

September 15, 2020

It is difficult to know what to put into what was to be my penultimate communiqué as Past President, so I will begin with the tried and true.

### **Time Sensitive Reminder -Bishop Jensen's Presentation 16<sup>th</sup> September**

Yes! It is tomorrow morning! President Gisela has asked us to alert all our counterparts that Bishop Jensen is offering "Women in Mission" a Webinar Retreat. You enter from the National website. Go to "Inform" then News Releases and click on Women in Mission and then on "Register". After filling in your information you will receive a link which is unique to you, and confirmation that you have registered. Please send this reminder out in a quick memo to your parish counterparts if your communiqué is not yet ready.

### **March 2020 Mid-term meeting**

Since my last communique, the provincial executive has held several meetings. The Spring mid-term meeting took place in Langley as planned. There were four interesting presentations, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Political Action, Catholic Women's League Foundation, and as always, an eloquent reflection from our Spiritual Advisor, this time on examples of obedience in scripture. Our group also spent time gathering names of members with expertise in secretarial tasks and financial matters, since no eligible members had put their names forward to run for these positions. Little did we know that this meeting would be the last one in 2020 run on traditional lines. The subsequent necessary restrictions imposed by the provincial government in their efforts to stem the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, namely gatherings restricted to 50 people and observance of social distancing, conjured up a bleak picture of diocesan conventions having to be cancelled, and also raised doubt that our 2020 provincial convention would be able to take place. Before we left the meeting, we knew that if the number of COVID-19 cases increased, this would be the reality.

### **Provincial Elections**

By the deadline there were no applicants for the positions of Treasurer or Secretary. I am hoping that the extended hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic may produce members willing to be appointees. During this time some of us will have had cause to re-think our commitment to the League. What may have appeared initially as an insurmountable task, would now appear as an opportunity for growth. I am in the process of contacting various members who have been recommended by the executive for these vacant positions. If you are one of these, please keep in mind that there will be several members working alongside you who have held these positions before, and who will be delighted to share their expertise if you encounter any stumbling blocks.

### **Zoom Meetings**

We, like many other organizations, are now taking advantage of new technology by holding zoom meetings to ensure that our league work, although restricted, is not

abandoned, and that together we can continue to seek out ways of working around some obstacles. So far, we have held two zoom meetings, June and September. Based on the benefits we have received from these meetings our provincial executive heartily recommend that diocesan and parish councils make use of this medium. In my own parish council, I have been blessed to be invited to join our executive's zoom meetings which allow us to conduct essential business and to receive and share information about our local community and other levels of the League. If any of our dioceses cannot afford the financial outlay, they can apply for help through our League Development Fund.

### **Knowledge of League Procedures**

It has been observed that parish and diocesan council members are not always familiar with league procedures and sometimes "go their own way", that is, use methods that are at odds with league policy and even the Constitution and Bylaws. It is recommended that parish and diocesan councils should receive some education on these matters on a regular basis. Either the past president or Organization could do this by reading a short excerpt from the C&B or the national Policy and Procedure manual.

### **Policy & Procedure Revision**

I am currently working on the revision of our provincial P&P, and hope to receive approval of the changes at our October Zoom meeting. We discussed some of them at our September meeting. One addition contains a policy for Zoom meetings, for which I must thank Sylvia Jurys, Sharon Ciebin and Barbara Renaud, all experienced Zoomers. Without their help this would have been a formidable task for me and has saved me a lot of time and effort. Once this section is approved you may want to insert it in your diocesan P&P.

I am also grateful to you, our six diocesan past presidents for the patience you have shown me in what has proven to be an extremely difficult year. May God bless you.

Evelyn Rigby  
Provincial Past President