

NEWSLETTER

January 2023

**SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE**



President's Message

Connie Crichton

Isaiah 43:18-19 *“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*”

The cold of winter will soon be transitioning into the promise of spring. Many councils will have had elections to form new executive councils using the new structure. With this newness we can create a new vision that reflects each council's unique talents and possibilities. We can celebrate the successes of the past but know that we aren't bound to old ways. We can create anew!

Spring will also bring an opportunity for members to attend conventions that are being planned by our diocesan councils. These meetings will be a time where members can hear about priorities identified for our league work through reports and presentations concerning social issues that are a concern for Catholic women in Canada.

Our national organization has launched a new initiative, Unity Outreach! National, provincial, and diocesan executives will go through a series of visits that will culminate in visits to parish councils. Many councils in our province are in a crisis that is resulting from declining and aging membership, and lack of members willing to take on leadership roles. How can we help? This is what the visits will try to address and come up with some visible options for councils other than disbanding. Be ready and willing to participate in a visit. Be proactive and invite your diocesan executive to visit your council. If they don't hear from you, you will hear from them.

Guided by the Holy Spirit we will continue our work.

For God and Canada!



PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

Connie Crichton

Just a reminder of the challenge I put out to support our 75th Anniversary and our theme “Walking Together” . This will be highlighted at our Provincial Convention to be held in Saskatoon at Holy Spirit Parish on June 4th and 5th, 2023. “In attendance will be our National President, Fran Lucas.

I am asking each council, in the next few months, to find some way to heighten awareness of Indigenous history and residential schools. In addition, if each council would fundraise \$100.00, we could combine these funds to donate to the **TRC Healing Response** for our province.

See our Treasurers message for details on sending your funds to the provincial council. The total of the donations will then be presented to the Bishops at our Provincial Convention.

We would also like to receive a story about the activity (s) your council found to do with your members. **The stories can be sent to provowlcommunications@gmail.com.**

I can't wait to hear the responses to the challenge. May the Holy Spirit provide you with guidance on this journey!

TREASURER

Patricia Keefe

Hello to all the treasurers in the CWL Councils!

You have a very important job to ensure that your Council knows what funds are available for their various projects, conventions and workshops.

If there is money to be sent to Sask Provincial CWL Council, please note that my info is:

**Patricia Keefe,
Box 333,
Waldheim, SK. S0K 4R0**

I initially gave wrong information to Annette, so please ensure that the postal code is corrected in your files.

If you prefer to e-transfer funds, please send to skcwlprov@gmail.com .

Please add a note in the comments section telling me what the funds are for and what Council it is from. It is auto-deposit, so no questions required.

Wishing you continued success in your ledgers!

PAST PRESIDENT

Chantal Devine

“Spirituality is our effort with grace to become what we have been created by the Lord to be; we must grasp who we truly are in order to know what we are to become.” Fr. Richard J. Hauser, In His Spirit

The first object of the League is “to achieve individual and collective spiritual development”. How fortunate we are to have the support of our sisters in the League in this faith-based organization to aid us in developing our spirituality! This is an ongoing process which requires us not to “rest upon our laurels” but to continually strive forward with God’s grace to draw closer to Him in our spiritual life. We should carry out our responsibilities as past presidents in a similar way. On page 6 of The Canadian League- Winter 2023, Anne- Marie Gorman, National Past President & Chairperson of Laws writes, (the past president), “In her role, she focuses on supporting her council by looking forward while also being the keeper of the council’s story.” The emphasis should be placed on “looking forward”; we should build on our past experiences to motivate our councils to welcome change and to look to the future with hope.

One of the duties as outlined in the *Handbook for Past Presidents* is to “facilitate and encourage the study and implementation of the *Constitution & Bylaws*. In conjunction with this forward-thinking approach, I would like to draw your attention to the up- coming changes that will be voted on in our parishes. Please note the following notice on page 17 of the latest issue of the Canadian League magazine

“Notice of Motion

Notice of Motion is hereby given that an amendment to Part XIV, Sections 2, 3 and 4 has been proposed as follows:

- - Replace Section 2(f) with “The parish executive and parish council may meet virtually when circumstances preclude meeting in person.”
- - Replace Section 3(d) with “The diocesan and provincial executives and diocesan and provincial councils may meet virtually when circumstances preclude meeting in person.”
- - Delete Section 3(e)
- - Replace Section 4(d) with “The national executive and national council may meet virtually when circumstances preclude meeting in person.”
- Delete Section 4(e)

The motion will be voted on by voting delegates at the 103rd national annual meeting of members of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada in Saint John, New Brunswick on August 15, 2023. Every member has the right to cast a vote on the matter with her parish council. Members are urged to seek out and attend their local parish council meeting where their vote may be cast in favour or against the proposal. “

At your next general meeting, please present these proposed amendments to your members so that you’ll be ready for the vote. May God bless you in your ongoing quest in developing your spirituality and your purpose as visionaries in the League

ORGANIZATION

This position is currently vacant.

Important items to take note of related to this position:

- ◇ Membership fees for 2023 should be collected and submitted before February 28, 2023. If you haven’t been using the online membership system, now is the time to start. Find the form to enrol (Resource 515) on the website.
- ◇ The Annual report deadline for parish councils was January 15, 2023. Response was disappointing with 46% of councils responding. What would be a better process that would encourage a better response? We need to celebrate all the good work of our councils.
- ◇ Do you need assistance in setting up your new executive in the new structure? Let your Diocesan council know and they will offer assistance.

COMMUNICATIONS

This position is currently vacant

What's going on in your council?

Your CWL sisters would like to know!

Our Saskatchewan Provincial Website is available to post stories on your parish activities. Pictures are also a welcome addition.

Send your stories for the website to provcwlcommunications@gmail.com

A message from National Chairperson Communications—Betty Colaneri is telling us about a great new resource. Use these words and their message in your parish bulletins. One for every week in the year.

Let your parish know what the Catholic Women's League really does!

The Catholic Women's League means many things to people but sometimes, it may be difficult to find the right words to convey what we are all about. The marketing working group of the implementation committee have worked very hard to develop a resource to help members start the conversation when promoting the League.

They have taken 52 words from the National Sisterhood map and expanded on those words to give them talking points. The map and postcard were developed to provide a visual representation of the League. The enclosed Share the Words resource now brings the words to life and will be added to the [To Inspire](#) page of the national website.

The 52 words can be used as themes for meetings, listed as weekly 'did you know' items for parish bulletins and included in council newsletters. They can also be used for posts on social media by using the hashtag #WhatsYourCWL. The ideas are limitless.

NEW RESOURCES

To assist with New Structure

- ◇ Guidelines for Treasurers
- ◇ Handbook for Vice Presidents
- ◇ Handbook for Past Presidents
- ◇ Handbook for Secretaries
- ◇ Handbook for Spiritual Advisors
- ◇ Handbook for Chairpersons of Faith, Service, and Social Justice
- ◇ National Manual of Policy and Procedures
- ◇ Toolkit for Faith
- ◇ Toolkit for Service
- ◇ Toolkit for Social Justice
- ◇ Guide to Simplify Meetings

FAITH, SERVICE AND JUSTICE

From the Handbook for Chairpersons of Faith, Service, and Social Justice.

Introduction

The three pillars of faith, service and social justice reflect the core values of the Catholic Women's League through which members seek to live out the Mission Statement of being called to "grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service." Therefore, all council interests and activities will be related in some way to one of these standing committees.

The strength of the League is that although it is a national organization, each parish council is unique and is uniquely able to address the needs of its own members and community. Their interests and needs will reflect their local situation. Although all councils organize their work around the same three pillars, the activities they choose will therefore be unique to their circumstance .

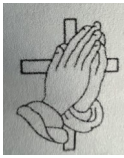
Provincial and Diocesan Chairpersons

Each year or term, the provincial or diocesan executive may choose an initiative or activity that they invite their members to work on to address a specific provincial/diocesan topic or area of concern. Diocesan and parish councils are then invited to participate in the initiative or activity to effect a broad, consequential response to the topic or area of concern.

Local Council Priorities

Since every member is committed to the Mission Statement and the work of the council is the work of all members, all members should participate in deciding on and prioritizing which topics and activities the council will address in a particular year or term. Once agreed to, the work of the council is the work of all members of the council.

Check out this Handbook and the many other useful and informative new tools produced to help your councils adapt to the new structure.



FAITH
(HEARTS IN PRAYER)
UNITING CATHOLIC WOMEN TO GROW IN FAITH



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT
LAURA NOVECOSKY

We are continuing our journey into the new format for our League. We will need each other's support and prayers as we journey together. Spiritual Development will transition into the new Faith pillar. This new standing committee will be responsible for the spiritual growth of members, study of Catholic teaching, role of women in the church, ecumenism, inter-faith endeavors, sanctity of life and vocations.

There are many ways to help our councils make this journey as we grow in faith together and strengthen the faith of each of our members through the spiritual development opportunities that are provided for them. A few practical ideas for this are: initiate a bible study, volunteer to bring the eucharist to shut ins, offering to assist in faith development (reflections, discussions, retreats, faith as well as Marian devotions). An excellent resource is The Calendar of Social Justice/Catholic Teaching in the church which is available on CWL.ca. It is number 622 and available for download from the National website.

The Affirmation-Welcome Program makes the following statement: "It is important to let members know their service to the League is Noticed, Needed and Valued! Let us take this to heart and look for opportunities to let the members of our council know how important they and their service is- to not only our councils but to the League.

I encourage each of you to continue your spiritual growth both personally and as members of your council and the Catholic Women's League of Canada.

May God richly bless your work "For God and Canada"

The International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking will be held on Wednesday, February 8th—the Feast Day of Saint Josephine Bakhita.

A Prayer from Resource 824—Trafficking of Women and Children

Jesus, You call each of us to join You, to follow Your teaching and share in Your life mission.

As our friend and teacher, You ask us now to open our minds and hearts to the sorrows and sufferings of others in our world

- to make room in our consciousness for the pain that others bear
- their fear and shame, their despair and terror.

Give us the courage we need to listen to their stories with hearts united in solidarity; to inspire in us Your own compassion and resolve.

As we hear of their plight, may we also hear Your voice directing us to action for their cause.

Amen



SERVICE

(HANDS THAT SHARE)



SERVICE TO THE CHURCH, CANADA AND THE WORLD

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE

Helen Kayfish

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and as we enter the new year that we are prepared to continue our work for God and Canada in the Catholic Women's League.

As many councils move into the new structure of the league there may be some confusion on how we will transition to this new structure. I wish to share my thoughts on how we might do so within the heading of Christian Family Life. Under the old heading we would focus on: Marriage and family life, the Sanctity of life, ministry to various areas: (youth, disabled, seniors, widowed, separated and divorced), and to Vocations.

Under the new heading: All of these will now fall under the heading of SERVICE. As well the following also fall under the heading of service:

Evangelization and mission assistance, Refugees, immigration and citizenship, Development and peace, developing countries, catholic education, literacy and continuing education, scholarships and bursaries, wellness and sickness/disease, pornography, liaison with pastoral councils and parish assistance. You may be thinking now, WOW that is a lot of areas! You're not expected to study each area and spend all your efforts trying to meet it all. You are asked to do your best and work within the area you feel called to. You are most welcomed to work with another member of your council and you can both choose areas you feel called to. The standing committees of community life as well as education and health cross over into the new service structure. We are asked to provide service to those in need, in our parishes, our local community, our country and the world. We as individuals and councils address the corporal works of mercy.

The following is taken from information provided by the strategic planning committee:

We are encouraged to provide/co-ordinate volunteer activities/projects of the council in service of members, the parish and the community. Develop services to help in the areas of homelessness, human trafficking, poverty, bullying, racism etc. We are to support food banks and soup kitchens, serve funeral receptions, invite guest speakers to educate members about charitable needs in the local community, the country and abroad. Study and implement the action plans of adopted resolutions that pertain to service.

Development and Peace, Caritas Canada is currently gearing up for the Share Lent Campaign. The theme is 'Create Hope'. This theme will be used to guide the actions over the next five years. How can create hope? By taking action! We hope to mobilize our membership in creative ways to bring about the change we want to see, and with it the hope of a better and more just world. Under the theme Create Hope, we are being invited to "Stand for the Land", in Solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Global South who are defending their homelands by protecting their land and water, the environment and human life. Solidarity Sunday is March 26th and our donations will support projects that transform lives and communities.

Remember we are here to help where we can.



SERVICE

(HANDS THAT SHARE)



SERVICE TO THE CHURCH, CANADA AND THE WORLD

COMMUNITY LIFE

Patsy Salzl

The Christmas season is over and the New Year has begun. That means the League is back at work once again.

The Webinar we had on Nov. 24 and 26 on Human Trafficking, -there is a study guide divided into 4 sections: See, Learn, Pray and Act.

You can download the guide at : rcav.org/aht/study-guide.

Following is a link to a Salt & Light Media Video "UNBOUND: A CONVERSATION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING"

Link: slmedia.org/blog/unbound-a-conversation-against-human-trafficking.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE:

Since 1967, many league members have heeded the call " to witness the love of God through Ministry and Service" by supporting D&P. D&P also educates Canadians about the root causes of poverty and empowers them to act and advocate for a meaningful change. Are you a member yet? A Lifetime membership cost is only \$10.00. Ask your members to join the D&P.

CNEWA:

A thank you letter has been received from CNEWA for donations to the National Voluntary fund of \$10,680.45 and \$2,560.00 for relief efforts in Ukraine, collected at the 2022 National Convention in Kelowna.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WEBINAR:

Domestic violence costs lives, takes a toll on those harmed, affects adults and children, and costs Canadians billions of dollars.

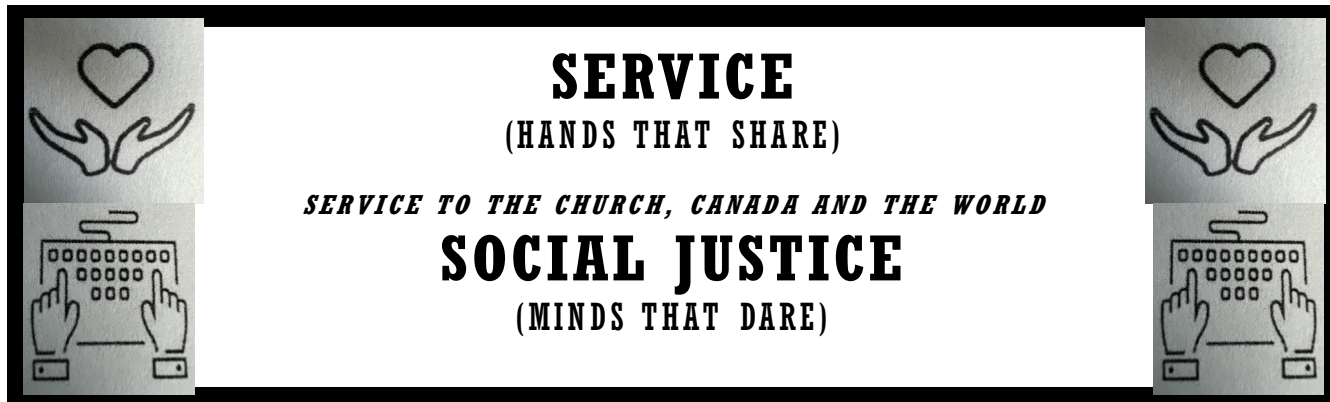
To educate and inform, The League is pleased to host a webinar titled "WE CAN DO BETTER! DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN CANADA".

Feb. 11, 2023 Saturday at 11:00am - 12:00 pm CST. Cost is \$5.00 per registrant. The proceeds will be donated to Willow Place. This webinar is open to everyone. Please encourage those you know to attend or watch, it may help someone in the future.

Register:

<https://register.gotoweinar.com/register/7033748934435605338>

As "Catholics & Living It" members, we need to be educated and informed on this topic that could be happening to a family member, neighbour or friend.



HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Wendy Dale

Is it just me, or does it seem like Christmas was yesterday, and Ash Wednesday is right around the corner? As a high school teacher, I have just finished with Semester 1 finals and report card comments, and am getting ready to start Semester 2. It's like a brand new school year starting, and for a lot of Councils, this is a brand new year trying to incorporate the Three Pillars and navigating the aftermath of our valiant efforts to continue on through a pandemic. Council sizes and gatherings have changed, and will continue to change as we discern how to best serve our League sisters, our neighbours and Canada. It's important to remember that none of us are alone as we do our planning and dreaming for the year ahead, that's the beauty of belonging to the CWL. We are a faith community intended to build each other up. Have a "mental health" meeting where there is no agenda... (what is she talking about – no agenda??) visit with each other, have some tea or coffee (if it's not Lent yet, add some sweet creamer or Bailey's) share your best experiences from the week, share your struggles, have some Bible time or do some step counting and praying. Look after yourselves!

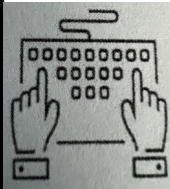
January 4th was National Ribbon Skirt and Shirt Day. Do you have one? Do you have an Elder that your Council can contact about creating your own skirts? If not, there are many Indigenous businesses where you can purchase a skirt or shirt, then you will have one to wear to show solidarity with our First Nations communities on TRC days. As our Pope has stated, Reconciliation requires us to Walk Together. This is an easy way to show our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.

Our National Education and Health Chairperson has sent out some important information for anyone who is considering increasing their spiritual knowledge or taking on a ministry that requires some training. There is a National Bursary Fund that you can apply to for financial assistance. The deadline for applications is May 15th. Qualified recipients may receive up to \$1000 per year and up to \$4000 in a lifetime. For more information see the criteria and application requirements found at cwl.ca

World Water Day is March 22nd. The United Nations has 17 Sustainable Development Goals—one of which is to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation by 2030. Statistics show that this is an insurmountable goal, and to meet the target, governments, businesses and ALL people will need to do what they can to manage water and waste responsibly. Each member can contribute through education, prayer, and action. Many small actions can have significant results. What small steps can your council promote? Have a water challenge! For info check <https://www.worldwatercouncil.org>

With Lent approaching, we will be looking for ways to increase our prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Use this as an opportunity to reach out to your local High School. Bring over some cookies or snacks, chat with the Admin team and Chaplain. More importantly – do you have an activity that needs to be done, and you could sure use some extra hands? Any student who is taking Catholic Studies has to do a Service Project – and in non-Catholic High Schools, most Physical Education classes have a volunteer component that each student needs to plan for. If we want to make connections with the next generation of girls we need to be more visible and accessible to them. Let them see how cool we are, and how much fun we can have serving the Lord.

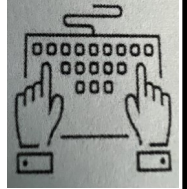
Have a beautiful and blessed Lent, look after yourselves and each other!



SOCIAL JUSTICE

(MINDS THAT DARE)

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH, CANADA AND THE WORLD



RESOLUTIONS

LEGISLATION

Lynn Jones

I am so excited to hear that one of our Saskatoon Councils is planning to present a resolution at the Diocesan meeting of members this spring. It will be nice to get back in the action with resolutions.

As our Saskatoon council is looking forward to a potential new resolution, I would like to look backwards on one of our resolutions that we passed to see if it is being followed.

Janette Rieger brought this resolution up at our Provincial Meeting of Members last year and with most of us either having young children or grandchildren I thought this was a good place to start. 2017.03 The resolution was for Zero-Rated Status Under the Goods and Service Tax Provisions of the Excise Tax Act for Child Safety Products.

I know that our council has written letters in the past to our government about issues that are very important to our CWL, but I have never spearheaded a letter writing campaign on my own.

Writing a letter (either by hand or on your computer) takes a short amount of time but it ensures that our MP's (Member of Parliament) who make decisions on our behalf, know how we want to be represented.

I found out it is more important to write directly to your MP in most cases as it will greatly increase your chance of getting a response. They will in most cases happily respond and forward your issues on to the relevant minister. In turn that Minister will be obliged by Parliamentary convention to respond to letters from MP's.

Even if our MP is not the direct target of our issue, we are providing them an opportunity to learn about the issue and hopefully act.

I always wondered why there are no templates for this. I talked to a few past Legislation and Resolutions chairs, and they stated that an original letter sent was way more powerful than a pile of identical letters. The fact that their constituent has taken the time to write the letter demonstrates to the MP that there are people who care deeply about the issue. In turn more likely to be taken seriously.

I found out that it is best to address to their Parliament address (House of Commons, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6). Upon receipt if they are not in Parliament the letter will be forwarded to them.

Top Writing Tips: Be succinct, keep to the point and check your MP's correct title. Their title can be found on the official website: <http://www.ourcommons.ca/>

Use the EPIC Format:

E – Engage your MP

P – State the Problem

I – Inform the MP about the potential solutions

C – Call to Action

Make sure you ask for a response. Be clear on how they can reach you.

After a couple of weeks if you have not heard back follow up with your MP. You might have to pick up the phone and call them. There is a website where you can report your actions so that it doesn't get lost.

<https://resultscanada.ca/track-actions/>

I am going to work on updating our listing of MPs over the winter and then start digging into passed resolutions to see where we can help ensure they are being followed.

I would love to hear from you with any suggestions.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL NEWS

REGINA

**Janette Rieger
President**

**Yorkton/Melville Regional Work-
shop
St. Henry's Parish
Melville
March, 11, 2023**

**100th Annual Diocesan CWL Convention
Resurrection Parish
Regina, SK
Sunday May 7th & Monday May 8th**

Prince Albert

**Priscilla Wakelin
President**

**99th Annual Diocesan CWL Convention
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish
St. Walburg, SK
Saturday, April 22th, 2023**

SASKATOON

**Audrey Zimmerman
President**

Many of our parish councils became active last fall and have resumed activities in a slightly changed manner that Covid or health concerns dictate.

We are pleased that the IWIN (I'm Worth It Now) project continues to be a source of help to the human trafficking victims at Hope Restored. Our CWL councils provide prayer partners and financial assistance to help cover the cost of the filled backpacks delivered to the victims.

T

The Saskatoon Diocesan Council is happy to report the refurbishment of the grotto at Queen's House Retreat and Renewal Centre in Saskatoon. The grotto and altar area was donated by the council in 1965 and needed cleaning and repair. The hands on repair was done by the Denis Mahoney council of the Knights of Columbus in Saskatoon. Diocesan executive members in charge of this project were Mary Kehrig and Yvonne Wiesner. We thank all who made the grotto beautiful again.

The CWL Clothing Depot continues to be a source of affordable clothing and household items in Saskatoon and a vital source of donations for charities that help the poor. The volunteers there make all this possible and are a valued and valuable resource.

Our Diocesan convention will be held in Foam Lake this year hosted by Christ the King Council on Saturday April 29, 2023. Our day will be shorter this year as we will finish the day at 3:00 PM with mass and installation of officers. It is always a day filled with joy at seeing our CWL sisters and renewing friendships.

This is just a bit about what is happening in our CWL councils in the Saskatoon Diocese.