

The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Edmonton Diocesan Council

January 2008

A Universal Sisterhood Centered on Christ

Every year, Parish Councils across Canada invite women to become a member of an amazing sisterhood made up of women of all ages from across our country and around the world.



You may wonder what we mean when we speak of a sisterhood. The League sisterhood is so different from a typical sorority. Unlike others, we don't come together because we are neighbours, or school parents or work associates or even friends with similar interest. No, we come together in, through and with Christ, for God and Canada. Christ is the centre of our sisterhood.

The sisterhood takes root in the Parish where we offer assistance in many ways - often of a very practical nature - such as fund raising for the needs of our parish, helping at funerals and many other events in the parish. We are a voice for the needy as we write letters to governments and work on important issues in many areas of life, from education and health to social justice for all. We also pray for our parish, our priests, the Church and for our members.

Each Parish Council belongs to a Diocesan Council. In our part of Alberta, Parish Councils belong to the Edmonton Diocesan Council. Here you find elected officers that give their time and energy assisting Parish Councils develop and grow. In the last few years, much effort has gone into working with young women. Today, St. Joseph College is the only university in Canada to have a CWL Council on campus. These young women passionately tell of what it meant to have a faith-based sisterhood during their years of study, often away from home and under tremendous academic stress. Our Diocesan Council also has four Catholic Girl Councils for girls between the ages of 12 and 15. At this young age, they are already developing their leadership skills keeping Christ at the centre of their relationships.

Each Diocesan Council belongs to a Provincial Council which is represented on the National Council. Our National Council speaks for over 98,000 Canadian women of faith - the largest women's group in Canada. It's no wonder that the CWL has face to face meeting with Federal Government officials including the Prime Minister. But the sisterhood doesn't stop there.

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Our National Council belongs to the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations. This is where over 5 million Catholic women from every continent are united to promote the presence, participation and responsibility of Catholic women in society and the Church, so they may fulfill their mission of evangelization and works for human development.

So who are the CWL members in your Parish? Some are quiet and prayerful women, others are very active in the life of your parish, your community and Church. And while they are all very different from each other, they are special women. They are all leaders in their own way - some in their faith and prayer life, some in their communities, some in the Church. Through an amazing sisterhood, each CWL member makes a difference in the world!

If you are not a CWL member today, please consider joining this year. By becoming a member, you strengthen a beautiful sisterhood. Membership is not expensive - depending on the Parish Council, it may be from \$15 to \$20. It entitles you to the League magazine published 3 times a year, the opportunity to participate in variety of workshops and attend inspiring conventions. It also allows your Catholic voice to be heard across Canada and around the world.

Wishing you God's love, peace, hope and joy for the year ahead!

Jeanne Davis, VP & Spiritual Development Chairperson
Edmonton Diocesan Council