



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



PRESIDENT
Communiqué #2
DATE: October 5, 2019

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

Faith! Service! Social Justice!

Time for a cup of tea!

October is a time of transition. The leaves are slowly dying, the trees are shedding, the rabbits' tails are turning white all signaling change and reminding us that without change there is no new life. Strategic Planning is giving us the same message. Although it is time for our structure to change, our values that have sustained us will remain strong. We must remind ourselves that we are never too old to embrace the future with its new technologies and approaches to life. We will continue to build our future on relationships that build a strong sisterhood, have a faith rooted in our God, and we will continue to strive for fun, faith and fulfillment. We will take the best from our past and build on the strength of the ladies that have gone before us with their tenacity, determination and perseverance. We will make **Faith, Service** and **Social Justice** words that are associated with the Catholic Women's League of Canada as we live our theme "Care for Our Common Home" - Make a Difference.

In my first communique, I referred to the weeds in our common home that choke out life. This month I want us to look at the weeds that choke life from our councils. Weeds such as negativity, gossip, apathy, lack of respect of another's talents, lack of incentive to do a good job, lack of volunteerism, pessimism, jealousy and envy. All these weeds kill growth, joy, enthusiasm and success. I encourage all of us to examine our attitude about our council. Are we proud to be a member of the Catholic Women's League or are we a weed that chokes the life out of it?

This month you have the opportunity through the newsletter to put faces to the names of the executive members, Father Andrew and Bishop McGrattan. Please read their bio's, goals and challenges and plan to connect with them. It is only working together that we become strong.

Three Cups of Tea – Making Your Council Strong

As council presidents we have been given an awesome responsibility to lead the League at our level. There are three things I would like you to consider this month:

1. Take seriously the concept of relationships. To that end at your next executive meeting have all your officers look at the membership roster and check off the women they know. By "know" I mean to be able to share at least 5 things about the member. For the ladies no one knows make a concerted effort to get in touch with them, invite them for a cup of tea and make them visible.
2. Read your job description in the executive handbook. Make a note what you are doing well and make an effort to include some things that you aren't doing.
3. Re-evaluate your agenda. Is it your agenda or is it the past, past, past president's agenda whose template has been handed down year after year? Until it's your own you will not have ownership of your meetings.

Update from Provincial Council's Fall Meeting, September 13-15 at the Star of the North Retreat Center in St. Albert, Alberta

Friday evening we enjoyed two meals together – one that fed our bodies and the second, the Eucharist, which fed our souls. Three Cups of Tea guided our opening spiritual where we took time to get to know one another and ended with each person being assigned a prayer partner for the year. Diocesan presidents shared their stories of the happenings in their dioceses as we listened to discover our common threads. Covenant Health

Care joined us Saturday morning with information on Catholic health care across the province and NWT. Look forward to hearing more about them. Officers reported on their work to date. The Strategic Plan power point received a lot of time as we discussed at great length how we would make it become alive in each of our dioceses. Spiritual reflections, Mass, reconvening and concluding prayers fed us spiritually. We tried to honour the 1/3 spiritual, 1/3 business and 1/3 social. At the conclusion of the meeting it was realized our **provincial focus** was to be one of supporting the Catholic community in Alberta and NWT through **our caring** for our common home by making a difference. Four provincial issues that require attention if the Catholic community is to remain strong are as follows:

- Supporting Catholic education through GrAce (Grateful Advocates of Catholic Education)
- Promoting Catholic health care
- Promoting life from conception to natural death and supporting the March for Life in May;
- Working on our resolutions

Two internal issues that must stay on the front burner are Strategic Planning and Leadership. One issue in which a conversation must start is with marginalized women including our indigenous sisters.

Spiritual Advisors

Our provincial spiritual advisor Father Andrew gave us some very sage advice. He told us to actively engage our council spiritual advisors by giving them a job to do at every meeting. At the parish council level he suggested a 10-minute presentation from an article from the Catholic Catechism. Let us use our spiritual advisors strengths to make our councils strong.

National

Please familiarize yourself with **all** the memos in the National parish mail out. Our national president has encouraged all of us to get our spiritual advisors involved in Strategic Planning by confirming with them their reception of the planning book and encouraging them to fill out the on-line survey. You will be starting with the first cup of tea with many so don't mention it only once and think your job is complete.

Resources

One of the best resources available is our websites. Check them out (including all CWL provincial websites) often as new information is continually being posted. It's important to know what our sisters are doing across the country.

I am sure your cup of tea is finished. I hope you sweetened it with gratitude but now it is time to say, " This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it," as we get on with making the League alive in our little corner of our diocese.