



Connecting Parish Councils across the Diocese of Calgary



President's Message

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Diocesan President

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My Dear League Sisters,

"He who started a good work in you will carry it to completion." Philippians 1:6

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August is my birth month, and it is always a time for me to reset and plan. Last year, I asked for your prayers that I be guided by St. Martha, welcoming Jesus into my home to strengthen our journey together in faith and service. We have been able to gather in person and reconnect. Our councils are busy and being successful!!! This year my prayer is that I am guided by her sister Mary, being still and present with Jesus, assisting us to overcome membership and leadership challenges. As we continue to build relationships, remember the rewards and insight that comes from taking time to be with Jesus knowing that He started a good work in you, and He will carry it to completion.

Diocesan Fall Meeting and Workshops

Come join your sisters at the Diocesan Fall Meeting, Saturday, September 23, 2023, at St. Anthony's Parish, Drumheller and celebrate their CWL's 100th Anniversary!!!

Come prepared to participate in workshops and vote on the amendments to the Calgary Diocesan Policies & Procedures.

Spiritual Advisor Relationship workshop

One of our goals is to assist councils and members to have working relationships with your Spiritual Advisor. We recognize this relationship is important to build a vibrant Catholic faith community. At the pre-convention Judy Montes, St. Peter's CWL spoke about her experiences interviewing and writing the Spiritual Advisor articles for our News Bulletins. When asked you responded

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that you would like to learn more. The workshop encourages open discussion on how to begin, grow, and strengthen this relationship.

Regional Committees workshop

We are unique! Unlike most CWL dioceses we have five Regional Committees. We are blessed with an opportunity to network and have friendships amongst our parish councils in our regions. We want to reignite the flame!!! Come listen and share stories of how your CWL journey is enhanced by attending regional gatherings. Brainstorm with us ways to engage all members and encourage new leadership for a better future.

National Unity Outreach workshop

The National CWL is rolling out their Unity Outreach program, the first session will be listening and the second training. The purpose is to re-establish connections at all levels and one of the first goals is to find out what members need from the League. By asking the Holy Spirit to guide us through active listening and communal discernment we will recognize a council's charism and validate our members whose gifts energize us. Each member needs a place to belong, feel their purpose, and experience joy! We will begin by listening to each other.

Calgary Diocesan Policies & Procedures Updated

The National CWL Constitution and Bylaws and National Manual of Policy & Procedure have been updated. We must update our Calgary Diocesan Policies & Procedures (P&P) to align with their changes. This is what you need to know:

1. Distribute the proposed P&P to all members and encourage members to read it. It has been emailed to the presidents and is on our Diocesan website at <https://www.calgarycwl.ca/conventions/meetings/1183>
2. Discuss with your executive and members. Most changes are in Section 3: Organization and Section 7: Financial.
3. ***** The parish council president or her designate vote at the Fall Meeting*****
4. If you have questions, please email me at calgarycwlpresident@gmail.com
5. If you find housekeeping errors or minor corrections, please email Jan Myhre at calgarycwlpastpres@gmail.com

Diocesan Officers

Spiritual Advisor Fr. Pilmaikén Lezano
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President Elect Kathleen Winter
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Treasurer..... Diane Miedema
Past President Jan Myhre

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Christian Family Life Dr. Rose Geonzon
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Organization Kathleen Winter
Social Justice..... Dorothy Boras
Spiritual DevelopmentTheresa Duncan



EDITORIAL TEAM

Communications Chair..... Gail Poshtar
PresidentRenee Spohn
Social JusticeDorothy Boras
Webmaster Cheryl Snider

*What topics would be interesting
and valuable for you?*

To comment on this issue
or to suggest future topic ideas,
Contact Gail or Renee

calgarycwlcommunication@gmail.com

Provincial Convention and National Annual Meeting of Members Updates

76th Annual Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Convention (ABMK) "Walking Together"

The ABMK Provincial Convention was held at Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Edmonton, Alberta, June 2-3, 2023. In attendance were 183 members. The speakers were great and inspired each of us. The August News Bulletin features the Diocesan officers' articles about the presentations.

Instructed Vote

The Notice of Motion to amend Part XIV, Sections 2, 3, and 4 of the Constitution & Bylaws 2022 of the Catholic Women's League of Canada was adopted 5/5. Provincial President, Mary Hunt will bring our vote to the National Annual Meeting of Members.

103rd National Annual Meeting of Members "Catholic & Living It!"

The National CWL Annual Meeting of Members was held in Saint John, New Brunswick, August 14-15, 2023. The attendance totaled 152 with 11 Voting delegates and 108 Accredited delegates. The highlights include:

Resolution: 2023.01 Combating Textile Waste in Canada

Resolution 2023.01 was adopted. Engage your council to follow the recommended Action Plan and learn more at [Resolution 2023.01 Combating Textile Waste in Canada - The Catholic Women's League of Canada \(cwl.ca\)](#)

Resolved, that national council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada in 103rd national annual meeting of members assembled, urge the federal government to establish new programs and to expand established subsidies aimed at reducing textile waste in Canada.

Instructed Vote

The Notice of Motion to amend Part XIV, Sections 2, 3, and 4 of the Constitution & Bylaws 2022 of the Catholic Women's League of Canada was adopted 11/11. This means councils at all levels may meet virtually when circumstances preclude meeting in person.

Theme 2024 – 2025

National President, Shari Guinta's new theme is **"Here I am Lord send me."** Isaiah 6:8



National CWL Council 2023 – 2025

[Meet Our Executives - The Catholic Women's League of Canada \(cwl.ca\)](#)

National Spiritual Advisor –
Bishop Wayne Lobsinger (Hamilton)
President – Shari Guinta
Vice President – Betty Colaneri
Secretary/Treasurer – Dorothy Johansen
Past President – Fran Lucas
Chair – Joline Belliveau
Chair – Glenda Carson
Chair – Rolande Chernichan

Many blessings and thanks to Bishop Jensen (Prince George) for his service to God and Canada from 2018 – 2023. Welcome Bishop Wayne Lobsinger (Hamilton) who is the new National Spiritual Advisor.

Also, Jacqueline Nogier is the new Life Member liaison.

National CWL Convention 2024 – Mark your Calendar!!!

"Praise on the Prairies" will be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, August 11 – 14, 2024 at TCU Place, 22nd St. East. Come visit this multicultural city and Our Lady of the Prairies Shrine. Information is available at [Catholic Women's League of Saskatchewan Communiqués \(cwlsc.ca\)](#)

103rd National Annual Meeting of Members

“The League of the Future: Year 5”

The National CWL Annual Meeting of Members was held in Saint John, New Brunswick, August 14-15, 2023. “The League of the Future: Year 5” was presented by National President-Elect, Shari Guinta and the Implementation Team leads Jacqueline Nogier, Sr. Susan Scott, and Christa Guillmair. Their presentation will be available on the National website shortly.

To date, the Working Groups have spent 18,000 hours and produced more than 70 new resources for the members. Many thanks to the prior leads Sharon Cieben and Lisa Henry, and each member who has worked to make “Planning Strategically” a success!!!

[Strategic Planning Resources and Updates - The Catholic Women's League of Canada \(cwl.ca\)](#)

After much consideration and research, the Smartphone App will not be pursued at this time due to its complexity and costs.

Christa Grillmair - Leadership

To develop leadership and create positive change through training, communication, leadership, and inspiration.

- A “Train the Trainer” guide has been created based on the survey of which 761 members participated. 63% indicated that they have never delivered training.
- At the editing stage the “Member’s Communication Guide” based on 1364 member’s survey responses will assist in developing relationships through better communication.
- Focus groups are considering the Communication Process Improvement document.
- “Who Me a Leader?” webinar ["Who Me? A Leader?" Free Online Workshop - The Catholic Women's League of Canada \(cwl.ca\)](#) our fears can be overcome with the “Joy of Leadership” and its five workshops (Modules 835A to E) which are available on the National website under Resources - Workshops.
- Recap: Clarke Marketing helped the working groups with “Inspiration”. The National website includes Powerful Stories of the First 100 Years, vignettes, social media “What’s Your CWL?” and “Why become a member?”, and Sisterhood - 52 words to begin a conversation about the League.

What’s Planned: includes a protocol to evaluate Spiritual Programs, a guide to recruit parish leaders and “How to create Positive Change?”

Sr. Susan Scott - Advocacy

There is a concern that with the three pillars we are diminishing our “Resolutions” focus. Sr. Susan wants to dispel this myth by reminding us that advocacy is rooted in scripture, and we are called to advocate for others through our baptism and faith.

- Available are three workshops to assist us with advocacy and government collaboration (834 series) which are based on our key principles of Catholic Social Teaching.
- There is a video about collaboration and faith organizations with ecumenical and interfaith education.
- They are working on a guide and software to facilitate collaboration.

Jacqueline Nogier – Mentors and the League’s Core Purpose

- The working group created and circulated a Mentorship survey of which 130 members participated including 41 Life Members, 51 Provincial Presidents, and 15 National Officers. A draft Mentor Skills Bank has been developed. Jacqueline presented on how to search the document to find a mentor who has the skills or information you may need. Discussion is underway with the National Office on how to keep it updated and it will be released soon.
- Core purpose resources released include placemat, bookmark, and power point workshop.
- Upcoming: to review and redesign criteria and eligibility regarding running for a higher position in the League.



Calgary Diocesan President Renee Spohn
Edmonton Diocesan President Clover Orschak

Unleash Your Gifts

Take a risk! Be not afraid to use your gifts to build up your council's strength and impact on church and society

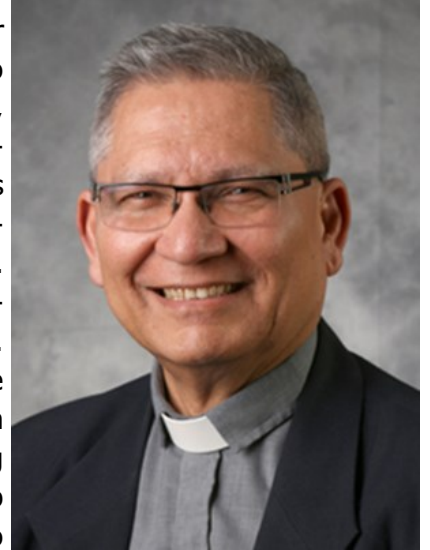
We continue with number four in our series of articles focused on enhancing relationships with spiritual advisors and hope that you are inspired with this Spiritual Advisor's personal faith journey!

Fr. Julian Studden's roots began in a village about 100 kms from the big city of Hyderabad, India. While growing up, he witnessed the work of the missionary nuns and priests in the community. The nuns were responsible for the school and gathered the neighborhood children to attend. The Italian priests were in charge of the church: preaching, forming and building the community.

Observing the work of these missionaries at the young age of seven years, Fr. Julian asked himself "Why can't I be like that?" He and his brother joined as altar boys and attended daily mass. The family moved to a bigger city when he was a teen and he went to an all-boys Catholic school. The principal, Fr. Alfred Fernandes, had a huge impact on Fr. Julian. He was an effective speaker who was always friendly and kind and was one of the most outstanding priests of the diocese.

The nuns, priests, and Fr. Alfred were all influential in planting the seed to join the priesthood. After graduating from high school at 18 years old, he approached the Jesuits and was told he was too young to join. The Redemptorists also gave him a flat "No!" Frustrated, he went to confession and confessed that he wanted to become a priest! The pastor assured him that this was not a sin and realized his fervor. He took him to see the local bishop who said "No – this boy will not go to the seminary."

Dejected after three attempts to join the priesthood, he decided to follow his father's footsteps and become an engineer. But God wasn't finished with him yet. A week later, he received a call from the pastor telling him that the bishop now wanted him to join the seminary. Was God playing tricks on him? No...God opened a window for Fr. Julian. Breaking this news to his parents was not easy, though he received their blessings and joined the seminary. A year later, his family moved to England and Fr. Julian stayed behind to complete his seminarian education.



Upon his ordination in 1977, he was appointed Associate Pastor of a huge parish. Twice when the pastor was hospitalized, Fr. Julian managed the parish. In recognition of his management and pastoral skills, he was assigned pastor of a very poor parish where, on arrival, he had no bed to sleep on. This assignment was his most beautiful experience as he got to know most parishioners by name, did regular house visits, and shared his spiritual gifts of preaching and teaching the Bible.

He later moved to another big parish, where the charismatic movement was thriving. There, he implemented the "Basic Christian Communities" program, which fostered a sense of "community caring." Each of the parish's four quadrants held a monthly Eucharistic celebration in someone's home, followed by social time.

When his family emigrated to Canada, Fr. Julian decided to visit Calgary on a six-month sabbatical in 1991/1992 as he hadn't seen his mother in almost 18 years. He asked Bishop Paul O'Byrne if he could be of service during his visit and was appointed to St. Mary's Cathedral. He later emigrated to Canada (Calgary) in 2004 and Bishop Frederick Henry appointed him Associate Pastor at St. Bonaventure.

This was Fr. Julian's first involvement with the CWL. He joined in their meetings, gave spiritual talks, and learned about the League. After 14 months, he moved to St. Michael's where they didn't have a Catholic Women's League or Knights of Columbus. Their small traditional CWL struggled to attract members and amalgamated with Holy Name. After 11 years, Fr. Julian moved to St. Albert the Great and was pleased to see an active CWL. Two years later, he observed another active council at St. Paul's, Airdrie. He returned to St. Mary's Cathedral in 2020 and is serving as their Spiritual Advisor. He observed how these sisters managed the protocols at the Cathedral during the pandemic. When in-person meetings resumed, he was eager to have retreats and introduce Bible Study.

Fr. Julian experienced a challenging start to his personal faith journey. He was exhausted, often criticized and underestimated, and fell into a routine, causing his zeal to decrease. As he reflects on his 46 years as a priest, he attributes his devotion to Our Lady and the daily rosary, as well as charismatic prayers for lifting him out of days of darkness. Prayer gave him the strength and perseverance that he needed. Despite his early challenges, people describe Fr. Julian as very approachable and a good teacher and listener. His homilies are often personal and they feel that he is speaking to each one of them.

He perceives the greatest challenge for the CWL is to keep councils alive. He admires members' commitment and level of service, yet notices a reluctance to take risks. He would like to see them take risks and commit to *"Building up life in the world by being Catholic and Living It!"* He suggests that councils band together and take on a project that would make an impact on society. As in the *Catholic and Living It!* prayer, he encourages them to imitate Our Lord *"...with works of mercy, welcoming the forgotten, suffering or vulnerable wherever we encounter them."* These opportunities are only achievable through prayer, so he suggests that councils set aside a day of Adoration, Reconciliation and Rosary every six months. The more we pray, the more powerful our work will be. He encourages councils to be more visible in the parish by having a Ministry Mass on a Sunday every few months, where all members wear their CWL sashes or scarves and have a League information table.

When asked how the CWL could help in his role as Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Julian's response was "Use us more often" for talks and retreats and, perhaps, have a dedicated confession morning or evening for the CWL during Lent or Advent. His wish is for the CWL to grow and evangelize. Each of us has been blessed with gifts. We need to look at them and not be afraid to take the risk and help build our council's strength.

Thank you, Fr. Julian, for this inspirational reminder!

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

1 Peter Vs 4-10

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Montes
St. Peter's CWL, Calgary

Catholic and Living It!

Expanding and building relationships.
Are you up for the challenge?

Kathleen Winter
President-Elect—Organization Chair

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Presentation by National President Fran Lucas at the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Convention held on June 2, 2023.

The Catholic and Living It! Prayer calls us to mission, to build community, to build relationships, using the gifts of all, and the experiences of our everyday lives. What is our value to the church? What would happen if we were absent?

*Loving Father, open our hearts to
Your infinite love for all peoples,
And your presence with us
Wherever we go in your name*

The invitation to open our hearts to all people, is not shown in our world.

*Lord Jesus, deepen the spiritual
Life of the Catholic Women's League*

Globally many Catholic parishes used technology during the pandemic. Fran recommended Anne Jamieson's book - ***A Recipe for Faith: Choosing and Using the Best Ingredients*** as a guide to nurturing our faith. As Pope Francis says; find your own opportunities, look for the light, look outside our life, turn pessimism into opportunities. The Synod and Unity Outreach taught us to listen attentively.

*Strengthen the faith and good
works of our members,
building up life in the world
by being Catholic and Living It!*

There are many ways to strengthen our faith: praying the rosary on the road, personalize each mystery of the rosary for a friend or family member, personalize our chores by saying; "I give to God this hour of work for this person", reading Catholic daily reflections, or listening to wonderful daily homilies such as Fr Mike Schmidt or Bishop Fulton Sheen.

*May we imitate you with works and mercy,
welcoming the forgotten,
suffering or vulnerable whenever
we encounter them.*

Works of mercy can include volunteering at senior centers or helping community groups at the parish. Read "Holy Moments" by Matthew Kelly and use the prompts to create your own Holy Moments.

*Holy Spirit,
strengthen us to live our faith,
witnessing to life, peace and
social justice daily
wherever we are in Canada*



Annual reports have compiled the works from councils across Canada like: prison ministry, food banks, palliative care, soup kitchens. St Vincent de Paul. Remember that the Christian life is a message of few words and many deeds and let them be done well.

There are relationships on so many levels that we can take advantage of. To start to enhance and build relationships the National Executive has met with the federal government. Several ministers of the government have asked the CWL ladies for their business cards, showing that they will contact them. How can we reach out and take it one step further? Maybe a painting class to recruit new members.

One way Fran Lucas has expanded and built relationships is by hosting an annual tea party, inviting non-CWL members with each person donating \$20.00 for a cause. Fran challenged ladies present to hold a coffee, tea, or martini party and send her a picture.

We need to pay attention to people in our parishes. What creative ways can we reach out?

Archbishop Richard Smith

"Walking Together as Witnesses to the Kingdom of God"

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For those of us privileged enough to attend the Alberta Mackenzie Convention in June, we heard one of the most anticipated speakers of the weekend, Archbishop Richard Smith. Taking the convention theme, "Catholic and Living It: Walking Together", he encouraged us to stretch even further by "Walking Together as Witnesses to the Kingdom of God".

As our convention continued to centre on walking in reconciliation with the Indigenous sisters and brothers, and since it was only a year ago that the Holy Father was in Canada to facilitate this aim, it was not surprising that his Grace spoke so eloquently on the papal visit. Noting that while the visit was a pivotal moment, it also was not a "one and done". There is still much work to be done but the question is... how?

In building any relationship - including a relationship with God - Archbishop Smith broke down the papal visit into three timeframes or *pathways*. Activities and attitudes for the prelude to the visit, during the visit itself and the post visit all come together for us to give effective witness to the Kingdom.

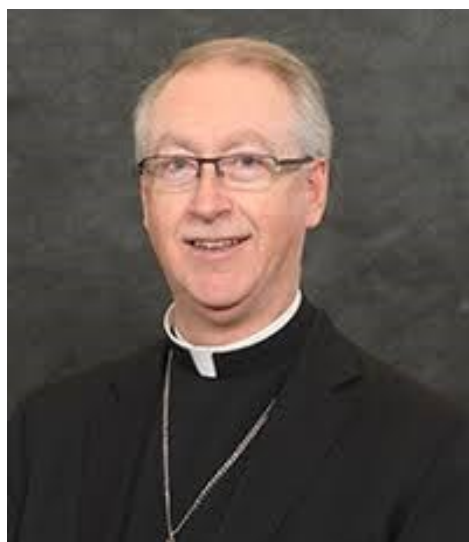
The *Pathway of Listening* occurs even before the visit begins. We must always seek to listen to the other in order to hear, not to react. Actively listening shows the other that their story matters to us; that they matter to us. We must challenge ourselves: exactly how well do we listen? Whether it is our families, communities, CWL councils, or friendships, do we listen to understand? And even more so, do we listen to hear God's Word? It is through His word that God's revelation is made known to us. As the

Archbishop so poignantly asserts, "Before Christianity was a religion, it was first a revelation."

During the visit, the *Pathway of Determination* must be examined. How determined are we to be walking together? For the papal visit, his Holiness showed extreme determination. Pressure of the crowd and pressure of individualism can hold us back from emulating Pope Francis' example. Sometimes succumbing to worldly demands can halt our good intentions. Just as detrimental, feeling like we do not need community will hinder any walk in relationship, be that human or divine. The fallacy of needing to rely only on oneself be very lonely.

Finally, the *Pathway of Healing* occurs during the post visit. Wherever the Pope goes, he brings with him the "shadow of St. Peter" whereby the mere shadow of Peter falling upon someone would invoke their healing. We are challenged to examine our own need for healing. Our own need to be made whole. How can that compassion lead us seek the healing and wholeness of the other?

Archbishop Smith concluded his talk by reminding us that the Church is the Living Body of reconciliation. And that the Catholic Women's League is a microcosm within the Church. He implored us to remember that we are redeemed disciples walking together as witnesses to the Kingdom.



Hope Rises with Every Donation

Empowering ways to support social justice

Diane Miedema
Treasurer

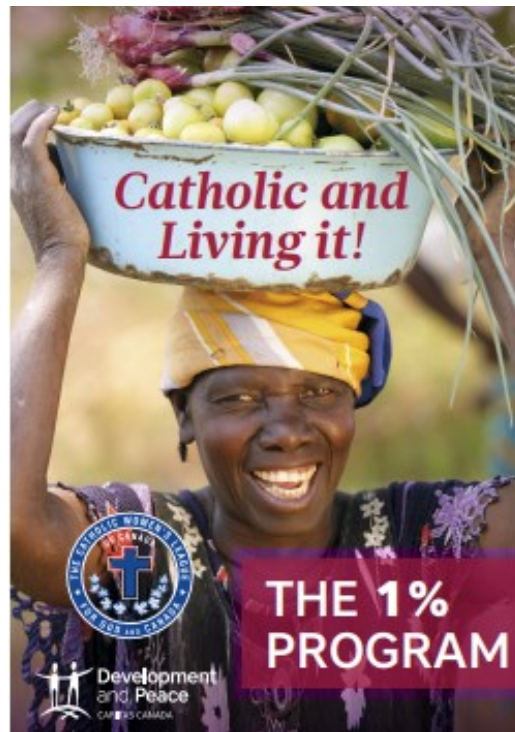
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League members embrace conventions as an opportunity to listen, laugh, and learn while “Walking Together” in faith, fun, and friendship. Almost 200 delegates savored the sisterhood, speakers, workshops, and entertainment at the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Convention in Edmonton on June 2nd and 3rd.

Carmen Michaud spoke on behalf of Development & Peace-Caritas Canada (D&P). She began by relaying that her 93-year-old mother treasures her League membership; and that her great-grandmother and grandmother were charter members of our Provincial Council. When they emigrated from Slovakia, there were no social agencies to ease their hardships. Their parish family gave them solace and “the CWL brought them hope. Hope for themselves and their children. Hope for a brighter future. Hope for equality.” She went on to state that the CWL also gives hope to people in the Global South through its partnership with D&P.



BUILDING A WORLD OF JUSTICE

D&P focuses on humanitarian projects where people are facing the challenges of illiteracy, inequality, climate change, and war. They can’t do it alone! D&P works with a vast network of global partners to build resilient, progressive communities in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East.

Their partnership model of community development ensures that designated funds are in the hands of local communities and partners who retain ownership of their projects and facilities. This collaboration seeks solutions to unjust social, political, economic, and environmental structures.

Overcoming illiteracy is key to unlocking women’s potential and building a world of justice. Education empowers women to take charge of their lives. It enriches the quality of life by improving livelihoods, nutrition, health, and life expectancy. Education promotes women’s rights and gender equality, which ultimately boosts financial security and economic stability.

CANADIAN ROOTS—CATHOLIC VALUES

Founded by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1967, D&P is the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada. Their work is rooted in Gospel values and guided by Catholic Social Teaching, especially the preferential option for the poor.

Since 1969, League members have supported D&P through *The 1% Program*. Our 54-year partnership is a powerful example of Catholic solidarity with the poor and vulnerable.

Carmen remarked that “Women are crucial to building lasting, durable peace in communities. When women are empowered, all of society is empowered.” The League’s social action has impacted the lives of millions. Our participation in social justice projects has a profound ripple effect on women, their families, and their communities. Here is a glimpse of some D&P projects that are transforming the lives of multi-generations:

Afghanistan—Despite the Taliban’s harsh control, 180 students (92 girls & 88 boys) in remote villages are receiving their grades 4-6 education through a community-based school project. Every year of schooling increases their long-term potential.

Democratic Republic of Congo—Over 325 women are learning to read and write; and are developing income-generation skills to support their families. They are becoming more aware of their rights and changing perspectives on respect and equality in their communities.

Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger—Intense heat and drought require strategic solutions to avert a food security crisis. The agriculture, forestry, and fishery sectors are receiving equipment and infrastructure; and learning new techniques to adapt. People are learning how to share resources and access markets. Women and young adults facing inequality are assisted to access land ownership.

These social justice projects focus on solving long-term root issues and achieving systemic change. D&P also responds to short-term immediate needs when crises arise. For instance, Ukrainians are receiving food, shelter, medical care, clothing, etc. and help integrating in nearby countries.

THE 1% PROGRAM

D&P is one of four permanent recipients of the CWL’s National Voluntary Fund as it aligns with the League’s mission of ministry and service; and its core values of faith, service, and social justice. From July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 councils donated \$13,123.70. By actively promoting and supporting The 1% Program, we could easily surpass that amount.

The concept is simple. Members donate 1% of personal spending and councils donate 1% of fundraising profits. It may not seem like much, but loonies and toonies add up. Every dollar counts! Just \$2 a month or donations of \$20, \$200, etc. have a life-changing impact on women seeking social and economic justice for themselves and their families.

WHY DONATE?

Create hope! Enrich lives! Reap the “feel-good” benefits of sharing your gifts. Hope rises with every donation. Hope gives life meaning and purpose. As Christians, we are called to stand up for human life and human rights. Our social action can break the cycle of poverty, injustice, and inequality by giving people the tools they need to thrive.

Charitable giving is a tangible way to express gratitude for the blessings in our lives. As role models for our children and grandchildren, our philanthropy teaches the value of compassion and generosity and inspires them to follow our example.

Here are some empowering ways to support social justice and humanitarian action on a global scale through D&P. Spread the word on social media. Invite your family and friends to participate:

- * **The 1% Program:** To make donations, use the [National Voluntary Fund Remittance Form](https://cwl.ca/forms) (cwl.ca/forms; scroll down to #513).
- * **Lifetime Membership:** Support global peace & justice for only \$10; free for those under 35.
- * **Monthly Donations:** No amount is too small for auto bank debits or credit cards.
- * **Legacy of Hope:** Create an endowment fund or leave a bequest in your will as an enduring gift.



Click the links to learn more:

- * [Development & Peace Website](https://devp.org) (devp.org)
- * [The 1% Program Brochure](https://cwl.ca/promotional-material) (cwl.ca/promotional-material; scroll down to #352)
- * [Price List & Order Form](https://cwl.ca/forms) (cwl.ca/forms; scroll down to #519). Use the form to order free brochures for members; pay postage only.

“Walking Together” with our sisters in the Global South infuses hope and supports pathways to a brighter future! Every member and every council can be a lifeline to others by supporting D&P through *The 1% Program*.

*Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God. Isaiah 40:1*

Be Transformed in Christ

"Put off the old corrupted self and put on the new self found in Christ" ~ Ephesians 4:22-24

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Greetings of love, peace, and hope to you!

For more than a century the Catholic Women's League of Canada has played a significant role in the lives of Canadians. As the world changes, we evolve in our Catholic faith journey to fulfill our social justice advocacy and service. Change is an opportunity!!! We are on a new adventure, open to adapting so we can continue to "Make a Difference" for another one hundred years.

At the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial CWL Convention on June 2-3, 2023, Past President Judy Look presented a workshop on **"Change is Here / Embrace It / Love It"**.

She said, *"This is what our future looks like. We are not only about today but we are about tomorrow. Like the apostles at Pentecost, our future is dependent on today, and today we are to set the world on fire."*

We are to embrace change by knowing, internalizing, and living our four Core Guiding principles. We are a "River in Motion" rooted in the Holy Spirit and guided by Our Lady of Good Counsel.

The workshop focused on the League's 5-year **Strategic Plan** from 2018-2022, detailing the four Core Guiding Principles: *Core Purpose, Core Values, Mission Statement, and Envisioned Future*.

Our Core Purpose is uniting Catholic Women to **grow in faith** and to **promote social justice** through **service** to the Church, Canada, and the world. Judy encouraged us to memorize this and put it into our hearts.

Our Core Values below are what drives and guides us.

- *Faith* – following Catholic teaching
- *Service* – local, national, and international
- *Social Justice* – be actively involved in society

Our Mission Statement - **The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith and to witness the love of God through ministry and service.** Judy recommended we make it visible to all members at our meetings, as it incorporates our purpose and values.

Our Envisioned Future – The Catholic Women's League of Canada is an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women inspired by faith. It is a vital participant in the church; a valued partner for social justice; a respected advocate at all government levels; connected to the world.

The Implementation Team identified four goals:

Goal 1 – Members of the CWL grow in faith by sharing, witnessing, and developing leadership skills to create positive change.

Goal 2 – The CWL addresses and supports Catholic social teaching through advocacy.

Goal 3 – Through outreach and service members of the CWL foster a culture where all life is valued with dignity and respect.

Goal 4 – Address Critical Issues (structure and meetings, lack of participation and engagement, perception of the League marketing and promotion, lack of training for members and resistance to accept leadership roles, and improve technology and communication tools)

Working Groups formed which involved members from all levels of the League to research, strategize, and develop resources. Their work assists each member to move forward and make a better future!

Judy Look encourages us to look at our four guiding principles again. Look at them with new eyes and see what we are called to do. They can be found at the [Calgary Diocesan CWL](http://CalgaryDiocesanCWL.ca) website.

She urges us *"to grow in our faith by being fed with gospel values" when we come together for our council meeting to "let social justice issues guide our service... a kind of service that builds relationships and effects change."*

She reminds us that *"We are the face of Christ"* in our council, workplace, amongst our friends, family, and strangers. Indeed, we are part of Christ's body. We are His eyes, hands, and feet on earth. **As we adapt, embrace, and love change, let us transform ourselves and be Christ-like."**

May God be praised!

World Youth Day

So let us resolve, with creativity,
to build together! - Pope Francis

Dr. Rose Geonzon
Christian Family Life Chair

403-615-1137 Cell

calgarycwlchristianfamily@gmail.com



FLASH! The (37th) 2023 WORLD YOUTH DAY

Pope Francis joined nearly 500,000 vibrant and enthusiastic young people (ages 16-35) with 5,000 from Canada. WYD began in Lisbon, Portugal on Tuesday, August 1 and concluded on Sunday, August 6, with the theme: **"Mary arose and went with haste"** (Luke 1:39).

Pope Francis had a great reflection of the ocean. He said, "The ocean does not merely link peoples and countries, but lands and continents." He asked us "to think of borders as places of contact, not as boundaries that separate."

Pope Francis said, "So let us resolve, with creativity, to build together! I would like to suggest "Three Construction Sites of Hope" in which all of us can work together."

The Environment - Protection of creation. "The ocean reminds us that human life is meant to be an integrated part of the environment greater than ourselves, one that must be protected and watched over with care and concern for the sake of future generations." "How can we claim to believe in young people, if we do not give them healthy spaces in which to build the future?"

The Future: - "Political life is challenged once more to see itself as a generator of life and concern for others. It is called to show foresight by investing in the future, in families, and in children, and by promoting intergenerational covenants that do not cancel the past but forge bonds between young and old."

The Fraternity - "How beautiful to realize that we are brothers and sisters and to pursue the common goals, leaving behind our conflicts and different viewpoints." ... Brothers and sisters, let us all feel called, in a fraternity way, to give hope to the world in which we live, and to this magnificent country."

It was reported that the Sunday, August 6th Mass was attended by about 1.5 million people.

More information at [News from the Vatican - The latest news from the Holy See - Vatican News](#)

Sanctity of Life

One of the objectives of the CWL is to protect the sanctity of life. We will continue to march, and pray for these vulnerable people, the unborn, to those physically and mentally affected.

Pope Francis said, "In today's developed world, paradoxically, the defense of human life, menaced by creeping utilitarianism that uses life and discards it - a culture that discards life, has now become a priority. I think of so many unborn children, and older persons who are abandoned, of the great challenge of welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating those who come from afar and knock on our doors, and the isolation felt by so many families that find it hard to bring children into the world and raise them."

Marriage and Family

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary supported the National Family and Life week May 7-14, 2023, by uniting in prayer, reflection, and action. Daily activities included prayer and how to support one another focusing on single parents, mental wellness of all family members, the marriage covenant and enrichment, accompanying those who are sick, dying, palliative care and end-of -life care, and offering compassion for those grieving.

Ministry of Separation and Divorce

Pope Francis recognizes that marriage always involves "Fragility" but, he said, "with the help of the Holy Spirit", difficulties in married life need not lead to a definitive rupture. Parish councils offered their time to talk of those affected by separation or divorce and recommend each parish have copies of the brochure "Annulment Today - Merciful and Just".

Vocations – "Adopt a Seminarian"

In September, the 2023-2024 list of seminarians will be published. We encourage all CWL councils to adopt a seminarian. Start the discussion and join us as our goal is to have all the seminarians adopted by October 31st.

Communication

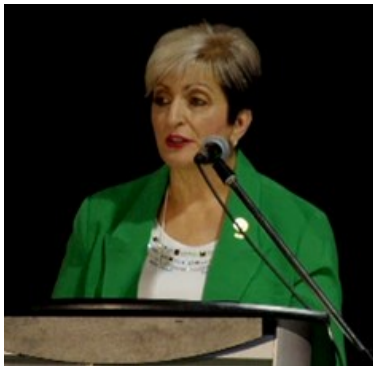
A critical part of our councils.

Gail Poshtar
Communications Chair

403-803-6543 Cell
(calgarycwlcommunication@gmail.com)



At the 103rd Annual Meeting of Members in Saint John, New Brunswick Betty Colaneri gave her final report as National Chair person of Communications. The webinar, hosted by the CWL National Council, allowed me and members across Canada to listen to her inspiring words.



"Communication in all forms is essential and critical to our existence." She reminded us that "we each play a vital part in the mission of the League." As we continue to rebuild our councils under the new structure all forms of communication must be used to engage and invigorate our councils.

The Canadian League Magazine is the "primary method to promote and spread the word to all our members." Communiques, newsletters, emails, letters, phone calls and text should all be embraced including social media and instagram. While in person meetings are happening, using zoom and webinars can be useful. The engagement Hub "Catholic Women Unite" is up and running. Check it out at <https://catholicwomenunite.ca/>. The National website, <https://www.cwl.ca/>, has been revamped and is much easier to navigate. I suggest that you scroll to the bottom of the home page and "Join Our Email List to Receive Updates" directly from national. The website will be monitored and maintained.

While the internet is a wonderful resource, it must be used responsibly. The "Pornography Hurts Campaign" continues. Bill S-210 is now in the House of Commons. It passed First Reading on May 17, 2023 and is now waiting for Second Reading. Progress of this bill can be monitored at <https://www.parl.ca/LegisInfo/en/bill/44-1/s-210>

Betty concluded that "if we keep communication as a driving force of our warp core, the League will live long and prosper."



Betty Colaneri is now the Vice President
of National CWL Council.

Chief Wilton Littlechild

A story of passion and humour

Margaret Inkster
Education & Health Chair

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Presentation by Wilton Littlechild at the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Convention held on June 2, 2023.

Chief Wilton Littlechild, known as **Willie Littlechild**, is a Canadian lawyer and Cree Chief who was Grand Chief of the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations and a member of parliament.



Chief Littlechild shared his passion and story of bringing Pope Francis to Canada and offered suggestions on how we can continue our Reconciliation journey.

Littlechild came from a large family and was raised by his grandparents. From them, he learned the importance of education and respecting the traditional Cree culture. He was brought to residential school at the age of six, spending fourteen years in the system until his completion of high school. He witnessed and suffered physical and sexual abuse. Littlechild admits he had one strike against him when entered school – he was left-handed. He survived residential schools by dedicating himself to sports and his studies. Sports became his life. As a gifted athlete, Littlechild excelled at hockey, swimming, and baseball.

In 1976, Littlechild became the first status Indian from Alberta to obtain a law degree from the University of Alberta. Even the local newspaper ran a headline the next day, "First Indian to be Admitted to the Bar".

He was a member of the 1977 Indigenous Delegation to the United Nations (UN) where he contributed to the writing of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In Saskatchewan, Wilton Littlechild was the chair of the Commission on First Nations and Metis Peoples and Justice Reform. He spent over two years studying the Justice system in Saskatchewan and began to learn about residential schools. He heard testimonies from many young men who had felt abandoned, had joined a gang, and ended up in prison.

As a commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), Littlechild listened to over seven thousand stories of testimony from coast to coast. The power of hope was missing and two simple gifts: 1) a smile and 2) laughter – humour.

One of the TRC's Call to Action was an apology from the Catholic Church for its role in residential schools. After years of negotiations, in March 2022, Wilton Littlechild was among two hundred Indigenous delegates who travelled to the Vatican and heard Pope Francis' apology. The Pope agreed to make the apology truly meaningful; he had to repeat it in Canada. When Pope Francis visited Canada, his first stop was the former Ermineskin residential school that Littlechild had attended.

"Everyone has the right to know the truth. All we ever heard," continues Littlechild, "are the negative stories from the media. Once we know the truth, healing will begin to take place, we will have a sense of justice, and therefore we come closer to reconciliation."

What does reconciliation look like? It is a journey that begins with being a friend, holding hands and walking together, supporting one another. Our call to action, as an ocean of women, is to light the fire within us. Let our voices be heard. Spread love and hope. Pray for one another. He stressed the Peace Prayer of St. Francis. What are you prepared to do?

Adopt-A-Seminarian Program

Journey with a seminarian as he fulfills his call to the priesthood
God has called these men to serve as shepherds of his Church

God calls every person to a personal vocation of holiness and evangelization. Whether we are called to the priesthood, religious, married, or single life, our vocation is a lifelong journey of faith in service to God and each other. Our gifts and talents are meant to be shared with our parish family and extended community. Every Catholic is called to contribute to the life of the Church and shares the responsibility of promoting and nurturing vocations.

Seminarians represent the future of the Church. They are dedicated to serving the Lord and his flock, but their path is not easy. These aspiring priests are undeterred by the arduous studies and lifetime commitment to self-sacrifice and humble devotion. Their journey involves up to eight years of seminary formation and one year of pastoral internship, along with considerable prayer, dedication, and hard work.

St. Joseph Seminary in Edmonton forms these devout men into masters of scripture, liturgy, and holistic ministry through an intense program of human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral formation. It offers more than degrees in philosophy and theology. It prepares seminarians for ordination to the priesthood and a life of ministry in parishes where they will serve as shepherds of God's people.

ADOPT-A-SEMINARIAN PROGRAM

With the priest shortage, this long-standing initiative of Calgary Diocesan Council is a tangible way to promote vocations and encourage more men to answer the call. The objective is to connect every seminarian in the Diocese of Calgary with a CWL council that will provide prayerful support and encouragement during his vocational formation.

The program gets members involved by inviting councils to "adopt" a seminarian. It is a grace-filled way to support vocations and contribute to the vitality of the Church, while taking an active role in the League's Faith Ministry.

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

Several councils have already adopted seminarians and are building valued relationships. As more men will likely begin their formation this fall, our goal is to ensure that all are adopted by late October. Every seminarian deserves the support and every council is invited to experience the joy of "Walking Together" with them on their priestly journey.

Adopting councils will be randomly matched with a seminarian for the duration of his formation. If there are more councils than seminarians, two may be asked to partner.

All councils are asked to pray for seminarians at their meetings. Non-adopting councils can still support them by mailing Christmas and Easter cards to St. Joseph's Seminary. This would be a fun and rewarding group activity!

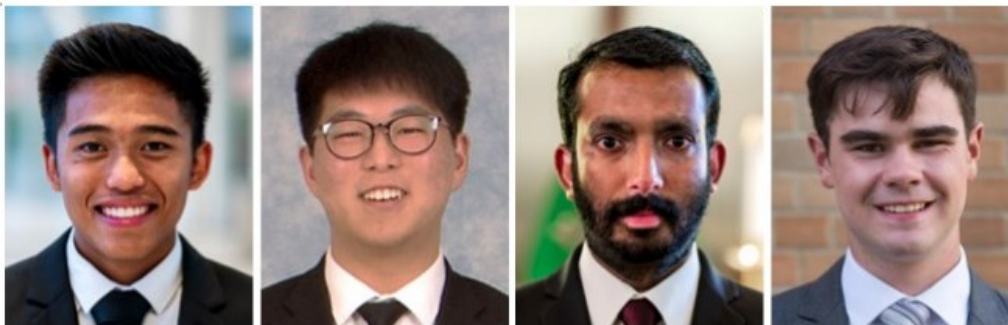
The mutual benefits exceed the commitment. The program gives future priests a spiritual and emotional boost during their studies and enhances members' spiritual growth.

To participate, councils must have members' support and commit to the entire formation period. Adoption is a pledge to uplift seminarians by writing monthly letters of encouragement and reminders that members are praying for them.



Times of prayer, papers, exams, community activities, pastoral activities and everything else that makes up seminary life adds up very quickly...the monthly cards I received from the CWL were a constant reminder of the future ministry I was preparing for and, in times of difficulty or doubt, a great source of encouragement to persevere.

Fr. Santiago Torres
All Saints Parish, Lethbridge

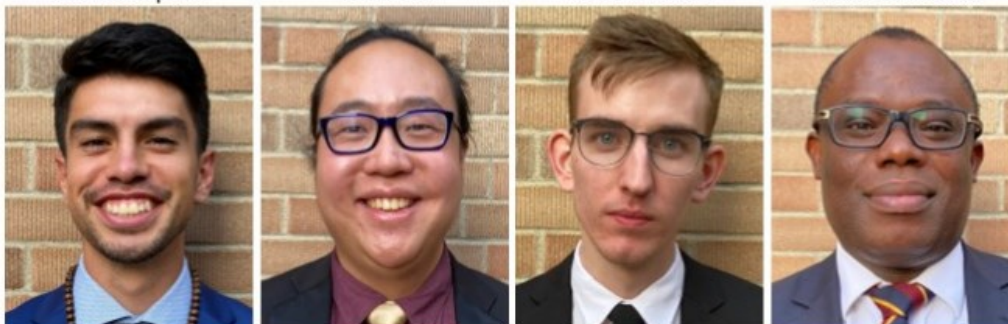


Joshua Capicio

Peter An

Bennet Chacko

Andre Boudreau



Joshua Walter

Solomon Ip

Benjamin Taylor

Samuel O'Ejerebe



Council Testimonials

Adopting seminarians for 10 years gives a good feeling of helping to mitigate the priest shortage. Our letter exchange with Andre gives us a sense of pride in supporting a man who will one day celebrate the Holy Eucharist with us.

Malie Ramos-Charlton
Holy Cross, Fort Macleod

The program has been a bonding experience. We pray for Joshua (Capicio) at meetings and take turns writing words of encouragement. Some members also send goodies!

Karen Dumancic
St. Anthony, Drumheller

It's been a joy to learn about Bennet's life and know that our prayers are supporting an actual person who is preparing for the priesthood, not just a name and photo on a poster. It was lovely to meet him in person this year.

Teresa Armanious
St. Luke, Calgary

ADOPTION TIPS

Assign a program coordinator to engage and update members, organize a letter-writing schedule, and remind writers of their designated month. Ideally, letters should be mailed by a consistent date, such as the 1st of each month.

Program coordinators are the official liaison with seminarians and should be the only person to correspond by email. The direct connection helps to obtain mailing address changes during seminary breaks, etc. and inform writers for prompt letter delivery.

Adding the program to meeting agendas is an effective way to pray for seminarians and update members on their wellbeing and formation progress. Sending info and photos on council activities creates insight on the CWL and helps build relationships. Both bode well for future spiritual advisors!

PROGRAM COST

Postage stamps are the only actual costs, though members often supply stamps and greeting cards. Monetary gifts are optional, based on each council's funds. Some include the program in their budget and send Mass cards, greeting cards, and cheques of up to \$100 on special occasions like birthdays, Easter, and Christmas. Members are welcome to include personal gift cards with their letters, such as Tim Hortons, McDonald's, Walmart, etc.

TO PARTICIPATE

Watch the [Diocesan website](#) for announcements about new seminarians starting their formation this fall. To learn more or sign up for the program, contact Dr. Rose Geonzon, [Christian Family Life Chair](#).

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Miedema, Diocesan Treasurer
(St. Ambrose CWL, Coaldale)

Fr. Santiago Torres

A faith-filled journey of discernment, formation,
and Ordination to the Priesthood



"The reason I'm becoming a priest is He has drawn me into relationship with Him and shown me that is where I will be most fulfilled and most happy."

Fr. Santiago Torres

I first met Fr. Santiago when he was a seminarian during his Pastoral Year at All Saints Parish in Lethbridge. Being curious about his accent, I asked where he was from. He replied that he was from Columbia and moved to Canada when he was 16 years old. I later learned that after high school he attended the University of Calgary where he graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. During his university days, Santiago participated in Impact, an evangelistic mission hosted by Catholic Christian Outreach, took a faith study; and attended 'Summit,' an evening of adoration prayer at St. Bonaventure to deepen his faith.

He worked for a year in his field while discerning a call to explore the priesthood. Several priests encouraged him to enter the seminary. In 2015, Bishop Frederick Henry sent him to Mount Angel, Oregon, where he completed two years of philosophy. After returning to Canada, he continued his studies at St. Joseph's Seminary in Edmonton.

Santiago arrived at All Saints Parish in the fall of 2020. It was an unusual year as COVID restricted most church activities. Rather than meet parishioners in person, he got to know them when phoning to register them for restricted Masses. He put names to faces, as he stood outside the church and checked names on his lists.

I got to know him better during a Zoom book study of the Chronicles of Narnia series that he hosted.

Santiago was very knowledgeable about the Catholic ideas in C.S. Lewis' stories. He was a patient teacher who encouraged all to participate in the discussions.

At the end of his term at All Saints, Santiago returned to St. Joseph's Seminary for another year of study. At his farewell party, he remarked that it was the first time he had been in the parish hall, as COVID eliminated group socializing during his year with us.

On May 21, 2022, I was humbled to serve as a lector at his Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate celebrated by Bishop McGrattan. All Saints Church was bursting with parishioners, priests, and seminarians. As Santiago lay prone at the foot of the altar, the Litany of the Saints was sung. The voices sounded like angels praying over him. I got chills.

At the reception after Mass, Santiago's mother thanked the ladies in the kitchen for their service. She said she was sad to be losing her son but happy to see so many mothers willing to help him.



Deacon Santiago was invited to serve at Pope Francis' Mass in Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton on July 26, 2022. Being the only Deacon in the seminary at the time, Archbishop Richard Smith asked him to serve at the altar. He felt privileged to give the Holy Eucharist to the Pope.



After one final year in seminary formation, Deacon Santiago was called to the priesthood. His Ordination was held at St. Mary's Cathedral in Calgary on June 16, 2023. A busload of excited parishioners from All Saints Parish joined the celebration and had reserved seating near the front.

Majestic music accompanied the priests as they processed down the aisle. Over 80 diocesan priests, visiting priests, deacons, and seminarians filled the sanctuary. The two-hour ceremony included the Rite of Ordination. It began with the calling and presentation of the candidate, the consent of the people, the examination of the candidate by the Bishop, and the candidate's promise of obedience. Bishop McGrattan then invited the people to pray. As Santiago prostrated himself on the cathedral floor, the cantor, choir, and congregation sang the Litany of the Saints. The rite continued with the laying on of hands and the prayer of consecration, which are the essential moments of the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

The newly ordained priest was clothed with the diocesan stole and chasuble and anointed on the hands with the sacred oil of Chrism. He then received the sacred vessels that were used in the celebration of the Mass. The Kiss of Peace was the final gesture of the Rite of Ordination; then the mass

continued from the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The entire ceremony was a ritual filled with symbolism and tradition that made the presence of God palpable in the atmosphere.

Fr. Santiago celebrated his first masses at St. Bonaventure Parish, Calgary (his home parish), and All Saints Parish, Lethbridge. At the reception after the masses, Fr. Santiago blessed those in attendance. It was wonderful to have him celebrate Mass at All Saints Parish. We are fortunate to have this humble, gentle, and sincere new priest begin his ministry as Associate Pastor of All Saints Parish and Associate Chaplain with the St. Francis Xavier Chaplaincy beginning August 15th.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Boras
Diocesan Legislation Chair
(All Saints Parish, Lethbridge)



I'm looking forward to "being able to share the love I received from God with others, being able to minister to people, offer the sacraments of His love, and being a witness."

Fr. Santiago Torres

Father Quinn Gomez

Ordained May 26, 2023

Holy Spirit CWL would like to share some joyous news about Quinn Gomez, who has been our Seminarian for five plus years. We have had the privilege and blessing of following him and prayerfully supporting him on his spiritual journey through those Seminary years. We have a special connection with Quinn – as his parents are parishioners of Holy Spirit Parish, and so was he until he entered Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary in Denton, Ohio. Quinn has one brother, who is a member of the Canadian Armed Forces in Eastern Canada.



Quinn Gomez was ordained this past May 26, 2023, at the North American Martyrs Catholic Church, in Lincoln Nebraska. Fr. Quinn Gomez, F.S.S.P said his first Mass the next day, on May 27, 2023, at Sts. Peter and Paul Chapel at Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary. The homily at this Mass was given by Fr. Cristino. Bouvette.



Fr. Quinn is a member of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter the Apostle (in Latin *Fraternitas Sacerdotalis Sancti Petri - FSSP*) The priests of the Society celebrate the Tridentine Mass - also known as the Traditional Latin Mass - in locations in 147 worldwide dioceses.

Many of us had the opportunity to attend Fr. Quinn's Mass here in Calgary at St. Anthony's Parish on June 8, 2023.

The Mass was followed by a beautiful Corpus Christ Procession, also led by Fr. Quinn -- and a wonderful reception in St. Anthony's Hall. The highlight of the reception was Fr. Quinn giving a personal blessing to each person present.

His first assignment will take him to Allentown/Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Allentown is the home of the Liberty Bell Museum and Bethlehem is marketed as the Christmas City, USA. After some research, it sounds like this area is full of history and many cultural experiences. I am sure that Fr. Quinn is looking forward to this new chapter in his spiritual journey.

We, the members of the Catholic Women's League of Holy Spirit Parish, wish Fr. Quinn more days of sunshine than rain, more joy than sorrow as he continues his journey.

We join with Fr. Quinn's Congregation and family in thanking and praising God for the gift of his holy vocation.

***Lord Jesus, Eternal High Priest,
hear our prayers for Your new priest,
Fr. Quinn Gomez.***

***Give him a deep faith, a bright and firm hope
and a burning love for Your Eucharistic Presence.***

***Grant him all the graces he needs to faithfully,
with courage, wisdom, perseverance and joy
reflect Your Love and Mercy to everyone
You send his way.***

***We pray in Your most Holy Name.
Amen.***

We are so very proud of Father Quinn Gomez!

Respectfully submitted,
Marta Toltesi
Holy Spirit CWL,
Calgary



Supporting and Promoting Vocations

The Inspiring Work of the Serra Club of Calgary



In the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary, a dedicated group of individuals is quietly but passionately working to promote vocations within the Church. The Serra Club of Calgary, an apostolate that is part of an organization with a rich history and a deep commitment to nurturing vocations, plays an essential role in encouraging and supporting those considering a life dedicated to serving as priests, religious brothers or sisters and permanent deacons. The whole diocese joyfully anticipates the chartering of the Calgary Club, making it an official part of the Serra International organization on Saturday, September 16th, 2023 at St. Mary's Cathedral. All are invited to join in this celebration with Bishop McGrattan which begins with mass at 9am followed by the chartering ceremony and lunch in St. Mary's hall.

A Brief Overview of the Serra Club:

Named after St. Junipero Serra, a Franciscan friar who founded numerous missions in California, the Serra Club is an international organization established in 1935. Its primary mission is to foster and affirm vocations to the priesthood and religious life. With chapters in over one thousand dioceses across the world, the Serra Club has made a significant impact on promoting and sustaining vocations within the Catholic Church.

The Serra Club of Calgary operates to meet the diverse needs of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary, where promoting and supporting vocations is of utmost importance. The club's members, composed of both clergy and laity, collaborate closely with the diocese's Vocations Office to create an environment conducive to discernment and growth.

One of the most impactful ways the Serra Club supports vocations is through fostering a culture of prayer. The members regularly pray for those discerning their calling and for the perseverance and holiness of those already in formation. Additionally, the club organizes special Masses, Holy Hours of Eucharistic Adoration, and prayer campaigns dedicated to vocations. These efforts aim to create a spiritual foundation upon which a culture of vocations can flourish. The club aims to have at least one member in every parish of the diocese!

Events and Programs:

The Serra Club of Calgary hosts a variety of events and programs that facilitate interaction and mentorship between those discerning a vocation and those already engaged in religious life. Seminars, workshops, and retreats are organized to provide practical insights, guidance, and a space for dialogue.

Another notable initiative of the Serra Club is its outreach to Catholic schools and youth groups. By engaging with young people at an early age, the club seeks to plant the seeds of vocation awareness and encourage them to consider a life devoted to serving God and others.

Supporting Seminarians and Novices:

Recognizing the financial challenges that often accompany seminary and novitiate studies, the Serra Club of Calgary is committed to providing financial assistance to seminarians and novices. Scholarships, grants, and bursaries are offered to help alleviate the burden of educational expenses, allowing candidates to focus more on their spiritual and intellectual formation.



Collaboration with the Diocese:

A key strength of the Serra Club's work in Calgary is its close collaboration with the diocese. By working hand in hand with the Vocations Office and other diocesan departments, the club ensures its efforts are aligned with the broader mission and pastoral plans of the local Church.

The club has been fortunate to collaborate with diocesan organizations, notably the CWL, to organize events such as the recent reception held to celebrate the priestly ordination of Fr. Santiago Torres.

In conclusion, the Serra Club of Calgary stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration in the task of promoting vocations within the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary. Through prayer, support, mentorship, and collaboration, this organization plays a vital role in nurturing the next generation of priests, religious brothers, and sisters who will continue to serve and enrich the Church and the community at large. The club is always seeking new members to assist in the lofty goal of increasing holy vocations and anyone who is interested in becoming a member or assisting in the work of the club is warmly invited to contact serracalgary@gmail.com and can view our website at <https://sites.google.com/view/serracalgary/>

Submitted by

Chris Morales, Founding President
Serra Club of the Diocese of
Calgary—In Formation



SERRA CALGARY CHARTERING CELEBRATION!

 **16TH**
SEPTEMBER, 2023

 **9AM-1PM**
 ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL
CALGARY, AB

Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/uvu-xobm-xdo

JOIN US WITH BISHOP MCGRATTAN AND SPECIAL GUESTS FROM SERRA INTERNATIONAL AND SERRA CANADA IN CHARTERING SERRA CALGARY!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME.
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE EMAIL SERRACALGARY@GMAIL.COM



WITH
BISHOP MCGRATTAN

  @SERRACALGARY

Prayer for Seminarians

Lord Jesus Christ, eternal High Priest,
lead our seminarians daily in your footsteps,
that they may become priests
afame with love for God and all.
Amen

Fr. Cristino Bouvette
Vocations Director, Diocese of Calgary

Celebrating Sisterhood at Provincial Convention

Thankful and Blessed

Where does one begin to express how thankful and blessed I felt getting the opportunity to attend the Alberta Mackenzie 76th Annual Convention. My council Our Lady of the Assumption in Lethbridge was awarded \$500 from Provincial President Mary Hunt to send one member, a first time attendee, to the convention and when my president was unable to go, I put my name forward and was so fortunate to have been chosen.

The theme "Catholic & Living It!" truly broadened my beliefs and understandings of my faith. The first day had some wonderful speakers sharing their life stories and offering some sound advice. The Eucharist Celebration and the Opening Ceremonies at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church of the First Peoples was very moving and opened my eyes to the beautiful traditions they have.

The second day is the convention business meeting. We were able to listen to the Provincial, Standing Committees and the Diocesan Presidents reports. I found it very interesting hearing what goes on at both the provincial and diocesan levels. Truth be told, every council seems to be struggling with new memberships that has significantly reduced our numbers. Suggestions were given to help this ongoing problem.

Another highlight for me was the Memorial Service for Deceased Members and the Blessing of the Book of Life that sits at the shrine to Mary. I was able to find my mom's name in it and prayed in her memory.

Overall, I had a wonderful experience and would highly recommend every member to attend!

Your sister in Christ,

Cathy Moor

Our Lady of the Assumption CWL
Lethbridge

Back Row:

Dorothy Boras, Gail Poshtar, Margaret Inkster, Suzanne Sherry, Diane Miedema, Janet MacPhee, Theresa Duncan

Front Row:

Diocesan President Renee Spohn, Jan Myhre, Kathleen Winter, Bernice Thomas, Judy Look, Anthea Berdan, Cathy Moor and National President Fran Lucas



Cathy Moor and Provincial President Mary Hunt



Dorothy Boras, Cathy Moor, and Diane Miedema



Spotlight!

...ON PARISH COUNCILS...

Councils of all sizes and members of all ages are living their baptismal call to ministry through League activities. These photos are a snapshot of the faith, fun, and fellowship experienced by our sisters across the diocese. To include your council's activities in future news bulletins, send your photos to Communications Chair Gail Poshtar calgarycwlcommunications@gmail.com



Retreat "A Journey to a Deeper Faith" hosted by the members of **St. Isidore's Catholic Women's League** at St. Peter's Church in Milk River on June 17, 2023. Diocesan President Renee Spohn, Trudy Niggli—secretary, Marylyn Miller, Charlotte Blust—President, Wendy Erickson, and guest speaker Shelly Thom.

Missing from the photo are the other 2 members of the council: Merelyn Harty and Betty Lodermeier.



St. Mary's Cathedral CWL welcomed 17 new members in a Reception Ceremony during Eucharistic Celebration presided by our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Julian Studden, on June 17th, 2023. The ceremony was combined with the Installation of our new Service Chair and Service Recognition (2, 5 and 10-years) ceremonies. Special guests, ABMK Past President, Judy Look and Diocesan Spiritual Development Chair, Theresa Duncan also attended our June General Meeting (30 members in attendance), and joined members for a casual and wholesome lunch at the FCJ Retreat Centre.





Congratulations to the members of **St. Basil's Council, Lethbridge** as they celebrated their awards Ceremony. Four members with 68 years of service to God and Canada!

Francis Zaretski, Maria Zanolli, Louisa VanBuuren and Marlene Makel.



Congratulations to Verlyn and Rei Sambrano on the birth of their first child, Anaya Grei. Verlyn is a member of the **Holy Cross Council in Fort Macleod**. Barbara Bastien, Jan Tarnes and Malie Ramos-Charlton presented the baby with a CWL Teddy Bear.



Members of Holy Spirit CWL Calgary visit with Lea, a long time CWL member who has not been able to attend in person CWL meetings since 2019. Brenda Kellington, Lea Cornelesen, Tina Huybregts and Gail Poshtar (not in photo) enjoyed a wonderful tea.

Calgary Diocesan 101st Convention





**STEADFAST:
Our Call to Love**



PARLIAMENTARIAN WORKSHOP



Hosted by:
CALGARY DIOCESAN CWL COUNCIL

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING COURSE

Sept. 29th & 30th, 2023

9:30 am – 4:00 pm

\$150

Includes lunches

*Additional \$15.00 if you require
Robert's Rules of Order Newly Re-
vised in Brief (3rd edition)*

Payable with registration

Open to all CWL Members

20 person limit

Registration Deadline
September 25, 2023

St. Bonaventure Church
St. Francis Room
1600 Acadia Dr. SE
Calgary

Do you get frustrated when:

- ⇒ Meetings go on and on due to lack of order and control
- ⇒ A few people dominate discussions and other voices are ignored
- ⇒ There is confusion about when and how to make motions
- ⇒ Not everyone knows what is being voted on

Learn how to:

- ◇ apply parliamentary rules for successful meetings
- ◇ present a motion, identify types of motions, and methods of voting
- ◇ give everyone a chance to be heard and participate in discussions
- ◇ maintain order and keep the agenda moving
- ◇ manage agendas, minutes, and elections

Participants will study the basic rules of democracy for meeting procedures and procedural motions using *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*. You will acquire the skills to confidently preside as chair for your respective level and aid as a parliamentarian to assist an untrained chair.

Facilitator Todd Brand, M.A., CP,

PRP is an experienced leader. His background and training in organizational leadership span over twenty years. Todd currently serves as Trustee for one of Canada's fastest growing school divisions. His education and wide experience cover many unique organizations and come together in his ability to coach, lead and train others for organizational effectiveness.



OPTIONAL EXAM — Participants can opt to take the National Association of Parliamentarians exam on the last day of the course to become a qualified NAP member. To write the exam, you must register with NAP at: www.parliamentarians.org/

REGISTRATION — Register online [here](#) before September 25th.

To learn more, contact Diocesan Past-President Jan Myhre at 1-403-828-4191 or calgarycwlpastpres@gmail.com.

Leah Perrault



Hearts of Flesh: Spiritual Resilience for Hope in the Dark

**Wednesday, Sept, 20, 2023
7pm - 9pm • McGivney Hall**

For as long as she can remember, Leah Perrault has been invested in learning about and living an integrated spirituality. In 2017, she lived through a miscarriage and the murder of her twin sister. Join us for a lecture that will journey through contemporary research on spirituality and mental health, the state of faith in the work, and the practices of hope that will sustain our hearts of flesh in the midst of suffering and challenges. The presentation will be a balance of academic theology and practical application for daily life.

About: Leah Perrault is a fumbling but faithful disciple of Jesus, a grateful wife and practicing parent. She is the Executive Director of Southwest Homes in Swift Current and an author and speaker on spirituality on the side. She holds a master of arts in theology from St. Michael's College in Toronto. Her words find a home in retreats, schools, conferences, books and articles, and hopefully - in the hearts of those who hear and read them.



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**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
CALGARY DIOCESAN COUNCIL
Faith – Service – Social Justice**



**You are invited to the
Calgary Diocesan Fall Meeting
Hosted by the
Drumheller Region**

Saturday, September 23, 2023

8:30 am – 3:30 pm

St. Anthony's Church

**151 – 3 St. West
Drumheller, AB**

[Register Online](#)

\$30 fee includes lunch

Send **e-transfer** payment to calgarycwltreasurer@gmail.com
Or

Make **cheques** payable to: *Calgary Diocesan CWL Council* and
mail to

Diane Miedema, CWL Fall Meeting Registrar
2231 24 Ave, Coaldale, AB T1M 1G9

**Registration Deadline:
September 17, 2023**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CWL National Faith Day.....Sept. 16
 CWL Annual Lecture at SMU.....Sept. 20
 Diocesan Fall Meeting, Drumheller Sept 23
 Parliamentary WorkshopSept 29 - 30

Regional Meetings:

Calgary October 2
 DrumhellerOctober 21
 HighwoodOctober 21
 Lethbridge.....October 21
 Medicine HatOctober 14

Diocesan Advent Retreat.....Dec 2

2024 Diocesan Convention

Calgary May 3 & 4

2024 ABMK Provincial Convention

Calgary.....May 31 & June 1

2024 National Convention

Saskatoon, SaskatchewanAug 11-14



National Convention

Top photo
 Mary Hunt
 Janet MacPhee
 Betsy Fletcher
 Cathy Bouchard

Bottom photo
 Kathleen Winter
 Kathryn Bourque



WEB LINKS

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council.....www.cwlabmk.ca
 Calgary Diocesan Council www.calgarycwl.ca
 Facebook www.facebook.com/calgarydiocesecwl
 Instagram.....https://www.instagram.com/yyc_cwl_onehundred/
 Canadian Catholic Organization for
 Development & Peace Development & Peace
 Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops www.cccb.ca
 Catholic Missions in Canada..... www.cmic.info
 Catholic Near East Welfare Association www.cnewa.ca
 Catholic News Service..... www.catholicnews.com
 Catholic Organization for Life & Family..... www.colf.ca
 Catholic Women Unite <https://catholicwomenunite.ca/>
 Coady International Institute..... www.coady.stfx.ca
 Euthanasia Prevention Coalition www.epcc.ca
 The Catholic Register..... www.catholicregister.org
 The Catholic Women's League of Canada www.cwl.ca
 Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary..... www.catholicyyc.ca
 Salt & Light Catholic Media Foundation www.saltandlighttv.org
 The Vatican w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html
 World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations.....
www.wucwo.org



Calgary Diocesan Council
 President-Elect Kathleen Winter,
 President Renee Spohn,
 and Past President Jan Myhre