**The Catholic Women’s League of Canada**





**Edmonton Diocesan Council**

Spiritual Development

Standing Committee Chairperson’s Report

Midwinter Meeting (February 3, 2018)

Madame Chair,

“As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.’

Immediately they left their nets and followed him.”

I continue to encourage all of us to intentionally live our daily lives as a reflection of our personal relationship with Jesus. He is calling each one of us to a something that only we can do, let’s be willing to leave our nets and follow him.

On November 9th and 10th I attended the Father Mike McCaffery Pastoral Lecture Series which featured talks by Father Ron Rolheiser. On November 9th, he spoke on the topic “A Revolution in Tenderness, In the Papacy of Pope Francis”. This talk can be found on YouTube.

In November, I accepted an invitation to share a reflection on “Opening Our Hearts” at the Beaumont CWL Women’s banquet. It was a privilege to be ask to speak in my home parish.

On December 1st, I attended the 2017 AGM for the Foundation of St. Joseph’s Seminary and Newman Theological College with president-elect Mary Molloy. We were informed that there are currently 47 seminarians in residence. In 2017, there were six presbyteral ordinations and four diaconal ordinations. The College welcomed, Dr. Ryan Topping in January as the new Vice-President and Academic Dean, replacing Sister Zoe Bernatsky. The meeting was preceded by mass in the St. Joseph’s Seminary Chapel. I encourage you to attend mass in this devout space, which is open to the public most first Fridays of the month.

I also encourage you to visit the St. Benedict Chapel in the City Center Mall. Mass is offered there three times a day and it is a spiritual oasis in the midst of the hustle and bustle of downtown Edmonton

The World Meeting of Families is in Dublin, Ireland in August this year. This conference which uses Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* as a basis has many resources online.

Archbishop Richard Smith released a new pastoral letter in September 2017. In this letter, he encourages us to make scripture the basis of our lives and then put the Word of God into practice through worship, witness and service. At the same time, he released an accompaniment to the letter, explaining pastoral initiatives in support of his letter. I encourage all of you to read the letters, if you have not already done so, and to take advantage of the wonderful resources we have in our diocese.

This concludes my report, are there any questions?

Respectfully submitted,

For God and Canada

Belinda Halbach