

Timmins Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Spiritual Development Standing Committee

*Care for our Common Home
Loneliness*

Directive #1

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October 22, 2019

To: Parish Presidents for Parish Spiritual Development Chairpersons

From: Marie Black, Diocesan Spiritual Development Chairperson

cc: Diocesan President, Annette Kelly; Diocesan Officers; Provincial Spiritual Development Standing Committee Chairperson, Emma Rose Rayburn
Life Member Liaison, Anne Plaunt; Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Wayne Mills

Hello, Sisters in the League,

Although this is my first official directive, I have been in touch with each council a few times before this regarding the Spiritual Retreat Day in September.

As a brief introduction, I have been a CWL member for 52 years and have always been involved. My volunteering within the League has consisted of a range of activities – dishwashing, setting tables, helping at bazaars and teas, organizing events within my council and parish, convening and co-convening conventions, accepting all positions at the parish and diocesan levels. Throughout the years, I have learned and grown in innumerable ways and count myself blessed by all the opportunities afforded me by my involvement in CWL, especially meeting and befriending members at all levels of the League. At my first National Convention which was held in Hamilton many years ago, I met a lady from Newfoundland and we still exchange Christmas cards, notes and family photos. One of these years I will visit that province and accept her invitation for a visit.

1. Spiritual Retreat Day October 28, 2019

The comments in the evaluations were all positive – great presenters, well prepared, well presented, nice variety, enlightening, inspiring. It was enjoyed by everyone who attended. OMPH did a wonderful job of hosting this day.

Suggestions for future retreat days as follows:

- How can we do missionary work in our own diocese?
- Have both ladies present again.
- Ways to bring our youth to church
- Sr. Margo could present on her trips to Jamaica. Possibly the CWL ladies could go on one of these missionary trips.
- More on how to pray, Eucharistic Adoration, contemplative prayer
- How to secure the Holy Spirit
- Ways to reach out to the community
- Understanding youth and their look at spirituality
- Educate more about work being done in the community eg. Zack's Crib.
- Motivating strategies

- Going through the process of an inner meeting with God
 - Journaling, poetry, prayer writing exercises, creative ways to communicate/express our love of the Lord
 - Do an overnight retreat so we can do more activities and make/create solutions to some problems.
- Any feedback?

2. Prayer Partners

At the fall executive meeting, each member of the executive was given a prayer partner. This was done at the request of our Diocesan President, Annette. It is done at provincial and is a wonderful way to support each other, allow the Holy Spirit to work through us and build us up as a team. The pairings are as follows:

Parish Presidents with Diocesan Officers

- Pat Bigelow and Peggy MacInnis, Treasurer
- Silvia Aird and Annette Kelly, Diocesan President
- Bernice Duncan and Colleen Landers, Resolutions
- Pat Bodick and Marie Black, Spiritual Development
- Anna Andrews and Frances Freeman, Communications
- Eileen Meunier and Audrey Shelton, Diocesan Past President
- Armida Millions and Anne Plaunt, Life Member Liaison
- Anita Damini and Shirley Gravel, Organization
- Nora Barker and Marie Black, Spiritual Development

If I have missed someone, please let me know.

3. I am looking for **two members** who are interested in helping me with spiritual development and to be **part of my sub-committee**. Please ask your members and if anyone is interested, please send me their name, phone number and email address (if have one).

4. Reporting Deceased Members

It is **important** to respect the memory of deceased members and be accurate with the name and information that is submitted.

I will attach the Form For Reporting Deceased Members.

a) Parish councils are asked to complete the form as soon as a member passes away and send it to national office immediately (address is on the form). The names are entered in the National Book of Life.

b) Immediately send me the form or the name of the member, council name and date of death. I will then send the names to provincial for the Provincial Book of Life and have those names for our Diocesan Book of Life.

5. Spiritual Advisor

For councils that have no spiritual advisor, Fr. Wayne Mills, Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, has offered to attend a council meeting. Call him to arrange a time.

6. Prayers

- a) The **Diocesan Priority** for *November is Confirmation / We are sent*, and for *December it is Reconciliation*. There are prayers for each of these months that can be used.
- b) Shirley Gravel found a beautiful prayer that addresses **loneliness**. I have to check if we can use it and if we can, I will send it to you to use at meetings, use at home and possibly share with parishioners (with an explanation).
- c) You can also use the prayer, *Care For Our Common Home* or another that addresses this theme.
- d) I will also send you the prayer to recite for the **women** who are **working on the Strategic Plan**.

7. **Parish presidents**, please send me the **name and email address of your spiritual development chairperson**.

Thank you for your attention to all these matters. May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide you.

Blessings.

Marie Black

Diocesan Spiritual Development Chairperson