



The Kingston Diocesan Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

One Heart, One Voice, One Mission

Directive#1

Date: October 24, 2015

To: Parish Council Organization Standing Committee Chairpersons

From: Maureen Vincentine, Diocesan Organization Standing Committee Chairperson

CC: Diocesan Executive, Provincial Organization Standing Committee Chairperson

As I begin my second term on Diocesan Council, I am happy to serve as organization chairperson, although I am somewhat intimidated with the new challenges it will bring. Many of you are probably new to this role on your parish council as well and share the feeling associated with the stretching of our comfort zone. I thank each of you and welcome you to your role. I remind myself often that the Holy Spirit is working through our hands and voices! We are not only working with each other, but the Spirit is leading us on! We need only pray, asking for the help of the Holy Spirit, to accomplish great things! Learn to recognize and trust the work of the Spirit as we fulfil our roles on our councils and learn to be more merciful.

Anne Madden is our provincial chairperson of Organization. We recognize Anne as one of our own and appreciate her commitment to the League. In this directive, I will include information from Anne. I recognize you cannot act on all initiatives that are suggested, but I do hope you find a few suggestions that you will want to implement in your council.

Membership

A priority this year, for all of us, should be to retain our present membership and also to seek out a few new members who perhaps are just waiting to be asked!

Retaining members is important. We know how important the League is to us personally, it is also important to have strong membership across the country. Here are some thoughts on keeping our membership:

- A phone call to those who do not renew is appreciated. Ask a few ladies to help in this role. Most times, the membership has just been forgotten. If they have another reason for not renewing, can you do something about it?
- If members are elderly and are unable to renew, you could ask a family member to continue with their membership fees. If this is not possible, could your council absorb the cost or part of it? It is such a shame when a long time member is no longer a part of the League! We want them to continue to be part of our community and we want them to benefit from our prayers and support.

Let's try to increase our membership this year!

- National has brochures, pins, scarves, and other items that make a statement about who we are. You might want to order the pamphlets and distribute them at Masses
- You might want to recognise new members with pins. There is a prayer service on the national website that you might use as you present the pins.
- Encourage new members to attend a special potluck or social meeting where they can meet other members. Of course invite them to attend regular meeting as well but we know that is not always possible and that is okay too.
- Anne Madden mentions in her directive: "Great League members do not just happen; they must be encouraged, trained and supported". Include new members in all of your projects. Take the time to show them what you do as a League. We grow in friendship with other ladies as we work together.
- Can someone from your council speak at the Masses on a weekend? Let all women of the parish know their support is welcomed! Perhaps members might be present after Mass to answer questions. Perhaps this might take place with a coffee Sunday.
- Are there any women in the RCIA program? You might give them a free membership in the League. They can then learn about the League while they are studying our Faith.

League Resources

Does your council have copies of "**National Policy and Procedures**", the "**Constitution and Bylaws**", The "**Executive Handbook**"? All of these can be found on the national website. Go to www.cwl.ca/national to find these and the resources mentioned earlier.

Other great resources are the **Catch the Fire** and the **S'Mores** workshops. Many of you had opportunities to attend the Catch the Fire workshops last year. If your parish has not yet hosted one of these workshops, and you would like to facilitate one, let me know and we will make arrangements. These workshops are excellent ways to introduce the League to new members, and to refresh other members on the many roles the League plays in our parishes and communities. The **S'Mores** workshop is meant as a follow up to **Catch the Fire**.

Life Membership

A council benefits greatly from the expertise and experience of life members. They are a treasure for us. Do you have a life member on your council? Let them know you appreciate all they have done and continue to do for your council and for the League. They might be a great mentor for a new member!

Annual Reports

The annual reports which you will fill out with your parish council provide us with a snapshot of all the wonderful projects that are happening around the diocese. It is important that the timelines be adhered to as the diocesan council must gather the information from you and organize it so that it can appear in the convention book. Please do not feel you need to include something new and different each year, simply let us know the good things you are doing. Council members, across the diocese, find in

your reports, projects and suggestions that they want to try. I have found these reports to be done most efficiently when executive members meet and fill them out together. Then they are done and the president will send them in! The deadline for sending these reports to me is DEC. 1. More information on the reports will be presented at the presidents' meeting on Saturday.

In closing, I would like to say I am looking forward to the next two years as we work together in Organization! I pray the Holy Spirit will lead us in our work and help us to serve the League with joy and awe.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel help us to grow in Mercy,

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Vincentine