

# NEWSLETTER

April 2025

## SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE



### **President's Message**

**Helen Kayfish**

According to the calendar, spring has arrived. Depending on where you live in the province you may be saying it hasn't yet. With the arrival of Spring, we the members of the CWL know that conventions are just around the corner. As members prepare to host these conventions, we who will be attending are readying ourselves to be inspired, to renew friendships, to make new friends and to celebrate the eucharist with like-minded women.

Again, this year we held a membership contest, and we have several new members across the province. These new members will receive a gift from the provincial council and the council with the largest percentage increase will receive their registration back for those who attended the provincial convention. Welcome to all the new members.

The provincial convention is in Weyburn, and I will be sending out the invitation and information the first week in April. We have received a grant from National to help with the mileage for those driving to the convention. Please obtain a form once you have arrived at the convention. Our guest speakers Fr. Greg Elder and Mr. Victor Quidja will present to us the topic of Understanding Anxiety in Teens. The provincial Vice-President, Donna Aldous and I will have a presentation on Leadership in the League. We will have the usual business session and the celebration of the Eucharist. We will hear from dignitaries at the opening of the convention and from the new State Deputy for the Knights of Columbus during the banquet. Oh, and we will hear which council is the winner of the membership contest!

I look forward to meeting each of you as we attend the diocesan conventions and then the provincial convention.

## SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Fr. Francis Hengen



Dear sisters in the League,

Putting aside some of the less than friendly weather we have experienced these past months, we are, nonetheless in a wonderful time of the year because, as Christians, we get to celebrate two marvelous liturgical seasons – Lent and Easter, and, as Catholics, we are doubly blessed because our liturgy gives us an abundance of powerful rituals, symbols and stories that reach all the way across our salvation history from the first chapter of Genesis and the creation story to the vision of the new Jerusalem in the Book of Revelation. However, because we are so familiar with these seasons after years of repeating them, we may not spend much time thinking about them or fully appreciate exactly what we are celebrating, and what some non-Catholics might think of our religious behavior.

For example, not everyone goes around with a dark smudge on their forehead on a certain Wednesday in February or March. You know the one I mean. But I remember one time I attended a ministerial meeting when I had just been to an Ash Wednesday service. Another minister there commented that I had some dirt on my forehead. I quietly explained to him the significance of the ‘dirt’, and he seemed to appreciate that, because he had never heard of it. It was one of those simple teaching moments for both of us. I had to remember why I had ashes on my forehead, and he learned something about the Catholic tradition of Lent.

A good example of a Lenten prayer tradition is the Stations of the Cross. We are not surprised to see them in all Catholic churches. They give us comfort and peace of mind and heart. But someone unfamiliar with them may feel uncomfortable taking part in such a prayer.

Holy Week gives us lots colour, action and scripture with palms, washing of feet, and the veneration of the cross. The Easter Vigil hails the sacred fire, and the Pascal candle, and we hear a brief history of our salvation story (7 readings) from the Old Testament, and which culminates as the central tenet of our faith, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. We renew our baptismal promises and make our profession of faith that we will live our lives in the full expectation of entering into the glory of God’s kingdom when our life upon this earth is ended.

While the world around carries on with its affairs, we dare to proclaim loudly that our true hope lies in the world to come, and from this exultant celebration of life in Christ that we go forth into the world to bring it the good news that Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. This call to go forth is even more meaningful this Jubilee year when we have taken on the name **Pilgrims of Hope** and we sing the refrain of the Jubilee hymn “ Like a flame my hope is burning, may my song arise to you; source of life that has no ending, on life’s path I trust in you.” Blessed may your Easter be.

## **PAST PRESIDENT**

Connie Crichton

As we roll into convention season, it our opportunity to meet with our CWL sisters and renew our friendships. For past presidents it can also be an opportunity to identify and encourage some of our future leaders. Remember the past presidents head up the next election committee for new term executive elections. This is one of our most important roles as it will shape the future. Early in September I will host a virtual meeting for our past presidents on the topic of elections and forming new executives at both the diocesan and parish council levels. Watch for that opportunity to register.

Congratulations to those parishes who worked on a Parish Policy and Procedures manual. I hope to see some of them at our Provincial convention in June. I also hope the cameras are out to record the many council activities to mark conventions, socials and fundraisers. The members of the past created wonderful memories for you to enjoy. It's up to you to do the same for future generations so they can see where you were "Sent" this year in answering God's call.

## **LIFE MEMBER LIAISON**

Chantal Devine

In mid- January I received an email from National Life Member Liaison, Jacqueline Nogier, requesting that each provincial life member liaison send in an annual report on the activities of the life members in their province. This was an interesting exercise as it confirmed that life members continued to give support and active service to National, through their involvement in parish councils.

In their personal activities all attended and supported their CWL parish council meetings and activities. Three life members were on the Saskatchewan Provincial CWL Council in their capacity as president, past president and life member liaison. Several served on the 2024 National Convention Committee. Life members, in their quest to keep the League flourishing, responded to the needs of their members by giving workshops, encouraging members to take on leadership roles, and generally working with councils to keep them viable.

Life members also contributed through their participation on committees and workshops. One honorary life member provided faith workshops in her community and elsewhere. At the provincial fall workshop, another life member made presentations on several topics and held a virtual workshop on preparing a Parish Council Procedures Manual. She was also appointed to a national sub-committee.

Thinking "outside the box", one life member decided to follow up on Past National President, Fran Lucas' building relations focus, by hosting small group gatherings in her home. During "tea and crumpets", she would lead the conversation on how these women could share their talents on their CWL council. In her position on the planning committee of a youth rally in her diocese, she invited CWL members to provide a prayer ministry to the youth during the rally. Participants were invited to write their prayer requests on a sticky note and paste it on the window of the prayer room. CLW members collected the notes and prayed for their intentions. She said students checked the prayer room to see if they were really praying for them, and one student came in asking them to teach her to pray! The number of CWL volunteers has nearly tripled since this began. This same life member was also asked to organize a faith building experience involving seniors and the youth at the rally. She hosted five tables of six youth, and each group was guided in provoking conversation by at least one retiree. The first gathering was a huge success and will continue in the future.

These are only a few examples of all the good work our life members are doing in our province. Not only are they honoured to be life members, but they accept the responsibility that goes with the position.

## **VICE PRESIDENT**

Donna Aldous

Our Saskatchewan Provincial CWL Membership Contest closed with 6 councils reporting for a total of 37 new members which is tremendous news. Thanks to all who promoted membership in their parishes. Even one new member can add so much to our goal of every Catholic woman benefiting from being a CWL member.

In an effort to show how much new members are appreciated, all reported new members will receive a gift from your provincial council. And the council with the largest increase (%) in new members will be receiving free registration for their council members attending our provincial convention in Weyburn June 1 & 2.

Conventions are coming up in the next couple of months and I encourage you to bring your new members out to experience the energy and sisterhood of a gathering of committed women with a common goal. It's where you may find the spark to continue your commitment to the League as well. There are provincial executive members who came alive in their service to CWL after attending their first convention.

## **SERVICE**

**(HANDS THAT SHARE)**

***SERVICE TO THE CHURCH, CANADA AND  
THE WORLD***

Mary Kehrig

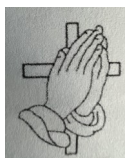
**Check the National website [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca) resources for  
12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care Kit 2025**

National Chairperson of Service, Joline Belliveau, in her latest communiqué, says this kit **“contains a message of support from National President Shari Guinta, prayers, information, resources and links to encourage and help you to pray alone, with others, to pray for one hour, for 12 hours, or to pray unceasingly for greater advocacy for palliative/hospice care.”**

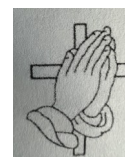


*“Palliative care is an expression of the truly human attitude of taking care of one another, especially of those who suffer. It is a testimony that the human person is always precious, even if marked by illness and old age.”*

*Pope Francis*



**FAITH**  
**(HEARTS IN PRAYER)**  
**UNITING CATHOLIC WOMEN TO GROW IN FAITH**  
**WENDY DALE**



*Her hands are busy spinning thread, her fingers twisting fiber. She extends a helping hand to the poor and opens her arms to the needy. She has no fear of Winter for her household, for everyone has warm clothes.* Proverbs 31: 19-21 NLT

What wonderful words for us at this never-ending changing of the seasons! ‘She has no fear of Winter’, hah!! My fear is that Winter has forgotten that it needs to disappear and allow Spring to arrive. And aren’t we all busy? There have been Jubilee Year events, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Diocesan Winter Gatherings, the Development and Peace campaign to “Turn Debt into Hope”, Human Trafficking Awareness initiatives, shifts at the CWL Clothing Depot, Ash Wednesday, Lent, the on-going journey with RCIA candidates and catechumens, -we certainly are the busy women that the Book of Proverbs speaks about!

As Pilgrims of Hope during this Jubilee Year, we know that we are not called to stop and rest, and consider that our work is done. The journey continues, and so we do also. Here are some options to consider to strengthen and enlighten your journey.

CWL Jubilee Pilgrimage to Rome (November 19-27) – Join League sisters for a faith-filled pilgrimage during the Jubilee Year. Limited to 44 pilgrims, check [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca) for more details.

Canonization of Blessed Carlos Acutis (April 27) – Councils are encouraged to promote the canonization of Blessed Carlos Acutis – (often referred to as the Patron Saint of the Internet), and the first Saint from Generation Y (millennials) – to young people in their parish and to use the occasion to invite young women 16 years and older to learn more about becoming a member.

Fostering Vocations (May 11) – The Church celebrates World Day of Prayer for Vocations on May 11. Councils and members are invited to reflect on the meaning of God’s call and to pray for all vocations. What can you do at your May meeting to promote this day?

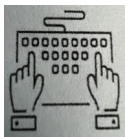
WUCWO Day (May 13) – The League has membership in the World Union of Catholic Women’s Organizations (WUCWO) to advance women’s role in the life and mission of the Church. Check out the WUCWO website for a spiritual program to unite in prayer with women worldwide. Something else to include in your May meeting!

Rosary Webinar of Hope for Healing and Reconciliation (June 21) – The League is committed to its pilgrimage experience of Walking Together in hope with Indigenous Peoples. Members are invited to join in reflecting on this mission while praying the Rosary on this day. Check [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca) for more details.

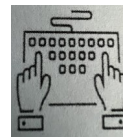
As we continue on our journey as Pilgrim’s of Hope, remember that we will always be given everything we need to continue on. One of my favorite songs is by Steve Bell, and this verse gets me through a lot:

For the Lord who is God, Takes His people home  
Not to be afraid, As we journey the road  
Hand in hand we'll be walking, With the Lord our God  
On the wings of an eagle, we will rise!

It’s called Wings of An Eagle, give it a listen – a great song to have on your pilgrimage playlist as we journey to where to Lord sends us. Blessings to you as we encourage each other to be Pilgrims of Hope.



**SOCIAL JUSTICE**  
**(MINDS THAT DARE)**  
**SERVICE TO THE CHURCH, CANADA**  
**AND THE WORLD**  
**MARCELLA PEDERSEN**



So many issues for members to **Act** on as their pilgrimage for Jubilee 2025.

**Earth Day** is celebrating its 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the theme “Our Power, Our Planet”.

In publications like *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis emphasizes that caring for the environment is a fundamental part of Catholic faith and social justice. Across traditions faith teaches stewardship, compassion, and responsibility for the earth. Protecting our shared home is both a moral obligation and spiritual calling. I recommend councils host a day to celebrate Our Common Home with a Sermon or Prayer in/at parish mass time or a special event. You could focus on Food and the Environment, Climate and Environmental Literacy, Fashion for the Earth, Act on Climate Change, End Plastics, Join the Global Cleanup, Act on Climate Change, The Canopy project. Check out [earthday.org](https://www.earthday.org) for ideas. <https://www.earthday.org/our-work/> Act on our CWL 2024.03 Resolution. Write letters, and sign DPCC petition *Turn Debt into Hope*

**Walking Together with Indigenous Sisters: Making Connections**

June is National Indigenous Month in Canada – a great time to learn about and connect with our brothers and sisters by attending events on May 5, June 21<sup>st</sup> or create an event honoring their traditions, history and unique heritage and contributions. Join the special webinar presented by CWL national Social Justice Indigenous Relations subcommittee on June 3 at 6:00 pm. CDT

<https://www.cwl.ca/category/indigenous-resources/>  
<https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100013718/1708446948967>

<https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1631130192216/1631130220404>

**Human Trafficking Webinar** Recording is available on the national website: “Finding Hope in the Fight Against Human Trafficking” Answer the call to serve and uphold the dignity of all persons affected by this terrible scourge in society. <https://www.cwl.ca/videos/> There will be a Human Trafficking Awareness display prepared by St Anne’s CWL in Saskatoon at all the diocesan conventions as well as at Provincial in Weyburn. Check out the recent League Magazine for 2 articles to take note of the CWL Focus.





# REGINA DIOCESAN

Linda Maddaford

President

In February I helped co-ordinate the Women's Inter-Church of Canada World Day of Prayer hosted by my parish, which took place on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The prayer service was prepared by the women of the Cook Islands. We learned a little bit of Māori, and everyone enjoyed the theme "I made you wonderful." We had a good representation from the Yorkton area churches, and one teacher from St. Mary's school brought her Gr 5/6 class. The young people enjoyed the singing, the blessing and even had time to stay for muffins and juice afterward.

In March I attended the Regina Region workshop to present Here I am Lord, Send Me - What inspires us to be women of faith - , to serve, to pray, to lead, and to belong to the wonderful sisterhood we call CWL? How do we share this experience? We took a look at some of the Faith, Service and Social Justice resources, and setting an annual calendar to help councils plan for a successful, varied and enjoyable year.

At the end of March, I attended - Living Hope: A Conversation on Euthanasia and Hope. I presented my testimonial as one of the individuals personally impacted by MAiD, in an evening of reflection, testimony, and discussion on protecting human dignity and fostering hope.. The evening was hosted by the Archdiocese of Regina and facilitated by Deacon Eric Gurash, Archbishop Bolen and Amanda Achtman, an advocate for life and ethical healthcare.

As we journey through the 2025 Jubilee year, may we continue to be fullhearted women of Hope, women of Prayer, women in Mission. When in our heart of hearts God asks, whom shall I send? May we each joyfully respond, Hear I am Lord – send me.



## **102nd Annual Regina Diocesan CWL Convention Saturday, May 3rd, 2025 St. Joseph's Parish, Moose Jaw, SK**

The Regina Diocesan CWL executive and Moose Jaw Region are pleased to invite you to our 102nd annual Diocesan Convention

Featuring:

Speaker: Rev. Deacon Lamont Dyck – "Being Present with Christ".

Workshop: Here I am Lord – "How Remarkable Women Lead".

Holy Mass, business session, luncheon, door prize, raffle  
and so much more.

Join us for a lively Diocesan CWL convention.

Contact the Convention Registrar at [regina.diocesan.conv@gmail.com](mailto:regina.diocesan.conv@gmail.com)

Contact your parish CWL Council to register.

# SASKATOON DIOCESAN

Marion Laroque  
President

It was great to see many members at our Winter Executive meeting on February 8. I was delighted to acknowledge our first-term presidents who were in attendance. As always, your diocesan executive is here to support you. In fact, the provincial executive held a Zoom meeting titled *How Would I know That?* which included practical advice for all councils. We know that you are busy ladies and so there is a recording available for you to watch when you have time. Email [Saskatooncwl@gmail.com](mailto:Saskatooncwl@gmail.com) For a link to the recording.

At the Winter meeting we had a meaningful discussion led by your diocesan Social Justice chairperson Diane Cote. The discussion was based on the book by Bob Joseph: *21 Things You May Not Know about the Indian Act*. If you are interested in diving more deeply into this subject, the book can be purchased on line at [amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca). Why not make this book the start of a book club in your council? Just a thought.

On March 25, the Bishops of Saskatchewan published the pastoral letter *Dying with Hope: Living and Walking Together*. I am inspired by a phrase from the letter: **medical assistance in living**. That's our vision. Special thanks go to all the CWL councils who have sponsored Horizons of Hope in their parishes. On that same theme, we will have copies of the palliative care postcards available at the Saskatoon Diocesan convention on April 26. Have you registered for the convention yet? The April 12 deadline is coming up fast! I hope to see many of you there.

## Convention Dates to mark on your calendars

### Prince Albert Diocesan Convention :

Saturday, May 10, 2025 , Goodsoil

### Saskatoon Diocesan Convention:

Saturday, April 26, 2025 Cathedral of the Holy Family, Saskatoon

### Regina Diocesan Convention:

Saturday May 3, 2025, St. Joseph, Moose Jaw

### Saskatchewan Provincial Convention

Sunday, June 1 and Monday June 2, 2025, St. Vincent de Paul, Weyburn

### National Convention:

August 10-13, Toronto, Ontario