



The Catholic Women's League of Canada Edmonton Diocesan Council



Diocesan President Report Fall Meeting 2019

The Edmonton Diocese is made up of many dedicated and faith filled group of women. We had a full slate of officers elected in April 2019. We have been busy since the Diocesan Convention. Officers' meeting have been held, the first in July was a full planning day to explore each of our roles and to begin to set our direction for the coming year. Meetings held to plan our annual Fall Meeting to be held in Wetaskiwin, September 28th.

Diocesan priorities were established based on feedback from our Annual Convention in Lloydminster in April as follows:

1. Incorporate and encourage participation in the National theme "Care our Common Home" focussing on Rejoicing in God's Gifts through our standing committees and speakers at meetings and events.
2. Provide support to our Parish Councils
 - a. Provide workshops/training for struggling with membership and finding members to take on leadership roles.
 - b. Encourage Councils to streamline process
 - c. Improve communication with Parish Councils
 - i. Continue Buddy System
 - ii. Provide in service training for new executives.
3. Modernize Diocesan Level
 - a. Reduce the number of meetings
 - b. Reduce the number of zones to 4 regions
 - c. Eliminate Zone Fees
 - d. Eliminate duplication
4. Enhanced spiritual development at meetings/Conventions
 - a. Incorporating Pope's Francis ' teachings and promoting Laudato Si
 - b. Encourage members to be e a servant leadership in
5. Support our parishes and the greater Catholic Community
 - a. Encourage participation in GrACE
 - b. Continue to promote palliative care and right to life initiatives
 - c. Develop partnership to support families and women through support of CSS, Women's Shelter, Homeward Trust
 - d.

The committee reviewing our Zone Structure, now chaired by President-Elect and Organization Standing Committee Chair, Clover Oryschak met over June, July and August consulting with members to develop the recommendation approved at our April Convention to replace zones with regional meetings. The final recommendation has been prepared and will be presented this afternoon for debate and possible implementation.

Planning in underway for a Diocesan retreat co-sponsored with Knights of Columbus to be held Monday, October 28th at Corpus Christie Catholic Parish, Edmonton. Fr. Richard Leonard, SJ will lead an evening retreat entitled "On a Mission with Christ", focusing on the eight elements Pope Francis has challenged the church to adopt in terms of our mission. Kara Pelech will provide details in her report.

As a Diocesan Council, we will be seeking other opportunities to partner with organizations to co-sponsor events for our members. This will include other events in cooperation with the Knights of Columbus such as the March for Life, working with the Catholic School Districts promoting GrACE in support of catholic education and to support other spiritual growth activities.

The Diocesan Council was represented on the Archbishop's Dinner Advisory Committee. Members are invited to attend the event on October 4th at the Shaw Conference Center. The purpose of the dinner is communicate the Archbishop's vision and to annually update accomplishments and annual priorities in the Archdiocese. Tickets are \$100.00 and can be obtained through the Chancery Office.

Seven of the Diocesan Officers attended the National Convention in Calgary in August. All the officers came away with a renewed sense of commitment. The presentation of Fran Lucas, *"The League of the Future: Year 1"* resulted in lots of debate among our officers and we asked Fran to make this presentation at this Fall Meeting. The question box "Ask Anne" was also a highlight as many questions and interests were addressed. Something to consider for our meetings or convention.

This concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Molloy
Edmonton Diocesan President