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## The CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE of CANADA

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# MEMO

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To: Parish Council Presidents  
From: Barbara Dowding, National President  
Date: October 23, 2014

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Dear League Sisters,

What a pleasure it is to have a chance to write to you directly! The parish council mailing is an opportunity for the national chairpersons to communicate directly with their counterparts in the parish and, of course, for me to greet you.

First of all, we would like to commend you for your leadership and thank you for saying "yes." The role of parish council president is so important and such an integral part of the great League structure. We form bonds of friendship and discover leaders at the parish level. The many services our members provide are true examples of discipleship and evangelization and are a powerful witness to all members of the parish.

We urge you to enjoy every piece of communication in this package. You will gain insights as the national chairpersons introduce themselves and offer ideas and suggestions specifically for the parish council. As we heard from Pope Francis, it is time for us to meet our sisters wherever they are and be open, welcoming and hospitable. If we think of parish councils as little churches, we must be ready to look and reach outside ourselves, just as the early church did, and offer to others what we hold so dear. As presidents, we are called to be many things, each in our way using our gifts and talents. Our prayer for you is that you will continue to lead with compassion, courage, zeal and joy. There is nothing like it - let your light shine so that others will want to follow in your footsteps!

Be assured of our heartfelt gratitude and love.

Your sister in the League,

Barbara Dowding  
National President