



The Catholic Women's League
Manitoba Provincial Council
72nd and 73rd Annual Meeting of Members
June 26, 2021

ORAL REPORT
Past President
Rolande Chernichan

My reports can be found on pages 53-58 of the 2019 annual report booklet and pages ___ of the 2020 annual report booklet that appear on Manitoba Provincial Council's website www.cwlmanitoba.ca

Greetings CWL sisters. "Rejoice"! 😊 Last year around this time, provinces across Canada were in various stages of lockdown because of the COVID-19 pandemic. All annual conventions were cancelled during the year marking the League's 100th anniversary. Over the summer months, Manitoba was the envy of other provinces because of low infection counts. Pandemic surges were predicted and realized, and restrictions ruled our lives. The pandemic propelled our parishes, workforces, and the League to be innovative. Hopefully, the cancellation of regular meetings throughout 2020 became added incentive for all past presidents to work on updating their council's archives. Today, we celebrate being able to gather virtually to carry on League business. We celebrate the quick development of vaccines and their increased access to the point where we can expect to soon gather safely in person with our families, faith communities, friends and CWL sisters.

I commend President Janet Brunger, Donna Candelaria and Jean Keating, who sourced archives to compile a fantastic report about the key moments in the history of the League in Manitoba. Their report titled "Manitoba throughout the Past 99 Years" is worth a second read and can be found in the Fall 2020 issue of *The Canadian League*. Without annual reports as well as regular archiving by past presidents, their report about Manitoba's League activities and contributions would not have been possible.

I also commend Winnipeg Diocesan Council and Past President Rose Anne Seymour and committee members Donna Candelaria and Eva Arsenault, who immersed themselves in 100 years of archives to compile a commemorative book marking the 100th Anniversary of Winnipeg Diocesan Council. Their booklet is a treasured keepsake of several diocesan milestones, of members and spiritual advisors both past and present, of parish councils that were but are no longer, of living the mission of the League through dedicated service. Winnipeg Diocesan Council became the cornerstone to the eventual formation of Manitoba Provincial Council in 1948.

The history of our League breathes a spirit of hope into the future that awaits each council of the League. Past presidents carry a special responsibility to be the guardians of that history which we can look back on, to draw energy from, and to be inspired by as we step out in faith after a pandemic. Past presidents are entrusted to help promote the Strategic Plan of the League, and the changes that will become our 'new normal' to do League business. Past presidents can be called upon to contribute and help members to explain the amendments to the *Constitution and Bylaws* and the corresponding changes to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*, made necessary because of the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Thank you, past presidents for your service and dedication and the many ways you fulfill your League promise. May we all be mindful that our works are for the glory of God and the good of God's people, and that in honouring, invoking, and imitating our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel, the League of the future holds much promise.