



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Vancouver Diocesan Council

President: Barbara Renaud

Spiritual Advisor: Father Tom Smith

National Theme: Care For Our Common Home

Provincial Theme: Witnessing to the Truth

Diocesan Theme: Held in the Palm of His Hand

To: Parish Council Presidents (action)
Diocesan Life Members (information)
Provincial Officers & Standing Committee Chairs (information)
Diocesan Presidents (information)

Date: November 9, 2019

Communiqué # 2

Dear Sisters in the League,

It has been a very busy fall as we dive into our work in the Catholic Women's League. I appreciate your patience as we work out a few bugs in our council, as we all continue to work at learning our new roles.

I would like to thank those councils who have invited me to visit. Most recently, I enjoyed attending anniversary celebrations for St. Jude's and Our Lady of Good Counsel parish councils, and attending a general meeting at St. Anthony of Padua council. I look forward to visiting many more parish councils throughout my term.

Implementation of the Strategic Plan

Our national executive, whose mandate is to set the League's policy and direction, has undertaken numerous studies over the years to ensure we are operating effectively and efficiently. We are now benefiting from the most recent study which began in 2017. At that time, a steering committee surveyed thousands of members across Canada at meetings and conventions, for their input. Our mission statement was updated, and our core values and core purpose were identified. A strategic plan was created, and four goals identified, which included 50 strategies.

The booklet outlining the plan, "The Catholic Women's League of Canada Plans Strategically" is available on the national website, cwl.ca, in the "Quick Links" section, under the heading, "Strategic Planning" or you can contact the national office to order.

Member participation and understanding of this five-year plan and the process of implementation is critical to the success of this initiative. An updated presentation has been made available by the National Council, and they have expressed the desire that every member of the League will have a chance to see this presentation. Every member should be fully informed about the vision of the League's future and have an understanding about the process as we work towards that vision.

With this in mind, I am happy to report that past Diocesan President, and current Provincial Resolutions chair, Sharon Ciebin, has agreed to spearhead this initiative in our diocese. Sharon is the chair of the Implementation Committee, and is also responsible for groups working on Goal 4, Critical Issues.

Sharon and her team plan to visit every parish council in our Diocese, presenting a short, half-hour PowerPoint presentation, either at your council's general meeting, or at another time when your members can gather in your parish. I ask you to please be flexible when working with Sharon to schedule your parish to see the presentation over the next few months, as we are a large Diocese, with 57 councils to work with.

If you would like to keep up to date with this initiative across the country, the national website has a map tracking all the councils where the presentation has been viewed.

Other Ways to Get Involved

On a related note, many of the groups working on the implementation committee are asking for input through surveys and questionnaires. All surveys are being sent out to parish council presidents through the National Office. I ask you to please respond to these surveys to the best of your ability, as they help the working groups to have more data to plan with. It also allows you to have input into the plans being made for changes in the League. The opinions of the grassroots members are needed, so that the vision for the future of the CWL encompasses members all across the country. My thanks to you, for your participation in these surveys, and please watch for more opportunities to take part in surveys in the future.

Many members of our Diocese are already involved, participating in groups working on the Year 1 strategies, creating ways to implement the plan. Please watch for your chance to apply to working groups, whose role is to research and create new procedures. Each year, new groups will be formed, as new strategies are tackled. There will also be the chance to give your input on focus groups, assessing the progress made so far.

There are many ways to get involved as we implement our strategic plan, so please take the opportunity to let your voice be heard and help to guide the League into the future. Keep informed by checking the national website, under the Quick Links tab.

Communiques from Committee Chairpersons

As Parish Council Presidents, you are asked to bring the communiques of the various standing committees back to your council and share them with your executive. However, I would like to ask that before you hand out the communiques, you read them yourself, as sometimes needed information comes from other standing committees, and I would like to make sure that all presidents have all the information available to them. This is particularly important when you do not have a full executive council.

If you do not have a chairperson for a particular standing committee, you could ask one council member to read the communique and pass along one or two important points. Or you could read through the communique yourself and add any pertinent or time sensitive information to the meeting agenda.

As we head toward the season of Advent, I wish you all a time of quiet reflection, as we await the coming of our Lord in the Nativity. I thank all of you for your continued prayers and support. May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to intercede for you, and may you all continue to know that you are "Held in the Palm of His Hand."