



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

## Manitoba Provincial Council

---

September 8, 2017

Good day Parish Presidents of CWL councils:

In the third week of September, all parishes in Manitoba will be receiving notice of a letter writing campaign that our bishops have initiated in response to **Bill-34 THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING (PROTECTION FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND OTHERS) ACT** which is currently before the Manitoba legislature.

The bishops seek the support of the CWL to help their parish respond to this letter writing campaign by printing and circulating the form letters that will be sent to each parish priest. If possible, a member of the CWL or a healthcare worker in the parish should speak for a couple of minutes at the Sunday Mass to encourage Catholics in the pews to sign the form letter that would be made available at the back of the church. This must be coordinated with the parish priest in case he has other plans to handle the letter writing campaign. CWL could also assist by collecting all the signed letters, scanning a copy of them into one file, and arranging to have the letters delivered in person or by mail to the MLA of the constituency.

In addition to a brief talk in front of the congregation, it would be helpful to show a short video which explains why this letter writing campaign is so important. Click on the following link to view the video: [bit.ly/ConscienceMB](http://bit.ly/ConscienceMB) Make your priest aware of it so that it can be shown if possible.

Remember that **we must speak out in favour of Bill 34** which protects the conscience rights of healthcare professionals and others. It is to be expected that lobbyists who favour euthanasia and assisted suicide (medical aid in dying) will be sending letters to government in opposition to this bill.

Manitoba has the opportunity to set a benchmark for other provinces in Canada where conscience rights of healthcare workers will be protected by law. Let's do our part to ensure this happens by writing letters or by signing the form letters that are provided to you as part of the bishops' initiative.

Thank you CWL sisters for helping to make this letter writing campaign a success!

Blessings,

Rolande Chernichan, President  
Manitoba Provincial Council

---

The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
**MANITOBA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL**



**About the National Convention being held in Winnipeg from August 12 – 15, 2018**



Is distance and cost keeping you from attending the 2018 national convention in Winnipeg?

A Rural Initiative National Convention Trust Fund was set up at the close of the 2008 convention with the aim of helping with the cost of hotel accommodations for rural members for two future national conventions in Manitoba.

***The trust fund would pay 80% of hotel costs, to a maximum of three nights based on double occupancy, when attending the 2018 national convention.***

This accommodation subsidy is available to a CWL member

- residing more than 60 km. from the convention site who would otherwise not be able to afford the cost of hotel accommodations, and
- who would have no other means of staying in Winnipeg to attend the national convention.

This subsidy shall not to be used for travel, meals, events, or registration. Interested and qualifying members are urged to complete and submit the attached application form as soon as possible. The application provides for the names and signatures of two qualifying rural CWL members who would like to share a hotel room from August 12 to August 15, 2018. Individual applicants would have to agree to be paired up with another CWL applicant. Those who reserve at the Delta Hotel will have preference, as we are required to fill the requisite block of rooms to avoid paying a penalty.

A committee has been appointed to oversee the application process and to review all applications. The applications will be numbered in the order they are received, and qualifying applicants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Application deadline is February 15, 2018.

All applicants shall receive a reply by March 31, 2018. The number of applications receiving the subsidy is dependent on available funds and the number of applications. The remaining half of the funds will be held in trust for a future national convention subsidy.

Funds will not be paid in advance. To be reimbursed for hotel costs, qualifying members must submit their hotel receipts to provincial treasurer, Lea Colbeck, by August 31, 2018.

Manitoba provincial council looks forward to having as many members as possible sharing in the national convention in 2018 in Winnipeg. Come be part of the action and celebrations!

Rolande Chernichan, President  
Manitoba Provincial Council

**RESERVE  
YOUR HOTEL NOW**

**1-204-942-  
0551  
Reservation**

## The Catholic Women's League of Canada

# Manitoba Provincial Council

---

Greetings CWL sisters!



Happy New Year! Advent celebrates the start of a new liturgical year in the three-year cycle of the calendar of the Catholic Church. How easy it is to lose ourselves in the routine busyness of life and preparations in the countdown to Christmas that we risk missing out on the grace that is ours to receive in this holy season!

The gospel of Mark of Year B proclaims a familiar message: to be alert, to keep awake for the arrival of our Lord. Who are the messengers calling me out of the wilderness and trappings of a commercial Christmas season? Will I make time to prepare the way for my Lord through prayer, repentance, and a healthy discipline of putting God first in my life? What is God's plan for me? Can I be faithful as Mary, our Blessed Mother, whose 'yes' gave birth to divine Love?

These questions I put to myself as I meditated on the arrival of Advent and as I pondered what my Christmas message could be. How will you answer the questions? I have decided that my New Year's resolutions will begin with Advent. I am giving myself a fresh start at preparing my heart to receive Christ. Will I still be faithful to my spiritual resolutions when the clock changes from 2017 into 2018?

The start of our Church year coincides with the ending of our calendar year. Parish councils have been diligently working at preparing annual reports. Thank you for persevering in online reporting. It is the way of the future for our League. Many thanks to the 'angels' who helped those who needed it. Celebrate your CWL sisterhood and your council's accomplishments of the past year! I look forward to hearing all about it at your diocesan conventions.

We are living in exciting yet uncertain times. The League is in its final stages of strategic planning to redefine itself in keeping with the results of the town hall consultations done with its members at this year's national convention in Charlottetown. You are part of history as the League approaches its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of organization! ☺

We in Manitoba are on a countdown to hosting the national convention in August 2018! Are you planning to attend? Are you involved as a volunteer on one of the committees? Please see the documents included with this letter that outline an exciting opportunity for an accommodations subsidy through the **Rural Initiative National Convention Trust Fund**. Funding assistance is available for members who live more than 60 km. from Winnipeg. Funds are limited, so do not delay in applying because applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis.

Also included with this letter are the poster and registration form inviting you to our **Provincial Day of Celebration** being hosted by St. Emile council in Winnipeg on Saturday, February 10, 2018. Fr. Paul Bringleston, our newly appointed provincial spiritual advisor from the Archdiocese of Keewatin-The Pas, will be our guest speaker. How familiar are you with the challenges of serving in Canada's northern missions? Did you know that your donations to Catholic Missions in Canada through national voluntary funds supports religious education programs in the mission dioceses of Canada? Join us for an enriching day and in a spirit of sharing 'with others at home and abroad', those who want, can make a personal contribution to Catholic Missions in Canada. After a hot lunch, the afternoon will provide a training session by a registered parliamentarian about Robert's Rules of Order and how our meetings can be made more effective.

May we await the feast of Our Lord's nativity in faithfulness, preparing our hearts and homes for His coming. Mary gifts us with Love and Hope in her Son, Jesus, the Word made flesh, the Prince of Peace. Rejoice! for indeed, God is with us always!



The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Manitoba Provincial Council  
70<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018  
**PRAYER/WATER CEREMONY**



**"LAUDATO SI', mi' Signore"** – "Praise be to you, my Lord". In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. "Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs". [Laudato Si (pages 1-2)]



Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si* embraces our need to look after the environment to protect and preserve it for today and the future. Water is one of the valuable resource of our environment. To honour the protection of water, Manitoba Provincial Council INVITES ALL MEMBERS IN MANITOBA to participate in a water prayer/ceremony as follows:

### **DIOCESAN CONVENTIONS**

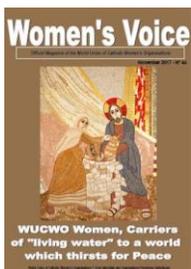
**Members are invited to participate:**

- ▽ Members are invited to **bring a small sample of water** (no more than **1/8 cup or 25 ml**) from their home to their diocesan convention.
- ▽ Members will be invited to **pour their water sample into a larger vessel**.

### **PROVINCIAL CONVENTION – June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**

**Members are invited to participate:**

- ▽ Members are invited to **bring a small sample of water** (no more than **1/8 cup or 25 ml**) from their home to the provincial convention.
- ▽ Members will be invited to **pour their water sample into a larger vessel** during the **prayer/water ceremony**.
- ▽ Indigenous '**water carrier**', Marilyn Nelson, will return the water collected to the Red River or Lake Winnipeg as a gesture of our solidarity with her Indigenous spirituality and out of respect for our



World Union of Catholic Women's Organization have embraced the theme: **WUCWO Women, Carriers of 'living water' to a world which thirsts for Peace.** Participation from as many members as possible in Manitoba is requested, to come together in unity and solidarity to respect our environment and honour water, a precious and valuable resource. Join our **WUCWO sisters and Pope Francis** and be **"LIVING WATER"**.



