

Presidents Report

March 13, 2023

Since our last meeting, I have had the opportunity to attend a couple of events which I enjoyed.

The 1st event I attended on behalf of the council was the reactivation of the CWL council at the Sacred Hearth of the 1st Peoples church. I knew that where the church was situated, in the middle of an impoverished area of Edmonton, but as I was walking to the church, the park that is just beside it has signs for No Drug Trafficking, No Needles, No one in the Park after 10:00, just not what we find in our parks around Spruce Grove or Stony Plain. Reinforces how lucky we are to be able to live where we are right now.

The celebration started with Mass at 11:30 ish (11:45) which was a wonderful celebration. The mass was said in English and Cree by Father Susai. There were a couple of other differences during the mass, such as the collection is done by laying a blanket at the steps, in front of the alter, where those donating deposit the funds on the blanket. Next difference was, after we said the Our Father and where we usually sing Amen, they sing an Amen, Alleluia variation and turn to all directions in the church facing the East/South/West/North. Before mass was dismissed the Installation of the officers was done and here are some of the pictures from the event, which is found on the Provincial website. There are also pictures on the Edmonton Diocesan website. So, the council is off and running as they have already had The Red Sand ceremony the following Wednesday. As this is for those who are caught in Human Trafficking, it was very meaningful to them. Though they are few in numbers, they are determined to do as much as possible for the people they serve and those living around them.

It truly was an experience to attend mass at Sacred Heart of the 1st Peoples and to see all of the renovations that they have completed. I was fortunate enough, that I had seen what the church looked like before the fire and can tell that all of the improvements that they have done. I think everyone should take the time to attend one of their services and see that despite the area that they are at, the need to care for one another and help out where they can is always at the front of whatever they do.

The 2nd event was the World Day of Prayer, hosted by the United Church in Spruce Grove. The format was different this year in that instead of the people attending doing the readings and prayers we listened to a video done by the National Office in Canada. Myself I found it better in the sense that we were able to see clips of videos of Taiwan (this year's country) and hear directly from them. Also, we were still participating along with the video when songs were being sung, or prayers were being said.

The video also had closed captioning, which was great for those who have difficulty hearing. So be prepared for next year, as it is our church who will be hosting the event.

But after all this said, it leaves me so appreciative of my family, friends, and where I live. We are so fortunate to have the freedom to do what we want to do and the liberty to say what we want to say. But I know that even in our area there are those that are struggling to get by from month to month or even day to day. As my time as president is coming to an end in December I want to investigate where we can help out in our communities on a more consistent basis, not just once a year. So, stay tuned for more info.

A pretty face gets old. A nice body will change. But a good woman will always be a good woman....