

President Communique

2018-2020/07

June 3, 2020

“Although it may not seem like it at times, every problem can be solved. God is all-powerful and bigger than any issue we could ever face.”

Gary Zimack-Stop Worrying & Start Living

Much has changed since my last communique where I listed many dates for future events. Who could have known the impact that the corona virus would have on our lives?

We were fortunate that we were able to gather for our Spring meeting. We certainly managed to go through our business sessions and listen to Pat Deppiesse presenting the history of Our Lady of Guadalupe and her intention to make an amendment to our C&B.

Marc Vella from the Christian Civic Affairs Committee explained to us how to get pro-life candidates to run in each party.

A historic outline of the Catholic Women’s Leadership Foundation was given by Neysa Finnie with an update on previous participants in the program.

Father David outlined in the Old Testament where people constantly disobeyed God, except for Abraham, Noah, John, and Mary. They not only believed but evangelized by putting their beliefs into action.

Reading through the minutes I recall all the actions and planning for the upcoming conventions and now we are at a standstill with all conventions cancelled. The daily news is full of reports of the coronavirus as every province is battling the virus. Our churches are closed but we do have the opportunity to listen to the mass online, we are even able to visit many other churches that are live streaming the mass. At this time of social distancing it is important to connect with each other via phone, emails, or letters. One suggestion was made recently to write letters to our members who are not on social media and have no computers. My own CWL parish council ensures that every member receives a phone call to ensure they are healthy, and they are asked if they need anything. Carl Hetu, the Canadian National Director of CNEWA, states in an article of the BC Catholic under the heading -What will we keep when social distancing is gone? “In the spirit of Easter and the resurrection of Jesus, maybe this pandemic will give us a new way to relate with one another and see what is so special in the other, instead of focusing on the negative.”

So, our lives have changed, we cannot hold meetings on all levels, will have no elections, and members will have to stay in their positions until such time that elections can be held. We can meet via Zoom or Goto Meetings, but these are not official meetings.

If your diocesan council has a bursary to award this can be done by mail. Since we have no provincial convention, we cannot have a formal presentation.

As you can see, I started this communique a while ago, in the meantime Sylvia Jurys has managed to send out the provincial Communicator with many interesting articles and always Fr. David's spiritual writings.

Kathy Weswick, chairperson of Education and Health, and her committee have worked on the provincial Bursary and today I received the information that Christine Reeves, a member of Our Lady of Lourdes CWL Council in West Kelowna is the winner of the BC & Yukon Provincial CWL Council Molly Boucher bursary of \$1,000.00. This article will also be featured in the Advent Communicator.

I have held a Zoom meeting with the diocesan presidents to share information about happenings in our six dioceses. It was good to see and speak with each other.

See <https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/20200506-COVID-Update-II.pdf> for the list of frequently asked questions prepared by the National Office for more information.

You had received information that national office reopened. Please be patient when requesting updates of membership lists etc. Fran Lucas informed us that quite a few parishes are behind in their remittance of membership dues, so she has asked that parishes should be contacted with a friendly phone call to inquire about their status on this. The organization chairpersons will have received the material from Fran Lucas

I am still working on a brief article on our Province's history for *The Canadian League* fall issue, I have had feedback from a few but am open to more if you find anything that relates to the happenings of yesteryear.

Concerns were raised that no information is coming down from provincial to the parishes. So please when you receive the communiques from national forward any pertinent information down to the diocesan level and keep in contact with your counterparts as much as you can. Do not forget to check the national website on a regular basis.

The Vancouver Diocese has launched a new site called "Behold", a first step toward a new imagining of an online community for Catholics in Vancouver. We are fortunate to be able to stay connected with each other via many ways, e.g. facetime, emails, phone calls, Zoom and GoTo Meetings etc. As the churches are gradually open-up to Masses again let us all be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit as we seek to spread love, joy, and faith in this uncertain time.

Congratulations to Carol Penno and her husband Arnie on their 59th Wedding Anniversary today. Thank you, Fr. David, for celebrating a Mass for them.

May you stay safe and may Our Lady of Good Counsel protect us and intercede for us, God bless,

Gisela Montague