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## The CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE of CANADA

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# MEMO

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To: Parish Council presidents

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

From: Margaret Ann Jacobs, National President

Date: October 28, 2016

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What an exciting time of year! The leaves are changing colour, fall fairs abound and kitchens exude such wonderful aromas as pickles and preserves are tucked away for the winter. I hope you are still buoyed up by the enthusiasm, energy and inspiration of the national convention. When it starts to wane, check out the national website for a fresh infusion.

Thank you for accepting this extraordinary role as president. As president you were called by God and especially chosen for this position. I commend those councils that have taken a “team” approach.

It is always good to review our duties (*Executive Handbook* PRES-9-11). BUT, your role as president is so much more. You are a model, an ambassador and a spokesperson for your council. Initiate and encourage new programs and projects but delegate other (executive) members to be responsible for their execution. Everything is more fun when the work is shared and the joy of projects well done is celebrated. Have faith that the Spirit will support your endeavours. Hope in the value of the work you do with optimism and joy. Let your love of the Father and the League shine through all you do.

If there is to be a transformation in the League it must start at parish level. So you are a key player in advocating for change, revitalization, refocusing and being persistent in your efforts.

Catholic women are anxious for faith-based opportunities for social interaction, personal enrichment and community service. Be bold! The national executive encourages councils to adopt national programs but also knows how important it is for your council to establish programs that meet your parish needs. **So be brave, support one another and focus on the gifts and strengths you have developed.**

I am inspired by Col. 3:13-14, “Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

Being a president isn't always easy. Sometimes personalities, attitudes and past history create roadblocks to accomplishing the real work of the council. Remember you are the hands and feet of Jesus. So lead as He did – gently inviting, leading by example and modeling His mercy, tenderness and compassion.

I commend councils for the positive manner with which they have accepted the new online annual reporting process. National executive members will be preparing prayer services and workshops for distribution in the new year. Efforts continue for quality palliative and hospice care. Members' voices will need to be heard by politicians in order for the League to succeed in gaining legislation for the various resolutions adopted at the national convention.

Please ensure that the information enclosed is passed on to your executive. Of course, you will all be anxious to unfold the annual reporting materials. Spend a few moments at your executive meeting sharing the various projects that your national executive is promoting and look for ways to mould them together with your own initiatives to make a difference in your own parish and beyond.

Affirm, encourage and support each other and remember what St. Teresa of Calcutta told us, "I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do something beautiful for God." So together, let us do something beautiful for God.

God bless you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Ann". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

Margaret Ann