

Diocesan President's New Year's Message

Ingrid Eggerman

Saskatoon Diocesan President

ingrideggerman@gmail.com

New Theme: Care of Our Common Home

Happy New Year and Blessings to all councils and members of the Saskatoon Diocese. I pray, in this New Year that the Holy Spirit may enlighten and guide your councils and that you burn with the Zeal of the Holy Spirit in 2019, and share with all women this wonderful gift of our Catholic Women's League.

I will be away on vacation with my family from January 7 to 29, 2019. I will have my laptop with me. So, I will be able to reply to any emails I receive.

Annual reports: Please note, the deadline for on line annual reports is January 15th. It is the duty of the organization chairperson to ensure the annual reports are sent in. I realize some councils are struggling to fill these positions, but please do what you can to get your reports in. I'm sure you have all done some amazing work in your councils this year. National and Provincial office are all looking forward to hearing about it.

Leadership: Fran Lucas National Organization Chair has suggested that "an excellent starter for girls to be initiated as future League members", is to see to a formation of a Catholic girls League in your parish. It is a long-term goal for Chantal Devine, Provincial President Elect, to see to the formation of a Catholic Girls League in each of the three Dioceses of Saskatchewan. She is asking us to watch the video, **Women on a Mission**, which can be found on the National website. Please think about this in your parish, I'm sure you all know one or more young ladies who would benefit greatly from this organization.

2019 conventions: Planning is well underway for our 84th Annual Diocesan Convention, to be held in Watson, Saturday May 11, 2019. Please encourage your council members to attend, and as I see from the National annual report, 60 % of councils in Canada paid for their president to attend their Diocesan Convention. Registration and information will be sent out in February. A bus has been organized from Saskatoon to Watson.

Provincial Convention will be held in Humboldt on June 2nd and 3rd. They will be sharing more details in the New Year.

We are very fortunate this year to have our National Convention in Calgary. The Convention planning committee has invited us to, "**Be Branded in Christ.**" Please go to <https://calgarycwl.ca> for a sneak peak of events and tours that are planned for August 18 to 21. We hope that many of our members will take advantage of this wonderful, inspiring and educational opportunity to attend. I would suggest that councils help their presidents and interested members by paying for their registration or a portion of their travel expenses. The information they bring back to you will be a great benefit your councils.

Strategic Planning: I would like to encourage you to read the Strategic Plan of the future of the CWL in the booklet, "The Catholic Women's League of Canada Plans Strategically," The book was sent out in the October, 2018 mail out. Also check the website www.cwlsk.ca often for updates on any workshops in your area on the Strategic five-year plan of CWL, presented by Provincial Council.

In the booklet our past National presidents have formulated and itemized many of the issues we are facing as Catholic Women's League members. Barbara Dowding, past National President has put it well, **"The steady decline of membership and the foreseeable certainty that this will continue, along with the lack of willing leaders, is the Leagues current reality."**

Barbara encourages us to go forward with a sincere desire to make sure the League is kept alive, and to make sure the league remains a force for good in Canada and in Parishes, and remains a passionate voice for the voiceless and a heart for those who need Mercy. She encourages us to go forth with courage, zeal and trust in the Holy Spirit and see where we are being asked to go. As we approach our 100-year Anniversary please take the time to review the objectives and 5-year plan of the CWL, as we look forward to the future of the CWL.

Diocesan Christian Family Life Chairperson: Our Christian Family life Chairperson, Wendy de Sa has resigned due to personal health concerns. We are looking for someone to fill this position for the continuation of the term. Please prayerful consider this opportunity. If you have a desire for the sanctity of Life, marriage and family, ministry to youth, disabled, seniors, widowed, separated, divorced and vocations, we would love to have you help us out. Please note, it is not necessary that you have been a past president in your council.

February Winter Gathering: Please join us on Saturday February 23, 2019 for our winter meeting. You will find the details on the attached poster.

Blessings to all

Ingrid Eggerman
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