

The Catholic Women's League of Canada



Antigonish Diocesan Council

Here I am Lord, send me!

TO: Parish Council Presidents
FROM: Diocesan President, Anne McCormick
DATE: October 19, 2024
SUBJECT: October Greetings
MEMO: # 1 (2024-2026)
CC: Parish Council Presidents, Diocesan Officers, Life Members, Provincial Secretary (for distribution to provincial counterpart)

Dear Presidents:

Fall is a season steeped in transformation embodying a sense of renewal and newness. How exciting is that, as we resume our activities refreshed after a summer break! Renewal and newness thrive in a community, in a collective spirit of learning and sharing, in a sisterhood, as in our League. May this sense of renewal and newness foster our ability to embrace change and move forward together.

Collaboration and connectedness are important to the future of our League. Collaboration and connectedness can occur at the diocesan and parish council levels and between the levels. The formation of diocesan and parish council standing chair subcommittees is an example. This is an ideal way for members to learn more about the League and the standing committees and will provide valuable support for the chairperson. I encourage the diocesan and parish council standing committee chairs to form subcommittees and I invite members to accept the invitation to join these subcommittees. I encourage the three pillars at the diocesan and parish levels to work collaboratively on projects and initiatives and parish councils to work collaboratively with each other. I support the connectedness between parish council officers and their diocesan counterparts; this sense of connectedness only serves to strengthen the League. I ask you, as parish council presidents, for your support of these initiatives.

I encourage councils to embrace our national theme, "*Here I am Lord, send me!*" and focus on mental health. Both give us endless opportunities to share our gifts and talents in service to others through the work and mission of the League.

Declining membership is a concern for our councils. Every member should strive to increase membership by inviting someone new or someone who once was a member to join the CWL. Are you up for a membership challenge? More information to follow!

There is a growing concern within our League of the hesitancy of members to take on positions, especially executive positions. What was initially perceived to be an issue for small councils, has become an issue for many councils. A decrease in leaders and leadership will impair action and our ability to move forward to promote the work and mission of the League. We need to recognize, promote and share our gifts with each other! The national website has many programs and workshops that offer suggestions for increasing and promoting leadership. Perhaps this could be a training opportunity for your council.

I would like to extend an invitation to councils to please consider offering to host an upcoming diocesan convention or fall conference. Thank you to St Ninian CWL who have offered to host spring convention 2025. Spring convention is held the last Saturday in April and our fall conference is held the third Saturday in October. Conferences and conventions provide members an opportunity to meet faith-filled women, experience the joy of belonging and learn of the great work done by our sisters in the League. Think about it! Pray on it! Will your response be: *"Here I am Lord, send me!"*

Presidents, I ask for your prayers and support.

Please be assured that your diocesan council is here to support you in your role. Please reach out to us.

Your sister in the League

Anne McCormick

Antigonish Diocesan CWL President