

SERVICE

November 10,

Communique # 4

HERE I AM LORD

FROM: Marielle Rigaux, Manitoba Provincial Council

To: Diocesan Presidents

Diocesan Chairpersons of SERVICE

Provincial Executive

National Chairperson of SERVICE

I stepped out into the cool of the evening just to hear the drone of the combines. I've always loved the smell of fall harvest, but it's getting late in the season and the forecast is for more rain. It so happened to be that in the distance a big bright full orange moon was reaching the top of spruce trees, a beautiful sight as it rose up in the sky. The stars were just peeking out in the clear dark sky. Go, take it a long look at the beauty of the sky.

So far I've had to "GoTo" meetings with the National chairperson of Service and my provincial counterparts, mostly from out east.

PALLIATIVE CARE : palliative care day was October 9th, it's past but councils can still get the "Horizons of Hope: A toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care" is a resource from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) helping parishes reflect on and provide palliative care through faith-based, community centred approach. It is designed to educate and empower parishioners, caregivers and spotal teams; foster compassionate community care grounded in Catholic

moral and pastoral theology and offer support through illness, suffering, death and bereavement.

The materials available include: A facilitators guide, video content, social media images, posters and four thematic modules.

PURPLE THURSDAY: (October 19)during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. People are encouraged to wear purple to show support for survivors of domestic violence and raise awareness about “the intersection between brain injury and interpersonal violence.” The colour purple symbolises courage, peace and survival, and wearing it helps to show survivors they are not alone and that a supportive community exists for them.

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR: (November 16th) Pope Leo XIV calls Christians to see the poor not merely as recipients of charity, but as protagonists of hope. Drawing on the Psalms and lived experiences of poverty, he emphasizes the need for “new initiatives to support and assist the poorest of the poor” during the jubilee year. He highlights that “Labour, education, housing and health are the foundations of security that will never be attained by the use of arms.”

1: Co-ordinate a “blessing bag” outreach with essentials (toiletries snacks, socks) to give to people in need.

2: Partner with a local soup kitchen or shelter for a volunteer day.

3: Hold a clothing or food drive, especially for winter items.

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women/White Ribbon Day (December 6th)

1: Hold a prayer vigil or rosary for victims of gender-based violence.

2: Partner with a women’s shelter to collect needed items (hygiene kits, diapers, gift cards)

3. Invite a speaker or advocate to educate about domestic violence prevention.

4: Promote White Ribbon Campaign awareness within the parish

International Migrants Day (December 18th)

_1: Host a community potluck featuring dishes from different cultures-celebrate your parish diversity .

2: collect household starter kits for newcomers to your community.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY (December 8th)

1: Host a family-centered activity or service project, like assembling care packages

2: Launch a “Sponsor-a-Family Christmas Drive (if not already in place

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE CAMPAIGN

Encourage members to support the “Turn Debt into Hope “ petition. You can go to the Development and Peace website and sign directly.

Does any of our Diocesan Councils in Manitoba have a “Catholic Girls League”?? it is suggested that this be promoted. For more information I would ask on the CWL National website.

Enclosed is the Advent calendar “40 days of SERVICE” (print a calendar for every member)

I also received the Chalice Advent Companion “Prepare the Way of the Lord”

The Companion will be available as a free downloadable PDF or through a limited print run, or you can sign up for weekly emails with bonus content. Check out the Christmas gift catalog. Order as an individual, group or parish.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and hopefully I will see many of you in February for Day of Celebration.

Blessings

Marielle Rigaux