

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

Directive #1

To: Parish Organization Standing Committee Chairpersons; Parish presidents, Diocesan Standing Committee Chairpersons

From: Irene Gregorcic, Timmins Diocesan Council, Organization Chairperson

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Dear Presidents and Organization Chairpersons,

Most of you already know me. My name is Irene Gregorcic and I belong to Anthony of Padua CWL in Timmins. I am married and have 3 children and 3 grandchildren. I have been a member of the CWL for 14 years and this is my third term on the Diocesan Council. I have served as Christian Family Life and as Education and Health Chairs. This term I have taken on the Organization committee. I am pleased to be serving my sisters in the League in my new role.

I welcome your comments, questions, suggestions and ideas as they pertain to the Organization Committee. I will try to keep you as informed as possible both through directives and informal emails. Remember that all information shared should be forwarded on to your members.

In Colleen Randall's (the Organization Chairperson of the Ontario Provincial Council) first directive she reminded us to make it a habit to check both the provincial and national websites weekly. We are encouraged to do this on Wednesdays – **WEBSITE WEDNESDAYS**... So try to make it your day to learn and share!

We all know that the new sub theme for the next two years is Homelessness. Each diocese is being asked to concentrate actions towards helping those who are homeless. During the month of October, Audrey Shelton, our Diocesan President, attended a "Summit for Solving Homelessness" which was held in Timmins. In her report (please reread this) on this workshop, she gave us suggestions for our councils to do. Here they are.

What Can We Do?

1. Continue to support the emergency shelters, food banks, soup kitchens and thrift stores financially and by volunteering.
2. Write to government officials to remind them of their promise to eradicate Homelessness.
3. Remove the stigma of homelessness and find out the REAL facts by educating yourself and then passing that information on to others.
4. PRAY for our Government to act, PRAY for those working with the homeless. PRAY for the homeless.

As I mentioned earlier, I am the chairperson of Organization. Here are my duties.

- Recruit members and maintain membership
- Leadership development
- League resource material
- Annual Reports
- Lifetime membership

In this directive I would like to concentrate on the first duty— Recruiting members and maintaining membership. As Colleen Randall mentioned in her first directive “the strength of the League is in its membership”. She wrote that “our challenge will be to maintain the 45,175 members that were registered in Ontario in 2016. Our goal would be to increase that number.”

I am now going to list some recruiting secrets mentioned in an article I found in The Canadian League, the Spring 2017 Volume. It was written by Theresa Winchester a Life Member from Ontario.

So what are these secrets?

1. Personal invitations are crucial. Ask, ask, and ask again.
2. Walk the walk, and talk the talk,- be the League woman others want to emulate.
3. Encourage a sense of belonging as well as one-on-one and group friendships.
4. Stress the importance of your membership!

Theresa said, “when you put these techniques into practice, not just once a year during the membership drive but all year long, your council’s membership figures might just go up and up.”

This is an excellent article on recruiting and I encourage all of you to find this magazine and read it. There are some excellent ideas explained in order for all of us to recruit new members. I will try to bring some copies of the article to our Diocesan meeting in October for those who can’t find the magazine.

In conclusion, I call on all of us to invite all Catholic women, 16 years of age and older, to join the Catholic Women’s League. Past members should be encouraged to renew their memberships, and to personally invite a friend to join. When recruiting, don't put the emphasis on the need to attend meetings. Some women may only want to help with a single project or not be active at this time. If your first contact is not positive, keep in touch, try again. If health, age, time or any other deterrent prevents active participation, they can pray for the good works of the League. Every member added to the membership roll is powerful for advocacy purposes, when letters are written and government visited.

Last but not least, I would like to encourage everyone to make an effort to make new and transferred members feel welcome in our organization.

Your sister in the League,

Irene

P. S. I will soon be sending out information about our Annual reports.