



***The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council
Annual Reports 2024***

77 years of service to God and Canada



***78th Annual Meeting of Members/Convention
June 7th and 8th, 2025
Winnipeg Diocesan Council and
Holy Ghost Parish Council, Winnipeg, Manitoba***



A National Sisterhood

Visit cwl.ca to join.



ACCEPTANCE	ACTION	ADVOCACY	BELONGING	CHANGE	CHARITY
COMPASSION	CONFIDENCE	CONNECTION	COURAGE	DIVERSITY	FAITH
FAMILY	FRIENDSHIP	FULFILMENT	FUTURE	GOOD WORKS	GROWTH
HEALING	HELP	HOPE	HUMANITY	HUNDRED OF RESOLUTIONS	IDENTITY
INCLUSIVE	INNOVATION	INSPIRE	INTEGRITY	LEADERS	LOVE
MENTORSHIP	OUTREACH	PEACE	POWER	PRIDE	PURPOSE
RESPECT	SERVICE	SISTERHOOD	SISTERS	SOCIAL JUSTICE	SOLIDARITY
STRENGTH	SPITITUALITY	TRUTH	UNITY	VALUES	VISION
					VOICE
					WELCOME

National Theme January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2025

Here I am Lord, send me.

Heavenly Father,
Through the ages, you have called many to serve you.
Abraham, Sarah and Samuel; Martha, Mary and Elizabeth,
As well as countless men and women throughout the ages.
All were different, and each brought unique gifts to your service.
Now today, we too hear your call to come and follow, to bring our gifts to your service.
Help us, O Lord to make our reply, "Here I am Lord, Send me" with full and generous hearts,
in order that we may be your instruments in the building of your Kingdom.
We ask that you hear and answer our prayers through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Bishop Wayne Lobsinger

Winnipeg Diocesan Council

and

***Holy Ghost Parish Council,
Winnipeg, MB***



WELCOME YOU

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AGENDA

78th Annual Meeting of Members / 77th Convention Manitoba Provincial Council June 7th and 8th, 2025

Hosted by Winnipeg Diocesan Council and Holy Ghost Parish Council

All events take place at Holy Ghost Parish

342 Pritchard Ave, Winnipeg, MB

Saturday June 07, 2025

9:00 am Provincial Executive meeting

5:00 pm Opening Eucharistic Celebration

6:15 pm Gathering and Banquet

Sunday June 7, 2025

7:30 am Registration and Fellowship

8:30 am Procession of Flags & Banners, Official opening of convention

8:40 am Spiritual Program

9:20 am Greetings

9:40 am Business Meeting

10:00 am Health break

10:15 am Speaker: **Provincial Social Justice Chairperson** Chris Carlyle

11:00 am Speaker: **Provincial Faith Chairperson** Pat Ward and friends

11:45 am Angelus **Fr. Charles Fillion**/Lunch

12:45 pm Gathering prayer and
Memorial Service for Deceased Members and Spiritual Advisors.

1:00 pm Speaker **National Vice-President** Betty Colaneri

2:00 pm Speaker **Provincial Past President** Janet Brunger

2:45 pm Health break

3:00 pm Business resumes

3:30 pm Closing Prayer/Blessing **Fr. Charles**
Adjournment and Lowering of the Canadian Flag

Agenda subject to change

Scent Free Convention-Church and Parish Hall Handicap Accessible



"Who is this that comes forth like the dawn, as beautiful as the moon, as resplendent as the sun..." Song 6:10 (Vg)

O Blessed Virgin, Our Lady of Guadalupe
Intercede for us with your Son
That we who live in this land,
Indigenous and non-Indigenous together
may experience healing and
reconciliation,
on a renewed journey for justice
and peace for our children.

Mother of the Church, pray for us.

Residential Schools – A Prayer for Healing

Our Father and Creator, we acknowledge all the gifts we have received from you. We especially acknowledge the gift of children which points towards a future of hope. We express our sorrow for all those Indigenous children and young people who have suffered through their time at Residential Schools over these past many decades. A suffering that continues for many. We also remember with grieving hearts the children who have died during these years. We remember the pain experienced by their families, relatives and friends and the helplessness that many have felt when they heard of their deaths.

We know that you are a God of mercy and compassion as we see in the love your Son Jesus had for us. We ask for comfort, healing and consolation for all Indigenous peoples who are experiencing pain and sorrow over the Residential Schools legacy. Send your Holy Spirit into all hearts giving courage, humility and wisdom so that all the inhabitants of this land can walk the path of truth and reconciliation in justice, peace, and love. We acknowledge your gifts Father, and we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be



Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle is a Catholic coalition of Indigenous people, bishops, clergy, lay movements and institutes of consecrated life, engaged in renewing and fostering relationships between the Catholic Church and Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

www.ourladyofguadalupecircle.ca

The League Prayer

We humbly pray you, O God
our Father, to bless The
Catholic Women's League of
Canada.
Bless our beloved country,
our homes and families.

Send Your Holy Spirit upon
us to give light to our minds
and strength to our wills
that we may know
and fulfill Your great law of
charity.

Teach us to share with
others, at home and abroad,
the good things You have
given us.

This we ask through Our
Lord Jesus Christ, and the
intercession of our
Patroness, Our Lady of Good
Counsel.

✠Amen

The League Promise

For the glory of God and
the good of God's people,
I promise as a Catholic
woman to honour, invoke
and imitate our patroness,
Our Lady of Good Counsel.

I promise to be a loyal
member of The Catholic
Women's League of Canada
and to promote its interest
and growth in every way.

I promise to co-operate
with officers in all programs
under their direction and to
conform, to the best of my
ability to the bylaws of the
organization in all League
activities.

✠Amen

Mission Statement

The Catholic Women's
League of Canada calls its
members to grow in faith
and to witness to the love
of God through ministry
and service.
(Revised 2018)

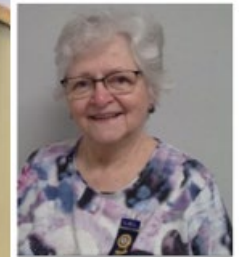
Core Purpose

*Uniting Catholic Women
to grow in
faith, and to promote
social justice
through service to the
church,
Canada and the world.*

Core Values

FAITH - following Catholic
teachings
SERVICE - local, national
and international
SOCIAL JUSTICE - actively
involved in society

MANITOBA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE 2024



SPIRITUAL ADVISOR
PRESIDENT
VICE-PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER
PAST PRESIDENT

Rev. Fr. Charles Fillion
Lucille Rossington
Lea Colbeck
Ann Schenkeveld
Eloise Gawiak
Janet Brunger

CHAIRPERSONS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FAITH
SERVICE
SOCIAL JUSTICE

Pat Ward
Marielle Rigaux
Chris Carlyle

LIFE MEMBER LIAISON

Monica Brechka

DIOCESAN PRESIDENTS

KEEWATIN-THE PAS
ST. BONIFACE
WINNIPEG

Bernadette Benson
Lacey Bernardin
Chris Carlyle Jan-April
Carole MacKenzie-Gruber May-Dec



MANITOBA LIFE MEMBERS

***Faith Anderson
(2010) SB***

***Susan Bernier
(2007) SB***

***Dolores Blanchard
(2007) W***

***Monica Brechka
(2012) SB***

***Janet Brunger
(2020) W***

***Rolande Chernichan
(2016) SB***

***Lea Colbeck
(2020) W***

***Beatrice Gross
(1999) W***

***Colleen Holloway
(2020) SB***

***Suzanne Kiazzyk
(2002) W***

***Albertine Moran
(2014) W***

***Ella Nogier
(2016) KP***

***Jacqueline Nogier
(2014) KP***

***Linda Parker
(1997) W***

***Mary-Margaret Patterson
(2013) W***

***Terri Scott
(2007) W***

***Margaret Silverthorne
(2003) SB***

***Jeanne Tinsley
(2009) W***

Barbara Thuen- 2019- Military Ordinariate (lives in Manitoba)

Life membership gives to the recipient, in addition to the honour, a permanent place on the national council, the same voting privileges as accredited delegates at an annual meeting or convention [C&B, Part XV, Section 2(c)], a voice in its affairs and eligibility for a national appointment. Life membership is an honour that entails responsibility. Life membership is not intended to be a reward for years of service or a retirement gift. National council requires support and active service from its life members. It is expected that life members will serve when requested at all levels to do research, write briefs/position papers, serve as a facilitator/animater, program designer, resolutions committee member, speaker, sub-committee chairperson or advisor/mentor. There is also the expectation that every life member will remain active in her own parish council.

These beloved members are no longer with us but the light they brought to us still burns brightly in our hearts. May they rest in peace!

MANITOBA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS †



Florence Fabris (1951)W (1970)HLM
Evelyn Wyrzykowski (1979)SB (1990)HLM



LIFE MEMBERS †

Winnifred Alexander (1961) SB

Helen Bembenek (1994) W -SB

Mary Bennett (1988) W

Maria Berthier (1962) W

Catherine Bird (1969) SB

Sandra Byrnes (2005) SB

Jessie Chudzik (1976) W

Betty David (2001) W

Rose Dion (1967) SB(moved to BC)

Dr. Rayleen De Luca (2002) W

Doreen Ferraton (1989) SB

Evangeline Gallagher(before 1945)W

Patricia Johnston (1973) W

Jean Keating (1981) W

Margaret Kelly (1950) W

Katherine Komatich (1989) W

Florence Kruger (1969) W

(Hearst, ON- moved to MB)

Marguerite Lanthier (1961) SB

Elsie Litwin (1989) W

Alice Makodanski (2002) SB

Diana McKenzie (1988) KP

Dorothy Muller (1959) SB

Mary Panero (1955) W

Elizabeth Pawells (1952) W

Mary Pungente (1975) W

Margaret Quinn (1948) W

Jeanne Reagan (1971) KP

Jennie Rice (1939) W

Bernadette Russell (1981) W

Shirley Scaletta (1975) SB

Margaret Shae (1930) W

Yvonne Smith (1948) W

Viola Specht (1979) W

Marion Trudell (1963) SB

Kathleen Williams (1977) W

Anna Zdan (1952) W

I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. (John 11:25)

MANITOBA PROVINCIAL PRESIDENTS

		<u>Diocese (town if not lived in Winnipeg)</u>
1948-1948	Margaret KELLY †	Winnipeg
1948-1951	Elizabeth PAWELLS †	Winnipeg (Fort Garry)
1951-1952	Dorothy MULLER †	St. Boniface
1952-1953	Mae COLTON †	Winnipeg
1953-1955	Mary PANERO †	Winnipeg
1955-1957	Winnifred ALEXANDER †	St. Boniface
1957-1959	Marjorie CYR †	Keewatin-The Pas (Flin Flon)
1959-1961	Marguerite LANTHIER †	St. Boniface (Norwood)
1961-1963	Florence FABRIS †	Winnipeg
1963-1965	Marion TRUDELL †	St. Boniface (Transcona)
1965-1967	Rose DION †	St. Boniface
1967-1969	Catherine BIRD †	St. Boniface (East Kildonan)
1969-1971	Jeanne REAGAN †	Keewatin-The Pas (Flin Flon)
1971-1973	Patricia JOHNSTON †	Winnipeg
1973-1975	Mary PUNGENTE †	Winnipeg (Brandon)
1975-1977	Kathleen (Kay) WILLIAMS †	Winnipeg
1977-1979	Shirley SCALETTA †	St. Boniface
1979-1981	Bernadette RUSSELL †	Winnipeg
1981-1983	Elsie LITWIN †	Winnipeg
1983-1985	Jean KEATING †	Winnipeg
1985-1987	Doreen FERRATON †	St. Boniface
1987-1989	Diana Mc KENZIE †	Keewatin-The Pas (Lynn Lake)
1989-1991	Mary BENNETT †	Winnipeg
1991-1993	Helen BEMBENEK †	Winnipeg
1993-1995	Linda PARKER	Winnipeg (Selkirk)
1995-1997	Beatrice GROSS	Winnipeg (Brandon)
1997-1999	Elizabeth (Betty) DAVID †	Winnipeg
1999-2001	Alice MAKODANSKI †	St. Boniface
2001-2003	Dr. Rayleen De LUCA †	Winnipeg
2003-2005	Sandra BYRNES †	St. Boniface
2005-2007	Terri SCOTT	Winnipeg
2007-2009	Suzanne KIAZYK	Winnipeg (Brandon)
2009-2011	Susan BERNIER	St. Boniface (Lorette)
2011-2013	Jacqueline NOGIER	Keewatin-The Pas (Snow Lake)
2013-2015	Monica BRECHKA	St. Boniface
2015-2017	Faith ANDERSON	St. Boniface
2017-2019	Rolande CHERNICHAN	St. Boniface (Isle des Chenes)
2019-2022	Janet BRUNGER	Winnipeg (Rosser)
2022-2023	Crystal REITER †	Winnipeg (Grindstone Park)
2024-	Lucille ROSSINGTON	Keewatin-The Pas (Flin-Flon)

***1971- The City of Winnipeg amalgamated with the surrounding cities, towns, municipalities**



Under the By-Laws incorporated in the amended Constitution of the Catholic Women's League of Canada approved and passed at the National Convention held at Ottawa, Ontario, it was deemed expedient in 1947 that Provincial Councils of the League should be set up in Canada" (EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE) When the Manitoba Provincial Council was first formed in March 1948 it consisted only of parish subdivisions in the Winnipeg Diocese, so consequently, Mrs. E. F. (Margaret) Kelly, who was the President of The Winnipeg Diocesan Council automatically became the first Provincial President. It was known as the Provincial-Diocesan Council until St. Boniface Diocesan Council formed on Apr. 23, 1949.

MANITOBA PROVINCIAL SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

Director: 1948-1984

Spiritual Director: 1984-1994

Spiritual Advisor: 1994-

1948-1950	Rev. Charles J. KELLY, S.J.†	<u>(Archdiocese)</u> Winnipeg
1950-1952	Msgr. Ignatius E. ZIELONKA, P.D.†	Winnipeg
1952-1973	Msgr. Charles A. EMPSON†	St. Boniface
1973-1973	Rt. Rev. Charles A. HALPIN†	Winnipeg
1973-1977	Rev. Allan R. HALL†	Winnipeg
1977-1982	Rev. Michael L. MOORE	Winnipeg
1982-1987	Rev. Roland BELANGER†	St. Boniface
1987-1992	Rev. Arthur F. SEAMAN	Winnipeg
1992-1997	Rev. Renato A. PASINATO†	St. Boniface
1997-2002	Rev. Louis J. McCLOSKEY†	Winnipeg
2002-2007	Rev. Martin J. BRADBURY†	Keewatin-The Pas
2007-2012	Rev. Martin J. BRADBURY†	St. Boniface
2012-2017	Rev. Leo M. FERNANDES	Winnipeg
2017-2022	Rev. Paul BRINGLESON	Keewatin-The Pas
2022-	Rev. Charles FILLION	St. Boniface

C&B 2023: PART IX: The League and the Church Spiritual Advisor

There shall be a spiritual advisor for each council.

The Role of the Spiritual Advisor

(i) *The spiritual advisor, in cooperation with the chairperson of spiritual development, shall provide advice and guidance for the spiritual program. (Part VI)*

(ii) *The spiritual advisor shall receive due notice of all executive and council meetings and conventions and shall attend and participate in all such meetings and conventions, when possible, in an advisory capacity.*

MANITOBA DECEASED MEMBERS 2024

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DOD (DAY MONTH YEAR)</u>	<u>YEARS</u>	<u>PARISH</u>
KEEWATIN-THE PAS DIOCESAN COUNCIL			
Pauline CHORNOBY	22-12-2023	41	St. Ann's, Flin Flon
Rita FORTIER	25-10-2024	67	St. Ann's, Flin Flon
Dorothy LEBLANC	22-08-2024	48	Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, The Pas
ST. BONIFACE DIOCESAN COUNCIL			
Zinny DEEN	02-02-2024	11	Mary Mother of the Church
Betty DELAQUIS	13-06-2024	30	St. Bernadette
Mary EVANS	26-07-2024	64	Mary Mother of the Church
Lucy GRAY	03-01-2024	32	St. Bernadette
Susanne JOHANNESSON	06-01-2024	05	Notre Dame de Lorette, Lorette
Shirley MAURICE	06-08-2024	13	Mary Mother of the Church
Judy MCGIBBON	23-01-2024	31	Holy Cross
Sophie MLODZINSKI	21-10-2023	27	St. Michael's, Cooks Creak
Carol MRAVINEC	05-02-2024	10	Notre Dame de Lorette
Sylvia MUTCHESON	15-11-2024	61	St. John the Evangelist, Morden
Lee OPITZ	24-01-2024	63	St. Alphonsus
Susan SEMENIUK	28-11-2023	40	Corpus Christi
Denise STEEDSMAN	30-11-2023	57	St. John the Evangelist, Morden
WINNIPEG DIOCESAN COUNCIL			
Gwen BEILMAN	27-10-2024	51	St. Anthony of Padua
Maria BENITO	29-07-2024	10	St. Anthony of Padua
Doreen BLANCHETTE	29-02-2024	38	St. Peter
Mary BRETECHER	20-04-2024	23	St. Viator
Jacqueline BRUCE	09-05-2024	25	Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Gloria BROWNE	18-03-2024	10	St. James Assiniboia
Agnes BUDY	16-09-2024	54	Notre Dame Selkirk, Selkirk
Lorraine CHEZICK	01-08-2024	52	Notre Dame Selkirk
Cecile CHICOINE	23-03-2024	24	St. Augustine of Canterbury, Brandon
Jean CHORNOBOY	23-09-2024	63	Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Marion DEWIELE	07-03-2024	64	Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Germaine GOUGEON	23-03-2024	20	St. Michael's, Gimli
Vivian HENUSET	29-11-2024	18	Sacred Heart, Virden
Antonia JANSEN	06-01-2024	51	Our Lady of Victory
Socorro JUAN	11-02-2024	41	St. Anthony of Padua, (WK)
Evelyn KUHARSKI	05-03-2024	40	St. Dominic, Neepawa
Tessie KOSTENCHUK	22-04-2024	25	St. Dominic, Neepawa
Yvonne LEWANDOSKI	16-07-2024	49	St. Augustine of Canterbury, Brandon
Virginia LYONS	27-07-2024	58	Sacred Heart, Virden
Jean MARYNEWICH	04-06-2024	11	St. Theresa, Middlechurch
Caroline MESERIC	25-02-2024	31	St. Theresa, Middlechurch
Barbara MATTHEW	18-10-2024	74	St. James Assiniboia

Aniela MIKAWOS	08-12-2024	50	Holy Ghost
Palmyre MOWEZ	17-01-2024	31	Sacred Heart, Virden
Helen MULLLIGAN	20-01-2024	74	Good Shepherd, Pothage la Prairie
Salve MURILLO	05-08-2023	09	St. Edward the Confessor
Katherine NEMETH	06-12-2024	28	St. John Brefeuf
Ella OLSON	09-07-2024	62	St. Augustine of Canterbury, Brandon
Mary ORSAK	29-12-2023	40	St. Joseph The Worker, Russell
Toni OSTROP	25-03-2024	13	Our Lady of Victory
Ann PATTERSON	17-11-2024	55	Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Anne PENZIWOL	11-11-2023	44	St. Michael, Gimli
Christine PIDORCHYNSKI	18-03-2024	33	St. Peter
Elizabeth POWER	13-05-2024	20	St. Dominic, Neepawa
Margaret RAINEY	12-11-2024	16	Sacred Heart, Virden
Sophia ROMANOWSKI	16-11-2024	32	St. Anthony of Padua (WK)
Elsie SHAW	23-10-2024	32	St. Theresa, Middlechurch
Annette SMITH	30-04-2024	14	St. Michael, Gimli
Shirley STREL CZIK	27-06-2024	18	St. Dominic, Neepawa
Pauline SUIDY	29-01-2024	20	St. Viator, Dauphin
Lorraine TARASKA	19-09-2024	51	Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Leona USUNIER	24-04-2024	42	Sacred Heart, Virden

*Unless indicated, all others lived in Winnipeg, MB

I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. (John 11:25)



Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel

**Patroness of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

Mary, Our Lady of Good Counsel: filled with the Holy Spirit, you were a faithful disciple of Jesus, your Son.

Intercede with your Son for us that we may be faithful to our baptism, fervent in prayer, and generous in the service we give to our sisters and brothers.

May the spirit of the living God, who graced you with the gift of counsel, lead us in the way of truth and love.

With the help of your prayers, may we come to rejoice forever with you and the great company of saints in the kingdom of heaven.

Amen





ARCHDIOCESE OF WINNIPEG
Catholic Centre
Chancery Office

Dear Members of the Manitoba Provincial Council,

I bring you greetings from the Archdiocese of Winnipeg as you gather at Holy Ghost Parish for your Annual Meeting of Members from June 7 – 8, 2025.

I wish, first of all, to thank your Manitoba Provincial Council for their prayers and kind works of support upon my retirement as Archbishop of Winnipeg. I consider it a great privilege to have been your shepherd over the past eleven years. Secondly, I would be remiss not to mention the high esteem that I have for the Catholic Women's League of Canada. Since my ordination I have worked with many League members and have learned long ago that the women of the CWL, play a vitally important role in the building up of the Church of Christ as well as provide excellent Christian witness to Canadian society as a whole.

Your theme for your Annual Meeting of Members is, "Here I Am Lord Send Me". This states very well what is the true spirit of the CWL – Catholic women who serve God and country. Thank you so much for your love and support over these past eleven years!

Yours in Christ,

✠Richard Gagnon
Archbishop Emeritus of Winnipeg

1495 Pembina Highway, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2C6
Tel. 204-452-2227 • Fax 204-475-4409 • www.archwinnipeg.ca





April 17, 2025

Mrs. Lucille Rossington
President
Manitoba Provincial President
Catholic Women's League of Canada
Box 825
Flin Flon, MB R8A 1N6
lucillerooss.cwl@gmail.com

Dear Members of the Manitoba Provincial Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada,

Greetings to all of you as you gather at Holy Ghost Parish for your 78th Annual Meeting of Members and Convention. I regret that I am not able to join you this year as I am taken up on June 7 and 8 with confirmations. I wish you an enjoyable and productive gathering.

The word of the day at the present time seems to be "uncertainty" or even "turmoil." This is so, not only at the political or economical level, but at many other levels, including at times our own lives, our own hearts. What are we called to be, to do in such circumstances? Pope Francis in his proclamation of the Jubilee Year invites us all to be Pilgrims of Hope, even in the midst of uncertainty and turmoil, our own and that of others.

It is a call to deepen our own source of hope in Jesus Christ himself. We have just celebrated His Passion, Death and Resurrection and rejoiced in proclaiming that life is stronger than death, that good is stronger than evil, that love guided by our Risen Lord can carry us at all times. Let us then make all the efforts possible to draw ever closer to Him.

The Pope's call to be Pilgrims of Hope is also an invitation to bring hope to others, all others. I invite you then to discern in what many ways the CWL councils and members can be pilgrims of hope to one another, to people in your parish and civic communities, especially for people who struggle to find any hope.

Dream and organize your responses at every level of the CWL. Let your prayer and your life express the words of the Prophet Isaiah "Here I am Lord, Send Me."

Wishing you a blessed gathering, I assure you of my prayers for you, all your families and for your various Councils. I humbly ask your prayers for my episcopal ministry.

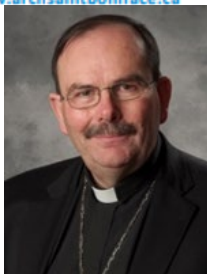
Sincerely in Christ.

+Albert LeGatt
Archbishop of Saint Boniface



Archidiocèse de
Saint-Boniface
Archdiocese

Diocesan Centre Diocésain 151, avenue de la Cathédrale Winnipeg, MB, Canada R2H 0H6
204-237-9858 f: 204-231-8550 alegatt@archsaintboniface.ca
www.archsaintboniface.ca





Archbishop Murray Chatlain
Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas
P. O. Box 270, The Pas, MB R9A 1K4
chancery@keepas.ca

May 9, 2025

Dear Catholic Women's League of Manitoba,

These have been significant days in the life of our Catholic family! First was the passing of Pope Francis on Easter Monday. I celebrate his generosity and life of challenge and commitment to remembering the poor and marginalized including Mother Earth. Then we experienced another conclave and heard the words: "habemus papem." We have a Pope! We welcome and pray for Pope Leo XIV.

Through it all we realize that the key work is what we are doing in our own families, community and parishes. It is at the local level, the personal encounters, that the ministry of Christ gets done. Here the CWL excels! Each of us is called to do our little part to make Christ present by our own hearts and hands. Each of us has heard the call and try to respond, "Here I am Lord, send me." When all those little efforts are put together in our shared faith in Christ, some really big things take place. I continue to applaud your political lobbying efforts and all that you do to make governments and all of us think about those most in need.

I look forward to being with you at your Provincial Convention. May God bless each of us with the enthusiasm of Easter and new beginnings.

Yours in Christ,

Archbishop Murray Chatlain
Apostolic Administrator of Keewatin-Le Pas
Archbishop of Winnipeg





**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council**

Dear Ladies,

It seems that I have been pretty silent these past weeks. Not that I'm not paying attention or not reading the emails. I have kept in touch by reading them. I have been pretty busy from going back and forth to the parish & Archdiocese. I am always surprised that I manage to do the work that I must do.

However, I had to make choices in participating in various meetings or celebrations. In fact, I planned to attend the installation of Archbishop Murray in Winnipeg. Needless to say, I had to be in my parish to prepare a funeral.

As we keep on marching in our work, in our spiritual life, we are reminded that this is part of being a *Pilgrim of Hope*. In the Jubilee Year, I hope that you are taking advantage of the multiple resources coming from the Vatican and also from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. Also, hope you are taking advantage of visiting the different Jubilee sites in your area. I feel privileged that Archbishop LeGatt has named St. Norbert as a Jubilee site. The main reason was because I shared with him that many people come and visit the Chapel in front of the church. The Chapel of Our Lady of Good Help was built by the parish's third priest, Noël-Joseph Ritchot, and was blessed in 1875. On the ceiling of this chapel there are original paintings by Constantin Tauffenbach.

Sometimes I come to realize that I am in a certain place for a very good reason. We will be celebrating the 200th birthday of Noël-Joseph Ritchot this year. Since he was born on December 25, 1825, we decided to celebrate it on June 6th, feast day of St. Norbert. Recently, we have moved the body of Msgr. Ritchot from the crypt in the basement of the church to the cemetery. He is now resting next to the Trappist Monks whom he was instrumental to bring them here.

I can go on about this incredible reality of being in St. Norbert at this time historical moment. All of this of course is thanks to God our Father for choosing people to be at the right place at the right time for a specific mission.

I invite you to reflect on how God had guided you to be at the right place at the right time for a specific mission. May this Jubilee Year help us to be thankful, to be in awe, and to praise God in His wonderful creation, and most of all of who we are.

Faithfully yours,

Father Charles Fillion, Spiritual Advisor
Manitoba Provincial Council





The Catholic Women's League of Canada

My Dear Sisters in the League,

Here I am Lord, send me! This has been the theme for The Catholic Women's League of Canada for two years—2024 and 2025. It has been gratifying to see the theme not only used and highlighted but put into action.

I have to congratulate you on the work done this past year in your province. It is obvious that you took the theme to heart. As you meet in convention, you can celebrate that work, your accomplishments and new projects.

The last several years have been years of change and development. I thank you for embracing that change.

We have entered into a Jubilee Year, the *year of hope*. As women of the Catholic Women's League, hope is a fundamental part of our faith and Catholic roots. We hope for good things in the future and for positive change, that the work we do will help those who need us to speak up for them and to effect reasonable governance in our communities, provinces and country.

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, said, "Since we are justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing in the glory of God... Hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Rom 5:1-2-5).

So, my dear sisters, as you gather in convention, please celebrate your good works, your accomplishments and your plans for the future with hope. You will not be disappointed.

"The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service." That mission statement is us; it is you, every member of the League in Manitoba.

Thank you for all that you do "For God and Canada" and for saying, *Here I am Lord, send me*.

Your sister in the League,

Shari Guinta
National President



Manitoba Provincial Council



Dear Sisters,

Welcome to Holy Ghost Parish and Winnipeg Diocese!

We are here today to acknowledge you, my sisters. Our national theme is very much reflected in your work done in the name of our Lord through your acts of service, charity, and presence among those who our Lord sends us to be with.

Our League should always be a sign of hope for those in need. We are women of action, and through our many endeavors we tend to accomplish this. Your provincial council brought forward your resolutions to our provincial government on April 23, 2025. We await the results of this dialogue.

Never forget your contribution to this beautiful organization based on faith values as we pray and make our way together towards our *Pilgrim of Hope 2025 Jubilee!*

Enjoy being with your sisters, share your knowledge, pray together, give hugs!

Blessings to all,

Lucille Rossington
Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council President



The Catholic Women's League of Canada Military Ordinariate Provincial Council



June 2025

Madame Chair,

Thank you very much for the invitation to attend your 78th Annual Meeting of Members/Convention of the Manitoba Provincial Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada. It is my pleasure and my honour to send greetings from your CWL sisters in the Military Ordinariate Provincial Council to all of you.

For those who may not know, we are the smallest province in numbers but the largest province geographically. Within Canada, our members live in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador and, of course, Manitoba. Outside of Canada, we have members in the United States.

No matter where we live, we are sisters in the League who eagerly share our faith and talents in service to others. We are so grateful to you all, and to the Manitoba Provincial Council and Diocesan Councils, for remembering us and inviting members from 17 Wing Winnipeg (and Canadian Forces Base Shilo) to participate in activities and events in their area.

Thanks to timing and location, we are able to have one of our members among you today to bring greetings in person. We pray she finds her time with you refreshing, as we know that Conventions often bring about fresh energy and new connections for those who attend.

In closing, our AMM was held virtually on May 31st and I am happy to report that we installed a new Admin Committee for 2025-2027. I am grateful for their courage in accepting leadership roles and their experience, as I expect I will need a bit of these during my term as President of the Military Ordinariate Provincial Council.

Your CWL sister,

Teena Cyr
Military Ordinariate Provincial President
mocwl.president@gmail.com
(850)730-6736



PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT

Lucille Rossington

January 1 to December 31, 2024

3 of 3 Diocesan Councils Reporting = 100%

On February 10th, 2024 at our Provincial Day of Celebration, through zoom magic, our Provincial Council was able to have Representatives and Co-Founders of IWIN, Paul Rubner a retired Calgary Police Officer and Kristin Fahlman who has a business degree and a law degree and now works as a lawyer in the field of Criminal Justice. Kristen is also a member of the Calgary CWL. Much good information was shared with dialogue taking place on Human Trafficking. Red sand was distributed to councils at this presentation so they can do the red sand ceremony at their church to bring awareness of Human Trafficking and Youth Exploitation.

Many parish councils report on supporting our National Theme focus on Mental Health by offering guest speakers, and discussions at their meetings or at special events, with homelessness being also discussed and activities being done to help in this regard. The following are some of the events held.

On April 20, at the Winnipeg convention there was a Keynote Speaker Tara Snider CEO (Sara Reid Inc) regarding Mental Health and Addictions.

September, Winnipeg Diocesan Council held their fall workshop with guest speaker Lisa Raven who gave presentation on "Roots of Reconciliation".

At the St. Boniface Convention the Keynote Speaker was Archbishop Emeritus Sylvain Lavoie who did a presentation of the 12 Steps to Everything (comparing all addictions relating to our mental health); as well, our National Vice President gave a presentation on the '1' campaign.

At a luncheon April 21st, at Mary Mother of the Church parish where the Guest Speaker was Sheryl Geisbrecht from Canada Mental Health Association, her topic covered Mental Health and Wellness.

The St. Boniface Diocesan Council held their Day of Reflection on October 5th, with a guest speaker who gave a testimonial as a residential school survivor. This was followed by a drum healing workshop.

Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan Council held a workshop on resolutions prior to their AMM. This workshop resulted in a resolution being subsequently forwarded to National and was adopted at the National AMM (2024.01 National Universal Pharmacare Program to Include Coverage for Drugs Prescribed for Mental Illness). They also hosted the Manitoba Provincial Convention where our members from the south came by chartered bus. Provincial convention had speakers Sr. Delia Rubio RVM, and Sr. Bing Ferrandiz RVM, who shared their journey in following God's call in their healing ministry which brought them to Canada and Keewatin-The

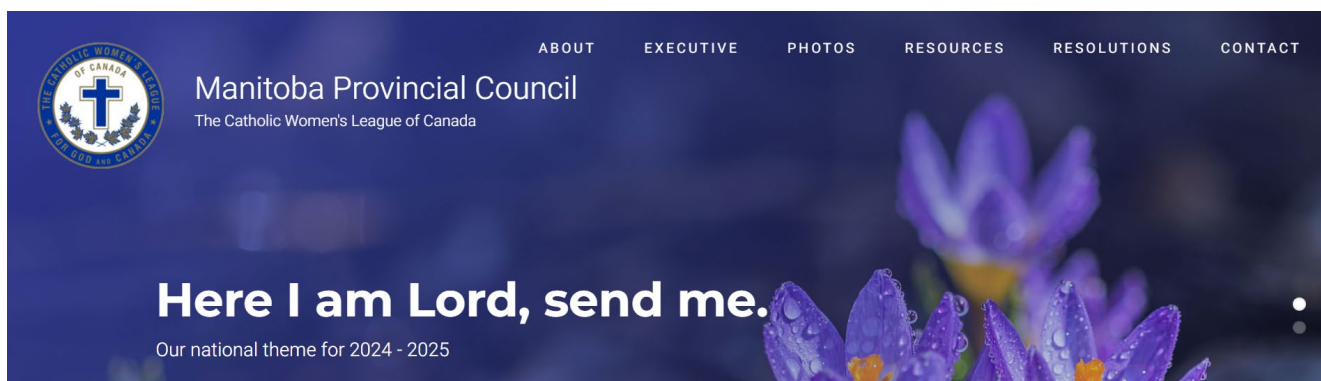
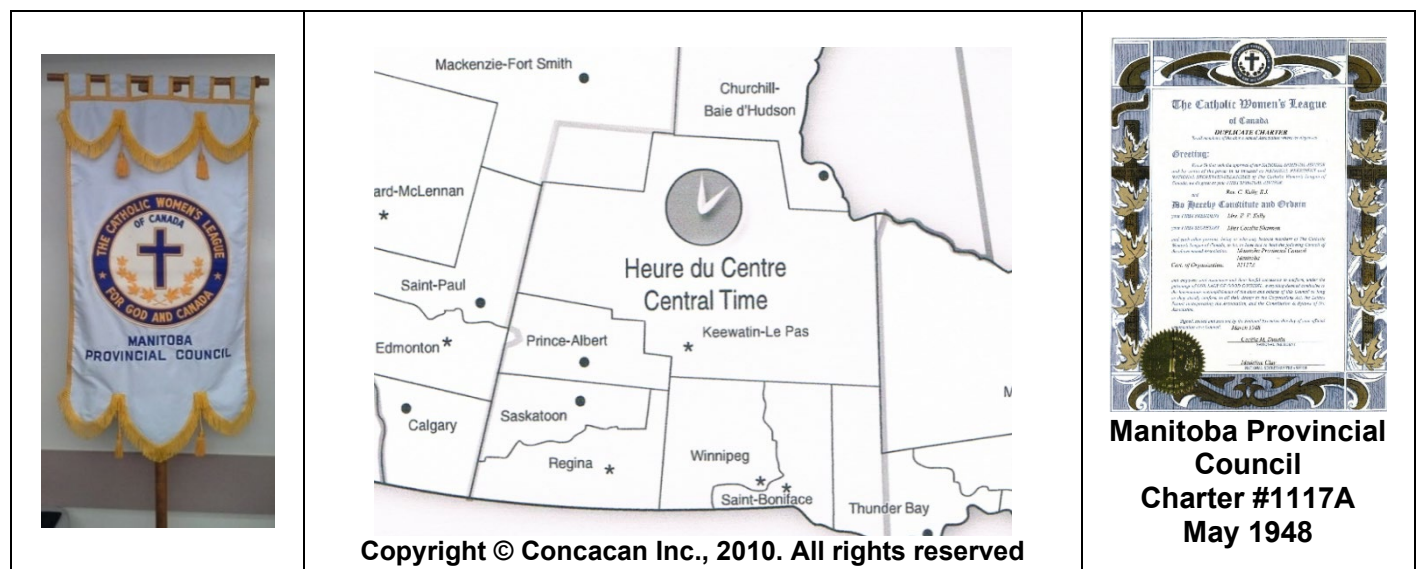
Pas Diocese. During this provincial AMM we also had speakers on CWL resources such as the Skill banks, and a PowerPoint share on how the legislation works.

A lot of parish councils have reported feeling as though they have not accomplished much after completing the Annual Reports Survey as what they are doing is not adequately represented in the survey. While many questions are important, many councils feel defeated when completing the survey due to not having participated in the specific themes mentioned.

I have tried to convey all information received from other levels of the League and to inform everyone of changes in formats, especially the Election Process regarding letter of Good Standing.

Recruiting members is a problem across our province, even though we try to go “outside the box” in recruitment, there is still a lot of parish and diocesan councils that do not have a full slate of officers and with their members aging they are not attending meetings. They continue to try, and with prayers to our Lady of Good Counsel and God’s help anything can happen!

This concludes my report.



<https://cwلمانيتوبا.ca/>



KEEWATIN- THE PAS DIOCESAN COUNCIL

PRESIDENT Bernadette Benson

January 1 to December 31, 2024

5 of 5 Parish Councils reporting = 100%

This is my fourth year as Diocesan President and I am very grateful for the support of the executive and the parish councils. I regret to report that we are now down to four Councils: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, The Pas; St. Ann's, Flin Flon; St. Maria Goretti, Lynn Lake; and St. Lawrence, Thompson. Our Lady of the Snows, Snow Lake became an inactive council, effective December 31, 2024.

FAITH

All councils report working closely with their parishes and Spiritual Advisors.

The League Prayer and Rosary are prayed before each regular meeting. A Bible passage and reflection are also given.

Members assist at Masses as Lay Presiders, Eucharistic Ministers, Readers and Music. Members are also involved in Catechetics, prayer services, Bible studies, RCIA programs.

Members led in praying the Stations of the Cross during Lent.

One council sponsored a Women's Retreat April 20, 2024; 25 people were in attendance. The theme was "Here I am Lord, Send Me"

A member of one council initiated the Traveling Rosary; a family offers to take the Statue of Mary, 10 rosaries and 10 rosary pamphlets home where they recite the rosary with their family and friends.

Senior members are offered rides to attend meetings as well as Masses.

Members are encouraged to attend and participate in community gatherings for World Day of Prayer and Fellowship of the Least Coin.

One council assists their priest when he attends outlying parishes.

Mass Intentions and cards are sent to members in times of special occasions as well as times of sorrow. A special Mass is held in November commemorating the deceased members of the parish council.

Feast day of Our Lady of Good Counsel was celebrated on April 26th.

Children receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation are gifted with candles, crosses or Bibles and also are celebrated with coffee gatherings

Honour guards are held at Funeral Masses of deceased members

SERVICE

monetary donations were made to a homeless shelter and the local Women's Shelters

food was distributed to shut-ins, elderly, homeless

working with the Food Banks by baking and donating items of food items

Christmas hampers and gift items were donated for those less fortunate

Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes were filled and donated

items of clothing and personal hygiene items were given to homeless shelters, the Women's shelters, and the Red Cross for Ukraine

tabs are saved for the 'Tabs for Wheelchairs' program

donations to Coady International are sent; bursaries are presented to Grade XII students at graduation. Congratulatory messages are aired on the local radio station for those graduating.

Christmas greetings are paid for on the local radio station and are aired Christmas Eve.

members are recognized and given pins for their Years of Service (5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, ...etc

members are kept in touch with newsletters, emails, phone calls

members work closely with the parish fundraisers

one council held a "Christmas Market" with all proceeds be donated to their parish church

SOCIAL JUSTICE

All communiques received from National and Provincial are forwarded to the parishes for their information.

Our Diocesan Council drafted a resolution 2024.2 National Universal Pharmacare Program to include Coverage for Drugs Prescribed for Mental Illness, and it was adopted at both Provincial and National levels!

All five councils are very generous with their time as well as monetary donations, which totaled \$6684.18 for 2024.

ONLINE SURVEY REPORT

Three of the five Councils participated in the survey this past year.

Thank you, again, to each Council, for everything you do "for God and Canada"

ACTIVITY REPORT--2024

On a personal note, I attended the following:

January 20 th	Zoom meeting with our Diocesan executive
February 9 th	Zoom meeting with 2027 National Convention Planning Committee
February 10 th	Provincial Day of Celebration at Winnipeg, MB
February 11 th	Provincial Executive meeting
March 19 th	Lenten Encounter of Prayer and Reflection webinar
May 3 rd	Preconvention meeting in Thompson, MB
May 4 th & 5 th	Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan Convention in Thompson, MB

June 1 st -2 nd	Provincial AMM/Convention in Flin Flon, MB.
Aug. 10 th -15 th	National Convention in Saskatoon, SK.
Aug.24 th	Provincial zoom meeting
Sept.16 th	2027 Convention Planning Committee zoom meeting
Sept.21 st	Diocesan zoom meeting
Sept.30 th	attended funeral in The Pas for member Dorothy LeBlanc and was part of the Honour Guard and assisted as a Eucharistic minister during the Mass
Oct. 4 th	2027 National Convention Planning Committee meeting
Oct. 5 th	Day of Reflection, St. Boniface Diocesan
Oct. 6 th	Provincial executive meeting
Nov.25 th	2027 National Convention Planning Committee meeting
Dec.15 th	'Walk Through Salvation History' – National Advent Webinar

Goals: To complete all items necessary for our 2025 Diocesan AMM on May 3rd & 4th in Flin Flon, MB and to assist the incoming President as she takes over.

May our Lady of Good Counsel pray for us and grant all of us guidance.

The 5 councils in Keewatin-Le Pas Diocese had 104 paid members in 2024

Sept. 28, 1952: The Vicariate of Keewatin Diocesan Council was formed. Charter #1571 was issued. The Vicariate of Keewatin was elevated to an Archdiocese on July 13. 1967.



The Archdiocese of Keewatin-The Pas covers 725,000 sq kms across northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and is home to nearly 110,000 people of Metis, First Nations (Cree, Ojicree, Dene) and non-native ancestry.

There are 44 churches and 32 rectories. Annual maintenance on aging buildings is costly, and with Canadian Tire and Home Depot stores a distant reality, many projects take a long time to complete and involve high travel costs. As you know with your own home, delayed maintenance projects can cause serious trouble down the road. Your support helps us keep up with essential work vital to the safety of our churches and rectories.

Archbishop Murray Chatlain, Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas- 2024 Archbishop's Annual Appeal Letter



ST. BONIFACE DIOCESAN COUNCIL

PRESIDENT Lacey Bernardin

January 1 to December 31, 2024

4 of 10 Parish Councils reporting = 40%

This past year, 2024, has been a good year for St. Boniface Diocesan Council. Our executive administrative council has remained unchanged this past year with both Faith Anderson and Sharon Kennedy doing amazing work and filling in wherever and whenever needed. Along with our regular Diocesan work, we're all a part of the 2027 National AMM planning committee which has and continues to be an interesting experience. I'd also like to single out Sharon for her amazing presentation on Forgiveness that she has been presenting to our parish councils upon request. It is a very emotional and educational experience. I'm also happy to say that our very own Father Kevin attended his first ever National AMM in Saskatoon. He did us all proud in his representation of us.

The council reports were down this year, which has made feedback a little harder to gather. Councils seem to be active in many areas again and are starting to really get back into their strides. Many councils have reported the gain of new members last year which is wonderful news. At our Executive Meetings, the ladies have really been getting to discuss ideas for fundraisers as well as sharing what each council has been working on. They are building a nice community of support and friendship.

Last Fall for our Annual Day of Reflection, we made it themed based on Truth and Reconciliation. We started off the day with a short spiritual program, some videos and then our first amazing speaker. We were lucky enough to borrow Doris Reid from the Winnipeg Diocese to come and share an intimate and personal testimony followed by personal smudging. We then had our second speaker, Dolores Gosselin, a local storyteller, share stories of her family and culture. We all shared in a drumming circle with everyone getting up and participating. We ended the day with arts and crafts in making a Truth and Reconciliation rosary bracelet. A big thank you to the ladies of St. Alphonsus for hosting us that day. Plans for next year are underway as we all feel we are needing some guidance and education with what our faith dictates.

I was very grateful to be able to attend many events last year as your Diocesan Representative. I attended the National AMM in Saskatoon, SK which was another amazing experience. I attended the MB Provincial Day of Celebration, our Day of Reflection, our Annual Archbishop's Dinner, several Honour Guards, and many other smaller events.

May the blessings of Our Lady of Good Counsel be upon you always.

The 10 councils in St. Boniface Diocese had 334 paid members in 2024

April 23, 1949. St. Boniface Diocesan Council was formed.

Charter #1176





WINNIPEG DIOCESAN COUNCIL

PRESIDENT Carol MacKenzie-Gruber

January 1 to December 31, 2024

15 of 19 Parish Councils reporting = 79 %

Thank you, dear Presidents, acting Presidents and Councils. 79% of you responded to the 2024 Parish Council Annual Report Survey. One of you even hand-delivered your survey to the National Office. God bless you all.

National Theme: Most of you have focused on the national theme, "Here I am Lord; send me", in one way or another with a speaker, attending an on-line webinar, a workshop, or a retreat. And many of you have focused on mental health issues as National requested, with a speaker, finding out how to get help, and how mental illness affects homelessness, job security, violence, poverty.

New Executive Structure: 79% of you have embraced the new executive structure, but some of your comments regarding difficulty in managing stated that age and lack of members was an issue; in fact, it seems that it is the main issue of all councils. Sadly, two councils disbanded this past year, and a third is near to that, and the issue as stated is that they can't recruit members to take positions, or they can't recruit period.

"1" Campaign: 64% of you said you had not used a membership campaign or project, 36% said they had. 60% said it was not successful. All councils encourage members to personally invite prospective members. 86% of you said that you encourage members and prospective members to visit the national website for information, and "Share the Words" was used by 36%.

Greatest Membership Challenge: 36% each said 'attracting new members' and 'attracting young members' was your biggest challenge and 21% said 'members not attending meetings' was a huge challenge for their council.

Despite the challenges of declining membership, you all do what you can to do service and justice in your parish, your community, in our country and throughout the world. We are strong and resilient women and continue to labour 'For God and Canada' in remarkable ways, and I thank you for that.

As president of the Diocesan Council, my challenge has been recruiting members to take on executive positions as well. After one year, and despite several phone calls, your diocesan executive remains short of a vice-president, a service and a social justice chair. For me, I was a long time coming to the CWL. I allowed someone's bias to influence me, and keep me from joining, and sisters, for that I am profoundly sorry. It is an honour for me to serve the CWL, as I am sure it is for you; thus, I extend a plea to you to consider serving a year's term in one of

the available positions on diocesan council, or on your own parish council, many of which have unfilled executive positions.

Saint Pope John Paul said over and over again, '*Be not afraid*'. I say to you, 'Be not afraid.' I encourage you to reply, '*Here I am Lord, send me!*'

The 22 councils in Winnipeg Diocese had 931 paid members in 2024

May 21, 1921: the Winnipeg District Subdivision of the Catholic Women's League of Canada was formed in The Archdiocese of Winnipeg. Charter #62 was issued on March 14, 1924.

Due to amendments to the 1947 *Constitution and Bylaws*, a subdivision in every parish was encouraged; so, on April 22, 1948 the final annual meeting was held. The bills were paid. Necessary business was conducted. A Life Membership was approved for Mrs. C. C. (Margaret) Quinn. A motion to adjourn was carried and after 27 years, the Winnipeg District Subdivision ceased to exist. Monies were donated to the Winnipeg Diocesan Council (already formed) to be used for organization.

**Charter #62 is officially the charter of The Winnipeg Diocesan Council
(as per confirmation from National Office).**

Diocesan Convention/AMM 2024



Exec 2022-2024



GUEST speaker from Sara Riel Mental Health & Addictions



Exec 2024-2026



**Diocesan Fall Meeting & Workshop
Sept. 28, 2024 "Relating 'Roots of
Reconciliation' to our national
theme "*Here I am Lord, send me!*"**





VICE-PRESIDENT REPORT

Lea Colbeck

January 1 to December 31, 2024

2 of 3 councils reporting

Recruit members and maintain membership

The challenge for Councils seems to be attracting new members especially younger ones. Meeting times can be a problem for the younger ladies to attend. There does not seem to be clear incentives for attracting younger members. 27% of the Councils have used the "1" campaign or some other membership project. Of those that did a membership project, the success rate was 43%. The vast majority of Councils encouraged their members to personally invite prospective members. 73% of the Councils did not use the Welcome Program to promote the League with prospective and new members. The general overall theme seems to be the decline in membership and members not wishing to take Executive positions. There was at least three Councils that disbanded this past year.

Leadership development

As stated above, there are not many members willing to take on Executive positions. 86% of Council Executives encourage members/prospective members to visit the National Website for information and resources. The Councils reported that 36% have used the "Share the Words (52 reasons to talk about the CWL)" material. From what was received in the reports, there appears to be no mention of leadership development projects being held in the Councils.

League resource material

The primary methods of communication to become informed of resources at various levels are emails (73%); meetings (55%) and communiqués (32%). Council Executives encourage members to visit the National Website for information and resources.

Annual reports

21 Councils reported to the 2024 Parish Council Annual Report Survey. The general feeling after completing the survey is that it does not adequately represent what the Councils are actually doing in their Councils and Parishes. While it was thought that many of the questions are important, the Councils were left feeling defeated that they had not participated in the specific themes/items mentioned. It was felt that time should be spent on activities that are of interest to the Council members and thus try to keep them involved in the CWL.

A comment that appeared fairly often was about the lack of knowledge about the use of computers. This makes it hard to access the National website, find other resources and enter reports.

Life membership

There was no information received under this category.



SECRETARY

Ann Schenkeveld

January 1 to December 31, 2024

3 of 3 Diocesan Councils reporting = 100%

Secretary for Provincial Council

- (a) Record the minutes of all meetings and AMM of the Manitoba Provincial Council
- Winter Executive Meeting – February 11, 2024
 - Pre-Convention Executive Meeting – June 1, 2024
 - AMM/Convention Minutes – June 2, 2024
 - Post-Convention Executive Meeting – August 24, 2024
 - Fall Executive Meeting – October 6, 2024
- (b) Retain all Minutes of the Provincial Council
- Minutes of all meetings are kept in a binder which will eventually be archived
- (c) Other:
- I am an alternate signing officer for banking documents in absence of Treasurer
 - A Secretary's Annual Report is prepared for the Annual Convention Booklet
 - I attend meetings of the 2027 National Convention Planning Committee and take Minutes
- (d) I update the *Elections Register* as required

Correspondence Sent and Received:

- Sent thinking of you card to Paulette Chase; received a nice thank you card from her
- Sent invitation letters for the 2024 convention to Premier of Manitoba, Knights of Columbus, Military Ordinariate, Ukrainian Catholic Women's League
- Emailed Minutes of 2023 Convention to life member liaison, Monika, for distribution
- Sent a sympathy card to Daren Reiter's family upon Daren's death
- Sent a sympathy card to Lucille Rossington on the death of her brother
- Thank-you card received from St. Peter's Council for Christmas greetings and 3 CWL posters that were given to them
- Received letter from Fran Lucas indicating that our Past President may continue in her present position for another two years
- Thank you note from Archbishop Murray Chatlain for the support the CWL has given to Sister Bing and Sister Del and for the work they do. We were also thanked for the \$1400 donation given for the 5-year plan for the Keewatin Faith Formation program

Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan Report:

Notice of meeting sent to all Diocesan Executives, Chairpersons and Spiritual Advisor prior to all zoom meetings and Diocesan Convention.

Zoom Meeting held January 20th, 2024 at 10:04 a.m. Agenda circulated prior. Minutes of September 23, 2023 circulated by email to CWL Keewatin-The Pas Archdiocesan Council, Fr. Ravi Jangam, Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan Spiritual Advisor and Parish Presidents.

Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan 72nd Pre-Convention Meeting was held May 3rd, 2024 in Thompson, Manitoba minutes taken. Minutes of the Zoom Meeting January 20th, 2024 circulated by email to Diocesan Executives, Chairpersons and Spiritual Advisor and Parish Presidents. (prior to pre-convention meeting).

Keewatin-The Pas 72nd Archdiocesan Convention was held May 4 & 5th, 2024 hosted by St. Lawrence Parish Council, Thompson, Manitoba May 7th, 2024 minutes taken. Standing Rules of the 72nd AMM along with the Robert Rule of Order for the 72nd AMM were circulated prior and read at the Keewatin-The Pas 72nd Archdiocesan Meeting of Members.

Prepared the Mass Pamphlet and Banquet Pamphlet program for the 72nd Archdiocesan Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan Convention with the approval of Diocesan President, Bernadette Benson and Archbishop, Murray Chatlain.

Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan Zoom Meeting held Saturday September 21st, 2024 minutes taken. Pre-convention Minutes of May 3rd, 2024, circulated to all Diocesan Executives, Chairpersons, and Spiritual Advisor and Parish Presidents. (prior to Zoom Meeting).

A Mass intention was sent to Richard LeBlanc, on the passing of his wife Dorothy, a 48 year member of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish and a long standing member of Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan Council Executive. I had the privilege of attending her funeral on September 30th, 2024 in The Pas, Manitoba.

This has been a year of much sadness along with many new changes within the Catholic Women's League. St. Ann's Parish Council lost a great sister, Rita Fortier, 67 plus years, may she rest in peace.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to pray for us during these new times.
I wish You and Yours Many Blessings of Peace, Joy, Happiness and New Beginnings for 2025

St. Boniface Diocesan Council Report:

Four councils submitted reports.

Councils mainly communicated with members at meetings; however, some councils have used email to communicate.

The website is used by a few members who go regularly for information. Changes to the website have been embraced by members and some are still familiarizing themselves with the website. For those who are not tech savvy, the website can be overwhelming, and some feel it is not user friendly. It was noted that the search engine did not generate the information requested. There was an indication that the spiritual activities suggested are too intellectual/theological to use at meetings. There is never enough time at the meetings to use the many excellent resources/videos.

Seventy-five percent reported not viewing the national League postings on social media. This same number indicated that pictures with a short description of a council event was not submitted to share on social media.

There was a split of 50% of Yes and No of councils having someone assist the secretary with communications activities.

A final comment was "This survey does not reflect all the good works our council has done over the past year."

Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan Report:

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Winnipeg Diocesan Council Report

14 out of 19 Councils reported – 79%

The primary method of communication of most of the council's use to become informed of resources at various levels is by email and at meetings. The communiques, directives or memos are another popular method of informing members. Other methods include websites, word of mouth, telephone and text.

Communication of the executive with its members is primarily done monthly, however some councils communicate every two weeks and some as little as every two months or quarterly.

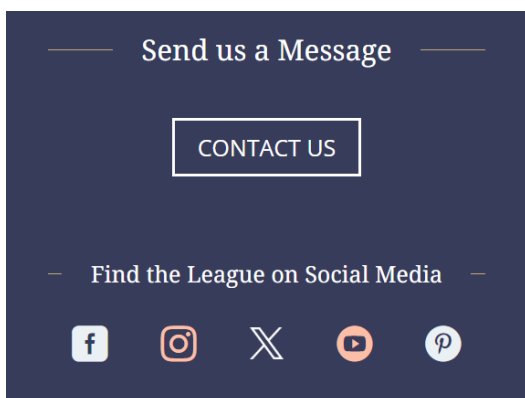
For councils accessing the national website there was one suggestion where they felt there was no direction on who to send information to the site. They had recently done a Red Sand service and had photos to submit and there was no indication as to who these should go to. Some felt the website was very informative with lots of resources available. Many like the calendar when you open the website.

Out of the councils reporting 8 councils view the national League postings on social media and 6 councils do not.

Out of the 14 councils reporting, there are 6 councils who submitted pictures and a short description of a council event or occasion to share with others and 8 who did not.

There are 10 councils who have someone assist the secretary with communications activities.

Thank you everyone for taking the time to fill out the survey. This helps everyone make the CWL organization stronger and better able to move forward.



Handbook
for
Secretaries

Inv #612

<https://www.cwl.ca/>



TREASURER'S REPORT

Eloise Gawiak

January 1 to December 31, 2024

As the Provincial CWL Treasurer, I maintain the Financial Records of this council. I assumed these duties after the August 2024 meeting. A financial statement was prepared for the executive whenever we held a meeting. The year end financial statements were reviewed by a retired CPA in Flin Flon.

I use an Excel spreadsheet for the general ledger backed up with bank statements. The expenditures and deposits are itemized in the general ledger and filed monthly with the bank statement and bank reconciliation. I track the GICs and redeposit as instructed. I set up the bank account to receive and send funds by e-transfer during this year. We also now have an email address associated with our bank account.

Due to my availability, Lea Colbeck assists me in collecting funds when applicable. I reconcile the deposits to the backup and invoices paid pertaining to the event. I will pay invoices by cheque or e-transfer. This council has three signing officers with two signatures required on a cheque. All invoices paid by e-transfers are approved by the President by email. This email is printed as backup to the invoice. The invoices are indicated as being by the Manitoba Provincial P&P or current motion.

A draft budget for 2025 was prepared by Lucille Rossington and myself. It was reviewed and finalized by the executive at the winter executive meeting.

DONATIONS FOR 2024 3 of 3 Diocesan Councils reporting	
National Voluntary Funds	
Coady International Institute	2,270.00
Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace (CCODP)	250.00
Catholic Missions in Canada	50.00
Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA)	2,551.00
National Bursary Fund	175.00
National Voluntary Fund Sub-Total	\$5,296.00
Provincial/Diocesan Donations	\$9,659.50
Standing Committees (Faith, Service, Social Justice)	\$41,589.63
Parish Donations	\$13,393.25
TOTAL OF ALL DONATIONS	\$69,938.38



January 13th, 2025

Eloise Gawiak
Treasurer of the Manitoba Provincial
Council of the Catholic Women's League
PO Box 211
Flin Flon, Manitoba R8A 1M9

Dear Members of the Catholic Women's League,

I have examined the revenue and expenditures recorded in the ledger, deposit sheets and all other documents provided by the Manitoba Provincial CWL Treasurer. From the various procedures used it can be concluded that the records adequately present the financial position of your organization as a result of the 2024 operations. I have endeavored to provide a thorough examination of the supporting documents, however, it should be recognized that this review is undertaken in a non-professional capacity.

The review included examination of all documents that were made available. The ledger was found to be up-to-date with entries completed to year end and reconciled with the bank statements throughout the year.

I trust this review will satisfy the needs of your organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail Lazar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'G' and 'L'.

Gail Lazar, H.B. Com, CPA, CGA (Retired)

Financial information have been removed .
If you desire a copy please contact the Manitoba Provincial President



The Catholic Women's
League of Canada

Guidelines for
Treasurers

inventory #609



PAST PRESIDENT

Janet Brunger

January 1 to December 31, 2024

3 of 3 Diocesan Councils reporting = 100%

(a) **Policy and Procedure**

Manitoba Provincial Council has implemented revisions to our Policy Manual in accordance with the revisions brought forward by National Council.

At the Diocesan level, one Council has completed the revisions, and another will be reviewing their Policy Manual in the coming months.

At the Parish level, approximately 50% of Councils either have implemented the revisions to their Policy Manuals or are in the process of doing so.

(b) **Maintaining archives**

At the Provincial level, every attempt has been made to maintain archives in a timely manner.

At the Diocesan level, archives were kept up to date with documentation, photos, etc.

At the Parish level, only half or less than half of Councils maintained their archives, although it was acknowledged that when photo albums and history records were available, our members enjoyed looking through them. The breakdown occurs in most cases when the office of Past President is vacant and no one else is available to ensure that this valuable information is incorporated into the archives. The *Book of Life* has been maintained and brought up to date when necessary.

(c) **Consultative Capacity**

At both the Provincial and Diocesan levels, the Past Presidents have been consulted on a number of topics, to which they have responded to the best of their ability. At the Parish level, a newly minted Past President is frequently consulted, and these requests diminish with time, as the new president becomes more comfortable in her role.

(d) Elections Process

At all levels of the League in Manitoba, the Past President, where available, is consulted on elections, and further, is regularly requested to conduct the elections process.

(e) Comments

Past Presidents expressed satisfaction in mentoring a new president and seeing her succeed in her role.

Many Past Presidents commented that executive members are holding multiple titles due to lack of members willing to take on executive positions.

Past Presidents are always willing to step forward to fulfill "other duties as assigned"; eg. administer zoom meetings, participate in planning for special events, etc.



CHAIRPERSON'S PRAYER

Dear Lord, make me appreciative of the dignity of my standing committee and its many responsibilities.

Never permit me to disgrace it by giving way to coldness, unkindness or impatience.

Please bear with my faults, looking only to my intention, which is to serve You in the person of each member of the Catholic Women's League.

Increase my faith, bless my efforts and work "For God and Canada." Amen



FAITH STANDING COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Pat Ward

January 1 to December 31, 2024

3 of 3 Diocesan Councils reporting = 100 %

(a) spiritual growth of members

Our national theme for 2024 “**Here I Am Lord, Send Me**” inspired Councils. Some councils brought in guest speakers, while others put on a workshop. Other councils had prayers that reflected on Isaiah 6:8 and members prayed the theme prayer at meetings. There were group sharing works on how members have responded to God’s call in their lives. Another accessed Catholic resources and prayers from the web. In other councils, resources from the national CWL website were used in creating services for their meeting.

(b) study of Catholic teachings

A few councils read and studied the *Encyclicals* by Pope Francis. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* was encouraged to be studied. In some Councils the rosary is prayed before meetings. General meetings are started with scripture readings, reflection and prayer. Some councils assist with teaching, for those receiving the sacraments. Some councils had CWL members that led RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) classes.

(c) role of women in the church

Councils raised awareness of Catholic resources online. Other councils encouraged the reading of Synodal Synthesis document. Discussions were done on League position papers. Some participated in the Year of Prayer Webinars hosted by CCCB (Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops). Another council studied by reading the *Encyclicals* by Pope Francis.

Members take part in the Liturgy and Eucharistic celebration of the Mass. Mass intentions to those celebrating milestone birthdays, and those who reach 90 years, receive a Mass Intention each year afterwards. A special Mass is held in November commemorating the deceased members.

(d) evangelization and mission assistance

Members lead in praying the Stations of the Cross during Lent. A council sponsored a Women’s Retreat where the theme was “Here I Am Lord, Send Me”. The Feast of our Lady of Good Counsel was celebrated with Mass.

(e) lay ministries

Councils promoted and supported religious vocations by donating to the Seminary Fund. They also supported consecrated women religious with prayer and/or donations. Sponsored League membership to Novitiates. Also hosted a special event to celebrate their Priest’s birthday, or anniversary, or ordination.

(f) ecumenism and interfaith endeavours

Some of the councils worked with other churches to address local concern as a way of participating or partnering of interfaith or Ecumenical support. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was participated by five councils. World Day of Prayer was a popular event participated by councils.

Prayer for the Holy Father

O God, shepherd and ruler
of all the faithful, look with
favour upon Your servant
Pope Francis, whom You
have chosen shepherd of
Your Church.

Grant him, we beseech You,
that by word and example

Prayer for Vocations

Lord Jesus Christ, You took to Yourself
a body and soul like ours,
To teach us the glory of self-sacrifice
and service.

Mercifully instill in our hearts the
desire to dedicate our lives to you.



SERVICE STANDING COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Marielle Rigaux

January 1 to December 31, 2024

3 of 3 Diocesan Councils reporting = 100%

- (a) marriage and family:** nothing was reported
- (b) evangelization and mission assistance:**

In every human interaction "you" personally have, also as a CWL member, you were evangelizing.
When you give, donate, share with others and pray for others, you are evangelizing.
Operation Christmas, food banks, school breakfast programs, helping at food kitchens, food banks etc. that is evangelization.
Evangelization "It is the oxygen of Christian life" (Pope Francis")
- (c) ministry to various groups:** (youth, disabled, seniors, widowed, separated and divorced)

A CWL council acknowledged their Grade XII graduating class by wishing them a congratulatory message on the radio.
Every time the preparation for Confirmation meeting was held, the only CWL member of that Parish provided a variety of cookies for about 30 youth for their break. This same

member provided cookies and treats for the youth group that meets once a month but only when in her parish.

All 3 Manitoba dioceses provided visits and phone calls to seniors in manors and personal care homes. Senior members were offered rides to mass and to CWL meetings.

A council held a "Call to Action" as part of their general meeting agenda and hosted a "Depression in Teens" information evening.

- (d) **refugees, immigration and citizenship:** nothing reported
- (e) **Development & Peace:** nothing reported
- (f) **developing countries:** nothing reported
- (g) **catholic education:** nothing reported
- (h) **literacy and continuing education:** nothing reported
- (i) **scholarships & bursaries:** nothing reported
- (j) **wellness and sickness/diseases:** All councils sent cards to their shut-ins, and those who were ill and hospitalized. Members visited and made phone calls.
- (k) **pornography/human trafficking:** 2 dioceses reported that a few councils hosted a Red Sand Prayer Ceremony at their church, thus bringing attention to Human Trafficking in its many forms.
CWL councils raised awareness about bullying, homelessness and racism.
- (l) **liaison with Pastoral Councils:** some CWL Councils have members that serve both on the parish and pastoral councils.
- (m) **parish assistance:** There is no end as to how CWL helps, not only in their parishes but province wide. Members support "Operation Christmas", homeless shelters, soup kitchens, local food banks, school breakfast programs for kids, Christmas hampers, Coady International, Tabs for Wheelchairs, deliver Meals on Wheels, do highway cleanup in spring and fall, and do baking along with human resources at funeral luncheons. CWL councils do fundraisers for their parish and organizations they support. A member did a one woman bake sale in the name of the CWL and raised \$600 which was donated to the Joy Smith Foundation. CWL councils support the Fellowship of the Least Coin and give to the 1%.

Hands that prepare and serve to raise money for the needy



Service and Social Justice go hand in hand as many hands make or collect and donate items for social justice issues



**and many hands are in prayer as they participate in and spread red sand
for those who are victims of human trafficking**



and many participate in opportunities of reconciliation



SOCIAL JUSTICE STANDING COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Chris Carlyle

January 1 to December 31, 2024

3 of 3 Diocesan Councils reporting = 100 %

As I begin this annual report for Manitoba Provincial Council, I would like to congratulate Kee-Pas Diocese for their hard work on Resolution 2024:02 "National Universal Pharmacare Program to Include Coverage for Drugs Prescribed for Mental Illness". A lot of effort was put into this resolution with the successful approval at the National Convention in Saskatoon August 2024. This resolution was the outcome of a workshop held at the Kee-Pas AMM in May 2024. Now we wait for the federal government to reconvene and continue the work on a national pharmacare plan. As parish councils, we need to continue to take action and advocate for this resolution to be enacted.

The Social Justice Chair seems to be a difficult position to fill. Two of the three diocesan councils do not have a Social Justice chair. Although, interest was reported in the following areas: Indigenous relations, upholding the life and dignity of the human person, advocating for the poor, care of God's creation, human trafficking, intimate partner violence, mental health and lastly dignity of work and equal rights of workers.

Councils report they generally monitored federal legislation, but few took action on the resolutions. A few councils took part in a postcard or letter writing campaign.

There are many resources found at cwl.ca. Councils generally are challenged to monitor or access these resources. Reasons quoted are age and lack of energy, poor internet access or comfort using the internet. I encourage councils to designate a member with computer skills to monitor and update members about interesting facts or news found on the website at a general meeting.

I encourage all members to continue working to educate ourselves and members on social justice topics. In this time of society changes and pressures, there are endless opportunities to make an impact in society.

I prayerfully ask that members continue to be engaged in all social justice topics and opportunities.

A Prayer for Social Justice

God, we pray that Your Spirit may rule over all things.

May Your Spirit rule over kings and presidents, over prime ministers and generals, over CEO's and party bosses, over the legislature and over the bureaucrats, over all citizens.

May Your Spirit guide us on the way to peace, on the way of honest dialogue, on the way of reconciliation between peoples, on the way of disarmament and justice, on the way of freedom and life for all.

May Your Spirit lead us on a journey of blessings shared with all, on the journey of educational opportunity for all our children, on the adventure of research and study that helps all men and women, on the road to meaningful work for all people, on the path of solidarity and love between all our brothers and sisters.

May Your Spirit help us to speak up with courage to share what we have and what we are to challenge the powers that be to offer a message of liberation and life. We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen

Name of Council:	The Catholic Women's League of Canada Manitoba Provincial Council
Standing Committee: 2024.01	Legislation Expand Bill C64 to include coverage for mental illness
Be it Resolved	That Manitoba Provincial Council in 2024 annual convention assembled, through the National Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, urge the federal government to expand the National Universal Pharmacare Program to provide prescription drug coverage for people with mental illness: and be it further
Be it Resolved	That this resolution be forwarded to the National Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada for consideration at their 2024 national convention.
This resolution was adopted by a majority vote at Manitoba Provincial Council 2024 Annual Convention held at St. Ann's Parish, Flin Flon, on June 2, 2024.	
	June 2, 2024
Lucille Rossington, Acting President	
	June 2, 2024
Ann Schenkeveld, Secretary	
Brief:	Resolution 2024.01 Expand Bill C64 to include coverage for mental illness
"In any given year, 1 in 5 people in Canada will personally experience a mental health problem or illness. By age 40, about 50% of the population will have or have had a mental illness." (CMHA) Bill C64 an Act respecting Pharmacare introduced the first phase of a national universal Pharmacare program for Canada. (Health Canada) The Catholic Women's League of Canada urges the federal government to expand the National Universal Pharmacare Program to provide coverage for mental illness. "Mental illness affects people of all ages, education, income levels, and cultures; however, systemic inequalities such as racism, poverty, homelessness, discrimination, colonial and gender-based violence, among others, can worsen mental health and symptoms of mental illness, especially if mental health supports are difficult to access." (CMHA)	

“Given that medications are generally covered only in hospitals, through disability support programs, and some provincial pharmacare programs, individuals who do not have access to these programs or to private insurance must pay out of pocket. Approximately 5.5% of Canadians report that they skip, stretch, or do not take their medications because they cannot afford them, and they are also most likely to forgo psychiatric medications over other drugs.” (CMHA)

“Many Canadians and their family members have drug coverage linked to employment and some Canadians may have no effective drug coverage and pay the full cost of prescription drugs.” (Health Canada) “Financial barriers should not be an impediment to accessing safe and effective prescription drugs and related products.” (Govt of Cda First Phase Universal Pharmacare) We urge the federal government to expand the National Universal Pharmacare Program to provide coverage for mental illness.

Works Cited: Resolution 2024.01 Expand Bill C64 to include coverage for mental illness

1. Canadian Mental Health Association; Mental Health September 2018 in the Balance
<https://cmha.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/CMHA-Parity-Paper-Full-Report-EN.pdf> July 2021
2. Canadian Mental Health: Fast Facts about Mental Health and Mental Illness
<https://cmha.ca/brochure/fast-facts-about-mental-illness/> July 19, 2021
3. The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Driving Change, The Crisis is Real
<https://www.camh.ca/en/driving-change/the-crisis-is-real/mental-health-statistics>
4. Health Canada: Government of Canada Introduces Legislation for First Phase of National Universal Pharmacare
Feb 29/2024
<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2024/02/government-of-canada-introduces-legislation-for-first-phase-of-national-universal-pharmacare.html>
5. Health Canada; Prescription drug insurance coverage
<https://www.Canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-care-system/pharmaceuticals/access-insurance-coverage-prescription-medicines.html> Dec 3/2020
6. Health Canada: Provincial and Territorial Public Drug Benefit Programs
<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-care-system/pharmaceuticals/access-insurance-coverage-prescription-medicines/provincial/territorial-public-drug-benefit-programs.html> Feb 16/2021
7. Risk Analytica, The Life and Economic Impact of Major Mental Illnesses in Canada, Prepared on behalf of the Mental Health Commission of Canada Dec, 2011
https://mentalhealthcommission.ca/wp-content/uploads/drupal/MHCC_Report_Base_Case_FINAL_ENG_0_0.pdf

Action Plan: Resolution 2024.01 Expand Bill C64 to include coverage for mental illness

1. Raise awareness by inviting speakers, offering informative videos, holding workshops and providing resources to members, parishioners and the community at large.
2. Encourage members to participate in activities relating to Mental Health Awareness
3. Write letters to the prime minister, the minister of justice, and the minister of health with copies to local members of parliament, encouraging them to support this resolution
4. Monitor federal government’s response to the resolution

THANKS to this gift from The Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan Council as it was directed to National and it was adopted at the **National AMM held in Saskatoon, SK, Aug. 11-14, 2024.**

2024.02 National Universal Pharmacare Program to Include Coverage for Drugs Prescribed for Mental Illness
Visit: <https://www.cwl.ca/resolutions/>

Name of Council: The Catholic Women’s League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council

Standing Committee: Social Justice

2024:02 Establish a Legislated Independent Seniors Advocate for Manitoba

Be it Resolved That Manitoba Provincial Council at the Annual Meeting of Members in 2024, urge the Manitoba Provincial Government to establish a Legislated Independent Seniors Advocate position, acting in the interest of Seniors.

This resolution was adopted by a majority vote at Manitoba Provincial Council Annual Meeting of Members held on June 2, 2024.

Lucille Rossington, Acting President

June 2, 2024

Brief: 2024:02 Establish a Legislated Independent Seniors Advocate for Manitoba

As of July 1, 2021, Manitoba's senior population numbered 227,734, or approximately 16.5% of the total population of Manitoba. (Manitoba Bureau of Statistics) "Seniors aging well and living their best lives in age-friendly communities remain healthy, engaged, connected, supported and fulfilled." (Seniors Advocate NL) The Catholic Women's League of Canada urge the Provincial Government of Manitoba to establish a Legislated Independent Seniors Advocate position, acting in the interest of Seniors.

An Office of a Seniors Advocate would "collaborate with service providers, government and health authorities to improve effectiveness, efficiency and outcomes" (Seniors Advocate BC)

They would monitor and analyze seniors services and issues in Manitoba and make recommendations to government and service providers to address systemic issues. Such "systemic issues would be problems in an overall system rather than a specific or individual concern." (Seniors Advocate NL) The services which the Office monitors are in five key areas: health care, housing, income supports, community supports and transportation. (Seniors Advocate BC)

The government bodies affected by such an advocacy position would be "provincial and municipal governments, indigenous governments and organizations, local service districts, and regional health authorities". (NL Legislative Assy)

"Social engagement and participation are often seen as one of the most effective ways to combat ageism...Manitobans reported experiencing ageism in terms of accessing services.....Manitoba has strong and active community groups and not-for-profits that offer recreation, social connection opportunities and support services. Many of these organizations struggle with financial sustainability against rising demand for services....Many programs include increased use and reliance on digital models which may re-enforce barriers to seniors' engagement, especially for those living in northern and rural communities with poor internet connections for for seniors who are unfamiliar with digital tools." (MB Govt What we Heard) Physically active seniors would realize improvements to their balance, a reduction in falls and injuries; be more independent longer into their lives, and have lower instances of heart disease, stroke, osteoporosis, type 2 diabetes, some cancers and premature death. (Govt of Canada) Many seniors struggle with loneliness and depression; active involvement in a community would allow them to contribute their knowledge, skills and experiences; provide mental stimulation, provide cognitive function, and provide a sense of belonging. (Spectrum Health Care) Accessibility goes a long way to "allow seniors to remain independent, engaged, and able to access the help they need and activities that keep them engaged in their community." (MB Govt What we Heard) Volunteering also provides the opportunity for consulting or mentoring to younger people. In addition, "In 2018, seniors donated nearly \$10 billion, up nearly 4% from the previous year, and those figures don't include other donations not claimed on tax returns. Seniors contribute financially in other ways, too, supporting children or grandchildren either by sharing their homes or providing funds." (Bayshore Home Health) All of these initiatives can and do benefit communities throughout Manitoba and Canada, in addition to reducing health care costs.

Currently, there are four Canadian Provinces that have a Legislated Seniors Advocate; being British Columbia, Alberta, Newfoundland & Labrador, and New Brunswick. Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Ontario have Seniors Advocate Advisory positions. We urge the Government of Manitoba to join B.C., Alberta, New Brunswick and Newfoundland & Labrador to establish a Legislated Independent Seniors Advocate position, acting in the interest of Seniors.

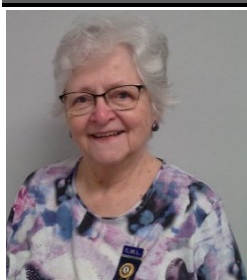
Works Cited: 2024:02 Establish a Legislated Independent Seniors Advocate for Manitoba

1. Bayshore Health Care, Respect Your Elders: How Seniors Contribute to a Better World
<https://www.bayshore.ca/resources/respect-your-elders-how-seniors-contribute-to-a-better-world/#:~:text=After%20retiring%20from%20full-time%20work%2C%20many%20older%20adults,of%20purpose%20as%20they%20navigate%20life%20after%20work>.
September 29, 2021
2. Food Banks Canada, PRC Final Report
<https://fbcblobstorage.blob.core.windows.net/wordpress/2023/09/PRC-Report-Final-19.09.23.pdf> September 19, 2023
3. Government of Canada, Physical activity tips for older adults (65 years and older)
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/physical-activity-tips-older-adults-65-years-older.html> November 7, 2019
4. Government of Manitoba, Demographic Estimates by Age and Sex July, 2021
[https://www.gov.mb.ca/mbs510_pop_agesex_bulletin_2021_a02.pdg\(gov.mb.ca\)](https://www.gov.mb.ca/mbs510_pop_agesex_bulletin_2021_a02.pdg(gov.mb.ca))
5. Government of Manitoba, Demographic Profile of Older Manitobans February 22, 2023
https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/seniors/demographic-profile-older-manitobans-2023-02-22.pdf
6. Government of Manitoba, What We Heard
https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/openmb/what-we-heard-manitoba-seniors-strategy-final-summary.pdf
7. Government of Manitoba, The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2024, Schedule E, The Seniors' Advocate Act Spring, 2024
<https://fbcblobstorage.blob.core.windows.net/wordpress/2023/09/PRC-Report-Final-19.09.23.pdf>

8.	Newfoundland and Labrador Regulation 53/17 Seniors Advocate Regulations https://www.assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/regulations/rc170053.html June 15, 2017
9.	Office of the Seniors Advocate of British Columbia - About Us https://www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca/about-us/
10.	Office of the Seniors Advocate of Newfoundland and Labrador – About Us https://www.seniorsadvocatenl.ca/office.aspx
11.	Office of the Seniors Advocate of Newfoundland and Labrador, Seniors' Advocate NL Releases: What Golden Years? Report https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2023/osa/1114n02/ November 14, 2023
12.	Spectrum Health Care Services, The Importance of Community & Belonging for Seniors: Thriving in the Golden Years https://spectrumhealthcare.com/resources/the-importance-of-community-belonging-for-seniors-thriving-in-the-golden-years/ June 20, 2023
Action Plan: 2024:02 Establish a Legislated Independent Seniors Advocate for Manitoba	
1.	Raise awareness by inviting speakers, offering informative videos, holding workshops and providing resources to members, parishioners and the community at large.
2.	Encourage members to participate in activities relating to Seniors and Healthy Living.
3.	Write letters to the premier, the minister of justice, and the minister of Health, Seniors and Long-term Care with copies to their opposition counterparts, encouraging them to support this resolution.
4.	Monitor the provincial government's response to the resolution.
THANKS to this gift from St. James Assiniboia Parish Council and the Winnipeg Diocesan Council and it was directed to the Provincial Government.	

Resolutions of today become law tomorrow!

Through the CWL, you can be part of the voice that speaks to government!



MANITOBA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

LIFE MEMBER LIAISON

Monica Brechka

Linda Parker, enrolled as a Life Member at National Convention in **1997 (Winnipeg)**

Linda belongs to a gym and attends exercise programs on a daily basis. She attends Notre Dame Council, Selkirk as often as she can and mentors upon request. She enjoyed our supper at Archbishop LeGatt's residence and keeps up to date with the Communiqués from Jacqueline Nogier, National Life Member Liaison, and e-mail notes from Monica Brechka, Provincial Life Member Liaison. We communicate by phone and mail.

Beatrice Gross enrolled in **1999 (Winnipeg)**

Bea attends daily Masses at St. Augustine's Church and participates in their Breakfast Group and Coffee Group. She attends her Council meetings. She enjoys the Communiqués, e-mails and phone calls. She keeps in touch with Life Members - Suzanne K, Albertine M and Dolores B on a regular basis.

Suzanne Kiazzyk enrolled in **2002 (Winnipeg)**

Suzanne is currently serving a second term as co-president of St. Augustine's Council. "The love and support is continually there from our members but no one wants to take on leadership. With the aging of our

membership, we do what we can.” She serves as Lector and Extraordinary Minister of Eucharist at the church. She enjoys the communication from all levels of the League.

Margaret Silverthorne enrolled in **2003 (St. Boniface)**

Margaret is busy looking after her husband Blaine who has dementia. She is responsible for the Christ the King Council Communication – newsletters, birthday cards and during the mail strike phone calls which everyone enjoyed tremendously. She uses her computer often. She loves her contact with other Life Members; enjoyed the supper we had in October; and reads all communiqués and e-mails. It is very difficult to attend Conventions – length of time away from hubby and from home.

Susan Bernier enrolled in **2007 (St. Boniface)**

Susan attends resistance training exercises twice per week and finds that her general body strength and balance are really good. She loves to read. She attends the Lorette Council meetings and assists as needed as a mentor on the St. Boniface Diocesan Council. She enjoys the communiqués, emails and contact with other LMs Colleen H and Rolande C.

Terri Scott enrolled in **2007 (Winnipeg)**

Terri is busy looking after her husband Tom who has advanced dementia. She is responsible for Communications on Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council – she compiles a newsletter three times per year and prepares their weekly inserts for the church Bulletin. Terri is always willing to help and hosts any necessary meetings at her home. She has had experience at the National level and Mary-Margaret P has had experience with sub-committees; they formed a Resolutions Sub-Committee to help Janet B with her role as Resolutions Chair for the Provincial Council 2024. They worked diligently researching and sourcing information. They have actually worked together for the past 4 years, enjoying wine and nibbles, and “getting the job done”.

Jeanne Tinsley enrolled in **2009 (Winnipeg)**

Jeanne has had a lot of medical issues this past year. Her main focus was praying for the League, specific members, Pope Francis and her Bishop His Grace Richard Gagnon. She has joined the Pope’s daily prayers for families, peace, etc. We are continuing to pray for Jeanne.

Dolores Blanchard enrolled in **2007 (Winnipeg)**

Dolores and Maurice live in a Seniors Complex where they can enjoy a weekly Bingo and cribbage tournaments. Dolores loves to walk (inside for now) – 4 walks per day along all the passageways equals 1 mile. Once every 3 weeks they have Mass at their Complex. Dolores serves as a Lector. Lunch is available in a large meeting room and Dolores loves to get together with everyone there. They will be attending the Winnipeg Diocesan Convention and staying over to visit some of their ‘old haunts’. Dolores appreciates the communiqués, e-mails, phone calls and occasional drop-in visits.

Faith Anderson enrolled in **2010 (St. Boniface)**

Faith is currently secretary for her parish Council at Mary, Mother of the Church and is secretary/treasurer for St. Boniface Diocesan Council. “Due to my husband’s recent death, many of the other things that I would normally be involved with” are not possible at this point in time. In 2024 Faith did coordinate perogy making as a fundraiser for her Council. She has advertised many of their events and projects.

Monica Brechka enrolled in **2012 (St. Boniface)**

I am volunteering at Good Neighbours Active Living Centre – answering phones, greeting people, helping members register, data entry and provide rides for seniors. I am involved in Membership on St. Alphonsus Council and am learning how to enter members onto CWL website. I assist at our church, as a Greeter, Lector, take turns leading Morning Prayer, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and as an Altar Server

at Funerals. A small group of ladies and gentlemen who attend daily Mass go out for coffee a couple of times per week – once to a restaurant and once to the church office for home baking and cheese. I have volunteered to work on a sub-committee for the 2027 National Convention Committee here in Winnipeg. I also belong to the Neocatechumenal Way.

Mary-Margaret Patterson enrolled in **2013 (Winnipeg)**

Mary-Margaret is not currently able to be actively involved in her Council at Our Lady of Perpetual Help. She has many years of experience with Spiritual Development and leading workshops so can offer advice/mentoring in this area. She worked with Terri S in researching & sourcing information for Resolutions being presented at the Provincial Convention. She reads and enjoys the communiqués, e-mails and phone calls.

Albertine Moran enrolled in **2014 (Winnipeg)**

Albertine spends time looking after herself and her husband Roger. At the moment, she is chairing the Winnipeg Diocesan Convention being held on April 26th at St. Augustine's Parish in Brandon. She attends Council meetings and is on the Membership Committee. She reads the communiqués, e-mails and calls me on the phone. She is in contact with Life Members Suzanne K, Dolores B and Beatrice G. She is also in contact with Bellelle Guerin Members Ann K, Barbara H, and Dina A.

Jacqueline Nogier enrolled in **2014 (Keewatin-The Pas)**

Jacqueline is the National Life Member Liaison – I get many positive comments on her communiqués and the artwork/pictures attached. She is serving on the National Faith sub committee and is leading the national working group to create online courses of CWL resources using a website called **Brightspace**. In October, Our Lady of the Snows Council voted to become inactive. Jacqueline is doing all the work that requires.

Rolande Chernichan enrolled in **2016 (St. Boniface)**

Rolande is National Chairperson of Faith. This limits available time to serve the League at other levels. However, as a Life Member, she continues to mentor Lacey, St. Boniface Diocesan President, as required. She mentors members of the Lorrette Council in relation to policy, procedure, protocols, practices, etc. In September 2024, for her Lorrette Council she prepared and presented a spiritual program about Jubilee 2025 and explained its theme "Pilgrims of Hope". She shared the richness of this event in the life of the church. The spiritual program also expanded on the national theme 'Here I am Lord, send me' by asking members to reflect and share in small groups on an excerpt from scripture. How then do we respond as CWL members and live in synodality. Rolande was also able to help me find a place to hold our fall gathering of Life Members. We had a great meal, His Grace Albert LeGatt talked to us about Jubilee 2025, and we were able to talk to everyone. Thanks again Rolande.

Barbara Thuen enrolled in **2019 (Military Ordinariate)**

Barbara belongs to the REFIT Centre. She and her husband belong to the National Association of Federal Retirees, the Royal Military Institute of Manitoba and Red Rose Ranch Veterans Horse Camp. This camp is in the Interlake and runs for 2 weeks (1 female and 1 male) every fall. Injured veterans come from across Canada and her husband is responsible for transport to and from Winnipeg. At the camp, attendees learn how to care for a horse. After the week there is visible improvement in their stress level and general demeanor. The dynamic duo are also involved in **Homes for Heroes** to be built in Transcona; they are helping to raise money. There are over 250 homeless veterans in Manitoba alone. Barbara continues to attend 17 Wing Council and is their Treasurer and Membership Chair. They are busy developing a 'Welcome Program' for their Council. She enjoys the communiqués and e-mails and hopes to be able to join us for lunch or supper this fall.

Janet Brunger enrolled in **2020 (Winnipeg)**

This lady went above and beyond for her Diocesan President, Pat Ward, who was ill at the time of the Life Member Gathering. Pat was to bring Linda Parker with her from Selkirk to St. Boniface for the Life Member supper. She called Janet and asked her for help. Janet travelled from Rosser to Selkirk to St. Boniface and return. Linda enjoyed the trip. Thank-you Janet. She continues to serve on Manitoba Provincial Council as Past President and is Co-Chair of the 2027 National Convention Committee. Janet is currently President of the Catholic Foundation of Manitoba and is Administrative Coordinator, Tribunal Office, Archdiocese of Winnipeg. She is active in her parish, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, serving on the Pastoral Council, ushering, taking Communion to those who are shut-in and participating in all CWL Council events. Janet is a busy woman and keeps in touch with everyone.

Colleen Holloway enrolled in **2020 (St. Boniface)**

Colleen has 2 grandsons who play hockey, and she is their official cheering section! She is planning on retiring in May – good for you! Colleen is chairing the Jubilee Committee at Ste. Anne's Church; it is one of the sites for the St. Boniface Archdiocese. There will be 24 hours for the Lord. She is President of the Ste. Anne-des-Chênes Council, so she also attends Diocesan Meetings. She keeps up with the Life Members by reading the communiqués and e-mails and talks with Susan B.

Ella Nogier enrolled in **2016 (Keewatin-The Pas)**

Ella loves walking and walks between 5 and 7 kms per day. She belongs to a Seniors Club that meets 2 times per week; she prepares the coffee. Once per month her group prepares soup and sandwiches for the community. There is a potluck supper for the seniors once per month. She keeps up to date with Life Members through communiqués, e-mails, phone calls and chats with her daughter Jacqueline. This week, Wednesday to Friday, there are 500 students from across Manitoba taking part in School Sports in Snow Lake. The Legion ladies are responsible for feeding everyone and Ella has volunteered to help them. Her Council, Our Lady-Snows, is now a Prayer Council.

Lea Colbeck enrolled in **2020 (Winnipeg)**

Lea volunteers occasionally at Harvest Manitoba. After her move from Virden, she joined St. Vital Parish and has compiled a Policy and Procedure Manual as well as an Executive Handbook for her Council. She attends Council meetings and works on any projects they have organized – Coffee Sunday, Trivia Night, Bake Sale, etc. Lea is currently Vice-President of the Manitoba Provincial Council – she has taken on the task of visiting each and every Council at a special event during her 2-year term. So far, she has attended 4 Councils and has another invite for April. Lea has been appointed the CWL representative on the Catholic Foundation Board of Manitoba – she attends meetings and assists at various events held – Youth Dance, Couples Evening and the Caritas Supper. She Co-Chairs and serves as Treasurer of the 2027 National Convention Committee. After 2 years in Winnipeg, Lea feels that she is comfortable enough in her new parish to start volunteering as a Lector, Greeter and Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

Archbishop Albert

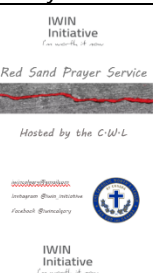


25th Annual Manitoba Provincial CWL Day of Celebration- Feb. 10, 2024 @ Holy Cross Parish-Wpg (SB)

The **opening Spiritual Program** was opened with a reading from Fr. Charles and then Winnipeg Diocesan President Chris Carlyle led us through a program with prayers and music and slides. Chris also led the afternoon Reconvening Prayer "I am Thankful".

We were **informed about Human Trafficking in Canada**, as Kristen (a lawyer) and Paul (a retired police officer), founders of **IWIN (I'm Worth It Now)** in Calgary, joined us virtually to share so much with us. Some things discussed were: Why is there Human Trafficking? What does a Human Trafficker look like? What does a victim of Human Trafficking look like? **How can we help** the survivors of Human Trafficking? We can raise awareness through the **Red Sand Prayer Service** and **donating funds** to purchase the items needed to fill backpacks with personal care items for the survivors. Q & A followed.

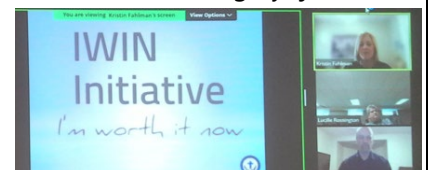
Red Sand Ceremony is related to human trafficking. It is a short prayer service we are encouraged to consider. Red sand is poured into the cracks of our sidewalks, representing the marginalized people who fall through the cracks of society, and, the blood of Jesus poured out for all.



IWIN, working with human trafficking investigators, provides backpacks to survivors who are entering a new environment to support them emotionally, spiritually and physically. The backpacks, containing all the items needed, include a change of clothes, toiletry items, a hairbrush, and all the necessities for a new start. A matching bracelet is given to a volunteer prayer warrior to support the survivor through prayer.

IWIN also raises awareness about the reality of human trafficking and its prevalence right here in our home country of Canada by providing volunteers with the opportunity to participate in a Red Sand Prayer Service. To learn more about IWIN and the Red Sand Prayer Service, please visit www.iwininitiative.ca

Red Sand Prayer Service for Human Trafficking Awareness

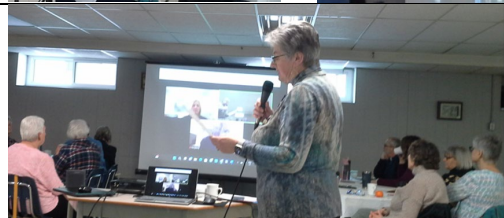
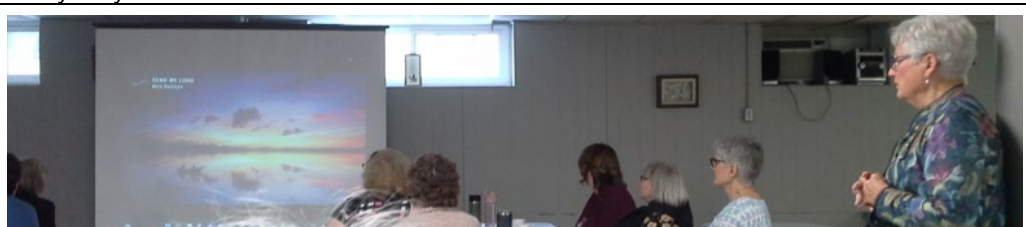




Project North Faith Formation was introduced by Acting Provincial President Lucille Rossington. Every five years the provincial CWL AMM/Convention is held up north (2024 in Flin Flon). It has become almost a custom that we work on a project when we go North. Several have already asked "how can we help?" Remember the loads of donation to Thompson four years ago. Provincial wants to do something different but very important. The Archdiocese of Keewatin-the Pas **Keewatin Faith Formation Program**: started Jan. 1, 2024 and is culturally appropriate to the community it is being offered in. It will focus on calling forth and strengthening catechists and parents/guardians in their preparation of children for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation. **How can we help?** We can help financially, and you can send donations to the Provincial treasurer or donate yourself. A letter will be going to all councils.

Past Provincial President **Janet Brunger** was introduced and she has accepted to be the Chair, and provincial Treasurer Lea Colbeck is Co-Chair as Manitoba will host the **National CWL AMM/Convention in Winnipeg in 2027**. She explained that plans are basic at this time, but we all are asked to help as she is confident that we can make this a "Convention to Remember". She introduced the fundraiser wearever bags; had signup sheets for helpers; and noted councils are being asked to donate funds from one fundraiser a year for three years. More info soon.

A delicious lunch was prepared for us by the chef that prepares the food for the parish **Food Bank/Soup Kitchen & Bradbury's Food Bank/Soup Kitchen**. The parish soup kitchen has been serving those in need in the St. Boniface and surrounding area for nearly 20 years.



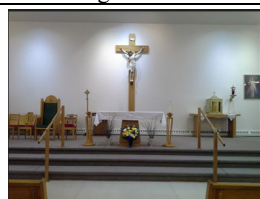
77th Annual AMM/Convention @ St. Ann's Parish in Flin Flon MB on June 1-2, 2024



While the provincial executive held their meeting, members went on a bus tour of the town. The tour guide shared the history of the town (started in 1927) at the town mural, and how it has changed over the years, as have many northern mining towns. They visited many local sites, had lunch at a local restaurant and visited the Flintabbaty Flonatin statue at Flin Flon Park and the Flin Flon Station Museum (the former train station) that has many



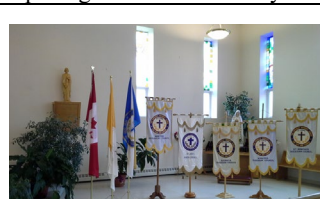
interesting exhibits with local history. Arrived back in time for the opening Mass celebrated by Archbishop Chatlain and then a Banquet.



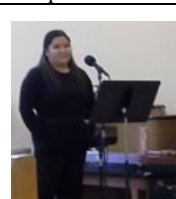
St. Ann's Parish



clergy at mass

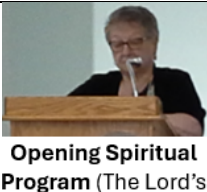


banners



soloist & musician entertained after supper



			
Life Members	Bellelle Guerin Recipients	O Canada	Greetings Arch.
			  Life Member Jacqueline Nogier, a lead on the National Implementation Committee, made a presentation on the "CWL Mentor Skills Bank", where many members across Canada have offered their skills to help other members across Canada. Item #184 Legislation Workshop presenter Paulette
Opening Spiritual Program (The Lord's Prayer) Bernadette S.A. Fr Charles <i>"Every day God calls us to do something in this world; we do our part; and we let God do the rest. We hope we have the courage to do it". This is the way Sr. Bing Ferrandiz, RVM, and Sr. Delia Rubio, RVM, two nuns from the Philippines, live their faith journey. They made a very personal presentation on their journey to and work they do in the Archdiocese of Keewatin-The Pas. Their sparkling personalities and deep faith shone through and has helped them succeed in their work in other parts of the world, and now in Manitoba.</i>			
			
D. Pres. Lacey, Bernadette, Carol	Book of Life		
			
Elections were held	new exec installed	some of new Exec	"Job well Done" flowers to Acting Pres. Lucille
Thank you Flin Flon for our great three day trip! We left Winnipeg Friday morning. Lots of sunshine, scenery and animals to see on our journeys. It was still daylight as we left Sunday afternoon. Lots of visiting on the bus with old and new friends, and the bright lights of Winnipeg welcomed us safely home in the very early hours Monday. Bus driver was the best. Until we meet again			



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
2027 National Convention – hosted by
Manitoba!

To our valued Sisters in the League:

As you are aware, plans are ongoing for the 2027 National Convention which will be hosted by our Province.

Currently, we are just 26 months from “Go Time”!!

We are currently focusing on finalizing the events, the decorations, and logistics. To accomplish this, we are asking for volunteers. Our committee chairs are arranging meetings with their people, and in order for everyone to be informed, we are asking you to sign up in the area that you’d like to be involved. Many people say, “Oh, it’s still two years away, I don’t know what I’ll be doing at that time”. And that’s true – none of us know how our lives will look in two years, or five, or ten, but that won’t prevent us from making plans for something we want – like a successful National Convention!!

Our fundraising efforts are coming along well. The sale of promo items has done well, thus far. We’ll be assessing next steps after the Toronto Convention. The request to each Council to hold a fundraiser in support of the 2027 Convention has been well received and supported. Although we haven’t yet hit our targets, we have seen positive response to this initiative. Our deepest thanks to all councils for their support thus far; let’s keep this momentum going.

If you would like more information on any of the above, please don’t hesitate to reach out to us.

We want 600-700 people to come, “Experience Manitoba”, and we want to do our province proud! The Prairie Provinces are known for their hospitality; we plan to continue that tradition. We want to showcase Manitoba talent, products, and hospitality! Working together, we can make that happen!

Sincerely,

Janet Brunger

Janet Brunger

Lea M. Colbeck

Lea Colbeck

ORAL REPORTS – JUNE 7-8, 2025 AMM

Provincial President - *Lucille Rossington* – (January - April 2025)

- ❖ I continue to represent the Provincial Council at the National table by attending several online meetings with National President, Past President and all the provincial presidents. These online meetings are separate from the meeting attended in Toronto in February.
- ❖ I attended the wonderful Provincial Day of Celebration prepared by our Social Justice Chair Chris Carlyle, great information given and a good day spent with our sisters of the League.
- ❖ I, and members of our provincial council worked on preparing for the meeting with our Provincial Government.
- ❖ I have sent through our secretary all the forms and invitations for our AMM, preparation of agendas etc. was also done.

- ❖ It was a privilege to attend the installation of Archbishop Murray Chatlain as Archbishop of Winnipeg on April 4th, 2025.



Keewatin-The Pas President - *Bernadette Benson* (January 1-March 14, 2025)

Following is a brief report of my activities from Jan. 1, 2025, to March, 2025.

- ❖ Our Diocesan Executive held a Zoom meeting on January 11th.
- ❖ I attended the Provincial Day of Celebration in Winnipeg on February 8th and also the Provincial Executive Meeting on Sunday, February 9th.
- ❖ I attended part of a Zoom meeting of Provincial Council regarding Past Resolutions but had to leave after the first hour because of a family phone call.
- ❖ We plan to hold a workshop on May 3rd explaining the three pillars: Faith, Service and Social Justice, and how they interact with one another. This had been a request from members at our two previous zoom meetings.
- ❖ Our Diocesan AMM will be on Sunday, May 4th.



St. Boniface Diocesan President - *Lacey Bernardin* (January – April 2025)

- ❖ Thank you, ladies who've been able to attend, any CWL event in the past few months. Whether it was fundraisers, Day of Celebration or even just your regular parish meeting, thank you. It's great to see the ladies start to return to events/outings/meetings.
- ❖ It's been a busy start to the year with jumping right into a variety of meetings on many levels. I've attended National AMM 2027 Planning Meetings, Diocesan Administration Meetings, Diocesan Executive Meetings, Diocesan AMM Planning Meetings, and my own Parish Meetings. Luckily, I have a bunch of great ladies who help and support me in all levels.
- ❖ Many councils have already jumped right into new springtime activities within their councils and have planned many events within the past few months. There are Anniversary Celebrations, Spring Teas, St. Patrick's Day bowling parties, fundraisers, participating in the Chrism Mass Honour Guard, and of course elections!
- ❖ Regarding elections, every council in St. Boniface has been informed of the need for a letter of recommendation from the Spiritual Advisor regarding nominees in their own elections, as well as at every level of the CWL. Many had questions with the logistics of the process and were able to get proper explanations. I'm looking forward to hearing how the process went for those who had elections this year. I'll hopefully get to see how it works seeing as how this is an election year for St. Boniface Diocesan. At the time of writing, our AMM has not yet taken place.
- ❖ I'd like to mention that our very own Faith chairperson, Sharron Kennedy, has visited some of our councils and did a presentation on Forgiveness. It's a presentation everyone needs to experience. It's emotional, educational and a time of sharing. She is willing to present to any council upon request.
- ❖ Thank you to the ladies of St. John the Evangelist for taking on the St. Boniface AMM this year (it has not happened yet as I write this report), I'm sure it was perfect!
- ❖ Our wonderful ladies from Ste. Anne des Chenes are taking on the hosting duties for the Annual Day of Reflection this October 11th. It will be an all-day event with the topic being Dying as a Catholic (topics will include from the point of dying, through funeral to burial with a Catholic perspective).

- ❖ Thank you to all you lovely ladies for your continued and ongoing support and prayers for all of us. None of this would be possible without you!



Winnipeg Diocesan President – *Carol MacKenzie-Gruber* (January to March 2025)

- ❖ Welcome to the Provincial Council AMM hosted by Holy Ghost Parish of the Winnipeg Archdiocese. It is our delight to host all sisters in Manitoba to this 78th Manitoba Provincial Council AMM.
- ❖ The National Theme, 'Here I Am Lord, Send Me', has been very meaningful to so many of us here in Manitoba. I find all the themes that have been used over the past 20 years that I have been in the CWL have touched me in different ways, but especially this theme. Being a convert to the Faith, this whole idea of 'Send me, Lord', was drilled into my head, and I have tried to live it.
- ❖ The last several years have seen a decline in membership as aging members go on to their reward, and younger women say, 'I'll wait until I retire, and then I'll join'. Does that sound familiar? Unfortunately, we have had two councils disband this past year, Good Shepherd, Portage, and Sacred Heart, Virden. It is a sad time when a council disbands, and it is not done lightly.
- ❖ On a positive note, some councils that have not had any new members in several years, such as St. Edward and St. Columba, have had several new members each, and the councils are delighted. St. Michael's, Gimli, is back to being a full council. We take heart in these good news stories.
- ❖ Our 2024 Fall Meeting and Workshop saw a good attendance and a meaningful speaker in Lisa Raven, Executive Director of 'Return to Spirit'. Our speaker for our 104th Diocesan Convention is to be/was Greg Dunwoody, a long-time chaplain within the Manitoba Justice System and educator in the Winnipeg Archdiocese. In the Great Commission, we are called to visit the imprisoned (Matthew 25.36), and 'proclaim release to the captives and to let the oppressed go free' (Luke 4.18). I feel sure our speaker will challenge/has challenged us in this regard. I think not too many people are comfortable in visiting the imprisoned, and we will have two members of St. Augustine Council share on their experience of prison ministry.
- ❖ We pray Our Lady of Good Counsel will continue to watch over us and guide us in our Christian discipleship as we serve 'God and Canada' and say to the Lord 'Here I am Lord. Send me.' Peace be to all of you.



Vice-President - *Lea Colbeck* (January 1 - March 15, 2025)

- ❖ I attend the Catholic Foundation of Manitoba's meetings as the CWL representative. I attended the Annual meeting on January 27. I will be attending regular meetings on March 24 and May 26. I am also on the subcommittee for planning the Caritas Supper. There have been a few extra meetings to attend for this. I will be at the Caritas Supper on April 24. I worked at the Youth Dance on March 1 that was put on by CFM.
- ❖ I attended the Provincial Day of Celebration on February 8 at St. John Brebeuf. I collected the evaluation sheets for this event and summarized the results. The day was very successful. On February 9, I was at the meeting for the Manitoba Provincial CWL Council. We made plans for the annual provincial convention. I also attended a zoom meeting that was for organizing a meeting with the Provincial Government in April.

- ❖ There are scheduled zoom meetings of the Vice-Presidents by Betty Colaneri each month. I attended these meetings on January 23 and March 10. I plan to attend the remaining ones up until June.
- ❖ I assisted Marielle Rigaux by being the drop off spot for the quilts for the "Build a Bed" project. As of March 15, five quilts have been collected and given to the Knights of Columbus. It is my understanding that there are at least six more to come. Thank you is expressed to all those who took part in this project.
- ❖ I have written communiqués for January and April. As the saying goes, practice makes perfect. I am not perfect yet but feel that I am getting better.
- ❖ It is in my plans to attend the Winnipeg Diocesan Convention in Brandon and the St. Boniface Diocesan Convention in Morden in April. I am also going to the Keewatin-The Pas Convention the first weekend of May.
- ❖ I am looking forward to my duties at the Manitoba Provincial CWL Convention to be held in Winnipeg at Holy Ghost in June.



Secretary - *Ann Schenkeveld* (January - March 2025)

- ❖ February 24, 2025 – Convention invitation letters were sent to Wab Kinew, Manitoba Premier; Dan Shepherd, State Deputy Knights of Columbus; Theresa Schopf, Military Ordinariate Provincial President; and Cathy Evanyshyn, Ukrainian Catholic Women's League Council.
- ❖ February 27, 2025 - All provincial convention material has been distributed to diocesan council presidents for distribution to parish councils. Letter to provincial council liaison has been sent for distribution to all life members.
- ❖ Attended Winter Executive Meeting on February 9, 2025 and took Minutes. These Minutes were distributed to executive members.
- ❖ Attended Provincial Day of Celebration on February 8, 2025.
- ❖ Attended provincial secretaries' virtual meetings (GoTo) with National Secretary-Treasurer Dorothy Johansen on February 25 and March 25.
- ❖ March 18, 2025 - Received an email from Robert Loiselle, MLA for St. Boniface, confirming a meeting with members of the provincial government and the Manitoba Provincial CWL on April 23, 2025, at the Legislative Building.



Past President - *Janet Brunger* (January – June 2025)

- ❖ This past year I have not made as many attempts to reach out to my Diocesan Past Presidents, per se, although I have communicated with all of them from time to time on other matters. Having said that, we have managed to have a dinner meeting, and we discussed various issues at that time.
- ❖ Due to a lack of further information, the Provincial Council Motions Binder was updated and passed on to Provincial Secretary Ann Schenkeveld for her safekeeping.
- ❖ The Manitoba Provincial Manual of Policy and Procedure was reviewed, and proposed changes were made surrounding the Letter in Good Standing for people serving on Executive. The proposed revisions were accepted at our Executive meeting yesterday. Updated manuals will be provided to Provincial Council Executive.

- ❖ I was advised by Madame President that the Manitoba Provincial Government was willing to meet with us early this spring (in February). At my recommendation, we declined this invitation due to the extremely short time allowed for preparation. We requested another opportunity, and as of the time of writing this report, we are still awaiting their response.
- ❖ I participated in the virtual National Past President's meetings whenever I could. Topics discussed this past year have centered on the Archival Process, and the Elections Process.
- ❖ Due to scheduling conflicts, I have only been able to attend two of the three Diocesan Conventions this spring.
- ❖ I am pleased to reinforce that Madame President Lucille has very capably represented our Manitoba members at the National table and has not needed me on very many issues. Having said that, I have made myself available to her any time she has asked. I have strived to ensure that policies and guidelines are followed, I have tried to support, mentor, guide encourage and affirm as the opportunity arises. Together we continue to learn and grow within our respective roles!



FAITH – Pat Ward (January - March 2025)

- ❖ This is my written/oral report on the events within my role as the Manitoba Provincial Chairperson of Faith.
- ❖ Our Day of Celebration took place on February 8th, 2025, at St. John Brébeuf in Winnipeg. It was impressive to have an incredibly good turnout for this event. The day started off with Prayer of Social Justice, following with "Prayer on Human Trafficking Awareness Day" which happened to be that very same day. There were excellent speakers on Palliative Care and on the Immaculate Conception Drop-In Centre.
- ❖ Attended our Manitoba Provincial Council meeting, Sunday, February 9th, 2025.
- ❖ I hope that Councils had the opportunity to take part in the World Day of Prayer 2025 in March. This year the service was written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Cook Islands. Their theme "I Made You Wonderful" Psalm 139: 1-18" was presented by various denominations within my area of Selkirk, St. Andrews, and St. Clements. This aligns with our Constitution & Bylaws to "advance ecumenical and interfaith endeavors."
- ❖ All Catholic Women's League Council's Book of Life are of great importance in being kept up to date. The entries of deceased members of parish councils each year are forwarded to the CWL National Office. The deceased members' names are included in the Book of Life at diocesan, provincial and national levels. Thus, it is of vital importance that all parish councils send names of their deceased members each year to CWL National.
- ❖ Attended the Zoom meeting for Provincial Council regarding past resolutions. This is in preparation for the upcoming meeting with the provincial government.



SERVICE – Marielle Rigaux (January - March 2025)

- ❖ January 17, 2025: Sent out Communiqué #1 of the new year.
- ❖ January 23, 2025: Missed a Zoom meeting with National Chair, Jolene Beliveau (cataract surgery that day)
- ❖ Feb. 08, 2025: I missed the Provincial Day of Celebration and the Executive Meeting on the 9th (not feeling well)
- ❖ March 11, 2025: Jolene Beliveau National Chair had a Zoom Mtg. about Development & Peace. A day has not been set for next month's meeting.

- ❖ April 2025 Communique will be sent out in April. I will be attending the St. Boniface Diocesan Convention on April 26th. Hope to see many of you at the Provincial Convention, Holy Ghost parish Winnipeg, in June 2025
All Gods Blessings



SOCIAL JUSTICE – Chris Carlyle (January - March 2025)

- ❖ The focus topics of Social Justice Nationally, are Human Trafficking, Palliative Care and Care of God's Creation.
- ❖ We are familiar with all three topics. Human Trafficking was very well addressed in the webinar aired January 21st, "*Finding Hope in the Fight Against Human Trafficking*". This webinar can still be seen by clicking on the link at www.cwl.ca. The presentation featured three guest speakers telling their story of accomplishments fighting human trafficking by creating resolutions, advocating to government and supporting women trying to escape human trafficking.
- ❖ Manitoba Provincial Council hosted their Day of Celebration on February 8th. Guest speakers Simone Stenekes and Dr. Paul Daeninck, both of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Palliative Care Program, spoke about criteria for admission to the Palliative Program, support for patients and families, hospices, in hospital units, death at home supports and health care directives. This difficult topic was well received as it was addressed with compassion and humour.
- ❖ Also, at the Day of Celebration, Steve Chipman spoke to us about food insecurity and his experience working at Immaculate Conception Drop-in for 20 plus years. He has seen many changes in the community the drop-in serves. Most importantly the needs are increasing dramatically but the donations of meals from churches and service clubs have reduced by 50% from 40 participating organizations to only 20 in 2025.
- ❖ In March we were invited to meet with the Manitoba Government to present, discuss and review Resolutions. A meeting has been set for April 23, 2025. The last meeting was held in spring of 2023. We are fortunate the Manitoba Government is open to listening to CWL. The Resolution Planning committee is busy reviewing and updating material to present to various government representatives who hold portfolios in our government. You will be informed of Government responses as we receive them.
- ❖ Keep watch at www.cwl.ca for announcements on future webinars. There are plans coming for Earth Day on April 22.



**Treasurer – Eloise
1- May 13, 2025)**

Gawiak (January

This page is left blank financial statement can be obtained by contacting the Manitoba President

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STANDING RULES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Each Annual Meeting of Members (AMM) sets its own standing rules in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*. They are applicable for the duration of the AMM in session only. Even though the standard rules may be the same from one year to the next, the rules must be adopted by each new AMM.

At the beginning of the business session of an AMM, a motion is proposed, debated and voted on to adopt the standing rules of the AMM. This motion requires a two-thirds vote. To rescind or amend the rules once they have been adopted requires a two-thirds vote. To suspend a rule requires a majority vote. (*National Manual of Policy and Procedure*)

Standing Rules for the 78th Annual Meeting of Members of the Manitoba Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Registration

1. Each person attending the AMM shall register at the AMM registration desk and shall be required to wear the official AMM badge for admission to all meetings.
2. Registrants shall be classified as National Officers, voting delegates (diocesan presidents), accredited delegates (provincial accredited, diocesan accredited, parish accredited, honorary life members, life members), CWL members, spiritual advisors, Hierarchy, and guests.
3. The registration and credentials committee [provincial treasurer and the host council registration chairperson with her assistant(s)], at the beginning of the first business session, shall provide a credentials report summarizing the number of voting members registered at the AMM and shall submit a list of the names of voting members for the roll call. When adopted, the credentials report shall be the official roll of voting members. If additional voting members register after the report has been adopted, a supplementary report shall be given and adopted at the beginning of the afternoon session of AMM business. Due notice having been given, ten percent (10%) of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.

Seating Arrangements

4. The business sessions of the AMM shall have a designated area in which all voting members will be seated. All members are requested to be in their seats at least five (5) minutes before the scheduled sessions open.

Debate

5. The chair shall: (a) state all questions, motions to the meeting before they are open to discussion; and (b) put all questions, motions to the meeting before the vote is taken thereon.
6. Every motion shall have a seconder. The mover of a motion shall have the privilege of speaking first to a motion (no longer than three (3) minutes).

Voting

7. Voting members attending the AMM must have a signed credential and shall submit it to the AMM registration desk.

- (a) As voting delegates, diocesan council presidents shall have the power to vote on all questions.
 - (b) Accredited delegates may vote on any question except the election of officers, amendments to the *Constitution and Bylaws* and increases in per capita fees.
- 8. Voting cards shall be issued to the voting members and these cards shall be exhibited when a member votes.
 - 9. The chair shall ask for affirmative and negative votes only. A voting member wishing her abstention to be recorded in the minutes shall request same before the vote is taken.

Miscellaneous

- 10. No materials shall be distributed, displayed or sold at this AMM without the prior approval of the provincial executive.
- 11. No appeals for support or collections of any kind or circulation of petitions shall be made unless a written request is presented in advance to the provincial president and approved by the provincial executive.
- 12. Any motion adopted at this AMM shall become effective at the adjournment of the AMM unless the motion has set an alternative time for the action to become effective and has been stipulated in the motion.

Minutes

- 13. The Provincial president shall appoint a Minutes Review Committee to verify the minutes of all meetings of the AMM.
- 14. The provincial executive shall approve the minutes of this AMM at its fall meeting.
- 15. The approved minutes of the AMM shall be circulated to all voting members of that AMM. If corrections are necessary after approval, they may be made by motion.

A BOUQUET OF THANKS TO OUR HOSTING COUNCIL HOLY GHOST



OUR APPRECIATION GOES TO ...



- Holy Ghost Council President, **Teresa Driskill**, and all members of the **Convention Committee** for graciously accepting to host our convention and for their enthusiastic and heartwarming hospitality.
- A special thank you to the ladies of Holy Ghost Parish who also helped so willingly in preparations for hosting the provincial convention.
- **Winnipeg Diocesan President**, Carol MacKenzie-Gruber, for her warm welcome to their diocese.
- **Fr. Tomasz Koscinski OMI Pastor**, and **Fr. Wojciech Stangel OMI Associate Pastor** of Holy Ghost, for their support of The Catholic Women's League of Canada and for sharing the convention with us.
- The **parishioners of Holy Ghost** and ministry leaders for the experience of faith community in the Celebration of the Eucharist.
- **Most Reverend Archbishop Murray Chatlain**, Archbishop of Winnipeg, for presiding at the Celebration of the Eucharist and for his support of The Catholic Women's League of Canada.
- **Fr. Charles Fillion**, Provincial Spiritual Advisor, for his inspired messages and support of the provincial executive and the League in Manitoba. **Fr. Diosdado Parrenas**, Winnipeg Diocesan Spiritual Advisor; **Fr. Ravikumar Jangam MSFS**, Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan Spiritual Advisor; **Fr. Kevin Lerech Nkengfua**, St. Boniface Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, for concelebrating and always being there for the League.
- **Betty Colaneri**, National Vice- President, for gracing our Convention by her presence and for her inspiring presentation at our Convention.

- **Pat Ward, Chris Carlyle and Janet Brunger** for sharing information on roles within their chairs.
- **Ms. Cathy Evanyshyn, Archeparchial President UCWLC Archeparchy of Winnipeg and Collen Storey, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Military Ordinariate (17 Wing)** for joining us.
- All the **Life Members** who participated in this convention and for their mentoring and support to all the sisters of the League.
- **Pat Ward** for her inspired spiritual program.
- **Members of the Provincial Executive** who by their service, promote the objectives of the League and who by their communiques, guide and inform members.
- Vice-President, **Lea Colbeck**, for collecting the League reports to produce an Annual Report Book that captures the many good works and dedication by members in Manitoba throughout 2024.
- **Donna Candelaria** for her gift of creativity and time in compiling the Annual Report Book for 2024.
- **All CWL members** in Keewatin-The Pas, St. Boniface and Winnipeg Dioceses whose dedicated service to 'God and Canada', persevered even though our numbers are lower, but we continue!

**Lucille Rossington, President,
Manitoba Provincial Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

NOTES

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The Jubilee Logo

The logo shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth. They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity which should unite all peoples. The figure at the front is holding onto the cross. It is not only the sign of the faith which this lead figure embraces, but also of hope, which can never be abandoned, because we are always in need of hope, especially in our moments of greatest need. There are the rough waves under the figures, symbolising the fact that life's pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters. Often the circumstances of daily life and events in the wider world require a greater call to hope. That's why we should pay special attention to the lower part of the cross which has been elongated and turned into the shape of an anchor which is let down into the waves. The anchor is well known as a symbol of hope. In maritime jargon the 'anchor of hope' refers to the reserve anchor used by vessels involved in emergency manoeuvres to stabilise the ship during storms. It is worth noting that the image illustrates the pilgrim's journey not as an individual undertaking, but rather as something communal, marked by an increasing dynamism leading one ever closer to the cross. The cross in the logo is by no means static, but it is also dynamic. It bends down towards humanity, not leaving human beings alone, but stretching out to them to offer the certainty of its presence and the security of hope. At the bottom of the logo is the motto of the 2025 Jubilee Year: *Peregrinantes in Spem* (Pilgrims in hope), represented in green letters.

***Like a flame my hope is burning,
may my song arise to you:
Source of life that has no ending,
on life's path I trust in you.***

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds
of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

Franciscus



Dec.17,1936 - April 21, 2025
(March 13 ,2013 to April 21 ,2025
12 years of papacy)

