



Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council Fall/Winter Newsletter 2022

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

NOVEMBER 2022

President's Message

Mary J. Hunt
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial President



My Dear Sisters in the League,

1 Corinthians 13:13 reads "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." The lasting nature of faith, hope, and love make them greater than all other gifts of the Holy Spirit.

On November 13th, 110 years ago a group of women of faith gathered to form the Catholic Women's League. They, as we are today reminded of our deep & profound calling to care as taught to us by Christ himself.

We are **His** face, hands and voice when we let **LOVE speak** as we continue the journey with our Indigenous sisters and brothers as encouraged by Pope Francis in the *Walking Together Visit* this past summer.

We let **LOVE speak** in our Alberta Mackenzie communities as we care for newcomers from all parts of the globe including Afghanistan, India, Pakistan & Ukraine.

We let **LOVE speak** when we help those at home & abroad afflicted by natural disasters.

We let **LOVE speak** when we care for the vulnerable including children, families and victims of domestic violence.

We let **LOVE speak** when we shelter and feed the poor and homeless.

We let **LOVE speak** when we champion and assist those with disabilities and their families.

We let **LOVE speak** when we serve our Parish communities.

Please let **LOVE continue to speak** thru you... Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council offers each of you sincere and humble thanks for all that you do as members of the Catholic Women's League.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message (cont.)	2
From the Desk of Mary Hunt	3-5
Enjoy! Learn! Improve!	5
President's Report	6-7
National Convention Spirituals	8-9
Walking Together	10-11
Called to Serve	12-26
Prayers	27-28

CATHOLIC
and **LIVING IT!**

(Continued on page 2)

The League is undergoing renewal, regrowth and rebirth as an organization that we together envisioned. What talents and gifts will you share?



President's Message *(Continued from page 1)*

Let us continue to share the vision of Katherine Hughes & the other women who founded the League so many years ago. Without you there would be no League, no relationships to nurture, no one to laugh and cry with, no one to take life issues to the federal government, no one to study and pray with. "Remember you are not a member by chance but a member by invitation. The Lord invited you at your Baptism to become an active member of your faith community and you accepted to do just that when you became a League member".

Your voice—**our collective CWL voice** is important to be heard at the community level, the provincial level and the federal level as we express our views as we learn to walk with our Indigenous sisters and brothers, our views on sanctity of life issues from birth to natural death, environmental issues as we protect our common home, the important right to publicly funded Catholic education, the human rights of women and children in third world countries, the growing numbers of homeless Canadians and those living in poverty and facing hunger.

The League is undergoing renewal, regrowth and rebirth as an organization that we together envisioned. What talents and gifts will you share? No matter how small your contribution might be; collectively it will have an impact. It is important that we remember this as we move forward into the future with prayerful hope and **LOVE**.

Blessings to you in your work for God and Canada. Thank you.



Our Lady of Good Counsel Remains Our Patroness

From the Desk of Mary Hunt

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial President

Dear Sisters in the League

There is so much information to share about League developments. In an attempt to cover as much territory as succinctly as possible, I am providing the following updates & links for you to explore:

1. **National Theme: *Catholic and Living It***: Information (Logo, Power Point, Prayer Card) available at: <https://cwl.ca/new-theme-catholic-and-living-it/>
 2. **New Communications Protocol** until 2024:
 - All communications will be sent **to** Presidents & Secretaries only
 - All communications will be sent through the Presidents & Secretaries only
 - Presidents & Secretaries will be responsible for sending out all information to chairpersons and members of their councils
 3. **New structure: FAITH, SERVICE, SOCIAL JUSTICE**
 - Every council retains its current structure until their next elections
 - Guidelines to define these 3 committees are posted on at: <https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Faith-Service-and-Social-Justice-Guidelines.pdf>
 4. **New Resolution** adopted at 102nd CWL Annual National Convention:
Resolution 2022.02 Enact Federal Legislation to Address Food Loss and Waste
<https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Resolution-2022.01-Enact-Federal-Legislation-to-Reduce-Food-Loss-Waste-Final.pdf>
- Resolutions are the voice of members and a voice for the voiceless which is a part of being ***Catholic and Living It***:
5. **Annual Reporting 2022:**
 - **Only ONE (1) Parish Annual Report Questionnaire (Survey)** with 5-6 questions from each of 12 national positions
 - Parish Annual Survey 2022 will be available by direct digital link
 - Survey was to be available as of October 15, 2022
 - Each council may decide how to complete the survey, as a group at an Executive meeting or it may be completed by the President and/or Secretary
 - Parish, Diocesan, and Provincial Presidents must still produce a narrative Annual Report summarizing their individual council's achievements and send these up to the next level
 6. **New Annual Per Capita Fees**: New Annual Fee due to National Office is \$25/member. More information at: <https://cwl.ca/communique-5-secretary-treasurer/>

(Continued on page 4)

The envisioned future of the Catholic Women's League of Canada is to be an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women inspired by faith.



From the Desk of Mary Hunt *(Continued from page 3)*

7. **Life Membership:** Effective immediately, the moratorium is lifted
- Amended criteria:
 - ◆ Nominees living in Ontario must have allowed their name to stand for provincial office.
 - ◆ Nominees living in provinces without dioceses must have served as provincial past president at the anticipated date of presentation.
 - ◆ Nominees must provide a comprehensive list of League experience, including past workshops, presentations, and research.
 - ◆ The nomination fee would be set at \$300.00.
 - ◆ Nominations at all levels would be held by secret ballot.
 - ◆ New requirements:
 - ◆ Life members will be polled by the national chairperson of organization biennially to update their status, ability and willingness to be involved.

Note: The deadline for *Notice of Nomination* to National Office has been extended to September 30, 2022 for this year only

8. **The Catholic Girls League:** New Manual available by request at: communications@cwlc.ca
9. **Development & Peace:** 3 projects to benefit from League's 1% Program (Brochure to follow)
- Sustained and equitable primary education for girls and boys living in rural areas in Afghanistan
 - Inclusive governance for women of Kasenga through functional literacy in the Democratic Republic of Congo
 - Food and nutritional security and climate change in the Sahel region of Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso
10. **WUCWO General Assembly 2023:** Consider attending:
- WUCWO General Assembly 14-20 May 2023 - Assisi, Italy
 - Theme: *Women of WUCWO, artisans of human fraternity for world peace*
 - Registration deadline December 20, 2022
 - Contact Alice Noble, Quebec Provincial President at: alicenoble.quecwl@yahoo.com

From the Desk of Mary Hunt *(Continued from page 4)*

11. **4 Seasons of Reconciliation:** This program is being promoted by CWL:
- Unique 3-hour online course that promotes a renewed relationship between Indigenous Peoples and Canadians through transformative learning about truth and reconciliation. This workplace course provides the basic foundation on the relationship between Canada and Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
 - Once a person registers, they have 6 months to complete the course (TRC).
 - Each short module can be completed at the learner's pace and provides a mix of learning tools such as slideshows, videos, films, and quizzes.
 - A certificate of completion and a bonus video library for ongoing learning is provided at the end of the course.
 - More details at: <https://www.reconciliationeducation.ca/>
 - The link to sign up to register is <https://www.reconciliationeducation.ca/rbc>
12. **Spotlight:** Send all your pictures and articles to: digitalmedia@cwl.ca

The envisioned future of the Catholic Women's League of Canada is to be an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women inspired by faith.



Enjoy! Learn! Improve!

Report submitted by Betsy Fletcher, Organization Chair

Have you ever asked yourself personal questions? For this article of the newsletter, that's just what your provincial executive members were asked to do. The questions included: What do you enjoy doing? What excites you? What do you want to learn? How has the League impacted your faith? What are you tired of doing? Let's eliminate that last question, because I'm sure we would all answer "Annual Reports"! So, which question to write about?

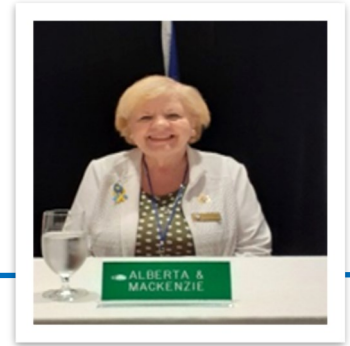
I've had to think about this assignment for a while. I've come to the conclusion that when thinking about the League, the first three questions are really only one question. Here's the thing, when you consider the League, if you're enjoying doing something, it most likely means that you find it exciting and that you're learning something from it, and hopefully, it will have a positive impact on your faith development.

I accepted the appointment to the Organization Chair because I love the Catholic Women's League (CWL). I **enjoy** meeting people, our sisterhood is important to me. I enjoy learning new things; I hear that helps keep the brain ticking along nicely. I want to **learn** more about how the Organization Committee can help **improve** the CWL. Attending meetings, retreats and conventions all contribute to the learning experience and help with our spiritual health.

What do you enjoy about the League? Give it some thought and you might surprise yourself and find new appreciation for your council (at any level).

Alberta Mackenzie President's Report

Delivered at National Convention in Kelowna



Madam Chair,

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council is comprised of 159 councils in Alberta and the Northwest Territories with a membership of over 8,000 faith filled women in 5 dioceses who with gratitude and joy are ***Catholic and Living It!*** We proudly celebrated ABMK members: Fran Lucas, Cathy Bouchard and Dorothy Johansen as they assumed their responsibilities on National Council. Our members strived to meet the challenges of COVID fatigue and creatively did their best to connect with one another and keep councils intact. There was a renewed sense of caring for members and the strengthening of relationships and how we “do things” as an organization. We were reminded what a wonderful gift the League is. We celebrated 100-year anniversaries for Calgary and Edmonton Diocesan Councils, St. Francis Xavier Council in Camrose and Holy Name of Jesus Council in Vermillion.

Provincial council dedicates itself to promoting the many initiatives of National Council as well as a few of their own. Members embraced the Gratitude Project and hundreds of gratitude postcards & baskets were prepared for first responders, parish staff, medical staff, etc. Other initiatives included Development and Peace, Missions Canada and CNEWA. One council planted 100 seedling trees and dedicated a park bench in a popular community green space.

A focus of the provincial council is to educate. We continued our work to inform our members and the communities they live in about the insidious devastation of pornography. We continued to support and educate others about Sanctity of Life issues. Medical Assistance in Dying, Euthanasia and Abortion have become increasingly popularized. Our faith has strengthened our resolve to be involved and share the Pro-Life position in these issues. We actively participated in the ***Alberta March for Life*** and accepted an invitation to speak at their rally.

We continued to promote the right to publicly funded Catholic Education through GrACE which is an acronym for Grateful Advocates of Catholic Education. The Alberta Bishops, Catholic School Board Trustees and the Catholic Superintendents founded this group and invited the Catholic Women's League in Alberta to participate by spreading the good news about Catholic education. The Catholic school system in Alberta is the last publicly funded institution that can speak freely about God thereby having the important opportunity to teach about the inherent dignity of the individual and the sanctity of life from conception to natural death.

We did not meet with our provincial government this past year but we do have one resolution for consideration: **Resolution 2022:01 Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss & Waste.**

Mindful of the League Prayer which entreats “Teach us to share at home and abroad the good things you have given us” members at the 75th Annual Provincial Convention voted the approval of financial donations to help the flood victims in Hay River, NWT, to help with the ongoing Ukraine relief and settlement efforts as well as a contribution to offset the cost of the Papal Visit. Additionally, members throughout ABMK have helped through their prayers, fundraising and efforts to resettle families escaping the war in Ukraine.

Alberta Mackenzie President's Report

(Continued from page 6)

Our council meets in St. Albert at the Star of the North Retreat Centre, as it is central for all the dioceses. We were able to make a legacy donation to their renovations and were delighted when they advised that the beautiful “new” chapel would be named the Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel.

Honorary Life member Ardis Beaudry & Life Members Sheila Houle & Anne Laskosky returned to the Lord and have found a special place in His Heavenly Kingdom.

Alberta Mackenzie members were involved in the various Strategic Planning Working Groups. Many valuable resources were gifted to us by National Council that will serve as tools in recruiting & maintaining membership, filling leadership positions & meeting the needs of an aging population. As members of the Catholic Women's League in Alberta Mackenzie guided by our faith and by our hopeful optimism in the inspired vision of the Strategic Plan, our dedicated leadership plans to focus on relationships, renewal and effecting change

This report was written as we wait in anticipation of the Walking Together visit of Pope Francis in the prayerful hope it will usher in a new era of understanding, reconciliation, healing and a new beginning in our relationship with our Indigenous family and a way to encourage conversation with our Indigenous sisters. We are One in the Spirit, women entrusted by God to the well-being of our society as rooted in our children and grandchildren. Many of our members have joined the ranks of volunteers preparing for this historic visit and if asked will undoubtedly have poignant memories to share.

We hope to make a difference with our Catholic sisters one woman at a time by living our calling to faith, service and social justice confident in the knowledge that we truly are Catholic & Living It!

This concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Hunt, Provincial President

Alberta Mackenzie



Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Dinner at Convention



Lunch at the National Convention Hotel

102nd National Convention Spiritual Liturgies

Report submitted by Janet MacPhee, Vice President/Spiritual Development



The in-person 102nd Annual Convention of The Catholic Women's League of Canada allowed for the gathering and celebrating of our faith with many of our sisters from across Canada. The spiritual program of any CWL convention is very important and with not gathering for two years, our members were ready to worship and celebrate together.

The masses, liturgies and prayers are a cooperative effort of the National Spiritual Development Chair, the National Spiritual Advisor, the Provincial Spiritual Advisor, the Bishop of the Diocese that the convention is being held in (geographic location), the priest(s) of the parish where the opening and closing masses will be held and the convention planning committee liturgy person. Many prayers are recited as the program is put together. The opening mass was held at Immaculate Conception Church, Kelowna BC, on August 14th. The mass was preceded by the opening ceremonies – a change from previous years. The mass then commenced as a “Vigil of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary”, celebrated by Bishop Bittman (Diocese of Nelson), along with Bishop Stephen Jensen, the National Spiritual Advisor, Archbishop Emeritus Martin Currie, several priests and deacons (SAs).

As this was a vigil mass for the Blessed Virgin Mary, the music were hymns regaling Mary and her Son, the gospel giving true blessedness – “He replied, “Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it”. - Luke 11:28. With the beauty of the church, the singing of the hymns and the excited gathering of so many sisters, I found it difficult to concentrate on the word – going forward I will need to take heed of the words of the gospel.

The convention started on the “Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary”. The liturgies and prayers for the days concentrated on Mary, on women in the Bible, on women that influenced their time on earth and even still today, on empowering women. To me this was very appropriate for the 102nd convention – as we move to restructure for the next millennium, we need to be reminded of the ones before us and the gifts they had plus the hardships they endured.

The liturgy booklet was available on-line (no hard copy was provided):

<https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Liturgy-Booklet-FINAL.pdf>

Monday, August 15 – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – the Eucharistic celebration took place on the convention floor with the BC Provincial Spiritual Advisor, Father David John proclaiming the gospel and Archbishop Emeritus Currie providing the homily. His homily was excellent as he discussed the appeal of Mary, the Mother of God. I quote – “Why does she persist through the ages? What is her appeal? The answer is to be found in her human journey with God which is in reality our journey.” His homily captured Mary as being pregnant without a husband, mother to a child that kings wanted to kill, being a refugee in a foreign land, raising a teenage child, a widowed woman in an occupied territory with no rights once Jesus left on his mission, watching her Son being crucified and finally she cradles her only son in her arms on his death. His homily is available on-line and I suggest we all review it – I found it very enlightening regarding Mary's journey and how it relates to our journey.

Archbishop Emeritus Martin Currie homily—<https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/THE-ASSUMPTION-OF-THE-BLESSED-VIRGIN-MARY-AUGUST-15.pdf>

102nd National Convention Spiritual Liturgies

(Continued from page 8)

The morning sessions of every day of the convention ends with the Angelus and then meal grace.

The afternoon session started with a Scriptural Rosary of the Glorious Mystery – basically the Fourth Glorious Mystery – The Assumption of Mary into Heaven. Between each of the prayers, the leaders provided information on Mary's life and what she desires for all. I think this liturgy could easily be used as a prayer service to honour Mary.

Monday's afternoon closing prayer was the commissioning of the New Life Members.

Tuesday, August 16 – The opening Eucharist was celebrated on the convention floor and was the usual daily mass (LWC August, p95), lead by the National Spiritual Advisor, Bishop Stephen Jensen. Bishop Jensen also gave the homily – “God's word made flesh – we deny our creative goodness by putting value into material things – we need to have humility and turn our focus to others – “God saw all He had made and it was good”. The music and hymns sung on this morning were familiar to all and to listen to over 400 voices singing was wonderful to hear.

The afternoon's opening session was “A Litany to the League” – informing us of different women who were influential throughout history. Taken from *The Woman's Prayer Companion*, Carmelites of Indianapolis, 1994, ISBN 10:1886873046 ISBN 13:9781886873049.

The afternoon closing prayer was the Memorial Service for Deceased Members and Spiritual Advisors. This service honours the memory of our sisters who have gone from this life to their eternal rest in Christ. As always a beautiful service. I would suggest that maybe they could have had the names of the deceased members scrolling on the screens – this would of personalized it for many.

Wednesday, August 17 – as this is the last day of the convention, the Eucharistic celebration takes place as the closing mass at the end of the day. Thus, the Wednesday morning liturgy is morning prayer with participation from the assembly (left and right sides). The afternoon's session was “A Litany of Women for the Church” – holy women who went before us. I would like to research these women as some were familiar but others were not. This liturgy was adapted from Joan Chittister, OSBd, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sister-joan-chittister-osb/a-prayer-for-the-times-li_b_1533344.html

The closing prayer on the convention floor for Wednesday was our Theme Prayer – Catholic and Living It!

Closing Mass – Wednesday, August 17 – held at the Immaculate Conception Church with Bishop Stephen Jensen as celebrant. This is a daily mass (LWC August p99) but with the addition of a beautiful choir and many voices raised in song. The re-affirmation of the national officers takes place at this mass, prior to the final blessing

One of the hymns that I especially enjoy is “The Summons”. The ending verse speaks of what we, as Catholic Women, should endeavour to heed to:

“Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me”.

Walking Together – A Path for Healing and Reconciliation

Report submitted by Judy Look, Mary Molloy, & Lucille Partington

Following the National Convention in Kelowna, our provincial president Mary Hunt asked our council to form a provincial committee that would help our sisters in Alberta Mackenzie to grow in their knowledge of the challenges of our indigenous brothers and sisters as well as Canadians so that we can find a path to journey together. She asked me as Alberta Mackenzie Past President to chair the committee along with Mary Molloy Alberta Mackenzie Service Chair and Lucille Partington, Grouard - McLennan Diocesan President as committee members

The committee decided education was crucial to our understanding both past and the present. We must know our past, how it came to be and grapple with our own emotions before we can move forward. At the provincial convention in Lac La Biche, Father Jim Corrigan helped begin the conversation regarding our emotions in his Peeling Back the Onion workshop.

Members had an opportunity to express their feelings about truth and reconciliation. Following that members of the provincial council were encouraged to take the virtual course 4 Seasons of Reconciliation offered by First Nations University of Canada in Regina. It is a three-hour online course that promotes a “renewed relationship between Indigenous Peoples and Canadians through transformative learning about truth and reconciliation.”

At our Provincial Fall meeting in September, we continued with our pursuit of knowledge. Provincial President Mary Hunt invited Candida Shepherd and Archbishop Smith to further our knowledge. Candida Shepherd, a Metis woman, a teacher in the Sherwood Park public school system, and a member of Sacred Heart Church in Edmonton, shared with us her knowledge of land acknowledgements, symbols, and beliefs and the why of smudging. As we listened intently, we learned that when the Europeans came, they were welcomed by the indigenous people to Turtle Island (as they called the territory) as if welcoming a neighbor into their home.

With a land acknowledgement today, we acknowledge that as descendants of the Europeans, they were welcomed by another nation. The indigenous peoples never claimed to own the land as they were guests of the creator. So, we are all treaty people welcomed by the creator on his land. She shared with us the importance of their symbols that included the Medicine Wheel, eagles’ feathers, circles, talking sticks as well as their medicinal plants such as sage (creative energy), sweet grass (mother earth’s gift to us), cedar (wisdom, protection safety) and tobacco as a symbol of my word is my bond, The gift of the earth is given from left hand to left hand symbolizing giving from the heart.

Archbishop Smith shared with us his Papal visit experience and his thoughts on how we can begin as Church to move forward. Regarding the papal visit, he commented that the visit brought to us in Alberta the true shadow of St. Peter with it graces and healing. Archbishop Smith shared that the Pope understood. He truly appreciated the situation of Indigenous people, and you could hear and feel his sincerity. He felt their pain. He shared his belief that the Church is a living body of reconciliation and so, too, is every organization within the Church.

Our role will be a lot of listening and direct personal engagement with people understanding their call for nothing about us without us. The archbishop urged CWL councils to pick one call of action from the 94 calls to action, study it, and act on it.

Walking Together – A Path for Healing and Reconciliation

(Continued from page 10)

Each month the committee will try to send out a communique with information that councils and members can share to further their knowledge and move to action. We will give links to pertinent information about what is happening around dioceses and the country. We will invite all to become involved in growing in their knowledge and, like Archbishop Smith suggested, take one call to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and make it happen in our own world and your own heart.

Although September is the month of Truth and Reconciliation and all types of activities happened, our journey is not confined to one month, wearing an orange shirt, or celebrating a day of remembrance; our journey it is a 24/7 twelve-month journey that requires commitment, introspection, and conversion.

Let us begin drinking from our first cup of tea. Much information is in that cup, and so we must sip slowly. We must take one sip, mull it very carefully and let it become part of our being.

Let's Begin

Pray

- ✠ Talk to God and ask for guidance and blessings. Let us ask Him through the intercession of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha to become seekers of the truth and guide us on a path of healing and reconciliation.

- ✠ A link for prayer to St. Kateri that you may want to use at one of your meetings:
<https://www.dosp.org/our-faith/prayers/prayer-to-st-kateri-tekakwitha/>

Seek

- ✠ To learn about St Kateri, go to:
<http://histoiresainteducanada.ca/en/sainte-kateri-tekakwitha/>

- ✠ The Truth and Reconciliation Commission gives us the background for our journey. On this site you will also find the 94 Calls to Action:
<https://nctr.ca/about/history-of-the-trc/truth-and-reconciliation-commission-of-canada/>

Action:

Pray

- ✠ Read the 94 Calls to Action and choose one to work on
- ✠ Place Walking Together- A Path for Reconciliation and Healing on your council's monthly meeting

***God has given us a wonderful opportunity to build relationships and effect change.
Let us embrace this opportunity and ask the Holy Spirit to provide us with the courage to be
“Catholic and Living It.”***

Called to Serve

Mary J. Hunt
Provincial President

“I will bless the Lord at all times. Praise shall always be on my lips. My soul shall glory in the Lord; for God has been good to me”.

(Hymn: Taste & See by James E. Moore)

“I will bless the Lord at all times. Praise shall always be on my lips. My soul shall glory in the Lord; for God has been good to me”.

(Hymn: Taste & See by James E. Moore)

I am truly honoured and humbled to be entrusted to lead and serve the members of the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council of the CWL over the next two years. Through the years, it has been a joy to meet many of you at meetings and conventions and it is my hope to meet many more of you when I attend at least one convention/meeting in each Diocese during my term as President. This is an important time in the League’s history as we renew ourselves as an organization and rebuild by building relationships one at a time.

I have been a member of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada for over 27 years and served as Edmonton Diocesan President from 2015-2017. As an only child, I had always longed for siblings and the League represented a graced opportunity for sisterhood and an opportunity to grow in my Catholic faith. Membership in the League has provided me with unique experiences and has provided me with a shared vision for the future.

As a member of Good Shepherd Parish in Edmonton for 34 years, I have served as Chair of Parish Council, Chair of the Liturgy Committee, Eucharistic Minister and Lector Ministry Coordinator. Since 2001, I have co-chaired the Jasper Place Warming Ministry which is a west end initiative in Edmonton that feeds the poor and homeless during the winter months. As Chair of the Alberta March for Life Association from 2019-2022, I became profoundly committed to promoting the sanctity of life from conception to natural death. I discovered a passion for all matters related to publicly funded Catholic Education in serving as CWL representative for the **GrACE** initiative (*Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education*) in Edmonton.

I was blessed with a working career with the Province of Alberta for 28 years and had the honour of working for five Lieutenant Governors. Volunteerism has been an important part of my life. I have served as Chair of The Monarchist League for Northern Alberta for 5 years and remain a board member. I also serve on the Boards of Directors of the Royal Commonwealth Society and the Edmonton United Services Institute. I also served as a palliative volunteer with the City of Edmonton, a canvasser for the Canadian Cancer Society and the Heart & Stroke Association. My husband, Larry and I have two grown children (son, Ryan & daughter, Clarissa) and two granddaughters (Sierra & Hanna) and a grandson (Kael) who are a joy and source of inspiration.

GOD IS
 LOVE

Janet MacPhee
Vice-President/Spiritual Development



Lord, grant that I may Live this day with Love and Laughter (at the Lake)

Hello. I grew up on a farm in east- central Alberta where my parents were most successful at having children. I am the middle child of eleven siblings, six boys (two which have passed on) and five girls. My mother was a long -time member of the CWL and she joyously went to conventions when possible. Not sure if it was because of her love of the League or the chance to be away from the children!

Upon graduation, I moved to Calgary, attending SAIT where I met my husband, Stephen. I eventually went to university and am now a retired engineer, married to Stephen (my personal photographer) for over 40 years. A couple of years ago we purchased the apartment condo right next to my son and daughter-in-law. We are all happy about that decision!

I joined the Catholic Women’s League at St. Peter’s Parish in NW Calgary in 1990. They were running the membership drive and recalling that my mother was a member, I joined!

What excites me and I enjoy doing very much is reading. Unfortunately most days are busy with this and that and my reading time is diminished. As I have taken on the Spiritual Development chair, I want to learn more about our faith – I want to examine my faith, my spirituality. I am a cradle Catholic but feel (at times) rather ill-informed about my faith. Thus I want to learn more about my faith and I hope to achieve this by reading, listening to faith-filled others, listening to podcasts, attending daily mass either by in-person or live-streamed, and praying.

Over the years, the Catholic Women’s League has impacted my faith journey for our Catholic faith is the foundation of the League and the foundation of my life. That is the reason I remain a member and enjoy being a member. Being with like-minded, faith filled sisters is very uplifting and inspiring and just makes me feel loved!

The portfolio of Spiritual Development, as defined by Constitution & Bylaws of 2013 states, involves (a) spiritual growth of members (b) study of Catholic teachings (c) role of women in the church (d) evangelization and mission assistance (e) lay ministries (f) ecumenism and interfaith endeavours. It is a rather full chair, but I will endeavour with the help of all and the Faith chair to call attention to the spiritual growth of our members.

One of the other questions asked by Barbara Dowling, past national president, in her workshop was “What are you tired of doing?” Right now as I write this, I am tired of processing plums – but at the same time very grateful that we do have such a bountiful crop of them! I am tired of hearing negative news and even if there is positive news, how the news reporters take a negative spin on it, trying to make it look worse than what it is.

Betsy Fletcher
Organization Chairperson



I have lived in the Cold Lake area for 50 years, arriving with my family at the Military Base of 4-Wing Cold Lake in 1972 and I decided to ultimately make my life here. Of course, meeting Tom, my excellent and supportive husband of 42 years, had a lot to do with that decision. Our immediate family consists of two lovely daughters who have brought into the fold two exceptional sons-in-law, three delightful grandchildren, and a lovely black cat named Beans.

I joined the CWL at a personal invitation 36 years ago this month at Holy Name Chapel, 4-Wing Cold Lake and transferred to the council at St. Dominic’s in Cold Lake North in 1990 where I continue to serve the League. Having filled most executive positions at the parish level and a few at the Diocesan Council level including President, it felt right to move forward in the League to Provincial Council. Serving as the Provincial Resolutions and Legislation Standing Committee Chairs, as well as Secretary, has been very challenging and truly rewarding. For the term 2022 to 2024, I have been appointed to fill the Organization Standing Committee Chair. This new position both excites and, quite frankly, slightly scares me. There is nothing like a new challenge to kick the brain into overdrive!

As well as CWL involvement, I find myself very active in parish ministry as a lector, facilitator, RCIA Team member, sacristan, and volunteer at large. Assisting Tom’s foodbank team every three weeks by collecting donated bread from our local Sobeys, is another task that I’m happy to help with. Belonging to our parish Faith Enrichment group has helped to improve my understanding of our rich Catholic faith and its traditions.

Walking and canoeing, for exercise and pleasure are favourite activities as is digging in the dirt; both Tom and I are avid gardeners. We also enjoy travelling, British mystery television programs and reading.

My goal as Organization Chair is to help our councils with recruitment of new members while maintaining our current members; leadership development; annual reporting; Life Membership and Awards. I hope you will feel free to contact me if you need any help in your councils. Even if I don’t immediately know the answers to your questions, I will find them for you. Let’s work together for the growth of the League for God and Canada!

*Newly Installed Alberta Mackenzie
 Provincial Council Executive
 (June 2022)*

*Pictured left to right:
 Celine Berlinguette, Janet MacPhee, Mary Molloy, Gloria Lundberg, Mary Hunt, Judy Look, Bishop Paul Terrio, Denise Blackstock, Betsy Fletcher, Jan Myhre, Suzanne Sherry and Rev. Andrew Bogdanowicz*



Jan Myhre Secretary



Although born and raised in Calgary, I moved away in 1982 and didn't return until 2006. When I did move back to Calgary, I felt joining the League would be one way of meeting women of faith who share my values, and build new relationships. St. Peter's council in Calgary welcomed me, and although it wasn't my intention to be an active member, it wasn't long before I became our council's treasurer, and so my CWL journey began. Being inspired by my mentors, and opening my heart to listen to God's call, I became President-Elect in 2010, and my role of council President was from 2011 – 2013. Attending meetings and conventions, I quickly picked up on the fact that the CWL isn't geared only around my local council, but throughout the diocese, province and country!

I attended my first National convention in 2012 in Edmonton after a resolution my council presented was adopted at both the diocesan and provincial conventions, and from then on, my involvement and love of the League has grown. I was appointed Calgary diocesan secretary in 2013, took on the role of diocesan communications in 2015 then let my name stand for diocesan president-elect in 2017. When I became diocesan president in May 2019, little did I know the pandemic would change the world and my two year term became three. I now support Calgary diocesan as past president.

I'm married to Jim with a blended family of 7 children and 13 grandchildren. After a 14 year career in the oil and gas industry, I'm now working at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, and continue to be active at St. Peter's. I love spending time with family, watching our grandchildren grow up. Travelling is also a big love, and I'm looking forward to joining another pilgrimage one day soon.

My term as diocesan past president has begun, and at the same time, I'm looking forward to the challenge of the position of Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Secretary. This will be an exciting time in the League as we work our way through the upcoming changes in the Constitution & Bylaws shaping the future of the League. Throughout my journey with the League, I have learned much from Robert's Rules of Order hope to grow in my knowledge of Parliamentary Procedure. Recently, we've had the opportunity to hear from our Indigenous brothers and sisters, and I look forward to continuing grow in my knowledge by listening and learning.

May our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel, continue to guide and intercede for us as the League evolves through the dedication, inspiration and love of the many League members on the various working committees.



Celine Berlinguette
Treasurer



Greetings from the Berlinguette household!

The following quote from Leo Buscaglia, ***“Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God”*** resonate my parent’s beliefs and the way they taught their children about Christianity and the importance of giving of one’s self. The lessons I learnt in my youth prepared me for my future in the work-force and in the volunteer world.

The following is a synopsis of my work and volunteering history:

I have been a member of the Catholic Women’s League since 2010. From 2013- 2017 I was the president of our Parish Council, and have accepted the presidency for the 2022 -2024 term. I then served as Diocesan President from 2017 to 2019. I was elected to the Provincial Council in 2019, where I served as Christian Family Life Chair until June of 2022. At the Provincial Convention held in Lac La Biche in June 2022, I became the treasurer for the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial CWL Council. Being part of the Catholic Women’s League has been and continues to be very rewarding.

I have been involved with the Normandeau Community Center for over thirty years holding various positions, and for the last eighteen years serving as secretary-treasurer.

For the past three years I have been on the Alberta March for Life Board, and served as treasurer for the last two years.

As our children were growing up I volunteered in their schools, Girl Guides, Scouts and hockey and we were involved in all their fund-raising events. The best way to teach our children is through our actions.

My employment prior to my retirement in 2012 was with the Alberta Government, where I spent twenty seven years working in Finance, Budgets and Forecasting. Since my retirement I have been volunteering at our Church office two days a week as the Parish Secretary however, I volunteered in Church ministries for more than fifty years. I find that whatever I do for the Church to be very gratifying.

In my personal life, I was blessed with my wonderful husband, Alex with whom I have been married for fifty three years. We have two children, four grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Throughout my life I have had a very supportive family, from my parents, siblings, husband and children. Volunteering has always been part of my life.

I have been truly blessed and God willing I will continue to share my time and gifts with others.

God bless us and guide us as we continue our work with the Catholic Women’s League.

Judy Look

Past President



Welcome to 2022 - a new chapter for CWL as new executives become a reality. My past presidency arrived in June 2022 as the gavel turned over to Mary Hunt at our provincial convention in Lac La Biche.

Let me share a little of myself with you. My membership began in the late 80's at Holy Spirit Council Calgary. At that time, I tried to join the executive before I was a member as they were looking for a spiritual convenor and as I was a pastoral assistant at Holy Spirit Church, I thought I would be a perfect fit. The president suggested I become a member before joining the executive and so I did and my CWL journey began. At that time my boys were 9, 14, and 15 and my husband Jim soon became an "auxiliary" member as he was with me every step of the way. Secretary and treasurer were the only two positions whose chairs I never occupied at any level. I also dabbled in politics as I was elected a trustee for the Calgary Catholic School Board where I served for 6 years. Following my trusteeship, I was appointed to CWL Diocesan Council and eventually became president. In that time, I became a mother-in-law and a grandma. My diocesan presidency ended in 2009 and my marriage ended in 2010 with the death of Jim. Following Jim's death, I took some time off from CWL as I needed to redefine myself but continued my membership and at that time it became clear that my leadership role in CWL was over. Although not in a leadership role I did spend two years on the National Resolutions subcommittee. As I continued with my membership my own council needed a president or disband. Another member and I decided to co-chair rather than let the council die. Following that presidency and after much cajoling from my council sisters I let my name stand for Provincial Council but was unsuccessful. Sometimes God has other plans as three days after the election I was appointed to Provincial Council. In 2022 after 3 years of presidency my term came to an end.

2022-2024 is going to be very exciting. The first challenge of many is to address one of the following 5 questions as well as share my goals for this term. What do you enjoy doing? What excites you? What do you want to learn? What are you tired of doing? How has the League impacted your faith journey? At the National Convention in Kelowna these questions were mentioned in Honorary Life Member Barb Dowding's presentation, and they are important for all of us to mull over as we continue our journey not only in CWL but life as well as change often comes through introspection and evaluation. Having pondered all 5 I chose "What I am most tired of doing?" What I am tired of doing is trying to lose weight...the weight that comes from eating, negative people, a culture of death; unresponsive governments; apathy and people saying they are too old. We are made for service no matter what our circumstances. It is service that gives us our sense of purpose and it is not dependent on age but on our giftedness and according to the Holy Spirit we all have gifts that we have been given to share. Negativity and apathy give permission to opt out and destroy not only of CWL but of life as well.

My goals are immersed in "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it"; "Three Cups of Tea" and Catholic and Living It!

There are four main areas of responsibility as past president which include archives, Policy and Procedure/Constitution and By-Laws, consultant/mentorship, and elections.

Regarding archives, I am seeking information from life members as I navigate this new world. It isn't only necessary that we keep records, but those records must reflect our story and that will be my focus.

There will be a need not only to review our present Policy and Procedure manual but to earmark areas that will need to change as more and more of the strategic plan is implemented. Added policies will be introduced as policy often reflects good practise.

(Continued on page 18)

Judy Look

Past President *(Continued from page 17)*

Consultancy/mentorship for me means helping others to grow through the sharing of one's own experience. A very wise woman said to me when you are mentoring you might begin with the phrase "You might want to consider" and thus my mentoring will be: You might want to consider.....

The elections in 2024 will be an anomaly as we will be voting for president as well as a vice president. We have so much talent in CWL but so much resistance to take on leadership roles. I am now beginning a novena in order that many leaders will hear the call and will respond in the affirmative

Mary Hunt has also asked me to chair a committee that will help our membership grow in knowledge and relationships with our indigenous brothers and sisters so look forward to communiques that will challenge us as CWL women to effect change in our hearts and communities.

Two exciting years of Catholic and Living It! are before us as we navigate through the waters of change, grow in our love for the Father and our sisters, and rededicate ourselves to live for God and Canada knowing we are doing it for the honour and glory of the Father.

Mary Molloy

Service Standing Committee Chair and Education Chair



Whenever I say The League Prayer, I understand why I joined the CWL.

"Send forth Your Holy Spirit upon us to give light to our minds and strength to our wills that we may know and fulfil your great law of charity." When I meet with my sisters in the League, I experience the overwhelming bond that unites us. As I transition into the role of Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council - Chair of the Service Standing Committee and Education Chair, I know the Holy Spirit and my sisters are working with me.

I have been a member of the CWL for 30 years. I belong to St Joseph's Basilica Parish, where I served as President from 2010 - 2013 and was a Counsellor for the Catholic Girls League at The Jean Forest Leadership Academy. In 2012, I became one of the diocesan facilitators of 'Catch the Fire'. I served as an Edmonton Diocesan Officer for six years, then as Diocesan President from 2019 to 2022.

I served as Chair of St Joseph's Basilica Parish Pastoral Council, been a member of the Board of Governors at St Joseph's College, University of Alberta, and was a Past Chair of Catholic Social Services Sign of Hope Campaign and a Provincial General for Friars of Edmonton. Presently, I am on the Edmonton Catholic School Foundation Board, and I help with the Restoration Project at the Sacred Heart Catholic Parish of the First Peoples. In the past, I was a recipient of the University of Alberta School of Business Mentor of the Year Award, and I received the Kevin Carr Christian Leadership Award in 2013. Also, I was very honored to receive my CWL Maple Leaf Service pin in 2016.

(Continued on page 19)

Mary Molloy

Service Standing Committee Chair and Education Chair *(Continued from page 18)*

Following the National Convention, I have spent time reviewing the duties of the Community Life Standing Committee and the suggestions for the Service Standing Committee received from CWL National.

Transitioning into the new Standing Committee structure of Faith, Service, and Social Justice will provide opportunities to work collaboratively to carry out the mission and work of the CWL. The transition will be a process rather than a stated fact. Included in these responsibilities is the Education Standing Committee.

Recently, I volunteered to participate in the ABMK TRC Committee chaired by Judy Look. I have been involved with Sacred Heart Parish of the First Peoples Edmonton, assisting with their Rebuild Committee, and was helping to re-establish a CWL Council in the Parish.

It will be necessary for this committee to bring PartACTION, as described by the people of Sacred Heart Parish, to our membership. In the "Walking Together" theme from his recent visit, Pope Francis has offered us an opportunity to help us understand and learn ways to right past wrongs.

For the coming year, I will be focusing on continuing our support of those fleeing Ukraine and other immigration issues. On the World Day of the Poor this November 13th, I will provide information on what our councils could do to support this.

I will also share information on the IWIN (I am WORTH It Now) Initiative, which is active in both the Calgary and Edmonton Dioceses. I will promote the Red Sand Ceremony to recognize trafficked women. On November 6th Catholic Education Sunday, materials will be provided to allow councils to promote the theme "Walking Together in Catholic Education."

I wish to connect with GrACE (Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education) to ensure all Dioceses are joining this group to continue promoting Catholic education support. I intend to communicate with Community Life Standing Committee Chair in each diocese in the province to seek their input on transitioning into this standing committee.

My account is just a brief outline of the committee's scope, projects, and initiatives emerging as we restructure standing committees in the coming years.

I look forward to meeting and working with you to strengthen our work in the League.

Jesus said, *"Ask, and it will be given to you: search, and you find, knock and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks, receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."* (Mt7:7-8)

God Bless.



Denise Blackstock
Social Justice Standing Committee Chair

The Warrior Soul
“I came, I saw, I conquered.” – Julius Caesar

*The Warrior Soul’s specialty is forceful interaction,
especially with those who oppose or threaten them*

My position as Social Justice Chairperson is one that I feel will bring me out of my comfort zone. I was given this quote from our Provincial President at our Fall Meeting. Having this as my motto will help me to focus on the direction that I would like to take during my term.

Social Justice means something different to each of us. For me, I want to help the ladies of the League to conquer our fears. To accept positions on the executive, do our part in our councils by actively participating, learning and teaching each other by using the resources we have in our Life Members who have walked this path before us. We don’t walk on this journey as a CWL member by ourselves, we walk together in unity of our faith.

I want to also focus on Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), in respect to bringing awareness to the League and our parishes that we are all Treaty People. Knowledge is armour. When we are willing to listen and learn what our Indigenous Peoples can teach us, we become a family. We do not feel threatened of what or how we all feel. This is a process which as I have heard said, “it will take time”. We are the grassroots of TRC and it is up to all of us as Treaty People to learn from each other and to respect that we are all God’s children.

Let’s bring in speakers to our parishes to help us understand the cultures of the Indigenous, Inuit and Metis People. It is not them and us... it is all of us as a People of this great Nation and Country we call Canada.

I look forward to walking together with my sisters in the League for God and Canada.

Suzanne Sherry
Faith Standing Committee Chair

I was privileged to serve on Provincial Council as Secretary to then President Dorothy Johansen, which proved to be a wonderful experience. In retrospect, all the activities I personally witnessed and reported on have served to enlighten me as to just how much work the women of the league accomplished and continue to accomplish to this day. It is in performing the numerous works of service, kindness, and mercy that members are expected to do that strengthens our faith. We can truly feel the Spirit working within us and urging us forward. It is the Spirit that was with me when preparing for Convention 2013 when our theme was “We Have Seen The Lord” and as a diocesan team, we chose the sub-theme “Go Therefore And Make Disciples” that I was inspired to compose the following prayer: “Come Holy Spirit; Bring your wisdom into our Hearts; Help us to hear your call; To bring light to those who do not see, love to the unloved, peace to the troubled. Help us to see the face of Jesus in all those we serve. Soften our hearts to listen to those in trouble so that we may serve as He would serve, Without judgement, With forgiveness, With unconditional love! AMEN

(Continued on page 21)

Suzanne Sherry

Faith Standing Committee Chair *(Continued from page 20)*

A few of my personal background details are as follows: Born in Lachine, Quebec, in 1948, the 4th child of 6 to very staunch Catholic parents. That fact played a significant role in my faith. I attended Catholic School and having always belonged to the same community, I was married in the church that I attended all my life! These facts served to prove to me that the persistent participation in school and parish helped to strengthen my faith and made my spiritual life important at a youthful age.

Moving to Calgary (1975) was a huge challenge. My husband and I had 2 young sons when we arrived here, aged 3 and 1 respectively. St. Mark's Parish was non-existent. The community was raising funds to build a church and we attended mass in the gym at St. Mark School. Terribly busy raising children, for a few years to consider joining a lady's group. Then we were blessed with our 3rd son and life's demands kept me busy. In 1982 I was approached to join the CWL but was still unable to attend meetings. Some years later, I was invited to attend a meeting where Fr. Cooney (our first Pastor) was invited to be our guest speaker. Fr. Cooney was a fantastic advocate for the league and after his visit I was "hooked" on becoming active. So "hooked" was I that when I was asked if I would let my name stand for Council President at the next election I agreed without hesitation. As a council, we had so much fun and fellowship, two great attributes that helped us accomplish so much in and for the Parish.

It follows that later, when asked if I would let my name stand for Diocesan Council, I agreed. Initially, I was appointed by Judy Look who was Diocesan President at the time to take on the role of Community Life Chair. Then, at the next election I let my name stand for a chair position and for president-elect. So, as no-one else had let their name stand for Pres.-Elect, I was acclaimed to the position. Annamaria Matsui was president from 2009-11. It was important for me to pay close attention during those "training years". My presidency years 2011-13 were very exciting. I chose as my personal mantra "*With God All Things Are Possible*" *Matthew 19:26*

The most important planning for any Diocesan President is the convention. Our 2012 convention was held in Brooks. As Carol Schlachter was President-elect at that time, it was her sincere wish to offer to show off the hospitality and work that went on in the Town of Brooks where she resided. I felt compelled to accept, and the plan was put in place. Fr. Mario Basque was our new Spiritual Advisor. The convention venue was an ideal way for all to get to know him. He agreed to be one of our guest speakers and shared his life story with everyone. We also had Rev. Dale Lang, who spoke to our group on forgiveness. His son Jason was a victim of a shooting which took place at the high school in Taber. His story touched us all especially in that he focussed on forgiveness i.e., forgiving the parents of the man who shot and killed their son.

In 2013, the convention took place at St. Mary's University College campus. The S.E. quadrant parishes were responsible for hosting, and it was decided to give the University and their cafeteria manager a chance. We even hoped that it could become a CWL tradition. However, we discovered that the space in McGivney Hall was just too small to comfortably accommodate the large numbers who attend convention when it is in Calgary. Dr. Gerry Turcotte, St. Mary's President honoured us with his keynote address. We also had guest speaker, Mr. Michael Coren, author of the book "Why Catholics are Right" and "Heresy." He focused on the first title. It was my Diocesan team who nominated the following 4 members to receive their Life Member Pins at the next National Convention. They are Florence Bernakevitch, Shirley Hazen, Vi Lake and Gloria Lundberg. It was with immense pride that I attended the National Convention to witness this honour.

In summary, community to me is coming together at home, at school, at church, to worship and play and pray in a spirit of peace and love. Being together can only make us stronger. To me, that is precisely what the league is all about.

Gloria Lundberg

Communications Chair



My CWL journey began 46 years ago at St. Andrew's council in Vulcan, AB when sisters-in-law Margaret (Les) Shaw and Margaret (Louis) Shaw invited me to attend a meeting after Mass one Sunday. Little did they know of the path they were starting me on.

Over the years my CWL commitments have included secretary, spiritual development chair, vice-president/organization chair, communications chair, president, and past president/history & archives chair, at the Parish Council level. At the Diocesan level I have been secretary, communications chair, vice-president, president-elect/organization chair, president, and past president/history & archives chair. On Provincial Council I have served as education and health chair, vice-president/spiritual development chair, Christian family life chair, communications chair, secretary, and Life Member Liaison.

Along with Denise Coutts, I facilitated Catch the Fire workshops in the Calgary diocese for seven years. I have assisted on various committees including resolutions development and policy/procedures review and served as parliamentarian at the Diocesan convention. Currently I am serving my parish council as the Faith chair and am also Highwood Regional Chair.

In various parishes I have assisted in the following capacities - Eucharistic ministry, lector, parish council, catechism teacher, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, prepared bulletins, newsletters, and brochures, decorating committee, and baking for funeral lunches.

Over the years my community service involvement has included: Cattlemen's Chautauqua auction committee volunteer, Relay for Life volunteer, St. Mary's CWL Chair Foundation director, Society of Our Lady for Community Education director, and High River District Health Care Foundation director and chair. I am now serving as chair and secretary for the condominium board of the View at Sunrise.

I retired from Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools in 2017 having worked there for eighteen and a half years as administrative support in various departments including I.T., Religious Education, and Special Education. Previously I was employed with IKON Office Solutions as Executive Assistant to the Canadian President.

In my spare time I enjoy going to exercise classes, walking, crocheting, baking, and reading. Recently I was asked to teach tap dance to adults at the Recreation Centre in High River.

When I posed the questions from the National Convention: "What do you enjoy doing? What excites you? What do you want to learn? What are you tired of doing? How has the League impacted your faith journey?", I had no idea which question I was going to choose to answer. After mulling over the questions, I decided to try to answer them all! So here goes . . . I enjoy curling up with a cup of tea and a good book or my latest crochet project. I am excited to teach my adult tap dance class because the participants are so eager to learn and are having fun revisiting their childhood dreams of dancing. I look forward to the challenge of learning how the website works. I am tired of the negativity the surrounds me some days and have decided that I will no longer let it influence my life. The League has impacted my faith journey by providing mentors, friends, and most importantly CWL sisters who have shared thoughts, ideas, joys, sorrows and many prayers. I have been greatly blessed!

In a world where we can be anything—Be Kind!

Renee Spohn Calgary Diocesan President



Welcome! My name is Renee Spohn, I am the Calgary Diocesan CWL President. I served as Treasurer from 2013 to 2017 and became President-Elect in 2019.

Lethbridge is my home, my birth city. It is where I began my journey with the Catholic Women's League when I became a member of St. Martha's Parish council in 2002. I served as Secretary, Treasurer, Organization Chair, President, and Past President.

With my council's support, I led two important initiatives for several years. First, in collaboration with the Knights of Columbus, we held successful Western Tailgate fundraisers. The proceeds assisted youth and those most in need in our community. Second, I facilitated the Annual Women's Advent Retreat. Every year I experienced true joy being with women who are open to the Holy Spirit touching their hearts and lives.

I was humbled when my council nominated me for the Elsie Yanik Award for leadership and service; which was presented at the 2018 Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Convention. I spoke about aligning our CWL goals with members' talents and abilities, while considering the generational transition. I wanted all CWL sisters to know that they are called to do the Lord's work and that "You are the Right Person in the Right Place at the Right Time!"

It was great timing that my work brought me to Calgary to have an active role as Treasurer on the 2019 National Convention Planning Committee. I made new friendships and our time spent together has been a true blessing in my life.

I am very thankful for my husband Randall who has encouraged and supported me while I pursued my education, career, and love for the CWL. We married in 1985 and have three children: Dante (1993), Elizabeth (1996), and Pascal (2005). I have a B.A. in Art and became a Certified Management Accountant in 2001. My career has been with the Canada Revenue Agency.

I love learning and experiencing new adventures. I have been on an Employment Equity Committee promoting an understanding of women's issues and my Metis heritage. I have learned that women play a significant role in our communities and country. Their voices and actions are powerful tools for change. My newest adventure is to mentor women as we grow together as sisters in the Catholic Women's League.

With JOY in my heart, I want to celebrate our sisterhood. I ask for your prayers that I be guided by St. Martha, welcoming Jesus into my home to journey with you my sisters in faith and service. Her story is one of building relationships and is stated simply in the scripture, "She served". There is no adjective or adverb to describe how she served. It is profound! "She served" as "I serve", "You serve", and "We serve" together.

I know the immense love Jesus has for each of you. Your words and actions loudly speak your courage to welcome Jesus not only into your home but into our secular world. It is a friendship with Jesus that has strengthened us to overcome the challenges of the pandemic. With Him we can nurture our sister relationships built on trust, active listening, compassion, and kindness. Spending time with Jesus means together we will know his call and touch the lives of others. We will make a difference together!

Renee Spohn

Calgary Diocesan President *(Continued from page 1)*

The Calgary Diocesan CWL council will focus on:

- ✠ Council visits to support our leaders and members;
- ✠ Build relationships with our Spiritual Advisors, impact membership and assist our parishes;
- ✠ Faith as our foundation, facilitate spiritual retreats in all regions;
- ✠ Be a Culture of Welcome and Mentorship providing resources, tools, and workshops;
- ✠ Support Catholic Education, GrACE, and St. Mary's University CWL Chair for Catholic Studies, and connect with our seminarians, women religious, and youth;
- ✠ Truth & Reconciliation, along with ABMK Provincial council our diocese will pray, educate, and act. We will build relationships with our Indigenous sisters through Stardale Women's Group, Rev. Roy, Piikani and Rev. Long, Siksika First Nations.

I am aware of our reality and challenges, but I awake each day reminded of Genesis and choose to have HOPE, knowing, "And He saw all that He had made, and it was very good". This is how I feel about our Catholic Women's League. Anchor to God's Love for us and Trust that He wants us to share our faith and love of the League.

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

Clover Osyschak Edmonton Diocesan President

I have been a member of the Catholic Women’s League for 18 years and President of the Edmonton Diocesan Council since April 2022. Previously, I held the roles of diocesan community life and organization standing committee chairs. Prior to joining Edmonton Diocesan Council, I was the past-president at St Thomas More CWL. One of the things I enjoy the most is helping others and knowing in some small way I made a positive difference. What excites me most is when I see my daughters catch some of that same spirit of service towards others. If there is something I wish I could learn, it’s how to be more witty! Some CWL members have a gift for wit I have come to admire. At National Convention we were also asked what one thing is that we tire of. For me, it’s the heavy expectation of having all the answers or being able to immediately solve any problem (eg at home, work, and CWL). Sometimes that expectation can be daunting. Nobody has all the answers. I just do the very best I can and try to have a good sense of humor about it.

Since joining the League, I have made many dear friends who have been a blessing in my life. Their compassion has lifted me up in hard times and their joy in celebrating family milestones has meant a lot to me. It is in sharing that compassion and joy with my CWL sisters that has enriched my faith journey. Each is a blessing from God.

The charism of the Edmonton Diocesan Council is “servant leadership”, striving to be of genuine service to the Edmonton Archdiocese’s 62 parish councils and approximately 3,700 CWL members in Alberta. Our diocesan council’s primary goals over the next two years are to: help parish councils recover from the pandemic, bring greater awareness to reconciliation by helping our members better understand indigenous customs and traditions, extend the CWL’s service further out into the greater community, and assist parish councils in navigating changes resulting from National Council’s strategic planning initiatives.

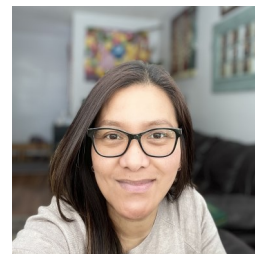
<p>TRADITIONAL LEADERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sees leadership as a rank to obtain. Uses power & control to drive performance. Measures success through output. Speaks. Believes its about them. 	<p>SERVANT LEADERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sees leadership as an opportunity to serve others. Shares power & control to drive engagement. Measures success through growth & development. Listens. Understands its not about them.
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Lucille Partington **Grouard-McLennan Diocesan President**

I joined the CWL in 1972 in Houston, B.C. and have been a member 50 years. In 1986 I was Diocesan President and became ill with a tropical disease and could not finish my term. I recovered enough not to be able to teach or work but to still be active in CWL and became Provincial President and then was active on the National Council for 6 years and enjoyed the resolutions and legislation committees then was 1st Vice President as well.

Afterwards, I served as President in Sexsmith and I am currently the Health and Education Standing Chairperson and also now serve on the Diocese as President. I am finishing my term from 1986 because God is so good to me.

You see, recent cancer and surgeries made all my fluid disappear and I have completely beat cancer and have not felt this great in 35 years. As a Life Member I feel I should help the CWL in any capacity I am able and along with Linda Vandenberg, President Elect and life member and Donna Prevost, secretary and life member, our goal as life members is to help councils in our diocese understand changes in CWL and to have renewed joy in the league.



Sheila Domingo **Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocesan President**

I am Sheila Domingo, I was born and raised in the Philippines. I came to Canada in 2005 and in the same year became a member of the Catholic Women's League. I am a choir leader and member of our Parish Council in Hay River, Northwest Territories. I enjoy looking after little children. That's why I decided to work as a child-care provider and have been running a day home for 12 years now. The League has inspired me to be more of service to my parish. It helps me realize that I am not alone and that I can trust God to help me live a confident and joy-filled life.



Prayers

Submitted by Janet MacPhee - Vice-President/Spiritual Development

One of my favourite prayers is the Prayer of St. Faustina for the Grace to be Merciful to Others – it is the one I turn to when I am feeling tired.

Help me, O Lord,

...that my eyes may be merciful, so that I will never be suspicious or judge by appearances, but always look for what is beautiful in my neighbours' souls and be of help to them;

... that my ears may be merciful, so that I will be attentive to my neighbours' needs, and not indifferent to their pains and complaints;

...that my tongue may be merciful, so that I will never speak badly of others, but have a word of comfort and forgiveness for all.

... that my hands may be merciful and full of good deeds;

...that my feet may be merciful, so that I will hasten to help my neighbour; despite my own fatigue and weariness;

... that my heart may be merciful so that I myself may share in all the sufferings of my neighbour. Amen

HOPE

PEACE

JOY

LOVE

The December 2022 issue of Living with Christ Missalette has a couple of wonderful articles – “An Advent Wreath Prayer”, page 176 and “A Blessing for the Creche”, page 178. These articles allow for the engaging of family members as we prepare for Christmas.

ADVENT Prayer

God of this day's needs, teach us to be grateful.

Jesus taught us to pray for our daily bread.

For most of the world, this means asking for enough to eat.

*For us, praying for our daily bread
means praying for just enough.*

Not too much.

Not to be greedy.

Not to hoard.

*We pray for daily bread,
not bread for a whole month.*

*Help us to keep our lives simple,
to appreciate each mouthful,
to be satisfied until tomorrow,
to leave room for hope.*

Amen.



From Living with Christ, November 2021



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.

Strength 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.