



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: March 26, 2018

FROM: Margaret Ann Jacobs, national president

TO: Parish council presidents

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

Dear Parish Presidents – God's Chosen Ones!

Thank you for saying “yes” to God’s call to serve as parish president. It has been said that the role of president is the easiest of all – but you and I both know this is not always true. **You are however, the most valuable agent for positive change for the League.** Members will follow your lead, and so the opening words for the president in the *Executive Handbook* sets the tone, “Represent yourself and the League in the best way possible. Because you are a model of what the League believes, people will form an opinion of the League based on your interaction with others.”

I encourage you to:

- † Emulate **service** in your ministry. Jesus “... came not to be served, but to serve...” (Mt. 20:28)
- † Make **integrity** your hallmark – treat every member with the same honesty and sincerity.
- † Value the unique **dignity**, worth and potential of all members.
- † Take **responsibility** for the decisions you and your team make.
- † Let your **contribution** in voice and action be laudable.
- † **Prioritize** activities to achieve the goals your team establishes.
- † Always be open to **learning**, seeking wisdom and understanding. Try something new, bold and unconventional.

In a recent blog Brett Powell talked about the need for leaders to be encouragers. Indeed, he believes, “Great leaders are great encouragers.” He says, “Encouragement begins when you recognize the dignity, giftedness and unlimited potential of your people. It continues when you communicate that vision so convincingly that they see it in themselves and act on it with boldness and courage.”

Can you imagine what a difference it would make to the League if we took the time to be present to executive and members in such a reaffirming, life building manner? We know that all people have dignity, are gifted and possess unlimited potential, so, let's find a way to communicate this to them.

Presidents face many challenges: time constraints, increasing demands for support locally and beyond, lack of enthusiasm from members, to say nothing of the challenge technology introduces, particularly when there is a breakdown. BUT ... take the time to recognize "the dignity, giftedness and potential" of each team member as they face these challenges and undertake the many activities you will see outlined in this parish mailing.

Thank you for your patience as the office staff works to get the membership system fully operational. This has been a monumental task affecting orders, membership, conference registration and survey reporting. Technology affects all levels of the League.

Plan ahead to have members participate in development and retreat days organized locally but also for the diocesan, provincial and national conventions. The rewards of learning, working and praying together are beyond measure – definitely opportunities that are timely, enlightening and inspirational.

May the Spirit come and bring the work begun in you to completion. *Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call.*

God bless,

Margaret Ann Jacobs
National President