

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada – Alberta Mackenzie
Provincial Past President**



October 10, 2011

Communiqué # 1

To: Diocesan Past Presidents, National Past President, Provincial Executive

From: Fran Lucas, Provincial Past President, Alberta Mackenzie

As past president our responsibilities include:

- a) serving in a consultative capacity
- b) being responsible for history and archives
- c) facilitating the study and implementation of the *Constitution and Bylaws*
- d) performing other duties as assigned by the president

The focus on this, my first communiqué as past president, will be on history and archives.

If your CWL membership years have not given you the opportunity to study the details of how the CWL started and has grown, now is your time to do so. As you learn, pass on that knowledge to the members in your diocese. How? At each meeting share one piece of information. If you have a council newsletter insert a historical piece of trivia in it. Our history is fascinating and CWL members have been exemplary witnesses to the virtues of faith, love and hope in action.

One excellent resource on CWL beginnings is *The History of the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council*. This book was created to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our Provincial Council (1948 – 1998). I recently received a book written in 2010 by Fr. Myles Gaffney, Director of Vocations for the Calgary Diocese, titled *Signposts of Our Faith*. In it are a photo and article on Katherine Hughes and her role in founding the CWL in Edmonton, Alberta. Did you know that Katherine was born in 1876 in Emerald Junction, PEI? And, that she became the first provincial government archivist for Alberta in 1908? Another resource is *Except the Lord Build the House* which is available from National office.

Please encourage all councils in your diocese to preserve their historical information and keep it updated. History has been kept through scrapbooks, photo albums, meeting minutes, rosters and files on important events and activities. In this highly technological world, DVDs and flash drives are replacing some of those techniques. Printing a copy of what is on those devices has been strongly endorsed. Accurate records are essential so ensure there is a copy of particular document before discarding the version you have. After compiling archive material and categorizing in files, prepare an index of all material.

Recent information indicates that scrapbooks are not recommended as that paper disintegrates. Transfer the information (including name of newspaper and date) onto acid free paper and keep that in an acid free file, or keep the article itself in acid free files.

Create your plan on the tasks you will work on to ensure your archives are the best they can be.

Enjoy the beautiful fall we are having!

- Fran