



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



PRESIDENT
Communique #1
DATE: July 5, 2019

TO: Diocesan Chairpersons
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National President (for information)
FROM: Judy Look, President

Faith! Service! Social Justice! Congratulations to all who have been elected to Diocesan and Provincial Councils this spring. Welcome to leadership. As we travel together with our parish council sisters on this journey of faith, we must always remind ourselves that it is God who nudged and invited us to become Catholic Women's League members. By answering this call, we have embarked on a very exciting pilgrimage, one that involves risk, commitment, learning and most importantly nurturing our relationship with God. It takes courage to be a Catholic Women's League member as each of us is committed to the *Culture of Life* placing Jesus in the center of everything we do. It is His words through scripture that guides us and reminds us that we are modern day disciples called to bring the good news to all those around us.

As we begin our 2019-2021 tenure I want to remind all of us of the psalm, "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it", as **this** day is the only day we have to become fully alive as we work in God's garden or as our theme states, "Our Common Home." As gardeners we are to be pulling the weeds from our society that entangle and choke life: weeds such as abortion, euthanasia, indifference to the environment, gender issues, challenges to the dignity of the person, erosion of religious symbols, erosion of respect for religious groups, erosion of Catholic education, to mention a few and to replace them with healthy alternatives rooted in gospel values and fertilized with prayer, sacraments and mercy.

God has blessed the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council with 20 faith-filled, talented, and courageous gardeners who have committed to work together for you.

Spiritual Advisor	Fr. Andrew Bogdanowiz	Diocese of Edmonton
President	Judy Look	Diocese of Calgary
President-Elect, Chair of Organization	Mary Hunt	Diocese of Edmonton
Vice President, Chair of Spiritual Development	Gladys Brown	Diocese of Edmonton
Secretary	Annamaria Matsui	Diocese of Calgary
Treasurer	Gwen Elliot	Diocese of Edmonton
Christian Family Chair	Celine Berlinguette	Diocese of St. Paul
Community Life Chair	Theresa Hickey	Diocese of Fort Smith
Communications Chair	Janet MacPhee	Diocese of Calgary
Education and Health Chair	Gerda Hazenberg	Diocese of Mackenzie Fort Smith
Legislation Chair	Sharon Malec	Diocese of Calgary
Resolution Chair	Betsy Fletcher	Diocese of St. Paul
Past President	June Fuller	Diocese of Edmonton

Diocesan President	Jan Myhre	Diocese of Calgary
Diocesan President	Mary Molloy	Diocese of Edmonton
Diocesan President	Shirley Gutierrez	Diocese of Mackenzie Fort Smith
Diocesan President	Christine Becher	Diocese of Grouard McLennan
Diocesan President	Lolain Alsmo	Diocese of St. Paul

As we put on our gardening gloves let us make sure our national theme “Care for Our Common Home” is the focus of our work. I know that we all have addendums to it as a guide for our unique council charisms. The provincial council’s addendum is “Make a Difference” and will use “relationships and effecting change” as our filter for all our work. Relationships is the key to everything we do be it our relationship with our God, our families, our Catholic Women’s League sisters or our community. It is the strength of our relationships that will effect change. All of this is couched in the Planning Strategically work that National council is implementing over the next five years.

To build relationships, “Three Cups of Tea” is a good template for membership and council business. Each cup of tea represents part of our journey: the first cup is when we do something for the first time - we are strangers; the second cup represents how we get to know each other (often we drink from the second cup a long time before we have the courage to move to the third cup) - we become friends and the third cup represents our willingness to work together - to become family. (Three Cups of Tea- Greg Mortenson)

Planning Strategically needs to be on all our agendas. The workshop at diocesan and provincial conventions updated us on our current reality. The workshop might be something to add to your Fall meetings as many of the members attending may not have been at conventions. As well it is a good opportunity to sip from the second cup of tea. Members could have a round table discussion on how they can begin to live some of the information gleaned from the workshop.

The flowing important information from “The Catholic Women’s League of Canada Plans Strategically” booklet should be at our fingertips so it can be shared when someone asks us about the Catholic Women’s League:

Core Purpose:

Uniting Catholic women to grow in faith, and to promote social justice through service to the church, Canada and the world.

Mission Statement

The Catholic Women’s League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

Core Values

- Faith – following Catholic teaching
- Service- local, national and international
- Social Justice- actively involved in society

Envisioned Future

The Catholic Women’s League of Canada is an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic Women inspired by faith. It is

A vital participant in the church,
A valued partner for social justice
A respected advocate at all government levels;
Connected to the world

National Convention is right around the corner. Please encourage your parish council sisters to attend. The Tuesday evening Provincial Dinner will be a great opportunity to meet others from across the province and to share some of the exciting things that are happening in the dioceses.

I have finished my first cup of tea as your new provincial president. As with anything there is a lot to learn but also great opportunity and so I ask you and your councils to pray for me each day. It is only with God's help that success happens.

See you at convention.