



Nova Scotia Provincial Council

Catholic Women's League of Canada

Spiritual Development Communique # 1

**One Heart, One Voice, One Mission
(Together We Serve)**

To: Diocesan Counterparts (***For distribution to all parish councils***)
From: Mary ten Brinke, Nova Scotia Provincial Spiritual Development Chairperson
Date: September 15th, 2016
Copied: Provincial President, Peggy MacNeil and Executive (for information)
National Chairperson, Jacqueline Nogier (for information)

Greetings

By way of introduction: I am from a small family, myself and a younger brother, born and raised in Antigonish. My parents are also from the area, both of them coming from very large catholic families (13 on my father's side and 8 on my mother's side). I have quite a connection to the religious vocation as my mother has one brother a retired priest in the Antigonish Diocese and my late father had one brother a priest in the Antigonish Diocese as well as one sister in the C.N.D.'s (Congregation of Notre Dame), another sister with the Sisters of St. Martha's and 5 aunts also with the Sisters of St. Martha's. My paternal grandfather also owned and operated a Catholic Bookstore here in Antigonish. As you can tell, my life has had a very strong catholic upbringing.

After I graduated from St. Martha's School of Nursing, I married a Dutchman from St. Andrews, N.S. and spent 7 years in Ontario. We moved to St. Andrews, N.S. in 1994 and took over my husbands' family home. His parents immigrated to N.S. in 1955 from Holland. We have raised 4 daughters here in St. Andrews. Over the years, I have always been involved with the church in some aspect or another: parish housekeeper, Religious Education Co-ordinator, Youth Ministry Leader, representative on Parish Council, lector and now I'm in charge of the lectors in our parish. My husband is a member of the Knights of Columbus and is presently their Financial Secretary.

I became a member of the C.W.L. 21 years ago. In my second year as a member, I became the Secretary for our parish council. I have served as Secretary, President and Past President of my Parish Council. In 2011 I was elected to the Antigonish Diocesan C.W.L. I served on the Community Life Standing Committee and in 2013 became the Diocesan Treasurer. This past June, I accepted the Standing Committee of Provincial Spiritual Development.

I have been spending some time over the summer reading over the material that has been passed on to me from my predecessor, Toosje Van de Sande. She has been such a help to me thus far, going over the material, prayers, Book of Life and procedures. In this committee

there are 6 subheadings. I know that throughout the next 2 years we will be doing work in each area, however, I would like to focus on 2 of these in particular:

- Spiritual growth of members
- Role of Women in the Church

There will be a leadership workshop for all Provincial and Diocesan Executive members to be held at the St. Joseph Renewal center in Mabou, Cape Breton at the end of October. This will be a wonderful time to meet my Diocesan counterparts and to discuss plans and goals for the upcoming 2 years. I will also be putting ideas for monthly prayers for your meetings on the Provincial website.

May God bless you as you prepare for your Fall Conferences.

“ As the Father sent me, so I send you.” (Jn 20:21)