



### *President's Message*

Happy New Year! With a successful year behind us let us prepare for a wonderful 2017 as we introduce our new theme "Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call". What a beautiful new theme for the next two years with emphasis on palliative care. We strongly support increased availability of palliative care. As members of the Catholic Women's League, how are we going to respond to God's call? We need to keep encouraging our Government to provide equitable and generous access to palliative for all. The 12 Hours of Palliative Care will be held on May 4. Take time to plan a special activity or event for palliative care, promoting respect of the rights and the dignity of the most vulnerable.

There will be challenges ahead of us but we need to put our trust in the Lord. God's Holy Spirit will renew us each day making it possible to carry out our work. He is near us when we call out to Him for help in responding to the needs of others. In responding to God's love we are open to the gifts that the Holy Spirit wants to bestow on us. As members of the League, we care about people and work hard to be examples and mentors for others. By ourselves, we can do nothing, but turning to Jesus and Mary, they will guide us.

Thank you to all who submitted annual reports for 2016. It is always a pleasure reading and sharing the summaries of your hard work.

In December, a delegation from Provincial Council met with the Honourable Leo Glavine, the Nova Scotia Minister of Health. We introduced our Resolution 2016.01: To improve access to oral health-care for Nova Scotia Seniors. We were pleased to have the opportunity to express our concerns on oral health as well as mental health and palliative care through discussion and the sharing of information. We look forward to future meetings with our Provincial Government.

Meetings and plans are well underway for our spring Conventions. What a wonderful opportunity to come together to encourage, acknowledge and celebrate members. It is a time to listen, communicate and show our respect for one another. I am looking forward to attending and meeting many of you at our spring Diocesan Conventions. The ladies at St. Vincent de Paul in Dartmouth have been busy preparing for our Provincial convention on June 9, 10, 11, 2017.

I am so grateful and blessed to have the opportunity to continue my League journey with such a compassionate and dedicated sisterhood. Thank you! Please feel free to contact me at any time if I can be of assistance to you.

Jesus tells us that we are a light for the world. Let your light shine!

*Blessings*

*Peggy Mac Neil*