

# NEWSLETTER

July 2023

## SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE



### President's Message

**Connie Crichton**



Photo by Kipley Yaworski



This newsletter will contain the reports given at our 75th Annual Saskatchewan Provincial Convention that was held on June 4th and 5th at Holy Spirit Parish in Saskatoon. Those who attended have reported that it was a wonderful time and enjoyed all there was to offer.

I thank Fran Lucas, our National President, for not only attending our convention, but providing us with two wonderful presentations that got us all participating and excited to put her suggestions into practice.

Our Lady of Guadalupe choir and the incorporation of Indigenous spirituality was received very positively by those attending. Thanks to Elder Sharon Genaille for providing the Smudge and providing us with the information ahead and during participation. She was truly touched at seeing how many of our members were participating. This was truly a Walking Together experience.

Our guest speaker, Cristin Dorgan-Lee provided a very educational and encouraging vision of reconciliation and hope for the future. In addition to being principal at St. Michael's Community School, she is also one of the facilitators for the Indigenous Pastoral & Lay Leader Ministry program offered by our diocese. This is a course worth looking into if you want to learn more about Indigenous history and the path to reconciliation.

At our closing mass we installed our new Spiritual Advisor Fr. Francis Hengen from the Regina Archdiocese and thanked our retiring Spiritual Advisor Fr. Peter Nnanga MSP, for his five years of service to our provincial council.



**Our Retiring Spiritual Advisor**  
**Fr. Peter Nnanga MSP**

*If you love Jesus, you will have Joy in you.  
If you love your Faith, you will have Joy in you.  
If you love the Church, you will have Joy in you.  
If you love what you do, you will have Joy in you.  
God is Love.*

Fr. Peter Nnanga, MSP

### **Appointment and Installation as the Provincial Spiritual Advisor**

My appointment took effect on Monday 4 June, 2018 (beginning a five-year term). I was installed as the Provincial Spiritual Advisor, alongside the other Executive members, during the Mass at the 2018 *Provincial Convention* which was held at Holy Trinity Parish, Regina, on June 4 & 5, 2018

Below is a summary of my work during my five-year term, divided into two parts, Parts A & B

**Part A – Ordinary Duties / Functions:** As laid out in the Handbook and Constitutions.

1. **Provincial Convention:** I attended **three** Provincial Conventions – 2019 in Humboldt, 2022 in Swift Current, and 2023 in Saskatoon. Due to the pandemic, there was no Provincial Convention in 2020 and 2021.

2. **National Convention:** I attended **three** National Conventions – 2018 in Winnipeg, 2019 in Calgary and 2022 in Kelowna, BC. Due to the pandemic, there was no National Convention in 2020 and 2021.

3. **Diocesan Conventions:** I attended **five** Diocesan Conventions – two in 2022 – Prince Albert Diocese (April 23) in North Battleford, Saskatoon Diocese (April 25) in Macklin; three in 2023 - Prince Albert Diocese (April 22) in St. Walburg, Saskatoon Diocese (April 29) in Foam Lake.

4. **Provincial Fall Workshop:** I participated in **five Provincial** Fall Workshops – Bruno, October 11 – 13, 2018; Saskatoon, September 19-21, 2019; Virtually on October 2, 2021; and Saskatoon, November 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

5. **Provincial Winter meetings:** I attended **four** Provincial Winter meetings – Saskatoon, March 15, 2019; Virtual meeting, March 13, 2021; Virtual meeting, March 19, 2022; Saskatoon, March 17 & 18, 2023.

6. **Other meetings:** I participated in three other meetings; two virtually – May 27, 2020 & September 15, 2020; and AMM in June 7 & 8, 2021.

7. **Regional or parish level programs:**

i. I attended Prince Albert Diocese *Region 2 Workshop* held on September 2, 2018 at St. Joseph Parish, North Battleford, SK.

ii. I attended Prince Albert Diocese *Region 1 Fall Workshop* held in Paradise Hill Parish on September 28, 2019. I gave a talk on: *'When Prayer becomes your Habit, Miracles become your Lifestyle.'*

iii. I attended the *65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration* of CWL, Notre Dame Parish, North Battleford on October 2019.

iv. I participated in the *Saskatoon Diocesan CWL Virtual Retreat* on December 15, 2020, and gave a short talk on one of the Gospel values.

v. Sunday 15 May, 2022, I joined (by invitation) the Spiritwood CWL council members in their *meeting in Big River First Nation* Parish (Whitefish), where I gave a talk on what the Catholic Women's League is about. This is also the parish where the African Nuns (Sisters) are serving.



Fr. Peter with the three president's he served , Margaret Schwab, '18/19 Chantel Devine 19/22 Connie Crichton 22/23



With National President Fran Lucas.



.John Abban-Bonsu—Saskatoon Spiritual Advisor

Fr. Peter Nnanga MSP—Retiring Prov. Spiritual Advisor

Fr. Francis Hengen—New Prov. Spiritual Advisor

vi. I attended St. Peter Parish, Unity, CWL 'year end' Banquet – Thursday 2 June, 2022; and gave a talk on: 'Sisterhood and Fraternity in the Catholic Women's League – A True Manifestation and Expression of Christian Unity and Community spirit.'

vii. I was present when my parish CWL Council (Cut Knife – PA Diocese) celebrated their 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Sunday 23 April, 2023. CWL member, Helen Kayfish from North Battleford represented PA Diocese and the Provincial CWL.

**Part B – Extra Ordinary Duties / Functions:** Things not spelled out in the Handbook and Constitutions, but which are done at the personal discretion of the Spiritual Advisor in his Parish and Diocese.

**1. Establishing a new CWL Council in my parish - Spiritwood Parish - PA Diocese**

In August 2015, I was appointed the Pastor of Spiritwood parishes (Spiritwood Parish, Leoville Parish, Medstead Parish, Chitek Lake Parish, and Shell Lake Parish). When I commenced in the five parishes, there was not a single CWL council in the cluster. Prior to my being appointed as the Provincial Spiritual Advisor in June 2018, I had made an effort to establish a CWL council in my pastoral Zone, but all of my efforts failed. However, upon my appointment as the Provincial Spiritual Advisor in June 2018, I decided to change my strategy, approach and method in establishing a CWL council. I am grateful to God that in working very closely with some women in the pastoral Zone, we were finally able to establish CWL council in Spiritwood. The journey began in September 2018, and the Charter was applied for in February 2019, with the name: 'Mother of Divine Grace'; with its first Executive members. This council now consists of members from Spiritwood parish, Leoville parish, Shell Lake parish, and members from the Big River First Nation parish, where the African Nuns (Sisters) are working. This young, unique CWL Council is in its 4<sup>th</sup> year, and is growing and active. Glory to Jesus, Honour to Mary!

**2. Providing Weekly Reflections for our Facebook Page – A positive response to the Pandemic.**

On Wednesday **13 May** (*Our Lady of Fatima Memorial*), I responded to the request to provide a weekly Spiritual Reflection for our Facebook page. This was the date of my first written Reflection and was published on our Facebook page. Between May 13, 2020 and June 4, 2023, I have provided a total of 158 Spiritual Reflections. Of the 158 reflections, 120 of them were written by me, while the remaining 38 I shared as written by other priests from Nigeria. I shared these 38 reflections by other priests most often when I was unable to write one myself.

I would write the Reflection on Thursday or Friday, send it to a member of the CWL in my Diocese, who would proofread it, and send it back to me; and I would then send it to Connie Crichton who posted it on our Facebook Page. My deep appreciation goes out to this CWL member who has been so committed for these past three years in helping me achieve success in this aspect. Thank you also to Connie for bringing up the wonderful idea of me providing weekly reflections for our Facebook Page.

# Thank You

## Fr. Peter Nnanga



Photos by Kipley Yaworski



### 3. Active involvement in my Parish CWL activities

In September 2020, I was transferred from Spiritwood to Cut Knife. It was during the pandemic, where wearing of face masks, using hand sanitizer, and keeping an attendance list of those who attend Mass was mandatory. Cut knife has an active CWL council, but like in all places, the pandemic had slowed down many things including the CWL activities. In the 7<sup>th</sup> month (March 2021) of my being in Cut Knife, we lost our CWL President (Mrs. Betty Duncan). I assisted the members of our council in getting a new President, and brought in a few other new executive members on board. I continue to attend their monthly meetings, and other functions whenever I am able. They are few in number, but they are active. I am very happy to have CWL in my parish.

### Conclusion

As I come to the end of my term, I am grateful to God for giving me this opportunity to serve these amazing members of the League – sisters, daughters, mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers. I loved and enjoyed working with the League and all of you personally. Dear sisters in the League, thank you for all your love, encouragement, support, and cooperation you have shown me over the past 5 years. Thank you for your involvement and sacrifices in the League, in your parishes, dioceses, and province of Saskatchewan, and for all you do for the League and our Catholic Church. May God bless you and reward you abundantly. Be assured of my continuous prayers for all of you. May Our Lady of Good Counsel intercede for us. Amen.

Fr. Peter Nnanga, MSP

## Welcome

### Fr. Francis Hengen!



Provincial President Connie Crichton with the new Spiritual Advisor Fr. Francis Hengen from the Archdiocese of Regina.

# Presidents' Report

Connie Crichton



Photos by Kipley Yaworski

For 75 years provincial conventions have been held in Saskatchewan. They are certainly 75 years' worth of achievements for our members to celebrate. I certainly hope another president will stand here 75 years from now and say the same.

During my first year of serving you as your president I have had an opportunity to travel a bit around the province. Councils have been slow to get back to their pre-pandemic activities but we are slowly seeing most councils getting back into a routine.

I have been out to several councils to take part in social activities. I presented at two regional workshops. One in Estevan and one in Yorkton. Councils are eager to hear how they can move to the new structure. Some have been bold and adopted the new structure before it was officially adopted at the National Convention last August. There have been many resources created to assist you in this process, however, sometimes it is beneficial to have someone come out and talk about it with you. You have the option of requesting workshops from either your Diocesan or Provincial councils. Please utilize their expertise.

I attended all three diocesan conventions and was encouraged to see the joy members had in getting together once again. I attended that Knights of Columbus State convention and the Pro-Life March and feel there are opportunities for us to work together with other organizations, on issues that are attacking the sanctity of life at both beginning and end of life.

We have recently celebrated the feast of Pentecost. Pentecost, with the descent of the Holy Spirit, calls us to go out and tell the world. The apostles were given an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and it gave them the ability they needed to do the work of God.

Being Catholic and Living It means just that, to go out and do the good work of God with the help of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes that means sharing our faith through prayer, bible studies, and supporting Catholic education. At other times it might also mean fundraising to help those marginalized in our society, participating in events in service of the community, and acting on adopted resolutions. It could also mean advocating for social justice issues, or studying Catholic Social teachings that should guide us in the work we do. This is the work of the Catholic Women's League, whose core values are Faith, Service and Social Justice. We need to keep that spirit of Pentecost alive in our councils.

## Presidents' Report — continued

Sadly we are all aware of our diminishing membership numbers. In 2022, in Saskatchewan, our membership decreased by over 500 members and more than ten councils. Most of that loss comes from members just not renewing. While you can blame it on the increase in per capita fees, the pandemic or any number of other reasons, each council needs to ask the question, “are we calling on the Holy Spirit to give us the ability to do that good work? Can we do better? “How can we do better? We have introduced a new structure, but our mission has not changed. Are we carrying out that mission in being a League that calls its members to grow in faith and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service? Are we reaching out to other women in our parish or community and attempting to build relationships that may grow into new members?



Photos by Kipley Yaworski

National council has launched a Unity Outreach initiative in an effort to help you find out what you need to give you the tools to continue to do the work of God.. In the next nine months, you will be hearing from your diocesan president, and she will be asking to connect with your council, either in person or virtually to establish what your council needs to be the best they can be. How can you call down the Holy Spirit to bring life to your council.

Just a few words on the “Walking Together” challenge I have given to all the councils in the province. In response to our pope’s request to continue the journey to reconciliation, I have asked that all councils find some way to heighten awareness of Indigenous history and residential schools with their members. While the challenge got off to a slow start, I am starting to receive the stories from those councils that have taken up the challenge. The stories are going up on the website and I’m sure you will be inspired by many of them. I hope today’s Eucharistic experience and our guest speaker will also inspire you to learn more.

In the convention program I have shared a poem that relates my own experience as a result of taking the Indigenous Pastoral and Lay Leader Ministry Education Program (IPL) offered by the Saskatoon Diocese. The IPL program gave me the motivation to issue the Walking Together Challenge in hope that you too will join in the walk towards reconciliation. A walk I started many years ago when I first learned about residential schools and the intergeneration trauma that exists as a result.

Lastly, I would like to tell you how proud I am to be representing the Saskatchewan Catholic Women’s League members at the National Board table. Last August at the National convention opening Mass, when I carried in our provincial flag, I knew that flag represented all of our members and all the work that we have done. I have great confidence in the future where we will continue to work together, as our work is for God and Canada.

This concludes my report.

# PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

Connie Crichton

Thank you to those councils who have shared their stories with us on their reconciliation journey. Those who attended the convention were able to share in the indigenous spirituality that Our Lady of Guadalupe parish experiences at their Sunday Eucharistic celebrations at 1:00 at St. Mary's Church on Avenue O South and 20th Street. All are welcome on any Sunday.

For those councils who made donations to the indigenous Reconciliation Fund, these funds were given to Bishop Mark Hagemoen at our convention banquet in addition to half of the collection from the opening Mass.

Our Walking Together Challenge will continue until the end of my term. I strongly encourage your councils to consider making the effort to learn more about Indigenous history and residential schools. Take the opportunity to attend a Powwow, a Feast, visit a reservation, or just have a book study using some of the many resources that are available on this topic. Send your stories to:

**provewlcommunications@gmail.com**

## Transition to the New Structure

For the second year of this executive's term, we will be adopting the new structure to better align with the new national executive that will be in place after the August 2023 National convention. Many of our councils have now formed new executive councils that reflect the new positions that are now part of our Constitution and Bylaws. Councils that have not adopted the new structure are encouraged to do so.

If you require assistance in moving to the new structure, please contact your diocesan or provincial president and they will be happy to set up an in person or virtual meeting with your council to offer suggestions and answer any questions you may have in transitioning.

The reports given at the annual provincial convention were done so under the old structure and this newsletter contains those reports. In future you will see our reports only in the new structure format. Our Executive is as follows:

<b>President</b>	Connie Crichton
<b>Spiritual Advisor</b>	Fr. Francis Hengen
<b>Past President</b>	Chantal Devine
<b>Vice-President*</b>	Helen Kayfish
<b>Secretary</b>	Annette Bley
<b>Treasurer</b>	Patricia Keefe
<b>Faith</b>	Laura Novocosky
<b>Service</b>	Patsy Salzl
<b>Social Justice</b>	Wendy Dale
	Lynn Jones (Resolutions)
	Margaret Schwab
<b>Life Member Liaison</b>	
<b>Diocesan Presidents:</b>	
<b>Prince Albert</b>	Priscilla Wakelin
<b>Regina</b>	Janette Rieger
<b>Saskatoon</b>	Marion Laroque

\* This is an acting position as there was no president-elect.

The position of president for the 2024-2026 term will be open for election.

If you do not have their direct email and would like to contact any executive member, send your email to : **provewlcommunications@gmail.com** and it will be forwarded to them.

They would love to hear from you!

# TREASURER

Patricia Keefe

The financial statements presented at the convention can be obtained by emailing: [provcwlcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:provcwlcommunications@gmail.com) or writing Patricia at the address below.



Photos by Kipley Yaworski

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

If you prefer to e-transfer funds, please send to [skcwlprov@gmail.com](mailto: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!

New to the position? Maybe you need a refresher.

Check out the new resource “**Guidelines for Treasurers**” Resource #609

## Communications

Vacant—Report prepared by Connie Crichton/given by Annette Bley

### Ephesians 4:29

*“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.”*

May 21 was World Communications Day and Pope Francis titled his message for that day “Speaking From the Heart.” To Quote from his message: “It is the heart that spurred us to go, to see and to listen, and it is the heart that moves us towards an open and welcoming way of communicating.” He further urges us to listen before responding. And goes on to say, “After listening to the other with a pure heart, we will also be able to speak following the truth in love.”

Building relationships with others requires just such communication. When speaking about difficult and contentious issues we should try not to be combative. In the Popes word” What must be promoted is a form of communication that helps create the conditions to resolve controversies between peoples.” In my words “Talk solutions, not problems.”

Our new structure does not include a position for “Communications”. Some of the passing on of documents created by others will now become the duty of the secretary. This is something that many councils have already adopted. Technology has allowed us to report in new ways that weren’t necessarily available when the “Communications” position was originally created. Council can now decide how they can best advertise, report on, and inspire others as best suits their councils. This is an opportunity to engage members informally as part of the doers. One or two tasks are more easily agreed to than the commitment to a two-year term or a life sentence as some would feel.

Our National website is undergoing a major reconstruct that should soon be completed. It promised to be by Betty Colaneri, National Chairperson of Communications,” a more user friendly, simplified, modernized, and optimized site.

Our provincial website is starving for some news so please encourage all councils to submit write ups and pictures of events sponsored by them. It gives others’ ideas of things they may want to do also.

Our provincial communiques will continue to come out in the Newsletter format as it has been met with positive feedback. One email, one document. Be sure to pass it on to all members and keep in the know!

This concludes my report.



# PAST PRESIDENT

What differentiates the Catholic Women's League of Canada from other organizations is, and has always been, the spiritual development of its members both individually and collectively. Where does this spiritual development take place in our League? It begins at our meetings. Since I first joined the League over 45 years ago, we were always encouraged to spend at least a third of our meeting time on spiritual growth. Unfortunately, this has not always been the case because too much time is spent on debating the business issues of the council. The time spent on those debates could be funneled into spiritual formation if ALL parish councils had a manual of policy and procedure (P&P) to reference at their meetings.



Further to my last communique, Communique #4, which was sent out in early May and is still on the provincial website, I would like to follow up on the importance that each parish council, large or small, should have a manual of policy and procedure. You've all heard this request before, as in March 2022, National Past President, Anne Marie Gorman asked past provincial presidents to reach out to all parish councils in their province, to find out how many had a manual of policy and procedure. Margaret Schwab, Past Provincial President at the time, followed up with councils and determined that only a small percentage of councils had a manual. I hope that we can change this, and that by the end of my term as past president in June 2024, ALL parish councils will have one!

In my recent communique, I asked all councils who did not have a manual, to strike a committee to put one together. I hope you all started the process this past month and if not, have it on your agenda for your first fall meeting. The councils who already had a manual, were asked to bring their copy for display at this convention. Please check the archive table to view the manuals.

As well, please visit our provincial website [cwslk.ca](http://cwslk.ca), where in the Past President Communique #4, you will find a link called *Preparing a Parish Council Policy and Procedure Manual*. When you click on the link, you will download a very beneficial power point which will guide you in creating your manual. A hard copy is also displayed on the archive table for you to examine.

Consider the creation of a P&P for your parish council as an act of love for future presidents and executive members. Having a manual to guide them in their work as a new executive council will save countless hours debating on going commitments such as gifts for pastors, funeral lunches, covering executive members' expenses at conventions and the list goes on and on! The time saved can be redirected into spiritual development and thus, nurturing our spiritual life, so we can all witness our theme *Catholic and Living It* more passionately!

## Convention Planning Committee



Photos by Kipley Yaworski



**Chair**—Margaret Schwab—Holy Spirit Council, Charlene Genkens—St. Augustine Council, Flaviana Rodulfa Loken—St. Patrick Council, Pat Bitinsky—St. Peter the Apostle Council.





Photos by Kipley Yaworski

## LIFE MEMBER LIASON

**Margaret Schwab**

When 2023 started, we had 13 Life members, two of whom now live in Alberta. My job is to keep in contact with them, advising them of events that are happening throughout the country as I receive information from the national Life Member Liaison, Doreen Gowans. I also send cards at birthdays and prayer requests when needed and pass that information back to the national Life Member Liaison.

The expectation of those who accept the duties of a Life Member is that you will always do your best to serve the League in whatever capacity is required of you. It is not a retirement gift or an indication that you are no longer needed.

Last night, two of our members accepted that challenge of giving themselves to the League through Life membership – Marge Appell and Helen Kayfish. On behalf of the Life members of Saskatchewan, I would like to offer congratulations to you both. I would also like you to know that I may be in touch with a ‘to do’ sign up sheet.

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

**Marge Appell**



Photos by Kipley Yaworski

Marge has been a CWL member for OVER 56 years. Her involvement has spanned many decades that have seen her chair many committees and has give many presentations and workshops. Marge was a teacher for 29 years and is very involved in other aspects of her community.

Marge served for ten years on the Regina Diocesan Council , two of those years as president. She went on to serve two terms on the provincial council. She is still a very active member in her parish council and is currently co-president of St. Cecilia Parish Council.

Marge is always willing to help out where she can and I know she will be eager to serve the League in its future endeavours in what ever way she can. Congratulations Marge in receiving your Life membership in the Catholic Women’s League of Canada.

**Helen Kayfish**

Helen has been a CWL member for over 32 years. Her membership started as a young mother of four. She has held most positions on her parish council and was president three times.

She is very involved in her parish and serves as sacristan, lector, communion choir member, Baptismal prep and alter server trainer. She moved up to Diocesan council and over time has held the position of Diocesan president twice. She is currently serving her third term on the Provincial Council.

Helen still has many years to give to the League and is looking forward to a long history of service for God and Canada. Congratulations Helen on your Life Membership in the Catholic Women’s League of Canada.



# ORGANIZATION

Helen Kayfish

Many of our councils are now just beginning to feel comfortable in attending in person meetings and to attend workshops and conventions in person again. It is great news!

I was recently able to attend two of the three diocesan conventions and I heard repeatedly how good it was to see each other again! It is good to see you all here today!



Photos by Kipley Yaworski

I have a few questions for you: I do not need a show of hands, please just think of your answers. How many here today have reported the loss of memberships due to the pandemic or even to the increase in membership fees? How many of you have worked at keeping those members in the League? How many of you have spoken to and recruited a new member or two to the League? Do you know how much a membership to other organizations is? I know by the number here today that belonging to a Catholic Organization, the only Catholic Women's Organization in Canada is important to you! The cost is really minimal compared to so many others there are to join.

I was recently invited to speak at a monthly mass held for the families of Filipino descent. There were so many women in attendance and I certainly felt that I didn't 'belong' there. I spoke and invited the women to join the League telling them what we are about and how we are strong in our Catholic Faith and in Catholic Education. I handed out pamphlets on the League and I feel there is interest in many joining the League. I also recently gave service awards to members of our parish council at all three of the weekend masses. I installed 3 new members to our council, one a young Filipino woman and a 15-year service pin to another Filipino woman of our council, as well as many other years of service pins. There were many other women in attendance and they were genuinely happy for those receiving awards. How many of your council's award service pins? I heard from a lady at one of the diocesan conventions that she is a 35-year member and as only ever received her membership pin! These are not costly items, less than five dollars each. Consider awarding these pins in the near future, an award can go a long way in keeping members interested in the League. (After last evening, I should now know that for sure!

Now I'm going to share a new event with you. The National Executive/board, has launched a new initiative called: 'The Unity Outreach Initiative' This initiative offers a visit to every executive council in Canada. National officers will visit provincial executives, who will visit diocesan executives who will visit parish councils. This outreach is a way to address decreasing membership and offer positive dialogue and the promotion of the League, especially to councils in crisis and possibly facing closure. The issues facing the League today need to be addressed and we are willing to visit and to listen. Visits have begun this year and you will hear soon from the executive members to arrange a time to visit. National Chairperson of Organization, Shari Guinta shared Henry Ford's quote: 'Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success'. Let's continue to work together for God and Canada and keep making the League a success!

This concludes my report:



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



**SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT**

Laura Novecosky

Our National Spiritual Development Chairperson, Cathy Bouchard sent the following information inviting members to gather in prayer as part of a personal reconciliation journey. On National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21st), we encourage all members to join in a Rosary of Reconciliation webinar at 6:00 p.m. CDT. Register for the webinar on the National website. Please join your sisters in the League to pray the Rosary.

Cathy Bouchard convened an online meeting for all Provincial Spiritual Development Chairpersons. She reviewed new and updated workshops that can be downloaded from CWL.ca. Please take time to go to the website and look at these workshops and use them in your councils. Please note the first 2 have been updated. A few examples are:

- 603-Ceremonies Booklet (updated)**
- 613-Spiritual Advisor Handbook (updated)**
- 614-Handbook for Chairpersons of Faith, Service and Social Justice**
- 626-Prayers and Spiritual Programs**
- 628-Prayer Service Planning Workshop**
- 640-Toolkit for Faith**

Our local parish councils have a pivotal role to play in the establishment of our new Faith pillar. “Service and action of the League largely rest at the parish council level, with the support of other levels of the League” This sentence, found in the Handbook for Chairpersons of Faith, Service and Social Justice emphasizes the role of our individual councils in assisting all levels of the Catholic Women’s League to evangelize, promote spiritual growth and encourage our members to grow in faith. On the cwl.ca page under Resources there is a listing of workshops in the 800 series. A few of these are only 15 minutes long and can be easily incorporated into your meetings. I encourage you to go through the information provided and plan to use these workshops in your council meetings. Two that caught my attention were:

- 818-Being Kinder to Each Other.**
- 816 - Mary and the Eucharist**, which invites us to be present when we receive the Eucharist and to contemplate what this means in our daily lives.

Our deceased members as reported by the Diocesan Councils in 2022:

Prince Albert -25  
Saskatoon-50  
Regina-70

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord. And let Perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in Peace. Please take time to look at the Book of Life during the convention.

This concludes my report



# **SERVICE**

(HANDS THAT SHARE)

***SERVICE TO THE CHURCH, CANADA  
AND THE WORLD***

## **CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE**

**Helen Kayfish**



Photos by Kipley Yaworski

Saskatchewan Pro-Life has a petition for everyone to sign on the support of Conscience Rights for Medical Professionals. I hope everyone has signed this petition. You can access and print copies by just using google and conscience rights: petition. Please sign one or print some off and invite members of your parish sign them.

I have 5 copies of the petition here if you would like to take one or sign it here. Coercion, intimidation, or other forms of pressure intended to force physicians, healthcare workers and health institutions to become parties in medical assistance in dying (MAID) directly or through effective referral is a violation of fundamental freedoms of conscience.

While provincial governments and medical associations were obligated to implement MAID following its de-criminalization, provincial legislatures can create a legal framework to protect the conscience rights of medical professionals who refuse to participate in MAID. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) describes MAID as the intentional taking of human life and, as such, is “a grave and morally unjustifiable act.” The recent joint communique from National Chairperson of Christian Family Life, Dorothy Johansen and Glenda Carson National Chairperson of Legislation, point out many resources, more in-depth information and context on the Canadian legislative expansion of MAID. You can access these resources on the CWL website.

World Youth Day WYD will take place this August 1-6 in Lisbon Portugal. Please pray for all the youth attending as well as for Pope Francis who is planning on attending.

Please continue to pray for families as they work at staying together and raising their children in the Catholic Faith. The World Meeting of Families takes place every three years and the next meeting is scheduled for 2025.

Take time to read the information on the national website under the heading of service where you will find many of the areas that served Christian Family Life

This concludes my report.



# **SERVICE**

**(HANDS THAT SHARE)**

***SERVICE TO THE CHURCH, CANADA  
AND THE WORLD***



Photos by Kipley Yaworski

## **COMMUNITY LIFE**

Patsy Salzl

“If violence has its source in the human heart, then it is fundamental that nonviolence be practised before all else within families. From within families the joy of love spills out into the world and radiates to the whole of society. I plead with equal urgency for an end to domestic violence and to the abuse of women and children.” POPE FRANCIS.

Human trafficking and Domestic violence victims and survivors often face challenges finding social services and supports that meet their needs and understanding their experiences. There exists only a small number of specific programs within Canada and often located in larger cities. As a followup to the domestic violence webinar, questions were presented as to what members could do next to help.

Develop posters with information and tips for Churches and community locations. These posters could be placed in public washrooms where they can freely read this information.

Invite speakers with knowledge in supporting victims and survivors to meetings. Learn more about resources in your community and make some connections. Education is key to helping to fight this terrible violence.

Align with women and family serving charities in the region and ask what their needs are or how to help.

The League has a long history of reaching out and helping those in need. This is an opportunity to be "Catholic and Living it".

Like other Canadians, Catholic women struggle to find ways to personally contribute to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. How can Catholic women and Indigenous peoples learn from each other and begin respectful conversations? Can healing occur?

June 21, 2023 is National Indigenous Peoples Day. I would like to encourage all members to join together in a Rosary of Reconciliation webinar at 6:00 p.m. CDT, you can register for the webinar at [attendee.gotowebinar.com](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com). If that does not work for you, then gather together and maybe invite some Indigenous Women to pray with you. Maybe this is a start to bridge some friendships with others.

"I can do all this through him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

This concludes my report.



# SERVICE

(HANDS THAT SHARE)

*SERVICE TO THE CHURCH, CANADA AND THE WORLD*

# SOCIAL JUSTICE

(MINDS THAT DARE)

ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN SOCIETY

# HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Wendy Dale



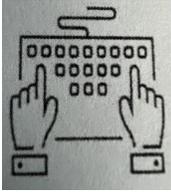
There is always something that we can learn more about, and there will always be those who need our help. As we continue to educate ourselves, we can improve the lives of those around us, and improve our own physical and mental health as we experience the joy that comes with knowing that our actions are meaningful and making life better for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Photos by Kipley Yaworski

In terms of Health, we had the opportunity to participate in the Palliative Care Webinar which is timely since in March of 2024, our country will introduce new legislation to expand euthanasia. This is an issue that is not simply going to vanish, so we must do what we can to be informed so we can take positive next steps. The Month of May had a focus on Ovarian Cancer Awareness. This insidious disease takes a toll on the women who suffer, as well as their families. Promoting ethical research and raising awareness can better the chances of survival for our daughters and granddaughters.

Later this week, the What Matters Zoom webinar will take place. As we face unprecedented challenges in healthcare today, Catholic institutions are uniquely positioned to offer a holistic care that balances compassion and expertise. Catholic identity, rooted in the healing ministry of Jesus Christ and expressed in gospel values of love, justice, and mercy, is central to this mission. Understanding its relationship with healthcare is crucial. Moderated by Archbishop Donald Bolen, this Zoom forum aims to provide a space where in the Catholic community and Catholic Health can explore this relationship and surface insights into the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead.

In terms of Education, many of the initiatives are related to Health, including Have a Heart Day which is on February 14. This brings awareness to the issue that health care is not the same in Canada for all of its citizens, including the First Nations citizens of the country. Under Jordan's Principle the Federal Government is meant to ensure that First Nations children can access the products, services and supports they need, when they need them, while work is done with First Nations partners, provinces and territories to develop long-term approaches to help better address the unique needs of First Nations children, especially those living in remote areas of the country. In March, many Councils participated in World Water Day and found out about the issues of access to clean water globally, as well as locally. There are still many First Nations communities that live under boil-water advisories and have been for years. Would we put up with this in our own communities?

Have you considered planting a Three Sisters garden? You still can, in a little corner or designated place in your yard. The three sisters are corn, squash and beans. These plants were grown together in raised mounds. Corn provides tall stalks for the beans to climb so that they are not out-competed by sprawling squash vines. Beans provide nitrogen to fertilize the soil while also stabilizing the tall corn during heavy winds. Beans are nitrogen-fixers meaning they can take nitrogen, a much needed plant nutrient, from the air and convert it into forms that can be absorbed by plant roots. The large leaves of squash plants shade the ground which helps retain soil moisture and prevent weeds. A diet of corn, beans, and squash is complete and balanced. Corn provides carbohydrates and the dried beans are rich in protein and have amino acids absent from corn. Squash provides different vitamins and minerals than corn and beans. These three crops are also important because they can all be dried and used for food year round. Your Three Sisters garden is a connection to the land, and to the wisdom of the First Nations ancestors of the land who planted like this for centuries. Let us all strive to live as part of a Three sisters garden, supporting each other, and embracing our unique talents that we have been blessed with to make the world better for all of our sisters.



# **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

(MINDS THAT DARE)

*ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN SOCIETY*

## **RESOLUTIONS LEGISLATION**

Lynn Jones



Photos by Kipley Yaworski

Rolande Cherinican in her January communique mentioned Pope Francis address on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Quote: “We cannot stand around complacently, waiting for things to get better. WE need to get up, recognize the moments of grace, set out and take a risk. We should ask ourselves “This year, where do I want to go? Who is it that I can help?”

With all the new materials and workshops that National has loaded onto the National website I have my summer reading projects ready to go.

Rosaleen Quinn reached out to me from Anti-Poverty Regina back in April about helping get out the word on Bill C-22 which is the Canada Disability Benefit Bill. As I am in the Social Justice Pillar on the Provincial CWL Executive, and I am our Social Justice Chair on our Parish Council at St. Martin’s in Regina I thought this was my “Who is it that I can help?” moment.

For those of you who had the opportunity to read Connie’s May Provincial Communique I introduced what Bill C-22 is and you will see why we need to help get this into Legislation. Just a refresher - Bill C-22 is An Act to reduce poverty and to support the financial security of persons with disabilities by establishing the Canada disability benefit. There are real concerns if the benefit is implemented by regulations and not by legislation. Regulations can be vulnerable to shifting political priorities, and if it’s not legislated, it means that future governments can make unilateral changes without requiring parliamentary oversight.

I am happy to announce that the Bill C-22 with its amendments has now passed third reading in the Senate on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

How can we help?

I have with me the “People with Disabilities can’t afford to wait.” Postcards. These postcards are directed to the Minister of Finance for the purpose of ensuring the government will fund the bill. There is a spot on the Postcard for a personal plea to the Minister.

It is hoped the Minister will make a statement in the Fall. Now the pressure is on to have the MP’s pass the bill as amended. By sending in the postcards, we are sending a clear message that too many disabled Canadians (1.4 million) live in poverty.

If you would like a postcard, please see me during the convention. if you would like to work with your Parish and hand out more postcards, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me during this convention and I will be able to put you in touch with Disability without Poverty.

This concludes my report.

# DIOCESAN PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

## **Prince Albert** **Priscilla Wakelin** **President**



Photos by Kipley Yaworski

Good Morning it is nice to be with you all today. Although we are back to having in person meetings,. We find that some of our meetings are also being held virtually as well. This has its advantages in our Saskatchewan winters. It is one of the good things that has come out of covid.

We also learned how important it is that we need to stay connected. And that we did. In ways many of us never would have dreamed we could. Such as virtually, and Parking lot meetings and more. We are still making those efforts to stay connected. The need to let others know they are appreciated and are still in our thoughts. We did this by phone calls, texts and by sending out the gratitude postcards. Some councils made CWL parish newsletters while others even made Facebook pages.

Now things are back to our new normal. I know that this has not been without its challenges for our councils. With losing members for various reasons. The struggles to keep members. As well as trying to grow our memberships. Not to mention that we are now all learning and transitioning into the new structure / pillars of the league in our councils. There is no surprise that with all these changes , we find that no one wants to take on the leadership roles in their councils. There is the thought that the role of leadership is hard and scary. I am here to say that you can do this, yes at times it can be hard or scary and even challenging, especially when we have to learn new things. However it can also be very rewarding. So please consider taking on a leadership role to help your council thrive and grow.

We too at the diocesan level have started moving into the new structure at the diocesan level after our convention. This will be a learning curve for all of us. It is with a heavy heart that I have to tell you that the Melfort Council has disbanded. I know that some members have joined other councils. We had a few councils report that they had gained a member. A few others had gained 4 new members each. When I asked how they gained so many new members they all told me that it was by personal invitation. So don't forget how important personal invitation is. It can make the difference.

Our theme is “Catholic and Living It”. This is something we all do. We all love, share and live our faith. We are all called to embrace the call to the gifts of the holy spirit and holiness. Do we live it? How do we live it? I know we all have stories of how we live it. Some of the things that our councils are doing to show they are Catholic and living it include spiritual bouquets, Prayer services and Celebrations. Many parishes sent out Palliative care postcards.

There were also many humanitarian collections. Items continue to be sent to La Ronge sacred Site Outreach program. Collections for Ukraine as well as for Ukraine refugees. Shoe boxes for operation Christmas Child and teen aid. One parish also collected household items to furnish tiny homes on the reserve close by called Door of hope. Another program was Bags of Love. These bags are given to children that have been removed from a home for the first time by Social Services.

Some of our members go to local reserves to celebrate mass and for funeral services they also invite their members to join their masses and meetings. This is just a few of the many wonderful things our Catholic Women’s League ladies are doing in our parish and for our communities. See what we can do by “ Walking together” We can show that we truly are “ Catholic and Living it”

This concludes my report.

# DIOCESAN PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

## REGINA

**Janette Rieger**  
**President**



Photos by Kipley Yaworski

January 2022 started with 67 paid councils in our diocese and ended with 57 councils that were considered paid and active. There were two additional councils that have not started disbanding, and are trying to re-organize, but they did not pay fees for 2022. In addition, one council was considered inactive, that is, they do not complete annual reports, participate in diocesan conventions, or hold meetings. As well, they do not want any emails or mailings. But they continue to collect and remit membership fees and their members retain their years of service.

There were 2,278 paid members for 2022. This year-to-date, our membership has dropped to 1,944, a decline of 334 members. The reasons given for many of the councils disbanding is that their membership numbers were simply too low to maintain a council, and the inability to form an executive as many members would not let their name stand, usually because of their advanced age.

The Regina Diocese has 9 regions. The chairpersons of each region represent the councils of their region at diocesan executive meetings. Unfortunately, 3 of the regions do not have a chairperson, so that means that the 27 councils in those regions do have representation at the diocesan meetings. In other words, almost 50% of the councils are not represented.

The regions also hold their own meetings and workshops once or twice a year, which enables the members in the area to hear guest speakers, and updates on initiatives of the League, without having to travel too far. Of course, due to COVID, these regional meetings had not been held for several years.

But, starting in the fall of 2022, it began to feel like some form of normalcy had returned. I attended in-person regional meetings for the Estevan region, the Southwest region, and the Our Lady of Peace region which was in Assiniboia. In the spring of this year, I attended the Our Lady of Good Counsel regional meeting which was in Indian Head, and the Yorkton-Melville regional meeting which also had some members of the Esterhazy region in attendance. I presented workshops at all of these meetings, explaining how the upcoming changes of the executive structure could be successfully implemented in their councils. At some of these meetings Connie Crichton and Linda Maddaford also presented workshops.

As well, I gave a one-hour presentation to the Regina Archdiocesan clergy members during their study days in October. About 50 members of the clergy were present as I gave them an overview of the League as a national organization. I believe many of these priests were hearing about the full extent of the League for the first time, and we had more priests attend our diocesan convention this year than in previous years.

Our 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention was held on May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, at Resurrection Parish in Regina with 146 members, clergy, and guests in attendance. The Sunday banquet attendees heard from our MLA, City Councillor, and the State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus. Letters were read from the area's Member of Parliament, and from Archbishop Bolen who were unable to attend. Our guest speaker was Shannon Novak who spoke on the Spiritual Motherhood of Priests apostolate that she directs. On Monday, we had a workshop given by national president Fran Lucas on relationships. The Sunday opening mass was preceded with the rosary. Following the Monday closing mass, the members of the executive were re-affirmed in their positions, which was special, because last year, our convention and therefore the installation ceremony, was virtual.

# DIOCESAN PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

## REGINA

**Janette Rieger continued  
President**

As well, this year's pre-convention meeting was the first time that our diocesan executive actually met in person. The past year saw many of our executive, myself included, faced with health challenges, and for one reason or another, every executive meeting ended up being held virtually. While virtual meetings allowed us to conduct necessary business, it did not allow for the forming of relationships that normally occur. Also, the general communication that accompanies meetings is stymied and the meetings are shorter, usually only a half-day instead of a full day, so discussions and brainstorming of ideas didn't happen as much.

Our diocesan executive has several vacancies as well, so that also presented a challenge. I am hoping that this year will see a return to the executive holding in-person meetings, God-willing! I hope to develop ideas with my executive to have at least one activity or project for our parish councils to use, under each of the 3 pillars of Faith, Service, and Social Justice.

This concludes my report.

## SERVICE AWARD

Presented to Janette Rieger



Photos by Kipley Yaworski

Fran Lucas, Nation President, presented Janette with the Maple Leaf Service Pin that where Diocesan Council awarded her for her dedicated service to The Catholic Women's League of Canada.



Linda Maddaford, President –elect, Regina Diocesan Council offered these words:

I don't know for sure, because I haven't asked, but I am pretty sure one motto that this CWL member lives by is 'I will, with God's help.' She joined the league in 1996 and has been actively involved at the local CWL

She completed the Catholic Women's Leadership Certificate Program in 2020. She has created and presented workshops on Letter Writing, The Joy Of Leadership, The League - Going Forward, to name a few, and is a seasoned speaker. We are the richer for her dedication.

# DIOCESAN PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

## SASKATOON

**Marion Laroque  
President**



Photos by Kipley Yaworski

I am so pleased to report that the Saskatoon CWL councils' participation in the annual report surveys increased substantially this year. Anyone who has served with me on an executive knows I love annual reports and read every word of every survey.

Our members are fearless. In the past year we've taken on difficult subjects such as human trafficking, pornography, the study of transgender issues and our Catholic teachings, and the sanctity of life from conception to natural death. And we're tough: the coldest day of the year did not deter the members of St. Anne's council, Saskatoon from raising a flag at city hall for Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

Our councils are generous. Over \$64,000 was donated to local, national and international charities by the reporting councils. The war in Ukraine and the needs of Ukrainian refugees inspired several councils to act. Many councils also participated in the Food Bank Project initiated by our national executive. In addition, our CWL Clothing Depot gave \$27,500 to local charities in 2022 and we are on track to give even more this year. Bursaries, scholarships, and music festival awards were also given by many councils.

Our members want to grow in faith. Those in attendance at our diocesan convention in Foam Lake were warmly welcomed by the Foam Lake CWL and spiritually fed by the 'Three Black Wisemen', as they called themselves: Father Augustine, Father John, and Father Peter, along with Bishop Mark. We were inspired by all their messages. Councils also used retreats, webinars, and days of reflection to increase their faith. The impact of the National Theme: Catholic and Living It! was nicely summarized by one president in her annual report: *"It is not so much a change in what we do, but a recognition and celebration of why we do it."*

Our councils support their parish. It's in our DNA to help with funerals, support parish fundraisers, teach catechism, children's liturgy, sing in the choir and take communion to those who cannot attend mass. The prayer shawl ministry in many councils reaches out to people facing illness or other challenges in life. One phone call to the CWL and things get done! We should never underestimate our day-to-day impact and value of the CWL to our parish.

The Saskatoon Diocesan CWL executive spearheaded a project to refurbish the Marian Grotto at the Queen's House of Retreats here in Saskatoon with the assistance of the Knights of Columbus, council 8215. A picture of the executive at the Grotto appears in the latest Canadian League magazine, page seven. The picture was taken in November, of course, we love cold weather.

A total of fourteen councils were visited by diocesan executive members, mostly by Audrey Zimmerman and some by myself in this past year. On a more negative note, the council from Wynyard made the decision to disband in 2022. To bring a focus to our messages and projects over the next two years, the new diocesan executive has chosen *Women Supporting Women* as our theme.

I'd like to end my report with an optimistic quote from one of our councils: *"We do the best we can. With the help of Our Lady of Good Counsel we will hopefully go forward for God and Canada."*

This concludes my report.

# Saskatchewan Provincial Council

75th Annual Convention  
Sunday June 4th and Monday, June 5th, 2023  
Holy Spirit Parish  
114 Kingsmere Place  
Saskatoon, SK

**CATHOLIC**  
and **LIVING IT!**



## Walking Together



**Elder Sharon Genaille**



**National President Fran Lucas**



**Guadalupe Choir**



**Banquet Guest Speaker:  
Cristin Dorgan-Lee**



**Photos by Kipley Yaworski**