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Saskatchewan Provincial President's Annual Report – 2017

In 2017, less councils took advantage of the online reporting than in 2016. This was common across all three dioceses in our province. There were a few who did not get information about how to get into the online process and a few who sent in a hard copy. This process still seems to be difficult for our councils – some do not have anyone who can enter by internet, others are just uncertain as to how to go about this. We need to do more training on this subject and it would be very helpful if National could provide a sample training module that could be loaded onto a computer and taken to workshops where participants would be able to practice logging on, completing brief mock-ups of the survey and saving files. Training by telling does not seem to be working. The same type of sample mock-up could be used for online memberships as this too seems too intimidating for all councils to try.

Inform the Membership

Most of councils use the Canadian League Magazine, the National communiqués, parish bulletins, diocesan newsletters to inform members. Websites, both National and Provincial, are increasing in use, but still less preferred than paper sources. Other sources listed were Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Organization for Life and Family, and newspapers, both faith-based and secular. Some councils are using technology either through texting messages to members or sending group emails from a CWL email account.

Palliative care and physician assisted dying topped the list of priorities in all dioceses with many councils spending time discussing or acting upon these topics. There was also a high interest in limiting access to pornography, youth mental health and the refugee crisis. The diocesan annual reports reflect that councils took an interest in all national priorities to some degree. Most councils set aside some time during a meeting to discuss and inform their members about issues presented by National. Most councils discussed National issues at meeting using their standing committee chairperson to lead the discussion. Use of speakers was much lower than meeting discussions, but it must be noted that many councils do not have access to speakers in their community.

Foster Open Communications

While almost all councils felt that their Spiritual Advisor was supportive, and many were able to meet with their Spiritual Advisor regularly, it seems that few Spiritual Advisors are available to attend meetings or conventions.

Preside at Meetings

The Constitution and Bylaws, and National Policy and Procedure are the most common resources used. It appears that about half of the councils have their own policy and procedure document. Other resources used to a lesser degree were the Executive handbook, Roberts Rules of Order and Parliamentary Procedures.

Signing Authority

Most presidents have signing authority for their council which includes banking documents, cheques, petitions and lottery licenses. This authority also applies to letters directed within and outside of CWL – for example to government.

Provide Active Leadership

There is strong representation by the president at church functions as well as at Diocesan Conventions. Many are present at special Masses, events such as World day of Prayer, and other conferences. Regional meetings and Provincial conventions showed a drastic drop in representation by council presidents. National conventions received a very low response.

Most councils paid all or half of the cost of attending a diocesan convention. Subsidized attendance at Provincial and National conventions is very minimal with most councils reporting no subsidy at all. One diocese indicated a moderate number of councils that subsidized for workshops and conferences, while in others, there has been no subsidization.

Initiate Policy

Councils did initiate new or updated policy in the areas of funeral protocol, expense policy, year-end reporting, bursary application, donation protocol, protocols for fundraising, and criminal checks/reporting process.

Executive Handbook

Most have read the Executive Handbook and felt it was a valuable resource. A few feel they are too busy for extra reading; that it was not necessary; that it was not a help.

Annual Summary

Half of the councils give an oral annual report to their members. Other methods reported in lower numbers were email, parish bulletins, and newsletters. There was a small number that did not provide an annual report to their members.

Advisory Capacity

Most councils report having other committees for teas, donations, fundraising, social events, scholarship or bursary and visitation. A few reported not having other committees.

Official Spokesperson

Council presidents have spoken most often on social events, membership, palliative care, local charities, euthanasia, and scholarships/awards. Other topics addressed to a lesser extent have been pro-life issues, mental health, pornography, indigenous issues and refugees. Only half the councils use CWL letterhead when corresponding outside of the League, but a large majority ensure that they do reference only the membership number for the council they represent.

Summary and Final Thoughts

Most president's report receiving assistance from former past president, immediate past president, and the current executive including the secretary and treasurer. A few had personal mentors and connection to a Life member. Very few reported assistance from diocesan or provincial.

Greatest Challenges

There were many challenges listed, but most involved keeping members interested, recruiting and not having a full slate of officers and just finding time to do the jobs. Others that received a lot of mention were amount of paperwork and feeling inexperienced. Some met with resistance to new ideas, negativity/criticism from members, difficulty in pleasing everyone and challenges with technology.

Almost all reported it beneficial to have a national theme and /or logo through which to focus activities.

Additional Comments

Presidents listed so many activities that their councils either lead or take part in: World Day of Prayer, Way of the Cross, memorial masses for the deceased, Our Lady of Good Counsel celebrations, publishing newsletters, gathering clothing and food for the poor, financial support to parishes and beyond, special projects for underprivileged children, brunches, teas, and a large variety of social functions. Parish councils are as active as the number and age of their membership allows. Wonderful work is going on everywhere.

Unfortunately, many councils struggle to find women to fill executive positions, causing the president to be overburdened with all that needs to be done. It is difficult to get younger women involved as committed members who attend meetings regularly, but some have found that these younger women will help with a short-term project. This may be something we need to work with more. Many are just coping trying to just get done what needs to be done in their parishes. Some are simply overwhelmed by all the changes to technology finding online reporting difficult to find and complete.

As I read through the reports from our diocesan presidents, I am still amazed at all that is accomplished with few members.

As a provincial council, we do need to look at how better we can assist our councils and how we can better train them for the changes that are bound to happen as our world becomes more and more technological. We need to encourage more members to give and receive the valued experiences that can come from mentorship.

As our National committee is undergoing planning strategically, it is to be hoped that the future of the League will appeal to new members and rejuvenate the existing ones. From the submitted annual reports, I see that the Holy Spirit is indeed inspiring the women of this province as they respond to God's call in so many ways.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

DIOCESE OF PRINCE ALBERT

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2017

My annual report is taken from the 5 councils (Meadow Lake, Goodsoil, Nipawin, St. Louis and Rosthern) that completed the on-line reporting and 2 that did not receive the online package and sent it to me in January to be used in this report. I did not receive any annual reports from my executive.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT:

1) Informing the Membership:

All councils use the National communiques, the League magazine and parish bulletins; 80% use the Diocesan newsletters and communiques and the Provincial website, newsletters and communiques. Others use the Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Organization for Life and Family, Google search and local newspapers to bring information to their councils. The 2 mail in council reported good use of the League magazine; national and provincial websites; one relies on texting to inform members of meetings; prayer requests and other important issues.

80% of councils reported that the most active national priority was the issue of Palliative Care with many councils taking part in the 12-hours of prayer and also the issue physician assisted dying has been in many council discussions; 60% spent time discussing the limiting of access to pornography; the refugee crisis and youth mental health. 40% of councils discussed conscience rights of healthcare providers, gst on child safety products, homecare and warning labels on food and drug products; with 20% discussing the rights of indigenous offenders. These topics are introduced by the chairperson of the standing committee for discussion and action and often councils have speakers on the specific topics. All set aside time at the meetings to discuss the topics that are an issue presented by the National CWL.

2) Foster Open Communication:

Only the on-line councils reported. 60% meet with their Spiritual Advisor on a monthly basis; 20% meet weekly and 20% meet rarely. All agreed that their spiritual advisor is supportive of the CWL.

3) Preside at Meetings:

60% of councils reporting use the Constitution and Bylaws and the National Manual of Policy and Procedure; 40% use the Roberts Rules of Order revised and 20% use the Executive Handbook. All presidents have signed the banking documents on behalf of their council; sign cheques; and sign letters directed both outside and inside the CWL; 40% have signed petitions with or on behalf of their councils.

4) Provide Active Leadership:

All councils reporting on-line or by mail have represented their council at Church functions and workshops; 80% have attended the Diocesan meetings and conventions; 60% help with funerals, special masses and the World Day of Prayer including both mail-in councils; 40% attend other conferences, pro-life events, Remembrance Day services and 20% reported celebrating anniversaries, fundraising events and dinners; sacramental events, school ceremonies.

Councils all varied in the amount of subsidies provided to attend functions with one council receiving no reimbursement or funding to attend the CWL functions; 2 reported having 50% paid for the Diocesan convention and workshop;

5) Initiate Policy –

No new policies have been included in the manual in 2017. 80% have read the Executive Handbook and have benefitted from its use in overseeing operations of councils. 60% of councils provide an oral report of council activities at their annual meeting while 40% don't provide a summary of activities and 20% give a written report or report via email.

6) Advisory Capacity –

Most councils reported having additional committees such as donations, fundraising, scholarship or bursary, social, visitations, council activities such as Fall Workshops. 40% reported as having no additional committees within council.

60% of councils reporting use letter head when writing on behalf of CWL.

SUMMARY AND FINAL THOUGHTS:

80% reported that the immediate past president was the greatest assistance to them when assuming the role of President; 60% appreciated the current executive; 40% the Diocesan council and 20% the secretary or treasurer or another personal mentor.

The greatest challenges: 40% delegation, finding adequate time, not having a full slate of officers, recruiting members, running meetings; 20% feeling overwhelmed,

inexperience, keeping members interested, organizational skills, public speaking, technology and tedious policy and procedure.

100% of online reporting said they found it beneficial to have a national theme and/or logo to focus council activities.

Some activities at the parishes:

On line reports: World Day of Prayer, Philippine Lunch; CWL way of the Cross, Our Lady of Good counsel celebrations; making prayer quilts, pin presentations; food booths at community functions; helping with ceiling renovations after collapse; fall suppers for communities, winter clothing for less fortunate, collecting pop tables and eyeglasses;

Mail in reports; food drive for the food bank, devotional mass at care home, celebrating on the 13th of each month from May to October for the 100th anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady of Fatima; community carol festival in the church; pro-life tea, operation shoe boxes, craft sale, attending prayer breakfast, having prayer partners, saying of the rosary; took part in the Bags of Love project for children removed from their homes; send kids to camp,, March for mental health,

AS ONE COUNCIL PRESIDENT SAID IN HER REPORT: WE TRY TO PROJECT A POSITIVE IMAGE AS CATHOLIC WOMEN, IN OUR SMALL COMMUNITY THROUGH THE DIFFERENT PROJECTS WE HOLD THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. MEMBERS ARE MORE LIKELY TO GET INVOLVED IN SHORT TERM PROJECTS RATHER THAN YEAR-LONG COMMITMENTS.

This concludes my report.....

Shirley Lamoureux

President

REGINA DIOCESAN CWL PRESIDENT
ANNUAL REPORT 2017
Marilyn Schuck

I received the results of the presidents` surveys for the diocese of Regina noting that 35 were submitted out of a possibility of 72. Out of the 72 councils we have 3 that are inactive and several with very few members. Three councils reported that they do not have a president. Thank you to all who submitted their survey. The percentages I cite are based on the 35 surveys that were submitted. I sense some frustration with this process and note that the number of responses is less than last year when 40 presidents responded compared to 35 this year. I am hoping that National CWL will continue to try to make this online reporting more user-friendly. Since this is only the second year, I am sure there are improvements that could be made.

Inform the Membership: The sources of most of the **information** that councils use are National communiques (96%), the Canadian League magazine (97%), and diocesan newsletters (75%). The National website is used by 68% of respondents.

Palliative care (90%) and physician-assisted dying (65%) were the top **current national priorities** acted on by councils. Limiting access to pornography concerned 45 % and conscience rights of healthcare providers was acted on by 32%. Warning labels on food and drug products was acted on by 48%. Councils were also concerned about other national priorities such as the refugee crisis, home care, GST on child safety products and Canada`s Food Guide.

Methods used to introduce these topics included setting aside time at a general meeting to discuss and take action (65%), engaging the standing committee chairperson (39%), and 6 (19%) councils arranged for a speaker on the topic. Participating in 24 Hours for Palliative Care was one action that several councils took.

Foster Open Communication: Most councils (55%) reported that they meet monthly with their spiritual advisor and 84% reported that their spiritual advisor is supportive of the CWL. Those who did not feel that their spiritual advisor was supportive gave reasons such as, he doesn`t attend meetings even when asked, has very little time to commit to us, doesn`t care to get too involved.

Preside at Meetings: Most presidents use the following resources to help them preside at meetings – Executive Handbook (65%), National Manual of Policy & Procedure (61%), council

policy and procedure handbook (55%), Constitution & Bylaws (52%), and Robert's Rules of Order(19%).

Signing Authority – Presidents use their signing authority for banking documents, cheques, letters and petitions. One president mentioned signing for a lottery license.

Provide Active Leadership: Presidents are very busy representing their council at (church functions (97%), regional meetings (90%), funerals (81%), diocesan meetings and conventions (68%), World Day of Prayer (68%) and special masses (52%).

President's cost to attend the diocesan convention was covered 100% by 52% of councils, 3 councils paid 50%, 4 paid 25%, and 4 did not subsidize. No president was subsidized to attend national convention and 8 presidents were subsidized to attend provincial convention. 5 were subsidized to attend workshops and 7 to attend conferences. I think this shows that councils are willing to pay to educate their leadership and we need to encourage this.

Some council presidents have **initiated new policies** such as updating their funeral protocol, expense policy, and year end reporting. One council updated the requirements for their bursary application, donations for parish expenses, and fund-raising activities.

Most of the presidents reporting (81%) **have read the Executive Handbook and understand the duties of their executive team** and report that **it has assisted them in the responsibility of overseeing the operations of their councils**. A few who answered **no** indicated that maybe it would be a good idea to use it in the future, one said they are running their council the way they always have, and another said she was too busy to do it all.

Half the councils reporting said they **provide an annual summary of the council's activities to all members** by an oral report at the annual meeting. About 32% do not provide an annual summary. Others report to their members via e-mail, newsletter or written report, and parish bulletin.

For the question asking about **other committees other than standing committees** there were a variety of responses indicating that these councils are busy. Committees are struck to look after annual events such as teas, bazaars, social events, visitation, scholarship or bursary, fund-raising, catering, donations and anniversaries. Those councils indicating no extra committees are likely to be very small with elderly members.

President as Official Spokesperson: The three top issues that presidents spoke about are palliative care (61%), council social events (51%), and membership (48%). Other topics such as euthanasia, indigenous issues, mental health, pornography, pro-life and refugee issues, and scholarships were also spoken about.

The majority of councils (55%) do not **use League letterhead** when corresponding outside the League while 45% do. Most councils (81%) **ensure that they reference only the membership total for the council they represent in all external correspondence.**

Summary and Final Thoughts: Presidents reported that the **former past president, immediate past president** and **current executive** were of the most assistance when they assumed the role of president. Some had help from the secretary or the treasurer or a life member. A few had help from diocesan executive or a personal mentor.

Greatest challenges in transitioning into role of president: the top three challenges were **keeping members interested (55%), recruiting (55%), and not having a full slate of officers (39%).** Other challenges that resonated with presidents were finding the time to do the job, public speaking, inexperience, amount of paperwork, and trying to please everyone.

90% of presidents appreciate having a **National theme and/or logo** in order to focus their activities.

There were many positive responses to the **sharing of your activities** question. Some small councils are still very active in their church and community activities. They find ways to make things work, such as rotating the role of president and holding meetings fewer times a year. Some presidents are very proud of their councils and the things they are doing to recruit members and retain them, such as publishing a newsletter at the beginning of their membership drive to inform and invite new members. Another president is pleased that her members are taking an interest in letter writing and petitions. Another is pleased with the fund-raising they do to support palliative care, a refugee family, and Chalice. One president believes that the League is an amazing way to serve Catholic women.

The less positive comments include difficulty serving because of lack of active members, aging members, apathy, and members having to take a larger role in fundraising to keep their parish going leaving less time to work for CWL. One president noted the difficulty in filling out the online form because there was no link to the survey from the CWL website. She said that it was

too hard to find the survey and that the technology side of our organization has to become more accessible and user-friendly.

Compiling this annual report for the 2017 year has been an enlightening experience for me. As diocesan president I am encouraged that presidents are doing their best, sometimes under frustrating circumstances, to keep the work of the Catholic Women`s League alive in their parishes. By participating in the annual survey, they are acknowledging that the scope of the League goes beyond their own parish. One president even stated that she appreciated the national and diocesan support that she receives. Most councils also noted that National keeps their councils focused with a National theme and logo. While leading the League at all its levels involves challenges and changes, we can move forward confident that we will be ‘inspired by the Spirit’ so that we can ‘respond to God`s call.’

This concludes my report.

Saskatoon Diocesan CWL President's Annual Report 2017

Report prepared by:
President Saskatoon Diocesan CWL council
Marlene VanDresar

This is the 2nd year of on-line reporting put out by National in the form of a survey; from them, I have received 34 responses out of 45 Councils; I also received 1 report that missed the deadline of December 31st, 2017. Of these responses, 2 Councils do not have a president, while the remaining 33 all do have a president. Our Diocesan response rate was 78%.

- 88% got information from the Canadian League magazine with which to inform their members
- 88% from Diocesan Newsletters; emails, Communiques
- 72% from Parish Bulletins
- 70% from National Communiques
- 76% from Provincial League through website/newsletters
- 42% from newspapers ie; Prairie Messenger
- 58% from National Website
- 24% from other sources

Some of the issues that have been introduced, discussed and/or acted upon by Councils in Saskatoon Diocese include:

- Physician assisted dying and palliative care topped the list at over 92%
- Refugee Crisis 40%; youth mental health 30%; pornography 40%
- Home Care 28%; warning labels on food and drug products 30%
- 68% of Councils set aside time at meetings to discuss and take action on issues
- 58% had their standing committee chairperson work on the issues
- 28% arranged for a speaker on the subject

In our Diocese, the main focuses of Councils in 2017 were palliative care and physician assisted suicide; many Councils are struggling to maintain leadership and membership; as well as working within their own parish community; but some still manage to see the bigger picture of who we are as a National Organization.

Some highlights from Councils reports were:

- Becoming a close-knit community of women dedicated to becoming rooted in gospel values
- Personal and Spiritual growth and friendship with each other and with others
- Spiritual Development for our newer members
- To promote the teachings of the Catholic Faith

The needs of the Parish Community in today's world are overwhelming for the majority of our Councils, who then feel that their main call is to keep their local parish community going. Most Presidents felt they were aided by past-presidents in their Councils, as well as by their Executive; all of which made their role more doable.

On the question of Spiritual Advisors:

- 55% met with their Spiritual Advisors monthly
- 6% met weekly
- 34% rarely met
- 100% felt their Spiritual Advisors were supportive of their Councils.

Comments on Spiritual Advisors Role;

- Our Spiritual Advisor is from another country, and though he supports us, he does not attend meetings or offer any input
- Time and commitments make it difficult to meet more often
- He always celebrates Mass for CWL meetings, but does not attend meetings or conventions
- They appreciate our role and ministry in the parish

I am hoping this communication can be more open in including Spiritual Advisors in all Councils in what and who we are as a CWL Council.

On the question as to how often Councils meet:

- 80% meet monthly
- Some skip the winter months Dec- Feb
- Some meet every 2nd month; a few only meet when they have an issue or feel the necessity to do so; they adapt to what works for them

Resources used as Guidelines for meetings;

- 55% have a Council Policy/Procedure manual
- 52% use the Executive Handbook
- 45% use the Constitution and Bylaws
- 18% use Parliamentary procedure
- 30% use National Manual of Policy/Procedure

- 28% use Roberts Rules of Order (rev)

Documents signed by President;

- 94% cheque signing
- 76% banking documents
- 52% letters directed within CWL
- 55% petitions/letters to government etc.
- 42% letters directed outside the CWL

Presidents represented their Councils at the following:

- 82% Diocesan Convention
- 34% Provincial Convention
- 55% Special Masses
- 33% fundraising dinners/events
- 24% workshops
- 42% conferences
- 88% Church functions
- 6% National Convention
- 30% Regional Meetings
- 25% CWL Anniversaries

In response to whether their Councils subsidize them for expenses;

- Conferences 8% had ¼ expenses paid; 8% had all expenses paid; 85% had no expenses paid
- Diocesan Convention; 10% had ½ paid; 10% had ¼ paid; 54% had all paid; 26% had none paid
- Fundraising Dinners/events; 7 % had ½ paid and 93% had none paid
- National Convention; 17% had ¼ paid, 8% had all paid, 75% had none paid
- Provincial Convention; 10% had ½ paid, 10% had ¼ paid, 35% had all paid, 45% had none paid
- Workshops; 100% had no expenses paid

On Initiating new policies:

- Criminal Checks & reporting process
- Expense policy re: conventions
- Fundraising policy
- Funeral Honour Guard and protocol

In response to reading the Executive Handbook:

- 88% yes, 12% no
- 79% felt it was a help
- 21% felt it was not a help

Annual summary/report provided to Council Members;

- 55% oral reports
- 24% written reports and/or parish bulletin
- 28% email
- 12% newsletter
- 21% do not provide one

Issues spoken on behalf of local Council by President;

- 47% on social events and scholarships/awards
- 32% on euthanasia
- 56% on membership
- 34% on palliative care
- 40% on local charities
- 19% on pro-life issues
- 16% on mental health issues
- 13% on pornography
- 9% on indigenous issues, refugees and nothing

40% of Councils used League letterhead while 60% do not; 90% only use local membership total when speaking on behalf of Council. Presidents felt that they received the greatest assistance from the following when assuming their role as President;

- Immediate past-president 58%
- Former past-president 52%
- Current executive; secretary and treasurer 42%
- Diocesan 16%
- Life Member 15%
- Mentor 6%
- Provincial 3%

The greatest challenges faced by Presidents were;

- Amount of paperwork 37%; delegation 9%; feeling overwhelmed 21%; undertrained 9%.

- Finding the time 40%, inexperience 30%; meeting expectations 15%; member conflict 6%; member negativity/criticism 9%; resistance to new ideas 21%; trying to please everyone 12%
 - Not having a full slate of officers 34%; recruiting 42%; technology 28% and public speaking 21%
- 82% felt that a National Theme/Logo was helpful while 18% said it was not.

Some general comments were;

- We have a wonderful CWL; prayer is our focus
- The executive are committed and work well together and we try to keep meetings on track; but they do get long due to the number of issues challenging us today
- We are a small council (10) but we accomplish a lot in our community and parish
- We are a small council with aging membership and living in a small community where new members are not available
- We have a large membership but only the older membership is interested in attending meetings

There is a very real concern about our diminishing numbers in our Diocese; this past year 3 of our Councils have disbanded; Holy Trinity in Pilger, St. Patrick in Young, and St. Paul's Co-Cathedral in Saskatoon. I am concerned about the very real problem of our aging membership without the recruitment of the younger generation. May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide us with wisdom for the coming years, so that inspired by the Spirit, many women will respond to Gods call with Joy!

This concludes my 2017 Annual Report from Presidents of Saskatoon Diocese.

Marlene VanDresar

Saskatchewan Treasurer's Report 2017

I was appointed treasurer of the Saskatchewan CWL Council in June 2017 and took possession of the books in August. Acquiring the records from the previous Provincial treasurer proved to be an easy transition since all the said records were complete and up to date.

The difficulties lie in the writing of this report for several reasons. I would like to suggest that a template be created so that reporting across the country is consistent and uniform.

The second difficulty lies with some parish councils not reporting at all using the on-line reporting. The SK Provincial participation rate is only 46.72%. Of the 64 councils reporting, 100% had filled the Treasurer's position. 21.88% had the report filled on someone else's behalf. I would like to highlight that more direction and guidance is needed with on-line reporting. Many councils really struggle and fear the change. The need for reporting consistently needs to be emphasized at all levels.

The third difficulty is due to National website problems, the Diocesan treasurers were unable to be provided with information regarding National Voluntary Funds, and other Donations and Expenditures. Therefore, their reports are also incomplete. The template for the Treasurer's Annual Report is blank in both cases. The total donations to the Parishes reported by 49 councils equaled \$ 92 953.12.

Record keeping for the majority of councils continues to be done manually, either by tracking bank statements, cheque books, deposit books or ledger books. Only 20 % use an Excel spreadsheet.

100 % of all accounts are paid by cheque, with 98% of respondents requiring 2 signatures on cheques.

At the Provincial level all of the above methods are utilized to keep up-to-date and accurate records.

The average membership fee was \$ 23.00. The highest reported fee is already \$ 30.00. The Diocesan Councils and Provincial Council are moving to increasing the per capita fees. This is necessary in part because the expenses exceed income. This could be due partly to dwindling memberships. This appears to be a universal concern.

In many parishes, the per capita fees submitted to National have been postponed due partly because of the problems with the National website. Parish councils have been encouraged to submit manually until the problems have been resolved.

The largest percentage of fundraising initiatives remain as bake sales, raffles and funeral lunches, with 10 % still offering catering. Small percentages do some kind of fundraising such as craft sales, plant or garden produce sales and rummage sales. Annual bazaars are a thing of the past. 1.5% of councils do not fundraise.

Budgets are prepared by only 32% of the 22 councils reporting. 5% report that they do not present their budgets for approval. 51% report that their books are examined annually by an individual, outside the council, experienced in accounting.

Financial statements are presented at monthly meetings by 70% of councils. 14% report annually.

The members of the CWL at each level, whether the council is large or small remain faithful and do as much as they can in their community, volunteering their time and talents. Funds raised go back to the community and charitable organizations. Each council makes adjustments as needed. To quote one respondent, "Our council is small but mighty. We continue to do good works despite our declining numbers and ages of our members."

Respectfully submitted by Treasurer, Saskatchewan Council of the Catholic Women's League
Helene Marceau

2017 Saskatchewan Provincial CWL Joint Secretary Annual Report

Marion Laroque

Recording and Corresponding Secretary

Who are our secretaries?

The question: 'are you the corresponding secretary, recording secretary or both' showed that almost two thirds of the respondents were filling both positions. No one indicated that they were corresponding secretary alone. The position of recording secretary was filled 94% of the time. A further 41% of respondents indicated that the position of corresponding secretary was vacant in their council. This may indicate that for some councils, particularly smaller ones, having two secretaries is not a priority. It also shows the willingness of our members to take on extra duties if the need arises. The Saskatchewan CWL is blessed with dedicated secretaries, reflected in the fact that one third have served more than six years.

What resources are available for the position?

The question: 'Do you, or does your council, have a copy of the *Handbook for Secretaries*, available from national office?' was answered with a yes in slightly over three quarters of the time. The same was not quite true for the *CWL Personal Letter Writing Guide*: only slightly over half of the respondents said yes. This may be an area where the awareness of resources could be raised at the parish level.

How are minutes dealt with?

All of the respondents take minutes at the meetings, using handwriting in all but a very few instances. They also transcribe the minutes and bring the minutes book to the meetings. Often they do not receive written reports from the executive. Slightly over fifty percent of respondents stated that they distributed the minutes by other means than by hand or email, but there was no indication in the comments just exactly how they did that. In almost two thirds of the councils, minutes are read out at the meeting for approval. The majority of councils do not have a motions book.

Interestingly, the question: 'How many years of council minutes are kept in the minutes book before being turned over for archives?' had the greatest variation, with the answers evenly distributed among all the timeline choices. In summary, the respondents work hard to record the minutes, but do not seem clear on how long to keep them, and generally do not have a motions books. These could be areas for clarification and education.

Other Duties of the Secretary

Slightly over half of the respondents are signing officers for their council. The majority do not distribute copies of the agenda, nor do they assist the president with the compilation of the annual report. They do maintain a list of the executive members, know where the council charter is, and slightly over half of the respondents take roll call at the meetings. A clarification of the need for roll call may help councils to begin this practice.

Correspondence

Most respondents use their parish bulletin or board to notify members of meetings or upcoming events. Email is the second most popular way to communicate. No one uses social media for notices. A full one third of the respondents indicated that someone else notifies the council members of events and meetings. The respondents listed and read the correspondence about half of the time. The respondents send out occasion cards in about one third of the councils. The communications convener, the president, spiritual convener or other members take turns looking after sending out occasion cards.

Comments:

The general consensus from the comments was that the councils work together to ensure that meeting minutes are recorded by someone, regardless of their official position. The comments provided show the high level of co-operation within councils with comments such as: *“we take turns”, “we often share the work”*.

Some members may struggle with technology, for example one lady commented: *“I wish I could use a computer”*. Another very interesting comment came from a council that I presume has a large membership: *“We have our CWL members divided into Circles. Each Circle has a captain that provides the information that is provided by the President to their respective members via email and phone. The Captains also send out Anniversary, Sympathy, etc. to their respective members when necessary.”*

The summary of the 2017 joint secretaries annual report survey gives insight into the struggles and successes at the parish level. There is a disappointing response rate from our province, and particularly our sisters in the northern half of the province. There are probably many reasons for this, however, the CRTC [map of broadband internet service coverage in Canada](#) shows that many parts of Saskatchewan are underserved. This does not mean we shouldn't use on-line surveys, but rather that we should lobby for better internet service for rural Canada.

This concludes my report.

Standing Committee Reports

Saskatchewan Provincial Council 6. Organization Annual Report 2017

Chantal Devine Provincial CWL Organization Chairperson

This annual report is based on the reports of the three diocesan organization chairpersons in the province, and the online annual reports compiled by national. The online national report received four responses from the Prince Albert Diocese, 30 responses from the Regina diocese and 29 responses from the Saskatoon diocese. All three diocesan councils reported on how they recruited, supported and retained new members and how they managed their councils in their work for God and Canada. The Regina diocese has 72 councils and about 3,000 members, the Saskatoon diocese has 46 councils and about 2600 members while the Prince Albert diocese has 19 councils and about 800 members.

Recruiting members and maintaining membership

Councils reported an average of 61 members. The smallest council reported seven members and the largest council reported 211 members. Member participation in council activities such as meetings, fundraising events, social and spiritual events was on average 41-60%. In 2017, an average of six new members joined the 13 councils who responded to the question, "How many new members joined your council this year?"

The most effective method used in recruiting new members was personal invitation at 90.48%. All three dioceses confirmed the percentages as outlined on the national report. Advertising in church bulletins and bulletin boards followed closely at 74.60%. CWL Sunday, 58.73%, provided the next best opportunity to attract new members. Potluck dinners, membership teas and social events, presentations at mass, spiritual advisor's support, display tables at parish events, promotional displays, gift memberships, membership envelopes in parish collection boxes, telephone trees, and social media were all methods used to entice new members to join.

When members failed to renew their membership as was the case in 17 councils where an average of eight members did not renew, members made a personal phone call to invite them back. However, because of the ageing population in the CWL, 44.44% of respondents claimed they had lost members not because they had resigned their membership, but because they had passed away. When members were no longer able to participate, councils maintained communication by personal visits, inviting them to events, calling them and sending cards and little gifts, sending a newsletter/or minutes and taking communion.

Appreciation and recognition for dedicated service was shown 60.84% of the time by the presentation of service pins. Luncheons, teas, reaffirmation and new member ceremonies, presentations of awards and certificates were all used to make all members feel welcome and

appreciated. New members are welcomed at meetings and almost 40% are given a new member's kit.

Leadership Development

There is a lack of participation in League development days that are offered in our province. Only seven of the 53 respondents participated, in other words, 86.79% did not participate. The highest percentage of participation is attendance at diocesan conventions, followed by diocesan retreat days and the provincial convention. The members who participated in these activities were enlightened and enriched not only in the workings of the League but also, in their spiritual life.

Over half of the members who responded were familiar with what the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation offers women in leadership development. This is an indication that members are reading the League magazine as the Foundation was described in the spring 2017 edition of The Canadian League.

League resource material

The Canadian League magazine continues to be the most widely read resource at 95.24%. Councils reported the use of League Prayers and CWL Prays to enrich the spiritual portion of their meetings and gatherings. Effective use is made of the National Manual of Policy and Procedure, Constitution & Bylaws, Ceremonies Booklet, Executive Handbook, Guidelines for Treasurers as well as all the handbooks for specific chairpersons, including the Handbook for Spiritual Advisors. Downloading online resources was done by 44.44% of respondents.

The most popular promotional materials purchased for use in council's membership drives, were service pins and welcome brochures. Notecards, prayer cards, mass cards, invitation cards and CWL pens were also, all widely used in councils.

Annual Reports

One diocesan council reported that 64% of councils completed their annual reports on line. Most of the councils reported getting together as a group to complete their annual reports. They also maintained monthly/regular record of activities, reviewed the chairperson's reports and the minutes from the meetings to help them gather the information from the past year.

Life members

In Saskatchewan, we are blessed with four Honorary Life Members and 13 life members. One of these dedicated women, Claire Heron, serves as the spiritual advisor for the Saskatoon diocese. They all provide guidance and wisdom on issues of concern to members, facilitate workshops, and from time to time serve as parliamentarians.

Summary and final thoughts

The Catholic Women's League in Saskatchewan is still a viable organization with deep roots. Given the many activities that all councils are providing their members and communities, the League will continue to grow. In the Winter 2018 issue of The Canadian League magazine, I was heartened by National President elect and Chairperson of Organization, Anne Gorman's article on recruiting. In it she mentioned the name of Diana Robstad, a member of Holy Spirit CWL in Saskatoon, and commended her for her success in bringing new members into the League.

This concludes my report.

Saskatchewan Provincial Spiritual Development Annual Report - 2017

Connie Crichton – Provincial Spiritual Development Chairperson

This report is based on the spiritual development annual report I received from the Saskatoon diocesan council and on the national spiritual development electronic report. I did not receive a report from either the Regina or Prince Albert diocesan chairperson. The national electronic report is based on 69 councils reporting out of a possible 138, or a representation of 50% of councils.

Spiritual Growth of Members

While our National Council has provided some excellent resources to complement our theme *“Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God’s Call”*, less than half of the councils reporting have used the resources or in many cases were unaware they existed.

Just over half of the councils say they spend a third of their time on the spiritual aspect of membership.

Attending masses, saying the rosary and the league prayer, Stations of the Cross, reflections on scripture, Intercessions and having deceased member services/honor guards were the most common liturgies and prayers organized by the councils.

Of the resources listed in our National Chairperson’s first communiqué of 2017, only the Living with Christ missal was reported being used by more than 10% of the councils. The CWL Ceremonies Booklet, CWL Prays Booklet and The Word Among Us Magazine were the most common resources used for developing Liturgies and spiritual programs.

Some members have enrolled in retreats, bible studies and programs offered elsewhere this year and in previous years.

Of our responding councils, 60% celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel on April 26th by attending mass and having some sort of social gathering.

Council meetings are usually following Mass and half of the councils are able to have their Spiritual Advisor attend their meetings most of the time, however, a quarter of the councils never have their spiritual advisor present.

Study of Catholic Teachings

Instruction concerning burial of the deceased and conservation of ashes in the case of cremation was provided to assist councils in establishing funeral protocols. Only 20% of the reporting councils have indicated they have reviewed their protocols.

Very few councils have reported studying either of Pope Francis' encyclicals, *Evangelii Gaudium* or *Laudato Si'*, encouraged their members to enroll in studies and programs, or view the CCCB or Vatican websites. These are resources that would expand their knowledge of the Catholic faith.

Role of Women in the Church

Eleven councils reported that they had studied women in scripture. Two thirds reported promoting awareness of women's place in church and society.

Councils have reported that many of their members have taken leadership roles in their parish, region or diocesan councils or have other roles in their parishes or dioceses. Just over half of the councils have members on the parish liturgy committee when one exists in the parish.

Evangelization and Mission Assistance

The Knights of Columbus, **Keep Christ in Christmas Campaign**, was supported by a third of the councils who had Knights of Columbus councils in their parishes.

Less than half of the councils contribute in any way to Catholic Missions in Canada. Most of those that do make contact do so through monetary contributions. Some of the other missions supported were: Esk-Omi Missions; Kee- Pas Missions; St. Francis Xavier Mission.

Lay Ministries

Many members are very active in the lay ministries in their parish. They participated as Eucharistic ministers, lectors, ushers, hospitality, choir/music, decorating/cleaning, sacristan, and catechist.

Other activities members were involved in were: collection count, sacramental preparation, activities in support of funerals and grief ministry, children's liturgy, volunteer work at the CWL

Clothing Depot, provide child care for programs, volunteer work at schools, assisting in seniors' homes, making prayer shawls and quilts.

Many of these ministries were chaired/organized by a CWL member in the parish.

Ecumenism and Interfaith Endeavours

Many of the councils reached out to women of other denominations or faiths by: initiating joint prayer services, inviting women to council meetings, inviting women to social events.

Councils reported promoting awareness or participating in: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (60%), Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (28%), World Day of Prayer (84%), WUCWO Day (17%) and three councils reported yes to promoting/participation in the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

In Summary

While some areas covered in the reporting reflect the efforts of the councils to cultivate spiritual growth in their members, overall the feedback indicates that there could be more attention paid to Spiritual Development by most councils. One out of five councils does not have a Spiritual Development Chairperson and may explain in part why we don't have more activity in this area.

Our Catholic faith is the one thing that sets us apart from a secular organization. Through our baptism and confirmation we are called and the gifts of the Spirit are planted. For the Spirit to bear fruit in us we must nourish our faith. We are all called to be holy.

We all learned the answer to the question: "Why did God make me?" ***God made me to know, love and serve Him in this world and to be happy with Him in the next.***

It is through spiritual development we grow closer to God, we love Him more and we are moved to seek ways to serve Him because our goal is eternal life with Him in Heaven.

Thank you to all our members who are inspired by the Spirit and are responding to God's call. Share your light with all you meet. Do not keep it hidden away.

This concludes my report.

Saskatchewan Education and Health Annual Report - 2017

Saskatchewan consists of 3 dioceses, Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert

Provincial Education and Health Chairperson-Marian Zsombor

Statistics

There has been a slight increase in participation in the on line survey since last year, 56 councils participated:

About 75% of our councils have a Chairperson of the Standing Committee Education and Health..

Catholic Education

A majority responded to **receiving information about the quality and availability** of Catholic religious education instruction in the parish and in the local school areas.

The **needs identified** and met were: the breakfast or lunch programs, clothing drives, extracurricular activities, field trip or recess supervision, sacrament/faith development. In areas where there are separate schools most councils offer scholarships or bursaries.

In response to **awareness of family programs** some councils reported becoming involved in the sacramental initiation programs in the parish, a few replied as not becoming personally involved. Most councils do have access to a list of scholarships and bursaries available for CWL members to further their education, while some rural councils reported having no access. CWL members are encouraging and/or assisting members to improve literacy skills in Continuing Education

Councils reported the promotion of the National Bursary Fund and/or the Coady International Institute.

Wellness and Sickness/Disease

Resolution 2015.6 Increased Early Access and Intervention to Child and Youth Mental Health Services The **Right By You** supports this campaign by providing free resources and toolkit parents/caregivers can use to begin conversations about mental health with their young people.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada reported on the **Health of Canadians**, under the title *The kids are not alright*, subtitled, *How the Food and Beverage industry is marketing our children and youth to death*. Less than half of the councils made any comments on this resolution.

Resolution 2016.02 calls for the revision of Canada’s Food Guide, now and at five year intervals. Over half of the councils replied that taking action in support of the resolution was not a priority at this time. A small percentage had plans in progress to hold this discussion, some said that they planned to host a speaker on healthy living and food choices, as well some educated their members about the food guide and encouraged healthy food choices. A few councils said that they were monitoring the government’s response to the resolution, some wrote letters to the prime minister and minister of health urging revision of the food guide.

Resolution 2016.03 Warning labels on Food and Drug Products for all Inactive Substances and Additives calls for the government to require warning labels on food products, to complete information on all patient information sheets of inactive substances and additives that accompany pharmaceuticals, and to engage in a program of public education on the adverse effects of inactive substances and additives. This topic is not a priority for us at this time was a comment by a few councils. Half of the councils said that they had raised members’ awareness of the danger of possible adverse effects to inactive substances and additives, a few wrote to the prime minister and the minister of health regarding inclusion of all inactive substances and additives on warning labels.

Responses to, **“Has your council supported national organizations that focus on the health and wellness of Canadians?”** Council responses varied as follows:

Legion Wreath, Southwest Crisis Center , Teen aid, Save a family, Sask Pro Life, Canadian Health, Right to Life and Hospice, Telemiracle. Alzheimer Society of Canada, Canadian Cancer Society, Canada Mental Health Association, Canada Health Alliance of Canada, Heart and Stroke Foundation Children’s Wish Foundation of Canada, Canadian Red Cross Association, Canadian Diabetes Association. MateCare International, Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, Relay for Life, The Arthritis Society, CNIB Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

“12 Hours for Palliative Care” on May 4, 2017, Councils participated in the following ways:

Arranged for a prayer space in church. Invited neighboring churches to participate in prayer services. Welcomed and supported those who shared their own experience of palliative care

facilities and services. Offered refreshments and a time for fellowship. Arranged for a prayer space in a home. Said a prayer at their regular meeting. Had a parish council discussion about how to assist palliative care. Supplied brochures on local palliative care facilities and services participated in the national lap quilt challenge Took up a free will offering and donated it to a local hospice. A small number of the councils reported as not participating this year.

Environment

The issue of **multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS) and environment sensitivities (ES)** has been entrusted to education and health as a priority. Has your council begun to study the issues faced by people suffering from MCS and ES? A few councils replied “yes” but the majority replied “no”. Only a very small percentage recognized International **Earth Hour Vigil** on March 25th.

Most councils are making a difference to the environment in the following ways:

Recycling, Reducing the use of Styrofoam cups, Reducing paper use at council meetings, Eliminating plastic water bottles, Using green bins for organic waste, Climate Change, Read Pope Frances’ Encyclical Letter Laudato si’ of the Holy Father; Pope Francis on care for our common home, Roadside or community clean-up.

Genetics

Does your council subscribe to the Canadian Bioethics Institute newsletters to keep you informed of current issues in bioethics? (100%) of the councils responded “no”. However, it was noted that member’s knowledge in regards to advantages and disadvantages of technological development in relation to the teachings of the Catholic Church is quite good. There seems to be a fair bit of interest in this area even though they do not subscribe to the newsletter.

Summary

One diocese commented: "The combination of the low number of respondents and the questions that the National office could not provide answers to does not present a complete picture of council activities. Councils are doing great work at their local levels. Due to factors such as age of members, technological changes, sizes of councils and communities, etc. councils are not finding time or people to engage in many issues which are important as a national organization."

One diocese responded that the topic of gender equity has become a controversial topic in their high schools.

There is a feeling that there should be more awareness on all the tests given to pregnant women. Especially the test that the medical team always wants to give to be sure mothers are not carrying a Down Syndrome baby. There really is not enough information about this and women should know and understand their rights in these situations.

Thank you to the chairpersons of the 3 dioceses in Saskatchewan for submitting your reports. Thank you also for all the great work that is being done in the different councils around the province. Through our faith and commitment to serve, we fulfill our great law of charity at home and abroad.

This concludes my report.

SK Provincial CWL Council
Christian Family Life Annual Report, 2017
Marge Appell

The Christian Family Life portfolio includes extensive responsibilities and yet the councils in SK do an admirable job at looking after the needs in their communities and beyond. While the task can be daunting at times, members of the Catholic Women's League simply roll up their sleeves and get on with the job at hand. God bless all you for your work in these areas!

According to the Executive Handbook our overall responsibilities include marriage and family, sanctity of life, ministry to youth, widowed, disabled, separated, seniors, divorced, and single life, and vocations, and I have organized this report under those headings, combining some where responses and outreach activities overlap.

Marriage and Family

Quoting from Christifideles Laici, "The family is the basic cell of society. It is the cradle of life and love, the place in which the individual "is born" and "grows"."

The councils in SK have done a stellar job in this area. More than half of those reporting used one or more websites to locate resources that enhanced their meetings and assisted in program planning. The CCCB Life and Family Website, and "The Joy of Love at the Heart of the Family" publication were the most popular. Many councils supported engaged encounter, marriage preparation, marriage encounter, and parenting programs, and Mother's Day, Father's Day, and special anniversaries were some of the events that were acknowledged and celebrated. Numerous councils gave gifts to candidates who were baptized, were confirmed, or received their First Eucharist, and many members were involved in preparing candidates for reception of these sacraments. In one SK Diocese, a third of the councils were involved in family life workshops/seminars by either assisting with hosting or having representatives attend the events. Members in other dioceses attended such workshops, as well. A number of councils also promoted the World Meeting of Families that will be held in Dublin, Ireland, Aug. 21-26, 2018

Sanctity of Life

"It is the belief of the League that the right to life is sacred from the moment of fertilization to natural death." (Executive Handbook, CFL- 44)

SK CWL members lived this belief through their extensive actions in this area. An impressive number of councils hold memberships in pro-life organizations, locally and beyond. Many members participated in March for Life, Life Chain, Pro-Life dinners, masses, 40 Days for Life, vigils, and walks, and councils donated to groups such as the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Pregnancy and Family Support Services, Campaign for Life Coalition, Birthright, and Project Rachel. Councils ministered to those in abusive situations, single parent families, and caregivers, mostly through prayer but also by offering friendship wherever/whenever possible. In numerous councils, invitations were extended to attend CWL meetings and special CWL and community events.

Ministry to Youth

“Young people are the church, the people of God. Youth today have much to share; and exchange of ideas between generations is a source of growth and renewal for all.” (Executive Handbook; CFL- 44)

SK CWL councils were very diligent in engaging youth in their communities. A high number of councils encouraged youth to share their gifts of ministry; they supported youth in attending Catholic Christian Outreach, Leadership Camps, Youth Conferences, and contributed to World Youth Day; and they participated in either offering or supporting programming for young people. Approximately one-third of our councils purchased subscriptions to Catholic magazines, books, and/or videos for use with youth in the local community, schools, or parish.

Ministry to Disabled and Ministry to Seniors

Regarding those who are challenged in any way, *“The aim of each council is to create an attitude that regards disabled individuals not only as people to be loved and served, but as responsible partners in the church’s mission.”* Regarding seniors in our midst: *“Seniors provide a gift to society of tradition and heritage acquired through a lifetime of experiences.”* (Executive Handbook, CFL- 44, 45)

Once again, SK CWL councils were active in these pursuits. They were instrumental in lobbying local governments to make public buildings accessible to those with mobility issues. They often provided transportation, sent cards, made and gifted quilt and prayer shawls, took communion to and visited with disabled individuals and shut-ins, offering companionship and friendship. Often meals were shared, invitations to special events extended, programs developed to meet the needs of such individuals, and respite care provided. Members delivered Meals on Wheels and organized birthday teas and other events for residents in senior homes. Perhaps the single most important activity was inviting participation in prayer and liturgical celebrations.

Ministry to Widowed and Ministry to Separated and Divorced

Guiding statements for these ministries are, *“By sharing of their gifts in church and society, the widowed may find their personal fulfillment in reaching out to others,”* and *“Many single and divorced people face the responsibility of raising children alone. The need to express the message of hope by offering assistance can be very beneficial.”* (Executive Handbook, CFL-45)

A common thread in ministering to the widowed was work done in helping arrange memorial services as well as preparing/serving funeral lunches, encouraging participation in grief counseling programs offered in the community, sending Mass and condolence cards, and offering support following the death of a spouse. Also, councils invited those touched by grief and those separated or divorced to participate in community gatherings and CWL events. Members of a number of councils lent a listening ear, provided babysitting services if required, and offered prayers for those in need. Group prayer was encouraged, as well.

Vocations

According to Ecclesia in America, *“Vocations are a gift of God and they are born in communities of faith.”* (Executive Handbook, CFL-45)

In this endeavor, a high percentage of councils reported they offered masses and prayers for vocations, either individually or collectively. Some sent spiritual bouquets to their clergy, hosted luncheons, invited priests and religious to speak on vocations, and donated to priest retirement funds. Seminarians were supported in prayer and with donations, as well. Individually, members invited clergy for visits and meals in their homes.

Somehow, no matter how small a council (and some definitely struggle with declining membership), CWL members across our province continued to be generous with their time and talents. Additional comments included keeping informed about numerous important issues that threaten our Catholic tradition, signing petitions or writing letters to governments on pertinent issues, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima along with her call to pray the rosary for world peace, and organizing and participating in “12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care”. All the good works included in this report were carried out by CWL members intent on creating a better world for the greater honor and glory of God. May He bless them abundantly for their untiring efforts as He prepares a place for them in His kingdom, and may Our Lady of Good Counsel guide them in all they do.

This concludes my report.

2017 ANNUAL SASKATCHEWAN COMMUNITY LIFE REPORT

This report is based on information from the 2017 on-line survey (61 parish councils responding) and written reports from our diocesan chairpersons of Community Life Standing committees.

Action in Community Life is a response to the question, “What are we doing for others?” Are we as CWL members giving of our time, talent, and treasure? Are we aware of the difference between charity and social justice? Does our work for peace & justice touch family, local community, Canada, and the global community? Are we praying, giving, and speaking out? Are we serving God through others?

About 1/3 of our councils have no Community Life chairpersons, but community life work is not neglected. Most reporting councils support minority groups through financial donations, volunteering, informing themselves through guest speakers and/or workshops. Those who are incarcerated, bullied, trafficked, impoverished, abused, homeless, and dealing with racism are held up in prayer and support by CWL members.

In the area of our indigenous sisters, we are becoming more aware of their struggles, but our actions haven’t kept pace with our awareness. Few of our councils had indigenous women lead workshops or be guest speakers. **Our efforts this year may need to focus on actual contact with indigenous women.**

Most chairpersons have encouraged work in organizations caring for those in need including much prayerful support, financial support and volunteer work on affordable housing, anti-poverty work, school food programs, clothing donations, drop-in centres, homeless shelters, domestic abuse shelters, employment & skills training, food banks, hampers and kitchens, single parent resources, restorative justice programs, and violence prevention programs. Although only prayerful support was given to wish foundations, we acknowledge that many individuals do support this endeavor personally.

We are not highly familiar with restorative justice programs and prison ministry. Members have attended workshops or seminars on topics related to social and economic justice. Concerning National Resolution 2017.01 re: Gladue reports, almost 80% of reporting councils have not acted on this resolution. **This would be another area that we can focus on.**

Celebrating Canada’s 150th birthday took the form of attending community activities including attending mass on Canada Day, using the celebration as a theme for our June meetings, attempting to do 150 community activities, celebrating an anniversary of becoming Canadian, entering floats in local Canada Day parades, sponsoring and supporting refugee families and people from other countries. While most of us participated in Remembrance Day services or

the poppy campaign, few of us participated in citizenship ceremonies or wore red on Friday in support of the Canadian troops.

Our personal understanding of the needs of immigrants and refugees is fair to poor. In the area of Equal Access to Permanent Resident Status (National Resolution 2016.01), no councils invited guest speakers. A few councils monitored the government's response to our request and involved themselves in outreach programs for foreign workers. **This stands out as an area where we can improve.**

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) and our 1% National Voluntary Fund were not well supported; however, many members support CCODP through their parishes or individually when special requests re: disaster relief (earthquakes, floods, famines, crop destruction, and political unrest) are sent out by CCODP and are matched by the government.

Our awareness of child labour and the economic difficulties of developing countries is poor. Our action involving developing countries comes in our support of various organizations which we trust to fill this role: Canadian Red Cross, Chalice, Habitat for Humanity, Operation Christmas Child, Samaritan's Purse, Save a Family Plan, World Day of Prayer, and missions.

One diocesan Community Life chairperson summed up our work. She said, "The needs of local communities are met as they arise." We focus on local needs such as the need for food, shelter, emotional support, financial support, end-of-life support, and mobility support. Often members are involved in these activities as individuals and not as council members.

Truly, we respond to the exhortation to see God in others and to respond accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Thibeault, Chairperson
Saskatchewan Community Life Standing Committee

Provincial CWL Annual Communications Report for 2017

Saskatchewan had 53 replies to National survey requested, so 39%, from Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Regina diocese. My comments will be from those who replied.

66% have Communications chair are filled. 20 % of those filled this report in themselves.

The Canadian League Magazine

Usefulness of the magazine to our members varied from good to very good in relation to its resource for advocacy/action, new ideas, spiritual and education tools.

The article in the winter magazine that spoke to our members was the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care. Our President's and Spiritual advisor's messages tied for second.

The article in the spring magazine that spoke to our members was the Palliative Care. The President's message was second and the Spiritual advisor's message and the Joy of Service tied for third.

Media for Evangelization

More councils used Faith – Orientated programs in their programs. Very few promoted World Communications Day.

Prairie Messenger was the most subscribed and promoted Catholic subscriptions, "Other" was second and Salt and Light channel on TV was third.

The most watched live feed from National Convention was becoming a Living Thank you by Ken Yasinski and second was Town Hall by Donna Dunn. The rest were minimal.

Media to Promote the League

Majority of our executives use cwl.ca for current information. Using local media to advertise council events and phoning committee were used to invite members to events were both second method.

Types of media to promote events

Church bulletins boards is the most popular used to promote CWL events. Church bulletin inserts was second method used.

Rating videos produced to promote the League were very minimally used. Salt and light Woman on the Mission had a couple more views than CWL's testimonial video.

Media Evaluation and promotion of Good Content

Mary Kills People series on Global TV had many people voice objection. A little less than that was members encouraging members to monitor media content.

Media: Newsletters and Bulletins.

Less than one quarter of councils produced a newsletter. The communications chair or appointed member prepared the newsletters. The majority of councils published newsletters twice yearly.

How is newsletter distributed was by “other” and mail as second choice.

Media relations

Majority of councils did not work with media and close second had councils submitting material for publication.

Pornography

The steps members used to be informed about pornography and how it affected children and adults were mostly through newsletter article.

The majority of the councils chose not to participate with pornography postcards.

In March, a high majority of councils did not view and hold information sessions on Over 18 documentary.

Resolution 2017.02 Mandatory Age Verification for Adult pornography websites were being educated on internet safely and responsible and appropriate technology. A close second of councils make members aware of lack of age verification controls on adult websites.

Summary and final thoughts: Common thoughts shared were that councils are too small, with no chair for this committee but they do the best they can. They felt they should thank members in bulletin for supporting CWL events. Members are made aware of many issues and encouraged to write letters. Only actions were taken by individual members. Some topics were presented by Social Justice Committee. Annual report was viewed as a good review for things we can do in our council. Some members never received information about some items in this survey. Some addresses were correct for League magazines but did not receive them. Nearly half of Saskatoon and Regina diocesan councils responded to the survey and small number of Prince Albert replied.

Resolution Annual report. 2017, Saskatchewan Provincial Council

From Susan Melchiorre

Saskatchewan Provincial Resolution Chairperson

Only two of the three diocesan councils sent in annual reports for 2017. Less than half of the parish councils responded with annual reports.

None of the councils reported preparing a resolution. Although one did discuss the preparation of a resolution in detail but voted not to proceed.

A large number of councils reported attending development days either hosted by the diocesan or provincial councils. Catch the Fire and S'Mores were well attended. No one attended a resolution workshop that solely focused on resolutions.

Topics and past resolutions most discussed dealt with palliative care, euthanasia and pro-life issues.

To make members aware of resolutions they are discussed at meetings, signing petitions and letter writing and inviting guest speakers. 14 councils replied that they did nothing with the resolutions. Others thought that National should assign to councils one meeting a year to just discuss the resolutions passed.

Councils have a lack of interest in prepare resolutions firstly because no one wants to, lack of knowledge and expertise, and no chairperson, don't have any issues they want to write a resolution on.

The few who were able to attend **National Convention** felt that the Resolution dialogue was very worthwhile. They wanted dialogue to be longer and attendees able to see all resolutions as in past rather than just the one assigned to their table. They would also like to see the resolutions not accepted and know why. (There were strong replies on this.)

Summary

Fewer and fewer councils are submitting annual reports. Seems to go down every year especially since the on-line submission was introduced. We get no feel-good stories as answers are cut and dried.

Most councils who reported are interested in the resolutions past and do take action in some way but have no interest in writing a resolution.

In summary, a large percentage of councils reported not acting on the adopted resolutions for 2017, but set goals to learn more about our resolutions, learn more about the governments' bills, be more active in letter writing and discuss issues more at meetings

Legislation Annual report. 2017
Saskatchewan Provincial Council

From Susan Melchiorre
Saskatchewan Provincial Legislation Chairperson

Only two of the three diocesan councils sent in annual reports for 2017. Less than half of the parish councils responded with annual reports.

Councils that did respond seem to be somewhat informed when it comes to knowing what is going on in federal, provincial and municipal governments. They seem to be knowledgeable of the issues and aware of bills in the process. All councils rated their knowledge between 57-100%. Not one council reported having a member attend a public form.

The bills most discussed at parish council meetings were those involving palliative care, immigration and refugee protection, food labelling and controlled substances like drugs.

Councils were very interested in the palliative care petition. With 77% of councils discussing it at meetings and signing the petition. Resolution 2017.03 on tax on Child safety products received very little action from councils. Only 3 councils reported studying it.

Majority of the reporting councils reported on the identifying hospice palliative care as a medical service and signed the petition. And 90% of the councils did not take any action on Bill C16. Nearly 5% did write letters.

In summary, a large percentage of councils reported not acting on the adopted resolutions for 2017, but set goals to learn more about our resolutions, learn more about the governments' bills, be more active in letter writing and discuss issues more at meetings

Archives/Past President Annual Report- 2017

Jean Reader, Past President, Archives Chairperson

As I watch the prairie sun wash over the countryside it reminds me of how God's love washes over the CWL and now it is our job to go forward and spread the Good Word. We are usually looking forward to the future; we are living in the present with our eyes on the horizon, planning the "next thing".

I look at the sunset in the evening with the sky full of stars and think that all those twinkling objects could be those who have gone before us, who have lead the way. Without those guiding bodies where would we have been? The brightest star would be Bellelle Guerin, the founder of the Catholic Women's League, the woman whom we all look up to as a woman with a vision. She was not the only one who had a vision for the CWL; we can look in our own parishes and see women who were leaders. Have you checked your Archives to see what the women who came before you have done? Do you have pictures with names and dates on them? It does not take long until your memory starts to fade and valuable information could be lost.

It is your duty as a Past President to keep your history alive. Collect and keep your records up to date, talk to those who have gone before you to see what history they have for you, don't lose valuable information.

Your history is in your hands, don't lose it as it is precious.

This concludes my report.