

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

Education and Health Communiqué # 1

Judy L., Chairperson
September 2013

“WE HAVE SEEN THE LORD”

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it”

Hi! I am Judy L., your newly appointed Education and Health Chairperson. When you receive the provincial newsletter you will find my biography and a repeat of the following information.

Chairpersons

As we begin these two years together I would ask you to do the following:

- Review the responsibilities for our committee found in the *League's Executive Handbook*
- Review the objects of the League found in the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* (Why? You may ask... well we should really know what the League is all about so we can filter all our hard work meeting those objects)
- Check on pertinent past resolutions (Why, you may ask... so that we can be part and parcel of effecting change... we are called through our Baptism to bring Christ to what we do and following through on the action plan of resolutions is one of the many ways we do that)
- Review what your Diocesan Council has focused on for the past two years.

Once you have completed that I would like you to do the following three things:

- Pray to the Holy Spirit for a “nudge” towards the direction you should go
- Write down what you feel the direction is
- Set down a couple of goals to help you accomplish this

As my position calls me to have a provincial focus I am hoping that we can all sink our teeth into issues that impact all of our Alberta Dioceses as well as share what is pertinent to our individual Diocese. Two issues presently that fall under Education and Health are the following:

Health

ANGEL'S CRADLE

This is a service that allows a mother who does not want her baby to return the baby safely and anonymously to a hospital emergency. A room is set up beside the emergency at the hospital so the mother can enter the room anonymously; place the baby in a bassinet and leave. The door is locked behind her and an alarm goes off in the emergency to let them know a baby has been left. Abandoned babies are a fact of life and this way they do not need to be put in dumpsters or whatever. St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver set up this program in 2010. In Edmonton the Grey Nuns Community Hospital and the Misericordia Community Hospital have set up Angel's Cradles as well. Last fall Sheila H., now past provincial president, asked that Diocesan Presidents consider supporting this project. Again we are being asked to support it.

Action:

- Praying to the Holy Spirit asking for guidance and wisdom
- Googling Angel's Cradle to get more information
- Bringing this information to your Diocesan Council Executive Meeting in September for

consideration for support

- Fanning the information out to your parish council counterparts
- Writing your MLA to ensure they know about this project
- Meeting with your MLA to discuss the possibility of having an Angel Cradle in your community and how to make that happen
- Report back to me on the results of your action so I can share it with the other dioceses.

Education

ELECTION 2013

Our next municipal election in Alberta takes place on October 21, 2013.

Not only do we elect members to our local city and town councils but also more importantly we elect people to be **school board trustees**. Often constituents do not even know their local school board trustee and yet they are the ones who set policy that determines the **values of our children**. Their budgets are often in the millions but somehow the work of the trustee is dismissed. For a Roman Catholic, the trustee plays even a more important role as they are entrusted with the religious education of our children. For most of us we are part of the 70% of the population who no longer have children in school but we have a vested interest as these young people will be determining our future be it health care, euthanasia, long term care facilities, etc. As Catholic women we need to become informed about Catholic Education, who the trustees are who represent us at the Board tables, the role our Bishops plays, the religious education curriculum and the School Act. The Holy Spirit may be nudging some of us to take on the Vocation of Trustee.

Action:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the fortitude and courage to become involved
- Go to the ACSTA website <www.acsta.ab.ca> and get information about “The Vocation of the Trustee” and ask yourself if your present trustee meets those expectations
- Meet with your current trustee and have a conversation about what the kids are learning; what curriculum is used for Religious Studies; what their stand is on evaluating students; what they know about the new School Act; their policy on hiring teachers, faith development of their teachers, cyber bullying and social justice activities. They should have policies on all these items except the School Act.
- There are many school boards so gather as much information by inviting members in different locals to contact their trustee or Chair of their Board
- Share the information with your Health and Education Chair persons at the parish council level.
- If you know a good candidate work to get them elected.

REMEMBER THE PEOPLE WHO ARE ELECTED IN OCTOBER HAVE A 4 YEAR TERM – MAKE SURE THEY ARE WORKING FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

2013 NATIONAL CONVENTION UPDATE

Resolutions

Two resolutions that fall under the Education and Health Committee were referred to the national chairperson of education and health for information and awareness. Both resolutions dealt with different aspects of Lyme disease.

National Voluntary Fund

Coady International Institute received \$31,341 from the National Voluntary Fund in 2012. For more information about the Coady Institute, go to <coady.stfx.ca>.