**Report to Annual Convention**

**VP & Spiritual Development**

**Holy Family Parish, St. Albert**

**April 23, 2016**

Madame President, Sisters in the League:

Of the many things I noted in each of the Annual Reports I received from Spiritual Development Standing Committees was the CWL is truly “an organization rooted in gospel values calling its members to holiness”. Councils found countless ways to incorporate the National theme, “One Heart, One Voice, One Mission into their meetings, prayers and reflections. The leadership taken by our Spiritual Development Chairs is critical and we are all grateful you agreed to accept this opportunity to serve your councils.

There are many challenges in our world today, and one way we can assist is to pray, pray for ourselves, for Our Holy Father, for our neighbors, and for those afflicted in any way. These issues were prayed for or discussed through your spiritual programs. We are most fortunate Pope Francis is reaching out and providing guidance for us to pray through the Joy of Gospel, Laudato Si and particular in this Jubilee Year of Mercy his most recent exhortation on “Love of the Family” provides concrete ways to support marriage and families and to help them grow.

One of the priorities set for 2015 – 2017 was Spiritual Development for Members at meetings and Conventions. This is to be achieved by:

1. Incorporating Pope Francis’ encyclicals into meetings
2. Highlight the Year of Mercy
3. Encourage the hosting of spiritual retreat at zone and council levels.

As the Diocesan Executive we have taken this direction and strived to add elements into our meeting and work we do with councils. I am pleased to say that many of you have also taken this priority into councils. In December, information related to the Jubilee Year of Mercy was mailed to each council asking councils and individuals to consider how to show the corporeal and spiritual works of mercy into your lives by doing something to support Palliative and Hospice Care. Have you taken that step and have your filled out your form and returned to National? Yesterday we heard from Gordon Self and Deb Birkett, just what we might do? Will you? Please consider doing one thing to assist to palliative care and hospice. Remember to submit your pledge card. The pledge cards will be compiled and sent Pope Francis as a spiritual bouquet at the end of the year.

At the February national executive meeting, it was decided to call upon this power of prayer and to initiate a nationwide 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care on May 4, 2016. This is designed to take place during the National Hospice Palliative Care Week (organized by the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association) as a profound witness to the sanctity of human life. It is important that all members find some way to support this day of prayer. At the Diocesan Level, we will be coordinating the participation of our members to this 12 hours of prayer. There is sign in sheet for members or councils to commitment to praying through the 12 days, either at home, with others or in their parish community. Many councils have already put this initiative into action.. Please provide this information on the sheet or fill in a time slot. We will post all on our website so others will know and join your prayer vigil. As mentioned yesterday, the aim to know we have a CWL member somewhere in our Archdiocese praying together, alone with others during these 12 hours on May 4th. I have chosen the hours 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. I will be available to discuss the how’s and will provide additional information following the convention on a Prayer vigil in Edmonton.

This morning we honored our deceased members for their years of dedicated service, please ensure your report decease members to National Office directly. There is a form on the website for that purpose and I have a few copies on display. I also remind you the Archdiocese has a pamphlet and information related to Catholic Funerals. I invite you take a copy for reference.

I remind you the Tuesday, April 26th is the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel, please remember to honor her. Eucharist Celebration will be held in her honour. Salt and Light TV will be televising Our Lady of Good Counsel Mass on this day just check local listing for times of this broadcast. As Tuesday, is our Diocese day to pray the rosary for peace - you can do double duty by honoring Our Lady of Good Counsel, praying for peace and might be a good time to remember your CWL Prayer partner.

I congratulate all of you for your spiritual and corporeal work during this past year. As Pope reminds us “Let us not underestimate the power of prayer”.

This concludes my report. Any questions?

Mary Molloy

VP & Spiritual Standing Committee