



Ontario Provincial Council The Catholic Women's League of Canada



Care for our Common Home

Directive #1

Pages: 2

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It is a pleasure to introduce myself to you as the new Administrative Assistant (Corresponding Secretary) to the Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. For those of you who do not know me yet, I invite you to "meet" me on page 31 of the Fall 2019 edition of *The Canadian League* magazine, where I am introduced as a new Life Member. Participating in the *Commissioning of New Life Members* at the national convention in Calgary in August, was certainly a highlight of my year. Although not an elected position, I was honoured to accept the invitation to serve as Administrative Assistant, as it gives me a unique platform from which to connect regularly with the provincial executive (which includes the 13 Ontario Diocesan Presidents) and with you, the diocesan corresponding secretaries. I love sending cards and notes, so this position is a perfect fit for me.

Do you remember the AT&T commercial with the slogan "Reach out and touch somebody's hand. Make this world a better place if you can?" That commercial came out in the early 1980's, in an effort to keep in touch via long distance calls. That message is just as true today as it was back in the 80's. Social media goes a long way to keeping us in touch with family and friends, but social media can only keep us informed. Social media cannot reach out and touch like a personal note, a call or a visit.



Provincial President Colleen Perry has invited us to focus on the issue of "Loneliness," during her two-year term. We, the administrative assistants/corresponding secretaries, are in a perfect position to respond, by sending out little notes or cards, or making a phone call to those we know are not out and about; those in assisted living facilities, nursing homes, the caregiver, the newly widowed, the member who can't get out during the winter months, etc. We know there are those among us who are lonely and would dearly love to receive a note, a card and/or phone call to assure them they are not alone, but remembered. So, here is my idea going forward.

Consider purchasing several "Thinking of You" cards (available at Dollarama or the Dollar Store for just \$1.00) and bring them to your next CWL meeting. Invite members to suggest someone who would love to receive a card and then have all present sign the card(s). While the recipient may not know every person who signed the card, they will know that their sisters in the League have not forgotten them. In our council we were informed, at our last meeting, that one of our members and her husband were being admitted to an assisted living facility. I am sure they would be so pleased, and feel so loved, to receive a card during this time of transition. If finances are tight in your council, invite members to donate a card and/or stamp. Either way, for the cost of a card and a stamp, you will have reached out and touched someone and made their world a better place.



Speaking of stamps, the 2019 Canada Post religious Christmas stamp has now been released. This year's issue, The Magi, can be seen, and ordered, at <https://www.canadapost.ca/shop/stamps/canada/p-114121.jsf?execution=e1s1>. In my experience, these usually sell out quite quickly, so plan on getting yours early. Please make every effort to use them on your personal correspondence, but especially on your CWL correspondence.

In closing, I extend a special "welcome" to those of you who are new to the position of Corresponding Secretary and a heartfelt "thank you" to those continuing to serve in this position. May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide and inspire you in your efforts to reach out to those who are affected by loneliness, in your councils.

Blessings always,

Anna

Anna Tremblay
Administrative Assistant