

The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Manitoba Provincial Council

President

November, 2019



Communiqué 2

Care For Our Common Home

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)

CC: Provincial Executive (for information)

CC: National President (for information)

FROM: Janet Brunger, Provincial President

Greetings to all of my Sisters in the League! We have experienced a very different Fall this year, with the excessive rainfall, followed by that Thanksgiving week-end wallop of heavy, wet snow. Our farming community has certainly been challenged, as most, if not all of them still had crops in the field. We offer all of them our compassion and support during these very difficult times.

Within the CWL, there are many events ongoing. Many Councils hold end of the year fundraisers at this time, and it's a busy time of year for everyone. In regards to that, I have a couple of updates to provide:

- 1) Women's Interchurch Council of Canada – Fellowship of the Least Coin and World Day of Prayer –

"The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) is a worldwide ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation. Christian women around the world meet and pray with each other. Through this, they are reminded to live a forgiving life with others. "Least coins" are given with each prayer, yet the movement is focused on prayer and reconciliation rather than money. Anyone who wishes to join makes a commitment to spend time in prayer whenever she has a strained relationship with another person, and to uphold in prayer others who are victims of jealousy, hatred, violence and injustice."

Some time ago, we became aware that there were some questions surrounding these programs, and reached out to the National Office and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops for guidance. The response is that we are responsible to vet the organizations we support, and having done so, we have the autonomy to support - or not support - whomever we wish. For clarification, any monies collected for or in regards to World Day of Prayer is used for Canadian Charities, which have been vetted and agreed upon by the WICC Board. It is recommended that Councils do not put the funds collected through their Councils' bank accounts; rather, collect the donations and forward them on to WICC. Monies collected at Council level for Fellowship of the Least Coin goes outside the country and we (or WICC Canada) have no control over how or

where the money is used. Having said that, any Council that has money set aside from Fellowship of the Least Coin collections is encouraged to send it in, since this money was collected for a specific purpose, and we in the CWL do not have the authority to change the direction of this money.

- 2) CCODP 1% Program – Since the CCCB does not have the time and resources to vet all organizations, it is strongly recommended once again that Councils vet the organizations they support, prior to sending in their money. CCODP is supported by the Catholic Church, and our 1% program is part of that.

We are entering year 2 of the Strategic Planning process undertaken by National Office. It's well underway, and we have long surpassed the 1,000 hour mark. For the benefit of future generations of the League, we will all be called upon to do our part. It's been mentioned in Crystal Reiter's communique, but I'll say it again – if any Council is interested in a presentation of the Strategic Plan, it's available and we would love to come out to present it!

Our National Theme, *Care for our Common Home*, is entering its second year. To that end, we are all encouraged to be mindful of, and to undertake initiatives to care for our land. Many Councils choose to adopt a highway in their area, others will set aside a day to clean up river ways or neighborhood parks or green spaces. Still others will plant trees and/or beautify their yards or church properties. Anything that you can do to reduce our carbon footprint will ultimately generate a return that will benefit our Earth.

In keeping with the National Theme, as president of Manitoba Provincial Council, I have chosen for my two-year theme, "*The Seed that Flowers*". Many Councils are struggling, with declining membership, aging, and other priorities. We can all extend a hand – we can make a phone call, drop in for coffee, offer a ride, welcome our sisters to Mass, events, or meetings. All of these small gestures will create harmony, community and connection. The small seed that we plant will reward our efforts with beautiful flowers that become a sisterhood of sharing. Likewise, the small acts of service that we give for the beautification of our communities will convert to Care for our Common Home. Will you join me in this endeavour? – Will you reach out to someone today?

May Our Lady of Good Counsel be always at your side, guiding and protecting you in everything you do, for God and Canada!

Janet Brunger, President
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