**MEMEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** July 4, 2018

**TO:** Cheryl Boom, President Edmonton Diocesan Council

Edmonton Diocesan Officers

**SUBJECT:** 71st Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Convention – June 1 & 2, 2018

I was fortunate to attend the Alberta Mackenzie 71st Annual Convention held on June 1st t and 2nd, 2018 in Okotoks, Alberta at St. James Parish as one of the Edmonton Diocesan Accredited Delegates.

It is difficult to know where to begin this report. The weekend was faith filled and welcoming. The Spiritual program was outstanding building on the theme of leadership and leaving no member behind. I renewed many friendships and met many new sisters in the league.

A copy of The Convention Program and 2017 Annual Reports as well as the Spiritual Program Booklet is available for review.

The speakers on Friday, June 1st, the opening day of the Convention were informative and inspiring. Judy Look, President-Elect did a workshop on “Three Cups of Tea”! Even though I had experienced it at our Diocesan Convention, I gained a fresh incentive to do something positive to establish relationships and how reach out to women to build the League one cup of tea at a time.

Bishop William McGrattan, National Spiritual Advisor and Bishop of Calgary focussed his discussion on “Gaudete et Exsultate”, Pope Francis’ “Call to Holiness” He introduced the document and integrated it with our national theme Inspired by Spirit: Women Respond to God’s Call and the works of the League. Bishop McGrattan reminded us we are all called to holiness through our baptism and guided us to see our place in Pope Francis’ “Genius of Women”.

Margaret-Ann Jacobs, National President spoke about Servant Leadership. She provided an opportunity to dialogue with others during her talk. She spoke about reaffirming others and one can’t be humble without having been humiliated. She emphasised that Servant Leaders develop other to become leaders. She closed her talk asking us to be visionary leaders thinking about the future. Planning strategically is how the CWL can move forward. We need to pray for the future of the league.

Fr. Reilander, President of CMIC spoke about the challenges faced by the northern missions. He provided an outline of the mission parishes and some of the history. Fr. Reilander was truly grateful for the support the CWL provides to the northern missions. He encourage us to maintain our commitment to this ministry.

Makrina Morzowski’s relived her experience in “Canada’s C3 Expedition” by sharing the journey she took in 2017. She explained her concept of ACE (Accept everyone, Challenge yourself, Encourage others). The Provincial Council had financial supported Makrina’s and she was invited to share her experience.

Friday evening concluded with Mass and the Official Opening of the Convention followed by a Wine and Cheese Social hosted the Knights of Columbus.

Saturday, June 2nd was the business day of the convention. The morning opened with the Memorial for Deceased Members. This service is always a moment to reflect and to remember our deceased Sisters and Spiritual Advisors. No matter how many times one participates in this service it always a special moment at convention.

Provincial Officers provided informative reports on many of the activities occurring over the year. The mass collection taken was donated to the Foothills Country Hospice. One of our councils, St Mary’s Council, Red Deer Alberta received one of the Walter Krewski Membership Awards. Resolution 2018.01 Recognition of Obesity as a Chronic Disease, submitted by the Edmonton Diocesan Council was passed. Member councils were encouraged to write letters to the Provincial Government voicing displeasure of the passing of Bill 9, Protecting Choice for Women Accessing Health Care Act known as “Bubble Effect” around Abortion Clinics. It was suggested letters be written to the Premier of Alberta and NWT, Ministers of Health for both provinces and your own local M.L.A.

The Provincial Officers entertained us following lunch on Saturday with a light hearted skit “CWL Goes to Court”. It provided some history of the league and lots of laughs as the CWL was defended in the “Sharon Malec Courtroom”!

This was not an election year and the day concluded with the reaffirmation of the executive. Bishop Emeritus Fred Henry celebrated the closing mass followed by the Banquet. Ruth Boden, McKenzie-Fort Smith Diocese received her Life Membership and Renee Spohn, Calgary Diocese received the Elsie Yanik Award.

This concludes my report.

Mary Molloy

President- Elect & Organization Standing Committee Chair

Edmonton Diocesan Council