

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada**  
**The Diocese of St Paul**

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President's Communiqué # 4  
October 2010

Annette deB

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Greetings All!

I hope that you all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer and are already back into the swing of things with your CWL activities in the parish. There are several areas where updates are needed to keep you informed of ongoing initiatives in the other levels of The League. Please pass this information on to all your members.

Firstly, a quick report on the **Provincial Convention 2010 in Fairview** -- The first speaker of the day was Kay F who spoke on Peace and Hope. She first remembered CWL ladies discussing peace at an executive meeting in her home - it was during WWII. "**Peace and Hope are intertwined like a ball of wool.**" Peace has to start with ourselves and our relationships with others. Denise K of the Military Ordinariate entertained us with a humorous, but thought-provoking overview of the life of the family of active-duty military personnel. Keynote speaker Mary Pat S spoke on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide, and the need for good palliative care. She told those present that if we are truly present for the dying, and accompany them on their journey with compassion and acceptance, it can be a grace-filled time. As Christians we can champion quality end-of-life care -- See the face of God in each person; Serve others as called by our Baptism; Proclaim and defend our values in a positive way; Witness to others by our actions. This was a very enjoyable convention. I hope many more of you will be able to attend next year's Provincial Convention, which will be held in Fort Saskatchewan on June 3-5, 2011.

An interesting tidbit from the Provincial pre-convention meeting: We were given a quick lesson in the protocol of presenting reports at convention. When it is the President's turn to present her report, she is to request the President-elect to "assume the Chair." The President-elect then responds "Assuming the Chair" and proceeds to ask the President to give her report. The President-elect, as the Chair, also asks if there are any questions on the report just presented. All questions are to be directed to the Chair; in this way no individual is in the "direct line of fire" so-to-speak, in case of a controversial topic. Once all questions are complete, the President-elect "returns the Chair" to the President and the meeting continues. I found this an enlightening chat on what can seem to be just "stuffy" protocol.

**Pennies for the Poor** program (sponsorship for Burundi) has ended as a Provincial initiative as of October 1, 2010. All funds collected under this program should be forwarded to the Provincial Treasurer no later than mid-December as all monies will be forwarded at December 31. The Pennies for the Poor program has been replaced by a new three year Provincial initiative called **Nickels for the North**. This new program is to raise funds to help our sisters in the north with the expenses related to travelling to CWL events and meetings. More information on Nickels for the North is available in the Provincial Fall Newsletter ([www.cwl.ab.ca](http://www.cwl.ab.ca)). Collect your nickels, deposit them in your account earmarked for Nickels for the North and forward a cheque to the Provincial Treasurer. Thank you for your generosity to our sisters in the north!

In your mail out for the fall, we have included information on the **Online Membership** program, and how to register your council. We are asking all councils to give this a try; it is expected to help reduce the backlog and possibility for errors when sending in membership information. If you need additional help, this might be a good time to enlist younger or more computer-savvy women in your parish to either take on the task or teach other members how to use technology so they can take it on. Give it a try and let us know how it goes for your group! Please note that you do not have to wait for all your fees to be collected before sending them in to National; submit them as they are collected. I would also like to know how your

council handles membership fees for those who cannot afford to pay them. Do you have experience of this, and how did you or your council respond? Please send me a note with your information.

In another month, all councils should be receiving a mail-out from National office with information and voting forms for the proposed **increase in per capita fees for National**. I have included information on the reasons for this requested increase in your packages. This vote is an instructed vote, and must come from the grass roots membership -- all those at the parish level. Your parish presidents will be required to bring your decision to the Mid-Winter Diocesan Meeting, where your votes will be tallied and provide me, as Diocesan President, with my Yes or No response that I must take to the Provincial level. The requested increase is \$5.00 per person and, if approved, will come into effect on January 1, 2012. Another item of note from National Office is that **all items ordered from National supplies must now be pre-paid**. This is due to having approximately \$30,000 in outstanding accounts receivable for items ordered by councils across Canada.

The **2012 National Convention Fundraising Committee** continues its efforts to finance the convention, which will be held in Edmonton in 2012. They have items available to purchase/sell if you wish to assist in these efforts. There are CWL luggage tags, CWL umbrellas in blue or black, and CWL flash drives with lanyards in blue, red or black. For more information, give me a call or send me an e-mail.

**Fall Provincial Meeting** was held September 17-19 in St. Albert. We held good discussions on possible training programs for members as well as possible initiatives in Social Justice that could be taken to National for discussion as possible National initiatives. The Provincial Newsletter is available at [www.cwl.ab.ca](http://www.cwl.ab.ca). Please take time to read it -- there is a lot of information packed into its pages. **What training do our parish councils feel would be the most valuable? Please let me know what you feel is most needed in your parish.**

The CWL will be an active presence at St. Joseph's Seminary and Newman Theological College. The members of the CWL are asked to help sponsor a chapel that will be dedicated to Our Lady of Good Counsel, with a personal donation of \$10 per member this would meet that goal. The CWL in the Diocese of Edmonton has also undertaken to coordinate the volunteers to run the bookstore, which will be named after the CWL. Please send in your donation to help support the Cornerstone of Faith Campaign, and the formation of future priests for all across our province and even country. The College is also open to members of the public who qualify to attend their programs.

The new National theme, beginning on January 1, 2011 is **"Centred on Faith & Justice."** This theme encourages us to focus on Social Justice in our parishes and beyond. We would like to see each council undertake at least one social justice project during the next year. Please plan to report on yours.

### **Upcoming Dates to Remember**

December 15, 2010	Parish Annual Reports are due to be sent to Organization Chair Lynne R
February 5, 2011	Midwinter Diocesan Meeting in Athabasca
April 8 & 9, 2011	Diocesan Convention in St. Paul
June 3 - 5, 2011	Provincial Convention in Fort Saskatchewan

**If your council is having a significant anniversary or special event happening, I would appreciate if you could please let me know.**

*Annette deB*  
*St. Paul Diocesan President*