



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: October 3, 2022
FROM: Anne-Marie Gorman, national past president and chairperson of laws
TO: Parish past presidents
CC: Parish presidents, diocesan presidents, provincial presidents and life members (on request)

“Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain” (1 Cor. 15:58).

Greetings to all parish council past presidents. You may be in the first or second year of this position but know that it is an extremely valuable place in which to serve your sisters. I invite you to keep 1 Corinthians 15:58 close to your hearts as you continue your work “For God and Canada”.

Following the instructed voting at the recent 102nd annual national convention in Kelowna, all proposed amendments except the change to the patroness were adopted. The changes will be included in the new publication of the *Constitution & Bylaws* which should be sent to you by December of this year. Your council will receive one copy but feel free to order a copy for yourself and encourage your council to order copies for members so that it may be reviewed and studied. You will also wish to review the revised *Past President Handbook* once it is released.

Your work will include assisting the president in any way you can and in using the wisdom you gained as president to counsel the executive and all members. It has been a difficult time for the League, but the Holy Spirit will guide this vital organization, using your hands and feet as the League moves into a new time in history. Councils have reported being in disarray but there have also been new councils forming, so there is reason to be optimistic. Please assist your council with membership, fundraising, training and in the many other ways you are needed. The organization began in difficult times in Canada; there is no reason to believe it cannot survive more recent hardships.

Information in communiqués 5 and 6 may be found on the website. This includes the instructed voting results and directions on how to save your story (archiving). The process of gathering

together, listing, placing in a safe place, etc., may be reviewed/downloaded from the website or purchases through the office by email (accounting@cwl.ca) or phone (204) 927-2310.

As I have been given the responsibility of assisting with parish manuals of policy and procedure, I invite you to review “How to Prepare a Parish Council Manual of Policy and Procedure” which may be found in the *Handbook for Organization Chairpersons*. I reiterate that having this very simple manual will save your council precious time that may be spent in other ways during your 1 ½ hours together.

While I am fully aware of the struggles that many members and parishes are being subjected to for reasons beyond our understanding. We need only remember to surrender to Jesus as in John 16:33, it is written, “I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!” What inspirational words to invoke as we continue to be *Catholic and Living It!*

May God bless you and keep you strong.

Your Sister in the League,

Anne