



# ST. CHARLES CWL NEWSLETTER

May/June 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

### May - Wrapping Up a Beautiful Season of Service

Dear Sisters,

Over these past months as President, I have been continually inspired by the many ways you have gone about Igniting Your Passion and Empowering His Mission through your kindness, your commitment, and the quiet acts of service that strengthen our community and parish family. Our council's light truly shines bright.

### A Clothing Boutique Overflowing With Love

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for the incredible support you poured into our first-ever Free Clothing Boutique. Your donations, your time, your sorting, your lifting, and your welcoming smiles created a warm, dignified, joy-filled experience for our community.

We served many families, and the gratitude expressed by our guests was deeply moving. This event was a true example of our national theme in action — a simple spark becoming a bright flame. We also learned a great deal on how we can improve for next year. One final note on this - if you know someone who came by the church Friday evening after the doors were locked, please share my heartfelt apologies. We had reached capacity for clothing, but we recognize this was disappointing to those who made the effort to come out and we are committed to doing better next time.



### Growing Our Presence in the Parish

Looking ahead to the Fall, we are excited to continue strengthening our visibility and connection within St.

Charles, especially with the opening of our new feeder school Carlo Acutis H.S. One initiative we're piloting this Fall is a **Hospitality Sunday (Toonie Sunday) -the 4th Sunday of \*September, October, and November** — this will be a simple donut and coffee (or juice) time for parishioners to gather in the Activity Centre after the 9 & 11 am Masses. It's a small gesture with a big purpose: building community, creating welcome, and helping more parishioners get to know who we are and what we do. Stay tuned — volunteers will be needed.



\*September's Toonie Sunday will coincide with our CWL Pumpkin Spice Event (September 27th), a warm, fall-themed awareness event inviting women of the parish to learn more about our council. We hope it will be a strong kick-off to our Hospitality Sundays.

### **Wishing You a Restful, Blessed Summer**

As we pause for the summer months, I pray each of you finds time for rest, renewal, and the simple joys that refresh the spirit — time with family, quiet mornings, warm evenings, and moments of gratitude for God's goodness.

Thank you for your dedication, creativity, generosity, and unwavering support. You make our CWL a place of faith, friendship, and purpose.

May God bless you and keep you safe this summer. I look forward to first seeing many of you at our year-end social on June 9th and then gathering again in September with renewed energy and joyful hearts.

**With gratitude,  
Beatrice Spatafora, President**  
bspat@shaw.ca or 780-399-9459

### **Past President's Message**



Wishing everyone a Blessed and Safe Summer. Enjoy your Families and Friends!  
See you in the Fall,

**Katherine Tarras,  
Past-President**

### **Organization (Memberships)**

Thank you to everyone who came out for our last CWL General Meeting until we resume in fall.

I would like to acknowledge Deacon Joe for his inspiring spiritual reflection and for his gift of time to the CWL. I would like to send out a huge thank you to Teresa McGrath and Crystal Cordeiro who provided the wonderful snacks.

A few highlights from the meeting:

**Cody Parr - Director of Our Lady of Victory Camp**, was our guest speaker and provided us with great information about the camp and the programs they offer off season.

A new PA system was purchased for the meetings and is meeting the needs of the members.

Funeral lunches will continue to be available through the summer if any are requested

Fall Bazaar is tentatively booked for October 24th, 2026. Stay tuned as we will need your help to make this another successful event.

CWL will start hosting a hospitality event the 4th Sunday of every month starting in September. Stay tuned for more information on this.

Our door prize winner was Irene Midgley.

Want to hear the news 1st hand and have a say on how we disperse the monies we fund-raise for?

**SAVE-THE-DATE:** All ladies of St. Charles are invited to attend our monthly general meetings (only active members can vote on our motions). Save-The-Date for our **next General meeting, September 15th at 6:45 pm** (First 15 minutes are social time, followed by our official meeting commencing at 7pm).

**Lorette Bowers  
Organization**

## **CWL Anniversary Tree**

The commemorative plaque has been installed for our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary CWL tree. Thank you Rita Pfefferle for looking after this project.



**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=RDw8o3BLL7mlJ7saBCvI2gBUPaqFS1.1>

**Meeting ID: 822 7092 8254.**

**Passcode: 972660**

# Edmonton Diocesan CWL - 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention

## April 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### Holy Family Parish, St. Albert

**“Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission”**

#### **April 17<sup>th</sup> Proceedings – by Teresa McGrath**

**President Jean Ashdown** opened the meeting. Introduction of diocesan officers. Reports were given. Note: CWL volunteers should have completed the Praesidium safe environment program. See Deacon Bong for an online course.

**Past President Clover Oryschak** thanked us for submitting our history for the history book.

**Treasurer Daphne Cheel** reported on finances.

**Service, Social Justice, Faith:** Refugee Bags, OLOVC, Feed the Hungry, Books  
Sacred Heart of the First Peoples provides Feed the Hungry, If councils can offer help in winter that would be great.

IWIN provides backpacks to survivors of human trafficking who enter a wrap-around program to support all needs. High level bridge lit up with blue lights on Feb 22 for International Day Against Human Trafficking.

Also: May 5<sup>th</sup> Red Dress Day for National Day of Awareness for Missing, Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, 2SLGBTQI+

#### **Covenant Care: Patrick Dumelie**

Catholic Healthcare was present in Alberta before it became a province in 1905. Grey Nuns built the first hospital in St. Albert.

They worked with the poor, nursed those who needed medical care. Established first nursing schools. By the 1920s there were 15 hospitals in Alberta and by WW2 44% of care was given by the Nuns. At the peak, there were 55 hospitals across Alberta. With Medicare, nuns considered transitioning of facilities to public domain. By 1976, the number of sisters diminished to the point they involved laity in their ministry.

In 1994, with the creation of Regional Health Authorities, the Catholic Health Care worked with the government to have a Master Agreement reached. The Nuns decided to withdraw from providing healthcare and in 2008 Covenant Health was Established. A Statue of the Nuns remains at the Legislature with their final words “ Don’t put us on a pedestal. Let go of the past. Create your own legacy.”

Now there are 29 facilities and 14 organizations under Covenant Health. They have been deemed in the Top 85 Employers in AB, Most Admired in Corporate Culture and their goal is to provide the best health care in Alberta. Covenant Wellness Community opened in Southeast Edmonton, which is not a hospital but a holistic care center to provide all services except Acute needs.

**Doreen Milton Award** went to Joe Spiller from Innisfail for \$1000.00 towards his studies

**Guest Speaker Gwen Meding:** Studying the Sunday Scripture , She wrote bible studies based on the Weekly readings. By studying the Bible, we know the Word of God and we hear the voice of Jesus.  
Study Group Guidelines: Listen, Respect, Confidentiality, Participation The presentation was a brief overview of how to use the Bible, the Catechism and the Readings to answer reflective questions.



**100th Anniversary** of St Joseph's Seminary on May 19th, 2027

Voting on ABMK provincial officers; All in by Acclamation; 2 positions need to be filled.

**2028 National CWL** Convention in Edmonton August 20-23,2028 Westin Hotel Downtown Chairs are June Fuller and Cathy Bouchard. Opportunities for fundraising coming.

### **Session on Leadership**

Many councils have difficulty filling positions Sometimes Presidents serve for many years. Then this may create: stagnant councils, maintenance Mode, Downward spiral, Inactive, Disbandment.

Why People Don't Offer to Serve: work/life balance, risk of failure, criticism, fear of failure and mistakes, need more encouragement, lack of mentoring.

Discussion on how to provide support included: delegate workload, ask for help, accept help, don't criticize, have co-chairs for different roles, watch negative self-talk and be honest about what you can do.

Reward Progress. Not Outcomes, Promote collaborative culture, try new opportunities, be flexible, get others to contribute, and be willing to be mentored.

Prayer and Adjournment for Friday.

Mass 7 pm with Archbishop Hero, Wonderful Homily and Wine and Cheese followed.

### **April 18<sup>th</sup> Proceedings by Irene Midgley**

Jean Ashdown welcomed all of us for the second day of the convention. We started with the Memorial Service for deceased CWL Members.

Fr Berube, as our spiritual advisor, recognized the good work we do. He stressed that our good works begin with a relationship with Jesus Christ.

### **Annual Meeting of Members was held:**

**Voting was held on changes to the Constitution. One of the changes to our constitution is our symbol of faith. It has changed to 13 points on the maple leaf representing the 10 provinces and the 3 territories.**

Election of Diocesan Officers was held.

### **Resettlement assistance program RAP:**

Speakers from Catholic Social Services (CSS) Rima Maalouf and Charles Byusa a former refugee.

The RAP program provides essential needs immediately for new refugees. Refugees get some income support for the first year, however, they must pay back all expenses incurred to get to Canada. Refugees are people fleeing their country from human rights abuse. They have crossed a border from their country and are living somewhere waiting for entrance to a new country.

One 26-year-old man from Africa was forced to flee his home country of Congo as he was a person with albinism. He faced threats against his life, and bullying. In Congo, albinism is considered to be bad luck and evil. He and his family travelled from Congo to Uganda. In Uganda he was abused by other refugees. He was moved by the refugee organization to Kenya for his own protection. He eventually came to Canada. It was during the pandemic, and he had to spend 14 days in isolation. CSS help him with paperwork and he went Norquest. He became a camera man and is working in Toronto.

**What is RAP?** Resettlement Assistance Program. (Service Provider)

They served 791 clients in Edmonton 2024-2025. RAP provides initial services. They pick them up at the airport and bring them to the Reception House. If the

house is full, they take them to a hotel.

Reception House is like an apartment that the government supports. They stay for 3 weeks and get all their services and paperwork in order. Things that are needed to live in Canada like Alberta Health Card, SIN number etc. RAP helps them find a place to live. At the house that have 24/7 staff; plus, security guards There are 11 suites. Food is ready for them when they arrive, and the **CWL refugee bags** are given to them. Those bags brought some refugees to tears, they were so very grateful and realized that there were people who cared about them and were praying for them.

They start orientation almost immediately which can range from how to work a microwave to not smoking in the building.

RAP has dealt with 26 different languages in order to help all the different refugees. They can usually find someone who knows the language and will take them grocery shopping and learn how to use the bus. There is an ETS app now that they can upload then use in their own language!

Settlement counsellors use a holistic approach to help them learn about health, food, accommodations, banking, cultural expectations, and set them up with English as a second language classes. RAP is a 6-week process and then there are follow up home visits

### **Final business of the Convention**

Total attendance 182

Mass collection was \$1654.00 and will be given to Gianna Centre for Pregnancy Support Services.

2027 convention will be in Fort Saskatchewan April 24 and 25

#### Service

### **Funeral Lunch Committee**



Funeral lunch service for 75 people took place on May 19<sup>th</sup> and another funeral lunch service was provided for 100 people on May 20<sup>th</sup>. This service will continue through July and August if requested.

Thank you to all the phoners, volunteers, donators and K of C volunteers who make this important service possible.

**Rachelle Pouliot & Bev Jensen**  
**Funeral Lunch Coordinators**

#### Social Justice

### **Did You Know...**

About the Alberta Rights Commission? The Commission partners with organizations, businesses, associations, governments, and communities to support major initiatives that strategically address [hate](#), [racism](#), and [discrimination](#) in the Province. They advance human rights and work to address discrimination in the justice, health, education, housing, employment, immigration and settlement, hospitality, and service sectors.

To learn more about the Alberta Rights Commission, check out their webpage at:

<https://albertahumanrights.ab.ca/>



## TOONIE SUNDAYS

# Community-Wellness-Laughter

**New this Fall, 2026**  
**Coffee/Juice & Donuts\***  
**HOSPITALITY SUNDAYS**



**...on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month**



**September 27<sup>th</sup>**

**October 25<sup>th</sup>**

**November 22<sup>nd</sup>**



**\*Enjoy with a minimum \$2 Donation per Person  
(\$10/Family)**



**Sponsored by your St. Charles  
Catholic Women's League**



## Laughter is Good for the Soul

The 95 year-old woman at the nursing home received a visit from one of her fellow church members.

"How are you feeling Mary?" the visitor asked. "Oh" said the lady, "I'm just worried sick?"

"What are you worried about, dear" her friend asked. "You look like you are in good health. They are taking care of you, aren't they?"

"Yes, they are taking very good care of me."

"Are you in any pain?" she asked.

"No, I have never had a pain in my life."

"Well, what are you worried about" her friend asked again.

The lady leaned back in her rocking chair and slowly explained her major worry. "Every close friend I ever had has already died and gone to heaven. I'm afraid they're all wondering where I went!"



### **CWL Virtual BYOB Book Club**

Month of May Reads Will be published in the September Newsletter

### **BOOK CLUB WILL RESUME IN OCTOBER**

#### Important Dates

<b>June 5 - 6</b>	Alberta MacKenzie Provincial 79 <sup>th</sup> Annual Convention St. Joseph's Church, Whitecourt
<b>June 9</b>	June Social
<b>Aug. 9 - 12</b>	National Convention, Halifax, NS
<b>Sept. 15</b>	CWL General Meeting

#### Quick Links



<b>National Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.cwl.ca">www.cwl.ca</a>
<b>Provincial Council Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.cwl.ab.ca">www.cwl.ab.ca</a>
<b>Diocesan Council:</b>	<a href="http://www.edmontoncwl.org">www.edmontoncwl.org</a>
<b>Facebook Page:</b>	Catholic Women's League, St. Charles, Edmonton <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/1017745547096618">https://www.facebook.com/groups/1017745547096618</a>



# **ST. CHARLES CWL PRAYER LIST**

***May/June 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  
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  
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)  
Frank Spatafora (Bea Spatafora's father-in-law)  
Marie-Paul Petersen (CWL member)  
Filomena St. Jean (Estrela De Sousa's sister)

Please contact **Kathy Martel** at 780-456-0760 or [Kmartel780@gmail.com](mailto:Kmartel780@gmail.com) names.



# June 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Stella Hoekstra	2 Judy Horban	3 Angela Hunt	4 Patsy Hwong	5 Beverley Jensen	6 Elsie Johnson
7 Gincy Joseph	8 Claire Kawulok	9 Marianne Konanz <small>CWL Y/E SOCIAL</small>	10 Janice Lakusta	11 Sybil Ledi	12 Laura Lemay	13 Deacon Joe Leuwer
14 Mary Leuwer	15 Sharon MacCormac	16 Kathy Martel	17 Connie McBride	18 Teresa McGrath	19 Shirley Meier	20 Catherine Michael
21 Indigenous Peoples Day	22 Irene Midgley	23 Monika Murnane	24 Corey Nahayowski	25 Gayle Nicholson	26 Dianne Nolette	27 Cecylia Novak
28 Kathleen Oswald	29 Sandra Palazzo	30 Anne-Marie Paquin				

## 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. The link changes every 3 months. To ensure you have the most updated link, please visit our Provincial website: <https://www.cwlabmk.ca/>. Scroll down the home page for the newest link to this week's rosary. Site opens 7 pm & the Rosary starts at 7:30 pm.



May '26						
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July '26						
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# July 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Canada Day Rita Pfefferle	2 Marie Phillips	3 Linda Platzner	4 Rachelle Pouliot
5 Evelyn Radostits	6 Lynette Reynolds	7 Sharon Roshko	8 Barb Roth	9 Judy Roy	10 Marlene Schmidt	11 Sherrie Schumacker
12 Bea Spatafora	13 Janice Stalker	14 Betty Storoschuk	15 Therese Swityk	16 Katherine Tarras	17 Faye Tkachuk	18 Cora Trompetter
19 Lorraine Trudel	20 Juliette Vizza	21 Audrey Waseylenko	22 Lillian Wawzonek	23 Mary Lily Webb	24 Cecilia Zdunich	25 Denise Zubick
26 Judy Acker	27 Janice Albiston	28 Theresa Amuzu	29 Carol Andrews	30 Norma Belanger	31 Margaret Bernard	

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August '26						
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30	31					

# August 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3 Heritage Day	4 Lorette Bowers	5 Linda Bramhill	6 Paula Braumberger	7 Simone Bucci	8 Lidia Buske
9	10 106th CWL National Convention - Halifax NS	11 Teresa Cartmell	12 Tina Casella	13 Elisabetta Chiodo	14 Connie Comeault	15 Crystal Cordeiro
Lidia Buske	Natalie Carley	17 Lynn Cristini	18 Yvette d'Entremont	19 Phyllis da Costa	20 Hilda Daubner	21 Maria De Benedetto
Crystal Cordeiro	23 Estrela De Sousa	24 Louise Despins	25 Debbie Dixon	26 Marjolaine Dubuc	27 Cecile Dufresne	28 Dora Dumont
29 Pat Duncan	30 Dianne Dyer	31				29 Pat Duncan

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### July '26

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### September '26

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