



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



**President
Communiqué #3**

Date: February 16, 2020

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

Care for Our Common Home - Building Relationships and Effecting Change

Faith Service Social Justice

February. The days are getting longer and we are seeing and feeling a glimpse of spring. As we wake to light we understand how it dispels the darkness and we begin to feel a sense of hope. We are well into our council year. So far our membership drives are complete (although we should always be inviting ladies to join), our annual reports have been submitted and are moving up the chain of command; our list of disbursements are complete with much of our fund raising going to those in need; and our budgets have been set for the year. Our administrative work on the whole is finished. Thank you for all the energy time and talent you have given to the work thus far. You are all amazingly gifted women loved by the Lord and your sisters in the League.

Three Cups of Tea

Membership - Relationships

At our provincial council winter meeting in January, at the Star of the North Retreat Center, St. Albert much discussion took place on the role of the different levels of the League. We concluded that each level of the League is to **SERVE** the level below it. We agreed that the most important unit of the League is the parish council and the reality is every member no matter what position she holds at any level must be a member of a parish council. All League work is brought to fruition through the action of the parish council members be it praying for members through prayer chains and circles; writing letters to government protesting abortion or euthanasia, campaigns for socks and underwear for the poor, visiting shut-ins, recycling, reducing and renewing; fund raising for the National Voluntary Fund...all activities are accomplished by the parish council members. **They are the visible face of the Catholic Women's League in their churches, their communities and in Canada.** As presidents we must have programs that empower our members to build relationships and effect change as they journey in the Catholic Women's League.

Before Christmas I had the privilege of attending a "Three Cups of Tea" tea hosted by St. Luke's Council in Calgary. Actually I invited myself because I was wondering what a "Three Cups of Tea" tea looked like. What I found was an executive that decided they were going to do something for their members. They invited their entire membership to an afternoon of conversation, goodies, renewing friendships and making new friends. It was wonderful as I went from table to table and listened to many of their stories. Later I discovered the executive had sent out an e-mail invitation to their entire membership as well as **telephoned** all their members without emails. The majority of ladies who attended were the ladies who got the personal invitation by telephone, a lesson to be learned by all who chose to only use email. Our members need and want the personal touch. Emails are efficient but they don't laugh or cry, they don't give hugs and they don't sense loneliness, memory loss or physical ailments. My dear council presidents how do you treat your most valued possession – your sister in the League?

Professional Development

One of the most important gifts the League gives to its members besides our sisterhood is the opportunity for education referred to in other organizations as professional development. For some reason those words scare us. We, as council presidents must provide opportunities for our executives and members in our councils to take courses, workshops, and classes that will help them in the positions they hold. On February 7th and 8th the Calgary Diocesan Council offered a two day **Parliamentarian Workshop** where members could learn about parliamentary procedure. Have you ever wondered why one of the first things we vote on at a convention is the approval of the

Standing Rules of Order? Have you ever given that much thought? I had the privilege to attend the workshop and at the end of the two days I was energized, had the answer to the question and came away with knowledge that I could immediately apply when chairing a meeting. For two days eighteen of us worked through Robert's Rules of Order; the guide the Catholic Women's League councils are to use to chair meetings. Through an interactive process we learned about main motions; subsidiary motions, privileged motions, incidental motions that is all necessary information to have our meetings run efficiently. It seems daunting but it's not and it certainly is not boring or something we should be afraid of. What is the biggest complaint of members? The meetings are too long. I encourage all of you to go to www.cwl.ca, scroll to Resources and find Parliamentary Procedure and read pages 3 and 4 to begin to understand the value of the Rules of Order. Ladies, for many of you, this will be your first cup of tea and the beginning of a beautiful relationship with Rules of Order.

Update from Provincial Council Winter Meeting January

We arrived Friday evening at which time we shared a meal, celebrated the Eucharist and moved into roundtable discussions. Friday is the time when Diocesan Presidents share with each other and the officers what is happening in their dioceses. The result of the roundtable discussion was the diocesan presidents and president-elects continued to meet at meal times and every other chance they had to continue to share what was working and not working in their dioceses. Saturday was the business day with the reports from all assembled. Convention planning, meetings with the government, Elsie Yanik Award, strategic plan, convention and council budgets were all points of discussion. We concluded our meeting Sunday at noon and shared lunch before departing to our respective homes.

I share this last part because the sharing of meals solidifies who we are, as Catholic women and League members, as we put all our busyness on hold and say to the ladies across the table - You are important.

Action from the meeting:

- A Provincial Council Rosary Circle was formed— all councils diocesan and parish councils are encouraged to form one
- A spreadsheet with the names of the St. Joseph's seminarians to be sent out to all diocesan presidents – to be forwarded to parish councils to give councils and individual members an opportunity to adopt a seminarian
- Questions to take to the winter National Executive Meeting
- Updated Pornography Hurts postcards to be distributed to all diocesan presidents to be forwarded to parish council presidents for action
- Meeting with the provincial government February 24 – re resolutions
- Encourage all members to participate in the Strategic Planning Working Groups by applying on the National website starting February 3
- Encourage all dioceses to participate in the March for Life May 14

Communiqués

Please read the communiqués posted by the various chairs for updated information.

Provincial Convention

All diocesan presidents and the Life Member Liaison were sent the Provincial Convention Package to be forwarded to parish council's presidents and life members. Please read carefully the information re: credentials. The convention will give all delegates the opportunity to grow in their knowledge about Catholic education, Catholic health care, how to form relationships with our indigenous sisters and the sanctity of life. We will celebrate our deceased sisters and we will grow in our faith, thanks to Bishop Paul Terrio from the Diocese of St. Paul.

Have a very blessed Lent.