



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

Spiritual Development Standing Committee Annual Report 2012

5 out of 5 Diocesan Councils reported

Spiritual Growth of Members:

“Spiritual growth is the very heart of the League and the essence of its existence. ... The spiritual dimension sets the League apart from all other women's organizations.” (*Executive Handbook* SD-2)

The spiritual growth of the members took many forms:

- Mass before meetings
- Bible studies
- Rosary
- Retreats
- Guest speakers and DVD presentations on the Eucharist; talks on the Year of Faith; discussions on the changes to the mass settings; missions
- Celebrations to Our Lady especially in April, May and October
- Reflections and prayers at each meeting
- Faith enrichment classes
- Study of “Pathway to Our Heart” by Cardinal Thomas Collins
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Book clubs

Most councils' spiritual programs were fifteen to twenty minutes long and some were at least one third of the allotted meeting time.

Study of Catholic Teaching:

Councils studied:

- Encyclicals
- Vatican II documents
- New Mass

Resources Used:

- *The Canadian League* magazine and other periodicals and Catholic newspapers
- The Bible ... Catholic Women's Devotional Bible
- Diocesan, Provincial and National convention programs, newsletters and communiqués
- Internet ... Catholic sites, Vatican.va; Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops; CWL websites

- Parish priests
- *Living With Christ; Celebrate the Word; The Word Among Us; The Catholic Digest; Together We Pray* (Ave Maria Press);
- BOOKS:
 - *100 Prayers for Making Faith Connections* by John Van Bemmell
 - *Rediscover Catholicism* by Matthew Kelly
 - *Blessing Prayers: Devotions for Growing in Faith* / by (Fr.) John Peter Cameron
- *CWL Prays*
- Word on Fire DVDs
- Little Rock Scripture Studies

Role of Women in the Church:

- Members used materials that emphasized women's perspectives.
- Studied women in scripture and women saints

Evangelization and Mission Assistance:

All dioceses reported financially supporting Missions both here and abroad

- though monetary donations
- sponsoring a child in a developing country
- preparing boxes for Operation Christmas Child
- donations to inmates in prison
- making and donating rosaries to schools, small parishes
- held retreats and invited non-members to attend
- adopted a seminarian
- supported foreign priests in their transition to Canadian life
- support Christian Outreach
- traveling Madonna
- prayer shawl ministry

Lay Ministries:

Members were involved in ALL ministries of the parish as well as:

- St. Vincent de Paul Society
- Funeral teams
- Sacristans
- Youth ministries
- Visiting sick and shut-ins
- Development and Peace committees

Ecumenism and Interfaith endeavors:

- Participation of World Day of Prayer services
- Community Christmas Carol Songfest
- Christian Unity service
- Community Way of the Cross

- Prayer shawl ministry with other denominations
- Work in soup kitchens

General comments:

- Prayer and support for individual members was stressed
- Secret prayer sisters were a common occurrence
- Focus was on bringing families back to church through evangelization
- Spiritual bouquet was offered for Archbishop Currie on completing his term on CWL National Council
- Bursaries were given away
- Several spiritual programs were interactive making participation of all members present vital and invigorating
- Deeper spiritual growth of members was the MAIN focus of all council reports

All in all our members were once again active and visible in our parishes and communities as CWL members for God and Canada.

Pam De L.

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Vice President
Spiritual Development Standing Committee Chairperson
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada