

NEWSLETTER

April 2024

SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE



President's Message

Connie Crichton



The Lord is Risen! He Has Risen Indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Easter, with the resurrection, is a promise for the future. It is what gives us hope.

In the province we have many events to look forward to with diocesan, provincial and even a nation convention in the very near future. Our members do such a great job in hosting these events and we are all very thankful for their time and efforts.

Many hands will be needed and a list of volunteer opportunities has been provided to the parish councils. A suggestion might be for a council to gather all the names of those wishing to volunteer, the area they would be interested in and a contact phone number and submit them to skprovcwl@gmail.com. The names will be given to a committee chair and they will contact the members with more information.

April 26th is the feast day of Our Lady of Good Council. I hope there are many celebrations being planned. Make sure to send a report on your event to be highlighted on our website.

Another date to mark on your calendar is May 9 Prolife March for Life in Regina. A poster is at the end of this newsletter. Two of the objects of our League are to protect the sanctity of human life, and to recognize the human dignity of people everywhere. March for life is a time to show up and stand up for these objects. I hope to see you there!

At our winter meeting our executive reviewed the notes from the many Unity visits made in 2023. A plan of action will be made to address the issues that surfaced and the fall will see our new executives collaborating with diocesan councils to carry our plan. Thank you to the councils that participated in the visits. If you would like a unity visit, contact your diocesan or provincial president.

We hope to see you in North Battleford at our provincial convention!

Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us!

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE
Connie Crichton

Thank you to all who answered the challenge. It is in listening, understanding, and a common desire to WALK TOGETHER that we will make progress on this reconciliation journey. Check frequently with our national website Indigenous resources for more information.

From Pope Francis:

“Lord, as the people on the shores of the Sea of Galilee were not afraid to cry out to you with their needs, so we come to you, Lord ... with whatever pain we bear within us. We bring to you our weariness and our struggles, the wounds of the violence suffered by Indigenous brothers and sisters. In this blessed place, where harmony and peace reign, we present to you the disharmony of our experiences, the terrible effects of colonization, the indelible pain of so many families, grandparents and children. Lord, help us to be healed of our wounds. We know, Lord, that this requires effort, care and concrete actions on our part; but we also know that we cannot do this alone. We rely on you and on the intercession of your mother and your grandmother. Yes, Lord, we entrust ourselves to the intercession of your mother and your grandmother, because mothers and grandmothers help to heal the wounds of our hearts.”

PAST PRESIDENT
Chantal Devine

“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”
Thessalonians 5:11

What is our mission as members of the CWL? What have we accomplished so far that brings us joy and a sense of accomplishment? Or are we still searching to find our real purpose in the League? I believe most of us joined the League to make new friends with Catholic women who, like us, wanted to grow in their faith. Our foremothers provided that opportunity for us because of their selfless service. How can we assure future generations the same privileges we received? In an election year we have a wonderful opportunity to step forward and embrace a leadership position. Just as the grain of wheat had to die before it could bear much fruit, John 12:25, so must we “die to self” to help provide an environment in which new members can flourish. The future of the League depends on what we do today. So, when you are asked to serve, don’t be afraid to respond with an enthusiastic “Yes!”

Our national theme for the next two years will focus on mental health. Each one of us can begin this project by working to destigmatize mental health by our attitude and actions. Belonging to a faith-based organization, where prayer is such a great component of our daily lives, we can help alleviate the suffering of people dealing with mental health issues by asking for God’s intervention in their lives. The power of prayer is recognized in the Alcoholics Anonymous organization (AA). Members acknowledge the existence of a greater power and encourage each other to pray to overcome their addictions. The problems caused by mental health issues, be they addictions to drugs or alcohol, homelessness, unemployment, spousal and child abuse and others, are visible in many communities in Saskatchewan.

As we witness this suffering by our sisters and brothers, let us have the courage to step forward to support them. Similarly, let us encourage one another to accept a leadership position as we respond in the words of our national theme, *“Here I am Lord, send me.”*

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Fr. Francis Hengen



Dear Sisters in the League,
I hope you all have had a rich and meaningful Lenten journey that prepared you well for the wondrous celebrations of Holy Week and the beginning of the fifty glorious days of the Easter season. My Lent started out quite different from what I was expecting. Two days after Ash Wednesday, I tested positive for COVID. Talk about entering into the desert experience! For the next nine days I kept myself isolated and had to deal with a lot of feelings about having COVID: shame, embarrassment, guilt, disappointment, vulnerability.

Wow, I just get into the desert, and there is the tempter ready for the testing. "How do you feel, Francis? Why you and not someone else? How are you going to apologize to all the people you may have infected during the Ash Wednesday services? Oh, when you have an answer to these questions, I have a few more questions for you. Are you afraid to be alone with the tempter?"

With isolation there also came silence. No movies, internet use only for emails, some carefully chosen music to listen to, otherwise silence. I have a special cross with seven vigil lights; one for the first days of Lent and then another for each of the weeks that follow. This was my prayer centre and the place for that special quiet time for prayer, scripture reading and writings of the saints. After some days, the quiet became my peace. There were no news broadcasts; people, angry people, with harsh voices telling you all that was wrong, but never giving any hope through some answers.

As the noise of the world lessened, the voice of the Lord became stronger and the wonder and the meaning of our faith story took on new depth and richness because there was not the constant distraction of those other negative voices. Joy in the Good News began to fill the quiet space of my Lenten desert and as St. Peter said at the transfiguration experience, "It is good to be here."

We are so fortunate to have the faith we have. To believe all the wonderful truths that have come to us through Christ's story, and we celebrate all of this in the sacred ceremonies of Holy Week as we follow Christ, bearing our cross with him to come to that moment of truth that all crosses lead to Calvary, our own Calvary, where in time we will speak as Jesus did, "Father into your hands I commit my spirit", and with the assurance of our faith look forward to our resurrection and fullness of life. May the peace and joy of the Easter story be yours to share with those around you as respond to God's call, "Here am I, send me!"

Interim VICE PRESIDENT

Helen Kayfish

I will be mentioning a few items that have come about in recent Communiques and meetings.

Our national Vice-president and Chairperson of organization has met with all the provincial Vice-presidents virtually twice now in the last two months. We have had discussions on recruiting new and retaining the members we have in our councils. The '1' (one) campaign was introduced last fall to the membership to assist in recruiting new members.

Betty Colaneri, the National Vice-president shares with us in her recent Communique that we have a special love in the Sisterhood of the League that we continue to show in so many ways.

As we continue recruiting new members we can't forget or take for granted those in our midst. We've all heard the saying: big things come in little packages; these little things make the greatest impact. I hope you have all worked hard to recruit new members in your councils. The number of new members isn't the important part, just that you have some new members.

Betty shares the following with us:

St. Joseph was '1' humble carpenter who became the Patron Saint of many.

St. Patrick was '1' man who took the simple clover and turned into in creative symbol for explaining the Holy Trinity. Jesus rose from the dead to become the ultimate '1'. We need to remember how lucky we are to be the chosen people.

We are approaching the feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel, April 26th. The Feast day is a wonderful day to celebrate the membership. What a good day to award your members with service awards for their years of service. I've heard from members that they have never received any pins except for the league pin when they joined. Please consider doing this, there are options for an awards ceremony available on the national website.

Looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming conventions.





FAITH

(HEARTS IN PRAYER)

UNITING CATHOLIC WOMEN TO GROW IN FAITH

WENDY DALE



“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us. To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Luke 1.78-79

These words from the Gospel of Luke are so appropriate for all members of the CWL. Especially for those members who are battling mental health issues or accompanying someone who is, and those who are in the final chapters of their lives or accompanying someone who is. In both of these situations it may seem so dark that imagining the light of dawn might not be possible. Darkness is not dark for Jesus though, he illuminates everything with his love for us. As we draw nearer to Easter, we look forward to that light that breaks through the darkness of our anxiety and despair. Our Lenten journey has shown us that only God can settle our restless hearts and fill them with the light of his love.

Catholic Mental Health Ministry needs to become an integral ministry in the Church in every Catholic parish. We need to pray for the elimination of the stigma and discrimination that people living with mental illness encounter. An intercession like this is easy to incorporate into our Sunday and CWL Masses. Jesus always had time for the people on the margins, and we need to be the same.

Are you familiar with the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network? In 1844, the Apostleship of Prayer was established to encourage Catholics to prayer and action as part of the Church’s universal focus. There were different areas of focus for prayer, and many restructurings, including entrusting the organization to the Jesuits, and finally in 2015, a group was established to reflect on the Apostleship of Prayer. They proposed to Pope Francis the introduction of the “Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network”. Since then, if you get the Monthly Missals with the readings of the day, you will also get the Pope’s Monthly intention. As well as having a monthly intention, there is a video with more information about the prayer intention. These are easily accessed at:

Popes Worldwide Prayer Network : <https://www.popesprayer.va>

In November of 2021, the intention and video were for people who suffer from depression. The intention for February 2024 was ‘for those with a terminal illness, and their families, that they receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment’. The Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network is a valuable resource for those wanting to focus their prayer and potential projects on Catholic mental health. The videos are about three minutes in length, and can spark great conversations and discussions at your Council meetings. The Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers (CMHM) partners with the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network and Click to Pray to offer a Monthly Day of Prayer for Mental Health. Each 2nd Monday of the month, CMHM will offer prayers and a blog post, connected to the Pope's monthly prayer intention. Educating ourselves about the issues that are touching so many of our CWL sisters’ families will benefit all of us, for as we know from scripture, 1 Cor 12:26, if one member suffers, all members suffer together.

Let’s do what we can through prayer and action so that especially in the season of Easter, we may change the time of suffering to rejoicing for all of those who need healing. Let’s make Easter the dawn that invigorates and strengthens us to accompany each other on the walk of peace with each other and Jesus, our risen brother.

Blessings to each of you!



SERVICE

(HANDS THAT SHARE)

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH, CANADA AND THE WORLD

PATSY SALZL



I hope this Lent has been a good time of reflection and repentance for you. This is a good time to get closer to God by reading the Bible more, praise and worship the Lord.

CNEWA is in partnership with the CWL of Canada. The partnership with CWL & CNEWA started almost 10 years ago with "Velma's Dream". Together we continue to strengthen and support Christian families in Israel and Palestine to encourage Christians to remain in their homeland and keep a presence there. Financial support can make a significant difference in the lives of infants and young people. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the tremendous work CNEWA is undertaking in the Holy Land. May we continue to pray to the Holy Spirit and Our Lady of Palestine for peace, justice, and reconciliation for people in the Middle East.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE:

Everywhere on Earth, and especially in the Global South, impoverished peoples are facing growing challenges. That is why it is imperative to defend rural communities' rights to life, land, water, biodiversity, justice, health, and a healthy environment and more.

This year we will be asking Canada to do more to protect the rights and dignity of small-scale farmers here and around the world. We know that we reap what we sow. So let's sow love, dignity, peace and justice together every day to create hope for reaping a better world.

Help the poor! We are so blessed, and we have so much that we can share with those in need. We can make a difference in so many small ways by simply sharing the bounty of our lives. Guide us in our journey, open our eyes and hearts so that we become a source of comfort to all those in need.

I believe we should also be concerned about our local organizations that are helping the homeless, the abused, and mental illness. There are all sorts of committees working on these issues. When we help with the local organizations we see the benefits from helping these people out and that is rewarding. In Lloydminster we have a HOPE street team to aid the homeless and less fortunate by delivering sandwiches and drinks to them on the street and providing them with warm clothes. LITTLE BEAR is a child and youth advocacy center. A place where children and youth who have experienced sexual abuse can go to tell their story and be supported throughout the entire disclosure and investigation and the healing process. In Saskatoon the CWL have a clothing depot where people can drop off clothing and the less fortunate can go there to shop Hope Restpred is also another program where they hand out bags filled with articles for women that want to leave the human trafficking circle. These are just to name a few.

I am sure if we look in our own communities we will find a group or maybe we could join or start one of our own. I urge you to find one and let me know about the program so we can spread the word and help our fellow people.

We pray for guidance and support. Help us to let your light shine through us to brighten the day for all those we meet and bring kindness to all our relationships.

Information for this article was taken from Share Lent and CNEWA newsletter.



Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) is a process that allows someone who is found eligible to be able to receive assistance from a medical practitioner in ending their life. Legislation has been introduced to extend the temporary exclusion of eligibility for MAID for persons suffering solely from a mental illness until March 17, 2027.

The problem with the existing MAID law is that it allows Canadians to choose a medically assisted death when their death is reasonably foreseeable. Health Canada recorded over 7,500 MAID deaths in 2020 alone.

Did you know that 65% of Canadians agree that potential patients should have to exhaust ALL treatment alternatives before MAID is available? According to an Angus Reid poll on February of 2023 55% of Canadians are worried that MAID will be a replacement for adequate social services in Canada.

This is a for a message from the Catholic Bishops of Canada:

<https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Euthanasia-and-assisted-suicide-Message-to-faithful-8-April-2021-EN.pdf>

Before it is too late, we need to PRAY/WRITE/CALL/REACHOUT

Below are some ideas you can do as a council:

1. Your diocesan councils will be providing post cards that can be mailed to government officials. MPs, MLAs, the Prime Minister.
2. You can get signatures for a petition to send to your MP. The petition must contain a minimum of 25 signatures and there is no minimum age. You can mail this to the House of Commons, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6 (postage-free)
<https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en>
3. Watch and share this captioned video:
<https://www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/Resources/Videos/MAiD-for-Mental-Health-Fall-2023-A-Crucial-Moment->
4. Advocate for universally, accessible, high quality palliative care for those facing life limiting diagnosis or nearing death.
5. Prayer Points
 - a. Please join us in praying for a stop to euthanasia for mental illness
 - b. Please pray for family, friends and neighbours struggling with mental health
 - c. Pray that the law allowing euthanasia for mental illness would be reversed.
 - d. Pray for a society that sees all lives as having meaning and value.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL NEWS

Prince Albert
Shirley Lamoureux
Acting President

Fifteen Councils have been visited as part of the unity Outreach project. Thank you to those councils who welcomed diocesan and provincial executive members to their parish. You will be hearing more about what is next at our provincial convention.

Our diocesan council is busy preparing for a very special occasion, our 100th anniversary as a diocesan council. We hope you plan to help us celebrate.

Regina
Janette Rieger
President

Fall and the new year have been busy with visits for the unity Outreach project. Twenty –seven councils have been visited to date . It was interesting to hear of all the work that is being done across the Archdiocese by our CWL members. While council members are aging and leadership roles are hard to fill, the work of the League still goes on.

Preparations have been ongoing for our 101st annual convention. Please plan to attend.

Convention Dates to mark on your calendars

Prince Albert 100th Diocesan Convention :

Saturday, April 20, 2024 , St. Joseph Calasanctius Parish, North Battleford

Saskatoon Diocesan Convention:

Monday, April 22, 2024, Little Flower Parish, Leader

Regina Diocesan Convention:

Sunday April 28 and Monday April 29th, 2024, St. George’s Parish, Assiniboia

Saskatchewan Provincial Convention

Sunday, June 2 and Monday June 3, 2024, St. Joseph Calasanctius Parish, North Battleford

National Convention:

August 11-14, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

DIOCESAN COUNCIL NEWS

SASKATOON

Marion Laroque
President

I am writing this article on a classic winter storm day, and doing my favourite thing when it's snowing - ordering my seeds for this year's garden. It gives me hope!

Has the national theme 'Here I am Lord, send me' planted a seed in your heart? In your council? Is that seed calling you to take on a leadership role in your council? I am hoping and praying that you will say 'yes, with God's help', if you have been approached to step up into a leadership role. I really encourage you to explore the resources available to assist with leadership. In particular, there are six updated handbooks found at <https://www.cwl.ca/manuals/> (numbers 606, 609, 610, 611, 612 and 616) to guide you. Please take time to look at these resources as you prayerfully consider how God is calling you so that you too can say "Send me."

I was very grateful for the response by our councils to the MAiD postcard campaign that was spear-headed by our diocesan executive members Diane Cote and Kathy Jones. While the expansion of MAiD has been postponed, there is still much work to do. The **position paper** *Euthanasia and Medical Assistance in Dying* was updated in 2023 and clearly states the CWL position on this subject. In addition, there are **several articles and statements** on the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) website that you can access to educate yourself further.

Congratulations to the St. Anne, Saskatoon CWL council for organizing a very successful Human Trafficking Awareness (HTA) event on February 22. They gathered several groups together for an information sharing session, including the Saskatoon Police Service, a Saskatoon city councilor, Hope Restored Canada, the Soroptimists International, NASHI, IWIN and the Salvation Army. Both the city of Saskatoon and our province officially declared February 22 HTA day. Read more about the event https://news.rcdos.ca/2024/03/04/cwl-human-trafficking-awareness-day/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=this_weeks_news_for_the_diocese_of_saskatoon&utm_term=2024-03-05

You can learn more about this issue through the Saskatoon Diocesan website under **Moral and Social Concerns**.

The Saskatoon Diocese has published a report on the first year of the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund which shows the many programs already impacted by the funds. The report can be found: <https://rcdos.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/IRF-2024-02-21-Yr-1-Funding-Period-One-Page.pdf>

Wednesday, April 24 is Administrative Professionals Day. It is perfect day to recognize the work of your parish secretary and other parish office staff in some small way. We all need encouragement and recognition in our lives.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

YOUR PLACE IS AMONG US!

This is the year to join!

COME AND SEE!

Our contest has closed and we have a winner!

We had 12 councils submit entries and reported 67 new members in their councils. Thank you to those who participated. The 67 new members names will be put in a draw to be made at the provincial convention.

Notre Dame Council in North Battleford is our winner with a 13% increase in their membership. Congratulations! All members from this council will have their registration fees waived. (\$20/member).



SASKATCHEWAN
PRO LIFE
ASSOCIATION INC.

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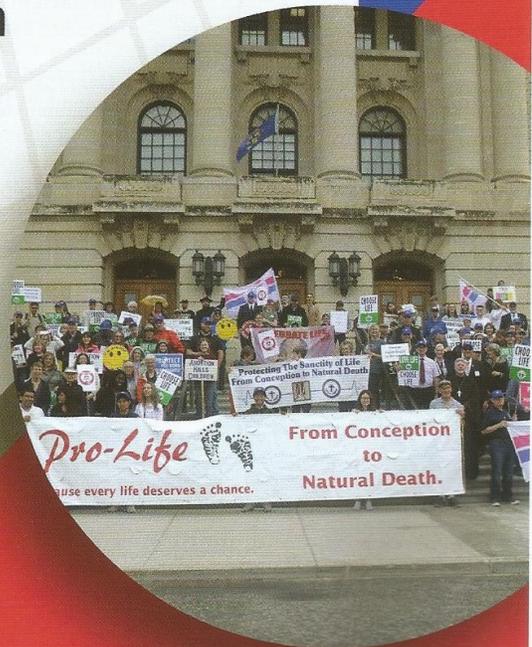
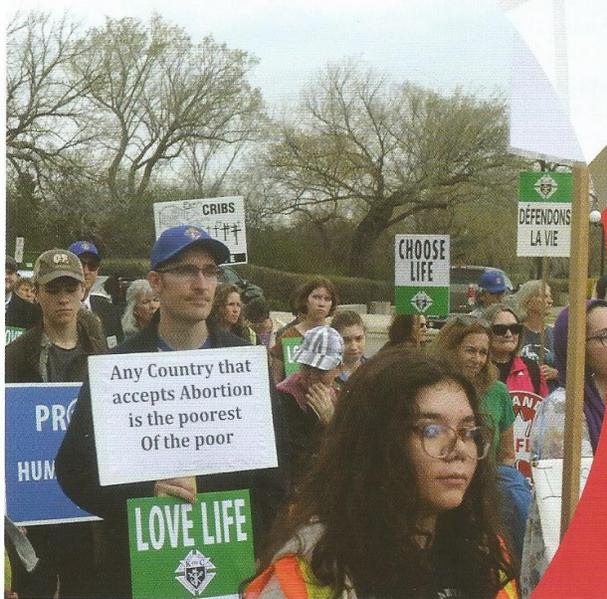
“I will never forget you.”

March for Life Regina, SK

March from Holy Rosary Cathedral to the
Legislature Building

09 May 2024 at noon

- Join Regina's faith community, schools and service groups.
- Demonstrate respect for life from conception to natural death.
- Come for all or part of the day.
- Before the March, we will have the Rosary and Mass.



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