

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
70th Saskatchewan Provincial Convention June 3rd and 4th, 2018
Holy Trinity Parish, Regina, Saskatchewan

Oral Reports Supplement

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Report Supplement #1

SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT Oral Convention Report

I can honestly say that this past year has gone by in a blink of an eye. What an incredible experience it has been representing my Saskatchewan CWL Sisters. I have attended the National convention in Charlottetown, the fall meeting in Winnipeg and the winter meeting in Toronto. All have been interesting and uplifting. I can't say it too often – I encourage every woman to take on positions at diocesan, provincial and national levels. It is the best way to learn what this wonderful League is all about.

A recent example of the goodness of the League was the recent bus tragedy in our province. Immediately, members started emailing looking for contact information for the Humboldt CWL ladies; some sent messages, some had masses said and still others took the time to make Bronco quilts. The outpouring of care and concern was overwhelming.

Last August, many of our members took part in the town hall session live-streamed from the national convention. Since then, many have taken part in the planning strategically sessions held at all our diocesan conventions. Members have been eager to have a say in the future of the League. In August at the next national convention, we should see all the planning come to fruition.

Here in Saskatchewan, we are making a change as well. In the National Policy and Procedure manual, which all councils should have, there have been changes to the criteria for being a life member. In past years, the criteria for being a life member was to first be a provincial president. This has been changed to read: This member must be a member in good standing for at least 10 years; must have been a diocesan or a provincial president and must have served on a diocesan council for at least four years and the provincial council for at least four years not counting the two years served as diocesan president. Becoming a life member is not an award, it is a commitment on behalf of the member to continue to be of service to the League at all levels. Upon the advice of national executive members, this policy will come into effect as of 2018.

At two of the diocesan conventions this spring, a vote was taken to raise the per capita amount that comes from your membership fees to your diocesan council. The third diocesan council took that vote last spring. At the winter meeting of the provincial executive, we passed a motion to ask for a \$3.00 increase per member raising our per capita fee from \$4.00 to \$7.00. There will be a letter sent to each parish in the fall asking for an instructed vote to take place at the 2019 provincial convention. If passed, the raise would take affect for January 2020. I am announcing this today so that when councils are deciding what to charge for memberships, they can be aware that another increase is possible.

When I gave my report at the National Convention last year, I was able to do so with the assistance of a slide show showcasing our members and the many quilts they had made for palliative care. I am hoping to have a slide show again this year, so if you have any pictures of your activities, particularly of your Catholic Missions projects, I would be very happy to receive them before the end of July. If possible please email to provcommunications@gmail.com with Provincial President in Subject line.

In closing, I would like to remind you that you are all here because the League has meant something special to you. Something that is important enough to give up two days out of your busy lives to come and celebrate our 70th year. Take that ‘special’ something back to the women in your parishes. Be vocal about what the League means to you and take every opportunity to mentor new members and possible members. It is because of all the women before us who were not afraid to stand up for the League that we celebrate today.

For 70 years, we have been inspired by the Spirit and have responded to God’s call. Let’s shout it to the world.

This concludes my report,

Margaret Schwab,
Saskatchewan Provincial President.

Report Supplement #2

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR’S REPORT 2018

First, I would like to thank all the members of our parish councils for the personal commitment you make to the CWL and for the faithfulness you live out in serving the needs of others. You are truly a living word of God’s love in the world, in your community, and in your family. It has been truly a joy to journey with you for these past few years as your provincial spiritual advisor. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the provincial executive for the leadership they have shown in bringing the councils of our province together as we live together in community our shared mission of growing in faithfulness to the Gospel, serving our neighbor in love, and staying committed to a social justice that creates a space for those on the margins.

For the past year we have been reflecting on our national theme: Inspired by the Spirit: Women Respond to God’s Call. And many of you have taken part in meetings, workshops and diocesan conventions that have reflected and pondered on the gift of the Spirit, and have shared in discerning what it means today for the CWL to respond to God’s call. As you grow in the Spirit and in your response to God’s call, the whole Church is with you. Curiously enough, even our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has joined you on your journey as you discern deeper in your mission and God’s call in your life. Back in March, Pope Francis promulgated the Apostolic Exhortation, *Gaudete et Exsultate*, the call to holiness in today’s world. Please take the opportunity to read this short 50 page exhortation that our Holy Father has given to the Church as a practical guide for our times to live out our call to holiness. It resonates well with

what is happening in the CWL today, and it reads not like a papal document of dogmatic teaching, but rather like a spiritual letter to the soul that will lead you to drink deeply from the waters of life.

We are all called to be holy, and I think deep down we all desire to be holy, for it is truly good to be amidst God's holy ones. For holiness is nothing other than charity lived to the full. Therefore, the measure of our holiness stems from the stature that Christ achieves in us, to the extent that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we model our whole life on Christ.

Pope Francis states that "every saint is a message, which the Holy Spirit takes from the riches of Jesus Christ and gives to his people." Isn't that beautiful? That means that your life is a message, that shares in the riches of Christ, which has been given to you by the Spirit. Do you know what that gift is in you, what that word is in you spoken by God, discerned through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Pope Francis says if you want to know the word that the Lord wishes to speak to you and through you, and if you want to recognize that word in the saints around you, don't get caught up in the details: "for there we might also encounter mistakes and failures. For not everything a saint says is completely faithful to the Gospel, not everything he or she does is authentic or perfect." He suggests that what we need to contemplate is the totality of their life, their entire journey of growth in holiness. How do we do this, by listening to what God tells us and by recognizing the signs that God gives to us along the way, keep asking yourself what would Jesus do. God wants this word – this message – he speaks to the world through you to happen, let yourself be inspired, transformed and renewed by the Spirit, who knows how to make this happen in you by giving you what you need each step along the way.

The Holy Father goes on to guide us in how this word – God's message – is formed in us. "This will require in you moments of silence and solitude." This is difficult for us to attain today in a world filled with what the pope calls "new gadgets" (I think he is talking about cell phones), and overwhelmed by words, and an increasing din, filled not with joy but rather discontent of those whose lives have lost meaning. Do you recognize the need to step away and recover the personal space needed to carry on a conversation with God? Finding that space, the pope says is difficult and painful, but it will always be fruitful. He really lays it on the line stating that some gadgets even make us resent our mission, or cause us to grow slack in our spirit of service and generosity.

Besides these gadgets the pope develops in great detail two subtle enemies to holiness that have been around since the beginning of Christianity. First, he points to the heresy of Gnosticism that "presumes a purely subjective faith whose only interest is a certain experience or set of ideas and bits of information which are meant to console and enlighten, but which ultimately keep one imprisoned in his or her own thoughts and feelings. The Church however, has always maintained that holiness is not measured by amount of information or knowledge we possess, but by depth of charity." The problem here is that we separate the intellect from the flesh, and become incapable of touching the incarnate Christ. The danger is that it forms a mindset in us that forms a vision of its own perfection, where I become right about everything.

The second enemy to holiness that has reared its ugly head again is the heresy of Pelagianism. The tendency is to swing to the other side of the pendulum, that if knowledge will not make me a saint, then I will do it by my own efforts. The Pelagian ideology of self effort, the pope states, leads one to “trust in their own powers and feel superior to others because they observe certain rules or remain intransigently faithful to a particular Catholic style.” The problem here is a lack of charity, one fails to realize that not everyone can do everything and that in this life human weaknesses are not healed completely once and for all by grace. For Catholics grace builds on nature, which moves through real human lives, grace doesn’t make us superhuman all at once. That kind of thinking the pope warns would place too much confidence in the self and not enough in God, and ends up in refusing or blocking grace. Only on the basis of God’s gift, freely accepted and humbly received, can we cooperate by our own effort in our progressive transformation. We must first belong to God offering ourselves to him, who was there first, and entrusting to him our abilities, our efforts, our struggles, and our creativity, so that his free gift may grow and develop within us.

The pope then walks us through the call to holiness outlined in the beatitudes and in Matthew 25. I leave them to you for your own meditation.

The pope then outlines five signs of holiness or attitudes necessary for understanding the way of life to which the Lord calls us. Important for us to note is the way they combat certain dangers and limitations of the times in which we live. Times that are plagued by an anxiety that is debilitating, a negativity that ensnares us, a self content that is bred by consumerism, an individualism that isolates, and a spiritualism that has nothing to do with God.

The first of these signs or attitudes is perseverance, patience and meekness, and is hailed as a solid grounding in the God who loves and sustains us. This love enables us to persevere amidst life’s ups and downs, and enables us to endure hostilities, betrayals and failings of others. In essence as St. Paul teaches, ‘if God is for us, who can be against’ – this is the source of peace that is found in the lives of the saints. This is what the pope maintains “makes it possible to give witness to holiness in fast pace business of today, to be patient and consistent in doing good. For those who put their faith in God, can also be faithful to others, not deserting them in bad times, but accompanying them in their anxiety and distress, even when it doesn’t feel good.” For we overcome evil by good, not returning evil with evil. We are not spiteful or revengeful, again St. Paul calls us to “put away all bitterness and wrath and wrangling and slander.” The Pope reminds us how easy it is to “get caught up in networks of verbal abuse, where we look to compensate our own discontent by lashing out at others.” Holiness looks to inner strength, grace from being carried away and waste energy complaining about failings of others, being caught in web of negativity. Do you want to hear the remedy? Pope says it’s difficult to tear ourselves away from outer strength that engages in a show of the battle for power. The remedy is the inner strength found in humility. “Humility,” the pope says, “can only take root in the heart through humiliations, without them, there is no humility or holiness. If you are unable to suffer and offer up a few humiliations, you are not humble and you are not on the path to holiness. The holiness that God bestows on his Church comes through the humiliations of his Son.” That’s probably enough for perseverance.

The second is a little lighter, it's the sign of joy or sense of humor. I love how Pope Francis can turn you on a dime. Saints are joyful and full of good humor. Not flaky, but realistic, they radiate a positive and hopeful spirit. The Christian life is joy in the Holy Spirit, it is always one that rejoices, because it rejoices at being loved. Nothing can take that away. Not even losing our way of doing things. That joy brings a deep security, a serene hope and a spiritual fulfillment that the world cannot understand or appreciate.

The third sign of holiness is an attitude of Boldness and Passion. We are compelled to share the good news with others. Why? Because we share what we have heard and seen, that word is not distant from you, but inspired in you and given to you by the Spirit, who remember has taken it from the riches of Jesus, for you to make a difference in the world. Jesus says, be not afraid, put out into the deep. Here we need the Spirits prompting and inspiration, for fear paralyzes us, tempts us to play it safe, don't go out of your comfort zone, stay out of the water. What happens? We become closed in on ourselves – air grows musty – become unhealthy. The holy father gives us a sense of what this looks like, we become small minded, reject new ideas, hide behind rules and regulations, we can't leave behind familiar way of doing things. I can hear him say. No. Not you. You be bold.

The fourth sign of holiness is found in community. When we live apart it is difficult to fight against the snares and temptations of the devil and the selfishness of the world. Growth in holiness is growth into community, where “called to create God – enlightened space in which to experience the hidden presence of the Risen Lord.” In this space we come to recognize the little details of love. Holiness comes in the little way of love. The way we care for others, create an open and evangelizing environment, where we can be sanctified by the Father's Love.

Finally, the fifth sign is that we are in constant prayer and communion with God. The Lord can be heard in the midst of silence, we really need this to happen so we can discern in the light of the Spirit, the path of holiness to which the Lord is calling us. Otherwise any decision we make may only be a window dressing, rather than exalting the Gospel in our lives. Unless we listen, all the words in our life become useless chatter. Far from being an escape from the world it places us more deeper in the world through the incarnation, where we touch the wounds of Christ.

I treasure the word that God has spoken through you who have been inspired by the Spirit, and are responding to God's call. Who are on the journey of becoming saints in Christ, the great and the small among you have taught me how to hear and how to see. I will continue to pray for you, and ask you to pray for me and all your spiritual advisors, that we become the holy priests God has called us to be today.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Gerard Cooper

Report Supplement #3

CWL SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL, 70TH Saskatchewan Provincial Convention
PRINCE ALBERT DIOCESE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This past year has been a year of ups and downs, encouragements and discouragements. After the Prince Albert Diocesan Convention in Nipawin, the Provincial Convention in North Battleford and the National Convention in Charlottetown, I felt so renewed and eager; able to take on all the tasks given to me in my position as President. Some went quite well and others were neglected. I thought in the fall after a summer “break” everything would come together with an executive meeting to do some strategic planning for the year; who could help which council with annual reporting where our Diocese is still sadly lacking, who could assist with preparing a good communique for the councils and just a general get together to talk and share.

Disappointingly and very discouragingly the meeting just didn't happen. We couldn't seem to find a common time when more than 4 of us were available, accidents happened, bad weather and lately even a place to hold a meeting. We even thought that a telephone conference call was a good solution but that was cancelled at the last minute because of time conflicts. I believe that as an executive our lack of getting together to do the planning and production the result is that the councils in the diocese are not receiving all the information they should be getting and they are feeling left out of the loop. Again this year only 5 out of 90 councils submitted online reports; 2 unable to access the system so they mailed them to me and I included those in my annual report. This is very disappointing to me and a very inaccurate portrait of all the work done in our councils.

On a positive note, however, I attended the Provincial meeting/workshop in Bruno for 1 day and then the next day I attended the workshop in Goodsoil and listened to a wonderful speaker speaking on the results of drinking and driving as well as having some good laughs with the entertainment and the Sisters Singing act; I attended both the Saskatoon Diocesan Convention in Kindersley and the Regina Diocesan Convention in Yorkton; I learn so much from being with the other dioceses at convention – how to put on one that is educational and inspirational is a gift to me. Most recently I attended the CWL Mother's Day tea in Loon Lake which is always a day to remember, a nice drive and good company.

The highlight of the year: At the Prince Albert Diocesan Convention in Rosthern on April 14th of this year I announced that the council that was scheduled to host the 2019 Convention was no longer able to keep that commitment and if any other council was able to take on the convention please let me know. I expected to receive an email maybe in a month or so saying another council had decided to take up the slack but I was not prepared for what happened. The Rosthern ladies, without hesitation at all, responded with a resounding “We will do it. We know how”. AND THEY DO KNOW HOW This is truly, as our theme says, “women inspired by the Holy Spirit responding to God's call”.....

This concludes my report. Respectfully submitted
Shirley Lamoureux, Prince Albert Diocesan President

Report Supplement #4

REGINA DIOCESAN PRESIDENT'S ORAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2017

Provincial Convention June 3-4, 2018- Regina

Marilyn Schuck, President

The Regina Diocesan CWL has 72 councils with a total membership of 3038 which is a decline of 148 members. Three of these councils are inactive, and one is in the process of disbanding. As we all know, these decreases in membership are mostly through aging and death as well as the fact that the younger population of Catholic women are not joining the League for various reasons.

The Regina Diocese saw the amalgamation of two regions when Our Lady of the Prairies and Our Lady of the Fields formed a new region, renamed Southwest Region now chaired by Susan Pridmore of Consul. All of our nine regions have a chairperson who is also a member of our Diocesan council. Chairpersons are encouraged to attend all council meetings as well as the Diocesan and Provincial conventions. Each region hosts one or two mini conventions, workshops or meetings each year. Our diocese is very large and this arrangement allows councils the opportunity to be informed regarding activities and programs at each level of the league.

11 councils celebrated significant anniversaries and were sent Diocesan certificates: 80 years – St. Anthony, Regina; 75 years – St. Mary, Regina; 70 years – St. Cecilia, Regina; 60 years- St. Stephen, Consul; Our Lady of Confidence, Cadillac; Sacred Heart, Benson; 55 years – Our Lady of Victories, Esterhazy; 50 years – Immaculate Heart of Mary, Arcola/Carlyle; St. Elizabeth, Stockholm; Holy Trinity, Regina; 35 years – St. John the Baptist, Dysart.

That records 645 years of service for 'God and Canada'! As well there were 43 Long Term membership certificates presented to members in our diocese.

As Diocesan president, I attended the Prince Albert Diocesan convention in Nipawin and Saskatoon Diocesan Convention in Watrous, the Sask. Provincial CWL Convention in North Battleford; CHAS convention in Regina; a provincial workshop and provincial meetings. I also attended Holy Trinity, Regina Council's 50th anniversary and 3 regional meetings. Regarding the Regina diocesan events, I was pleased with the effort put into them and commend the regional chairpersons for organizing informative workshops and inspirational speakers. I would have liked to have attended more of these regional meetings but October was the popular choice and I couldn't be in two places at once. Some members of my executive helped out but there were a few events that no diocesan representative was able to attend. Due to a family reunion in August, I was not able to attend the National Convention in PEI but was represented by our president-elect and 1st vice-president.

Most of the work was done to revise the Regina Diocesan Manual of Policy and Procedure, but the final process has not been completed yet due to illness by key members of the committee. We hope to get that finished up as soon as possible.

Our Diocesan Convention was held at St. Gerard Parish, Yorkton hosted by the Yorkton-Melville region. There were over 200 members, dignitaries and guests in attendance. Archbishop Donald Bolen presided at the opening mass, along with all attending priests concelebrating. Guest speaker, Rev. Rene Mangahas, spoke on the current CWL theme using his love of music to get his message across starting with an Amen Clap to music from Sister Act, Sound of Music and ABBA. His energetic speech had everyone captivated until his final biblical quote from the last 4 verses of Matthew's Gospel where Jesus instructs his disciples to go forth and baptize all nations assuring them and us that He will be with us always to the end of the age. On the second day Dr. Mary Deutscher spoke on "Protection of Conscience for Health Care Professionals" and National President, Margaret Ann Jacobs, conducted a workshop "Strategically Planning" which allowed members to voice their opinions on the future of our CWL in Canada. At the business portion of the convention, standing committee reports were heard on various topics such as palliative care, the future of our CWL, the Theodore School court decision, Pornography Hurts, and use of technology to mention a few. An instructed vote to increase per capita diocesan fees to \$10 was passed. The current executive was reaffirmed at the closing Mass. Following tradition, the Traveling Madonna was passed on from the Southwest Regional Council to the Yorkton/Melville Regional council.

In closing, my first year as diocesan president with its steep learning curve and hardships along the way has been very rewarding, thanks to my dedicated executive members and the co-operation of our membership as a whole. I look forward to my second year and pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide us to respond to God's call.

This concludes my report.

Report Supplement #5

SASKATOON DIOCESAN PRESIDENTS REPORT
PROVINCIAL CONVENTION JUNE 3RD AND 4TH, 2018
Ingrid Eggerman, Watson Sk.

Greetings from the Saskatoon Diocese. As the new President for the Saskatoon Diocese I am very pleased to represent the 2600 members and 44 councils that make up our Diocese.

Our Diocesan Convention was held in Kindersley at St Joseph Parish on April 23/18. It was well attended by 196 people. Our presenters were Barb Dowding who led a strategic planning workshop, Rev Emmanuel Mbah who gave a brief presentation on his book, "Living in Dominion", and guest speaker Carla Carlson who shared her experience of everyday grace through examples from her work as a social worker as well as her current law practice. A motion was made and passed at the meeting that councils and members be recommended to write letters to the provincial Premier and appropriate ministries regarding our concerns with the recent announcement of legalizing the use of cannabis. Next year's Diocesan convention will be held on Saturday May 11/2019 in my hometown of Watson.

We were pleased as a diocesan council to have presented 5 workshops in each of our 5 regions on the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit in the past year, and will continue to present these workshops. Please call me or one of the Diocesan executive to book your workshop.

Many thanks to all members and councils for the prayerful support of the tragic bus crash of the Bronco Hockey team. Please continue your prayers for all families, that they not lose hope but come to know that God is with them in every circumstance.

I was privileged to be able to attend the March for Life in Regina and represent the three Saskatchewan Councils. Two of my Watson CWL members came with me to hold a beautiful 3 x4 ft banner our council had made up for the occasion. I was able to include and promote our National program of obtaining one million plus signatures, that National council that will be presenting to the Federal Government in 2019, in support for the sanctity of Life. I have copies of this petition available today, for anyone wanting them. These copies are also available on the National web site. It is amazing, what we can do when we stand up to the sanctity of life with almost 80,000 women across Canada.

We will be having our fall Diocesan meeting at St Patrick's in Saskatoon on Sept 10/18 with presenters Shawna Arnold and Nancy Garez will share silent no more abortion experiences. As well as their volunteer work with, The Fountain Of Hope program that teaches grade 9 & 10 the respect for life. Also, Jacqueline Saretsky, Coordinator of hospital Chaplaincy of Saskatoon will be speaking to us about end of life issues as well as promoting the dying healed program.

Two or more of our Council members will attend the CHAS conference to be held in Saskatoon Oct 22 and 23. Sister Nuala Kenny, who has also spoken at the National Conference in Halifax will be giving a talk on, rediscovering the Art of Dying and Challenges for the Disciples of Christ.

We are looking forward to attending the Provincial workshop in Bruno on Oct 12 and 13, which is just down the road from me. Last year I attending and was in need of a little retreat and spirituality after a busy summer. The peace and quiet of St Therese and the prayerful atmosphere was just what I needed and I think it will be for every one attending.

This concludes my report.

Report Supplement #8

Saskatchewan Provincial CWL Organization Oral Report June 4, 2018

As CWL members we are living in changing but hopeful times! After witnessing the declining numbers in our membership, and listening to its members from across Canada, our national executive decided that for the League to flourish, changes needed to be made. They launched the strategic planning committee, which in turn struck seven sub committees composed of members from across Canada. These committees were set up so that every aspect of the League could be evaluated. They are seeking advice from experts in strategic planning, and from members, so they can ultimately, suggest changes that will attract more women, especially younger women to join the League. On Trinity Sunday, in Matthew 28: 19-20, Jesus said to his disciples, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." We are those disciples! Through the grace of our baptism, we are called to continue the work Jesus began so many years ago. And what better way to achieve that calling, but through our work in the Catholic Women's League of Canada! We are a faith -based organization, wherein members seek to grow in their Catholic Faith and in their spirituality. So

as the strategic planning committees continue their work, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide them. We pray they will have the insight and the courage to make wise and bold decisions in transforming our organization to attract and meet the needs of women of our time, never losing sight of our basic mission.

Your discipleship was evident in the dedicated work you outlined in your annual reports. Thank you to all who submitted annual reports on line or manually. Online reporting continues to be a challenge for some councils. Out of a possible 136 councils, only 63 organization chairpersons completed the online report. It is so important to share the good things you do in your parishes with the rest of the membership. Our executive handbook tells us that, "Reports are an important means of communicating with others in the parish, the community and the country at large." I encourage all councils to complete their annual reports online and to submit them by the date designated by national.

Because of an unfortunate turn of events at national office, there was some confusion on how councils were to submit their membership fees this winter. Some councils did not send in their memberships by mail, hoping that the online submission would be restored. To date, this resulted in only 5461 memberships recorded from Saskatchewan, as compared to 6118 memberships at this same time in 2017. On page 3 of the Spring 2018 issue of The Canadian League, we were informed that online membership submissions will not be available for 2018. If you have not all ready done so, please mail in your memberships as soon as you receive them.

As chairperson of organization, I want to encourage you to use The Canadian League magazine as an invaluable source of motivation and information. If we all read the magazine from cover to cover each month, how much more informed and enthused we would be about this life-giving organization! With an increase in knowledge comes an increase in confidence, and both will help us to share the gift of the League with other Catholic women. Also, when asked for a report at council executive meetings, we would always have something to report, as inevitably, each magazine contains an article that pertains to each convenorship.

As Jesus instructed his disciples "to make disciples of all nations", today, during this time of change, the Holy Spirit is guiding us to become true disciples and to carry on the mission of Christ in our work for God and Canada.

This concludes my report.

Chantal Devine

Report Supplement #9

2018 Provincial Convention Spiritual Development Oral Report

There is no wrong way to pray. What form our prayer takes is of no consequence. It is the connection we make with God through that prayer that is important. Are we making that connection?

The founders of our League recognized the importance of prayer and it is how we begin all our work. In the almost 100 year history of the League there are countless prayer services that have been developed and shared across the country. For the past three years many of our councils have participated in the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care initiative. All those voices united in our common petition for quality palliative care; a care that provides love and respect at the end of one's life. If your council did not participate this year, consider making it a priority for next year. An excellent set of resources is provided on the National website. You may want to start small but try to engage your entire parish in some way. There will always be a need for good palliative care and eventually it will be you or someone close to you who will need it.

Do not be afraid to ask others for prayers, whether it is for yourself or someone you care about. Never underestimate the power of prayer. Following some of the recent tragedies experienced in our country, our province, we heard the response "thoughts and prayers" many times. It is when we feel otherwise helpless we instinctively turn to God for His assistance. However, these should not be the only times we turn to prayer. Our first waking thoughts can be those that give praise and thanksgiving to God, making him our first connection of the day.

While personal prayer is important, it is also important to pray in community. This is where the spiritual development chairperson plays a key role when we meet. If there is no chairperson, rotate the task among members to have some spiritual component to any gathering. We are a woman of faith and it is because of our faith why we exist as an organization.

Acknowledging a member who has passed away with a short prayer service is just as important to those who are living as to those who are deceased. It reminds us of our sisterhood and our interconnectedness. Last year we said a final farewell to 140 members in Saskatchewan. There are many years of service to the league in those numbers. Let us acknowledge them as we pray together the Hail Mary.

This concludes my report.
Connie Crichton

Report Supplement #10

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE ORAL REPORT

SK Provincial CWL Convention, 2018

Marge Appell

In recent years, we've heard a great deal about end of life issues. Some segments of society seem to think that pain and suffering are to be avoided at all cost, so much so that euthanasia and assisted suicide are touted as viable options, particularly for those who are elderly, disabled, or suffering in some way.

In 1999, the year the United Nations dedicated to older people, St. Pope John Paul II, wrote a letter to the aging, quoting Ps 90:10, "Seventy is the sum of our years, or eighty if we are strong...and they pass quickly" and he pointed out that since that time, thanks to medical progress and improved social and economic conditions, life expectancy has increased significantly in many parts of the world. He said it remains true that the years pass quickly, but he also assured us that the gift of life, for all the effort and pain it involves, is too beautiful and precious for us ever to grow tired of it.

So how do we view old age? Hopefully, we take our cues from the Bible which presents old age as a "favourable time", a time for bringing life its fulfillment. St. Pope John Paul II cited examples from both the Old and New Testaments: Abraham, who was an old man when God promised to "make of him a great nation" and Sarah who had Isaac in her later years, Moses who was old when God sent him to lead the chosen people out of Egypt; the parents of John the Baptist, who were "advanced in years", and Simeon and Anna who waited many years for the Messiah.

Fast forward to the 21st Century where something counter to the Biblical esteem and value placed on old age is happening. Now old age is becoming undervalued due to a mentality that gives priority to immediate human usefulness and productivity. This thinking has led some older people themselves to question whether their lives are still worthwhile.

And so, euthanasia and assisted suicide are being discussed, defended, even put forward as solutions for avoiding pain, suffering, and difficult situations. The words themselves are losing the sense of horror they once evoked; where once unanimously they were considered criminal and morally wrong, they are become socially acceptable, and respect for all life is losing ground. In his encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life) St. Pope John Paul II described this as a "culture of death". We need to renew and continue our efforts against it.

In closing, let us ask our Gracious God, who created us in His image and likeness, to help us be advocates for those whose lives are endangered, and to give us the courage and the strength to be diligent in our efforts to protect life at all stages.

This concludes my report.

Report Supplement #11

2017 COMMUNITY LIFE ORAL REPORT TO 2018 SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL CONVENTION

June 3 & 4, 2018

LORRAINE THIBEAULT

Madam President, CWL Members, Guests: Community Life – It’s what we’re about. It’s what we crave. It improves our health and well-being.

Community life is being a member of a family, of a church, of a school, of a town or city, of a country. Every standing committee has an element of community: Christian Family Life is the community of family. Communications is the means by which community connects. Education and Health is the community of schooling and of caring for body and mind. Legislation regulates the community we are a part of. Organization gives structure to the community of the CWL. Resolutions allow the CWL community to share its concerns with the diocesan, provincial and national communities. Spiritual Development is the community of spirit. We gather as a community of like-minded people and of seekers.

In Community Life in 2017, parishes and dioceses focused on the poor as we “opened the doors of our hearts” to be merciful and to evangelize. We asked for bread and we shared our bread.

We respected the dignity and rights of persons, worked towards social and economic justice, were positive forces concerning refugees, immigration and citizenship, and supported developing countries.

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 workshops. Those who are incarcerated, bullied, trafficked, impoverished, abused, homeless, and dealing with racism are held up in prayer and support by CWL members.

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?

There are some areas where we have struggled to keep pace:

- 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.**

- We are not highly familiar with restorative justice programs and prison ministry.
- Our personal understanding of the needs of immigrants and refugees is fair to poor.
- 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 such as Canadian Red Cross, Chalice, and Habitat for Humanity.
- Although only prayerful support was given to wish foundations, we acknowledge that many individuals do support this endeavour personally.

One diocesan Community Life chairperson summed up our work. She said, “The needs of local communities are met as they arise.” We focus most on local needs for food, shelter, emotional, financial, end-of-life, and mobility support.

We celebrated Canada’s 150th birthday well. We definitely get an A+ when it comes to celebrating. The “plus” comes from the many ways we celebrated in service to others. Truly, we respond to the exhortation to see God in others and to respond accordingly.

This concludes my report.

Report Supplement #12

Saskatchewan Provincial Convention 2018 Communications Oral report

Madam Chair,

Communication on provincial and national websites is important for our readers. They will see how we are living out our theme Inspired by the Spirit and Women Responding to God’s Call. We hope we encourage new members and educate and enthuse current members. I encourage you to check out cwl.ca for national and cwlsk.ca for diocesan and provincial news. When submitting activities around your councils and reports, I encourage you to exclude your address, phone number and personal emails. It is not safe to put your personal information on unprotected websites. If you wish to contact a diocesan or provincial executive, please send it to me at provcommunications@gmail.com and I will be pleased to forward your email to the appropriate executive member. In the Subject line of the email: Attention: Provincial President or Diocesan Resolutions, etc. We welcome hearing from all our councils. Please review my Communications Communiques #1 and #2 to guide you how to prepare your good news. Watch for Communique #3 in June. If you do not have internet access, I would encourage you to ask one of your CWL members to print out some articles from these websites

so everyone in your council has access to this information. Have a look at Saskatchewan CWL website where you will see Newfoundland's submission about the quilts they created for our Humboldt Broncos. See national's "On the Spot" communication project to see Humboldt CWL's thanks to all prayers and actions to help with the Bronco tragedy. The point of these two examples is the news can be spread so effectively through these available sites.

The Prairie Messenger newspaper has been a faithful source of Catholic and Christian encouragement for almost a century. Unfortunately it closed its doors May 2018. I have brought a couple recent ones if you wish to browse through them. *The Catholic Register* serves every province and has won dozens of awards. *Prairie Messenger's* Leah Perreault has agreed to write a monthly column. Fr. Ron Rolheiser appears weekly. Mary Morrocco contributes monthly. *The Catholic Register* can continue provide a weekly Catholic newspaper to our homes. I received this information in the recent *Prairie Messenger* edition. They offered two free copies if you were a subscriber. Introductory price to subscribe for one year which is 47 issues: Print is \$35.00, Digital is \$25.00 and Print and Digital is \$45.00. You are welcome to browse *The Catholic Register* at my table. The company office is Toronto, Ontario. www.catholicregister.org. Call toll free 1 855 441 4077 ext. 404.

This concludes my report.
Adele Giblin

Report Supplement #13

Education and Health
June 04, 2018
Saskatchewan Provincial Council
Catholic Woman's League of Canada

The National Focus for this committee this year is Mental Health. This year May 07-13 was deemed mental health week by the Canadian Mental Health Association. Mental health issues can affect the age groups of children, teens, mid-years and seniors. Mental health must be viewed and treated like any other illness. Awareness and support is needed in this area.

Physical activity and a positive attitude are effective drug free, low cost treatments for depression and other mental disorders.

12 hours for Hospice Palliative Care has been acknowledged this year the week of May 06-12. Councils were encouraged to take part in this initiative on a day within that week that best suited them. Government of Canada --Health-- presently have a site --Consultation on Palliative care till July 13 of this year. They are asking Canadians to share their ideas, innovations and lived experience related to palliative care. Information on how to participate or view the goals go to the Government of Canada -Health-Health system and services- Consultation on Palliative care on the National CWL website under Education and Health. I encourage you to check it out.

Bioethics

If you are interested in the teachings of the Catholic church on issues of bioethics there is information on YouTube on the channel Catholic Bioethics Moments. Currently, there are three series available first one being Ethical issues at the **End of Life**: topics are Catholic church teachings on death, Euthanasia; Forgoing treatment and Principle of Double effect. According to the annual reports it appears that no council members have a subscription to the newsletter as yet.

Resolution 2015.02 Ban the use of microbeads in personal care products was presented to the federal government and a law was passed. Effective July 01 of this year microbeads are banned in shower gels, toothpaste, and facial scrubs. Effective July 01, 2019 microbeads found in natural health products and non-prescription drugs will also be banned.

Environment

Exposure to radon, a colorless, odourless gas is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Get your home tested.

Resolution 2015.03: Banning the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides is seeing some slow and marginal action, but action none the less, is being taken in a positive direction. The Pest Management Regulatory Agency will be recommending that one of the three most damaging neonics be banned now with another in 2021. League members are encouraged to continue communicating with members of parliament to specifically ask for support to the resolution and a response on what action will be taken in that regard. Let's celebrate the small wins but keep an eye on the end result!

Be protective of Mother Earth, many of our flora and fauna need our protection; so as you are outside this summer be mindful of the pesticides and herbicides that you use, that they do not kill unnecessary. Be kind to any creatures that make their home near you.

Scholarships and Bursaries

National Bursary fund needs assistance; as funds are dwindling due to the low interest rates. They are encouraging councils and members to send donations to national office to help give this fund some new life.

Education

The Saskatchewan School Board is still raising funds for the Theodore Case which they anticipate will go to court by mid- 2018. The Regina Diocesan Convention which was held in Yorkton this year donated the collection from the Mass to this initiative.

This concludes my report,
Marian Zsombor
Chairperson

Report Supplement #14

Legislation Report June 4, 2018

Susan Melchiorre, Chairperson

Saskatchewan Provincial Council

It has been a busy time on Parliament Hill with our members of Parliament debating and voting on numerous bills. Some that may interest you:

Bill C-78 - Divorce Act is being modernized. It was tabled last week and it hopes to bring less conflict and more clarity. The act will put the interest of the children first. The goals are to promote interest of the child, address family violence, reduce child poverty and make family justice system more accessible and efficient. One aim is to bring divorce out of the court room and into a family justice setting.

Bill C-76 - a bill to Amend the Canadian election Act. This bill is meant to limit fundraising, campaign times and other rules of election. As it was being heavily debated the Speaker of the House stopped debate suddenly much to the chagrin of the opposition and will call a vote. It is believed this was done so that once the bill is passed these new rules can be put in place prior to the 2019 federal election.

Bill C-6 an Act to Amend the Citizenship Act – has passed – some of the changes – if a dual citizen commits an act of crime, terrorism crime or fights in a foreign army they would lose their Canadian citizen and not be accepted back in Canada. Under the changes to the act they will not lose their citizenship, be allowed back to Canada and will be tried under the Canadian Justice system if deemed necessary. Also, requirements to become a citizen of Canada have changed. Before, you needed to live in Canada 4 full years out of 6 to be a Canadian citizen. Now it is three years out of five with no restriction on the time you can be away from Canada.

Bill C-49 - Transportation Modernization Act is one dear to the Prairie Provinces. The aim of the act is to put more accountability on our railroads to pick up and deliver grains, etc. in a timely fashion. Large fines will be issued if delivery goals are not met as it is crucial that our agricultural product be delivered in time.

The Act to Legalize the use and sale of marijuana is currently in the Senate. They plan to vote on it on June 7, 2019.

There are lots of bills, act, amendments going on in Parliament that you may not be aware of. If you google the federal government site “Discussions in Canadian Parliament This Week” it may surprise you what was discussed that you may not have seen in the news – Bill C-25 – amendments to the Canadian Business Corporation Regulations; Bill C-75 – Justice Modernization Act; Bill C-65 Abandoned Vessels Act has passed third reading; Bill C-74 – the Budget Bill; also discussed were rules on flying the National Flag at half-mast and actions to be taken on opioids. This is just to name a few.

Most of the chatter that has gone on in our Provincial Legislature involves our refusal to partake in the carbon tax being introduced federally, fate of the pipeline to the Pacific, activities at the Greater Transportation Hub west of Regina, and laws once the use and sale of marijuana becomes legal and lastly giving themselves a 3.5% raise.

Take an interest in the laws and political changes that is going on in your country. Don't sit idly by when you have an issue that effects your beliefs. Speak up and maybe even develop a resolution.

This concludes my report

Resolution Report

June 4, 2018

Susan Melchiorre, Chairperson

Saskatchewan Provincial Council

Catholic Women's League of Canada

Well here we are at our annual provincial convention, and once again we do not have a resolution to discuss and action. What are current issue that you think need addressing in your world today. A resolution can be addressed to any government – federal, provincial, municipal or to the Catholic Women's League. Surely there has be something out there that a council is passionate about. We do a lot of talk about issues we would like to see some action on, but talk won't get us anywhere. We need resolutions to address these concerns. Why are councils hesitant to get involved in the resolution process? Too complicated? Don't understand the process. Too busy? Are you really too busy to see justice served? Or is it lack of interest from your members or you just are not passionate enough to see a concern through to the end.

If you want to write a resolution we have a lot of help for you in this province. Maybe we need a resolution workshop. We have numerous members in the province who have served on resolution committees from council to national level. And all would be willing to give you guidance should you want assistance in wording and research. Also, to familiarize yourself with the resolutions process and criteria read the "Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook". It is on the national website if you do not have a copy in your "Executive Handbook".

Wouldn't it be great to have one or more resolution to action at next year's provincial convention!!!

The Council of the Cathedral of the Holy Family, Saskatoon did have a resolution on marijuana but it was withdrawn at the diocesan level due to action the provincial government had taken prior to the resolution coming to convention. And instead a motion was passed to continue our concerns about the legalization of marijuana with the action to continue to write letters of concern and of course pray.

This past week or so the National council had planned to meet with the federal government to discuss last year's resolutions and progress being made of previous ones. Have not seen the results to date, watch for it on the national website.

On July 13-14 the National Resolution Committee will be meeting in Toronto to review all the resolutions that have been forwarded from provincial councils' annual conventions and to let them know what the next steps will be in the process. The topics that come from our resolutions are inspiring. I look forward to the resolution dialogue and discussion at the national convention. It is my favourite part of the national convention.

The saying is "that the squeaky wheel gets the grease". Why do you think we have legislation that now support euthanasia, abortion, same sex marriage, attestations for government funds, legalization of marijuana, to name a few. The people who favour these things and who many be the minority have been very squeaky wheels. Don't you think it is the Catholic Women's League turn to be the squeaky wheel and get the grease.

Time to start thinking about a resolution that is close to your heart now. Hoping to be contacted by some of you in the near future.

Please consider the challenge of presenting us with a resolution. Pray to the Holy Spirit and may the Holy Spirit guide you and inspire you as Catholic women. May he encourage you to respond with courage and action.

This concludes my report.

Report Supplement #15

Catholic Women's League of Canada
Past President Oral Report
June 2018

We cannot let our history and past be lost, for without it we would not be able to move ahead. What have the women who have come before us accomplished? Important documents are to be archived and that is one of the jobs of a Past President. You retain items that not only are of historical value but have continuing value to your parish council, diocese or provincial council. When archiving pictures make sure they are dated, everyone in the picture is identified by name the event named and location. I am sure we can agree that our history is vibrant and alive so don't lose it as usually it can never be retrieved.

One of the most important jobs as Past President is helping your council or giving advice when asked. You have been down the road that most Presidents are headed you've been there and know where the pitfalls are! Sometimes just being a friendly shoulder to lean on is enough, be the friendly smiling sounding post when needed.

Study the Constitution and Bylaws so that you can help your President and Council when they need it. Also don't be afraid to bring to the attention of the council that maybe the Constitution and Bylaws may need to be updated.

Help your President whenever you are asked, be the right hand woman for her; by making her look good you make your council look good.

This concludes my report

Jean Reader
Past Provincial President

Report Supplement #16

Honorary and Life Members' Liaison Sask. Prov. Convention, 2018

As a retiring past Provincial President, you are asked to take on the Liaison position. We are to be the communication link for the Honourary and Life members, with the news of Honourary and Life members across Canada. Our National Liaison representative is Bev Weiler. I must say that we've had some difficulties this year as I have changed computer server, so Bev has been sending the news letter to President Margaret. Each province is asked to submit news or prayer requests to Bev and she then composes a communique to be sent out to each provincial liaison.

Keeping in touch is important, as at one time we have met or worked with many of these members. Unfortunately, we are notified about more bereavements than occasions where these Honourary and Life are still leading the way and receiving honourable mentions for their work. Our province is proud of 5 Honourary Members and 13 Life members. Remember that an Honourary member has served as a national president and not having met a certain age or number of years belonging to CWL.

During my 2 year term, I am writing a separate Saskatchewan newsletter and highlighting 3 or more members. I personally phone them and find out the latest, by "keeping in touch"

One good thing about this position is that there are no annual reports to fill out.

This concludes my report.

Marge Szabo, Sask. H & L Liaison

Report Supplement #17

2018 Social Justice Award Recipient

It is always a pleasure to give away money especially to a worthy recipient like the 2018 Provincial Social Justice Award recipient.

Many thanks go to committee members, Tillie Aessie and Susan Melchiorre. We had a good number of applicants this year. Also advertising was more widespread with it being included in the Saskatoon diocesan bulletin.

The 2018 Award goes to a second year psychology student at the U of S whose mother, grandmother and aunt are members of St. Joseph's CWL Council in Moose Jaw. She has an impressive record in Social justice activity most recently being involved with Just Youth at ST. Thomas More College, L'Arche Saskatoon, Friendship Inn, and Hands on Street Ministries. This year's recipient is unable to be here to receive the award as she is already engaged in her social justice activity with Intercordia in the mountainous region of Ecuador, which is home to the Quecha indigenous people.

Our award winner writes that "Inspired by Jean Vanier, the intercordia program was created to help young students go to places of poverty, and gain a deep learning experience by understanding the values of "being with rather than doing for". This philosophy centers around an approach to humanitarianism that focuses on how it is not only important what we can bring but what we as individuals can learn and take from the experience. I will be living with a host family in Ecuador for two months. During this time, I will be fully immersed in the Ecuadorian culture: working alongside the locals, integrating into the community, and learning the primary language, Spanish. I will be volunteering in the school and nursery throughout the week and spending time with my host family in the evening and weekends."

The 2018 Social Justice Award winner is Ashlyn Froehlich is a very worthy recipient and in case the last name sounds familiar her sister was a previous winner of the Award.

Now, it is my pleasure to present a brief video from one of our 2017 recipients, Ana Meckelborg. Ana went to Santa Fe Panama to experience cooperatives and visit an indigenous reserve. The purpose of her trip was to increase her ability to educate students on campus about the benefit of small-scale farming and fair trade and to better understand the dynamics between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples both overseas and Canada. The video shows that she has accomplished her goals.

Finally I would like to ask for your prayers for another applicant, Josephine Burns from North Battleford whose dream is to bring a Catholic Worker House to her city. Her application was not such that the committee could give her the award but did encourage her to apply another year when there is a more concrete proposal in place and in the meantime offered to pray for her.

Mary Nordick, Chair of The Saskatchewan Provincial CWL Social Justice Award Committee

Report Supplement #18

REGISTRATION REPORT

PROVINCIAL CWL CONVENTION

Date: June 4/2018
Location: Regina, Holy Trinity Parish

	Number
Voting Delegates	<u>3</u>
Accredited Delegates	
- Provincial Executive	<u>9</u>
- Diocesan Executive	<u>6</u>
- Honorary Life Members	<u>3</u>
- Life Members	<u>6</u>
- Parish	<u>39</u>
Total Accredited Delegates	<u>63</u>
Hierarchy (bishops)	<u>1</u>
Spiritual Advisors	
- Provincial Level	<u>2</u>
- Diocesan Level	<u>1</u>
- Parish Level	<u>8</u>
Total Spiritual Advisors	<u>11</u>
National Representatives	<u>1</u>
Parliamentarian	<u>1</u>
Provincial President	<u>1</u>
CWL Members (not counted elsewhere)	<u>113</u>
Guests	<u>7</u>
All others in attendance	<u>1</u>
Total Registrations	<u>200</u>

D Kosolowski
Chairperson, Registration Committee (signature)

June 4/2018
Date