



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

CATHOLIC
and LIVING IT!

Calgary Diocesan President Oral Report Convention 2023 Edmonton

Madam President:

The Calgary Diocesan CWL Council is committed to a journey of welcoming and reconnecting, making getting to know each member a priority. Our focus on relationships and sharing the gifts of the Holy Spirit, means we will know and answer God's call for us as sisters in the League.

Mentorship is key to increasing engagement and we develop leadership by pairing an experienced Diocesan officer with a new officer for three months and then rotating. Our members have participated in workshops such as Three Committees, Culture of Welcome, Companionship Program, and the Joy of Leadership. In September, we will have a Parliamentary workshop.

I, along with the Diocesan Officers, am visiting councils to listen to their concerns about declining membership and leadership. We offer our support. During my visits, I have been deeply touched by their resilience and love for one another. I truly felt a sense of joy and hope. I know they are on the right track to move forward.

The League's work, *Faith, Service, and Social Justice* is being done. Every member and council contribute to their parish and community. I am in awe!

With a new enthusiasm we gather for spiritual retreats in all regions. We are on fire for the Lord!!! Three cities held our Advent Retreat: Francis, Rebuild My Church simultaneously so we were united in prayer. In our rural areas, for the first time we had a Lenten Retreat at St. Rita's, Rockyford and on June 17th, St. Isadore, a seven-member council will host a Women's Retreat.

The relationship of the Spiritual Advisor and CWL is critical to becoming a vibrant faith community. We are interconnected and need to nurture one another to do God's work. We interview and feature a Spiritual Advisor or Diocesan Spiritual Advisor in our quarterly newsletter. We want our members to know their faith journey and gain insight into how to build a relationship. Who could resist getting to know "The Rock Star" or "Biker Brother"?

Our highlight was the adoption of resolution **2022.01** to enact federal legislation to reduce food loss and waste and we were heard by the government. Members mailed the

“Pornography Hurts Everyone” postcards and the recent success of Bill S210 has encouraged them to be more active.

Our strong commitment to Catholic education continues as we support the St. Mary’s University CWL Chair for Catholic Studies’ lecture series. Recently, we were invited to provide feedback for the implementation of their new vision and strategic plan.

We have open minds and hearts about healing through Truth & Reconciliation, but it is slow. We are building a relationship with the Stardale Women’s Group, an organization assisting young indigenous women.

A heartfelt thank you to our Highwood Region who hosted our 101st annual convention, “Steadfast: Our Call to Love”, inspired by the immense love I know Jesus has for each of you! We were able to celebrate our sisterhood and develop new friendships. Guided by the Holy Spirit, our three speakers inspired us to share our experiences and shed tears together. They ignited our passions and members returned home with a new confidence to act and evangelize our Catholic faith.

This concludes my report.

Renee Spohn President, Calgary Diocesan Council