

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada**



**Care for our**

**Common Home**

**99th Annual Calgary Meeting of Members**

**May 1, 2021**

**Virtual Zoom Meeting**

**Greetings/ 2020 Annual Reports  
Booklet**



## **MISSION STATEMENT**

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.

## **LEAGUE PRAYER**

We humbly pray you,  
O God our Father,  
to bless the Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Bless our beloved country,  
our homes and families.  
Send your Holy Spirit upon us to give light to our minds  
and strength to our wills that we may know and fulfill  
your great law of charity.  
Teach us to share with others at home and abroad,  
the good things you have given us.  
This we ask through  
Our Lord Jesus Christ  
and the intercession of  
our patroness  
Our Lady of Good Counsel.  
AMEN



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## CALGARY DIOCESAN PRESIDENTS OF THE CWL

|                               |                            |                              |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1922-23 Mrs. J.E. McDonald    | 1923-25 Mrs. P.A. Woodlock | 1925-27 Mrs. P.J. McCrohan   |
| 1927-29 Mrs. A.G. Plunkett    | 1929-31 Mrs. B.F. Kisert   | 1931-33 Mrs. A.C. Saunders   |
| 1933 Margaret Tighe           | 1933-35 Mrs. J.R. Eustice  | 1935-37 Mrs. H. Jeffers      |
| 1937-39 Mrs. W.C. Quinlan     | 1939-41 Mrs. E.E. Landry   | 1941-43 Mrs. J.R. Meagher    |
| 1943-45 Mrs. J.L. McNamara    | 1945-47 Mrs. A.H. Kyle     | 1947-49 Dr. Isabella Stevens |
| 1949-51 Mrs. H. J. Flock      | 1951-53 Florence MacDonald | 1953-55 Clara Politeski      |
| 1955-57 Mary Hagel            | 1957-59 Anne Kirby         | 1959-61 Marguerite Botter    |
| 1961-63 Stella Niedzwiecki    | 1963-65 Ruth Cooney        | 1965-67 Rosemary Santopinto  |
| 1967-69 Vera Moynihan         | 1969-71 Norah Davies       | 1971-73 Edith McDowell       |
| 1973-75 Margaretta Scherer    | 1975-77 Marietta Thielen   | 1977-79 Irene Onody          |
| 1979-81 Lorena Kelly          | 1981-83 Agnes Bedard       | 1983-85 Isabel Ivan          |
| 1985-87 Marie Cameron         | 1987-89 Lynn L'Heureux     | 1989-91 Joan Baudais         |
| 1991-93 Florence Bernakevitch | 1993-95 Ella Ell           | 1995-97 Carol Munchrath      |
| 1997-99 Mary Heinzlmeir       | 1999-01 Aurore McCleary    | 2001-03 Vi Lake              |
| 2003-05 Shirley Hazen         | 2005-07 Gloria Lundberg    | 2007-09 Judy Look            |
| 2009-11 Annamaria Matsui      | 2011-13 Suzanne Sherry     | 2013-15 Carol Schlachter     |
| 2015-17 Sharon Malec          | 2017-19 Janet MacPhee      | 2019-22 Jan Myhre            |



## CALGARY DIOCESAN CWL HONOURARY LIFE & LIFE MEMBERS

### **Honourary Life Members**

|               |      |
|---------------|------|
| Marie Cameron | 2004 |
| Agnes Bedard  | 2006 |
| Vivian Bosch  | 2002 |

### **Life Members**

|                             |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Joan Baudais                | 1998 |
| Mary Heinzlmeir             | 2006 |
| Aurore McCleary             | 2006 |
| Florence Bernakevitch       | 2012 |
| Vi Lake                     | 2012 |
| Gloria Lundberg             | 2012 |
| Judy Look                   | 2018 |
| Carol Schlachter (deceased) | 2020 |

## Calgary Diocesan Council Officers

### 2019 - 2022 Council Officers

|                         |                                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Hierarchy .....         | Most Rev William McGrattan         |
| Spiritual Advisor ..... | Rev. Jonathan Gibson (2018 – 2020) |
| .....                   | Rev. Pilmaikén Lezano (2021 - )    |
| President.....          | Jan Myhre                          |
| President-Elect.....    | Renee Spohn                        |
| Vice President.....     | Kathleen Winter                    |
| Secretary.....          | Doreen McMillan (2019 – 2021)      |
| .....                   | Judy Montes (2021 – 2022)          |
| Treasurer .....         | Jan Morel                          |
| Past President.....     | Janet MacPhee                      |

### Standing Committee Chairs

|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Archives & History.....     | Janet MacPhee     |
| Spiritual Development ..... | Kathleen Winter   |
| Organization .....          | Renee Spohn       |
| Christian Family Life.....  | Marjorie Robinson |
| Community Life.....         | Lorraine Clark    |
| Education & Health .....    | Dr. Rose Geonzon  |
| Communications .....        | Diane Miedema     |
| Legislation .....           | Gayleen Hamilton  |
| Resolutions .....           | Dorothy Boras     |

### Calgary Diocesan Council Regional Chairs

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Calgary .....     | Rosemary Krickler |
| Drumheller .....  | Donna Johnson     |
| Highwood.....     | Gloria Lundberg   |
| Lethbridge.....   | Lydia Jones       |
| Medicine Hat..... | Wanda Anctil      |



**99TH CALGARY DIOCESAN PLANNING COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS**

**Calgary South Regional Councils**

For two years, the Calgary South councils were willing and ready to assist in the planning of the Annual Calgary Diocesan Convention. Due to COVID-19, the 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Calgary Diocesan Convention was cancelled altogether, and the 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Calgary Diocesan Convention was reduced to a virtual one day Annual Meeting of Members on May 1, 2021.

Our heartfelt thanks to the following:

|                            |                                     |   |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Co-Chairs                  | Rosemary Krickler<br>Bernice Thomas | Holy Name CWL, Calgary<br>Holy Spirit CWL, Calgary                                  |
| Secretary                  | Gloria Boogmans                     | Holy Name CWL, Calgary  |
| Treasurer                  | Jan Morel                           | Calgary Diocesan Council  |
| Liturgy /Spiritual         | Kathleen Winter                     | Calgary Diocesan Council<br>St. Cecilia's CWL, Calgary<br>St. Gerard's CWL, Calgary |
| Registration & Credentials | Gail Poshtar                        | Holy Spirit CWL, Calgary  |
| COVID-19 Safety Protocols  |                                     | St. Mary's Cathedral CWL, Calgary   |
| Decorations                |                                     | St. Patrick CWL, Calgary  |
| Hospitality                |                                     | St. Bonaventure CWL, Calgary<br>St. Michael's CWL, Calgary                          |
| Vendors                    |                                     | St. Bernadette CWL, Calgary<br>Sacred Heart CWL, Calgary                            |





WILLIAM T. MCGRATTAN

BISHOP of CALGARY

May 1, 2021

Dear Members of the Catholic Women's League of Canada,

As you convene for your 99<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Annual Convention of the Catholic Women's League (CWL), I offer you my prayers and appreciation for the commitment of the CWL to the Church's mission in the Diocese of Calgary, especially during these challenging times as we confront the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the human, social and spiritual dimensions of life.

The national theme "*Care for Our Common Home*" and your diocesan focus "*Stewards of Creation*" are extremely important as we face the impact of our lack of collective responsibility for the earth's resources and the detrimental impact our decisions may inflict upon creation and its sustainability. In 1971, Pope Paul VI referred to this emerging ecological concern as a "*tragic consequence of unchecked human activity*". Unfortunately, this "*unchecked human activity*" continues even today on a global scale. The urgent call to embrace a life of care and stewardship for creation compelled Pope Francis to write the encyclical letter, *Laudato Si* (LS), in 2015. Pope Francis describes the vital need to be stewards of creation and offers the following hope, "*The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home.*" (LS, #13)

The theme of your convention is a timely and laudable response to Pope Francis' most recent encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti* [FT], where he makes an urgent appeal for dialogue and friendship in our society in order to create a new culture, "*some people attempt to flee from reality, taking refuge in their own world; others react to it with destructive violence. Yet between selfish indifference and violent protest there is always another possible option: that of dialogue.*" [FT, 199].

It is my hope that through this convention you will experience this "*new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all.*" (LS, #14)

I assure you of my prayers that God may bless this 99<sup>th</sup> CWL convention and especially that He may guide you in your actions and advocacy for the faithful stewardship of His creation.

Yours in Christ,

†William T. McGrattan  
Bishop of Calgary

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CALGARY

Catholic Pastoral Centre | 120 17 Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2S 2T2

Phone: 403-218-5526 | Fax: 403-264-0272



## The Catholic Women's League of Canada

My dear League sisters,

What a year it has been! As you prepare to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year, and yes, there were many, please take time to reflect upon the blessing and privilege of being part of an organization with more than 70,000 members—a sisterhood whose objects have formed the basis of every action members have taken individually and collectively over the last 100 years.

I am particularly thrilled that in spite of a global pandemic, you have planted trees, served your community in a multitude of ways, and performed the spiritual and corporal works of mercy that, as Christian Catholic women, we are called to continue. Whether behind the scenes or among your fellow citizens and parishioners, you have remained faithful to the calling which Jesus makes to us every day: follow me; be not afraid; love one another; whatever you do the least of your brother and sister, you do to me, for example.

Now you are gathering, perhaps in a unique manner this year, but you are gathering. Business will continue, reports will be shared, accomplishments and challenges will be discussed. Future plans will be anticipated with excitement. And I will be right there with you in spirit!

If ever there were a year in which you recall and collate the blessings that have arisen from the adversity of a global pandemic, this is it. Whether learning to communicate in new and unique ways, using technology that hitherto had been out of mind or out of reach, taking precious time to learn a new skill, reading documents that relate to the League's efficient running or learning to be in God's quiet presence more fully, you have done it. God is good, all the time.

On behalf of the national executive/board, composed of the 11 table officers and the 11 provincial presidents, it is my pleasure to bring greetings to your annual meeting of members on the occasion of Calgary Diocesan Council's 99<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I continue to pray for the wellbeing of all members, the smooth transition of executives during an election year, and the strength of each of you to continue to be God's hands and feet on this beautiful earth.

God bless,

Anne

Anne-M Gorman  
National President





**Father Pilmaikén Lezano**  
**Calgary Diocesan Spiritual Advisor**  
**The Catholic Women's League of Canada**



Dear Sisters of the League,

When I was asked by Bishop McGrattan in January, 2021 to become the Spiritual Advisor for the Diocesan Catholic Women's League, I accepted the appointment knowing that I would be working with women of devout and fervent faith, building God's church. The work you do to witness to the grace of Jesus Christ and His Church is an apostolate that I look forward to serving as we grow together in knowing Jesus and making Him known.

I am encouraged by the theme **"Care for our Common Home – Stewards of Creation"** knowing that we continue to live the example of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, as the pope reminds us that even in the pandemic we "can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to our own culture, experience involvements and talents."

I invite you to have grateful hearts as you share the opportunity to be together at the Annual Meeting of Members virtually. Although the circumstances don't allow for in-person gatherings, I know that with the charism of the Catholic Women's League you will make the best out of this time together. While the distance may make us feel isolated and we may miss the times of past conventions, let us continue having grateful hearts. St. Paul, in the First letter to the Thessalonians, invites the people of Thessalonica to have grateful hearts: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thess 5:18).

This opportunity that is offered to all of us by means of technology is the perfect one to strengthen the bonds with one another even in the midst of the present challenges. And yet the present challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic will not put us down, since all our hope and all our trust is in the Lord.

I want to invite you all to make the best of this annual gathering, and to look forward to the moment in which we all will get together in the joy of Christ.

May God bless us and protect us.

In Christ,

*F. R. Pilmaikén Lezano.*

Father Pilmaiken Lezano  
Ph. 403-251-3381  
Pilmaiken.lezano@calgarydiocese.ca



## 2021 MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN PRESIDENT

The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
CALGARY DIOCESAN COUNCIL



Dear Sisters of the League,

When the COVID-19 pandemic began a year ago, we weren't sure how we would be able to continue the work of the League. Churches were closed altogether, and we were asked to stay home. In June, our churches re-opened, however at limited capacity, but we still weren't able to meet in person. What to do, what to do? How can we continue to good works of the League?

Yes, it's been a long year, but I am very proud to be the Diocesan President of this amazing group of faith-filled women who haven't stopped. We may have stumbled a bit, but we picked up and carried on, albeit in a different manner. We began to learn about virtual meetings; we became creative with our fundraising efforts so we could continue to help our favored organizations; we reached out to all our members to ensure their well-being, and offered to help each other, keeping our relationships strong; we continued to voice our concerns to our politicians about the sanctity of life; we provided much needed facemasks to many organizations; we prayed, we prayed, and we prayed. In short, we adapted, but we continued to work together for "God and Canada."

I am grateful to our members who participated in the many Zoom meetings so we could share information, brainstorm, and continue to learn. I am grateful for those who assisted us so we could facilitate our Fall Meeting in September. I am grateful to have a successful Advent Retreat, which was livestreamed so all were able to participate.

We continued to encourage our members to live out our theme "*Care for Our Common Home, Stewards of Creation*" with a wonderful workshop. We rolled out the new Welcome Program introduced by the implementation committee, by providing various workshops to help councils "include" and "validate" all members.

Yes, we are still weaving our way through this pandemic and many of us are beginning to receive the vaccine. I hope and pray that we will soon be able to gather in large groups again so we can begin the celebrations and special events being planned for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Calgary Diocesan Council. Just imagine what our mothers and grandmothers, who were instrumental in the history of our Diocesan Council would say to us now.

Let us remember the League's Mission Statement "*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.*" May Our Lady of Good Counsel intercede for us as we continue to live our core values of "*Faith, Service & Social Justice*".

Your Sister in Christ,

Jan Myhre

## MEET OUR SPEAKERS



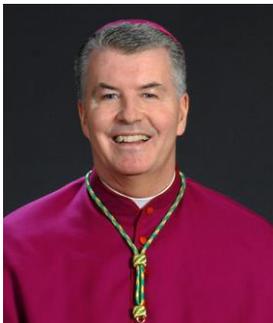
### **Fran Lucas - National President-Elect & Chairperson of Organization Standing Committee**

Fran graduated from the University of Alberta and most of her career years have been spent in the Human Resources field. After eight years as Manager of Volunteer and Community Relations for a large not-for-profit in Edmonton, Fran retired in August 2018.

A Catholic Women's League member for 32 years, Fran is presently CWL National President-Elect and Organization Standing Committee Chair. She is the National Liaison between the Implementation Committee and the board/national executive for CWL Plans Strategically.

Fran was awarded CWL Life Membership in 2011. She was instrumental in starting the first Catholic Girl's League in the Edmonton Archdiocese, the first University CWL council in Canada at the University of Alberta, and a young CWL woman's group that led a book club in Edmonton for a number of years.

Fran and her husband George are parishioners at St. Joseph's Basilica in Edmonton where she is a Eucharistic Minister. Among her greatest blessings are her son Andrew and daughter-in-law Kristy who have blessed her and George with two grandson's Linden (9) and Tucker (6).



### **Excellency Most Reverend W.T. McGrattan – Bishop of Calgary**

Bishop McGrattan was born in London, Ontario. His Excellency received his undergraduate degree in Chemical Engineering at the University of Western Ontario, followed by a Master of Divinity from St. Peter's Seminary in London. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1987 for the Diocese of London. Following three years of service with St. Joseph's Parish in Chatham, Bishop McGrattan continued his studies in theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, where he received a Licentiate in Fundamental Moral Theology in 1992. Bishop McGrattan served on the faculty of St. Peter's Seminary in London as an associate professor, vice-rector, and dean of theology and was appointed as rector of the Seminary in

1997 He was ordained to the episcopate as Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto in 2009 and was appointed as Bishop of Peterborough, Ontario in 2014. His Excellency Most Reverend William McGrattan was installed as the 8<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Calgary on February 27, 2017.

Bishop McGrattan is a member of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops; the CCCB Executive Committee; the Bishop Liaison for Catholic Health Alliance of Canada CHAC from 2011 to the present; a member of the CCCB Episcopal Commission for Evangelization and Catechesis; and a member of the Western Assembly of Bishops. Bishop McGrattan was the National Spiritual Director of the Catholic Women's League of Canada CWL from 2013 to 2018 and the Chancellor of St. Mary's University in Calgary.

**PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020**  
**Calgary Diocesan President – Jan Myhre**  
[calgarycwlpresident@gmail.com](mailto:calgarycwlpresident@gmail.com)

**Councils Reporting: 40**

**Councils as of December 2020: 48**

Of the 40 council presidents reporting, 93% of the president positions are filled, and of these the majority of the council presidents have only been a member between six and ten years. On the other end of the spectrum, 24% of the presidents reporting have been a League member for over 25 years. Thank you to the three new members (less than five years), who answered the call to lead their council. Of the 40 council presidents, just under half indicated they had held this position previously.

It is rewarding to see that the efforts to create a diocesan news bulletin is well received by the councils, as 95% of presidents reporting use this information to inform their members. The Canadian League magazine comes in second with 85%, with websites, communiques and newsletters rounding off the top five. Other presidents reported that they inform their members by researching the websites of Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Organization for Life and Family, and even information they receive from their federal MP.

Most councils reported that "*Care for Our Common Home*" was a priority this past year, as well as "*excluding Medical Assistance in Dying from Palliative Care and Hospice facility*", and "*rights of the pre-born under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*".

The Spiritual Advisor was reported to be supportive of their councils by 88% of councils reporting, however only 33% reported that they meet with him on a monthly basis.

Council presidents use many resources to assist them when presiding at meetings, such as the *Constitution & Bylaws*, their own council's *Policy & Procedure* manual, the *Executive Handbook* found on the national website, and *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Virtually all reporting presidents have signed cheques and banking documents on behalf of their councils. Additionally, 48% reported sending letters directed within the League, and 25% send letters outside of the League. Only 8 councils reported that they signed petitions on behalf of their council.

Even though the pandemic kept us from having many in-person events, the council presidents were busy this year. 88% of the councils reporting indicated they attended their regional meetings, and as the diocesan Fall Meeting was held both in person as well as live-streamed, 70% reported that they attended one way or the other. Church functions, special Masses, World Day of Prayer and retreats were also well attended by the council presidents. Even though the national convention was cancelled in 2020, council presidents attended by taking in the Summer Series Webinars. One council was even successful in meeting with their local politician.

Many workshops, conferences, fundraising events and/or dinners, conventions were either cancelled or went on-line this past year, and the majority of council presidents took part in many of these events. It is interesting to note that many presidents pay registration or travel expenses, with only approximately 25% of councils subsidizing the presidents' cost.

Just over half of the councils reporting indicated they have a parish Policy & Procedure Manual. Of those who do not have one, they felt it would be helpful to have one and would need assistance in developing one. Four councils reported that they developed new policies this past year; 1) to include sharing executive positions 2) changing their criteria to donate to charities 3) setting up a subcommittee to advise the treasurer; 4) funding education to be a priority and 5) reimbursing the president her expenses when attending conventions and other necessary meetings.

The *Executive Handbook* is an excellent tool in assisting council presidents, and 88% of the presidents reporting indicated it assists them in their responsibility of overseeing the operations of their council and helps her to understand the duties of her executive team.

Providing an annual summary of a council's activities is important to share with each member, and 65% of presidents reporting indicated they do by emailing, oral and/or written reporting. The other ways of sharing are by providing a newsletter or post items in the parish bulletin.

All presidents reported that they have subcommittees, which consist of annual events such as teas, bazaars and funeral lunches. Subcommittees are also used for social events, fundraising, scholarships, visitation, donation, policy and catering. Councils also reported they have a phoning committee, and finance committee, as well as a subcommittee for special occasions such as a milestone anniversary of their council.

When new presidents assume their role, the majority received the greatest assistance from their immediate past president, followed by the current executive, diocesan president and former past presidents. The secretary, treasurer, life members, personal mentors and provincial president also played a role in assisting the new president. Greatest challenges in 2020 were keeping their members engaged, and not having a full slate of officers. Other challenges were feeling overwhelmed, meeting expectations, trying to please everyone, feeling undertrained, amount of paperwork, and technology.

The following are some of the comments from presidents as to what makes them most proud of their council:

- Faith-filled and hardworking members willing to serve the parish wherever required
- Members supporting each other and the initiatives of the councils
- Learning new ways through technology to continue our fundraising
- Keeping in contact with members during COVID-19 to ensure their well being

**President's Comments:** The year 2020 will be one we will not forget. Although COVID-19 challenged many of the presidents, it also provided an opportunity to utilize technology, and council presidents were asked to learn how to "Zoom". We found out how resilient we are, and by attending virtual retreats, webinars, etc. were able to stay strong in our faith and in the work of the League. With the support of our diocesan Spiritual Advisor, and keeping in line with the government restrictions, we were able to hold an in person diocesan fall meeting as well as an advent retreat, which were also livestreamed to our members who could not attend in person. We continue to pray for our members, our families, our bishop, and priests, that our patroness Our Lady of Good Council will surround them in her protective mantle and intercede for us that we may be faithful to our baptism, fervent in prayer, and generous in service.

Respectfully Submitted  
For God and Canada

**RECORDING SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020**  
**Calgary Diocesan Recording Secretary – Doreen McMillan**  
[calgarycwlsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:calgarycwlsecretary@gmail.com)

**Councils reporting: 36**

Of the reporting councils 21 secretaries were elected, 12 appointed, and 3 vacant. All the secretaries report that they take the minutes even though only 67% reported that they were the recording secretary. Five secretaries did not own a computer, her fellow sisters lent a computer or typed her hand-written notes.

The majority are signing officers and maintain a contact list of the executive officers. About two-thirds know where their council Charter is, have a motions book and receive written reports from their executive officers. Some commented that they email the executive officers to confirm the details before completing the minutes. Great work to achieve minutes that are complete and accurate!

Most councils, 81% have a paper copy of the Handbook for Secretaries while fewer, 71% have the CWL Personal Letter Writing Guide. Some councils, with intent to care for our common home, use the online resources from the National website as needed.

Their comments gave us insight into their successes and challenges:

- A council without a president for two years provided an opportunity for the secretary to enhance her skills as a different member conducted each meeting. She had to be flexible in supporting the member who learned to plan the agenda, conducted the meeting, and led.
- Their greatest challenge was the pandemic resulting in few or no general meetings. Most executive meetings conducted on Zoom required the secretary to adapt and compile a list of motions to be ratified at an undetermined future general meeting.
- Some councils were concerned as they did not have a secretary or a willing replacement.
- The work of the League is appreciated at all levels. Four councils said they had ladies who were kind, patient, and guiding. These special ladies of faith are appreciated.

Thank you to all secretaries for their hard work as it is blessed.

Respectfully Submitted  
For God and Canada



## MOTIONS – 2020

### MOTIONS – Diocesan officers meeting – January 31, 2020

1. **MOTION** – Janet MacPhee moved to accept Christ the King (Council #28) letter to disband. Seconded by Kathleen Winter. **Carried**
2. **MOTION TO RESCIND** – Doreen McMillan moved that Calgary Diocesan Council purchase up to \$1,000 for a laptop, warranty, hard drive, bag, and other accessories to replace the existing laptop purchased in 2013. Seconded by Kathleen Winter. **Carried** [Original motion moved and carried during Diocesan officers meeting on December 7, 2019.]
3. **MOTION** – Jan Morel moved to invest \$8,500 (which is the profit from the 2019 National Convention) in GIC for the General account. Seconded by Lorraine Clark. **Carried**
4. **MOTION** – Jan Morel moved that we accept payment through e-transfer for 2020 Diocesan convention registration. Seconded by Diane Miedema. **Carried**
5. **MOTION** – Diane Miedema moved to pay stipend of \$500 to webmaster Cheryl Snider. Seconded by Dorothy Boras. **Carried**
6. **MOTION** – Kathleen Winter moved that Rose Geonzon be reimbursed \$250 for the St Mary's University dinner. Seconded by Lorraine Clark. **Carried**

### MOTIONS – Diocesan winter meeting – February 1, 2020

7. **MOTION** – Jan Morel moved to ratify the votes and approve the 2020 Budget for the Calgary Diocesan CWL Council. Seconded by Jackie Metcalf, Holy Family Medicine Hat. **Carried**
8. **MOTION** - Cheryl Snider, Corpus Christi Calgary moved that the Diocesan Secretary purchase a laptop computer and needed software to a maximum of \$1,000. Seconded by Gloria Lundberg, Life Member. **Carried**

### MOTIONS – Diocesan officers meeting – March 7, 2020

9. **MOTION** – Marjorie Robinson moved that Diocesan Council purchase a Lady of Good Counsel picture and visa gift card for a total of \$500 to acknowledge the work done by Cheryl Snider regarding the online registration for the upcoming Convention. Seconded by Diane Miedema. **Carried**

### MOTIONS – Diocesan officers meeting – March 28, 2020

10. **MOTION:** Janet MacPhee moved that Calgary Diocesan Council support the podcast presentations of the speakers for National Convention. Seconded by Renee Spohn. **Carried**

### MOTIONS – Diocesan officers meeting – August 13-14, 2020

11. **MOTION:** Gayleen Hamilton moved that Calgary Diocesan Council pay \$500 to St Peter's Calgary for the use of the church August 13-14, 2020. Seconded by Kathleen Winter. **Carried**
12. **MOTION:** Jan Morel moved that Calgary Diocesan Council pay \$200 to St James Okotoks for the use of the meeting room on March 7, 2020. Seconded by Lorraine Clark. **Carried**

**13. MOTION:** Janet MacPhee moved that Calgary Diocesan Council bring to the fall meeting a recommendation to donate \$1,000 to Our Lady of the Rockies Marian Shrine to honour our members on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Calgary Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada. Seconded by Jan Morel. **Carried**

#### **MOTIONS – Diocesan Fall meeting – September 26, 2020**

**14. MOTION:** Jan Morel, Diocesan Officer moved that the Statements of Financial Position of The Catholic Women's League – Calgary Diocesan Council as at December 31, 2019 compiled by the examiner, Volution LLP, Chartered Accountants be accepted as printed. Seconded by Karen Bruch, St Luke's Calgary. **Carried**

**15. MOTION:** Jan Morel, Diocesan Officer moved that the 2021 Budget of The Catholic Women's League – Calgary Diocesan Council be approved as circulated. Seconded by Gloria Boogmans, Holy Name Calgary. **Carried**

**16. MOTION:** Renee Spohn, Diocesan Officer moved that in honour of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Calgary Diocesan Council, we make a donation of \$1,000 to the Shrine Church of Our Lady of the Rockies. Seconded by Gail Poshtar, Holy Spirit Calgary. **Carried**

#### **MOTIONS – Diocesan officers meeting – September 26, 2020**

**17. MOTION:** Jan Morel moved that Calgary Diocesan council pay \$535 to St Peter's Calgary for the use of the church for the Fall meeting and \$120 for printing cost of the Welcome package. Seconded by Marjorie Robinson. **Carried**

**18. MOTION:** Diane Miedema moved that Calgary Diocesan council pay \$100 to Chris Abel for his assistance with the audiovisual services. Seconded by Kathleen Winter. **Carried**

**19. MOTION:** Dorothy Boras moved that Calgary Diocesan council pay \$30 to Zack Blair for his assistance regarding the fall meeting. Seconded by Renee Spohn. **Carried**



**TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020**  
**Calgary Diocesan Treasurer – Jan Morel**  
[calgarycwltreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:calgarycwltreasurer@gmail.com)

**Councils Reporting: 32 of 48 (67%)**

This year's survey had fewer questions and were more simplified than last year providing less data.

Six less councils responded this year as compared to last year, reducing the percentage response by 11%.

The survey results showed that the councils are following the Guidelines for Treasurers available from the National CWL website:

- Paying accounts by cheque.
- Having two signatures on every cheque.
- Most have three signatories – (mean 2.94).
- Bank reconciliations are being done monthly.
- Regularly report financial statements to their councils.
- 72% prepare budgets.
- 69% have their books reviewed annually.

22% of the councils use a manual system and the remaining councils use either computer software or Excel spreadsheet to keep track of receipts and disbursements. This reflects a 9% decrease in councils using a manual system from last year.

The mean membership fee in 2020 was \$27.91 with the range being from \$25 to \$40. This is the same as last year.

**Donations from Calgary Diocese CWL**  
**Source - 2020 Survey**

|                                 |           |                |
|---------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Catholic Mission in Canada      | \$        | 3,476          |
| Coady International Institute   | \$        | 175            |
| Euthanasia Prevention Coalition | \$        | 525            |
| CNEWA                           | \$        | 1,000          |
| National Bursary Fund           | \$        | 100            |
| <b>Total National Donations</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>5,276</b>   |
| Chair Portfolios                | \$        | 79,321         |
| Local Parishes                  | \$        | 25,461         |
| <b>Grand Total</b>              | <b>\$</b> | <b>110,058</b> |

Donations to Chair portfolios and local parishes are down by 44% this year. The total amount of National Charity donations is similar to last year.

Thank you to all the council treasurers that completed the on-line annual report.

Respectfully Submitted  
For God and Canada

## ARCHIVES & HISTORY STANDING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Calgary Diocesan Past President – Janet MacPhee

[calgarycwlpastpresident@gmail.com](mailto:calgarycwlpastpresident@gmail.com)

### **Councils Reporting: 30 of 48 (62%)**

This position is filled (86%) with the majority holding the position having over 20 years as a member and 80% are 55 plus years in age. 52% of the respondents have held this position previously and have for a few years. One council reported that the presidents leave the parish when the term is complete or before the term is complete thus not becoming the past president of the council.

The past presidents **support** and attend executive and general meetings, social and special events upwards of 90% of the time. Our past presidents feel that their president is supported and encouraged by her (90%) and 50% are called upon at least once a month for advice.

Past Presidents are responsible for the **Archives/History** of the council. Of the respondents 85% are responsible for the archives with 75% knowing the whereabouts of their council Charter. Most of the archives are in filing cabinets, photo albums in boxes and on memory sticks, with the majority (90%) stored in the church, church office or church basement (CWL room). A history book is only maintained in 35% of the councils and labelled photo albums by 75%.

Many of the councils have not been able to access their archives due to COVID-19 and churches being closed when re-opened, with restrictions. Other councils, with permission of the parish priest, were able to clean out their CWL room or area as they had more time given the inability to perform any of their regular duties or host their fundraisers.

### **What do councils archive and for how long?**

The percentages below identify that a council retains the information for 5 years plus. Any exceptions are noted.

Annual reports – 73%

Books of Life – 76% indefinitely

Deceased Member's History – 59%

This had the largest percentage with 41% of the councils that do not have any history book of its members.

Financial Information – 98%

List of past executives – 79% indefinitely

Membership renewal data – 76%

Minutes of Executive and General Meetings – 76% executive meeting and 97% general meeting minutes

Record of pin and award recipients – 84%

Written Reports – 55%

Years of Service – 85%

**Laws and Policies & Procedures:** Another duty of the past president is to educate the council on the law and policies and procedures of the League. Councils have not been keeping up with this as they know changes are coming due the strategic planning of the League.

The councils may have the material but 77% refer to it rarely. 93% have a copy of the C&B and 85% have a copy of the National Policy and Procedures. The majority of the councils do not have their own policy and procedure manual.

Councils reporting sought **Advice** at least once a year from Diocesan Executive 70%, Provincial Executive 20%, National Executive 14%, National Office 31%, Life Members 31%, and their Spiritual Advisor 59%. Councils requesting guidance from their local Bishop was 40% never and 55% rarely.

**Other Duties** to attend conventions, promote the council, chair nominations and elections committee, help fill the role of any vacant position, and chair meetings were reduced due to COVID-19. Instead, past presidents organized a parish telephone fan out to check if anyone needed assistance. Also, many councils assisted with the safety protocols that were in place by Alberta Health Services and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary.

**Make Your Successor's Experience more enjoyable and fulfilling** – Support! Support! Support! Encourage and Communicate openly – sounding board – help set up emails of members – pass the information on to her – mentor and help her ask for advice from other levels.

**Implementation of the Envisioned Future of the League:** This is supported by 78% of the past presidents. **Comments from respondents include:** "We were unable to fill any of our standing committees until we combined them into the pillars of faith, service, and social justice." And "We recite the CWL Renewal Prayer by Sister Susan Scott at our meetings." (or were until locked down)

**Share your greatest success:** COVID-19 – Councils expressed their joy at having contacted and communicated with all members through emails, regular mail, telephone calls, and zoom meetings. They engaged and checked up on all members instead of just the ones that came to meetings or they met when attending Mass.

Councils did not take on new projects but were innovative and used new methods to still raise funds even with the lockdown. One council sewed face masks and sold them through the Church office. This became their fund raiser for the year!

**Greatest Challenge:** COVID-19 – churches being closed – limited access – unable to meet in person – unable to have the usual fundraisers – engagement of members – succession planning of leadership – never been through this before thus not sure how we should proceed.

## **Comments**

The additional comments given in the reports are encouraging. During this time, the councils have been trying to communicate better with their membership. The executive worked together to keep members engaged. Even with the challenges of the pandemic, our councils are trying hard to continually move forward in Faith, Service and Social Justice.

The Calgary Diocesan Council has been successful providing guidance and information to the members. With the changes councils immediately started to look to the Diocesan Council for guidance, and we have stepped up. Initially, we too were stunned but through prayer and guidance we have met the challenge and are stronger for it.

"Lord, grant that I may Live this day with Love and Laughter"

Respectfully Submitted  
For God and Canada

## CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE STANDING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Calgary Diocesan Chair – Marjorie Robinson

[calgarycwlchristianfamily@gmail.com](mailto:calgarycwlchristianfamily@gmail.com)

### **Councils Reporting: 21**

We have a wonderful intergenerational mix! Of the Christian Family Life Chairs, half have been members for less than 10 years and a quarter have served for over 25 years. 50% are 55 to 74 years, 25% are 35 to 44, and another 25% are 75 to 84.

**Marriage and Family:** In sharp contrast to last year, where councils were involved in a myriad of activities supporting families, over 90% of respondents this year emphasized other topics and many events were cancelled. Several councils were not able to support people suffering from domestic abuse. Councils are urged to investigate ways to offer support as we are living in a climate where domestic abuse is increasing with many more children and adults suffering.

**Sanctity of Life:** Attendance has been excellent in support of virtual Life Chains, Pro-Life Walks, March of Life, 40 Days for Life, Pro-Life Masses, and Pro-Life Vigils. Most councils donated money or gifts to their local Pro-Life organizations, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Pregnancy and Family Support Services, Campaign Life Coalition and Birthright. Approximately 30% of councils were not able to participate having no computer access or lack of expertise in using new technology.

**Vocations:** Councils were able to support vocations, participating with our priests and religious by sending spiritual bouquets and praying. Prior to the pandemic, they hosted luncheons and encouraged families to invite them into their homes. They offered opportunities to have them speak about vocations, their journey and provided discernment events for youth. Many councils have adopted or supported seminarians!

### **Ministry to Youth, Disabled, Singles, Separated, Divorced, Seniors and Widowed:**

**Youth:** In different ways all councils sponsored youth ministries or events such as NET Ministries, Catholic Christian Outreach, World Youth Day, leadership camps or retreats, summer camps, Sunday school, and youth conferences. It is impressive as 60% participated in these programs for young people in their parishes.

**Disabled:** 75% of councils visited or called, prayed, sent cards, brought communion, and provided transportation.

**Seniors and Widowed:** All councils offered support but had to adapt given the pandemic and its restrictions. We excel in this ministry and the challenges were met with more phone calls, cards of encouragement, and prayers. Funerals and bereavement programs changed significantly but we persevered, became prayer warriors, and comforted our widows and widowers.

**Separated and Divorced:** Most councils have not made available to their members the new brochure, "Annulments Today – Merciful and Just".

**Caregivers:** Only one council responded that they were aware and organized to address issues concerning support groups and respite for caregivers.

Respectfully Submitted  
For God and Canada

## COMMUNITY LIFE STANDING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Calgary Diocesan Chair – Lorraine Clark

[communitylife.cwl@gmail.com](mailto:communitylife.cwl@gmail.com)

**Councils reporting: 19**

**Community Life Chair 58%**

Of the 11 Community Life Chairs reporting 5 previously held this position. The ladies responding to this survey range in age from 35 to 84, the average age group being 65 to 74.

**Dignity and Rights of Persons:** Councils and Community Life Chairpersons worked hard seeking social justice and dignity for all. These are human rights that should be available to all of God's people. 55% reported being familiar with the Universal declaration of Human Rights.

**The Minority Groups:** How councils were able to show support to these groups despite the pandemic:

**Incarcerated:** Three councils supported this initiative by volunteering prior to the pandemic.

**Bullying:** One council showed support for this initiative by volunteering.

**Domestic Violence:** 71% donated, 29% had a guest speaker (2 councils), and 14% volunteered.

**Homelessness:** 89% donated compared to 100% last year. Two councils volunteered and one had a guest speaker.

**Human Trafficking:** Eight Chairpersons reported an awareness of the laws in the fight against human trafficking and most shared the information with their councils. Councils' support included volunteering (3), having a guest speaker (2), donating (2), and a workshop (1). February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking was recognized with six councils who prayed. One of these councils implemented the IWIN initiative which supports survivors of human trafficking.

**Poverty:** 89% donated, 11% had a guest speaker (1), and 33 % volunteered.

**Racism:** One council volunteered

**Indigenous:** Chairpersons (73%) were aware of struggles of Indigenous women and one chairperson had discussed Bill C-262, United Nations declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People with her council.

Despite COVID-19 councils found creative ways to support the vulnerable through prayer, support St Vincent de Paul, call shut-ins and other parishioners, and make monetary donations to groups struggling financially. One council donated clothing, bedding and personal care items to a senior care facility as well as providing transportation. Another made masks to sell and donated the funds to a mission church in Brouck, Alberta. Volunteers and financial support were provided to the local IWIN program.

Councils supported local organizations such as before and after school care, shelters, clothing drives, affordable housing initiatives, food banks, soup kitchens, and others with donations, prayers, and volunteering. Six councils supported organizations focused on assisting Indigenous peoples.

Last year one third of councils promoted CNEWA and provided financial support while this year one council contributed to the two CNEWA projects. Six councils invited members to pray on September 21<sup>st</sup> for Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land and Middle East and one creative council held a Zoom prayer meeting.

One third were informed about Canada's official immigration and refugee policies. Two thirds had an excellent to fair understanding of these policies and all councils knew the difference between a temporary foreign worker, immigrant, and refugee.

42% of councils participated in Remembrance Day services and 68% the poppy campaign and wore red on Fridays in support of Canadian troops.

Ten councils read The Canadian League Magazine winter 2020 article about Fr Charles Okechukwu Udeh being called from Nigeria to New Brunswick to serve the Lord.

Three councils took part in the annual 1% program.

**2016.01 Equal Access to Permanent Resident Status** One council continued to monitor this resolution.

Three quarters of chairpersons were knowledgeable of child labor conditions in developing countries, implications of trade laws and practices in the global economy. 45% criticized structures that put profits before people. 11% of councils reporting supported Canadian Food for Children.

The two most popular organizations supported that focus on developing countries were Chalice and Mustard Seed Project. Others included Pennies for the Poor, Save a Family Plan, Holy Childhood Association, Habitat for Humanity, Canadian Red Cross, Operation Christmas Child, Operation Eyesight International and World Vision.

**Challenges** included finding the time to thoroughly research the many issues and worthy organizations, ensuring the safety of volunteers, and filling the Community Life Chair. Councils' work and ability to fundraise were impacted by the health and safety restrictions. Their inability to meet, discuss, vote, and fundraise meant having to provide support in new ways. Through it all, CWL sisters stayed in touch and continued to pray for each other and for the dignity and rights of all.

**Successes** included July Meals on Wheels, making over 1000 comfort dolls to donate to a hospice, a Valentine's tea, launching a new initiative "Brown bagging for Calgary kids", having a successful February parish fundraiser, and providing financial support for worthy junior and high school students. One council's new ministry called "Helping Hands" was honored by being called a critical service to the parish. One member made and donated 200 masks to CWL, her parish, friends, and a Community Supports Program for adults with disabilities. Councils held Christmas raffles and sent out Christmas cards to all members. Some councils knit and crocheted shawls to lovingly donate to those in the nursing homes. One council undertook a COVID-19 friendly fundraiser with Value Village to raise funds and keep items out of the landfill thus taking care of our common home.

Respectfully Submitted  
For God and Canada



## COMMUNICATIONS STANDING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Calgary Diocesan Chair – Diane Miedema

[calgarycwlcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:calgarycwlcommunications@gmail.com)

### Councils Reporting: 22

Chairpersons: 17

Every member and council needs to feel connected, welcomed, and valued – not only within their parish, but at diocesan, provincial and national levels as well. Effective communication and personal connections are essential conduits to foster cherished relationships and bonds of sisterhood. They are crucial to members' engagement, fulfilment, and sense of value and belonging.

The League's internal communication network ensures that councils from coast to coast are regularly informed, engaged, and united in our overarching goals. Collaborative communication among all levels ensures that the League can achieve its core purpose: *Uniting Catholic women to grow in faith, and to promote social justice through service to the church, Canada, and the world.*

Although every council communicates with members in various ways, a designated communications chair helps to ensure that every member consistently receives important messages through multiple channels. Councils recognize the explicit role and benefits of a communications chair and almost 80% have filled the position by either election or appointment. Dedicated women have accepted this rewarding leadership opportunity to serve members and enrich relationships, while enhancing their own communication skills.

### Communication & League Promotion

As members of all ages are increasingly more tech savvy, email is the primary means to distribute meeting agendas and minutes. Most councils have a dedicated telephone committee to ensure that "every" member receives important information and benefits from personal connections. Activities and events are promoted through email, telephone committees, and council websites. Councils also rely on parish bulletins, bulletin inserts, bulletin boards, and websites. Paid advertising is occasionally used for events that are open to the public, though few councils have a publicity budget.

Most councils publish their own newsletter, and many create their own promotional brochure. Newsletters are primarily distributed by email; and some are mailed to members without internet, posted on the council's Facebook page, or inserted in parish bulletins. They are usually prepared by the communications chair, though some presidents take on the project.

Members are urged to visit the national website for information and to follow the League on Facebook and Twitter. Most describe the website as inviting, informative and easy to navigate. Some have difficulty knowing which category to look under but find the search bar helpful.

### Evangelization

Councils promote faith-oriented programs and opportunities, such as Vision TV, Salt + Light TV, and livestream Masses. They also promote the annual League-sponsored televised Mass; and many host CWL-led Masses or other events to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Good Council on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Councils also promote Pope Francis' spiritual message for World Communications Day on the first Sunday in June.

### The Canadian League

Members are eager to receive the magazine in the mail or to access the virtual edition on the national website: [cwl.ca/category/media/the-canadian-league/](http://cwl.ca/category/media/the-canadian-league/). The magazine is invariably cited as the primary resource for reliable, up-to-date information and news on the League. Every issue contains a blend of informative, educational, and entertaining articles. Messages from the national president and national spiritual advisor are among the first to be read.

Throughout the League's centennial in 2020, members were excited to learn more about its vibrant history, current operations and initiatives, and strategic plans for future growth and opportunities. Some articles

called on members' spirit of compassion and others piqued their curiosity. A snapshot of notable articles in the three issues includes:

Winter: Protection of Minors: A Serious Issue • Who Do You Choose to Communicate With? • Care for Our Common Home—Year Two • Where Does Your 13 Dollars Go?

Spring: Our History is Filled with Faith, Fun and Fulfillment • Looking Back, Looking Forward • Embrace Change by Being a Part of It! • Act Through Communication! • Something Beautiful from God! • Letters—We Write Letters!

Fall: Celebrating 100 Years! • Women of Action • 100 Years is Good! 200 Years is Better! • Just the Same, Only Different • Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council 1942-2020 • What on Earth is a "Ditty Bag?"

Suggestions for future articles include fundraising ideas and examples during the pandemic, practical ideas to attract young women, provincial reports, bookkeeping process for membership dues collected for the following year, and Catholic Missions in Canada.

### **Pornography**

Councils are focused on their mission to advocate against pornography, the exploitation of women and children, and human trafficking. They hosted information events and promoted the *Over 18* documentary that explains hardcore internet porn, its addictive and harmful effect on children and adults, and its destructive impact on society. Members viewed the *Fight the New Drug* website and continue to monitor legislation and follow the topic on news media to remain conversant.

Councils supported the 2017 resolution, *Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornographic Websites*, by promoting awareness of the issue, responsible internet use for children, and parental controls. Postcard campaigns requesting federal legislation to protect youth from online porn were usually held January to March, with some councils mailing up to 130. Councils are monitoring Bill S-203—*An Act to Restrict Young Person's Online Access to Sexually Explicit Material*, which was sponsored by Senator Julie Miville-Dechéne and introduced in the Senate on September 30, 2020.

### **Strategic Planning**

Councils follow the monthly strategic planning updates on the national website and in League magazine. They regularly update members on the four goals, including the progress of current objectives and strategies. Members often recite the *Prayer for Renewal* at meetings and are urged to participate in surveys and working groups.

### **Challenges, Opportunities & Successes**

The pandemic was a significant challenge for councils. Closed churches and physical distancing restrictions made it more complex to hold meetings, events, and membership campaigns; and to maintain a spirit of community and engagement. Many councils seized the opportunity to increase personal connections with members. The pandemic opened the door to virtual technology, enabling members to organize and participate in educational webinars, meetings, Rosary groups, retreats, entertaining events, and more. Some councils organized creative fundraisers offering face masks, virtual cookbooks, takeout meals, etc.; with online and in-person purchase options, e-transfer payments, curbside pickup, and delivery. One council hosted a fun Valentine's Day Tea for mothers and daughters before the initial lockdown. All councils will be eager to host any type of social event once the pandemic has ended!

Respectfully Submitted  
For God and Canada

## EDUCATION & HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Calgary Diocesan Chair – Dr. Rose Geonzon

[calgarycwledandhealth@gmail.com](mailto:calgarycwledandhealth@gmail.com)

**Councils Reporting: 22**

**Chairpersons: 17**

Councils reporting on Education & Health consist of 46% of all councils in the Calgary Diocese, and of those councils, 17 reported they have an existing Education & Health chair.

### **Catholic Education and Catechesis:**

Support of Catholic Education was a large focus of Calgary Diocesan Council this year, and guest speakers presented on GrACE (Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education). This created added awareness for the members, and the percentages shown below largely increased over the prior year.

- ❖ 82% of the councils reporting have been informed about the quality of Catholic religious instruction in their parish and/or Diocese and enquired how the League can support the program.
- ❖ 59% have actively encouraged parental participation.
- ❖ 73% of councils have investigated the needs of local Catholic schools, with most of those needs being sacramental and/or faith development and scholarships or bursaries. Breakfast or lunch programs were also researched, snacks for high school pupils during exams, sponsoring bibles for Grade 4 students, participating in lifestyle classes, reading to young students, and assisting families in need.
- ❖ 59% of councils are aware of the family life programs being taught, and four councils have been involved in Rites of Christian Initiation programs.
- ❖ 24% have encouraged members to assist those who wish to improve their literacy skills.

### **Scholarships and Bursaries:**

- ❖ 86% of councils have a current list of Catholic universities or colleges in the diocese with 68% having a list of scholarships and bursaries available to Catholic women to further their education.
- ❖ 64% of councils reporting offer a bursary or scholarship or provide funds to another bursary or scholarship. Recipients include Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO), Catholic women, elementary aged children, high school students, University/College students, and NET Ministry. One council sponsored a student from another country, and another donated to St. Mary's University to support their Humanities 101 program.
- ❖ A newly revised bursary certificate is available on the national website, and two councils reported they downloaded the certificate.
- ❖ Four councils promoted the National Bursary Fund utilizing the newly developed brochure and one council applied for the National Bursary Fund. Examples of courses taken are: Transformational Leadership, Theology in Sacred Scriptures, and Advanced Catholic Studies of Lay Apostolate. Five councils promoted Coady International Institute this year.

### **Mental Health and Wellness:**

- ❖ 23% of the councils reporting participated in the CWL Mental Health postcard campaign, a slight increase over last year, however most were unaware of the campaign.
- ❖ 48% of councils supported national organizations that focus on the health and wellness of Canadians by contributing Canadian Mental Health Association, CNIB, MaterCare International, Relay for Life, Alzheimer Society of Canada, Canadian Cancer Society, and Children's Wish Foundation of Canada.

**Canadian Blood Services Partnership for Life Program** – No council reported that they were aware of this program.

### **12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care:**

- ❖ 86% of the councils reporting organized members to each pray for one hour for a total of 12 hours.
- ❖ 41% used the Palliative Care postcard

- ❖ Six councils provided information on advance care planning.
- ❖ Five councils reported they provided information on emergency response information kits or researched this.
- ❖ 82% of councils participated in the *Care for Our Common Home* initiative. Members committed to eliminating the use of plastic bags and plastic straws and reduce their garbage.

#### **United Nations World Water Day:**

- ❖ One council celebrated the UN World Water Day by completing the water survey. They limited their water consumption by taking less time in the shower, watering plants with rainwater or early in the morning, and not running the tap for cold water, but have a pitcher of water in the fridge.
- ❖ One council utilized the Water for Life Discussion Guide developed by Catholic Relief Services and acted on a past resolution.

#### **Earth Action Initiative and Earth Day:**

- ❖ Two councils reported participating in the Earth Day Initiative on April 22, 2020.

#### **Environment:**

- ❖ Top five issues Councils addressed this year:
  - Recycling (64%)
  - Reduce the use of Styrofoam cups (55%)
  - Eliminate plastic water bottles (50%)
  - Eliminate plastic straws (41%)
  - Green bins for organic waste (36%)

#### **Councils Rate their Knowledge of Advantages and Disadvantages of Technological Development to alter genes in light of the teaching of the Catholic Church:**

- ❖ Good – 53%
- ❖ Poor – 24%
- ❖ Fair – 18%
- ❖ Very Good – 7%

#### **Canadian Bioethics Institute Newsletters:**

- ❖ One council reported that it subscribed to the newsletter.

#### **Other topics councils would like to see more information on under the Education and Health Standing Committee:**

- ❖ Abortion, Transgenderism, Natural Family Planning, Homosexuality
- ❖ How to assist to end the COVID-19 Pandemic
- ❖ Canadian Catholic Bioethics

Respectfully Submitted  
For God and Canada



## LEGISLATION STANDING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Calgary Diocesan Chair – Gayleen Hamilton

[calgarycwlllegislation@gmail.com](mailto:calgarycwlllegislation@gmail.com)

**Councils Reporting: 19**

**Chairpersons: 8**

All reporting councils were well informed about who were their municipal, provincial, and federal representatives. Most received legislation information from mailings or public forums that was shared with their council. Most councils reported their knowledge of government issues at all levels was somewhat or well informed. In contrast with last year, only one quarter had accessed Hansard, the printed proceeding of the federal government legislation.

### **Federal Bills that were monitored nationally:**

1. Bill C-7. An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Medical Assistance in Dying). Almost 95% of councils were either aware or very aware of the progress of this bill. Only one council was not aware of this bill.
2. Bill C-13 and Bill C-14: The COVID-19 Emergency Response Act and the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act No. 2. About 60% had some knowledge and one third stated they were not aware of these federal bills on a formal level.
3. Bill C-15: Canada Emergency Student Benefit Act. Almost half the councils had some knowledge of this bill.
4. Bill C-71: An Act to Amend Certain Acts and Regulations in Relation to Firearms. Regrettably almost 60% were not aware of this bill.

Other federal bills monitored by three independent councils:

- Bill S-203: Protecting young persons from exposure to pornography through age verification for pornographic websites. Two councils.
- Bill C-6: An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Conversion Therapy). One council.

Provincial Bills monitored by six independent councils:

- Alberta Bill 8 protecting survivors of human trafficking.
- Alberta Bills regarding COVID-19.

### **Parish Councils Comments on Legislation Activity**

Many parish councils were informed of the national or provincially monitored bills, yet few councils acted on the information. Bills that pertained to social justice issues concerning protection of the rights of others appeared to be acted upon more than others.

Some councils with an active legislation chair expressed frustration at the vast amount of information that was available without having techniques on how to sift through relevant information and the lack of timely guidance and organization from diocesan, provincial, and national chairs. Regrettably, few councils prioritize legislation activities as important at the parish council level.

Respectfully Submitted  
For God and Canada

**ORGANIZATION STANDING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020**  
**Calgary Diocesan Chair and President-Elect – Renee Spohn**  
[calgarycwlpreselect@gmail.com](mailto:calgarycwlpreselect@gmail.com)

**Councils Reporting: 29 of 48**

2020 Membership = 3560

**Organization Chairs: 27**

**Overview of the Annual Report**

In 2020, 60% of the Parish Councils completed the annual report for Organization Standing Chair compared to 55% last year. 90% of the Organization Chair positions are filled by appointment and 70% have held the position previously as their term has been extended. As the chairperson in charge of annual reports, 69% provided guidelines to assist their executive members in completing their reports.

Most councils found the new survey with fewer questions effective. A cultural and age diversity section was included to assist a Strategic Plan working group with their analysis and recommendations for League development.

Given the pandemic, councils were limited in their ability to host in person events. Our Lady of Good Counsel guided their creativity and technological innovation making 2020 an exceptional year. Members were welcomed, affirmed, mentored, and validated despite all the COVID-19 restrictions.

The report details four categories: general membership information, recruitment and engagement, strategic plan and goals, and *The Canadian League* articles on change and leadership. This is followed by their reporting of special activities, success stories, overcoming challenges, and survey feedback.

**1. General Membership Information**

The total membership for the Calgary Diocese decreased by 262 members from 2019. Overall, most council's membership remained the same, and some councils reported an increase from last year.

- New Members - 135 with 57% being under the age of 40.
- Renewal – 45% of councils use on-line.
- Membership reflects the cultural and age diversity of the parish – 70%

An analysis of participation in four activities showed that less than 8% of members participated in all activities and half the members were engaged about 30% of the time. Most are interested in fundraising, social, spiritual, and then meetings.

**2. Member Recruitment and Engagement**

Successful recruitment methods included personal invitation, presentations at Mass, and advertising in the bulletin. Given the pandemic, councils were not able to host social events to meet new members.

They engage new members by being welcoming and taking time to learn about them. Some councils have an orientation session and 43% provide a new member kit. 25% of councils had her participate in a sub-committee and 18% offered mentoring. Two councils had an Associate member.

21% of councils were successful at regaining a former member. The members reactivated after hearing another member's testimonial, being shown care with a phone call during the pandemic, or after recovery from health issues she wanted to become engaged again.

Recognition of their members is important to our councils with 79% presenting service pins and sending cards. Some councils were creative in using virtual meetings, while others held a Mass with their Spiritual Advisor to recognize their members. Many photos with masks were taken! It is encouraging that 24% of

the councils recognized a member with the Maple Leaf Service award and two councils combined to honor a member with the Bellelle Guerin award. Half the councils held a new member ceremony.

### **3. Strategic Plan: Goals and Leadership**

62% of councils are aware of the Strategic Plan's latest activities, an increase from last year, with 85% discerning on their members' input when setting their annual goals and plans.

Leaders have been developed as many members have a role on other levels of the League including 36% on Regional, 786 Diocesan, 36% Provincial, and 14% National.

### **4. The Canadian League articles**

Spring 2020 article by President-Elect Fran Lucas, "Embrace Change ... Being Part of It" spoke of change as keeping members informed, current, and confident. Councils responded that the one change they embraced was focusing on the three pillars, personal phone calls by their executive, forming phoning circles or buddy system, and gathering virtually, as often as possible.

Winter 2020 article by Honorary Life member Barbara Dowding, "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants" spoke of Honorary Life and Life members as valuable resources to councils. This year only 24% availed themselves to the opportunity to gain assistance and guidance.

#### **Special Activities to Attract Women:**

- Being visible – wear your CWL scarf and pin(s)
- Being flexible – tried holding a general meeting on a Sunday afternoon after Mass.
- Adapting to our new socializing – virtual celebrations and seasonal festivities
- Faith: Mass together, Rosary, Retreats, Speakers – outside in person events and virtual

#### **Success Stories:**

- Personal conversations with members to ensure they are well and safe, asking about their family.
- Women's Winter Retreat
- Virtual Rosary
- Supporting their parish's COVID-19 practices and cleaning

#### **Plans to overcome our challenges:**

- Challenges included retaining new members, membership engagement, filling executive positions, League education, mentorship, and pandemic changes such as technology.
- Plans to overcome included having CWL information workshops, using the National website and resources, asking more questions, increasing personal phone calls to members to get to know them and engage, and reaching out to their Diocesan counterpart for mentorship.

#### **Survey feedback:**

- The cultural (ethnicity) and age diversity questions were difficult to answer and not appropriate.
- There was a lack of understanding about "saved automatically" and printing the survey.
- Reporting as their normal in person activities were restricted due to the pandemic.
- Less satisfaction in completing the survey alone without gathering.

Respectfully Submitted  
For God and Canada

## RESOLUTIONS STANDING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Calgary Diocesan Chair – Dorothy Boras

[calgarycwlresolution@gmail.com](mailto:calgarycwlresolution@gmail.com)

**Councils Reporting: 20**

**Chairpersons: 7**

Resolutions form the policy of who and what the League is as an organization. Members have an opportunity to inspire others to social justice through the study and composing of resolutions. In the Calgary Diocese 40% of the councils who reported had a Resolutions Chair. Most of them were appointed and they shared the Legislation Chair. The biggest challenges of this committee were no chairperson and trying to generate interest.

### **Expanding Knowledge & Leadership Skills**

Councils use various ways to expand their knowledge. The most common way is by reading the communiques and annual reports. While this past year the conventions were cancelled, about 40% of the chairs reported that usually they use conventions to develop personally. About 25% use workshops to gain knowledge.

### **Studying Passionate Issues**

While only 35% of reporting councils considered and studied topics that could become resolutions, of those 86% discussed with their council and considered forming a resolution. The issues councils were passionate about were Medical Assistance in Dying, abortion, diabetes, veterans, care of seniors, abuse within the church, human trafficking, and food loss and waste.

### **Fostering Awareness & Advocacy**

Councils advocated for resolutions by lobbying their government officials in various ways. Letter writing and email were the most popular way to contact local government (60%) provincial government (57%) and federal government (68%). Phone calls were made by 8% and in person meetings were held by 8%.

No resolutions were adopted in 2020 since all conventions were cancelled. Familiarity with the resolutions on the national website that require action was noted by 75% of the councils. Several councils acted upon the provincial resolution 2019.01 In School Dental Screening by making their members aware through meetings, newsletters, and guest speakers.

### **Success Stories**

- Our success story is that our resolution on Food Loss and Waste Management has been accepted at a diocesan level.
- One lady expressed an interest in researching and writing a resolution about veterans. "We visited with our MLA and she invited us to a Round Table Discussion she was having with veterans."
- Designed a game called "Snowflake Bingo" to introduce resolutions to members, unfortunately due to COVID-19, we only used this once.
- Though no standing chair, various members of our council commence or continue their work regarding resolutions and report to the other members when appropriate at meetings or by email. While other members supported the sole fundraiser for a local pro-life organization. Our council provided their financial and prayerful support to Delta Hospice, to prevent medical assisted suicide from being provided at the Hospice. We forwarded prayer requests to the members about a woman considering abortion.
- At our meetings, our council had extensive discussions about the issues of sexual abuse within the church. Members felt strongly about this subject and shared their thoughts and stories. We wanted to express our thanks to our former and current bishops for their work in addressing these issues. We decided to work on a resolution to take to the Diocesan Convention asking other councils to



## SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Calgary Diocesan Chair and Vice-President – Kathleen Winter

[calgarycwlspiritual@gmail.com](mailto:calgarycwlspiritual@gmail.com)

### Council Reporting: 29

#### Studying the National Theme “*Care for Our Common Home*”

Councils embraced the theme by studying the encyclical “*Laudato Si*”, articles from the League Magazine, and a book study by Pope Francis on Care for our Common Home. They focused on reflections, presentations, scripture, and prayer. They had a group sharing reflection on “How Do You Experience the Beauty of God’s Creation in your Daily Life?” Inspired by National’s speaker series they implemented actions on reduce, recycle, reuse and refuse.

#### Time spent on spiritual program and involvement of the Spiritual Advisor:

Councils responded that 64% attempted to spend 1/3 of their meeting time on spiritual activities but 36% were not able to. The Spiritual Advisor attended 21 of the council’s meetings and 8 did not attend.

#### Types of Liturgies and Programs organized by Councils:

- Centering prayer in January.
- Opening prayers, teaching/reflection, and closing prayers for each Executive and General Meeting.
- Healing Mass in February.
- Monthly prayer themes to join in prayer since we cannot meet in person.
- Consecration of Mary service and prayers.
- Participated in World Day of Prayer.
- Prayers for Divine Mercy and 12 Hours of Palliative Care with each lady signing up for an hour whether at home or in the church.
- Lawn chair Life Chain.
- Shared prayer requests by email from members.
- Chapel dedication “Our Lady of Providence”.
- Spiritual bouquet for Bishop McGrattan and Deacon Vivian Pinto.
- Prayed the Rosary at home, virtual talk and rosary, CD, videos, living rosary, outdoor walks, and “Drive-In” rosary in parish parking lot.
- Installation of the Officers Mass.
- Book on the Mass.
- Mass before meetings and rosary before Mass.
- Pared down Memorial Mass.
- Celebrated a 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the council with a revised special Mass.

Programs to reflect and pray included The Holy Name of Jesus, short video “The Veil Removed”, a twelfth night cake to celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany, The Word Among Us February 2020 edition, Saint Teresa Prayer Service for the return to school during the pandemic, Advent Reflections, and an Advent Retreat link for members to watch online.

#### Councils were actively involved in the following:

**Our Lady of Good Counsel:** The Feast of our Lady of Good Counsel was celebrated in a unique way as members were on lockdown and attendance at Mass prohibited. Technology played a huge part as many members participated by livestreaming the special Mass concelebrated by Bishop William McGrattan and Spiritual Advisor Fr. Jonathan Gibson with a special intention for the Honorary Life and Life Members. This

Mass was gifted to them by the 2019 Calgary National Convention Planning Committee. Many members prayed the rosary at home, virtually, and said Marian prayers to our Lady. By email, members received information about our Lady of Good Counsel.

**Catholic Teachings, Women in the Scriptures:** They also received spiritual reflections on the Bible, the Saints, the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent, and a YouTube video on Lectio Divina by Ascension Press. During isolation, several novenas and information on special saint days were prayed. Members joined online Masses, talks and retreats. There were presentations on the Meaning Behind the Sign of the Cross, the Lives of three holy and courageous catholic women who lived through Communist regime in Russia, and Catholic understanding of the Holy Trinity. Members participated in a series of small group discussions after viewing a series on FORMED.

**Role of Women in the Church:** All the councils and their members support the Lay Ministries with many being leaders especially in Choir/Music, Hospitality, Lector, Eucharistic Minister, and Ushers. A new ministry, the COVID-19 protocol committee, had our members working as safety, point of entry and cleaning to keep parishes open for adoration and Masses. Also, several members made masks for parishioners and others. Members were leaders and participants of parish committees including parish pastoral council, finance committee, school liaison, Liturgical ministry, Saint Vincent de Paul, sacramental preparation, RCIA, and funeral committee.

**Evangelization, Missions and Ecumenism:** The CWL Day of Prayer for Home Missions was celebrated with the special prayer, a rosary, and a guest speaker invited to talk about missions. Catholic Missions in Canada is supported by prayer and financial donations. Prayers for persecuted Christians throughout the world were said on Red Wednesday.

Councils supported St. Francis Xavier Chaplaincy, Latour Mission, St. Vincent de Paul, Chalice, Goma, Congo, Esk-omi Missions, and Elizabeth House through donations and prayer. Greeting cards were recycled into new creations with a spiritual message and the proceeds given to Calgary Diocesan missions. A local Mission church was helped with money, food hampers and Sunday Mass including sacristan, music, and readings. Another church at Cluny, Siksika Nation received much needed roof repairs. They visited and assisted seniors, drop-in center, and refugee families. They supported vocations supported by adopting a seminarian and becoming a "Missionary Godparent" to two young ladies who joined religious orders.

The World Day of Prayer joint prayer service in March is the most attended. Members engaged in activities to become aware of Indigenous People's culture and acknowledge reconciliation. This included an indigenous member sharing her heritage at council meetings, healing spiritual reflections, and the Indigenous Blanket Exercise. One council assisted an indigenous parish with their Sunday Mass by being sacristan, musicians, and readers.

Even in times of lockdown the CWL councils strive to enliven our faith and bring us closer to God. It is a great responsibility.

***"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless" – St. Teresa of Calcutta***

Respectfully Submitted  
For God and Canada



## CALGARY REGIONAL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Regional Chair – Rosemary Krickler

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The Calgary Region is made up of 23 councils: Corpus Christi, Holy Name, Holy Spirit, Holy Trinity, Our Lady of the Assumption, Sacred Heart, St. Albert the Great, St. Bernadette, St. Bonaventure, St. Cecilia, St. Gerard, St. Joseph, St. Luke, St. Mark, St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Michael, St. Patrick, St. Peter, St. Pius X and St. Thomas More, as well as St. Paul, Airdrie, and St. Gabriel the Archangel, Chestermere.

Regional meetings are held five times a year, the first Monday of February, April, June, October, and December, at 7:30 pm. In 2020 we met in person in February but had to cancel our April meeting due to the imposition of COVID-19 restrictions. We then switched to Zoom for subsequent meetings, ably facilitated by Diocesan President Jan Myhre. Eventually we began attracting over 55 attendees, close to our normal numbers.

When we meet in person, we rely on volunteer councils to host the meeting and provide the opening and closing Spiritual programs as well as snacks and beverages. After going virtual, we missed being able to socialize with acquaintances from other councils over refreshments, but we still counted on volunteers to prepare and present the Spiritual programs after the first Zoom meeting.

At four of our meetings, council presidents from each quadrant of the city gave a short report on their council's activities over the past year, divided into the categories of Faith, Service and Social Justice. These highlight innovative activities and fundraisers other councils might wish to try. In addition, this year we have had regular reports from Calgary Pro-Life as well as various reports or requests for support from organizations such as Development and Peace, the Calgary Catholic Education Foundation, Pass it On and the Jacket Racket (provides donated outer wear through schools), Kara (assistance for pregnant or parenting teens), and Mission Cards.

In 2020 we had guest speakers at all our meetings, with presentations early in the pandemic on maintaining our mental health and on sewing face masks. In addition, we had presentations on Covenant Care facilities for seniors, the IWIN backpack project for human trafficking survivors, and on the Seeds of the Word ministry in our diocese.

Our Regional meetings always conclude with the opportunity for presidents to announce any special events their councils plan to hold, such as fundraisers, retreats, or charitable initiatives. We include the details of such events with our minutes and send them out promptly, so that we can support each other's efforts.

Amazingly, in 2020 one council in our region was presented with all three Alberta Mackenzie Provincial CWL's Walter Krewski Awards for increased membership in 2019. St. Michael's a recently reactivated council achieved the greatest number of new members (26), the greatest increase in membership (36), and the greatest percentage increase in membership (112.5%). Congratulations to St. Michael Council - you have really given us an example to emulate!

The arrival of the pandemic in March of 2020 had a huge effect on the activities of the Catholic Women's League here in Alberta and elsewhere. For example, our Diocesan convention in May was canceled, so the 2020 Convention Planning Committee consisting of the South Calgary councils suspended its activities and agreed to perform the same roles at the 2021 convention instead. However, that too had to be canceled, so the committee then prepared to play a reduced role in the 2021 Annual General Meeting held in lieu of the convention.

COVID-19 also prevented our councils from holding their usual fundraisers beyond the fall dinners and Christmas bake sales of 2019. Instead, councils turned to online sales of items such as meat, fish and other

frozen foods, plants, as well as coffee, tea, and chocolates. How else could we continue to fund our chosen charities?

Despite the challenges, our councils have continued to financially support causes such as Pro-Life, Elizabeth House, IWIN, Feed the Hungry, St. Vincent de Paul, the Drop-in Centre and many more. Councils continue to provide education bursaries or scholarships, sponsor third world children through Chalice, and support missions, food banks and lunch programs. And when the Calgary Catholic Education Foundation urgently called on us to support their telethon fundraiser, our councils came through with over \$5,000 to sponsor a Fireside Chat with Bishop McGrattan.

Physical collections have been even harder to manage in COVID-19 times, but food bank items were and are still being collected widely. Many councils have collected and delivered used cards and stamps for missions, and some have succeeded in collecting huge amounts of clothing and household items for the needy as well. Numerous charities have benefited from these drives, including Children's Cottage and Jacket Racket. Also, last spring many members sewed large numbers of face masks and donated them wherever needed.

Some Calgary councils were forced to shut down most of their activities indefinitely, but others managed to remain highly active. Many councils continue to support sacramental preparation and "adopt" seminarians, and many members take on active roles in ministries and in facilitating COVID-19 prevention procedures at Masses. Most councils soon pivoted from in-person to virtual meetings, and focused on improving communications with members through emails, phone calls and newsletters. Some set up spiritual supports such as council prayer partners, virtual rosaries and online bible study, and shared uplifting humor as well as YouTube talks on spiritual topics. Others called on members to take political action by contacting their MLAs regarding Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD), among other issues.

To sum up, 2020 was a particularly challenging year for all of us. We can only hope that 2021 will bring a return to normality in the wake of the vaccine surge. And I think we all deserve a big pat on the back for not only surviving, but virtually thriving, despite all odds!

Respectfully Submitted  
For God and Canada



**Congratulations to Bernice Thomas of Holy Spirit C.W.L. Calgary** who was awarded the Bellelle Guerin Award. This award is presented to a member who has kept the vision and dream of Bellelle Guerin, first president of the Catholic Women's League of Canada, alive by dedicating herself to the work of the League in her parish, diocese and/or province.

## DRUMHELLER REGIONAL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Regional Chair – Donna Johnson

[djoffice@shaw.ca](mailto:djoffice@shaw.ca)

The Drumheller region consists of 5 councils: St. Mary's, Beiseker; St. Anthony's, Drumheller; St George's, Hanna; St Rita's, Rockford; and Sacred Heart, Strathmore. Our membership totals 215.

Technology has certainly played an important part with our councils' meeting virtually during the pandemic. Some councils did meet in person during September and October.

St. Mary's CWL made over 200 masks which were given to the Mustard Seed, Community Links, and their parish. Members communicated regularly with parishioners through emails. In November, they made and sold jam as their fundraiser. At Christmas they collected and sent 50 socks to The Mustard Seed.

St Anthony's CWL made masks and distributed them to their parishioners when Mass resumed in June. They sent their adopted seminarian letters of appreciation, support, and encouragement. He has been with them for seven years. The First Communion children received a rosary book, and the Confirmation candidates were given a youth bible. Individual members sent Christmas cards to their sisters in lodges and continuing care.

St George's CWL sold cookies for Valentine's day and prepared Valentine care packages for shut ins. They participated with the Knights of Columbus in a highway clean-up and commented on how clean it was as fewer people travelled during the pandemic.

In September, St Rita's CWL organized their annual garden produce collection for the Sisters of the Precious Blood. They have been doing this for the past 60 years! In November, they supported the Mustard Seed in Calgary with a monetary donation and a collection of coats, mitts, toques, blankets, hoodies, and personal items.

Sacred Heart CWL held their annual spring raffle which funded their annual scholarship, purchased bibles for kindergarten and grade 4 students, sponsored a family in India and provided other charities with a donation. They met all the safety protocols and had a Christmas floral arrangement fundraiser.

Councils reported they hosted or attended World Day of Prayer services. Many members were involved in their parishes other ministries including cleaning and sanitizing, upkeeping of the grounds and flower beds. All councils purchased items needed by their churches.

These ladies are always busy. The pandemic has not stopped them from doing God's work with their hands. May this loving and giving spirit live a long time within our councils.

Respectfully Submitted  
For God and Canada



## HIGHWOOD REGIONAL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Regional Chair – Gloria Lundberg

[gilundbberg@shaw.ca](mailto:gilundbberg@shaw.ca)

We have five councils in the Highwood Region: Holy Trinity - Blairmore, St. Francis de Sales - High River, St. James - Okotoks, St. Michael - Pincher Creek, St. Andrew - Vulcan. Christ the King – Claresholm voted to disband their council last year, and we will miss seeing our sisters at our meetings. Our total membership is approximately 232. The Highwood Regional Committee meeting was held virtually in October.

### Faith:

- Councils reported that their parish priests/spiritual advisors have been supportive of CWL
- St. Francis de Sales hosted a GrACE (Grateful Advocates of Catholic Education) workshop
- Bishop McGrattan visited many of our parishes just before the COVID-19 restrictions
- Due to COVID-19 restrictions members watch live-streamed Mass
- St. James presented Divine Mercy via ZOOM to members
- St. James did a bible study on the Book of Esther with 21 participants
- St. James continued their involvement with the Adopt a Seminarian program sending letters and notes of encouragement and support to Matthew Schnitzler at St. Joseph's Seminary
- St. Michael's hosted Pincher Creek's World Day of Prayer
- Councils offered prayers for a Spiritual Bouquet for Bishop McGrattan
- Councils provided Honour Guards for deceased members

### Service:

- Members are helping with church cleaning and sanitizing
- They are acting as greeters and taking registration before Masses in compliance with COVID-19 regulations
- Sent out newsletters, phoned or emailed members, offered support, rides, and volunteered to do errands
- Some councils reallocated funds for cancelled conventions to parish, food banks and other charities
- St. James was able to hold their annual Flower Basket sale via online ordering and payment. Pick up was arranged at the church with scheduled days and times staying within COVID-19 protocols.
- Some of the councils presented scholarships
- Proceeds from St. James' Pie sale went to the School Lunch program and a Food Bank donation
- St. Michael's donated to the Legion, collected layette items and cash donations for Elsie's House in Lethbridge
- St. Andrew's sewed masks to place at the back of the church when allowed to reopen for Mass
- Some councils supported Pro-Life by selling cases of BC apples

### Social Justice:

- Members have been encouraged to write letters to MP's and MLA's on resolutions
- Participated in 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care
- Encouraged members to send post cards and letters to MP's regarding MAiD

Councils in the Highwood Region met in person, sometimes in church parking lots in the warm weather and then back in the church when they were allowed. Currently, many are meeting virtually and waiting to be able to get together again.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions St. Francis de Sales changed plans and celebrated their 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a live-streamed Mass. Fr. Mariusz stated that in his viewpoint the CWL was an essential service to the Church.

Through prayer and faith our members have met the challenges of the past year and continue to support our parishes and their sisters in the League.

Respectfully Submitted  
For God and Canada



## LETHBRIDGE REGIONAL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Regional Chair - Lydia Jones

[marialydia@shaw.ca](mailto:marialydia@shaw.ca)

Following is a list of activities we have been and are still doing, both as a council and as a member:

- \* Making masks and giving them out to people who come to church without one or to family and friends who need it/checking on shut-ins, both members and non-members/helping deliver "Meals on Wheels"/helping provide food for the "Neighborhood Pantry" - a food box for anyone in the community/sending birthday cards to each month's birthday celebrants/looking after the disinfecting of the church after each Sunday Mass/looking after "contact tracing" at every Mass, both at weekday and Sunday Masses/praying for our prayer partners and with our "prayer group" for those who ask for prayers/sharing funny and entertaining e-mails to help us divert our minds from COVID-19/sharing encouraging notes to each other.
- \* Helping at Lethbridge Soup Kitchen with 'younger members' prepping and serving/grocery shopping for inbound parish and community members/responding to prayer requests re: RIP, healing, consolation for those isolated via phone calls and e-mails/participated in the come and go tail-gate style Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from the parking lot/volunteering as ushers, registration taker, cleaning crew, ministers of Liturgy and techie at Masses/started "Outdoor Group Rosary" for members' intentions.
- \* Many members are keeping in touch with or visiting specific members they know to see how they are doing, and executive has divided up membership list and called members to touch base with them and see if they need anything. Most have called two or three times to various people,

especially if it appeared that perhaps it was needed/been sending out information via e-mail each month to keep members informed as much as possible and have been sending birthday greetings to members. Some members have volunteered to help priests with the set up for COVID-19 safety; to be able to offer Mass again as well as help at Mass where needed.

- \* One council has been quiet compared to their usual steady schedule of activities/the bulk of activity has centered on sharing local, Diocesan, or other levels of communication via email/some phone call checks-ins have occurred as well, especially with the members who do not have e-mail. There have not been any meetings, in person or virtual/Some council presidents attended the Zoom meeting hosted by our Diocesan President, Jan Myhre/few members have attended the Rosary prayer sessions hosted by Judy Look, Provincial President/In May, St. Martha's council made special donations with \$500 to the Interfaith Food Bank, \$500 to Street's Alive and \$500 in grocery cards to the Benevolent Fund they sponsor, and Father William administers for families/individuals in need. As of June, they have been fortunate to continue grocery card sales via our parish office staff. Albeit, the sales are a LOT less than the past two years, however, they are grateful to continue this fundraiser with St. Martha's Knights of Columbus #9280. With Father Roque's move to St. Patrick's Parish in Medicine Hat, as he has been such a blessing and spiritual support for their council over the past 8 years, he was honored in two ways. First, the council financially sponsored the creation of a special poster. It included a watermark photo of our parish altar along with the UofL and Lethbridge College logos. It contained a fond farewell and scripture message. Parishioners were encouraged to sign the back. Secondly, the council ordered a CWL stole from National Office and his name, the council's name and the date were embroidered on it. This was presented to him, COVID-friendly, at the pre-arranged 'Drive by Farewell' on Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, approximately 25 members attended, and a short prayer service written by a member was held. Father Roque was very touched and honored. Many members attend daily livestreamed Mass, while several members are back attending in person and volunteering in some of the essential ministry positions. A prayer service for a safe return to school was held in the parking lot for teachers, staff, students and families.
- \* Keep contact with each other mainly by phone as other members do not have access to internet/those who have access to e-mail use it to keep up with news from the Diocesan CWL as well as with news from Bishop McGrattan/church has reopened but no members have made the decision to actively participate in the liturgy/members continue to watch daily Mass on TV/some members are still working and some are temporarily laid off/some retired.

Respectfully Submitted  
For God and Canada



## MEDICINE HAT REGIONAL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Regional Chair - Wanda Anctil

[wanctil@memlane.com](mailto:wanctil@memlane.com)

Medicine Hat Region consists of six councils: Holy Family, Medicine Hat; St. Patrick's, Medicine Hat; St. Michael's, Bow Island; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Foremost; St. Mary's, Brooks; and St. Augustine, Taber.

With COVID-19, council meetings have been put on hold however they are finding other ways of keeping in touch with their members.

Some council activities representing the values of faith, service, and social justice:

- \* Sewing and selling handmade face masks as their parish fundraiser
- \* Card writing campaign for community members, sending birthday cards and Christmas cards to members over 75 years
- \* Executive and Circle Captains phoning members to see how they are doing and if they need help getting their groceries or prescriptions
- \* Visiting schools to hand out religious items with one CWL member per classroom
- \* Being innovative! Instead of their regular Fall supper, they are holding raffles, having bake-less bake sales, and bottle drives
- \* Adopting, praying, and sending financial support to our Seminarians
- \* Celebrating with a CWL Christmas Caroling zoom night

Please take care, stay positive and find sometime for having fun and keep smiling (even with your mask on). It is challenging operating under the current restrictions, but we will get through this by supporting each other and through prayer.

Respectfully Submitted  
For God and Canada





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March 9, 2021

Renee Spohn  
President-Elect  
Calgary Diocesan CWL

Dear Ms. Spohn,

On behalf of the entire St. Mary's University community, thank you to the members of Calgary Diocesan CWL Council for its establishment and ongoing support of the CWL Chair in Catholic Studies.

As outlined in the original agreement, dated June 3, 2010, to establish the CWL Chair for Catholic Studies please find enclosed the **2020/21 Annual Report on the CWL Chair for Catholic Studies** at St. Mary's University. This report summarizes all aspects of Dr. Peter Baltutis' activities for the year March 1, 2020 to March 1, 2021. I hope that the CWL membership will be pleased with Dr. Baltutis' report, as the objectives of the original Agreement continue to be met.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the St. Mary's University community, to extend our gratitude to all members of the Calgary Diocesan CWL Council for their continued support and dedication to this position. Your efforts, along with the ongoing support of the Calgary CWL Diocesan Council, are greatly appreciated and continue to enrich the student, academic and community experiences at St. Mary's.

We look forward to achieving the university's mission with your help during the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,

Thérèse Takacs  
Vice President, Advancement

Cc: Dr. Rose Marie E. Geonzon – Calgary Diocesan CWL (Education and Health Chairperson)  
Renee Spohn - Calgary Diocesan CWL President - Elect  
Dr. Tara Hyland-Russell, Vice President, Academic  
Dr. Gerry Turcotte, President & Vice Chancellor

**ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY**  
**CWL CHAIR FOR CATHOLIC STUDIES – DR. BALTUTIS' ANNUAL REPORT**  
**Peter E. Baltutis, PhD**  
**Annual Report for March 1, 2020 - March 1, 2021**

Dr. Peter Baltutis expresses his personal gratitude for the financial endowment that maintains the CWL Chair for Catholic Studies at St. Mary's University.

**1. ANNUAL CWL LECTURE AT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY**

My first priority is to organize the CWL Lecture series at StMU, which brings a major Catholic speaker to our campus.

The 2020-21 CWL Lecture in Catholic Studies:

Topic: "Healing the Church: Diagnosing and Treating the Clergy Sexual Abuse Crisis"

Keynote Speaker: Sr. Nuala Kenny

Sexual abuse by Catholic clergy is the greatest scandal of the modern Church. It has caused devastating, life-long harm to victim-survivors and their families and communities. It has resulted in the loss of trust in the Church as a place of holiness, care and justice, and has eroded the credibility of its leaders as disciples of a loving and merciful Jesus. For some, it has precipitated a crisis of faith in God as it has wounded bodies and minds and crushed souls. The Catholic Church is wounded and in need of healing.

As a pediatrician who is also a Professor Emeritus at Dalhousie University, Dr. Kenny is very familiar with the devastating harms of the physical and sexual abuse of children and youth. Among her many accolades, she was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1999 for her contributions to child health and medical education and she has received a Queen's Jubilee Medal. As a Sister of Charity – Halifax for over 50 years, Sister Nuala is deeply committed to helping the Catholic Church heal from this crisis. She has been involved in this work since her 1989 participation in the St. John's, Newfoundland, Archdiocesan Commission on Clergy and Clergy Sexual Abuse. She has authored two books on this topic, *Healing the Church* (2012) and *Still Unhealed: Treating the Pathology in the Clergy Sexual Abuse Crisis* (2019). Sister Nuala also served as an advisor to the CCCB Ad Hoc Committee on Protection of Minors (2014-2018) which produced "Protecting Minors from Sexual Abuse: A Call to the Catholic Faithful in Canada for Healing, Reconciliation and Transformation".

Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> (5:30 – 7:30 pm MST)

- CWL Annual Keynote lecture in Catholic Studies = "Dynamics and Diagnosis: A Call for Personal and Ecclesial Reform"
- Response by Bishop William McGrattan of Calgary
- Using her medical background, Sister Nuala helped us properly diagnose the deeper systemic issues that are at the root of this crisis. With this understanding, she drew upon the words and actions of Jesus, the Healer, to provide a holistic prescription for healing the Church.
- 111 participants
- Online = [https://youtu.be/YjR\\_M-AH6\\_k](https://youtu.be/YjR_M-AH6_k)

Saturday, September 19, 2020 (10:30 am -2:30 pm)

- virtual workshop: "Lessons from Being Church in the Pandemic: Prophetic Possibilities for Pastoral Conversion"
- The morning session (10:30 am - 12:00 noon MST) = "Lessons About Secrecy, Dialogue and Morality"
- The afternoon session (1:00 pm - 2:30 pm MST) = "Lessons About Relationships, Mission and Challenges"
- This workshop was a critically constructive reflection on how we, as disciples of Christ, might make sense of what has happened in this crisis and respond both individually and communally. It provided support for laity and clergy who desired repentance and continual conversion to disciples of a loving and merciful God. This workshop was rooted in the "mind of Christ" and in trust in the power of the Holy Spirit to make all things new
- The cost of this workshop was \$25.00 for both sessions
- 35 participants

## **2. TEACHING**

May 2020 = I was invited by St. Joseph's College, University of Alberta to observe their travel study course to the Holy Land. The hope and desire is that StMU students would be able to join this experience in the future.

- The course is CHRTC 203: Christian Scriptures in the Holy Land
- <https://www.ualberta.ca/st-josephs/uofa-programs/international-service-learning/bethlehem.html>
- **CANCELLED due to COVID-19.**

As a recipient of the CWL Chair, I receive one course release (reducing my teaching load from 6 courses per year down to five course per year).

Fall 2020

1. RLGS 205: Reading Biblical Texts = 35 Students

2. RLGS 321: Vatican II and Beyond = 12 Students

3. Course Release

\* HIST 403: Major Research Paper [supervisor of capstone research project] = 1 student

- Stanley McCutcheon, "Pope Pius XII: A Diplomat, but not a Prophet" (2020)

Note: As a part of RLGS 321, I used funds from the CWL Chair for Catholic Studies to bring one guest speaker onto our class via zoom.

- **Dr. Brian Butcher** = Guest Lecture on Catholic Eastern Churches (*Orientalium Ecclesiarum*), Wednesday, December 2, 2020

## Winter 2020

12-month sabbatical (January 1 – December 31, 2020)

- book manuscript "A New Vision of Justice: Development and Peace and Canadian Catholic Social Teaching After Vatican II", for McGill-Queen's University Press' History of Religion Series

### **3. RESEARCH**

Refereed Journal Articles

- "Making the Abstract Real: Teaching the Catholic Intellectual Tradition through Experiential Learning." *The Journal of Catholic Higher Education* 40, no.1 (Winter 2021) [in press]

Book Reviews

- *Catholic Activism Today: Individual Transformation and the Struggle for Social Justice*. By Maureen K. Day. New York, NY: New York University Press, 2020. *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses* (2021) [in press]

Popular Articles

- "God's Beauty in the Canadian Rockies." In *Faithfully* (monthly online newsletter of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary) 22 July 2020. <https://www.catholicyc.ca/blog/gods-beauty-in-the-canadian-rockies>

Conference Presentation:

- "Engaging the Head, the Heart, and the Hands: Teaching Catholic Social Justice through Experiential Learning". The Catholic Intellectual Tradition: Challenges and Opportunities for the Catholic University in the 21st Century (Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT: October 29-31, 2020). <https://www.sacredheart.edu/academics/colleges--schools/college-of-arts--sciences/departments/catholic-studies/challenges-and-opportunities-for-the-catholic-university-in-the-21st-century/>

### **4. SERVICE**

#### **Service to St. Mary's University**

Co-Organizer of "Crossroads: Virtual Speakers' Series about Contemporary Issues in Catholicism" with St. Joseph's College, University of Alberta, 2020

- Wednesday, October 28, 2020 (4:00 – 5:30 pm) = Virtual Roundtable Discussion on *Fratelli Tutti*
- Wednesday, November 25, 2020 (4:00-5:30 pm) = *An Indigenous Perspective of Inculturation in our Catholic Faith*, a talk by His Honour Graydon Nicholas, the 30th Lt. Gov. of New Brunswick.

Note: I used funds from the CWL Chair for Catholic Studies to provide honorariums for all of the speakers in these two events

In Fall 2018, I was invited by Bishop William McGrattan of Calgary to Chair the Permanent Deacon Formation Curriculum Committee for the Catholic Diocese of Calgary. This committee completely revised the 4-year formation program for permanent deacons that was launched in Fall 2019. This has led to the creation of a new StMU Diploma in Ministry (DipMin) that will be offered to the public in Fall 2020. I created 4 new courses for the new DipMin, which have all been approved by the Academic Council at St. Mary's University:

Year 1:

- EDCL 501: Catholic Intellectual and Cultural Tradition [3 credits]
- EDCL 502: Theology of the Church [1.5 credits]

Year 2:

- EDCL 503: Reading Biblical Texts [3 credits]
- EDCL 504: Church History [1.5 credits]

### **Service to the Community**

I have delivered the following public lectures:

- Panelist, "Imagining a More Just World After COVID-19: An Evening in Conversation with *Fratelli Tutti*", Western Conference for Social Justice (Centre for Faith, Reason, Peace, and Justice at St. Thomas More College, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK, March 2, 2021) [online]
- "Jesus is the Life: An Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching". *Faith Days* Professional Development Workshop (St. John Paul II Collegiate, Okotoks, AB, Wednesday, February 17, 2021) [online]
- Panelist, "*Fratelli Tutti*: Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter on Fraternity and Social Friendship" Crossroads (St. Mary's University, October 28, 2020) [online]
- Panelist, "Responsibility for the Common Good: The Alberta and Northwest Territories Bishops Pastoral Letter *On the Impact of COVID-19 & the Call to Christian Renewal*" (Grandin Media, October 19, 2020): <https://youtu.be/-iQeS5-yIRY>

I also organized a hike/outdoor Mass for the Lay Dominicans in Calgary and the Catholic Diocese of Calgary on Saturday, September 12, 2020

- hike to summit of Raspberry Ridge Lookout (9.2 km "moderate" out & back): <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/canada/alberta/raspberry-ridge-lookout>
- Mass at the summit celebrated by Friar Dan Gurnick, OFM
- picnic lunch at summit
- after the hike back, dinner at an outdoor patio of a restaurant

Dr. Baltutis expresses his gratitude for the enduring commitment of the CWL to help St. Mary's grow as a Catholic university that equips students to engage the world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a commitment to social justice in the great tradition of humanities-based education.



**CWL Chair for Catholic Studies Endowment Fund**  
**ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**  
 APRIL 1, 2020 TO MARCH 31, 2021

|  | 2020-21                | 2019-20                |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| OPENING BALANCE, APRIL 1, 2020   | \$ 1,617,471.68        | \$ 1,665,366.37        |
| TOTAL DONATIONS RECEIVED   | 4,042.75               | 3,530.30               |
| INVESTMENT INCOME, NET OF COMMISSIONS<br>Includes interest, dividends, realized and unrealized market gains                                      | 312,082.49             | 3,574.81               |
| GRANTS to fund expenses of the CWL Chair for Catholic Studies<br>Grants based on 3.5% investment income for 2016-17 forward (was 5% pre-2016-17) | (56,600.00)            | (55,000.00)            |
| <b>ENDING BALANCE, MARCH 31, 2021</b>  | <b>\$ 1,876,996.92</b> | <b>\$ 1,617,471.68</b> |

**ENDOWMENT FUND SUMMARY**  
 FROM FUND INCEPTION TO MARCH 31, 2021

|  |                        |                        |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| Total Donations Received   | \$ 824,702.35          | \$ 820,659.60          |
| Total Renaissance Fund Matching Grants Received                        | 387,074.00             | 387,074.00             |
| Total Investment Income (realized and unrealized, net of commissions)  | 1,261,020.57           | 948,938.08             |
| Less Grants to fund expenses of the CWL Chair for Catholic Studies     | (595,800.00)           | (539,200.00)           |
| <b>CWL CHAIR OF CATHOLIC STUDIES FUND BALANCE AS OF MARCH 31, 2021</b> | <b>\$ 1,876,996.92</b> | <b>\$ 1,617,471.68</b> |





## Care for our **Common Home**

*Lord, season after season,  
You continue to renew the face of the earth,  
"For from the greatness and beauty of created things  
Comes a corresponding perception of their Creator."<sup>1</sup>*

*Teach us, Lord,  
As members of The Catholic Women's League  
of Canada,  
To become attuned to our need to protect  
The beauty of our common home.*

*May our efforts lead us to sustain its natural order,  
So that, in the words of Pope Francis,  
Our heritage is never "deprived of physical contact with nature."<sup>2</sup>*

*Mary Ryan, Past President,  
St. Dunstan Parish Council  
Fredericton, New Brunswick*

<sup>1</sup> The Wisdom of Solomon 13:5

<sup>2</sup> Francis. "Decline In the Quality of Human Life and the Breakdown of Society." *Laudato Si'*, 24 May 2015:44. Web.