



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



**President
Communique #8
DATE: October 1, 2021**

TO: Diocesan Chairpersons
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National President (for information)
FROM: Judy Provincial, President Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

AMDG

It's time for that very important cup of tea so wrap yourself up in one of the many CWL garments you have purchased on your CWL journey, pour a cup of tea, and sit with me for awhile. Fall is upon us. Leaves and rabbits are changing colour, all a signal of change. Thanksgiving is right around the corner. Annual Meeting of Members are complete. A new national executive is in place and councils are looking down the road for a light... a light that will shine upon in-person meetings, churches welcoming back congregations, unmasked faces, empty ICU's, unlimited numbers for family gatherings. This light doesn't seem to be coming forth. We get glimpses and then darkness. In many ways we feel that nothing has changed since the start of the pandemic, and we are as helpless as ever.

Wait! Could we be looking in the wrong direction? Instead of looking outside ourselves maybe we need to look inward where the true light of life exists. It was given to us in our baptism. This light is rooted in our faith, hope, forgiveness, and service all wrapped up in the word love, the kind of love witnessed on the cross. It manifests itself in the word of God and whispers that the word COVID doesn't mean death but means a Catholic Organization of Vitality, Inspiration and Dedication and invites us to live that way. It suggests we embrace each morning with excitement as it is a new day of opportunity, to thank God for the many blessings and ask for direction for the day, to read a passage of scripture and listen for His answer. With this light burning in our hearts let us ask ourselves how we can help our council emit vitality, inspiration, and dedication to those around us? How can we witness to this wonderful culture of life? How can our behaviour reflect the reality that we are a people of gratitude? How can we build relationships and effect change by growing in faith and witnessing to the love of God through ministry and service?

Update

Your provincial executive met virtually September 10-11, 2021 via ZOOM. First order of business was to appoint Betsy Fletcher as our Legislation Chair. She will chair both resolutions and legislation as this council finishes up its third year. A variety of issues were discussed including growing in faith, the strategic plan, spiritual advisors, disbanding councils, indigenous peoples, the Gratitude Initiative, Alberta Mackenzie members on working groups, policies, technology, and the work of the officers reflected in their communiques. As we approach the end of this year many councils will be having elections and so it's now time to think about which position the Lord is calling us to consider.

Action

Spiritual

- Remember we do everything for the honour and glory of God (AMDG)
- Check out the Catholic Social Teaching Resource launch on the national website

Strategic Plan

- Review the update of League of the Future Year 3 on the national website
- Begin thinking “Three Pillars” -Faith Social Justice and Service as you do your work
- Encourage members to join an implementation working group
- Break open the Welcome Program document and think about ways to put into action some of the suggestions
- Review the voting process for the amendments with council members

Deceased Executive Members

- Develop a process to be put into your council ‘s policy manual on how the information of a deceased executive member will be accessed

Indigenous Relations

- Check out Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples in the Archdiocese of Edmonton – “a unique Catholic community of Indigenous peoples and settlers who pray together using symbols, music, and rituals which are meaningful to our People and to our culture.” <https://sacredpeoples.com>
- A Prayer by Henri Nouwen

O Lord, awaken the consciousness
of all peoples and their leaders.
raise up men and women
full of love and generosity
who can speak and act for peace
and show us new ways in which hatred,
division and confusion can be left behind,
wounds can be healed and unity can be restored.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Sanctity of Life

- Keep sending your postcards to your MLA’s and MP’s
- 40 Days of Life Campaign began Sept 22 and continues until October 31.
Check out <https://www.40daysforlife.com> to find a vigil near you

Gratitude Initiative

- Review the initiative on the national website
- Brainstorm with your council all those who should receive a gratitude card
- Set a deadline for sending out the cards

Communication

- Check out the provincial officers’ communiques for updates and pertinent information
- Order your copy of the out the Catholic Register Special *Faith in Action* our story catholicregister.org/cwlmembers. The cost for a copy is \$5 which includes taxes shipping and handling

As we continue this third year of our tenure let us give thanks to our God for this wonderful gift called the Catholic Women’s League of Canada. Let us bring it’s love to all we meet for its love builds relationships and effects change as it touches the heart of others.