

## **Implementation Committee Update, May 2020**

### **Goal 4 - Affirmation Working Group**

#### **We're Excited and You're Invited**

Working group members: Sharon Ciebin (Lead), Beverley Katchmer, Marg McCallum, Barbara Renaud, Shirley Rollheiser, Madge Somasundaram, Samantha Strudwick and Barbara Thuen.

“Let us welcome this time of trial as an opportunity to prepare for our collective future... because without an all-embracing vision, there will be no future...” (Pope Francis’ Homily for the Feast of Divine Mercy, 2020).

Now is indeed an exciting time for the seven dedicated faith-filled women of the affirmation working group! Working group members diligently researched and studied “best practices” regarding the affirmation process and are currently at the development stage. Members will be asked to provide feedback through online focus groups in the near future. Reaching this milestone has been achieved through the countless hours and enormous efforts of the entire team.

In May 2019, guided by the Holy Spirit and the goal of providing an inclusive member experience for all, these women embraced the strategies—include (leave no member behind), affirm (make members feel welcomed, needed and wanted) and validate all members. An extensive action plan was then developed. Over the past 11 months, this group researched existing League resources, researched numerous external organizations, studied subject matter experts (both secular and Christian) and most importantly developed and received input from a nationwide parish council survey. An overwhelming response from councils regarding “best practices” was received from every province. Information received from all sources, especially parish councils, provided valuable insight to the team.

Armed with this abundant amount of information, members are currently strategizing and developing a plan to bring these strategies to life. In June, members will be able to provide feedback, and the League will receive the gift of their final products in August.

Stay tuned for an invitation to participate in a focus group and opportunity to provide valuable feedback. Members’ continued support is important as the committee proposes the League of the future, by the members, for the members.