

the Catholic Women's League of Canada

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

Provincial President

DATE: February 25, 2018

Communique #4



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:



'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead'. (Peter 1:3)

Where has the time gone? It seems like we just celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas and then celebrated the start of a new year and here we are two weeks into our Lenten journey. What is Lent? Simply put, it is: **Baptism**. It is the preparation for Baptism and for renewing baptismal commitment that lies at the heart of the season. During this time, we also focus on Lenten observances including prayer, fasting, almsgiving and repentance which will lead us to our baptismal renewal.

I know that the start of the year meant changes for many councils as newly elected Officers were nominated or appointed to serve their councils for the next two years. I am also aware that some councils had great difficulty getting someone to become their President, President-elect or fill other standing committees. Stepping into this role can definitely be very daunting, but in order for the CWL to continue to grow and succeed, we need ladies that are willing to fill these important positions. I am aware that it can be intimidating, but I have to say, that when I took my first position on our parish CWL council, it was the best move that I ever made. The benefits far outweigh the negatives. I have personally grown in my faith and have had the opportunity to meet so many other ladies that share my faith and joy of helping others. We have exceptional women in the League that are always willing to help lend a hand when needed, so do not feel that when you take on a position, you are doing it on your own, because, there are women all around us that are more than willing to help out.

Last week, I attended the National executive meeting that was held in Toronto. I would like to share some of the news from our meeting:

- ❖ We were given information on the 'Strategic Planning Progress'. They have developed a Core Purpose, Core Values, Mission Statement and Envisioned Future. We had group discussions on the what we felt were the priorities that needed to be worked on. A committee member from the Strategic Planning will be attending the Diocesan and Provincial conventions to give a one hour update on the work to date. So please plan to attend a convention to hear this important information
- ❖ There have been proposed revisions to the P&P that will be brought up at the National convention
- ❖ Alberta Mackenzie saw a decrease in membership in 2017 from 2016 by 254 members. The largest decrease was the members that did not renew. I want to encourage all councils to make sure that you follow up with the members that did not renew and let them know how important their membership is to CWL

- ❖ We will have two new Life Members in Alberta Mackenzie who will receive their award at their Diocesan conventions. I would like to congratulate Judy Look, from the Calgary Diocese and Ruth Boden from the Mackenzie/Fort Smith Diocese on receiving their Life Membership. I encourage the ladies in their Dioceses to attend your Diocesan convention to help celebrate this award with them
- ❖ Update on the National website. National office was working with Oasis Computing Inc. to create an association management software platform that best suited the needs of the League's membership and staff. Unfortunately, Oasis was unable to meet the deadline of January 1st, 2018 for full implementation of the new software. Due to the delays, this has impacted annual reports, membership, orders and accounting. The office staff has been manually working on all of this over the past two months. We have been given an extra two weeks to get our reports completed and sent to the next level of the League. Please know that National Office is working as hard as possible to get information out to their members in a timely fashion
- ❖ The Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation Board has announced the inaugural cohort 2018. Fourteen outstanding, talented women from across Canada will form the class for the first Certificate program in 'Catholic Women's Leadership' developed in partnership with Saint Paul University's Providence School of Transformative Leadership and Spirituality. We are pleased that two women from Alberta/Mackenzie have been selected. Congratulations to Amanda Achtman from the Calgary Diocese and Clare Ganton from the Edmonton Diocese
- ❖ A motion was made to have our National President write a letter to the Federal Government expressing our concerns about the attestation requirements on the 2018 Canada Summer Jobs Program, citing that Members of the League are very concerned that the federal government would discriminate against its own citizens by forcing them to sign an attestation that compromises their belief system. Please see the national website for the complete letter to the government

I had the pleasure of attending two events to represent the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial CWL:

- The Edmonton Diocesan CWL 150th Farewell tea that was held on December 31st at the Chateau Louis in Edmonton. Thank you to Fran Lucas and her wonderful planning committee for a wonderful event
- January 6th – the dedication mass for Lacombe, St. Stephan's church that was celebrated by Bishop Greg Bittman

Other events that I had the pleasure of attending and bringing greetings from ABMK Provincial CWL were:

- The 35th Anniversary of Good Shepherd CWL in Edmonton. Congratulations to all the members for your dedicated service to the League
- The Edmonton Diocesan Midwinter meeting on February 3rd at St. Thomas More parish
- The annual general meeting and dinner on February 5th for St. Francis Xavier CWL in Camrose

I am currently working on the agenda for the ABMK Provincial convention that will be held on June 1st – 2nd, 2018 in Okotoks. The planning committee is working hard to plan this event and I encourage every council to send at least one or two representatives. We look forward to meeting you and sharing a faith filled weekend.

In closing, I want to thank you for your continued work and prayers as you respond to God's call in all that you do.

Wishing you many blessings,

June F.
ABMK Provincial President