



Nova Scotia Provincial Council
Catholic Women's League of Canada
Organization Communiqué #3
Inspired by the Spirit Women Respond to God's Call

To: Diocesan Counterparts, Sonia Gaul and Janice MacDougall
From: Glenda Carson, Nova Scotia Provincial Organization Chairperson
Date: September 26, 2017
Copied: Provincial President, Peggy MacNeil and Executive (for information)
Diocesan Presidents, Elizabeth Doyle and Cleo Windsor (for information)
National Chairperson, Anne Gorman (for information)

My dear sisters in the League,

I would like to extend a warm and special welcome to Janice MacDougall, who is the new organization chair for the Antigonish council.

The League strategic planning process has been a significant focus of time and energy for our national executive. The effort to reach out across Canada and afford members an opportunity to take part in the town hall process was testimony to the great desire to have our organization truly reflect our membership and be meaningful to Catholic women.

The latest communique from Ann-Marie Gorman, our national organization chair, is available on the National website.

Annual reports: Work has been ongoing to revise the annual reports in response to feedback from parishes and councils last year. The National office is sensitive to the need for the reports to be received in a timely manner by our parishes. The report forms will again be a digital format, like last year. There will be instructions again on how to work with the reports. As well, we are looking at the provincial and diocesan levels as well to see how to best support our parishes in this important work.

Membership: Ann-Marie Gorman reported in her last communique that membership by August 15 was down by about 1000 members. However, not all councils had reported their membership for 2017. It is important for memberships to be received in a timely manner as the per capita fees are the only source of revenue for the Diocesan and Provincial councils, It is also important to have current statistics that provide trends in membership for councils at all levels. Having been responsible for membership at a parish level in the past, I recognize that gathering the "dues" is not always an easy task to do in a timely manner. For councils using the online membership access, it is suggested that they submit members they know are renewing,

even if they do not have their membership money yet. They will appear as unpaid until the council submits their fees but the members will stay on the council's roster.

In 2016, I explored with the Diocesan Organization chairs, Sonia Gaul and Cleo Windsor, the possibility of doing a survey of parish councils regarding the maintaining of members. A draft of the survey has been developed. However, I have held back moving forward with it because of the national strategic planning and the need for parishes to be engaged in that work. At the provincial executive meeting on September 23, 2017, it was suggested that it might be helpful to still look at the possibility of distributing the survey. I will circulate the draft, as previously planned, to the provincial executive, Diocesan organization chairs and presidents for review and feedback.

I attended the luncheon for organization chairs at the National convention. Helpful information was gained regarding the transfer of memberships between diocesan and provincial councils. Because the per capita fees for provincial and diocesan councils are based on memberships, the formal transfer of membership in this situation does not appear until the new per capita year as money is not transferred between provincial and diocesan councils. This is not a concern for the transfer of memberships between parishes in a Diocesan council.

Leadership: Filling new leadership positions continues to be a major challenge at all levels of the CWL. Please continue to mentor your councils to look at the many resources on the National website. As well, because Diocesan councils are so close to the lives of the parish council members, Diocesan presidents and executive officers are also an important source of leadership, mentorship, and education. So, put yourselves out there! There is funding available for the National Development Fund that will financially help councils put on leadership development events. This fall, a new initiative developed by our provincial president, Peggy MacNeil, is being offered to all councils in the province. It is a leadership workshop called "CWL Days". The goal is to bring knowledge and rekindle passion for the work of the CWL at the grassroots level. Please encourage the councils in your Diocese to watch for information and to plan to attend – a workshop will be coming to an area close to them, with the first being in Amherst.

Life Membership: There is an expectation that our life members continue to serve the League with their gifts of knowledge and leadership. However, while vital to the ongoing leadership in our organization, they are often an untapped resource. For all our members and councils to benefit from the presence of our life members, it is important that they are considered and invited to take part in council initiatives and committees. It becomes difficult for them to exercise their expected responsibilities without being afforded the opportunity to participate. The experience of our life members also provides a strong foundation for mentorship for our members who also growing their gifts of leadership.

Last, but certainly not least, a very sincere thank you goes to Pat Crossman, who continues to serve faithfully as our provincial life members liaison.