**ELSIE YANIK RECIPIENT:**

**Rose-Marie McCarthy**

**St. Thomas More CWL**

**Edmonton, Alberta**

**Diocese of Edmonton**

Rose-Marie has been a member of the Catholic Women’s League for over 50 years. She has held leadership roles on parish, diocesan and provincial councils and was president of the Provincial CWL from 1983-85.

Rose-Marie’s passion for the CWL led to many hours of mentoring members unfamiliar with keeping the books for their councils. In 1988, she helped to organize the Edmonton Diocesan Field Workers who prepared an orientation presentation on all things relating to CWL. Rose-Marie chaired this committee for 15 years and presented workshops to most of the councils in the Edmonton Diocese. As a member of the National Field workers, she helped create and facilitate a workshop ‘Spirituality – Day of Discovery’, to help women discover their God given gifts and strengths.

Rose-Marie recognized the importance of preserving the history of the Catholic Women’s League and was instrumental in compiling a CWL Archdiocesan history book, a Diocesan archive (now in the Provincial Archives in Edmonton) and while Provincial secretary, collected and assembled 30 years of CWL history that was deposited with the Glenbow Museum in Calgary. From 2009-2012, she co-chaired a committee to produce a pictorial history of the one hundred years of the League in the Edmonton Archdiocese. This project was shared throughout the province and was on display at the 2012 CWL National convention held in Edmonton. Rose-Marie also led the Life Members in producing a ‘Memories and Stories’ compilation.

Like Elsie Yanik, ministry and leadership go hand-in-hand for Rose-Marie. Her passion for caring for women was demonstrated in both her personal and professional life. She was at the fore-front of the Women’s Sheltering movement in the late 1960’s, when violence against women was becoming recognized as a societal issue. Her commitment to this issue led her to speak to CWL councils, Knights of Columbus as well as other church and secular organizations to raise awareness and funding.

When WIN (Women in Need) Housing became a reality Rose-Marie volunteered as a board member and also volunteered as a board member of WINGS (Women in Need Growing Stronger). She became the director at KARA (Kids Are the Responsibility of All) and while there organized an annual CWL golf tournament with proceeds going to Kara. Eventually, a foundation for KARA was established. She was also a board member of the Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters. During Rosemarie’s term as Provincial President, the League petitioned the Government of Alberta for a family institute and when this was established Rosemarie was asked to become the chair.

A highlight for Alberta in 1984 was the papal visit by Pope John Paul II. Under Rose-Marie’s direction the Papal Banner Project was initiated and every CWL council in the province and the Northwest Territories participated in making 2000 banners that lined the papal route.

Rose-Marie’s contributions to the Catholic Women’s League and the community are immeasurable. We are privileged and honored to be able to present the Elsie Yanik award to this most deserving recipient. Congratulations Rose-Marie!