

RESOLUTIONS



Barbara Dowding
Port Moody, British Columbia

What a year – a government meeting and three weddings – my youngest sister and two of my sons. We had all the family drama and trauma that goes along with these wonderful celebrations.

We gathered often and relished all those family ties and relationships. We remembered what was important and how much we need each other. Weddings are signs of [hope](#) and of course love, and each one is different. But what does this have to do with resolutions? Well, probably not much, but these very different events got me thinking.

How times have changed and how different is our modern day life. We have church weddings, weddings in parks, babies first then the wedding, and in many cases, no wedding, only living together. Not only do our children and grandchildren have a different view of life, but many also have a huge disconnect with what we hold dear. We have governments that are determined to separate church from state.

In *Apostolicam Actuositatem* (Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity), we are exhorted “to infuse a Christian spirit into the temporal order.” As Catholic women rooted in gospel values, we are called as one to have hearts on fire to serve God and others, all the while living in the practicalities of everyday life, going about ordinary business. We have the unique vocation to safeguard humanity and bring about [peace](#). Through our resolutions we provide [hope](#) – [hope](#) for a troubled world and [hope](#) for ourselves.

Resolutions are just that – our response to God’s plan. They enable us to take sides when necessary in the struggle for justice; they are a means to influence authority, educate members and bring about change.

Not only do resolutions ask for something, they also and more importantly give us the reasons for the ask. They explain the gravity of a situation that needs remedying and why.

Resolutions should provide our members with guidance, direction and the relevant education to live the gospel message and advance God’s kingdom. Issues rise up from the grassroots and become a national focus. Over the years our resolutions have raised awareness and prompted individual member action on health issues, prevention of violence, support for voluntary funds and so much more!

We owe it to our members to educate in ways that transcend the ordinary. There is no doubt that the church is being attacked on many fronts and will continue to come under fire, and even persecution, sooner rather than later. We need to be prepared; we need to know the truth but more importantly know how to speak it.

Our success in meetings with the federal government is derived from the respect and value identified with the League and the issues we carry forward. Resolutions directed to the governments of the day are extremely important and our persistence to keep going back is key. The two meetings with the federal government during my two year term will long remain highlights of my League life.

But what about those other issues that need our attention? Can we serve our members better by providing the tools to survive in the secular world? Do we have the right words to speak out? Do we have the courage to correct and guide, with words and actions that show charity and mercy, those who are living in situations that we find hard, difficult, and awkward?

For instance, do you know the difference between an annulment and a divorce? Do you know Catholics who have married “outside the church”? Are you able to speak with clarity and understanding on the church’s position regarding marriage? Are we as a group comfortable talking about the challenges in our church, as addressed yesterday by Doctor Nuala Kenny? Do we have the wisdom and understanding that comes from proper formation to speak about moral ethics and the like?

Resolutions can provide the road map to help us manoeuvre through the maze and find the right words. I believe resolutions can gather members together for a common cause, as we research and develop strategies for change. For 90 years our resolutions have defined us as *Women of Peace and Hope*, heralds of the gospel and a light for the world.

Congratulations on the great work done by resolution chairpersons across the country. You’ve given great workshops and represented your respective councils most admirably at government meetings. Well done and thank you! But please do not stop! Review the past resolutions and continue to act. Remember that resolutions without action are useless. Do not be afraid of the process; be afraid of doing nothing.

We write resolutions because of our faith. We have fun in the research and working with our League sisters. We experience fulfillment when a resolution achieves its goal and makes a difference! As for those weddings and meetings, like our lives and our resolutions, they are all beautiful, full of [hope](#), and most assuredly in God’s hands. †

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