NEWSLETTER



As I gather my thoughts today, it is Thanksgiving weekend. We have had a drop in the temperature; a little freezing rain and a little snow has fallen. Fall is indeed in the air. I will share a few things that have kept me busy in my position as provincial president since the convention in June. A big thank you to the members in Weyburn for doing such a wonderful job hosting everyone for the provincial convention. It is always so good to see our sisters in the league, meet new sisters, and this year we awarded new members with a gift. Keep up the good work for God and Canada. Since the completion of the convention, I continue to be available to answer any questions or find the answer for members who ask. I have been supporting the diocesan councils as well as the provincial executive when needed. I have been part of the board working on updating the national policy and procedures which will be available soon. I attended the national convention in Toronto where we experienced extreme heat, a power outage in the convention center and so many people in one place at a time. On every street corner there would be none less than 50 people waiting to cross at any given time. I was honored to carry the Saskatchewan flag in the opening and closing ceremonies representing each and every one of you. I was part of one of the breakout sessions during the convention, and I was able to take our instructed vote to the floor for the election of the new national council. I have been privileged to bring greetings to several councils celebrating milestone anniversaries in our province, and I have a few more to attend. I have attended virtual meetings with our new executive and with the other provincial presidents. Each of us is working on the new task force to regain, renew, and retain membership in the League. We have a strong group of members in our province who are doing a lot of work in this area. Thank you, Ladies!

President's Message

(cont'd)

Helen Kayfish



The provincial executive met in September and had our fall meeting followed by a workshop/gathering with some of the diocesan executive members the following day. We discussed happenings in our province and items that I will be bringing to the national meeting that I will be attending later in October. I have met with the Kindersley council to assist them with hosting the provincial convention in 2026. I presented a Jubilee rosary prayer service and the Red Sand Prayer Service to the members of Prince Albert Region Two councils. I also answered any questions they had and led a Jubilee Bingo game where we had to find others who have completed or are doing something listed on the card! It was fun. I also played or tried to play, guess that tune from a few notes played on the piano, I failed at that game. I didn't know a lot of the older songs. It shows how we can get together, have some fun, meet others, and pray together. For a small region, there were about 30 members who attended. It was a lovely day in a very small farming community that has a vibrant CWL council. Even Fr. Tai Le the Prince Albert Diocesan Spiritual Advisor was able to find his way there, with the help of a few farmers along the way, give us a message and celebrate mass with us. I look forward to seeing everyone in the next year and pray you have a blessed Christmas.



SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Fr. Francis Hengen



I hope you all had an enjoyable summer. Now it is time to move on to the next season with its special colours, sights and events. Thanksgiving weekend saw the churches decorated for fall and harvest themes. Hallowe'en creatures and personalities inhabit the lawns, and, yes, Christmas, too, has started to show its own presence. We live in a world that works very hard to keep us entertained and wanting more. The weather has added some texture to our days – cooler temperatures, strong winds to whip the fallen leaves away and even the first little snow as a harbinger of what we all know is to come.

This can also be a time for reflection on our own growth and maturation during the past months. Frequently there was the reminder that we were celebrating a Year of Jubilee and learning what it meant to be Pilgrims of Hope. We can ask ourselves, "What does it means for me **now** to call myself a Pilgrim of Hope? How have I experienced Hope in this year of pilgrimage?" A pilgrimage itself is a clearly

demarcated event with a beginning, a journey and an end. However, there is also a purpose to a pilgrimage and when the pilgrim returns home, it is then time to reflect upon the experience and assess the fruits of the journey; to acknowledge a new sense or a richer sense of the spiritual life that dwells within and longs to be a greater force and energy for everyone who has found a deeper meaning for their call to discipleship.

There are new challenges that lie ahead, and we must not think of those challenges as problems, but rather opportunities for servants of the Lord to bring out from their storehouse treasures both old and new. True, there is much that will be done as it was done before. Yet, with all the imagination and visioning present among the thousands of CWL members, there really is no limit to their creativity. So, breath in some of that fresh autumn air. Sing a song of thanksgiving and praise to God. Dream the dream to an enthusiastic pilgrim returning home, and let the show begin. With such a cast of CWL members, it's bound to be a big hit that will have a long run.

PAST PRESIDENT

Connie Crichton

Many councils will soon be looking at elections for officers for a new two-year term. Consult the national policy and procedures manual Section 7 that covers eligibility, nominations and elections. While any three experienced members can be part of the nomination and elections committee, usually the past president takes a role a chairperson and conducts the election at the annual meeting.

2026 is an election year for the provincial council as well as the Regina Diocesan Council. For those who may be asked to service let your answer be a resounding "YES!"

Last fall I offered a virtual session on "Preparing a Parish Council Policy and Procedures Manual." I will again offer this session as a virtual GoTo Meeting session on **December 4, 2025, at 7:00pm**.to help get you started. Watch for more information coming to you with the link to the meeting or register by emailing skprovcwl@gmail.com. I will also answer any questions you may have regarding archives and elections during this session.

R3 TO 1 UNITY

You may have heard a presentation on the initiative at a diocesan or provincial event. If you haven't yet heard about it, you soon will be hearing more from your diocesan presidents.

This is an imitative designed to address our continuing decrease in membership through mentorship, guidance, and encouragement of individual parish councils by Life members and long serving members.

Our provincial lead is Chantal Devine who is part of the national team headed by national vice president Glenda Carson.



2026 SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE R3 TO 1, UNITY!

Recruit: Invite women in the parishes and communities to join the League.

Retain: Show gratitude and appreciation to current members.

Regain: Welcome members or councils back to the sisterhood.



Certificate of Recognition from National CWL presented at the 2026 Provincial CWL Convention to all councils who increase their membership!

VICE PRESIDENT

Donna Aldous

Saskatchewan Catholic Women's League Vice President Report, September 19, 2025. In reading the 2024 National CWL Report I found the donations to the National Bursary Fund very interesting. Only two councils in Saskatchewan donated out of a national total of 63 councils. (1,029)

Notre Dame de Lourdes Parish, Prince Albert (\$50) and St Anne's council Saskatoon (\$200).

Some background on the National Bursary Fund: In 1988, the CWL received two generous donations in response to the call for lay formation in Pope John Paul 11's Exhortation "Christifideles Laici". In light of the expressed desire of the League to encourage members service to God and Canada, the national executive agreed to establish a bursary fund.

Providing financial support to members wanting to pursue studies, courses, seminars, conferences, workshops and diploma or degree programs is available. Areas of interest maybe: spiritual growth, adult faith formation, youth ministry, ministry to patients in palliative care, ministry to shut-ins, nursing, parliamentary procedure and literacy tutoring. I had no idea this program was so far reaching! The potential is almost unlimited.

There doesn't seem to be many, if any, in depth lay formation programs being offered by our dioceses at this time. Is it time for CWL to jump in and really encourage our members to use the bursary fund to engage in an interest and or passion that will benefit not only themselves but to better serve God and Canada?

I feel the National Bursary Fund is a real benefit of CWL membership. Not only do we support individual growth, but we are willing to help financially to help them reach their goals. Let's shout it from the rooftops!!

Maybe the League Magazine could point out how the program has helped our members in the past. According to the 2024 Annual Report \$6,000 dollars was given out while donations totalled \$4,328. I think we can do more with this opportunity we have been given.

LIFE MEMBER LIAISON

Chantal Devine

Life members across Canada stay connected because of the life member liaison program which was started nationally in 1990. A beautiful network of caring and praying is created each time the national and provincial life member liaisons disperse the requests they received. The term of service as a life member liaison is a two- year term at both the national and the provincial levels. National Life Member Liaison, Jacqueline Nogier, completed her two- year term this past August. Now, during my second year, I look forward to working with our newly appointed National Life Member Liaison, June Brown. I served on national with June from 2019 to 2022 while we were both provincial presidents. She is a very devoted member of the League and lives in Rothesay, New Brunswick.

June will be sending me information and prayer requests from members from across Canada on the 1st and 15th of each month. I will then forward that information to all Saskatchewan Life Members. At present we have four honorary and fifteen life members in the province. Congratulations and welcome to our newest life member, Janette Rieger! Janette was commissioned during the life member ceremony which took place in August, at the 2025 CWL National Convention in Toronto.



Learning Opportunities for members!

Check out the national website cwl.ca for more information.





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



Greetings Sisters in the League. By this stage of mid-October, most of your Councils will have had two general meetings, an executive meeting or two, a Diocesan gathering, and are getting settled into the rhythm of another year of service and discipleship. Have you already decided on how this year's membership drive will look? Do you have guest speakers lined up for special meetings? There are so many exciting opportunities for us to look forward to this year. I would like to give you two challenges for this year to enhance and enrich your meetings and fellowship.

Challenge #1: Your Spiritual Advisor.

I have just completed a one day introduction to Intentional Accompaniment. 'Intentional' is a word that we are hearing more of these days. It means that we put thought into what we do because we have a purpose for why we are doing it. Our relationship with our Spiritual Advisors has to be intentional. Does your Spiritual Advisor have a regular place on your meeting agendas? Do you meet ahead of time to discuss what will be happening at the next gathering, and what role he could play? Our Spiritual Advisors can not be effective if everything is left to chance – "Father might stop by" is definitely not intentional, and doesn't resound of a great relationship. My challenge to your Council is to make the relationship with your Spiritual Advisor an intentional one. Meet regularly, have a definite plan for each meeting, (cwl.ca is a great resource!) and start promoting your bigger gatherings, and especially our Conventions so they will want to be there with us. Wouldn't it be amazing to have a couple dozen spiritual advisors present at Provincial Convention this year? Let's make that happen!

Challenge #2: cwl.ca --- use it!

Our national website has a wealth of information – about how we came to be the League, our interactions with WUCWO, resolutions, Indigenous resources, Prayer Corner, and testimonials. When you need ideas about how to Inspire, Inform, Act, or just want historical information, the website has it. My challenge to you is to find something to incorporate at each meeting this year from the website. It could be a prayer, group activities, a new ceremony that has been updated, a trivia night; it doesn't have to be a big event, but take some time to really learn about the League, and pass that on to your members. So much work has been put into the website, with the intent of making planning easier for us, so let's get to know it better!

I hope you are looking forward to a great year, and are ready to inspire the women of our parishes with our joy, love for the Lord, and service to our neighbour. Let us intentionally work to build the Kingdom of God in our parishes so that we are seen as a welcoming, nurturing and Christ-centered sisterhood that all women will want to be a part of. Have a blessed Autumn, and a great year ahead. Blessings on you, embrace the challenges!

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SERVICE (HANDS THAT SHARE) SERVICE TO THE CHURCH, CANADA AND THE WORLD Mary Kehrig



"On Sept. 14th I attended Family Day at Blackstrap Camp. The Knights of Columbus have staked out the position for the 15 stations of the cross that they are moving from Queen's House to the nearby church camp. During camp each Wednesday there is mass or a prayer service in the church. In front of the Church is a Marian Shrine: The Lady of the Fields. A youth counselor gave a tour of the spacious area that includes both a volleyball and basketball court, a soccer field and a mud ravine, (favorite).

As we hiked one of the many trails in the woods to the lake where campers canoed, we noted two different tree-sheltered campfire sites. A covered swimming pool, gym room, a craft room, a recreation room and 10 cabins each with bunkbeds for 12 people and an adjoining bunkbed room for the counselors. Many activities are offered during each of the 6-week camps held in the summer. I feel this is an excellent local youth camp that our CWL councils should promote. Each year the Cathedral of the Holy Family CWL Council donates to them and often has youth counselors participate.



SOCIAL JUSTICE (MINDS THAT DARE) SERVICE TO THE CHURCH, CANADA AND THE WORLD MARCELLA PEDERSEN



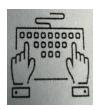
Greetings to all my sister members: Wishing you an International Rural Women's Day on Oct 15th. Stand with Rural Women who are often unheard, undervalued, and overlooked. And I hope you will also recognize World Food Day on Oct 16th by hosting a potluck supper, or inviting a neighbour over. Our family asks our friends to bring to the pot luck supper something they have grown or something they have made from scratch. Also recognizing on this day our CWL resolution 2022.01 re Food lost and waste management.

I would like to encourage each person individually and as a council to work on **one issue each** (locally, provincially, nationally, and globally) in the coming year that you are passionate about. With the 3 pillars of our organization, as a council you can work with the faith and service pillars together on the same issue.

So, to give you an example: Issue Human Trafficking. Faith might develop a prayer or a prayer service e.g., Red Sand Prayer Service by IWIN, while Service provides a bag of clothing and sundry to local shelters, and Social Justice advocates for persons suffering, host an event to provide education and awareness and making presentations (letters) to all governments.

We are **focusing on "Crimes Against Women**" that will be our umbrella theme in the coming year: Issues like Femicide is the killing of a female because she is a female; human trafficking, domestic intimate partner violence; missing and murdered women; Dec 6th National Day of Remembrance – violence against women; Nov 25th Eradication of Violence against women; T&R Calls to Action. Other issues: Mental Heath; DPCC's Campaign "Turn Debt into Hope"; Euthanasia; and this year's resolutions -Palliative Care; Cybercrime; when a child becomes a human; and support for military pastors.

So, what are you Passionate About? What will you and your council work on in the coming year? Did you attend Orange Shirt Day Sept 30^{th (}Every Child Matters?) Awaiting your reply/report.



SOCIAL JUSTICE (MINDS THAT DARE) SERVICE TO THE CHURCH, CANADA AND THE WORLD MARCELLA PEDERSEN



There are a lot of resources at the WICC website: link to Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada ("WICC")- https://wdpcanada.ca/restore/taking-action/workshops/. Welcome and encourages all to take the time to go to the website and check out the resources available – no need to reinvent the wheel.



Kathleen Carter, winner of the 2024 Saskatchewan Provincial CWL Social Justice Award shows off the raised garden beds in the west side of Saskatoon. Residents of this apartment complex helped with the planting and harvesting of the produce. This project will be carried on by the community for years to come. Kathleen is a new member of St Anne's CWL. Pictured with Kathleen is Provincial Vice President Donna Aldous.

Anne Ashcroft and Donna Aldous, co chairs of Human Trafficking Awareness, St Anne's CWL Saskatoon; participated at the NASHI workshop at St Joseph Hall in Saskatoon, Satur-



PRINCE ALBERT DIOCESAN

Shirley Lamoureux President

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL FALL!!!!! THE COLOURS IN THE TREES ARE JUST SPECTACULAR. IT SEEMED TO TAKE SO LONG FOR SPRING TO ARRIVE AND SO LITTLE TIME FOR FALL TO GET HERE. I GUESS IT'S JUST BACK TO WORK FOR CWL.

I AM HAPPY TO SAY THAT THE PA DIOCESE NOW HAS A COMPLETE EXECUTIVE WITH THE ADDITION OF RITA SONNTAG WHO GENEROUSLY HAS AGREED TO TAKE UP THE REINS WITH THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE. ALSO WE NOW HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE R3TO1 TASK FORCE WITH ROSE BALFOUR TAKING ON THAT POSITION. THANK YOU SO MUCH TO RITA FOR ACCEPTING THIS CHALLENGE. IT IS VERY NEEDED AND I KNOW SHE WILL DO WELL.

I JUST RECENTLY RECEIVED THE NEWS THAT NIPAWIN COUNCIL HAS DISSOLVEDT THEIR NIPAWIN CWL. THEY FELT THERE JUST WASN'T ENOUGH LADIES WITHIN IN THE CHURCH THAT WERE WILLING TO BECOME A CWL MEMBER AND THOSE THAT WERE IN CWL ARE NOW UNABLE TO KEEP IT GOING.

SADLY I WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND THE NATIONAL CONVENTION IN TO-RONTO THIS PAST AUGUST DUE TO FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS IN THE DI-OCESAN BUDGET AND I WAS UNABLE TO COME UP WITH THE FUNDS MY-SELF. I HAD MY HEART SET ON ATTENDING AND I THINK ANY FUNDRAISING EFFORTS SHOULD BE STARTED NOW TO SEE THAT THE STANDING PRESIDENT DOES ATTEND NATIONAL CONVENTIONS AS IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO BE THERE AMONG THE OTHERS IN THE COUNTRY TO LEARN WHAT IS HAPPENING AND ABSORB THE LOVE AND DESIRE TO CONTINUE WORKING FOR GOD AND CANADA.

REGINA DIOCESAN

Linda Maddaford President

This is our time – CWL on the path to renewal. What a wonderful and accurate headline for reports on our CWL 105th National Convention, (see links under CWL Visibility below). This is our time to honour, salute, and celebrate all that we have accomplished since 1920 and invite the next generation of women to discover "our time".

We recognize and honour Saskatchewan's new Life Member, Janette Rieger. Janette – Regina diocesan past president Janette was welcomed to the rank of Life Member in a moving ceremony at the national convention. We also recognize and honour Regina diocesan past president Marilyn Schuck who received the Bellelle Guerin award at the provincial convention in June.

We salute all members who have received long-standing member certificates this year. Two members in our diocese received a certificate for 70 years of service! The example of faith, service, and social justice modelled by these long-standing members, and their devotion to the League is outstanding.

The Regina regions have not been idle. In July, St. Joseph's, Indian Head (Our Lady of Peace region) hosted a birthday tea for Fr. Francis Hengen. On Sept. 27 the Morning Star region hosted a retreat with Leah Perrault, and the Regina region held their fall meeting and workshop. On Oct 18 Southwest region's workshop took place, and Weyburn region held a retreat day facilitated by Deanna Pellatt and Christine Shuya. It is good to see activity across the regions of the diocese; every gathering is a time of renewal and celebration.

CWL Visibility – you just need to know where to look:

Did you know there is a <u>Canadian Catholic News</u> website? And a <u>Canadian Catholic News Saskatchewan</u> page? You will find a wonderful report about the CWL 105th National Convention on the Ontario page, https://canadiancatholicnews.ca/this-is-our-time-cwl-on-path-to-renewal-at-105th-national-convention/ posted Aug 17, 2025. Another well written report was published in the Saskatoon Diocesan news page, Aug 18, 2025, https://news.rcdos.ca/2025/08/18/this-is-our-time-catholic-womens-league-cwl-convention/.

An article in the ArchRegina News, written by Peter Oliver, executive director of the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan, Oct 3, 2025, is a reflection on the richness of women's contributions to Catholic health, https://archregina.sk.ca/newsstory/women-shape-the-catholic-health-association-of-saskatchewans-priorities-and-focus/.

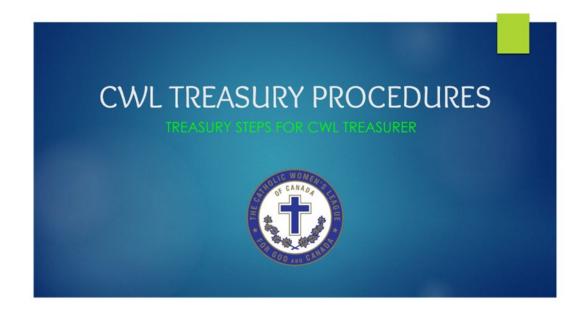
Across our communities, across the province and across Canada, the contributions of Catholic women and the CWL are evident. Tell our story, celebrate the service, proclaim the voice of social justice, and share the blessing of companionship of this great sisterhood. This is our legacy, this is our story, this is our time.

For God and for Canada.

REGINA DIOCESAN

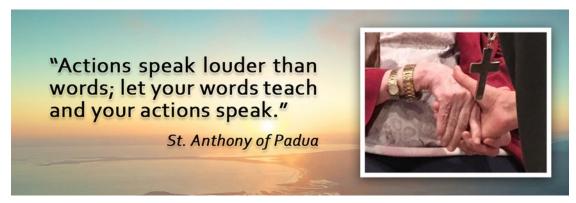
Linda Maddaford President

10



CWL Treasury Procedures, presented by Lynn Jones – Regina Diocesan Treasurer. Zoom Workshop: 10:00 am, Saturday, November 8th, 2025.

Join us for this one-hour information session on the duties and reporting requirements for council treasurers. All council executive are welcome. Please refer to the email of Oct 9th, CWL Executive Development for Treasurers for the link or email Regina Diocesan president to request the link to join.



Santa Maria Senior Citizens Home Charitable Foundation is seeking one or two CWL members to serve on their board of directors. The board gets together every few of months (a Wednesday from 1:00 until 3:30) and work together to help raise funds to provide enrichment for the residents of Santa Maria. The CWL have been long-standing valuable allies, and their generous support of Santa Maria donation requests and volunteerism is greatly appreciated.

SASKATOON DIOCESAN

Edna Hodgeson President

We held our **Annual General Meeting** at the Cathedral of the Holy Family on Saturday, **April 26**th. Although it was the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel, we shared that day in remembering our Holy Father, Pope Francis who died on April 21st. On May 8th, Catholics around the world celebrated the selection of our New Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, the first pope from North America. At our convention, we had presentations from **Hope's Home**. Its mission is to provide a safe, inclusive, and family-like environment where children with complex medical needs, their siblings, and typically developing children can learn, grow, and thrive together. There are facilities in Saskatoon, Regina and Prince Albert.

See https://hopeshome.org for more information.

We also learned more about **Hope Restored Canada**. *Hope Restored supports those sexually exploited and trafficked*, offering holistic restoration, outreach, and education, with a focus on recovery and support.

See https://hoperestoredcanada.org

IWIN (I'm worth it now) is another initiative that supports survivors of Human Trafficking through their Back Pack program. It contains a new set of clothes, toiletries, a handwritten card of encouragement and a bracelet.

See https://www.iwininitiative.ca

A **Human Trafficking awareness** program has been developed by St. Ann's CWL council in Saskatoon. They can provide speakers and awareness on this issue.

A new CWL Diocesan executive was also installed on April 26th for 2025-2027.

President: Edna Hodgson <u>ehodgson@sasktel.net</u>

Vice-President: Charlene Genkins

Treasurer: Yvonne Wiesner Secretary: Florence Sirman Faith chair: Ida-Rose Wilde Service chair: Wendy DeSa Social Justice: Diane Coté

Clothing Depot chair: Louise Kowalski

Regional Chair for Our Lady of Grace: Cathy Lefleche

Past President: Marion Laroque

Spiritual Advisor: Father John Abban-Bonsu

SASKATOON DIOCESAN

Edna Hodgeson President

On May 24th, I attended the 80th anniversary of St. Mary's council in Saskatoon; on June 11th, St. Mary's council, Lanigan, celebrate their 60th anniversary; St Peter the Apostle council in Saskatoon celebrated their 55th anniversary on September 13th.

I attended Regina Diocesan convention in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan Provincial Convention in Weyburn and National convention in Toronto. I sent my regrets and best wishes to Prince Albert Diocesan council as I was unable to attend.

We held our Saskatoon Diocesan Fall meeting hosted by St. John Bosco council in Saskatoon on September 27th. The meeting was held in St. John Community School. The hospitality was awesome; food was great! We heard a presentation by Krista-Dawn Kimsey from **the Mustard Seed**. The Mustard Seed is a Christian non-profit organization that has been caring for individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty since 1984. Operating in seven cities across Western Canada, The Mustard Seed is a supportive haven where people can have their physical, mental, and spiritual needs met and grow toward greater health and independence. Community and volunteer engagement is welcome and encouraged.

See http://theseed.ca

Maybe your council could be involved somehow.

We also took part in a workshop on **R3 TO 1 (Recruit, Retain, Regain)** by life members, Connie Crichton and Margaret Schwab. This is a permanent program developed by CWL National. It aims to address declining membership by supporting councils in recruiting new members, retaining current ones, and bringing back former members, as well as helping them navigate issues related to membership.

Our councils are busy with multicultural events, membership brunches, Super Salad Saturday's, Craft sales, Fall suppers, Christmas socials, clothing drives, and Indigenous Reconciliation awareness programs.

As we get older, as members, the most important thing we can still do is PRAY! Continue to be prayer warriors in support of our Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Convention Dates to mark on your calendars

Prince Albert Diocesan Convention:

Saturday, April 25, 2026 St. Vital Parish, Battleford

Saskatoon Diocesan Convention:

Monday, May 4, 2026, St. Theresa Parish, Rosetown

Regina Diocesan Convention:

Saturday April 18, 2026 St. Gerard Parish, Yorkton

Saskatchewan Provincial Convention

Sunday, May 31 and Monday June 1 2026 St. Joseph Parish, Kindersley

National Convention:

August 9-12, 2026 Halifax, Nova Scotia