

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial President Oral Report, June, 2017

Spiritual Advisor Reverend Andrew Bogdanowicz, Sister Susan, Spiritual Advisors, Honorary Life Members, Life Members, Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Officers, Accredited Delegates, Members, Sisters in the League,

The Alberta Mackenzie Council recorded (9699) nine thousand, six hundred and ninety nine members from across the province of Alberta and the Northwest Territories in 160 councils from 5 dioceses.

Politically we have written on behalf of our members on a number of issues. Our name is becoming well known in the Legislature. We wrote to request that freedom of conscience of ALL healthcare professionals be protected. We also urged the assurance of the same protection for healthcare institutions when either they or individuals within them refuse to participate in medically assisted dying or refuse to make direct referrals for patients who request medically assisted dying. At the direction of 2016 Provincial convention, we wrote to federal and provincial Governments to “request the House of Commons in Parliament assembled to specifically identify hospice palliative care as a defined medical service covered under the Canada Health Act so that provincial and territorial governments will be entitled to funds under the Canada Health Transfer system to be used to provide accessible and available hospice palliative care for all residents of Canada in their respective provinces and territories.” We congratulated our provincial government for inaugurating a Day of Awareness for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and we used the opportunity to let them know about our resolution on PTSD.

Corus Entertainment, head of Global television was informed of our outrage at the showing of the TV mini-series “Mary Kills People”. Our members are united in opposition to any act of intentional killing of human beings and strongly oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide.

We presented to the Priest’s Study Days of the Edmonton Archdiocese. During the past year, we prepared an update to ‘Catch the Fire’ for Spiritual Advisors and shared it with Diocesan Presidents, Provincial and National Officers. The National Office has fine-tuned a final copy available on the national website.

We have worked with our Catholic school trustees to promote the value of Catholic education in our province.

We are happy with the online annual reporting process and your participation. 110 of the 160; about 70% of the parish councils across the Alberta and Mackenzie completed their reports online. We think that is a pretty good number for our first time. We encouraged our councils to continue to work on this.

Our Members participated in a variety of ways in the “12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care” and appreciated the material from National.

It was an election year for the diocesan councils and we welcome the new diocesan presidents to the table. It is also an election year for the provincial council. At this convention, your vote will instruct your new diocesan president as to whom you want to lead you in the 2017- 2019 year. We ask God’s blessing to guide your vote and the new council.

We have received a Provincial Grant from the National Council to assist member’s travel costs to Provincial Convention, from each diocese.

As Provincial President, I sit at the national table and represent Alberta and Mackenzie to the National council. I have attended 5 meetings with the National Council. On the National level, we invite you to participate in a strategic plan for the League. You can read more about this in an article in the Spring 2017 League magazine from Past President Barb Dowding. Fran Lucas, our national 1st Vice President spoke about this yesterday. Please continue to look for information about this exciting opportunity.

We must think about the overarching view of what we do in the League.

Why do we do what we do?

Our National Theme of “Inspired by the Spirit – Women Respond to God’s Call” should direct us to a better understanding of our ‘what’ and ‘why’.

We are participating the Holy Spirit’s mighty work of restoring, healing, reconciling, and uniting all things in Jesus, the Christ. Our work of Evangelization is the work of uniting all things in Jesus the Christ.

From 1 Corinthians 12: 4-7, 12

*There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit;
there are different forms of service but the same Lord;
there are different workings but the same God
who produces all of them in everyone.
To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit
is given for some benefit.*

*As a body is one though it has many parts,
and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body,
so also Christ.*

We are reminded that there are different kinds of **spiritual gifts** in the League.
What one can do, another cannot.

There are different kinds of **service** – not everyone can do all the different activities done by the League, or even has time to do some of the works some are able do. Not everyone can speak publicly or lead the council. But **all of us** can serve our God through the League in some work of service. The Holy Spirit **is** in each of us to benefit the Church, our parish, our community, our province and country. The League is our way to serve God and Canada.

Submitted by:

Cathy Bouchard

Alberta Mackenzie CWL Provincial President