



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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Pages: 1

To: Parish Council Past Presidents
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CC: Diocesan Executive, Provincial Past Preside

"Send Forth Your Holy Spirit to Enlighten our Minds and Strengthen our Wills to Know and Fulfill Your Great Law of Charity." (Taken from our League prayer)

I wish to welcome all past presidents of the Kingston Diocesan Catholic Women's League. Some of you are just realizing the adjustment from president to past president, possibly with a sigh of relief! However, we do play an important role still on our executives. Please stay involved. In this coming year we especially need to pray for the enlightenment and strength to recognize and act in regard to God's great law of charity.

The national theme of Care for our Common Home and our provincial them of Loneliness suggest there is much we can continue to do.

This has been and continues to be a very difficult time for all. On first glance it appears that there is not much we can do as councils, with no bake sales, bazaars, even meetings. Yet, I think we are being called to think and act outside of the box. Our sisters in the League, members of our parishes and our communities might well be looking to us for leadership and assistance. In our leagues, are some members feeling lonely or isolated? Perhaps a phone call from a sister member would be appreciated? Are there projects that can be worked on while isolating? Perhaps creating or updating a policy and procedure manual, or updating photo albums and records, or knitting and sewing projects. We might suggest readings and websites to follow on a weekly basis, especially the CWL national, provincial and diocesan sites. (www.cwl.ca) (www.kingston.cwl.on.ca), also the Development and Peace website. (www.devp.org)

In our parishes and communities there are groups we have helped financially and through our volunteerism. We may not be able to assist in person but I suggest these groups are more in need than ever. We need to continue to give support through our financial contributions. I am thinking in particular about Development and Peace, local food banks, Birthright and Christmas programs. Yes, we are not fundraising right now, but can we think outside the box to get the funds we need to continue these donations? How would parishioners respond to a bulletin insert (on the parish website) Parishioners

and especially league sisters cannot attend a bazaar, but they may be willing to contribute.

Our national theme calls us to care for our common home. On Sunday we celebrated the feast of St. Francis. Should we be praying to him for leadership in doing what we can to improve our environment? The Canticle of St. Francis is an excellent resource and inspiration. There is much we can focus on doing in our own homes to live more simply as St. Francis chose to do.

We as past presidents with our presidents, need to focus our councils on what we can do and find new ways of reaching out to our parishes and communities. We are not able to function as we did in the past, but we are still needed and we must find new ways of supporting those in need. Now is an opportunity to think creatively.

If there is anything the Diocesan Council might help you with, please send me and email or call. We are truly blessed even in these times and God is looking to us to share our blessings with all those around us.

Maureen Vincentine