

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council
Communique #1
Spiritual Development Committee Chair
November 2015**

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

"Spiritual Development Chair" Sisters:

I am absolutely thrilled that we will be working together to bring the presence of Christ to our councils. The theme One Heart, One Voice, One Mission will be our guidepost as we make this journey together. I encourage all of you to develop the national theme around the sacraments as **they** are **"our way of life."** A sacrament is to be lived... it is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace. There is never a time when we are not living them. Most of us think of a sacrament as something that happens at Church – an event – but on further reflection we realize that they are actually lived 24/7.... For example, when we receive Christ in his body and blood, we become what we eat and we become an outward sign bringing the presence of Christ to our families, the poor, our Church communities, etc. (We live out what we profess.) Through us, **our councils** should become outward signs of Christ's presence in our Church.

As we work on our spiritual programs let us ask ourselves: "How does my spiritual program help my sisters grow in their spirituality in order to become sacrament for one another?" By doing this, we begin to develop One Heart (the Sacred Heart of Jesus full of mercy), One Voice (His Voice found in His Word), and One Mission (His mission to build the kingdom of God).

I encourage you to evaluate your spiritual programs. What works and what should be retired? How much time is allotted to the spiritual program at your meetings – do you subscribe to the **1/3 principle...** 1/3 spiritual, 1/3 business and 1/3 fellowship, or in our case sister-ship. How do they help our members grow in the **knowledge** of their faith;
call them to **prayer** outside the meeting;
become aware of how they are a **living sacrament**;
realize that each member is a gift that God has given to the world to help each other as pilgrims on a journey;
and do they call us to be One Heart, One Voice, One Mission.

Action

Hospitality

I know all councils approach hospitality differently so I encourage you to share some of the things you do in your council with me and copy your Diocesan Spiritual Development Chair.

Worship/Prayer

I have added a Prayer Corner to my provincial website page <<http://www.cwl.ab.ca/Prayers.html>>. I am going to post the Jubilee Year of Mercy prayer, prayers for the environment and other relevant prayers that will help us in our program. I am hoping that you will send prayers that you would like to share as I would post them as well.

Knowledge

I plan to post different spirituals on the Prayers page that councils may like to use.

If you have a spiritual that works well and would like to share, please forward that to me.

Any document, research or names of books that you have read or studied that will help us grow in our faith, please forward those as well.

Action:

Around the Dioceses

If you could send me your spiritual development activities, again, I would share them with the rest of the province. (Often CWL members are in other locales in the province a may want to take advantage of some of the activities.)

Activities in your diocese around the Jubilee of Mercy or the Encyclical *Laudato Si'* with regard to the prayer and spiritual development activities would be most appreciated.

ELSIE YANIK AWARD

Deadline for submissions ***December 31***, 2015

<<http://www.cwl.ab.ca/ElsieYanikAward.html>>

Criteria for Eligibility

The nominee must:

1. be a League member in good standing (has paid her membership fee in the current year);
2. portray a leadership role;
3. have demonstrated a commitment to ministry/service in an area or areas of need in a parish or community.

I am looking forward to all of your e-mails and if I can be of any help at all don't hesitate to ask and we will journey together as we minister to our sisters in the League.

Around the Dioceses

Diocese of Calgary: CWL Diocesan Retreat, November 28, 2015.

Please go to <http://calgarydiocesecwl.cloudaccess.net> for more information and registration form.

Holy Year of Mercy

The following churches in the Diocese of Calgary have been designated as pilgrim churches:

St. Mary's Cathedral, Calgary; Corpus Christi Church N.W. Calgary; Holy Cross Church, Ft. MacLeod; and Holy Trinity, Sikska Nation.

On the third Sunday of Advent, a liturgy will take place in each designated church. There will also be Reconciliation in all Parishes on Wednesday nights with a focus on Divine Mercy.

Diocese of St. Paul

Rite of the Opening of the Door of Mercy at the St. Paul Cathedral
December 7, 2015 at 7pm.

Canadian Missions In Canada cmic.info

Please check out this website and share with your councils
what is happening in our own missions.
Much help is needed and so few people to help

Have a faith-filled November.

Judy