



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

**Past President**

***Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call***

**Directive #2**

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**Date:** February 10, 2018

**To:** Parish Council Past Presidents

**From:** Margie Royle, Diocesan Past President

**CC:** Diocesan Executive, Provincial Past President

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***"For whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by endurance and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope."***

Romans 15:4

Greetings to all Past Presidents and Historians,

Since our meeting last October, many of you have been 'promoted' to the position of Past President. This will feel like quite a change from the busyness of your term as president but brings with it a very important role in the functioning of your Council. You are now the keeper of the stories, the events, the celebrations. The Handbook for Past Presidents (easily found on National's website) states, among other duties, that past presidents...

"...be responsible for the archives and history of her council. If a public archives facility is used as a repository for items of historical value, the past president should identify all items in a catalogue format, retaining a copy for the council records. The history of a council is preserved through scrapbooks, photo albums and council minutes. The past president should be responsible for these important books, so members will have a permanent record of the work accomplished by their council."

This responsibility may be a very enjoyable challenge for some of you, for others, a very daunting task! Take a look at your members. Is there one among you who thrives on archiving and studying historical data? She is the one to bring on board to assist you in your role! Together, look at how your history is already being recorded. Some councils have excellent records, some not so much. Discuss what changes may need to be made, what already works and make plans to move forward. New technology helps us to store pictures on memory sticks etc. which is great but we all know how quickly technology changes. Remember the floppy disks? Scrap books take up room, tis true, but remain a very effective way of telling our stories. Consider using both the 'old and the new'.

What to put in your scrapbooks? Have you planned special events like *Twelve Hours of Prayer*, quilting or sewing projects, bazaars, guest speakers, social evenings, Christmas baskets, or community service? Worked in your schools and nursing homes, assisted with sacramental preparations and parish celebrations? Celebrated new members, years of service pins, special recognition such as Maple Leaf Service pins? Simply enjoyed the ordinary moments?

Record all these with pictures and stories. Perhaps new members would like to share with you why they decided to join, others could tell stories of what the League means to them. Tell the story of why members received special awards. Past presidents should include a story of the highlights of their term as president. Don't forget to include the contributions of your Spiritual Advisors. All of this will fill your scrapbooks in no time and be a beautiful, lasting memory of the valuable way your council contributes to the life of your parish and the continuing way you live and fulfill the mission of the League.

I encourage you to read the Handbook for further information and for more ideas to assist you in your new role. Remember, you need not work alone. Form a sub-committee and embrace the learning! Be inspired by the Spirit and respond joyfully to your new call!

Please, feel free to contact me at any time with questions or concerns you may have.

Respectfully submitted.