***President’s Report***

***Midwinter Meeting – February 3, 2018***

Dear Sisters in the League,

The Edmonton Diocesan Council is presently comprised of 4,518 members in 67 councils which represents a decrease of 159 members from 2016. I am sad to see this number go down as we have been holding our own over the last couple of years.

Since we met last I attended and brought greetings to St. Joseph’s Basilica’s 65th Anniversary celebration/Annual Lunch, the 60th Anniversary celebration of St. Clare’s in Edmonton and the 50th Anniversary celebration of St. Michael and Skaro. What wonderful milestones! Thank you for inviting us to share in your special gatherings.

Our Fall Meeting held at St. Rose of Lima’s in Onoway on September 30th was well attended. 40 of the 67 councils were represented with 133 in attendance. Our newly appointed Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Jan, was introduced and we presented him with the CWL Stole and Spiritual Advisor’s pin during Mass. The guest speaker was Sr. Zoe Bernatsky who presented on Loved, Called and Sent: Women Living the Mission! and we had a "Leadership Strategies- Next Steps" presentation and table exercise. It made us aware that many CWL members are not familiar with all that we do.

In October I attended Convocation at St. Joseph’s Seminary and was pleased to be in attendance for the first time representing the CWL. I also attended and brought greetings to the Ukrainian CWL Convention and learned that our challenges are very similar. I was warmly welcomed at both of these events.

We received an inquiry from the Campus Minister for St. Joseph's College regarding reactivating the CWL Council at the U of A. This was exciting to hear!

Our annual December brunch meeting with Archbishop Richard Smith was well received, especially by the new officers. It was a great opportunity to ask questions and hear concerns as well. It was a very enjoyable time.

We received a Resolution from St. John Bosco Council in Edmonton that addresses Obesity not being recognized as a chronic disease. It will be good to have a resolution presented this year at convention.

The Edmonton Diocesan Convention will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion in Fort Saskatchewan from April 20th-22nd and planning is well underway by the ladies in Zone 3 under the direction of Chair, Gladys Brown, and Co-Chair, Jeanette Stecyk. The theme for this year’s convention is***“Living Our Mission"****.* Confirmed speakers thus far are Archbishop Richard Smith and National President, Margaret Ann Jacobs.

Thank you to each council who entered their Annual Reports online before the December 31st cut-off. Annual Reports allow us to capture a unique view of the dedication, enthusiasm and love of the League displayed by our members throughout the diocese. I am looking forward to receiving the consolidated report from National in the very near future.

The parish of St. Stephen in Lacombe had a Dedication Mass on January 6th for their newly built church. I wasn’t able to attend but heard it was a very nice turnout. I am looking forward to visiting the new church in the near future.

Three things I’ve learned in 2017 as a new Diocesan President are:

1. I joined CWL 19 years ago because it was an opportunity to connect 2 very important values, my faith and volunteerism. When something matters so much to me I want everything I am a part of to be perfect. The first thing I learned is perfection is an illusion. If I do my very best, good enough is good enough.
2. At times I have been overwhelmed by the sheer amount of work that being the President involves. Some parts of this work are incredibly rewarding, like the opportunity to mentor new officers and meeting new members, other parts are very challenging such as the never ending paperwork. The second thing I learned is that I am only one person and I cannot do it all. I have learned to say no to things and that no is a complete sentence.
3. The third thing I have learned is that when you find something on the internet that touches your heart and inspires you to share with others, make sure you attribute it!

This concludes my report. Are there any questions?