



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council
Spiritual Development Oral Report
Convention June 2015

The new CWL National theme "*One Heart, One Voice, One Mission*" has now been incorporated into the spiritual programs that the Spiritual Development Chairs have prepared for their councils. The new theme encourages us to welcome and embrace all women with loving hearts and compassion. One Voice reminds us that we need to stand in unity with one another by speaking out when we see injustices being done and One Mission reminds us that by working together we can achieve great success by reaching out to those most in need.

Spiritual growth among members is always present with councils hosting an array of prayerful gatherings that include Mass, praying the rosary, reciting the League prayer, having Bible studies and Adoration hour. Several councils have prayer chains, and members were encouraged this past year to pray the rosary on a set day for peace in our world. Some members met in groups to pray the rosary while others prayed in the privacy of their homes. Of interest to members, there is now a direct link to prayers on the national website under the heading of the "Prayer Corner". The theme prayer for *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission* is there and more will be posted as they are received at national office. Members are encourage to submit prayers/or services that you would like to share, keeping my mind copyright rules.

As CWL, we have truly been blessed to have support from our Spiritual Advisors and it is important to note that some of our councils have Religious Sisters that also act as our Spiritual Advisors. As 2015 has been name the Year of Consecrated Life, we need to keep both our Priests and our Religious Sisters in our daily prayers. I would like to encourage members to especially remember our consecrated and professed religious women by offering a personal note of thanks or appreciation for all that they have done for us. Of interested there is a wonderful 3 minute video on YouTube entitled "Wake Up the World: The Year of Consecrated Life" that I think many of you would enjoy viewing.

During this year, perhaps members could learn about topics such as the difference/ qualities of contemplative vs. apostolic religious life, canonical vs. lay associations or if you have religious orders living in your community, perhaps take time to visit them or invite them to a special event. I would also like to share another link call globalsistersreport.org, which has lots of information about the diversity of ministries that women religious around the world are doing.

In 2014, there were 196 deceased members from the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council. Please ensure that when a member passes away, their information is forwarded to National as soon as possible to ensure that their name will be included in our "Book of Life". I hope that when a member passes away, councils will provide an honor guard at their funeral and if possible, do a short prayer service that is provided in the CWL ceremonies booklet. I had an email forwarded to me regarding the funeral of a CWL member. It read: "We attended a funeral for a beloved CWL member and witnessed a most beautiful custom of her council, and asked if we could share it with you. After the committal, all League members complete with scarves stood and recited the League prayer. At the end of the prayer, they added, 'May our sister who has adopted Our Lady of Good Counsel as her patroness through League activities, rest in peace, through the mercy of God, Amen.'" "The future belongs to those who believe in the future of their dreams" - *St. Catherine of Siena*. What a beautiful tribute to pay to our dearly departed members!

I would like to thank the councils that submitted names and resumes of members for the Elsie Yanik award. This year we received four submissions. Three were from the Grouard-McLennan Diocese and one was from the Edmonton Diocese. At the midwinter meeting in January a committee consisting of four ABMK executive officers along with Father Andrew met and reviewed all the submissions and selected the recipient for this year's award. This will be presented at the banquet during this convention. I want to encourage councils to consider nominating someone that you think is deserving of this award. There are a lot of women who are serving in councils and do a great many things and could definitely fit the criteria for this wonderful award. Please make sure to pick up a brochure from the display table outlining the criteria for the "Elsie Yanik" award.

I would also like to thank councils for the support that they have given to Catholic Missions In Canada (CMIC) and to the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), which is Pope Francis' special agency for the Middle East. Both of these organizations provide much-needed support, prayers and financial assistance to those less fortunate. Please continue your generous support of these two organizations.

In closing, I encourage the Spiritual Development Chairs to continue nurturing and providing the ladies of the CWL with spiritual programs to enhance their meetings and special events.

This concludes my report.

June F.

Past Spiritual Development Chair
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial CWL