

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



ORGANIZATION

Communiqué #4

One Heart, Once Voice, One Mission

Date: December 15, 2016
To: Diocesan Chairpersons of Organization
CC: Parish Council Chairpersons of Organization, Provincial Executive,
National Chairperson of Organization
From: June F., Provincial President-Elect, Organization Chairperson

Sisters in the League:

Once again, we are in the season of Advent, a time of anticipation as we joyously await the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign:
Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son,
and she will call His name Immanuel.” (Isaiah 7:14)*

The season of Advent is a time when we both look back to the first coming of Jesus Christ, and also look forward to His future second coming. We remember both what He has already accomplished, and look forward with hope and expectancy for what He will accomplish. It is a time for us to be with family and friends as we celebrate this wonderful time of year.

Elsie Yanik Award:

“Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.” (Psalm 116:15)

As many of you have probably already heard, we lost a very dear sister in the League. On November 27, 2016, Elsie Rose Yanik, a beloved Elder in the Métis community and a devoted member of the Catholic Women's League passed away at the age of 99 years. The Alberta Mackenzie CWL council initiated in 1997 the “Elsie Yanik” award <www.cwl.ab.ca/ElsieYanikAward.html> to commemorate the leadership, ministry and service that Elsie provided to the Catholic community in the Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith. This award is given out annually at the Alberta Mackenzie CWL Provincial convention in June. I had the honour of representing the Alberta Mackenzie CWL at Elsie's funeral on December 12 in Fort McMurray, along with St. Paul Diocesan President Kathryn Bourque and my husband, who was kind enough to be our driver for the day. Father Reddy, the parish priest at St. Paul Catholic Church, gave a beautiful homily that came straight from the heart. He had become a very close friend of Elsie's since his arrival in Canada and she had told him from the beginning that she would be his mother and he would be her son. The love for this woman was evident throughout the church and those that knew her will forever miss her loving presence. I would like to share the words that Elsie herself said and that were put inside her Mass card.

**“Make a difference. Create a better world by being kind. Kindness is enduring.
Kindness is contagious. Kindness makes everyone feel good.”**

So, as members of the ABMK CWL, it is important that we keep her memory alive by ensuring that members are nominated for this award. We have many CWL women throughout the province who have demonstrated a commitment to ministry and service and like Elsie, we need to recognize their gifts. Please ensure that all nomination forms are sent to me prior to December 31.

Annual Reports:

This past Fall, the new online annual reporting by councils was initiated. I hope that councils were able to work through the new process without too many glitches. We would just like to remind all councils that all reports are due by December 15, 2016. The system will be open until December 31, 2016 to allow some flexibility for training and input in this transition year.

Father Walter Krewski Awards:

I want to remind councils as you begin collecting memberships for the 2017 year, to remember to send me the information for the 'Father Walter Krewski' awards that are given annually to three councils in the Alberta Mackenzie area for increases in membership **during the previous year**. The deadline for submission of these forms is February 28, 2017.

In closing, I want to wish all of you a blessed Christmas season and may joy and happiness fill your homes with love and warmth as you celebrate the birth of baby Jesus.

Blessings,

June F.

CWL ABMK President-Elect