



Timmins Diocesan Council  
Of The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Organization Standing Committee

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

Directive #1 ` Pages 3

September 2019

To : Parish Organization Standing Committee Chairpersons  
From: Shirley Gravel Diocesan Organization Standing Committee Chairperson  
cc: Parish Presidents, Diocesan Officers, Provincial Organization Chairperson Linda Squarzolo,

Hello my League sisters,

I am Shirley Gravel and am the Timmins Diocesan Organization Chairperson. I look forward to working with the Parish Organization Chairpersons. Please email me if you have questions about Organization. I don't know everything but I will do my best to address your concerns.

As we enjoy the last of our beautiful summer, we should take a moment to reflect on how fortunate we are to live in this country, and in this climate zone.

September means that it is time to begin our CWL year. With renewed energy, and God's help, we will "Be Inspired by the Spirit" to motivate old and new members to put into action our theme "Care for Our Common Home".

***A list of Duties of the Organization Chair (The Catholic Women's League of Canada Constitution and Bylaws, Article XI, Section 8 and Article XII, Section, Executive Handbook p. 37)***

- *Recruit members and maintain membership*
- *Leadership development*
- *League resource material*
- *Annual reports*
- *Life membership*

**Coming soon is the World Day of Climate Action - September 20<sup>th</sup>**

Since our theme is "Care for Our Common Home", at the convention, workshops provided great ideas for practical action. Some suggestions for councils and individuals to consider on that day and throughout the year include:

- Do a fall clean-up of a park, roadside or neighbourhood
- Plant a tree
- Grow your own vegetables
- Use reusable, rather than single-use items
- Bring your own shopping bag, refillable water container, mesh bags for produce
- Be an ethical consumer (How was it made? What materials were used?)
- In a consumer society, live simply, do I "need" or "want"?
- Evaluate your home's garbage and food waste (How can we do better?)

- Use the car less, walk, bike, car pool, use public transit
- Talk to a politician about climate change concerns
- Catholic social justice is grounded in spirituality, involving prayer and fasting
- One day a week, go without meat and eat a plant-based diet

Pray for our planet's climate and the people impacted by climate change

### **Life Membership Nominations**

Please be aware of the process for Life Memberships, which was put into place in recent years (2017) and the deadlines, which are highlighted. The National Manual of Policy and Procedure states,

"Notice of nomination is approved by a motion at the diocesan/provincial executive meeting and is signed by the nominating council's secretary and the council's president and mailed to the **executive director** c/o CWL National Office C-702 Scotland Ave Winnipeg MB R3M 1X5 by **September 15<sup>th</sup>**."

The Nomination for Life Membership form is completed by the submitting diocesan/provincial executive and must be **approved by the provincial by motion at an executive meeting**. Upon endorsement by provincial executive (as noted by signature of the secretary and date of motion) the application must be submitted for final acceptance to national office prior to December 15<sup>th</sup> and mailed to the executive director..."

Please note that Provincial President Colleen Perry should receive the applications well in advance of the provincial executive meeting in early October.

As a Diocese, we are too late to nominate someone for this year, but we should be thinking about the following year. If your parish wishes to nominate a CWL member for Life Membership, Parish Presidents should bring The Nomination for Life Membership form to the October Diocesan Meeting.

### **Membership**

Did you know that Ontario has a larger membership than all the other provinces combined? Imagine if each member in Ontario brought in just one new member. What a difference that would make!

For the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the organization of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, wouldn't it be wonderful if we could bring the membership back to

100 thousand, again? Invite a friend, neighbour, daughter, granddaughter or godchild. Give them the opportunity to find out what a great organization the League is!

### ***Recruit Members and Maintain Membership (Executive Handbook)***

- ***Promote the League in order to recruit new members***
- ***Conduct membership campaigns***
- ***Be aware that per capita fees are due and payable on Jan 1 of each year***
- ***In consultation with the treasurer, ensure that per capita fees are remitted promptly to national office***
- ***Identify the needs of current members and those of the women of the parish and plan programs to meet those needs***

***Hold a "Reception of New Members Ceremony" as outlined in the "Handbook for Spiritual Advisors" and the "Ceremonies Booklet***

### **League Restructuring Committee**

The provincial council received a request from Mary Lou Watson and the national working group on restructuring the League who are "... looking to form a **focus group** of members from both rural and urban locations to **complete an on line survey** about how things are currently done, what needs to change and to review recommended changes prior to submitting them for approval.

If you are planning to attend the national convention in Calgary, you will have the chance to provide your email to the committee, so that you may be part of this process.

Since Ontario is the home to 50% of the membership and we have both rural and urban councils, it would be great to have a good number of our members participate in these opportunities to help mold the renewed League. If members are going to the convention, they can sign up there."

If members from your diocese are not attending the national convention and want to participate, with their permission, you can provide their **name, council (identified as Urban or Rural) and their email address**. If you are attending, bring this information with you to Calgary and sign them up.

It is important to make this survey group representative of the League's distribution. So presidents and organization chairs, spread the word over the next few weeks and contact as many members in your area as you can.

**Social Justice Award 2020**

Information and deadlines for the provincial social justice award can be found in the provincial policy and procedure manual beginning on page 801. The application form (A8.1 – 01) is in the appendices.