



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: March 26, 2020

FROM: Anne-Marie Gorman, national president

TO: Parish council presidents

CC: Diocesan presidents, provincial presidents and life members (on request)

“Represent yourself and the League in the best way possible. Because you are a model of what the League believes, people will form an opinion of the League based on your interaction with others” (*Executive Handbook*).

At this time of trial and lack of knowing, we forcefully acknowledge that God's plans are not our plans. This memo had originally addressed the unique celebration for the League's 100th anniversary plans. We are in a new reality now. Nonetheless, we are steadfast in our faith and seek the intercession of Mary, our Lady of Good Counsel.

Included in this parish mailing is important information for members of your council. I ask that these memos, which provide valuable updates from chairpersons of standing committees, be shared. I am sure this is done regularly without question but remind you nonetheless, as they are such an important means of communication between national officers and parish councils.

I respectfully ask, also, that you pay particular attention to the letter from Archbishop Richard Gagnon, president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB). In light of the recently introduced Bill C-7, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)*, he invites members to write their member of parliament to voice “resist[ance to] the passage of this bill into law, or at least mitigate the harm it will bring about.” I sincerely endorse this request. The League's more than 75,000 members have had and will continue to have a great influence on what occurs in this beloved country. Find a way to engage members in writing these absolutely essential letters. They WILL make a difference.

As president, you have been leader of the parish council. You have led the executive through the annual report, carried out as a council many services to parishioners, community, the League nationally and the country. Each year there are different challenges that you have addressed the very best way you can, all duly noted in the annual report survey

The quote from the *Executive Handbook* summarizes the best way presidents may provide active leadership for members. Whether leading a small or large council, you will attract women to this exceptional organization by this example. If members are to continue to advance the cause of Catholic women, the League must flourish.

May God bless all your efforts “For God and Canada,” and may you enjoy the fruits of your many labours.