



Past President/Historian Standing Committee

Directive # 1

October 02, 2023

**From: Cathy McKinney
Past President/Historian**

To: Diocesan Past Presidents

**Copy to: Diocesan President, Diocesan Spiritual Advisor,
Diocesan Executive, Provincial Past President, Parish
Presidents, Parish Secretaries**

Hello Everyone,

Let us be thankful for the abundance we have been blessed with! The colours in northern Ontario are hues of orange, red and yellow! God's paint brush is amazing!

As the past president of the council we are responsible for maintaining the councils' history. Many councils have enquired about storing their financial documents and minutes. Remember, some of our councils are over 100 years old. That is a tremendous amount of newspaper clippings, certificates, photos and most importantly, minutes and financial records. As per the national & provincial policy and procedures; it is the responsibility of the past president to decide what will be retained in the archives. Many councils do not have a dedicated space for archives and with the amalgamation of parishes and the closing of parishes this problem is growing.

It is my recommendation that the historian for the council purchase (at the council's expense) a USB stick that is dedicated to the financial and minutes of the council. The stick should be no less than 64GB to ensure all archives will fit. Perhaps another stick could be purchased for memorabilia such as, photos, newspaper clippings, certificates etc. The sticks are currently the most compact and widely used type of storage solution available.

There is a GREAT opportunity to get members involved! Your past presidents should gather for a social time and go through the memories together and decide what should be kept on the stick. Once the decisions have been made, this is the time to ask a student who needs volunteer hours or a young tech savvy member to help with the scanning of the documents. Remember, many hands make short work! This task should be shared among many members. Perhaps this is an opportunity to involve some of our "seasoned" members to share the who, what and where of old photos.

It is my hope that as the past president you continue to mentor and be a consultant (when asked) for the president that came after you. As with everything we do, if we do it with JOY (Jesus, others, ourselves) we will succeed.

God Bless you on your service to the Catholic Women's League and what you continue to do For God and Canada.

Cathy McKinney

Past President/Historian
Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan Council