



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Edmonton Diocesan Council**

CATHOLIC
and **LIVING IT!**

TO: All Parish Council Presidents
All Diocesan Officers
Life Members

FROM: Clover Oryschak, President

SUBJECT: Diocesan President Fall Communique

As the snow begins to fall around us, we prepare our hearts for the season of Advent and get ready for a variety of events taking place throughout the months of November, December, January and February. Your diocesan officer team has been working hard to keep you informed and we're here to help any way we can.

Diocesan Website:

Communications from Edmonton Diocesan Council will continue to be sent out to all parish councils via the Diocesan Secretary and Parish Buddies. Please make sure to check your email (or council's email) often to stay up to date, and please make sure to touch base with your parish buddy as often as needed. Parish buddies are available to offer you assistance regarding any question you have – if she doesn't know, she'll find the answer for you!

In addition, Edmonton Diocesan Council and our talented Diocesan Webmaster (Tara Pev) have been working hard to keep information on our website new and fresh – I encourage you to check it often to see what's coming up and local resources you may find helpful for your council.

We Remember – A Celebration of Service:

On **Sunday November 13th**, the Diocesan Council is hosting a special mass and breakfast to commemorate the 110th anniversary of the very first meeting of the Catholic Women's League which was held in Edmonton on November 13th, 1912 at St Joachim's Catholic Church. We invite all CWL members, their family and friends to join us on this special occasion to celebrate the history our diocese has to the origins of what is now the largest organization of Catholic women in Canada. I am including with this communique the poster for the event. To register for the event, please go to the Edmonton Diocesan Council's website (www.edmontoncwl.org).

Midwinter Regional Workshops:

On **Saturday November 26th** and **Saturday December 3rd**, the Diocesan officers will be out and about in your local communities facilitating our annual Midwinter Regional Workshops. Information about the regional workshops was sent out in a previous email to all parish council presidents. Registration forms are also available via the Edmonton diocesan website (www.edmontoncwl.org). These workshops are available to all CWL members regardless of whether serving on the parish executive or not. Members are encouraged to attend the workshop

in their region, but you are welcome to attend a workshop in another region if the date works better for you. All workshops include lunch (registration fee of \$18/person covers lunch costs).

Sat November 26th workshops:

St Matthew's Catholic Church, Edmonton (St Albert-Lloydminster Region)

St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Camrose (Edmonton-Provost Region)

Sat December 3rd workshops:

St Maria Goretti Catholic Church, Devon (Edmonton-Jasper Region)

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church, Sylvan Lake (Red Deer Region)

Elections under the new structure:

Is your council holding elections in the new year? If so, remember you will be slating officers according to the new structure: Past President, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 standing committee chairs (Faith, Service and Social Justice).

The new role of Vice President takes the place of 'President-Elect', as such the member voted in as Vice President will assume the role of President at the end of the two-year term. Vice President would also look after Organization and membership (not Spiritual Development). Under the new structure, your new Faith standing committee chair would look after items that were previously looked after by 'Spiritual Development'. And, as discussed in the Fall Diocesan Secretary communique, Communications would be reassigned to the Secretary (this could perhaps be looked after by a sub-committee). If you have any questions about your council's particular circumstances, please don't hesitate to contact me for help.

At the Midwinter Regional Workshops, diocesan officers will facilitate informative sessions about the new standing committee structure (Faith, Service and Social Justice) and provide guidance on how to apply to your council's current activities. These workshops are a don't miss!

Diocesan Book Project:

Back by popular demand, Edmonton Diocesan Council is planning to do the Diocesan Book Project again this year. At the time of this communique, a Book Project Coordinator and her team is in the process of choosing this year's book title. As soon as the book has been chosen and information is available, we will send out the details to all councils via email.

Legislation and Resolutions:

In the Fall Diocesan Community Life Communique, you will find information about action items related to the resolution on Food Waste passed at the 2022 National Convention in Kelowna. Please make sure to check it out and have your council discuss ways to take part in this important initiative.

Diocesan Council Policies:

Over the next couple of months, the Edmonton Diocesan Council will be reviewing its policies to make sure they are up to date. Revisions to our council's policies will be discussed at the 2023 Pre-Convention and Convention meetings in Red Deer.

Does your parish council have policies? We estimate only about half of parish CWL councils have policies that help with the day to day functioning of the local parish CWL council. Having a set of policies (as approved by your council at a general meeting with quorum) can help a council avoid conflict and is useful as a resource. Council policies are something the Past President can take the helm on drafting (along with the council President of course) and then discussed by the general membership. Need to update your council's policies or need help getting started? No problem! It will be one of the topics at the Midwinter Regional Workshops – another don't miss!

Diocesan Quilt Project:

In the Fall Diocesan Spiritual Development Communique, you will find an invitation to help with a new diocesan quilt project underway. We are looking for more quilters! The quilt resulting from this project of love will be unveiled at the 2024 Diocesan Convention. Please contact Evelyn if you are interested in helping.

The current Edmonton Diocesan Council officer team has identified “Servant Leadership” as our council charism, which guides us in all we do. How can we be of assistance to your council? Please let us know – we're here to help.

May the Lord's blessing be upon your councils and God bless you in all you do for God and Canada.

Your sister in Christ,

Clover Oryschak
President, Edmonton Diocesan Council
“Servant Leadership”