

Regina Diocesan Council

NEWSLETTER

October 2024



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CHAIRPERSONS' PRAYER

Dear Lord, make me appreciative of the dignity of my standing committee and its many responsibilities. Never permit me to disgrace it by giving way to coldness, unkindness or impatience. Please bear with my faults, looking only to my intention, which is to serve You in the person of each member of the Catholic Women's League. Increase my faith, bless my efforts and work "For God and Canada." Amen.

PRESIDENT'S CONVENTION REPORT

It was an honour and a privilege to attend the 104th National CWL Convention in our home province this August. Of the almost 600 attendees, 212 were Saskatchewan CWL members. The CWL national convention, five years in the planning, was well prepared, informative, engaging, and also provided an opportunity to make new acquaintances and reconnect with many friends.

The first event on Sunday was a reading of and general discussion on the three resolutions that would be brought to vote on the final plenary day. Each motion was read, wording deliberated on, and then forms were distributed to prepare the Motions to Amend that would be debated at the plenary on resolutions.

The opening Mass and daily Masses were concelebrated by the Regina archbishop, the bishops of Saskatoon and Prince Albert, the national spiritual advisor - auxiliary bishop Wayne Lobsinger, one bishop from Quebec and a dozen spiritual advisors from across Canada. We are so blessed to be attended to and counselled by these holy men.

Convention photos by Kip Yaworski.



Fr Frances & Provincial President Helen Kayfish at the Resolutions Dialogue.



Our faithful clergy at the opening Mass.

facilitated "Walking Together in Synodality." We listened to their wisdom, reflected quietly, then spoke one at a time in table sessions to truly share the synodal experience. Bishop Lobsinger's explanation of "synodality" is: To hear the voices of the One (God), the some (the hierarchy), and the many (all of us), as we accompany each other in our life, mission, and ministries.

Forty-five minutes was barely enough time for the Papal Doctrine of Discovery history lesson given by Archbishop Donald Bolen and lived testimony of Elder Harry Lafond. The word 'doctrine' in this instance was taken and applied as church dogma, which it is not. In March 2013,

The national theme, *Here I Am Lord, Send Me* was beautifully woven into all of the convention presentations. Bishop Lobsinger and Barbara Dowding

Pope Francis repudiated the *Terra Nullius* decree and apologized for the historical atrocities that occurred over the following centuries.

Through story and song, Leah Perrault, the barefoot preacher, inspired us to full heartedly say 'Here I am Lord, Send Me.' She says God does not call the worthy, he makes us worthy through our openness to his call. We are worthy, because we are his. He gifts us with holy moments, and he is present even in the midst of brokenness. Leah ended her presentation by singing the song 'New Wine' and we responded with a standing ovation.



Guest speaker Leah Perrault.

On Monday Past president Fran Lucas spoke on 'How We Are Called to Leadership.' The next day she facilitated a breakout session on 'Leadership – No Greater Love' with a panel of several Life Members. We were given a paper heart and invited to write down the next action we want to take as a leader in our council and include our contact information. Then, to act on and encourage each other, we exchanged the heart with someone at our table.

There were wonder-filled moments of sacred worship, prayer, and three special ceremonies interspersed appropriately. At the end of the day Monday, we held the Commissioning of Life Members. On Tuesday each provincial president and the Military Ordinariate president placed one red rose at the Memorial Service for Deceased Members, and national president Shari Guinta placed one white rose for the repose of the souls of our deceased spiritual advisors. The Reaffirmation of Officers, (using the very same ceremony that councils use), was held at the end of the closing Mass on Wednesday.

If you have the opportunity to attend a diocesan, provincial and especially a national CWL convention, I hope you do go. The fellowship, sharing of stories and moments of profound faith are most edifying and life affirming. Blessings to all.

Submitted by Linda Maddaford
Regina Diocesan President

VOLUNTARY FUND PRESENTATIONS

A national convention is full of joy, camaraderie, inspiration and worship—but also business. We learn so much about the workings of the League, and the wonderful connections we make. After the morning Eucharistic celebration on Tuesday, we heard from the five organizations we support on a permanent basis.

The Coady International Institute in Nova Scotia focuses on women's leadership. They value work, collaboration and reconciliation and have had over 10,400 graduates over the years.

Development and Peace is committed to social justice issues and we've partnered with them for over 50 years, both being beacons of hope. We are encouraged to "Share Year Round," and to support their 1% program which helps combat food insecurity and various grassroots movements.

Serving the Roman Catholic and Ukrainian bishops who can't support their own mission territories,

Catholic Missions in Canada helped 22 different dioceses in 2024 through maintenance and repairs, education and lay formation—particularly in remote areas. They are launching a virtual wine tasting fundraiser in November!

The Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) provides funds to ensure the continued mission of Eastern churches and devoted religious sisters—who run clinics, schools, orphanages and other sanctuaries across the Middle East, Northeast Africa, India and Eastern Europe where poverty, war and displacement shatter innocent lives—especially helping families and babies.

Not many years ago our CWL was approached by nuns willing to make a substantial donation to advance women of faith. We matched their contribution and **The Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation** was formed. Based in Edmonton, it supports and inspires Catholic women (15-20 per year) to be transformational and influential leaders where they live, work and volunteer.

Share the work of these terrific organizations with your councils—and continue to show them your financial support!



Presenters shared the great works being done by the organizations we support.

Convention photos by Kip Yaworski.



National President Shari Guinta.

REFLECTIONS FROM A FIRST TIMER

This was my first CWL convention ever, although I've been a member for 46 years! I was truly blessed by the experience of meeting 600 ladies from across Canada—all faith-filled, friendly and fun loving! The diversity of age, culture, gifts and talents in the leadership, speakers, breakout sessions and Masses was a beautiful witness of God's big family.

The fabulous Filipino welcome feast and flower dancers kicked off the convention for me. The wonderful Wanuskewin



An Indigenous hoop dancer entertained at Wanuskewin Park on Sunday morning.

Heritage Park tour included a world famous Indigenous Hoop Dancer who had us in awe—and then he patiently proceeded to teach us how to do it!

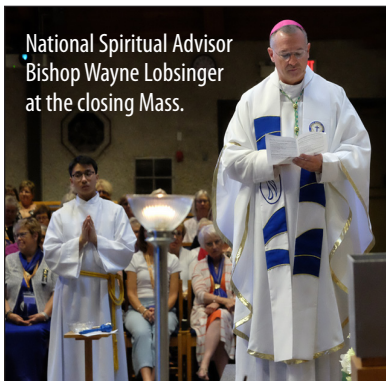


At left, Regina Diocesan President Linda Maddafor with happy-go-lucky pirates.

On Monday we all dressed up like pirates and danced all night to Brad Johner & Sons. Everyone was eager to sing along to his hit, *The Last*

Saskatchewan Pirate. How lucky are we to have this wonderful Catholic family right in our midst!

A delicious Ukrainian feast followed by the Ukeladies was most entertaining—even Dolly Parton showed up! The final brunch and hike Thursday morning at the Berry Barn was an unforgettable experience.



National Spiritual Advisor Bishop Wayne Lobsinger at the closing Mass.

Yet it was the Masses at the Cathedral, St Pat's and Holy Spirit Parish led by three bishops and many clergy that were most outstanding. The liturgy, the music and the homilies were uplifting, engaging and challenging.

My favourite breakout session was by Swift Current's very own Leah Perrault who spoke honestly from her heart about listening, answering and obeying God's call.

Betty Colaneri's breakout session on membership, called "1 for All and All for 1," was also very animated and powerful.

All it takes is 1
Watch the Chosen 1
Invite just 1
Love the 1 you are with
1 step in the right direction
1 act of random kindness
1 hug can change how you feel
1 life can change the world
1 God for all people; all people for 1 God
1 member benefits all members,
and all members benefit 1 member

Let's continue to be that 1 that makes a difference!
1 convention did it for me!

Submitted by Joanne Monette
Swift Current CWL #942



Convention photos by Kip Yaworski.

Above: Eleven members of the Swift Current CWL (one is missing from the photo) attended the national convention in Saskatoon, and all agreed it was a memorable experience. Here they are seen at the closing Gala Banquet.

Joanne is 4th from the left. Included in the delegation are Southwest Regional President Rachelle Johnson and her Secretary/Treasurer Michele Vallee (centre two), and Diocesan Secretary Claire Verret to their right. On the far right is Swift Current CWL President Eileen Hartman.



Brad Johner with 4 of his 5 sons entertaining on Monday evening.

PALLIATIVE CARE A KEY ISSUE

The breakout session on Palliative Care at the national convention focused on aspects of the CCCB 'Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care'. Jacquie Saretsky, retired RN now chaplain with



Jacqueline Saretsky of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon Hospital Chaplaincy Office.

Saskatoon Hospital Chaplaincy Office, presented an overview of palliative care in Saskatchewan. Palliative care is a holistic philosophy of care for people until their natural death.

"But it is easier to get MAiD (medical assistance in dying) than a palliative care consultation. If you look on our Sask Health website you can keep clicking but will not find helpful information on how to access palliative care; yet with one click, the whole MAiD program and forms pop up," she said.

She went on to explain that it is becoming more difficult to receive a palliative care assessment when a patient or their family repeatedly request it. And some people are choosing MAiD because they cannot access the palliative care they need and deserve.

Jacquie shared the vision and purpose of the CCCB Horizons of Hope resource. Horizons of Hope is a series of four modules from the CCCB designed to help parishes and families understand how to journey with a loved one in need of palliative care.

Archdiocesan News, MAiD:

A presentation in the dining room, Oct 9, 2024

Earlier this month I was interviewed about my family's experience with MAiD and the inroads this regime is making in our long-term care facilities. The article was written by an independent journalist for the Regina archdiocese. Read the article at:

<https://archregina.sk.ca/newsstory/maid-a-presentation-in-the-dining-room/>

*Submitted by Linda Maddaford
Regina Diocesan President*

*Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to
choose joy and keep choosing it every day.*

HENRI NOUWEN

CHAS CONVENTION 2024

This year the CHAS Convention will offer a special Public Evening Presentation on **Tuesday, Oct 22 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm** at Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Rd in Saskatoon, for a suggested freewill offering of \$20.

The program will include:

- prayerful music
- powerful personal testimonies
- reflection by Bishop Mark Hagemoen
- panel presentation with Q&A
- closing social

In every way possible, our faith in Christ calls us to hope. Grounded in this conviction, this Evening Program will address the challenges posed by euthanasian/MAiD through proposing a positive alternative vision that is robed in the fullness of life.



COUNCIL RESOURCES & IMPORTANT LINKS

Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan link to read and subscribe to the CHAS newsletter:
<https://chassk.ca/newsletter/>

Please note the new mailing address:

Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan
214 Avenue M South
Saskatoon, SK S7M 2K4



The Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers: <https://catholicmhm.org/>

CATHOLIC WOMEN OF CANADA: WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU!

For the second year in a row your provincial CWL is encouraging participation in a membership drive. The council with the largest increase (%) in new members will receive free registration for their council members attending the provincial convention in June. As well, new members will have their name entered into a draw for a prize. Look for the form and email to skprovcwl@gmail.com by February 1, 2025.



USING SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media today has a unique speed and reach, but there is potential for harm. Tuesday's breakout session was based on the CCCB's "Pastoral Letter on the Use of Social Media: Let Your Speech Always Be Gracious."

Social media gives the illusion of community, but we need to share with charity, prudence and truth. Dorothy Johansen, National Secretary, and Ontario President Colleen Martin shared these seven "Commandments" of using social media.



Dorothy & Colleen host the breakout session on social media.

1. **Check for Accuracy:** many people post falsehoods.
2. **Seek a Greater Perspective:** look at what is presented from a variety of angles; glean info from trustworthy sources; be aware that algorithms may lead to "echo chambers" where we only receive info or opinions that reflect and reinforce our own.
3. **Value Human Dignity:** users are real people!
4. **Bring Curiosity into the Conversation:** use active listening skills—pay attention, clarify, summarize, reflect, share, and withhold judgement.
5. **Distinguish Between Intention and Impact:** emotionally provocative posts are often pushed to the top of your Facebook feed.
6. **Consider It a Privilege to be Online:** while urls direct us to online sites, the IRL (in real life) is more important; prioritize being present for others.
7. **Tend to Our Time Spent Online:** being online may become addictive; we need rest, silence and reflection in our lives; take a "technology Sabbath".

*Submitted by Claire Verret
Diocesan Secretary*



Fall Regional Meeting

Saturday, October 19, 2024
Christ the Redeemer, Swift Current

Registration 9:00 - 9:45 • \$10 Fee Includes:

- Morning Devotion & Mass
- Guest Speakers
- Business Meeting & Reports
- Snacks & Lunch
- Entertainment
- Raffle Baskets

RSVP to Claire: sayclaire@shaw.ca
or text 306-774-4270



Linda Maddaford



Hugh Henry

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings! After serving as Diocesan Acting President for one year, and Diocesan President for 2 years, this is a new adventure for me—Past President! Of course, I am a past-past-past-president of my own council of St. Joseph's in Balgonie, but a lot has changed in our CWL since then, so we might be doing a bit of learning together.



Our Past President Janette Rieger at the convention.

Convention photos by Kip Yaworski.

For those of you who are new to the position, you can refer to the national website to access the Handbook for Past Presidents at <https://www.cwl.ca/manuals/>. It can be found at #611. In there, your main duties are described.

In addition, ask your current president how you can be of assistance. The role of President seems to be getting busier, so perhaps you can ask her if she would like help with the following:

- Contacting each member to see how they wish to serve—active, partially active, or prayer partner. Ask those who wish to be active or partially active in what areas they would most like to help, and then assign them some duties. (See manual #621.) Provide your prayer partners with a list of your council members and don't forget your Spiritual Advisor!
- Asking your president if she would like help in guiding the current Standing Committee Chairs of Faith, Service, and Social Justice in their roles. (See manual #614.) Perhaps a presentation to all of the executive to discuss their duties would be helpful. Consider holding this outside of your regular council meeting.
- Revise or write a Manual of Policy and Procedure for your council. Now that you are Past President, you know what works, and what doesn't, for your council. If you put this in writing you will help future presidents. Don't forget that a new manual, or changes to the old one, needs to be approved by your council. Contact me for assistance with this.

These are just a few ideas with which to get started. Have a wonderful autumn and may God bless you in your work for God and Canada.

*Submitted by Janette Rieger
Diocesan Past President*

WOMEN OF FAITH

At the Provincial CWL Fall Workshop held in Saskatoon on September 20 & 21, Father Frances Hengen talked to us about Advent. He said that Advent doesn't fit in our world today. We are in a world that focuses on ourselves, and having the best time with parties and gifts.

In the Old Testament Abraham waited a long time for the coming of Jesus. Advent was a strict penitential time. Where is this season now?

Part of the joy is the anticipation—waiting in joyful hope for the coming of Jesus. It should be a season of preparation—to be at peace, to rest and to pray. Advent is a faith journey.

He suggested we put up the manger and then gradually add the animals each week, bringing Mary and Joseph just before Christmas, and baby Jesus on Christmas Eve. Christmas Day is just the beginning of the celebrations; they continue to January 1 with the Solemnity of Mary, and the Baptism of the Lord on January 12.



Pope Francis has said that the year 2025 will be a Jubilee Year with the motto, "Pilgrims of Hope." There is the possibility of a national CWL pilgrimage to Rome to celebrate this Jubilee Year.

In preparation for Jubilee 2025, there will be a webinar series by Dr. Josephine Lombardi on "A Great Symphony of Prayer: Mary, the Saints and Scripture."

In her breakout session at the national convention, Betty Colaneri promoted membership with the slogan, "1 for All and All for 1." Women play an important role in the church and society. We are the heart of the faith community. We uphold the dignity of all human beings and believe in the sanctity of life.

The CWL has met annually at all levels of government since the 1970s, so your voice will be heard. We understand the importance of religious freedom, social justice and peace.



Provincial Spiritual Advisor
Fr Frances Hengen.



National Vice-President
Betty Colaneri.

We belong to the largest national organization of Catholic women in Canada. Membership offers opportunities to become involved on the regional, diocesan, provincial, national and even international scene. It is a supportive sisterhood that can enhance our leadership skills.

"God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called."

**"If God puts a Goliath in front of you,
He must believe there is a David inside of you."**

*Submitted by Agnes Smith
Diocesan Chairperson of Faith*

A GREAT SYMPHONY OF PRAYER

Dr. Josephine Lombardi is orchestrating "A Great Symphony of Prayer" to help Catholics meaningfully observe the Year of Prayer leading up to the 2025 "Pilgrims of Hope" Jubilee declared by Pope Francis.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' Ad hoc Committee for the Preparation for the Jubilee 2025 commissioned this eight-part webinar series, featuring four Lombardi presentations in April and four in October.

Lombardi's Autumn series will concentrate on other devotions Catholics cherish. One session delves into the Rosary, specifically helping spectators "connect the mysteries of our faith to their day-to-day reality." Another examines the power of praying with the saints, using St. Teresa of Avila as a case study. The third session focuses on the prayers Jesus spoke in John's Gospel (John 17) before His arrest. The final webinar explores the impact of the Lectio Divina.

Visit cccb.ca to enroll in "A Great Symphony of Prayer."



Author and St. Augustine's Seminary associate professor Dr. Josephine Lombardi. PHOTO FROM ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY

**Inclusion isn't just *inviting*
someone to sit at your table.**

**It's *believing* they
belong there.**

MIA CARELLA, WRITER

BE AN ADVOCATE FOR THE VULNERABLE

Various resources are available to help us advocate for the less fortunate. In particular, postcards are an effective way of reaching our Canadian Government.

The postcards on Mental Illness were printed courtesy of the CWL **Provincial Council**, and there should be one for every member. If you need to print more on your own, download the PDF from our national website. Go to cwl.ca and click on the Resources tab at the top. Under Stationery, look for 177A and 177B (front & back of the postcard).



We recommend that you:

- send to the Federal Government and the Opposition Critic
- do this from fall to spring (avoid summer months)
- add a personal question to try and trigger a response from the minister/critic
- add your name in the top left corner

Names of the ministers/critics were not printed, in case of a cabinet shuffle. Those listed below are current as of September 2024.

The Honourable **Mark Holland**
Minister of Health

Dr. Stephen Ellis
Opposition Critic of Health

The Honourable **Ya'ara Saks**
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

To find or confirm appropriate names:

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en/search>
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Official_Opposition_Shadow_Cabinet_\(Canada\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Official_Opposition_Shadow_Cabinet_(Canada))



The postcards on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) were printed courtesy of the CWL **Diocesan Council**. You can also download these from the national website, under the Resources, then Stationery tabs. Look for 185B, C, D and E. We decided not to print "A" because it was covered by "E". Again, you should have been given one for every council member.

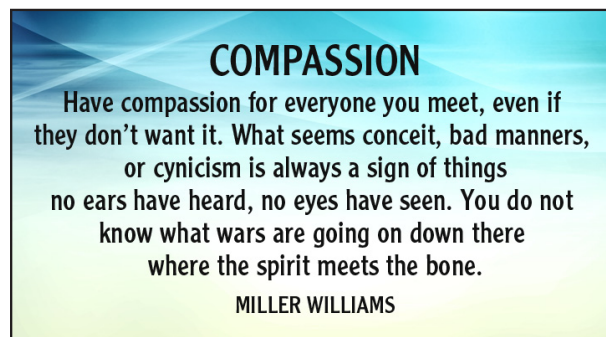
Medical Assistance in Dying is covered under federal legislation, so those cards should be sent to the Minister of Justice and/or the Opposition Critic for Justice as shown below:

The Honourable **Arif Virani**
Minister of Justice

The Honourable **Rob Moore**
Opposition Critic of Justice

NOTE: If an election gets triggered this fall, councils should wait to send postcards until after the election, as cabinet positions may change.

Submitted by Janette Rieger
Regina Diocesan Past President



RESOLUTIONS PLENARY SESSION

There were three worthy resolutions brought to the floor for discussion, amendments, and adoption. All three resolutions were approved, subject to final edits for wording.

Resolution 2024.01

Increase Supported Housing for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness with Mental Health and Mental Health Issues

RESOLVED, that the national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 104th national annual meeting of members assembled, urge the federal government to increase funding for and promotion of more supported housing models for individuals experiencing homelessness with mental health or mental health issues.



ACTION PLAN:

1. Councils are encouraged to invite guest speakers, have workshops in the topics of homelessness, mental health issues, and alternative housing programs, to engage in activities with and support local community-based long-term housing programs.
2. Write letters to the prime minister, the minister of health, and minister of housing, infrastructure and communities, as well as the premier and provincial/territorial minister responsible for housing—to increase funding for and promotion of alternative housing models such as local, community-based, supported housing models.
3. Monitor the federal and provincial/territory's response to this issue.

Resolution 2024.02

National Universal Pharmacare Program to Include Prescription Drug Coverage for People Experiencing Mental Illness



RESOLVED, that the national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 104th national annual meeting of members assembled, urge the federal government, as it prepares a national universal pharmacare program, to include prescription drug coverage for people diagnosed with mental illness.

ACTION PLAN:

1. This resolution did not include a formal action when it was presented and adopted at the convention.
2. Your council can follow Bill C-64 and find information on this issue at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2024/02/government-of-canada-introduces-legislation-for-first-phase-of-national-universal-pharmacar.html>

Resolution 2024.03

Grant the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE), Legal Authority to Investigate Environmental and Human Rights Abuses

RESOLVED, that the national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 104th national annual meeting of members assembled, urge the federal government to enact legislation giving the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise, the power to subpoena witnesses and documents when investigating complaints of environmental and human rights abuses arising from companies registered in Canada and operating outside of Canada.



ACTION PLAN:

1. Write to the prime minister and the minister of export promotion, international trade and economic development asking the federal government to enact legislation giving the CORE the legal authority to respond to complaints of environmental and human rights abuses attributed to companies registered in Canada and operating outside of Canada, including the ability to subpoena witnesses and documents.
2. Educate members on the environmental and human rights allegations attributed to companies registered in Canada and operating outside of Canada.
3. Monitor the federal government's response to this issue.

*Submitted by Linda Maddaford
Regina Diocesan President*

If you would like to contribute to our next newsletter,
please email either:

LINDA MADDAFORD: regina.diocesan.cwl@gmail.com
or CLAIRE VERRET: sayclaire@shaw.ca