**Edmonton Diocesan Officers’ Reports as presented at Fall Meeting, October 1, 2016**

1. **President, Mary Hunt reported –**

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Diocesan President. I am delighted to receive your invitations and join you for your celebrations. I continue to grow in awe and appreciation for the faith filled women who choose to belong to the CWL…our strength really does lie in our unity as an organization.

I am pleased to report that our Officers and councils have been busy in the Diocese since we last met. Collectively, our 68 councils have 4,582 members. The Reports you will hear given by the Diocesan Officers will serve to provide you with a wide overview of the work of the League in many areas. We are reminded that we have been given the League as a special gift and that together with One Heart One Voice and One Mission we see the Lord in others, in our work, in our accomplishments and in our sisters in the League**.** If you have not already, I encourage you to take a look at the Fall Diocesan and Provincial Newsletters which are available on the Diocesan website and are brimming with good information. It has been gratifying to learn that following our lead, the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council and many councils in parishes have determined their own set of Priorities & Objectives for the coming year. Copies of the Policies & Objectives for the Edmonton Archdiocese are on your tables.

I hope that you agree that the 2016 Diocesan Convention held at Holy Family in April was a great time to learn new things, to be renewed and to be inspired in our work for the League. It was wonderful to have over 260 in attendance. Councils in the SE portion of Zone 9 will be hosting the 2017 Diocesan Convention at the newest church in the Diocese, Corpus Christi. Co-Chairs Margaret Korte and Bea Salmon have planning well underway for the gathering which will be held in April of next year which we hope many of you will be able to attend and enjoy the uplifting CWL experience offered.

Most of the Diocesan Officers volunteered at the Faith, Fun & Fitness Run/Walk which was held in late May at the Pastoral Centre. The CWL was listed as a proud supporter on the event T-Shirts and a photo of CWL volunteers was included in the annual report for St. Joseph’s Seminary and Newman Theological College. Our hotdogs were a hit again this year and we look forward to continuing our support in this way.

Along with a number of other Diocesan Officers, I attended the Provincial Convention held in Westlock in early June. We were very pleased when the two resolutions put forward by our Diocese were passed but disappointed when they did not make the floor at the National Convention. My full convention reports are available on the Diocesan website.

In August, Cheryl Boom & I attended the National Convention in Halifax as accredited delegates. Five Resolutions were passed which will be discussed in the report to be given by our Resolutions & Legislation Chair. The speakers were wonderful and their presentations are posted on the National website. The 2017 National Convention will be held in August in Charlottetown, P.E.I. where we are sure to also celebrate the 150 years of Canada’s Confederation.

New National President Margaret Ann Jacobs has announced the new theme she has chosen for her term as president which will be ***"Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call".*** We look forward to receiving a description of the theme elements and meaning which should soon become available to us.

Every five years, Edmonton Diocese is given the opportunity to host the Provincial Convention. The 2017 Alberta Mackenzie Convention will be held on June 9 & 10th at St. Charles Church in Edmonton and we look forward to welcoming our League Sisters from across the Province and the N.W.T.. Cheryl Boom and I have been asked to Co-Chair this special gathering and hope that you will consider it a ***must attend*** CWL gathering for next year.

 We have been invited by Archbishop Richard Smith to make a presentation about the CWL to the upcoming November Assembly of Priests. His Grace recognizes the need to boost our image and relationship with our Spiritual Advisors and hopes this sharing opportunity will serve to do just that. I invite you to contact me with any ideas that you might have for our presentation as this will be a focus for me and other committee members in the coming weeks.

I was pleased to secure a donation of $600.00 for the purchase of a laptop computer for the use of our Communications Chair and a donation of a used laptop for the use of the Diocesan President. Both computers will be put to excellent use.

This is a transition year for Annual Reporting and we are fortunate to have Provincial President Cathy Bouchard at our meeting today to provide us with an overview of what to expect.

At the recent provincial meetings, Edmonton Diocesan Council was asked to take the lead in forming a committee to determine “Small Council Strategies” which we will be eager to share.

Thank you for your dedication, good works and enthusiasm for the League. I remind you not to underestimate the power of prayer in our work to build the League and to build community through our joyful service For God and Canada. Please remember that your Diocesan Officers are here to serve you and your councils.

This concludes my report. Are there any questions?

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**b. Secretary, Mary Pat O’Neill reported –**

To me it seems unbelievable how fast time has passed since our last meeting. I hope you are enjoying this Fall season.

Thank you to all who have contributed and celebrated one mission while joyfully serving the Lord. So many benefits can be derived by contributing your skills and expertise gained over a lifetime; and to be sure your CWL Council greatly benefits from your experience. It is a very gratifying way of connecting with members in our CWL community, providing a sense of purpose which positively impacts your outlook and feelings of self-worth. By using your talents and skills out in your CWL Council in a variety of ways, demonstrates that you are active, involved and essential to a healthy CWL community. Helping others kindles happiness, the more you give the happier you feel.

**Parish & Diocesan Registers:**Before long some parish councils will be having elections.  Please be reminded to send a copy of the new parish roster to the National Office with a copy to me immediately following the election.  Any changes to Parish roster during the year should also be directed to my attention so that I can update our Council Register and circulate by e-mail a revised copy to each Council.

**Motions Book:** Every secretary should maintain a Motions Book to grant easy access to decisions made in the past.  It also makes it easy for a council to make the necessary changes to their Policy & Procedure Manual.  Each list of motions from a meeting should also include the date, time and place of the meeting.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask and I will do my best to answer or give assistance.

May our Lady of Good Counsel intercede for us as we work together for God and Canada,  God bless you always.

**c. Past-President, Gwen Elliott reported –**

The Past President has an important role to play in the life and working of the council.

Consultative capacity, Archiving records/preserving history, educating about the League, and reporting/ summarizing the years activities on the Past President's report.

The Handbook for Past President gives some concise, valuable information about this position. Page seven of the handbook deals with Past President -guideline for Reporting and the questions of **what to report on**: are questions that a past president could ask herself.

* Have you attended meetings in a consultative capacity?
* Have you worked at updating council's archives?
* Is the history of your council kept up-to-date? Have you added documents to the history?

There are several other questions but depending your answer to the ones mentioned you may get some direction on things that need to be done.

Receiving brown envelopes can be very interesting, and involved an evening of looking back at newspaper clippings from years past, and reading minutes, agendas and convention programs that I remember being at. It can be like receiving a treasure of memories that need to be kept. I now know that all of those treasures need to be looked at again and organized. Help may be needed to decide what needs to be kept or discarded and involving others is a way of passing on and caring for our history.

I continue to work on the list of Bellelle Guerin recipients. I have heard from some councils but I know that there are others who have presented this award. Looking ahead, whenever this is an application made for this honour the Diocesan President is one of signatures needed on the form a copy could be kept in Diocesan files to make it easier to keep a history.

I have begun working on a list of the Doreen Melton Scholarship recipients, some information has been gleaned from Diocesan Convention minutes but in some cases it was not included in the minutes. The search is on and if you have information I would appreciate it and add it to the list.

Our new Past National President has already posted her communiqué on the National website and I encourage you to have a read. I have made copies of the communiqué for those who do not have access to the internet, they are on the Past President display table.

Diocesan Executive elections will take place in 2017 at our next Diocesan Convention. The eligibility list will be updated and letter will be sent either email or post to all those who are eligible to stand for office. Please consider offering yourself to serve on the Diocesan council. It is important to respond to the letter even if you do not wish to allow your name to stand as it helps with knowing who needs to be contacted because there was not a response to the request.

This concludes my report.

**d. VP/Spiritual Development Chair – Mary Molloy reported –**

Today is the Feast of St Therese of Lisieux or the Little Flower and on Tuesday is the Feast of St Francis of Assis. Both of these saints were examples living the gospel in the service of others. This morning we opened our meeting with a reflection on the Mission of the CWL. Often in our busy CWL lives we forget we have a mission and not just a project.

On September 17th, Mary Pat and I represented the Diocesan Council at the 90th Anniversary of the CWL at our Lady of Grace, Castor, AB. Along with bringing our best wishes, we were asked to present a S’Mores Workshop on Discernment. The goal of this workshop is to foster the gifts and charisms to better serve the league. The discernment process is an ongoing process; it is our stance in life. A discerning disciple has the attitude or intention to seek the presence, wisdom and compassion of the spirit at all times and in all dimensions in life.

As members of the CWL we must consider our gifts and talents that we have been blessed by God. Each of us has been gifted by God. We are gifted to use them for/with others. The gifts we have are not the same gifts that others have been given. Each gift is precious; none greater than the other. These gifts are God’s plan for us. We need to recognize and consider how best to use these gifts in the service of others and as members of the CWL. We need to think about how we use our gifts. When we are called do we consider what gift we can share with others?

On November 13, the Holy Doors of Mercy will be closed in Rome as well in the various Basilica’s and Cathedrals around the world. If you haven’t already done so consider making a Pilgrimage to the Holy Door at St Joseph’s Basilica. The closing of the Holy Door doesn’t signal an end to our response to the works of mercy. Rather, Pope Francis encourages us to continue to be “Merciful like the Father”. During this year of mercy councils and individual members were asked to pledge what acts of mercy they would commit to doing and to record these on parish pledge cards or individual cards. National is collecting the pledges until the end of October and will prepare a Spiritual Bouquet to be sent to Pope Francis to express how the CWL has embraced the Year of Mercy. If you haven’t already done so, you can still submit your pledges to National.

Pope Francis has provided us with many resources to enhance the Spiritual growth among our members. I encourage you to take these themes and the resources accompanying these initiatives to study them with your parish council members. I encourage councils to reach out to their spiritual advisors for assistance and guidance in planning your activities in the coming year. Do discuss you councils activities with them and invite then to join you in not only in the spiritual life of your council but in all the fun things you do. They too love a cup of coffee to get caught up on the parish news.

As a Diocesan Council, we are members of the Archdiocesan Mission Council. Annette Patterson, St Thomas More Parish, Edmonton, is our representative on the council. The initial position of the council was to focus on foreign missions and the Holy Childhood Association. The council quickly realized their focus should on our Canadian Missions.. They have begun to find ways to support our missions at home.

One action that council has taken is the Archdiocese of Edmonton has twinned with the Diocese of Mackenzie – Fort Smith. A trail project between St Thomas More Parish Edmonton and Our Lady of Good Hope, NWT has been started. The students in the Evergreen Catholic School District are working with Bishop Hageman for a educational trip north.

A reminder that Mission Sunday is October 23, 2017.

I am looking forward to working with you during the year. If I can be of any help don't hesitate to contact me and we can journey together as we minister to our sisters in the League.

This concludes my report.

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**e. Organization Chair/President-Elect – Cheryl Boom reported –**

Presently, Edmonton Diocesan Council has 4,582 paid members in 68 councils. **Membership renewal, retention and recruitment** is key, however, our membership numbers across the country have been steadily declining. Catholic women are looking for faith-based opportunities for social interaction, personal enrichment and community service. Catholic women want to develop their faith, have fun and feel a sense of fulfillment. What do we need to do to make this happen?

Father James Mallon, in his book Divine Renovation says we do not HAVE a mission; rather, we ARE the mission. By living the life God calls us to live, by being welcoming, as the earliest members welcomed the stranger to this vast country, by inviting all women 16 years of age and older, by being concerned more about “feeding” women than by simply adding members, the membership will follow.

Judy Look, Provincial Officer, encourages us to have 3 cups of tea with our new members. First Cup of Tea: When a woman takes out membership she is the stranger. Second Cup of Tea: It needs to be sipped one on one; perhaps a phone call or a luncheon date where we get to know each other. This cup of tea is crucial. Third Cup of Tea: The new member is no longer a stranger. She knows someone who cared enough to spend time with her outside the meeting. She is beginning to feel comfortable and later on when she is asked to volunteer she most likely will step up to the plate because she feels she belongs.

So ladies, we need to personally invite new members and entice them to join, invest time in them, engage them in parish activities and educate them. We need to retain the members we have and celebrate achievements and recognize dedicated years of service. We need to make this rewarding and fun!

I am hoping most of the Council Presidents received a call from their 'buddy' this past week**. The Parish Buddies Initiative** is being continued as a way to establish a better connection with councils in our diocese as a means to share information and to see whether there are questions and/or concerns that the Diocesan Executive can assist you with in order to serve you better.

Please remember to celebrate the good works being done in our councils by awarding service pins and by nominating members for the various **awards** available including the Maple Leaf Service Pin or the Bellelle Guerin Award or the Elsie Yannik Award.

By now you have heard that we are going to a new method **of annual reporting**. The format of the questions will be consistent across Canada. Cathy Bouchard, Provincial President, just gave us an overview of the new reporting format and I ask you all to take a deep breath, wait for your package to arrive and do the best you can. I am here if you have any questions at all.

It is recommended that you meet as an executive and complete the annual reports together. We have found that councils taking this approach tend to include more in their reporting. Plan a potluck annual report meeting date for late December. Your prompt consideration and submission of these reports is most appreciated at all levels of the League.

I am pleased to inform you that we have a new Zone 1 Chairperson, Paula Nolan. I would like to introduce you to the Zone Chairs that are present today; Zone 2 Mariette Huot, Zone 3 Jessie Sandmaier & Gladys Brown, Zone 7 Annette Valstar & Catherine McNiff and Zone 9 Margaret Korte. We are still looking for a Zone Chair for Zone 6 & 8. If you are interested, please contact me any time.

May you all continue serving joyfully with One Heart, One Voice and One Mission!!

This concludes my report.

1. **Christian Family Life Chair, Katherine Tarras reported –**

Today the first of October is National **Seniors** Day, The Government of Canada is proud to pay tribute to the seniors who have helped build our country. National Seniors Day is an occasion for all Canadians to appreciate and celebrate seniors. At my display you will find a sheet with tips and resources to celebrate the day and commemorate the seniors in your life. This will give you a year to plan.

I had the privilege to attend the Seminarians Brunch at St. Agnes' Parish here in Edmonton a few weeks ago, all the Seminarians were there and we have ten new young men entering **Vocations**. In the Adopt-A-**Seminarian** Program we have 50 Seminarians and 63 Counsels so we will try to accommodate every Counsel. Please sign up for your Seminarian, the pages are at my display, please fill in your Parish, name, email address and phone number. There is also a half sheet with How to contact your Seminarian. I do not have a picture of all the Seminarians this year as yet but you can go to the web site and check in to see your Seminarian form time to time.

The Web site is : <http://www.stjoseph-seminary.com/>

Please pray for the eight men ordained this year.

The next seminar for **Marriage** Enrichment....for all years, is taking place 18-20 of November 2017.

To register the website is: [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org/)

The Prime Minister is setting up a **Youth** Council to advise him on how to access education, build stronger communities, climate change and clean growth.

This weekend is also the Wild West Catholic Youth Conference is taking place in Red Deer.

**Sanctity of Life**, please continue to write the Premier regarding the appointment of an Independent Seniors Advocate.

2017 marks the 10th Anniversary of March for Life here in Edmonton, the Board members are praying for a large turn out. Please spread the information early so people can plan to attend this event. The March will be at noon on 11th of May 2017 at Churchill Square, I have business cards with the information on them at my display, pick up some and pass them around.

If someone has something they would like to donate for the raffle, I would be greatly thankful. Please come and see me at the break. I will have raffle tickets ready for Mid-Winter Meeting in January.

This concludes my report.

1. **Community Life Chair, Gloria Ducharme reported –**

We are blessed with a new National Community Life Chairperson, Betty Colaneri, she advises that the National website has many ideas on how we can help the marginalized and the poor of this world. Betty’s first communiqué is now on the National website. In this communiqué Betty reminds us of Resolution 2016.01 Equal Access to Permanent Resident Status an amendment to the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* was adopted. The resolution was brought forward so that foreign workers may apply for permanent resident status regardless of occupational classification. This is the action plan she encourages members to follow:

1. Write letters to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Immigration, refugees and citizenship and their Member of Parliament urging them to amend the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* so that foreign workers may apply for permanent resident status regardless of occupational classification.
2. Strengthen existing or consider starting a parish based outreach program to meet the needs of foreign workers.
3. Invite a guest speaker involved in advocacy on behalf of foreign workers to speak at a meeting.
4. Monitor the federal government’s response to the request contained in the resolution.

Betty has also asked that we continue with the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace 1% Program which will support two new programs this year, in Sierra Leone and Afghanistan, while continuing the program supporting Haiti. This decision was inspired by Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si.* New brochures will be available from national office at no charge. This is a wonderful tool for members to learn about the 1% Program.

A motion was passed at the national convention to establish a permanent, voluntary fund for Catholic Near East Welfare Association. You will remember Velma’s Dream supported Christian families in the Holy Land. The Catholic Women’s League (C.W.L.) of Canada contributed to Velma’s Dream, which helped fund a field hospital and a youth project.

To our continued joy, Carol Schlachter remains as our Provincial Community Life Chair and her latest communiqué is on the Provincial website.

Carol has written a “letter” to all of our members titled “Cultivating and Caring for God’s Creation”. I hope each of you has received a copy of this letter. This year Community Life Chairs will be focusing on this letter, in response to Pope Francis’s encyclical on the environment.

Other resources that Carol would like us to be aware of are:

* The World Council of Churches has dedicated the period between September 1 and October 4, the Feast of Saint Francis, to prayer and reflection on safeguarding creation.
* The Catholic Climate Covenant has a program called “Dial Down the Heat & Cultivate the Common Good for our Common Home”. There is an entire program that can be downloaded and I have a few print copies of the program format at my table.
* The Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice offers a dialogue guide for *Laudato Si*’ called “On care for our common home.” This is a great tool encouraging member discussion. The website for this guide is www.jesuitforum.ca.
* And [www.greenspirittv.com](http://www.greenspirittv.com) presents Cultivating and Caring for Creation. There are twelve videos and study guides available on the website.

Ladies, we also need to remain mindful of our other programs and projects such as dealing with ongoing issues like Euthanasia & Assisted Dying**;** Hospice & Palliative Care**;** Human Trafficking**;** Senior Care**;** Women’s Health**;** Domestic Violence & Women’s Shelters**;** Pro-life and pornography.

On the topic of pornography, we were given statistical information from Evelyn Vollet, Director of Service & Justice office of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, via our Provincial President.

This information came to them from Jared and Michelle Brock (Hope for the Sold website) they had recently written to let the Archdiocese of Vancouver know that they have a renewed the focus on the topic of "pornography."

Some quick stats from Jared.......

- Over 90% of boys and 60% of girls have seen porn before the age of 18

- 71% of teens hide their online behaviour from their parents

- Boys see porn for the first time by age 12, on average. The type of porn that exists today isn't like the Playboy mags of old - it's violent and degrading on a scale we've never seen. 83% of male minors have seen group sex online, and 23% of girls have witnessed sexual bondage.

With staggering statistics like these, you may feel this subject is something your Council needs to tackle.

For any of the programs, projects or initiatives, if you would like some assistance gathering materials or resources or getting references to facilitators, please contact me and I will do my best to assist.

Don’t forget ladies, a personal invitation goes a long way. Take a bit of time to personally invite the ladies in your parish to join the C. W. L. When you invite someone, one on one, the joy on your face will be enough to have them saying “I want some of that kind of love”.

This concludes my report.

1. **Education and Health Chair, Kara Pelech reported –**

At the spring convention each member was given a prayer coin. If you didn’t receive one in the spring, they are available at the education table. We are blessed to have such a great relationship with Edmonton Catholic schools. One side of the coin has *the One Heart One voice One Mission* Logo and the other has the symbol for Edmonton catholic schools

Yesterday, schools participated in the orange shirt campaign in Edmonton both public and Catholic schools where students and staff were encouraged to wear orange shirts to honour and bring awareness to the experiences of residential school students.

Read in week is October 3-7, 2016. The goal of READ IN Week is to involve as many individuals as possible during the week. **This year’s theme is One World; Many Voices**

We share one world and fill it with our many voices. Through reading, we learn from other people’s lives and stories. Reading can inspire us to raise our own voices to tell our own stories. The purpose of READ IN Week is to create a greater awareness of the importance of reading and literacy.  This initiative has successfully promoted the school as an important place for the development of lifelong literacy. Take some time next week and volunteer in a school near you… share your love of reading… tell your story… and inspire a young person.

Joyce Tutt has been named to receive NTC’s Kevin Carr Christian Leadership Award.  Joyce will be honoured at the 13th Annual Kevin Carr Christian Leadership Award Luncheon on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 tickets are $40 and can be purchased at Newman

Newman offers a comprehensive selection of online courses on various topics of the Catholic Faith. The Certificate in Catholic Studies courses are approximately 25 hours each over a 5-week period. Fall Convocation 2016 for Newman will be on Saturday October 15th at 2 p.m. Our very own Catherine Mardon has completed her Masters of Theological Studies at Newman…. Please join me in congratulating Catherine for her wonderful accomplishment.

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| Joan Carr, Superintendent of Edmonton Catholic Schools for the past 10 years, has been recognized as Canada's leading school superintendent. The Canadian Association of School System Administrators presented Joan with its’ award of excellence at their conference in Winnipeg this past July.The award recognizes the Canadian Superintendent of the Year.Joan has been with the district for 41 years and was appointed superintendent in 2006. Joan is responsible for 3,600 employees and 41,000 students in 90 Catholic schools. She is passionate about providing students with a broad spectrum of programming to choose from in order to reach their fullest potential. "I see hope in everything, and I really believe that we are here to do God's work; we are here to do God's will. "I feel that I've been called to this life of service, and I can never rest until I feel that I'm doing the absolute best that I can do."The secret to her success is simple. "I absolutely love what I do. I love the people I work with. I love having the opportunity of continually moving the district forward, looking for new opportunities for our students and ensuring that our staff has professional development and professional learning opportunities."  The old statement that if you love what you do you will never work a day in your life certainly rings true here…. |

**Information for the Poster/Essay Contest will be available and posted in November**.

**Health**

October is breast cancer awareness month in Canada. There are breast screening programs in each province and most territories. For women at average risk for developing breast cancer, mammogram screening is most effective every two years, between the ages of 50 and 74.

The Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation encourages women to learn about the benefits and limitations of participating in regular breast cancer screening in order to make an informed decision about what is right for you.  At my booth you will see a little more information on risks and screening… ladies… it just takes a few minutes and early detection is key… please get checked!

Since Assisted-dying has become legal in Canada, 29 Albertans have been permitted physician-assisted deaths… 14 of them in Edmonton… 23 have been assessed but did not meet the criteria….. 150 requests for information were received…. clearly this is something that needs to have our working hands. As His Grace told us at the April convention keep our hands working whether it be writing to your MP or MLA  … we need to continue to be vigilant about this issue.

This concludes my report.

1. **Communications and Environment Chair, Sr. Susan Scott reported –**

Living in a time of great change is considered a curse to inflict on your enemy by the Chinese. It certainly demands courage, resilience, tenacity and trust. We fortunately find all of these in one another and more centrally in the Trinity God whom we follow. The digital age has come home to affect not only our methods of sharing with our sisters here but across the country, but also, the very methods we use to communicate within our Archdiocese. By now I trust that most of you will have learned that the *Western Catholic Reporter* is no more. As Pope Francis has already done, Archbishop Smith has reorganized and changed the ways in which we can best communicate with one another. Change is difficult but exciting at the same time. As CWL councils we will no longer respond to questions prepared by our Diocesan officers, but will share the work we do through questions prepared at the national level. There are many advantages to this method of reporting – one of which I sincerely hope will be having the questions made available to us early in the year, perhaps by February, in order that we may better plan our activities and priorities, thus allowing us to more faithfully respond at the end of the year.

Our Provincial executive have also determined that it is time to redo the Provincial website – goodness, even the National website has recently been updated! Combined with our Diocesan website there is so much good material available to us to educate ourselves and resources to help us plan meaningful, valuable meetings to enhance the mission of our League. I do hope that you spent some time with our fall newsletter and some of the many activities in which we are involved. On a personal note, if I may, I would like to draw your attention to the retreat takin place at Holy Trinity Parish in Spruce Grove on October 22nd. We have booked Sandra Prather to speak on the topic “Aging Gracefully: the Gift of Years” with a special emphasis on the importance of palliative and hospice care. Information and registration forms are on our website or you can speak with me directly. One last point that I would like to share with you is the fact that you don’t have to travel to a National Convention in order to hear the keynote speakers – all you have to do is go to the national site, click on “Media”, then Videos of Keynote Speakers from the 96th annual national convention and you can watch the address at your leisure. Ah the joys of technology!

An exciting piece of news on the environment, on September 1st, Pope Francis declared care for creation a new work of mercy. Cardinal Peter Turkson, President of the **Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace** and president-elect for the newly established dicastery for **Promoting Integral Human Development**, said a new work of mercy dedicated to creation reflects Pope Francis’ intentions in writing Laudato Si. After evaluating and amending our own lives in terms of how we personally care for creation, “Pope Francis is calling us toward a new work of mercy.” “Nothing unites us to God more than an act of mercy, for it is by mercy that the Lord forgives our sins and gives us the grace to practice acts of mercy in his name,” the cardinal said, quoting the Pope’s environmental encyclical. “This is really the final step of ecological conversion, a true internalization of an ecological sensibility,” he said, echoing Pope Francis’ own words that that caring for creation is truly a “complement (to) both the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.” I have included here a link to access more information [Care for Creation - a Corporal Work of Mercy](http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/pope-francis-declares-care-for-creation-a-new-work-of-mercy-72269/).

At my display table, I have included some information relating to our national resolution on **Banning the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides. If you haven’t already taken an action on this important issue, there is still time – consider it a corporal work of mercy during this Jubilee Year of Mercy! Please help yourself to the handout which includes addresses and a sample letter that you can send I know many of you are gardeners and recognize the importance of these tiny creatures in beautifying our world.**

**This concludes my report.**

1. **Resolutions and Legislation Chair, Catherine Mardon reported –**

It’s a new year, and we have a new set of Resolutions to work on. They are on my Board, and on the website. Number 1 asks for changes to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act to allow long time foreign workers to remain in the country. This is important because employers can take advantage of workers under the present system. Number 2 asks the government to revise the Food Guide and to update it routinely as our understanding of health, exercise and nutrition evolves. Number 3 would have the warning labels on food and drug products to include all inactive ingredients and additives. Number 4 would increase the availability of palliative care, and Number 5 would do the same for home health care.

Numbers 4 and 5 are especially important. It’s obvious that we cannot reverse the government’s decision on euthanasia, so it should be our business to make it irrelevant by pushing for better palliative care and improvements to our services for seniors. We never want someone to choose death because they are in treatable pain or because they would rather die than go to a nursing home.

So here are my marching orders for you all. I want every MP, MLA, mayor, councilman, even the local dog catcher to know who and what the CWL is. Drop by their offices. Get to know their local secretaries and assistants. Invite them to church picnics. Invite them to bake sales. Let them know that we are the foundations of our communities, that we are active, that we are informed, that we are watching them, and most importantly that we vote.

That concludes my report.

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**Diocesan Treasurer – Jean Ashdown reported - (Financial Statements attached)**

I am pleased to report that the agreement with the Foundation of St. Joseph Seminary and Newman Theological College for the Doreen Melton Scholarship Fund was finalized and the money from the fund ($24,412) was transferred. We are working on getting more information about Doreen Melton and a list of the recipients of the award since its inception. In addition, we would like to have a mass celebrated at St. Joseph Seminary with a light reception following for CWL members. We hope that this will bring some additional awareness of the Doreen Melton Scholarship Fund. More information will be sent out once a date is finalized, possibly in November.

I am now able to provide an Excel template to Councils for managing their finances. If anyone is interested, they may email me at treasurer.edmontoncwl@gmail.com .

I would now like to review our finances:

1. General Account –
	1. YTD expenses and variance to budget
		* Computers - donated
		* Still to be expensed include some Provincial and National Convention expenses, expenses for Fall meeting
	2. Balance sheet - Cheques for Alberta Pro-life and Sign of Hope will be sent before end of December. If you are making donations to these, it would be helpful if you submitted them to me by early December. Please submit the completed form (keep a copy for your records) along with one cheque with the total amount.
2. Convention Expenses – variance to budget
	1. Due to great attendance at our Convention, our net income was higher than expected. Overall expenses were close to what had been budgeted.

This concludes my report.

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