



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



CWL Provincial Convention
June 1 and 2
St. James Church
Okotoks, Alberta
Organization Committee Chair
Judy Look

Madame President:

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The Alberta Mackenzie Catholic Women's League of Canada is made up of women of faith who through their relationships with their God and with each other effect change both in themselves and in the community.

In the year 2017 we had 9443 faith filled members in 153 councils working at building relationships and effecting change. That number is different from the annual report book's number as some councils paid their 2017 dues in 2018 and so we have had a correction. Included in that number is 194 new members.

To see the success we have had in the year 2017 please see page 15 of the annual report book. There you will see recorded the busyness of our councils through the eyes of the organizational chairs. We are fortunate to have an annual report process where every council has the opportunity to tell their story. This year our story was not complete as only 53% of organizational chairs participated in the process. Although the story was not complete we celebrate those councils who shared their information.

There are several challenges running through all the reports namely recruitment, lack of committee chairs and lack of women taking on leadership roles. This appears to be taking its toll on councils as they try to figure out solutions to these challenges. The National Council has come up with a Planning Strategically process to help address these concerns. Some of our own strategies to address these may be embracing the philosophy of Three Cups of Tea for recruiting new members and nurturing our membership and as a template for our work as well as Catch the Fire Program for not only new members but as means of reconnecting seasoned members to what it means to be a CWL member. One of the greatest gifts we can give to our ladies is the gift of convention and so we need to encourage all of them to come and see.

Looking forward we may want to involve God and Our Lady of Good Counsel in a very intimate way in these challenges at our local level; after all it is God's League and His mother is our patroness and we do say for God and Canada. Possibly we may want to start a novena in each of our councils having our members pray every day at home and at our meetings invoking the Holy Spirit to give us the wisdom and knowledge, courage and perseverance to do the work that has been put in front of us. It takes humility to realize we are not in charge and to ask for His guidance recognizing that we all belong to Him through our Baptism and that Baptism does give us a responsibility to build His kingdom. He has invited us do that building through being a Catholic Women's League member or as one MLA put it so well many years ago a Chosen Women of the Lord.

At my table there is a sign up sheet for those planning to go National Convention in Winnipeg as I need numbers to plan the provincial dinner. As well there is a Catch the Fire hand out that you may want to take back to your council and plan how to use that program and a sheet on Three Cups of Tea.

This concludes my report