



**The Kingston Diocesan Council of  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Diocesan First Vice  
Organization Chair**

***Care for our Common Home***

**Directive #3  
March 1, 2021**

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**To:** Parish Presidents Parish Council Organization Chair  
**From:** Elizabeth Knudson, Diocesan First Vice Organization Chair  
**CC:** Diocesan Executive, Provincial Organization Chair

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Good morning ladies. I trust your membership drives went well and we were able to maintain and or increase our membership. I was recently part of a zoom meeting hosted by our Provincial President Elect Linda Squarzolo. The presentation was titled the Welcome Kit. I found it very informative with many great ideas for welcoming and keeping new members. The presentation can be found on the Provincial Website.

The Welcome Kit consists of several components. A guideline for Welcoming all members, The Membership Information form, an Orientation Program, a Companionship Program and a Validation Program.

I would like to talk about some of the key points I found most valuable to me as a member. As a council we are to create a welcoming environment for both new and returning members. I especially liked the information form the members fill out so we know what their strengths are and what they would be willing to do and participate in. For example, I work full time and cannot bake for bake sales but would love to donate to the fundraiser for the food bank. What I am willing to do today as a member may change as the time goes by so it is a good idea for returning members too. For example, I just retired so I have more time, how can I become more involved. The new member should learn about the mission and core values of the league. Team up a new member with a more experienced member for a possible mentorship. Validate your members new and returning for their service and what they bring to the organization. Keep contact with members who do not join in meetings via email and phone calls and letters. It can be intimidating to go to a meeting the first time so make sure someone welcomes the new member and make them feel included.

From this presentation I feel the key is to create a welcoming environment, be inclusive, accept the member at the level they want to be involved, communicate always, and leave no member behind.

Elizabeth Knudson