

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

DATE: April 9, 2019

Communique #6



To: Diocesan Presidents
cc: Provincial Executive (for information)
National President (for information)
Parish Presidents
FROM: June F., ABMK Provincial President

Dear Sisters in the League:



I would like to begin my message to you with this gospel passage from Psalm 51:10 “Create in me a clean heart, O God and put a new and right spirit within me”. I chose this reflection as it reminds me of the faith that our members invoke and share with other members, their families and with the many people that we interact with on a daily basis to carry out the work of the Catholic Women’s League.

This year we started with the new theme “Care for Our Common Home” which was chosen by Anne Gorman as she began her term as National CWL President. The theme was derived from Pope Francis’ encyclical entitled “Laudato Si’”, in which the Pope sends out an urgent challenge to protect our common home which includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. He encourages and thanks all those striving in countless ways to guarantee the protection of the home which we share.

In year one, the National CWL has decided to focus on “Water” as an action to their theme. At our Provincial midwinter meeting in January, we discussed how the members in Alberta Mackenzie could live out this theme and what actions we could focus on that would have an impact on “Our Common Home”. Based on your local situations and personal passions and/or priorities, we invite you to consider incorporating these actions locally:

- Reduce and/or eliminate:
 1. Bottled water usage
 2. Use of plastic straws/stir sticks
 3. Reduce water consumption (this action encourages each of us to be conscious of and creative in discovering ways in which we can change our behaviors/habits)
 4. Pick it up! (this action invites us to take the next step beyond “Don’t Litter” to “Pick Up Litter”)

We have a prayer entitled “A Prayer for Water” that we would like councils to use and share with their members.

“Creator God, we give thanks for water. We thank You for the rich depths of the seas, their unimaginable variety. We thank You for the rivers and lakes in our communities, for the sparkle of light that dances on their surface. We thank You for all the ways that water sustains us. We give thanks for the clean water that we are blessed to drink. We give thanks for the moisture that rises from the seas to become the rain that waters our crops. We give thanks for the power of the waves that stay within their shores. As we pollute and warm Your waters, give us foresight. Help us see the consequences of soiling Your waters and changing their ancient compositions. Help us protect our children and grandchildren now, by taking even small steps to preserve the great gift of water. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

The actions that we have suggested are just a start and we know that members may also have ideas of their own about ways to protect our environment. We would appreciate receiving photos from councils if you choose to participate in these actions plans. These could be emailed to abmkprovpres@gmail.com, as we would love to share these action plans/pictures.

I would like to direct members to the National website to view the information that is being share regarding “12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care” which will run from May 5th-11th, 2019. There is a document that has prayers and reflections for councils to use during this time period. Please visit the National website at www.cwl.ca. This is the fourth year for this initiative, and we have heard that it has been embraced by all the Diocesan councils throughout the country.

As it has been a CWL mandate to protect ‘Life’ from conception to death, I would like to take this opportunity to urge members from Alberta Mackenzie to support the ‘Alberta March for Life’ that will be held on Thursday, May 9th, beginning with a Pro-Life Mass at St. Joseph’s Catholic Basilica in Edmonton at 10:00 am and followed by a ‘Rally and March’ commencing at 12:00 noon at the Alberta Legislature. This past year, Alberta Mackenzie Provincial CWL purchased 5 banners in support of protection of life to be given to each Diocese to display at their various CWL functions. We will be carrying these banners at the ‘March for Life’ to show our support for ‘Life’. Please consider joining your Sister’s in the League to bring continued attention for the sanctity of Life. For more details on this event, please go the “March for Life” website.

I would also, like to take this time to congratulate any councils that may be celebrating a special anniversary or a special event in their council. From the annual reports that I received, I continue to be impressed by the countless hours of service that you give not only in your parish, but in your community and in the League. Keep up the good work and I wish all of you many blessings for a wonderful Easter.

Your Sister in the League

June F.
ABMK Provincial President