



# The Catholic Women's League of Canada

## MEMO

**DATE:** April 18, 2017

**FROM:** Anne-Marie Gorman, National president-elect and chairperson of organization

**TO:** Parish council chairpersons of organization

**CC:** Parish council presidents, diocesan presidents, provincial presidents and life members (on request)

*Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call*

My Dear League Sisters,

It is my pleasure once again to “speak” to you through the parish mailing. You now may have a new executive, so this memo may be reaching a new president-elect/organization chairperson. If you are in your second year, you know that maintenance and recruitment of members is both challenging and rewarding; for new organization chairpersons, you bring new creative ideas to your position. Thank you for believing in the importance of Catholic women's leadership in the church through your service. We are actively working on many social justice issues through several standing committees. Of current and immediate importance are palliative care and conscience rights for physicians. The work that you do reaches municipal, provincial and national government. This is an excellent reason for all Catholic women 16 years of age and older to join the organization.

**Annual Reporting:** All parish councils have now completed their first online annual report. Congratulations! For your information, responses ranged from 62-73 per cent, which is remarkable for something so new (organization was 73%). Again, congratulations. Of the 1,207 parish councils, more than half of all standing committees in each province completed a report. Naturally some vacancies were reported. The data that was compiled from the reports was sent to the diocesan and provincial levels to be used to prepare their written reports using the sub-headings in the *Constitution & Bylaws*.

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What we have learned from the first year of this adventure is considerable. The feedback will be used to edit next year's online survey. Please note that many respondents felt guilty about not being able to answer affirmatively on every question. It was never intended that each council would or should be able to address every single part of a particular standing committee. When the survey was being designed every effort was made to include a question under every sub-section of every committee. Each council should focus on issues based on their needs. Be not afraid!

**Life Membership:** I am pleased to tell you that there are nine new life members. If your council has one or more life members, please make use of them to mentor, advise and present. As part of the criteria for life membership, women agree to do research, present workshops, and any number of other things as requested by parish, diocesan and provincial councils. "We have gifts that differ according to the grace given us" (Romans 12:6). Let us use them.

Each of us is a member of a parish council. Those who have agreed to share their gifts and serve at diocesan, provincial and national level, are first and foremost parish council members. If you have members who sit at different levels of this tremendous organization of Catholic women, confer, consult, and use them, remembering always that all of us are sisters in Christ and sisters in the League.

**One last thing:** Please read the press release dated February 21, 2017, following the winter national executive meeting, and perhaps print it and share it with members. It may be found at [cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Winter-Executive-Meeting-Press-Release-2017.pdf](http://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Winter-Executive-Meeting-Press-Release-2017.pdf).

Your League Sister,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne - M Gorman".

Anne Gorman  
National President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization