

## Community life



March 17, 2022

Communique #6

### Catholic and Living It!

TO: Diocesan President (For information and forwarding to Parish Presidents)

CC: Provincial Executive (for information)

National Chairperson of Community Life ( for information)

FROM: Mavis McLaren Provincial Chairperson of Community Life

Greetings, Sisters,

The Lenten Season is with us and the theme for the season is Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.

Pope Francis elaborate on this theme in the following words,

“In this time of conversion, let us not tire of sowing good. Fasting prepares the ground, Prayer irrigates it, Charity fertilizes it. Let us keep these thoughts in our minds as we go through the Lenten season.

#### **Dignity and Rights of Persons**

Let us be mindful of our homeless brothers and sisters, those suffering with mental illnesses and substance abuse. There are many programs being offered to help to support these people. Please donate to organisations that support, such as Siloam Mission and Main Street Project. I encourage you to support these charities as well as your own individual charities.

#### **Social and Economic Justice**

“Blessed are they that hunger and a thirst after justice for they shall have their fill.”( 4<sup>th</sup> Beatitude)

We have come a long way with regards to equal justice for all but much more needs to be done. We continue to face racial injustice in our world, and we need to address it. Please be aware and correct in ways that you can.

Economic justice can be achieved with each of us doing our part. Many companies have fair trade policies which aim to guarantee safe working conditions, better prices, prohibits the use of child labour and many more that benefit farmers and workers around the world. Look for Fairtrade Mark when you shop and please support.

#### **Refugees, Immigration and Citizenship**

There is an estimate of over 26 million refugees worldwide.

Each time we have a crisis regarding refugees we find that the one after is worse than before.

There are also 82.4 million displaced people in the world as reported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ( UNHCR ).

The horrific bombardment of the Ukrainians is played out before our eyes daily how much worst can it get? Please do your part in prayer, in protest and monetary support as you are able.

More information on how to support/donate can be gleaned from Communique #07 sent by

Faith Anderson National Chairperson of Community Life which was forwarded to you recently. Immigration, many people leave their homeland for a better life in Canada, they deserve our respect and to be welcomed in our midst. Citizenship is a privilege and should be cherished.

### **Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace ( CCODP )**

There are two times during the year when CCODP has their fundraising campaign. They are fall and Lenten season. During the past two years of the COVID-19 pandemic almost nothing was done in the churches. Hopefully during this Lenten season with restrictions being lifted they can again set up booths in the church to bring more awareness to the sufferings of people around the world and that contributions can be made. The theme of this year for Development and Peace is 'Put People and Planet First.' Pope Francis said, " people and planet first mean, a different economy which brings life and not death, includes and does not exclude, which humanizes and does not dehumanize, which takes care of creation without plundering it." Please donate to Development and Peace. The 5th Sunday in Lent is designated Solidarity Sunday you are encouraged to give generously. Canadians are urged to help the Ukrainian people with cash through the Share Lent Campaign. It is also designated to help us meet the needs of the most marginalized people around the world.

### **Developing Countries**

Please continue to support developing countries such as Open Doors Haiti Project. Even though Haiti is not in the news lately nevertheless they are still hurting and struggling. Some of the personal stories I have heard is very devastating. Kidnapping is still a big problem in this country. Continue to support your other developing countries' initiatives and programs.

Mavis McLaren  
Provincial Chairperson of Community Life

# Community Life

Date: Sept 10, 2021

Communiqué #5

## *Care for Our Common Home*

To: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils) Diocesan  
CC: Chairpersons for Community Life  
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)  
CC: National Community Life Chairperson (for information)  
From: Mavis McLaren, Provincial Chairperson for Community life

Greetings Sisters in the League, the fall season is almost here and that reminds us everything should be opening up but COVID-19 continues to impact us.

Please join me in congratulating Faith Anderson as our new National Chairperson for Community Life. Faith brings a lot of experience to this portfolio and I know we are in good hands.

Also, I would be remiss in not expressing our gratitude to Marie Rackley our outgoing National Community Life Chairperson for the very good job she has done these past two to three years. During her tenure, she has reported that the league's annual partnership with the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace is strong and that the moneys received in the voluntary fund from July 2020 to June 2021 was \$11,985 and this will be sent following the national annual meeting of members. Catholic Near East Welfare Association will receive \$10,020. Next, Care For Our Common Home Project, Well Repair in India and School Lunch Program in Ethiopia will receive a total of \$ 42,947.00.

September 21st is the International Day of Peace. You're encouraged to make this a day of prayer for people in the Holy Land. ( Please see Prayer attached )The following are suggestions from Faith Anderson for activities at parish councils:

Contact the parish priest to ask if this prayer could be recited at a weekday mass and provide information on the day of prayer Recite this prayer at a monthly meeting, arrange for a leader to guide the prayer. If gathering in person, as a larger group is not possible, one member could offer her home to meet and invite one or two members to join in prayer, members can pray in their homes, collective and individual prayer is always a gift to God.

Begin the day of prayer by lighting a candle and praising God through the song "Peace is Flowing Like a River", CNEWA offers peace lamps to purchase at ([cnewa.org/ca/peace-lamps/](http://cnewa.org/ca/peace-lamps/)), with proceeds helping the efforts in the Holy Land. Further suggestions from Faith Anderson can be found on the cwl website under communiqué #03.

The plight of our Indigenous sisters and brothers was in the news for many weeks and now we are faced with other shocking issues in the News let's not forget the problems regarding Residential Schools. With the elections not far away we ask that you send letters to your MPs to look at the many issues that our Indigenous peoples are experiencing such as housing, education, health, systemic racism, and much more.

September 30th has been designated a Federal Statutory holiday which is called the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Please use that day to find out more about Residential Schools and wear orange colour on that day.

With the influx of refugees let us not lose sight of their basic needs such as housing, food, and health care. Please consider support to Welcome Place on Bannatyne. The organisation here helps new immigrants. Other Community support groups such as Siloam Mission and Harvest Manitoba are asking for specific types of items check with them and donate as you are able.

Winnipeg Industrial Skills Training Centre offers FREE welding & Metal fabrication training to refugees, newcomers and other unemployed Manitobans. To learn more about our program, or to make a referral go to [wistc.ca](http://wistc.ca)

Continue to support your developing countries' charities such as Open Doors Haiti Orphanage

Last but not least, it was agreed at our Provincial Executive meeting to give support to Jocelyn House that had sent a letter to our President Janet Brunger asking for monetary support from the CWL. Please support this request if you are able.

Blessings to you for all that you do for God and Canada. May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to intercede for us as we navigate the pandemic.

Mavis McLaren

Provincial Chairperson of Community Life

<p>The Catholic Women's League of Canada  <b>St. Boniface Diocesan Council</b>  <b>Community Life</b></p>		
<p><b>December, 2020</b></p>		<p><b>Communiqué 4</b></p>
<p><i>Care For Our Common Home</i></p>		
<p>TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)          Parish Council Chairpersons of Community Life          CC: Provincial President and Executive (for information)          CC: National Chairperson of Community Life (for information)          FROM: Mavis McLaren, Provincial Chairperson of Community Life</p>		

*“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere”- Martin Luther King Jr.*

My dear Sisters in the League as we begin this Advent season in the midst of a pandemic let us not lose sight of our mandate to help our marginalized and downtrodden brothers and sisters

**Dignity and Rights of Persons**

The days are getting colder and many of our vulnerable people require warm shelters. Therefore, be mindful of their needs and support shelters run by the Salvation Army, Siloam Mission, the Main Street Project, and others who could benefit from our support. I encourage you to make your contributions as you are able.

**Social and Economic Justice**

The quote in my opening remarks encourages us to speak out against injustice when we see it. There are many examples in media, in our workplace and all around us. We can write to all levels of government and express our concerns. If you are not sure who your MLA or MP is just search google with your postal code and their name will come up. I found that out recently when I needed to call my MP re. Bill C-7

**Refugee, Immigrant and Citizenship**

The refugees, one of our most vulnerable community, need our prayers and support.

It should be noted that a refugee advocate for over 50 years, Mr. Tom Denton will be the honoree at the Catholic Foundation Virtual Celebration April 23, 2021, as well as donation will be designated to Hospitality House that he founded. We are reminded that, "Nothing is illegal in seeking asylum." Many come here for a better life.

### **Canadian Catholic Organization of Peace (CCODP)**

Fall and Lent is when optimum awareness of CCODP is presented in our Parishes. The fall action campaign is to educate parishioners about issues of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation. Due to the Pandemic, that didn't take place this year as we were not in church the way we used to. I urge you therefore, to google Development and Peace and you will find a wealth of information including statements from Archbishop Gagnon of Winnipeg Diocese President of CCCB. Letters of concern were sent to a community that suffered loss of building in the case of fire at a Northern Indigenous Catholic Church. In addition, one was sent to a Catholic Diocese in Minneapolis regarding the senseless death of George Floyd.

### **Developing Countries**

Please support the following:

- MaterCare International (Canada) is dedicated to educate and to empower communities across the world – in Ghana, Haiti and Kenya. Please donate Airmiles to MaterCare. Ask your cashier to credit them to 8007 729 6378.

- Open Doors Orphanage in Haiti

Here is the contact information:

Open Doors Orphanage

PO Box 405

Beausejour MB.

R0E 0C0

(For more information on the above projects you can search by google.)

- Other overseas charities that your councils have supported over the years please continue to do so.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel Bless you and Keep you safe.

Mavis McLaren

Provincial Chairperson of Community Life

# Community Life

May 24, 2020



Communiqué 3

## *Care For Our Common Home*

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

Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Manitoba Provincial Council  
Community Life Chairperson

My dear Sisters and Fr. Paul,

Greetings and I hope you are keeping well.

We are living in challenging times due to COVID-19, but with our Heavenly Father, His Son, our Blessed Mother, and all the angels and saints, we'll ride out this storm. As we go forward being quarantined in our homes, let us be mindful of our brothers and sisters everywhere on this planet.

Those of us chairing Community Life can minister to our community in many ways, whether it be personally or as a CWL Member (providing it is in keeping with the mandate of the Catholic Women's League of Canada.)

### Refugees, Immigration and Citizenship

We are reminded in Matt. 25 v 35 to welcome the stranger in our midst, so let's lend a hand to the newcomers. There are many locations in the city where the needs of newcomers and immigrants can be found, please seek these out but check as stated above with diocesan or provincial presidents if they are approved for support. Many new centres have sprung up geared towards feeding the needy in our town. These can be found in the local newspaper.

As much as you're able please support.

### Canadian Catholic Organizations for Development and Peace (CCODP)

During this time of isolation because of COVID-19, many are not using much cosmetic products, as well as visits to the Beauty Salon, Gyms, Restaurants etc. are minimal at this time, why not donate the potential cost to Development and Peace (Individually we can do a lot). I am sure you're getting requests from many other charities as well.

Dignity and Rights of Persons

More than ever, we are reminded of our marginalized and homeless persons.

The Charitable Organizations that support drop-in centers, food banks, children's centres, homeless shelters and our Northern Missions could do well with our help due to the necessity of the time we're living in. There is much to be done. Choose one or two and let's do our Corporal Works of Mercy.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel bless you and keep you safe.

Mavis McLaren

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

**Manitoba Provincial Council**

**Community Life**

**March 3, 2020**



**Communiqué 2**

***Care For Our Common Home***

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

Dear Sisters in the League as we begin our Lenten journey let us be reminded of our duties as Community Life chairpersons which are:

- dignity and rights of persons.
- social and economic justice.
- refugees, immigration and citizenship
- Canadian Catholic Organization of Peace (CCODP).
- developing countries.

All of the above should be practiced throughout the year but the days of Lent could be a time to practice or begin to put emphasis on these obligations.

You don't have to do them all at once, select one and work on it.

For purpose of this communique I have chosen one area to highlight and that is our refugees, immigration and citizenship.

In my first communique I mentioned the meeting I had with personnel from Welcome Place that serves our newcomers. The Contact person is willing to give a presentation at your meeting or at Welcome Place located on Bannatyne St.

The contact person is Sunainan Malhotra. Email-sunainan@miic.ca

There are many immigrants that are willing to tell their stories as mentioned before, invite them in and you'll be surprised to be enlighten by their stories and thus develop empathy and understanding.

Recently I met and heard the personal story of a refugee who lost his fingers on both hands. Although I had seen this story on the Local News, hearing it from him moved me to tears and admiration for the courage demonstrated by him and his friend during this ordeal. There is much we can do to welcome the stranger in our midst. This is in keeping with the mandate and philosophy of our founding Sisters.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

September 2019

### Care for Our Common Home

To: Diocesan Presidents (For information and forwarding to Diocesan Chairpersons of Community Life and Parish Council)

CC: Provincial President (for information)

CC: Provincial Executive (for information)

CC: National Chairperson of Communication (for information only)

FROM: Mavis McLaren Provincial Chairperson of Community Life

Wherever there are people in need of food and drink, clothing, housing, medicine, employment and education; wherever (people) lack the facilities necessary for living a truly human life or are afflicted with serious distress or illness or suffer exile or imprisonment, there Christian charity should seek them out and find them, console them with great solicitude and help them with appropriate relief. This obligation is imposed above all upon every prosperous nation and person.

(Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity) Vatican II

The above is a profession of faith and a call to action by all of us. Remember the works of charity are rooted in Jesus. He reminds us that, "You are the salt of the earth." Matt.5 v 13.

Duties of the Chairperson are:

- dignity and rights of persons
- social and economic justice
- refugees, immigration and citizenship
- Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP)
- developing countries

#### Dignity and Rights of Persons

We are encouraged to respect all people we encounter.

As Christian women and members of Catholic Women's League of Canada, we are called to play an active role in opposing discrimination in all its forms. We can play an important role in the work place and in all places that we interact with others. Also, in recent years we did much to bring awareness on issues such as human trafficking, it is still happening and we should seek ways to support organizations working with this tragedy, like the Joy Smith foundation. There is a wealth of information related to human trafficking if you just google Joy Smith Foundation. Check it out you won't be disappointed.

## Social and Economic Justice

I attended a social justice workshop 3 years ago; the presentations were from leaders of the community dealing with marginalized individuals.

Presenters were from:

1. Main Street Project
2. Persons working with people who took up residence under the bridge.
3. Leader of house in St. Boniface. This project helps to send people back to school to get a better education and work-related skills.

Please support these projects whenever you can especially in the winter months.

There are many others in your area that you can access if you prefer ones closer to home.

As this is an election year both provincially and federally, let the candidates know your concerns, for e.g. minimum wage and health care are two issues that need to be addressed.

## Refugees, Immigration and Citizenship

Pope Francis reminds us to welcome the strangers in our land.

Chairpersons, be informed about Canada's Refugee and Immigration policies.

In Winnipeg we have Welcome Place at 521 Bannatyne Ave. They have many programs for Immigrants. Donations can be sent to Welcome Place by directing it to Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council (MIIC)

## Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace

Development and Peace aim at promoting justice in developing countries. Please support Development and Peace whenever the opportunity arises. Combating poverty and social inequality should be practiced by all good Christians.

### Developing Countries

The Chairperson could invite a guest speaker from developing nations or other people who have visited or lived in these countries to meetings. At this point we can lend support to the people of Bahamas by donating to Fundraisers aimed at bringing relief to people whose Island was devastated by Hurricane Dorian.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel bless you.

Also, will forward communique from National Chairperson for Community Life.

Mavis McLaren

