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





**Edmonton Diocesan Council**

Spiritual Development

Standing Committee Chair’s Report

Annual Convention (April 27, 2019)

Madame President,

In 2016 Pope Francis proposed a complement to the two traditional sets of seven works of mercy, “Care for our common home.” He said, “as a spiritual work of mercy, care for our common home calls for a ‘grateful contemplation of God’s world’ which allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us.”

In light of this announcement, it was with great anticipation that the news that our National theme would be “Care for Our Common Home” was received by our membership.

It was a privilege to be introduced to this theme in a special way by one of our own members, Sister Susan Scott at the luncheon hosted by the CWL of St. Maria Goretti Parish in Devon. It was here that Sister Susan called us to action with her mantra “if not you, then who”, “if not now, then when”.

Pope Francis has declared October 2019, Extraordinary Mission Month. We are all baptized Priest, Prophet and King and called to live our faith in the world. May we be especially vigilant this October to spread the Good News of our faith to others.

On March 15th and 16th Newman College’s sponsored the Anthony Jordan Lecture Series at the Pastoral Centre which featured talks by Dr. Douglas Farrow. He encouraged those in attendance to speak our truth and not allow society to dictate how the conversation will go. Let’s bring God talk back.

Wilberforce will hold two banquets in support of pro-life legislation this year, on Friday, May 10th and Saturday, May 11th. Although we cannot support Wilberforce with CWL funds because of their political affiliations, I encourage all ladies to personally support this campaign for the sanctity of life. What a privilege to be a part of group that values life and is actively working to promote pro-life legislation. Let’s also show our support for life at the Pro-Life walk on Thursday, May 9th in downtown Edmonton or at your local events.

There are many ecumenical and interfaith activities in our diocese. We encourage you to attend these events. One such event was held on March 14th at the Baitul Hadi Mosque. It was the 21st Annual Interfaith Symposium. This year’s topic was “Women as Nation Builders According to My Faith.”

It has been a pleasure to serve on this executive council for the past two years as the Spiritual Development Chair and I wish the new executive all the best.

This concludes my report. Are there any questions?

Respectfully submitted,

For God and Canada

Belinda Halbach

Spiritual Development Chair

Edmonton Diocese