

# NEWSLETTER

October 2022

## SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE



### **President's Message**

**Connie Crichton**

Like the seasons, our organization is changing. The passing of the proposed bylaws relating to the structures of the executive councils and the new or reorganization of duties will require some patience, education, and of course praying. I encourage all parish councils to consult with their Diocesan councils to navigate the transition.

Workshops are already underway with their purpose being to introduce the changes and promote the new resources available to assist parish councils in all aspects of our core values of Faith, Service, and Social Justice.

While the changes have long been anticipated by our members, the implementation of the changes will require a transition period. A document has been created to explain how the transition from the six old standing committees condenses to the three new standing committees of Faith, Service and Social Justice. This newsletter contains the document content.

Each parish council is made up of a unique combination of gifts that their members possess. Take time to have a prayer service to pray for the intercession of our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel and to send the Holy Spirit to guide your discernment in how to best use these gifts.



**PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE**  
**Connie Crichton**

In my first president's message I introduced the theme for the next two years, "Walking Together" and offered ways that councils can embrace the journey. In 2023, the provincial council will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We haven't been able to do much celebrating these past two years so I am sure everyone will be ready to celebrate this occasion.

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

Councils are asked to send their cheques to the Provincial Council Treasurer along with a story about the activity (s) your council found to do with your members. The total of the donations will then be presented to the Bishops at our Provincial Convention.

The stories can be sent to [provewlcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:provewlcommunications@gmail.com).

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

**PAST PRESIDENT**  
**Chantal Devine**

The National Convention of the Catholic Women's League of Canada was again an overwhelming experience. Seeing old friends, making new friends, and essentially being together in person, was a blessing after two years of virtual meetings. Thank you to my sisters on the provincial executive for supporting my attendance at this historic convention.

As a follow up to the 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Convention, I'd like to remind you of what National Past President, and Chairperson of Laws Anne- Marie Gorman, reported in her oral report. She announced that all eight amendments except one were adopted at the national convention. Amendment II (Patroness) was the only one lost. Most provinces voted to retain Our Lady of Good Counsel as our patroness. Thank you to all parish councils and diocesan councils who persevered during difficult times and participated in the instructed vote.

Anne- Marie Gorman also informed us that the changes to our constitution had been sent for review to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. After their approval a new publication of The Catholic Women's League of Canada Constitution & Bylaws will be published by December 2022. Complimentary copies will be mailed to each parish council president and secretary. Additional copies of the booklet can be purchased from national office for parish, diocesan and provincial council executives. The changes will also be made to The National Manual of Policy and Procedures.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

This position is currently vacant

The Fall Parish Council mailout contained important information on changes to how information will be communicated from national office. The changes are required due to the transitioning to new executive structures. The new process will see communications being sent to the president and secretary of the provincial council who in turn will forward on to diocesan presidents and secretaries who will send on to parish presidents and secretaries or the contacts they have for those councils. Please read the document “Communication During Transition August 2022 – July 2024” for complete explanation and instruction.

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

Changes are also being made to our national website. To keep up to date on all that is happening make it a practice to check in on both websites regularly. Many new resources are being made available for the use of all members.

Look at a new website that has been created to showcase The Catholic Women’s League of Canada. Google - Catholic Women Unite.

## **ORGANIZATION**

This position is currently vacant.

Important items to take note of related to this position:

- ◇ Life Membership Criteria - After a moratorium on nominations for the past two years an ad hoc committee recommended changes to Life Member Criteria that were accepted by the board. The changes were outlined in Shari Guinta’s September 2, 2022 communique. The moratorium has now been lifted and nominations will again be accepted as of September 15, 2022 (extended to September 30).
- ◇ Annual Report Memo was sent out with the Fall Parish mailout on October 3, 2022. There will now be just one survey to be completed by each parish council. The surveys will be available on November 1, 2022. It is important to complete the survey to give recognition to the work being carried on by your council. Deadline for completion is December 15, 2022. A link to download a paper copy will be made available. Paper copies are also to be submitted to national office by December 15, 2022.
- ◇ An increase to National Per Capita Fees was passed and the National fees will be \$25.00. in addition, you will have to add Provincial per capita of \$7.00 and diocesan per capita (this varies by diocese).
- ◇ Membership fees for 2023 should be collected and submitted before February 28, 2023. Membership drives and awareness about the league are an important aspect of attracting new members. In many cases renewal of membership may require personal contact through a phone call or a social occasion that will draw out your members.

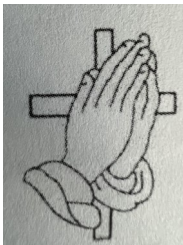
# FAITH, SERVICE AND JUSTICE GUIDELINES

As provided by National Board to be used in the transition.

In 2021, The Catholic Women's League of Canada underwent a strategic renewal. The League reviewed the existing standing committees and reduced them to three to align with core values of faith, service and social justice. The League's purpose is "uniting Catholic women to grow in faith, and to promote social justice through service to the church, Canada and the world." Through the core values of faith, service and social justice, members are called to live the Mission Statement to "grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service." The envisioned future of the League is that through the work of these three standing committees, "The Catholic Women's League of Canada will become an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women inspired by faith." The members will be vital participants in the church, valued partners for social justice, respected advocates at all government levels and connected to the world.

## FAITH (HEARTS IN PRAYER)

### *UNITING CATHOLIC WOMEN TO GROW IN FAITH*



Spiritual development is the essence of the Catholic Women's League. The League was established in 1920 as a lay organization of Catholic women who worked and advocated for social justice but who also valued their spiritual development. The League was officially recognized by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops as a lay association of women in 1948.

Councils at all levels are encouraged to provide opportunities for members to experience spiritual growth through:

- Prayer: communal and individual (meaningful liturgies, spiritual programs, retreats, days of reflection, prayer with scripture)
- Recognizing the sanctity of life: "Respect for life and the dignity of the human person extends also to all God's creation, which is called to join with us in praising God" (St. Pope John Paul II, World Day of Peace Message, 1990). Members are called to be people of life (from conception to natural death) and for all life at all times.
- Study of Catholic teachings (papal documents, courses, programs, guest speakers, workshops, videos, subscriptions to Catholic newspapers, periodicals and other publications)
- Awareness of the role of women in the church (theology of all creation, call to evangelization, involvement in lay liturgical ministries, support of the missionary work of the church)
- Encouraging vocations (supporting parish priests, formation programs for young women and men, youth ministries)
- Ecumenism and interfaith endeavours (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, World Day of Prayer)
- Study and implement the action plans of adopted resolutions that pertain to faith and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (pro-life legislation, reproductive technology, euthanasia); circulating information that enhances church teachings.

**SERVICE (HANDS THAT SHARE)**  
**“ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN SOCIETY”**

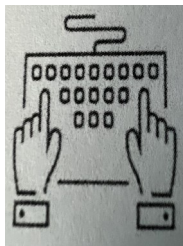


“Just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mt. 20:25). The Catholic Women’s League of Canada and its members provide service to those in need, their parish, their local community, the country and the world. The League Prayer includes the words, “... teach us to share with others at home and abroad...” The League is known and valued for this service. Individuals and councils address the corporal works of mercy.

Through service, members are encouraged to:

- ◇ Provide/coordinate volunteer activities/projects of the council in service of members, the parish or the community
- ◇ Develop services to help in the areas of homelessness, human trafficking, poverty, bullying, racism, etc.
- ◇ Support food banks and soup kitchens, serve funeral receptions
- ◇ Invite guest speakers to educate members about charitable needs in the local community, the country and abroad
- ◇ Educate members about issues relating to restrictions to providing service such as summer jobs applications, criteria restrictions for peaceful witnessing
- ◇ Study and implement the action plans of adopted resolutions that pertain to service

**SOCIAL JUSTICE**  
**“ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN SOCIETY”**



“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour” Luke 4:18,19 In its envisioned future, The Catholic Women’s League of Canada sets out to be a respected advocate at all government levels. Social justice, as one of the three fundamental core values, is critical in supporting this endeavour and is vital to accomplishing several Objects of the League. Exemplifying the Christian ideals by upholding and defending Christian education and values, protecting the sanctity of human life, recognizing human dignity of all people and contributing to the understanding and growth of religious freedom are all foundational in achieving social justice. This is the core value that facilitates the League affecting change in areas like policies and legislation within various levels of government.

Through social justice endeavours, members will:

- ◇ Participate in activities that uphold the life and dignity of the human person
- ◇ Be mindful of the poor and vulnerable, show concern for their needs and advocate for their complete inclusion in society
- ◇ Become involved in advocating for the dignity of work and the rights of workers
- ◇ Recognize and uphold the principle that with rights come responsibilities
- ◇ Understand that we are one human family and are called to global solidarity as God’s people □ Promote peace in parishes, communities and elsewhere
- ◇ Demonstrate care for God’s creation □ Know the local, provincial and federal government representatives in their areas
- ◇ Keep informed on issues concerning the League
- ◇ Study and implement the action plans of adopted resolutions that pertain to social justice and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (freedom of religion, end-of-life legislation, support for the vulnerable, etc.)
- ◇ Educate members and keep them informed of all relevant social justice issues

**GUIDELINES BY STANDING COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES PER C&B**

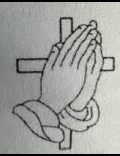
<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Current Chairperson</b>	<b>Future Chairperson/Officer</b>
Spiritual growth of members	Spiritual development	Faith
Study of Catholic teachings	Spiritual development	Faith
Role of women in the church	Spiritual development	Faith
Evangelization and mission assistance	Spiritual development	Service
Lay ministries	Spiritual development	Faith
Ecumenism and inter-faith endeavours	Spiritual development	Faith
Recruit members and maintain membership	Organization	Vice-president
Leadership development	Organization	Vice-president
League resource material	Organization	Vice-president
Annual reports	Organization	Vice-president
Life membership	Organization	Vice-president
Marriage and family	Christian family life	Service
Sanctity of life	Christian family life	Faith
Ministry to various	Christian family life	Service
Vocations	Christian family life	Faith
Dignity and rights of persons	Community life	Social justice
Social and economic justice	Community life	Social justice
Refugees, immigration and citizenship	Community life	Service
Development and Peace	Community life	Service
Developing countries	Community life	Service
Catholic education	Education and health	Service
Literacy and continuing education	Education and health	Service
Scholarships and bursaries	Education and health	Service
Wellness and sickness/disease	Education and health	Service
Environment	Education and health	Social justice
Genetics	Education and health	Social justice
The Canadian League magazine	Communications	Secretary
Media for various	Communications	Secretary
Media relations	Communications	Secretary
Pornography	Communications	Service
Research and preparation of resolutions and briefs	Resolutions	Social justice
Study and implementation of resolutions	Resolutions	Social justice
Presentation of resolutions to government	Resolutions	Social justice
Monitor and study legislation	Legislation	Social justice
Preparation of briefs on proposed legislation	Legislation	Social justice
Liaison with pastoral councils	Parish activities	Service
Parish assistance	Parish activities	Service

**When in Doubt, Use Graphic Definitions of the Three Standing Committees**

## SOMETHING NEW

To show how this transition will be made by the Saskatchewan Provincial Council will provide their communiques in the future.. Providing this information in one document will have several purposes:

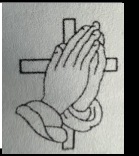
- ◇ *Allow a more streamlined method of communicating through the Diocesan Councils to the Parish Councils.*
- ◇ *To provide a more wholistic approach to communicate to all executive members in a format that can be shared with all members.*
- ◇



## FAITH

(HEARTS IN PRAYER)

UNITING CATHOLIC WOMEN TO GROW IN FAITH



### SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT LAURA NOVECOSKY

My dear sisters in the League

As I write this communique, we are enjoying a fabulous fall with gorgeous weather. Each day is such a blessing and a reminder that we are slowly moving into a time of slowing down and preparing for the winter season.

There has been a feeling of renewal as we slowly move out of the restrictions placed on us by the corona virus. I strongly encourage you to go to the CWL website at [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca) and click on the prayer corner. The Novena of Hope is calling all of us to renewed hope in our personal and spiritual lives and I encourage you to participate individually and perhaps as a council in this Novena. Our days are slowly getting shorter and many of us do not feel filled with hope as this happens. We can focus on retaining our hope as we participate in this Novena.

The Catholic Council of Bishops also has a liturgical calendar online. The address to access this website is <https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2021-2022-1.pdf>.

October 1 is the National Day of Prayer for Canadian Home Missions. There is a prayer at [CWL.ca](http://CWL.ca) that I encourage you to use in your Council this fall. The prayer is in the Spiritual Communique #7. Daily prayer is the center of our spiritual lives. It is very powerful to pray with our Catholic brothers and sisters by following the daily readings of our liturgy. There are several daily Mass readings and meditations available in print form and online. The Word Among Us and Living with Christ are 2 that are often available in our churches and I know there are many more available both online and in print form.

One of the objectives of the League is to achieve individual and collective spiritual development. This is a vast area and it can be hard to know where to start. The Spiritual Development communiques on the [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca) website has many suggestions to lead us in our development of our spiritual lives. May our God graciously bless you all this fall.



# **SERVICE**

(HANDS THAT SHARE)



*SERVICE TO THE CHURCH, CANADA AND THE WORLD*

## **CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE**

**Helen Kayfish**

This is my second communique as the provincial chairperson of Christian Family Life. I have recently returned from attending the 102<sup>nd</sup> National Convention in Kelowna BC. It was great to be able to attend in a large group again. It was a blessing to see my sisters in the league and to learn so much more about the changes coming to our beloved league. You can read my convention report soon on the Saskatchewan CWL website.

The following are a few upcoming events that may be of importance to your members and their families.

**World Youth Day** is being held in Lisbon Portugal 2023 for 18-32 years old. Look for the information on your local diocesan web pages. Encourage the young people from your parish to consider attending. I was able to attend WYD in Toronto in 2000 as a chaperone. I received so many graces and learned so much by attending.

I ask that you continue to pray for families. I hear often of the struggles our families are going through today. So many couples are separating and leaving the children in a place they often find difficult to understand.

Pray for those suffering from addictions. As drugs like Marijuana become legal across the country, more and more young people are using drugs and are not able to function well in our society. Mental health issues are on the rise daily and our medical personnel are struggling to deal with the patients they see.

You may have recently heard of the incident at the Comprehensive High School in North Battleford. (Sept 14, 2022) A young man, 16 years old stabbed and wounded another student. He is doing well. Now two young men are suffering the consequences of this tragic event. So many families were affected by this event. The following day many of the students remained home unable to process what has happened. I work in this school in the daycare associated with the school. The events that unfolded were difficult to process even for us adults. So many conflicting details, so many conflicting directions of what to do for the safety of all. So many young people and their parents unsure of where to go and how to remain safe and calm. **PRAY! PRAY!** for our young people. Pray that God may be welcomed into their hearts.

**Mark your calendars** Nov 4<sup>th</sup> is the feast day of St. Borromeo the Patron Saint for Spiritual Leaders. Consider having a mass said for your spiritual advisor, I have already booked one for ours as well as our Bishop.

As you can tell, I have asked you to pray or to continue to pray for the families and for our youth. Let's bombard God with our prayers!!





# **SERVICE**

(HANDS THAT SHARE)



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

## **COMMUNITY LIFE**

**Patsy Salzl**

We had a great 102nd National Convention in Kelowna but now it is time to get to business.

### **The Resolution " Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste" was passed at our Convention.**

The National council of the CWL of Canada urges the Federal government to enact legislation to reduce food loss and waste in Canada's agri-food, industrial, commercial and institutional governments urging them to collaborate with the federal government to reduce food loss and waste in Canada's industrial, commercial and institutional sectors.

Raise awareness that could include inviting speakers and providing information and resources to members and the public about reducing food loss and waste.

### **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation:**

Each year on Sept. 30th we honor the children who never returned home and the survivors of residential school.

Some suggestions for action:

- ◇ Hold a day of prayer for the children and survivors and families.
- ◇ Wear an Orange shirt on Sept. 30th
- ◇ Invite a residential school survivor to share their story.

### **Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle:**

Colleen Martin co-chairperson for Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle spoke to us virtually at the 102nd National Convention. Included in her talk was a challenge on "What can Catholic Women Do?"

Councils are encouraged to review the information and to access the website:

<https://ourladyofguadalupecircle.ca/>

**The National Theme "Catholic and Living it"** brought about the Food Bank Project which ended in June 2022. The amount of \$3,395.00 was donated to Mary's Meals. This project created awareness on this important organization's services. It cost only \$26.40 to feed one child for a whole school year in some developing countries. Pope Francis said " There is always someone who is hungry or thirsty and who needs me. This poor person needs me, **my** help, **my** word, **my** commitment. We are all involved in this.

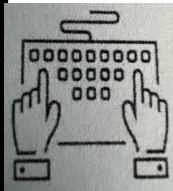


## **SERVICE**

(HANDS THAT SHARE)

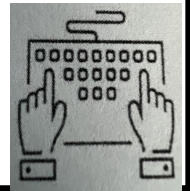


*SERVICE TO THE CHURCH, CANADA AND THE WORLD*



## **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

(MINDS THAT DARE)



*SERVICE TO THE CHURCH, CANADA AND THE WORLD*

### **HEALTH AND EDUCATION**

**Wendy Dale**

Dear Sisters in the League,

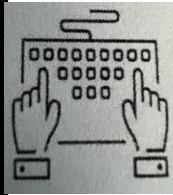
I hope you will forgive me that my previous Communique and this one have a heavy Education component to them. That is of course from 18-years-and-counting of teaching experience, and only 9 years of observing my daughter work as an RN in the Emergency Rooms at St. Paul and RUH. There are some very informative events coming up that will definitely add to your Education and Health knowledge, and I encourage you to look for local events to attend that will allow you to share information with your Councils.

In regards to Truth and Reconciliation, there were several opportunities to participate in walks, powwows, gatherings, and Orange Shirt activities to mark the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on Sept 30. This evening I attended the first of four evening sessions offered by “The 2022 Justice Generation Conference” at St Thomas Moore College at the U of S. Tonight’s video speaker was Archbishop Donald Bolen with great insights as to how working on the TRC Calls to Action can bring us all to healing.

As the new school year begins and parish life begins to settle in, please check out your Parish and Diocesan bulletins for opportunities to participate in Development and Peace initiatives, Migrant and Refugee committees, and in this month of October – times and different ways to say the Rosary! Of course we can all say the Rosary on our own, but think of the witness you can be by attending a parish Rosary gathering – your presence there could be just the inspiration that someone else is looking for!

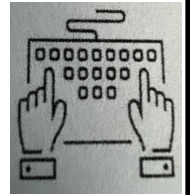
The 2022 CHAS Convention is fast approaching on Oct 27 and 28 in Saskatoon. You can still register up to October 19. The amazing line up of speakers includes Fr Ron Rolheiser speaking on “Spiritual Health and Wellness – Symptoms, Diagnoses and Some Counsel for the Long Haul”. Other sessions include “Getting Results for Long-Term Care”, “Hospitality: A Pathway Through Polarization” and “Pope Francis Apology and the Path Toward Reconciliation.” You can attend virtually or in person.

If there are events happening in your Diocese that you would like me to alert others about – you can email me at [provewlcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:provewlcommunications@gmail.com) and I can get the word out for you. I wish you all the best as this year gets going – and by the way, did you know that Oct 6 was the Feast Day of St Bruno? If you didn’t it’s probably because.... Sing it with me sisters.... We don’t talk about Bruno, no no no.... Haha – can there be a Grandma out there who has not had to endure Encanto over and over again this summer? A teachable moment to bring the faith to the little ones. God bless you all, enjoy the changing of the Seasons



# **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

(MINDS THAT DARE)



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

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**Lynn Jones**

### *Current Resolution*

Indian Head Council presented the resolution of Child Labour in Mining Mica to the Regina Diocese who in turn presented this resolution to the Provincial Council. It was approved it to go forward to the National Convention in August.

I received a letter back from National. They extend their appreciation to all the CWL members who worked on this resolution. However, the resolution was not recommended for presentation at the National Convention in August. They gave a couple of recommendations, but the Indian Head council has decided against continuing with this resolution.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who worked on this resolution. The research, composition and presentations took many hours of work. I was not aware of this issue and your research brought this to my attention and to the attention of all CWL members in Saskatchewan.

What you can do:

With our new and exciting Strategic plan, we will be phasing out the resolutions chair. I would like to seek out members in our Province would who be interested in working on Resolutions with me. Do you have any suggestions on how we can work on this as a Province?

I would love some suggestions from our members on what issues you are dealing with and potential resolution suggestions. Please don't hesitate to email me at [provcwlcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:provcwlcommunications@gmail.com) if you have any suggestions. I would love to hear from you!

## **LEGISLATION**

**Lynn Jones**

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are ready to get back to our regular CWL meetings.

As the league embraces a new chapter, we will be phasing out the Legislation standing committee and will be working under the new committee of Social Justice. I am looking forward to seeing how this all unfolds in the coming months.

I have been doing some reading since my last communique and would like to share with you an article I found called - Roe v. Wade – Now What? For those of you who get the Catholic Register you will have already read this but for those who don't please search for the article on the link below.

<https://www.catholicregister.org/ysn/youthcolumn/item/34576-roe-v-wade-now-what>

Another article is Implications of Roe v Wage in the Canadian Context. Please check out the link below. It gives you a bit of history on abortion legislation in both US and CA and where we are now.

<https://www.aclrc.com/blog/2022/6/30/implications-of-roe-v-wade-in-the-canadian-context>

If you find any legislation articles you would like to share with me please email me at [provcwlcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:provcwlcommunications@gmail.com) I would love to hear from you.