

NEWSLETTER

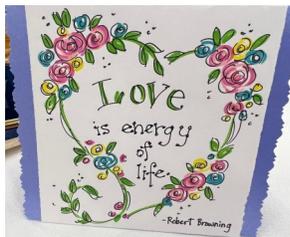
May 2023

SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE



President's Message

Connie Crichton



***Song of Solomon 2:11-12** For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.*

Convention season is upon us and we have surely heard singing! To me there is nothing that sounds more beautiful than hearing the voices of the women of the Catholic Women's League join in song at a convention or gathering. Many voices blended together in a way that only women's voices sound. Such is the work of our parish councils. Women coming together and doing the work in a way only women of faith and service are able to do.

Summer will soon be upon us and now is a good time to start to make plans for the fall. After a summer of taking care of gardens, vacations, reunions and relaxing, we will be ready to get back to the work of the league.

Your provincial and diocesan council executives will be planning the Unity Project visits you heard about in our last newsletter. Pick your date and perhaps combine a social to follow. Get out as many members as you can. We need to hear all the voices and we are prepared to listen.

May is the month we honor Mary and I'm sure many rosaries will be prayed this month at council meetings. I am holding all my CWL sisters in my prayers.

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



Five Years of Joy filled Service to the Saskatchewan Provincial CWL:

**A Privilege and an Honour
(June 2018- June 2023)**

“The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28

The Catholic Priesthood is a call to a life of service

When you look at the person, life and ministry of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Master, you will see that His entire life was about service. He carried out His ministry of service to the very end of His earthly life. John’s account of the Last Supper includes the Washing of the Feet of His disciples. He strongly admonished them to follow His example and do the same. (John 13:12-15). For me, this is how I see the priesthood – a call to a life of service, and this service comes to us (priests) in different ways. When I answered the call to this priesthood, I was fully aware of the demands of this call – that of a lifelong commitment to the service of the Church and the people of God.

Most often, as priests, the different services we carry out are placed on our shoulders by the hierarchy of the church under whom we live and work, like the Bishops and Superior General, for those who belong to a religious or missionary congregation, (like myself), through appointment. But there are also times when, individually, we have to volunteer and submit ourselves to service as the need arises. Whether we are appointed (formally) or volunteer (informally), it’s simply about serving. Every act of service requires one’s availability, willingness to work, and competence, that is, ‘the ability to do something successfully or efficiently.’ It is not so much about being successful in what we do, but being faithful to what are called to do or given to do.

My Appointment as Provincial Spiritual Advisor

It was sometime in May 2018 that I was appointed by (our then Bishop), Most Rev. Albert Thevenot, M.Afr, (now retired) of Prince Albert Roman Catholic Diocese as the Spiritual Advisor to the Saskatchewan Provincial Catholic Women’s League (CWL), effective from June 4, 2018, for a term of five years. I accepted and took on the appointment not knowing much of what I was getting into, but with openness and willingness to learn as I would journey with the league members. I was not completely new to working with a Catholic women’s group, because back in my country of origin, Nigeria, I had worked with the Catholic Women’s Organization (CWO) as it is called. So, I did have a little experience of this kind of service.

The beauty of our Catholic Church and faith is its universality and unity. Therefore, for me, this appointment was not a secondary part of my pastoral work, rather I looked at it as part of my primary pastoral work. It was a priority; not something I would do during my spare time, but something I must create quality time for. That was my approach to the appointment. The truth is, that one’s understanding of one’s duty affects one’s approach and attitude to that duty.

Fr. Peter Nnanga MSP —Continued

My work was made easy by the well-organized structure of the League.

The Catholic Women's League is a very well-organized group of lay-faithful women in the Church; their leadership structure is a formidable one. In my five years of working with the League, I found the Catholic Women's League a simple and easy group to work with. All I needed to do was make myself available to them wherever and whenever I was needed. Another beautiful thing about our Catholic Church is the strength of the Church's structure; and the same goes for the Catholic Women's League (CWL). In all the programs, activities and events I participated in, things were always so very well organized. In all honesty, I really admired the organizational skills of the League members.

Four Major Activities / Programs where I was needed

During my five-year term of service to the League, there were four yearly major activities or programs for which my presence was very much needed. My first event or program with the League was the Provincial Convention which is always held in June. As the Spiritual Advisor, it is my duty to celebrate the closing Mass of the Provincial Convention, and to install the New Officers or Executive members. The second program of the League is the Fall Workshop, which takes place between September and October. As the Spiritual Advisor, I am needed to provide Mass during the program. The third program is the Winter Executive Meeting, which usually takes place between February and March, and of course, once again, it is my duty and responsibility to celebrate Mass at this event. The fourth, and largest event is the National Convention, which usually takes place during the month of August. The other activities and events are the Diocesan Conventions of the three Dioceses that make our province – Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon. Participating in the 4 major CWL programs, as well as gracing these Diocesan conventions, whenever I was able to do so, was incredibly edifying, and enlightening to me.

The Pandemic Challenges also brought out the best in us

Of the five years of my term as Spiritual Advisor, two of those years were taken away by the pandemic – because we were unable to hold our Provincial, National and Diocesan Conventions. However, during this time, we did not go into slumber; instead, we resorted to holding our programs and activities virtually. Like the saying: 'When the hunter shoots without missing, the birds must fly without perching.' I was very proud of the Executive Members, led by Madam President, Chantal Devine, with their leadership to continue through these challenging years. In seeking new ways of doing things, the challenges of the pandemic offered a great opportunity for the League to ask me for support in another manner, to provide a special, additional service for them. It was the service of writing a weekly reflection based on the Sunday Readings, for our Facebook page, of which I gladly accepted. This service was coordinated by our present President, Connie Crichton. The first of such reflections began on Wednesday, May 13, 2020, (which was the Feast Day of Our Lady of Fatima) with the title: "God is Busy Working for our Good even in His Prolonged Silence." I have remained committed to this service till date. I love it, and I enjoyed doing it for the past three years.

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.

Glory to Jesus - Honour to Mary!

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE
Connie Crichton

Funds have been coming in from some of the councils but we've yet to hear from many of you. It is encouraging to hear of some of the ways that councils are educating their members on indigenous issues as well as holding some bake sales and other events as fundraisers. What is your story? I would love to hear them all so I can share them at our National "AMM in St. John NB in August.

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.

TREASURER
Patricia Keefe

New to the position? Maybe you need a refresher.

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

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

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!

Communications
This position is currently vacant!

Coming soon at the end of May!

A new look to the National Website cwl.ca.

Recordings of recent webinars are now available on the national website.

- "Who Me a Leader?"
- "Act Justly, Love Tenderly, Walk Humbly"

To stay up to date check the websites often.

Provincial Website: cwlsk.ca

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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 provewlcommunications@gmail.com

PAST PRESIDENT
Chantal Devine

“Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.” Mother Theresa
In the National CWL Policy and Procedure Manual, on page 75 under the heading of **Past President**, I found the following:

“Be responsible for reviewing biannually the council’s manual of policy and procedure for any needed additions, deletions and corrections; all changes must be brought to the membership (for parish councils) or the executive (for diocesan and provincial councils) for approval before amending the manual.”

This statement assumes that all CWL councils have a policy and procedure manual, but unfortunately this is not the case. For the past two years, Past National President & Chairperson of Laws, Anne- Marie Gorman has been encouraging us to formulate a policy and procedure manual in every parish council. While provincial and diocesan councils have a manual, only a small percentage of parish councils have one.

When speaking to parish council presidents, many feel there is no need for a manual as most members have been with the council a long time and know what is expected of them. Unfortunately, members pass away, memories fail, and precious time is lost questioning and debating past council procedures. A parish council policy and procedure manual is an invaluable aid in guiding, not only all existing members, but most importantly, a new president and her executive as they begin leading the council.

The objective of this communique is to ask ALL councils to organize a meeting to strike a committee to put together a manual of policy and procedure. Councils who already have a manual should bring it for display, to the provincial convention on June 4th & 5th at Holy Spirit Parish in Saskatoon. These completed manuals may help other parish councils in preparing their own.

To help you get started, I’ve attached a link on the Provincial Website to a power point presentation by the Vancouver Diocesan Council entitled *Preparing a Parish Council Policy and Procedure Manual*. This power point could be presented to your membership prior to striking a planning committee as it outlines the reasons why a P&P is important and offers guidelines in what to include.

Another source for information was mentioned by Anne- Marie Gorman in her October 3, 2022, communique. She invited us to review “How to Prepare a Parish Council Manual of Policy and Procedure” in the *Handbook for Organization Chairpersons*. I hope you will reference both the handbook and the power point to begin your manual as soon as possible.

May God bless you as you continue to do “the small things with great love” in your councils, while living out our theme in being *Catholic and Living It!*

Life Member Liaison

Margaret Schwab

On March 31, 2023, we lost one of our life members, Marge Szabo. Marge was our provincial president from 2013 to 2015. She was a most creative person; always thinking up interesting ways to make our work enjoyable and fun. I was reminded by a past national president that in when Regina hosted the national convention in 2013, Marge took some of the national executive on a tour of Regina, pointing out the highlights, because she knew that the members of the national executive never have time to go on any of the convention tours. This was an unexpected treat for these women and they were very appreciative. Marge was always willing to help out and her smile brought brightness to our gatherings. She will be greatly missed by so many. **+May she rest in peace.+**

ORGANIZATION

Helen Kayfish

What can the league do for you?

Are you passionate about the league and wish to see the league continue to grow?

How do you propose to encourage new members to join?

How do you see your council inviting the women in your parish to come and see what the league is about?

We at the provincial level hope to share ideas with you on how to do this.

I know, to quote 'I'm too busy, I'm working and raising my family' is what you are hearing. I joined the league at the invitation of both my mother and mother-in-law. I was young with a very young family. I was extremely shy, wouldn't talk to people, was very young, as I said. I had 4 children by the time I was 27. Did I have time to attend meetings that I never knew much about or was very interested in? NO, I DIDN'T! I gave it a try though, brought my newborn baby with me to meetings. The 'grandmothers' loved it! they took turns holding him and I only got him back to feed and change when needed. They were so welcoming, they had all been in my position before and I seemed to have forgotten that. Maybe, I thought I was the only one who was ever in that position. I soon realized that whatever time I had was all that was needed. I gave and did what I could. As my children grew and left home, even though I still work part time now, I found I was more open to doing what I could and to 'POP' right out of my shell! I have been a member of the League now for 34 years and have served in many different areas on parish, diocesan and provincial levels of the league. I am one of those members who is very passionate about the League, and I don't wish to see any councils close or lose members.

Let's do what we can for God and Canada! Let's go out there and invite the women in our parishes to join the league and give whatever they can!

New resources that have been created as a result of the Strategic Plan can be accessed on the main web page - **Strategic Planning Resources and updates.**

Some include:

Advocacy Workshops

Catholic Social Teaching Resources

League Misconceptions Workshop

Intergenerational Activity Program

Prayers and Spiritual Programs

Joy of Leadership

Train the Trainer Guide

Resources to help you with the new structure

- ◇ # 609 Guidelines for Treasurers
- ◇ # 610 Handbook for Vice Presidents
- ◇ # 611 Handbook for Past Presidents
- ◇ # 612 Handbook for Secretaries
- ◇ # 612 Handbook for Spiritual Advisors
- ◇ # 614 Handbook for Chairpersons of Faith, Service, and Social Justice
- ◇ # 615 National Manual of Policy and Procedures
- ◇ # 640 Toolkit for Faith
- ◇ # 637 Toolkit for Service
- ◇ # 639 Toolkit for Social Justice
- ◇ # 636 Guide to Simplify Meetings



FAITH

(HEARTS IN PRAYER)

UNITING CATHOLIC WOMEN TO GROW IN FAITH



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

LAURA NOVECOSKY

Our mission statement invites us to ‘journey together’ noting that the Catholic Women’s League “calls it’s members to grow in faith.” Our Provincial Council continues this invitation with our theme “Walking Together.”

Cathy Bouchard, National Chairperson of Spiritual Development expands on this theme in her recent memo. She quotes Pope Francis’s document “Gaudete et Exsultate” to facilitate our growth in holiness. Cathy notes that “we are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves.” One of the ways we can embrace this call to be holy is by “Walking Together.”

Pope Francis says, “To be holy does not require being a bishop, a priest or a religious”. Aspiring to be holy sounds like an insurmountable goal. So, how do we ‘grow in holiness’ and what are some of the signs that point out to us that we are on the right path? One of these signs is that growth in holiness is a “journey in community, side by side with others.” We do this by caring for each other, by walking together. As we walk with Jesus towards holiness, let us call on Mary, our Mother to walk with us and be our guide. Let us call on the Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds and help us encourage each other as we walk together.

The podcast “Abiding Together” has a 3-part book study on Pope Francis’s “Gaudete Et Exsultate (Rejoice and Be Glade) that may be of benefit to your council. Visit abidingtogetherpodcast.com and look for for **Season 3, episodes 21-23** to access the podcast.

There will be a **Virtual Reconciliation Rosary** held on National Indigenous People’s Day (**June 21**). It will be a GOTO webinar and the information will be posted on our Provincial website once the details have been finalized.

Let us continue our journey together as Catholic women, walking together as we grow in faith and holiness with our sisters in the League.

Prayer for An Increase in Vocations to the Ordained Ministry and the Consecrated Life

Lord Jesus, as you once called the first disciples to make them fishers of men, let your sweet invitation continue to resound; come, follow me!

Give young men and women the grace of responding quickly to your voice.

Support your bishops, priests and consecrated people in their apostolic labour.

Grant perseverance to our seminarians and to all those who are carrying out the ideal of a life totally consecrated to your service.

Awaken in our community a missionary eagerness. Lord, send workers to your harvest and do not allow humanity to be lost for the lack of pastors, missionaries and people dedicated to the cause of the Gospel.

Mary, mother of the church, the model of every vocation, help us to say “yes” to the Lord who calls us to cooperate in the divine plan of salvation. Amen

-Pope Saint John Paul II



SERVICE

(HANDS THAT SHARE)



SERVICE TO THE CHURCH, CANADA AND THE WORLD

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE

Helen Kayfish

As you know one of the Objects of the League is to protect the sanctity of life. One of the greatest concerns for the area of the sanctity of life is euthanasia or medical assistance in dying (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." MAID was introduced in June 2016. The intentions at the time were that Canadians facing a terminal illness should have a choice in how they die while recognizing the need to protect Canadians who may be vulnerable to coercion to end their lives.

National Chairperson of Christian Family Life, Dorothy Johansen reports: 'However, pressure to further expand MAID into more vulnerable populations resulted in Bill C-7 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)*, receiving royal assent in March 2021. This bill is a historic advance in expanding MAID criteria and reducing safeguards. Those living with disabilities or mental illness (including emancipated minors) are all now considered candidates for euthanasia, even without a terminal illness.

Bill C-7 has introduced two tracks to death: new criteria allowing euthanasia for individuals whose natural death is not reasonably foreseeable and another that has shortened the time from consent to the actual performance of the procedure for those facing terminal illness. It is now possible in this circumstance for a person to ask for MAID and be euthanized on the same day. Public and professional concerns regarding safeguards for mental illness resulted in eligibility to be held for two years for those whose sole underlying medical condition is mental illness. Though extended until March 17, 2024, to allow time to put resources in place, this delay does not mean a change to eligibility—it is just delayed. And the slope continues downward. Bill S-248 *An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)*, is at its second reading in the Senate and aims to remove the need for final consent before being euthanized.'

We have been encouraged to work with our diocesan counterparts, to assist and encourage members to communicate their opposition to all levels of government regarding the ever-expanding inclusion of MAID to those most vulnerable in society and request that the current legislative pause to include mental illness as criteria for MAID, be made permanent. Asking the government to provide adequate educational opportunities and improvements to access palliative care services.

As quoted from Dorothy Johnsen: members are called to 'minimize the pain and suffering of the dying and those tempted to end their lives, not eradicate their existence.' Let us help those with terminal illnesses, disabilities and chronic health conditions find meaning and comfort in their lives through our presence, love and advocacy.'

We all have family members who are suffering from many illnesses, including mental health. I have a family member who has attempted to commit suicide several times. These are calls for help and not really for assistance in dying. They don't really want to die. They often feel there is just no way out. Making a rash and quick irreversible decision is permanent. Given the right to make such quick decisions isn't always the 'right' decision, especially when it can be made without any family input. We need act on this, write to our government officials and assist those in need. Most of all we need to pray and pray some more.



SERVICE

(HANDS THAT SHARE)



SERVICE TO THE CHURCH, CANADA AND THE WORLD

COMMUNITY LIFE

Our Easter celebrations have past and I hope you all had a wonderful Easter with family and friends. My husband and I had an opportunity to travel to Yuma Arizona during the Easter celebrations. What an experience we had on the Easter Vigil. The church was full with about 500-600 people and about 30 candidates for 1st Communion and Confirmation. The choir consisted of 5 women singers, a drummer, 3 guitars and a keyboard player. The Mass and the music were both in English and Spanish. The final song was in spanish and carried on for a length of time and when it ended the congregation erupted with whistles, applauses and cheers. We have never experienced that before, it was very uplifting.

DEEPENING RELATIONS WITH INDIGENOUS CATHOLIC WOMEN:

To give life to this group an ad hoc committee was formed consisting of National officers and Indigenous members. This committee wishes to gather information from members at large so that it can recommend supports and resources to ensure Indigenous members are valued, respected, nurtured and able to fully participate in all League activities and projects. We have been asked to complete a survey either electronically or by mail no later than May 15/23. I plan on going to the Onion Lake reserve to meet with some Indigenous ladies and help them fill out these surveys.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE:

For more than 50 years the League has supported Development and Peace through the 1 % program. You ask what the 1% program is? It means contributing to the National Voluntary Fund by giving 1% of the cost of all personal items purchased by members and 1% of funds raised by Councils. One percent does not seem like much but when all members and Councils across Canada contribute it can add up to a lot of support for our D&P programs and relief work. There are many ways to donate so become creative and send those donations in. These funds can be contributed until June 30/23.

KINDNESS ROCK PROJECT: National Community Life Chairperson Faith Anderson

Have you ever found a painted rock? Maybe you would like to paint or decorate a rock. People worldwide paint rocks and leave them in parks, on trails and around their towns for others to see or pick up. These rocks can be as simple or as decorative as each individual wants. This initiative is intended as a community project. You can ask women in your Parish or maybe there are women that have become lukewarm at church to come and join you. We are going to ask some of our Confirmation candidates to help us. You could have snacks and make an evening out of it, with visiting and fellowship.

Just 3 simple steps:

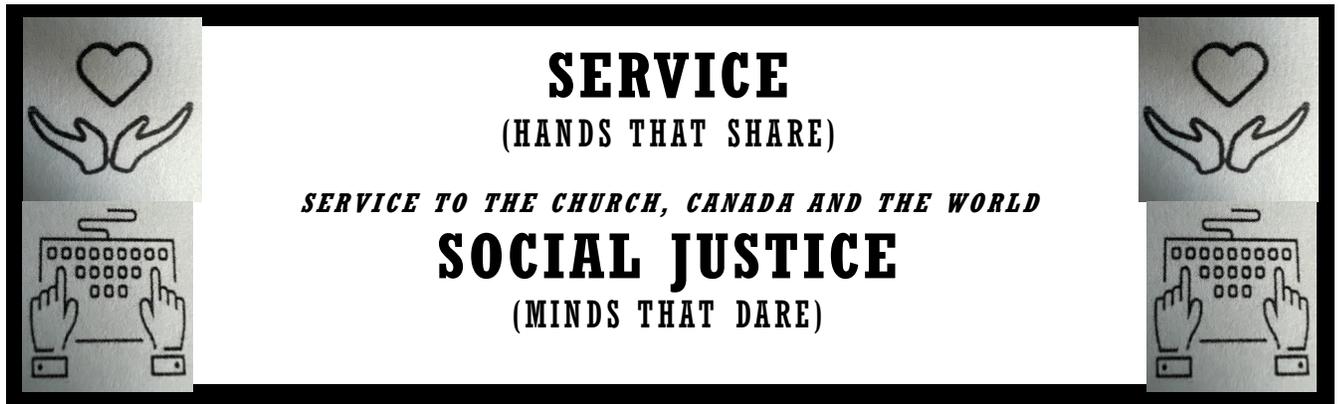
1. gather rocks from fields or streams or riverbeds.
2. paint the rocks and use inspirational words if you like.
3. take the rock and hide it in a place you choose.

Take pictures of your crafters and send them to info@cw1.ca by June 30/23.

IWIN PROGRAM -- " I'M WORTH IT NOW"

This program is working with the Human Trafficking Investigators. This group supply a back pack filled with a brand new change of clothing, toiletry items and a handwritten card with words of encouragement. They also provide a prayer bracelet for them and a matching one is given to a volunteer prayer warrior to continue to pray for them. We need to help out with this program by donating money or by volunteering to become a prayer warrior. You can search their site at [IWIN Initiative.ca](http://IWINInitiative.ca).

"Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hands of the wicked" Psalm 82:4.



HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Wendy Dale

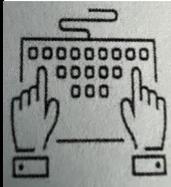
We wait in such anticipation for Spring to arrive, and then when it gets here, it brings a barrage of events like dance competitions, piano recitals, Track and Field meets, soccer games, confirmations, first communions, weddings, football camps, the NHL playoffs, CWL conventions.... It can be overwhelming. The season of gentle rebirth does not always arrive gently, and so it is fitting that May is also recognized as Mental Health awareness month. For those of us in the school system, spring signals a time of winding down, not beginnings, and living in that paradox can be stressful. The communiques that I have received from National and Diocesan both focus on the importance of looking after ourselves, since we all want to be able to look after others. Thank you to Mary Jacobi and Margaret Schwab for the following paragraph that I am now passing on to you.

Two webinars will be available for the week of 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care. Ontario Provincial Council is presenting the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care to assist caregivers and family members facing a terminal illness to understand palliative care from a theological, ethical and medical perspective. Presenters will be parish nurse and Life Member Shirley Christo, MHSc, MEd, and Dr. Moira McQueen, PhD, on Monday, May 8th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (CDT). The registration deadline is Sunday, May 7th. Register by contacting Shaila D'Souza at shailaflavy@gmail.com. The second webinar, offered by National Council, will be on Saturday, May 13th, at 9:00 a.m. (CDT). The presenter will be Mary-Anne Parker, an end-of-life researcher working with the Saskatchewan Hospice Palliative Care Association. Registration is available at attendeegotowebinar.com/register/5402834542918873181.

Have you read your Spring issue of The Canadian League? There is a comprehensive report on the meetings that occurred between a League delegation and political leaders in Ottawa in regards to Youth mental health, and the banning of plastic microbeads in personal care products. To learn more about access and counselling services available through Wellness Together Canada – visit wellnesstogether.ca. Another reminder that the deadline to apply for funding from the National Bursary Fund is May 15th. Qualified recipients may receive up to \$1000 per year and up to \$4000 in a lifetime to pursue ongoing education that would help them in their work or ministry. For more information see the criteria and application requirements found at cwl.ca.

Did you know that World Catholic Education Week is May 14-21? Are you doing anything to celebrate this with the schools connected to your Council? Thursday, May 18 is World Catholic Education Day. Pray for your schools and students, and let them know that you did! Those prayers give a lot of confidence to the teachers and students in the building, and also raise awareness of your Councils. Please share what you have done to mark World Catholic Education Day.

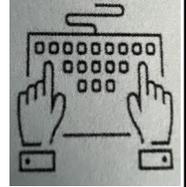
As we continue working our way to summer, please remember to take the time to stop, breathe, pray, and know that you are precious to God. Listen to those who need to talk, and share your story as well – it could be the strength and comfort that pulls a Sister through.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

(MINDS THAT DARE)

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH, CANADA AND THE WORLD



RESOLUTIONS

LEGISLATION

Lynn Jones

Rosaleen Quinn from End Poverty Regina reached out to me about having our CWL community support Bill C-22 which is currently before the Senate.

They currently are working on a Postcard campaign to get this worthy cause passed through the Senate and have asked me to help get postcards signed and mailed into the Government.

Bill C-22 – An Act to reduce poverty and to support the financial security of persons with disabilities by establishing the Canada disability benefit and making a consequential amendment to the Income Tax Act, is the enabling legislation that will create the new Canada Disability Benefit.

Points to ponder:

Pre-pandemic, the rates of poverty for working aged disabled Canadians far surpass those of non-disabled.

During the pandemic, disabled people only received a one off \$600.00 payment.

Provincial disability income support benefit is insufficient, and the disabled are left to survive on what would be considered 50% below the poverty line. Provincial benefits are not indexed to inflation.

Shelter allowance is too low which means many disabled people live with aging parents in fear of what will happen when their parents die. Independent living is out of their reach.

Market rental rates and accommodation leaves the disabled at a huge disadvantage.

Inflation continues to rise and yet they are expected to exist on a meager income.

Rolande (National) let us know in her communique that the long-awaited Resolutions Workshop (833) is now available to download. This will complement the recently launched Resolutions Handbook (618) and Resolutions Guide (620).

Please log onto the National CWL website to reach Rolande's entire communique.

Prayer for Social Justice

**God of yesterday, today and tomorrow,
we call to mind Your presence within us and around us.
Open our ears that we may hear Your word.
Open our hearts that we may understand Your word.
Open our mouths that we may speak Your word.**

**Inspire us with the gospel message,
that we may celebrate all that is life-giving,
restore hope where it has been lost,
and work to bring about change where it is needed.**

**May we live the gospel with courage, constancy and love.
May we be open to the challenge of Your call to true freedom.
May we be faithful to You in our daily choices and decisions.
May we make Your love known through our words and actions.
May the triune God reign in our hearts, now and forever.**

Amen.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL NEWS

REGINA

Janette Rieger
President

The Unity Project is an initiative of the national executive in which every council across the country has an in-person visit from the level above them, to discuss issues that the council may be having, to share concerns, and to share and celebrate successes.

The Saskatchewan Provincial Council had a visit from a member of the national executive at our winter meeting in March. The Regina Diocesan Executive will have a visit from a member of the Provincial Council at our next meeting in June. Each council in the Regina Diocese should have a visit from a member of the Diocesan Executive from June to the autumn of 2023.

The meeting should be held with a member of the Diocesan Executive and as many parish CWL council members as possible. While in-person meetings are preferred, virtual meetings may have to be held in some circumstances.

A form with some sample question will be sent to councils prior to the meeting so that members have a chance to contemplate their responses before the meeting. Councils should contact me as soon as possible to discuss this further and to set a date for the meeting that will work for the majority of your members.

On another note, as the executive structure of the councils goes to the 3 pillars of Faith, Service, and Social Justice, the 3 members who take these positions may feel overwhelmed and overworked. Talk to all of your members, especially the partially active ones, to see if they would serve on a sub-committee under one of the 3 pillars, or would work on a specific project under one of the 3 pillars.

Ask them if their preference is Faith, Service, or Social Justice, if they had to pick just one. Write that down and then when your council has a project under that pillar that most interests them, give them a call to see if they can help. If you get a negative response, don't give up! The timing of the project may not have been workable for them. Try again with the next project. By getting more members helping in even small ways, our councils will thrive.

SASKATOON

Audrey Zimmerman
President

Our Lady of Good Counsel's feast day remains a time of faith and fun for many of our councils as mass or prayers and teas or potlucks are celebrated to remember our patroness.

Our councils have been working and learning as we walk with our indigenous sisters to learn and understand their culture and heritage.

Other councils are learning about human trafficking, following the study guide "Working Towards Freedom", which was written in response to the CCCB Pastoral letter on human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Canada.

St Anne's council in Saskatoon asked the Saskatoon city council to proclaim February 22, 2023, as Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Their request was granted, and a ceremony was held outside city hall on a bitterly cold day. Attending and speaking at the flag raising were Bishop Mark Hagemoen Bishop of Saskatoon, Myron Rogal Justice and Peace coordinator for the Saskatoon Diocese, Ashley Peter, Program Coordinator for Hope Restored, Randy Danauer, city councillor and Deputy Chief of Police Mitch Yuzdepski.

Sacred Heart of Jesus council in Watson has been learning about the culture of Transgenderism and the impact it has had on children in society. They recommend the DVD purchased from EWTN called "The Transgender Movement, What Catholics Should Know."

This Easter season found many of our members happily gathering and working together at their usual teas, bake sales, conventions, and church duties free of all health restrictions!

This is just a sample of what is happening in our CWL parish councils.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL NEWS

Prince Albert
Priscilla Wakelin
President

On Saturday April 22 we held our 99th diocesan convention in St. Walberg was co-hosted by Paradise Hill. It was a great day. And well attended. Fr. Millan Sajonas was our guest speaker and he spoke about Mary.

We had more information on the new structure of the league, presented by Helen Kayfish. We heard reports from standing committees. Most of our councils have moved to the new structure of the league. At diocesan we have just transitioned over to the new structure.

We were blessed to have many past diocesan presidents at our convention. We had acknowledged all of them that were present. There were nine including myself. Of these nine two ladies had been president twice each on non consecutive terms.

Our National theme, “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.

Our councils have been very busy Some of the things that our councils are doing to show they are Catholic and living it include spiritual bouquets, prayer services and celebrations, like the ordination of Fr. Tai Le in our Diocese. 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. These are just a few of the many wonderful things our CWL are doing in our parish for our communities. We are looking forward to seeing how the new structure will unfold and come into fruition. We are looking forward to the Provincial convention. Learning, growing and walking together on this journey.



Provincial President Connie Crichton with the current executive.: Helen Kayfish, Past President, Shirley Lamoureux, secretary, Priscilla Wakelin, President, Sylvia Jones, Resolutions/Legislation, Carol Craik, Treasurer/Health and Education,, Jody Hazelwood, Communications



Current and Past Presidents

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

Convention agenda and registration forms are available
on the provincial website, cwlsk.ca

Registration deadline is May 22, 2022