
ST. LUKE'S CWL



**ANNUAL REPORT
2023**

COUNCIL #22



St. Luke's

Catholic Women's League of Canada

Council #22

Executive

President

Pam Wilson

Past President

Karen Bruch

Treasurer

Christine Stark

Recording Secretary

Teresa Armanious

Corresponding Secretary

Salwa Azzam

Faith Chair

Joyce Simoes

Service Chairs

Alexy Fernandes

Salwa Azzam

Social Justice Chairs

Evelyn Charchuk

Gina Hindle

Communications (Lukes Links)

Marlene Vierboom

Membership Chair

Susan Wenger

Vacancies:

Vice President

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www.CWL.ca

Spiritual Advisor



"The spirit of the Lord upon me
because he has
anointed me to bring good
news to the poor."
(Luke 4:18-19)

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH

1566 Northmount Drive NW
Calgary AB
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Phone: 403-282-9488
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www.stlukeschurch.ca

March 18, 2024

Last October the Diocese launched a very important event that would impact the life and faith of the people of the Diocese of Calgary. We inaugurated the Diocesan renewal as a response to the Pope's call for the new evangelization and renewal of the whole church. The Diocese of Calgary came up with very important renewal priorities that would guide the whole Diocese going forward.

In view of this, the parish of St. Luke's church are trying to organize groups and events that would help accomplish these priorities and enhance the opportunity for the people to grow in their faith.

The Catholic Women's League, being an long-time existing and reliable group of our parish has become one of the important catalyst in making these priorities a reality. They have been doing lots of activities that we can say are important in implementing these priorities in our parish.

The CWL members are part of the ministries of our church, the ministry of greeters, ushers, readers, funeral altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, to mention some of them. They are key players in many different ministries, such as pastoral care, both home visitation and seniors home residences Masses. They are leading the coffee Sunday ministry, providing people a chance to gather and meet informally to get to know other parishioners and new members. They organize funeral lunches that help the grieving family cope with the demands of celebrating the life of the deceased.

They are also involved in other outside activities, such as care to share, card collection, scholarship, Christmas stockings, backpacks and many others.

The parish is continuously indebted to them for their continued support of the parish and our community. There are no words or compensation that would be enough to thank them for their service to the parish and our Diocese.

Fr Fernando – Spiritual Advisor

President's Message

My Sisters of St. Luke's CWL Council,

My mind is at a loss on what to write. There has been so much our council has accomplished in 2023, but as I sit here on this very windy and last day of February, I'm drawing a blank.

One of the many highlights from 2023 was the Bishop's Pastoral Visit in March. Bishop William is very supportive of the CWL and encouraged us to continue our good works. He was especially pleased that our Funeral Teams still make the luncheons.

I'm so glad that members, my sisters, since I don't have any biological ones, are there for me in many ways.

As I go into my fifth year as president, I look back on the times when I was struggling and not sure which way to turn. Sisters of the CWL always were there to lean on and get advice from.

In going back through the meeting minutes, I was amazed at all the things our council accomplished in 2023. From Faith to Service to the many Social Justice events we held or participated in. From having a Faith component to each meeting, to Service to the families at Ronald McDonald House to the postcards sent to our MPs on Pornography Hurts and to supporting the many organizations like IWIN - I'm Worth It Now, Purses of Hope and St. Anne's Pantry to fulfill our Social Justice.

Our two big events of the Garage Sale in April and the Christmas Market in November were a huge success only due to the fact that so many of you gave of your time and talents to make them successful. Along with the generosity of families to our Funeral Teams we were able to provide donations to organizations that help those in need through Faith, Service and Social Justice.

Thank you to you all for sharing your time and talents with your sisters in the League. It truly makes the world a better place.

Respectfully Submitted
Pam Wilson



Executive Changes

Thanks to

Alexy Fernandes & Gina Hindle

Past President's Message

My Dear Sisters in Christ

As I move forward in my service to God and growth in faith with the CWL I reflect on my last 5 years as Past President. We are truly blessed to have a President who has weather the storm of COVID and continued as our president. I believe Pam Wilson is destined for great work with in the CWL. Her boundless energy and great organization would be a great asset in other levels of the CWL. Let's continue the Legacy of St Luke's CWL and provide leadership at the council & diocesan level. Our council has benefited from the hard work and leadership of many women over the last 60 years. We need your support to step forward and provide service and leadership at St Luke's.

After attending conventions and workshops at many levels of the CWL and serving as Regional chair and convention co-chair I strongly encourage everyone to attend a convention and to become a leader in this lifelong sisterhood starting at the parish council level at St Luke's.

Thanks to all of you who have served our council as volunteers at the Christmas Market, Garage Sale and have assisted families at funeral luncheons. This allows us to take care of the community at large and extend a hand to our Parish family.

Blessings

Karen Bruch

Recording Secretary

Executive Motions Carried in 2023

Reminder –Executive Motions

that our Council's Executive can pass motions to spend up to and including \$100.00.

March 7 Executive Meeting

That the Zoom account not be renewed, due to lack of use.

That a \$100 gift card for use at Market Mall be purchased for Sarah Meyer, who donated a printer to our CWL.

September 5 Executive Meeting

That \$100 be presented to Father Troy as a farewell gift.

That \$50 be presented to Peter An, the seminarian who was at St. Luke's for the past year, as a farewell gift.

That when a speaker from a recognized charitable organization makes a presentation at one of our meetings, the honorarium will be given to the organization, not the speaker.

That a maximum of \$100.00 be given to Marie Byers to purchase a new 12-Cup Coffee Maker for the Church Kitchen.



Recording Secretary

Motions Carried in 2023

February 26 Annual General Meeting

Instructed vote on amendments to National CWL Constitution & Bylaws
Part XIV Meetings and Quorums re: virtual meetings.

That the audited financial statements be accepted as presented.

Moved by Angela Hinsberger; seconded by Joyce Simoes

That the St. Luke's CWL 2023 budget be accepted as presented.

Moved by Betty Powell; seconded by Marnie Shaw

Approve the expenditure of \$250 for one CWL member to attend the St.
Mary's President's Dinner on March 23, 2023.

Moved by Pam Wilson; seconded by Marlene Vierboom

Approve the expenditure of \$500 for 2 members of our CWL executive to attend the St. Mary's President's Dinner on March 23, 2023.

Moved by Sarah Meyer; seconded by Lucille Hagel

April 17 General Meeting

To host the Calgary Regional CWL meeting at St. Luke's on June 5.

Moved by Evelyn Charchuk; seconded by Christine Stark.

To donate \$100 to each of the Calgary Diocesan Convention charities:

It Takes a Village, Okotoks & Pincher Creek Women's Emergency
Shelter Assoc. Moved by Gina Hindle; seconded by Marlaine Perizzolo

To provide CWL gift memberships to women in St. Luke's RCIA program;
6 memberships at a cost of \$35.50 each, total of \$213.

Moved by Christine Stark; seconded by Agnes Wood

September 19 General Meeting

That funding up to \$700 be made available for buying food for the Ronald
McDonald House brunch. Moved by Karen Bruch; seconded N/A

October 17 General Meeting

That a donation of \$800 be given to support the ABMK Feed the North
initiative. Moved by Christine Stark; seconded by Marie Byers

November 21 General Meeting

That the Council distribute \$10,500 to various organizations as determined
by the Disbursement Committee.

Moved by Christine Stark; seconded by Agnes Wood

That \$1,062.60 be given to Sylvia Coppicus to buy postage stamps for the
Christmas Card project, which provides Christmas greeting cards and
postage to the Calgary Drop-In Centre and The Brenda Stafford
Centre so their clients can send Christmas greetings to their families.

Moved by Sylvia Coppicus. Seconded by Teresa Armanious

Respectfully submitted by
Teresa Armanious

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
St Luke Council #22
Treasurer's Annual Report
January 1 to December 31, 2023

| | | |
|---|-------------|---------------------|
| Balance January 1, 2023 | | \$13,373.95 |
| Revenues: | | |
| Memberships - current year | \$6,142.88 | |
| Memberships - upcoming year | \$40.00 | |
| Funeral Receptions | \$15,120.00 | |
| AGM | \$1,129.47 | |
| Garage Sale | \$8,044.97 | |
| Sale of Pro Life Roses | \$2,192.65 | |
| Bottles (Recycling) | \$202.70 | |
| Xmas Market | \$8,168.35 | |
| Donations | \$25.97 | |
| Adopt-A-Sister | \$10.00 | |
| Nickels for the North | \$72.25 | |
| Sale of Name Tags | \$260.00 | |
| Sale of Mission Cards | \$298.00 | |
| Total Revenue | | \$41,707.24 |
| Expenditures: | | |
| Memberships - current year | \$5,600.50 | |
| General Liability Insurance | \$79.50 | |
| Funeral Receptions | \$6,614.49 | |
| Bank Charges & Point-of-Sale | \$86.84 | |
| Mass Cards & Stationery | \$230.93 | |
| Postage & Printing | \$775.74 | |
| Honorariums | \$600.00 | |
| Hospitality | \$761.18 | |
| Service Pins & Name Tags | \$318.75 | |
| Donation (Calgary Diocese missions) | \$231.50 | |
| Pastor/Office Gifts | \$1,248.53 | |
| AGM | \$1,672.25 | |
| Garage Sale | \$467.46 | |
| Conventions etc. | \$466.28 | |
| Pro Life Roses | \$2,192.65 | |
| Xmas Market | \$1,186.67 | |
| Donation (Kitchen Supplies) | \$1,019.08 | |
| Scholarship | \$2,000.00 | |
| Total Expenses | | -\$25,552.35 |
| 2023 Net Income | | \$29,528.84 |
| Less Charitable Donations | | -\$15,919.46 |
| Balance December 31, 2023 | | \$13,609.38 |
| Submitted by Christine Stark Jan. 19, 2024 | | |

Charitable Donations - 2023

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Mt St Francis Retreat House | \$1,206.05 |
| RESET | \$1,206.04 |
| Nickels for the North | \$100.00 |
| Chalice Canada | \$912.00* |
| St Mary's University | \$500.00 |
| It Takes A Village - Okotoks | \$100.00 |
| Pincher Creek Women's Emergency Shelter | \$100.00 |
| KARA (2023 donation cheque staledated) | -\$1,000.00* |
| Feed the North | \$825.00 |
| Ronald McDonald House Brunch | \$360.23 |
| St Mary's Feed the Hungry | \$1,000.00* |
| Veterans Food Bank of Alberta | \$500.00* |
| Fr Lacombe Care Foundation | \$500.00 |
| The Mustard Seed | \$500.00 |
| Safe Haven Foundation | \$500.00* |
| IWIN | \$500.00* |
| Elizabeth House | \$500.00* |
| Children's Cottage Society | \$500.00 |
| St Anne Academic Centre | \$500.00* |
| St Joseph Seminary | \$500.00 |
| St Mary's University (St Mary's Chair) | \$500.00 |
| Fresh Start Recovery Centre | \$1,000.00 |
| Covenant Foundation (Dulcina Hospice) | \$500.00* |
| St Luke's Parish (\$1,000.00 Funeral, \$2,000.00 General) | \$3,000.00* Partial |
| Stamped Xmas cards for Drop In Centre clients | \$1,062.60 |
| Stardale Women's Group (Xmas stockings) | \$47.54 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$15,919.46 |

Funeral Account (Part of General Account)

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Balance January 1, 2023 | | \$2,748.21 |
| Revenues: | | |
| Funeral Receptions | | \$15,120.00 |
| Expenditures: | | |
| Funeral Receptions | \$6,614.49 | |
| Kitchen Supplies | \$1,019.08 | —7,633.57 |
| | | <hr/> |
| 2023 Net Income | | \$10,234.64 |
| Less Charitable Donations* | | |
| Chalice Canada | \$912.00 | |
| KARA | -\$1,000.00 | |
| St Mary's Feed the Hungry | \$1,000.00 | |
| Veterans Food Bank of Alberta | \$500.00 | |
| Safe Haven Foundation | \$500.00 | |
| IWIN | \$500.00 | |
| Elizabeth House | \$500.00 | |
| St Anne Academic Centre | \$500.00 | |
| Covenant Foundation (Dulcina Hospice) | \$500.00 | |
| St Luke's Parish | \$1,000.00 | -\$4,912.00 |
| | | <hr/> |
| Balance December 31, 2023 | | \$ 5,322.64 |

*Charitable donations with an asterisk were funded through proceeds from funeral receptions

Corresponding Secretary

Correspondence January 1—December 31, 2023

During this past year cards were sent to the family of members who were deceased, to members who were sick, and to service pin recipients.



Cards Sent - Mass - 10 Sympathy—7 Get Well - 6

Service Pin Invitations - 35

Cards /Letters Rec'd - Thank You - 41

Newsletters/Pamphlets /Magazines - 22

Donation Requests - 26

Invitations—1 (Bishops Dinner)

Respectfully submitted,

Salwa Azzam

Communications



Parish Announcements and Bulletins were used to communicate with members and “Faithfully” the Diocese of Calgary weekly emails were sent to our members. We published a January & October Newsletter.

We completed the National CWL Annual Survey in December as required again this year.

We discontinued our use of ZOOM technology early in the new year.

“LUKE’S LINKS”. *News Flash and News Summary email that encompasses local, provincial and national CWL news for the time of issuance. It is issued, typically, twice per month. The report has 3 categories: Highlighted Event, St. Luke’s CWL and CWL Diocesan News.*

***In 2023 — 34 Luke's Links , 16 Luke's Links Express , 7 Volunteer Requests
3 Honour Guard Requests***

(Not including special events and executive communications)

Respectfully submitted

Marlene Vierboom



League Prayer

***We humbly pray you, O God our Father,
to bless the Catholic Women's League
of Canada.***

***Bless our beloved country, our homes and
families.***

***Send your Holy Spirit upon us
To give light to our minds and strength
to our wills***

***That we may know and fulfill
your great law of charity.***

***Teach us to share with others, at home
and abroad,***

The good things you have given us.

***This we ask through Our Lord Jesus Christ
And the intercession of our patroness,
Our Lady of Good Counsel. Amen.***



Member Appreciation

Thank you to these long serving members.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 70 years | Florence Bernakevitch |
| 65 years | Gertrude Mass |
| 60 years | Lillian Gelowitz, Myrna Kornak |
| 50 years | Jean McColl |
| 35 years | Agnes Dzieciuch, Susan Wenger Maureen Montgomery Lynn Nelson |
| 30 years | Linda Atkins, Berly Netto Colleen Strueby |
| 20 years | Mel Sabraw, Susanne Stevens |
| 15 years | Judith Duke, Chinelo Igbelina Catherine(Rena) Meehan Helen Lepine |
| 10 years | Gladys Gonzales, Joyce Simoes Marlene Vierboom Donna Widmer |
| 5 years | Irene Fantin, Claudia Sanchez Karen Van Lierop |

***The Pin Presentation to these members
took place in December.***

Membership



Membership forms were mailed to members. A follow-up reminder was sent by email and a phone call made by the executive to members who had not renewed.

***Membership dues in 2023 were \$40.00 .
Our 2023 council membership was 162.***

Members took part in the Parish Ministry Fair on February 4 & 5 to promote memberships and we had a CWL Sunday promotion at the 10:30 Mass at the end of January.

This year we lost 7 members who have gone to meet Our Lord and we added 14 NEW MEMBERS. Six gift memberships were given to RCIA Ladies. It is great to see we are getting some younger members.

I know they can't always come to meetings with work, families and other activities, like being a soccer mom. They still can contribute to the league with their prayers. And even on the occasion they may be able to participate in one or two of our events or activities. When you see a younger member, engage with them, show them we are all sisters in Christ.

Did you know that even non-Catholic women can be members? Yes they can. They are referred to as Associate members with voting privileges. They are not eligible for office by election or appointment. They can however help and be on sub-committees under the standing chairs of Faith, Service and Social Justice and participate in any event or activity. SO do you have a neighbour or friend who isn't Catholic, who would join you in being a member of the St. Luke's CWL Council? Ask them and then have some fun.

Mission Statement

The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

Core Purpose

Uniting Catholic women to grow in faith, and to promote social justice through service to the church, Canada and the world.

Core Values

FAITH - following Catholic teaching

SERVICE - local, national and international

SOCIAL JUSTICE - actively involved in society

FAITH

Faith is a big part of why the members, should I say sisters, are part of the Catholic Women's League of Canada. It brings us together and makes us stronger and more human.



Faith
(hearts in prayer)

Each meeting in 2023, we always had a Faith component. Not only did we pray the League Prayer and the Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel, we also invoked the intercession of different Saints with prayers and thanksgiving.

In beginning the year 2023, we prayed Psalm 23: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. We followed with a prayer thanking Our Father in Heaven for all He has given us and for leading us by His guiding hand.

Continuing the year we all know the world is full of chaos and it is hard to find God in that chaos. Psalm 46 explains to us that God is our refuge and strength. Flowing on from Psalm 23; Therefore, we will not fear though the earth should change and mountains shake and the waters roar and foam. The Lord is our refuge. In Philippians 4:6-7 We are not to be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And in Isaiah 41:10, Fear not for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God, I will strengthen you, I will help you.



In April we prayed a nine day Novena to Our Lady of Good Counsel whose feast day is on April 26. On each of the 9 days before, members said a short prayer to Our Lady. This was culminated with an appetizer pot-luck after the evening We were joined by our adopted seminarian, Bennet Chacko. It was a great way to invoke the intercession of our patroness to help us be more faithful and support our sisters of the League.

In May several members traveled to Canmore for the Visitation of Mary Celebration to The Shrine of Our Lady of the Rockies. It was a beautiful day with a deep sharing of our faith.



In June we celebrated 14 new members with welcoming them to the League and a pot-luck continental breakfast.

In the continued war in the Ukraine we prayed Saint John Paul II's Prayer for Peace. Recognizing that Our Lord Jesus Christ, is the Prince of Peace, and who so often said, "Peace be with you". With all conflict we need help in encouraging all men and women to be witnesses of truth, justice and brotherly love.

We had a Memorial for our Deceased Sisters in November. It was a lovely ceremony and a couple of the families were able to join us. These sisters dedicated their time and talents to the CWL. We lost two of our charter members, Mary Stadnicki (2022) and Mary Velletta (2023).

Eternal rest grant unto them. May perpetual light shine upon them.

The CWL is a way for all of us to be God's instrument of kindness. Our Lord has unfailing LOVE for us and our life must be a living testimony to His kindness and forgiveness. He redeemed us from an eternity separated from Him even though we don't deserve it. We asked God to grant us knowledge, discernment and precision to use kindness to cut out hatred, racism, indifference, inequality and all other afflictions that run rampant in the human race. We asked Our Lord to lead us in His kindness and to be His catalyst for change.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Wilson (Joyce Simoes)



SERVICE

We had several interesting guest speakers this past year:

In February Rod Garossino, Director of Fund Development, **Fresh Start Foundation** gave an interesting presentation on how Fresh Start helps with housing, treating and supporting people affected by addiction. We collected donated items for the clients.

Sarah Cormier, Operations and Volunteer Coordinator with **Elizabeth House**, spoke to us in March. Elizabeth house in a non-denominational program of the RC Diocese of Calgary. Their vision is to be widely recognized as an effective and compassionate transitional home where at-risk pregnant and parenting women are equipped with the life skills and confidence to be healthy parents as well as competitive in today's society. Their goal is for their residents to have access to opportunities and resources that will enable them to take charge of their lives. Parish parishioners were invited to attend this presentation.

Natalie Mohammed, lawyer, **McConnell MacInnes**, spoke to us about wills/power of attorney and personal directives in April. Parish parishioners were invited to attend this presentation.

In October, Marjory Nazar and Novlette Ramsamugh from the **Covenant Foundation** spoke on Catholic based senior living, care, dementia and assisted living facility in Calgary. All St. Luke's parishioners were invited.

In December our guest speaker, Judy Anderson, co-founder of **Purses of Hope**, “**Giving HOPE one purse at a time**” spoke on women who struggle with homelessness. Donations were collected providing them with a large purse with essential items like hand lotion, soap, shampoo, feminine products, hats, scarves, gloves, etc.

Several projects were completed by our CWL members.

In October CWL members undertook **a brunch at Ronald McDonald House**. They shopped, prepared, cooked and served meals, joining the families who are going through difficult times with sick children.

In December **Christmas cards, pens and postage** were donated to the Calgary Drop Inn Centre and Brenda Stafford Society for their clients to contact family and friends to let them know how they are.



CWL members purchased and donated items to **fill two Christmas Stockings** for Indigenous girls in December. These were forwarded to the Stardale Women’s Group for teenage girls. The Stardale Women’s Group empowers the Lives of Indigenous girls, strengthening their families and inspiring communities to engage in the core value of reconciliation.

St. Luke’s CWL **donated \$825 to feed the North fire victims**, an ABMK initiative. Total provincial wide CWL raised \$50,863.18 cash and including gifts in kind, the total was almost \$60,000.00.

SOCIAL JUSTICE



Social Justice
(minds that dare)

Pornography Hurts Post Card Campaign was held.

National Resolution 2022.1 Food Waste and Loss – Our council sent out 80 letters to federal MPs and provincial MLAs to make this a priority.

ABMK Provincial Initiative for an Independent Seniors’ Advocate – members contacted their MLAs to get them to support a Senior’s Advocate that is independent from the current government.

IWIN (I’m Worth It Now) work with human investigators, providing backpacks to survivors of human trafficking who are entering a wrap-around program to support them emotionally, physically and spiritually. In November five CWL members helped fill backpacks for survivors which contained new items, including a change of clothes, toiletry items, and hand printed cards of encouragement for each recipient.



Respectfully submitted by

*Evelyn Charchuk , Gina Hindle.
(Alexy Fernandes, Salwa Azzam)*

***May we be faithful to our League Prayer,
Always aware of the needs of others and
seek justice for all,
With love. Amen***

Scholarship / Book Club



The Virginia Klatzel Scholarship was founded in 2014 and was named after our First Council President.

One thousand dollars was given out to a post-secondary student who graduated from High School and is related to a Council member in good standing.

St. Luke's CWL Scholarship Committee awards the scholarship.

St. Luke's CWL 2023 Virginia Klatzel Scholarship



The committee received five applications for the 2023 Virginia Klatzel scholarship.

The recipient of the \$1,000 award was **Joshua Azuka-Oganwu**, a St. Francis High School student whose mother, Julie Oganwu, is a CWL member.

As always, we encourage the ladies of the St. Luke's CWL to remind their family members that the scholarship is available and to apply.

Sincerely,
Rita Mingo Johnson
for

Cristina Marcil
Charlotte DiLeandro

CWL BOOK CLUB 2023



We met five times in 2023 and enjoyed varied and interesting discussions. Our meetings are held in February, April, June, September, and November (usually on the 2nd Tuesday of those months) at 1 p.m. in Room I. We are going strong after 13+ years and look forward to many more stimulating discussions in the coming months.

All ladies are welcome – even if you haven't read the selection, you may want to join us to get a sense of what the book club is all about and to see if it might be something you wish to participate in. This is a fun activity and a time for CWL sisters to gather in friendship to share their love of reading and discussing what they have read.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorraine Maduck

Meetings

Meetings—Executive First Tuesday of the month

General—Third Tuesday of the month.

We acknowledge that Treaty 7 territory, on which we stand, is the ancestral land of the Indigenous peoples and is common home to everyone by virtue of our Creator's gracious gift.

Our license for Zoom Meetings was not renewed in March.

General meetings included this prayer for our adopted Seminarian - Bennet Chacko

Lord Jesus, eternal High Priest, we pray for all seminarians, Your future priests,
Give them humility, meekness, prudence, and a burning zeal for souls.

Fill their hearts with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Teach them to know and love the Church, that they may always and everywhere
speak, act and think of her.

Teach them generosity and detachment from the things of this world. But above all teach them to
know You and love You, the one and only eternal priest.

Good Shepard of souls hear our prayer for saintly priests.

Please join me in praying a Hail Mary to Our Blessed Mother,

Queen of Vocations.



At all meetings, we collect change for “Nickels for the North” as we continue to
fundraise for travel expenses for our CWL sisters in the Alberta Mackenzie area.



January - CWL National Reports completed & submitted.

- Notice of Motion to National Constitution & Bylaws (to simplify the procedure for having
virtual meetings).

February—Annual General Meeting & Brunch.

March— Exec meeting - Guest Speaker—Kathleen Winter, .

Calgary Diocesan Organization & Membership Chair/ President Elect
“Guide to Welcoming Members”

In June - we hosted the Regional Meeting –Development & Peace “People and Planet First” campaign.

On June 11 we held our **New Member Welcoming meeting.**

July/August - This summer several members met with our seminarian, Bennet.

October At the meeting, we were reminded of our food item collection for St Anne’s Pantry.

On Oct. 20 - **Collected blankets** for friends of our Seminarian.

November 19—after 10:30 Mass, we had a Memorial Service for our 9 Deceased Members.

Collected items for Stardale Christmas Stockings & Purses of Hope

December 10— we presented Service Pins to 25 members at our Christmas social.



C.W.L. members wrapped gifts for Feed the Hungry.



***Thank you to those members who acted a meeting greeters
and provided hospitality.***

Parish Activities



Our CWL members volunteer in many of the church ministries. They act as greeters, ushers, readers, altar servers, reception volunteers, etc.

Members work in the **Pastoral Care** ministry - both for home visitation and at residences, Edgemont Retirement & Varsity Manor (*Mass/Prayer Service*). Several CWL members live at these residences.



Funeral Lunches—this year we served 32.

Coffee Sunday – Hospitality

We resumed our Coffee Sundays on the first Sunday of the month January 8. Followed by February—May, September to December. Our council started this ministry back in 1986 as a chance for parishioners to get to know one another. **Thanks** to all who have volunteered over these many, many years.



Had Food Collections for St. Anne's Academy Pantry  **in February and November.**

March—President Pam Wilson gave a CWL report to the Bishop on his visit to our parish.



We sold Mother's Day roses in support of Pro-Life and supported Hike for Life.

At the May 26-27 Beloved Daughters Ministry Convention "Restoring the Feminine Heart", we had a table display promoting the C.W.L.

SUMMER POTLUCKS —a THANK YOU for Fr Troy & Peter An and a WELCOME to Fr Derek.



Our "Crafty Ladies" continue their handy work in support of our Christmas Market and many charities.

At the end of October, we distributed and collected **Pornography Hurts** postcards.

We mailed 113 postcards to MP members.



Care- to Share – our parishioners are so very generous when we collect unwrapped Christmas gifts for the city of Calgary charity, "Magic of Christmas."

Greeting Card Collection for Mission Council

We collect cards, both used and new, for recycling. Mission Council members redesign used cards for resale. We now have a permanent rack for displaying and selling of the cards in the church narthex. Cards sell for \$1.00 each. Half of the selling price remains with our council.

Our council collects Christmas Cards for Brenda Stafford House and the Drop-In Centre.

Arranged a Saturday dinner



for Fr. Derek's Vocations group -

(men interested in the priesthood).



Members helped with **1st Reconciliation Retreat** on December 2nd and served coffee to parents.

Funeral Receptions

Our council offers a funeral reception in the parish center to families, following a funeral for members of St. Luke's parish. Volunteers serve a buffet lunch.

In 2023 we served 32 funeral receptions.

We serve sandwiches, pickles, cheese trays, vegetables trays, fruit trays, squares, tea, coffee, & juice. We also offer a fruit bread, cheese, fruit plates and squares, as a suggested menu for an afternoon funeral.

The families of the deceased are most appreciative of this service, and most are generous with their donations. We ask \$6.00 per person for this service -- depending on family means. After our costs plus \$30.00 given to the church for every funeral (to cover the costs of coffee etc.), the remaining monies are donated to charity (presently we support 2 young people through Chalice).

Thanks to the four teams, who so willingly give of their time and energy to this cause and to the ladies who do the table set-up for each funeral.

More volunteers are always welcome.



Welcome to Terri Jansen

who took over this ministry in June.

Honour Guard



At the request of family members of a deceased League Sister, we are always willing to form an Honour Guard at her funeral. It is a privilege and honour to provide this final tribute to one of our Sisters.

This year, 2023, we did several Honour Guards and at our Remembrance Prayer Service on **November 15th**, we remembered and honoured 9 of our deceased Sisters from 2019, 2022 and 2023.

Thank you to the many members who so willingly and freely give of your time serving in this meaningful ministry. Any member with a current membership is welcome to join our Honour Guards. Members receive notification by e-mail or by a phone call

Please contact me if you wish to join or have questions: 403-239-2468
or e-mail j-kmccoll@shaw.ca

Respectfully submitted,

Jean McColl

In Our Book of Life, we remember and pray for these CWL Sisters.

Vera Kobryn (2019)

Luba Calow

Catherine (Cathy) Cameron

Margaret (Marg) Cook

Margaret Hovany

Fernanda Montes

Fedora Pommerehnke

*Charter Member Margaret Stadnicki
(2022)*

Charter Member Mary Velletta

May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.



Garage Sale – April 22, 2023

This major fundraiser requires many hands & our members always step forward .



The **leftover “goodies”** were offered to the Ukrainian refugees, but they did not have storage room. A member of Centre Street Church was most happy to take our smaller items and the larger items went to Goodwill. Again this year some jewelry items were donated to “Jewels for a JEWEL” (a women’s charity group).

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Garage Sale Deposits | \$ 6,309.47 |
| E bay Sales (<i>donations from 2022</i>) | <u>\$ 1,735.50</u> |
| Total Deposits | \$ 8,044.97 |

Expenses:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sign (Outside) | \$ 199.50 |
| Snacks/Lunch | \$ 129.23 |
| Other | \$ 14.73 |
| Donation to Elizabeth House | <u>\$ 124.00</u> |
| Total Expenses | <u>\$ 467.46</u> |
| Income | \$ 7,577.51 |



We continue to Care for Our Common Home

Members and Parishioners are asked to continue their bottle recycling directly at **Bowridge** (in Bowness) by asking that their donation go into **St. Luke’s account.**

We collect greeting cards for Mission Council to recycle, then purchase them (with half of the price staying with our council).

Christmas Market



We held our third Christmas Market on Saturday,
November 25 in the church MPR from 9:30 am—3:30 pm

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| External Table Rentals (17 in total) | \$ 405.00 |
| Bake/Pie Sales | 2,627.27 |
| Craft Sales | 478.25 |
| Quilt Raffle | 2,412.33 |
| Art Table | 110.00 |
| Baskets | 1,112.75 |
| Coffee Bar | <u>199.69</u> |
| Net Income | \$ 7,345.29 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | |
| Outdoor Sign | <265.65> |
| Cleaning | <u><137.81></u> |
| <u>Total Income</u> | \$ 6,941.83 |

(More than \$1,300.00 over 2022)



Thank you to the CWL Section Leads listed below and to all the volunteers who help make this event a success!

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Door Counts | |
| 9:30 to 10:30 | 159 |
| 10:30 to 11:30 | 130 |
| 11:30 to 12:30 | 73 |
| 12:30 to 1:30 | 59 |
| 1:30 to 2:30 | 34 |
| 2:30 to 3:30 | 26 |
| Total | 481 |

Pies – Lil G., Bake Sale – Karen B./Betty P.

Craft Sale – Sylvia C., Quilt Raffle – Lucille L.

Coffee Bar – Judi/Jennifer

Art Sales – Pam W.

Basket Raffle – Marlene V.

*Respectfully submitted
Marlene Vierboom
Christmas Market Convenor*

101 Diocesan Convention

High River May 5- 6

Greetings Sisters,

The 101st Diocesan Convention held in High River was very up lifting. It was my second convention and each year I say it gets better.

I now recognize more sisters and can actually remember their names. I even met the wife of a cousin who I'd not met before. Small world.

Our very own **Fr. Troy Nguyen** was one of our guest speakers. He spoke on "Faithful because of Him: Developing a Spirituality of Confidence." He outlined three pillars that we can use to develop our spirituality of confidence:

Faithfulness in small things

He who has a "why" to live can endure any "how"

Our actions build our habits

We are faithful because God is faithful to us

Looking back on our lives we can see God's hand guiding our experiences to support what He asks us to do today

When we know God's faithfulness we can choose to surrender to it

God is a father

He tells us our worth and dignity

Jesus reflects the love of the Father

Even in our darkest moment we can trust his faithfulness - Psalm 22

He asked us to reflect on:

How has God been faithful to you in the past?

Do you believe He will be faithful again?

What are the obstacles to having confidence in God?

Dr. Sinda Vanderpool, president of St. Mary's University spoke on "Together Forward, with Confidence." She believes that there is strength in sharing our vulnerabilities and reminded us of the four qualities of Mary:

Clarity

Confidence

Simplicity

Purity

We are called to live our faith with confidence. The word "confidence" comes from the Latin words: con and fide, which literally means "with faith."

Deacon Michael Soentgerath spoke on "Love at Last Breath: Fully alive at last breath" - love at end of life. He shared how God has allowed him to journey with others through the last stages of their lives. We can share, as human beings, our faith and the gift of hope.

Empathy is to feel with others. "If you could feel what they feel, would you treat them differently?" We are not called by God to put ourselves in a position of judging others. We are to help people to live fully to the day of their last breath.

Grief brings change. We minister to people through our own woundedness - that is the mystery of the incarnation. Our wounds are healed through His wounds.

Deacon Michael recommended the book
"Death as Our Greatest Gift " by Henri Nouwen.

Gloria Lundberg, from High River, presented "The Joy of Leadership Through Engagement in Ministry". Leadership is less about the love of power than the power of love. She related Teamwork Lessons from Geese, asking what our councils can learn. Diocesan Officers participated in a skit "When Candles Talk." "You are the light of the world let your light shine before others" (Matthew 5:14-16)

Leadership is not a title. It is a behaviour. Councils were asked to share examples of how they implement the core ministries of faith, service and social justice. This was a great why to realize that we are not alone in our leadership struggles and triumphs.

As part of the Leadership workshop I was asked to speak about my role as president. Needless to say after only being a member for 15 months I was not really prepared for the role of president in Sept 2019. It was difficult to navigate through the COVID pandemic and still keep our members informed and connected. With much help and guidance from Karen Bruch, our past president and all the executive and Marie Byers, I was able to continue on and provide the much needed support to our members. To help them know they still matter and we love them.

Our diocesan spiritual advisor, **Rev. Pilmaikén Lezano** spoke on the power of love.

Alberta Mackenzie President, **Mary Hunt**, brought greetings and reported on the activities of the provincial officers. She presented Diocesan Council with a cheque for \$1,000 to assist a Diocesan Officer and a parish council member in good standing who has never attended a Provincial Convention to attend the 2023 Convention in Edmonton. It was moved and carried that the selection of the member at large be done by a draw among all councils. Three councils were drawn and will be given an opportunity to accept the invitation. In priority order, they are: St.Rita - Rockyford, Our Lady of the Assumption - Lethbridge, and St.Anthony - Drumheller.

To top off the weekend I was asked by one of the Diocesan executive to be part of the Friendship Circle photo op. I just met these ladies so don't remember their names but I will next time I meet them.

Respectfully Submitted
Pam Wilson



Here I am Lord, Send Me

2024-2025 CWL National Theme

Here I am Lord, send me.

Heavenly Father,

Through the ages, you have called many to serve you.

Abraham, Sarah and Samuel; Martha, Mary and Elizabeth,

As well as countless men and women throughout the ages.

All were different, and each brought unique gifts to your service.

Now today, we too hear your call to come and follow, to bring our gifts to your service.

Help us, O Lord to make our reply, "Here I am Lord, Send me" with full and generous hearts,

in order that we may be your instruments in the building of your Kingdom.

We ask that you hear and answer our prayers through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Bishop Wayne Lobsinger

