

“...calling its members to holiness through service to the people of God.”

Provincial President – Cathy B.



It is with humility and excitement, with the assistance of our Blessed Mother and our God that I consent to lead the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada for the 2015-2017 term.

I have been **a member for 37 years**, since my marriage. I have been an active member of the League in Estevan, Regina, Yellowknife, Red Deer, and on the Edmonton Diocesan and Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council. I was **awarded Life Membership in 2013**.

I see the provincial council as a channel to develop and suggest action and education on key topics such as the healing process from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and Pope Francis' new encyclical "Laudato Sii" on environmental issues.

We will be engaging and uniting with the World Meeting of Families theme “Love is our Mission, the Family Fully Alive”; emphasizing that the family is our vocation of love. The coming Jubilee Year of Mercy gives us the opportunity to live and proclaim the Joy of the Gospel. The CWL hears the grace of the Lord in the call of this year to “renew our enthusiasm to bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind” – doesn't that sound like the action of the CWL to you?

My husband David and I share many of our activities and ministries and he is an incredible support for me. The light of our lives are our 4 children, their spouses and our 7 grandchildren.

I am thrilled for the opportunity to work with the close to 10,000 members in the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council. I am also awe-filled with the trust placed in me by these women who themselves have so many gifts and talents.

Please also read:

<http://wcr.ab.ca/ThisWeek/Stories/tabid/61/entryid/6711/Default.aspx>

<http://wcr.ab.ca/ThisWeek/Stories/tabid/61/entryid/6710/Default.aspx>

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President Elect – June F

I grew up in the small town community of Chauvin and during those years, I vividly remember the importance of attending our local parish and the work of the CWL within our church. It was the reason that I joined Holy Family Parish CWL

in St. Alberta 25 years ago, when our church was newly built. At the time, I felt that I could contribute in some small way to helping in the parish. For 23 of my 25 years in the League, I have held various positions not only at the parish level, but also the Diocesan level and now at the Provincial level.

My husband Dave and I raised two children and now have two wonderful granddaughters, whom we love to spend time with. I am currently working as a medical secretary in our local hospital in St. Albert.

I continue to serve in our parish as co-ordinator for the Usher's Ministry and also serve as a Eucharistic Minister. I have also had the pleasure of being part of the planning committee for the annual "Faith, Fitness & Fun Run" that supports St. Joseph Seminary and Newman Theological College.

In the upcoming two years, I look forward to promoting the League to ensure that every Catholic woman has the opportunity to know more about the CWL, so that they too can enjoy the benefits of belonging to such a great organization, where we support one another and where we can join other women to work together to build a better life for others.

Spiritual – Judy L

Let me introduce myself. For all of my life my focus has been relationships. The first one was with my parents when I was born on Aug. 5th (when dirt was young!) in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. My relationship with God was initiated in my mother's womb and given the stamp of approval at my Baptism two weeks after my entry into the world.



Learning how to manage relationships came through having 4 siblings. I took that information into my marriage to Jim in 1968 when we began a life long journey that lasted 42 years until his death in 2010. Within that time frame new relationships were forged with the arrival of three sons and later followed by 2 daughters-in-law and 5 grandchildren.

The focus on relationships lead me to a teaching career, working as a pastoral assistant, a Catholic school board trustee, a board member for a variety of organizations, and to the Catholic Women's League. As a League member I continue to place relationships at the top of my list.

As League members we have a three prong relationship ... one with our God, our families and our community.

As a member who has served on many executives I try to bring that reality to them.

Presently I am humbled and privileged to be the Vice President of Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council with the responsibility of the spiritual committee.

May my focus on relationships bring to life One Heart, One Voice, One Mission.

One heart – filled with mercy, compassion and holiness

One voice – united in harmony to speak the truth with courage and zeal

One mission – witnessing to the Good News of the gospel through personal encounter and joyful service

Secretary - Ruth B.

I am honoured to be filling the position of Secretary for the next two years.

I am looking forward to providing the Alberta Mackenzie membership with concise and timely reporting which is easy to understand.

I am a 25 year member of CWL and have held the provincial positions of Treasurer and Resolutions Chair which were both very rewarding experiences, working with the ladies all over Alberta and the North.

I was born in Dawson Creek, BC in lived in the rural area of Clayhurst until the family moved to Fort Nelson, BC in 1970. I met my husband Pete and we started our family there.

I joined the Catholic Women's League as a fraternal member in 1987 and became a full member in 1989 when I joined the Catholic Church.

We moved to the Northwest Territories in 1989 with my husband's work and I became active in the Assumption Catholic Parish and the CWL there, helping with the music ministry, religious education and parish council along with CWL activities including Mackenzie Fort Smith Diocesan President.



Pete and I raised 5 children in Hay River and are the proud grandparents of 4 beautiful children.

In 2009, my work brought Pete and myself to Drayton Valley and most currently Evansburg, AB where I am a member of St Elizabeth Parish.

I look forward to meeting many of you at convention or in other gatherings over the next two years.

Treasurer – Yvette F.

I live in Sherwood Park, Alberta and have been married to Doug for 40 years this year. Doug and I have one daughter and two beautiful granddaughters ages 8 and 4. For the past 14 years, I have driven school bus. I am a Wagon Master for the Good Sam RV Club and planned all the campouts for the last two years. I enjoy sewing, reading, playing cards and entertaining.

I joined the CWL in 1984 and have served on executives ever since.

I was President in 1994 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Sherwood Park; and also served as secretary, treasurer, Christian Family Life, and Resolutions chairs on this council.

I served as Edmonton Diocesan Treasurer for 4 years and was President at St. Rose of Lima in Onoway for 1 ½ years, then moved back to Sherwood Park. I have served on Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council as Christian Family Life & Community Life Chairperson 2009-2011, Resolution & Legislation Chairperson 2011 – 2013, Treasurer 2013 – 2015 and was just re-elected as Treasurer for 2015- 2017.



EXCITING UPDATE !!!

Bishop Gary Gordon's excellent talk from the National Convention is available as a podcast – See www.cwl.ca for more information!

Past President – Dorothy J.

I have been a league member for 30 years so far in three different parishes. I received my Life Membership in 2011.

I am married to Mike and we have one daughter. I belong to St. Thomas More council in Edmonton, and try to keep involved in our many council activities, especially if it involves working in the kitchen with my League Sisters. I also enjoy being one of the members of our council working with the Catholic Girl's League in our parish.

I am enthusiastic about being your Provincial Past President, and using some of the leadership skills I have acquired in the League and through work to help others see the potential leadership skills in themselves.

I was educated as a Physical Geographer, and as a Chemical Engineer and have also earned a Certificate in Business Management, and one in Oil Sands Technology. I currently work full-time as a Senior Project Manager for WorleyParsons at the CoSyn Technology Division. I have been privileged through work to attend the Banff Centre for Leadership Development and also attend a program at Harvard University – Achieving Breakthrough Service.



My hobbies are quilting, golf and gardening, each of which gives me plenty of time for prayer.

Christian Family Life – Gladys B.

Greetings from the Desk of Gladys B., Christian Family Life Standing Committee Chairperson. Where has the time gone? It seems that the year 2015 had just started and now we are into the eighth month of 2015.

I have been with the CWL for several years and have served in various positions on my council as well as the Diocesan Council of Edmonton.

I have met ladies from throughout the province and it has been a pleasure to share stories and make new friendships.

I enjoy being involved on committees which help people in need and it gives me great satisfaction when I see and hear people are joyful, hopeful and spiritual.



I have resided in Fort Saskatchewan for over thirty years with my husband. We have a son and a daughter, son-in-law and two precious granddaughters. I am involved in the parish of Our Lady of the Angels as sacristan, adult server, proclaimer of the Word of God, and assist wherever and whenever I am required to do so. At this time, the parish is sponsoring a refugee family and we are busy trying to meet the necessities' of what they will require to make their lives easier.

May God keep you and May God bless you!

**Check out the
CWL on
Facebook
and
Twitter**

Education & Health – Linda V.



Linda has been an active member of the Catholic Women's League since 1984, serving on Parish executive as Resolutions/Legislation Chair, President Elect, and President three times. She has served on Diocesan Executive as Resolutions/ Legislations Chair, President Elect and President.

Linda's strengths are her faith, leadership, and organizing and leading workshops.

Linda has been happily married for 40 years, has 2 children and 4 grandchildren. She works for Holy Family Catholic Regional Division #37 as vice-principal at St. Andrew's School in High Prairie. Her interests are travel, reading, fitness, knitting, card-making and watercolour painting.



Communications – Annette deB.

I have been married to Peter for 36 years. We have three children, and 4 wonderful grandchildren.



Temporarily retired from my work as an Administrative Assistant, I am enjoying the summer and spending time with my family, reading, and walking while I looks for new opportunities in the workforce. I am active in St Joseph Parish as a lector and member of Parish Pastoral Council

I joined the CWL in 1991 when St. Joseph's Council, Whitecourt reactivated and have been a member of the same council ever since. (24 years)

I have held the positions of President, Past President, Secretary, and Treasurer, Resolutions & Legislation at the Parish level, and Health & Education, Resolutions & Legislation, President-elect & Organization, and President at the Diocesan level. I am newly elected Communications Standing Committee chair for ABMK Provincial Council.

Besides the sisterhood and friendship of the ladies, I have found that the greatest benefit of being a member of the CWL has been personal growth, self-confidence and leadership skills.

Women of all ages have gifts to offer. We can all learn from each other; we all need to learn from each other.

Resolutions - Joan L.



I live in Fort Smith, NT and I am the President of the St. Joseph Cathedral Parish CWL in Fort Smith. I am also on the Diocesan council as the Resolutions Chairperson. I joined the CWL in 1991 and have held positions of Secretary, Vice

President, President Elect and President of our local council. I have held positions of Vice President, President Elect, President, and Past President at the Diocesan level

I am married and have two girls, and I am a very new Grandmother of an eight week old baby boy named Leo Sebastian Robert. I am originally from Alberta and moved to the NWT in 1988. We like living in Fort Smith as it is a small town and is surrounded by water and forest and solitude. When we get home sick for Alberta, we go for a short drive (2 km) and we are in Alberta as Fort Smith is on the Alberta/NWT border.

I look forward to serving the League to the best of my ability during the next two years.

Community Life – Carol S.

retirees. We have one daughter, three sons and three grandchildren. Only our daughter resides in Brooks.

I began my working life in advertising for the Medicine Hat News and then moved into the medical field. After time spent as a stay-at-home mom and taking on all those accompanying support roles with Brownies, Cubs, figure skating and hockey, I decided to re-enter the paid labour force full time once my youngest child started school. For several years I worked in the school system as an office administrator.

When my husband decided to take on a small business opportunity, I became co-owner and manager of a sporting goods store. This became a 25-year business experience involving the opening of a second operation, a ladies and men's clothing store. My community life as a business owner/operator led me to serve as Retail Director and Hospitality Director of the local Chamber of Commerce as well as a director in the Business Revitalization Zone.

I have served my parish teaching sacraments, coordinator for a stewardship fair, worked in the funeral ministry, served on a priest formation committee, and as the parish liaison to the

My husband Andy and I live in Brooks and are very busy

local catholic high school. My church activities at present include serving as a reader and singing in the funeral choir.

I continue to work with my parish CWL council serving as a team captain. Besides serving as St. Mary's CWL. President for more than two terms, I held the positions of past president, secretary, communications chair, resolutions chair and organization chair. Beyond the local activities, I also enjoyed 4.5 years as the Medicine Hat regional chair and was elected to the St. Mary's University CWL Chair Foundation as a director for 5 years, secretary for 2 years.



I am now entering my 11th year at the diocesan level of The Catholic Women's League having served as secretary (3 conventions), communications chair, resolutions chair, president-elect and diocesan president. My duties at this level will be completed as past president in 2017.

When time allows, I like to read, scrapbook, golf and garden. Weekly, I visit the seniors' lodge to pray the rosary with the Catholic residents, sing in an inter-denominational choir and line dance. I'm very blessed to have a wonderfully supportive husband.

I've always considered myself a grass-roots kind of gal who attacks projects with great passion! It is of utmost importance to me that we concentrate on good communication with our members and strive to educate everyone as to the work of The Catholic Women's League

Legislation - Betsy F.

make her life there. Of course, meeting Tom, her excellent husband of 35 years had a lot to do with that decision. Betsy's immediate family consists of two lovely daughters who have brought into the fold one exceptional son-in-law, two delightful grandchildren, and a pretty good long-term boyfriend.

Betsy has lived in the Cold Lake area for 43 years. She arrived with her family at the military base of 4-Wing Cold Lake in 1972 and decided to ultimately



Betsy has been a CWL member for 29 years and started her membership in the CWL after being personally invited while still at 4-Wing Cold Lake.

She has since moved to the town of Cold Lake North and transferred to the council at St. Dominic's in about 1990 where she continues to serve the League. Betsy has filled most executive positions at the parish level and a few at the Diocesan Council level including her present position as Diocesan Past-President. As well as CWL involvement, Betsy is very active in parish ministry as a reader, RCIA Team member, and volunteer at large.

Walking, cycling and canoeing for exercise are some of her favourite activities as is digging in the dirt: both Betsy and her husband are avid gardeners. She also enjoys British mystery television programs and reading. Don't ask her who the best Sherlock Holmes is unless you are prepared for a master course in mystery!

CWL – UPDATES AND INITIATIVES



Catholic Women's League - Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council Executive - June 2015 in Yellowknife, NWT
(L to R) Father Andrew B. (Provincial Spiritual Advisor), Dorothy J, Cathy B, June F, Judy L,
Ruth B, Yvette F, Gladys B, Annette deB, Betsy F, Joan L, Carol S.

Catholic Women's League Leadership Foundation

Vision: Our vision is a just, merciful, and compassionate world nurtured by the genius of women.

Mission: Our mission is to fund leadership education that inspires Catholic women to be transformational and influential leaders where they live and work.

Objectives:

1. To develop women's leadership capacity-building programs that are of the highest quality and that are consistent with Catholic values by establishing and maintaining partnerships with key educational institutions.
2. To identify promising women leaders who will benefit from leadership education that builds on their lived experiences.
3. To secure financial and human resources in support of Catholic women's leadership education and activities.
4. To establish and maintain a national network of support for Catholic women leaders.
5. To develop and implement a communication plan (strategy) to raise awareness about the importance of women's leadership.

Watch www.cwl.ca for more information – Coming Soon!

Elsie Yanik Award Recipient for 2015

The provincial council annually presents the Elsie Yanik Award which was created in 1997 to commemorate the leadership, ministry and service of Elsie Yanik to the Catholic community in the Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith. Elsie's achievements are many and she has received a blessing from Pope John Paul II for her work within the Catholic Church. She has spent most of her long life spreading kindness, preserving Indigenous heritage and promoting health and education in her community. She has been a strong advocate for native women. At 97, she still works as an elder. Award recipients are nominated for their qualities and service to the church and their community.

This year, we had the distinct pleasure of presenting this award to Alice Mullink, who has been a CWL member for over 40 years. The small community of Whitelaw has no businesses, but has a beautiful church. About 25 people attend mass and are served by the priest from Grimshaw.

Alice has kept the parish functioning for the past 25 years. She has been for the past 10 years, the Sacristan, Altar Server, Eucharistic Minister and Lector. Alice also assists the Priest with the funeral masses. She organizes the cleaning of the church and the decorating of the church for special occasions, as well as organizing the after mass lunches and funeral lunches. For the past year, she has organized the music for services as the music leader no longer lives in the community. Alice serves as a member of the Parish council in Grimshaw representing the Whitelaw church. Alice has also been the driving force in keeping the CWL going in this parish. With only a few members left and an aging population, Alice has been the secretary-treasurer for 15+ years. If it was not for the CWL council taking care of the church, the ministries and the parish, the church would have been closed long ago.

As part of her CWL role for the past 10 years, she has organized the donation on behalf of the CWL to the local Festival of Trees for Palliative Care. Some years she has sewn or quilted a wall hanging or Advent calendar. These were donated from the Whitelaw CWL, which were then bid on and the proceeds were given to the Palliative Care. We want to thank and congratulate Alice for her dedication to the "League".



L-R Alice Mullink, George L Tuccaro, Commissioner –NWT, Cathy Bouchard, ABMK Provincial President

ALBERTA MACKENZIE

Update from Provincial President Cathy B.

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council recorded 9,560 members from Alberta and the Northwest Territories. It has 35 life members, four of whom are honorary life members.

The provincial council was delighted to welcome National President Barb Dowding to the provincial convention in Yellowknife, and at the St. Paul diocesan convention. Barb spoke about the national theme, One Heart, One Voice, One Mission.

Councils at all levels have adopted the theme particularly in spiritual programs. During the year greater awareness has been focused on the Year of Consecrated Life. The rosary for peace is being said on Tuesdays, specifically to end violence in the Middle East.

Three membership awards are given for increase in membership—total number of members in a parish council, greatest percentage increase of members and greatest number of brand new members to the League. The greatest percentage increase was 61% and greatest increase in numbers was 30 new members. Because other councils ask us what is the key to success, we have prepared, from the comments and ideas given to us, a membership ideas booklet for sharing among the councils.

Besides personal contact, which is the best way to retain and recruit members, councils report that vocal support of the League in the parish by their spiritual advisor promotes a strong council.

The provincial council has been working on an initiative to lobby and petition for an independent senior's advocate. It urges "the Alberta Provincial Government to amend the Alberta Health Act to ensure that the Seniors' Advocate is an Officer of the Legislature and therefore independent".

Three of five diocesan councils elected a full slate of officers as did the provincial council for the 2015-2017 term; all councils have new executives.

At the 93rd annual **Calgary diocesan** convention, held at St. Mary's University College, the speakers, Dr. Trent Davis and Dr. Linda Dudar, addressed the national theme. St. Mary's was the first Catholic university to offer an

elementary level education degree specifically designed to prepare teachers for Catholic schools. The council raised over \$1.4 million to support St. Mary's and the CWL Chair for Catholic Studies. Dr. Dudar created a song on the new theme. The song's words and music are available on the diocesan website as is a stained-glass type design that illustrates the theme.

Bishop Fred Henry (Calgary) also spoke on the pope's Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.

At the fall meeting, the executive will adopt a revised policy and procedures manual for councils in the diocese. This document was revised in order to align it with national *Constitution & Bylaws* and *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*.

Calgary Diocesan Council is hosting the annual national convention from August 19-21, 2019.

Edmonton Diocesan Council is pleased to share the news of the addition of a new parish council from the recently created parish of Corpus Christi.

Their council borrowed a promising idea from sisters in the Calgary diocese and has introduced "Parish Buddies". Each diocesan officer has a portion of the parish councils in the diocese assigned to her for personal or phone contact for encouragement and support.

The 93rd annual Edmonton diocesan convention theme was Joyfully Serving with One Heart One Voice One Mission.

Speakers addressed the joy of the gospel from a social justice viewpoint, celebrating the strengths and achievements of Aboriginal women, maintaining joy during life trials and fostering joy and generosity at home. A scholarship is given to a seminarian at Newman Theological College. The diocesan council hosts a poster essay contest to encourage students and teachers to focus on their faith and what it means to them.

Financial sponsorship of over \$12,000 was given to the Wild West Catholic Youth Conference.

During the next two years the diocesan council hopes to build on the theme of joy and how it is to be found in abundance through membership in the League. Another focus will be to find ways to attract younger members to the League and keep them!

The **Grouard-McLennan diocesan council** hosted a spiritual workshop with guest speaker Life Member Lucille Partington who spoke on encounters with Jesus.

She directed members to ask, "When and where did we meet Jesus and who introduced us?"

Then members mapped their lives and relationship with Jesus.

The **Mackenzie-Fort Smith diocesan council** consists of three growing and active parish councils. The councils cover a large geographical space and the distance between towns presents travel challenges.

Because of the expense for travel the provincial council has a fundraising campaign called "Nickels for the North" to support travel from northern communities to meetings and conventions.

One council began a "two by two" approach this year and have two co-presidents. This approach is working well and the members are comfortable in sharing the role.

Some focuses include researching homelessness in communities and making suggestions on how the League can offer assistance and the best way to show support for missing and murdered indigenous women.

Both the national and provincial presidents were in attendance and spoke at the annual **St. Paul diocesan** convention.

The direction for the next two year term will be on membership and leadership, challenging members to increase membership by 60 women in commemoration of 60 years presence in the diocese.

This thought led to grander thinking. It would be wonderful if the 100th anniversary of the League coming in 2020 might spur a membership increase back to 100,000.

The **Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council** is leading the way in fundraising for the Catholic Women's League Leadership Foundation. Archbishop Smith was among 150 guests at the kickoff event, a delicious and inspiring brunch at the Chateau Louis Hotel and Conference Centre on June 20th. The event was organized by Fran Lucas, Becky Kallal, Pam De Luca and Dorothy Johansen.

Approximately \$8,900 was raised for the **Catholic Women's League Leadership Foundation**.

A national League focus is the development of relationships with First Nations women. Following the Hope Decoded Summit, one of the officers who had attended reminded the members that the reality of all relationships is trust, which cannot be developed overnight. It cannot come from a directive or resolution. If the League is going to be successful in this endeavour it will need to engage in meaningful conversations as equals and will require one on one encounters.

It is only through these conversations that mutual respect will be achieved and through this respect possibly a relationship can be built.

Members are actively involved with the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace goals as well as combating human trafficking and euthanasia. It is an ongoing activity to stay up-to-date on social media without being overwhelmed by it. Media can be used for evangelization, evaluation and promotion of good content.

In the next two years, the provincial council aims to examine the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada report and see where League can take action or provide support on the recommendations.

Members will be encouraged, at events to which we are called to speak, to recognize whose traditional lands we are on and which treaty the agreement base we work from. Red Deer would be on Treaty 6 and Treaty 7 Lands, divided by the Red Deer River. These are the traditional lands of the Cree and Blackfoot. The research to discover this information gives members another opportunity to honour First Nation brothers and sisters.

The provincial council intends to be a channel to develop and suggest action and education of key topics on Pope Francis' new encyclical *Laudato Si*.

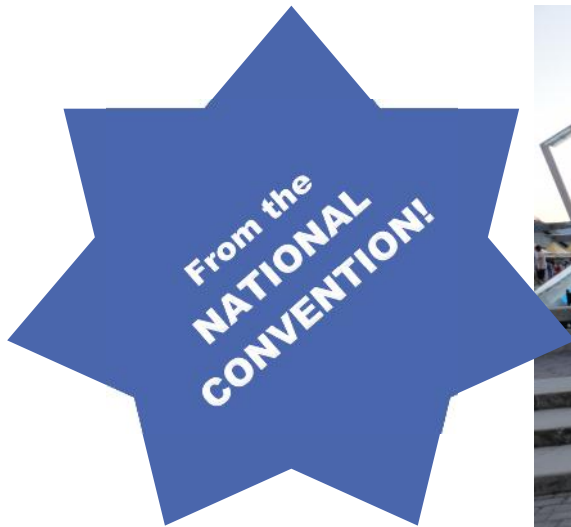
We will be engaging and uniting with the World Meeting of Families theme *Love is Our Mission, the Family Fully Alive*; emphasizing that the family is a vocation of love. The coming Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy gives the opportunity to live and proclaim the joy of the gospel.

Newly recruited members want to know they are making a difference with their time, and time spent together is used efficiently and effectively.

Existing members can speak to these concerns and demonstrate how women can make change in society.

Each diocesan council will examine the method of reporting completed by parish councils in the hope to make it a less daunting task. The work done by other provincial and diocesan councils provide excellent models. †

As National President Barb Dowding challenged at the provincial convention, "We are to abandon the complacent attitude that says we have always done it this way and embrace bold and creative rethinking, not alone but as a community."



95th Annual CWL National Convention: Highlights from the Guest Speakers – Submitted by June F.

The keynote address was given by Dr. Josephine Lombardi, who spoke on "One Heart, One Voice, One Mission". Dr. Lombardi is an Assistant Professor of Pastoral and Systematic Theology, Professor of Field Education, and Director of Lay Formation for St. Augustine's Seminary in Scarborough, Ontario. Each day she spoke on one part of our theme and reminded us that God works through our hearts and uses our voices so that we can achieve our mission.

Bishop Gary Gordon, from the Diocese of Victoria spoke to us on "The Abundant Heart and Our Mission's Call". He told our group that we know how to roll up our sleeves and help. He indicated that we have two great characteristics: a good heart and a strong mind. He reminded us that isolation is the greatest poverty in this world, but as women of the CWL, we have a strong sisterhood and we truly support each other and those in need.

Pavel Reid, the Director of the Office of Life and Family with the [Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver](http://www.roman-catholic-archdiocese-of-vancouver.org) spoke to us about "The Synod on the Family and the New Evangelization". He spoke about Pope Francis recognizing that all churches are in trouble and hence the reason for organizing the Synod of the Family. He indicated that where families are strong, people stay in the church. When there is a breakdown in a family, the trend is for people to leave the church. It is time for us to take an active role in evangelization and we need to be a welcoming force for others to see.

Next year's convention will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia on August 14-17th, 2016.

CWL National Convention, 2015

The 95th Annual Convention was held in Vancouver August 16 – 18, 2015 with business meetings before and after the annual convention for the National Council. The theme of One Heart, One Voice, One Mission was well incorporated. Forty-three CWL members from Alberta Mackenzie were in attendance; four Honorary Life Members, Presidents from four of our five diocesan councils, the Provincial President, President Elect and Vice President and at least five people who had never been to a national convention from Alberta Mackenzie. Twenty-eight members in attendance were not accredited or voting delegates.

15 new Life Members were commissioned.

Many of the Alberta Delegation were at the Resolutions dialogue on the Sunday afternoon. The two resolutions that Alberta Mackenzie had sent to national did not come to the floor. Eleven resolutions were sent to the national convention but only five made it to the floor.

These resolutions were passed:

- **2015.01 Increased Early Intervention and Access to Children and Youth Mental Health Services**
- **2015.02 Ban Plastic Microbeads in Personal Products**
- **2015.03 Banning the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides**
- **2015.04 Invoke Section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in the case of Carter v Canada**
- **2015.05 Reinstatement of the Mandatory Long-Form Census**

Honorary Life Member Claire Herron made a presentation on the CWL Leadership Foundation. The assembly carried the motion that the national council would donate \$400,000.00 from the national treasury to the Catholic Women's League Leadership Foundation. More information will be given out following their meeting after the convention.

The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC) was voted to be added for a five year period to the National Voluntary Funds.

A new song has been chosen from among fifteen entries to add to our repertoire of song to Our Lady of Good Counsel. The song will not replace 'Our Lady of Good Counsel' but will provide another resource. We can also use any of the submission form our own province. Bishop McGrattan gave the direction that a Marian hymns such as Our Lady of Good Counsel during mass is to be used at the Offertory or Communion of mass and not as an processional or recessional song.

The Video Testimonial Project has been completed and will be 'rolled' out in the Fall. It will be accessible through YouTube and will replace the DVD "For God and Canada". Parts of the video were viewed during the convention and three of our own members are featured in the video.

A motion was passed from the floor during convention; that the National Council reaffirms the League's position on the respect for human life by writing to the offices of the Prime Minister, Minister of Health, to request the federal government to halt distribution of the abortion drug RU-486.

All members are asked to write letters on this subject and to speak to all their local candidates in this time of election campaigning.

CWL Gives.....

According to policy, all **National Voluntary Funds** are distributed at or immediately following convention.

\$35,197.65 to Catholic Missions in Canada
\$28,971.75 to Coady
\$64,691.48 to CCODP (Development & Peace)
\$24,028.57 to Velma's Dream – CNEWA

\$4370.75 from the Mass Collection at national convention went to Our Lady of Good Counsel Domestic Abuse Services of Vancouver.

It is worth noting that this year's donation to Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace was the lowest ever. Councils are asked to remind members about the CWL program that encourages us to give 1% of what we spend on luxury and personal items to aid those less fortunate.

There are excellent summaries of the official days of the national convention on the national website www.cwl.ca

Convention photographer Olaf Sztaba has made the 95th annual national convention photos available for viewing and for sale. Please visit www.olafphoto.com/CWL2015
 PASSWORD: vancouver

**“Spiritual growth
is the very heart of the
League and the essence
of its existence.”**

National Convention – Spiritual Highlights Submitted by Judy L.

This statement was very much reflected by the spiritual program at National Convention 2015. It stayed true to the belief that CWL meetings should be divided into thirds... spiritual, business and social. The one third spiritual wove the thread of One Heart, One Voice and One Mission throughout all the Eucharist liturgies and prayer services.

From the Opening Eucharistic Liturgy Sunday evening to the Closing Eucharistic Liturgy on Wednesday you felt the breadth and depth of the CWL, rooted in Jesus Christ.

Waiting with 800 women (and some men as well) at St. Francis Xavier Church the site of the Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Sheshan the opening Eucharistic Celebration began with a sense of pride and awe with the realization of the connectedness of the country. The first call to prayer was gifted to the assembly by members of the Squamish Nation Decent with a First Nations Smudging with Sacred Medicines ceremony led by Rennie Nahanee, First Nations Ministry Coordinator of the Diocese of Vancouver. His introduction of the members of the Squamish Nation Descent reminded all that our nation includes other nations all under the watchful eye of the Creator. The Sacred Medicines used were coast dried cedar, sage, tobacco, and incense. As they were lit and the smoke began to rise Renee explained the significance of the ceremony.

The sacred smoke prepares the people for their participation as they invite the smoke to touch their eyes, ears, mouth, mind and body in order to see and feel things clearly.

The congregation followed his directions and invited the smoke to cleanse them as well. He then taught the Squamish word and hand gesture for thank you which is to raise the arms palms up and move them up and down. Within in the church you could hear the grateful silence as we thanked Renee.

The choir began to sing as the procession of flags began making visual our oneness as an organization. The oneness continued as we sang O Canada. Beautiful music invited all members to

raise their voices in grateful thanks and praise as we welcomed the liturgical procession with “Here I am Lord!”

In his homily Archbishop Miller set the tone for the convention as he developed the theme - One Heart, One Voice and One Mission. He gave thanks CWL for its prophetic wisdom. He mentioned that women give “healing mercy” to the world; gather strength from the Eucharist and tend to see everything through the lens of God. He set the tone for a very blessed convention.

Women know the remedy for this broken world because they see the precious dignity of all persons no matter who or what state they are in. This is rooted in our belief in Jesus.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday also honoured the one third philosophy in structuring meetings. Part of the spirituals on Monday and Tuesday included worship as Mass was celebrated in the convention room. Each bishop developed the theme in his homily. Most Rev. Stephen Jensen from the Diocese of Prince George reminded us that our actions have eternal consequences. Our humble efforts will be transfigured as we offer them to the Father. Most Rev. Richard Gagnon, Archbishop of Winnipeg challenged us to have hearts on fire and not be afraid to praise and proclaim the Word so our mission can be fulfilled.

Prayer services gave the ladies had time to reflect on the theme as they participated in reflections on Mary and Elizabeth, Unity of Mission and All Creation Celebrates the Wonders of God. Two mornings the assembly prayed the Liturgy of the Hours from Shorter Christian Prayer Week IV. The Year of Consecrated Life was acknowledged by prayer for an increase in vocations and Our Lady became present through the Angelus and the prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Deceased members and spiritual advisors were remembered with a Memorial Service on Monday and the Commissioning of the Life Members took place within the Tuesday morning mass reminding the assembly that membership in the Catholic Women’s League of Canada is a ministry. A Prayer Room was available for those who wanted some time for personal prayer.

Holy Rosary Cathedral rang out with song as it hosted the closing Eucharistic Celebration with Archbishop Miller as the main celebrant and Bishop McGrattan the homilist. As the convention drew to a close Bishop McGratten reminded all the importance of being women of One Heart, One Voice and One Mission. As the flags were retired we once again saw our connectedness and the awesome responsibility given to us through our vision statement “for God and Canada”.

Convention 2015 lived up to the League’s profession that “Spiritual growth is the very heart of the League and the essence of its existence.” We all left a little better equipped to live out One Heart, One Voice and One Mission knowing that we are always fed and sustained by our spiritual life through prayer and the Eucharist.

FROM YOUR STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS....

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE

I am very pleased to be on the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council as the standing chairperson of “*Christian Family Life*”.

The duties of the chairperson are to work on marriage and family, sanctity of life, and minister to the needs of the youth, seniors, widowed, separated and divorced and vocations.

To begin with, I am filled with joy to announce that at St. Joseph’s Seminary located in the City of Edmonton had over fifty young men attending the college for the 2014 and 2015. The seminary accepts young men from the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. This past June two young men were ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Manitoba. Your prayers are requested for these people to carry on in their studies.

Assisted suicide legislation is being worked on at present and there is a great demand for attention and action. At this time, each member should contact their members of parliament by writing letters and making a visit to their office. The letter writing guide is on the national website (www.cwl.ca) under resources and Handbook for Secretaries-Personal letter writing guide.

Under the standing committee of Christian Family Life falls the Ministry to Separated and Divorced. Pope Francis has declared that divorced Catholics who remarry, as well as their children deserve better treatment from the church. He has mentioned that hope among many Catholics that HE might lift the Communion ban. This coming fall, the Vatican is holding a month long follow up on family issues. Pope Francis is also concerned about the up-bringing of children when a divorce does order. How are the children brought up---practicing their faith and receiving the sacraments?

In the next couple of months, I will be working on communiqués focusing on the family, assisted suicide, seniors’ issues and disabled.

Sincerely,
Gladys B.
Christian Family Life Chairperson

With One Heart, One Voice, and One Mission, may we all work together to make the world a better place to live.

PROVINCIAL TREASURER’S REPORT

Thank you to all councils that have been sending money for Nickels for the North. Cheques should be mailed to me: Yvette F. Provincial Treasurer as listed on Roster. Many cheques have been sent to wrong people and take a while to get to me.

Remember that soon I will be sending out the Financial Report that I would like submitted to me. This form is on the National Website, but I will forward to each Diocese to pass onto the Treasurers.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or email me at abmkprovtreas@gmail.com

COMMUNITY LIFE

How does one connect our CWL theme: One Heart, One Voice, One Mission to the Community Life Standing Committee? Firstly, let's review our guidelines per the Executive Handbook.

This committee covers many categories.

- **dignity and rights of persons** – *It is our responsibility, as Christian women and members of a national organization, to play an active role in opposing discrimination wherever and in whatever form it appears.*
- **social and economic justice** – *We must be active in making sure the most vulnerable members in our society are protected with love and justice.*
- **refugees, immigration and citizenship** – *Canada and the League have a long standing tradition of welcoming new citizens.*
- **Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP)** – *CCODP is Canada's official Catholic overseas development organization, launched by the CCCB.*
- **developing countries** – *To help a family become economically independent is to help a community become economically independent.*

"Wherever there are people in need of food and drink, clothing, housing, medicine, employment, education; wherever (people) lack the facilities necessary for living a truly human life or are afflicted with serious distress or illness or suffer exile or imprisonment, there Christian charity should seek them out and find them, console them with great solicitude, and help them with appropriate relief. This obligation is imposed above all upon every prosperous nation and person." (Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity)

How does the Community Life Standing Committee connect with our theme?

One Heart – Listen, (hear) and love with compassion and mercy.

One Voice – Spread the Good News with joy; evangelize; speak out without fear.

One Mission – Accept and meet the challenge joyfully. Take action!

LEGISLATION

The Legislation Standing committee is responsible for monitoring all levels of government and presenting information on proposed legislation to councils. This sounds simple enough. With the internet, information about all levels of government is readily available. Discerning what is most important to the Catholic Women's League is the real challenge.

Our theme until 2017 is One Heart One Voice One Mission. How do we tie this theme into the Legislation Standing Committee? With a Heart of love, we can ask for legislation that protects the safety and dignity of all our citizens. We must be a Voice for compassion and justice.

Our Mission is to hold our elected officials accountable for the legislation they pass. How do we accomplish this? The tried and true methods of engaging our governments are through letters/emails and personal contact.

Invite them to your meetings and conventions. Help them to know who we are and what we stand for. Don't forget to offer thanks when they get something right and bring them to task when they don't.

On October 19, 2015 we will go to the polls to elect our Members of Parliament. Closely follow the campaigns of all our federal parties. Pray for guidance and then vote for the candidate in your riding who you feel best represents your values.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at: abmkprovleg@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS

“Communications is the Voice that verbalizes the Heart of the CWL while promoting its Mission to member everywhere.”

Communication in this era of electronic devices and media has taken on new meaning, as we find people seem to be losing the ability to speak to each other in person. How many of you have noticed that you can “people watch” – a group in a restaurant, for instance, and they can sit through a whole meal without saying anything to each other. I often wonder if they are texting each other or someone else when they are clicking away on their smartphones!

My goal for the next two years is to help educate both myself and our members in the many new ways of communicating, and how they can be used to the benefit of ourselves and those we are trying to serve. A wealth of information is at our fingertips, but we need to be discerning in its use and promotion for the good of all humankind.

Check out these sites for information on CWL and more...

CWL National website

www.cwl.ca

CWL National Important Links

<http://cwl.ca/about/important-links/>

The Canadian League Magazine

<http://cwl.ca/category/media/the-canadian-league/>

CWL Be League

<http://cwl.ca/category/media/be-league/>

CWL Alberta Mackenzie website

www.cwl.ab.ca

Salt and Light TV

www.saltandlighttv.org

CWL on Facebook

Twitter @CWLNational

"Kairos: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives" on Facebook is focussing on the different TRC recommendations

PAST PRESIDENT - ARCHIVES

“Members’ hesitancy to accept leadership roles remained a dilemma.”

Velma Harasen, 2010 National President

This particular quote inspired me to try to determine why we have a dilemma and what we can do about the hesitancy.

Archives: just the word itself makes members hesitant to do anything about them.

However, archives are an accumulation of historical records or the physical place they are located. The provincial archives are located in Edmonton and currently contain the archives from the start of the provincial council to the end of 2005.

I have been to visit the archives and can describe the archives as a very large filing system. Think of putting each document into a file folder, labeling the folder and submitting them to the filing system (archiving them). I will be spending my term getting the archives up to at least 2015! Anyone can visit the archives and ask to have any of the archives to look at, as it only takes about ten minutes to register as a researcher and then you have access to the entire archives.

Diocesan Council Updates

Calgary Diocesan President Sharon M.

I was born in Vulcan, Alberta and spent my childhood in Vulcan, Medicine Hat and Calgary. I graduated from Western Canada High School in Calgary. I completed my B Ed at the University of Lethbridge. Since then I



have completed courses in Music and Religious Education from the University of Montana and Neumann Theological College. Teaching, music and quilting are some of my interests.

It has been said that the woman that has the most fabric will get preferential treatment when it comes to the judgement day. If that is true I am one of those special ladies. Quilting is addictive habit.

I have been married for 43 years to Roy. Our daughters are Melissa and Erin and we have a son-in-law Alan. They all live in Sherwood Park. Melissa works for the City of Edmonton and Erin is a teacher at Sherwood Heights Junior High School. The light of my life is my grandson Matteo. He is a busy little boy and we love spending time together reading books and doing music things.

I have served as a parish Music Minister, a Catechist, Trainer for Girl Guides of Canada, President of the Religious and Moral Education Council of the Alberta Teacher’s Association, University of Lethbridge Senate and Distinguished Teacher Committee and University of Lethbridge Alumni Association in many capacities.

I am now a member of St. Martha’s Council in Lethbridge. Serving as President of 2 councils has helped to prepare me for my position as the President of the Calgary Diocesan Council.

Originally I joined CWL at Holy Cross in Fort Macleod. Under the tutelage of Helen B and May D’A, I began my CWL journey. When we moved to Claresholm, my mentor became Edith MacD.

Edith was a past Diocesan President and very passionate about the League. She instilled in me the desire to serve in many capacities that I have been called to.

I know that this next 2 years will have many exciting adventures. As I travel around the Diocese I will have the privilege of visiting with many of the councils. I will also be able to go to every quilt shop in our Diocese.

Come to the Edge! We will fly like the eagles as we journey together as Sisters in the League.

ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINES

Toot your own horn – Make sure that you complete your annual reports and send them on to be included in the history of the CWL and shared with members at all levels. Deadlines for submission of reports to the next level are:

FROM:	TO:	DEADLINE:
Parish President Parish Committee Chairpersons	Diocesan President Diocesan Committee Chairpersons	December 15 December 15
Diocesan Chairpersons Diocesan President	Diocesan President & Provincial Chairpersons Provincial President	February 15 March 1
Provincial Chairpersons Provincial President	Provincial President & National Chairpersons National President & National Office	March 15 March 31

**Edmonton Diocesan President
Mary H.**

I look forward to serving as a member of the Alberta MacKenzie CWL Provincial Executive for the coming two years representing the Diocese of Edmonton. It has been said that, "God does not call the qualified but qualifies the called" and in these words I am encouraged as I begin my term of office with the "possibilities" ahead of me.



My position provides me with a blessed opportunity to learn more about the League and to meet the rich diversity of CWL members who everyday are making a significant difference in our parishes and in our Alberta communities.

By way of introduction I have been a member of the CWL for almost 20 years with the Good Shepherd Council in Edmonton where I serve as Chair of the Liturgy Committee, Coordinator of the Lectors, Co-Chair of the Soup & Buns Kitchen, Book Club Lead (we have discussed almost 40 books since 2007) and Spiritual Chair for my council. In the past I have served as a member and Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council and as a Eucharistic Minister. I am passionate about my faith, my family and grateful for the recent addition of two grandchildren, the CWL, the written and spoken word, theatre, music, gardening, and enjoy trying new things.

Looking out the window at the fullness of summer, I know that autumn will soon be upon us with its spectacular curtain call of colours before we are once more blanketed in white and our councils will resume in earnest another year of good works For God and Canada. Mother Theresa encouraged us to "do small things with great love" and I subscribe to the belief that collectively the CWL has and will continue to accomplish "great things"...one small thing at a time.

For me, the National Convention in Vancouver was a wonderful occasion for enrichment, inspiration, renewal and empowerment. We were reminded that families are a powerful agent of evangelization providing a real day to day experience about the image of God...family life memories should be joy filled and faith filled. We hope to pass along the many things we learned to our members in the coming months starting with our Fall Meeting in Lloydminster on October 3rd.

Have you ever noticed that we usually experience "joy" in the presence of "gratitude"? I have requested and challenged the 68 councils in our diocese to provide at least one photograph they have taken during the year since our April convention depicting something joyous that we can use to prepare a power point presentation to be shown at our convention in late April of 2016.

I think it is important that we are reminded about the joy we derive as members of the CWL and the graces we receive.

The National theme One Heart, One Voice, One Mission will be woven into our presentations as much as possible.

It is with prayerful gratitude that I look forward to working with the other Provincial Officers in serving you and your councils together in service For God and Canada.

Pray

- For the migrant/refugee crisis in Europe.
- For reconciliation with our Aboriginal Peoples.
- For voters to use care and discernment when choosing our new government.
- For the unborn and other most vulnerable members of our society.
- The Rosary every Tuesday for Peace.

Grouard-McLennan Diocesan President Irene B.

stationed in Shilo during World War II) then the family returned to McLennan when I was nine months of age.

I am the oldest of seven children, schooled at Ecole Providence School in McLennan, AB. I also attended the Spirit River Grey Nuns Convent in Grade 10, where I learned to pray, be silent and study. From 1964-1967 I attended the Misericordia School of Nursing. I nursed in Peace River, McLennan, High Prairie and Sucker Creek. I retired from Nursing in 2009.

I married Richard in McLennan in 1968 and we had 4 wonderful children; Brent, Renee, Natalie, Jean-Paul. Presently we have six grandchildren.

Since 1976 I have lived on a grain farm between McLennan and High Prairie on Highway 2. I am a cradle Catholic and joined the Peace River CWL in 1972 then transferred to join my mother, Violet L, and sister, Claire T, in the McLennan CWL in 1975. My passion is my family and my community.



Grouard McLennan Update

Grouard-McLennan Diocese has 546 members in 20 councils.

Irene visited councils in McLennan | Valleyview | Bezanson | Grande Prairie | Sexsmith | Fairview | Whitelaw | Grimshaw | Peace River and High Prairie on July 13-14 just to touch base with some of our members. She will continue to keep in contact with them. It was a great visit. The weather was fine and everyone has concerns but they also have a zeal for God's work through the CWL.

Our CWL fall education (October 17) in Sexsmith will be on Mental Health and the Catholic Woman.

At the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial convention in Yellowknife (June 5-6) our council presented a resolutions "A Just Settlement for the Libicon Lake Nation.

We, the CWL, are spearheading the Grouard-McLennan Faith Rally in Grouard (August 28-30) in the hopes we can unify our souls at the place our Catholic faith was introduced in this diocese. Our theme is "The Family". We pray we promote One Heart, One Voice through this celebration and our One Mission.

Mackenzie Ft. Smith Diocese

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocese for hosting the 68th Annual Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Convention.

We would also like to acknowledge the Convention Planning Committee:

- Diocesan Council President Sheila R--H
- Convention Chair Gerda H
- Convention Treasurer Barb McD
- Registration Joan L / Fort Smith Council
- Hospitality and Transportation Theresa H and Tina R
- Liturgies June F
- Decorating Sister Maggie B
- Meals / Facilities Gerda H

Every ten years, the Mackenzie-Fort Smith diocesan CWL hosts the Provincial Convention. In June 2015 114 people attended the convention with 2 Honorary Life Members, 9 Life Members, 2 National Executive, 1 Bishop and the Provincial Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Andrew Bogdanowicz, as well as provincial executive, diocesan executive, other accredited delegates and members. The convention was so well organized, the hotel was very hospitable and accommodating. The food was outstanding. The hospitality of the ladies hosting us was second to none.

Our gathering day, was a full day with Dr. Taravat Ostavar, speaking on Current Mental Health Issues, and then Barb Dowding, our National President, enlightening us on the theme One Heart, One Voice, One Mission. On Saturday, Bishop Hagemoen spoke to us about the challenges of the Church in the North.

St Paul Diocesan President - Kathryn B.

I have been a member of the Catholic Women's League of Canada for 26 years, first joining in Ottawa in the Military Ordinariate.

With my spouse in the Military and thus moving around the country on a frequent basis, the CWL provided me with an instant family wherever we unpacked our bags.



I have held most all positions in the parish and diocesan levels and spent six years on the Military Ordinariate Provincial council. In 2004 we retired in Westlock, where I grew up and first came to know about the League. My mother was a charter member of both St. Mary Parish council and the St. Paul Diocesan council. They will celebrate 60 years in 2016! So I learned a lot about the League before I ever left home.

My husband Larry and I have two children, both single and in Edmonton. Larry also has three sons and between them there are six grandchildren!! I am a public health nurse, presently working in the area of Chronic Disease Management, facilitating adult education in diabetes, heart health and weight management.

The League has provided me with so many friendships; it has developed leadership skills in me that I never knew I had; it has helped me to fulfill my call as a Christian woman and will continue to so for many years. I look forward to serving my CWL sisters of the St. Paul Diocese over the coming two years.

St Paul Diocesan Update

Two members were able to represent St Paul Diocese at the National convention in Vancouver in August. What an awesome experience that I wish all members could share.

Our slate of officers for the diocese is missing a few people and we have been storming the Holy Spirit with requests to "move" someone to take on the position of Resolutions/Legislation and Communications. We have presently combined Christian Family Life and Community Life, but if the Holy Spirit can rout out a third person, we will again separate these two busy standing committees.

Westlock hosted a Catch the Fire workshop on May 30th. In an effort to encourage councils to utilize the S'mores workshops, the diocesan executive will be facilitating "Evangelii Gaudium" at our fall meeting in Pickardville, October 3rd.

We welcome Fr. Martin Jubinville, Pastor of St. Jean the Baptiste, Morinville, as our new Spiritual Advisor.

St Paul Diocese has 590 members in 19 councils. I challenged members to increase this number by 60 in recognition of our 60th anniversary in 2016

St Paul Diocese will host the Provincial Convention on June 3-4, 2016. This is also the 60th anniversary of St. Paul diocese, as well as the council of St. Mary council in Westlock, so we hope that many will come to help us celebrate.

**PROVINCIAL
LIFE
MEMBER
LIAISON**

Each new provincial council appoints a Life Member Liaison. **Mary H** will be our Life Member liaison for 2015 - 2017. Mary is a past Provincial President from 2003 – 2005 and a Life Member since 2006. She will maintain contact between the National Life Member Liaison and all Life Members within our province.

We thank Florence B for her service to the provincial council for the past two years.