



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



President's Report
Diocese of St. Paul
Alberta Mackenzie 70th Annual Convention
St. Charles Parish, Edmonton, AB
June 10, 2017

Through the Grace of God and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, I pray that the Catholic Women's League in the Diocese of St. Paul will continue to prosper and answer the call of the League.

Firstly, let me tell you about the Diocese of St. Paul; the diocese contained 18 parishes, 24 active diocesan priests, 9 religious priests, and approximately 105,177 Catholics. It also has 21 Women Religious, 9 Religious Brothers, and 6 permanent deacons. Within the Diocese there are also nineteen CWL Councils, with approximately 580 members. Our membership numbers vary from council to council from 6 to 92 members.

On the weekend to April 28th & 29th the CWL Diocesan Convention was held in Lac La Biche, with 50 members in attendance, representing 15 out of 19 Councils. We had some wonderful guest speakers, the first being Bishop Paul Terrio speaking on his recent trip to Rome, the Diocesan Theme for the current year "Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ" and the up and coming Consecration of the St. Paul Cathedral. Our second speaker was Loretta Manning from Health Services speaking about Palliative Care Services and the Green Sleeve, an Advanced Care Planning document. Elections/appointments were made and we currently have three positions that have not been filled as of yet, Secretary, Legislation & Resolutions and Communications. We are confident that our prayers will be answered and the positions will be filled.

At our convention, our President Kathryn Bourque spoke about the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation: Empowering the next generation of Catholic Women leaders. In the Spring League magazine there was an article about the Leadership program and also included was a fundraising Campaign Pledge Card. Although much of the larger fundraising campaign has been done, National is asking for individual donations. It was suggested that we could make individual donations or do fund raising at the Council level for this worthwhile initiative.

At the beginning of April, Kathryn Bourque and I took a trip up to Ft. McMurray and Ft. Chipewyan, the two most remote Councils in our Diocese. It gave us an opportunity to meet with some of the ladies, listen to their concerns and to provide some support. We were very happy to have two members from Ft.

McMurray attend the convention. Two of our Ft. McMurray sisters were planning to attend the Provincial Convention however unforeseen circumstances prevented them from attending.

Following in our Past President's footsteps, I intend to visit some of our Councils during my term over the next two years.

During the week of Prayer for Palliative Care most of our Councils participated by having prayer from an hour to twelve as individuals or in groups. Some Council's involved their parishes, having Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the holy Mass, and yet others involved other Churches, Senior's Lodges and Long Term Care facilities.

Our Councils are involved in all aspects of their Parishes and continue to promote the Catholic Women's League at all levels.

I look forward to working with our new theme "Inspired by the Spirit – Women Respond to God's Call" as I want to use the theme as a recruitment tool. I pray that it will work!

This concludes my report.

Celine Berlinguette
Diocesan President
Diocese of St. Paul