



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: April 18, 2017

FROM: Margaret Ann Jacobs, National president

TO: Parish council presidents

CC: Diocesan presidents, provincial presidents and life members (on request)

I begin by commending parish presidents for all the work you do at parish level. Clearly, you are the foundation of this organization. As presidents, co-presidents or contact persons you are finding new and unique ways to keep the League alive in parish president parish. Brava!

The new theme unveiled at the national convention, *Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call* is now being used as a focus for prayer and interaction. The opportunities for spiritual growth using this theme are many and varied.

More and more I realize how important it is to "advertise" the League. Just think of the number of times you take out your charge card (from your CWL wallet), or use a day timer, pen or notepad with the League crest on it. People notice and identify with the crest. The pin has become very recognizable and, if not, it can be a conversation starter. So, wear it proudly and encourage members to do likewise.

I encourage you to support "12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care" again this year. The decision to use May 4th to focus intentions was to establish continuity. Certainly, it is not a problem if your parish council chooses another date. Try to make it a community event by promoting it in your local paper, other church bulletins and flyers throughout the community. Quality universal hospice palliative care should be available to all Canadians. You can help to make this happen!

Everywhere I go, I encounter amazing women doing amazing things. Please forward your photographs and short write ups to national office for posting on "On the Spot". We want to celebrate your successes. And your event may spark interest in another council. Success breeds success.

One question I'm often asked is, "How do we provide programs that will interest members?" A great place to start is with resolutions. Contact a guest speaker, access a video, visit a hospice/seniors residence, have a workshop on cardio-pulmonary resuscitation or defibrillators, or attend a concert or play. You could host

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a pot luck or appreciation dinner, have a theme meeting, breakfast meeting or panel discussion, partner with another council or visit a business. Many local businesses welcome the opportunity to promote their cause. Keeping business carefully organized will allow you to plan programs that will attract other parishioners and members of the community.

Always look for ways to invite, encourage and welcome newcomers to your meetings. They don't have to join right away. Invest the energy to make them feel important, valued and needed.

Most councils strive to provide outreach. There is no end of most worthy causes that councils support as we "share with others at home and abroad the good things You have given us..." Of course it is important to support parish endeavours but don't forget the "others" the League supports through its voluntary funds—Coady International Institute, Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, Catholic Missions In Canada, Catholic Near East Welfare Association and Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. Most of these organizations can provide meeting material that is interesting and educational.

Thank you for accepting the challenge of on-line reporting. It is hoped these reports will simplify the task of reporting but also offer suggestions for programming ideas for future council meetings.

Check out the new resource materials included in this mailing. The national executive hopes you find them helpful. Check out the new spiritual advisors brochure. Keeping your advisor abreast of his responsibilities and your activities will open the door of welcome that is so important to maintaining good relations.

Events planned at regional, diocesan, provincial and national level offer so many opportunities to network with other Catholic women. And conventions!!! Try to find a way to support members so that they can attend a convention this year. Finances are always a challenge but members' lives are changed forever through the amazing experiences they encounter. Encourage this new fire... new enthusiasm.

The League's 100th anniversary committee is busy planning for 2020. Check out the various activities on the website and get members involved. It will be fun... parties are always fun!

Joan Hastie, life member and mentor, reminded members at a development day years ago that manuals of policy and procedure have soft covers to make them flexible. Members should likewise be willing to adapt to new ways of thinking and acting. Be open to change, open to the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit as parish president plan and conduct parish president business. Indeed, *Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call*.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Ann Jacobs". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Margaret Ann Jacobs