

NEWSLETTER

October 2023

SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE



President's Message

Connie Crichton



Happy Fall sisters and Spiritual Advisors!

October is the month of the Rosary and our provincial council has been praying the Rosary together virtually on Tuesday nights this month with other members across the province. All councils should have received an invitation and a link. There will also be a monthly Indigenous Rosary so watch for information on how you can sign up for links to that as well. I attended the first one on October 23 and it was beautiful!

On September 23, provincial council hosted a workshop for all provincial and diocesan executives. We focused on the new structure and went through an exercise to emulate how a parish council could work together on a project utilizing each of the three committees activities in carrying out the project. Our Spiritual advisor, Fr. Francis Hengen, provided us with spiritual inspiration and celebrated Mass to begin our day together.

Take note of our new membership challenge and have your council receive paid membership to the 2024 Provincial Convention. There are new member possibilities in your parish, you just need to look for and invite them to attend a meeting or a membership event with you. You never know who might just be waiting to be asked!

Our Unity Outreach project is off and running and if you haven't received a call yet, email your diocesan president with a request for a visit. You can find an email contact for all diocesan and provincial presidents the National website, cwl.ca. or the Provincial website cwlsk.ca and look under "Contact Us".

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE
Connie Crichton

On September 30, 2023, Truth and Reconciliation Day, saw many activities held across the province. Many CWL sisters in Saskatoon took part in the "Rock Your Roots Walk. We listened to many residential school survivors and helped to celebrate their birthdays with cards made by school children a birthday cake and of course the singing of "Happy Birthday". All this in memory of the birthdays they weren't able to celebrate in residential schools.

We continue to ask you to send your stories about the activity (s) your council found to do with your members. The stories can be sent to provcwlsk@gmail.com.

May the Holy Spirit provide you with guidance on this journey!



TREASURER
Patricia Keefe

Any funds to be directed to the Bishops' Truth and Reconciliation Fund can be sent to:

Patricia Keefe,
Box 333,
Waldheim, SK. S0K 4R0

PAST PRESIDENT

Chantal Devine

Our theme, Catholic and Living It! which was initiated by Past National President, Fran Lucas, is still in effect till the end of the year. In the prayer we pray,

Lord Jesus, deepen the spiritual life of the Catholic Women's League. Strengthen the faith and good works of our members, building-up life in the world by being Catholic and Living It!

As I mentioned in my oral report at the 2023 Provincial Convention, what differentiates our organization from others is that the CWL's main objective is the spiritual development of its members both individually and collectively. This spiritual development begins at our meetings where we are encouraged to devote one third of our meeting time to spiritual development. Sadly, because many of our parish councils do not have a manual of policy and procedure for ready reference, most of the time at meetings is gobbled up by debating and discussing business issues.

A first step in "deepening the spiritual life of its members," at the parish level, is to develop a Parish Council Manual of Policy and Procedures. In the power point presentation compiled by the Vancouver Diocesan Council, it states four reasons why a P&P is important,

- Clearly spells out obligations.
- Cuts down time debating/making motions.
- Prevents arguments.
- Helps your council run more smoothly.

If you would like to set up a virtual meeting with me to help you get started on this very worthwhile project, please email our council provcwlsk@gmail.com and they will forward your request to me.. At the 2024 Provincial CWL Convention, I will be following up on this project. I hope that by that time many more parishes will have developed their very own P&P!

Since 2024 will be an election year for the Provincial CWL Council and for many other councils in the province, I sincerely ask that you let your name stand for an executive position on your council. We only pass this way but once, and to turn down an opportunity to grow in our faith by providing leadership is regrettable! We as faith filled women are called to service and what better way than to serve in a leadership capacity on your CWL council.

SECRETARY **ANNETTE BLEY**

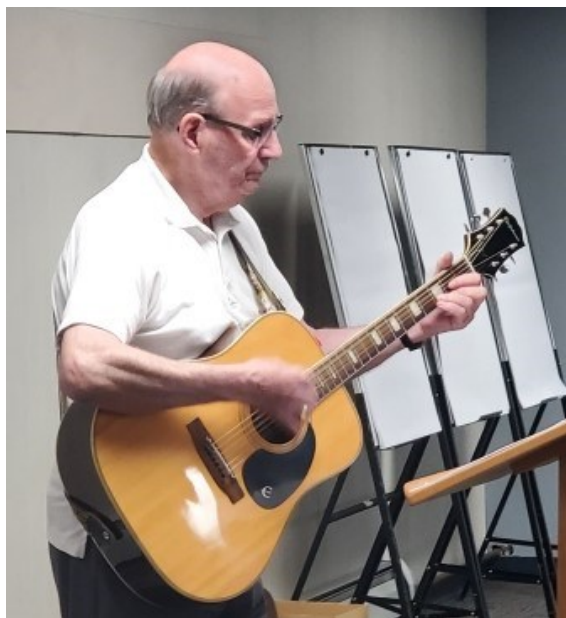
Under our new structure the duties of the secretary now include the following (as taken from the handbook for Secretaries:

- **Assume the role of communications or assign a subcommittee.**

This will vary from council to council depending on many things such as knowledge of technology. Do what ever works for your council. Try to involve as many members as possible and spread the work around.

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Fr. Francis Hengen



Dear Sisters in the League,

There is a delightful poem written by Wilfred Campbell especially for this time of the year.

Along the line of smoky hills,
The crimson forest stands,
And all day long the blue-jay calls
Throughout the autumn lands.

Now by the brook the maple leans
With all his glory spread,
And all the sumacs on the hills
Have turned their green to red.

Now by great marshes wrapt in mist,
Or past some river's mouth,
Throughout the long, still autumn day
Wild birds are flying south.

I often recall this poem at this time of year and think back to the first weeks of a new school year when I was attending a small country school. It was a three-mile trip by horse and buggy from our farm to the school, and along the way we passed by groves of poplar trees glowing in their golden leaves. There was also a certain autumn smell and a feeling in the air that testified to the reality that we were entering a new season. Summer was over, the harvest was underway, the garden produce was being gathered in. Oh my, all those potatoes that had to be picked! There was a lot to do to complete the planting/growing harvesting season and prepare for winter. But in the school, the new year was just beginning. New books to read, new scribblers to write in with new pens, and that lovely smell of a new box of crayons – so far, all unbroken. What would this school year have to offer? What subjects would present the greatest challenge? What would the new teacher be like? Would I get a good part in the Christmas concert? Let the adventure begin and see what answers show up.

Okay, enough of the nostalgia journey. Although we are not beginning a new school year, we, as the Provincial Council of the Catholic Women's League, in conjunction with all the CWL councils, at all levels across Canada, are setting out on a new 'school' year of sorts. The five-year planting, growing, nurturing season has come to fruition in the New Strategy for the League. There may not be completely new books, but there are the revised Constitution and Bylaws, the updates to the Policy and Procedure Manuals, the Executive Handbook, and the Welcome Kit and there is even a new 'teacher' in the person of Shari Guinta, the new National President. (But I haven't seen a new box of crayons yet!) It is time now for the members of CWL to go forward into the adventure of this newness and look for the joys, the gifts, the challenges, and the goals that can be experienced, appreciated, met and attained because Catholic Women's League of Canada is an organization of determined women, who, when they set their minds to do something, **IT WILL GET DONE!** May the new national theme, "**Here I am Lord, send me**" which will be introduced in January, be the response of all members eager to see the League grow and flourish in the three new pillars of **FAITH, SERVICE and SOCIAL JUSTICE.** Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us.

Interim VICE PRESIDENT

Helen Kafish

In this communique I will share the information received from the national vice-president and chairperson of organization, Betty Colaneri, tell you about a new membership increase incentive/contest for each council in Saskatchewan and provide a reminder about Annual reports for 2023.

Mentors Working Group:

Betty has shared with us information about the new Mentors Working Group. This group was created to capitalize on the expertise of other as mentors. This will focus on intergenerational skills mentorship. Members of the League have been called to share their knowledge with those around them. The skills bank is a resource of God's gifts-gifts the members are willing to share. The benefits of mentoring are received at the right time to the person who needs to receive them and with the right amount of information needed in the right way.

The skills bank is a searchable list that members can use to find the help they need. The instructions on how to access the mentor through the skills bank are available on the national website. They are very easy to follow.

There are many choices or areas where members will be able to request assistance. Perhaps it is with creating a policy and procedure manual, running the diocesan election process or a prayer service, to name a few. When searching the document, members will be able to pick someone close to them or someone farther away. Only when an inquiry is made will the mentor be given the contact details. If the mentor wishes to offer her service, she will contact the inquirer directly.

Membership Contest:

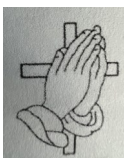
I hope to spark some interest in your hearts and minds to go out and invite the women in your parishes and families to join the League. The contest begins now and all new memberships must be paid by the end of February 2024 for the year 2024. This is open to new members and returning members who have not paid in the past four years or longer. The council with the largest increase (%) in new members for 2024 will receive free registration for their council members attending the provincial convention in June. The poster that is on the back page of this newsletter, will be available as a PDF on our website, cwlsk.ca and can be downloaded from there. Go out and recruit new members and I'll see you and members of your council at the provincial convention June 2 & 3, 2024 in North Battleford!

Annual Reports

All parish council presidents should have received information regarding the annual reporting for 2023. The instruction provides two options for completing the annual reports, either manually or online. The deadline for either report is **DECEMBER 15, 2023**.

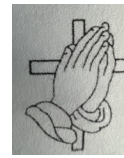
All parish councils are encouraged to complete the surveys. They provide many opportunities to share the accomplishments of your councils in the last year. Shout out the good works that have benefited your parish and community.

Every parish should be using this information to compile an annual report for your council archives as it will record your successes that will be looked back on in future years. Share this report with your parish as well as all your members.



FAITH

(HEARTS IN PRAYER)
UNITING CATHOLIC WOMEN TO GROW IN FAITH
LAURA NOVECOSKY



The final “Growing in Faith” webinar which is the last of the 3 part “Heart to Heart” series was on October 14. The recording is available for you to view if you missed the webinar. The link is on cwl.ca on the main page under “Growing in Faith” webinar.

Our national Faith Chair reminds us that the Faith standing committee is entrusted to “evangelize, promote spiritual growth and encourage all levels to:

- a. Pray, individually and communally
- b. Uphold the sanctity of life
- c. Study catholic teachings
- d. Stress the importance of the role of women in the church
- e. Foster vocations
- f. Advance ecumenism and interfaith endeavours”

I challenge your council to look at these 6 areas and choose one, then find ways to implement one of these according to the wishes and concerns of your council and/or community. Any journey begins with the first step. Discussing these and choosing one will be a first step, and I hope one of many. My prayer is that each council will be motivated to take this first step and share this journey with your sisters in the CWL.

The new “Prayer for the League” can be found on cwl.ca under the “Resources” heading. Scroll down to the “other” section to find this. I encourage your councils to use this new prayer as part of your meetings. We know our beloved League is struggling and by praying together for each other and with each other we will find inspiration to continue our journey together.

A reminder to all that we continue to pray the Rosary virtually during the month of October. Please consider joining us for the remaining dates in October.

The Canadian Conference for Catholic Bishop’s Office for Evangelization and Catechesis is providing an opportunity to participate in a series of webinars on the Four constitution for Vatican II . This is the link you can use to register:

https://cccb-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/4016975571911/WN_Xf09Vsi_SjiiIwdLPzWMdQ#/registration.

The Webinars and dates:

- **Sacrosanctum Concilium with Msgr. Murray Kroetsch, PH, VG, Tuesday, November 7th from 12:00-1:30 p.m. CST.**
- **• Dei Verbum with Most Rev. Yvan Mathieu, SM, Tuesday, November 14th from 12:00-1:30 p.m. CST.**
- **• Gaudium et Spes with Sr. Donna Geernaert, SC, Tuesday, November 21st from 12:00-1:30 p.m. CST. •**
- **Lumen Gentium with Dr. Catherine Clifford, Tuesday, November 28th from 12:00-1:30 p.m. CST**

I look forward to our journey together as we continue to work together “for God and Canada.”



SERVICE

(HANDS THAT SHARE)
SERVICE TO THE CHURCH, CANADA AND THE WORLD
PATSY SALZL



What a beautiful fall we are having, with all the colorful leaves and gorgeous weather. I hope you are all getting a chance to enjoy what God has created for us.

September 30 was Truth and Reconciliation day and I hope that some of you got a chance to partake in some of the events in your area. I was not able to this year but that does not mean we only have to do things on the 30th, it can be done all year long by making friendships and sharing with the Indigenous people. I have taken it on myself to go and help at the Onion Lake Cree Nation at the Thrift Store that they have beside the Catholic Church. It is very fulfilling and being able to share your experiences with them makes us realize that we are all people of God. We are also collecting slightly used teddy bears for the Crisis Center in Onion Lake as they give them out to the young children at times of crisis.

September 21st was deemed as International Day of Prayer and in conjunction it was also World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel. They need our prayers more than ever now. There are so many things that we cannot change in this troubled world. When we focus on the negative our energy is quickly drained. We become anxious, stressed, overwhelmed, and exhausted because we feel helpless. But we are not helpless. Pray for the people who are having the hardest day of their lives now. Pray the Rosary, it is our weapon.

I have finished my workshop on "Horizons of Hope" and now we prepare to go out to the parishes to inform them as well. I also have been visiting CWL Councils and conducting the Unity Outreach sessions with them. It gives them the opportunity to tell all levels what they do and what the other levels can do for them. This is very rewarding and informative.

Development and Peace deplore the horrific, violent attacks by Hamas and the killing and kidnapping of innocent people in Israel. They join Pope Francis in asking "that the hostages be released immediately." To continue our prayerful contemplation, there was a national multilingual **Rosary for Peace in the Holy Land** at 7:30 pm ET on Wednesday October 25, 2023. This was on the website of the Development and Peace. Our local partners are there to provide emergency aid, essential goods, food, shelter, healthcare and psychosocial support to the besieged people, but they need all the help they can get.

Our National Chairperson for Service, Joline Belliveau, in her recent communique, discusses the topic of the "homeless". She provides several ideas on what can be considered as a project to ensure that those that are homeless have their basic needs met. What can your council do?

Matthew 25:40 *'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*



As we get closer to that dreaded season of snow this is a perfect time to start thinking about Resolutions and Legislations.

The National office was busy this last term reviewing resolutions and archiving those that are no longer relevant for various reasons. They also reviewed the position papers and either archived or rewrote existing ones. They have also added a few new ones. These could be used by your council to start a conversation towards a resolution or educate your members.

I have over the past couple of months been looking at resolutions on the National website. It has been very interesting reading. There are many wonderful resources and please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you need some help.

Diane Cote and I are continuing to review how a resolution should be presented by going through a resolution that was presented. Going through the checklist that National set up with a current pending resolution has been a wonderful learning tool.

Diane and I are also looking to work on one for homelessness. We first need to do some education on what is actually needed out there. My Parish has joined the Inter Faith Bag Lunch in Regina. This has been an eye-opening experience for me. We prepare the bag lunches and hand out to the homeless. We get to interact with them and have actual conversations. This is the first step I am educating myself on what is needed for a potential resolution.

National Chairperson of Social Justice, Glenda Carlson, in her recent communique #4, provides an excellent overview of the resolutions process and highlights the new resources that will assist members in their resolutions work. She concluded with the following "You are not alone in this work, and your success at being an active voice of advocacy for action for the many concerns of the world and church is of the utmost importance. "

Sadly, Conservative MP Ed Fast's Bill C-314, that would have stopped the expansion of Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) to the mentally ill, was defeated at second reading in the "House of Commons on October 18 by a 167-150 vote.

Those in favour of the bill argued that more resources should be provided to provide support to those who experience mental illness rather than offer MAID. We must continue our advocacy for this as well. Consider a letter writing campaign in your council. Consult **Appendix 8 of the *National Manual of Policy and Procedures*** to assist you in this endeavour.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL NEWS

Regina
Janette Rieger
President

Two of our regions – Esterhazy and Melville/Yorkton – merged this fall to form the Morning Star Region. This now gives our diocesan executive council 8 regional councils.

Our Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Thomas Mutavanattu was granted a one-year sabbatical. He has returned to India for further studies. Due to the fact that upon his return, his term as our Diocesan Spiritual Advisor would be complete, Archbishop Bolen appointed Fr. Oliver Inchody, St. Cecilia Parish, Regina, as the new Diocesan Spiritual Advisor. Thanks to Fr. Thomas for his service to the League and welcome to Fr. Oliver!

The national Unity Outreach Project has been implemented in the diocese. Besides myself, members of the Diocesan Executive: Claire Verrett and Rachelle Johnson in the Southwest Region; Linda Maddaford and Elaine Hornung in the Morning Star Region; Provincial Executive Member Lynn Jones; and Life Member Marge Appell have been meeting with councils and giving the presentation. Due to the size of our diocese, we may not be able to physically reach every council, but councils are still encouraged to participate. Ways this can be achieved can be discussed. If your council is in the Regina Diocese and you have not yet booked your presentation, give me a call!

It's time to renew our 2024 League memberships and to recruit new members. How about this for a recruiting tool? Get your council members to hand in their Spring 2023 issues of The Canadian League magazine. Attach a cover letter inviting new members to join. Give some brief details of the League along with information about your council – President's name and contact information, meeting days and times, the amount of the annual fee. In the cover letter direct them to pages 4 to 6 which show recent resolutions and how members of the National Executive met with federal government representatives.

If you don't have back copies of this issue, you can go to the national website at www.cwl.ca From there, go to "Inform" and you will find this issue which can be opened as a PDF file. Then print the appropriate pages. Hand the cover letter with the magazine or the printed pages to prospective members and invite them to join the League and be part of our national Catholic Women's organization. Let the magazine do the talking for you! I will be creating a sample cover letter for my diocese which will be coming out with the fall communiqués.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL NEWS

Prince Albert
Priscilla Wakelin
President

This Fall as councils are starting to meet again after summer. Things have been busy. I attended the Provincial Fall workshop and meetings where we covered many things. We talked about the new pillars and what that looks like and looked at the new standing chairs handbooks.

We talked about the Unity Outreach Project and how we are doing and what our plans look like. As many of you know we have been reaching out setting up dates and times to come out to your parishes.

I have attended a regional fall workshop in Cut Knife. Their topic was "Aging with Hope". There was a poem and a skit. There were great speakers with important messages for us. The first guest speaker Suma M. spoke about Aging With Hope. She informed us that the biggest problem in the western world for seniors was loneliness. Whereas, in other parts of the world this was not the same. She talked about how we need to support each other. And that we need to seek a relationship with God and not seek answers from him.

Then Fr. Peter spoke to us on aging and how it is to be celebrated. Getting older should not be looked down on. He told us how the wisdom of our elders and their life experiences are important and are more meaningful than just getting facts from google. We then all played a game of Catholic Jeopardy. This was just a few of the things our day held. This was a great day and very informative.

I have gotten to visit a few parishes with the Unity Project and I am looking forward to visiting more Parishes and hearing what our members have to say. We still do not have a President elect and we have elections this Spring at our Diocesan Convention.

I have attended meetings for our National Convention being held in Saskatoon in August 2024. We are still in need of volunteers.

Convention Dates to mark on your calendars

Prince Albert 100th Diocesan Convention :

Saturday, April 20, 2024 , St. Joseph Calasactius Parish, North Battleford

Saskatoon Diocesan Convention:

Monday, April 22, 2024, Little Flower Parish, Leader

Regina Diocesan Convention:

Sunday April 28 and Monday April 29th, 2024, St. George's Parish, Assiniboia

Saskatchewan Provincial Convention

Sunday, June 2 and Monday June 3, 2024, St. Joseph Calasactius Parish, North Battleford

National Convention:

August 11-14, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

DIOCESAN COUNCIL NEWS

SASKATOON

Marion Laroque
President

A successful Fall Diocesan CWL meeting was held on September 16, graciously hosted by the members of St. Patrick parish CWL. A Welcome and Affirmation workshop in the afternoon gave members an opportunity to discuss member recruitment and retention. This was well received, and many ideas were shared. The ladies said that they joined the CWL for the friendship, sisterhood, the faith enrichment and the power of joining a group of like-minded women.

Councils use several events and methods to recruit members including luncheons, wine and cheese evenings, being visible in the parish, playing promotional videos from the national website before mass, and promotion of the CWL by the parish priest. Two councils have an 'early bird' draw for a free membership for members renewing early. It was concluded that personal invitations are still the best method of recruiting new members.

This summer I received a newsletter from a young woman in our parish who went on a mission with Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) to the east coast of Canada. Part of her mission was to bring the message of salvation that is Jesus Christ to strangers on the street. What bravery! The Holy Spirit is truly working within her. Her story inspired me to ask myself why I hesitate to ask women I know to join the CWL. I am proud to be a member of the CWL and proud of the work we do. I'm going to stop being shy and start asking other women to join our awesome organization. I challenge each CWL member to look around at mass, pick a woman you may know, and approach her to join us.

Together, let's see how many new members we can recruit!



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

YOUR PLACE IS AMONG US!

This is the year to join!



COME AND SEE!

We are having a contest! Everyone can win!

Every council in Saskatchewan is encouraged to sign up new members! The council with the largest increase (%) in new members for 2024 will receive free registration for their council members attending the provincial convention in June. Every council has the same opportunity. All new members will have their name entered into a draw for a prize.

All memberships must be paid by: February 2024