



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



## 2017 EDMONTON DIOCESAN PRESIDENT'S ORAL REPORT ABMK PROVINCIAL CONVENTION

Madame President and Sisters in the League,

It is my pleasure to extend greetings to the members of this assembly from your Sisters in the League from the Diocese of Edmonton. We have 4662 members in 68 councils. It is with sadness that I report that Blessed Sacrament Council in Wainwright became inactive so I ask that you please keep them in your prayers.

For the past year, we have enjoyed dedicating ourselves to the planning of the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council. We are honored to be hosting this Convention and are here to serve you.

In response to an invitation from Archbishop Richard Smith, Mary Hunt and Cathy Bouchard delivered a presentation on CWL in November to the Assembly of Priests for Study Days in the Archdiocese. The presentation was well received with three Bishops and over 100 priests in attendance. We continue to receive positive comments and hope that the invitation will be extended to us again in the future.

The new national theme '*Inspired by the Spirit Women Respond to God's Call*' has been embraced by our councils and has been the inspiration for meetings, retreats and workshops. It was the theme for our Midwinter Meeting and Diocesan Convention. Our women were spiritually nourished by various excellent presentations including ones made by Anglican Bishop Jane Alexander & Archbishop Richard Smith. We heard from Edmonton Catholic Schools Superintendent Joan Carr and Madam Justice Debra Yungwirth about how the Holy Spirit has influenced their careers.

Communications Standing Chair, Sister Susan Scott, provided a compelling presentation on **Leadership Strategies for Councils at our Diocesan Convention** and will present another workshop at this convention, which I encourage you all to attend. We were encouraged to simplify and find things we can let go of in order to make our councils more vibrant and appealing.

Our councils listened to the **call for social action** and used their collective voice to share the concerns of the day. They attended sessions on Physician Assisted Dying and Euthanasia. Members signed the online petition advocating **for Equal Access for All Canadians to Quality Palliative Care**. Our ladies phoned and wrote to Global Television & Corus Entertainment regarding the airing of the series "*Mary Kills People*".

On February 3<sup>rd</sup> Edmonton Diocesan Council CWL members were invited to a Mass and reception at St. Joseph's Seminary to **celebrate the new administrative partnership for the Doreen Melton Scholarship** which is annually presented to a seminarian. Approximately \$25,000.00 was transferred to the Foundation which will earn a much higher rate of return thus enabling more funds to be available for larger and/or more scholarships.

We purchased 10 copies of **The Euthanasia Deception Video** which were made available to our councils. Some of our councils had screenings of the documentary with Alex Schadenberg of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition present. Councils continue their interest in borrowing the video to learn more about why as Catholics we oppose Euthanasia.

**The 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care on May 6th was embraced by many of** our councils who developed a full program for the day and were rewarded with good turnouts and positive feedback. Our councils look forward to participating again next year.

The newly elected team of Diocesan Officers gathered for a retreat at Star of the North Retreat Centre and spent some quality time getting to know each other, receiving orientation on their new position, began identifying our priorities for 2017-2019 as well as finding things we can let go of.

CWL is a gift of faith, friendship and support and my focus for this 2 year term is unity and truly working together as a team. We need to nurture the faith of one another and build each other up and provide encouragement along the way!

We have companions on the journey who are willing to support, encourage, mentor and guide us when needed. We share the hope that Our Lady of Good Counsel will guide us during the coming year and that we receive the Lord's blessings in abundance as we continue to share our time, talents, treasures and faith with our League Sisters in our councils, our families, our parishes and our communities in service For God and Canada.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Boom, President  
Edmonton Diocesan Council