

REGINA DIOCESAN PRESIDENT'S COMMUNIQUE #1 – September, 2017

To: All CWL Council Presidents in the Regina Diocese

From: Marilyn Schuck, Regina Diocesan CWL President

Dear Sisters in the League,

It is with “an attitude of gratitude” that I address this first communique as diocesan president to all the faithful and faith-filled women who have accepted leadership of their councils, trusting that the Lord will fill us with his Spirit to inspire and guide us in our CWL work this year.

I was not able to attend the 97th Annual National Convention this year in Charlottetown because the date conflicted with a very important event in my life – a family reunion of my siblings and all of our offspring, over 90 people, which took place in Calgary on the long weekend in August. Family needs to be celebrated!

However, as the new Regina Diocesan CWL President, I attended all three diocesan conventions in Saskatchewan as well as the Provincial CWL Convention in North Battleford in June. I saw the presence of League members in several parishes as the “12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care” was taken to heart in our dioceses. Archbishop Don Bolen presented “Beyond the Year of Mercy” where he challenged us to be “islands of mercy” in a world filled with darkness. I heard two priests give talks on Mary and what she means for our lives in our families and communities. Our Lady of Fatima, whose appearance 100 years ago is being celebrated this year, was very present at these conventions. Our National President, Margaret Ann Jacobs, was also present at two of the conventions, bringing us her workshop on the new theme as well as some information on the strategic planning initiative. My convention season was very full and rewarding, even if I was not able to go to National!

We had an opportunity on August 8 to participate in the history-making **on-line Town Hall meeting** which took place at the National convention. My group in Weyburn gathered together in the early morning to listen to the live-feed of the discussion, the results of which will be gathered and reported on in the next year leading up to the CWL adopting a strategic plan at next year's convention to lead the League into the future. We were encouraged to talk about our vision for the CWL, based on our core values and mission, but adapting to change. We were told that National found the **annual report survey results** to be very beneficial. I am encouraged by this because many councils were frustrated with the process and maybe somewhat intimidated by all the questions on the survey. We can all start to think about how we will **participate in the annual report survey** when it comes in November. I hope that more of you will find ways to fill it in on-line and submit it by the deadline.

Mentoring - Margaret Schwab in her first Provincial President's communique asked that each council use some type of a mentoring program. Find some long-time members with knowledge and experience who would be willing to help new members gain knowledge of the League. Perhaps a buddy system could be established between a mentor and a new member. Guiding

new members to the **cwl.ca website** and showing them all the valuable manuals and information, is also a good start to mentoring. I will also mention here the new **Inspired by the Spirit 2017 Prayer Services and Workshops** on the cwl website which would make excellent education for new and old members alike.

How do we provide programs that will interest members? Margaret Ann Jacobs suggests a great place to start is our resolutions. There are 4 new resolutions passed at the 2017 National Convention. Contact a guest speaker or access a video on these topics. Host a potluck or appreciation dinner, have a theme meeting, breakfast meeting or panel discussion. Keeping business carefully organized will allow you to plan programs that will attract other parishioners and members of the community. Always look for ways to invite, encourage and welcome newcomers to your meetings. They don't have to join right away. Invest the energy to make them feel important, valued and needed.

Spiritual Advisors – a valuable resource – Many spiritual advisors have moved parishes this summer. Please contact them and make them feel they are wanted and needed by the CWL. There is an excellent PowerPoint on the cwl.ca website under Inspired by the Spirit 2017 Prayer Services and Workshops entitled "Catch the Fire PowerPoint for Priests". Refer them to this resource.

Fall Regional Meetings are being planned now. Please try to attend one in your region along with members of your executive and other members. These are opportunities for faith, fellowship and fun with other members and your enthusiastic Regional Chairpersons.

Mailings – I have a list of those councils who will receive their communiques etc. through email. We have asked that those wanting to receive their information by Canada Post could contact their post office and get a postal box for CWL. There is no charge for this. This will ensure that the information is always current, and in the event that a council president is away, another member could pick up the mail. Another solution would be to have the CWL mail sent to your parish if that is possible. **A new directory** will be published by the end of the year so this would be the time to make that change.

I am looking forward to traveling the diocese in the next two years and having a personal encounter with as many CWL members as possible. My wish for you, dear Presidents, is that you also experience a "personal encounter with Jesus" by making time in your lives through Scripture, the sacraments, in prayer and reflection to recognize the dignity and worth of each person with whom you come in contact and respect, affirm and value the opinions, thoughts and ideas of others. Let us, indeed, be ***Inspired by the Spirit and respond to God's Call.***

Your Sister in Christ,
Marilyn Schuck