

*The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council*

## ***Memorial Service for Deceased Members***

*(Adapted from the Memorial Service for Deceased Members  
from the CWL National website)*

**Hymn:** choose a familiar hymn

### **Invitation to Prayer**

**Leader** (*Spiritual Development Chair*):

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen

**Leader:** The grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All:** And with your spirit

### **Instruction**

**Leader:** We gather today as members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada to honour the memory of ... [number] members of our council, who have gone from this life to their eternal rest in Christ. ***{If members of the families have been invited: We welcome the family members who are with us to join in the memorial for our departed sisters: ... [read names].}***

**Leader continues:** In the world of today, as perhaps never before, the Church needs an enlightened and faithful laity. Dedicated members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada live their faith by serving others and thus discover Christ through relationships with others. The members we honour today openly made a solemn commitment to be witnesses of Christ, carrying out the mission of Christ at home, in the parish and in the whole community. We recall now their service to others, and we pray that the God of all has joyously welcomed them into the fullness of life, where they rest in peace and love.

## **Opening Prayer**

**Leader:** Gracious God, to whom mercy and forgiveness belong, hear our prayers on behalf of Your faithful servants whom You have called into the light of Your presence. May they be welcomed joyously into heaven. We ask this through Christ, our Redeemer.

**All:** Amen

## **Scripture Reading**

*Wisdom 3:1-5, 9*

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

**Reflection on the Word of God** (*Spiritual Advisor, if present*)

**Ask individual members to chose a flower, and when the deceased member's name is called, ask them to bring it up and put it in a vase. If desired, they can take the flower home in memory of the person.**

**Individual Memorial Rose** (*some councils choose to use other flowers*)

**Leader:** God is the glory and joy of each of our departed sisters whose memory we celebrate today. A [rose], a symbol of life in Christ, will now be presented as a living memorial for each one. (***If another type of flower is chosen, substitute "rose" with the name of the flower.***)

**President of Council:** [***Name of the deceased member***] – We thank God for the gift of [***repeat the name***], who You shared with us.

***CWL member or Family member places a flower.***

**All:** Amen

Following the presentation of the roses (flowers) ...

**Hymn:** chose a familiar hymn

**Closing Prayer**

**Spiritual Advisor:** Compassionate God, Mary the mother of Jesus gave of herself completely. Blessed is she who gave humanity to Jesus, and blessed are our sisters who spent their lives serving others in God's name. We join Mary in proclaiming Your greatness and in thanking You for giving us life through the death and resurrection of Jesus. We proclaim Jesus and the gift of Your life-giving Spirit.

**All:** Amen

**Leader:** Eternal rest grant unto them.

**All:** And let perpetual light shine upon them.

**Leader:** May they rest in peace.

**All:** Amen

**Final Blessing** (*Spiritual Advisor*): ... ..

**All:** Amen

**Sign of Peace**

**Leader:** Let us conclude this ceremony by offering one another a sign of peace.

***Following the Sign of Peace, ask the members if anyone would like to share a story about the a deceased member. This is an important opportunity to share our history.***

The Memorial Service is concluded.

(October 2016)