



**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
SAULT STE. MARIE DIOCESAN COUNCIL
Organization Standing Committee**



Directive # 4

April 2021

To: Organization Chairpersons

From: Lisa Henry, Diocesan President Elect / Organization Chairperson

Cc. Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Diocesan Executive, Parish Presidents, Provincial Organization Chairperson

My dear sisters in the League,

Happy Easter! I pray you and your loved ones are safe and well and enjoyed a blessed Lent and Easter. There's so much joy in proclaiming that Christ is Risen! He conquered death and restored life and the Easter message of joy echoes through the whole world. It is the message upon which we build our lives and anchor our hope of victory with him.

If there is anything for me that COVID has reminded us of, it's that disruption is a part of life, at least life the way it is now. It can be very overwhelming and cause anxiety but brings with it the promise and the reminder that hope will prevail and God will carry us through this. Our sisterhood has also been a reminder of how we have been there for one another no matter the challenges we face.

Well Done Ladies!!! In her Directive #10, Provincial President-Elect and Organization Chairperson, Linda Squarzolo, thanked all the organization chairs for their diligence in collecting all the annual reports. To all council presidents and chairpersons, I extend my heartfelt thanks for the time and effort you invested to submit your reports. Many questioned if anything ought to be submitted at all given the decreased activity due to COVID, but I was amazed and inspired to see how creative everyone was in finding ways to continue your work for the League and your neighbours in need. Your servant hearts were shining brightly, and your volunteerism is a true testament to your faith in action. Well done Diocese of Sault Ste Marie! Your contributions, no matter the size, are significant so keep doing what you're doing and don't give up!

I'm happy to share the following updates with you!

In Directive #16 from National Organization Chair, Fran Lucas, there are a few highlights to pass along: (The link to the full directive may be found here: [Communique #16 – Organization - The Catholic Women's League of Canada \(cwl.ca\)](#))

Life Memberships

Effective March 7, 2021, a moratorium on awarding life memberships was adopted. This decision was made because, at annual meetings of members (conventions), there were more life members than any other group of accredited delegates. Those nominated for life memberships for 2021 will be awarded.

“Join” Feature on the National Website

A process has been put in place when a potential new member indicates she would like to join through the “Join” portal on the National site. Letters will be sent to the new member and the diocesan organization chair.

From there, we will facilitate putting them in touch with the appropriate council.

Disbanding Councils

When a council is no longer active and simply fades away from the League, it is the responsibility of the diocesan council to assist the council to formally disband. The process is outlined in the National Manual of Policy and Procedure page 56. The diocesan council may move to formally disband such councils at their next diocesan executive meeting, if the process outlined in the P&P is not possible. (Link to National Manual of Policy & Procedure [National Manual of Policy and Procedure \(cwl.ca\)](http://National Manual of Policy and Procedure (cwl.ca)))

Membership Database

An update in the membership database is currently being undertaken. Some of the suggestions offered by parish administrators will be implemented. Further information will be forthcoming as it becomes available.

Membership Dues

Our National Organization Chair, Fran Lucas, reported in her Spring memo that *"Membership fees for 2021 are being collected with amazing efficiency. Some councils are identifying near total member renewals! For those lapsed members over the last couple of years—make time to give them a call and invite them back with the message of new things happening through the strategic plan. Also encouraging is the number of new members joining."*

I'm amazed at the creativity with which Membership & Organization Chairs are collecting dues this year. I share with you one council's membership drive idea from Ajax, ON:



"Last fall, after it became apparent that St. Francis De Sales Parish Council (Ajax) would be unable to have in-person meetings, the council planned and advertised a drive-thru event. In the church parking lot, three stations were set up. The first table was for members to catch up with 2020 or pay 2021 per capita fees in advance. The second stop was a recognition of members who participated in making masks for Canada Sews, and the final stop was to pick up a cupcake. Members drove from table to table, stayed in their car and had a fun time."

There's no limit to the ways we can adapt during COVID! We are strong, resilient, and creative!

Welcome Program

We are now starting to see the fruits flowing out from the Strategic Plan. One of these fruits, is an amazing Welcome Program. It is an incredible tool that will be presented to all councils in our Diocese this year (dates yet to be determined) and more information will follow once we are able to strategically develop a roll out plan that is aligned with the provincial COVID health and safety protocols. This program was developed to assist all councils with an intake program to welcome not only new members but existing members as well. In the spirit of welcoming, affirming, and validating, it is designed to spend time getting to know the member and honouring their gifts and talents that each brings to our League.

Peace and Blessings,

Lisa

Lisa Henry
President-Elect/Organization Chair
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