

The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Manitoba Provincial Council

COMMUNITY LIFE



DATE: September 1, 2017

Communiqué # 1

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Chairpersons of Community Life
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Chairperson of Community Life (for information)
FROM: Marielle Rigaux, Provincial Chairperson of Community Life

“Give me the spirit of understanding. Hearing your word, let me live it. Knowing your word, let me love it. Believing your word, let it be fulfilled in me.” (Thomas a Kempis -True Serenity)

CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

• **“Gender Identity- Gender Expression”, Bill C-16**

When you access the CCCB site, click on “Media” and then click on “Statements and Letters”. You will then be able to read the complete article as to where our Catholic Bishops stand on the issue of Gender Identity-Gender Expression. Discuss this issue within your Council and decide how your council will support our Canadian Bishops. The article states “Questions about freedom of speech, freedom of association and freedom of religion are also likely to arise in connection with this legislation. We urge those of Catholic faith, and all people of good will, to be diligent in defending these freedoms and the vision of human dignity on which they are based”.

• **Mining Industry in Latin America (CCCB)**

CWL members are encouraged to write letters to their members of Parliament and to the Prime Minister – to raise their voices in support of injustices that the Canadian Bishops have raised to government. We are to express our concerns over environmental degradation and human rights violations caused by “Canadian” “PM. Trudeau to respect his electoral promise to create an ombudsperson. The **ombudsperson to monitor and investigate complaints of abuses of companies abroad. (Take 15 min. at your council meeting to all hand write a letter to your MP and another to the Prime Minister. Please check with “Government Mail Free of Postage” and check out the new regulations as of Feb.13, 2017. If possible put all of your letters in separate envelopes and then put in one envelope and mail per directions given for such mailings).**

Child Pornography

The definition of “Child Pornography” can be found at “justice.gc.ca. child pornography” with the latest update August 24-2017. In a statement of August 11, 2017 the police state that “the sexual violence against children continue to increase”.

In the case of Refugee claimants from the U.S.A. charged with importing pornography, they are not necessarily returned to the U.S. – their case is reviewed and they may be allowed to be let into Canada.

• **Joy Smith Foundation**

On September 30th, 2017 the Joy Smith Foundation will host in cities across “hostTrafficking” in Canada and to support survivors. More information can be found at rideforrefuge.org. (you can ride or donate)

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

The theme for this year is “**Women the Heart of Change**”.

Web resources available September 1, 2017. The new campaign starts under the title of “**May Peace be with Her**”. Resources may be downloaded at www.devp.org/en/sharelent2017/materials

Mini magazine—posters—Way of the Cross—prayer cards—solidarity calendars Thinkfast—poster (download)
liturgical resources (download)

September 12, 2017 there will be an **open meeting of Development & Peace** held in the **Bishops Dining Room, 151 De la Cathedral from 7 to 9 pm.**

Councils have the opportunity to host the **Development & Peace 50th anniversary quilt**. The D & P Peace quilt, representing the vision of 58 diocese from across Canada. Sets of 12 patches can be borrowed for display at local and regional events. If interested contact sslobodian@devp.org

- **Development & Peace 1%**

When remitting your D & P 1% if you are wishing to have an individual tax receipt for your remittance it is now possible! Just forward your cheque to:

Development & Peace
1425 Rene-Leveque Blvd. West
3rd. floor
Montreal, Quebec
H3G 1T7

Please put on your cheque that it is for the CWL 1%
Their charitable # 1-882-9902 RR 0001

THE KINDRED SPIRIT PROJECT

The Kindred Spirit project is in need of donations of sanitary pads, tampons, and supplies to provide to homeless and underprivileged women. With the # of refugees arriving, Winnipeg Harvest and other organizations providing help, they are in desperate need of supplies. There was a necessity for 300+ women and supplies for only 50+ women.

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DATE October 28, 2017

Communique # 2

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Chairpersons of Community Life
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Chairperson of Community Life (for information)
FROM: Marielle Rigaux, Provincial Chairperson of Community Life

There is unwelcomed snow on the mountain, a sign of what is yet to come, an announcement that Advent will be starting soon and then a joyous occasion of celebration will follow.

I attended the Day of Reflection held in Beausejour. It was a wonderful morning, nice to see again so many beautiful women that I met thru the years.

CCODP

Enclosed is a reprint of the letter that the Bishops of Manitoba had sent out to its parishioners in regard to Bill-34, (the Medical Assistance in Dying). This bill has not passed a second reading as yet, so you are encouraged to forward to your MLA. If you want a reply to your letter add a question such as "Can I count on your support in regard to this matter?"

Kindred Spirit

Where you can: Learn More
Get Involved
Donate Now
Take Action

Kindred Spirit is a new organization, just starting out, who believe that women should have the basic necessities to manage their period every month. DONATIONS will help the lives of homeless women, women in need of supplies.

By visiting the site you can make a monetary donation by clicking on the Donate button.

Kindred Spirit is in need of pads, tampons, sanitary wipes and panties.

From donations of products they can provide 4 different Period Packs. At the site the distributors are listed.

“You have never really lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you”.

Development & Peace

The National Community Life chairperson in her report wants all parish councils to visit devp.org/en/articles to show your support for women and peace.

- Encourage members to sign online petitions
- Print the downloadable campaign poster
- Encourage members to take photographs beside the poster while making the peace sign
- Have post the photograph on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram and tag five friends, challenging them to do the same
- Have them tag the prime minister@CanadianPM, the minister of international development and their member of parliament.

Women at the Heart of Peace:

The fall campaign has started and the Campaign material is available by calling 204-231-2848

Or go online to Development & Peace and order online. Action cards are available or you can sign on line by clicking the link.

1% Program: there is a PowerPoint presentation of current initiatives available

Trafficking of Women & Children

There is available from national a 30-45 minute workshop designed for “Parish Council meetings”.

Joy Smith Foundation:

Award Ceremony, Sunday Nov. 26th at the Provencher Rm. Fort Garry Hotel from 2-5pm.

Volunteers are needed for this event (Paul Brandt will be there) so if you have time go and see who you all can meet. Or: seats and tables are still available. Phone # not available so google Joy Smith Foundation.

House of Peace

Will be holding their fundraising diner on Nov. 13th at the Convention Center in the York Ball Room

Speaker is: Janice Filmon, Governor General of Manitoba

Tickets are \$50.00

Proceeds go to: Holy Names House of Peace

Did You Know

In rape cases: in the U.S approximately 63% of rapes are not reported

In Canada approximately 90% of rapes are not reported.

Assisted deaths, since legislation over 2000 have taken place

In the Netherlands, Groningen U. they are allowed to kill born babies.

There are 15 million child marriages a year.

Rani Hong is the founder of “Because I Am a Girl” movement. There is also a book called “Ranis Voice” a true story written by Rani Hong as a child sold into the sex trade in her country.

Date

Dear MLA:

I am writing to ask you to support Bill 34- the Medical Assistance in Dying (Protection for Health Professionals & Others) Act., which is currently being considered by the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba. If passed, this legislation will protect Manitoba health care professionals from having to act against their conscience.

The Bill would make participation in assisted suicide voluntary and would overrule the policies of regulatory bodies should they require doctors, nurses and other health professionals to participate, in Medical Assistance in Dying. I agree that no one should be forced to participate, either directly or indirectly, in ending a patient's life. No one should be discriminated against because of their stand. Please take whatever legislative steps are required to ensure that no one is forced to participate in assisted suicide

Can I count on your support in regards to Bill-34?

The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Manitoba Provincial Council

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DATE: March 3, 2018



Communiqué # 3

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Chairpersons of Community Life
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Chairperson of Community Life (for information)
FROM: Marielle Rigaux, Provincial Chairperson of Community Life

Psalm 139:13-14 "Truly you have formed my inmost being:" _____
"I give you thanks that I am fearfully, wonderfully made: _____"

Canada Summer Jobs Program- Conflict of Religious Freedom

To read Betty Colaneri's Communiqué please go to the CWL site under Community Life. Betty writes a very factual article on this topic. To abbreviate it would not do it justice. Attached are letters that President Margaret Ann has sent: one to the P.M. Trudeau, and a letter to Rev. Lionel Gendron (President, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops)

The letter to the CCCB is in regards to **Development and Peace** which has been reported to advocate to reproductive rights for women that would include abortion and sterilization. We are for the time being withholding contributions to the CCODP until the CWL receives direction from the CCCB.

Female Genital Mutilation

Is a human rights violation, but P.M. Trudeau has decided to remove listing it as an intolerable practice from Canada's Citizenship Guide. There is an online petition that you can sign

[http://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petitions/Details?](http://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petitions/Details?Petition=e=1310)

Petition=e=1310

200 million women alive today have undergone Female Genital Mutilation. The P.M. has called it "barbaric" but is still removing it from the citizenship guide. The citizenship guide informs newcomers that FGM is a crime in Canada, HOWEVER, Canada's Prime Minister has decided to delete this information.

Pornography

The Pornography delusion is more harmful than you think. There is statistical proof that porn is more harmful than you think. "The problem with using pornography is that it emasculates men, degrades women, destroys marriages, and offends" **Pornography Hurts** is on the National CWL site Jason Evert is a catholic author and speaker and he has written his newest ebook "**The Pornography Delusion**"

The porn industry is a billion-dollar industry, porn is a hidden addiction, and amazingly most people are convinced that it doesn't harm anyone.

I'm hoping you are still saving all of the tiny bottles of shampoo etc. from the rooms you stay in when travelling. Don't forget that the homeless women are also in need of sanitary pads etc. and with that many more immigrants the need is greater. Don't forget to keep saving your aluminium tabs and plastic bags. These can be brought to convention and will be sent to the necessary charity in support of the homeless, the physically handicap, the poor and needy.

Now referring back to the Psalm 139, 13-18. I looked it up in the Bible as the Provincial executive each received from Pres. Rolande a book entitled "Perfectly Yourself", discovering God's dream for you" written by Matthew Kelly. I am now reading this book and I have to tell you that I have long known that God had a plan for me. The psalm refers to God's plan even from before we were born.

I attended the "Beyond Borders" conference and journalistic awards on March 1st. following is a complete report of the day.

Wishing you all many blessings as the Easter season comes upon us.

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DATE September 4th 2018

Communique #4

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

TO: Diocesan Presidents
Diocesan Chairpersons of Community Life
CC: Provincial Executive
CC: National Chairperson of Community Life
FROM: _Marielle Rigaux, Provincial Chairperson of Community Life
ATT:

The autumn sounds and smells have returned. I can hear the combines from morning till late evening, smell the chaff of combined grain and hear the grain trucks roar down the roads. Meals in the field grandkids and all, to me it's Manitoba country at its best.

I would certainly like to thank-you all for your participation in bringing tabs, plastic bags, toiletries, socks, feminine products etc. to the Provincial convention. I was absolutely "gobsmacked" by the response of all the councils. Special thank-you to those who delivered our collection to the appropriate locations.

Development & Peace: "Through the generosity of our members, the national voluntary fund will be giving, \$63,220.98 to the CCO DP, which is presently being withheld and \$16,097.85 to Catholic Near East Welfare Association of Canada."

Quote from Betty Colaneri oral report which you can read in its entirety in the Fall League Magazine. "We are encouraged to keep collecting the 1% until a resolution has been determined by the Canadian Catholic Bishops."

Municipal Elections: are coming up in October, please make yourself aware of the candidate running for councillor in your area. What does he or she stand for and do they have the values, honesty and integrity of someone you would vote for? As your representative they are your elected governance for the next 4 years.

Joy Smith Foundation: "Ride for Refuge" is being held September 29th in support of "Victims of Human Trafficking." "To ensure that every Canadian man, woman and child is safe from manipulation, force or abuse of power designed to lure and exploit them into the sex trade of forced labour. (from JSF website)

Held at 653 Knowles Ave. Starts at 8am. to 12pm. 5km. walk or jog or 25-50km. ride. Google “Ride for Refuge, Winnipeg and the site will all the info is there.

Homelessness: The cool weather is setting in and soon the cities of Winnipeg and Brandon will be helping to find shelter for the homeless. Every year the same scenario, every year not enough beds despite the addition of 50 overnight beds added at Siloam Mission there is a dire need for shelter. What can we do to help besides helping to keep the cupboards full?

The 3 Dioceses:

St. Boniface and Keewatin-The Pas diocese haven't got a recent newsletter “
Winnipeg diocese is holding a walk to support “Life, Hope & Love” on Sept. 22nd at St. Timothy Parish (south St. Vital) 135 Forsyth Rd. More information can be found in the Winnipeg diocese newsletter.

After National Conventional for those who participated, volunteered, organized etc. the culmination of all the work involved declared itself in “I can explain” fatigue. We went home resumed our daily life's work and as CWL we are back to our responsibilities. Our shoes are well worn shoes, but they are comfortable shoes.

We walk together the CWL path and that feeling of contentment and peace is with us.

Happy am I who has gotten to meet and know so many of you! May you also be blessed.

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DATE: October, 2018



Communique #5

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Chairpersons of Community Life
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Chairperson of Community Life (for information)
FROM: Marielle Rigaux, Provincial Chairperson of Community Life

My thoughts today are of “gratitude”. I am grateful for harvest being over at last. It has taken from late August till this last week of October to get done. Grateful that despite hail, lots of rain to no rain that the yields were not all that bad. Grateful for the abundance in our lives given to us by our loving God.

Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops

A new document unanimously adopted by the Bishops of Canada (Sept. 27) called for the “Protecting of Minors from sexual abuse: A call to the Catholic Faithful in Canada for Healing, Reconciliation and Transformation” to inform and educate clergy, members of religious communities and personnel. This book “put forward 69 recommendations inspired by 9 lessons which Bishops have learned through their collective experiences in the past 25 years. It strongly stresses that “Victims must come first”. (more info can be found under the Arch Diocese of St. Boniface, and Winnipeg Diocese newsletters)

Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church

Bishop Albert LeGatt speaks on the recent Sexual Abuse scandal in the church and of the legal process taken in the diocese after a priest is taken from active ministry when allegations are launched. (Archdiocese of St. Boniface newsletter.)

Also found under that same newsletter: Fr. Robert Barron, speaks on the recent scandals of sexual abuse in the States. He speaks on why people are wondering “should they remain catholic” and responds as to why they should not abandon the church at such a crucial time.

JOY SMITH FOUNDATION

The most recent article of Oct. 25th states that Human Trafficking is “not just a big city problem” “Ontario is very busy with human trafficking compared to other provinces. Two thirds of human trafficking cases in Canada are in Ontario”. (S. S. Yateman OPP. Anti human trafficking Investigations Co-ordinating Team).

Canadian T.V. **MarketPlace** this past week had a program on the Dominican Republic and how the people and police turn a blind eye to the prostituting of very young and underaged girls in their country. They are being bought by vacationers who make the holiday trip purposely for that, many of which are Canadians.

IMMIGRATION & REFUGEES

We had two “legal” immigrants speak to us in Neepawa at the Winnipeg CWL workshop about the paper work, the years waiting and the cost of coming to Canada.

If you are an “illegal” immigrant it now takes 20 months to process that person. Toronto’s cost for temporary housing has cost 64 million dollars with Ottawa pledging only 11 million dollars towards that cost. Immigrants arrived so far in 2018---10,744, in 2017---20,593 illegal border crossers. It is **against the law** to cross irregularly into Canada. New arrivals can’t be prosecuted for illegally entering Canada once they apply for refugee status. Legitimate refugee claimants aren’t treated as law breakers.

HUMAN RIGHTS

December the 10th is Human Rights Day. In 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration of Human Rights. These Human Rights are:

1. Right to Equality
2. Freedom from Discrimination
3. Right to Life, Liberty, & Personal Security
4. Freedom from Slavery
5. Freedom from Torture & Degrading Treatment

These rights may vary in different countries. There are 30 basic Human Rights.

On October 24th we practiced one of our rights which was “Freedom to Vote”. This right is recognized as the most important right in 5 of 8 countries.

NORTH END WOMEN’S CENTRE

394 Selkirk Ave. Winnipeg call: 204-589-7347

info@newcentre.org outreach worker: jessica@newcentre.org

This outreach centre deals with women who have completed a one-year program of getting out of addictions and prostitution. They are the 2nd stage housing for those recovering. The centre is providing resources to find accommodations etc.

They are in need of bedding, towels, pillows and self-care essentials such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, combs, brushes, sanitary pads etc.

If your council is needing more information about the North End Centre feel free to contact them at the number or e-mail address provided.

I am looking forward to your annual report. This year let’s up the # of councils reporting. Every council is important and counts in the CWL accomplishment.

“To accomplish great things we must not only act but also dream, not only plan, but also believe”
(Anatole France)

Our Lady of Good Council bless you all,