



London Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



To: All Parish Presidents
CC: London Diocesan Council

From: Angela Pellerin, London Diocesan President

Date: November 2016

Directive # 4

Each should give according to what he has decided in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

It was so good to see so many of you at the fall regional meetings. I hope you learnt something new and enjoyed having the opportunity to meet other members from our diocese.

We will very shortly be entering the season of Advent, a time to prepare ourselves for the Lord's coming in the form of a baby. How will you prepare yourself?

The question is often asked regarding the per capita fees each council submits to national and which is shared with provincial and diocesan councils. As you know from your own experience, there are costs involved with keeping a council going. The per capita fees pay for staff at national to handle the day to day business of the organization. The fees also cover travel and executive meeting expenses at each level and assists with the cost of hosting conventions. Concerns have also been raised regarding "extra curriculum activities" when London diocesan executive attend provincial and national conventions. Diocesan council covers the expenses of the president and an accredited delegate (usually the president-elect) to attend the provincial convention. Other members often attend the provincial and national conventions but do so at their own expense. We did have the option of attending the play at Stratford, however the cost for this was paid out of our own pockets. At national we had the opportunity to go on a harbor dinner cruise. Due to flight issues, I missed this event and diocesan council was reimbursed the cost. Attendance at a provincial convention is mandatory for the diocesan presidents as voting delegates. These conventions are an opportunity to meet and share with members from the various levels and from other regions. As a diocesan president your role is not only to chair a diocesan convention but also to chair diocesan executive meetings 5 times a year, visit councils who are experiencing difficulties, attend anniversary celebrations, respond to questions and problems, attend provincial executive meetings twice a year, prepare directives, reports and League Lingo articles and pass along information received from provincial and national. All of these activities take up a considerable amount of volunteer hours. The diocesan executive is constantly looking at ways to keep expenses down due to the fact that when membership declines, so does our income.

I hope this helps you to understand how per capita fees are used.

Your role as president is much more than what is outlined in the Executive Handbook. "You are a model, an ambassador and a spokesman for your council. Being a president is not always easy.

Committee: President
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Sometimes personalities, attitudes and past history create roadblocks to accomplishing the real work of the council. Remember you are the hands and feet of Jesus., So lead us He did – gently inviting, leading by example and modeling His mercy, tenderness and compassion” (*taken from National President Margaret Ann Jacobs memo*).

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

I wish you God’s blessings during the Advent Season.

Our Lady of Good Counsel pray for us.

Angela Pellerin

