



The Catholic Women's League of Canada Edmonton Diocesan Council



President's Report Fall Meeting – September 30, 2017

Dear Sisters in the League,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Diocesan President. I look forward to receiving your invitations and joining you at your retreats and special celebrations. I have noted in my diary that 18 Councils are reaching a special anniversary this year. I encourage you to invite our Provincial President, June Fuller, to your celebrations as well. When I am around CWL Sisters I feel uplifted and I want to serve.

As your new Diocesan President, I have already had the opportunity to represent you at the 97th National CWL Convention that was held August 6 to 9 in Charlottetown, PEI. The focus at this convention was on Strategic Planning for the future of CWL. The Strategic Planning Committee members outlined the background leading up to the decision to work on a strategy, the work which has been done to date, the findings from the Town Hall held on Tuesday, and plans for the continuation of this process. The report was received with enthusiasm and the members were encouraged to continue. Going forward, we may be involved in information sessions focusing on ideas on how to make the League more attractive to all women and also focusing on leadership development.

Dr. Reginald Bibby shared with us some of the results from a cross-Canada survey of 3 000 Catholics. He expressed optimism for the future of the Catholic Church in Canada. More and more people are rejecting religion, but there is still a solid core which continues to value faith. People give their lives and resources to the kinds of things they define as significant. He challenged League members to reach out when people need someone to be with them. He said “You have much to bring. You need to bring it!”

Rita Janes gave a report on the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation. The capital campaign to raise funds is proceeding well with fundraising on-going. The Certificate Leadership Program is expected to begin in May 2018 with fourteen candidates the first year. The will begin with a 5 day residency module on campus

at St. Paul University in Ottawa and then spend 10 months of online learning followed with a closing 4 day residency back at St. Paul University. I have a few pamphlets available if anyone is interested. Online applications will be available October 15th.

Four resolutions were brought to the floor and passed and these will be discussed in the report given by our Resolutions & Legislation Chairperson.

The keynote speakers were engaging and inspiring and their presentations are posted on the National website. The 2018 National Convention will be held August 12-15 in Winnipeg, MB and an opportunity to travel across the country with other CWL Sisters by VIA Rail is being arranged.

It was an honor and a pleasure to host the annual CWL Provincial Convention on June 9 and 10 at St. Charles Parish. It was well attended and enjoyed by all. Elections took place and I am happy to say they have a full slate of officers. Please visit their webpage for more information.

On July 5th, along with Belinda and Sophie Motoska, I met with Mother Catherine and Sr. Giselle at the Carmelite Monastery and my eyes were opened as I learned more about their order. I was intrigued and inspired! I am looking forward to building a strong partnership and working closer with them over the coming years!

Collectively, our 68 councils have 4,456 members. I am pleased to report that your Diocesan Officers and parish councils have been busy in the Diocese since we last met. The reports you will hear given by the Officers will serve to provide you with a wide overview of the work of the League in many areas. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to take a look at the Fall Diocesan and Provincial Newsletters which are available on the Diocesan website as they are filled with valuable information.

The Diocesan Convention which was held in April at our newest church, Corpus Christi, was a great time to learn new things, to be renewed and to be inspired in our work for the League. Sr. Susan gave a presentation on Leadership Strategies which provided much food for thought. Today Jean Ashdown and Mary Molloy will provide you with suggested next steps to take back to your councils.

The 2018 Diocesan Convention will be held April 20-22 at the Legion in Fort Saskatchewan and it is councils in Zone 3 who will be hosting under the guidance and direction of Convention Chair Gladys Brown. These councils are busy planning a memorable convention. The National theme, *Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call*, will be woven into the program, choice of speakers and spiritual programs. National President, Margaret Ann Jacobs, and Archbishop Richard Smith both have been invited to speak at our convention, however, confirmation is yet to be received.

Our annual Brunch meeting with Archbishop Richard Smith and the Diocesan Officers has been confirmed for December 16th. It continues to be an important opportunity for the Archbishop to discuss with us areas of concern and suggestions as to what the CWL can focus and act upon during the coming year.

We have struck up a committee to review our Diocesan Policies and suggested changes will be presented at our Midwinter Meeting on February 3rd. Please review our policies and send any feedback to me by October 15th.

Thank you for your dedication, good works and enthusiasm for the League. I remind you not to underestimate the power of prayer in our works to build the League and to build community through our joyful service For God and Canada.

I recently heard an African Proverb that resonated with me "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together". Together we can make a difference!

Please remember that your Diocesan Officers are here to serve you and your councils. I am excited and looking forward to working with all of you and will continue serving joyfully while being inspired to respond to God's call!

I wonder what the spirit is stirring in you.

This concludes my report. Are there any questions?

Cheryl Boom
President
CWL Edmonton Diocesan