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## The CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE of CANADA

C-702 Scotland Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3M 1X5

Website: [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) E-mail: [info@cwl.ca](mailto:info@cwl.ca)

# MEMO

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To: Parish Council presidents

CC: Diocesan presidents, Provincial presidents and Life Members (on request)

From: Margaret Ann Jacobs, National President

Date: October 28, 2016

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What an exciting time of year! The leaves are changing colour, fall fairs abound and kitchens exude such wonderful aromas as pickles and preserves are tucked away for the winter. I hope you are still buoyed up by the enthusiasm, energy and inspiration of the national convention. When it starts to wane, check out the national website for a fresh infusion.

Thank you for accepting this extraordinary role as president. As president you were called by God and especially chosen for this position. I commend those councils that have taken a “team” approach.

It is always good to review our duties (*Executive Handbook* PRES-9-11). BUT, your role as president is so much more. You are a model, an ambassador and a spokesperson for your council. Initiate and encourage new programs and projects but delegate other (executive) members to be responsible for their execution. Everything is more fun when the work is shared and the joy of projects well done is celebrated. Have faith that the Spirit will support your endeavours. Hope in the value of the work you do with optimism and joy. Let your love of the Father and the League shine through all you do.

If there is to be a transformation in the League it must start at parish level. So you are a key player in advocating for change, revitalization, refocusing and being persistent in your efforts.

Catholic women are anxious for faith-based opportunities for social interaction, personal enrichment and community service. Be bold! The national executive encourages councils to adopt national programs but also knows how important it is for your council to establish programs that meet your parish needs. **So be brave, support one another and focus on the gifts and strengths you have developed.**

I am inspired by Col. 3:13-14, “Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

Being a president isn't always easy. Sometimes personalities, attitudes and past history create roadblocks to accomplishing the real work of the council. Remember you are the hands and feet of Jesus. So lead as He did – gently inviting, leading by example and modeling His mercy, tenderness and compassion.

I commend councils for the positive manner with which they have accepted the new online annual reporting process. National executive members will be preparing prayer services and workshops for distribution in the new year. Efforts continue for quality palliative and hospice care. Members' voices will need to be heard by politicians in order for the League to succeed in gaining legislation for the various resolutions adopted at the national convention.

Please ensure that the information enclosed is passed on to your executive. Of course, you will all be anxious to unfold the annual reporting materials. Spend a few moments at your executive meeting sharing the various projects that your national executive is promoting and look for ways to mould them together with your own initiatives to make a difference in your own parish and beyond.

Affirm, encourage and support each other and remember what St. Teresa of Calcutta told us, "I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do something beautiful for God." So together, let us do something beautiful for God.

God bless you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Ann". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

Margaret Ann

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# MEMO

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**To: Parish Council Chairpersons of Organization**  
**CC: Parish, Diocesan and Provincial Presidents and Life Members (on request)**  
**From: Anne Gorman, National President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization**  
**Date: October 31, 2016**

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"For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:26-28).

I extend greetings to all parish council presidents and chairpersons of organization. While I have written Communiqué 1, this is my first opportunity to be in direct contact with my parish sisters. The preceding biblical quote from the New Revised Standard Version reminds each of us we are equals in striving to bring the Good News of Christ to the world, beginning at home.

By way of a brief introduction, I am a retired educator, the widowed mother of eight children—four birth children and four spouses—and eight delightful grandchildren. I have been a member of a small rural parish council for more than 40 years and am confident the Holy Spirit is equally at work in parishes large and small. We work "For God and Canada" with no exceptions. I have worked at the diocesan and provincial levels in several standing committees before being privileged to be elected to the national executive, serving as resolutions, legislation, spiritual development and now organization chairperson. One learns a great deal about the structure of the League by reading and serving in different capacities. Be not afraid.

### **Membership**

The most important entity in the League has always been and continues to be the parish council. First of all, this unit works towards collective and personal spiritual development. The great vision and gift of our founders was to connect us east to west and north to south so that each of us is part of a voice more than 83,000 women strong. The need is, therefore, obvious to welcome and maintain members, and encourage all Catholic women 16 years of age to "come and see". If we keep this uppermost in our minds and seek the intercession of Mary and the Holy Spirit, we will succeed. I cannot imagine a local church without the presence of the League. Perhaps this year is the one when your council will hold a new special event for all women of the parish. During this time, your most animated selves are able to simply demonstrate by your presence and enthusiasm how pleased you are to belong. Have you sent any ideas, events or photo depictions with *Be League?* I look forward to reading about what is happening in your parishes and how you are keeping the League alive.

### **Leadership Development**

There are leaders and potential leaders among all members at the parish level, and by hosting development days, who knows how the Holy Spirit will speak to them?

The National Development Fund is available to all parishes, dioceses and provinces. As stated in the National Development Fund criteria, "Councils at all levels may apply for assistance once in a calendar year. Requests for funding should be submitted to assist in the organization of parish councils, assist parish, diocesan and provincial councils to promote League leadership training and other development workshops, [and] promote League development through spiritual development". Please consider a development day for your region. Application forms are available to download and print from the national website at [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca).

### **League Resource Material**

There are a myriad of resources on the national website, as you are undoubtedly aware. Please feel free to use one small piece at each meeting. As chairpersons of organization, we are constantly learning and always looking for new ideas to share with members. Sometimes we are so intent on the work we do in the parish and the local community, we forget to do something for ourselves. Keep the three equal parts of the meeting in mind—one-third spiritual development, one-third business and one-third social.

### **Annual Reports**

Included in this package is the new annual report survey for each standing committee, directions and a tutorial. I look forward to hearing of your experience with completing the survey. As this is the first year, be confident in knowing you have only to contact national office at (888) 656-4040 for support.

### **Life Membership**

There are life members throughout the country. These women continue to serve in all capacities in the organization. Make use of them in your council—invite one or more to present on a subject of interest to members.

Let us continue to be confident in knowing that we are special and the graces we receive from individual and communal work "For God and Canada" will motivate us to be "One heart - filled with mercy, compassion and holiness; One voice - united in harmony to speak the truth with courage and zeal; One mission - witnessing the Good News of the gospel through personal encounter and joyful service."

May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide you and may the God of mercy bless all your good works.

Your sister in the League,



Anne-Marie Gorman  
National President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization

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# MEMO

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**To: Parish Education and Health Chairpersons**  
**CC: Parish, Diocesan and Provincial Presidents and Life Members (on request)**  
**From: Fran Lucas, National First Vice President and Chairperson of Education and Health**  
**Date: October 31, 2016**

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This education and health mailing is the combined effort of three committee members and myself.

### **Bursaries**

Bursaries are now being offered biannually. Applications are to be submitted to national office by November 30, 2016 and May 31, 2017. I was pleased to recently attend the convocation of a member in my archdiocese on the receipt of her masters of theological studies. Catherine benefited from the National Bursary Fund. This bursary is a great recruitment tool for the League!

### **Catholic schools and catechesis**

Catechesis is Greek and means "instruction" or "instruction by word of mouth". It is the basic Christian religious education of children and adults that initially began as education of converts to Christianity. Defined in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and quoted by St. John Paul II in the apostolic exhortation *Catechesi Tradendae*, it says, "Catechesis is *an education in the faith* of children, young people and adults which includes especially the teaching of Christian doctrine imparted, generally speaking, in an organic and systematic way, with a view to initiating the hearers into the fullness of Christian life."

In the Catholic church, a catechist is anyone who is engaged in religious education and formation, from the bishop and all clergy to ecclesial lay ministers to volunteers at the local level. However, the primary catechists for children are their parents and communities. Couples getting married in the Catholic church promise to raise their children as Catholics, taking on the primary responsibility to introduce them to and guide them in the faith into adulthood. The community aids this process by offering programs such as children's liturgy during weekend masses. When the children reach school age, Catholic schools are available to them. In most provinces Catholic schools are private institutions. Only Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan maintain a Catholic school system, operated by separate school boards. They operate within a mandate protected by the Canadian *Constitution Act, 1867*.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has an Office for Evangelization and Catechesis. Priority is given to the identification and development of resources in the areas of catechesis for adults, children and youth within parishes and families.

### **Flu season is upon us**

Influenza is **not** the stomach flu! It is a respiratory virus that can knock you down for a few days to a few weeks, with a few people experiencing more severe complications, including death. Even if you are a healthy person, consider getting the flu shot to protect those around you who might not be able to fight the virus as well as you!

The people at high risk of influenza-related complications or hospitalization include:

- residents of nursing homes and other chronic care facilities
- people 65 years of age and older
- Indigenous peoples
- adults and children with a number of chronic health conditions
- pregnant women
- children younger than 60 months of age

Four provinces provide the vaccine free of charge to those in identified risk groups and their caregivers and household contacts—British Columbia, Quebec, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island (with a \$7.00 administrative fee). Everywhere else in Canada, the vaccines are free to everyone.

For more information, refer to the National Advisory Committee on Immunization's *Canadian Immunization Guide Chapter on Influenza and Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for 2016-2017* at [phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/flu-2016-grippe-eng.php](http://phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/flu-2016-grippe-eng.php).

### **Palliative care**

Given recent legislation regarding medical aid in dying, the need for every Canadian to have access to high-quality palliative care that is covered under the *Canada Health Act* and delivered according to uniform standards is greater now than ever before. The action plan of this year's National Resolution 2016.04 Amend the *Canada Health Act* to Identify Palliative Care as an Insured Health Service asks councils and members to write to politicians urging them to provide these essential elements to quality end-of-life care.

The brief to this resolution gives more detailed information for those who wish to learn more (or to develop their arguments to government in a more detailed manner), and the works cited also offer further opportunities for in-depth learning. Ask members to write letters to help politicians understand that access to palliative and hospice care resources is a right that should be available to all Canadians.

The 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care day (May 4, 2016) and accompanying petitions in support of palliative care were both very successful. Thank you to the many members who participated. Mark May 4, 2017, on your calendars as another day of prayer for palliative care—more information to come!

### **A new work of mercy—care for our common home**

Pope Francis, in his message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation adds as a complement to the present works of mercy a new one, "care for our common home". Pope Francis further proposes that the new work of mercy be both a spiritual and corporal work of mercy. As a spiritual work of mercy it calls for "a grateful contemplation of God's world". As a corporal work of mercy, care for our common home requires "simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness".

The challenge for members in councils, parishes and communities is how to implement this new work of mercy in prayer and action. Pope Francis says open dialogue and reaching outside our immediate community is a good beginning. Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* (On Care for Our Common Home) is a valuable resource. Another resource is a *Study Guide for Laudato Si'*, published by the Interfranciscan Commission for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation at [francis35.org/pdf/laudatesi/Laudato%20Si%20Study%20Guide.EN.pdf](http://francis35.org/pdf/laudatesi/Laudato%20Si%20Study%20Guide.EN.pdf).



Fran Lucas

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# MEMO

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**To: Parish Council Chairpersons of Communications**  
**CC: Parish, Diocesan and Provincial Presidents and Life Members (on request)**  
**From: Shari Guinta, National Chairperson of Communications**  
**Date: October 31, 2016**

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I am sending greetings to all standing committee chairpersons of communications. It is a pleasure to be corresponding with you by way of this mailing. I am new to this position, as I was just elected in August at the annual national convention in Halifax.

The standing committee of communications includes *The Canadian League* magazine, the website, media, media relations and the issue of pornography.

I am sure everyone is familiar with *The Canadian League*. The magazine is a powerful tool for keeping in touch. It presents information on issues the League is involved with and/or working on to its readership. The magazine continues to evolve, and I invite you to send in articles for publication.

The media is also a powerful tool if it can be used and developed properly. The media is used "for evangelization, to promote the League, evaluation and promotion of good content, [and] newsletters and bulletins" (*Constitution & Bylaws*). We sometimes forget the media is there to present news and items of public interest. Do you submit letters on issues the League has made a statement on to the editor of your local newspaper? Check out what issues the League is working on, including resolutions, from the national website at [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca).

Also, on the website is the monthly electronic newsletter, *Be League*. This is very exciting to me because it highlights a different provincial council every month. You will see councils (just like yours) featured for the work they do and celebrations they have had. November is Newfoundland and Labrador's month!

The pornography issue is difficult—I hope to have some material highlighted in *The Canadian League* on this issue and its connection to human trafficking, drug abuse and violence. If you have not participated in the Pornography Hurts postcard campaign, please consider doing so as a council. This is an easy way to let the government know you are concerned about this issue. The postcard is on the website. Even better would be to write letters to your members of parliament. Again, check out the website, do a little research, and have a say!

I have some ideas I am considering for *The Canadian League* and *Be League* so be sure to keep watching. Stay tuned!

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer" (Ps. 19:14).

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# MEMO

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**To: Parish Council Secretaries and Treasurers**

**CC: Parish, Diocesan and Provincial Presidents and Life Members (on request)**

**From: Janet McLean, National Secretary-Treasurer**

**Date: October 31, 2016**

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It is a pleasure to be able to write to the stalwarts of a parish council—the secretary and the treasurer. Without you, we would have no record of the accomplishments, both big and small, that your parish council has achieved and no idea of the financial position of your council. Thank you to all of you who have agreed to take on these important positions.

As I was just elected national secretary-treasurer at the annual national convention this past August, I have much to learn about fulfilling this important role on the national executive. I do have a background in both of these fields as I was a legal secretary, general legal administrator and then did the accounting for a legal firm during the course of my working career. But, as most of you can attest, no two jobs are exactly the same, and the work involved in taking on a new task is both exciting and a little intimidating. Perhaps you felt the same when you first agreed to be the corresponding or recording secretary for your parish council (or handle both of these tasks) or when you said you would manage your parish council's finances. If you ever have any questions about your role or the tasks you are to do, please let me know. I am at your service.

The end of 2016 is fast approaching and, before we know it, we will be making Christmas goodies, buying presents and setting up our Christmas manger as the focal point of our celebrations. Often at this time of year, we reflect on what we have done in the year and make resolutions for the New Year. For parish councils, it is the time when they look back on what the council has done in the past year and share this information with their diocesan or provincial council, depending on the structure in each province. Beginning this year, the League is launching an online system for you to use to complete your annual report. There is a separate survey form for each executive position as well as for each standing committee chairperson. Your president has received all the information it needs with respect to these survey forms. As the forms are completed online it should make it much easier for you to record your activities. If you have never completed a form online, this is your opportunity to start. If you need computer help, you may find that your children or grandchildren are a great source of knowledge. Or perhaps there is a young person in your parish who can help you out. As well, your diocesan or provincial council should be able to help as you take, what may be for you, a leap into the unknown.

I contributed to the preparation of the forms for secretaries and treasurers and have tried to make them as simple as possible. Do not be intimidated if the form seems long or if you are afraid you will answer a question incorrectly. There is no right or wrong answer and it is not meant to be a test. You might find there are things mentioned that you have never heard about, or that you do not do—that is alright. One of the reasons for the standardized forms is that it might suggest things that you would like to know about or suggest things that you could use. There is also a space for your personal comments. Last year, two provinces had their parish councils try the online survey forms and they were generally very well received. I hope you will have the same reaction, but do let me know what you think of them.

Until I have the opportunity to write to you again, I wish you all the best in your work as secretaries and treasurers of your councils. You are fulfilling an important role. Keep up the good work.

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# MEMO

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**To: Parish Council Past Presidents**

**CC: Parish, Diocesan and Provincial Presidents and Life Members (on request)**

**From: Barbara Dowding, National Past President and Chairperson of Laws**

**Date: October 31, 2016**

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Dear sisters,

This parish council mailing is a wonderful opportunity for me to greet and communicate directly with all parish council past presidents. Congratulations if you have just begun your term and thank you for having been president. If this is your second year, you could likely give the rest of us some guidance!

In either case I am happy to join your ranks and between us, we can offer support to the executive and members to the best of our ability. And we all know the importance of grassroots members! Without them, there would be no League as we know it.

"Past" has a slightly negative connotation in that it suggests something is over or gone. We have to remember it is the role of president that has come to an end but that is all! We are still alive and very well, I would hope and pray. Handing over the reins is a bit like giving the keys to the kingdom to someone else. One feels a little lost or left out, even powerless. But fear not, as you most likely already know, it passes quickly. Being a support and guide for the new president and her executive is your primary role.

Have you checked the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* section to review your job description and compare it to what is expected in your council? This helps to ensure basic national practices are followed, which is important if the League is to flourish at the parish level. Embracing new ways and new ideas is important and necessary for growth, and keeping ties with the diocesan level will ensure your members are on the right track.

As a grassroots organization committed to growing in holiness and serving the parish, we are always looking to develop leaders who will go on to the diocesan level and beyond. You may be asked to let your name stand for election at some point—pray and discern if that invitation is for you. In your parish, you are likely to be asked to chair the next nominations committee. Start now talking to women; encourage those with appropriate abilities to take that first step to consider serving on the parish executive. Do not wait until the last minute and possibly end up with few or no candidates.

The role of past president is a legitimate and important executive position. Do not underestimate it. Rather, embrace it wholeheartedly. Remember if you celebrate too loudly or happily that you are glad your term as president is over, you give the impression to others that being president is awful. Rest on your laurels by all means and breathe relief at having completed the job, but remember we want the new president to be happy about being elected, not shaking in fear.

As for me, I miss being in the thick of everything, but I am getting used to fewer e-mails and more time. I cannot wait for our first executive meeting in November and look forward to putting all this good advice into practice!

May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide you and the Holy Spirit inspire you as you continue in your service to the League.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Dowding". The script is cursive and elegant, with a prominent initial 'B'.

Barbara Dowding  
National Past President

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# M E M O

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**To: Parish Council Chairpersons of Spiritual Development**  
**CC: Parish, Diocesan and Provincial Presidents and Life Members (on request)**  
**From: Jacqueline Nogier, National Chairperson of Spiritual Development**  
**Date: October 31, 2016**

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I am so blessed to be able to introduce myself as the national chairperson of spiritual development for 2016-2018. I am excited and awestruck to be able to continue serving the League in this way. I make my home in Snow Lake, Manitoba, a small mining town in the Canadian Shield, 700 kilometres north of Winnipeg. My husband and I both grew up in Snow Lake. We have two teenage sons, ages 18 and 16, and we are both teachers in our small school.

Whether this is a new standing committee for you or you have filled this position many times in the past, always view the world and your place in it with new eyes. You have so much to give to your parishes, families and yourselves. There are many ways to grow spiritually. Continue to explore and experience traditional ways of praying, but also expand your prayer life and come to learn new ways of connecting with the Lord. See with new eyes the deep prayerful traditions that are known and loved. Also be willing to expand your prayer "tool belt" with new, personal traditions.

### **Expanding Your Prayer "Tool Belt"**

- The Catholic church has a rich tradition allowing for a full prayer life. Continue with personally effective ways of praying by:
  - attending the Holy Eucharist
  - praying the rosary with the twenty mysteries that can be reflected upon
  - praying the prayer of the church, the Liturgy of the Hours, in the morning and evening
  - praying the Stations of the Cross as a community or in solitude
- Share with other members. Prayer is often a personal and private conversation with God, but it does not have to be. Take the time to share with others the types of prayer you find most helpful and the things you do to help you through tough times.
- Use social media to expand prayer life. There are many new forms of prayer available online:
  - Pope Francis has a website that will send prayers three times a day at [clicktopray.org/](http://clicktopray.org/)
  - Loyola Press, a Jesuit ministry, has a three-minute daily retreat that will be sent to your inbox each morning, once you sign up. The website address is [loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/prayer/3-minute-retreats](http://loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/prayer/3-minute-retreats)

It is important to be willing to try new things, and share with others what works for us. Expanding our "tool belts" can only be a good thing!

Jacqueline Nogier  
National Chairperson of Spiritual Development

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# MEMO

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**To: Parish Council Chairpersons of Christian Family Life**  
**CC: Parish, Diocesan and Provincial Presidents and Life Members (on request)**  
**From: Doreen Gowans, National Chairperson of Christian Family Life**  
**Date: October 31, 2016**

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Dear parish Christian family life chairpersons,

Welcome! I look forward to working with you over the next two years. My dream is to provide you with information you may use to help educate members or raise their awareness of current issues affecting the church community. I pray your journey will be friendly, educational and spiritually enriching as together we form the best sisterhood in the world!

**Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF):** I invite you to purchase COLF's complete package of brochures for a donation of \$10.00 plus shipping. The package contains brochures on marriage, family life, bullying, theology of the body, media, living and dying, euthanasia and assisted suicide, and many more. Some brochures may be downloaded free of charge, however the complete package will help you educate members on many issues Catholic women face daily. To order, visit [www.colf.ca](http://www.colf.ca).

**Executive Handbook:** Do you have a copy of your roles and responsibilities as stated in the *Executive Handbook*? This handbook may be downloaded from the national website at [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca). It is an educational tool that will help with monthly reports to members and is an asset to all chairpersons. If there are many new members on your parish council executive, your president may wish to purchase the entire handbook and split it up among her executive.

**Marriage and Family:** Catholic News Service reports, "The only way to defend marriage against the onslaught," [Pope Francis] said, is to help couples "make peace as soon as possible, before the day ends, and don't forget the three words: "May I?" "Thank you" and "Forgive me." Marriage is the most beautiful thing that God has created," Pope Francis said. In marriage, man and woman become one flesh, "the image of God."

In today's busy world families are finding it difficult to sit together to share dinner, let alone keep in touch in an intimate way. Retrouvaille ([www.retrouvaille.org/dates.php?country=CAN](http://www.retrouvaille.org/dates.php?country=CAN)) helps troubled marriages and Marriage Encounter ([www.wvme.org/](http://www.wvme.org/)), helps couples to communicate. However, not all couples are able to access these programs. Do you have a program in your parish to support or strengthen happily married couples? Personally I believe even happily married couples need support and spiritual enrichment to help them provide faith development for their family members. I would be interested in hearing about your parish programs or activities.

A booklet from COLF titled *Marriage in the Catholic Church: Frequently Asked Questions* states, "The commitment of marriage requires a decision to keep building a relationship on a deep respect for one another, on friendship as well as passion, on shared values, hopes and interests, on a desire to make a life and a family together, and on a strong sense that through living out this vocation the spouses are responding to God's call to holiness." How do we support couples?

**Sanctity of Life:** Resolution 2004.01 Protection of Human Life urges the federal government to recognize that human life begins with the process of fertilization and to enact legislation prohibiting the termination of human life at any stage of development. Encourage members to write letters to the prime minister, federal ministers of health and justice, and their member of parliament (MP) and member of the legislative assembly (MLA). With euthanasia and medical aid in dying, the timing of this is extremely important. Members need to take action and inform politicians of our Catholic values. Let me know if and how many letters your council has written.

**Youth:** Does your council support youth in your parish? Your council can support them by asking for their assistance to help set up tables and chairs for events or to help wash dishes after a funeral lunch or to serve at a CWL tea. In return for their help give them a donation to support their activities such as World Youth Day or a pizza and movie night.

Does your council recognize their activities? Ask a youth to share his or her story at a meeting when they have taken on a special project or have been given an award for something they have accomplished. Remember these young people are the future church. Encourage them to help the poor etc. while deepening their spirituality.

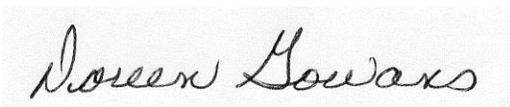
**Seniors:** Resolution 1999.01 Elder Abuse/Assault Awareness asks members to become aware of media campaigns, programs available from the federal and provincial/territorial governments, and community response mechanisms in place for elder protection in the community, and to urge provincial councils to encourage their provincial/territorial governments to implement effective campaigns and programs. This resolution would make an excellent project for your council. Perhaps you would like to research this issue in your area and then conduct a letter writing campaign on elder abuse. Euthanasia and medical aid in dying may affect loved ones. Take action by spreading information and writing letters to all MLAs, MPs and the prime minister to make your voice heard.

**Disabled, Widowed, Separated, Divorced:** In December 2012, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops welcomed an apostolic letter from Pope Benedict XVI "On The Service of Charity". The Acts of the Apostles record how the community of faith was involved in making sure that the distribution of food and the care for widows and others in need were exercised correctly with attentive fairness for the needs of all.

As stated in the letter, the ministry of charity is one of three inseparable responsibilities for the church, together with proclaiming the word of God and celebrating the sacraments. Does your council share its time and talent with disabled, widowed, separated and divorced members? Are they invited to attend meetings? Do they feel welcome? Do they receive offers of rides to meetings, spiritual programs and other events? As St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "Let's put our hands, our eyes, and our hearts to Christ's disposal so that [God] can work through us."

**Vocations:** Life Member Glenda Klein (Ontario) has accepted my invitation to head the vocations sub-committee. Watch for future articles and information from Glenda.

God Bless you as we work together "For God and Canada". May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide us always to answer the call of Jesus in the work we do. Together we are a GREAT and wonderful TEAM of women doing what we can for God and Canada and beyond!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roseen Gowans". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

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# MEMO

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To: Parish Council Chairpersons of Community Life

CC: Parish, Diocesan and Provincial Presidents and Life Members (on request)

From: Betty Colaneri, National Chairperson of Community Life

Date: October 31, 2016

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A warm fall greeting and embrace to my sisters in the League!

It's harvest time! What an awesome sight to see as God uses the earth as His canvas with an array of colours that dance with the sunlight along the vines. The grapes with their vibrant colours hang ripe for the picking. Fall is one of my favourite times of the year.

It is an honour and privilege to be sending this to you as your national chairperson of community life. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

All of us in Canada have so much to be grateful for. It is with that gratitude that we are to be mindful and pray for the people in Haiti and all those affected by Hurricane Matthew. To see how you or your council may help, refer to the following websites, [devp.org/en/pressroom/2016/comm2016-10-07](http://devp.org/en/pressroom/2016/comm2016-10-07) and [cccb.ca/site/eng](http://cccb.ca/site/eng).

### **Dignity and Rights of Persons**

Local fall meetings and workshops are well under way for the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP). Recently, I attended a workshop in my diocese. It is the perfect way to obtain the information needed to assist you in your standing committee work and to educate members.

To celebrate its jubilee, CCODP is offering free membership to CWL members, an opportunity to join a dynamic cross-Canada movement for global peace and justice. Between September 1, 2016 and October 20, 2017, visit the the CCODP website to register your name at [devp.org/membership](http://devp.org/membership). This is the perfect opportunity to support your local fall campaign and CCODP.

A concern was brought to my attention regarding CCODP. The following is the response I received from the CCODP head office that you may want to use should the issue be brought to your attention.

"We, at Development and Peace, also realize that questions have arisen due to certain misleading stories that have circulated regarding Development and Peace's work and practices. In the past, the organization received multiple attacks on our integrity and credibility by people who know very little about us or our work. We have been very saddened by the impact of these unfounded claims against Development and Peace and our work in the Global South.

I would like to reassure you that Development and Peace:

- Has never provided support or access to birth control or abortion, anywhere in the world;
- Put together a Partnership policy, which clearly states our values, our principles, and our approach to partnership, as well as the conditions under which we live this partnership;
- Set up, with the support of the Bishops' Conference, a standing liaison committee and process where concerns can be raised, and discerned on well ahead of time;
- Has learned a great deal through this process, and has all the necessary mechanisms to ensure that we continue to carry out our mission in line with Gospel and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Our partnership with CWL dates back to 1969, and focuses specifically on the rights of women. Through these programs, you can see exactly what types of activities we support: education, equal labour rights, participation in democratic elections, access to land and seeds and titles, protection from violence and aggression. These women, supported by the CWL program are unsung heroes, often forgotten by the media. They are farmers, teachers, doctors, mothers, and peacemakers. They are saving lives and protecting the dignity of those around them. CWL's support is precious to our work, and essential in these women's lives.

We feel very fortunate to be able to count on our partnership with Catholic Women's League and your continued support to Development and Peace."

The CCODP 1% Program will support two new programs this year in Sierra Leone and Afghanistan while continuing the program supporting Haiti. This decision was inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*. A new brochure is included in this mailing. More are available from national office at no charge. Be sure to order this wonderful tool for members to learn about the 1% Program. A PowerPoint presentation found on the League's website is an informative resource that explains the 1% Program for members. It may be found on at [cwl.ca/resources/programs-and-workshops/](http://cwl.ca/resources/programs-and-workshops/) under the heading of community life.

With November 11<sup>th</sup> just around the corner, it reminds us how important it is to remember those that defend Canada and those abroad. WEAR RED ON FRIDAYS as a way to show our support for Canadian troops and their families.

Mark your calendar for the following important dates:

- November 13-19: Bullying Awareness Week ([bullyingawarenessweek.org](http://bullyingawarenessweek.org)), a joint declaration of Bullying.org and Family Channel
- November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2016, ([un.org/en/events/endviolenceday](http://un.org/en/events/endviolenceday)), designated by the United Nations General Assembly
- December 10: International Human Rights Day ([un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/](http://un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/)), also designated by the United Nations General Assembly

"On Human Rights Day, let us recommit to guaranteeing the fundamental freedoms and protecting the human rights of all." (United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon) "This year's Human Rights Day slogan, 'Stand up for someone's rights today!', is based on the Declaration's fundamental proposition that each one of us -- everywhere and at all times -- is entitled to the full range of human rights, and that it's everyone's responsibility to uphold them. Take a stand. Defend someone's rights. Human rights belong equally to each of us. They bind us together as a global community. Each one of us can make a difference."

### **Refugees and Immigration**

At the annual national convention, Resolution 2016.01 Equal Access to Permanent Resident Status an Amendment to the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* was adopted. The resolution was brought forward so that foreign workers may apply for permanent resident status regardless of occupational classification. The resolution and action plan is posted on the website. I look forward to hearing what steps your councils have taken to initiate the action plan.

"Filled with the hope born of faith and the love inspired by the Spirit, let us mirror God's good news everywhere! Whether it's serving meals at a soup kitchen, being a catechist, teaching newcomers a new language, giving rides to those who no longer drive, visiting the homebound, serving in a liturgical ministry or being involved in any one of the myriad ways there are to offer our gifts to God, everything is important and necessary to demonstrate God's goodness in our fragile and fragmented world. Pope Francis is convinced that our actions do make a difference. When done in joy, it becomes a privilege and an honour to serve the Lord in one another." *What Pope Francis Says About Service: 30 days of reflection and prayer.*

I am a firm believer of the power of one. One hand that reaches out to another. One heart that embraces with compassion. One voice to speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves. One person with the desire to make a difference. One person encouraging another to do the same. At all starts with ONE!

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# MEMO

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**To: Parish Council Chairpersons of Resolutions**  
**CC: Parish, Diocesan and Provincial Presidents and Life Members (on request)**  
**From: Joan Bona, National Chairperson of Resolutions**  
**Date: October 31, 2016**

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The gradual entry into the colder weather is beginning. However, from coast to coast, the work of the League is ongoing and continues at every level. Members are actively engaged in many initiatives, including research and possible topics for the 2017 resolutions process.

### **Resolutions Process**

As many of you know, over the next few months, parish councils will begin the resolutions process. Most resolutions begin at the parish level; however, some may be directed to other levels of the League.

Parish councils are supported by a national resolutions committee, comprised of two members at large, the national president, the national president-elect, the national chairpersons of legislation and resolutions, and assisted by national office staff. The national resolutions committee meets following the annual Ontario provincial convention (normally the last provincial convention) and discusses the submitted resolutions at length. Once a resolution reaches national office, committee members review the resolution, brief, supporting documentation and citations.

This year, a very comprehensive report was received from the national resolutions committee, along with some specific recommendations. These recommendations are being shared, and will continue to guide the work of resolutions development at each level. The recommendations are as follows:

- Prior to beginning a resolution, councils are to review the checklist. As the resolution is developed and discussed, keep reviewing the checklist. This way, members will avoid completing the checklist after the resolution has been completed.
- Use reliable sources for research and support material—media (newspapers, online or television reports, magazines) and internet blogs are not reliable.
- It would be ideal if the sources cited are Canadian. However, in some cases, American sources may be used. Most content should be based on Canadian sources.
- Keep sources current, e.g., seven to ten-year-old information may no longer be valid.
- Works cited and/or consulted must be in Modern Language Association (MLA) format. One online resource tool for this method is [citationmachine.net/mla/cite-a-book](http://citationmachine.net/mla/cite-a-book). Another useful writing tool is the Purdue Online Writing Lab at [owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/). You may also search "Purdue OWL writing" for video tutorials on YouTube.

Councils considering hosting a workshop on resolutions may want to consider inviting someone with expertise in MLA format (i.e., local librarian or teacher) to provide some training. Councils may very well have a member or someone within the parish who is proficient in this method and can offer assistance.

On behalf of the national executive, I want to express appreciation to Life Member Rolande Chernichan (Manitoba) who served a two-year term on the national resolutions committee and congratulations to Life Member Toosje Van De Sande (Nova Scotia) who will serve from 2016-2018. Toosje joins Life Member Mary Capobianco (Ontario) on this important committee.

### **Annual Reports**

The online annual reporting system is available now. As much as possible, I encourage you to work together to complete the online annual report and assist others who may be feeling apprehensive. Try to encourage other members to share their perspectives and thoughts so that a broad range of information is included.

### **Meetings with Federal Government and Other Parties**

Plans are underway to schedule meetings with federal government representatives. While in Ottawa, the national delegation hopes to meet with other third parties. When a date has been confirmed, it will be shared with provincial counterparts. The outcome and government's action plans in response to the League's resolutions will be shared with members.

### **Letters and Action Plans**

I encourage parish councils to write letters and respond to the action plans of the 2016 resolutions. Federal ministers, members of legislative assemblies and senators need to know of the work of the League. Resolutions cannot stand alone without the support of letters following through on the action plans and prayers. Members might also want to include a word of appreciation when governments do respond to resolutions in a positive direction.

Keep posted on government decisions related to the 2016 resolutions and those of prior years.

In conclusion, I look forward to being part of the ongoing work of this standing committee. It is autumn, a new thought, a new beginning and the emergence of new resolutions. God bless you as you work so fervently "For God and Canada."



Joan Bona  
National Chairperson of Resolutions

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# MEMO

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**To: Parish Council Chairpersons of Legislation**  
**CC: Parish, Diocesan and Provincial Presidents and Life Members (on request)**  
**From: Nancy Simms, National Chairperson of Legislation**  
**Date: October 31, 2016**

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It is an honour for me to be writing this first memo to all parish legislation chairpersons in Canada. I want to thank each of you for taking on the challenge of the legislation portfolio.

Unfortunately, this standing committee may be the least understood in the League. Members need to understand the great things that can be accomplished through taking action on legislation. *The Executive Handbook* states that, "Legislation is social justice in action. It is the carrying out of League resolutions to influence government policy." But what does that really mean?

When a resolution is adopted at provincial or national levels, or action needs to be taken on that respective level, it is then that we begin our job. Our task is to research if there have been government bills introduced or legislation enacted regarding the topic. We need to know the bills that are before parliament and what stage they are at. (Federally, a bill goes through two readings in the House of Commons before it is sent to a committee for study. After study, the committee reports its findings back to the House, and then there is a third reading. Bills are debated throughout the process. Once both the Senate and the House have approved the bill it receives royal assent.)

We need to decide if the bill supports or opposes any League resolution and then we must encourage council members to contact government to voice support for or concern about the bill. It is our responsibility to make members aware of the legislation. It is the responsibility of every member (over 83,000!) to be heard by government. Contact with members of parliament may be made through personal meetings, e-mails, letters, telephone calls, postcards and petitions.

If there is no legislation existing or pending regarding a resolution, then we must create awareness to encourage members to urge the government to enact legislation. For as the *Executive Handbook* states, "Legislation affects everyone and everything we have and do."

I look forward to working with each of you as we continue in our work "For God and Canada".

Your Sister in Christ,

Nancy Simms  
National Chairperson of Legislation