

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

**DATE:** April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Communique #7**



**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:

***Being a leader takes courage, discipline, and determination. While a great leader can bring great success, it also comes at the cost of being judged and overwhelmed. The Bible speaks of so many wonderful leaders and how God blessed them for their work.***

*'Moreover choose able men from all the people, such as fear God, men who are trustworthy and who hate a bribe; and place such men over the peoples as rulers of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens'* **Exodus 18:21**

*It is true that quality leadership looks for and empowers other leaders. The old saying - if you want something done right, you have to do it yourself - **is nonsense**. You're not a better leader if you're doing it all yourself.*

***When I read this gospel reading and the words that followed, I thought about the leadership in our CWL and how important it is for us to work as a team, mentoring and supporting each to other in order to bring out the best in each of us. That is a trait of a good leader.***

I am sure that at the beginning of the year, there were councils that had saw a change in their executive, as the beginning of the year usually marks the time of year for elections. I would like to extend a warm welcome to the ladies that have stepped into the role of President, as well as the ladies that stepped into positions on the executive to help support their new President. From the annual reports that I received it was noted that 'Leadership' is one of the main obstacles facing many of our CWL councils. This year all five Dioceses in Alberta Mackenzie as well the ABMK Provincial CWL executive will be holding elections at their respective conventions. I am pleased to welcome Shirley Gutierrez as the new Mackenzie/Fort Smith Diocesan President who stepped into this role at their convention which was held on the first weekend of March in Ft. Smith. A huge thank you to Gerda Hazenberg, who did an excellent job as President during her two-year term. Taking on a new role, whether as President or a standing committee chairperson can seem daunting and intimidating to ladies, but I would encourage all new executive members to familiarize yourself with these important documents:

- National CWL Constitution & Bylaws
- National Manual of Policy and Procedures
- Robert's Rules of Order 11<sup>th</sup> Edition newly revised
- National Executive Handbook
- CWL Parish P&P (if your council has one)

These books and manuals can help answer many questions that you may be facing. As Past President, it is also your duty to help the new Presidents in any way that you can. We are a Sisterhood, willing to support and mentor each other in order to serve the League to best of our abilities by sharing our God given gifts.

As, I mentioned earlier, we are just entering into the what I call the ‘time for Conventions’. I would like to share with you the dates for the conventions that will be happening in Alberta/Mackenzie in 2019 and hope that you will be able to attend at least one of these events:

- Edmonton Diocesan Convention, April 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at St. Anthony’s Parish, Lloydminster
- Grouard-McLennan Diocesan Convention, April 27<sup>th</sup> in Valleyview
- Calgary Diocesan Convention, May 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at Holy Family Parish, Medicine Hat
- St. Paul Diocesan Convention, May 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at St. Anne’s Catholic Church in Thorhild
- 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Alberta Mackenzie Provincial CWL Convention, June 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at St. Joseph’s Parish, Grande Prairie
- 99<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention, August 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Calgary, AB

Many years ago, when I first joined the CWL, I had no idea why it was so important to attend a convention. However, through the years I have come to have a much deeper understanding of the importance to attending these wonderful events. The truth be told, this is a time for us to come together as “Women of Faith” to learn and share about the great work that is being done not only in our parish, but also in our Diocese, our province and in our country as members of the Catholic Women’s League. We have to opportunity to hear motivating speakers that often open our eyes and hearts to the plight of those in need. We meet with clergy on all levels as they support and encourage us in our work and, also share some advice on how we can live out our role as Catholic Women in the church. We share our faith in God through the beautiful liturgies and masses that are celebrated at these conventions. And we meet new ‘Sisters in the League’ from across our Diocese, our province and our country that we would otherwise not have had the opportunity to meet. Many long-lasting friendships have been made by attending the various conventions. As your Provincial President, I think the highlight from my two-year term was having the opportunity to meet so many dynamic and inspirational women and members of the clergy during my term. I will be forever grateful that all those years ago, when I was asked to let my name stand for an executive position on my CWL parish council, I said ‘Yes’.

So even, with our rich history spanning over 100 years, we realize that for this great organization to continue to thrive, we need to focus on some changes in the League. Through “Planning Strategically”, a consultation group began this important work that was presented to members from across Canada at the 2017 CWL National Convention held in Charlottetown, PEI. From that information session the following was formulated.

A new mission statement was developed which read as follows:

**“The Catholic Women’s League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service”**

A core purpose which explains the reason that an organization exists was also clarified:

**“Uniting Catholic women to grow in faith, and to promote social justice through service to the church, Canada and the world.”**

Core Values were established which dictates the behavior of the its membership. These were:

- **Faith – following Catholic teaching**
- **Service – local, national, international**
- **Social Justice – actively involved in society**

An Envisioned Future which is a vivid description of what the organization strives to become was developed

**‘The Catholic Women’s League of Canada is an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women inspired by faith’**

This past year the National CWL formed an Implementation Team whose sole purpose was to develop a five-year strategic mapping plan to include setting goals, timelines, action plans and getting additional volunteers to help. At the upcoming convention, workshop will be presented to help inform the grassroots members about this important initiative. This is the reason why it is so important to have at least one representative from each CWL council attend one of these conventions. We can only move forward and grow the League if we have the support of all our members.

In closing, I hope to see many of you at the various convention that I will be attending this year. My prayers are with all of you, to share the joy with others about the good work that members of the Catholic Women’s League do for ‘God and Canada’.

June F.  
ABMK Provincial President