



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



Community Life Fall Meeting 2018 Full Report

Madame President,

Since our Provincial Convention I have prepared the requested article for the Provincial Fall newsletter. The article highlighted:

- the investigative process that has been taking place since November of 2017 regarding the allegations that some of D & P's partners are making decisions in contradiction to our faith convictions as Catholics.
- On December 12, 2017 assent was given to Bill C-277, An Act providing for the development of a framework on palliative care in Canada. The Minister of Health must prepare a report setting out the framework on palliative care and cause the report to be laid before each House of Parliament within one year after the day on which this Act comes into force. Resolution 2016.04 to amend the Canada Health Act to Identify Palliative Care as an Insured Health Service is directly related to this legislation and is strengthened as the result of this new law.
- "Pope Francis has changed Catholic Church teaching about the death penalty, saying in a new policy published Thursday that it is always "inadmissible" because it "attacks" the inherent dignity of all humans.
- MANITOBA LEGISLATURE APPROVES LEGISLATION TO PROTECT CONSCIENCE RIGHTS OF PHYSICIANS: On November 9, 2017, Bill 34 passed the Manitoba Legislature unanimously! The MLA who spoke at the opening mass of our National Convention, gave specific credit to the CWL ladies not only in Manitoba, but those across the country, who supported the online petition in support of this bill. His message was clear that our League, was a significant reason this important piece of legislation is now law in Manitoba. Perhaps we can be strong advocates across our country to add other provinces to this list of safe places to work.
- I highlighted the fourth annual "Season of Creation" taking place from Sept. 1st – Oct. 4th.

I continue to address requests for "Over 18" post cards. The 20 000 which we ordered have all been spoken and paid for. I prepared and sent out a Fall Communique. I contacted the Development & Peace national office to try to get an update and specific information re. the investigation and its' status. As well I contacted my national counterpart to try to get an update and specific information re. the investigation and its' status and whether she has any additional information from the CCCB. Unfortunately, I was unable to garner any specific information. At the request of our Provincial President, I created the PowerPoint that was shown while our Provincial President gave her annual report. I contacted NWT Promotions in Spruce Grove for information re. ordering a banner for the annual March for Life which we will address at our fall meeting. I continue to send information to my

Diocesan standing committee chairs that I feel is of value to them as well as to invite them to contact me with concerns, needs etc.

Report from National Convention:

As always, the liturgies were a highlight but particularly from a liturgical musician's perspective! The closing liturgy gathering procession with the flags and banners and the slow, majestic pace at which the entire liturgy unfolded was SO welcome (the intercessory prayers alone, took the better part of five minutes). The music of the pipe organ was enhanced and magnified by a trumpet, tympani and cymbals and a leader of song whose voice surely was like an angel! It brought us great joy to see two ladies installed on the new National Executive from our Province!

The two break-out sessions that I attended were on the Environment (Joe Gunn from "Citizens for Public Justice" was the key speaker) and Indigenous (a new twist of the blanket exercise which focused on Food Security). *Citizens for Public Justice* offers some excellent resources on "What are the moral aspects of creation care". He highlighted five assets of Faith Communities in addressing the crisis of the degradation of our environment:

1. The capacity to shape cosmologies
2. Moral authority (which he acknowledged has been seriously called into question by the ongoing revelations of clerical sexual abuse and its coverup)
3. A large base of adherents
4. Significant material resources
5. Community-building practices

Bishop Murray Chatlain's keynote talks were outstanding from him telling us his motto: The Almighty has done great things for US, to him bringing a photo of him on his way to work. Some of the key points from his talk on "Reconciliation" included:

1. Let go of our need to be right
2. Genuine, heartfelt hope that the other will find healing
3. We TRULY desire to understand the other
4. We are open to recognize our own darkness/blindness
5. Patience – the call to see tension as a sacred space

His second talk was on "Listen Slowly" and I loved the expression "Keep our ear next to God's mouth". Another phrase that caught my attention was "some people would be better believers if they had more doubt". A paradox with so many levels of meaning and prayer.

Well, I saved the biggest highlight for last, and that was the presentation of the presentation of the culmination of all the input from across the country as the Strategic Plan for the next five years was presented. You could feel the excitement and support in the room of the almost 700 women there as each slide in the presentation was shown. There were shouts of joy, clapping, and ultimately a standing ovation when the presentation was finished. This is such an exciting time to be a member of the League as we acknowledge the shift we have already made to prioritize: faith, service and social justice.

Respectfully submitted,

Sr. Susan CAF