

## **Manitoba Provincial President Crystal Reiter**

*Read by Provincial President-Elect Lucille Rossington*

League sisters in Manitoba are regrouping in a big way as we dig our way out from under all the restrictions of COVID. We, like all the councils, are suffering from a decline in membership due to increased fees and increasing ages of members.

On February 11<sup>th</sup>, we held our Annual Day of Celebration. We were anxious for the members to remember Coady International Institute and why we support them. I was lucky to have a personal contact with Emilie Chaisson one of the employees at St. Francis Xavier who together with Lynn O'Donnell, who manages the League relationships across Canada, put together a great presentation to remind us of what Coady is and what it does. A small blip in our agenda was required because of the Violence Against Women Webinar was scheduled for the same day! But we managed and were able to take in the presentation by Pam Hadder from Willow Place as part of our day. After lunch we continued to learn about our charities when National Secretary-Treasurer Janet McLean, spoke very passionately about Catholic Near East Welfare Association and her love for the Holy Land!

Right away that same week we were finally able, after five years of requests, to speak with the provincial government. We felt nervous going in, Janet did a tremendous job getting a book of current provincial resolutions ready and several of the members of provincial council spoke on a couple of resolutions each. We were joined by the diocesan presidents and a representative from the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada and the Military Ordinariate. The following week when the provincial budget came out, we were happy to hear one of the matters from our resolutions addressed! Provincial Resolution 2016.01 Extending Coverage of Insulin Pumps and Supplies to Manitobans of All Ages—sounds like coverage will now be for everyone! In May, we received a letter from the minister of the environment and climate which addressed several more of our resolutions. We were disappointed with the length of time given to our group, but overall, the response has not been terrible, and we will be able to archive a few resolutions for sure!

The Unity Project started to travel through the dioceses. I did a couple of presentations and one diocesan council is almost finished visiting all of its parish councils. Plans are in place for the fall to continue with this initiative.

Winnipeg Diocesan Council's annual meeting of members (AMM) was held on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. It had to be moved to virtual because of a lovely spring storm—there were even some closed highways! The council did a seamless move from in person to virtual and the meeting was able to go ahead.

St. Boniface Diocesan Council's AMM was held in-person on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. It was a very successful event—my first time to attend a St. Boniface Diocesan convention. It was held in a beautiful church with an interior covered with artwork, such that permission was granted by the archbishop to go ahead and gaze around!

Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan Council's AMM was held on May 6 and 7<sup>th</sup>—such a wonderful place to visit. I was unable to attend but the members of the provincial council who attended were struck

by how wonderful and supportive the priests were and how excited they were to be involved with the League. The diocesan council executive was newly elected, but like the rest of us, many members are recycled! Bernadette Benson began her second term as president.

Manitoba Provincial Council's AMM was an in-person event held on Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. We were fortunate to have had the event hosted by the ladies from Notre Dame de Lorette Parish Council who are very experienced and helped/guided the provincial council through a tremendously successful event. We are excited to have forwarded two resolutions to the national resolutions committee: Creating Awareness Surrounding Fast Fashion and Combating Textile Waste in Canada. It was not an election year for us, but we continue to try to recruit members who might be willing to assume positions on provincial council in the future. It has to be a continuous process.

Fall events are being planned in all three of the dioceses. No pauses in the agenda for us this year! Unity Project is working its way through the councils and second visits will follow!

- September 23: Winnipeg Diocesan Council Fall Meeting & Workshop, St. Michael's, Gimli
- October 14: St. Boniface Diocesan Council Day of Reflection, Christ the King  
Fall meeting
- February 10-11: Day of Celebration Holy Cross Council  
Winter Meeting (Winnipeg & Provincial Council)

Our upcoming events to keep in mind! †