

## **Saskatchewan Provincial Spiritual Development Annual Report - 2018**

Connie Crichton – Provincial Spiritual Development Chairperson

This report is based on the spiritual development annual report I received from the Saskatoon diocesan council, the Regina diocesan council, and on the national spiritual development electronic report. I did not receive a report from Prince Albert diocesan chairperson. The national electronic report is based on 50 councils reporting out of a possible 138, or a representation of 36% of councils in the province.

### **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.

The CWL Ceremonies Booklet, CWL Prays Booklet, Living with Christ missal, and The Word Among Us Magazine were the most common resources used for developing Liturgies and spiritual programs. There were some online resources mentioned such as: *Ascension Presents*, and *Dynamic Catholic*

Some members have enrolled in retreats, bible studies, lay formation, and programs offered elsewhere.

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

Council meetings are usually following Mass and 60% of the councils are able to have their Spiritual Advisor attend their meetings most of the time.

### **Study of Catholic Teachings**

Pope Francis’ encyclicals, *Evangelii Gaudium* or *Laudato Si’*, have been studied by two councils. Some of the councils have indicated they 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**

Six councils reported that they had studied women in scripture. Less than half of the councils 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.

Less than 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 quarter of the councils who had Knights of Columbus councils in their parishes. Over half of the councils contributed in some way to Catholic Missions in Canada. Most of those that do make contact do so through monetary contributions with a few contributing clothing, food or school supplies. Some of the other missions supported were: Esk-Omi Missions; Kee- Pas Missions; St. Francis Xavier Mission, On Eagles Wings, Valley Native Ministries, St. Gertrude Parish in Pelican Narrows.

## **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. **Our members are truly the heart of their parishes.**

## **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 (30%), World Day of Prayer (92%), WUCWO Day (10%) and one council reported yes to promoting/participation in the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

## **In Summary**

It is evident that our members play an active and valuable role in their parishes. Some shared specific stories of ways in which they carry out their ministries to the sick, provided education on palliative care and issues surrounding euthanasia. Some reported outreach to their communities through a sharing of meals and invitation to pray. Our Humboldt council was especially grateful for the overwhelming support they received after the tragic bus accident that impacted their community.

Taking time to pray and develop our faith is important and it gives us the strength and desire to take our service to others.

This concludes my report.