



The Catholic Women's League of Canada London Diocesan Council



To: All Parish Presidents, Past-Presidents
CC: London Diocesan Council, OPC Past-President Linda Squarzola
From: Theresa Ryan, London Diocesan Past-President
Date: March 2025

Directive #7

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer". Romans 12:12.

This quote from the Bible is an invitation to live a richer life by focusing on God instead of the storms of life. I can't help but think of a better time in the world for this. Pope Francis has demonstrated by his life how to be one with God. The news media was quick to give up on him and suggested that he should retire. Instead, he has shown us his great resilience and hope through his prayer life.

I am soon coming to the end of my term as Past President. Many things have changed over the 21 years I have spent in the Executive. Women have joined the workforce, and extracurricular activities for children have greatly increased since I started. Yes, our membership is aging, and yes, there are fewer women willing to allow their names to stand for office. The reason for us being an organization hasn't changed!

We are a national organization of like-minded Catholic women ready to tackle important issues. We, as an organization, have realized that we needed to change in order to continue to exist. Change is difficult, but if we lean into it, we will find it isn't that hard when we work together. If we want change, we have to be part of it, not expect others to effect it.

I was disappointed in the number of women willing to allow their names to stand for office. I realize the same thing is happening at the parish council level. I personally think we have to mentor more and earlier in our term. Be willing to share the joy of your position and ask for help when needed. A burden shared is a burden halved. I pray that each council will send some women to the convention(s) this year. (Please financially support them as they will be bringing back enthusiasm to your council. Both the Diocesan and Provincial conventions have wonderful speakers to motivate us.

If there is something you would like to see from the Diocesan Executive that you are not getting now, please reach out to us, as we will be starting a new term of office in a couple of months.

I thank everyone who has helped me along the way by word, example, or prayer. You do not know the blessing that you have been to me.....Theresa

"Give yourself fully to God. He will use you to accomplish great things on the condition that you believe much more in His love than in your own weakness. "St. Mother Teresa