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The CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE of CANADA

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MEMO

To: Parish Council Chairpersons of Resolutions
From: Jacqueline Nogier, National Chairperson of Resolutions
Date: October 23, 2014

I count myself blessed to be able to introduce myself to everyone as the new national chairperson of resolutions. I am excited to be able to continue to serve the League in this way with a wonderful group of people. I make my home in Snow Lake, Manitoba, a small mining town in the Canadian Shield, 700 kilometres north of Winnipeg. My husband and I both grew up in Snow Lake, we have two teenage sons, ages 16 and 14, and we are both teachers at our small school.

When I learned I was the new national chairperson of resolutions, I have to admit I was quite awe-struck at the task ahead of me. In the past, I thought this was a difficult standing committee and one that required much more knowledge than I have. I have decided to think of it this way instead - I have so much to learn, so much to give, and I am lucky to have the opportunity to continue on my League journey in this way. If you are someone who has been asked to take on resolutions in your council, or someone who has a secret longing to effect change beyond your community, here are some helpful hints to start your journey.

How to become more involved with resolutions:

Become more directly involved by agreeing to take on this “scary” job. Doing something new is a good way to grow and learn.

- Ask for a mentor to help you when things get busy or confusing.
- Co-chair. Two heads are always better than one!
- Create a resolutions committee or have a sub-chair so the work is shared among many people.
- Connect with someone at the diocesan or provincial level to help you along.

Don't want to take on a chairperson role? You can still become involved even if you don't have a resolutions chairperson in your parish:

- Learn which resolutions were passed at national, provincial or diocesan level using the national website (www.cwl.ca) or your provincial website.
- Educate yourself about the topics and issues - get a speaker, read articles or share the resolutions brief at a meeting.
- Follow the suggestions of an action plan.

Think about issues that affect your community, province and country, and choose to make a difference.

- Learn about the issue and educate yourself.
- Share information with your council.
- Discuss what could be done and make a plan to effect change. This might be some specific action in your community or involve writing a resolution.

Throw a party - a letter writing party! Throw a letter writing party at the end of your meeting on a Saturday afternoon or even after mass.

- Use the League's *Personal Letter Writing Guide* at your party.
- Pick one or two resolutions to concentrate on, read the resolution and the brief and have a discussion.
- Encourage writers to ask questions members of parliament need to respond to. A response is more likely if a question is asked.
- Supply the paper, envelopes and addresses of appropriate government officials. Any letters sent to the House of Commons can be sent without postage.

My challenge to you is to do one new, scary thing that has to do with resolutions. Make the jump and take on that chairperson role or take the initiative and be the person to learn (and share) what resolutions are all about. Go out on a limb and see if you can plan a letter writing party! Resolutions give us a chance to effect change in our world. They give us a chance to help make our communities a better place. Be that person who is willing to learn and to share what they know.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacqueline Nogier".

Jacqueline Nogier
National Chairperson of Resolutions