

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council

ORGANIZATION



September 16, 2021

Communiqué #6

Care For Our Common Home

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Chairpersons of Organization
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Chairperson of Organization (for information)
FROM: Crystal Reiter, Provincial Chairperson of Organization

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us, yes,
establish the work of our hands! Psalm 90:17

I think we all have the same worries and concerns over our councils and the CWL in general! I feel so very out of touch and it feels like we are all floundering. As I look back I realize that this is only the second communiqué for 2021! A reflection of the activity level of many councils!

As Organization Chair it falls on us to attempt to recruit and maintain memberships. Many members have been lost over these two years of quarantine and cancellation. Please encourage council organization chairs to reach out to all those members who have not renewed their membership. Whenever possible a telephone call should be attempted. We have all spent a lot of time isolated in our homes and out of touch with friends and CWL sisters! Many of us have not even been able to attend Sunday mass on a very regular basis.

The national website includes many new items including the Welcome Package and the Executive Orientation Presentation. These both include valuable information about the CWL, its origins and current work! It is also helpful to have seen the presentation prepared by Fran Lucas – *The League of the Future-Year 3*. It helps to have a better understanding of things that are happening and have happened related to the Strategic Plan.

Please work with your councils to be sure that everyone is well informed about the instructed vote package. National office is really hoping that every single member has the opportunity for input.

Annual Reporting season shall soon be upon us, watch for information soon via email from national office.

Please feel free to reach out to me if there is information you need or maybe a presentation of some sort – I do not know all answers but I am a fairly good information acquirer!

Blessings!

We will meet again soon!

Crystal Reiter
President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization
Manitoba Provincial Council

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council

ORGANIZATION



Dec. 1, 2020

Communiqué #5

Care For Our Common Home

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Chairpersons of Organization
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Chairperson of Organization (for information)
FROM: Crystal Reiter, Provincial Chairperson of Organization

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord! Isaiah 2:5

Annual Reports

I hope we are all busily finishing our Annual Reports! I have completed mine at parish level and I was surprised that even in this funny year where it feels like we have done nothing there are still things to report! Deadlines are approaching.

Recruit Members and Maintain Membership

I am still the Organization Chairperson for my home council in Selkirk. I have recently sent out an email reminding everyone that Membership Fees are due with the start of the calendar year. Our fees go towards the expenses of all the levels of the Catholic Women's League. Unfortunately, even though we have been unable to meet in person for so long many of the expenses continue! We have to continue to submit fees and encourage new members through these different times! Hopefully we will continue to find new opportunities to share the CWL with fellow parishioners! The Welcome video is easy to find on the national Website. Have a watch and consider sharing it with someone. <https://cwl.ca/welcome-program-video/>

Strategic Plan

If you visit the bottom of the homepage of the National CWL website you will find the updates for the Strategic Planning Committee. The latest update from just today talks about Catholic Social Teaching. Check the difference between charity and social justice! Hopefully there will be some mechanism or opportunity in the near future through which we are given the opportunity to enjoy the whole Welcome Program, the update of the Strategic Plan, or the new Executive Orientation program! As part of the National Presidents-Elect group I have had the

opportunity to be part of the development of the latter program – wait ‘til you see it – So exciting!!!

Awards

A reminder that this time of decreased activity may give you an opportunity to nominate one of your members for an award. Think about all the ladies who have given their all to the league over the years! There are a couple of awards to consider – The Bellelle Guerin Award and the Maple Leaf Award.

There are two presentations coming up which you can access through the National website. On December 12 there is a webinar on the Online Membership program. This will be very useful for all Organization Chairs or any members considering taking on new responsibilities. The second is called “A Fireside Chat with the League’s Honorary Life Members.” I am looking forward to this one! Registration is required, check the link! <https://cwl.ca/>

I am repeating this last bit from my May Communiqué. It is still very relevant and I needed the reminder as I reread it!

A small quote I borrowed from Salt and Light TV. “Even though this is a scary time, it is also a time filled with great opportunity if we remember to “love your neighbour as yourself”. This means doing little things to uplift others - helping the elderly and immunocompromised to get needed groceries and supplies, texting or calling friends/family to ensure that they are doing ok, adhering to the advice of health professionals in order to mitigate risk of infection and transmission. Moment by moment we are handed opportunities to be the reflection of God’s love in our thoughts and actions. Whenever possible, take steps to shift from crisis to growth. Above all take steps away from fear and into love.”

Blessings!

We will meet again soon!

Crystal Reiter
President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization
Manitoba Provincial Council

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council



ORGANIZATION

May 27, 2020

Communiqué #4

Care For Our Common Home

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Chairpersons of Organization
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Chairperson of Organization (for information)
FROM: Crystal Reiter, Provincial Chairperson of Organization

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.
1Peter 5:6

Annual Reports

Thank you to everyone who worked hard to complete their annual report. It is very unrewarding to have gone to all that work and be unable to follow up at convention. I know we accomplish much work at convention and that is primarily the purpose of convention. I, however, have always felt that convention is a time of celebration. We are with friends and we can celebrate our Lord and our many accomplishments! I miss you all and I miss our wonderful celebrations! I am pouting, we have already missed three and are on the cusp of missing the fourth and fifth! I know it is only a very small part of the convention but very shortly you will be able to see the annual report books from all the diocesan and the provincial convention on the Manitoba CWL website! <https://cwlmanitoba.ca/> Please look for them!

If you notice any errors or problems with the online view, please let me know as this has been a bit of trial and error for me!

Recruit Members and Maintain Membership

I am still the Organization Chairperson for my home council in Selkirk. I have recently sent out an email reminding everyone that Membership Fees are due with the start of the calendar year. Our fees go towards the expenses of all the levels of the Catholic Women's League. Unfortunately, even though we have been unable to meet in person for so long many of the expenses continue! We have to continue to submit fees and encourage new members through these different times! Soon we will see a return to Mass in the church buildings! hopefully we will continue to find new opportunities to share the CWL with fellow parishioners!

Strategic Plan

If you visit the bottom of the homepage of the National CWL website you will find the updates for the Strategic Planning Committee. The latest update lets us know that the Year Two

Working Group continues with the renewal project of the CWL. The group has now expanded to 54 members! Check the report for some more Manitoba helpers!

Life Membership

We have new Life Members nominated unfortunately we will have to wait for next year to find out who they are! Your councils have time to consider if there is anyone else who may meet the criteria for Life Membership! The criteria is easily found on the National Website. Remember the deadline for Life Member Nomination happens in two phases – September 15 and December 15!

A small quote I borrowed from Salt and Light TV. “Even though this is a scary time, it is also a time filled with great opportunity if we remember to “love your neighbour as yourself”. This means doing little things to uplift others - helping the elderly and immunocompromised to get needed groceries and supplies, texting or calling friends/family to ensure that they are doing ok, adhering to the advice of health professionals in order to mitigate risk of infection and transmission. Moment by moment we are handed opportunities to be the reflection of God’s love in our thoughts and actions. Whenever possible, take steps to shift from crisis to growth. Above all take steps away from fear and into love.”

Blessings!

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Crystal Reiter
President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization
Manitoba Provincial Council

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Manitoba Provincial Council

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February 2020

Communiqué #3

Care For Our Common Home

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Chairpersons of Organization
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Chairperson of Organization (for information)
FROM: Crystal Reiter, Provincial Chairperson of Organization

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.
1Peter 5:6

As Lent begins this week I am sure many councils, like my own, have had a discussion of where they may be able to contribute. Here is some information on the funds supported by the League at the Provincial and National Levels.

1. Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP)
2. Catholic Missions in Canada
3. Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA)
4. Coady International Institute Fund
5. Euthanasia Prevention Coalition
6. Kee-Pas Mission Project
7. House of Peace

I can't answer questions councils may have about CCODP – as far as I can find out there has not been an official conclusion issued from the Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops.

Catholic Missions in Canada supports more than 600 missionaries across 26 Canadian mission centers.

CNEWA supports the poor throughout the Middle East, Northeast Africa, India and Eastern Europe. In the National Communiqués from Faith Anderson and Marie Rackley information is shared about the second year of the National theme and the goal to raise funds for a drinking water well for the Pieta Bhavan Project.

The Coady Institute works with innovative people and organizations to create effective and practical solutions to reduce global poverty and injustice.

The House of Peace is an intercultural, life affirming community that welcomes all. It is a safe home for women in transition, promoting justice, peace and understanding.

Certain amounts are recommended for these charities based on membership or 1% of members spending on personal items such as clothing, jewelry or cosmetics.

Annual Reports

Well, by now everyone will have had a go at whatever annual report falls to you. Are you a member who has had a hand in your parish council report and reflected upon all that you have accomplished in the year? Looking back upon all we have accomplished often gives us some time to pat ourselves on the back.

I am not sure about everyone else, but I found some of the reporting processes a bit confusing. It was my first year as Organization Chair at the Provincial level. I had access to all these reports, and really didn't know what to do with them! Eventually, with the help of others, I hope everyone got what they needed from me! Going forward, I hope more and more people will be comfortable completing their reports with the online template. I also find the online report a valuable source of information that may give councils new ideas. Please, please consider me a resource when you complete your online report next year!

Life Membership

Watch for some exciting new nominations! We are striving to increase Life Members in Manitoba! Remember the deadline for Life Member Nomination happens in two phases – September 15 and December 15!

Please continue to remember all of your CWL sisters and their families in your prayers! So much strength is in the prayers of many!

Crystal Reiter
President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council

ORGANIZATION



November 2019

Communiqué #2

Care For Our Common Home

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Chairpersons of Organization
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Chairperson of Organization (for information)
FROM: Crystal Reiter, Provincial Chairperson of Organization

Manitoba Provincial Council

As I put the finishing touches on this Communiqué I have just come from a screening of *Unplanned*. Wow, what a powerful film, if you have not already seen it, please make the effort to find it somewhere! God truly loved all of us before we were born! Jeremiah 1:5

Recruit members and maintain membership

Did you know that in 1912 in the earliest days the Catholic women of Canada were first organized in the Archdiocese of Edmonton to assist with the care and placement of the ever-increasing influx of immigrants from Europe and elsewhere? According to the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada Departmental Plan 2018–2019, Canada expected to welcome between 290,000 and 330,000 new permanent residents. I don't know what percentage of these would be Roman Catholic, but we did learn at National Convention in 2017 that the largest growth to our churches was coming from new Canadians! Is your council doing anything to welcome these newcomers? You may want to try to have a conversation with some church members to ascertain what their needs are – can someone help with childcare, rides to appointments, just friendly chats? Personal face-to-face invitations still do work the best. Always be friendly and welcoming, and try to communicate through tone of voice and body language that people are welcomed and valued. Try to demonstrate that you are a happy, vibrant team, enjoy each other's company and do fun things together; watch how others will be drawn to you and want to be a part of this organization! Annual fees are due January 1, a good excuse to activate your phone tree and extend a personal invitation to existing members! You probably have one or two more meetings before the January 1 deadline.

Strategic Planning

The latest report on the CWL website from the Strategic Planning Committee is dated October 1 – if you have not yet done so, please read it to keep yourself informed. The report explains why it feels like things are moving so slowly – the committee took a while to get things moving – members were appointed, volunteers were sought and the work continued! They are seeking the input and engagement of all the members. Please follow the link at <https://cwl.ca/implementation-of-the-strategic-plan/> and add your voice to those of your CWL sisters! If you do not want to participate in the survey or/and want to do more remember the power of prayer and pray the Prayer for Renewal found at <https://cwl.ca/cwl-prayer-for-renewal/>. Finally, your Diocesan Presidents-Elect (or presidents) as well as your provincial president and myself all have or will receive shortly a copy of the Strategic Plan presentation from National Convention. Please consider sharing this with members at a meeting so we can all be informed.

Leadership development

With many changes in the works in the League, there may not be much interest in the Catch the Fire workshops but there are many exciting things going on all the time in our League! We have just had the opportunity to learn a great deal about Human Trafficking at the Day of Reflection hosted by the St Boniface Diocese. Next up is the Resolutions and Legislation Workshop put on by provincial council, you still have time to register for that! And in the new year our exciting Day of Celebration gives you the opportunity to learn something new and catch up with your sisters in the league in the bleak midwinter! All of these events are great ways to increase your personal knowledge of the League and get **excited** about it!

League Resource Material

I was very excited to be given a copy of The League Prayers! What a great gift to give attendees. The League is a wonderful source of small gifts for many occasions. Why not look there for gifts that promote the League among members of your parish! Please consult the national website <https://www.cwl.ca/>.

Annual Reports

So, the season is upon us! Organization chairpersons at the Diocesan levels encourage and help your councils to get annual reports done in a timely manner. The online reporting surveys have been updated and changed based on the concerns expressed last year. There will be more room for qualitative answers. The deadline is January 15 when online and December 15 if handwritten for Parish Councils. Donations are to be submitted by December 1. Once again I would encourage some fun be had when completing annual reports! There are many ways to accomplish this. My own council always has a Christmas potluck at our December executive meeting during which we complete the annual reports! It is great to do them together because someone may have extra information to add to another report!

Life Membership

Watch for some exciting new nominations! We are striving to increase Life Members in Manitoba! Remember the deadline for Life Member Nomination happens in two phases – September 15 and December 15!

Please continue to remember all of your CWL sisters and their families in your prayers! So much strength is in the prayers of many!

Crystal Reiter
President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization
Manitoba Provincial Council

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Manitoba Provincial Council



ORGANIZATION

September 2019

Communiqué #1

Care For Our Common Home

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Chairpersons of Organization
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Chairperson of Organization (for information)
FROM: Crystal Reiter, Provincial Chairperson of Organization

7 Creekside Blvd

Welcome back, after a very busy convention season and, hopefully, a relaxing summer! I am happy to be serving you in the position of Organization Chairperson for the next two years! I have been an active member of the Notre Dame Selkirk Council since 2008 and have been on Manitoba Provincial Council in various roles since 2013. I am available for assistance and guidance wherever and whenever needed, and what we do not know we can learn together!

Recruit members and maintain membership

I am pleased to report that all of the Manitoba Councils have submitted membership dues to National office. Some councils are using the online membership tools and some are using them partially. You are encouraged to use the online membership process which national office provides through a secure website as outlined in the Finance section of the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*.

Leadership development

We know that the League is in a restructuring phase right now as we move through the planning strategically phases. There will not be any huge changes in the immediate future but things are evolving. In the meantime, we can continue to get everyone excited about the League with our Catch The Fire workshops!

League Resource Material

The League has a wealth of online resources available to peruse or for free download. Please consult the national website <https://www.cwl.ca/> . At minimum, councils should have on hand a printed copy of *Constitution & Bylaws, National Manual of Policy & Procedure, Executive Handbook, and League Prayers*.

Annual Reports

Soon we will be thinking about, dare I say - dreading, annual reports. I encourage everyone to use the on-line reporting method developed by the league. It really does work quite well. If you have any concerns or problems, please feel free to reach out for help to other councils or to myself, once again we can learn together! I hope to have the opportunity to talk with all councils through my time as Organization chair and hopefully we can get annual reports from everyone and share and learn from one another!

Life Membership

This falls under my portfolio as Organization chair and there are some in the works in Manitoba! But I would like to remind everyone to celebrate your members! Not everyone will find themselves on the track to life membership but the League has many ways to recognize people. The Maple Leaf Award is one way and there are several certificates and things. People love to celebrate and to be celebrated, consider some awards!

Lastly, a little personal message from me! I have learned in the last few years that everyone has a story. We are all struggling or suffering in some way. Take time to get to know fellow parishioners, we can learn from each other and we can love each other. This is one of the most beautiful things about the League for me – Ladies, let's continue to love and support each other and let our love draw people towards us!

Crystal Reiter
President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization
Manitoba Provincial Council