



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

### **Past President**

#### ***Care for our Common Home***

#### **Directive #1**

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**Date:** November 2, 2019

**To:** Parish Council Past Presidents  
**From:** Maureen Vincentine, Diocesan Past President  
**CC:** Diocesan Executive, Provincial Past

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I welcome you to your role as past president of your parish council. Some of you are well settled into your position and some of you might have more recently become past president. No doubt your council has had your first meeting and is in the midst of planning for bazaars, development days, annual reports etc. Please encourage your president to attend the presidents' meeting November 2, or to send an alternate. The morning presentation will be interesting and the afternoon meeting, very relevant.

Our role as past president/historian is an important one in any council. I know we tend to breathe deeply and enjoy the fact that we have completed our term as president and now we might take a less important role. Not true!

Our history is important to our councils. Please try and take just a day or two before the winter meeting and review the archived material for your council. Does it provide a history of your growth and your work over the past years? Can you organize it so that it is more easily accessible? Archives should contain a minute's book and a motions book among other things. Go to the diocesan Policy and Procedure to find a list of what should be included.

Our most important role is as a mentor to our new presidents. Reflect on who were the mentors who helped you. We have experience that we need to share, and our new presidents have new ideas that are awesome, and we need to support them. Perhaps there are new executive members too, who would appreciate our help as they take on a new role. It is for us to say, "how can we make this work" not "this is not the way we always did it". Remind your executives that we are expected to choose to work on projects and initiatives that are important to us and we should not feel guilty about not acting on every initiative that comes to us. Help to make your council executive a team of happy campers!

I learned recently that in 1979 Pope John Paul 11 declared St. Francis to be patron saint of Ecology. How fitting! Given our national theme, Care for our Common Home, I believe we should be praying in a special way to St. Francis. Perhaps this might be an initiative you would like to explore for your council. The Canticle of Creatures is a beautiful prayer of praise written by St. Francis. If you research Canticle of Creatures online you will find so many relevant and spiritual prayers, videos, prayer cards etc. In reflecting on the Canticle of Creatures, we cannot help but realize the presence of God in all creation. I suggest you might use it and an accompanying video at a meeting. Perhaps your council will choose to open every meeting with a prayer to St. Francis. You might purchase prayer cards for members. There are many possibilities.

Respectfully submitted.

Maureen Vincentine