



The Catholic Women's League of Canada Edmonton Diocesan Council



TO: Parish Council Presidents
Diocesan Officers
Honorary Life Members
Life Members
Members

FROM: Jean Ashdown, Edmonton Diocesan President

SUBJECT: **104rd Annual Convention of the Edmonton Diocesan Council**

Dear Sisters in the League,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the 104rd Annual Convention of the Edmonton Diocesan Council to be held at **Holy Family Catholic Church**, 75 Poirier Avenue, St. Albert, on **April 17th & 18th, 2026**.

We look forward to our Convention as a time to gather with the members in our diocese to be inspired and renewed, to look back on the previous year and look forward to the future, and to come together in prayer. The theme of our convention is **"Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission"**. This is the national theme that we began using at the beginning of 2026. How can we ignite our passions? How do we use our passions to help us carry out Jesus' mission?

We have invited a number of speakers:

- Patrick Dumelie, CEO of Covenant Health, will speak on Catholic health care in Alberta including the legacy of the sisters who founded the first hospitals, the current status of Catholic health care and some of the issues being experienced today.
- Gwen Meding, author and co-founder of Perpetua Press Publishing, has a great passion for evangelizing especially through small group Bible studies. She will share with us how we can do a Bible study using the Sunday readings.
- Rima Maalouf and Charles Byusa, Catholic Social Services, will speak on welcoming refugees to Edmonton and how they are supported as they adjust to a new country.

As well, Most Reverend Stephen Hero, the new Archbishop of Edmonton, will be celebrating Mass for us on Friday evening. Following the Mass, His Grace will tell us his vocation story and we will have a reception. There will be a number of vendors and displays set up during the day to provide information and various items for sale. At the end of our convention, we will attend Mass and then enjoy a banquet in the parish hall.

Our convention will include an executive meeting on Friday and a short executive meeting following the Annual Meeting of Members. The Annual Meeting of Members takes place on Saturday and will include instructed votes on changes to the Constitution & Bylaws and the election of diocesan officers. Parish council presidents are part of the diocesan executive so it is an important responsibility that they (or a designate) attend the executive meetings on Friday and Saturday as well as the Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday.

Fr. Curtis Berube, our diocesan spiritual advisor, will send a special invitation to all of the parish spiritual advisors. They are particularly being invited to attend a roundtable discussion at 1 pm on Apr. 17th which is facilitated by Fr. Curtis. We also invite them to come for the Doreen Melton scholarship presentation to a seminarian just before lunch and to join us for lunch. They are more than welcome to attend for part or all of the Convention. There is no registration fee for spiritual advisors but each CWL council is to cover the cost of their Spiritual Advisor's lunch. Please encourage your spiritual advisor to come and then complete and submit a registration form for them.

Registration can be completed online using this link: <https://forms.gle/ExMM4J3nMKXD9FweA>

Paper registration forms are available for those who are not comfortable completing an electronic form.

A credential form must be submitted for parish councils to indicate the Voting and Accredited Delegates.

All registrations and credential forms are due by March 31st, 2026. Payments must be received no later than Apr. 7, 2026.

For accommodation, the convention planning committee has arranged for blocks of rooms at two local hotels: **Holiday Inn Express & Suites St. Albert** and **St. Albert Inn & Suites**. Cut-off date for booking is March 16th. There are also a few rooms set aside at **Star of the North Retreat Centre**. More information is on the Hotel Information page.

Please bring to Convention your council banner, a bag to hold your convention materials, and cash to purchase items from vendors or make a donation to our chosen charity.

I look forward to seeing you in St. Albert!

Many blessings,



Jean Ashdown, President
Edmonton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada