



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Archdiocese of Edmonton

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL, PRAY FOR US

PAST PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2014

50 councils reported

Sisters in the League

The Past President plays a key role at all levels of the League and in the continuation of our Parish Councils. Past Presidents attend executive meetings where councils have them and are a constant presence at the general parish council meetings. Another duty of the Past Presidents is that they chair new committees and represent their council at the Fall meeting, Mid-Winter meeting and at the Diocesan Annual Convention. They chair council meetings in the absence of the President or President-Elect. Past Presidents personally recruit new members and are involved in the education of members at council meetings.

Past Presidents keep the “story” and the archives of their council through keeping a copy of the minutes, news clippings, scrapbook or photo album, bulletin notices and obituaries. The majority of Past Presidents report occasionally on items related to council history and archives.

As Past Presidents, these ladies recognize the value of service to the League and in their role continue to recruit new ladies and to mentor and encourage women to share their talents by encouraging them to take on other executive roles within their councils or encouraging them to move on to the next level of the League. It is important to be a visible presence in the parish and continue to be active in the various ministries in the parish.

Past Presidents report that they appreciate the directives and newsletters sent to them. They would like to continue to be informed on upcoming meetings and workshops especially the direct mailing or e-mailing of communiqués or newsletter articles to them. Another point that was mentioned in the report is that they councils would like to hear from other councils as to what is happening and how they are managing to retain members and support the parish as well as their council.

Experience of the Past President has been crucial to assisting the president and executive in their roles, years of experience with knowledge and understanding of the bylaws have guided the council in moving forward. The Past President primarily acts as an advisor and assists the new president and executive with support, tries to encourage and lend a hand in whatever possible way.

Another council reported that they will be celebrating a 90th anniversary in 2016 and they did a skit---highlighting the founding members and to inform present members of the past history. One council hosts a “Prayer Breakfast” in a prayerful setting and this breakfast is open to the parish as well as the community. We have some very small councils in the dioceses but they still continue to assist in the parish----decorating of the church for the Liturgical Seasons. One statement that caught my eye was “Our council looks forward with great intention. As women of faith, we will continue with our ministries and aspire to answer the call of the parish”. A wonderful statement and so true.

It is nice to hear that councils are writing letters to the MLA's, MP'S and the Prime Minister of Canada. One council voiced their comments with letters about "Physician Assisted Suicide".

Becoming involved with the Catholic Women's League has been very enlightening and rewarding. The main "value" of a Past President is her experience and knowledge of the Catholic Women's League at different levels and being willing to share this with all of the members and to encourage active participation in the League activities.

When we use and share our unique gifts, talents, abilities and opportunities we give glory to God and we shine out as a light to the world. We can be a light to others, when we humbly allow the Spirit to guide our words and actions.

"God, I stand ready to do whatever you call me to". "Lord, I am excited to be able to step out and try new things, even if they don't work. Help me to discover my role of service for you, the work You have call me to do. Amen.

This concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted,
For God and Canada

Gladys Brown

