

The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Manitoba Provincial Council

President

February, 2020



Communiqué 3

Care For Our Common Home

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National President (for information)
FROM: Janet Brunger, Provincial President

Greetings to all of my Sisters in the League! As we have now entered the Season of Lent, my wish for each of you is to experience renewal and growth in your journey of faith, to culminate in the joy of the resurrection at the end of these 40 days.

95 Ladies enjoyed an inspiring, uplifting Day of Celebration on February 8th with our own Fr. Paul Bringleston facilitating. The theme of the day was Care for our Spiritual Home, and included quiet time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament before reconvening back in the Parish Hall to summarize the day. We received many positive comments on the day. Thank you to all who took the time out of your busy lives to participate!

In keeping with our National Theme, *Care for our Common Home*, and following last year's very successful H.U.G. Project, the CWL National Centenary Project for 2020 is calling for all Diocesan Councils to plant a tree. However, we in Manitoba would like to go one step further and ask each Council to consider planting a tree on your parish grounds. We are therefore asked to plant a tree, take a picture of the tree planting event, or yourselves around the newly planted tree, and send this picture in to your Diocesan President. She will compile all these pictures and forward them on to National Office, before July 1st of this year. Those pictures will then be displayed at the 100th Annual National Convention in Montreal in August! The significance of planting a tree is that the roots are entrenched in the past century while the branches are reaching into the future!

Also in keeping with our National Theme, I am pleased to announce that we have compiled approximately 6,000 plastic bags thus far for the Bag-Up Manitoba initiative! Many thanks to all for participating in this very worthwhile project and for keeping plastic bags out of our landfills! I'll collect at all conventions this year. Naturally, if you have a school in your community that's collecting plastic bags, I encourage you to send them there, but let me know how many bags you're giving, so that we can include those numbers in our total.

The Over 18 DVD is available to all CWL Councils for showing. There are also handouts available for photocopying. We encourage each Council to discuss possible times and dates that will work in your own parishes, and reach out to me for the DVD.

Thank you to all who participated in the Annual Report process – this is the most effective way to inform the next levels of the League of your activities and challenges. Having just returned from National Meetings, I can say that National council celebrates your victories, and does hear your concerns, and are actively working for solutions.

And now for some homework! Our membership continues to decline, both in our province and nationally. I would like to hear from each Council what you think we should do to recruit new members. Never mind if you've tried it and it doesn't work in your own parish, and never mind if you think it's a great idea but you can't get the support of your own Council to do it – we would like to hear it. Please send me an email or call me to offer your suggestions – I'd like 2 or 3 ideas per Council. We'll brainstorm with these ideas around our Provincial table, and perhaps we can come up with some solid recommendations.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel be always at your side, guiding and protecting you in everything you do, for God and Canada!

Janet Brunger, President
Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council

The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Manitoba Provincial Council

President

Manitoba Provincial Council

November, 2019



Communiqué 2

Care For Our Common Home

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)

CC: Provincial Executive (for information)

CC: National President (for information)

FROM: Janet Brunger, Provincial President

Greetings to all of my Sisters in the League! We have experienced a very different Fall this year, with the excessive rainfall, followed by that Thanksgiving week-end wallop of heavy, wet snow. Our farming community has certainly been challenged, as most, if not all of them still had crops in the field. We offer all of them our compassion and support during these very difficult times.

Within the CWL, there are many events ongoing. Many Councils hold end of the year fundraisers at this time, and it's a busy time of year for everyone. In regards to that, I have a couple of updates to provide:

1)

Women's Interchurch Council of Canada – Fellowship of the Least Coin and World Day of Prayer –

“The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) is a worldwide ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation. Christian women around the world meet and pray with each other. Through this, they are reminded to live a forgiving life with others. “Least coins” are given with each prayer, yet the movement is focused on prayer and reconciliation rather than money. Anyone who wishes to join makes a commitment to spend time in prayer whenever she has a

strained relationship with another person, and to uphold in prayer others who are victims of jealousy, hatred, violence and injustice.”

Some time ago, we became aware that there were some questions surrounding these programs, and reached out to the National Office and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops for guidance. The response is that we are responsible to vet the organizations we support, and having done so, we have the autonomy to support - or not support - whomever we wish. For clarification, any monies collected for or in regards to World Day of Prayer is used for Canadian Charities, which have been vetted and agreed upon by the WICC Board. It is recommended that Councils do not put the funds collected through their Councils' bank accounts; rather, collect the donations and forward them on to WICC. Monies collected at Council level for Fellowship of the Least Coin goes outside the country and we (or WICC Canada) have no control over how or where the money is used. Having said that, any Council that has money set aside from Fellowship of the Least Coin collections is encouraged to send it in, since this money was collected for a specific purpose, and we in the CWL do not have the authority to change the direction of this money.

CCODP 1% Program – Since the CCCB does not have the time and resources to vet all organizations, it is strongly recommended once again that Councils vet the organizations they support, prior to sending in their money. CCODP is supported by the Catholic Church, and our 1% program is part of that.

We are entering year 2 of the Strategic Planning process undertaken by National Office. It's well underway, and we have long surpassed the 1,000 hour mark. For the benefit of future generations of the League, we will all be called upon to do our part. It's been mentioned in Crystal Reiter's communique, but I'll say it again – if any Council is interested in a presentation of the Strategic Plan, it's available and we would love to come out to present it!

Our National Theme, *Care for our Common Home*, is entering its second year. To that end, we are all encouraged to be mindful of, and to undertake initiatives to care for our land. Many Councils choose to adopt a highway in their area, others will set aside a day to clean up river ways or neighborhood parks or green spaces. Still others will plant trees and/or beautify their yards or church properties. Anything that you can do to reduce our carbon footprint will ultimately generate a return that will benefit our Earth.

In keeping with the National Theme, as president of Manitoba Provincial Council, I have chosen for my two-year theme, *“The Seed that Flowers”*. Many Councils are struggling, with declining membership, aging, and other priorities. We can all extend a hand – we can make a phone call, drop in for coffee, offer a ride, welcome our sisters to Mass, events, or meetings. All of these small gestures will create harmony, community and connection. The small seed that we plant will reward our efforts with beautiful flowers that become a sisterhood of sharing. Likewise, the small acts of service that we give for the beautification of our communities will convert to Care for our Common Home. Will you join me in this endeavour? – Will you reach out to someone today?

May Our Lady of Good Counsel be always at your side, guiding and protecting you in everything you do, for God and Canada!

Janet Brunger, President
Catholic Women's League of Canada Manitoba Provincial Council

The Catholic Women's League of Canada Manitoba Provincial Council		
President		
September, 2019		Communiqué 1
<i>Care For Our Common Home</i>		
TO:	Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)	
CC:	Provincial Executive (for information)	
CC:	National President (for information)	
FROM:	Janet Brunger, Provincial President	

Welcome to September! It is with anticipation that we ramp up our activities for another fruitful year in the CWL! We look forward to fundraisers, workshops, and growth.

In reflecting on the upcoming planned activities and all that it takes to ensure success, I can't help but think about what goes on behind the scenes; all of the planning, collaboration support, encouragement, teamwork, hard work, and usually, a generous measure of fun and good-natured ribbing! And drilling further down, I wonder; What qualities make a good President?

- A good President can work well in a team environment, and she can delegate. I've found that people WANT to do a good job; if you give them the opportunity to make decisions and offer your support along the way, you'll find that they'll do their utmost for the League.
By delegating, you are empowering others.
- A good President will also look for gifts in others, and draw upon those same gifts. Most people will not volunteer to do something they've never done before, for fear of failure; however, with encouragement and support, they'll tap into whatever resources they have on hand; aka, their gifts, and the result will be a successful endeavour!
- The President has the ability to set the atmosphere and create a happy working team – if she is relaxed, positive, cheerful and confident, chances are that her team will be as well.
- And finally, a good President, by collaborating with her team, has the ability to stay focused and to make good decisions for the benefit of the League. There is a lot of information coming down from other levels of the League, and by staying abreast of current affairs in the League, the community and the Parish, she will be tuned in to critical and upcoming events and will be working with her team to establish priorities.

So there's really no magic about being a President; with technology today, she really just needs to be on the other end of her email and she needs to filter information through the necessary channels in a timely manner. Depending on what level of the League she's serving at, there will be a need for sub-committees to oversee as well.

Although there is a level of dedication required, without fail, I've always found that the benefits far outweigh the commitment. I strongly encourage everyone to not be afraid to take that step, as you will find that you've learned and grown within the League with the experience of being a President. Never be afraid that "I can't do as good a job as so-and-so" – Everyone has their own style and their own gifts to bring forward, and that's precisely what makes the League as rich and unique as it is!

Conventions are also a marvelous way to tap in to an incredible amount of information the League has to offer. From Diocesan to Provincial to National Convention, you will come away uplifted and re-energized, with a renewed enthusiasm to continue the work of the League in your own Council. Our National Convention in Calgary this summer was amazing, with a lot of information shared and friendships made and renewed!

Upcoming is Winnipeg Diocesan's Fall Meeting & Workshop on October 5th, to which everyone is invited, hosted by Notre Dame Parish in Selkirk, MB; and St. Boniface Diocesan Council's Day of Reflection, hosted by St. Anne Parish Council in St. Anne, MB, on October 19th. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

Wishing each of you Many Blessings during this beautiful time of year!

Janet Brunger
President
Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council