



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

Christian Family Life Annual Report 2012

Gloria L., Chair

Calgary – Cathy deG.

Edmonton – Judy Z.

Grouard-McLennan – Denise K.

Mackenzie-Fort Smith –

St. Paul – Karen C.

Marriage and Family

Councils continued their support of Retrouvaille, World Marriage Day, World Day of Prayer, campaigns against pornography and human trafficking, Caro, Mission Mexico, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, God Time and other children's programs, Mother's Morning Out, Food Banks, and Development & Peace. They hosted or helped with funeral lunches, family suppers, Father's Day breakfasts, baby showers for pregnancy centres, pot luck meals, teas, brunches, turkey suppers, "Balance in Family Life" Retreat, prayer groups, and book clubs. Members were involved in and/or supported women's shelters, victim's services, prayer groups, RCIA, catechism classes, unemployed and immigrant families, bereavement ministry, liturgy committee, leading the Rosary, and provided brochures on health issues.

Sanctity of Life

Members wrote letters to all levels of government urging support of prolife and sanctity of life issues. Councils support prolife groups through prayer, monetary donations and participation in events including Life Chain and March for Life. They also support by donating to or having memberships in Alberta Pro-Life, Birthright, Sign of Hope, MaterCare, Back Porch Society, Bosco Homes, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Growing Opportunities program, Elizabeth House, Pregnancy Centre, Women's Crisis Centre and Project Rachel. Members also prayed for newborn and unborn babies, held clothing and pie sales for Birthright, signed petitions to de-fund abortion on demand and against human trafficking, participated in Hike for Life and Life Chain, gave baby showers for pregnant girls, sold Mother's Day roses for Pro-Life, made and sold angels for Project Rachel, presented roses, bibs and/or baptismal passports at Baptisms and funded a billboard promoting life.

Ministry to Youth

Councils supported NET Teams, Youth Emergency Shelters, Children's Ability Fund, Our Lady of Victory Camp, and Chalice. They contributed to school lunch programs and youth groups, provided gifts of Prayer and Mass booklets, medals, rosaries, pins and Bibles to school and sacramental programs, supported foster children, donated to the St. Mary's Chair Foundation, presented scholarships for female graduates, assisted in Sacramental preparation, and engaged youth to help with parish activities including teas and suppers. Seven councils in Edmonton have active Catholic Girls League (CGL) groups. The other dioceses did not report on the CGLs.

Ministry to Widowed, Separated, Divorced, Seniors, and Disabled

Members organized and participated in Masses and prayer meetings at seniors' lodges, long-term care facilities and hospitals. They visited and brought communion, prayed the rosary, provided Pastoral Care, joined in discussions on various topics at Wisdom Circle meetings and entertained with music, bingo and games at seniors' facilities. Assistance was offered with transportation to church, parish activities and appointments, and cards were sent at Christmas, birthdays, and other special days. Senior members were acknowledged on milestone birthdays and anniversaries and thanked for their work on behalf of the League. Councils hosted teas and luncheons to celebrate special occasions. Councils also assisted with the Meals on Wheels program.

Vocations

Members continue to offer prayers for vocations and provide financial support to seminarians and those interested in a religious life. Many councils participated in an Adopt-A-Seminarian program and one council has adopted a Polish seminarian. Councils in this program support their seminarians through spiritual bouquets, emails, prayer, letters of encouragement, financial support and invitations to social and special events and through participation in the Newman Foundation Walk. A food drive was held for the Sisters of the Precious Blood and a monetary gift was provided to the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Kenya. Parish priests were invited to CWL functions and celebrations were held on their birthdays, and other special occasions. Support is given to the retired priest's fund.

Conclusion

Although not all councils have a Christian Family Life Standing Committee the work done in this area is acknowledged and greatly appreciated by those whose lives have been touched through your love, faith and generosity. "We Have Seen the Lord" every day in our communities and parishes in those who we minister to for God and Canada in the name of the Catholic Women's League of Canada. "Well done, good and faithful servant."