



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

Grouard McLennan Diocesan President Oral Report
Convention 2023 Edmonton

Madame President,

The Grouard McLennan Diocese executive, led by Lucille Partington, president and Linda Vandenberg, president elect, has made a commitment to serve the membership in a more personal way, working as a team to engage members in the changes resulting from strategic planning and building relationships. Many of the members did not understand why the changes were necessary and they felt disconnected from the diocesan, provincial and national executives. In addition to meetings and workshops, the idea was to offer council visits, personal phone calls, and financially assist members in getting to conventions. The 2022 year was spent in laying the groundwork for moving forward with the Three Committees and inspiring more involvement in leadership through one-on-one conversations.

Travel between councils is difficult in this vast diocese. As technology is not always reliable and as many of the members do not have the ability or the inclination to do zoom calls, Lucille Partington and Linda Vandenberg began visiting councils in their respective areas. In addition, Cathy Bouchard, a member of the National Executive, was brought in for our Education workshop in October, to share her knowledge of strategic planning, to explain the three pillars and teach us how to use the CWL websites as resources.

Dues were collected from 676 members in 2022. On the other hand, three councils did not send in their per capita. Three councils have five members or less and those are struggling to stay alive due to aging and/or their churches losing a resident spiritual advisor. The reality of isolation and rural abandonment of aging members is taking its toll on the membership numbers in this diocese. In addition, many are still struggling with the effects of COVID. In addition, we were unable to get our reports back from National regarding the surveys for reporting.

Despite the challenges, Grouard-McLennan Catholic Women's League councils continue to support their membership, their parishes, and those in need outside their parishes. Reports were presented at the 86th Annual Diocesan Convention. Donations were given to Ukraine War Relief, Development and Peace, Missions Canada, Pro Life organizations, local parishes, and local food banks. We are most proud of our acknowledgement of long-time service awards for members, several receiving 40 and over year pins. Members also took part in the Synodal gatherings, Gratitude Project for frontline workers, 12 hours of Prayer for Palliative Care, Pro Life activities, and sponsorship and support of Afghan and Ukrainian refugees (over \$30,000 in kind). Councils also reported that members were involved in the liturgy, providing support and gifts to children receiving First Communion and

Confirmation, Bible reading, Rosary prayer, Lenten and Advent retreats, Adoration, Daily TV Mass, and Theology of the Body Studies. The work of the League in the Grouard McLennan diocese covered a wide range of service, faith development and social justice issues.

This concludes my report.

Lucille Partington President, Grouard-McLennan Diocesan Council