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## **MEMO**

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To: Parish Council Presidents  
CC: Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Presidents and Life Members (on request)  
From: National President Barbara Dowding  
Date: April 22, 2016

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Dear presidents,

What a glorious time of year! Across Canada, members are springing into action just as the trees and flowers are bursting into bloom! It is a time of intense activity and preparation, hopefully with hearts full of love and zeal for all things League!

In this parish mailing you will find many important pieces of correspondence to share with your parish council. I urge you to do your best to make sure members are aware of the many important things being attended to at this time. Parish council members rely on you for information about the big picture.

Parishioners, too, need to be informed sometimes as well, and your leadership in including your parish spiritual advisor and/or pastor is critical in the coming days.

With annual diocesan conventions just around the corner, consider getting more members of your parish council to attend. This year it is critical we make ourselves aware of the issues facing us as Canadians and as Catholics regarding physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia. Conventions are a great time of learning and getting to know League sisters on a different level.

By now you have received a wonderful package on the national initiative called "12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care." If you have not heard about it yet, I pray and ask from the bottom of my heart that you do whatever possible in your parish setting to participate in some way. The information is comprehensive and there is something in the package for everyone. However, you will need to open it and share it widely, and soon. Some councils are getting together as a deanery or region to host a 12 Hour Day. Whatever you do, be sure to advertise and invite others. You know prayer is potent and now, more than ever, intentional prayer is needed! Your voice in the public sphere is important, no doubt, but your voices to God are even more powerful. I really look forward to hearing from all councils about what they did and how they have joined voices in prayer.

Please continue to focus on the pledge cards as individuals and as councils. In doing this, we are not only helping others but showing the world who we are and what we do as Catholic women. It is gratifying to

see the cards come in and to see what others have committed to in terms of works of mercy and commitment to action in the area of palliative and hospice care. You can find copies of the pledge cards online if you need to print more at [cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Pledge-Card-Council.pdf](http://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Pledge-Card-Council.pdf).

I hope you will be energized and excited about all you can and are doing to make a difference. Be sure members have access to the national website and, if necessary, print *Be League* to share. It is our duty as presidents and our responsibility to ensure our sisters have all the information they need to be the best they can be at this critical point in time in our Canadian history.

With prayerful best wishes and heartfelt gratitude for your leadership and dedication,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Dowding". The script is cursive and elegant, with a prominent initial 'B'.

Barbara Dowding  
National President