



ST. CHARLES CWL NEWSLETTER

March 2026

Mission Statement

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



From The President's Desk

April – Moving Toward Easter Together

Dear Sisters,

As March draws to a close, we prepare to enter the Sacred Triduum—three holy days that draw us into the heart of our faith. Holy Thursday (April 3), Good Friday (April 4), and the Easter Vigil (April 5) lead us through a movement of love that is both solemn and hope-filled: Christ's sacrifice, His quiet rest in the tomb, and the joy of His Resurrection.

These days remind us that God often works most powerfully through what seems small or hidden—acts of generosity no one sees, prayers whispered for someone in need, moments of patience, compassion, or forgiveness. This is where His light breaks through.

In some ways, the Triduum mirrors our CWL theme, *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission*. We don't need grand gestures to make a difference. When we show up with love in ordinary moments, we are living Christ's mission in the most real and meaningful ways. The flame doesn't have to be big to be bright. May the Triduum remind us that even the smallest spark—shared with love—can brighten someone's path and help bring His mission to life among us.

From Lenten Closet Purge to FREE CLOTHING BOUTIQUE!

I'm excited to share that at our March General Meeting, members expressed overwhelming support for hosting our first ever **FREE CLOTHING BOUTIQUE** on May 2, 2026 in the Activity Centre! This will be a brand-new outreach for our Council—a joyful, dignified, no-cost shopping experience for anyone who could use a little help. Please spread the word, invite friends to donate, and encourage anyone who may benefit to come out on May 2.

If you've been setting items aside during our 40-Day Lenten Closet Purge, please hang onto everything and bring your clothing donations to the Boutique drop-off on Friday, May 1. Once again, a simple act—gathering clothing we no longer wear—becomes a beautiful way to *Empower His Mission* in our community.

Important Dates in April

- **Sunday, April 12 – Divine Mercy Sunday** Celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter, this feast invites us to rest in the boundless compassion of Christ. Rooted in the visions of St. Faustina Kowalska, it highlights Jesus' desire that every soul trust in His mercy and find hope in His love. The day reminds us

that no one is beyond the reach of God's forgiveness and encourages us to extend that same mercy to others in our daily lives.

- **Sunday, April 26 – Our Lady of Good Counsel** Installation of our 2026–2027 Executive will take place at the 9 a.m. Mass.

Wishing you all a grace-filled Easter season; May the light of Christ keep our shared mission burning.



Blessings,
Beatrice Spatafora, President
bspat@shaw.ca or 780-399-9459

Organization (Memberships)

Thank you to everyone who came out to the March 17th General meeting. We appreciate the time that Deacon Joe gives to our group and his thoughtful spiritual reflections.

A few highlights from the meeting:

- Upcoming volunteer opportunities – Lenten & Spring Closet Purge, the May 2nd Free Clothing Boutique and convening the June Social.
- We are looking into a new sound system for our General meetings so everyone can hear the conversations better.
- Our Lady of Good Counsel and Executive installations will be celebrated at the April 26th 9 am Mass – See section from our Past President, Katherine for more info on this
- The Diocesan convention will be held April 17th & 18th at the Holy Family Parish in St. Albert.
- Door prize at the meeting was won by a visitor to CWL, Nicole Babiak and the word search prize was won by Rita Pfefferle.

We would like to thank Joan Hejnar and Katherine Tarras who provided snacks for the evening.

We currently have 102 membership fees paid up for 2026 – thank you all! If you would like to purchase your 2026 CWL membership, the fee is still \$40. Payment can be made via cash, cheque or e-transfer. To make your payment, please contact Lorette Bowers @ 780-975-9042 or bowers5862@gmail.com.

Save the date – our next general meeting will be **Tuesday April 21st @ 6:45 pm** (first 15 minutes are social time followed by the official meeting commencing at 7 pm).

Lorette Bowers
Organization



To mark International Women's Day, WUCWO hosted a Zoom event titled "Women of faith: bearers of Peace and Hope" that was in collaboration with the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue held on March 5th, 2026. I enthusiastically attended this online forum with 200 women from all around the world. It was truly an ecumenical and interreligious gathering that joined women of faith traditions which included the following: Christian Islamic, Buddhist, Hinduism, Jewish, and Middle Eastern Armenian. We were hosted by the President of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisation from Rome and our presenters represented countries from around the world, in all time zones, with variable internet connectivity. We were greeted by a Cardinal from the Vatican who warmly welcomed this collaborated event at this critical time in our world history.



As women we are called to be the bearers of peace in this fragmented world, and it starts with our own hearts. If we can allow ourselves to let go of our own fears, anxieties, and pain then we can start to disarm our hearts through forgiveness and reconciliation. Peace is an active response as we answer the call to be Christian Witnesses who walk together in disarming our own hearts first. There is unity in women of all faiths in this uncertain world, and we can offer stability and peace through responsible dialogue. Peace does exist. It wants to dwell in us, if we recognize it, welcome it, and feel it despite the world circumstances. Peace is a concrete mission as an act of love and women are the bridge builders who can promote dialogue, protect the poor, defend universal freedoms as we undertake this sacred task for all humanity.

This does not apply to only one religion but to all women of faith. We are being challenged to break the cycle of de-sensitization by rehumanizing "the other". If we are to disentangle from this fragmented world, it is through acts of compassion and solidarity that offer equanimity to all those around us. We are one big family living on this earth, as we share the same air, sun, water, wind and resources, yet world globalization has created a false sense that we are somehow separated by boundaries. Let us be the examples of peace in our communities by active listening, dialogue, getting to know each other, setting aside differences knowing we can have healthy disagreements as we remember that we all originate from the same Spirit.

Peace be with you!

Teresa McGrath
Faith

Alberta Mackenzie Prays the Rosary- Weekly

Members are invited to pray the Rosary weekly on Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm (MST) (visiting) and 7:30 pm (Rosary). Log in information is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82270928254?pwd=RDw8o3BLL7mlI7saBCvI2gBUPaqFS1.1>

Meeting ID: 822 7092 8254.

Passcode: 972660



Past President's Message

Wishing everyone a Very Blessed Easter! And safe travels for anyone traveling.

The installation of our new Executive has been scheduled for **Sunday, April 26th at the 9:00 am** Mass. All members are encouraged to attend. If you can, please wear the CWL Blue and your pins.



Katherine Tarras
Past President

Service

Funeral Lunch Committee



A funeral lunch was requested for 60 guests for March 13, 2026. Thank you to all the phoners, volunteers, donators and K of C volunteers who make this important service possible.

There have been two more funeral lunch requests – one for April 8th for 20 people and one for for April 30th for 50 guests.

Rachelle Pouliot & Bev Jensen
Funeral Lunch Coordinators

Social Justice

St. Vincent de Paul – Guest Speaker

Our very own Yvette D'Entremont, President, St. Charles Conference of St. Vincent de Paul, will be our guest speaker at the April General meeting on **April 21st, 2026**. Please plan to attend the meeting to learn more about the important work that this society does for the less fortunate and how you can help.

Mary Leuwer
Social Justice

Laughter is Good for the Soul

A doctor, a lawyer, a little boy and a priest were out for a Sunday afternoon flight on a small private plane. Suddenly, the plane developed engine trouble. In spite of the best efforts of the pilot, the plane started to go down. Finally, the pilot grabbed a parachute, yelled to the passengers that they had better jump, and then he bailed out.



Unfortunately, there were only three parachutes remaining. The doctor grabbed one and said "I'm a doctor, I save lives, so I must live," and jumped out.

The lawyer then said, "I'm a lawyer and lawyers are the smartest people in the world. I deserve to live." He also grabbed a parachute and jumped.

The priest looked at the little boy and said, "My son, I've lived a long and full life. You are young and have your whole life ahead of you. Take the last parachute and live in peace."

The little boy handed the parachute back to the priest and said, "Not to worry, Father. The 'smartest man in the world' just took off with my back pack."

ST. CHARLES CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Lenten & Spring **CLOSET PURGE**

*Clean out your closet –
make room for new beginnings!*



WE NEED YOUR CLOTHING

*Clear out your closets this Lent & Spring.
Then on May 1st donate those clothes
(Men's, Women's Children's Babies) you
gathered to our upcoming
FREE CLOTHING BOUTIQUE
On May 2nd!*

*That's right; we're hosting a fun, no-cost
shopping experience for anyone who could
use a little help this Spring.*

*Shopping boutique to take place at
St. Charles Catholic Church on May 2nd, 10-3*

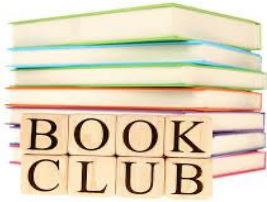


Thank you for helping support our neighbours!

HOW CAN YOU HELP

- 1. CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSETS**
Wash and package your gently used clothing (all sizes) –
Especially looking for baby & children's clothing
- 2. DROP OFF AT THE CHURCH
FRIDAY, MAY 1**
Bring your donations to St. Charles Church Activity Centre
- 3. MORE INFO TO COME**
Re the FREE Clothing Boutique on May 2nd, St Charles Activity Centre





CWL Virtual BYOB Book Club February Reads

1. ***Hello Sunshine***– Laura Dave. Sunshine Mackenzie is living the dream—she’s a culinary star with millions of fans, a line of #1 bestselling cookbooks, and a devoted husband happy to support her every endeavor. And then she gets hacked.
2. ***Here One Moment***– Liane Moriarty. Aside from a delay, there will be no problems. The flight will be smooth; it will land safely. Everyone who gets on the plane will get off. But almost all of them will be forever changed.
3. ***You Can Heal Your Life*** – Louise Hay. Every thought we think is creating our future. Each one of us creates our experiences by our thoughts and our feelings. The thoughts we think and the words we speak create our experiences.
4. ***Fields of Grace*** – Kim Vogel Sawyer. With their eldest son nearly to the age when he will be drafted into military service, Reinhardt and Lillian Vogt decide to immigrate to America, the land of liberty, with their three sons and Reinhardt's adopted brother, Eli.
5. ***Not a Blessed Thing*** – Monica Quill. When her life is threatened, Cheryl Pitman, the owner of a local television station, decides to hide at Sister Mary Teresa's
6. ***The Paris Express***– Emma Donoghue. Inspired by a French railway disaster of 1895, this sweeping thriller brings together characters real and invented, rich and poor, from all over the world, on a steam train hurtling through the countryside.
7. ***The Life Cycle of the Common Octopus***– Emma knight. Arriving at the University of Edinburgh for her first term, Pen knows her divorced parents back in Canada are hiding something from her. She believes she’ll find the answer here in Scotland, where an old friend of her father’s—now a famous writer known as Lord Lennox—lives.
8. ***The Bushman’s Lair***– Paul McKendrick. A true crime account of John Bjornstrom, a reclusive thief who lived in a beach cave off British Columbia's Shuswap Lake.
9. ***Bridge of Sighs***– Richard Russo. A portrait of small-town life in New York where a tannery’s runoff is slowly spreading carcinogenic ruin.
10. ***The Light Keeper’s Daughter*** – Jean Pendziwol. Morgan is a teenage girl, being raised in foster homes after the death of her father. She meets a blind, elderly woman named Elizabeth, who once lived on Porphyry Island with her parents, brothers and twin sister Emily. Her father was the lighthouse keepers and his journals have just been delivered to Elizabeth, having been found in a wrecked ship. Morgan will become her eyes in her attempt to retrace her history.
11. ***Heads You win*** – Jeffrey Archer. After his father is murdered, Alexander escapes the Soviet Union in 1968 with his mother, Elena. At the dock, a coin is tossed to decide whether to hide in a ship traveling to New York City or one whose destination is London.

NEXT BOOK CLUB MEETING: Thursday, April 30



Important Dates

April 3	Good Friday
April 5	Easter Sunday
April 7	Executive Meeting
April 17 & 18	Diocesan Convention @ Holy Family, St. Albert
April 21	General Meeting with Guest Speaker
April 26	CWL Installation of Officers @ 9:00 am Mass Our Lady of Good Council Feast Day
May 2	Clothing Boutique – Activity Centre
June 5 - 6	Alberta MacKenzie Provincial 79 th Annual Convention St. Joseph’s Church, Whitecourt
June 9	June Social
Aug. 9 - 12	National Convention, Halifax, NS

Quick Links

National Website:	www.cwl.ca
Provincial Council Website:	www.cwl.ab.ca
Diocesan Council:	www.edmontoncwl.org
Facebook Page:	Catholic Women's League, St. Charles, Edmonton https://www.facebook.com/groups/1017745547096618



ST. CHARLES CWL PRAYER LIST

March 2026

Please pray for our CWL members and our Council. Prayers for peace in the Ukraine & the Middle East
Please pray for seminarian Matthew Gensorek on his journey to respond to God's call

For those who are sick and all who look after them:

Larry Belanger (husband of Norma Belanger)
Margaret Bernard
Jacqueline Cuerrier
Rafael Martel (Kathy Martel's grandson)
Evelyn Radostits
Sharon Roshko
Bea and Joe Spatafora
Lily Webb
Celine deVries-Stadleer (Marie-Paul Petersen's daughter)
Stella Kachmar
Bert Trompetter (Cora's husband)
David Meier (Shirley's husband)
Melissa Cuerrier (daughter of Jacqueline Cuerrier)
Eileen Kavanagh (Monique Gauthier's daughter-in-law)
Sybil Ledi
Marie-Paul Petersen
Father Marc Cramer
Jeanne Richelhoff (Louise Despins' sister)
Marie Phillips
Theresa Amuzu
Myrla Fitzpatrick
Rita Oplanich (Tina Casella's mother)
Sheila Wright (friend of Hilda Daubner)
Dianne Dyer
Lillian Wawzonek
Richard Cloutier (brother of Cecile Dufresne)
Suzanne Wowk
Therese Swityk
Anthony (Tony) Hauck (Katherine Tarras' brother-in-law)
Michelle Armstrong
Joann Limoges
Frank Spatafora (Bea Spatafora's father-in-law)
Faye Tkachuk
Dulcie Webb (Lily Webb's daughter-in-law)

For those who have died and all who mourn them:

Shane Castiday (son of Genny Castiday and brother of Debbie Dixon)
Elaine Young (Betty Storoschuk's sister)

Please contact **Kathy Martel** at 780-456-0760 or Kmartel780@gmail.com names.



April 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Cora Trompetter	2 Holy Thursday Lorraine Trudel	3 Good Friday Juliette Vizza	4 Holy Saturday Audrey Waseylenko
5 Easter Lillian Wawzonek	6 Easter Monday Mary Lily Webb	7 Cecilia Zdunich	8 Denise Zubick	9 Judy Acker	10 Janice Albiston	11 Theresa Amuzu
12 Divine Mercy Sunday Carol Andrews	13 Norma Belanger	14 Margaret Bernard	15 Judy Biller	16 Patricia Black	17 CWL Diocesan Linda Boire	18 Convention Lorette Bowers
19 Linda Bramhill	20 Paula Braumberger	21 CWL Meeting 6:45pm **St. Vincent de Paul Speaker Presentation** Simone Bucci	22 Lidia Buske	23 Natalie Carley	24 Teresa Cartmell	25 Tina Casella
26 Our Lady of Good Counsel **CWL Installation Mass 9am** Please join Genevieve Castiday	27 Elisabetta Chiodo	28 Connie Comeault	29 Crystal Cordeiro	30 Lynn Cristini		

Notes

Print / Post this page on your fridge.

Pray for your CWL Sisters on the day they are tagged.

Each Wednesday you can pray the Rosary online with CWL members from around our province. The link changes every 3 months. To ensure you have the most updated link, please visit our Provincial website: <https://www.cwlabmk.ca/>.



March '26						
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May '26						
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