

“...the power of Easter summons you to roll away every stone of disappointment and mistrust... of sin and fear. [The Lord] wants to illuminate your sacred memory, your most beautiful memory, and to make you relive that first encounter with him. Remember and keep moving forward. Return to him and rediscover the grace of God’s resurrection within you!” (Pope Francis).

Happy Shrove Tuesday Everyone,

As I begin my second communique to you as Interim BC & Yukon Vice President, we are on the eve of Lent. May you have an inspirational Ash Wednesday, a very spiritual Lenten Journey and a Joyous Easter.

In her November 2024 communique #12, National Vice-President Betty Colaneri reminded us of various catch phrases we can use to encourage our members and to hopefully gain new ones as parishioners gain a deeper knowledge of the scope and breadth of what encompasses our wonderful organization, the Catholic Women’s League and what we do. For the month of March, she wrote:

March: The Courage of ‘1’

Members can look at two important feast days in March for inspiration—the Feast of St. Joseph (March 19th) and the Feast of St. Oscar Romero (March 24th). St. Joseph was ‘1’ humble, yet courageous man who embodied the qualities of compassion, patience and faithfulness.

St. Oscar Romero had the courage to speak out for the suffering, oppressed, poor and marginalized. He was ‘1’ brave soul who advocated for social justice and human rights. His courage inspires members to advocate for social change and stand up for those oppressed who have no voice.

How can we look to St. Joseph to help us develop more compassion, more patience and more faithfulness? How can we look to St. Oscar Romero for guidance and understanding in our discernment of what we can do to lighten the plight of so many of our brothers and sisters who are downtrodden, or immigrants or just need our help?

Remember that in 1912, Bishop Legal, Bishop of Edmonton and Katherine Hughes, a parishioner wanted to help new immigrants coming to their city. Bishop Legal and Katherine extended an invitation through Edmonton’s seven Catholic parishes and 20 women attended an inaugural meeting at St. Joachim's Church Hall on November 13, 1912. They formed The Catholic Women’s League of Edmonton, with Mrs. Samuel Gorman president, and Miss Katherine Hughes, corresponding secretary. The pioneering members met every train arriving in the city to welcome new immigrants and established one of the first social service agencies in Alberta. Within two years, they set up a safe, affordable hostel named 'Rosary Hall' and a free job placement service staffed by volunteers. This idea spread across Canada until the first meeting of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada was called in Montreal in 1920 with Bellel Guerin as the first National President. Are we not providing many of the same services more than 100 years later? We are fortunate that so many immigrants are coming into Canada and so many of the women, especially from certain countries, are so eager and

pleased to join the Catholic Women's League of Canada! Yeah, for that increase in numbers! My own parents were immigrants from Italy in the early 50s.

We can also use the above interest and the Welcome Kit in order to invite parishioners to come and see and consider joining the Catholic Women's League. Speaking of that, how is the membership drive contest going? Remember that anyone who joined for the year 2025, whether in the early months of this year or in the latter months of last year will be considered in the tally for the two certificates which will be given during the BC & Yukon Provincial Convention in June. Remember, Diocesan Vice President, that I need the tally of each parish's new members by May 15th. Thanks.

Annual Reports Thank you to each of the Diocesan Vice Presidents for sending your annual reports to me on time. I am compiling your results into a report that I need to have written by March 15th. My report will appear in the 2025 convention book in June.

Subsidy to Attend the Provincial Convention- A reminder of this \$500.00 subsidy to help with expenses to attend the provincial convention. Information about this is on the provincial website www.bcyukoncw.com and in my communique written Jan 14, 2025. Please let the members of your dioceses know about this and encourage them to apply.

League Development Fund –To help educate members in a variety of ways, various councils can apply for help from these funds to provide information and education to their members. Information for this fund can also be found on provincial website www.bcyukoncw.com and in my communique written Jan 14, 2025.

Rosaries for the Pope – (sent by Joline Belliveau, National Service Chairperson)

“As Pope Francis' health concerns continue Catholics all around the world have been invited to keep the Holy Father close in prayer. Various groups have organized rosaries to be said. This past Monday, the Vatican announced that the cardinals present in Rome will lead a nightly rosary in St. Peter's Square, gathering at 9 p.m. Rome time to pray for the Holy Father's health. Catholics around the world can join in prayer initiative on their own or by going to the Vatican YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/vatican>”.

For most of our province that would be 12:00 pm noon.

As we begin our Lenten journey, let us pray that we acknowledge, accept and pray about our weaknesses, for it is here God gives us the most graces. In this Jubilee Year and possible plenary indulgences, may we truly see the many graces bestowed to us every day of our lives and be deeply thankful. Ciao for now and God bless. Laura