



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
Ottawa Diocesan Council
Past President and Historian



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

COMMUNIQUE #1

JUNE 2017

TO: Parish Past Presidents and Historian Chairpersons
From: Joanna Sisk, Diocesan Past Presidents and Historian Chairperson

I went back to get advice from national and provincial past presidents from articles, so the following applies to the role of past president.

“Past presidents are prepared to walk anywhere or go the extra mile to help our executive or mentor members; sharing our history and tradition, then passing it on, so that members can learn and appreciate all that was done by those that paved the way for us and to encourage the sense of pride and importance of belonging to the League. What we are doing right now at this very moment is becoming part of our history. Future generations will be looking at what we have done for their inspiration. That certainly makes our actions today quite profound. Past president/historians are keepers of the flame. A symbol of faith, devotion and passion for the League, that burns within each member. By encouraging and mentoring members, along with maintaining the study and implementation of the *Constitution and Bylaws*, it fuels the flame making sure it doesn't burn out. Our faith ensures that the flame is eternal.” It is not by chance that today we celebrate Pentecost.

Past presidents are well placed to cultivate prospective leaders, to affirm the good work going on and encouraging qualified members to let their names stand for election. If you are the chairperson of nominations/elections, it is critical to be prepared. Don't wait until the last minute to prepare.

Does your council have a policy and procedure manual? Is it reviewed regularly? Even if it is not your favourite thing, you could oversee that it is done at least once during your term. Policies change often; capturing them for future reference, is a service to those who will come after you.

As we embrace the new theme *Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call*, we can trust that the Holy Spirit will be our guide and show us the way.

As past presidents, it is important to stand back and allow the new president and her executive to do their job and make their own way. It is important, however, to remember that you are part of the executive and subsequently have a role and a responsibility that goes with it. Your voice is needed and hopefully wanted. It is not about you, but about making sure there is open communication and sharing.

Let your love of the League shine through your own particular gifts and the Holy Spirit will make the rest fall into place!