

**PRESIDENT'S**

**COMMUNIQUE**

**AUGUST 2016**

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To: Presidents and Zone Chairpersons

My Dear Sisters in the League:

I returned from the National Convention in Halifax held earlier this month renewed, inspired and eager to resume our important work in collaboration with the CWL councils throughout our Archdiocese. I was happy and grateful for the opportunity to attend this well planned annual gathering…the attention to detail was apparent. Thank you to Edmonton Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Jozef Wroblewski for attending and supporting us. A very special thanks to Archbishop Richard Smith for co-presiding at the Opening and Closing Masses.

Our call to social action was reaffirmed and captured by outgoing National President Barb Dowding when she said in her closing remarks: **“*From prayer to parliament – our voices must be heard”.***

In saying this, we were disappointed to be advised by a disposition letter received just prior to the convention that the two resolutions brought forward by OLPH in Sherwood Park pertaining to Support for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Victims and Holy Rosary in Grande Cache pertaining to Reducing the Impact of Disposable Hygiene Products would not be brought to the floor at the National Convention.

Our proposed Amendment to the National Constitution & By-Laws will be brought forward for consideration at the October meeting of the new national executive.

This was an election year and our very own Fran Lucas from Edmonton was elected as 1st Vice President. Thank you to Dorothy Johansen for letting her name stand for election.

**The 2016-18 National Executive of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada will be**

President - Margaret Ann Jacobs

Ann Marie Gorman - President-Elect and Organization

Fran Lucas - 1st Vice-President and Education & Health

Shari Guinta - 2nd Vice-President and Communications

Janet McLean - Secretary-Treasurer

Joan Bona - Resolutions

Betty Colaneri - Community Life

Doreen Gowans - Christian Family Life

Jacqueline Nogier - Spiritual Development

Nancy Simms - Legislation

National Life Member Liaison - Bev Weiler (London, Ontario)

Along with other new Life Members, Edmonton Diocesan’s newest Life Member, June Fuller was initiated at the convention at a memorable ceremony presided over by Bishop McGrattan & Barb Dowding. Please be advised that the Life Membership process has changed and so please review the National Manual of Policy and Procedures for the new timelines.

In his address, National Spiritual Advisor William McGrattan reminded us that the CWL continues to be parish based and parish focused.  He encouraged us to prepare for the future of the League by mentoring the next level. Our focus should be on welcoming new members…all women should feel welcome in the League even if they do not yet belong. Our compass should be the 8 Objectives of the League acknowledging that change can be difficult but sometimes necessary.

The new theme starting in January, 2017 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.  Provincial President Cathy Bouchard advises that the National Executive will be working on spirituals and workshops to develop this theme and if any members feel inspired to create something along this line, please let Cathy know so these can be shared across Canada. We are reminded to be careful about copyright laws and get permission for all non-original work.

On your behalf, I have written a letter to new National President Margaret Ann Jacobs inviting her to attend our 2017 Edmonton Diocesan Convention to be held at Corpus Christi Church in Edmonton from April 21st thru April 23rd, 2017. It is hoped that if she attends she can personally provide us with more information on the theme she has chosen.

**You are warmly invited to attend our Edmonton Diocesan Fall Meeting which will be held at St. Stephen’s in Olds on Saturday, October 1st.** Guest Speakers will include five CWL members who created the Olds and District Hospice Society and developed a pilot study for rural hospice care who will speak to us about their journey, challenges and accomplishments. Also included will be a workshop about the new annual reporting system. The day promises to be informative, interesting and fun…. More information and registration information is available on the Diocesan website.

We are preparing for a presentation about the CWL which we have been invited to give at the November Assembly of Priests in the Archdiocese. Any ideas or suggestions would be most welcome and appreciated. Please direct suggestions and ideas to me. **I am requesting that every council in the Diocese provide us with a photo which has their spiritual advisor pictured with members or the council president by October 20th, 2016.** The pictures will be used in a power point presentation. Please forward the photos to Sister Susan.

Edmonton Diocesan Council will be hosting the Alberta McKenzie Provincial Convention from June 9th thru June 11th, 2017 at St. Charles Parish in Edmonton. As information becomes available it will be posted on the Diocesan and Provincial websites.

I am determined to contact by Christmas every Council President in the Edmonton Diocese. It is my hope to gain a better understanding of the everyday challenges and successes experienced by our members so that we, your Diocesan Executive can serve you better.

Blessings & Graces,

Mary Hunt

Edmonton Diocesan President

**Reminder:**

The National Bursary Program is awarded biannually.

The next submission deadline is November 30, 2016.