



London Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



To: All Parish Presidents, Education and Health Chairpersons
CC: London Diocesan Council
From: Mary Bannon, 1st Vice-President, Education and Health
Date: May 2018
Directive # 1

The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be ignited. Plutarch



What a spirit-filled convention! My mind is on fire with my experiences there. I am pleased to be your new Education and Health chairperson.

A bit about me: I am a single woman living in Stratford worshipping in my home parish of Immaculate Conception (where I was baptized and raised). I taught elementary school for 33 years retiring 17 years ago—ah, the advantages of beginning teaching as a teenager and being able to retire early. I have “trotted the globe” finding travel to be a great educational tool. I volunteer as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister and coordinator of RCIA – a Jill of all trades and master of none!

A bit about the committee: Education and Health deals with:

- Catholic education: (i) Catholic schools and catechesis (ii) rites of Christian initiation
- literacy and continuing education
- scholarships and bursaries
- wellness and sickness/disease
- environment
- genetics

I have asked Dara Hartman from Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Mount Carmel and Mary Kennedy from Most Precious Blood, Windsor to serve as sub-committee members and be my “right-hand girls”.

Ideas for Action: With my background as a teacher I naturally have an affinity for Catholic schools and sacramental catechesis. I have been a lifelong learner and hope to challenge members to continue learning in their lives. CWL has bursaries and scholarships to assist this. Good health has been a blessing in my life and I hope to be able to address issues pertaining to health. I am most interested in our care for the environment which is Rebecca's thrust for her term. By the way **June 5 is World Environment Day**. Genetics seems to be something about which I know that I need more understanding.

Action For You: Keep your eyes open to newspaper articles and your communities and contact me if you need assistance. Right now with the upcoming provincial election we need to be vigilant about our Catholic education system. Ask those running for election about their position on Catholic schools.

Have a blessed and restful summer. Mary

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