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The CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE of CANADA

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MEMO

To: Parish Council Chairpersons of Resolutions

CC: Parish, Diocesan and Provincial Presidents and Life Members (on request)

From: Joan Bona, National Chairperson of Resolutions

Date: October 31, 2016

The gradual entry into the colder weather is beginning. However, from coast to coast, the work of the League is ongoing and continues at every level. Members are actively engaged in many initiatives, including research and possible topics for the 2017 resolutions process.

Resolutions Process

As many of you know, over the next few months, parish councils will begin the resolutions process. Most resolutions begin at the parish level; however, some may be directed to other levels of the League.

Parish councils are supported by a national resolutions committee, comprised of two members at large, the national president, the national president-elect, the national chairpersons of legislation and resolutions, and assisted by national office staff. The national resolutions committee meets following the annual Ontario provincial convention (normally the last provincial convention) and discusses the submitted resolutions at length. Once a resolution reaches national office, committee members review the resolution, brief, supporting documentation and citations.

This year, a very comprehensive report was received from the national resolutions committee, along with some specific recommendations. These recommendations are being shared, and will continue to guide the work of resolutions development at each level. The recommendations are as follows:

- Prior to beginning a resolution, councils are to review the checklist. As the resolution is developed and discussed, keep reviewing the checklist. This way, members will avoid completing the checklist after the resolution has been completed.
- Use reliable sources for research and support material—media (newspapers, online or television reports, magazines) and internet blogs are not reliable.
- It would be ideal if the sources cited are Canadian. However, in some cases, American sources may be used. Most content should be based on Canadian sources.
- Keep sources current, e.g., seven to ten-year-old information may no longer be valid.
- Works cited and/or consulted must be in Modern Language Association (MLA) format. One online resource tool for this method is citationmachine.net/mla/cite-a-book. Another useful writing tool is the Purdue Online Writing Lab at owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/. You may also search "Purdue OWL writing" for video tutorials on YouTube.

Councils considering hosting a workshop on resolutions may want to consider inviting someone with expertise in MLA format (i.e., local librarian or teacher) to provide some training. Councils may very well have a member or someone within the parish who is proficient in this method and can offer assistance.

On behalf of the national executive, I want to express appreciation to Life Member Rolande Chernichan (Manitoba) who served a two-year term on the national resolutions committee and congratulations to Life Member Toosje Van De Sande (Nova Scotia) who will serve from 2016-2018. Toosje joins Life Member Mary Capobianco (Ontario) on this important committee.

Annual Reports

The online annual reporting system is available now. As much as possible, I encourage you to work together to complete the online annual report and assist others who may be feeling apprehensive. Try to encourage other members to share their perspectives and thoughts so that a broad range of information is included.

Meetings with Federal Government and Other Parties

Plans are underway to schedule meetings with federal government representatives. While in Ottawa, the national delegation hopes to meet with other third parties. When a date has been confirmed, it will be shared with provincial counterparts. The outcome and government's action plans in response to the League's resolutions will be shared with members.

Letters and Action Plans

I encourage parish councils to write letters and respond to the action plans of the 2016 resolutions. Federal ministers, members of legislative assemblies and senators need to know of the work of the League. Resolutions cannot stand alone without the support of letters following through on the action plans and prayers. Members might also want to include a word of appreciation when governments do respond to resolutions in a positive direction.

Keep posted on government decisions related to the 2016 resolutions and those of prior years.

In conclusion, I look forward to being part of the ongoing work of this standing committee. It is autumn, a new thought, a new beginning and the emergence of new resolutions. God bless you as you work so fervently "For God and Canada."



Joan Bona
National Chairperson of Resolutions