**President’s Report**

**96th Annual Diocesan Convention April 21, 2018**

**Normandy Room, Fort Saskatchewan**

Dear Sisters in the League,

Serving as your Diocesan President during the past year and working with a team of talented and faith-filled Officers has been a challenging but rewarding experience. I continue to learn about the League and the great gift that it represents for all of us.

During the past year, it has been an honor and a pleasure to visit Councils, attend Zone meetings and participate in spiritual retreats which provided opportunities to meet many CWL Sisters throughout the Diocese. I was very fortunate to attend a few special milestone celebrations; the 65th CWL Council Anniversary for St. Michael, the Leduc, 60th CWL Council Anniversary for St. Clare’s, the Edmonton, 50th CWL Council Anniversary for St. Michael the Archangel, St. Michael and Our Lady Good Counsel, Skaro and the 35th CWL Council Anniversary for St. John Bosco, Edmonton. We kept a Calendar of Events chronicling the various gatherings we have participated in over the past year which is available for anyone who is interested to look at. It is located here beside the Correspondence Binder.

Councils in the Diocese are in constant transition and growth. Catholic women are eager for faith-based opportunities for social interaction, personal enrichment and community service. Members join the CWL and stay because they want a relationship with God and with their spiritual sisters. We need to invite women to become involved in the meaningful work of the League. I continue to believe that the Catholic Women’s League is a spiritual gift and a gift that we use to develop our voice in this world. Members are aware of the role that each one of has been given to evangelize and we are grateful for the opportunity the League represents in assisting us in this mission. Councils represent a very special Sisterhood who come together to serve our Lord!

The Edmonton Diocesan Priorities for 2017–2019 were established with input from members attending last year’s Annual Diocesan Convention. The priorities fell under the following headings: 1) provide support to Parish Councils, 2)

increase membership,3) modernize CWL processes at the Diocesan level, 4) enhanced spiritual development at meetings and 5) support women and families in need.

The national theme ‘***Inspired by the Spirit Women Respond to God’s Call’*** was embraced by our councils and has been the inspiration for meetings, retreats and workshops including the Edmonton Diocesan Midwinter, Convention and Fall Meetings. Our women were spiritually nourished by various excellent presentations including ones made by Anglican Bishop Jane Alexander & Archbishop Richard Smith. Our speakers focused on being empowered by the spirit to be women of faith. We are women on a mission!

The 2018 Midwinter meeting was held at St. Thomas More parish on February 3rd. Those that braved the icy road conditions were rewarded by a wonderful day. Our speakers were Catherine and Dr. Austin Mardon. They are a couple who live with mental illness and are dedicated to helping others with mental illness, including fostering fetal alcohol students. They shared some of their knowledge of mental illness with us. The talk was engaging and generated many questions.

We have companions on this journey who are willing to support, encourage, mentor and guide us when needed. We share the hope that Our Lady of Good Counsel will guide us during the coming year and that we receive the Lord’s blessings in abundance as we continue to share our time, talents, treasures and our faith with our League Sisters in our councils, our families, our parishes and our communities.

May God bless you for sharing your gifts with your Sisters in the League and may you continue to serve your council with kindness, love and generosity!

This concludes my report. Are there any questions?

Respectfully submitted,

For God and Canada

Cheryl Boom

President

Edmonton Diocesan Council