



# The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Archdiocese of Edmonton

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL, PRAY FOR US

## **SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2014**

60 councils reported

Sisters in the League

Spiritual growth is the very heart of the League and the essence of its existence. Spiritual Development Convenors' duties at parish level are spiritual growth of members, study of Catholic teachings, role of women in the church, evangelization and mission assistance, lay ministries and ecumenism and interfaith endeavors. Councils in the Archdiocese of Edmonton have been very busy with CWL activities and this is good!

Most councils incorporated a spiritual program at their executive and council meetings. Times varied but on average it was 5-10 minutes for executive meetings and 10-30 minutes for general council meetings. Some councils reported one third of their meeting time was spent on spiritual development. Most councils began with Mass and started their council meeting with the League prayer, had a presentation, lecture, reading, song and/or a spiritual reflection and closed with a prayer. Some councils prayed the Rosary before Mass and some councils' Spiritual Advisors took part in the spiritual reflections.

There are many resources available for spiritual development. Many councils accessed the Internet for materials. The Diocesan, Provincial and National websites were very useful. Some councils accessed the Pope Francis site (EWTN), the Vatican II site and the CCCB site "on good soil", the Catholic Online Ignition Spirituality.com and Catholic.net. Some councils referred to the WCR, Scripture, Celebrating the Word, Living with Christ, Sunday Missal, music, CWL Prays and other prayers. Some councils shared personal experiences while others referred to the WCR, the Catholic Digest, Quid Novum, CWL Newsletters, CWL Communiqués, the League magazine, Marion Help Magazine, Diocesan meeting spiritual programs and CWL Convention materials. A couple councils used DVDs and a few councils referred to Spiritual Books and the Feast of the Saints of the Month. "Rediscover Catholicism: A Spiritual Guide to Living with Passion & Purpose" by Matthew Kelly, the Word Among Us, "Many Day by Day" by Rev. Charles, Prayer Book of Regional Pastoral Council, Women of Peace Booklet 2010, gospel meditation guide, material from Newman Theological College, Novalis and some councils referred back to old resources. A few councils followed a guide for planting a "Mary's Garden" with prayers.

Councils placed the CWL National theme "We Have Seen the Lord" at the beginning of all their meetings. Some councils incorporated readings and reflections related to the theme while other councils encouraged members to share personal experiences of where and when in their lives they met the Lord in everyday activities. One council drew members into reflection with everyday ascends and transcends. From this they were asked "how do we go out in mission?" Some councils attended a retreat day which was titled "Called to the Holy - Who me?" with Sandy Prather. Another council had a special celebration with Fr. Glen McDonald from St. Joseph's College to install their new Executive and incorporated "We Have Seen the Lord".

Some members attended Lenten Retreats, Silent Retreats and Spiritual Retreats. Many members attended Catch the Fire presentations and a few took courses at Newman Theological College. A few

councils hosted a Prayer Breakfast and many councils had prayer chains/circles and prayed the rosary for the month of May. Some members participated in a Cursillo Weekend and some members participated in a live-in. Many members participated in a 12 week Matthew Kelly Adult Faith Formation. Some members attended Bible Study groups, parish missions and several attended the Faith Study on Catholicism by Fr. Robert Barron. Several members have traveled extensively to the Holy Land and when they return they do a presentation on their trip. Also, a couple members went on a Mission trip to Mexico.

Some councils brought in dynamic speakers. Maria Chronik spoke on "How Heavy is Your Cross-Inner Reflection", Sister Susan Scott spoke on "Third World Education, Problems for Women", and Avery Acheson spoke on the "Central Alberta Refugee" Effort. Agnes Bedard spoke on the National Theme. Fr Jozef Wroblewski spoke on "How to Find our God Given Purpose", Colleen Soetaert spoke on "West Country Hearth", a Seniors Living Facility, Andrea Berkhard spoke on "Human Trafficking", Ruth Adria spoke on "Elder Abuse", Fr. Glen McDonald spoke on the role of CWL, Susan Sneath spoke on "Gift of Laughter", Kathy Martel spoke on the Womens' Prison Institute and Debbie Dornbos spoke on "The Women at the Well" to name a few. One Council purchased a Movie called "Mary of Nazareth" by Ignatius Press with a 1 year subscription to show it on their site. So far they have showed it twice but plan for more dates in the New Year with the intention to invite other councils and other Christian churches in their town.

Many members were active in every possible ministry in the church; Music, Adult Servers, Acolytes, Eucharistic, Readers, Ushers, Welcoming, Bringing up the gifts and Children's Liturgy. Many members teach catechism, sacramental preparation, RCIA and lead Bible Study Groups. Some councils brought communion to the housebound, visited the sick and brought meals on wheels to those in need. Some members are on Parish Council, Building, Finance and Social Justice Committees. Some members are money counters and some are office workers. Other members are sacristans, decorate the church, and maintain the altar vessels and linens as well as vestments for priests and servers. Members taught Catechism and sacramental preparations. Members participated in celebrating Our Lady of Good Council Feast Day, Legion of Mary, St. Vincent de Paul, attended the World Day of Prayer and lead the rosary before Mass. Many councils provide funeral lunches for the parish and CWL Honor Guard for deceased CWL members. Some Councils make prayer shawls and some knit socks for the poor. They also collect socks for the poor.

We have many wonderful, caring, active councils who respond to requests for any help immediately. Many members invest much time and effort in the needs of their church and those in the community! I am very proud of the work our many councils do throughout the year.

93 Sisters have passed to their eternal reward in 2014. "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord...And may Perpetual light shine upon them".... Amen.

May you all continue serving joyfully with One Heart, One Voice and One Mission!!

Respectfully submitted,  
For God and Canada  
Cheryl Boom

