

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Grouard-McLennan Diocesan Council**

President's Communique – June 2013

Dear Sisters in the League:

As your new diocesan president, I am hoping to be your connection to The Catholic Women's League of Canada at all levels. My goals are to involve you in the good works of the League and to increase membership in our diocese.

I have been a CWL member for over 25 years and have always treasured my connection to Our Lady through my sisters in the League. I am a school administrator, have been a teacher for sixteen years, and as I started late, will not be retiring any time soon. I live in High Prairie and am a vice-principal.... I was previously the principal ... in McLennan, but this last year, made the move back to the school where I first began my teaching career. I have been married for 38 years, and have grown-up son and daughter with four beautiful grandchildren. I enjoy curling in the winter, fishing with my husband in the summer, and I watercolour paint in my spare time.

At the CWL Provincial Convention this past June, I was tremendously impacted by our National President, Betty Anne B.D. The other diocesan presidents and I were blessed enough to have her sit at our table throughout the convention. It was amazing to hear her speak on her theme, "We have seen the Lord" and I realised that it is important to have a theme for one's work. Betty Anne B.D., in her presentation, asked us to share with one another, where we see Jesus in our daily lives, reminding us of how we can be empathetic to the plight of others. She asks us to look for Jesus in others, giving kindness, food, clothing, shelter, and prayers, so that when we are asked by the keepers of heaven, we can say, we saw Jesus and when He was hungry, we gave Him to eat, when He was thirsty we gave Him to drink and when He was a stranger we invited Him in, when He needed clothes, we clothed Him, when He was sick we looked after Him and when He was in prison we went to visit Him. (Mt 25:34-36)

Father Jim Corrigan, spiritual advisor to the CWL provincial council, asked us to take this a step further and evangelize to others the good works of the League, inviting all women to join us in our efforts to see Jesus in others and help Him through membership in the Catholic Women's League.

After careful consideration, prayer, and lots of help from our diocesan officers, I have chosen the theme: "Sing a New Song" for "We Have Seen the Lord" (Sing a New Song, for short). With your help, I would like to spend the next two years evangelizing and educating our ladies in the diocese to the works of the CWL in hopes of strengthening the leadership and increasing membership.

There will be more on the theme at our October Education Workshop in Peace River, October 19, 2013. Registration will be at 9:30am, followed at 10:00am by an agenda of learning about our League and our role in the church (details will be coming in the fall). We will have a range of activities from discussing the roles of the standing committees to writing a letter in support of a resolution passed at National Convention in August. Our provincial president, Dorothy J.,

is being invited to our workshop along with experts in standing committees to answer our questions and direct us in our work. It should be a wonderful opportunity to get to know the Catholic Women's League better as well as your sisters in the League. We will wrap up with a prayer service at 3:00pm. Make a plan to attend – put it on your calendar! Please consider offering to cover the cost of your members to attend this workshop as it provides opportunities for your own membership to have all of our councils represented!

As you know, the Faith Rally is happening August 23-25, 2013. The planning committee is asking the Diocesan ladies to take part in the Adoration on Saturday. If you can help with the Adoration or in any other way, please let Dorothy C. know via <cwlgmcl[at]gmcl.cwl.ab.ca>.

Consider a letter of invitation for a meeting, workshop, or convention. Enclosed in this communique is an updated version of our schedule for the next two years. This could be an opportunity for you to celebrate a special anniversary with your sisters in the League.

If you have questions or concerns about anything that is going on in the League, please feel free to contact me via <cwlgmcl[at]gmcl.cwl.ab.ca>. I will return mail, email or a phone call as soon as I can.

God bless us all.
For God and Canada,
Mrs. Linda VdB
Diocesan President
Grouard-McLennan CWL