

**In Grateful Appreciation to our Host Council
St. Augustine of Canterbury, Brandon**



Members of the Organizing Committee

Chair: Albertine Moran

Co-Presidents: Linda Seitz & Suzanne Kiazuk

Spiritual Advisor: Rev. Fr. John Okosun

Liturgy: Marycia Kruk

Registration: Helen Forsyth & Karen Simard

“We boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. We also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.” (Romans 5.2-5 NRSV)

Table of Contents

Mission Statement, Treaty Acknowledgement	.....	3
Prayers	.....	3-4
Archbishop’s Message	.....	5
National President’s Message	.....	6
Provincial President’s Message	.....	7
Diocesan Advisor’s Message	.....	8
Spiritual Advisors	.....	9
Winnipeg Diocesan Presidents	.....	10
Life Members, Bellelle Guerin Award	.....	11
Deceased	.....	12
Winnipeg Diocesan Exec. Councils	.....	13
Agenda	.....	14
Winnipeg Dioc. Exec. Ann. Reports	.....	15-22
Parish Council Highlights	.....	22-32
Wpg. Diocesan Executive Updates	.....	33-36
Standing Rules of AMM	.....	37
Robert’s Rules of Order	.....	38
Acknowledgements	.....	39



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."



TREATY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge Manitoba is located on Treaty Territory and the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota and Dene People. We acknowledge Manitoba is located on the homeland of the Red River Métis. We respect the spirit and intent of Treaties and Treaty Making and remain committed to working in partnership with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people in the spirit of truth and reconciliation.



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

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



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 cooperate 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*



Archdiocese of Winnipeg

Office of the Archbishop

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

Dear Members of the Winnipeg Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada,

I bring you greetings from the Archdiocese of Winnipeg on the occasion of your 104th Annual Meeting of Members. Since I received notification of my retirement, I have had the opportunity to look back over the past 11 years of my ministry in the archdiocese of Winnipeg.

Many of the recollections concern my participation in parish events involving the Catholic Women's League and the many encounters I have had with the League members. The CWL has played and continues to play a vital role in the life of the Catholic Church in Manitoba. This year's Convention is a witness to the many ways Catholic Women have proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our province. This is a clear indication of how members of the League have lived out your Convention theme: "Here I am, Lord. Send me." (Is. 6.8)

I would be remiss not to mention how grateful I am for your support of my ministry over the years. Let us continue to pray for one another!

Yours in Christ,

+Richard Gagnon
Archbishop Emeritus of Winnipeg



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

February 19, 2025

My dear sisters in the League,

Convention is a time of celebration, education and faith support. As you gather in convention this year, I welcome and congratulate you on behalf of the national executive/board and all members across Canada.

2024 was a year of transition and planning for the League, and now, as we journey into 2025, we celebrate a Jubilee Year, a year of hope.

Pope Francis said, "In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring." Is this not true of the League?

We work for our parish, the church and our communities with faith and hope. And this is what you have done as members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in the Winnipeg Diocese. That work that you do strengthens all of us. We are women of the church. We proudly go forward speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves or are unheard, and we do outreach through faith, service and social justice. It is a calling of hope.

So, my dear sisters, thank you. You are appreciated and congratulated for the work that you do, for the voice that you share and your support within your community.

My hope is that the League continues its work "For God and Canada," that the invitation to join us is heard by all women and that the League's voice continues to grow. You have answered the call... Here I am Lord, send me.

May God bless you.

Shari Guinta
National President



Manitoba Provincial Council



February 18, 2025

Dear Members,

Our national president's theme "Here I am Lord, send me!" is in its second year, and I know for myself it has made me reflect on what God is sending me to do. Did I fully listen and go in my actions and prayers to what He is calling me to do? Am I doing enough? I must remember I'm His hands, eyes, ears and feet. Did I listen to the call? Do I hear the cry of those in need? Do I make sure that wherever I walk I share His love?

Councils in the Winnipeg Diocese have reported their actions in this regard. We must continue to do so. If we look closely there is always more we can do.

You have continued to make donations to the National Voluntary Fund organizations, and to other organizations in your parish and community. You have gathered to educate yourselves on many topics so you can help others. You have worked hard; it is time to pat yourselves on the back for a job well done!

I wish, through this gathering today, that you get rejuvenated and excited to meet as a group of wonderful ladies that share the same vision "For God and Canada"! We belong to a great organization; we are 56,000 strong! Let us bring these numbers up by continuing being present in our parishes and communities by our actions.

Let us continue to bring our love and joy to one another.
Blessings to all!

Your sister in the League,

Lucille Rossington

Manitoba Provincial Council President
Catholic Women's League of Canada



Winnipeg Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Fr. Diosdado Parrenas

Dear Sisters of the Catholic Women's League:

Our CWL mission is to grow in our faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service. Our core values are faith, service and social justice. We are blessed to serve the church, Canada and the world, fulfilling our theme: "Lord, here I am, send me." (Isaiah 6.8)

In this 104th CWL Winnipeg Diocesan Council Annual Meeting of Members, we are very grateful for the hospitality by our convention host council, the CWL of St. Augustine of Canterbury Church, Brandon, MB.

I am fascinated by the "Gregorian mission" given to Augustine of the St Andrew's Abbey in Rome. In 596 AD, Pope Gregory chose the Benedictine Abbot Augustine to lead a mission of 40 monks to evangelize the people of Britain, i.e., to take the gospel to the 'Angles' (now Anglo Saxons). He was way ahead of his time by his missionary style in the British Isles.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit the Pope gave Augustine these missionary principles: purify rather than destroy ancient temples and customs; let local peoples' festivals and rites be transformed into Christian feasts; retain local customs as far as possible. Read the texts of Pope Gregory's letter in Oxford Reference (<https://www.oxfordreference.com/display/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803100337215>)

St. Augustine died on May 26, 604 in Canterbury, Kent, UK. On his tomb this epitaph: "Here lies the Lord Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury, sent here by blessed Gregory, bishop of the city of Rome, who with the help of God, and aided by miracles, guided King Ethelbert and his people to the Faith of Christ." St. Augustine of Canterbury can truly be called the "Apostle of England."

It is fitting for us now to reflect on our present day mission and calling, our CWL vocation, while remembering the responses by Prophet Isaiah, Pope Gregory and St. Augustine of Canterbury to their missions, hence guiding us with the realization that our faith overcome fears, and that our love/service will bear fruit abundantly by social justice in our parishes and Archdioceses. Mother Mary's timeless words "Do whatever He (Jesus) tells you." (John 2.5) spoken to the servers at the wedding feast of Cana (her last words in the Bible) will energize us to be rooted in Gospel values, and mature in our holiness through service to the people of God.

Peace to you all and God's blessings in this Jubilee Year 2025!

Our Lady of Good Counsel, and St. Augustine of Canterbury, pray for us.

Winnipeg Diocesan Council

Spiritual Advisors

1921-23	Fr. William Heffron
1923-26	Fr. Thomas W. Morton
1926-28	Fr. William Heffron
1928-30	Fr. Joseph A. Webb
1932-34	Fr. Cornelius B. Collins
1938-39	Fr. Auguste Dorion Rheaume
1939-40	Fr. Frank Ryder Wood
1940-44	Fr. Gaston J. St. Jacques
1944-46	Fr. Charles J. Kelly, S.J.
1946-48	Fr. Christopher Keenen, S.J.
1949-55	Fr. Joseph E. Campbell
1955-63	Msgr. Ignatius Edward Zielonka
1963-70	Fr. Eugene Ludwig Oroskovits
1970-75	Fr. Arthur F. Seaman
1975-77	Fr. Alois Justen, S.A.C.
1977-82	Fr. Christian H. Soeterboek
1982-87	Fr. Louis J. McCloskey
1987-92	Fr. Stanislaus A. Jaworski
1992-97	Fr. Leo M. Fernandes
1997-98	Fr. Samuel N. Argenziano
1998-2003	Fr. Terrence P. McGrath
2003-13	Fr. Barry D. Schoonbaert
2013-17	Fr. Michael M. Wollbaum
2017-	Fr. Diosdado Parrenas



PRAYER FOR OUR PRIESTS

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments. Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people. Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom. Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel; allow them to experience joy in their ministry. Help them to become instruments of your Divine Grace. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen.

WINNIPEG DIOCESAN COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

The Catholic Women's League of Canada was organized by Archbishop Sinnott in 1921 as the "*Winnipeg District Subdivision*". The Winnipeg Diocesan Council formed in 1924, and at times overlapped with the *Winnipeg District Subdivision*. In 1948 the "*Winnipeg District Subdivision*" disbanded. The Winnipeg Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada continues as we now know it.

PRESIDENTS OF THE WINNIPEG DISTRICT SUBDIVISION

1921-23	Agnes K. MacNeil	1932-34	Margaret R. Quinn
1923-24	Anne F. Kennedy	1934-36	Yvonne M. Smith
1924-25	Florence E. McKenty	1936-37	Jane Scott
1925-26	Janet M. Pilley	1937-39	Yvonne M. Smith
1926-28	Katherine McPike	1939-42	No Winnipeg District Subdivision
1928-29	Jane [Jennie] F. Rice	1942-44	Florence Fabris
1929-30	Annie H. Murphy	1944-46	Elva Sullivan
1930-32	Evangeline Gallagher	1946-48	Vera Reade

PRESIDENTS OF THE WINNIPEG DIOCESAN COUNCIL

1924-26	Evangeline Gallagher	1971-73	Bernadette Russell
1926-28	Annie H. Murphy	1973-75	Katherine Komatich
1928-30	Marcella Carroll	1975-77	Elsie Litwin
1930-32	Jane [Jennie] F. Rice	1977-79	Jean Keating
1932-34	Marguerite Walsh	1979-81	Inge Rau
1934-35	Katherine McPike	1981-83	Mary Bennett
1935-37	Elizabeth McMahon	1983-85	Helen Bembenek
1937-39	Mrs. David O'Meara	1985-87	Betty David
1939-39	Anna M. Latremouille-2mo.	1987-89	Linda Parker
1939-41	Elizabeth Mooney	1989-91	Rita O'Neill
1941-42	Eva Mulvena	1991-93	Yvonne Lewandoski
1942-44	No diocesan council	1993-95	Dr. Rayleen De Luca
1944-46	Margaret R. Quinn	1995-97	Suzanne Kiazzyk
1946-48	Margaret Kelly	1997-99	Bernice Mandzik
1948-49	Elizabeth Pawells	1999-2001	Dolores Blanchard
1949-51	Mary Panero	2001-03	Jeanne Tinsley
1951-54	Margaret Delaney	2003-05	Melba Rous
1954-56	Rhoda Tucker	2005-07	Dina Auriti
1956-58	Mary C. Geraghty	2007-09	Albertine Moran
1958-60	Evelyn Pound	2009-11	Mary-Margaret Patterson
1960-62	Ethel McDonald	2011-13	Janet Brunger
1962-64	Mary Pungente	2013-15	Lea Colbeck
1964-66	Patricia Johnston	2015-17	Con Marks
1966-67	Ethel Barker	2017-19	Rose Anne Seymour
1967-69	Viola Specht	2019-22	Pat Ward
1969-71	Kathleen Williams	2022-24	Chris Carlyle
2024-	Carol MacKenzie-Gruber		

Life Members

Faith Anderson	St. Boniface
Susan Bernier	St. Boniface
Dolores Blanchard	Winnipeg
Monica Brechka	St. Boniface
Janet Brunger	Winnipeg
Rolande Chernichan	St. Boniface
Lea Colbeck	Winnipeg
Beatrice Gross	Winnipeg
Colleen Holloway	St. Boniface
Suzanne Kiazuk	Winnipeg
Albertine Moran	Winnipeg
Ella Nogier	Keewatin-The Pas
Jacqueline Nogier	Keewatin-The Pas
Linda Parker	Winnipeg
Mary-Margaret Patterson	Winnipeg
Terri Scott	Winnipeg
Margaret Silverthorne	St. Boniface
Jeanne Tinsley	Winnipeg
Barbara Thuen	Military Ordinate



BELLELLLE GUERIN RECIPIENTS

Dina Auriti	Barbara Hamm
Donna Candelaria	Bernice Mandzik
Georgina Cielen	Inge Rau
Ann Schenkeveld	Ann Kamann



Deceased Members in 2024

**Remember them in
your prayers**



Aniela Mikawos
Ann Patterson

Anne Penziwol
Annette Smith
Barbara Matthew
Caroline Meseric
Aniela Mikawos
Cécile Chicoine
Christine Pidborchynski
Donna Mesman
Doreen Blanchette
Eleanor Kalichak
Elizabeth Power
Ella Olson
Elsie Shaw

Evelyn Kuharski
Germaine Gougeon
Gloria Browne
Gwen Beilman
Helen Mulligan
Jacqueline Bruce

Jean Marynewich
Jean Chornoboy
Lorraine Taraska
Maria Benito
Marion Dewiele
Mary Orsak
Mary Bretcher
Mary Evans
Palmyre Mowez
Pauline Suidy
Salave Murillo
Shirley Strelczik
Socorro Juan
Sophia Romanowski
Tessie Kostenchuk
Toni Ostrop
Toos Jansen
Yvonne Lewandoski



Loving God, You promised fullness of joy to those who seek your face. Trusting in your Word, we pray to You for our sisters who sought to further Your reign on earth by their service in the Catholic Women's League "For God and Canada". Though we are saddened that they are no longer with us, we entrust them to You with confidence. May they now live in peace, joy and happiness! May they rest in peace! We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, the intercession of our Patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel, and Saint Joseph, Patron of our Diocese. Amen.

Winnipeg Diocesan Council Executive

2024-2026

Spiritual Advisor	Rev. Diosdado Parrenas
President	Carol MacKenzie-Gruber
Vice President	Vacant
Treasurer	Anna Sanduliak
Secretary	Jo-Anne Souyri
Past President	Chris Carlyle

Chairpersons of Standing Committees

Faith	Darlene Kolody
Service (vacant)	Carol MacKenzie-Gruber (acting)
Social Justice (vacant)	Chris Carlyle (acting)

Winnipeg Diocesan Councils – 2024

W-003	Holy Ghost	Winnipeg
W-007	Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Winnipeg
W-009	Our Lady of Victory	Winnipeg
W-010	Notre Dame	Selkirk
W-014	St. Anthony of Padua	Winnipeg
W-015	St. Augustine of Canterbury	Brandon
W-017	St. Columba	Swan River
W-018	St. Edward the Confessor	Winnipeg
W-019	St. James Assiniboia	Winnipeg
W-023	St. John Brebeuf	Winnipeg
W-024	St. John Cantius	Winnipeg
W-030	St. Joseph the Worker	Russell
W-032	St. Theresa's	Middlechurch
W-033	St. Michael's	Gimli
W-034	St. Peter's	Winnipeg
W-035	St. Vital	Winnipeg
W-038	St. Viator's	Dauphin
W-041	St. Dominic's	Neepawa
W-043	Sacred Heart	Roblin
W-044	St. Gianna Beretta Molla	Winnipeg

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
WINNIPEG DIOCESAN COUNCIL 104th
ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS
AGENDA**

Friday, April 25th

5 Minutes before Mass: Explanation of charity for Mass Collection

5:00 pm Opening Mass at St. Augustine of Canterbury Parish

6:30 pm Gathering for Banquet (downstairs after mass)



Saturday April 26th

8:00 – 9:00 am Registration

9:00 – 11:45 am Welcome/Procession /Treaty Acknowledgement

Housekeeping

Opening Prayer / Spiritual Program / Fr. Dado's Remarks

Roll Call

Credential Report

Greetings (from Guests)

Parish Council Presidents' Reports

Motion to present Mass collection

Red Sand Ceremony

12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch

Registration Report

1:00 – 2:15 Key Note Speaker – Greg Dunwoody—Prison Ministry and our theme

2:15 – 3:30 Closing Remarks

Evaluations / Q & A

Closing Prayer

Lowering of Flags / Adjournment

3:30 Reaffirmation of executive by Fr Dado

Blessing: Fr. Dado

Agenda subject to change

Winnipeg Diocesan Executive Reports

Carol MacKenzie-Gruber – President Winnipeg Diocesan Council
January 1 to December 31, 2024



15 out of 20 councils or 75% reporting

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. My report also includes what the vice president would have reported on from the survey.

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!*'



Jo-Anne Souyri – Secretary

January 1 to December 31, 2024
15 of 20 councils = 75%

The primary method of communication most of the councils 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 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.



Anna Sanduliak – Treasurer

January 1 to December 31, 2024

15 out of 20 councils reported = 75%

DONATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024

National Voluntary Fund:

Coady International Institute	\$ 200.00
Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace	\$ 200.00
Catholic Missions in Canada	\$ 50.00
Catholic Near East Welfare Association	\$ 200.00
National Bursary Fund	\$ 25.00

Standing Committees

Faith	\$ 20,430.61
Service	\$ 10,575.90
Social Justice	\$ 5,353.19

Other Donations

Provincial / Diocesan Donations	\$ 9,509.50
---------------------------------	-------------

Total Donations for 2024

\$46,544.20

Summary:

a) Prepare an annual budget.

Of the 15 councils reporting, only 5 have stated that they prepare an annual budget.

b) Present a report of revenues and expenditures at meetings

All 15 councils reporting prepare a financial report for their meetings.

c) Prepares an annual financial statement which is appropriately examined annually

Only 5 of the 15 councils reporting have stated that they prepare an annual statement which is reviewed.

d) Donated funds or goods in 2024 that were distributed

Of the total donations reported in 2024, 80% were sent to local organizations, 12% were sent to national organizations and 8% were sent to international organizations.

Darlene Kolody - Faith



January 1 to December 31, 2024

15 out of 20 councils reported (75%)

The following report is a summary of the activities by the councils of the Winnipeg Diocesan Catholic Women's League to promote the value of Faith in your councils.

(a) Spiritual Growth of Members

Catholic resources from the internet were a good resource for the members. Various prayer styles were used. Webinars have also provided a good source of spiritual growth for members.

(b) Study of Catholic Teaching

Encyclicals by Pope Francis were studied and read by Councils. The Catechism of the Catholic Church was encouraged to be studied. Guest speakers on religious topics were presented.

(c) Role of Women in the Church

In general, roles for Women in the Catholic Church have remained status quo.

(d). Evangelization and mission assistance

A few councils reported that they worked with other Churches to address common concerns.

(e). Lay ministries

Lay ministries have remained the traditional ones of Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Catechists.

(f). Ecumenism and interfaith endeavours

Five councils participated in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. World Day of Prayer was a popular event with 10 councils participating in the service.

I have enjoyed opportunity to be the Faith Chairperson this past year. The National Theme 'Here I am Lord; send me' tells each of us that we all have the opportunity to share in the mission of spreading our faith to God and Canada. May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to bless us in our journey!



Carol MacKenzie-Gruber -Service



January 1 to December 31, 2024
15 out of 20 councils reported (75%)

Thank you, Service Chairs, for your reports. I have compiled them for the purpose of this report. 15 of 19 Councils or 79% responded, and many of you do not have active Service Chairs. You do your best to continue to serve your council, parish and community.

Communication from Service Standing Committee: All of you said you were satisfied with the communication from this committee. Just over half did not think there were any positive changes in the council due to the new structure of this standing committee. Most of you felt that the material on the website was adequate and that the chair was familiar with the material. Just under half of you did not agree because either you do not have a chair or your chair does not use the website.

Strategies to raise awareness about bullying, human trafficking, homelessness, racism, etc: It seems that most of you have been informed, either by your service chair, or your president, about issues related to the topics mentioned. Some of you held a Red Sand ceremony; you donate money, food, clothes to causes, knit mitts, etc., pray for issues in the news. You are very aware of social problems in the community.

Challenges the Chairperson of Service Face in efforts to relate to members, or to encourage women to join: Many of you felt that you did not meet often enough, that numbers of members are declining overall, that many members do not attend meetings, that your parishes are struggling so your fund-raising efforts go to keeping your parish alive, all of which limit what you can do out in the world, so to speak. A couple of councils said that it is a big responsibility and that you prefer to break the tasks down into small ones. One said that your meetings are held in the daytime which may prohibit younger women from joining.

Chairperson's Thoughts on the Effectiveness of the Standing Committee: It seems that many councils are dissatisfied with the structure of the Service Committee. The committee is so huge that it is impossible, with limited numbers of members, to do Service adequately, as one chair said. One of you thought that we should provide clear incentives for younger women to get involved with the CWL. Another felt that people have such busy lives and other commitments that they do not join.

In summary, I got a sense of the frustration that many of you are experiencing in carrying out the tasks that come under this committee. Despite that, you all managed to do a great deal of 'Service' activities, according to your highlights. You strive to serve 'God and Canada', to care for the poorest of the poor in your communities, to love your neighbour. As Saint Paul said "I thank my God each time I think of you". You are marvellous women, Women of the Gospel, Women of the Good News. God bless you all.



Chris Carlyle-- Social Justice

January to December 31, 2024

15 out of 20 councils reported = 75%

(a) What levels of government legislation and bylaws, resolutions take action on and what action was undertaken?

Over the last year over 70% of reporting councils monitored or acted on information related to federal and provincial legislation. Fewer at 30% monitored municipal or local government. These councils took part in letter writing but most frequently initiated a postcard campaign and petition signing at 70-80% of the time.

Half of reporting councils acted on resolutions at all governmental levels. Very few councils expressed interest in preparing or submitting a resolution.

(b) What Social Justice resources have councils utilized from the national website?

The majority of councils did not use the resources available on the national website. Of the resources accessed, the most used were Catholic social justice teaching and workshop manual and Walking together with Indigenous Catholic Women. Almost 70% of these councils state either they were not aware of the resources or did not use them.

c) **What areas of Catholic social teaching has the council addressed through discussion, action or both?**

Overwhelmingly, councils reported discussing the teaching related to upholding life and dignity of the human person plus advocating for the poor and vulnerable and their inclusion in society. About one third of reporting councils also addressed care of God's creation in their meetings. Very few discussed advocating for the dignity of work and equal rights of workers.

(d) **How would councils rate the impact of social justice activities on members?**

Over half of councils reported a very positive or somewhat positive impact of activities on members. About a third were unable to rate this question

(e) **Comments:**

- Councils support local causes with their limited resources and time.
- Lack of computer knowledge and comfort is quoted as a reason resources are not used
- One comment stated the structure limits membership involvement.
- A council held a Red Sand Ceremony with collected funds donated to IWIN (I'm Worth It Now) who provided backpacks to local Winnipeg Dignity House
- Volunteer participation at Winnipeg Harvest



Chris Carlyle - Past president

January 1 to December 31, 2024

15 out of 20 councils reported = 79%



(a) **Communicating/upkeep of Policy and Procedure**

National Executive has revised and implemented many revisions to the Policy and Procedure Manual. These revisions have been shared at parish council meetings by over half of reporting councils. The Past President's role is to educate membership of changes and see they are adhered to.

(b) **Maintaining archives**

Membership enjoys reviewing past events and history of their councils. This process is part of the past president's role to either maintain the archive or assign a member to do so. Half of councils reporting do just that. Sometimes a member who is especially interested in history will assume the duty of collecting pictures and recording events. Seven of the 14 councils reporting do not attend to this effort or the position is vacant.

(c) **Advising** the new president and executive is an important part of maintaining procedure and process. Over 70% of past presidents find themselves in the role of an advisor. Two councils reported they were not asked for advice. This is possibly due to the president sitting for more than one term so the past president role is vacant. When advice involves election process or council policy and procedure manual updates, the past president is most often involved. Well over half of past presidents are fulfilling this duty.

(d) **Comments**

- Satisfaction is teaching a new president and seeing her succeed in her role
- Establishing a Policy & Procedure Manual
- Some presidents hold many roles, like the secretary's role, in addition to president
- Archiving photos
- Assisting in preparing for special events like council anniversary

(e) No questions addressed involvement in legislation or resolution development



Parish Council Highlights 2024

W-003 HOLY GHOST

WINNIPEG

PRESIDENT: Teresa Driskell

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR: Reverend Tomasz Kosciński OMI

MEMBERS: 34 **LIFE MEMBERS:** 0 **BELLELE GUERIN AWARD:** 0

1. Holy Ghost CWL was asked to prepare and serve the lunch and coffee breaks on the second day of K of C district deputy meetings held in July 2024 in our parish. Homemade chicken soup, along with 3 types of sandwiches (chicken salad / ham & cheese / egg salad), were offered. A variety of pastry was put out throughout the day with coffee. Ladies cleaned up at the end of the day as well.

2. Holy Ghost CWL has, for a few years, looked after the coffee and pastry area at the Holy Ghost parish picnic. We have, also, organized the “face painting” area and the drawing / craft activities for the children.

3. In September, Holy Ghost School was holding a memorial mass and reception to remember their principal who had passed away during the summer of 2024. Parents brought the pastry and CWL was asked if we could arrange a coffee area and help them by overseeing the reception. The staff and families were very appreciative of our help and it was our honour to donate our time and efforts to make this occasion run smoothly and be enjoyed by all.

W-007 OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

WINNIPEG

PRESIDENT: Connie Mozdzen

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR: Reverend Eric Giddens

MEMBERS: 95 LIFE MEMBERS: 3 BELLELLE GUERIN AWARD: 0

1. Our council prepared Shepherds pies for Immaculate Conception Drop-In Meal program both in March and October. Along with the shepherd's pies, buns, bananas, cookies and milk were served. Socks were collected and donated to Immaculate Conception Drop-in as well. The shepherd's pies served 350 - 400 people.
2. We held our annual Craft and Bake Sale in November. This is our main fundraising event for the year. There were over 18 craft tables, a bake table, raffle prizes and a lunch is served by our members on the Saturday. It was a very successful fundraising event for our council. With the Craft and Bake sale proceeds and monies collected from our funeral lunch committee we donated approximately \$9600.00 to the many organizations and charities we support.
3. This year our council celebrated its 75th anniversary as a CWL council. In September we held our 'Dancing Through the Years' 75th Anniversary celebration. It was a lovely evening. We had many of our members, past Presidents, Life Members attend, as well as, Fr. Giddens our Spiritual Advisor and many families from the parish. Many of our members enjoyed the slide show with photos of past members and events and of course, the dancing.

W-009 OUR LADY OF VICTORY

WINNIPEG

CONTACT: Florence Bevel

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR: Reverend Efoe (Emmanuel) Anani

MEMBERS: 23 LIFE MEMBERS: 0 BELLELLE GUERIN AWARD: 1

1. We gave \$1,782.50 from our Council towards our parish "Roof Project" which involved getting a new roof put up for our church which needed to be replaced.
2. We gave a scholarship to a student from our parish school going on to a Catholic High School.

3. Our Council participates in many parish activities including funeral luncheons, being Eucharistic ministers, lectors, and ushers. The Rosary is led each Sunday before Mass by a CWL member. All of our activities are posted in the church bulletin so everyone is well informed.

W-010 NOTRE DAME

SELKIRK

PRESIDENT: Alane Cason

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR: Reverend Gerald Langevin

MEMBERS: 63 LIFE MEMBERS: 1 BELLELLE GUERIN AWARD: 0

1. Our council hosted its first Christmas Craft Sale on Saturday, November 23. We had 31 paid vendors present, which filled our hall to capacity. The sale ran from 10 am to 3 pm and we had a steady flow of customer traffic the whole time. We also ran a small concession from the kitchen where we sold food and refreshments (hot dogs, chips, popcorn, coffee, drinks) Feedback from both the vendors and the public was very positive and although it was a learning curve for us, and we ran into a few “bumps” along the way, we are thinking of doing it again next year.
2. Our biannual Fashion Show was held once again on Thursday, November 7. It turned out to be a very successful night where we showcased fashions from Johnson’s of Gimli. Ticket sales went beyond what we have done in previous years. A light snack of cheese and crackers was served along with grapes and a variety of cheesecakes for dessert. Coffee, tea, water and a non-alcoholic punch were also served. Wine by the bottle or by the glass was available to purchase. It was a very enjoyable evening.
3. Our council held a successful ticket drive in the spring to raise funds for our kitchen renovations. Members sold tickets personally and also helped sell tickets at various locations throughout town. The tickets offered five different cash prizes. We are considering doing this again next year.

W-011 SACRED HEART

VIRDEN

PRESIDENT: Patricia Nolan

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR: Reverend Ben Nwaeje, then Reverend Norberto 'Nor' Monton

MEMBERS: 26 LIFE MEMBERS: 0 BELLELLE GUERIN AWARD: 0

1. Our members did Meals on Wheels for the month of May.
2. We requested a Mass for the victims of human trafficking and did the Red Sand Prayer Service after Mass in June.
3. Our members and the members of our church did the Petition from the MP for Peace River-Westlock in support of Bill S-210: Protecting Young Persons from Exposure to Pornography Act.
4. We gave a \$500 Scholarship to well-deserving Graduate in our Parish.
5. We assisted in a Parish Fundraiser in support of our church.

W-014 ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA**WINNIPEG****CONTACT:** M. Patricia Hay**SPIRITUAL ADVISOR:** Reverend Dominic Yuen**MEMBERS:** 64 **LIFE MEMBERS:** 0 **BELLELE GUERIN AWARD:** 0

1. The CWL of St. Anthony of Padua made a Pilgrimage to National Martyr's Shrine of Blessed Bishop Vasyl Velychovsky located at 250 Jefferson Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2V 0M6 on Tuesday May 21, 2024 at 6PM. There were 11 people in attendance, our tour guide was Lesia Sianchuk of St. Joseph Parish who is the Shrine and Museum Administrator. She was present when Bishop Vasyl Velychovsky's body was exhumed and she related to us that his body was still intact, that no changes had occurred even though he had been buried for 27 years. Father John Sianchuk CSsR joined us and he shared personal information about Bishop Vasyl and their experiences. The tour finished off with a prayer and we were given a rosary and prayer pamphlet with the story of Blessed Vasyl's life
2. On January 28, 2024 our council provided meals for Immaculate Conception Drop-in Centre. We provided pizza, bananas, cookies and bottles of water for approximately 250 people.
3. We sold tickets to a Trivia night on Oct 4, 2024 in our parish hall which was open to the community. We charged \$20 per person. We hired a local company, Quizmasters, who looked after the trivia portion of the evening. We provided pizza, snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. 112 people attended and we made a profit of \$1,438. We also held a raffle and a 50/50 draw. It was a fun interactive competition that challenged all age groups. The money was raised to help support our upcoming 100th anniversary celebration of St. Anthony CWL on March 9, 2025.

W-015 ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY**BRANDON****ACTING CO-PRESIDENTS:** Linda Seitz and Suzanne Kiazzyk**SPIRITUAL ADVISOR:** Reverend John Okosun**MEMBERS:** 94 **LIFE MEMBERS:** 4 **BELLELE GUERIN AWARD:** 3

1. **Ordination of Fr. Christopher Pugh**, a member of our parish: Our Council supported him with prayer, gifted he and his family with the reception after his diaconate ordination, monetary donations, attended his diaconate and presbyteral ordinations, and hosted the reception following his first mass held in his home parish of St. Augustine's.
2. **Retreat:** Sr. Sandy Stewart, RNDM, led a retreat on our theme 'Here I am Lord, Send Me' on April 15, 2024. The fun, faith and fulfilling day was attended by 40 people. As it was so meaningful to all, it was suggested we put on more days like that in the future.
3. Speakers at our monthly meetings: numerous local speakers featured under the pillar of Social Justice were invited to speak this year such as the Prison Ministry, St. Vincent de Paul, Helping Hands Kitchen, and Pregnancy Support Centre.

W-017 ST. COLUMBA**SWAN RIVER**

PRESIDENT: Shari Eggie

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR: Reverend Benjamin Nwaeje

MEMBERS: 16 **LIFE MEMBERS:** 0 **BELLELE GUERIN AWARD:** 0

1. Members helped to make lap quilts which were presented to the RCMP to be given to accident victims, and to residents at the three Lodges in the Valley. We also donated quilts to the local Crisis Centre. One of the quilts was displayed at a local Tea and Quilt Show with a description of the project.
 2. We held our first Fall Tea since COVID and we were able to host it in our Church Hall now that the renos are done. We also made the draw for our annual raffle at the Tea. This year we hosted a Coffee Sunday following the Tea. Parishioners enjoyed our decorations, yummy goodies and were able to purchase baking from our bake sale table.
 3. Members participated in the Parish gift tree, donating Christmas gifts for the residents of the Swan River Lodge, Personal Care and Benito Health Centre. We also donated food, mitts and toques to be sent to the Food Bank for Christmas hampers.
- Members signed Christmas cards from the CWL for 128 residents of the Lodges.

W-018 ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR**WINNIPEG**

PRESIDENT: Doreen Lloyd

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR: Reverend Eric Zadji

MEMBERS: 40 **LIFE MEMBERS:** 0 **BELLELE GUERIN AWARD:** 0

Like many other councils, we were on the verge of folding at the end of 2024. Our survival looked grim, but Our Lady of Good Counsel had other plans for us. With the help of our Pastor and the Knights of Columbus, we decided to appeal to our parish ladies to consider becoming members.

November 7, 2024.

We decided to have a CWL information night and invite our parish ladies to attend and learn about who we are and what we do. Chris Carlyle was asked to lead and present along with Father Dado Parrenas. Chris presented everything from our origin to our current format and pillars. Many questions were asked and the handouts were well received. Twenty seven ladies were in attendance. From the event we received 11 interested ladies with 5 who already paid their membership. Refreshments followed.

December 12, 2024.

We hosted a Christmas potluck dinner inviting all our new and potential members with their families to join us in this meet and greet event. All were asked to bring toiletry items, socks, mittens, scarfs etc., which will be delivered to the Missionaries of Charity. Fifty-six people attended

this event and seven bags of toiletries were collected for the Sisters. A fun evening was had, games were played and all in attendance participated.

December 14 and 23, 2024.

Several of our ladies went to visit two of our members who reside in St. Joseph's Residence. We took them gifts, group pictures were taken and a great visit was had. Our council also played secret Santa for three elderly gentlemen that have no family, who also reside at this residence. We purchased each of them a gift and delivered it at this time as well.

On December 23, members of St. Edward's Children's Choir performed a mini concert for the residents at St. Joseph's. This was arranged by two of our newest CWL members and the Children's Ministry leaders. The children were well received and all enjoyed the children's visit.

W-019 ST. JAMES ASSINIBOIA

WINNIPEG

PRESIDENT: Jodeen Stewart

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR: Reverend Rainerio Sarce

MEMBERS: 114 LIFE MEMBERS: 1 BELLELLE GUERIN AWARD: 0

1. During Lent, the members went through their closets and donated second hand clothing. Several large garbage bags were filled and delivered to Centre Flavie, an organization in St. Boniface which provides free items to the needy. This was much appreciated by them.
2. A Rosary collection is ongoing whereby members bring old rosaries to be donated to the Grace Hospice. The patients there love to hold the rosaries in their hands. Our council also provides toiletries to the hospice as patients often arrive in need of tooth brushes, shampoo, razors, etc. The Bruce Oake Recovery Centre, located in our neighbourhood, is also a recipient of these items.
3. Yearly, the members provide a casserole (this year it was a tuna casserole), buttered bread and cookies to the Immaculate Conception Drop-in Centre. Eighty dozen home-made cookies were provided. A collection for Manitoba Harvest is made each general meeting. The Council has also helped provide a food hamper for a single dad with three children from the neighbourhood. Hats and mittens, knit by council members, are taken yearly to Brooklands School, an inner-city school in the St. James School Division. A monetary donation is also given to the school to assist in their breakfast program..

W-023 ST. JOHN BREBEUF

WINNIPEG

PRESIDENT: Janice Dobson

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR: Reverend Fr. Patrick Neufeld

MEMBERS: 38 LIFE MEMBERS: 0 BELLELLE GUERIN AWARD: 1

1. In June we held our long term service awards at a local restaurant. Service pins were presented for 65 years, 35 years, 30 years and 25 years of service. We were pleased our Spiritual Advisor was able to attend this event.
2. We were able to support ongoing Parish activities including the sacraments. We provided Rosary books for the First Eucharist children and assistance with sacramental receptions for those receiving Confirmation. Many of our members serve during funeral receptions and are very active within the Parish community.
3. We had a booth at the parish Ministry Fair. This resulted in two new members thus far.

W-024 ST. JOHN CANTIUS

WINNIPEG

PRESIDENT: Jacqueline Derksen

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR: Reverend Yolando Gamallo

MEMBERS: 41 **LIFE MEMBERS:** 0 **BELLELE GUERIN AWARD:** 1

1. Spring Tea
2. Red Sand on Sidewalk Prayer Service
3. Advent Bake & Perogy Sale

W-030 ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

RUSSELL

PRESIDENT: Marg Mushumanski

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR: Reverend Paul Bisson

MEMBERS: 15 **LIFE MEMBERS:** 0 **BELLELE GUERIN AWARD:** 0

1. We continue to serve our parish community and our local community in all aspects in community service. We acknowledge our grads, first communion and confirmation students.
2. We provide and serve funeral lunches for our parish community.
3. We host a Christmas supper and fun evening for all the women in our parish.

W-032 ST. THERESA'S

MIDDLECHURCH

CONTACT: Claudette Peters

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR: Reverend Kelly Wilson

MEMBERS: 35 **LIFE MEMBERS:** 0 **BELLELE GUERIN AWARD:** 0

1. We hosted a ladies retreat that was facilitated by Father David. It was a full day Retreat on St. Theresa and her little way and how we can incorporate it into our daily lives. All ladies from

the parish were invited and they were also invited to bring a friend. It was well attended and the feedback was very good. We served a lunch as well

2. We hosted a hospitality event for our parishes first communicants and the people who attended church that day, all were welcome. We had a beautiful cake and gifts for each child who made their first communion. The hall was beautifully decorated for this event.

3. We continued with our pierogi fundraising. We are getting more volunteers. There is lots of good camaraderie during these two days. Good connections are made which often continue on after the Pierogi making is done. This is assisting us with donating funds to various charities.

W-033 ST. MICHAEL'S

GIMLI

PRESIDENT: Christine Swanson

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR: Reverend Stan Gacek

MEMBERS: 26 LIFE MEMBERS: 0 BELLELLE GUERIN AWARD: 0

1. St. Michael's Council set a record for fund-raising since our inception mostly through cabbage rolls and perogy sales.
2. We sent a donation to IWIN for two backpacks for survivors of human trafficking and held the Red Sand ceremony in front of our church.
3. One of our members spoke to us and to other CWL members about what it was like to be caught in the "60's Scoop" the Canadian government enacted in our country.

W-034 ST. PETER'S

WINNIPEG

PRESIDENT: Donna Candelaria

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR: Monsignor Enrique M. Samson Jr.

MEMBERS: 37 LIFE MEMBERS: 0 BELLELLE GUERIN AWARD: 1

1. Our last mass at 748 Keewatin St., Winnipeg was held April 2nd and many members and parishioners attended and participated in the decommissioning service. A FIRST FOR MOST OF US. A sad day, as so many memories were made during our 49 years there. And off we went to our new home at our parish's *Petrus Hall* at 2624 Inkster Blvd, Winnipeg. Our first big event was the 40th Anniversary of Msgr. Samson, our parish Priest and Spiritual Advisor with a special mass on Apr. 10th and a dinner and dance on Apr. 12th. Many members and parishioners celebrated with him and his family at both events. Cleaning out our many CWL cupboards revealed some treasures we had forgotten, and many items no longer needed were donated to charities. Special parish events continue to be held at the hall and members attend and participate in them, while we await the construction of our new church sometime in the future.

2. We continued with as many usual activities as possible. Members continued serving the parish in the many committees that are necessary to run our very large and busy parish. We contributed an article every month to our parish newsletter {17 years already}. Members attended the Provincial Day of Celebration (3); the Winnipeg Diocesan (4) and Provincial Conventions (2). Our president watched the national convention online; as well as most of the many webinars available on the cwl.ca website and she shared the information with us. Our windup and Christmas parties were held. Members again generously donated to our Christmas Hamper appeal for our four favourite charities. Communiques and Memos received from other levels are shared with members at meetings and by email to those who do not attend meetings. Years of service pins were presented to deserving members {60, 2x 50, 40, and 25}. After a memorial mass for a deceased member, we gathered at our outside grotto to offer a rosary for all our deceased members.
3. Our council hosted the Winnipeg Diocesan Fall Meeting and Workshop on Sept. 28th. There was a good turnout from our members (15) and other councils. Even though we had to share that day with other parish activities there was a lot of smiles and fellowship as we listened to the two speakers on "Relating Roots of Reconciliation to our national theme". Many wore orange shirts that day in support of the Truth and Reconciliation Day.

W-035 ST. VITAL

WINNIPEG

PRESIDENT: Violette da Costa

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR: Reverend Wayne Morrissey

MEMBERS: 54 LIFE MEMBERS: 1 BELLELLE GUERIN AWARD: 0

1. Held a Trivia/Quiz Night in February and a St. Patrick's Day Raffle. Parishioners donated items for the baskets we raffled off. Remaining baskets were raffled off at a St. Patrick's Day Coffee Party. Funds raised went towards church renovations.
2. Held a couple of Work Bees to make rosaries and angels for our December Bake Sale and Angel/Rosary Sale. Some of the proceeds will go towards 2 monetary awards for St. Maurice School Grade 12 Graduates (one male and one female). In addition proceeds will also go towards the 2027 National Convention.
3. Held a Red Sand Service in October. We held this in the church parking lot, and served cookies (with a red cross on them) after. We also initiated, with approval from the Bishop, a second collection at each of the masses that weekend. Proceeds from this were sent to IWIN for 13 backpacks that will be prepared and sent to Dignity House in Winnipeg in November.

W-038 ST. VIATOR'S**DAUPHIN****PRESIDENT: Linda Zazuliak****SPIRITUAL ADVISOR: Reverend Michel Nault****MEMBERS: 55 LIFE MEMBERS: 0 BELLELLE GUERIN AWARD: 0**

1. Made donations of \$1,000.00 each to 5 recipients –Dauphin Personal Care Home Activities, St Paul's Care Home Activities, Dauphin Hospital Palliative Care, Ronald McDonald House Winnipeg, and Stars Ambulance Service.
2. In September we held our Annual Clothing Sale where we accept any items of clothing, bedding and foot wear etc. Our community is very generous in their donations of second time around clothing which gives our community an opportunity of purchasing clothing at a very minimal cost and reuses the clothing which does not end up in the landfill. Volunteers that help thru the week preparing the two day sale gives them the time of socializing and fellowship which is very important for them and us as a Women's League.
3. We held a Social Gathering early last year of bringing women together of the parish, sharing conversation in an informal environment and enjoying each other's company along with laughter and food.

W-041 ST. DOMINIC'S**NEEPAWA****PRESIDENT: Donna Huck****SPIRITUAL ADVISOR: Fr. Jorge Mante****MEMBERS: 34 LIFE MEMBERS: 0 BELLELLE GUERIN AWARD: 0**

1. St. Dominic's council has had a difficult year. Due to unforeseen circumstances, our church hall and kitchen have been unavailable since September. Despite this we have had monthly meetings with very good attendance in members' homes. Funeral lunches have been difficult but by using other halls in the community, we have been able to meet the needs of our church community.
2. We have had to put our fund raising plans on hold but we are anticipating that we will be able to resume them before too long. Because of the success we have had in previous years, we were able to meet all our financial obligations this year.

W-043 SACRED HEART**ROBLIN****CONTACT:** Jeanine Landry**SPIRITUAL ADVISOR:** Father Rene**MEMBERS:** 9 **LIFE MEMBERS:** 0 **BELLELE GUERIN AWARD:** 0

- As a group we continue to lead the Rosary before Sunday Mass for the month of May and for the 40 Days of Life in the fall. We use prolife intentions for each decade.
- Our CWL ladies helped to clean the rectory after Fr. Tony left and when Father Rene arrived. We also helped tend the flower bed at the church.
- All our active members continue to be an integral part of the parish ministries: tending the altar, leading the music, reading, greeting, cleaning, being part of the Pastoral Council, and placing inspirational messages on the bulletin board in the vestibule of the church.

W-044 ST GIANNA BERETTA MOLLA**WINNIPEG****CONTACT:** Rebecca Skinner**SPIRITUAL ADVISOR:** Reverend D. Gurr**MEMBERS:** 3 **LIFE MEMBERS:** **BELLELE GUERIN AWARD:**

1. Some of us do participate in the Perpetual Prayer Ministry in St Gianna's Adoration Chapel of Divine Mercy and pray for those that have requested prayers from our community at large.
2. Some of us helped with gifting and delivering of Christmas Hampers to 18 families.
3. One of our retired CWL members participates in the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Each week, members of this ministry gather together to prayerfully create beautiful shawls to be given to those who are in need of a 'spiritual hug' of prayers and love as they face challenges of mind, body or spirit.



EXECUTIVE REPORTS FOR JANUARY 1- MARCH 15, 2025

PRESIDENT: Carol MacKenzie-Gruber

My first year as president of the Winnipeg Diocesan Council has come and is nearly gone. It has been a steep learning curve, and I am still learning—no one can ever learn all there is to learn about The League, the Church, and anything of importance in one year.

- The National Council and the Strategic Planning committees have put many hours and effort into putting together many power points, booklets, papers, prayer services and such like to help us at the grassroots levels to live our motto **‘For God and Canada’** and our mission statement of **‘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.’**
- The National Council has sponsored webinars on prayer, human trafficking; had national prayer experiences by webinar, published a ‘Novena for Members’ in the Winter 2025 League magazine. They have done their utmost to provide for the spiritual and educational needs of we, the members, who are tasked, by virtue of our baptism and faith in Jesus, to spread the Gospel in word and in deed. Many of us have attended these webinars and used the material, and I encourage more of us to do so.
- I am the liturgy chair on the Manitoba 2027 Convention Planning Committee. Some of you have volunteered to be on various committees already, but as time draws closer others will be invited to share their gifts to assist on these committees. I urge you to accept the invitation to help. Thereby, we can host a valuable Convention /AMM for our sisters from across the country. I will be attending the National Convention in Toronto this year and in Halifax in 2026 to glean more information about liturgy and prayer rooms for our convention. Don’t be afraid to say **‘Yes’**, for in saying **‘Yes’** to us, you are really saying **‘Yes’** to Jesus.
- I encourage your councils to hold fund-raising events to raise money to send to the 2027 Convention Planning Committee, and/or to buy/sell the fund-raising items that the Fund-raising committee has come up with. It takes a lot of dollars to put on a convention, and unfortunately prices keep on going up.
- Pope Francis has proclaimed this year the Jubilee of Hope. I encourage you who cannot go to Rome on pilgrimage (I am going!!) to visit the designated pilgrimage churches in our archdiocese, to pray the Jubilee prayer in your council meetings and at home. Pilgrimages are a source of spiritual growth and consolations and can help us to be messengers of hope in our own corner of the world.
- Let us bid a fond farewell to Archbishop Richard Gagnon in his retirement, and a warm welcome to Archbishop Murray Chatlain.

We ask the **Holy Spirit** to fill us with courage and steadfastness and zeal to live out our calling as **Disciples of our Lord Jesus**, to live out our **Faith** with works of **Service** and be agents of change as we strive to promote **Social Justice** for all members of our society, at home and abroad. AMEN.

SECRETARY: Jo-Anne Souyri

In today's environment, everyone at one time or another has been faced with a scam, either by telephone, cell phone, email or searching the web. It is extremely important that we all know what to do in the event that we experience this type of criminal activity.

The telephone has become the main way that scammers try to steal money. Some of the tactics are as follows:

- They tell you that they will send police to your door if you do not send money
- Pretending to be fundraising for a charity
- Pretending to be a relative or a friend in trouble who needs money
- Trying to sell a service that is not needed
- Asking to help them "catch criminals" who are committing fraud
- Asking for personal information about your financial institution

The cell phone is another popular venue for fraudsters to try and get money from you:

- Receiving a message telling you that a package has not arrived
- Your subscription has expired
- Your credit card or account has been charged for something --Email or searching the Web
- An email asking to send a gift card or money to someone whose name you know
- An email from a company that wants to sell something or offer you a deal – just delete
- Receiving an email saying a friend (using friend's name) has sent you some pictures, click here.

DON'T

- If a big box pops up on your computer indicating that your computer is compromised and you must call for technical support, DON'T. If it doesn't go away, take your computer to where you bought it to have it cleaned. Never use online tech support
- If you think you have been scammed, talk to a trusted friend or family member about it. These criminals rely on people being too embarrassed to tell anyone that they have been scammed. If you have been scammed, report it to the police.

We would love to see you on the evening news but not for any of these reasons. Stay Safe. Stay protected.

TREASURER: Anna Sanduliak

- I finalized sending out the 2024 Voluntary Donations that were received from the various parishes within our Diocese. Donations were delayed due to the mail strike.
- On February 10, 2025 I attended an Executive meeting to establish and review a proposed budget for 2025.
- I prepared an interim financial report on March 14, 2025.
- **2024 Accounting Review** from an independent reviewer—"I have reviewed the accounting records for the 2024 calendar year. All cheques and receipts have been accounted for and the records are in good order."

FAITH: Darlene Kolody:

- Since January of 2025, I have participated in the webinar on Human Trafficking.
- I have also attended the Provincial Day of Celebration with excellent presentations on Palliative Care and the Immaculate Conception Drop Inn Centre.
- I participated in the world Day of Prayer Service.
- I am preparing for the Diocesan AMM and have chosen to present on the Jubilee Year 2025.
- As well, I am participating in the Spiritual Presentation for the Provincial AMM in June at Holy
- Ghost Parish.

SERVICE prepared by Carol MacKenzie-Gruber

- Diocesan Council does not have a Service Chair, but by your annual reports, all councils do an amazing work in caring for their sisters in the League and the people in their parish community, and beyond.
- I discovered something very interesting in looking at the handbook for chairpersons today. I am not sure why it didn't click before, but I quote from the handbook. "Once a council determines the topics and activities that its interests and particular charism lead it to for the year, the next step will be for the **three chairpersons to develop a coordinated approach** to addressing these. For example, this could mean developing spiritual programs that reflect the topic/activity, seeking out and engaging in opportunities for service related to the topic, and advocating to the appropriate level of the government regarding the topic." Practically speaking, if the service chair has arranged for a speaker on a topic, the faith chair could do a prayer service based on what the speaker's topic is.
- The League does not mean for us to **work** alone, but **together**. In working together we develop stronger ties of sisterhood. In a time in history, when societal norms seek to shatter connection, this is a **stand against that isolationism**. Let us move onward, caring for our sisters and brothers, near and far, as we 'grow in faith, and witness to the love of God through ministry and service'.

SOCIAL JUSTICE: Chris Carlyle

- The focus topics of Social Justice Nationally are Human Trafficking, Palliative Care and Care of God's Creation.
- You 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.
- I know some of you attended the Manitoba Provincial Council Day of Celebration. This well attended event addressed palliative care. Simone Stenekes – Clinical Nurse Specialist Pediatric Palliative Care and Dr. Paul Daeninck – Medical Oncologist/Palliative Care

Specialist, both working in Winnipeg providing expert care to Manitobans, spoke to us about care offered people facing life limiting illness. In the afternoon Steve Chipman shared his experiences working at the Immaculate Conception Drop-In Center for over 20 years. Unfortunately, food insecurity is a growing problem. The area around the drop-in center is statistically one of the poorest postal code areas in Canada. Both topics supported CWL member's drive to support the vulnerable people in our communities.

- Keep watch at www.cwl.ca for announcements on future webinars. When you check the website frequently you will keep well informed of opportunities in the form of new resources or webinars.
- I encourage all members to consider attending the Winnipeg Diocesan Convention in Brandon. The ladies are well organized and are looking forward to hosting you. This will also be an opportunity to learn more about service and social justice topics.

Winnipeg Diocesan Council Standing Rules of the 104th Annual Meeting of Members

[Annual Meeting of Members further referred to as AMM]

Each 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, the rules are read and a motion is proposed, discussed and voted on to adopt the standing rules of the AMM. The motion to adopt the standing rules requires a two-thirds majority vote; a motion to rescind or amend the rules once they have been adopted requires a two-thirds majority vote; and a motion to suspend a rule requires a majority vote.

- Each person attending the AMM shall register at the registration desk and wear the official identifying lanyard.
- Registrants shall be classified as voting delegates (Parish Council Presidents or designates) or accredited delegates (Diocesan Accredited, Parish Accredited, Life Members of the Winnipeg diocese).
- Accredited voters may vote on any question except the election of officers, amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws and increases to per capita fees.
- In order to vote all voting and accredited credentials must be submitted at registration.
- Voting cards shall be issued to the voting members (of the Winnipeg Diocese) and exhibited when a member votes.
- Voting delegates shall sit within the areas designated for them at all business sessions of the AMM unless prior arrangement has been made with the Chair.
- Those wishing to speak, shall use the microphone and upon being recognized by the Chair, state name, status and council.
- No member shall speak more than once or longer than two minutes on the same motion or issue without permission of the Chair, but the mover may reply before the vote is taken.
- Only resolutions submitted to the Resolutions Standing Committee in advance of this AMM shall be considered for presentation.
- No goods shall be distributed, displayed or sold at this AMM without the prior approval of the Chair.
- The Diocesan President shall appoint a Minutes Review Committee to verify minutes of AMM.
- The Diocesan Executive shall approve the minutes of this AMM at its post AMM meeting.
- The approved minutes of the AMM shall be circulated to all voting members. If corrections are necessary after approval they may be made by motion at the next AMM.

Robert's Rules of Order

The League follows Robert's Rules of Order. A booklet, based on Robert's Rules of Order, 'Parliamentary Procedure' by Edith Mockler - Life Member and Registered Parliamentarian, was revised May, 2020. It is available from the CWL National Office. [Item No. 617]

Section 1 – The chair shall (a) state all questions, motions and resolutions to the meeting before they are open to discussion; and (b) put all questions, motions and resolutions to the meeting before the vote is taken thereon.

Section 2 – Every motion shall have a seconder except a motion to nominate. A motion that is not seconded shall not be put to the meeting and shall not be recorded in the minutes.

Section 3 – The mover shall have the privilege of speaking first to a motion and the seconder next.

Section 4 – When two or more members stand at the same time to speak, the Chair shall determine the order in which those members shall speak.

Section 5 – During the discussion of a question, each speaker shall be limited to three minutes.

Section 6 – A member may request that the question or motion be repeated or re-read but must not interrupt a speaker.

Section 7 – No member shall speak more than once to the same question or motion without the consent of the Chair, but the mover may reply before the vote is taken.

Section 8 – No member shall speak to a question or motion after the Chair has asked for the yeas and nays.

Section 9 – Only one amendment to the amendment shall be allowed, but when an amendment to the amendment has been disposed of, another amendment may be proposed. An amendment to the amendment shall be voted on first, the amendment next, and the motion last.



**“Do things for people not because of who they are or what they do in return,
but because of who you are.” – Mother Teresa**



Acknowledgements

The compilation of the Winnipeg Diocesan Annual Meeting of Members book was made possible with the assistance, support and encouragement of the book committee – Carol MacKenzie-Gruber, Anna Sanduliak, Jo-Anne Souyri, and Arlene Elves.

Some reports have been re-formatted and edited by the committee to fit in the book.

