



The Catholic Women's League of Canada Edmonton Diocesan Council



Organization Standing Committee Chair Report Fall Meeting, September 30, 2017

Madame President, Fr. Jan and Sisters in the League:

As members of the Catholic Women's League of Canada, "we are women united in faith, promoting Christian values in the home and in the world, and we offer hospitality, friendship, sisterhood, support and affirmation that empower women to reach their potential.

I am looking forward to working with Zone and Organization Chairs in each Parish Council. We have many responsibilities; foremost in our mandate is the recruitment members. While this is important, how we treat current members is even more critical. We must encourage, affirm and empower the members we have to ensure they renew their memberships and in return will encourage others to join.

CWL membership fees are due on January 1, 2018 and I remind you there is an increase of \$2.00 per capita. It is important to collect the information and fees to submit as early as possible. Councils are encouraged to begin their membership drives in the fall to meet the January deadline. We, also encourage our councils to apply for the Walter Krewski Membership Award through Provincial Council.

The Parish Buddies Initiative is being continued as a way to establish a better connection with councils. This is a means to share information and to gather questions and/or concerns so that Diocesan Officers can respond directly to you. Each Diocesan Officer & Zone Chairs has been given individual councils to call and most of you will have heard from your "Buddy" ...if not, you will be hearing from them shortly.

National Office offers assistance for leadership development through its National Development Fund; a council may apply for assistance once per year to host workshops for their members. Diocesan Officers and Life Members can be excellent resources for providing assistance to councils.

There is a vast array of materials on the national website including manuals, handbooks, the Constitution and Bylaws (lovingly referred to as C&B), forms, programs and workshops under each standing committee. We encourage you to check out the Diocesan, Provincial and National websites for resource materials and notices of coming events.

The piloted electronic annual reports used last year has been revised based on your feedback and will be used again this year. Yes, there were difficulties with filling them out last year but it is hoped the revised form will allow you to reflect your activities for 2016. Stay tuned as information will be coming to us by the end of October.

I would like to leave you with a few suggestions to rekindle the spirit of the league in your councils:

1. Dedicate one meeting to remembering or affirming a fellow member by writing a message on the gratitude cards or a hasty note. I mentioned this in the Fall Newsletter.
2. Download the 2015 CWL Hospitality Survey and have all members in your council complete it for your own council use. Evaluate and prioritize what could be done each month to elevate the sense of hospitality, friendship, sisterhood, support and affirmation. Focus each month on one activity that could strengthen and empower your council
3. Considering using the video by Fr. Ron Rolheiser entitled “Blessings”. He addresses the need that each of us has to be blessed. In order to bless each other, Fr. Rolheiser outlines three things that are most necessary for us to do:
 - See: Look deeply into the eyes of the other; attend to them as they speak; recognize their presence.
 - Speak: Speak to their giftedness: tell them how valued and appreciated they are
 - Give Life: Empower them to be alive/fully contributing influences in our world: freely pass on wisdom, insight and power to do good, woman to woman

I can only imagine how inspired parish councils would be if we blessed each other so humbly, so sincerely and so powerfully.

There is such a need in parish council, churches and communities for us to reach out in love and compassion. Let it not be said that we have not responded to this call of the gospel. As chairpersons of organization, let us do everything in our power to sustain and maintain members. Nurture them, encourage them and fulfil them.

“Before all else, the Gospel invites us to respond to the god of love who save us, to see God in others and to go forth from ourselves to seek the good of others” (*Evangelii Gaudium*).

This concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Molloy
President-Elect,
Organization Standing Committee Chair