



# The Catholic Women's League of Canada

## MEMO

**DATE:** April 2, 2021

**FROM:** Anne-Marie Gorman, national president

**TO:** Parish council presidents

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

My dear sister presidents,

We are now well into 2021. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit and conscious efforts to follow public health direction, I pray the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have diminished to the point where parish councils may resume regular activities. Some of you have been blessed to meet in person already and attend Eucharistic celebrations. Others have a hybrid where you are able to combine virtual meetings with creatively designed in-person meetings, whether in church buildings or parking lots, for example. In other parts of the nation, members remain in a more restricted environment, where normal meetings are impossible.

You will read in the memos from the officers and the implementation committee that there is still much being accomplished “For God and Canada” in spite of the pandemic. By the time you receive this mailing, decisions will have been made by the national executive/board regarding its annual meeting. These decisions will be or will have been communicated to you. Please share the memos with the respective chairpersons after you have completed reading them.

A new national president, Fran Lucas, with a new theme, will assume her position in August 2021; however, her theme will only begin January 1, 2022. Until then, I invite you to consider ways to care for creation through the various standing committees. Also, I invite you to reach out to your provincial president for a copy of the slide presentation on *Laudato Si'*, which has been circulated. The World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations sponsored the webinar whose keynote was given by Rev. Dr. Joshtröm Kureethadam of the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. I believe all members would learn and provide discussion prompts from these beautiful slides. Perhaps the member responsible for health and education could review the slide presentation.

A third year as leader has placed a burden upon you. It has also given you an opportunity to learn more, practice your leadership skills and hopefully become more comfortable in your leadership role. The *Constitution & Bylaws*, the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*, and *Executive Handbook* continue to be best friends to you. Please confer with your sister parish councils in the diocese and/or province, as none of us live in silos. Refer to social media for postings across the country for creative ideas.

Your faithfulness and creativity throughout this past year have sustained your membership. Your leadership with your executive team in keeping your parish council together while apart has been remarkable. Accounts abound of the electronic meeting sessions for prayer and business that have occurred. Keep up the good work and take heart that all will be well and all will be well.

As I complete an extra and final year as national president, I ask you to keep your individual and collective spiritual growth uppermost in your parish council. May the Good Lord continue to bless you as members, and may Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to intercede for your needs and those of the organization.

Know that my prayers continue for the vitality of all my dear sisters.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

I remain, humbly, your national president.