



To: All Parish Presidents, Organization Chairpersons

CC: London Diocesan Council

From: Rebecca McCarrell, President-Elect London Diocesan Chairperson, Organization

Date: November 2016

Directive # 3

"The "how" we do things should not overshadow the "why". The Objects of the League should be our compass; let it bring to focus those things that are most important"

Most Rev. William McGrattan, Bishop of the Diocese of Peterborough
National Spiritual Advisor

What a lovely fall we have had! I hope you have had time to enjoy this beautiful time of year (my favourite!) before the cold and snow sets in.

Annual Reports: As organization chairpersons we have been dealt a lot of work this year with the revamping of the annual reports. But, don't let them overwhelm you. Although the DVD directs you to do it in sections, I would recommend that you print off the report, complete it, then input all the answers at the same time. This way the whole report will be able to be compiled and you can print off the final copy as submitted.

If you have any concerns, comments or questions on these forms, please do not hesitate to ask. I will be providing feedback to make these reports easier to manage next year.

President's Reports for the Annual Report Book These reports will be in the annual report book distributed at convention. Presidents, please send to me a summary report of your Year of Mercy activities. The report should be no more than 18 lines using a 12 point font. I will edit if necessary.

Membership Dues – Jan 1st deadline! Have you started collecting your membership fees! Please remember that the time is NOW! For your council to be included as a voting member at our Diocesan convention, your dues must be received at National office as close to Jan 1, 2017 as possible! Why not have your membership convenor available during your Advent Tea, bazaars, after Mass or any other event.

Online Membership...quick and easy. I'd be happy to assist in enrolling all councils into this valuable tool. Email me at rebecca.mccarrell@yahoo.ca and I'll be happy to help.

S'Mores Our teams would love to be invited to your parish for a day or evening...just an hour or two...to assist you in any part of the league. Mentoring is a great way to help others take on new tasks.

Committee: Organization

Directive # 3

Date: November 2016

Page 1 of 2

Fall Regional Information: Bandages for Leprosy Several councils have come forward looking to assist in this ministry. Here is the contact information to get instructions on how to make these bandages and where to send them:

**Sister Patricia Anne Turner
URSULINE SISTERS, CHATHAM UNION
Villa Angela 20 Merici Way
Chatham, Ontario N7L 3L8
PHONE: (519) 352-5225
FAX: (519) 352-3729**

E-mail us:

ursulinesisterschatham@ursulines.org

Ecru coloured unbleached yarn can be purchased at Walmart. Can be crochet or knit. Instructions are here: <http://www.stmaryonthehill.org/smoothlinks/bandage.pdf>

Leadership: As promised, my on-going objective is to ***EDUCATE, ENGAGE and EMPOWER***. Have you tried any of the suggestions from my September directive? Here's a little more information. Are you emotionally intelligent? This is a highly sought after skill. It comes naturally to some people, but it can be learned. This is needed to have good leadership skills, here are some tips:

- **Be self-aware:** learn to put away the emotions that have a negative impact on what you are trying to do. Be aware of the positivity that you project.
- **Be positively minded:** shed the negative feelings and project the positive.
- **Be socially aware:** watch for signs of how others view you, and use the knowledge to mold yourself to project the positive.
- **Develop social listening and observation skills** so that you can put yourself into another's situation to find valuable tools to go forward.
- **Master conflict resolution skills** so you can be a vehicle to improve relationships both personally and within a team.

Advent: one of my favourite passages about advent comes from Edward Hays, *A Pilgrim's Almanac*, p 196: "**The supreme trick of Old Scratch is to have us so busy decorating, preparing food, practicing music and cleaning in preparation for the feast of Christmas that we actually miss the coming of Christ. Hurt feelings, anger, impatience, injured egos-the list of clouds that busyness creates to blind us to the birth can be long, but it is familiar to us all"**

So I am wishing you a perfect advent, a time to prepare the Way of the Lord. A time to make a place in your hearts where a blessing of peace would abide. Use the time to complete works of justice...works of charity...in around your communities. Follow the road less traveled to bring the hope of Advent to difficult problems by pursuing solutions.

Wishing you and your family a most holy time of hope and celebration in the birth of our newborn King!

Merry Christmas! Happy Hol-y-Day! Rebecca McCarrell & family.

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Directive # 3

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Page 2 of 2