



# 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: February 1, 2020**

**Communiqué # 3**

Dear Sisters in the League,

I would like to thank those councils who have invited me to visit. Most recently, I attended a lovely Christmas Social at Star of the Sea Parish and an executive meeting at Immaculate Conception Parish in Delta. There are many councils that I have not had a chance to visit yet, so please continue to invite me to your events.

### **Welcome New Presidents**

I would like to extend a welcome to all those Parish Council Presidents who are just beginning their term of office. Thank you for taking on this position. I know that it takes courage to step forward and take on a role of leadership in your council, but I truly believe that doing so is a wonderful way to develop yourself and your abilities as a Catholic woman. If I can be of any assistance to you during your presidency, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### **Leadership Styles**

Sometimes it can be hard to find your style when you are new to a position. Those who take on a role of leadership all have different ways of leading. There are innovative leaders, who like to try new ideas. There are democratic leaders, who like to get input from all of the members before making decisions. There are servant leaders, who aren't afraid to pitch in and help get things done. These are all good ways to lead. How you lead your council will depend on your personality, and how you interact with others. If we all respect the differences in the ways that we do things, it leads to a more effective council.

Members, I ask you to be patient with new presidents, as they find their way, learning the ropes of their new position. They may do things differently than other presidents have done in the past, and that's a great way for your council to stretch and grow.

Presidents, don't be afraid to try new things, and to put your "stamp" on your council, but do so gently, recognizing that change can be hard for some of our experienced members. In all things, we should treat each other with kindness and respect.

### **Inquiries from Parish Councils**

Everyone likes to be needed, and I am no different. I really appreciate being asked for help from parish councils when a question or a problem comes up that they are unable to solve themselves. I have had parishes inquire about succession planning, policy and procedure manuals, and elections to name a few.

I commend these councils, as contacting the Diocesan council is the first step in resolving questions. On occasion, I have passed questions along to a higher level of the League, or I have had to ask assistance from a Life Member. This is the correct path for inquiries. The Diocesan council is there to assist you with your questions and to help you to take them to a higher level if we are unable to help.

### **Contacting National Office**

Although many of your inquiries should come to the Diocesan council, there will be times when it is necessary to contact the National Office. Ordering items, questions of membership, etc, will require calling one of the staff in our National office in Winnipeg.

Unfortunately, I have to pass on a request that when you do so, to please treat the office staff with kindness and respect. There have been reports of some members whose manner when calling in to National office has been less than respectful.

I recommend that you visit the League's website, [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca), go to the "General Information" tab, then click on "Our Staff" and you can read the biographies of all the people who will greet you when you call and need information. I invite you to get to know them a little bit, they work hard to assist us when we need them.

### **Diocesan Convention – April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Convention registration packages have been prepared and are ready for parish councils. Please go through the packages thoroughly, and make sure that all paperwork is filled out correctly. Region 1 is hosting the convention at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Richmond and the convention planning committee has been hard at work to organize an enjoyable convention for all members.

### **Important Reminders from Provincial President**

In her most recent communique, Provincial President, Gisela Montague reminds councils that **per capita fees are due to the National Office by February 28<sup>th</sup>**, and that parish councils are encouraged to use the online membership process. Councils are also reminded to double check membership lists before sending them in to avoid errors. Payment is also due for the mandatory liability insurance which must accompany the membership dues. Please continue to access the Provincial communiques on their website, [bcyukoncwl.com](http://bcyukoncwl.com).

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."