



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

**President – elect/Organization**

***One Heart, One Voice, One Mission***

### **Directive #3**

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**Date:** October 22, 2016

**To:** Parish Council Organization Chairpersons

**From:** Maureen Vincentine, Diocesan President – elect, Organization Chair

**CC:** Diocesan Executive, Provincial Chairperson of Organization

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As we begin another year in our councils, I wish to welcome you to your role as chairperson of Organization! Some of you are new to the role and I thank you for saying “yes”. The work of the League is an important commitment and is challenging but not intimidating if we remember that the Holy Spirit is working through our hands and voices and Our Lady of Good Counsel is praying with us as we work together for the Catholic Women's League! Learn to recognize and trust the work of the Spirit as we fulfil our roles on our councils and continue to both give and receive God's Mercy.

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**

As always, maintaining our present membership and welcoming new ladies to our councils is important.

We know how important the League is to us personally, it is also important to have strong membership across the country. In reading your annual reports last spring, it was clear that you know how important the personal approach is in keeping present members and welcoming those who might join us. Here are some thoughts on maintaining 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 recognize 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.
- 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](http://www.cwl.ca/national) to find these and the resources mentioned earlier. Perhaps as Organization chairperson, you might make it a personal goal to read through one of these resources!

If your council would appreciate a workshop such as ***Catch the Fire*** or ***S'Mores***, we could arrange to visit your council.

**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! We are very pleased to welcome our newest Life Member. Kathy Huffman was installed as Life Member at the 2016 convention in May. To be a Life Member, a woman must be so committed to the League that she agrees to continue to support the League whenever and however she is asked. She becomes a permanent member of the national council. Kathy, we thank you for this continued commitment.

**Annual Reports****The annual reports are changing!**

This year the reports will be in the format of a checklist. They are to be completed on line. Workshops have been scheduled to train executive members on the new format. It will be important that at least one representative from your council attends a workshop. Margie and I will be more than happy to give your council as much assistance as you need with the completion of these reports. In completing these checklists, please realize that the questions asked are very extensive and you will certainly not have addressed every topic mentioned! Each of our councils keeps very busy and does amazing things and it is a good thing that other councils across the country might stress different initiatives.

In closing, I would like to say I am looking forward to another year 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.