



# The Catholic Women's League of Canada

## MEMO

**DATE:** October 5, 2017

**FROM:** Shari Guinta, national 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president and chairperson of communications

**TO:** Parish council chairpersons of communications

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

“Jesus himself told his disciples that the Holy Spirit ‘will guide you into all the truth’ (John 16:13), since he himself is ‘the Spirit of Truth’ (John 14:17, 15:26, 26;13)” (Pope Francis).

In the fall issue of *The Canadian League*, committee member Ingrid LeFort writes about technology, the positive and negative. I just acquired a new cell phone and being a Blackberry fan, got the new KeyOne. A great device, but a little complicated. I guess, like anything else you change, it can be stressful. Cell phones can do so much now. We walk around with a computer in our hand, pocket or purse. Information is practically instantaneous. With texting, snap chat, e-mail, BBM, selfies, Twitter, Facebook and everything else, we are never far away from information or each other.

In *A Year with Pope Francis, Daily reflections from his writings*, September is entitled “Communication”. For the date September 11<sup>th</sup>, the Holy Father says, “It is said that we are ‘children of information and orphans of communication.’” He goes on to say, “Dialogue requires patience, clarity and good disposition towards the other. It does not exclude the confrontations of different points of view...” “The mass media today is a major instrument in the creation of culture. Thanks to the media, communication reaches an immense audience. I like to categorize the power of the media according to the concept of ‘fellowship’. Its strength lies in its ability to approach and influence the lives of people with a common global and simultaneous language. Can one give simultaneously a gospel message that is not only highly customized but also ‘global’? How can we show love through mass media?”

I was so impressed with this statement. The Holy Father is right on! We should not be afraid of media and technology, but should focus on the message so that members reading and hearing it know it follows the church and Christ and is sent with love. I encourage members to experience the Internet and what it has to offer for the betterment of self, parish and the League.

Consider hosting guest speakers and demonstrations on use of the Internet. The point I am trying to make is that information technology is here and should be embraced and used. Many busy women today want to know what's happening, but don't necessarily want to be involved in the work of parish councils. I say that is okay. Just keep these women informed so they always feel involved and connected. Use technology.

I have had many compliments on *The Canadian League* and hope it is being used in councils and parishes. As another communication tool, perhaps for those who are not so "tech savvy", the information offered in the magazine is timely and well written by all contributors.

The national website, [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca), is another tool I have previously mentioned. There is no excuse for not staying informed when diocesan, provincial and the national websites offer excellent material. Members and councils can view and hear the presentations from the annual national convention held in Prince Edward Island last August. The path is on the home page. Take a look!

*On the Spot!* has become very popular. Some highlights from the year will be included in the fall edition of *The Canadian League*. Looking back over the year's submissions, I was absolutely thrilled to see the diversity, great work and fun shared by councils.

I look forward to the reports from councils that hosted speakers and workshops on the harmful effects of pornography. A resolution was adopted at the annual national convention in August. Resolution 2017.02 *Mandatory Age Verification Systems for Adult Pornographic Websites* asks for mandatory age scrutiny for individuals visiting adult pornography sites on the Internet. Currently, anyone of any age can access this material. Are you aware that young people, particularly boys, are viewing pornography as young as eight years of age? The images have harmful effects on these young males, distort their sexuality and contribute to violence against women. The pornography industry also supports human trafficking, particularly with women and children.

There is a lot to think about and do. Be assured my prayers are with you in your work within the parish and community. Do what you can. It is all any of us can do. We must never just do nothing.

Our Lady of Good Counsel...pray for us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shari Guinta', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shari Guinta  
National 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President and National Chairperson of Communications