



# The Catholic Women's League of Canada

## Archdiocese of Edmonton

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL, PRAY FOR US

### EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT 2014

#### 46 Councils Reported

"Catholic education strives for the development of the human person in every aspect of his/her being, in order that he/she may develop spiritually, physically and socially." (Executive Handbook) While reading through the annual reports submitted, it was evident that our members truly believe this mandate and strive to ensure that Catholic education is a priority in our archdiocese.

#### **Catholic Schools and Catechesis**

Our councils support Catholic education in a wide variety of ways: assistance with elementary school religion programs and preparation of children for sacraments; others present all First Communicants with a religious article; others teach catechism in the parish. Some members are welcome to teach religion to Grade 3-6 classes at a public school. One council arranges school masses and a member accompanies the priest on school visits. CWL members go into the schools to recite the rosary with students and a number of our councils give bibles to Grade 4 students, as well Grade 9 students. A council donated money for plaques for the junior and senior high schools. CWL members are there supporting students by participating in celebrations, giving awards, and donating Catholic books to the school library. One council attended the ground breaking ceremony for a Marian Meditation Garden. A council supports a social justice club and a youth group. Numerous councils support/provide breakfast/lunch programs at school, ensuring that all students have a chance to achieve their best. Many CWL members work in the school environment, either as teachers, aides, support staff or volunteers, supporting special projects. CWL members are active on Parent/Teacher Councils, and on school boards. A Catch The Fire weekend for high school students was piloted at one of the Edmonton high schools in 2014.

#### **Scholarships and Bursaries**

Many of our councils support our Catholic students by awarding scholarships, mainly at the high school level, but also some at the junior high level. Of the councils reporting, 46 awards were presented for a total of \$9710.00.

#### **Post/Essay Contest**

The Poster/Essay Contest continues to be another way the CWL connects with our Catholic schools. Entries last year totaled 1532, representing submissions from 35 schools (out of a possible 182). Information was delivered to schools, school boards, parish bulletins and parish catechism classes. Some councils judge entries from their area and award prizes before submitting entries to diocesan.

## **Rites of Christian Initiation**

RCIA groups in our parishes receive support from CWL members in various capacities. Some members are coordinators, leaders, or sponsors. Others are active in the hospitality role. Members also help with the CIC program. Being invited to speak at a session in your parish is an excellent way to inform the neophytes about the CWL.

## **Literacy and Continuing Education**

At the adult level, several members are involved with ESL, as either teachers or learning coaches. A variety of ethnic groups are helped, including Spanish immigrants and Ukrainian Canadians. It is encouraging to learn that many of our members continue to enrich their knowledge through a variety of adult continuing education programs, ranging from auto body, musical, environmental sciences, EMR, pharmacy, economic development, home staging, Day Home Coordinator, business and nursing, to theology, religious studies, pastoral care and courses towards a Masters of Divinity. CWL members have accessed Newman Theological College and their online courses. One of our members received a bursary for the lay formation program.

A very effective way to learn about the League is to attend CWL Conventions, at all levels. Of the councils reporting, 133 attended the 2014 Diocesan Convention, 29 attended the Provincial Convention and 12 attended the National Convention.

## **General**

CWL members engage in various faith sharing and religious reading groups: bible study, reflections on weekly readings, attendance at Fr. Robert Barron DVD on Catholicism, study of Richard Rohr tapes, promotion of Living Faith books and "Word Among Us", "Women in the Bible" presentation, Rediscover Catholicism book. Members of a council are active in a monthly bible study group and luncheon for seniors that promotes faith enrichment and socializing. CWL members also provide support to the Alpha Program for adults.

Thank you to all the Education Chairpersons for your time dedicated to this convenorship this past year, and for completing the annual report. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,  
For God and Canada

*Annette Patterson*

