



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: September 24, 2021

FROM: Marie Rackley, national secretary-treasurer

TO: Parish treasurers

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

My dear sisters in the League,

Welcome back to a new year of the League. Although the COVID-19 pandemic is still with us, chairpersons are able to make contact with members and start working as a parish council.

Continue to look after yourself by making sure you have received both vaccine shots, continue to wear a mask in large groups, stay physically distanced when necessary and have hand wipes near. Safety is key to keeping the COVID-19 pandemic under control—remain careful.

I was elected as the new national secretary-treasurer at the partially virtual national annual meeting of members (AMM) held on August 9th and 10th. I look forward to working with you. For the past three years, I served the national council as national chairperson of community life.

Last December, your parish council president was sent a package of proposed amendments to the *Constitutions & Bylaws* and a motion for an increase in per capita fees. Due to the pandemic and a partially virtual AMM in 2021, councils now have until March 2022 to vote and return the results to national office.

The proposed national per capita fee would increase from \$13.00 to \$25.00 effective January 2023—an increase of \$12.00. To look at this simply, break the proposed increase down to an extra \$1.00 per month. Encourage members to have a spare change jar to hold stray loonies. Or, members could give up purchasing one coffee, candy bar or bag of chips per month and put the money saved in the jar. To save the full fee at once, encourage members to refrain from going out for lunch just once, and put that saved \$10.00-\$15.00 in the jar. Perhaps your council could hold a 50/50 ticket draw or bake sale and set aside the funds raised to help defray the increased cost for members.

Most parish councils currently charge \$20.00 to \$25.00 per year for per capita fees. National council receives \$13.00, with the additional funds divided between diocesan and provincial councils. With the proposed increase, the new per capita rate could be \$32.00 to \$37.00. National council would receive \$25.00, leaving the remaining balance to be divided between the diocesan and provincial councils.

As treasurers, it is your job to let members know the importance of keeping the League alive. If your council has already voted and returned the form to national office, it has the option of requesting another form if it wishes to change its vote, as long as it is returned to national office by March 2022. Like many people, members do not like change, but the League would not survive or grow without change.

I know the cost of living has increased and will continue to rise. These are trying times for members and the church. Remind your parish council the League has given members a voice in the church, a voice with the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops, the federal government through resolutions, the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations and a voice to express their concerns in developing countries.

At the recent national AMM, National President Fran Lucas released a new national theme, *Catholic and Living It!*, effective January 2022 through December 2023. I think this theme says it all.

I pray that Our Lady of Good Counsel will guide you in your decisions. May she continue to look over you, your family and members. May you continue to serve God's people here in Canada and abroad.