the Heavenly Father,  
Mother of the Divine Son

*Pray for us*

**LEADER 3:**

Spouse of the Holy Spirit,  
Temple of the most Holy Trinity,  
Dispenser of graces,  
Gate of heaven,  
Queen of Angels,  
Honour of patriarchs,  
Glory of prophets,

*Pray for us*

**LEADER 4:**

Counsellor of apostles,  
Counsellor of martyrs,  
Counsellor of confessors,  
Counsellor of virgins,  
Counsellor of all saints,  
Counsellor of the afflicted,  
Counsellor of widows and orphans,

*Pray for us,*

**LEADER 5:**

Counsellor of the sick,  
Counsellor of the sorrowful and of prisoners,  
Counsellor of the poor,  
Counsellor of the needy,  
Counsellor in all temptations,  
Counsellor of penitent sinners,  
Counsellor of the dying..,

*Pray for us*



**LEADER 6:**

In all affairs and necessities,  
In all doubts and perplexities,  
In all afflictions and adversities,  
In all dangers and misfortunes,

**Give us good counsel**

**LEADER 7:**

In all undertakings and concerns,  
In all our needs,  
In all crosses and sufferings,  
In all temptations and snares,  
In persecution and calumny,  
In all wrong suffered,  
I all dangers of soul and body,

**Give us good counsel**

**LEADER 8:**

In all events of our life,  
In all sickness and infirmity,  
In the hour of death,

**Give us good counsel**

**LEADER 9:**

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.  
**Spare us, O Lord.**

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.  
**Graciously hear us, O Lord.**

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.  
**Have mercy on us.**

**LEADER 10:**

In all anxiety and trouble  
***Bring us good counsel, O Blessed Virgin Mary.***

O God the giver of all good and perfect gifts, let us, who seek refuge with Mary, obtain in all our wants, troubles and affairs, good counsel, help and assistance for the sake of Jesus Christ Your Son. **Amen.**

(Bishop F.J. Klein, National Director CWL)



## Saturday Closing Spiritual

*Rosary (modified) focusing on the Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus Christ, Patroness to the Catholic Women's League.*

**Fr. Andrew:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen

**Fr. Andrew:** The Annunciation (Luke 1.30-33; 38)

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. may it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**Leader:** Our Father...; Hail Mary... x3, Glory be to the Father...

**Fr. Andrew:** The Nativity (Luke 6-7; 13-14)

While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn.

And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

**Leader:** Our Father...; Hail Mary... x3, Glory be to the Father...

**Fr. Andrew:** The Finding in the Temple (Luke 2.46-49)

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

**Leader:** Our Father...; Hail Mary... x3, Glory be to the Father...

**Fr. Andrew:** The Wedding at Cana (John 2.1-9)

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine.

**Leader:** Our Father...; Hail Mary... x3, Glory be to the Father...

**Fr. Andrew:** The Crucifixion (Matthew 27.50-51, 55-56, John 19.25-27)

But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice and gave up his spirit. And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. There were many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him.

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

**Leader:** Our Father...; Hail Mary... x3, Glory be to the Father...

**Fr. Andrew:** The Assumption of Mary (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 966)

"When the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things." The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is a singular participation in her Son's Resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians"

**Leader:** Our Father...; Hail Mary... x3, Glory be to the Father...

**Fr. Andrew:** The Crowning of Mary (Psalms 45:10, Revelation 12:1)

Coronation of Mary is intended to highlight the bodily aspect of the Assumption and to record the final moment of Our Lady's Assumption into heaven. The prophecy of the psalmist was fulfilled, in which he said to the Lord: "... the Queen takes her place at your right hand in gold of Ophir."

"A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars."

**Leader:** Our Father...; Hail Mary... x3, Glory be to the Father...

**Fr. Andrew:** In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

**All:** Amen

**Janet:** Our Lady of Good Counsel

**ALL:** Pray for us

***Closing Mass – Corpus Christi, 4:30 p.m.***



**CATHOLIC**  **LIC**  
**and LIVING IT!**