



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

**CATHOLIC
and LIVING IT!**

**President
Communique # 12
Date: January 22, 2022
AMDG**

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

CATHOLIC and LIVING IT! There it is right in our faces. We, as the women of the Catholic Women's League of Canada have been given a theme that is intentional! What better time to embrace it then at the beginning of Ordinary Time in our Church calendar? What better time to have a cup of tea and reflect on the theme, what it means to us as individuals and as CWL councils? What better time to reflect on the Gospel for the first Monday in ordinary time that talks about Jesus inviting His disciples to come follow Him? We who continue in that tradition are given the same invitation to come follow him and our national president has given us a road map to follow.

Congratulations to all ladies who took up the mantle of leadership for their councils. You are risk takers like the apostles. You have no idea what lays ahead of you, but you know with Jesus at your side all things are possible. Like Jesus who gave a template to his apostles as CWL presidents you have been given a template as well to guide your leadership; it is called the executive handbook. Following it and all the various resources on the national and diocesan websites along with your faith you are well equipped to venture forth into the unknown of being president for your council. Embrace this new beginning, learn about your role, don't be satisfied with doing what always has been done but bring in new ideas and thoughts. I encourage you, as president, to have a mini retreat for your executive to get to know one another as gifts from God and begin the very important journey of building relationships. Encourage all your executive to read the roles and responsibilities of all executive positions even the ones that are vacant. Review the core values of faith, service and social justice and help your executive find ways to make them come alive in all your activities. Continue to stay connected to your membership. Review the Welcome Program and commit to using some of the suggestions. Please, please, please involve your membership in your meetings in presentations, spirituals, and fun whether in person or on ZOOM.

On the weekend of January 5th and 6th the executive of your provincial council had their midwinter meeting. Originally, we planned an in-person meeting but COVID once again had other ideas and so we met on ZOOM. Friday evening, we had a mini retreat. "Walk in the Light" was the focus, and we were reminded of the light that lives within us and when we connect that light with the light of others, we begin to illuminate all around us. It was a wonderful evening of sharing and growth. As we began our Saturday session, we all felt refreshed and knew we were companions on this journey that began two years ago and has extended into a third.

Highlights from the meeting:

- *Spiritual Advisor*

Father Andrew is encouraging all members of Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council (that means you) to read Pope Francis Apostolic Exhortation: Amoris Laetitia on love in the family. You can download it and read it on line from

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20160319_amoris-laetitia.html

This will help us to embrace our new national theme.

- *Provincial Convention*

It is scheduled as an in-person meeting June 3rd and 4th, 2022 in Lac la Biche, Alberta. As many members as possible are encouraged to attend as we vote for the new provincial executive who will join with Mary Hunt as president, for the amendments and per capita fees and any resolutions coming from diocesan councils plus a workshop on the Eucharist. We will also be sharing cups of tea as we renew friendships and foster new ones. Please begin praying for its success, mark your calendars and plan to attend.

- *Amendments and Per Capita Fees*

Please send your votes into your diocesan presidents as soon as possible. I am sure the discussions you had were lively and educational. Each time we review our Constitution and Bylaws it presents an opportunity to learn more about the League and reminds us that we are part of a national organization that has many facets to it.

- *Synod*

Most of you will be aware that Pope Francis has called the Catholic World to participate in the upcoming 16th Synod of Bishops: For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission. Synodality indicates walking together and listening to one another and the Holy Spirit. The first year invites all at the local level to participate in the process which began in October 2021 and will end in October 2023 with the Bishops meeting in Rome. Check out your church diocesan websites for further information and ask your parish priest what the process is for your parish. Check out the Alberta Mackenzie website, hit "Advent Retreat" as it will give you an understanding of what Synod and Synodality means.

Seniors Advocacy

"Urge the Alberta Provincial Government to amend the Alberta Health Act to ensure that the Seniors' Advocate is an Officer of the Legislature and therefore Independent"

At our 2014 provincial convention we began our quest to have the seniors' advocate an officer of the Legislature. When we met with the NPD government in 2015, they did create a Senior's Advocate's Office, but it was subsequently dissolved after the UCP formed the government. The need for an advocate is even more important now as the vulnerability of the seniors has been showcased through COVID. An advocate should not be at the whim of an incoming government and so an independent office is essential. We must again communicate this to our MLAs who represent us in the legislature. We are inviting all CWL members across the province to become involved in a letter writing campaign urging their MLA to bring this issue forward in the legislature. Background information and a sample letter will be provided to all diocesan presidents, chairs of legislation and resolution, and posted to the website to help members formulate their letters. Share the information with your parish priests as they may

want to encourage their parishioners to some form of action as well. Many councils' members do not use the internet so please let them know that this is happening. This is the time for action. Members in the Northwest Territories could lobby their government as well.

Annual Reports

Thanks for encouraging all your executives to participate in the annual report survey. Please use those reports as a tool to evaluate your councils work over the past year.

Alberta Mackenzie Prays the Rosary

The rosary is continuing to be prayed as women of faith come together on Wednesday evenings to pray for the end of COVID -19 as well to pray for our own intentions. Check out the website for the link. Rosary is drop in, so come as often as you can.

Action:

- Read Pope Francis Apostolic Exhortation: Amoris Laetitia on love in the family
- Plan to attend the Provincial Convention June 3rd and 4th
- Participate in the Synod
- Write a letter to your MLA re: Seniors Advocate
- Make the prayer Catholic and Living It! part of your council's meetings.

As my cup of tea is almost empty, I want to thank all of you for keeping the Catholic Women's League alive for your members. We are all very busy women and that's why God invited us to be a member as busy women get things done.

Embrace CATHOLIC and LIVING IT! Be radical in your love and remember that this is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.