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## The CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE of CANADA

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# MEMO

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To: Parish Presidents  
From: Barbara Dowding, National President &  
Bishop William McGrattan (Peterborough), National Spiritual Advisor  
Date: October 21, 2014

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In an effort to reach out to parish spiritual advisors, we are offering a few suggestions and practical tips that have come our way. From the spiritual advisors' luncheon at the annual national convention to conversations with bishops and clergy, it seems clear the League could do better in promoting its work and its contributions to the life and well-being of the parish.

As we look forward to the new theme, *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission*, a particular focus will be on relationships or encounters with Jesus and one another. One way to build a good relationship with a spiritual advisor is to extend him or her an invitation to meet, have coffee or just talk about the League. This could be an opportunity not only to start or continue a conversation, but to listen and to give him or her a chance to share his or her thoughts and hopes.

Included in this package is a spiritual advisors kit that can be used as a refresher for councils already engaged with its spiritual advisor or as a starter for a new spiritual advisor.

The League should not be "the best kept secret," as we have heard; it should be known for the multitude of good that is being accomplished by members everywhere. In his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* ("The Joy of the Gospel"), Pope Francis asks that parishes be places of "dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration...a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey...a community of communities." The League is well-positioned and, most importantly, called to assist in this most important mission.

With prayerful best wishes and gratitude for all your good work,

Barbara Dowding  
National President

Bishop William McGrattan (Peterborough)  
National Spiritual Advisor