



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

Alberta Mackenzie Vice President/Spiritual Development Oral Report **Convention 2023 Edmonton**

Madam President,

This past year has been interesting for Alberta Mackenzie CWL councils. Many went through the transition from the previous years' chairs into the newly defined three pillars of Faith, Service, Social Justice.

In October of 2021, the Catholic Church throughout the world started the process of the Synod on Synodality called by Pope Francis. The Synod within the grassroots of parishes took place during 2022 and many of our parishes and councils took part. The Synod on Synodality has been extended by Pope Francis through October 2024. In reviewing the Assembly of Western Catholic Bishops Synod Report, July 2022, three common points emerged from the many issues and concerns:

- 1) A need for increased catechesis
- 2) The importance of leadership
- 3) Sensitivity to Indigenous concerns

As Spiritual Development chair and a cradle catholic, number 1 speaks right to me. The reports called for more catechesis at all levels of the church, this includes faith education and formation for all ages, including the formation of lay and ordained ministers. Moving forward I will endeavour to provide information through communiques as to how we all can improve our knowledge of the Catholic Church. Many of us have tuned into the podcasts of "The Bible in a Year" by Father Mike Schmitz and he also has a podcast of "The Catechism in a Year". The great things about podcasts is that you can download them and either listen right away or listen when you can. The Living with Christ missalette is also a great resource for increasing our understanding.

I believe reviewing of the Synod reports may help us to understand how our Church and our councils can move forward in a positive manner for the betterment of our Churches and our faith.

As we all know the Papal Visit in July of 2022 consumed our Bishops, priests, lay people and our CWL councils especially in and around the City of Edmonton. Our sisters were called and they answered! I personally watched it on television and it seemed as if all

ran smooth but I am sure that there are ladies in this room that will smile and chuckle about that. The Holy Spirit guided and I thank you for your gifts of service during that time.

Pope Francis's Papal Visit has the theme of Walking Together which is also our convention theme. The physical action of his visit spoke more than words ever could. And we need to continue with physical actions to fully reconcile with our indigenous sisters and brothers. Reconciliation is possible if we believe and put our faith towards it. Candida Shepard's workshop with the ABMK executive council at the September 2022 meeting helped me on the path of greater understanding. I especially enjoyed her comments regarding land acknowledgements. How we need to make it our own acknowledgement and not just be routine words, not just placing a check mark on the Call-to-Action list for Truth and Reconciliation.

Moving forward, I encourage all councils to create acknowledgements – and that it can change from meeting to meeting, if they want to do one for each meeting – focusing on what is relevant at the time of their meeting.

Book of Life – deceased members

I need to stress the importance of reporting to CWL National the passing of a CWL sister. Only the names that National provides to me may make it into the Book of Life.

We are women of Faith – and with Faith there needs to be action. (Wave postcard). Please fill in these cards and send them to your MPs, etc.

“Lord, grant that I may Live this day with Love and Laughter”

Respectfully submitted,
Janet MacPhee