



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

FALL 2019

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.

The ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL for 2019-2021



Fall Executive Meeting – September 2019 at Star of the North Retreat Centre

Front row L-R: June Fuller, Annamaria Matsui, Judy Look, Rev. Andrew Bogdanowicz,
Mary Hunt, Gwen Elliott

Back row L-R: Jan Myhre, Mary Molloy, Betsy Fletcher, Gerda Hazenberg, Celine Berlinguette,
Gladys Brown, Janet MacPhee, Theresa Hickey, Sharon Malec, Christine Becher,
Shirley Gutierrez, Lolain Alsmo



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Where and Who Are We?

The Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council covers the area from the southern border of Alberta, north to the Arctic Ocean. The east – west border is generally from Saskatchewan west to the British Columbia border with the borders of the Mackenzie-Fort Smith (M-FS) Diocese forming the borders in the Northwest Territories. The ABMK Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada was established in 1947.

There are five dioceses encompassed in this area. From south to north the dioceses are: Calgary (C), Edmonton (E), St. Paul (StP), Grouard-McLennan (GM), Mackenzie-Fort Smith (M-FS). The five dioceses cover over 2 million (2,000,000+) square kilometres and boasts a membership in the Catholic Women's League of 9,134 amongst 158 councils (National 2018 Annual Reports) – second only to Ontario in membership and council numbers.

The ABMK Provincial Council respectively thanks God for all of creation. We acknowledge that we are situated on Treaty 7, 4, 6, 8 and 10 lands, Tl'cho Treaty, Deh'cho Territory, Sah'tu Dene Treaty, Gwich'in Dene Treaty and Inuvialuit Treaty Lands. We acknowledge the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked and cared for these lands for centuries.

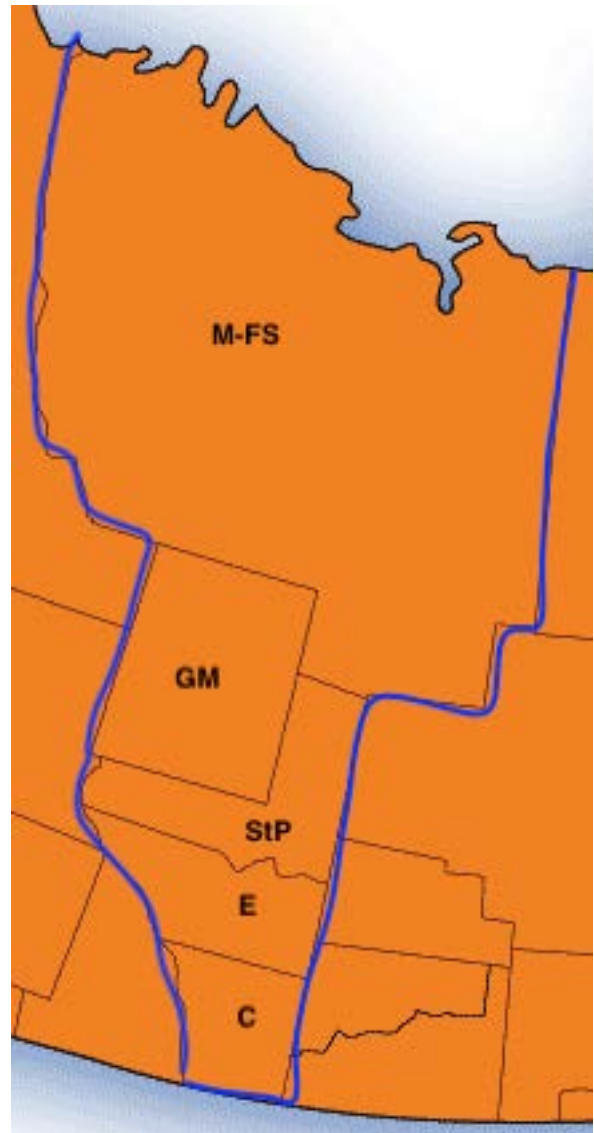
The Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary-established in 1912; Bishop: The Most Rev. William McGrattan – has 51 CWL councils arranged into five regions. The Calgary Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada was established in 1922.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton-established in 1912; Bishop: The Most Rev. Richard Smith – has 67 CWL councils arranged into nine zones. The Edmonton Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada was established in 1922.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Paul-established in 1948; Bishop: The Most Rev. Paul Terrio – has 19 CWL councils. The St. Paul Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada was established in 1965.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan-established in 1967; Bishop: The Most Rev. Gerard Pettipas, C.Ss.R. – has 20 CWL councils. The Grouard-McLennan Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada was established in 1937.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith established in 1967; Bishop: The Most Rev. Jon Hansen, C.Ss.R – has 3 CWL councils. The MacKenzie-Fort Smith Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada was established in 1964.



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Note: the majority of the pictures in this newsletter are from the 99th Annual National Convention of the Catholic Women's League, August 2019, Calgary Alberta



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From the Desk of the President – Judy Look



“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.”

As I write this article, things are slowly beginning to change. In Calgary the leaves are turning yellow and the trees are beginning to shed. The rabbits’ tails are turning white as a signal that winter is on its way. Everything is in transition and so are we as members of the Catholic Women’s League. Isn’t that a blessing as it means new life with renewed energy and vigour. What an exciting thought as we begin refreshed after our summer break.

National Convention has been put to bed for another year but its message, Care for Our Common Home will be with us forever as it is lived out by the changing of our lifestyles in our homes, churches and communities. For those who attended the convention you will have to agree it was the best. Our Calgary Diocesan sisters did us proud in facilitating a convention that re-energized all of us. The provincial dinner was well attended and I thank all for making it a success.

Fall meetings are almost complete and all dioceses have a plan of action for their year with Strategic Planning on the top of their list. Provincial council is no different but with a provincial focus. We are calling all members of the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council (that means every member in Alberta and NWT) to become actively involved in supporting the Catholic community in their area which includes the local parish, Catholic education by supporting the GrAce movement , awareness of Catholic health care in their jurisdiction or lack there of and the Right to Life from conception to natural death visibly supported by participating in the March for Life in May. These critical issues effect and unite us so we can speak with one voice to make a difference and effect change not only for Catholics but for all people. This is all wrapped in Care for Our Common Home- Make a Difference as we strive to become good stewards of creation.

At our convention in Grand Prairie we had an “uninvited guest” at our Resolutions Workshop who shouted at us, “What about me?” In front of us stood an indigenous woman reminding us of our responsibility to the poor in our communities. As this happened on Pentecost week end I personally saw Christ in this woman saying please start to take seriously the plight of all those who need your help. To that end I am encouraging all councils to learn more about all our sisters who are suffering from injustices. I am asking us all to examine our individual attitudes and fears that are preventing us from making a difference for those who are hurting in so many different ways. We are asked to spend emotional currency which is more difficult them writing a cheque.

Soon an invitation to action will be out with regard to our resolutions. Take the necessary time to educate councils members and yourselves on these important issues before you write your letters. Always remember a resolution is only taken seriously by governments when it is supported with letters and phone calls.

As you discuss Strategic Planning in your council, I want to share with you a thought that came from our Fall meeting. We discussed the plan in great detail and then it was asked what is its foundation? One member said she sees it as a sisterhood and we all agreed. The soil on which the foundation is situated is our Faith. The foundation is our strong sisterhood on which the pillars are erected. As long as we keep that in mind, we will build a very strong house, a house whose roof will weather all storms and will nurture all who live within as they live Faith, Service and Social Justice.

I would be remiss not mentioning Three Cups of Tea. I am hoping that some information in this newsletter will be your first cup of tea. Please mull over the ideas and bring them to your council meeting where you can have an open discussion and develop a plan of action.

In closing - I invite you to think about 5 things for which you are grateful. Gratefulness is the sugar in your tea and it will sustain you through good and challenging times.

Have a very Blessed Thanksgiving and take those blessings and live the League as you remember, **“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”**



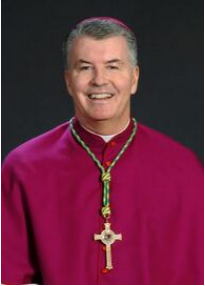
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From the Desk of the Hierarchy – Bishop W. McGrattan



In August, I attended the Catholic Women's League (CWL) National Convention, *Care for Our Home*, which was hosted in Calgary. Many CWL members from the Diocese of Calgary parishes actively assisted with this convention which brought women of faith from across the country together to speak about the care of creation and to commit to active stewardship. Those CWL members from other parts of Canada appreciated our Western hospitality and spoke glowingly of our warm welcome and the timeliness of the theme that was chosen for the convention.

The urgency of this global issue was emphasized through the convention presentations and all who were present were called to action. It was very evident in the serious discussions and questions that ensued that the CWL has taken our current climate crisis seriously. Many have sounded the alarm bell and the Church has also done so through its Catholic Social Teachings and more recently in Pope Francis encyclical, *Laudato Si*. He writes strongly about the moral imperative for the stewardship of creation while noting the harmful impacts of climate change that are already evident. There exists an impending threat of more damage to come if our lifestyle choices do not consider the balanced use of our natural resources with the care for creation.

There is a growing sensitivity to the environment and the need to protect nature, along with a growing concern, both genuine and distressing, for what is happening to our planet... Our goal is not to amass information or to satisfy curiosity, but rather to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it. (Laudato Si, #19)

The League is well positioned to respond to this challenge of presenting new choices that will reflect a growing sensitivity for the environment. In particular, I highlight three promising strategies of the CWL: networking, legislative advocacy and attentiveness to Indigenous Peoples. These strategies echo points from the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace's 2004 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* (CSDC) which was published during the papacy of St. John Paul II.

First, the care for our common home is the choice and responsibility of each person. It is a responsibility which is personal and shared. The commitment of the CWL members to assume this responsibility and encourage families across Canada to take up this challenge is a hopeful sign for spreading the word across the country in addressing the issue of climate change.

CSDC 466. *Care for the environment represents a challenge for all of humanity. It is a matter of a common and universal duty, that of respecting a common good. (Pope John Paul II, Encyclical Letter Centesimus Annus, 40: AAS 83 (1991), 843.)*

Second, the care of creation needs to be protected through, provincial, national and international legislation. Economic development which seeks greater profit at the expense of the earth's natural resources will inevitably deplete them. To stop this negative impact and to provide corporations with sound regulations, effective environmental legislation is necessary. The CWL standing committees which advocate for ecologically responsible laws promote the care of creation both provincially and nationally.

CSDC 468. *It is important that the international community draw up uniform rules that will allow States to exercise more effective control over the various activities that have negative effects on the environment and to protect ecosystems by preventing the risk of accidents.*

Finally, the care of the earth is recognized as having a special significance in the life of our First Nations and Indigenous peoples. The CWL has supported and advocated for legislation which makes sure that the laws of Canada align with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This advocacy furthers the work of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and honours their rootedness to the land.

CSDC 471. *The relationship of indigenous peoples to their lands and resources deserves particular attention, since it is a fundamental expression of their identity. [Pope John Paul II, Address to the Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon, Manaus (10 July 1980): AAS 72 (1980), 960-961.]*

I encourage the CWL members to continue the work and deliberations of the convention, *Care of Our Home*. It is not an exaggeration to say that the future depends upon it. Pope Francis poses this same sentiment as he questions, "What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?" (*Laudato Si*, #160)



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As women of faith, mothers and grandmothers, raising children and looking after families, this question has a special resonance for you. In your loving care for the children of today and future generations you can be a powerful witness and advocate for the human and social dimensions which are foundational for an integral ecology. As Pope Francis stated, that “we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” (Laudato Si, #49). The care for the environment our common home is ultimately dependent on integral ecology and the authentic development of the human person in world. God is entrusting this commitment of ecological stewardship and our commitment to a human environment that promotes the dignity of every human person so that future generations may receive and enjoy the gift of our common home.

From the Desk of the Spiritual Advisor – Rev. Fr. Andrew Bogdanowicz



Rosary Circles – Over the past several years, I have been promoting rosary circles. Not only at parishes and councils of the Catholic Women’s League but they can be used even within a family unit and at schools. The following will describe the format of the Rosary Circle at St. Andrew’s Parish, Edmonton Alberta.

Welcome to the Rosary Circle Family! The Rosary is a long-standing Catholic tradition.

Each rosary circle is composed of 20 members. Each member has committed to pray one assigned decade each day, at any time of the day chosen by the member. This completes one full rosary each day per each Rosary Circle, to be offered to Our Lady, so she can work through each rosary on behalf of the intentions of the Rosary Circle and the intentions of the members. The next month, the next decade of the mystery will be prayed by the member. For example, January ... The Annunciation, February ... The Visitation, and so on. It is advised that the member add the monthly decade to their own personal calendar as a reminder.

The members who is praying the first decade of each mystery is to include the beginning prayers, and the members who is praying the last decade of each mystery is to include the concluding prayers. For example; The Joyful Mysteries: The First Decade – The Annunciation, Start with the Creed, The Our Father and Three Hail Mary’s. For the Last Decade – The Finding of Jesus in the Temple, End with Hail Holy Queen etc. All other decades of the mystery are prayed without these prayers. It is certainly acceptable to include the Fatima prayers with singular decade – “Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, etc”.

Members are invited to include their own intentions. Each Rosary Circle is named and has their own intentions. For example, St. Andrew’s Rosary Circle is praying for the Leadership of Our Country at the Federal, Provincial and Civic Levels.

Each Rosary Circle has a Captain who co-ordinates the Rosary Circle. There is a monthly meeting of the Captains. There is also a monthly newsletter which is sent out to all the members by the Captain of each Rosary Circle, keeping everyone up to date on the events of the Rosary Circles, as well as a reminder of each member’s assigned decade for the coming month.

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

Meet the Spiritual Advisor – Rev. Father Andrew Bogdanowicz

Fr. Andrew Bogdanowicz was born in Poland and ordained to the priesthood in 1993. He immigrated to Canada in 1998. He has served within the Archdiocese of Edmonton at several parishes. He is now the pastor of St. Andrew’s Parish in Edmonton. Fr. Andrew was first appointed to the ABMK Council as Spiritual Advisor in 2013 and was re-appointed in 2018 for another 5 year term.





Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

Meet the President - JUDY LOOK

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As my story will begin our “second cup of tea” I encourage to enjoy one as you read the following. I was born (thank goodness) and raised in Saskatchewan beginning my life in Saskatoon with a short sojourn in Bruno, then on to Regina where I completed my high school under the careful eye of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions. The University of Saskatchewan called me back to Saskatoon where I obtained my BA and teaching certificate and Jim, whom I married in 1968. Following Jim’s graduation, we settled in Calgary. My career as a teacher was short lived as God blessed me with three sons thus



beginning my vocation as a mother. During my stay at home years I served as a Catholic school board trustee for the Calgary Catholic School Board, served on the Educational Partnerships Foundation, served as a board member of St. Mary’s University College, was a team manager for Cascade swim club, a pastoral assistant at Holy Spirit Parish and a graduate of “Together Enabling Adults to Minister”.

My vocation as a married woman ended in 2010 when the Lord recalled my beloved Jim.

My life as a CWL member began at Holy Spirit Parish in Calgary in 1985 where I continue to be a member to this day. I have served at all levels of the League including at the national level as a member of the resolutions committee. I was honoured to receive my Life Membership in 2018.

If asked the question: What is the most important accomplishment of my life? - I would respond without hesitation giving birth and being a mom to my three sons and presently a mother-in-law to three beautiful daughters-in-law and grandmother to my 5 grandchildren. I believe that motherhood prepared me for everything that I have accomplished thus far. When you are with me you will frequently hear me say, “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it” because I know today is the only day any of us have and therefore if I am going to build relationships and effect change for God and Country it must start today!

I hope you enjoyed your cup of tea.



Pictures from the 99th National Convention

Left: National Executive taking the White Hat Pledge

Right: ABMK President Judy Look giving her report

Above Right: ABMK President Judy Look with her white hat!





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Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council Meet our Hierarchy – His Excellency Bishop William McGrattan

Bishop William T. McGrattan was born in London, Ontario and raised in a family devoted to the Catholic faith. He recognizes and appreciates in his family experience the nurturing of his vocation to priesthood. He graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a Bachelor of Engineering Science in 1979 and worked as a chemical engineer in the years following his graduation. Responding to God's call to the priesthood, he entered ST. Peter's Seminary in London and was ordained in 1987.

After his ordination, he was assigned as Associate Pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in Chatham. Following this appointment, he studied at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and received a Licentiate in Fundamental Moral Theology in 1992. He then served on the faculty at St. Peter's Seminary for 17 years, including 12 years as Rector.

In 2010, Pope Benedict XVI appointed him Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto and Titular Bishop of Furnos Minor. at St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica in London. In 2014, Pope Francis appointed him Bishop of Peterborough and in 2017, he was installed as the eighth Bishop of Calgary where he shepherds 450,000 Catholics in Southern Alberta.



With the election of Judy Look (Diocese of Calgary) to ABMK president, Bishop McGrattan now assumes the episcopal advisor role for the ABMK Provincial Council of the Catholic Women's League.



Bishop McGrattan is a prominent member of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops who serves on the Executive as Co-Treasurer and he is a member of the Western Assembly of Bishops. He is Chancellor of St. Mary's University in Calgary and Bishop Liaison for the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada and Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association.

Bishop McGrattan lives his devotion to the faith, and he models generous service and effective leadership. He appreciates the vital role of women in the church and is

an enthusiastic advocate of the Catholic Women's League of Canada having served as National Spiritual Advisor for five years from 2013 to 2018.

Throughout his pastoral ministry and episcopal leadership, Bishop McGrattan has made a positive impact. Bishop McGrattan maintains a busy schedule of commitments which includes opportunities for fun, adventure, physical activity, and the enjoyment of western hospitality!





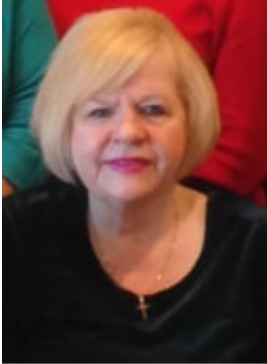
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Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council President-Elect / Organization – Mary Hunt

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I am honoured, grateful and humbled by the opportunity to serve as the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council Organization Chair and President-Elect for 2019-2021. I have served in this position at the Parish and Diocesan levels and know how important these two years are in preparing me for my role as Provincial President so I can most effectively understand and serve our membership. I have been a CWL member for almost 25 years with most of those years as a member of the Good Shepherd Council in Edmonton. I have served four terms on the Edmonton Diocesan Council and currently I am Spiritual Chair of my home council.

Born and raised in Calgary, we moved to Edmonton shortly after the birth of our son. As an only child, belonging to the League had a huge appeal for me...after all I was to gain a sisterhood spanning all of Canada! For many years, the CWL has been a special focus in my life and my involvement has served to help me grow in my faith through service and social justice. In addition to the CWL, I am Liturgy Committee Chair at our Parish, Coordinator of Lectors (& a Lector), Co-Chair of the Six Churches Soup & Bun Ministry during the winter months, served 12 years in various positions on Parish Pastoral Council, founded a book club at our Church in 2007 which continues to meet (over 50 books read) and currently serve as Chair of the Alberta March for Life Association.

I took early retirement from 26 years of service with the Government of Alberta; during that time, I served six of Alberta's Lieutenant Governors. Married to Larry, we have two adult children and are proud grandparents to Kael, Hanna and Sierra who are a great source of joy.

I love music, the theatre, reading, writing (on and off I have been writing a novel for several years), gardening, challenging myself with Lumosity "brain games", walking and gatherings with family & friends. I appreciate the opportunities that volunteering has provided to me and it is gratifying that my other family members are volunteers too! During my time as Organization Chair and President-Elect, I look forward to working with you to promote leadership and develop strategies to increase membership in your councils and celebrate your successes thru the Walter Krewski Membership Awards and the Elsie Yanik Award as well



as the Bellelle Guerin Award. I invite you to read my Communiqués where I plan to provide updates on the Strategic Implementation plan for your information and action. Together, we can *Care for Our Common Home* and make a significant difference in our Alberta Mackenzie communities.

Remember the power of prayer as we embrace the changes on the horizon which will serve as the catalyst for the League to grow and flourish. I invite you to contact me with any questions, ideas, issues and concerns you might have...I hope there are many good news stories too!





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Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council Vice President / Spiritual Development –

Gladys Brown



My name is Gladys Brown and have been a member of the Catholic Women's League of Canada for the past thirty- five years.

Recently, I became a widow as my dear beloved husband passed away from cancer. We were married

for forty-five years. Blessed with two wonderful children, a son and a daughter as well as two precious granddaughters.

My involvement in the Catholic Women's League began in the early 80's as I attended my first meeting and was touched by the leader and she became my mentor.

In 2002 I became president of the Our Lady of Angels Council in Fort Saskatchewan and have been involved in various activities. I enjoy the interaction of the ladies and the community. In 2007, I was asked to be a member of the Edmonton Diocesan CWL Council, had no idea of what was involved but learnt quickly and then in 2009 became president-elect and then president of the Diocese in 2011. What an experience! I will always cherish the friendships that I have made in the past as well now. A wonderful group of women, getting together to share stories, new ideas and working together to make the Catholic Women's League more invisible to people across our country Canada. It was a pleasure to attend National conventions in St. John's NFLD, Ottawa and Toronto Ontario as well as Edmonton in 2012 where we celebrated 100 years as an organization. There is so much to learn about the League and we will continue to learn of what it means to be a member.

I am involved in my parish of Our Lady of the Angels as Liturgy Coordinator, Adult Server and as Sacristan. I enjoy being kept busy and my dear husband mentioned, just keep on doing what you enjoy doing, don't quit and that is my intent.

As for hobbies, I enjoy walking, reading books, attending my granddaughters' activities, gardening and being with family.

Laugh, Live, Dream, everyday has a new beginning.

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Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council Secretary – Annamaria Matsui



My journey with the Catholic Women's League (CWL) began in Laval Quebec with the Mary Magdalaine Mission, May 31 1970. Like all small villages, we were the life blood of the community. I kept my membership up in my old parish when I moved

Calgary in the 70's as there were no CWL in my new parishes. I was most pleased to know that there was a council at St. Thomas More when I moved within the parish boundaries in the mid 80's. I worked on the 2001 National Convention Planning heading the Transportation (Airport) Committee.

I became St. Thomas More Parish council president in 2001, served on Calgary Diocesan Council from 2003- 2013, Diocesan President 2009-2011, Alberta-Mackenzie Council 2011 – 2015 serving two terms. I continue to be involved in whatever way I can for the League. I volunteered at the 99th National Convention with the Transportation committee (again) and the Convention Choir. I love attending conventions at all levels and I have attended over 11 National Conventions.

Don and I have been married over 32 years and we are both happily retired, empty nesters. We have two grown daughters and one son-in-law. I've been retired for 6 years and Don joined me in retirement 2 years ago; which means, we are even busier now than when we were working. We are the neighbourhood dog walkers and dog hotel.

Hobbies: golfing, dog walking or just plain power walking, lane swimming and Aquacise, camping, sewing, knitting, gardening, singing, wine and Craft Beer tasting just to name a few, and the list keeps growing. I volunteer with TELUS Ambassadors (aka Retirees), as well as with St Thomas More Parish (Catholic Women's League Council, choir, Baptism Instructor, and Lector).

This will be my first time as a Secretary at any level of the League but I eager to learn and to do the best that I can with God's help and the support of my League Sisters.

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**Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council
Past President / Archives – June Fuller**



When asked to do a bio, I like to include the information from the start of my life. I grew up on a farm north of the hamlet of Chauvin. During those formative years, I knew the importance of attending our local church and the work of the CWL within the parish. During my 28 years in the League, I held executive positions at the Parish, Diocesan and Provincial levels and am currently serving as the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Past-President. In 2016, I had the distinct honor of receiving a “Life Membership” in CWL.

My husband Dave and I will be celebrating 42 years of marriage in October. We are blessed to have two married children and three precious granddaughters, who bring so much joy and happiness to our lives. Last September, I retired after working for almost 44 years in the medical field.

I assist in my home parish as co-ordinator for the Usher’s Ministry and a member of the Liturgy committee. I serve as a committee member for the annual “Faith, Fitness & Fun Run” that supports St. Joseph Seminary and Newman Theological College as well as being part of a team of ladies that helps with the Memorial Celebrations on the first Friday of the month for the ‘Foundation’ at SJS. I have been the recording secretary for the board meetings of the ‘Star of the North’ Retreat House in St. Albert for the past two years and have also helped with their yearly fundraising events.

I know that my participation in the League has helped me grow both personally and spiritually and has provided me a wonderful opportunity to travel and meet so many wonderful ladies from across our province/territory and our beautiful country of Canada.

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From the Desk of the Past President:

Greetings Sisters in the League
I would like to welcome the ladies that have completed their term as President and are now in their new role as President-elect. Such excitement, as you consider your new role. This is especially invigorating, as we face the new challenges of leading the League to a new look with the “Planning Strategically”. It is so important for us to envision the future and to be a source of support, encouragement and knowledge, to help the ladies as they pursue a new future for the League.

Next year we will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Catholic Women’s League as a National Organization and it gives us a reason to look back over the achievements that have occurred over the past 100 years. That is why it is so important for us to continue to document and archive events that have occurred in your councils. Past-Presidents, this is part of your new duties.

As mentors, we also need to ensure that our members understand and know the League and this can be done by ensuring each member has a good understanding of our Constitution and Bylaws, the National Manual of Policy and Procedures and the Executive Handbooks along with other CWL resources.

I look forward to journeying with you during the next two years and being able to assist you with any questions you may have.

Blessings in your new role!

MISSION STATEMENT

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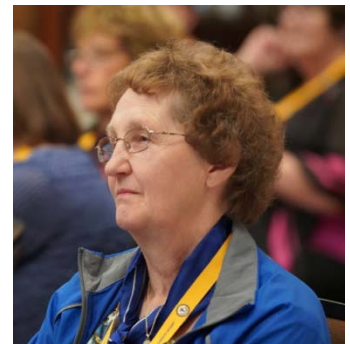
**Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council
Treasurer – Gwen Elliott**



I am honoured to be able to continue to serve as treasurer for a second term. I am a member of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Camrose Alberta. We have had a very eventful year as we moved into our beautiful new church and parish centre. Our local council of the Catholic Women's League is especially pleased as we now have a wonderful place to pray, serve and celebrate together.

My husband, Keith and I have 3 sons and 1 daughter and we joyfully welcomed a grandson Gabriel, a son to our daughter and son-in-law. Our two other grandchildren live in Camrose and it is so nice to have them close.

With the 99th National Convention in Calgary this past summer, I volunteered with the convention choir. It was a very enjoyable and spiritual event and I was happy to participate!



Treasurer News

We now have a new Voluntary fund in support of "March for Life" which was instituted at the Provincial Convention in Grande Prairie. There is a combined form for **Nickels for the North** and **March for Life** available on the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial website (cwl.ab.ca). You can also contact me and I will send you the form.

The Mass Collection from Alberta Mackenzie Provincial 72nd Annual Convention in the amount of \$1968.05 was sent to the Archdiocese of Grouard McLennan to help with cleaning up smoke damage to parishes caused by the recent wildfires in the Diocese.

abmkprovtreas@gmail.com



Euthanasia Prevention Coalition Alex Schadenberg receives a donation from the National CWL



Catholic Missions in Canada, Rev. David Reilander receives a donation from the National CWL

FAITH - SERVICE - SOCIAL JUSTICE



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Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council Community Life – Theresa Hickey



I was born and raised in Colliers CBS NL. After graduating in 1969 in Avondale, NL, I attended SAIT, Calgary for an applied food course in Health care, courses on leadership and supervisory skills plus studied medical terminology. I also have a diploma in medical office assistant.

I am married to my wonderful husband for forty-six years this coming January. I arrived in Yellowknife NT January 1st, 1980. The temperature was -54 below when my husband and our four children set foot off a little plane. First thing on the list was to go buy winter clothing, coming from Newfoundland the winters were never as cold as here in the north. I said “where in the almighty God am I”? We could not see a hand before us because of the ice fog - it was so cold. I survived the cold. Forty years later I am still here and loving every moment. We have four children, three girls and a boy. With three children married they have given me six beautiful and healthy grandchildren ages from 16 years to one.

I am from a family of twelve siblings, seven brothers and four sisters. I was raised in a strong catholic home. Every night our family would say the rosary. I attended church on Sunday and every day during Lent. My spirituality and faith in God came from my Grandma. She was amazing and I looked up to her as a little girl because I found her so holy and she always said “if you believe and pray to God anything is possible”. Growing up we had statues in every room of our house. I remember my Grandmother going around the stations of the cross in our house. It was pretty cool, we would just wind up the stations and pray or go around the stations as we would call it.



I have worked for the government of the NT for 27 years from the Dietary department to the medical reception area at Stanton Hospital. Three years before I retired, I moved to the medical centre working in medical reception with internal medicine and visiting specialists from other provinces.

I am a faithful member of the CWL since 1994. I joined the organization when my children were a bit older and in high school and university.

I was treasurer for seven years with St. Patrick's Parish in Yellowknife and also treasurer of the Fort Smith Mackenzie Diocese for seven. I was president of St Pat's council for five years, five years as Mackenzie Diocesan President. I have held many positions on parish and diocesan level including communications and spiritual development, Today, my role with the Catholic Women's League at the parish level is communications and Community Life Chair with Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council.

I love to volunteer my time with my church and the CWL. I am with St Vincent de Paul, love helping the less fortunate in our Yellowknife community. I also sit on the roof raising and church improvements committee. I am a lector at church when needed, Eucharistic Minister, and a greeter at the church. I teach the rosary at Weledeh Catholic Schools Grade K-5. I help with pancakes breakfast at the school and am part of the luncheon program, bringing meals for children who come to school hungry.

I am very proud to be a part of the Catholic Women's League. My passion in life was to always be kind and help people. Being with the Catholic Women's League I sure do fulfil my dream and I love the faith, service and social justice aspect of the league.

abmkprovcomlife@gmail.com





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Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council Christian Family Life – Celine Berlinguette



I live in Lac La Biche, Alberta, where I completed my schooling. I married my husband Alex at a young age, and I had given birth to a daughter and a son by the time I was twenty. Since then I have been blessed with four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. In 2012, I took my retirement

from my employment with the Alberta Government after twenty-seven years in the financial/accounting field.

I currently volunteer as the office secretary at our parish office and have been on the Parish Pastoral Council for several years. I am involved with all the church ministries, and I am also involved with and hold positions with various community groups. I have been a member of the Catholic Women's League since 2010. I served as the St. Paul Diocesan Council President for 2017 -2019.

The Provincial Convention in Grande Prairie in June brought change to my life as I accept the Christian Family Life Chair for our Catholic Women's League Provincial Council. The first thing I did upon my return home was to review past Provincial and National Communiqués as well as all the Christian Family Life Resolutions of previous years. I spent a lot of time thinking about exactly what Christian Family Life meant to me.

Since the beginning of time, the family unit has been the foundation of society. Strong family units provide love, security, faith and happiness to every member of the family.

We have to be open to receiving God in our lives, because 'With God all things are possible' *Matthew 19:26*. Everything that we have and do in our lives is through the Grace of God. It is our duty to remain God focused. In *1 Thessalonians 5:16*: we are told to: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

During this next term, I look forward to reporting on Christian Family Life, as I feel it is imperative to strengthen our bonds with God, Family, Church and Community.

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Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council Education and Health – Gerda Hazenberg



Greetings from Yellowknife on this cool late September day. I am honoured to serve on the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council as your Education and Health Chair. Our family has lived in the Northwest Territories now for 30 years. It is wonderful that we are part of the Alberta Provincial. We have

much in common. However, our perspective may be a little bit different. I am looking forward to working with my Education and Health counterparts in our five dioceses.

Education begins in the home we say. Certainly that is where most of us have learned about our faith and how to be successful in life. However, we must remember that for many that is not the reality. It is important that we engage in the religion and sacramental preparation programs in our parishes. RCIA programs are also of great significance in the growth of our parishes. My husband and I, along with our five young children, were part of the RCIA program in Grande Prairie and with the help and encouragement of our mentors became full members of the Catholic Church in 1981. What a wonderful journey the Lord has laid out for us!



Reconciliation is key for me. My family has fostered 18 children over the years since we settled in NWT, some of whom have lived with us for 6-7 years. These children are now

adults but several still see us as parents and their children's grandparents. Addictions, incarcerations, lack of quality education are so much a part of the lives of indigenous peoples here.

Health focuses on human life from conception to natural death. As CWL sisters we are all called to protect life as well as promote the quality of life for all. We need to make our voices heard. In all things, **let us love on another.**

abmkprovedhealth@gmail.com



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**Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council
Communications – Janet MacPhee**



*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 40 years. I am is happy that their son and daughter-in-law live close by in Calgary.

We enjoy spending our summers in Sicamous, BC, we are the opposite of snowbirds— leave Calgary in the summer and stay for the winter! Travelling is at the top of our list and I would like to remind you that it is easy to keep in touch through email, Facebook and texting. Almost too much!

I have been a member of the Catholic Women's League for 30 years, serving in several positions on the Calgary Diocesan Council, including: Communications Chair, Education & Health sub-chair, Community Life Chair, Legislation Chair, President Elect, President—and now Past President.



I was elected to the ABMK Provincial Council in June and serves as the Communications Chair.

I am truly excited about the League's Strategic Plan; and will continue to encourage councils to work toward the League's three core values: **Faith, Service, and Social Justice.**

My favorite sign off when texting (and sometimes emails) is LLLL (see above prayer) and if you get one with five Ls it means I am at the Lake!

abmkprovcommunications@gmail.com

**Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council
Legislation – Sharon Malec**



*Glory be to Jesus Christ!
Glory be forever!*

Born in Vulcan, Alberta, I spent my childhood in Vulcan, Medicine Hat and Calgary. I graduated from Western Canada High School in Calgary and completed my

BEEd at the University of Lethbridge. Since then courses in Music and Religious Education from the University of Montana and Neuman Theological College have challenged me to higher learning.

Teaching is my chosen profession. I am now retired but still serve as a guest teacher for Holy Spirit Catholic School Division in Lethbridge at Catholic Central High School. I have taught from kindergarten to grade 12 in the fields of religion, music, foods and special education. Serving as the Religious Education Coordinator for Holy Spirit S.D. was one of my most rewarding assignments. As president of the Religious and Moral Education Council of the ATA, I was privileged to be involved with programs for religious education. I have served as a Music Minister, Eucharistic Minister and Lector for my church and school.

My husband of 47 years is Roy and I have two daughters, Melissa and Erin and a son-in-law Alan. One of my greatest joys are my 2 grandchildren: Matteo is 5 and Danica is 2 ½.

I joined the Catholic Women's League 43 years ago in Fort Macleod at Holy Cross. I have served as president and other chairs at Holy Cross, Christ the King and St. Martha's. Becoming a diocesan council member allowed me to grow in so many ways. My new challenge is Legislation Chair for the provincial council. Talents and the gifts that God gave us are to be shared. **Let's go forth and remember this.**

abmkprovleg@gmail.com





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Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council Resolutions – Betsy Fletcher



I have lived in the Cold Lake area for 47 years. My family arrived 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 husband of 39 years, had a lot to do with that decision.

Tom and mine immediate family consists of two lovely daughters who have brought into the fold two exceptional sons-in-law, two delightful grandchildren, and a sweet natured granddog.

A member of the Catholic Women's League for 33 years, I started my membership with a personal invitation while still at 4-Wing Cold Lake. I have since moved to the town of Cold Lake North and transferred to the council at St. Dominic's in about 1990 where I continue to serve the League. I have filled most executive positions at the parish level and a few at the Diocesan Council level. As well as CWL involvement, I am very active in parish ministry as a lector, facilitator, RCIA Team member, and volunteer at large.

Having just recently finished serving as the Provincial Secretary, a position I found very interesting and rewarding, I am presently filling the Provincial Resolutions 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!

Walking, and canoeing for exercise are some of my favourite activities as is digging in the dirt: we are avid gardeners. I enjoy British mystery television programs and reading. Don't ask who the best Sherlock Holmes is unless you're prepared for a master course in mystery!



From the Desk of the Resolutions Chair:

"Policies are established, programs are planned, or concerns and views are expressed through Resolutions." Catholic Women's League of Canada Executive Handbook

The purpose of the resolutions committee is to help the League to follow its mission statement to "call its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service." This committee is one of service. The resolutions brought forward at every level of the League usually involve some form of service to the greater community whether it is of local, provincial or national interest.

At our 72nd Annual Provincial Convention in Grande Prairie in June 2019, one resolution came to the floor and was passed: **Resolution 2019.01 In-School Dental Screening for Children in Alberta Grades K-12**. A letter regarding this resolution will be sent to the Minister of Education, Adriana LaGrange asking her to act on it. This resolution has been posted on the Provincial website: www.cwl.ab.ca along with actions to be taken. Please look at those actions and start working on them in your councils. Some of our past resolutions such as Obesity and the Seniors' Advocate will be taken to the Legislature as soon as we can get an appointment with the appropriate ministers and the premier.

The goal of the resolutions committee is to make writing a resolution easier for you to tackle. At the national convention in Calgary in August 2019, the resolutions were presented in a trial format, which excluded the whereas clauses with only the brief supporting the resolution. This format worked very well. We are to continue to prepare our resolutions with whereas clauses for now until the new format has been thoroughly discussed and tested.

I encourage you all to brainstorm in your councils for some ideas for resolutions and to work on them, even if it is just an exercise to help you to understand and feel comfortable with writing a resolution. The resolutions can be something you feel is needed in your local community or something further abroad. I am available any time to help you out.

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Alberta Mackenzie Life Member Liaison – Gloria Lundberg



I am a member at St. Francis de Sales Council in High River, AB and have been a League member for 43 years.

My CWL commitments over the years have been secretary, spiritual development chair, organization chair, communication chair, president and past president/history & archives chair, somethings more than once, at the Parish Council level. At the Diocesan level secretary, communications chair/vice-president, organization chair/president-elect, president, and past president/history & archives chair.

On Provincial Council I have served as education and health chair, spiritual development chair/vice-president, Christian family life chair and communications chair. I am currently a co-facilitator with Denise Coutts for the Catch the Fire workshops for the Calgary

Diocese, and serve on committees including resolutions development and policy and procedures review. I am currently serving my parish council as communications chair. In June I was appointed as Life Member Liaison for Alberta-Mackenzie.

I have assisted the parishes where I have lived in the following capacities - Eucharistic ministry, lector, parish council, catechism teacher, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, preparing 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, Aspiring Leaders Academy, Registrar – Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools, Society of Our Lady for Community Education director, and High River District Health Care Foundation director and chair.

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.

In my spare time I enjoy going to exercise classes, walking, tap dancing, crocheting, baking, and reading.

Life Members and Honourary Life Members:

We currently have 4 honorary life members and 31 life members (35 if you count the four honorary life members) in Alberta Mackenzie. Life memberships is defined by (from the C & B, 2013).



PART VII: Membership Section 1: Categories of Membership.

Membership is established and maintained by payment of the annual prescribed membership fee through a local parish council in accordance with Part XVII, Section 4.

(b) Life Membership: A member, nominated by a diocesan or provincial council, fulfilling the criteria established by the national executive, may be awarded a life membership in national council.

(c) Honorary Life Membership: A member who has served as national president has this distinctive honour bestowed on her.

In the National Policy and Procedures pages 32 to 34 there is a detailed description of life members.





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Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council - Diocesan President – Mackenzie Fort Smith:



My Name is **Shirley Gutierrez**, a Filipino Canadian citizen residing here up north in Hay River, Northwest Territories for 30 years. I have 3 grown children: Angeline, my youngest is a senior lifeguard living in Calgary. My middle child, Sherman, still resides at home as he works in the mine here in the North. My oldest child, Nathan has lived in the Philippines for the last 5 years pursuing a career in boxing.

Since I came to Canada, I have been active in the church and decided to join the Catholic Women's League. I have been a member for 17 years now. I served as the Community Life Chairperson, once locally and once on the diocesan council, the Christian Family Life chairperson locally, 3½ years as parish president and now as Diocesan president. Lots of challenges, trials but

I love doing!

Living in the North has many ups and downs especially during long winter months but my association with my parish plus the Catholic Women's League, makes life bearable.

I made my living here by running and operating my own Licensed Family Day home business since 1997. It's such a joy to see and watch the children that I have raised grow into adulthood.

I guess I love my little town since I've been here for 30 years now.

A Note of Thanks:

To our Alberta sisters,

Our heartfelt thank you from the ladies of the North!

The money you sent to assist and support our travel for the convention has helped tremendously through your contributions to Nickels for the North. We were able to send 7 delegates to attend the National Convention held recently in Calgary. Five of the members shared accommodations at an Air B&B and drove down in two vehicles to share the gas expenses.

Our new attendees, 3 of them, were so amazed by the convention and had a lot of fun meeting and sharing with our sisters. They gained a lot of knowledge from the speakers and a very warmth feeling of being with ladies that share a common goal and ideas.

Again, our sincere thank you and appreciation

Your CWL Sisters of Mackenzie-Fort Smith





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Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council - Diocesan President – Grouard McLennan:



My name is Christine Becher and I live in Fairview Alberta.

I have been a member of the Catholic Women's League since 1991 and member of Saint Thomas More Parish, Fairview, Alberta. I participate in the parish volunteering as an Eucharistic Minister and also as a lector.

My CWL duties have included serving as secretary, parish president (2 terms); also as co-president with Valerie Becher (1 term) and past president (now on 4th term). I have also served on Standing Committees upon request (when positions were vacant) in resolutions and education and health.

I was the contact person for 2010 Provincial Convention in Fairview.

At the Diocesan Level, I served as President-Elect/Organization and am now the Diocesan President since late April 2019. Within the Grouard McLennan Diocese fewer people are accepting leadership roles, therefore I agreed to take position of diocesan president. I attended Provincial meetings in St. Albert in January and September 2018 and January 2019 in order to gain the necessary skills to take on

the office of Diocesan President. I have attended eight National Conventions from 2008 to 2019, the most recent being in Calgary this past August.

I was born in Edmonton AB and have also resided in Ottawa ON. Once again to Edmonton before moving to the Peace River country to teach. I have been married 33 years and we have two adult children. I currently am a pharmacy assistant in my husband's business for about the past 18 years.

My personal interests include ballet (even teaching it part-time for 10 years); languages, especially Spanish; reading and travel.

Report on Grouard McLennan Fall Executive Meeting: The Fall Executive Meeting was held in Grimshaw AB on September 21:

President, Christine Becher, gave a report on the National Convention that she attended in Calgary as well as the Fall Provincial meetings in St. Albert. Her reports will be included in the envelopes distributed at the Fall Workshop.

Strategic Planning was discussed highlighting the Mission Statement, Core Values and the Three Pillars. Further discussion was tabled to the November meeting at which time it is hoped there will be more direction on how to proceed. Comments were basically positive.

Sister Connie Harkin is our Spiritual Development Chair. Lauri Friesen has agreed to take on the role of Treasurer which Linda Vandenberg is doing on an interim basis.

We still have vacancies for: President Elect/Organization, Education and Health, Resolutions and Legislation. We still require invitations to host the Spring Workshop, Spring executive meeting and the Diocesan Convention. I expect to have these confirmed in the coming months.

The November executive meeting has been changed to November 30, 2019.



Planning of the **Fall Workshop**, which will be on **October 19th** in Fairview, was completed. It is hoped that Mary Hunt will be able to attend to speak to us in the morning, followed by Mass at 11:30. Tal Woolsey of CAWST will give a presentation on water in the afternoon.

A discussion of inactive councils followed. It was decided that members of the Executive will plan to visit Slave Lake to determine next steps with regards to their council.



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Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council - Diocesan President – St. Paul:



Hello. My name is Lolain Alsmo and I reside near Thorhild AB. My Catholic Women’s League journey began with St Patrick’s Council in Strome, Alberta, as a young mother, in 1980. My husband, Blue and I moved our young family up to Thorhild in 1983, and we raised our two children on a farm a mile and a half from where I grew up, close to my parents and a lot of extended family. At this time I transferred to St. Anne’s CWL, and spent many years enjoying the sisterhood, joining in many activities, and travelling to meetings and conventions with my Aunt Lucy, who was a charter member. I’ve been on the executive for our small council in one position or another since the mid-eighties. The kids are grown now, and we have three grandchildren. Being ‘Grandma’ has got to be the greatest gig ever.

It’s been an honour and a wonderful, educational journey to serve the League at the Diocesan level, and I am fortunate to have the mentorship and example of some pretty amazing women to follow as I take over as St Paul Diocesan President. The spiritual journey within CWL is just as amazing as the leadership journey, and the two aspects have been inseparable for me.

My background is nursing; I’m recently retired and I give thanks for the Catholic Women’s League as it was because of the service I undertook in the League and what I learned through it, that I was prepared for some of the career changes and experiences in my work life. I haven’t always been as trusting of Him, but I find that God keeps new paths opening before me, and when I gather up the courage to say ‘yes’, I can depend on the Spirit to give me the strength to walk them. The Lord has never given up on me when I falter, so thanks to Our Lady for hearing my pleas for blessings and grace!

As we look to create growth and change in our League, my goals as president are to support our Parish CWL Councils in their connection with each other and with the diocesan council, and to provide as much information and whatever tools they need to achieve success.

St Paul Diocesan CWL – President’s Report

Fall Executive Meeting – October 6, 2019

Warmest greetings, Father and Sisters of the League,

The months have passed so quickly since our Diocesan Convention in early May of this year.

I went up to Grande Prairie for the Alberta-Mackenzie Provincial Convention from June 7 – 9th, 2019, and to Calgary for the National Convention from August 18 – 21st, 2019. As always, these were inspiring times of great spiritual reflection, of learning, of sharing reports and stories, and of some wonderful fellowship. I enjoyed thoroughly the opportunity to speak with fellow Catholic Women’s League members from some of our Councils over the summer, and I will continue to reach out to others.

You will note that our roster still includes a number of vacancies within the new executive. I know we have members throughout our Diocese with gifts of great variety to share, and my prayers will be answered when some willing ladies come forward to serve.

I had an opportunity to purchase both DVD’s, *The Euthanasia Deception*, and *Fatal Flaws*, and these can be borrowed by individual Councils for showing in their local communities.

I also attended the Fall Provincial Executive meeting September 13 – 15, 2019, in St. Albert. Information on a wide variety of topics was presented. In addition, discussion sessions included continuing the work on our Theme, Care for our Common Home, with the focus on water, the progress of the Strategic Planning Initiative, and a look at issues within the Dioceses identifying the common areas of need. The Provincial Executive are sending out their Communiques this week, and there is a National mailing being sent out to the Parish Councils. You are strongly encouraged to share the information contained with your councils.

The implementation teams working on the Strategic Plan are seeking volunteers for surveys and to work with them, so if you find your interest ignited by any aspect of this huge initiative, please don’t hesitate to put your name forward.

The online annual reporting system will again be available this fall, and Councils are encouraged to complete it, and please ask if anyone needs assistance. What I can’t provide I will do my best to find someone who can.

Planning is underway for the 2020 Provincial Convention which we as St. Paul Diocese will be hosting in Lac La Biche next June. More details will be forthcoming!

CORE PURPOSE

Uniting Catholic women to grow in faith, and to promote social justice through service to the church, Canada and the world



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Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council - Diocesan President – Edmonton:



Hello. My name is Mary Molloy and as I transition into my role as Edmonton Diocesan President, I am grateful for my sisters in the League who have agreed to work with me on the Edmonton Diocesan Council.

Our two years will not be easy. The League is facing the future with many challenges. Our National theme - “Care for our Common Home” - will be a valuable blue print as we make this journey together, being respectful and “Rejoicing in God’s Gifts.”

I am married to David and have been a member of the Catholic Women’s League for over 30 years and an active participant for the last 14 years. I belong to St. Joseph’s Basilica Parish where I was President -Elect, President, Past President and Counsellor for the Catholic Girls League at The Jean Forest Leadership Academy. From 2012 to

the present, I am one of the diocesan facilitators of ‘Catch the Fire’. I served as Diocesan Officer for 6 years, two years as Chair of the Legislations and Resolution Standing Committee, followed by two years Vice President and Spiritual Standing Committee Chair. In 2017, I became the President-Elect and Organization Standing Committee Chair for the Edmonton Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women’s League. It was during that term we began to look at the structure of the Zones within the Edmonton Diocese.

I work for Habitat for Humanity as a Family Outreach Coordinator and currently serve on the Board of the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation and as a member of the Archbishop Smith’ Annual Dinner Committee. I have recently completed 15 years as member of the Catholic Social Services Society. I have served on the Board of St Joseph’s College and served as the Chair of St Joseph’s Basilica Parish Pastoral Council. I was a recipient of the University of Alberta School of Business Mentor of the Year Award and received the Kevin Carr Christian Leadership Award in 2013 from Newman Theological College. I was honored to receive my CWL Maple Leaf Service pin in 2016.

I look forward to meeting and working with you and strengthening our work in the League. I remind you of the words of Jesus when he said, “Ask and it will be given to you: search and you will find, knock and 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



ENVISIONED FUTURE

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

A vital participant in the church;

A valued partner for social justice;

A respected advocate at all government levels;

Connected to the world.



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Report from Diocesan President – Edmonton

Fall Meeting 2019

The Edmonton Diocesan Council held its Fall Meeting on October 28, 2019 at Sacred Heart Catholic Parish in Wetaskiwin, AB. There were 133 members attending representing 37 councils. Our members are women of “Faith, Passion and Hope”. We had a full day of information, discussion and sisterhood.

Fran Lucas, National President-Elect and Organization Standing Committee Chair was the morning guest speaker presenting the League of the Future Year 1. For many in attendance this was an opportunity to be brought up to date on the Strategic Planning process. Councils were advised if they would like the presentation made to their councils to contact Diocesan President-Elect Clover Oryschak. The goal is for every member in the diocesan to be informed about the process and planning.

The committee reviewing our Zone Structure presented its final recommendation. After review and discussion the members made the motion to accept the recommendation of the Zone Restructuring Sub-Committee for the elimination of Zones and the replacement of the Diocesan Midwinter Meeting with Diocesan Midwinter Workshops to be held in four newly defined regions, Edmonton-Jasper Region, St Albert-Lloydminster Region, Edmonton-Provost Region and Red Deer Region. Planning is now underway to hold meetings in these four regions.

Planning is underway for a Diocesan retreat co-sponsored with Knights of Columbus to be held Monday, October 28th at Corpus Christie Catholic Parish, Edmonton. Fr. Richard Leonard, SJ will lead an evening retreat entitled “On a Mission with Christ”. Fr Leonard will address one of the eight elements in Pope Francis has challenged the church to adopt in terms of our common mission. Christianity is not a private feel-good collective. We are sent out to live and proclaim our spirituality. This is to be the first of other joint projects by the CWL and KofC in the Diocese.

Diocesan priorities were established based on feedback from our Annual Convention in Lloydminster in April as follows:

1. To incorporate and encourage participation in the National theme “Care our Common Home” focussing on Rejoicing in God’s Gifts through our standing committees and speakers at meetings and events.
2. To provide support to our Parish Councils in particular council who are struggling with membership and filling leadership roles.
3. To support and facilitate the National Strategic Planning Process
4. To review and stream line our Diocesan reporting and zone structure
5. To enhanced spiritual development of members at meetings and through hosting retreats and spiritual reflection days.
6. To support respect for life from conception to death.





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Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council - Diocesan President – Calgary:



Hello, my name is Jan Myhre. I am a native Calgarian and although I had moved away for 24 years, I returned home to Calgary in 2006. I have been married to Jim for over 25 years, and we have a blended family with 7 children and 12 grandchildren, with more grandchildren on the horizon

When I returned to Calgary, I wanted to meet new friends and so I decided to join St. Peter's Catholic Women's League hoping this would be one way of building new relationships. I have always been involved in the parishes I belonged to, in various capacities, so when I joined St. Peter's CWL, I decided to take a break, just pay my membership, and not be an active member. So I told myself! Well, it wasn't long before a treasurer was needed and I really did not know what the CWL was all about until becoming a member of the council's executive. I was treasurer for 4 years, then agreed to become President-Elect in 2010, and President was from 2011 – 2013. By attending the Calgary regional meetings, the Diocesan Fall Meetings and Conventions, I quickly picked up on the fact that the CWL isn't geared only around the local council, but throughout the diocese, province and country!



I attended my first National Convention in 2012 in Edmonton after a resolution St. Peter's presented was passed at both the diocesan, then provincial convention, and from then on, my involvement and love of the League has grown. I was appointed as a diocesan officer in 2013 as secretary.

In 2015, I took on the role of diocesan communications, then let my name stand for diocesan president-elect in 2017. I became diocesan president in May of 2019, and immediately became the host diocesan president of the 99th Annual



National Convention that was held in Calgary August 19 – 21, 2019. I am ever so grateful for my mentors, the 3 past diocesan presidents, and for the national convention planning committee who spent more than 4 years going over every detail to ensure a successful convention.

I was recently retired from an oil and gas company and am currently working as a consultant, remaining active in various ministries at St. Peter's, and spending as much time with my family as I can. I have enjoyed and been blessed to be able to travel on 3 different pilgrimages through France, Medjugorje, and most recently the Holy Land.

My goal as diocesan president is to be a servant leader of the Calgary Diocesan Council, to assist the councils and council presidents to help them grow, and I ask for your prayers to help reach this goal.





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Report from Diocesan President – Calgary



The Calgary Diocesan Council continues to grow, albeit slowly. Our membership has increased to 3,702 within 49 councils. This past year we worked on progressing the realignment of our 5 regions, and 2 councils in southern Alberta, St. Augustine in Taber, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Foremost will be moving into the Medicine Hat region effective January 1, 2020. After 4 years of planning, the Calgary Diocesan Council hosted the 99th Annual National Convention at the Hyatt Regency in



Calgary. Over 850 attendees attended, including 2 Archbishops, 4 Bishops and numerous spiritual advisors. Approximately 500 delegates came from throughout Alberta Mackenzie, with 23 from St. Paul diocese, 10 from Mackenzie/Fort Smith, 8 from Grouard-McLennan, 106 from the Edmonton diocese, and 382 from the Calgary diocese. The western theme *“Branded in Christ”* was a great hit, with many photos being taken and the Western Shindig on Monday had everyone up learning to line-dance. On Tuesday, 276 people attended the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Dinner, where we had the opportunity to present each of the planning committee with a small gift of appreciation. The banquet on Wednesday evening also a wonderful event, and the Heebee Jeebees who entertained us, even wrote a special song for the Catholic Women’s League at no cost to us. One of our main concerns of the convention was that all the Eucharistic Celebrations go smoothly. Bishop McGrattan had appointed three priests as well as the Liturgy Consultant Director for the Diocese of Calgary, and with their assistance, we received 2 thumbs up from Bishop McGrattan at the end of the convention. Of course, we wouldn’t have been able to achieve this major accomplishment of hosting the national convention without all the volunteers that we had throughout the week, and we are very grateful to all of them. All the photos taken by the official photographer can be found at <https://st-peters.ca/cwl>

The 4th Saturday of September brings our membership together for our Fall Meeting, however this year it was cancelled due to the blanket of snow that began to fall upon southern Alberta. We have rescheduled and our “Winter Meeting” will take place on February 1st, 2020.

One of the focuses of the Calgary Diocese this upcoming year will be GrACE, Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education. The stakeholders are School Board Trustees, Teachers & Principals, Members of Clergy, the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women’s League, and parents. This is a plan to promote catholic education throughout Alberta so we are not placed in a position where the right for publicly funded Catholic education is taken away from us. Our councils are being encouraged to invite speakers to talk about GrACE and Catholic Education. This past year, the Calgary Diocesan Council developed “Adopt-A-Seminarian” Program where every seminarian from the Calgary Diocese has been adopted by at least one council to keep in touch with him and to keep him in their prayers as he journeys towards the priesthood. Last year, on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the ordination of Father Troy Nguyen took place at St. Mary’s Cathedral, and the Calgary Region was happy to host a reception following the ordination.

Our next diocesan event will be the Advent Retreat, held on Saturday November 30th in both Lethbridge and Calgary. These retreats continue to grow as our members begin their Advent journey towards the celebration of the birth of Our Lord.





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!CELEBRATIONS!

FATHER WALTER KREWSKI WINNERS

Who is Father Walter Krewski? Father Walt as he was affectionately known was a Calgary Diocesan priest who served the Catholic Women's League for 21 years...six as Calgary Diocesan Spiritual Advisor and then 15 years as Provincial Spiritual Advisor.

Why the Awards? In Ella Ell's term as provincial president it was decided to recognize councils for their hard work in building up membership. It was decided that there would be three groups recognized: increase in new members, increase in overall membership and percentage increase in members. The first year the award was presented was at convention 2007 for the year 2006.

We are very excited about the winners this year as they come from three different dioceses.

Increase in New Members: New members are always a great celebration but with them comes a great responsibility. After all these new members are drinking from the first cup of tea and they have to be nurtured and mentored along the way. The 2nd runner up is from Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Sherwood Park with 19 new members, a tie for first runner up with Edmonton's Corpus Christi and Calgary's St. Bonaventure Calgary with 20 new members and the council with the most new members for 2018 and recipient of the Madonna stained glass is **St. Peter's from Calgary with a total of 24 new members.**

Increase in Overall Membership. Our seasoned members need to be loved as much as our brand new members. In this category the 2nd runner up is St. Patrick from Medicine Hat with 25 member increase; first runner up is St. Bonaventure from Calgary with 26 member increase and our winner of the Madonna Image is from **St. John the Baptist Parish Fort McMurray with the grand total of a 31 member increase.**



Percentage Increase of Members: for the year. It was decided to include this category to give smaller councils an opportunity to participate because it is hard to participate when some councils have over a 100 members and other councils have only 10. This year our second runner up is St. John the Evangelist from Edmonton with a 35.5% increase; the first runner up comes from Fort McMurray with a 73% increase and our winner of the **St. Joseph Statue is St. Joseph Fort Smith with a 250% increase. Going from 4 to 14 members.**



Congratulations to all councils! Celebrate being a member of the Catholic Women's League in Canada!!



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99th Annual CWL National Convention: Highlights – Calgary, August 18-21, 2019 Submitted by Mary Hunt, President-Elect

“Our home is in common and includes the supernatural environment of the church. The League is an expression of that common home, based on faith, hope and charity. Implementation of new steps in the League is an opportunity to work together, building a common home where we find friendship and cooperate to make God’s home”.

Bishop Stephen Jensen



Calgary hosted 846 delegates, Spiritual Advisors and guests at the 99th Annual CWL National Convention from August 18-21, 2019. Participants were treated to the warmth of western hospitality at its very best as Calgary shared the things that make it a wonderful destination to visit and a great place to raise a family. The loving attention to details by our Calgary CWL League Sisters was evident throughout.

On Sunday morning, the sun shone bright as delegates had the choice of two tours at either the National Music Centre or Heritage Park. It was difficult to choose which to attend and both groups seemed equally pleased with the tour they had chosen.

The next morning began with a celebration of the Eucharist followed by a welcome by Ann-Marie and a special Calgary Airport White Hatters Ceremony where each member of the National Executive was presented with a white hat of their own. Greetings were brought to the assembly by representatives from the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Society, the United Church Women, the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada, the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada and a letter was read from the WUCWO President General.

Then onto business with the presentation of the agenda, minutes, roll call etc. followed by reports from the Military Ordinariate and the Provincial Presidents that were well crafted and interesting to hear. Judy Look prepared an excellent report that was accompanied by a slide presentation highlighting Alberta Mackenzie.

We were informed that all the reports will appear in the fall edition of the *Canadian League Magazine*.

The assembly approved sending a letter to the CCB commending them for their document *Protecting Minors against Sexual Abuse: A Call to the Catholic Faithful in Canada for Healing, Reconciliation, and Transformation*.

Resolution 2019.01 was presented and passed under the Christian Family Standing Committee which urges the federal government “to honour its legal commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the

Child by providing legal protection to children before birth.”

Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition thanked the CWL for our ongoing support and reminded us that they do accept airmiles donations. The EPC was presented with a cheque for \$18,235.52.

The afternoon concluded with the uplifting commissioning of eleven new life members...this year there were no candidates from Alberta Mackenzie.

In the evening there was a Western Shindig that was Calgary Stampede approved. Members clad in western wear and cowboy hats eagerly got up to learn how to line dance to the delight of everyone...Archbishop Pettipas looked on with a broad smile of amusement and pleasure on his face but claimed he could not dance when some of our members tried to coax him onto the dance floor. There were great photo ops that had cell phone cameras snapping pictures throughout the evening.

After the night's festivities, Tuesday morning arrived sooner than expected and began again with a beautiful



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liturgy followed by four break-out sessions. Thank you to Clover Oryshak for her notes for Sessions 2 & 3.

1) **Living Laudato Si: Practical Tools on How We can Care for our Common Home.** Presenter, Dr. Peter Baltutis from St. Mary's University focused on three steps to effective Social Justice:

1. **SEE:** Look in detail at the situation
2. **JUDGE:** Analyze in light of the Gospel
3. **ACT:** Suggest appropriate action to be taken by the church and/or society.

2) **Spiritual Practice and Care for our Common Home** Presented by Sister Madeleine Gregg

Sister Madeleine reminded everyone that scripture is for us today and that we are eternal. Darkness is not our destiny as God created us in the light (Genesis)..we have "light of faith", "light of reason", "to be a light to others". She suggested some spiritual practices for us to embrace:

1. Become readers of scripture and pray.
2. We need to believe that love is at the heart of all creation
3. We need to see life as the first of God's gifts.
4. Practice "3 Pit Stops" everyday: First thing in the morning remind yourself what you want to do that day. Midday reflect on the day so far; if needed, re-point yourself towards the Holy. At the end of the day, reflect on how the day went.
5. Be engaged in your faith.
6. Always look for opportunities to love and serve.
7. Attend weekly Mass and rest on the Sabbath
8. Go to reconciliation and adoration monthly
9. Make a yearly pilgrimage to somewhere such as Skaro or Our Lady of the Rockies.

3) **What the Catholic Church says about Care for Creation and why it is Fundamentally Catholic that we are "good stewards" of the environment.** Presented by Dr. Timothy Harvie

Discussed the importance of relationships with each other, with the Earth and with institutions and structures. Also spoke about the economy and relationships; the economy is a tool to help people live, arrange3s how society conducts itself and how people relate to each other through goods and services. Three relationships were emphasized: 1. Our relationship with God – thru prayer 2. Our relationship with others thru economics 3. Our relationship with Creation –thru ecology. Dr. Harvie argued that the world is finite and has limits which means that we cannot grow the economy or consume

forever; this would be unsustainable...it is possible to have a high GDP but citizens who are starving or lacking clean drinking water. "The Catholic Church continues to teach us about the importance of:

- Mutual good & every individual sharing in resources (Pope John Paul 11)
- Duties arising from our relationship with the natural environment (Pope Benedict XVI)
- Caring for Creation as central to our Catholic faith and God as the Creator (Pope Francis)

In closing, Dr. Harvie emphasized the need for consumption to slow down and for us to ask more relational questions such as: who benefits? And what type of relationship is being nurtured?

4) **A Carbon Conversation: Why is it So Hard to Change? How Can we respond to the Cry of the Poor?** Presented by Marilou LeGeay

We were provided with an overview of why generationally we find it hard to change our ways regarding waste and consumption. It was surprising to learn that in North America one third of the food we purchase is thrown out and wasted. Simply by reducing/eliminating food wastage, collectively we can have an enormous impact on the carbon footprint aside from oil, gas and coal consumption.

Our keynote speaker for the convention, Sr. Dorothy Ederer, a Dominican Sister from Grand Rapids, Michigan delivered an emotional and entertaining address titled "What is our common home? We care for our homeland, our homes, our hearts". Sr. Dorothy touched our hearts with her personal stories and was very well received. She is a prolific author with many titles to her credit which are readily available for purchase on the internet. You will find her presentation on the League website and it can be shared with your councils.

That evening, over 250 enthusiastic Alberta Mackenzie delegates and their guests gathered in the main



ballroom of the Hyatt for the provincial dinner which proved to be another fun evening of good food, good music and comradery. We had the special opportunity to thank the wonderful organizing committee for their dedication and hard work in planning and hosting the convention...kudos to all!!! Special thanks to Jan Myhre and Janet



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MacPhee for organizing the evening as it usually falls under the purview of the President-Elect...I really do owe you big time, ladies!

The Resolutions Dialogue was held on the Sunday afternoon providing us with the opportunity to discuss with our CWL Sisters from across the county the resolutions that would come to the business meeting. The room was filled with the voices of women sharing their views about the resolutions under consideration.

In the evening we travelled to the beautiful St. Albert the Great Parish for the Opening Eucharistic Celebration, Opening Ceremonies and Reception. The flag procession was determined by order of entry into Confederation. Alberta Mackenzie processed in two flags; Alberta and the NWT. I was honored to process in the NWT flag which served as a poignant reminder to me of the collective vibrancy of the faith filled women with whom we share such a special bond. Ann-Marie Gorman declared the convention open and immediately following we gathered for a reception which was punctuated by the happy sounds of voices eagerly anticipating the days ahead.

The final day, Wednesday, we were treated to an excellent presentation about year one of the Strategic Plan by Fran Lucas, National President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization which began with a creative video presentation featuring the soundtrack theme from **Star Wars** accompanied by the opening lines scrolling into the future. The presentation will be made available to provincial presidents.

Donations distributed under standing committees were as follows:

- Catholic Missions in Canada (CIMC) \$38,160.20
- Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) \$16,346.13
- Coady International Institute \$23,991.44 (for participants in the Global Change Leaders Program)

Fr. David Reilander from CMIC reminded us that Canada is a mission country, especially in the north where the Church is a vital presence. A motion was passed to **Declare a National Day of Prayer for Canadian Home Missions**.

Resolution 2019.02 Canadian Support for the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted which “urges the federal government to support, sign and ratify the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons”.

The Closing Eucharistic Celebration was held at St. Mary’s Cathedral nestled at the edge of Calgary’s downtown core. It included the reaffirmation of officers and the flag recession. The gala banquet was memorable with a delicious Alberta Beef meal and entertainment by a talented acapella quartet that parodied the lyrics of the song **Sweet Caroline** to make it a CWL song. The **Heebie-Jeebies** pleased the crowd with many familiar songs and to the delight of all included Bishop Jensen as a “fifth member” for a rendition of **The Lion Sleeps Tonight**. The Bishop’s good-natured participation endeared him to all present.

And, so ended a most enjoyable and memorable 99th National Convention of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada with a warm and enthusiastic invitation to attend **Our 100th National Convention in Montreal in August of 2020**.

Implementation Committee



Heebie-Jeebies with Bishop Jensen





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99th Annual CWL National Convention: Spiritual Highlights – Submitted by Annamaria Matsui, Secretary

The theme Care For Our Common Home permeated the entire convention. Care for our Common Home encompasses the earth, all creation and mankind.

The opening Mass was held on Sunday evening August 19th hosted by St Albert the Great Parish in South East Calgary. The celebration began with a procession of provincial, territorial, Catholic Women's League and Canada flags which joined the Papal Flag in the sanctuary– Archbishops, Bishops, Priests and Deacons followed.

Convention Choir opened with the hymn Laudato Si (Praise Be to You) that set the tone for the entire convention. It is based on Pope Francis' 2nd encyclical of the same name.

Monday and Tuesday, we were most blessed to celebrate the Eucharist on the convention floor at the Hyatt Hotel before the sessions- A designated prayer room, which included the Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, was set up in a quiet space on the same floor as the convention to give delegates an opportunity for quiet reflection and pray.

Wednesday's closing Eucharistic Celebration at St. Mary's Cathedral continued the theme in their choice of music and the Bishop's homily and brought the convention full circle with singing of the hymn Laudato Si

Monday's afternoon opening prayer Come, Walk on the Water With Me was followed by a beautiful Visual Musical on Screen: Hillsong United, "Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)." YouTube, <https://youtube/FBJJkiRukY>

Tuesday's afternoon opening prayer, Let All Creatures Praise the Lord was adapted from the Canticale Week 1 Shorter Christian Prayer. The Memorial Service

for our deceased members and spiritual advisors was the closing prayer for the afternoon session. Many of us were remembering specific members who have passed this past year; as well as those who have been gone for many years but are still in our memory and our hearts.

Our closing Wednesday afternoon prayer was titled Care for Our Common Home and summed up our entire convention.

I'm sure all delegates will be drawn to read or re-read Pope Francis' Encyclical after experiencing the beautiful and inspiring spirituals at this year's convention.





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!CELEBRATIONS!

ELSIE YANIK AWARD



GABRIELLE (GABE) SIMPSON
St. Peter's Catholic Women's League
Calgary, Alberta
Diocese of Calgary

Gabe exemplifies the CWL motto "For God and Canada". She has always been involved in the military because her husband is a retired soldier. Her service to the military includes being secretary of the local chapter of the National Association of Federal Retirees and secretary of the Peacekeepers Park Committee, where her role is to be the contact for families of fallen soldiers and to organize seating plans for ceremonies at Peacekeepers and Buffalo Park. Gabe and her husband, Sam, have also dedicated themselves to assisting returning soldiers who are suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

When Gabe moved to Calgary and St. Peter's Parish in 2008, she became a CWL member and immediately took on active roles in assisting the funeral lunch team and helping with the annual Ladies

Dinner and Harvest Dinner. In 2009, she accepted the position of member-at-large on the executive and then went on to serve two terms as treasurer and one term as communications chair. When Gabe saw other ladies wanting to serve on the executive, she stepped aside to help coordinate the 2019 National Convention. Most recently, she has accepted to serve as secretary-treasurer of the Calgary regional CWL.

Gabe's faith in God is her guiding light. She serves and leads with patience, encouragement, and quiet strength. When St. Peter's Parish hosted the Man of the Shroud Exhibit in 2018, Gabe coordinated the entire event. Through her guidance, many people who had not previously volunteered in the parish came forward and forged new friendships, thereby strengthening the bonds of the parish community. Gabe brings this same gentle leadership to her service as a Eucharistic minister and on the parish collection counter and grocery card teams.

According to her council president, Gabe does not like to be in the limelight, but she is always part of the backbone that supports the group through willing hands and a prayerful heart. This is illustrated by the following anecdote. A few years ago, Gabe and Sam had the opportunity to go to France with a group to visit and participate in ceremonies at the Canadian military sites. As excited as they were about the trip, Gabe's lament was that she would not be able to help with the Ladies Dinner. When it became apparent that Gabe and Sam would be returning to Calgary a little earlier than anticipated, Gabe fired off an email to our council saying, "I will be able to come to the Ladies Dinner! What can I do to help?" It was not a request to get her a ticket nor to reserve a spot for her, but a simple and joyful expression of her desire to serve others.

Elsie Yanik Award:

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council, the Elsie Yanik Award was initiated (in 1997) to commemorate the leadership and ministry/service of Elsie Yanik to the Catholic community in the diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith.

<http://www.cwl.ab.ca/ElsieYanikBiography2017.pdf>



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MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MACKENZIE FORT SMITH DIOCESE



“It’s my little part for caring for the environment- Sister Maggie Beaudette, from Hay River and our CWL Spiritual advisor translates Care for our Home into a recycling initiative that brings coin for the poor and reduces waste!

Sister Maggie drives around town in her Silver Ford Escape as she collects from her "regulars" every two weeks. With great care she single-handedly sorts, cleans, crushes and bags her recyclables in her garage.

“It is a lot of work, but this recycling is “helping different groups with the funds and it’s my little part caring for the environment,” said the avid birdwatcher and gardener, who maintains busy schedule as a Spiritual Advisor for the Catholic Women's League, Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith and her spiritual work at the Parish of Assumption Church in the NT. Her one women project started slowly but word of mouth keeps it growing, with donations even coming from Fort Smith, some 270 kilometers away.

Sr Maggie’s recycling generosity has purchased a dozen fiddles and guitars worth several thousand dollars for Hay Rivers Kole Crook Fiddle Association.

She also donates to the Chief Sunrise Education Centre on the K'at'l'odeeche First Nation, for books and culture camps. The remainder goes to Humanitarian efforts in Kenya administered by a former teacher from Bechoko. Sister Maggie has raised more than \$20,000 for music and humanitarian projects.



She has become our poster child of recycling!!



CORE VALUES

FAITH - following Catholic teaching

SERVICE - local, national and international

SOCIAL JUSTICE - actively involved in society



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!CELEBRATIONS!

KEVIN CARR AWARD

David & Cathy Bouchard Joint recipients of Kevin Carr Christian Leadership Award



Edmonton, June 10, 2019 – A Red Deer couple who have inspired countless others through their shared passions for faith, family, education, and social justice will receive the 2019 Kevin Carr Christian Leadership Award.

The honour recognizes individuals whose outstanding Christian leadership reflects the values of the college and the qualities that Carr cherished and

exhibited in his work.

“David and Cathy Bouchard have a long history of living out the implications of their faith in service to the community,” said College President Jason West. “It is notable that for the first time the award will be presented to a couple who are inspiring witnesses of Christian leadership through their marriage.”

Ever since they married in 1978, Cathy and David have been active in Church and community life.

Together they founded the Magdalene House Society, a non-profit recovery home in Red Deer for women who have been trafficked/exploited. The home provides a safe, supportive sanctuary where clients can heal from their experience and reclaim their sense of self-worth and dignity. Partner organizations provide the necessary medical, psychological and legal assistance along with education and employment to assist their recovery. The Bouchards continue to advocate for government action to eliminate human trafficking.

They have also served in leadership positions in the Serena Natural Family Planning Association and in Third Order of St. Francis, a community of lay Catholic women and men who seek to pattern their lives after Jesus in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi.

They are dedicated members of the Catholic Women’s League and Knights of Columbus. Cathy currently serves as the National Chairperson of Resolutions for the CWL of Canada. She has also served at two other levels of the League as Edmonton Diocesan President and Alberta Mackenzie Provincial President, representing thousands of Catholic women. David has been a member of the Knights of Columbus since he was 16 years old, and this year he marks 50 years of fraternal service with the Knights.

Mary Hunt, who nominated the Bouchards for the Carr Award, calls them a dynamic Catholic couple who truly live lives of servant leadership and Christian witness.

“Cathy and David have inspired and supported countless others in their faith journey,” she wrote. “They ‘walk the talk’ but manage to do so with humility and an attitude of gratitude, which makes them approachable and able to foster a willingness in others to be receptive to their support and mentorship.”

The Bouchards are members of Sacred Heart Parish, where they have served in virtually every lay ministry from RCIA to Marriage Preparation to Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist to Lectors. They love spending time with their four children and eight grandchildren.

The award will be presented the 16th Annual Kevin Carr Christian Leadership Award Luncheon on October 30, 2019.

(the above article is a summary of an article provided by M. Maxwell, Newman Theological College). For information about Who is Kevin Carr please click on the link:

<https://www.newman.edu/kevincarr>





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ABMK Calendar for 2020

January 10 – 12: Mid-Winter Executive Meeting, Star of the North Retreat Centre
 April 17 – 19: Edmonton Diocesan Convention, St. Charles, Edmonton AB
 April 24 – 26: Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocesan Convention, Hay River NT
 May 1 – 3: Calgary Diocesan Convention, Delta South Hotel, Calgary AB
 June 5 – 6: ABMK Annual Convention, Lac La Biche, Alberta
 September 13- 15: Fall Executive Meeting, Star of the North Retreat Centre

To invite ABMK executive to your event please email Judy Look at abmkprovpresident@gmail.com

Websites to Stay Connected:

- Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council - www.cwl.ab.ca
- The Catholic Women's League of Canada - www.cwl.ca
- World Union of Catholic Women's Organization – www.wucwo.org
- Edmonton Diocesan Council - <http://www.edmontoncwl.org/>
- Grouard-McLennan Diocesan Council - <http://www.grmcl.cwl.ab.ca/>
- St. Paul Diocesan Council: - <http://www.stpaul.cwl.ab.ca/>
- Calgary Diocesan Council – www.calgarycwl.ca
- Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocesan Council - <http://www.mkfs.cwl.ab.ca/>
- Canadian Catholic Organization for D & P – www.devpo.org
- Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops – www.cccb.ca
- Catholic Near East Welfare Association – www.cnewa.ca
- Grandin Media - <http://grandinmedia.ca/>
- Salt & Light Catholic Media Foundation – <https://saltandlighttv.org/>
- The Vatican - www.vatican.va



MISSION STATEMENT

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.



99th National Convention
 For information on speakers, photos and reports from the National 2019 CWL Convention go to <https://cwl.ca/calgary-2019/>