

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council**



ORGANIZATION

DATE: September, 2017

Communique # 1

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Chairpersons of Organization
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Chairperson of Organization (for information)
FROM: Janet Brunger, Provincial Chairperson of Organization

Greetings to all of my CWL Sisters in Manitoba! Hope you all had a marvelous summer - hope you've had time to rest and recharge, have had time with family and friends, gardening and flowers, traveling to National Convention, and whatever other pursuits may have been on your radar. And now welcome back to another busy, fruitful year in the CWL!

My name is Janet Brunger, and I am honoured and humbled to have been elected to the position of President-Elect on Manitoba Provincial Council. As such, I also assume the role of Organization Chairperson for the next two years. I started my League journey at St. Emile Parish in the early '80's, then crossed the river to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Charleswood, where, regrettably, I did not renew my membership for approximately 12 years, due to studying and small children. I resumed active membership in the late 1990's and have hit the ground running every year since then, serving in various capacities at Parish, Diocesan, and now Provincial level. I was also the General Chair for the 2008 National Convention Planning Committee, which was held in Winnipeg. Aside from the CWL, I also happily serve in many capacities in my Parish. Through my League involvement, as well as outside of it, I have enjoyed travelling throughout this wonderful province, and indeed, throughout Canada. Our idea of "a nice little road trip" is a 12-hour run up to Alberta to see our son and his family on a week-end – and then back again – usually a 3-day round trip, but we have done it in 2 days, on several occasions.

My husband, Gerald and I have two sons and 4 grandchildren. We have a large, productive vegetable garden, and our flower gardens are definitely a work in progress, although they turned out very well this year. We have also undertaken various renovation projects throughout our married life, and have learned to work really well together. I am a major shareholder in Shopost Ltd., a steel fabrication company located in St. Boniface, just recently having celebrated my 40th anniversary with them, and no, I have no plans to retire any time soon!

The Objects of the League shall be to unite Catholic Women of Canada:

- 1. to achieve individual and collective spiritual development*
- 2. to promote the teachings of the Catholic Church.....*

Our primary focus in the CWL is the spiritual growth of our members. To that end, there is a wealth of resources available on the CWL website that will assist you in this respect. In conjunction with the Spiritual component, under the Organization Standing Committee, we are expected to provide the leadership tools needed to our counterparts on

Diocesan and Parish levels. During my term, my short-term goals are to continue the processes laid down by my predecessors, to educate and encourage strong and vibrant leadership within the League. I plan to increase visibility and to be as approachable as possible. I intend to work with members of the League to make the process of annual reports more user-friendly and to foster better understanding of the usefulness of this tool. My long-term goals are to explore ways and means of igniting enthusiasm within the League in an effort to rejuvenate the League and thus increase membership within Manitoba.

Recruit members and maintain membership

The demographics of our membership are changing – our current membership is aging and is not being replaced by new and younger members. Our challenge is to create a resurgence in enthusiasm and thus in membership. This process has already begun at the National level, and it will be coming down through the different levels over the next two, three, to five years. The responsibility for our Organization Chairpersons at the Parish level is to maintain existing membership levels, continue to recruit, and work to increase visibility within the parishes. Be bold! Approach people! Invite them to join in your various activities!

Leadership development

Catch the Fire! and *S'Mores* are valuable tools for both leadership and recruitment – have you attended one or both of these workshops? Consider joining with another Council in your area to present it to your members – I've attended several, and although they follow the established format, each time I learn something new and find different and interesting tidbits that I had never realized before! In reviewing the evaluations from conventions over the past several years, our members are constantly asking for leadership tools – well, here they are! Consider this valuable gift to you and your membership! The facilitators for both of these workshops are ready and willing to travel to your area – we await your call!

League Resource Material

In addition to the sheer volumes of resources available on the CWL website, every Council should have the *Constitution & Bylaws*, the *National Manual of Policy & Procedure*, the *Executive Handbook*, *Leading the League*, and the *Handbook for Organization Chairpersons*. Avail yourself of these resources, they are valuable tools!

Annual Reports

Last year was the first year for online annual reporting, and although there were hiccups and burps, overall it went very well. Once each chairperson accessed their respective website, it really was easy, and there were a lot of ideas to be gleaned from it. This year's online forms are still in the process of being modified, and thus are not yet available. More information about the Annual Reports will be available in the Fall parish mailing.

Life Membership

Nine new Life Members were welcomed at the National Convention in Charlottetown in August. We are so blessed to have all of these wonderful ladies in our midst! Please be mindful that there have been changes to the Life Membership process, in that there is a new requirement to submit *Notice of Nomination for Life Membership* by September 15th and that the completed *Nomination Form for Life Membership* and *Life Member Nominee Questionnaire* Forms are to be sent to National, postmarked by December 15th. Finally, the *Life Membership Checklist* along with payment must be forwarded to National Office by February 1st.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time with your questions, concerns, or comments – I welcome all of it. Grateful thanks are extended to all Organization Chairpersons, at all levels, for your dedication and for sharing your gifts. May Our Lady of Good Counsel be always at your side, protecting and guiding you!

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council**



ORGANIZATION

DATE November, 2017

Communique # 2

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Chairpersons of Organization
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Chairperson of Organization (for information)
FROM: Janet Brunger, Provincial Chairperson of Organization

Greetings to all of my CWL Sisters in Manitoba! Now that the yards and gardens have all been cleaned up in preparation for winter, we are able to turn our attention to other matters; namely, Parish functions, CWL events and fundraisers, preparations for Christmas – and – ANNUAL REPORTS!

Annual Reports

Because I referred to it in my opening paragraph, this is where I will start. National Office has been hard at work, tweaking and working out all the bugs in the system. The result is a much nicer, streamlined reporting tool. And the REALLY good news is that for the Parish Level, it can be accessed as early as November 1st to enable you to do your annual report on YOUR schedule. The deadline for annual reporting is December 15th for Parish Council Chairpersons, and Executive – including Presidents, secretaries, treasurers and past presidents. Treasurers, please check with your Diocesan counterparts for the deadline to remit monies due, as that date is likely earlier than December 15th. Diocesan Chairpersons – your reports are due on February 15th. Please ensure that when doing your annual reports, you would have to use the data (statistics) collated by National Office as a result of the Parish online reporting. To access this year's annual report form, please visit the secure site, survey.cwl.ca. Please be sure to enter this URL exactly as stated into your browser's address bar, NOT a Google search bar. Your user name will be your CWL membership ID number, as indicated on your permanent membership card. Your password will be your membership ID number, followed by the first initial of your first name and the first initial of your last name. For example, Bellelle Guerin, member ID number 7654321, would enter 7654321BG as her password. Councils are encouraged to work together and support each other for Annual Reporting, and if anyone does not have access to a computer or the computer skills to do their annual report, they have several options available to them;

- Ask another member of your Executive for assistance
- Ask a family member for help (does not have to be a CWL member)
- Computer services are available for use at your local library

And if you're the person that is being asked to help out, please try to make yourself available. Last year, in Manitoba, only 51% of our Councils participated in online annual reporting. This year, let's aim for 100%!!

Recruit members and maintain membership

Most Councils will be having membership drives over the next couple of months – plan to do something fun and interesting in this area – offer coffee and doughnuts, offer small join-up rewards, plan a ladies' night out to welcome the new members! Remember, personal, face-to-face invitations work the best. A reminder that interested women can

now join the League online by clicking on the drop down menu on the CWL website that says “Join”. Once they fill in their information and submit it, National Office will direct them to the CWL Council closest to their home address.

And now a few words about you! We are always beating the drum on recruitment and maintaining our membership, but I have a few questions that you can ask yourselves.

How do you portray yourself to others? Do you:

- a. Whine and complain about others in your Council or about everything you have to do for the upcoming bazaar, or do you smile and demonstrate enthusiasm?
- b. Shoot down new suggestions, saying, “We’ve never done it that way or tried that”, or do you say, “That’s an awesome idea, we tried something like it years ago, maybe it’s time to try it again, with a different angle, as you’re suggesting”
- c. If you don’t like how Susie handles her Standing Committee, do you gossip and complain about it, or do you offer your assistance to Susie or ask to take on one of the tasks she does to help out?
- d. Do you constantly wear a frown and slouch your shoulders as though you’re carrying the weight of the world, or do you generate smiles and greetings wherever you go?
- e. When someone asks you a question about the CWL, do you shrug and say, “I have no idea”, or do you say, “I’m not sure – let’s go and ask Mary – she’ll have the answer”, or better yet, educate yourself, so that you can respond clearly and confidently.
- f. When you are asked to do something, do you respond, “Well, I guess I can do that, not sure when, but..”, or do you put yourself forward, be upbeat, and say, “I’d be happy to do that!”

Just small things such as demonstrated above will make such a difference in your Council. No one will want to join a group that exudes negativity – everyone wants to be part of the winning team, and if our members are happy, vibrant, and do fun things together, that alone will speak volumes!

Leadership development

Have you considered hosting a *Catch the Fire!* or *S’Mores* workshop? Perhaps you can join with another Council in your area to present to your members? Did you know that funding assistance is available through National Office League Development Fund to help offset the costs of putting on one of these workshops? These are valuable tools for both leadership and recruitment – I urge you to consider participating in one or both of these workshops. We have facilitators for both of these workshops right here in Manitoba, and we are ready and willing to travel to your area – please don’t hesitate to call on us!

May Our Lady of Good Counsel be always at your side, protecting and guiding you!

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council



ORGANIZATION

DATE March, 2018

Communique # 3

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Chairpersons of Organization
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Chairperson of Organization (for information)
FROM: Janet Brunger, Provincial Chairperson of Organization

We have now closed the book on February, and welcomed March; and it appears that March has come in like a lamb. In reflecting on this analogy, I am drawn to the many references in Scripture of lambs, and particularly during this season of Lent, when we are called to open ourselves to the Lord and the many gifts He offers to us; we are encouraged to be trusting and to give of ourselves without reservations. This Lenten season, let us strive to be welcoming, gracious, tolerant and kind, to oppress any negativity or short-sightedness that may be within us. And then, let us welcome Easter and all that it holds with joy and a new-found tolerance and respect for those in need of our support.

Annual Reports

Parishes Council chairpersons' online annual reports are now a distant (and hopefully a fond) memory, National office is now compiling all of this information, and it is scheduled to be sent to the dioceses in late February. This means that there will be a delay in diocesan and provincial chairpersons' completion of their written reports this year.

Therefore, the adjusted deadlines for this year are:

Diocesan Chairpersons to Diocesan President & Provincial Chairpersons - March 15, 2018

Diocesan Presidents to Provincial President - March 31, 2018

Provincial Chairpersons to Provincial President & National Chairpersons - March 31, 2018

Provincial Presidents to National President & National Office - April 15, 2018

National Chairpersons to National President & National Office - April 15, 2018

National President to National Office April 30, 2018

Remember to refer to the guidelines outlined on pages 66 & 67 of the *National Manual of Policy & Procedure* for more information on completing your Annual Report. Please be mindful that Secretaries and Treasurers also are now required to give an annual report, in addition to their financial statement and report of donations – this is new, so if you're a Secretary or a Treasurer, these are the new requirements. And finally, for all Diocesan Executive, (Organization Chairpersons take note and pass this info on) the *National Manual of Policy & Procedure* contains excellent guidelines for giving oral reports at Conventions – check out page 85 for more information.

Recruit members and maintain membership

At the Parish Level: in my last Communique, I offered some tips and ideas on recruiting new members – were you able to make use of any of it? Was it useful? The goal is to use whatever resources you have to “toot your own horn” – show the rest of the Parish that this is an active, vibrant organization that everyone would want to be a part

of! Let potential recruits know that they are welcome and maybe they can't take an executive position right now due to other commitments, but however small their contribution, it will be welcomed and appreciated. Invite ideas and comments – everyone brings some skills and talents, and if you can manage to work that into your CWL, it will reap benefits down the road.

Leadership development

Catch the Fire! and *S'Mores* workshops are available to any Council; it's recommended that you might like to join with another Council in your area to present to your members. Funding assistance to host one of these workshops is available through National Office League Development Fund to help offset the costs of putting on a workshop – I encourage you to check into this possibility. Gift yourself and your Council with a workshop – they're so valuable, and well worth the investment of 5 or 6 hours! Our facilitators for both of these workshops are ready and willing to go anywhere in the province and are waiting for your call!

May Our Lady of Good Counsel be always at your side, protecting and guiding you!