

Manitoba Provincial Council



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

10 YEAR UPDATE



PLATINUM ANNIVERSARY



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

2009

**Continuing the
Journey
Through
The Years
In Manitoba**

2018



These are but the highlights
of a journey not yet done,
the many prayers
for missions fulfilled
by members now gone.
Cooking, serving, raising funds,
all done with love
helping others in need,
performing a good deed,
to aid our God above.

2009

Suzanne Kiazzyk served in her final two-year term as **president**. Fr. Martin Bradbury continues as provincial council Spiritual Advisor. A motion was adopted to **disband** the **Manitoba League Development Fund** and incorporate into general funds. Per capita fees were estimated at **2850 membership** at **\$6.00 per member**. Another **\$20,000** was received from the profit of the 2008 CWL National Convention Planning Committee and the funds were incorporated into the *Manitoba Provincial Council Manual of Policy and Procedure*. **Margaret Silverthorne** continues as **Life Member Liaison** for provincial council. The **Annual Day of Celebration** was held on February 7, 2009 at Holy Cross Gym. **Topic:** National Theme: *“Women of Peace and Hope”*. The **61st Annual Convention** of Manitoba Provincial Council was hosted by **Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan Council** and **The Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish Council** in **The Pas**, Manitoba. **Pat Campbell** received the **Bellelle Guerin Award**. **Pat Campbell** from Lynn Lake raised **\$6000** by cutting her hair for a cancer fundraiser for Lynn Lake. **Jeanne Tinsley** was awarded a **Life Membership** and **Angelita Maduro** was awarded the **Bellelle Guerin Award**. **Bernice Mandzik** also received the **Bellelle Guerin Award**. A **Provincial CWL Website** was developed. A **Rural Initiative Fund** was set up with funds held in trust of **\$18,909.09** from the 2008 National Convention Planning Committee. Resolutions **Postpartum Depression Awareness, FASD Diagnostic Clinics, House of Peace Project “Onward and Upward, Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking, Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site Project and Standardizing Cellular Phone Emergency Contact Information Through use of the Acronym (ICE) In Case of Emergency** were adopted at convention. **Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie** was one of the guest speakers. He spoke on the Diocesan of Keewatin-The Pas. **Dawn Christianson** also spoke on her trip to **Loma Linda**, El Salvador and took four suitcases of **donated non-medical supplies** donated by members. **Susan Bernier** was elected **president**. Life Member, **Patricia Johnson** assumes the role of **Life Member Liaison** for Manitoba Provincial Council.

2010

The **Annual Day of Celebration** was held on February 6, 2010 and hosted by **St. Boniface Diocesan Council** and **St. Emile Parish Council**. **THEME:** *Celebrating our Gifts and Learning about the League*. Meeting held on March 3, 2010 with **provincial government** to present **resolutions**. Premier Greg Selinger and nine ministers attended the meeting. **Partners for Life** program from **Canadian Blood Services** was introduced and an ID number was obtained. The **62nd Annual Provincial Convention** was hosted by **Winnipeg Diocesan Council** and **St. Anthony of Padua Parish Council**. **Fr. Martin Bradbury** was presented with a **Certificate of Appreciation** and **Spiritual Advisor five-year pin**. National president, **Danielle McNeil-Hessian** presented a workshop at the provincial convention. **Resolutions adopted** at provincial convention: **Financial Support for House of Peace “Neighbours”, Funding for Accessible Library Services for the Blind and Partially Sighted, Ban Cat and Dog Fur Products and Develop Labelling**

Requirements for Fur Products in Canada, Income Tax Credit for Participation by Children in Arts or Cultural Activities and Mandatory Use of Bicycle Helmets for all Ages in Manitoba. Two Life Members passed away – **Diana McKenzie** and **Jessie Chudzik**. **Faith Anderson** was awarded a **Life Membership**. **Suzanne Kiazzyk** is appointed **National Life Member Liaison**. **Betty Johnson** received the **Bellelle Guerin Award**. The provincial council chalice that remained unused was given to Fr. Martin to be given to a parish in need. **Terri Scott** is elected to national council and served as **Legislation Chairperson**.

2011

Congratulations to **Mary-Margaret Patterson** for receiving the **William Briskie Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in English**. The **Annual Day of Celebration** was held on February 12, 2011 at **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**. **Guest speaker** was **Dr. Nuala Kenny**, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Bioethics, Dalhousie University, Halifax. **Provincial travel rate** maintained in conjunction with **national travel rate**. **3000 prayer cards for victims of violent deaths** were purchased to be distributed at provincial convention. The 68th **Annual Provincial Convention** was hosted by **St. Boniface Diocesan Council** and **St. Bernadette Parish Council**. A **spiritual bouquet** was presented to **Fr. Martin Bradbury** from provincial executive. A card with **spiritual intentions** for Fr. Martin was available at convention for members to sign. Fr. Martin at convention expressed his appreciation for the prayers and support. **Father spoke of the gift of the CWL to God and country and by saying ‘yes’ we are giving the greatest gift we have to offer**. Four resolutions were adopted at convention: **Children of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women, Early Intensive Intervention in Phonological Awareness, Tax Credit for Adult Fitness, Removal of the Retail Sales Tax on Healthcare Hostel and Hospice Facilities**. 103 were in registered for the provincial convention. **Working Resolutions Workshop** was held in December, 2011. **Dr. Rayleen De Luca**, Life Member, received the **Order of Manitoba**. **Catherine Bird, Mary Bennett** and **Doreen Ferraton**, Life Members passed away. **St. Vital Parish Council** reactivate after an absence of 23 years. A meeting with the **provincial government** was held on July 27, 2011 to discuss **resolutions**. Elections were held, and **Jacqueline Nogier** was elected **President**.

2012

Annual Day of Celebration was held February 9, 2012 at **Good Shepherd**, Portage la Prairie. **Eight-two members** attended the Day of Celebration. National program ***Catch the Fire*** was presented. **Rolande Chernichan** and **Faith Anderson** created a **guide for nominations and elections** for parish, diocesan and provincial councils. Electronic files were provided. 64th **Annual Provincial Convention** was hosted by **Winnipeg Diocesan Council** and **St. James Assiniboia Council** and was held at **St. Charles Parish**. Meeting with **Premier Selinger** and **cabinet** was held on **August 29, 2012**. Four resolutions were adopted: **Improved Living Conditions for First Nations and**

Inuit Communities, Mandatory Drug and/or Alcohol Rehabilitation in Correctional Facilities, Canadian Blood Services ID number for The Catholic Women's League of Canada and Expanded Powers for Inspection and Enforcement of Medicinal Marijuana License Provisions. Guest speaker at convention was **Keely Ten Fingers**, Policy Analyst, Women, Children & Families, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, First Nations Women's Committee. **Betty Ann Brown Davidson**, national president gave a **keynote address** to the convention assembly on the **Divine Encounter and God** in building his kingdom and invites us to participate. She also spoke on **recruiting and training new leaders** and **Velma's Dream**, a Holy Land Mission. **Monica Brechka** received her **Life Membership** from St. Boniface Diocesan Council. **Pat Johnson**, Past Life Member Liaison celebrated **60 years of membership**. A total of **150** attended the convention. A **Working Resolutions Workshop** was held on **December 1, 2012** with fourteen attendees. The CWL reached its goal of **150 blood units** for 2012. New council, **St. Gianna Beretta** was formed in June with **75 chartered members**. **Helen Bembenek**, past provincial president and Life Member passed away. **Membership** was **2802**.

2013

Ninety-two registrants attended the Annual Day of Celebration. A congratulatory note was placed in the **Prairie Messenger** on the installation of **The Reverend Murray Chatlain** as **Archbishop of Keewatin-The Pas** and new bishop of **Churchill Hudson-Bay**, **Anthony Wieslaw Krotki, OMI**. Members were asked to contribute to a **spiritual bouquet** for National Spiritual Advisor, **Archbishop Martin Currie** on the completion of his 5-year term. **Lea Colbeck** was welcomed as the newly elected **Winnipeg Diocesan Council President**. **Six resolutions** were **adopted** at the 65th Annual Provincial Convention: **Pedestrian Corridor for PR 207 in Lorette, Efficient/Effective Modes of Transportation of Supplies to Northern/Remote Communities, Emergency Communications and Cellular Services for Southeastern Manitoba, Restoration of Funding for Experimental Lakes Area, Coverage of Psychologist Services in Private Practice under Manitoba Health Benefits and Employment Insurance Benefits for Cancer Patients/Caregivers**. The 65th Annual Provincial Convention was hosted by **St. Boniface Diocesan Council** and **St. John the Evangelist Parish Council** in Morden. Guest speaker was **Patricia Gyulay** of **Catholic Missions in Canada**. **Fr. Leo Fernandes**, Provincial Spiritual Advisor was presented with a **spiritual bouquet** in honour of his **25th anniversary of ordination**. Congratulations to **Mary-Margaret Patterson** for receiving her **Life Membership** from Winnipeg Diocesan Council. **Pat Johnson** celebrated **40 years** of being a Life Member. **Monica Brechka** was elected Manitoba Provincial Council **President**. **Viola Specht, Life Member** passed away. **Sample Welcome Kits** were developed for councils. **Working Resolutions Workshop** was held.

2014

The **Annual Day of Celebration** was held February 8, 2014 hosted by **St. Boniface Diocesan Council and St. Gerard Parish Council**. Presentation by **Sr. Margaret Sadler** on her story and ministry in the north and a presentation from **four Life Members** on “*We Have Seen the Lord*”. **155 members** are **registered** with Canadian Blood Services and contributed **279 donations** to the yearly target of 150. President, **Monica Brechka** attended the **Celebration of Thanksgiving and Farewell** for **Most Reverend Archbishop James Weisgerber** and the **Eucharistic Celebration** of the installation of the **Most Reverend Richard Gagnon** as Archbishop of Winnipeg. A congratulatory message was placed in the **Prairie Messenger** on the installation of **Archbishop Gagnon**. Our goal with Canadian Blood Services was **increased to 250** and a total of **239 blood donations were received** in 2014. A record of four Manitoba resolutions were brought to floor of national convention.

2015

In 2015 national council provided **liability insurance** to all CWL members in Canada. The **Annual Day of Celebration** was held on February 15, 2015 at **St. Kateri Tekakwitha Church** and was **hosted by Winnipeg Diocesan Council**. The **Blanket Exercise** was held, and **Catholic Health Association of Manitoba** made a presentation. **115 registered** for the day. A **new council** was formed in St. Boniface Diocesan Council. **Ste. Anne des Chenes** was **chartered** on January 1, 2015 with **19 members**. A **resolutions meeting** was held on February 4, 2015 with **Premier Selinger** and **cabinet members**. A **pro-life banner** was purchased to use on the **March for Life**. The **1st Archiving of Resolutions Ceremony** was held at the provincial convention with **22 resolutions being archived**. Presentation of the **S'Mores program**, a follow up to Catch the Fire was offered to councils. A **Resolutions Workshop** was presented at the **Keewatin-The Pas Annual Diocesan Convention**. A **papal flag** belonging to **Eva Bernier** was **donated** to provincial council. **One resolution** was **adopted** at provincial convention: **Youth Engagement in Canadian Democracy and Governance**. The **Supreme Court of Canada** struck down the **ban on assisted suicide**. This topic brought a flurry of **letter writing exercises** at parish councils. The **67th Annual Provincial Convention** was hosted by **Winnipeg Diocesan Council** and **St. Viator's Parish Council**. The “**Living a Resolution**” project was successful with **\$734** collected and many **mittens** for the communities of **South Indian Lake** and **Leaf Rapids**. **Fr. Martin Bradbury**, Past Spiritual Advisor, **passed away**. In one report he was quoted as saying “*Women provide phenomenal gifts. Spiritual Advisors are given an amazing gift – the CWL. The CWL gives an amazing gift – their love. There is no greater gift.*” **Faith Anderson** was elected **Provincial President**.

2016

The **Annual Day of Celebration** was held on February 11, 2016 and hosted by **St. Boniface Diocesan Council** and **Corpus Christi Parish Council**. Keynote speaker was **Deacon Gilles Urquhart** who spoke on the **Year of Mercy**. **S'Mores Workshop** was presented in the **afternoon**. At the Winter Executive Meeting, **Kim Scammell**, Executive Director of The Catholic Women's League of Canada made a presentation on the introduction of **Electronic Annual Reporting**. New **Voting and Accredited forms** were developed. Life Members and officers are to present credentials for provincial convention. **Bellelle Guerin Award recipients** are included with the **Life Members Reception**. **Mavis McLaren**, newly elected **president** of **St. Boniface Diocesan Council** was welcomed. The **68th Annual Provincial Convention** was hosted by **St. Boniface Diocesan Council** and **Christ the King Parish Council**. **Three resolutions** were adopted at convention: **Extending Coverage of Insulin Pumps and Supplies to Manitobans of All Ages, Canada Food Guide and Environmentally responsible solutions for the collection and disposal of grain bags and agricultural plastic waste products**. The **REDress Project** was explained with delegates asked to write a prayer for a Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Woman. **Memorial Service for Deceased Members** was held. Presentation made by **Patricia Gyulay** from **Catholic Missions in Canada**. Provincial project of **collecting toiletries** for **Chez Nous** and **Siloam Mission** was successful. Some **parish council presidents** were selected to have **lunch** with **national president, Barbara Dowding**. **Keynote speakers** were **Rita Chahal** and **Maysoun Danweesh**. Rita is the Executive Director of Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council. Maysoun shared her journey as a refugee before coming to Canada. **National President, Barbara Dowding** made a presentation on "Here I am Lord, use me as you will ..." Convention **registration** was **130** members and **35 guests**. **Ella Nogier** received her **Life Membership** from Manitoba Provincial Council which was presented at the Keewatin-The Pas Annual Convention. **Rolande Chernichan** received her **Life Membership** at St. Boniface Diocesan Council Annual Convention. **Registration fee** for provincial convention was increased to **\$8.00** starting in 2017. A meeting with **Honourable Kelvin Goertzen**, Minister of Health, Seniors and Active Living was held on September 14, 2016. **Director's Liability Insurance** was purchased for **provincial council**. **Resolutions Workshop** held in November 26, 2016.

2017

The **17th Annual Day of Celebration** was held on February 11, 2017 and was hosted by **Winnipeg Diocesan Council** and **St. Peter's Parish Council**. Registration was **128**. **Guest speaker** was **national president, Margaret Ann Jacobs**. Her **topic** was on the national theme: *Inspired by the Spirit: Women Respond to God's Call*. **Life Members** participated in the **CWL version of The View**. **Members** names were drawn to have **lunch** with the **national president**. **Fr. Paul Bringleston**, Pastor, St. Ann's, Flin Flon was appointed **Provincial Spiritual Advisor** for a term of **five years**. A Spiritual Advisor's Stole and Pin was purchased as part of provincial council's inventory. This was presented to Fr. Paul. The **69th Annual Provincial Convention** was hosted by **Winnipeg Diocesan**

Council and Sacred Heart Parish Council, Virden. Thirteen resolutions were archived in a ceremony. **Afternoon workshop** was on the national theme: **Inspired by the Spirit: Women Respond to God's Call** presented by **Mary-Margaret Patterson, Provincial Community Life Chairperson. Morning speaker** was **Thea Dennis**, Executive Director of Samaritan House in Brandon. They offer several services including distributing food. Members were asked to collect and donate food bank items during the year as well as to bring **food items** to the convention. The **food collected** at convention was donated to **Samaritan House**. During the year a total of **2500 kg of product** and **\$1000 in cash** was collected. **Flash drives** were provided to provincial officers to **store their files**. **One resolution** was adopted: **Multiple Chemical Sensitivity and Environmental Sensitivities. Memorial Service for Deceased Members** was held. A **special presentation** was made to **Fr. Leo Fernandes** in gratitude for his service as Provincial Spiritual Advisor for the past five years. **Lap quilt** made **St. Augustine, Brandon** was taken by provincial president to the **national convention** as part of the **League's 100th anniversary project**. **St. Lawrence Parish Council** in Thompson held their **3rd annual** procession in honour of **Our Lady of Fatima**. **St. Emile Parish Council** collected **150 of several items** in honour of **Canada's 150 Anniversary**. Life Member, **Sandra Byrnes** died. **Sheron Van den Bosch** and **Alice Boulanger** received the **Bellelle Guerin Award**. **Rolande Chernichan** was elected as **provincial president**. Fr. Paul Bringleston was installed as Provincial Spiritual Advisor following the Installation of Officers. **Susan Bernier** was appointed **Life Member Liaison** for **Manitoba Provincial Council**. **Resolutions and Legislation Workshop** was held on November 25, 2017.

2018

- ❖ The **18th Annual Day of Celebration** was hosted by **St. Boniface Diocesan Council** and **St. Emile Parish Council** and was held on February 10, 2018. **Guest speakers** were **Reverend Father Paul Bringleston** and **Roger Woloshyn**. Fr. Paul spoke on *Catholic Missions in Canada*. Roger, who is a Professional Registered Parliamentarian presented on the topic “**Effective Meetings with Robert's Rules of Order.**” **Manitoba Provincial Council** proudly **celebrates their 70th Platinum Anniversary** in The Catholic Women's League of Canada. The convention was hosted by **St. Boniface Diocesan Council** and **Mary, Mother of the Church Parish Council**. **Guest speaker** was **Marilyn Nelson**, a Water Carrier. She spoke on **aboriginal spirituality**. **National President, Margaret Ann Jacobs** also presented a **workshop** titled “**Envisioned Future**” which showcased **servant leadership**. **Elvira Foronda** from **Catholic Missions in Canada** gave a brief presentation. Convention attendees were invited to bring **hotel shampoo/soap products** for **missions**, **feminine hygiene products** for **homeless women**, **pop cans** for **wheelchairs** and **plastic bags** for recycled products. A **Water/Prayer Ceremony** was held where delegates brought water from home which was poured into a single vessel as a **symbol of the importance of water in our lives**. The water was **blessed** and presented to Marilyn Nelson, Water Carrier to **return to the environment**. **Eleven applications**

were received for the **Rural Initiative Fund** subsidizing members to attend a national convention. **Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance** is purchased through **national office**. Members participate in an **Honour Guard** for a **special event** to mark the **200th Anniversary of the Catholic Church in Western Canada**. **Manitoba Provincial Council** is the **host for 2018 national convention** held at the **Delta Hotel** in **downtown Winnipeg**.

**ANOTHER DECADE OF
ACCOMPLISHMENTS, LEAGUE
DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES, NEW
AND RENEWED FRIENDSHIPS MADE AND
LASTING MEMORIES OF HOW WE MAKE A
DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND
COUNTRY FOR 'GOD AND CANADA'.**

**MAY THOSE WHO FOLLOW IN OUR
FOOTSTEPS HAVE THE INSIGHT AND
ENTHUSIAM TO CARRY THE LEAGUE TO THE
NEXT CENTURY.**

MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL COUNCIL WHO HAVE SERVED ON NATIONAL COUNCIL

Margaret Kelly	Hon. Treasurer	1948-1952
Mary Panaro	Immigration Convener	1955-1958
	Treasurer & Finance Convener	1958-1959
	6 th Vice-President & Radio, T.V. & Films Convener	1960-1961
Winifred Alexander	5 th Vice-President & Spiritual & Lay Retreat Convener	1958-1960
Marguerite Lanthier	Public Relations, Press & Publicity Convener	1963-1967
Florence Fabris	Hon. Treasurer	1946-1948
	5 th Vice-President & Resolutions Convener	1963-1964
	2 nd Vice-President & Convener of Laws	1965-1966
	1 st Vice-President & International Relations	1966-1968
	National President	1968-1970
Marion Trudell	Resolutions Convener	1967-1968
	Laws Convener	1968-1972
Catherine Bird	Secretary-Treasurer	1971-1972
Patricia Johnston	Cultural Life Convener	1981-1982
Shirley Scaletta	Education Convener	1979-1980
	Spiritual Development Convener	1981-1982
	Legislation Convener	1984-1986
Evelyn Wyrzykowski	Resolutions Convener	1984-1986
	President Elect	1986-1988
	National President	1988-1990
Doreen Ferraton	Legislation Convener	1988-1990
Mary Bennett	Legislation Convener	1992-1994

MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL COUNCIL WHO HAVE SERVED ON NATIONAL COUNCIL

Dr. Rayleen De Luca	Resolutions Standing Committee	2004-2006
	Community Life Standing Committee	2006-2008
Terri Scott	Spiritual Development Standing Committee	2008-2010
	Legislation Standing Committee	2010-2012
Jacqueline Nogier	Resolutions Standing Committee	2012-2015
	Spiritual Development Standing Committee	2015-2018



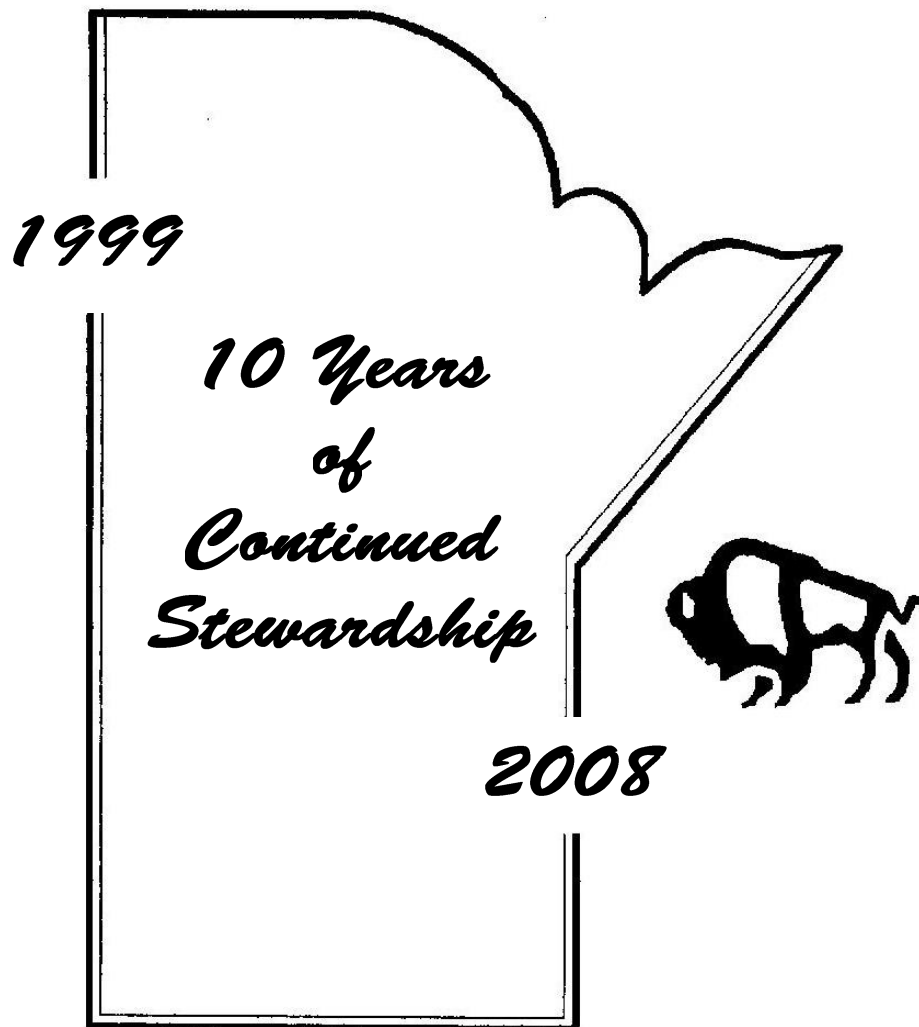


Manitoba Provincial Council

PROVINCIAL PRESIDENTS

1.	Mrs. E. F. (Margaret) Kelly	1948	Winnipeg
2.	Mrs. H. (Elizabeth) Pawells	1948-1951	Winnipeg
3.	Mrs. C. J. (Dorothy) Muller	1951-1952	St. Boniface
4.	Mrs. T. J. (Mae) Colton	1952-1953	Winnipeg
5.	Mrs. M. A. (Mary) Panaro	1953-1955	Winnipeg
6.	Mrs. D. M. (Winnifred) Alexander	1955-1957	St. Boniface
7.	Mrs. Norman (Marjorie) Cyr	1957-1959	Keewatin-The Pas (Flin Flon)
8.	Mrs. Leo (Marguerite) Lanthier	1959-1961	St. Boniface (Norwood)
9.	Mrs. V. (Florence) Fabris	1961-1963	Winnipeg
10.	Mrs. E. A. (Marion) Trudell	1963-1965	St. Boniface
11.	Mrs. L. E. (Rose) Dion	1965-1967	St. Boniface
12.	Mrs. W. E. (Catherine) Bird	1967-1969	St. Boniface
13.	Jeanne Reagan	1969-1971	Keewatin-The Pas (Flin Flon)
14.	Mrs. J. H. (Patricia) Johnston	1971-1973	Winnipeg
15.	Mrs. J. (Mary) Pungente	1973-1975	Winnipeg (Brandon)
16.	Mrs. E. (Kathleen) Williams	1975-1977	Winnipeg
17.	Mrs. I. (Shirley) Scaletta	1977-1979	St. Boniface
18.	Miss Bernadette Russell	1979-1981	Winnipeg
19.	Mrs. A. (Elsie) Litwin	1981-1983	Winnipeg
20.	Jean Keating	1983-1985	Winnipeg
21.	Doreen Ferraton	1985-1987	St. Boniface
22.	Diana McKenzie	1987-1989	Keewatin-The Pas (Lynn Lake)
23.	Mary Bennett	1989-1991	Winnipeg
24.	Helen Bembenek	1991-1993	Winnipeg
25.	Linda Parker	1993-1995	Winnipeg
26.	Beatrice Gross	1995-1997	Winnipeg (Brandon)
27.	Betty David	1997-1999	Winnipeg
28.	Alice Makodanski	1999-2001	St. Boniface
29.	Dr. Rayleen de Luca	2001-2003	Winnipeg
30.	Sandra Byrnes	2003-2005	St. Boniface
31.	Terri Scott	2005-2007	Winnipeg
32.	Suzanne Kiazzyk	2007-2009	Winnipeg (Brandon)
33.	Susan Bernier	2009-2011	St. Boniface (Lorette)
34.	Jacqueline Nogier	2011-2013	Keewatin-The Pas (Snow Lake)
35.	Monica Brechka	2013-2015	St. Boniface
36.	Faith Anderson	2015-2017	St. Boniface
37.	Rolande Chernichan	2017-2019	St. Boniface

Manitoba Provincial Council



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

1999

**Continuing the
Journey
Through
The Years
In Manitoba**

2008



These are but the highlights
of a journey not yet done,
the many prayers
for missions fulfilled
by members now gone.
Cooking, serving, raising funds,
all done with love
helping others in need,
performing a good deed,
to aid our God above.

1999

Betty David served in her second term as **president**.

Spiritual Advisor, **Msgr. Louis McCloskey**, receives the dignity and office of **Prelate of Honour** with the title of **Monsignor** from **Pope John Paul II**. He was invested with this honour on **March 14** at St. Mary's Cathedral. Msgr. stated that this year is the **countdown to the jubilee** and a time of **encourage inactive Catholics to return**. He prepared members for the Jubilee 2000 celebration by **handing out copies** of the **Jubilee 2000 prayer** prepared by Pope John Paul II.

Member statistics in this year are: **55 councils, 2925 members** (a decrease of 22). 27 members passed away during the year.

Bea Gross became Manitoba's **newest Life Member**.

The **51st annual convention** was hosted by Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan Council and held at **St. Lawrence CWL** in **Thompson**, which consisted of three committee members.

34 CWL hooded jackets, national convention fundraiser, are still being sold; idea: use them as door prizes at convention!

Meeting with **Manitoba government** was held on **May 3**.

Four resolutions were adopted:

- **Childhood Abuse in Institutions**
- **Osteoporosis**
- **International Year of the Older Person: Awareness of Special Needs**
- **Possession of Child Pornography: Uphold the Criminal Code**

The **afternoon program** was entitled *The Treasure Within* and was presented by **Claire McKay** and **Monica Brechka**, CWL members from St. Boniface.

Mary, Mother of the Church Parish Council was awarded a **Certificate of Merit**.

St Mary Parish Council, Beausejour, received the Margaret Kelly Award.

Alice Makodanski was elected to serve as **28th provincial president**.

National convention was hosted by **St. Boniface Diocesan Council** and held at **Ramada Marlborough Hotel**.

2000

The **1st Annual Day of Celebration** was hosted by **St. Marguerite Bourgeoy's CWL** at **17th Wing** with **Fr. Martin**, who spoke on the **national theme** as well as **reflections of his life as a priest**, was **guest speaker**. **Attendance** was **96** on a stormy day.

St. Boniface was saddened by the **death** of **Archbishop Antoine Hacault**, a great CWL supporter.

Convention was hosted by Winnipeg Diocesan Council and held at **Our Lady of Victory Parish** in Winnipeg. The **theme**: *"People of God – A Time of Celebration."*

Three resolutions were adopted:

- Our Lady of Guadalupe – Patroness and Evangelizer of America (adopted at national convention)
- A Past Century to Celebrate and a New Century to Embrace (featured in The Canadian League)
- Endometriosis (adopted at national convention)

Margaret Kelly Award was presented to **St. Viator's** CWL in **Dauphin**.

Certificates of Merit were awarded to **St. Emile**, St Boniface; **St. James-Assiniboia**, Winnipeg; **St. Peter's** Winnipeg and **St. Lawrence**, Thompson, Keewatin-The Pas.

The convention **afternoon theme** was facilitated by **Life Member, Shirley Scaletta**, on the *Roman Catholic/Lutheran Dialogue on Justification* with **Fr. Louis Melo, s.m.** and **Rev. Dr. Roger Olson**.

World March for Women to protest poverty and violence took place on **September 17**.

Congratulations to **Elsie Giacamin, Suzanne Cancaid, Barbara Hamm** and **Eleanor Wowk** on receiving the **Bene Merenti Award** for exemplary work in the church.

Msgr. Louis McCloskey *reminded CWL that they have a great opportunity to serve – we are the presence of Christ in today's world – His hands and His feet.*

The **premier** and **4 cabinet ministers** attended our **meeting** at the legislature to discuss our **resolutions**.

Winnipeg's **Archbishop Wall** bids farewell and **retires** and **Archbishop V. James Weisgerber, Ph.L, S.T.L., D.D.** replaces him.

National **membership** is now **105,000**, the largest national organization of women.

The **terms** “**convener**” and “**convenership**” are retired and **replaced** with “**chairperson**” and “**standing committee**” to bring them in line modern and current designations.

Mary Bennett was **Life Member liaison**.

2001

The **2nd Annual Day of Celebration** was held at **St. Charles CWL** and was facilitated by **Sr. Cathy Laviolette, SN JM** who delved into the national theme of ***The Open Door***. Another blustery, cold day, but some **100 members** came out to celebrate the day.

The **UN** declares **2001, The International Year of the Volunteer**.

The **Margaret Kelly Award** was **retired**. Councils are advised to make awards at council levels.

National council requests that we **count our volunteer hours** and **report them** as well as **monies donated to charities**.

Arlene Turner (Stephenson), assistant administrator from national office dies suddenly on **April 26th**.

The meeting with the **Manitoba legislature** included the **premier** and **6 cabinet ministers**. A **resolution from 1991: Saving the Family Farm** was brought forward again and **sparked animated discussion**.

President, Alice Makodanski's home parish, Christ the King, St. Boniface, was the proud host to the **53rd annual convention**. The **theme** was: ***The Open Door***.

Guest speaker in the afternoon was **Bishop Doug Crosby, National Spiritual Advisor**, who **thanked members for their love, faith and witness in today's challenging world and their hospitality in their daily life**. They show what "service" really means. Bishop Doug also **thanked CWL** for their care given to priests, bishops and all clergy.

Doreen Ferraton was appointed **Life Member Liaison**.

A **one-year commitment to financially aid our Canadian missions** was set-up by **twinning with a mission** through **The Catholic Extension Society of Canada**.

A **quilt won by Florence Fabris** was **raffled off** and monies realised were **donated to Kee-Pas Missions**.

A **CWL questionnaire** was **presented** at each of the **diocesan conventions** to discuss **CWL direction**.

Dr. Rayleen de Luca was **appointed** to service as chair of the **Ad Hoc Committee** appointed by national council to **review the resolutions process**.

Msgr. McCloskey pointed out that we don't have to do great things to be holy. **We do it in our ordinary daily tasks, as did St. Theresa**.

One resolution was **adopted** this year: **Mandatory Reporting of Elder Abuse**.

A letter was written to the **Hon. All Rock, Federal Minister of Health**, to the **statement made by the federal government to penalize provincial governments that refuse to pay for abortions performed at private clinics**.

The **Margaret Kelly Award** was retired to a permanent home at **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish**.

Archbishop Emilius Goulet, p.s.s. was **installed** as **Archbishop of St. Boniface**. **Life Member, Shirley Scaletta** (representing ecumenism) **made the presentation of "anointing the head with holy chrism"**.

9/11 jars our complacency as the US is attacked by terrorists.

Msgr. McCloskey encourages **prayers for peace** as the **relics of St. Therese of Lisieux** passed through **Winnipeg**.

Dr. Rayleen de Luca was **installed** as the **29th provincial president**.

Honourary Life Member, Evelyn Wyrzykowski, **dies on October 24th**.

2002

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council hosted the **3rd Annual Day of Celebration**. **Each standing committee was explored**. Weather: severe snow storm, but **close to 100 attended**, attesting to the importance of attending this special day.

The **World Youth Day** cross arrived in Winnipeg for a short stay from December 29 – January 3. The **national theme** was: ***The Open Door – New Evangelization***.

Manitoba contributed \$3,354.50 to World Youth Day.

Most Reverend, Leonard Wall, Archbishop Emeritus of Winnipeg dies.

Dr. Rayleen de Luca, Alice Makodanski and Suzanne Kiazzyk receive their Life Membership from their respective diocesan councils.

CWL membership in Manitoba was 2,823.

Fr. Martin Bradbury, of Keewatin-The Pas was installed as Spiritual Advisor.

Resolutions adopted: Barrier Free Designs; Child Pornography.

The provincial convention was hosted by Winnipeg Diocesan Council and held at St. Dominic's in Neepawa was pleased to host.

President, Dr. Rayleen de Luca presented everyone at convention with a holy card picture of Our Lady of Good Counsel taken by husband, Vince, at La Madonna Del Buon Consiglio Church in Italy.

The afternoon program at convention was "Leading the League" with national president, Vivian Bosch.

President, Dr. Rayleen appointed to serve as a consultant to the Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) on a task force to update the document "From Pain to Hope" and to find ways to address new issues related to sexual abuse committed by members of the clergy.

Life Member, Betty David dies.

Manitoba has 20 Life Members.

Life Member, Alice Makodanski undertakes new role as national chair of Refugees, Immigration and Citizenship subcommittee under the National Community Life Standing Committee.

November 7th – visit with premier and 6 cabinet ministers.

2003

The 4th Annual Day of Celebration was hosted by Holy Ghost Parish. The theme was "Celebration of Learning". The provincial executive along with diocesan counterparts prepared humorous skits that educated attendees on the standing committees. Weather: What is with the blizzards every year? Still, we have one hundred members attend.

Meals on Wheels were removed from the Manual of Policy & Procedure.

Members are encouraged to write letters to the Minister of Finance to allow access to student's loans for recognized refugees.

Development & Peace – 180,000 petition postcards to Parliament Hill urging the federal government to take a public stand against the patenting of living organisms, especially seeds.

St. Boniface Diocesan Council Past President, Claire McKay become St. Boniface editor for The Prairie Messenger and CWL member, Diane Wallace, editor for Winnipeg.

Dr. Robert Walley of **MaterCare**, was welcomed at a dinner at Mary, Mother of the Church sponsored by **St. Boniface Diocesan Council**. **Surplus monies** were given to **Dr. Walley**.

Provincial convention was hosted by **St. Boniface Diocesan Council** and held at **St. Joseph the Worker**; theme: *“Cast Out Into the Deep”*.

Margaret Silverthorne was presented with **Life Membership** by **St. Boniface Diocesan Council**.

The **55th annual convention** was held at **St. Joseph the Worker Parish** in **St. Boniface**.

Discussion is ongoing on **liability insurance** to protect members. A **battery-operated candle** and a **holder** with a **picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe**, to mark **Resolution 2000.1** was **presented to provincial council**, a **gift** from **Jo Mills, Military Ordinariate**, to help focus us as a **candle is not lit anymore in respect for those with allergies**.

Sandra Byrnes, was **installed** as **30th provincial president**.

At **national convention**, **Manitoba’s president-elect** was **selected** to **carry the Nunavut flag** for the first time for the opening and closing masses.

At the **fall meeting**, **Terri Scott** as appointed to be **presenter** for **MaterCare International**.

2004

Proud hosts of the **5th Annual Day of Celebration** was **St. Boniface Diocesan Council** held at **Knights of Columbus Norwood Hall**. Weather report: **Nice**. The hall was full. **Theme: Cast Out Into the Deep**. **Agnes Bedard** was the **guest speaker**.

The **56th annual provincial convention** was **hosted** by **Keewatin-The Diocesan Council** and held way up north in **Flin Flon, Manitoba**.

Sister Margaret Sadler, Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, stands in for **Fr. Martin** who is away. She **expressed gratitude** for the **donation** from provincial council which enabled her to **purchase new figurines** for the **crèche** that was **stolen in Lynn Lake**.

National President, Marie Cameron, was **guest workshop facilitator** on the topic **“Leadership in the League”**.

Resolutions at this convention: **Children Living in Poverty; Ovarian Cancer**.

Doreen Ferraton **updated** and **scrapbooked pictures** of **Life Members** for the **Life Member History Book**.

All **three diocesan presidents** were able to **attend national convention**.

Past President and **Life Member, Dr. Rayleen De Luca** was **elected** to **national council** was **appointed** to the position of **Resolutions Chair**.

Members across the province have started preparation for the **national convention** in **Winnipeg** for **2008**. **Janet Brunger**, **Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Winnipeg** was **appointed general convention convener**.

In November, **provincial council**, with **observers**, met the **premier** and **cabinet** to discuss concerns stemming from the **resolutions adopted at both provincial and national conventions**.

2005

Most Reverend V. James Weisgerber, Ph.L., S.T.L., D.D., Archbishop of Winnipeg, **spoke on The Catholic Women's League and Social Justice**" at the **6th Annual Day of Celebration**, held at **Notre Dame Church** in **Selkirk**, Manitoba.

New **national theme** is "*Companions on the Journey*".

Life Member, **Mary Pungente**, dies just short of her **95th birthday**.

Life Member, **Catherine Bird**, at **92 years-of-age** is acknowledged as **Manitoba's oldest member**.

In May, a delegation met with **Premier Doer** and **9 members of his cabinet**.

The provincial newsletter "*The Communicator*" was **discontinued** now due to budgetary restraints.

The **Margaret Kelly Award** plaque is "**retired**" to its **permanent home** at **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**.

Sandra Byrnes received **Life Membership** in national council.

Fr. Martin's mother was chosen as "**Woman of the Year**" in the **Diocese of Hamilton**.

La Ligue feminine catholique du Manitoba **discontinues their activities** for an undetermined length of time and will be missed at our conventions.

Winnipeg Diocesan Council was **host** of the **57th annual provincial convention** which was **held** at **St. Theresa's council** in **Middlechurch**, Manitoba.

Mary-Margaret Patterson, **Winnipeg Diocesan Spiritual Development Chairperson** led the morning reflection on "**Food for the Journey**", based on the **Eucharist** and **recognizing Christ in all present**.

Elections took place in the morning. **Terri Scott** was **installed as president** for the next two-year term, then **left to attend her convocation ceremonies** at **University of Winnipeg** at which she **received a B.A.**

Resolutions adopted: **Support for Families Experiencing Perinatal Loss; National Strategy to Control Cancer; Strategy to Reduce Polybrominated Flame Retardants; Support Cybertip.ca.**

The afternoon workshop "**Listen to the Whispers**" was presented by **provincial chairperson, Val Wasny**, a member of the **National Ovarian Cancer Association**. The **guest speaker** was **Barbara Gelowitz** who shared her **ongoing journey** with **ovarian cancer**.

Father Martin expressed his love for the League and shared that **priests with mothers in the League** have a love for the CWL. **Working with the League** has helped him to be a better priest. **When he is down, the women pick him up**. He also **encouraged members to keep up their great work in the League**.

2006

Mary, Mother of the Church hosted the 7th Annual Day of Celebration with National President, Agnes Bedard, speaking on the theme, “*Companions on the Journey*” and loving and forgiving them. A record 133 members registered.

National President, Agnes Bedard, attends Winter Executive meeting hosted by Mary, Mother of the Church.

The League is looking for people to translate the League Prayer into various languages.

The 58th Annual Provincial Convention was hosted by St. Boniface Diocesan Council and proudly held at Notre Dame de Lorette Council in Lorette, Manitoba.

Special guests at the banquet include: Archbishop of St. Boniface, His Grace Emilius Goulet, p.s.s., National Spiritual Advisor, Bishop Smith, Bishop Moses Costs and high school principal, Brother Subal Rozaario of Dinajpur in Bangladesh, friends of Life Member, Shirley Scaletta.

Bishop Smith gave a presentation on Deus Caritas Est (God is Love), encyclical Letter of the Supreme Pontiff Benedict XVI.

One resolution was adopted: Bullying in a Technological Age.

Members in Manitoba total 2,839, a decrease of 300 members who did not renew their memberships.

Faith Anderson represents Manitoba at the WUCWO Conference held in Washington, D.D. in June.

Life Member, Dr. Rayleen De Luca, is elected to national council as Community Life Chairperson. Dr. De Luca was awarded the University of Winnipeg Alumni Association - *Distinguished Alumni Award* in acknowledgement of service to the community and nation.

A new national president’s pin was designed to more aptly look like a pin of office.

Life Member, Jean Keating celebrates her 90th birthday at St. Peter’s on September 3.

Life Member, Jeanne Reagan dies, September 17.

September 20th was the date chosen to meet with Premier Doer and his cabinet.

2007

The 8th Annual Day of Celebration was held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help with Dianna Robson, Winnipeg Archdiocese Director of Human Resources, who spoke on the “Congregational Peace Building Program”.

Life Member, Alice Makodanski dies on April 17.

“One in the Spirit” program was developed for national council by **Provincial Spiritual Development Chairperson, Claire McKay** and written in collaboration with **Mary-Margaret Patterson** and **Monica Brechka**, with secretarial work by **Connie McKay**, was completed in May. The program is an opportunity to become more aware of individual spiritual preferences and to enrich your relationship with god and others.

Susan Bernier and **Dolores Blanchard** are presented with **Life Memberships** on national council from their respective diocesan councils.

The Manitoba Provincial **58th Annual Convention** was hosted by **Winnipeg Diocesan Council** and held at **Holy Ghost Church** in Winnipeg. It was the **first time all three Archbishops attended**, with Archbishop Goulet stopping for lunch as he was unable to attend the banquet. **Everyone at the banquet receives a yellow ribbon in support of our troops.**

National President, Lorette Noble, attends convention on **Sunday**. She said that **“Every year is a year for rejoicing. We must stay awake, alert, on our toes, bring those things that we worry about to meeting s and make the changes needs; we must be present to one another”**.

Membership in Manitoba is **2,460**.

Fr. Martin, now living in St. Boniface, was **appointed to another 5-year term** as **Provincial Spiritual Advisor** much to the delight of all.

Serving as **provincial president** for the next two years is **Suzanne Kiazzyk**.

The **afternoon program** consisted of a **continuation** of **Dianna Robson’s Peace Building program**, speaking on **“Attentive Listening”**. A few provincial **executive members** then **presented a fish market skit** with **Fr. Martin** speaking on **“Scriptures and Peace building”**.

Lorette Noble then presented short workshop on the **national theme, “Love One Another”** and **reminded us to pray for our enemies and why we should pray for them.**

Five resolutions were adopted: **Banning Expiry Dates on Purchased Retail - Gift Cards/Certificates; Adult Fitness Tax Credit; Affordable House for People Suffering with Mental Illness; War on Superbugs (Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria); Banning the Use of Hand-held Cellular Phone and Telematic Devices while Driving.**

296 shoe boxes and items to fill **another 75 boxes** were collected to send north as part of **“Project Love”**.

Pope Benedict has **declared June 2008-2009** as the **Year of St. Paul**, marking the **2000th anniversary** of his birth.

The meeting with **Premier Doer** and **5 members** of the cabinet took place on **September 20th**.

President, Terri Scott was presented with **Life Membership** on national council by Manitoba Provincial Council.

2008

Manitoba Provincial Council proudly **celebrates** their **60th Diamond Anniversary** in The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

The **9th Annual Day of Celebration** was held at **St. Joseph the Worker Council** in St. Boniface. **Judy Savoy, actress and motivational Christian speaker** is the **guest speaker** from Halifax. Weather is again blustery and miserable, but **98 attended**.

The **60th annual provincial convention** was **hosted** by **St. Boniface Diocesan Council** and held at **St. Alphonse Church**. **Dr. Rayleen De Luca** will be the presenter in the afternoon, speaking on **Community Life**. **Dr. Rayleen de Luca** was **awarded** the **YMCA-YWCA - Woman of Distinction Award in Health and Wellness** recognizing outstanding achievement in the promotion, education and involvement in the physical, emotional and spiritual health and well-being of others. **Dr. De Luca** also **received** the **Outreach Award** from the **University of Manitoba** in recognition of outstanding service to the community in focusing on solutions to violence and abuse and tireless advocacy on behalf of women and children.

The **Winnipeg Diocesan Council** is the **host for 2008 national convention** held at the **Delta Hotel** in downtown **Winnipeg**.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS

1999

National convention was hosted by **St. Boniface Diocesan Council** and held at **Ramada Marlborough Hotel**.

2000

- ❖ The **1st Annual Day of Celebration** was hosted by **St. Marguerite Bourgeoy's CWL** at **17th Wing** with **Fr. Martin Bradbury** as **guest speaker**. **Attendance** was **96** on a stormy day.
- ❖ **World March for Women** to protest poverty and violence took place on **September 17**.
- ❖ **National membership** is now **105,000**, the largest national organization of women.
- ❖ The **terms "convener" and "convenership"** are retired and **replaced** with **"chairperson"** and **"standing committee"** to bring them in line modern and current designations.

2001

- ❖ **Margaret Kelly Award** was **retired**.
- ❖ **National council** requests that we **count our volunteer hours** and **report them** as well as **monies donated to charities**.
- ❖ A **one-year commitment to financially aid our Canadian missions** was **set-up** by **twinning with a mission** through **The Catholic Extension Society of Canada**.
- ❖ A **quilt won by Florence Fabris** was **raffled off** and monies realised were **donated** to **Kee-Pas Missions**.
- ❖ A **CWL questionnaire** was **presented** at each of the **diocesan conventions** to discuss **CWL direction**.

- ❖ **Honourary Life Member, Evelyn Wyrzykowski of Notre Dame de Lorette Council, dies on October 24th.**

2002

- ❖ **Manitoba contributed \$3,354.50 to World Youth Day.**

2003

- ❖ **Meals on Wheels were removed from the Manual of Policy & Procedure.**
- ❖ **Development & Peace – 180,000 petition postcards to Parliament Hill urging the federal government to take a public stand against the patenting of living organisms, especially seeds.**
- ❖ **A battery-operated candle and a holder with a picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe was presented to provincial council, a gift from Jo Mills, Military Ordinariate, to help focus us as a candle is not lit anymore in respect for those with allergies.**
- ❖ **At national convention, Manitoba's president-elect was selected to carry the Nunavut flag for the first time for the opening and closing masses.**

2004

- ❖ **All three diocesan presidents were able to attend national convention.**

2005

- ❖ **The provincial newsletter “*The Communicator*” was discontinued.**
- ❖ **La Ligue feminine catholique du Manitoba discontinues their activities for an undetermined length of time.**
- ❖ **The Margaret Kelly Award plaque is “retired” to its permanent home at Our Lady of Perpetual Help.**

2006

- ❖ **The League is looking for people to translate the League Prayer into various languages.**
- ❖ **A new national president's pin was designed to more aptly look like a pin of office.**

2007

- ❖ **296 shoe boxes and items to fill another 75 boxes were collected to send north as part of “Project Love”.**

2008

- ❖ **Manitoba Provincial Council proudly celebrates their 60th Diamond Anniversary in The Catholic Women's League of Canada.**
- ❖ **The Winnipeg Diocesan Council is the host for 2008 national convention held at the Delta Hotel in downtown Winnipeg.**

- ❖ **Each year** the provincial council continues to **present its resolutions and concerns** to the **provincial government**.

**ANOTHER DECADE OF BEAUTIFUL
FRIENDSHIPS MADE; LASTING
MEMORIES OF THE FUN WE HAD AND
THE DIFFERENCE WE MADE... AND
WE DID IT 'OUR WAY'!**

**WE SAY GOOD LUCK AND GODS SPEED
TO THOSE WHO FOLLOW IN OUR
FOOTSTEPS.**

In Appreciation

The material for this History was compiled mostly from the 50th Anniversary Booklet composed by Mary Bennett in 1998 which came from the history book prepared by Jean Keating in 1988 and has been brought up-to-date for the 60th anniversary from the minutes, memories and convention booklets of provincial council by Past President, Terri Scott.

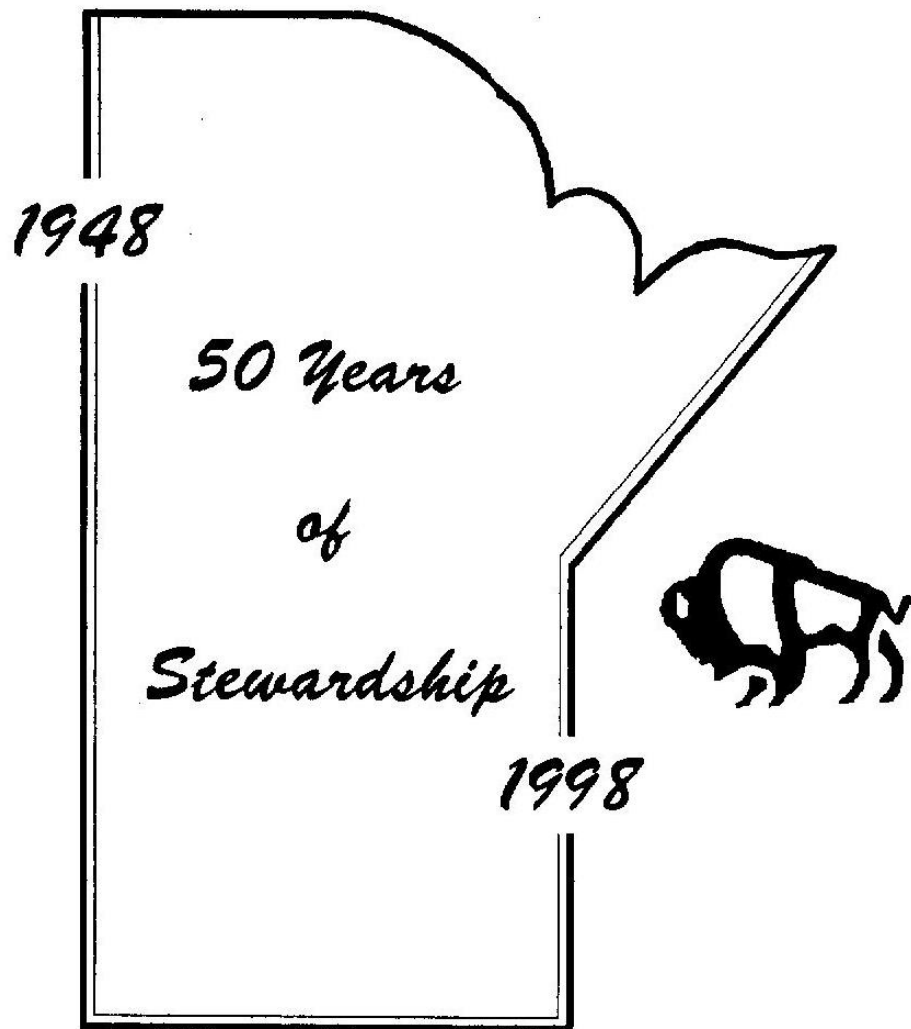
MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL COUNCIL WHO HAVE SERVED ON NATIONAL COUNCIL

Margaret Kelly	Hon. Treasurer	1948-1952
Mary Panaro	Immigration Convener	1955-1958
	Treasurer & Finance Convener	1958-1959
	6 th Vice-President & Radio, T.V. & Films Convener	1960-1961
Winifred Alexander	5 th Vice-President & Spiritual & Lay Retreat Convener	1958-1960
Marguerite Lanthier	Public Relations, Press & Publicity Convener	1963-1967
Florence Fabris	Hon. Treasurer	1946-1948
	5 th Vice-President & Resolutions Convener	1963-1964
	2 nd Vice-President & Convener of Laws	1965-1966
	1 st Vice-President & International Relations	1966-1968
	National President	1968-1970
Marion Trudell	Resolutions Convener	1967-1968
	Laws Convener	1968-1972
Catherine Bird	Secretary-Treasurer	1971-1972
Patricia Johnston	Cultural Life Convener	1981-1982
Shirley Scaletta	Education Convener	1979-1980
	Spiritual Development Convener	1981-1982
	Legislation Convener	1984-1986
Evelyn Wyrzykowski	Resolutions Convener	1984-1986
	President Elect	1986-1988
	National President	1988-1990
Doreen Ferraton	Legislation Convener	1988-1990
Mary Bennett	Legislation Convener	1992-1994

MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL COUNCIL WHO HAVE SERVED ON NATIONAL COUNCIL

Dr. Rayleen De Luca	Resolutions Chairperson	2004-2006
	Community Life	2006-2008
Terri Scott	Spiritual Development Standing Committee	
Jacqueline Nogier	Resolutions Standing Committee	2012-2015
	Spiritual Development Standing Committee	2015-2018

Manitoba Provincial Council



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

1948

A Journey Through The Years In Manitoba

1998



Within these pages, you will find the highlights of our
journey through the years.

We remember the hundreds of hours of praying, serving,
writing, and fundraising for charity that went on behind
the scenes, things too numerous to write about each
year, but not too small to recall.

We remember, too, the friendships made, the talents
shared and the joy we had together. We can all be
proud to belong to the Manitoba Provincial Council of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

1948

The year 1948 was a milestone in the history of the League. The League received the formal approval and support of the **Canadian Catholic Bishops** and functioned under their direction, instead of their patronage.

They **adopted the League** as the **voice of Catholic women in Canada**.

The **constitution was amended** and **provincial councils were set up** under the new Constitution, which also gave a clear framework of activities for each level of the League.

Parish sub-divisions, as they were known, were guided by **diocesan councils**, which in turn were guided by the **provincial council**, which in its turn was guided by the **national council**.

The **Manitoba Provincial Council**, when first formed, had **only Winnipeg Diocesan Council**, of which **Mrs. E. F. Kelly (Margaret)** was **president**. She **automatically became the provincial president**.

The **first provincial convention** was held in **St. Mary's Cathedral** and was **officially opened** by **His Grace Most Rev. G.C. Murray, C.S.S.R, D.D.** **Father C. J. Kelly, S.J.**, the **Provincial/Diocesan Director** stressed the **need of the Church for the work of women and their organizations**. Preservation of social and education rights against modern indifference was stressed by Mrs. Kelly in her address to the members.

During these years, there was a **great influx of displaced persons arriving in Canada** and Father McGuire spoke of the **obligation to practise Christian charity**. These people were our neighbours regardless of race of nationality and we must help them.

Mrs. V. Fabris (Florence) conducted elections and **Mrs. H. Pawels (Elizabeth)** was **elected president for 1948-49**.

1949

April 23, 1949 the **St. Boniface Diocesan Council** was **organized** and **Mrs. C. Quinn, Provincial Organization Convener**, welcomed the St. Boniface members as the **35th diocesan council in Canada**. At that time **Kenora, Ontario** was a **sub-division of St. Boniface**.

The **Vicariate of Keewatin** had a **very active sub-division in Flin Flon** with **95 members**, and it was hoped that the **next year** would **find another diocesan council in Keewatin**.

The **Girl Guides** were a **convenorship** of the **League**. It was reported that there were **5 Companies** and **2 Brownie Packs** under **active Catholic auspices in the province**. Many **fundraising events** took place for the **new Guide Camp at Caddy Lake**.

The **Immigration Convener, Margaret Kelly**, reported that **teaching displaced persons Canadian Citizenship** had been the **League's special project during the year**.

The **theme** for the year was ***"To Encourage the Recitation of the Rosary"***, as directed in the Rosary Crusade. Elizabeth Pawells asked for the support of the theme by the members. She spoke of unity of the family and strengthening of family ties.

Plans were made for a **Doll Drive** for the **crippled children of England**.

A **resolution** was passed and submitted for forwarding to the Minister of Justice, that the “*publication an sale of crime comics within the Dominion of Canada, be prevented*”.

This **convention** was held in **St. Ignatius Parish Hall**, **Elizabeth Pawells** was elected **president**.

1950

The **theme** of the **third provincial convention** was “*Fundamentals of a Strong and Peaceful Family Life*” and was held in **Kenora, Ontario**.

The convention was opened by **Rt. Rev. Msgr. Zielonka**, the new provincial **director**.

Archbishop Cabana, D.D., of **St. Boniface Diocese** in his address, **stressed the need to strengthen Christian life in the home – to prepare young people for future life**.

We must persevere to attain the degree of sanctity God desire.

1950 will always be remembered as the **Year of the Flood**. The most terrifying performance of five generations, causing many to evacuate their home.

The **Catholic Women’s League**, along with other organizations, **assisted** in every way possible to **care for the victims**. The **provincial councils across Canada sent donations** to the **Flood Relief Fund**. The **national council** also helped.

Mrs. J. Schaeffer (Frances), Publicity Convener, stated “*Seldom if every before, was there such a demonstration of unity and co-operation.*”

Members were encouraged to **wear the League pin**, thus **giving publicity** to The Catholic Women’s League of Canada.

Registration cards were drafted by the provincial council to register all those members who do **volunteer service**.

Father Campbell, **Winnipeg Diocesan Director**, addressed the convention on their **theme “Every Member Enrol a Member”**. He said the **reason for growth of the League was based on our motto “For God and Canada”**.

Florence Fabris became a **member of the national council – League Magazine Convener** – she and the Provincial Convener, Frances Schaeffer, would **work for a wider circulation** and an **improvement of the content**.

Vigilance was kept regarding the **sale of crime comics**. **Two objectionable signs were removed from billboards at the request of our members**. Two **resolutions** were passed, one dealing with **euthanasia** and one dealing with **lurid love comics**.

1951

A unique event was experienced by the Manitoba Catholic Women’s League in 1951. The **fourth annual provincial convention** was held in the **Vicariate of Keewatin at Flin Flon**. As Manitobans say “Flin-Flon!! – away up North”.

Eighty-eight members travelled by bus, 19 hours to travel 1,176 miles in three buses, 100 miles of which was a new highway. The 10 others who attended used either train or plane.

A total of **147 ladies attended the convention**, the theme being “**The Dangers of Secularism**”. The subject of **Bishop Martin Lajeunesse’s address** was “**Faithfulness**”. Be faithful to your Christian principles in the matter of marriage – Catholic religion is the birthright of every Catholic child and religion must form the base of all education. The Church was fighting a lone battle against the popularity of evil.” He urged the CWL to assist in every way possible.

Msgr. Zielonka reminded the members that our patroness would inspire them with ideas, and encourage and strengthen them as they endeavoured to act on their theme.

Mrs. Panaro (Mary) stated that the provincial council was responsible for furthering the name of The Catholic Women’s League. The **present fee of 20 cents per capita** was inadequate, **5 cents** per member to the **diocesan council**, **5 cents** to the **provincial council** and **10 cents** to the **national council**. The presidents were asked to take this matter back to their sub-divisions for discussion and consideration of change.

Margaret Kelly, who was serving as **National Treasurer** for her **third term** and **Convener of Citizenship** on the **provincial council** was the **recipient** of a **Life Membership** in The Catholic Women’s League of Canada.

Florence Fabris received a **Life Membership** presented to her by the pastor of her parish, **Holy Rosary**. Florence served as **president** of the **Business and Professional Women’s Sub-division**, **Diocesan Publicity Convener**, **National Publicity Convener**, **National Convener for Business Women**, **National Vice-President** and two years as **National Treasurer**.

At the conclusion of the convention Rev. John O’Connor, O.M.I. addressed the ladies in these words “***Hide not your light under a bushel, but rather let it shine before men.***”

Elections took place and **Mrs. C. J. Muller (Dorothy)** became the newly elected **president**.

1952

St. Augustine’s Church Hall, Brandon was the scene of the **fifth annual convention**. It was reported by the St. Boniface Diocesan president that the **seven sub-divisions** situated in **Ontario** were now **organized into the Fort William Diocese of Ontario**.

Margaret Kelly recommended that letters be written to each sub-division **president** on behalf of the Manitoba Provincial Council, **expressing regret on losing their membership and thanking them for all the work, they had done**. A week following the convention a new **diocesan council** was formed in the **Vicariate of Keewatin**.

A **memorial Mass and service** for the late **King George VI** was attended by all sub-divisions in Manitoba.

Public newsstands were carefully monitored for **salacious literature** and **crime comics**. A letter was sent to the Attorney-General and the Morality Inspector was contacted four times on the matter.

The League was **represented on the following boards:**

The Red Cross
Provincial Citizenship Committee
Misericordia Hospital
Central Volunteer Bureau
Children's Aid Society
Institute of the Blind
Canadian Women's Club

The **Citizenship Committee** in the League **set down some rules to follow:**

1. Have a practical knowledge of how our civic, provincial and federal governments administer the laws.
2. Seek representation at school, university and recreational groups, adding to leadership and moral standing.
3. Help keep our dances and social functions free from excessive drinking.
4. Continue the drive against salacious literature, demand worthwhile movies and higher standards for radio and television program.
5. Study consumer problems.
6. Plan a program for Citizenship Day.
7. Canada is ours: Let us guard our rights and privileges and encourage other to love and work for God and Canada.

Mrs. T. J. Colton was elected provincial **president**.

1953

The convention was held in **Cercle Ouvreire Assembly Hall**, St. Boniface.

Rev. Fr. Charles Empson, O.M.I. became **provincial director**. The **membership** stands at **2,334** with **46 sub-divisions** from **three dioceses**.

A special **Citizenship Day** was attended by members from all levels of the League.

Three ladies attended a **cultural demonstration** sponsored by the **ladies** of the **Shaarey Zedek Sisterhood**.

A **resolution** submitted by **St. John Cantius sub-division** asked the provincial government to **appoint at least one Catholic Supervisor the Manitoba Jail for Women** and a **Chaplain be appointed for all penal and mental institutions** in the province.

Mrs. Colton and **Sister Johnson**, Sister of Service, **erected a Christmas Crèche** in the **Canadian Pacific Railway Depot**. A **first for such a project**, which was well received by travellers.

Mary Panaro was elected **president** for the next term.

1954

Father Adrian Cimichelle welcomed members to the **Holy Rosary Church** for the provincial **convention**. The **theme** chosen for the Marian year was “*Open Your Heart to a Catholic Child*”.

Mr. Eddie Cass, President of the **Children’s Aid Society** was the **guest speaker**.

The convention was privileged to have as their guest, **Baroness Catherine de Hueck Doherty**, of **Friendship House, Ontario**, who gave a talk on her work.

Fr. Charles Empson, Provincial Director, told the ladies “You do not realize the power you wield. Two distinguished guests forfeited their tickets to a football game tonight in order to attend your convention!”

Mr. G. P. Guay brought **greetings** on behalf of the **Knights of Columbus**.

Archbishop Pocock, in his remarks, said he hoped *to see the day when The Catholic Women’s League would be established in every parish in the diocese*. He said, “*As the mother is the heart of the family, the Catholic women are the heart of the parish, the diocese and the Catholic Church.*” He hoped the work of the League would be one of foster-homes for the children of our faith whose futures was dim.

Membership now stands at **3,028**.

A new sub-division was **organized** in **Keewatin Diocese**, comprising **Cree women**, with **Mrs. Antoine Bear** elected at their **first president** and **Fr. H. Thiboutot** their **director**.

Resolutions were adopted dealing with: **Foster Homes, Divorce, Liquor Laws, Salacious Literature, Indecent Advertising, Religious Persecution, Education and Mother’s Allowance**.

1955

The **seventh annual convention** was held at the **Cathedral of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, The Pas**, the **theme** being “**A Vocation in Every Family**”.

Bishop Dumouchel expressed his appreciation for the sacrifices members make. Speaking on the theme, he said it is the example parents give their children, stating, “*It is easy to forget the words of parents, but their example thunders in our hearts.*”

At the convention, Fr. Empson stated that vocations are decreasing by 10%. “We are fighting a losing battle with communism because we are growing soft.”

Marjory Cyr, the Organization Convener, related her experiences in **organizing a new sub-division** in **Snow Lake**, an **almost isolated village**, a **two-day trip from The Pas**. Mrs. Cyr **flew into Snow Lake in a two-seater plane used to transport fish!**

Three resolutions were passed:

1. That Métis children who were neglected regarding education be housed in residences provided by the provincial government
2. That the Manitoba Film Board be removed from control of the Municipal and Utility Board and placed under the Department of Health.

3. That the C.W.L. foster vocations among the youth of their parishes.
Mrs. D. M. Alexander (Winifred) was elected **president** for the following term.

1956

The **convention** was held at **Holy Cross Parish Hall**, St. Boniface.

The **citizenship report** mentions that "...several members of the councils attended the **2nd Conference on Indian and Métis** held in Manitoba, in the Legislative Building". The **result** was a **three-week Leadership Training Course** for people from the **unorganized areas** of the province.

The **Social Action Convener** reported **\$868.10** was spent for **welfare work** which included **clothing, food, fuel; financial aid to hospital shut-ins, orphanages and homes for the aged, pensioners and the blind.**

"**Welfare of Prisoners**" and "**Formation of Sub-divisions in army camps**" were **two resolutions** submitted.

Mrs. J. Freeman (Marjorie H.), **national president**, honoured the **Winnipeg and St. Boniface Dioceses** by her **presence** at a **joint convention** sponsored by the **Manitoba Provincial Council.**

1957

This year the convention was held in **Stony Mountain** at **St. Joseph's Parish.** **Membership** was reported at **2,485, 53 sub-divisions** in 3 dioceses, with **4 new sub-divisions** being formed.

The work of **assisting Hungarian refugees** who had emigrated to Western Canada during the year was **actively participated in by members** of the League in **co-operation** with the **Winnipeg Citizenship Committee.**

Mrs. M. J. Cyr (Marjory) of **Flin Flon** was elected **president** for the following term.

1958

The **tenth anniversary** of the provincial council was held in **Flin Flon.**

New changes in The Canadian League magazine had been made – a **trial offer** was sent to **300 members** who had not received it before and the **subscription rate** was **reduced to \$.60.**

The **membership** had risen to **3,012**, an increase of **527 members.**

It was recommended that the CWL members study and become aware of the stand taken by the bishops of Manitoba in their brief to the **Royal Commission on Education.** The Manitoba council also **presented a brief to the Catholic Conference** stating that **religious education started in the home must be continued in the school.**

A **Public Speaking Course** and a course on **Christian Leadership** was attended by many members of the diocesan councils and parish sub-division.

1959

The convention this year was held in **St. Boniface** at **Christ the King Parish Hall**. The **Spiritual Convener** reported that “**All Souls Day**’ was **observed** by one council **reciting the Rosary in the cemetery**. **600 Rosaries** were offered for the intentions of our **Holy Father Pope John XXIII**.

Letters of commendation were sent to **Stations CBWT and CBC** for **appropriate programming** and **respect shown** at the time of the **death of His Holiness Pope Pius XII** and the splendid coverage given the **coronation of His Holiness Pope John XXIII**.

The **Education Convener** urged the members to **encourage their sons and daughters** to enter the **teaching field** or the **field of social work**.

Mrs. Lanthier (Margaret) was elected **president** for the following term of office.

It was in **1959** that the **name parish sub-division** was changed to **parish council** and the **president’s pin** was made available on the parish level for the first time.

1960

Holy Ghost Parish convened the convention this year sponsored by the **Winnipeg Diocesan Council**. In his address, at the 49th anniversary of the national council, Bishop Francis Klein, National Spiritual Director said “...one of the saddest and most precarious conditions in the world today, was the degradation of the family and family life, the godless philosophy, salacious and indecent literature, immoral entertainment on T.V., radio and screen was suggestive advertising”. He urged every member of the League to be an Apostle in helping to restore the family to the status that God had intended. **Marriage courses were set up**. **Campaigns were organized to keep a closer watch on T.V. programs and immoral literature and letters of appreciation were sent for good programming**.

It was reported that several **League members** spent **14 hours at the airport**, **meeting 454 Catholic immigrants**. **One hundred copies** of the *New Testament* were donated to the **General Hospital**, paid for by voluntary donations from members.

Magazine Conveners on all levels urged their members to read The Canadian League magazine and one of the recommendations reported was to encourage our youth to remain in Canada.

1961

The **convention** was held in **St. Alphonsus Parish** this year.

Most Reverend Remi De Roo, **Bishop of Victoria, B.C.** was the **guest speaker** for the event. The **theme** was “*Rerum Novarum*”.

Most Reverend George B. Flahiff as installed at **Archbishop of Winnipeg** and best wishes were extended to **Msgr. Empson** who had been **elevated to Domestic Prelate** in 1960-61 term. **Msgr. Empson** said **his promotion was due to some extent to the work of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada in Manitoba**.

It was recommended that adult education be strongly stressed at all levels – e.g. the education of members regarding religion, the social teachings of the Church and current affairs.

Florence Fabris was elected **president** for the following term.

1962

St. Vital Parish hosted the **convention** this year.

An **increase of 125 members** brought the total membership in Manitoba to **4,090**.

The **theme** for the year was “**The Social Teachings of the Church**, as defined in “*Mater et Magistra*”.

The **Education Convener** represented the League in Manitoba at the **Catholic Conference on Education**.

Newsstands were scrutinized and letters were sent to a local store regarding the **removal of certain books** from its shelves.

Members were urged to study the policies of the political parties and the qualification of the candidates representing the parties.

One of the members of the provincial council was **chairman** of the **Manitoba Committee on Alcohol Education** and another member was **appointed Girl Guide Commissioner** for the Greater Winnipeg area.

Mrs. Mary Louise Lynch of the **National Parole Board** was **guest speaker** at the **Canadian Club**. **Florence Fabris, our president**, was invited to be a **head table guest**.

The **provincial council** hosted a **luncheon in honour of Senator Josie Quart** during her visit to Winnipeg. The League was saddened by the **death of Mrs. C. C. Quinn**, a former provincial council member and an **active member of the League** since its **formation in Manitoba**.

1963

The **Niakwa Hotel** was the scene of the convention and the **National President, Mrs. Herman Stevens, (Dr. Isabella)** was the **guest of honour**.

The **theme** for the year was “**The Revitalization of the Catholic Way of Life.**”

Dr. Stevens in her **address** to the League **urged members to go out into the community** as Lay Apostles. “*The scope of the League’s work*” she said, “*includes more than teas and bazaars and fundraising events – it goes beyond the sanctuaries of the Church and home. It involves commitment to the whole wide world we live in, a world which we must know as it is. League members must be witnesses to the Life of the Spirit in the world. This requires an intensive spiritual life based on personal holiness. This also means to overcome our own evil tendencies, to work selflessly and to broaden our field of action in the communities we live in, in our country and the world.*”

Funds were raised by all councils the province to **send a delegate** from Manitoba to the **International Conference of Catholic Girl Guides in Austria**. The **provincial convenor** of the **Guides** attended also as a **visitor** and a **church parade for the League-**

sponsored Girl Guides, Rangers and Brownies was held, followed by a Pontifical Low Mass offered by His Grace Most Reverend George B. Flahiff, C.S.B., D.D., Archbishop of Winnipeg, and His Grace Most Reverend Maurice Baudoux, S.T.D., D.D., Archbishop of St. Boniface, accompanied by the District Scout Directors. **Over 600 attended.** This was **sponsored by the provincial council.**

Mrs. E. A. Trudell (Marion) was the newly elected **president** for the **1963-1965 term.**

1964

Again, the members **travelled North** for the **convention** held in **The Pas.**

The **notice sent re transportation** read “*A bus will be chartered to take the delegates to The Pas. It will leave the Winnipeg bus depot at 4:00 p.m., Saturday, July 4th, 1964, arriving at The Pas around 1:00 p.m. Saturday afternoon.*”

The **provincial president** and **education convener** were invited to attend the **founding meeting** of the **Manitoba Association for Equality in Education.** Our **president, Marion Trudell** was **elected to the executive.**

Diocesan **resolutions** were adopted, **affirming approval and encouragement for the M.A.E.E., willingness to co-operate and urging strong support of the League in Manitoba.**

Three regional conferences were held regarding “Aspects of Prayer in the Mass”. Panel discussions were held and workshops convened. This gave members a better understanding of the changes in the Liturgy and the lay participation in the Mass since Vatican II in 1963.

1965

The **convention** this year was held at the **Immaculate Conception Parish Hall.** The **theme** was “*The People of God*”.

A **survey was made**, with the co-operation of the diocesan councils, to determine the **relative state of organization, potential and the degree of development**, with a view to making some **long-range plans.** As a visual aid, a **large map** was prepared and suitably marked to **show all the councils in the province.**

A **recommendation** made by the **Magazine Convener**, was that consideration be given to **combining membership fee and subscription.**

Mrs. L.E. Don (Rose) was elected **president** for the next term.

1966

The **provincial theme** for this year was “*The Christian in the Community*”, and it was recommended by the spiritual convener that a **scripture reading be read at meetings** after the opening League prayer.

The **convention** was held at **Christ the King Parish** in St. Boniface.

Two hundred and forty members attended regional meetings on the **Vanier Institute of the Family**. The social action program gave them more awareness of the responsibility of Christian citizens in the field of politics.

1967

St. John Brebeuf Parish hosted the **convention** and the **theme** was “*He shall rule from sea to sea*”.

Mrs. H. T. Donahee (Dorothy), **national president**, was the **guest speaker**. She stated that “...we can be lay apostles with the guidance of a worthy organization. No matter where we are we must do our best as Bishop Sheen said, what we have received we must pass on and not pocket it. Every talent received must bear interest. The only way we can influence the world is to get into the middle of things with all our energy.”

At the election of officers, **Mrs. W. E. Bird (Catherine)** became the **12th provincial president**.

Members assisted in **organizing and attending** a series of six panel discussions entitled “*What is a 1967 Christian?*”.

During the **Centennial Year** members helped with **special community projects** such as **lodgings for visitors** during the Pan-Am Games and Expo '67, and **assisting** the **Citizenship Council of Manitoba** with its centennial project, “Treasures of Many Lands”.

1968

The **20th convention** was held at **Christ the King High School**.

The **theme** was “*He who loves God, should love his brother also*”.

All councils reported **studying the documents of Vatican II**.

An **Ecumenical Supper** was held, followed by a panel discussion on the **Status of Women**.

August 17 to 22, 1968 **Winnipeg Diocesan Council** hosted the **national convention** at the **Fort Garry Hotel**. They were assisted by St. Boniface and Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan Councils.

Members of the League were honoured to witness the **installation** of our own **Mrs. Florence Fabris** as **national President**. This took place in **St. John Brebeuf Church**, Florence's home parish.

1969

A **plane was chartered** to take delegates to **Flin Flon** for the convention. **The first flight for many members**.

Reporting this year **came under the new standing committees**, and nearly all the reports used the new procedure. The **per capita fee was increased** this year and it now included *The Canadian League* magazine.

The **theme** was “*Through Help – Hope*”.

Letters were sent to the Minister of Justice **objecting** to the **Omnibus bill** to **legalize abortions**.

At the close of the convention, Catherine Bird was honoured on her retirement by a surprise visitor – “Mr. Fred Flon”.

Mrs. Jeanne Reagan was **Mrs. Bird’s successor**.

1970

The **convention** was hosted by **St. Vital Parish** and the **theme** was “*Women’s Liberation in Christian Perspective*”.

Since Vatican II, ecumenical became a term very much in use. Our members took part in the **World Day of Prayer** for the **first time** and in some areas, this was conducted in the Catholic church. **Communications** was **developed** with other groups from other churches through three forms of encounter – **Praying Together, Playing Together and Working Together**.

A **panel discussion** was sponsored by one council because of **intensified study on abortion** – this resulted in the **formation of a Manitoba-wide organization** called “**The League for Life**”.

1971

Again, a **plane** was **chartered** to fly North, this time to **St. Lawrence Parish, Thompson, Manitoba**.

The **Social Action Convener** reported on a **project** called “**Awareness**”. This project was introduced to deal with the **need for a psychiatric centre for emotionally disturbed children and children with learning disabilities**.

A **newsletter** was sent to all councils outlining the **directions for reporting** on the **new standing committees**.

Mrs. J. H Johnston (Patricia) was elected **president** for the coming term.

1972

St. Boniface hosted the convention held at **Villa Maria Retreat House**.

Membership stood at **2,805**, a **decrease** in numbers, but **not in the work** of its members in parish and community involvement.

The **focus** of the convention was on **League development**, to help members **discover the potential within themselves; to become better Christian leaders and members of the League**.

Mrs. Montpetit reported the **Wine and Cheese Party** was a success despite the weather and an electrical blackout. The proceeds were donated toward the **setting up of a half-way home for young men, ages 18-21, who were receiving psychiatric care the General Hospital**.

In May at the 5th Annual Meeting of MACLD, the **Social Action Committee** of the provincial council was **presented with a President's Citation** in recognition of the work being **done for children with learning disabilities**.

A “**twinning**” project was **introduced by St. Boniface Diocesan Council** where a city council is twinned with a rural council.

The League was saddened by the **death** of **Margaret Kelly**, the **first provincial president** and a devoted member of The Catholic Women's League for many years.

1973

This year marked the **25th anniversary** of the **Manitoba Provincial Council**.

The **convention** was held in **St. Mary's Cathedral**. It was a celebration of thanksgiving to God for the many blessings received in the past quarter century.

The **provincial council**, on behalf of the **Manitoba members** of the Catholic Women's League, **received the Apostolic Blessing** for all our work.

The **theme** was “*The Spirit of a Woman*” the **title** “*Holy Name of Mary*”.

The **Winnipeg Diocesan Council** presented a **plaque** to the provincial council in **memory of Margaret Kelly** to be presented each year to the parish council in the province which best exemplified the work of the League, known as the **Margaret Kelly Award**.

The **provincial council**, aided by nearly **every parish council**, completed “**Project Awareness**”. It was reported that the information was staggering and disturbing, and it was being used by educators, psychiatrists, pediatricians, and psychologists.

Mrs. Mary Pungente became the **successor** to Patricia Johnston after elections.

1974

The **convention theme** was “*Open to the Spirit of God, we become doers of His Word*”. **Beausejour** was the scene of the **convention**, in **St. Mary's Church**. Msgr. Charles Halpin has been appointed **Director** to succeed Msgr. C. A. Empson, but due to his appointment as Archbishop of Regina, **Fr. Alan Hall** took his place.

A very **special expression** of the League's appreciation was given to **Msgr. Empson** who had served as Director of the provincial council **since 1952**.

Support was given to the “**Festival of Life Rally**” in Ottawa by **letters, telegrams, and petitions and some councils sent delegates**.

1975

The **convention** this year was held at **St. Mary's Cathedral**, and the **theme** was “*Harmony with God, with ourselves, with others*”.

Support for **Respect for Life** continues. A letter was sent to the **editor** of **Chatelaine magazine** in response to an editorial which **attacked the Church's view on abortions**. Letters were sent to the **Canadian Medical Association** and to **local doctors** to ask them to **disassociate themselves from the activities of Henry Morgenthau**.

Congratulations were sent to **Mrs. Marjory Cyr** of Selkirk who had been appointed **Justice of the Peace** – a **first for the Province of Manitoba** and a **first for the League**.

To honour the first provincial president, the **Margaret Kelly Award** was introduced, and the first recipient was **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Council**.

Members was **2608** with **62 active councils**.

Mrs. E. Williams (Kay) was elected **president** for the next term.

1976

Thompson was the scene of the **28th convention**. The theme was *“Live the mystery of Christ with Mary His Mother”*.

It was reported that **membership** was **increased** by **458** members.

St. Ann’s Parish Council, Flin Flon was the recipient of the **Margaret Kelly Award**.

Many councils had **adopted families** in **Third World Countries** and the **attendance of Citizenship Courts with receptions for new Canadians** was on the **increase**.

Workshops on Family Law were held and were **well attended by all levels**. The workshops resulted in a **brief submitted** to the **Public Hearing** of the **Legislative Committee on the changes in Family Law**, by **Mrs. Conrad Wyrzykowski (Evelyn)** on behalf of the League. The **Attorney General of Manitoba** acknowledged as **“outstanding” the presentations made** The Catholic Women’s League of Manitoba.

Because of the presentation on Family Law to the Government of Manitoba, the **provincial council** was **asked** by the **Minister of Health and Social Development** to **appoint a representative** to the **newly formed committee on Family Planning Services**.

Rev. Fr. Michael Moore was appointed as **Director** the provincial council.

1977

In this year, the **convention** was held at **Blessed Sacrament Church**.

The **theme** was *“The great voice of God cried out for the fullness of Life”*.

The **membership** **increased** by **303** members. It was noticed that the number of younger women attending had increased.

Honour was bestowed on one of our members in the far North. **Mrs. Mary Louise McKenzie** was installed as an **Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist** by **Archbishop Paul Dumouchel OMI**.

The **Margaret Kelly Award** was awarded to **St. Joseph the Worker Parish Council in Transcona**.

Kay Williams, president, represented the League at **Government House** when one of our members, **Sister Olive Fiola** was the **recipient** of a **“Good Citizen Award”**.

At the elections, **Mrs. I. Scaletta (Shirley)** was elected president for the next term.

1978

The **convention** was held at St. Edward's Church. The **theme** was "*The Family, Church of the Home*".

The highlight of the **provincial ecumenical activities** was an **informal supper** with **Dr. Philip Potter, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches**. Shirley Scaletta stated that we are witnessing a deep faith-sharing with many organized ecumenical activities.

The **Margaret Kelly Award** was presented to **Sacred Heart Parish Council**, Virden.

The provincial council sponsored **workshops** on **Organization and Development** titled "**Planning a League year and Leadership Skills**" and "**The Role of the Diocesan Council**". The parish councils were encouraged to have leadership courses in their own parishes.

A **public meeting** at the University of Winnipeg was **sponsored** by the provincial council. The speaker was **Betty Lechner, Councillor the Archdiocese of Chicago**. Her **topic** was "*Growing in a Christian Family*".

A **brief** was presented to the **10th Annual Conference on Censorship and Film Classification** and research was done on religious broadcasting by the CBC Winnipeg.

Two representatives were on the **provincial committee** for the **International Year of the Child**.

The **Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel** was commemorated by donations from the parishes to **cover the cost of Meals on Wheels** on **April 26th**. A **note** with best wishes was given to **each recipient** from the Catholic Women's League.

A great **concern** of the League was the **suspected forced sterilization of native and Inuit women**. Research was done to ascertain the reality of the situation.

Letters were **submitted to the sponsor of the Festival of Life and Learning** at the University of Manitoba **objecting to an apparent imbalance of values promoted through the choice of speakers**.

1979

The **convention** was held in the north at **The Pas**, the host being the **Sacred Heart Parish Council**. The **theme** "*A Child – the supreme gift*".

This was the **International Year of the Child**.

The **Manitoba Provincial Council** had a **centrefold** inserted in the "*Prairie Messenger*" designed to be used as a **promotional leaflet**.

The **membership** stands at **3,266** for the province.

St. John Cantius Parish Council, Winnipeg, was presented the Margaret Kelly Award.

It was reported that much work was done for the **International Year of the Child** in cooperation with the **Knights of Columbus, La Ligue des Femmes Catholiques** and the **Ukrainian Catholic Women's League**. It was noted that this was the **first time** that these groups **had come together in an unified project**. With the support of the bishops the activities of these groups

concluded their festivities in a family style. A **liturgical service** was held on **Thanksgiving Day** in the open-air theatre at **Kildonan Park**.

The newly elected **president** for the 1979-80 term was **Bernadette Russell**.

1980

This year **St. Alphonsus Council** hosted the **convention** in their church hall. The **theme** was “*Faith and the Family*” and a **sub-theme** chosen was “*Women, how great is your Faith?*”

Christ the King Parish Council in St. Vital was presented the **Margaret Kelly Award**.

Several councils took advantage of the **leadership courses** conducted by the provincial council, with **financial assistance from the national council**.

A **brief** was submitted to the **Manitoba Catholic Conference** on “**Morality of the Family**” and we were assured that the bishops would give it careful consideration.

Another **brief** was presented to the **Legislative Committee** reviewing the *Public School Act*. **Bernadette Russell** assisted in **setting up** an **Advisory Council for the Deaf** and she was **appointed to the board** shortly after the advisory council was established. The name “*St. Francis de Salesa*” was given to the **Manitoba Church for the Deaf** and **retreats** and **study groups** were **established for the deaf community**.

The CWL of Manitoba **responded** wholeheartedly to the appeal for **aid** to the “**Boat People**”, the refugees arriving from **Vietnam** and **Korea**. **Housing, furniture, food and clothing, household articles and kitchen utensils** were provided. **Countless hours** and **large sums of money** were **donated** to make these people feel at home in their new country.

1981

Winnipeg Diocesan Council hosted the convention in **St. John Cantius Church**. The **theme** was “*Faith and Family*”; **sub-theme** “*Men in the lives of Women of Faith*”. **Membership** stood at **3,183** provincially. Two of the members in Manitoba received **Good Citizenship Awards** for outstanding service in their communities: **Molly Robinson** (Thompson) and **Diana McKenzie** (Lynn Lake).

St. Maria Goretti Parish Council, Lynn Lake, was the recipient of the **Margaret Kelly Award**.

Attention was focused in many councils throughout the province on **controversial issues** such as **separated and divorced Catholics, battered wives, abused children, incest and alcoholics**. “The problems are increasing by leaps and bounds in our society. We must continue our ministry of healing those in need”, said Bernadette Russell Provincial President. A **meeting** was held with **Hon. Lloyd Axworthy** to discuss the **CWL position** within the **Status of Women**. A **volunteer pin** under the banner of the CWL provided to be quite popular and many parish presidents supplied them to the members who do **volunteer**

work in their communities. The support for **Meals on Wheels** is an **annual event** on the feast of our **Patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel**.

Mrs. A. Litwin (Elsie) was **elected to office** for the following term.

1982

Once again, the **convention** was held in the north. This time we travelled to **Flin Flon**.

The **theme** was “*Ministry to God and Canada*”. **Rev. Fr. Roland Belanger** from St. Boniface was **appointed our Spiritual Director** for the next five years.

Elsie Litwin compared the League with the growth of a tree, the seed sown at the national convention by Bishop Doyle, Spiritual Director. A **three-year growth period was proposed to discover as Catholic women:**

- Where have we come from? Where are we today?
- Where do we want to be in the year 2000 in the church, school, workforce, family and community?

Membership had **increased** and stood at **3,375**.

St. Augustine Parish Council, Brandon received the **Margaret Kelly Award**.

Congratulations were extended to **Father Michael Moore** for the “*Handbook for Spiritual Directors*” that he **wrote** and which is **available at national office** for all directors across Canada.

The **provincial council met with the legislature** – concerns regarding abortion funding, adults with learning disabilities, youth detention homes, remand centres, legislation on marijuana, safety in the workplace and video display terminals were discussed. **Premier Howard Pawley invited the provincial council to submit our concerns on a continuing basis.**

A **panel discussion** headed by Father Caruso of the **Marriage Tribunal** took place; the **moderator** was **Shirley Scaletta, national Spiritual Convener**.

Stella Carson, provincial **Christian Family Life convener**, monitored the movies about **pornography**. The results of the **previews** were **tabulated** and our views were made known to the **National Film Board**, Manitoba Film Classification Board, **Attorney General’s Department** and **Vice Squad of Winnipeg Police Department** as well as **informing the national convener of our results**. Though the efforts of **Dorothy Montpetit**, a **Tutoring Training Service** was established at **St. John Cantius Education al Centre** for young adults with learning disabilities.

The proposed **amendments** to the **Constitution and By-Laws** of 1979 were studied due to the organization changes proposed by Mr. Russell May’s report.

1983

The **convention** was held in **Blessed Sacrament Parish, St. Boniface**. “*League Ministry to God and Canada*” was the **theme**.

“Where are we today? Father Belanger in his report stated “that this year acquires the character of a challenge thrust out to the women of today, to understand more deeply our role, our mission in the church, in society and in the family of tomorrow”. Elsie Litwin reminded the members that growth and changes are necessary if we are to develop and adapt to the changing times and needs of our society. Much time was spent in **studying** the changes in the **Constitution and By-Laws**.

The **convention workshop**, titled “*Towards a new direction*” dealt with the Catholic bishops’ statement “*Ethical reflections on the Economic Crisis*”, its effect on women in business, labour and the unemployed. **Bishop Remi de Roo** of Victoria took part in the **panel discussion** and was **guest speaker** at the **banquet**.

Mrs. M. Keating (Jean) was elected **president** for the term **1983-1985**.

St. Bernadette Parish Council, St. Boniface, was the recipient of the **Margaret Kelly Award**.

A special highlight of the year was the **visit of Mother Theresa**, who was honoured as the **recipient** of the **St. Boniface Hospital Research Foundation Award**. The award was presented to Mother Theresa at an **ecumenical service** in the **Winnipeg Stadium**.

Presentations at the **Manitoba Legislature** were submitted, based on the resolutions adopted at the annual convention. The proposed opening of **Morgenthaler Abortion Clinic** gave rise to much concern and controversy. **Letters and telegrams** were sent to the **Manitoba Legislative Assembly**, with **protest rallies** at Winnipeg City Hall, **signatures** for the **Winnipeg Free Press** ads “**I choose Life**” and **contributions** were made towards the expenses of **Joe Borowski’s court fight**.

1984

The **convention** was held at **St. Peter’s Church, Winnipeg**. The **theme** was “*League Ministry for God and Canada – where are we going?*”

It was a privilege for the provincial president to **pay tribute** to **Mary Panaro**, provincial president in 1953-55 and **convener of Immigration** on the **national council**. **Mrs. Panaro** was the **recipient** of the **Order of Canada**. An invitation was extended to the provincial council to **attend the unveiling of a sculpture of Isabel Ross (McLean)**, the **first women in Canada to graduate with a degree in Law** and the **first woman lawyer of the City of Winnipeg**. She was also the **first woman Q.C. in Manitoba**.

Notre Dame Parish Council, Selkirk, received the **Margaret Kelly Award**.

Again, we were warmly received by the **members of the Manitoba Legislature** with our **briefs and resolutions**. A **brief** was presented to the **Amendments Committee on Family Law**, recommending **conciliation and mediation be part of the Unified Family Court System**. A **brief** was presented to the **MacDonald Commission on the Economic Union and Development Prospects for Canada**. An **Ad Hoc Committee** was formed under the **title “The Concerned Morality League”** consisting of members of the **CWL**,

Knights of Columbus and the **Catholic Youth Ministry** who presented a **brief** to the **Fraser Commission on Pornography and Prostitution**.

Another first for the **CWL** was an **invitation** to attend the **Knights of Columbus' State Banquet**. The provincial council, Ukrainian CWL and la ligue feminine catholique due Manitoba were invited.

The League was saddened by the **death** of our friend and staunch supporter and our former spiritual director, **Msgr. Charles Empson, D.P.**

The highlight of the year was the **visit of Pope John Paul II** to our city and province.

1985

Once more in **Keewatin-The Pas Diocese, St. Lawrence Church, Thompson** was the host for the convention. The **theme** was "*League Ministry to God and Canada*" – *Journey into Stewardship* – the **title** of the convention was "*St. John Bosco, Peace and Youth go Forward Together*".

On the World Day of Peace, January 1st 1985 Pope John Paul II gave us the following message "The path of peace is at the same time the path of the young." In Father Belanger's report, he wrote, "...we entrust, like the Holy Father, the second Christian millennium to you youth who are the hope of the church (2nd Vatican Council). Growth is an essential element of youth. May we respect our youth by allowing them to grow as did Jesus, who increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man."

Due to the problem of inflation and membership, the **per capita fee was increased**. Congratulations were extended to **Rev. Msgr. Moore**, the **former Spiritual Director**, on his investiture as **Prelate of Honour to His Holiness Pope John Paul II**.

Florence Fabris celebrated 50 years as an active member of The Catholic Women's League. The **37th annual convention** was honoured to have the **national president, Ardis Beaudry** as its guest.

St. Michael's Parish Council, Gimli, received the Margaret Kelly Award.

Invitations were received to attend the **task force meeting** for the **rights of Indian women**, **Catholic Health Conference**, **Ad Hoc Manitoba Committee for the United Nations End of the Decade for Women's Conference** and the **Volunteer Committee** meeting in support of **Canadian Interfaith Network**, a proposed TV network.

The ladies of the **Ukrainian Catholic Women's Organization** were invited to join with the CWL to **observe our presentation to the legislature**. One of the briefs asked for a **closer scrutiny of grants given by government**, citing the **Herizon Magazine** as an example because of its **anti-Catholic articles** and its **stand on abortion**.

At the elections, **Mrs. Raoul Ferraton (Doreen)** became the 21st Manitoba **Provincial President**.

1986

The **convention** was held at **Mary, Mother of the Church, in St. Boniface**. The **theme** was *“The League, a journey into Stewardship”*.

Most Rev. Bishop Faber MacDonald, National Spiritual Director was the **guest** of honour at the **38th annual convention**.

Membership stands at **3,385** this year.

Father Belanger, in his **last report** as spiritual director stated that he felt sure that through our **spiritual stewardship** we have **moved and progressed in an onward direction toward our goal for God ad Canada**. He left us with a challenge: *Dare to be as wonderful as you really are to a world that needs beautiful people to love God, who is all beauty and splendour*.

The **leadership course, pro-life movement, aid to independent school**, support of the **Coady Institute** and **CCODP** are on the list of **priorities**.

The members of the League have **written letters** of encouragement and **prayers** to **grandmothers of Argentina**.

An **ecumenical gathering** of Christian women was held in conjunction with the **Anglican Synod**, known as the **“Well”**. This celebration was held at the University of Manitoba. We assisted at this gathering.

St. John the Evangelist Parish Council received the **Margaret Kelly Award**.

Mary, Mother of the Church Parish Council was awarded a **Certificate of Merit**.

1987

This **convention** was held in **St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Winnipeg**.

The **theme** for the year was *“Our Stewardship in Church Renewal”* with the **sub-theme** *“Christians must serve the humblest needs of others”*.

Father Art Seaman was welcomed as the **new Spiritual Director**.

The present **membership** stood at **3,533**.

St. Andrew Bobola Parish Council, St. Boniface was the recipient of the **Margaret Kelly Award**.

A **youth retreat** was organized by the **Christian Family Life Convener**; **sixty-nine young people** attended.

Concern had been expressed about the **new laws** concerning **immigration**.

The *“Women in the Church”* kit provoked a good deal of discussion and was studied by many councils.

The **twinning of councils** has **become popular** and has resulted in many councils sharing concerns and enjoying new friendships.

“Circle of Care” was organized in the **Winnipeg diocese**. This has enabled councils to reach out to the less fortunate by **supplying clothing and food to those in need**.

The provincial executive attended the St. Boniface and Winnipeg meetings on the **“Role of Women in the Church”**.

Diane McKenzie of Lynn Lake was voted in as **provincial president**.

1988

The 40th convention was held in **The Pas**, at **Our Lady of the Sacred Heart**; the theme “*Our Stewardship in Church Renewal*” and the provincial theme “*Service in the spirit of Mary and Martha*”.

Father Art Seaman expressed happiness at being able to visit this northerly council. **Jean Keating, Life Member**, produced a **40-year history** of the provincial Council. **200 books** were printed and sold at **\$1.00 each** to defray printing costs.

Eight of the **16 past presidents** were able to be with us and each was **given a corsage**.

St. Bernadette Parish Council, St. Boniface received the **Margaret Kelly Award**.

Elsie Litwin became our **Life Member Liaison**.

Doreen Ferraton was named **National Legislation Convener**.

Janet Sommerville, a lay theologian, conducted a **workshop** “**Solving new division, the Church will breathe a soul into this new culture**”.

It was agreed that **Keewatin-The Pas president** will have **all expenses paid** for her travel to the **national convention once in her term of office**.

The **Provincial Policy Manual** was produced, to be **revised once in each presidential term**. **Two provincial newsletters** were to be **produced** each year.

Ten resolutions were adopted and later in the year we went to **government** to present them together with **those from national**.

During the year, **three evenings on abuse** were presented to League members and from **this beginning came the Alpha House Project**, a second stage house for abused women and their children.

The **national convention** was held in **Winnipeg** this year and thanks to Bernadette Russell was a resounding success. The **attending bishops** stated “...**that they had been deeply moved and felt that the national convention had been, for them, a “salvation experience”**. For us it was **exhausting, encouraging and FUN**.”

1989

Transcona was the scene of the **convention** at **St. Joseph the Worker Parish**. The **theme** was “*Women sharing in the Life and Mission of the Church*”.

The **speaker** was **Florence Fabris, Honourary Life Member**.

Our **national president**, our own Evelyn Wyrzykowski was present.

In the afternoon, a **skit** was played by members of the executive on the **roles that the levels of the League play in communications**, “**good communications will enhance our participation**”, an amusing look at a serious subject.

YWCA, **Osborne House** crisis centre for abused women, needed larger premises and we committed ourselves provincially, to **furnishing a room** for mother and children. **\$2,500** was needed from the **2 dioceses** and **provincial council**.

Alpha House Project Inc. has **charitable status** and is **incorporated**. **Dorothy Montpetit**, President of Inter-Church Council is the **group chairperson**.

The provincial council presented a **resolution** to government on the **possibility of Manitoba being a nuclear dump**. They **challenged us to tour Pinawa** and see for ourselves, a challenge to which the **council agreed**.

Leadership courses were held. **2 sessions** in the **north**, **3** in **Winnipeg**.

The **Margaret Kelly Award** went to **Holy Ghost Parish Council**, Winnipeg.

Mary, Mother of the Church Parish Council was awarded a **Certificate of Merit**.

Shirley Scaletta received the **Evangelium Award** from **St. Boniface Archdiocese**.

Mary Bennett was elected **president** for the next term.

1990

This year **St. Joseph's Parish, Winnipeg** was the **convention parish**.

The **theme** was "**Women sharing in the Life and Mission of the Church**" with **guest speaker** National President, **Evelyn Wyrzykowski**.

"**70 years a National Council**", a **celebration Tea and Trivia** was held with **hats and gloves**. A **quiz** on the **history of the League** was set by **Mrs. Paul Bembenek (Helen)**.

The **70th anniversary winning banner** was from **Notre Dame de Lorette Council**.

Two awards were received by members this year:

- **Evelyn Wyrzykowski** received the **Evangelium Award**
- **Bernadette Russell** received the **Bene Merenti** medal.

The **Margaret Kelly Award** was received by **St. Lawrence Parish Council, Thompson**.

A message was sent to the **prime minister** and **premiers** from the provincial council "**urging our elected leaders to do everything in their power, setting aside personal and party preference, to resolve the present constitutional crisis in such a manner as not only to hold the country intact but also build up national unity. We desire deeply that Quebec remain an important part of Canada that it be persuaded to sign our constitution**".

The text of our **resolution** on **native communications** was sent to the **local Indian leaders** assuring them of our support.

A **certificate of appreciation** for **community service** was received from the **YWCA** by the provincial council on **behalf of Osborne House**.

Again, we went to **government** with our concerns, this time to the **three parties**.

Father Art Seaman's message to us was "...we should strive to be at peace, be happy and have fun as we carry out our commitment".

1991

The convention was at Christ the King, St. Boniface. The theme "*Parish-the Family of the Local Church*".

Speaker was Archbishop Sutton, OMI, from Keewatin-The Pas.

Father Renato Pasinato was installed as our new spiritual director.

Father Seaman, commenting on the theme, said "Communication between the priest and parishioners must be ongoing for the parish to grow."

There was recognition by the Catholic Foundation of Manitoba of the Catholic Women's League, la ligue feminine catholique du Manitoba and Ukrainian Catholic Women's League, with the presentation of the "*Caritas Award*". We try to be both Martha and Mary.

The Margaret Kelly Award was presented to St. Adolphe Parish Council, St. Boniface.

The *Mission Statement* was revised to read:

"*The Catholic Women's League of Canada is a national organization rooted in Gospel values, calling its members to holiness through service to the people of God.*"

Resolutions were strong this year, with a workshop at St. Mary's Cathedral. The provincial council went to government with the resolutions; one especially for the province asking for photo ID for the driver's license. Again, we went to the opposition also. The government 'look forward to the visits of the provincial council to present their resolutions."

The 1% program implemented by CCODP is a percentage of all we make through the year, and/or 1% of what we spend on ourselves.

Helen Bembenek was elected president for the next term.

1992

The 44th convention was held in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Winnipeg and the theme was again "*Parish – Family of the Local Church*".

Speaker, Dorice Marcil from Labrador, spoke on liturgy and laity.

Dorice Fillion from la ligue feminine catholique du Manitoba brought us a history of la ligue.

Margaret Kelly Award went to St. Peter's Parish Council, Winnipeg.

"*A Guide to Hosting Conventions*" was produced by Doreen Ferraton.

Mary Bennett was elected Legislation Convener on the national council.

We were saddened by the deaths of two active members this year – Elsie Litwin and Bernadette Russell.

Field Worker's Program is going strong, visiting many councils.

We made good use of the **national member, Dorice Marcil** from Labrador. She gave **four workshops** on **liturgy and laity. St. Boniface – Giftedness; Winnipeg – Liturgy; Russell – Giftedness** and in **Brandon – Convenorships**. The evaluations were enthusiastic. Audience participation and style of presentation made it very enjoyable. **She made each person aware of her own talents and self-worth.**

Mary, Mother of the Church Parish Council was awarded a **Certificate of Merit**.

Again, we took our **concerns to government** and they were very receptive. We took a **brief** to the **panel on education reform**.

1993

This year the **convention** was in the **north**, at **St. Ann's Parish** in **Flin Flon** and the **theme** was "***Rooted in Gospel Values***". For the **next six-years** the theme will be **taken from** our national **Mission Statement**.

Speaker was the **National Spiritual Director, Archbishop James MacDonald** from St. John's Newfoundland.

Margaret Kelly Award was presented to **St. Antoninus Parish Council, Deloraine**.

Pat Johnston produced the ***Life Members' Autobiography Book***.

The afternoon **program** was presented by **Viviane Bosch, National Spiritual Convener**. It was on the **Beatitudes** and in the form of discussion groups.

Helen Bembenek presented a **Chalice** and **Paten** to the provincial Spiritual Director for **use at provincial council meetings**.

Mrs. B. Parker (Linda) was installed as **president**.

This was the **year of the referendum**, a learning experience for all.

We voiced our **concerns** on the **1-900 Porno line**, especially that we would have to pay to get the line blocked!

The **resolutions** were **taken to government**. We **invited** the **Military Ordinariate** and **Knights of Columbus** to accompany us.

History is becoming important and the council set about looking for **scrapbooks, photos** and **charters**, taking them to **Manitoba Archives for keeping**.

1994

St. Bernadette's Parish in St. Boniface was the venue for this **convention**, with the **theme** "***Rooted in Gospel Values***".

It was the "**Year of the Family**" and **Joanne Thibault**, Director Manitoba, **1944 Year of the Family**, was our **speaker** and for our **workshop** we had **Margaret Lavoie** from the outreach team from **Kateri Tekakwitha**. We made **dream catchers** and asked "**What is God's dream for me?**"

The **membership** stands at **3,025** and **56 councils**.

There was a **new booklet** from national on “*The Beatitudes*” with a video and prayer booklet, for use at meetings and program.

Mary, Mother of the Church, St. Boniface was selected to receive the **Margaret Kelly Award**.

Letters were written to **Quebec churches** asking them to **stay in Canada**.

A **research paper** on “*Youth and the Young Offenders Act*” was produced by an Ad Hoc Committee of Manitoba members: **Doreen Ferraton, Dr. Rayleen de Luca and Mary Bennett**. A **position paper** was written for **national council**.

“*Framework of the Future*” **paper** was presented to the **provincial government** as an **overall study** on the **needs of education in the nineties**.

Resolutions were taken to **government** with copies of the papers produced.

Alpha House for abused women **opened** on **June 17th**. It had been a long hard road and was an **ecumenical community effort** started by the **CWL**.

Mary Bennett was sponsored for the **YM-YWCA, Women of Distinction Award**.

A **CWL council** and **Knights of Columbus** together **erected a memorial** near a **cemetery, to the unborn**.

1995

Notre Dame Council, Selkirk, hosted the **convention** with a new theme “*Calling its Members to Holiness*”.

Archbishop Hacault told us that “*...just your presence in the community is a sign of holiness to others.*”

The **Margaret Kelly Award** was not presented this year.

Archbishop Leonard Wall from Winnipeg was the **speaker** at the banquet.

The **afternoon programme** was given by **Rozanne Zulak**, who spoke on **The New Catechism of the Catholic Church** and the **women in the church** who were trying to find their rightful role.

Provincial **resolution** on **HIV/Aids Awareness** prompted a presentation to help members understand. It closed with an **aboriginal liturgy** “*Casting Out Stone*” and a **Litany of Compassion and Hope**, praying for greater public awareness and understanding.

Once more we took our **resolutions** and concerns to the **provincial government** and were well received and listened to and our questions answered.

Dr. Rayleen De Luca was awarded the *City of Winnipeg Appreciation Award* in recognition of outstanding volunteerism.

Another milestone was passed with the **death** of **Florence Fabris**, **Honourary Life Member, Past President** of all **four levels** and the **recipient** of *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* medal. She did so much for us. We will miss her.

Beatrice Gross was installed as **president** for the coming term.

1996

The **convention** was in St. Boniface this year hosted by **St. Gerard's Parish** at the Columbus Centre. The **theme** was "**Calling its members to Holiness**".

Father Ron Pasinato brought **greetings** on **behalf of the Hierarchy** who wish to **congratulate us on our new Mission Statement**.

Adele Danais brought greetings from **la ligue feminine catholique du Manitoba**.

Margaret Kelly Award is to be **continued** and a **larger shield** was acquired in preparation for next year's recipient.

Immaculate Conception Parish Council, Fisher Branch received the **Margaret Kelly Award**.

Dorothy Montpetit spoke on "**Celebrating the Life of the CWL**", a brief history.

The **Field Workers** were busy this past year with "**Spirituality – a Day of Discovery**" and now the introduction of a new programme, **Project GROW**.

The **national convention** will be **hosted by St. Boniface Diocesan Council** in the year **1999**. **Lorraine Smith**, Mary, Mother of the Church Parish Council was named **General Convener**.

Dr. Rayleen De Luca was made an *Honoree of Alpha House* in recognition for contribution in the area of spousal abuse.

The provincial government, **Premier Filmon** and **twelve ministers**, **invited us** to meet with them and discuss our **five resolutions**, and other concerns.

Our needs:	the FAMILY needs us.
	the COMMUNITY needs us.
	the COUNTRY needs us.
	the CHURCHES need us.
	CATHOLIC WOMEN need the LEAGUE .

1997

The **convention** was hosted this year by **St. John** and **St. Hyacinth Councils**, **Portage la Prairie**.

In the **afternoon session**, **national president, Joan Chessor**, spoke to us and answered our questions. **She said conventions were like family reunions**. She spoke of the **WUCWO convention in 1998** and **Project GROW**.

This was the **year of the FLOOD of the century**. The **councils rallied to the help of the victims, filling sandbags, feeding workers** and generally helping both **practically and financially** and by their **prayers**. Members from **across the country** sent us **greetings and prayers and financial support**. At least **two councils** made up **hamburgers, 500 at a time**, to feed the hungry workers.

Margaret Kelly Award was again being awarded and this year was presented to **Mary, Mother of the Church, St. Boniface**.

Seven resolutions were taken to **government** and as usual the **Knights of Columbus, Military Ordinariate** and **Ukrainian Catholic Women's League** came with us as observers.

At election time, we welcome our new **president, Betty David** and **Father Louis McCloskey** was **installed** as our new **spiritual advisor**.

It was with great sorrow that we heart of the **death** of Dr. Iphigenie Arsenault. A **national Life Member**, she did much work for the Catholic Women's League.

1998

Our **50th anniversary** – time to look back at all that has been done in our name over the years. The **convention** was held in St. Boniface at **Notre Dame de Lorette**, in **Lorette**.

Father McClosky spoke of the **Jubilee Year 2000** and the **preparations for the millennium**. Both **la ligue feminine catholique du Manitoba** and **Ukrainian Catholic Women's League** brought **greetings** and **congratulations** from their members.

Our afternoon program **speaker** was **Susan Swatek**, from **Winnipeg Harvest**. She made us aware of the importance of the work done by **Winnipeg Harvest**. Members **donated a basket of groceries and a cheque**.

Ten resolutions were **adopted** this year and sent to national.

Our **Jubilee Eucharist** was celebrated by **Archbishop Peter Sutton** from Keewatin-The Pas Archdiocese assisted by **Fathers Louise McClosky, Maurice Jeanneau, Ron Pasinato, Art Seaman** and **Msgr Roland Belanger**. At the banquet following, **Fr. Ron Pasinato** was **honoured** as the **retiring advisor**.

Margaret Kelly Award was presented this year to **St. Joseph the Worker Parish Council, Russell**. A **brief history** of the provincial council was then **presented** by **Mary Bennett**.

A highlight of the year 1999 will be the **hosting** of the **national convention** which will be held in **Winnipeg** and **convened** by **St. Boniface Archdiocesan Council** with **Lorraine Smith** as **General Convener**.

A FINAL WORD

“The scope of the League's work includes more than teas and bazars and fundraising events – it goes beyond the sanctuaries of the church and home. It involves commitment to the whole wide world we live in, a world which we must know as it is. L League members must witness to the life of spirit in the world and this requires an intensive spiritual life, based on personal holiness and to work selflessly to broaden our field of action in the communities we live, in our country and the whole world.”

- Dr. Isabella Stevens

This statement was made in 1963. Some 35 years later the League continues to broaden its field of action:

- ❖ Long before the **National Field Workers Program** began, **Manitoba** had its own **Leadership Team** which travelled the province assisting councils in their development.
- ❖ Since **1986 the Kee-Pas Mission Project** has been an **ongoing commitment** supporting the catechetical program in Keewatin-The Pas Archdiocese.
- ❖ In **1991** the provincial council was honoured for the work of the Catholic Women's League in Manitoba by being presented with the **Caritas Award** from the **Catholic Foundation of Manitoba**.
- ❖ **Each year** the provincial council **presents its resolutions and concerns** to the provincial government.
- ❖ The **Attorney-General of Manitoba** acknowledged the “**outstanding**” CWL presentation on “**Changes in Family Life**”.
- ❖ A provincial newsletter, *The Communicator*, comes out twice a year.
- ❖ The **original Handbook for Spiritual Directors** was written by our own **Msgr. Moore**.
- ❖ **Alpha House** Project for abused women and their children was **started initially the** CWL and expanded to include women of all faiths.
- ❖ The **Fellowship of the Least Coin** and **Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada** are **supported by the CWL**.

**BUT MOST IMPORTANT OF
ALL ARE THE FRIENDSHIPS
MADE AND THE FUN WE
SHARED IN ALL WE DID.**

**WE SAY GOOD LUCK AND
GODS SPEED TO ALL
WHO FOLLOW IN OUR
FOOTSTEPS.**

In Appreciation

The material for this History was compiled mostly from the history book prepared by Jean Keating in 1988 and has been brought up-to-date for the 50th anniversary from the minutes, memories and convention booklets of the provincial council.

MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL COUNCIL WHO HAVE SERVED ON NATIONAL COUNCIL

Margaret Kelly	Hon. Treasurer	1948-1952
Mary Panaro	Immigration Convener	1955-1958
	Treasurer & Finance Convener	1958-1959
	6 th Vice-President & Radio, T.V. & Films Convener	1960-1961
Winifred Alexander	5 th Vice-President & Spiritual & Lay Retreat Convener	1958-1960
Marguerite Lanthier	Public Relations, Press & Publicity Convener	1963-1967
Florence Fabris	Hon. Treasurer	1946-1948
	5 th Vice-President & Resolutions Convener	1963-1964
	2 nd Vice-President & Convener of Laws	1965-1966
	1 st Vice-President & International Relations	1966-1968
	National President	1968-1970
Marion Trudell	Resolutions Convener	1967-1968
	Laws Convener	1968-1972
Catherine Bird	Secretary-Treasurer	1971-1972
Patricia Johnston	Cultural Life Convener	1981-1982
Shirley Scaletta	Education Convener	1979-1980
	Spiritual Development Convener	1981-1982
	Legislation Convener	1984-1986
Evelyn Wyrzykowski	Resolutions Convener	1984-1986
	President Elect	1986-1988
	National President	1988-1990
Doreen Ferraton	Legislation Convener	1988-1990
Mary Bennett	Legislation Convener	1992-1994