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MEMO

To: Parish Council Presidents
From: Barbara Dowding, National President and Chairperson of International Relations
CC: Parish Council Presidents, Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Presidents and Life Members (on request)
Date: April 26, 2015

Dear Presidents,

I am grateful for this opportunity to once more write directly to you. You are the backbone of the League, the guiding hand and the driving force of the parish councils. The parishes are the life of the church and the League, and how you live and relate to members is reflected in the parish. Thank you for your willingness to say “yes” and your openness to allowing yourself to grow and be stretched. Thank you especially for caring enough to step in or step up!

The role of president is a unique privilege at every level, bringing its own set of challenges and rewards. You have the wonderful opportunity to help your sisters become the best they can be by recognizing their gifts and talents in your midst. Ask for help, ask for advice and, most importantly, ask for prayers.

Life Member Ann Dobie used to say when she was Vancouver diocesan president, “I am not a one-woman government!” She was an excellent team leader and taught many of us to adopt that strategy. It gave everyone a chance to have a voice and when one looked good, everyone looked good!

Whether you have a full executive or work with a few committed members, the idea is the same—to grow in holiness, to serve and to make parish councils places of joy, peace and unity.

You will soon be hearing more news about the Catholic Women’s League Leadership Foundation. At long last, all the red tape has been dealt with and the charitable status has been achieved, meaning the foundation is ready to go! Watch for more news soon.

Lastly, I urge you to share the wealth of information in this mailing with parish council chairpersons and all council members. The national officers work hard for you and, like me, are pleased to be able to write to you directly with important and timely information.

I give thanks to God every time I think of you, and when I pray for you, I pray with joy!

Barbara Dowding
National President