

YOU'RE NOT ALONE...THAT'S WHAT COMPANIONS ARE FOR!



Lorette Noble
National Chairperson of Organization

By the time you read this, your council president will have received a proposal to re-align the responsibilities of the standing committees. It is hoped that your council will hold discussions about these proposals and provide input. From time to time, every organization must look at its structure and see if it responds to the needs of the times. Discussions of this nature are important for the national executive as it seeks to meet the challenges of this new century.

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We frequently hear that there is a problem filling all positions and often it's because a member feels that the burden of office is more than she can cope with. It is also often because a member thinks she has to shoulder the responsibility on her own. This should not be the case! We must dare to ask for help and generously respond by offering to help each other.

About half of councils have new executives this year. This is a good time for a short mentoring period when the out-going chairperson may partner the incoming chairperson and share the insights she has gained from that standing committee. As always, life members are there to share their knowledge and lend their expertise, and would be delighted to help!

I know a parish where every member is assigned to a standing committee and each standing committee is responsible for planning one monthly meeting. Most parish councils have at least eight general meetings each year, which means that each committee group could take one. The group members get to know each other better and begin to feel comfortable sharing the workload. New members get to learn how the League works.

We have such a variety of activities to draw upon to make meetings interesting: a mini workshop (have you tried the one on euthanasia, for example?); a guest speaker on a current resolutions topic (they love to come to us because we are good listeners and ask challenging questions); deciding

to whom we should write a letter expressing any concern we may have; and always making sure to take the time to catch up on each other's news, finding out who needs our prayers and continuing to nurture the friendships that belonging to the League affords us.

It's such a morale booster to receive recognition for accomplishing something, as we all discover sooner or later! So let's make a point of marking special achievements in special ways. We are beginning to hear of awards given to parish councils that recruit the most new members, and to diocesan councils whose memberships show the highest percentage increase. Let's not forget to make sure the news is shared with the community.

One of the most wonderful things in the world is to have good friends. Generously participating in whatever League activities our own particular circumstances allow us – praying for each other is one of the best – opens the door to such friendships which grow more precious with time. You are never alone in the League...there is always someone ready to be a companion. †

OUR LADY OF ASSUMPTION PARISH COUNCIL BRENTWOOD, ONTARIO



Our Lady of Assumption Parish Council sponsored a poster contest for the White Ribbon Against Pornography campaign for a number of years, with representatives briefing the Grade 7 and 8 class prior to the campaign. This past year, the contest winners appeared on the front of the local newspaper, the *Stayner Sun*, November 2, 2005.