

The Catholic Women's League of Canada

REGINA DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Annual Reports

2019



Care for our

Common Home

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**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL PRESIDENT
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
YVONNE BACHELU**

After receiving the results of the President's annual survey's submitted on-line, I am extremely excited to report that 50 out of the possible 69 councils completed the on-line survey for the 2019 year. This is an overwhelming response! It is almost double from the number reporting for 2018. Thank you to all the councils that were able to complete this task!

In this report, I will try to capture the essence of all comments.

Of the responses that were received, the majority of councils have this position filled, which is a very promising fact. Many have been a member for more than 25 years as well, and have held this position more than once. This tells me that the Presidents of the councils have a wealth of knowledge and find this organization a very important aspect of the community. For the ones that have not been members for that many years, thank you so much for stepping up into this ever so important position for your council. It is important to understand how the CWL impacts not only your community, but the world as a whole.

Most members receive their information from the Canadian League Magazine, however the National communiques that are available are a close second. The National website, Diocesan and Provincial newsletters are also a sought after resource for information needed.

As our National theme changes with the election of every National President, it seems that our members consider this theme as a priority to introduce it and educate their members about it. Delivering this to your members thru council meetings, utilizing your committee chairpersons and arranging for speakers were the methods used.

Included in the survey was a question about Spiritual Advisors, specifically how often do you meet. Most councils meet with their Spiritual Advisors monthly, however one third of the councils rarely meet with them, although most, specifically 85%, are supportive of the CWL. Reasons that you feel prevent your Spiritual Advisor from being present? A lot of Spiritual Advisors, especially those in smaller communities, have more than one parish to administer to, and have to travel quite a distance between. Not sure how we can address this, but we will keep it on our radar and see what ideas we can come up with. Some are due to them being new, and not knowing much about the CWL. Well, we know how to solve that, don't we!!

Roberts Rules of Orders are a very popular resource used at meetings, along with the Constitution and Bylaws, Executive Handbook, as well as the National and council Manuals of Policy and Procedure. This is very exciting to hear! We provide resources just for that purpose and it's comforting to know that our members feel them to be just as important.

You reported that councils partook mostly in your church functions, followed closely by Regional meetings, Diocesan Conventions and meetings, World Day of Prayer, Provincial Conventions and meetings as well as fundraising events and dinners, workshops, pro-life events, retreats...all these are very important areas in the workings of our CWL.

While your councils were unable to subsidize the cost to attend conferences, fundraising dinners and events or workshops, a greater percentage of councils were able to subsidize the cost for attending

Diocesan and Provincial Conventions, however a smaller percentage were able to subsidize the cost of National conventions. This result is understandable, however it is encouraged for members to attend as many conventions at each level as they can.

Parish policy manuals are an important tool to have available, and almost half of these responding do have this for their councils. Some consider it helpful to have one and would like assistance in developing same. Please remember that your Diocesan Executive is here to help. If you are one of those councils that would like to develop a parish policy manual and need assistance, please contact me and I would be happy to help.

The majority of councils have read and understand the Executive Handbook. You reported it has assisted you in the responsibility of overseeing the operations of your councils.

Most councils provide an annual summary of council's activities to members in a variety of methods, such as written and oral reports, emails and parish bulletins are amongst the most popular.

Various committees also exist in your councils, like funeral lunches, visitations, scholarships or bursaries. Honour Guard was another important part of your councils. Other issues important to your council included Regional meetings, Canadian Northern Missions, issues with the Development & Peace organization, the National theme Care for Our Common Home, H.U.G. Campaign, Palliative Care, Pro-life, Cuernavaca, Water Challenge, Laudato Si', 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care, Euthanasia, introduced a "Spiritual Book Club" to your parish, support for Women's shelters, Abortion issues and many more.

The League letterhead is available for use, but not many of you use it when corresponding. Please remember this is for your use, and it also promotes the CWL without you really having to do anything extra for it.

When asked the question of who provided you with the greatest assistance when you assumed the role of president, the majority responded that assistance from the immediate past president was received. Following very closely to that is other former past presidents, as well as the current executive, specifically the secretary and treasurer. The Diocesan President, which is currently me, did not provide a lot of assistance, and that's okay. You need to find help where you feel comfortable. Just remember, I'm only an email (or phone call) away, and I will always be available to help.

Your greatest challenge you faced with transitioning into the presidency role was not having a full slate of officers, followed by keeping members interested, recruiting, feeling overwhelmed, finding the time, technology, paperwork, feeling of being undertrained, and the list goes on. Remember, you bring certain talents to the position that others don't. Everyone brings something to the table, all different, which is what makes our CWL so diverse. Other councils commented having to hold the presidency position for more than one term. I thank you for not letting it go un(wo)maned!

Most of you find a new national theme beneficial and embrace it as it gives your council a focus during the year.

There are many positive comments on how hard working and dedicated members are, no matter the size of the council...be it 10 members, or 100 members, all are loyal and very supportive of each other.

There were a wealth of comments when asked what makes you proud of your council, such as genuine care and concern for each other, charter members attending anniversary celebrations, involved in various ministries in church and personal lives, many indicate they are small and elderly however still willing to do what they can and carry on, although small attendance at meetings members feel strongly about the importance of maintaining the council, excellent executive and support from Spiritual Advisor, tenacity to go forward when we have so few members, how everyone works together, unwavering commitment of members.

The biggest challenge you face and how to address it as president again came with many ideas. One council mentioned that it's difficult to find a time to meet, so meetings are set on whatever day most are available. Another challenge is when there are paying members that aren't active or not interested in assuming executive positions – by holding social events and announcing them during mass helps with the attendance. Increasing membership is always a challenge – so challenge members to ask women who currently are not members. Time is also a challenge, one member wearing more than one hat on the executive. However to help with this challenge is to talk to women personally. The feeling of being overwhelmed is also mentioned. Working together more and improving overall communication helps with this. Technology is something that members find challenging, however reaching out to other members helps. Another challenge is that one member is very versed in many aspects such as public speaking, computer, graphic design, etc., so taking on a lot and not being able to find a replacement, however it is being encouraged to share responsibilities.

Members were asked what was your greatest challenge in completing this survey...some commented they could not print it, time consuming, trouble finding it. One did find it easy and said many thanks for all the devotion put in for making CWL so effective. One member mentioned that they are a small council, so the president is having to complete all the surveys. Many did indicate there was no challenge at all. There was a comment that if everything will be online by 2022, it will eliminate the older members and it's difficult to convince younger members to join. It was suggested to change the time of year it needs to be completed due to just getting back into the routine of meetings, Christmas...maybe we could start the time period from Jan 1 to Feb 1...the Christmas season would be over.

In reading over the survey results, there were many, many comments, which I feel are a very important part of providing feedback. However it is difficult to include all comments, so as I said at the beginning, I tried my best to capture the essence of all responses.

We need to keep in mind that many of our Spiritual Advisors do not have much experience with the CWL, and we need to help them learn about our organization. This will encourage them to attend meetings and conventions.

As I have mentioned in a few of my communiques this past year, I welcome members to contact me if they have any questions or concerns whatsoever. I'm available by email or phone.

May God bless you, may his love shine upon your soul, and may you feel his presence as he walks beside you as you travel your path of life.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
SHARON MAYOR**

Twenty-nine councils, which constitute 41% of 71% councils in the Regina Diocese, responded to the survey (an increase from the previous year, 2018, when 22% of 72% of the councils responded). The 2019 respondents included councils from Benson, Bienfait, Cadillac, Consul, Coronach, Esterhazy, Estevan, Gravelbourg, Gull Lake, Indian Head, Ituna, Langenburg, Maple Creek, Moose Jaw, Montmartre, Pilot Butte, Regina, Shaunavon, Swift Current, Tribune, Wauchope and Weyburn. Seven councils reported that the positions of chairpersons of the Spiritual Development standing committees were vacant. Sixteen councils reported that the same individual filled this position on more than one term. The majority of the members ranged in age from 75 to 85 years. Second to this, the age ranged from 65 to 74. Of those responding to the survey, the majority had been members for more than 25 years. Fifty percent of the councils reported spending one third of the meeting time on the spiritual aspect. As per spiritual advisors attending the meetings 38% replied “most of the time”, 24% responded “always”, while 21% answered sometimes and 17% said “never”. Thirty-eight percent attended mass either before or after a council meeting.

In reply to studying the theme, **Care for Our Common Home**, more councils studied the theme, than those councils who said they had not. Responses ranged from time spent at meetings reflecting on the theme, inviting a speaker, hosting a workshop, preparing prayer services, holding a retreat and studying Laudato.

Liturgies and Programs

Ninety-three percent of the councils reported reciting the League Prayer. Other activities listed in the top half of the graph held services for deceased members, participated in a funeral guard, prayed the rosary and took part in the liturgy. Other services attended were Stations of the Cross and World Day of Prayer. Adoration of the Sacrament was attended by 31% of the councils. Another activity listed under “other” was a Christian Unity Service (Joint “Souper” Fridays) in Lent.

Developing Liturgies and Spiritual Programs with Resources Available

The *CWL Ceremonies Booklet* was predominately used among councils. Other resources used were *The Word Among Us*, *CWL Prayer Booklet* and the *Catholic Digest Website*. Use of *The League* magazine was listed as a high priority for some councils. Other spiritual programs listed were the *Alpha* course and the *Wild Goose* series. Resources listed in communiques for spiritual development chairpersons were used less frequently. Living with the *Christ Missal* was most popular at 68%, followed by *Word on Fire* with Bishop Barron, lectio divina, Vatican website and *33 Days to Morning Glory retreat*.

Personal Growth

Thirty-two percent had participated in a lay formation program, specifically the Regina Archdiocese Lay Formation Program. Other programs listed were Advent and Lenten retreats and parish faith studies. Some participated in the 2018 *Laudato Si* study guide. Forty-one percent of the councils celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel on April 26th with a mass. As to recommending resources for individual or group study, i.e., *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (only 11% responded “yes”) and *The Genius of Women*, (10% read the article at a meeting). Ninety percent responded “no” to studying women in scripture, whereas 41% of the councils promoted the awareness of the women’s place in church and society founded in scripture.

Structural Evolution to enable the church to reflect on the partnership of women and men in Christ's mission

Seventy-nine percent of the councils have taken leadership roles in parish pastoral councils as parish committee chairpersons and served on the parish financial committee. Others took positions on regional and diocesan councils and committees. Some have served as pastoral associates.

Fifty percent joined the parish liturgy committee; eighteen percent reported not having a parish liturgy committee. In the section entitled "lay ministries" all councils participated in those listed on the survey.

CWL members chaired and/or organized all of the ten ministries. The highest participation (96%) was as Eucharistic ministers, followed closely by choir/music, decorating, hospitality, and lectors. Listed from 79% to 64% were ushers, cleaning and sacristan. Fifty percent acted as facilitators and 43% as catechists. Thirty one percent of the CWL councils participated with the Knights of Columbus in the keep Christ in Christmas campaign.

Catholic Missions in Canada, Catholic Women's League primary outreach

Fifty-two percent of the councils reported having a subscription to the *Catholic Missions* magazine. Thirty-five percent of the councils offered assistance through monetary needs, donating clothing, food, and school supplies.

Women of other Denominations or Faiths

Forty-one percent of the councils reached out to women of other denominations or faiths by initiating prayer services, hosting a joint speaker and inviting women to social events and council meetings. One council responded "yes" to participating in the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Twelve councils participated in the week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January 2019 and six councils participated in the Women's Inter-church Council of Canada. In March, twenty-three councils participated in World Day of Prayer and 6 councils took part in WUCWO Day in May.

Biggest Challenge in Completing the Survey

- Had a difficult time getting into the site
- Would lose survey when attempting to save or print it before submission
- Completing the survey without a chairperson for our council.

Biggest Challenge as Chairperson of Spiritual Development

- Finding members to fill the position
- A new member with work commitments
- Attracting members to the meetings to encourage spiritual growth; attempt a coffee night out and include appealing activities at our meetings
- Determining the members' interest in topics for Spiritual Development; will do a survey of members' interests
- Finding time to prepare and present programs
- Lack of active members and lack of younger members willing to serve in various capacities; recruit new members
- Lack of resources; use the communiques from the National and Provincial/Diocesan websites.
- Continue to offer a liturgy and reflect and/or discuss the scripture

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL ORGANIZATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
JANETTE RIEGER**

As of December 31, 2019 there were 69 active CWL parish councils in the Regina Diocese. Reports were received from 31 councils which is a 45% completion rate. That compared to only 19 councils reporting the previous year, so our completion rates jumped considerably. Well done ladies and thank you! One council, Holy Child/St. Joseph in Regina has disbanded effective December 31, so we will start the year of 2020 with 68 active councils. Half of the councils use the online system to manage member renewals while the other half still administers them manually. I am aware that there have been some difficulties with online administration, but do not abandon this system if you have been using it. Once the kinks are worked out, it is still the most efficient way to administer your council's membership.

The demographic report for Organization suggests that most councils are made up of elderly members and that most of the events and meetings are participated in by a minority of the council members. A majority of the councils reported an increase in membership with two councils increasing by 16 and by 19 members. The most effective methods of increasing membership numbers were by personal invitation, advertising in the bulletin, presentations at masses, displays at parish events, and by hosting social events. Associate members are non-Catholic women, aged 16 and over. They can vote but cannot hold an executive position. Only 1 council reports having 1 associate member.

The 31 reporting councils had an increase of 78 new members, but unfortunately they reported that 86 members did not renew. The main reasons were that they moved away or died, but many did not give a reason as to why they didn't renew. The majority of these members were contacted by a personal telephone call or by mail/email to invite them back. As organization chairpersons, we have to not be afraid to contact these lapsing members to explain their value to our organization. They are valuable to each council, but many of these ladies are not active and so they don't feel valuable. We need to explain that every small prayer that they can offer is a blessing to us, and that overall, their membership helps to support us at the diocesan, provincial, and national levels, both financially and morally by keeping our membership numbers high, which helps especially at the national level when our members meet with politicians. The vast majority of membership fees are collected by announcements at meetings, mass, or in bulletins and by phone or email.

Councils seem to be quite engaged in keeping in touch with members who are no longer able to participate by visiting, phoning, sending cards, taking communion, and by sending newsletters, minutes, and invitations. Members are recognized by service pins, certificates and awards, new member ceremonies and other special events. A majority of the councils presented pins and certificates. Six members were awarded with the Maple Leaf Service pin last year. Consider presenting awards and pins to your council members if you are not already doing so, and encourage your members to wear their pins to mass and to events at your church. It can be a great way to talk about the League when someone asks what pin they are wearing and why they received it. I encourage all members to learn about the League's 3 core values of faith, service, and social justice. Consider presenting these topics at your council meetings so that members learn about them. This is how members can explain the main work of the League to non-members, and members can use these 3 core values to entice non-members to join.

New members were engaged by being welcomed at meetings, with one-to-one conversations, new member kits, and invitations. Welcomes were extended to women of diverse ages and cultures by engaging in personal conversations. Women of other cultures have been invited to share their heritage

and culture. That is a wonderful thing to do because women of other cultures should feel comfortable maintaining their culture *and* being a CWL member. Those 2 ideas are not mutually exclusive!

While many council members attend a diocesan and provincial convention, there was no representation from one-third of the reporting councils at the diocesan convention and less than one-half of the councils had a member attend a provincial convention. Encourage your executive to have some representation at each convention. There is so much to be learned about the CWL at these conventions, as well as spiritual development, and many other current issues, and these things in turn can be shared with your council members. Every council should do financial planning to send representatives to these conventions. While it is good for our councils to be very generous in our donations to other organizations, it is also important that we make the growth of our own members a priority.

There is awareness but not much promotion of the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation to the CWL members. I have been blessed to have been accepted into the second cohort of the CWLF. By the time you are reading this, I will have completed the one-year session. Please promote this wonderful foundation to all women of your parish, especially those younger women who will be using the skills learned in their professional work and in their volunteer commitments. Remember that acceptance into the cohorts is open to all Catholic women, not only CWL members. Please contact me if you have any questions about the commitment and course work. I would be more than happy to share my experience with anyone who asks!

Councils are making very good use of League resource materials such as the National Policy & Procedure Manual, the Constitution & Bylaws, Executive Handbook, other handbooks, and ceremony and prayer books. Every Organization chairperson should have a copy of Handbook for Organization Chairpersons and Leading the League. These can be found on the national CWL website. There are many ways to recruit and maintain CWL members, and sometimes we need to try something new in our parish to recruit and maintain members. In the fall of 2019 I created and presented a workshop at the Weyburn Regional Meeting on recruiting and maintaining members. If any regional or individual councils would like this presented, please contact me.

When members had a chance to provide a personal response as to why women continue to attend meetings and functions, the main reasons are support, socialization, and spiritual growth. These 3 "S" words replace the 3 "F" words that we used to say about the League – faith, fun, fulfillment. So in addition to the 3 core values of *faith, service, and social justice*, have your members discuss how they have experienced *support, socialization, and spiritual growth* by being CWL members and remember to share the good news of the CWL with others!

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
AGNES SMITH**

Twenty nine councils in the Regina Diocese reported and are included in this report. Where several activities are listed and small numbers participated, they were grouped together.

-Out of the 29 who replied 12 positions were filled and 17 were vacant. 8 were appointed and 4 were elected.

-16 women have been members for more than 25 years, 3 for 21-25 years, 2 for 6-10 years, and 2 for under 15 years. 12 have held the position previously and for 11 it was their first time.

-14 are between the ages of 65 and 74, 4 were between the ages of 55 and 64, 4 were between the ages of 75 and 84, and 1 was between the ages of 45 and 54.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

-2 councils promoted encounter weekends for engaged couples.

-7 councils have a way to support people suffering from domestic abuse by donating to women's shelters or collecting items for them. One council provided purses filled with necessities for women who were fleeing abusive situations. Another council supported and volunteered at the Visitation House. Another one offered support through the promotion of SouthWest Crisis Services in Swift Current, Sk.

-2 councils attended workshops or seminars on family life and 24 councils celebrated special days such as Father's Day, Mother's Day and anniversaries.

SANCTITY OF LIFE

-21 councils have memberships in a local pro- life organization.

-12 participated in the Life Chain and 9 councils attended pro- life dinners and 5 councils participated in pro- life walks and 4 participated in 40 days for life and 4 councils attended the March for Life and pro-life Masses and vigils. One council planned a 12 hour vigil for palliative care and showed films on euthanasia and donated items for palliative care.

-1 council attended a presentation on Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body.

-15 councils donated money to pro- life organizations, 14 donated to Birthright, 5 to Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and 1 to Pregnancy and Support Services.

-5 councils said that they ensured that every member has a copy of the current pro-life brochure available from national office and 9 councils said that they have copies of the current pro- life brochure available in their church vestibule.

-10 councils have written letters to inform legislators of CWL resolutions on abortions and euthanasia and 19 councils regularly pray for the protection of life.

YOUTH

-7 councils participated in programs for young people in their parish.

-Young people have been encouraged to share their gifts in ministry by serving at events, lectors, in choirs, weekend youth retreats and youth groups in their parishes. Some councils have provided gifts and celebrations for youth who have received sacraments.

-CWL councils have sponsored youth at summer camps, Catholic Christian Outreach, NET Ministries, Girl Guides of Canada, leadership camps or retreats, World Youth Day, youth fairs and festivals and Steubenville.

-5 councils have purchased subscriptions to Catholic magazines, videos or books for use in the community, school or parish.

DISABLED

- 7 councils organized or participated in support groups and respite for caregivers.
- 4 councils urged communities to make churches and other public buildings more accessible and 9 councils arranged for a special space with ease of access for wheelchairs in their church.
- 5 councils supported shelters or programs to assist the disabled.
- 15 councils reached out to the disabled by praying for them, 12 visited or called them, 10 councils brought communion to them, 9 sent them cards, 6 councils provided transportation for them, 2 councils gave gifts on special occasions and 1 organized special events to reach out to the disabled.

SENIORS

- 20 councils brought communion to the seniors, 9 councils involved seniors in CWL events and visited them and 16 councils provided transportation for seniors.
- 15 councils prayed for them and called them, 11 councils gifted them with memberships and 10 councils sent cards of encouragement.
- 6 councils shared a meal with them, 5 councils invited newly retired women to join and 5 councils involved them in intercessory prayers.
- 6 councils organized social events and celebrations for seniors and 1 council invited them to share their faith story.

WIDOWED

- 17 councils sent cards of condolence, 14 councils arranged memorial services and /or funeral lunches and 13 councils visited widows and widowers.
- 11 councils invited widows to attend CWL meetings and events , 11 councils provided prayer and support after the death of the spouse and 9 councils invited them to attend community events, 7 councils called them, 5 councils gifted them with prayer shawls and others encouraged widows to participate in programs offered by the parish and included them in family outings.

DIVORCED AND SEPARATED

- 3 councils invited the divorced and separated to join group outings ,1 council sponsored or attended any informal presentations on the annulment process and 1 council purchased copies of the new brochure 'Annulments Today- Merciful and Just' to be made available for those who may need this advice.

VOCATIONS

- 16 councils participated in prayers for vocations, 5 councils adopted or supported seminarians, and 5 councils encouraged families to invite priests and religious into their home. 4 councils hosted luncheons for priests and religious and 3 councils offered Masses for vocations. Others invited priests and religious to speak on vocations, encouraged families to discuss vocations with their children and support discernment events for youth.
- 1 council sent spiritual bouquets and 1 supported priestly retirement funds and 1 supported traveling chalice/ crucifix programs.

NEW IDEAS AND PROJECTS

- One council participated in the 'Dying Healed' workshop and served lunch and coffee at the breaks. Another council gives a Crucifix and card to newlyweds and they have four groups of ladies who help at the nursing homes taking residence to and from Mass.

CHALLENGES IN COMPLETING THIS SURVEY

-the challenge that most councils said was that they were small councils and that they didn't have enough members to fill all the positions and that some of the things in this convenorship were initiated by their parish and that they helped along. Some said that they were from a small rural council and didn't have access to workshops etc. but they have great participation and do the best that they can.

-7 said that they didn't have a challenge and 3 did not respond to the question and 1 council had trouble printing the survey.

This concludes my report.

REGINA DIOCESAN CWL COMMUNITY LIFE ANNUAL REPORT 2019 LINDA MADDAFORD

This Community Life Annual Report is based on the responses from 27 of the councils in our Diocese. Of those reporting, 18 Community Life positions were filled and 9 were vacant.

Dignity and Rights of Persons

One council catered the banquet for a conference held to raise awareness on Aboriginal Issues. Seven councils support organizations geared toward assisting Indigenous people. Only one council has held a discussion on the 'Dignity and Rights of Persons: Human Trafficking in Canada' article featured in the fall 2019 issue of The League magazine. The majority of councils are monitoring general information on this topic and are sharing information at meetings.

Social and Economic Justice

The majority of Councils regularly donate food and clothing to the Food Bank, the needy and Birthright. Four councils have attended a workshop or seminar on Social and Economic Justice. Three councils have invited a speaker on this subject. Half of the councils have given financial support to drop-in centers, and emergency shelters for the homeless or those escaping domestic abuse and additionally give financial aid to organizations that assist those suffering from poverty.

Several councils report collecting items that were donated to National's H.U.G. project. The H.U.G. project (Helping, Understanding, Giving) asked members to make personal care packages and distribute them at Women's Shelters and organizations and shelters looking after the homeless.

Refugees, Immigration and Citizenship

At the parish Community Life level we are not currently reviewing or monitoring resolutions concerning Refugees or Immigration policy. Two councils have attended Citizenship ceremonies. We have some awareness of local services for Refugees and Immigrants but many of our communities are rural and have no local services.

Catholic Near East Welfare Association

3 councils made a donation to CNEWA and one council made pamphlets available to the parish. 2 councils have given aid to Canadian Food for Children, an organization whose mission is to feed the poorest of the poor.

Developing Countries

We have an awareness of child labour conditions in developing countries and the urgency to develop Labour Codes of Conduct, an understanding that Trade Laws and current economic practices are heavily slanted against the people living in developing countries, and we look to our governments to put pressure on corporations and economic structures that put profit above people.

Three councils have invited a speaker that is visiting from or immigrated from a developing country to a council meeting. Several councils attended Development and Peace Workshops. One council is supporting a building project in Mexico and also sent volunteers there to assist with the build.

Donations were made to the following organizations that focus solely on developing countries (number of councils that donated indicated in brackets): Chalice (7), Operation Christmas Child (7), Save a Family Plan (7), Canadian Red Cross (3), Operation Eyesight International (2), Samaritans Purse (2), Doctors Without Borders (1), Pennies for the Poor (1), World Vision (1). Other organizations also listed in the survey question: Buy-A-Net Malaria Prevention Group (0), Habitat for Humanity (0), Holy Childhood Association (0), Mustard Seed Project (0), Sleeping Children Around the World (0).

Some points of note, from the comments section:

Our council is in a small rural community. Several councils have very few members, 8 to 14 that attend meetings or are active. We have no refugees or immigrants in our community and almost no opportunity to interact with members of the aboriginal community. Some communities report that they are less populated have no local organizations to donate funds or volunteer time to. Several councils are concerned about the almost overwhelming need and frequent requests for funds and time from an aging group of members.

One council initiated a program in their church community 'Nickels for the North'. The funds collected go to support Catholic Missions in Canada. One council supports 'Ten Months of Giving' at their monthly meetings. Fresh items are brought by members and delivered to the local food bank. Patrons of the food bank are thrilled to receive fresh foods that are otherwise seldom included in hampers. We volunteer at Soup Kitchens, community fund-raising dinners or BBQ's where funds go to charity and people in need, and we regularly visit the sick and shut-ins.

Final Comments

From the 'Is there anything you would like to share' section at the end of the survey, I would like to sum up our overall awareness and support for Developing Countries and all of the areas covered by Community Life as follows: Perhaps we are less focused on the broader international picture, but our councils are diligent in giving financial aid, material goods, food, knit, sewn, crochet items and warm clothing to organizations and those in need in our local communities.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL COMMUNICATIONS
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
LYNDA THUL**

This report comes from year-end survey questions for the year 2019. Overall 581 respondents completed this report nationally.

The following information comes from 26 councils that replied to the survey in the Regina Diocesan area.

The Communications position has 17 filled positions or 65% with 9 vacant or 35%.

The Canadian League Magazine is always a resource that is used and continues to be one of helpful ideas and faith filled material.

The rate of usefulness regarding education, advocacy/action, new ideas, spiritual and convention reports ranges from 8 to 10 in the top levels of good, very good and excellent, with the percentage then being anywhere from 31% to 39%.

The articles published in the Winter 2019 edition that resonated highly were:
President's Message at 46%, followed by the Our Father Who Art in Heaven at 42%.

The articles published in the Fall edition 2019 that resonated highly were:

Dignity and Rights of Persons, Human Trafficking in Canada at 46%.

Highlights from the 99th National Annual Convention at 42%.

The lowest percentage of interest was 8% for the articles printed.

The League Magazine continues to be a magazine that is read and promoted in a way which remains valuable to its members.

As far as the members go:

33% of the members have held a membership for over 25 years, with 24% for 11-15 years and less than 5 years at 14%.

Also some 53% of the membership have held a leadership position.

This kind of information leads one to believe that being a member of the Catholic Women's League of Canada is a gratifying and fulfilling experience and one that is not easily stepped away from.

As we enter a new year may we continue to be encouraged and motivated by all that the League has to offer.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL HEALTH AND EDUCATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
REPORT BY JANETTE RIEGER**

This report is being completed on behalf of Laura Dubois, Education and Health Chairperson, who had to resign in early 2020 due to personal reasons. I know I speak on behalf of Yvonne Bachelu, and all of the Diocesan Executive thanking Laura for her service. She was a pleasure to have her around the executive table and she will be very much missed. We wish you the best Laura!

Of the 69 active councils in the Regina Diocese, 26 councils completed an E&H report, for a 38% completion rate. This is up slightly from the previous reporting period. Unfortunately however, only slightly over half (14) of these positions are filled, and the majority of them is by appointment. Of the filled positions, again, only half are aware of Catholic educational and religious instruction in their area and in the diocese. Those who have investigated the Catholic schools recognize the need for scholarships, food programs, extracurricular activities, faith development, and the need for school supplies. Some councils provide bursaries or scholarships for educational purposes to students and to students in Christian ministries.

Almost half of those 14 councils provide a bursary or scholarship to students. The recipients include Catholic Christian Outreach, NET Ministries of Canada, adult Catholic women, and school-aged children from elementary school through to university. There needs to be more awareness of the National Bursary Fund as the majority of councils do not promote it. The same can be said for the Coady International Institute.

The survey asked further questions of chairpersons who filled this position, so the sample was quite small. Of these 14 women, the majority are not involved in Rites of Christian Initiation. As well, the majority have not taken steps to help members improve their literacy skills.

Some councils are supporting national organizations that focus on health and wellness such as the Canadian Cancer Society, the Canadian Red Cross, the Canadian Diabetes Association, the Canadian Mental Health Organization, and women's shelters, among others. Unfortunately, all respondents are not aware of the CWL's Canadian Blood Service Partners for Life Program. Under the Partners for Life Program, CWL members are encouraged to register under the CWL's Partner identification of **CATHO11269**. This way the CWL will be recognized by its members who donate blood. As well, there is not much awareness of the CWL Mental Health Postcard campaign.

All councils should familiarize themselves with the National Voluntary Funds. More information can be found on these in the National Manual of Policy & Procedure on page 126-127. They include Coady International Institute, Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, Catholic Missions in Canada, Catholic Near East Welfare Association, and the temporary Voluntary Fund of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. If your council has extra funds to disperse, consider giving a portion to these Voluntary Funds. As well, the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation, while not a Voluntary Fund, is worthy of donations. Education and Health Chairpersons, or other CWL members, should learn about these funds and whom they benefit, and present on them at a council meeting.

There was much involvement among councils for the "12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care" including having a prayer space, inviting neighbouring churches, and promoting prayer and discussion of the issue. Councils did not focus on other issues such as water use, earth action initiative, or Earth Day. Councils

did focus on recycling, reducing waste of Styrofoam, paper, plastic bottles, and water. Councils are not focused on genetic alteration and bioethics.

The Diocesan Executive Council continues to present a \$1,000.00 annual entrance scholarship to a student of Campion College whose mother is a CWL member. This year's recipient was Jakov (Jake) Simic. In his thank-you note he stated "because of your generosity, I've been able to pursue my interest in the arts program. Thank you for your support of my academics during my first year as a university student".

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL LEGISLATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
BLANCHE BELLERIVE**

Councils Reporting: 27 of 69 councils (39.1% response rate)

Number of Reporting Councils with Legislation Chairpersons: 7

Number of Reporting Councils with no Legislation Chairperson: 20

The first portion of the annual survey asked only those councils who have a chairperson to respond, only 7 people, which is a very small sample. But of those people, all know the names of their local and provincial government representatives, and most know their federal representatives. Also, a majority of these chairpersons receive correspondence from these representatives- a significant improvement from last year. Also much improved was that almost all (6/7) of these chairpersons attended a government forum of some type and accessed Hansard, the official printed record of federal government proceedings. This increase may be due to it being an election year. They feel somewhat informed, to well informed, regarding issues at all levels.

The second portion of the survey asked all respondents to comment on their awareness of specific bills that were before the federal government in 2019. The survey mentioned 3 federal bills in particular. The majority of respondents was very aware or had some knowledge of the bill pertaining to the Protection of Freedom of Conscience Act (C-418). Respondents only had some knowledge or were not aware of acts to amend the Federal Sustainable Development Act (C-57), and An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Youth Criminal Justice Act and other Acts and to make consequential amendments of other Acts (C-75).

Specific questions were asked in the survey regarding resolutions that were passed at previous National CWL Conventions. The first question was regarding 2019.02 Canadian Support for the United Nations *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*. The second question was regarding 2018.03 Legislate Designation of Hospice / Palliative Care Services in Facilities to Exclude Medical Assistance in Dying.

The majority of respondents are not monitoring provincial legislation, but those who are reported Protection of Conscience Rights for Medical Professionals to be something they monitored and/or acted upon.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL RESOLUTIONS
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
BLANCHE BELLERIVE**

Councils Reporting: 29 of 69 councils (42% response rate)

Number of Reporting Councils with Resolutions Chairpersons: 9-most of which are shared with the legislation standing committee for those councils.

Number of Reporting Councils with no Resolutions Chairperson: 20

Several of the members who replied to the 2019 annual survey have attended a workshop pertaining to resolutions. The communiqués and reports are read by all of the chairpersons. There is significant interest in topics that could lead to a resolution; some councils considered forming a resolution and one of the councils actually prepared a resolution. It appears the main reasons for not forming resolutions are lack of participants willing to work on a resolution, lack of time, and intimidation of the resolution writing process. However there was one resolution presented to Regina Diocesan CWL in this past year for presentation at the 2019 convention.

Only about half of the reporting councils are familiar with the resolutions that require action as listed on cwl.ca. There were no provincial or diocesan resolutions passed in 2019, so therefore there was no action taken at those levels. Some of the actions undertaken by councils regarding resolutions were to raise awareness through meetings, e-mail or newsletters, write letters, sign petitions, and arrange for a guest speaker. One Council reported that they met in person with their local government representative.

Comments were made that the resolution process is too involved and intimidating for most council members. Coupled with the lack of people who are available and willing to work on a resolution makes the process rather difficult to achieve.

We are fortunate that this year one council has made the effort to draft a resolution, and this will be presented at Diocesan Convention.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL SECRETARY
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
JOAN POPOFF**

This past year we had an improvement with 33 councils responding and sending in their reports on time. That was 8 more councils than 2018. There is still an issue though in submission of the reports as this is just under 50% response. As in past years the majority of councils who have responded have a Recording Secretary with a very small number having both a Recording and Corresponding Secretary.

The majority of councils are distributing and using an agenda for their meetings and are taking a roll call of those members present. Only one council out of the 33 responding did not bring their minute books to their meetings.

Once again it was reported that the majority of Secretaries are transcribing handwritten notes. There are a few councils that are circulating minutes via email before or are passing out hard copies at the next meeting to obtain approval of the minutes. The majority are still having the Secretary read out loud the minutes from the previous meeting.

At least 50% of those reporting indicated that along with their secretarial duties they are also a signing officer with the Treasurer of the Council. Many of the Recording Secretaries maintain a list of the executive members with their contact information and receive any written reports from their executive. They also assist the President of the Council in the completion of the annual reports.

Over 77% of the councils reporting do not maintain motion books or records and only have their motions recorded in the actual meeting minutes.

Many of our secretaries have been members over 10 years and have held the position previously in past terms. It was reported that one of the challenges is to recruit new younger members and to have them step up to take on executive positions such as the secretary. Many of the councils reporting did not have any success stories or tasks that they shared.

It appears there were some challenges to completing the survey on-line, wither it was lack of computer skills with some of the secretaries, logging on to the survey, issues with trying to print and submission of the report. It is hoped that many of the councils will take time this year to complete the on survey reporting on-line and that some of the technical issues will be corrected.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL ARCHIVES
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
MARILYN SCHUCK**

Currently there are 69 active councils in the Regina Archdiocese. The response to the survey for past presidents improved from last year. This year there were 28 responses while last year there were only 12. Thank you to Janette Rieger, Diocesan Organization chair, who worked hard to convince councils to submit a report for each committee even if they did not have a chairperson. After reading through the past presidents` reports, I realize that some of you are still having challenges with the reporting technology. I congratulate all councils who submitted reports and thank all who persevered through difficulties and/or asked council or family members to help them.

Most councils responding have a past-president with a slight majority having been a member for more than 25 years. However, the rest reported having been a member for 6 to 25 years which indicates that some councils have attracted recent members to become president. The next question, "**Have you held this position previously?**" tells me that three-quarters of the respondents have been past-president before and possibly could have been holding this position for more than one term, especially if the president has been in place for more than one term.

Most past-presidents are between the ages of 55 – 84 and are very active in attending executive and general meetings, social events and spiritual events. They are called upon for advice frequently except for 2 respondents who have never been asked for advice. Most feel that their president feels supported and encouraged by the help offered.

Archives: In most councils, the past-president or her designate are responsible for archives. Two councils do not have someone doing archives. One has the secretary doing this and another has an historian working on them. Most councils have their archives stored in the church or church hall. Most past-presidents know the whereabouts of their **council charter** and, hopefully, have it displayed in a

prominent place. The methods of storage are photo albums, filing cabinets, banker boxes, scrapbooks, and some use memory sticks.

What is in your archives? While it is recommended that **annual reports** should be kept in archives, less than half the councils do this indefinitely with some keeping them for a few years. The annual report survey from National is probably not that valuable to keep for each council. I would recommend the president of each council write a summary of the activities for the year and this could be included in the archives along with the minute book. Most councils reporting keep a **book of life** indefinitely but only half reported keeping **deceased member histories**. Less than half keep **financial information** indefinitely and, hopefully, councils are following the guidelines to keep financial information (cheques and receipts) for 5 years. Most councils keep a **list of past executives** which can be included in the minutes binders. More than half of the councils keep their **membership renewal data** indefinitely with 3 councils reporting that they do not keep it while others keep it for a period up to 10 years. Most councils keep the **minutes of their general meetings** indefinitely while fewer councils keep the **minutes of executive meetings**. The guidelines ask that the minutes of all meetings should be kept. Also important are **records of pin and award recipients** which most councils keep for their records. Most councils keep **written reports of executive members**, but some do not. Most councils keep track of the **years of service of their members**. All councils review their archives as needed, while 2 councils review them biannually. Most councils do not maintain a **history book** although some do. Most consider their **photo albums** and stored minutes as a record of their history.

All, except one council responding, have a copy of *Constitution & Bylaws* and *National Manual of Policy & Procedure* but most do not refer to them.

A little over half of parish councils have their own manual of policy and procedure which is updated when there is a change or when the executive gets around to it. Few councils seek advice from diocesan, provincial, and national executives. Slightly more councils seek advice from national office once a year. Councils have rarely or never sought advice from their local bishop or from life members.

Past presidents are still very active in their councils, promoting CWL in the parish, attending conventions as well as executive and general meetings, organizing fund raisers and special events, checking the national and provincial website for information to share, filling the role of a vacant position, chairing a meeting, and chairing the elections committee. Suggestions to make the president's experience more enjoyable include offering help, making notes and collecting materials to pass on to her, being supportive in discussions and projects, and try to get the committee chairs to take on responsibility instead of always having nothing to report. One suggestion to help get the council work done, especially when there were not enough conveners, was to make a Task List with members volunteering for jobs which they took full responsibility for. The result was that more members got involved.

Most past presidents support the **Planning Strategically initiative** by sharing information from the booklet, attending presentations at regional meetings and sharing that information at local meetings, and through prayer (using the prayer card). Comments on their **greatest successes** included many fund-raisers, sewing prayer blankets for newly baptized children, spiritual adoption program in Africa and Pakistan. The **greatest challenges** involve small membership, lack of time, getting new members, persuading members to take positions and problem with National regarding membership. One past president of a small council sounded very discouraged wondering if they will have to disband but said they will continue to meet for spirituality and support having at least one fund-raiser every year. Another past president expressed frustration with members having "parish altar society" mind frames where they are not interested in CWL initiatives and activities. She also stated that it was hard to hear members

complain about the increased per capita fees when they all voted to increase them. One past president stated, “my biggest challenge is to get (members) to realize that CWL goes beyond our meeting room into being a part of a national entity.”

Challenges in completing this survey: Some had no challenges but one couldn't get it saved as a pdf file. Another difficulty was filling out the survey for another person without access to pertinent information. Another was the time it took because she had to fill out several surveys. Another past president had a whole paragraph describing her difficulties filling out the survey but finally got her son in Calgary to help her. Where there's a will, there's a way!

Other council activities not yet reported: One small council served as Hospitality Ministers at the diocesan convention and celebrated 60 years with a mass and banquet. Another council decided to study the Ken Yasinski videos, “Pursuit of Purpose” which were attended by their regular members although they had hoped to attract others to attend. Also, they hosted a Ladies` Fellowship Night, open to all women of the area, with the theme “Declutter and organize to make more room for happiness.” It was well-attended and received.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL ESTERHAZY REGION
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
DONNA SUGDEN**

Councils: St. Mary, Churchbridge; Our Lady of Victories, Esterhazy; St. Ann, Kennedy; St. Anne, Kipling; St. Joseph, Langenburg; St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Stockholm; St. Andrew, Wapella

Spiritual Advisor:

Chairperson: Donna Sugden

Secretary/Treasurer: Lucille Haydt

Councils in the Esterhazy area have continued to be active with projects and activities. Most councils held CWL Sundays providing ministry at mass and offering information on becoming a member. Many served lunch or light snacks for the parish after mass once or twice a year. Some deliver cakes to care homes for birthdays, provide Christmas gifts and visits to residents in care homes, host Strawberry Socials, Mother's Day Teas, supporting an adopted daughter in Paraguay, serving at funerals, delivering Meals on Wheels, leading the rosary in the months of May and October, making quilts to donate, and visiting with members that are ill or unable to get out often. Some members take seniors out for a coffee.

Many of the small councils are not meeting every month anymore. One council with only a few active members goes to a care home in their area to prayer with residents once a month.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL ESTEVAN REGION
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
CONNIE GIBSON**

Greetings from the Estevan Regional Council

The Estevan region consists of eight councils – Estevan, Bienfait, Lampman, Wauchope, Redvers, Carlyle, Storthoaks, and Benson.

We welcome Father Nestor Gregoire as our spiritual advisor. We are very grateful to have him join our regional council. Carol Graf remains the secretary and Crystal Mann graciously accepted and filled the vacant treasurer position.

Our annual meeting was held on October 19, 2019 in Estevan at the St. John the Baptist Church hall. The day started with Holy Mass led by Father Sathi Antony. Our guest speaker was Deacon Eric Gurash. His enlightening and engaging words were centered around the topic of “Becoming an Evangelizing Community”. Janette Rieger attended on behalf of diocesan executive and brought greetings from Yvonne Bachelu, diocesan president. The hosting CWL council provided the most delicious lunch. The meeting concluded by mid-afternoon.

I am happy to report that all councils have kept active and busy by adding members, supporting their parish events as well as evangelizing in their community and surrounding communities. Estevan St. John the Baptist had five members celebrate 50 years of service. They also added 17 new members.

The Estevan Regional council held two planning meetings in 2019 for the upcoming 2020 Diocesan Convention. The convention date was set for May 3-4, 2020 at the Estevan St. John the Baptist church. Committees were established and there were many great creative ideas shared. The first meeting was held on June 18, 2019 in Arcola SK. The second meeting was in Lampman SK on November 6, 2020.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL MOOSE JAW REGION
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
LYNDA THUL**

This report comes from the following councils:

Church of Our Lady - Moose Jaw; St. Joseph's - Moose Jaw; St. John the Evangelist - Marquis
Immaculate Heart of Mary – Claybank.

All of our councils continue in their various ways to maintain and grow as members working for the League.

There are always challenges...

Being it finding Conveners. Executive positions which need filling, general "help" with functions and activities, etc. These kinds of challenges can usually be overcome...leading to great pride and accomplishment in the many things that are "achieved".

We look forward to all that lies ahead with open and willing hearts...

This concludes my report.

REGINA DIOCESAN CWL OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL REGION
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
JUDIE WILLIAMS

The following councils belong to Our Lady of Good Counsel Region: St. Patrick, Cupar; St. John Baptiste, Dysart; Our Lady of Sorrows, Fort Qu'Appelle; St. Joseph, Indian Head; Mary Queen of Hearts, Lestock; Sacred Heart, Raymore; and St. James, Southey. Father Francis Hengen from St. Joseph council is our Spiritual Director. Judie Williams is Regional Chair and Brenda Selinger is our Secretary/Treasurer.

Our 2019 Spring meeting was hosted by Southey in March. We were pleased that Marilyn Schuck, Diocesan President, was able to attend and share a few words with us. The movie "Fatal Flaws" was shown and discussed. We enjoyed good company, a short skit and a delicious meal. Unfortunately, our Fall meeting was cancelled due to illness. Our Spring 2020 meeting will be held in March in Fort Q.

The memberships in our region range between approximately 10 members to 50 members. The CWL is alive and well in Our Lady of Good Counsel Region.

- Care for Our Common Home – one council stopped the use of Styrofoam and plastic water bottles whenever possible. In addition, the water conservation project was accepted.
- Donations were received for Velma's Dream.
- H.U.G.S. resulted in one council filling over 200 bags for Transition House. Prayer shawls and prayers were given to a few members needing our love and prayers.
- 12 Hours- some collected donations and matched these donations; others prayed privately at home.
- Nursing home residents received our visits, masses, prayers, and Bingo games with prizes.
- We enjoyed sharing activities with the Knights, especially the Christmas celebrations.
- Some of our members attended the various conventions. Father Francis attended the National.
- All of our councils regularly support their parishes through their ministries at Mass; support with the sacraments and their donations to parish events.
- Funds are raised through food & bake sales; raffles; silent auctions; lunches; suppers; and even a Bakeless bake sale.
- Many recipients of the donations are the Bingo prize winners; Bosco Homes, Camps Easter Seal and Monahan; Velma's Dream; H.U.G.S; Palliative Care; Diabetes; Friendship Centers; Girl Guides; Brownies; Legion Poppy fund; Leader-Post Christmas Cheer; Pro-Life; MyGen; Nursing home auxiliaries; Robert Southey School of Drama; Save-A-Family; Teen Aid; Valley Native Ministry; Cards, gifts, flowers, mass cards for deceased parishioners; Christmas gifts for their priests and even a washing machine for a Parish House.

Highlights from some of the councils include:

- Lestock always hosts the Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Mary Queen of Hearts Shrine. The pilgrimage is followed by a delicious meal catered by the council.
- Raymore's Father Amobi came up with a great idea to support Velma's Dream. He placed an empty jar at the back of the church and challenged parishioners to empty their pocket change to fill the jar. In addition, the ladies held a "Bakeless Bake Sale" which was an overwhelming success.
- Fort Qu'Appelle is happy to continue supporting 'Lucy', our 'daughter' from Kenya, who we have been sponsoring through the Chalice program since she was a small child.
- Indian Head celebrated their 65th anniversary. They worked on, and presented, a resolution regarding 'children mining mica' which will be presented at the Diocesan convention. 2020 will be

celebrated by trying to double their membership to 100 members. Father Francis challenged a Montreal council to double theirs to 100. In January, Indian Head was up to 70.

- All of the councils were able to celebrate with members who received long service awards, even some over 50 years or more!

Congratulations to all the councils in our region and to all the councils in our diocese for everything they are doing to keep CWL alive and well!

“Happy 100th Anniversary Catholic Women’s League of Canada!”

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL OUR LADY OF PEACE REGION
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
JOANNE VINISH**

Councils: St. George, Assiniboia; Ste. Radegonde, Lafleche;
Our Lady of Assumption, Gravelbourg;
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Coronach

Spiritual Director: Fr. Denis Remot

Regional Chairperson: Joanne Vinish

Regional Secretary-Treasurer: Yvonne Jalbert

Our Region held our Annual Meeting in Coronach on Sunday October 6, 2019 with 20 members present. Fr Gerry Bauche started the meeting with a prayer and gave us a spiritual message. Oral reports were made from the three councils present.

Special guests were Fr. Gerry Bauche, parish priest for Coronach, Rockglen and Willowbunch. Also we had our Diocesan President, Yvonne Bachelu and Janette Rieger, Organization and President-Elect.

Our Guest Speaker was Sr. Juanita Benedicta of St. John of The Cross along #2 highway to Moose Jaw. It is a monastery of the Carmelite Nuns. Sister Juanita explained to us how she got set up at her location. She always felt that she was called by God to serve Him as a cloister. She feels that God was calling her to a life of solitude. She is looking forward to two postulants arriving in the new year of 2020. She has the blessings of the Archbishop of our Diocese and is working along with him to have this monastery work. Each member at the meeting was given a package about the work there. Sr. Juanita is following Saint Teresa of Avila and lives her quote in this prayer: “Prayer means taking time frequently to be alone with the One who we know loves us”.

Top point from our President’s report was that our Diocese is able to save a great deal of money when the Annual Reports do not have to be mailed out. We all gain in the end.

Janette Rieger reported that 57% of the Regina Diocesan councils made their reports to National and if we cannot do it online then we can do a paper report and email it to her and she will do it electronically for us. Thanks Janette.

Our 2020 Regional meeting will be hosted by Lafleche Council on Saturday, October 24 at Ste. Radegonde parish hall. This Region will be celebrating our 20th Anniversary in 2020. We have our Provincial President, Chantal Devine, booked as our Guest Speaker. We hope that many of our Council members will be able to attend this special event.

This concludes my report.

REGINA DIOCESAN CWL REGINA REGION
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
Submitted by JANETTE RIEGER

Councils: Christ the King, Holy Child, Holy Cross, Holy Family, Holy Rosary Cathedral, Holy Trinity, Little Flower, Our Lady of Peace, Resurrection, St. Anne, St. Anthony, St. Cecilia, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Peter, St. Joseph (Balgonie), and St. Agnes (Pilot Butte).

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Chinh Vu

Regional Chairperson: Vacant.

Executive Members: Secretary – Viola Joel, Treasurer – Aurlie Hodges, Past-Chairperson – Sharon Mayor.

Two general meetings were held in the Regina Region in 2019. The first was hosted by Holy Trinity council on March 30th. After opening mass, refreshments were served, the business session of the day was held, followed by lunch. After lunch the members heard the guest presenters for the day – Provincial CWL President, Margaret Schwab, and Provincial CWL 1st Vice-President, Connie Crichton. They presented an overview of Year 1 of the Strategic Planning Process being undertaken by our National CWL.

At this meeting, the Maple Leaf Service Pin was presented to Past-Chairperson Sharon Mayor for her many years of service to the Regina Regional Council. During her time as chairperson she happily took on extra duties such as selling cookbooks for Martha House and being the face of the CWL at the Archdiocesan MyGen Youth Rallies. She also hosted the Regina Diocesan Convention in 2016.

The second general meeting was hosted by Holy Family Parish on October 5th. The day started with mass, followed by refreshments, business, and lunch. At this meeting the members were treated to a presentation by Fr. Brad Fahlman who shared his experiences on the Camino de Santiago in Spain.

At this meeting, Diocesan President Yvonne Bachelu informed those gathered that Cynthia Schultz was stepping down from her role as Regina Regional Chairperson. Thank you, Cynthia, for taking this position and serving the CWL. The position remains vacant as of 2019 year-end.

Also at this meeting, Yvonne announced that Holy Child council was disbanding effective January 1, 2020 after 42 years as a council. Yvonne and President-Elect Janette Rieger attended their last council meeting on October 1, 2019. At that meeting, Yvonne thanked them for the 42 years of service that they gave to their parish community for God and Canada.

Through donations submitted by councils in the Regina Region, one-half of the cost of a TV mass was sponsored for the mass on July 12, 2019. This mass is produced by the National Catholic Broadcasting Council and is shown on the VisionTV network and on YouTube. The mass was said for the intentions of the members of the League.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL SOUTHWEST REGION
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
RACHELLE JOHNSON**

This area covers Christ the Redeemer, Swift Current; St. Anne, Gull Lake; Our Lady of Confidence, Cadillac; Notre Dame D’Auvergne, Ponteix; Holy Family, Admiral; Christ the King, Shaunavon; St. Lawrence, Maple Creek; St. Stephen, Consul; Val Marie and Hodgeville.

Regional Chairperson: Rachelle Johnson

Secretary/ Treasurer: Michele Vallee

Spiritual advisor: Deacon David Hagel

The Catholic Women’s League of Canada calls its members to grow in ‘faith and to witness’ the love of God through ‘ministry and service.’ The CWL mission was certainly evident in the Southwest Region in 2019. Regardless of the ages of our members ranging from approximately 35-103 years, a great deal was accomplished. The following is a brief summation of some of the activities (in no particular order) that were undertaken by our CWL sisters.

- Launching of a “Spiritual Book Club” for the parish.
- Hosting a “Living Rosary” during the month of May.
- Prayer shawl ministry.
- Hosted “12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care”.
- Organized a CWL choir which is now part of the parish choir rotation.
- Sponsored a foster child from India.
- Hosted a Fellowship Night: Theme was “Live Simply...declutter and organize to make more room for “happiness””.
- Did a study of the Ken Yasinski video series “Pursuit of Purpose”.
- Assortment of fundraisers were held to satisfy donations to: Camp Lemieux, Bibles (gr.4), NET program, Social Justice, bursary for a grade 12 graduating female student, foster child from India, Women’s Shelter, Comfort Cart, CHAS, Bishop’s Appeal, Development & Peace, Vision TV Masses, Pro-Life, National Bursary to mention a few.
- Fundraisers: St. Patrick’s Day tea and bake sale, Cookie Walk, Rummage sales, pie sale, Angel Appreciation Tea.

Shaunavon celebrated 75th anniversary of Christ the King. Swift Current hosted the Southwest Fall Regional meeting. Deacon David Hagel was our guest speaker.

Upcoming: Southwest Spring Executive meeting: Shaunavon, March 28, 2020, Southwest Fall Regional meeting, Swift Current, October 17, 2020.

What an amazing group of Women!

This concludes my report.

REGINA DIOCESAN CWL WEYBURN REGION
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
CAMILLE GOSKI

Councils: St. Michael's, Bengough; Sacred Heart, Montmartre; Holy Angels, Pangman; Holy Family, Radville; St. Mary's Tribune; St. Paul's, Vibank; St. Vincent de Paul, Weyburn

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Louis Abello

Regional Chairperson: Camille Goski

Regional Secretary/Treasurer: Jean Woodard

On January 1, 2019, Immaculate Heart of Mary CWL, Claybank, transferred to the Moose Jaw CWL Region. Our region now consists of the following Councils: St. Michael, Bengough, Sacred Heart, Montmartre, Holy Angels, Pangman, Holy Family, Radville, St. Mary Tribune, St. Paul, Vibank, St. Vincent de Paul, Weyburn.

The 96th Annual Diocesan CWL Convention, which was hosted by the Weyburn Regional Council and held in Weyburn on May 5th and 6th was a success. A total of 186 members, Spiritual Advisors and guests were registered for the Convention. Guest speakers were Tasha Toupin and Denise Mountenay.

The Weyburn Regional CWL held its workshop and Annual General Meeting on October 5, 2019. St. Vincent de Paul CWL, Weyburn, hosted the workshop and provided the lunch. The morning began with Mass with Fr. Francis Plaparampil, St. Vincent de Paul CWL Spiritual Advisor, presiding. Janette Rieger, Diocesan 1st Vice-President led the workshop and presented three different sessions: Strategic Planning – we are asked to look back from where we came in planning for the future. We are asked to take part in the planning by completing surveys that can be found on the CWL website + Face Book. Care for Our Common Home, our new theme, was explored through a power point presentation. The afternoon presentation was Organization – What vision do you have for your Council? Janette outlined duties of the Organization Chair with strategies that will help to make our councils even better in the future.

On October 23, St. Mary's CWL, Tribune, celebrated their 60th anniversary as a Council. What made this anniversary very special was that Marion Shorthouse, a Charter member of the Council, was in attendance. Marion presented a history of the St. Mary Council at the reception.

Our Regional Council members are very active and visible in their parishes and communities. They continue to fulfill the mission of the Catholic Women's League which calls its members to grow in faith and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL YORKTON / MELVILLE REGION
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
EVELYN BANKS**

All CWL groups of the Yorkton/Melville Region are involved in many of the same activities, fund raising, funeral lunches, attend masses at the local nursing homes, personal care homes. We are all also involved in Liturgy, readers, choir, communion ministers etc.

St. Henry's Melville do something special for the youth they present a plaque called "Prodigal Son Awards" at the Junior High Level.

St. Stanislaus Ituna though a very small group are very active in the "The backbone of running the parish.

St. Gerard's, Yorkton besides their one big fund raiser "Gigantic Garage Sale", have a quilting group who made over 150 quilts that they gave to the Nursing Home palliative care and to others in need in the community.

Sturgis CWL celebrated 70 years as a council. Participated in the HUG program providing packages to local community shelters, participated individually in the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care. Celebrate CWL Sunday with cake and coffee after Mass.

St. Joseph's CWL participated in the "Call to Conscience" writing campaign, organized a 7 week study in "Care for our Common Home" Assist at teas at Gateway Lodge Nursing home. They have very ambitious and hard working women that clean the church in May. Present gifts to mothers on Mother's Day and to fathers on Father's Day.

Preeceville CWL a small group of women who meet at one another's home once a month are involved in Liturgy at St. Patrick's

St. Stephen's CWL host a Telemiracle brunch about a week before Telemiracle, we invite all church groups in the community to attend, and send all money to Telemiracle. We host a Mass and invite the Anglican parishioners to celebrate with us in conjunction with the Anglican-Roman Catholic Covenant signed by Bishop Gregory Kerr-Wilson and Archbishop Daniel Bohan each year since 2011, ecumenism at work. We are involved in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity as I am sure all other councils are.

In conclusion all councils give to many charities in Canada and abroad.

For God and Country. This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL TREASURER
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
VIOLA JOEL**

Thank you to the 36 councils that submitted their annual reports.

Donations to CWL National Voluntary Funds

Coady International Institute	\$1,894.00
Catholic Mission in Canada (catechesis fund)	\$2,716.00
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition	\$1,050.00
Catholic Near East Welfare Association- Canada	\$800.00
National Bursary Fund	\$600.00

Other Donations/Expenditures

Spiritual Development	\$9,687.00
Organization	\$5,731.00
Christian Family Life	\$7,564.00
Community Life	\$12,888.00
Education & Health	\$14,570.00
Communications	\$1,298.00
Other	
Donations to Parish/Church	\$49,967.00

Some results from the annual report survey are as follows:

- All reporting councils have filled the treasurer position with over half having held the position for more than one term.
- All councils reported using bank statements, deposit books and cheque books as tools with 33% using some form of computer tools such as computer programs or excel spreadsheets. Fifteen of these councils do not have their cancelled cheques returned to them. Records are kept for at least five years by all councils.
- Most councils were collecting membership fees of \$25.00 but some were \$30.00. The bulk of membership fees are collected in November, December and January and most send in their fees by the end of February. Most work with their organization chairperson in remitting per capita to national office.
- All councils follow proper banking practices. Cheques are used to pay accounts; two signatures are required on cheques and most councils have three signatories usually the treasurer, president and one other executive member. Less than half of councils prepared a budget and presented it to their parish councils for approval. Four councils do not present financial statements at their general meetings. More than half of the councils do not have their books examined annually. Usually an independent individual experienced in accounting matters does the audit.
- Councils undertook many fundraising initiatives with bake sales and funeral lunches undertaken by over 53% of the councils. Other fundraising activities were raffles, luncheons, catering, fall suppers, making and selling cabbage rolls and pies, rummage sales and craft shows.

General Comments:

Several comments were made concerning the difficulty of accessing the survey and asked for clearer instruction for next year. There were some comments that expressed that they weren't sure where to put the financial information and had difficulty trying to determine which category their donations fell under. Overall, I think this is a problem that many treasurers experience when filling out this report.

This concludes my report.

**REGINA DIOCESAN CWL TREASURER'S REPORT
JANUARY 1, 2019 – DECEMBER 31, 2019**

Statement of Income and Expenses

INCOME

Membership / Per Capita		\$24,979.00
2016	\$7.00	
2017	\$14.00	
2018	\$168.00	
2019	\$24,170.00	
2020	\$620.00	
Diocesan Convention 2019		\$2,443.37
Diocesan Convention Mass Collection		\$1,312.15
Interest		\$205.35
TOTAL INCOME		\$28,939.87

EXPENSES

Administration		
Audit	\$0.00	
CWL Supplies	\$13.00	
Miscellaneous	\$246.28	
Postage	\$330.71	
Printing & Stationery	\$804.56	
Total Administration		\$1,394.55
Diocesan Convention		
Advance	\$0.00	
Honorarium & Gifts	\$925.00	
Mass Collection	\$1,312.15	
Meals & Registration	\$282.01	
Mileage	\$1,965.00	
Rooms	\$1,709.59	
Supplies	\$106.94	
Total Diocesan Convention		\$6,300.69
Provincial Convention		
Meals & Registration	\$520.00	
Mileage	\$1,015.60	
Rooms	\$918.06	
Total Provincial Convention		\$2,453.66

National Convention		
Flights & Mileage	\$399.40	
Meals & Registration	\$581.18	
Rooms	\$2,284.20	
Total National Convention		\$3,264.78
Meetings and Conferences		
Conferences	\$0.00	
Meals	\$(262.86)	
Mileage	\$5,423.68	
Rooms	\$456.40	
Total Meetings and Conferences		\$5,617.22
Miscellaneous Expenses		\$0.00
Scholarship		\$1,000.00
Seminarian		\$1,200.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$21,230.90
GAIN	\$7,708.97	
Bank Balances		
Chequing Account		\$22,767.44
CU Save Diocesan		\$20,197.04
CU Save Seminarian Account		\$1,008.12
Membership Accounts		\$5.00
TOTAL FUNDS		\$43,978.24

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Due to COVID-19, and the resulting issues of physical distancing, an auditor's report was not completed for this year.

