

Implementation Committee Update—May 2021
By Sharon Ciebin

“To live an inspiring life, you must be inspired.”
(Matthew Kelly, *A Call to Joy: Living in the Presence of God*)

Why is leadership essential to the League? What role do members play in ensuring the League’s mission is fulfilled? Members are the **heart** of the League. Through their actions, beginning at the parish council level, we bear witness to God’s call to discipleship. Enabling member involvement is the first policy in the *Constitution & Bylaws*, Part V: Policy. Additionally, member engagement through service is so vital that the third policy is “to develop leadership qualities and provide training...”

Demystifying the requirements for leadership within the organization is the focus of numerous objectives within the strategic plan. Members of the parish options-strategic leadership working group have embraced two leadership strategies—examine members’ willingness to take on short-term roles; and to adapt unique standing committees at the parish council level. The group is also tasked to produce a project-based committee resource for use in parish councils. Over the past year, these dedicated women have been busy collecting and analyzing internal activities, both offered and actioned, researching external organizations, connecting with parish councils and learning from leadership experts. They are excited to be at the development stage of their journey.

Each team member is highly talented and has dedicated hours of service to ensure the deliverables will educate, motivate and inspire members to leadership. It is an honour to introduce them.

Susan Kaller, Quebec

Work has been done to see how projects have matched up with those proposed by the national council through communiques, parish mailings and *The Canadian League*.

The process has offered a time for deep reflection and dialogue—this is where the excitement is. The group now has a better understanding of activities and possibilities for the future. This may involve a transformation, but it will be a positive one that will open the door for members to become more engaged.

Diane Miedema, Alberta

Each member is uniquely created, gifted and called to serve. I feel I have a role to play and am eager to contribute to the League’s vision, evolution and growth. It is truly a joy to devote time and energy toward the collective goal of committee-based leadership opportunities.

Philomena Menezes, Ontario

When I applied to be part of this working group, I truly did not know what to expect. It was so exciting to meet the team—such warm, friendly, dynamic women with a passion for the League. Interestingly, though we are all from various councils across Canada, at different levels and varying years of experience, a common thread tied us all together, our love for the League. I am

amazed to learn how creative and talented members are and how many unique activities are undertaken in councils—no matter their size.

Janette Rieger, Saskatchewan

Through research, the group has uncovered that many women take on roles of service, not for glory or recognition and certainly not for pay, but as reflections of their love for Jesus.

Women are leaders in different ways. Some organize activities, but others lead by working alongside women and inspiring them with their presence—by accompanying them. Members are both Martha *and* Mary, not Martha *or* Mary. Leaders identify with Christ. Members know that “[they] can do all things through him who strengthens [them].” (Philippians 4:13)

Barbara Thuen, Manitoba (MO)

There are many benefits to participating in the working groups. I have appreciated the opportunity to connect with League sisters across Canada. This connection has reinforced the awareness that through differences and COVID-19 restrictions, resilient women find a way to get things done. Many members are taking on leadership roles—they just do not recognize them as such. One of the group’s tasks will be to develop a resource that identifies activities and resources.

