



**The Kingston Diocesan Council of  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

**Past President/Historian**

***Care for our Common Home***

**Directive #4**

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**Date:** February 9, 2019

**To:** Parish Council Past Presidents

**From:** Margie Royle, Diocesan Past President

**CC:** Diocesan Executive, Provincial Past President

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***""Have only one desire throughout your lifetime: to be and to become the person God wills you to be, in nature, in grace, in glory, for time and for eternity."***

(J.P. Medaille, SJ, Maxim of Perfection 10:6)

We begin a new theme introduced by national president, Anne Marie Gorman, "Care for our Common Home". What perfect timing as we feel the effects of climate change, see startling images of garbage polluting our waters, wildlife maimed and dying from our debris and ocean life ingesting plastic waste that makes its way to their environment. It is time to consider our own personal contribution to this dire situation and to implement change in our own daily habits that could bring healing to our common home.

In her recent communique, Pauline Krupa, past provincial president, presented us with some personal challenges. While attending a meeting focused on blue communities and water, her group watched a segment of Market Place dealing with plastic waste. ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5Qbi\\_dB3Qo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5Qbi_dB3Qo)). This motivated Pauline to come up with, what she is calling, The Supermarket Challenge. Here's what she suggests:

"Starting this week, when you go shopping be mindful of all the products in plastic bags/containers and try very hard not to buy the product. Instead of using a plastic bag for your fresh fruit/vegetables, use a paper bag or a cloth bag. Look for local market places that sell individual items that are not in plastic containers. Start small. You can be sure when you get to the register with four or five paper bags containing tomatoes, apples, grapes, someone will ask why, and you can simply say 'I am trying one grocery day at a time to reduce plastic waste that is destroying our landfills and water systems.' I am calling this a quiet nudging for change. Can you imagine if 46,000 shoppers in Ontario stopped using plastic bags for fresh produce, what an impact it could make!"

An excellent idea to present to your councils, don't you think!

Provincial president, Anne Madden, has asked us to focus on water to support national's theme. One way to do this is to look into 'blue communities', a community working towards making clean water a human right. Two websites suggested by our past president to help us learn more of these communities are <https://canadians.org/bluecommunities> (a branch of The Canadian Council Acting for Social Justice), and <https://canadians.org/media/federation-sisters-st-joseph-canada-becomes-blue-community-working-towards-making-clean-water>. The latter one is a project being undertaken by the Sisters of St. Joseph. These are excellent resources and well worth researching.

Pause for a moment and think of bottled water consumption, either personal use or perhaps on how we rely on it for parish functions. Then consider watching, "Why Say NO to Nestles" (<https://www.saynotonestle.ca>). This video is only eight minutes in length and could easily be viewed at a general meeting. Be prepared for an interesting discussion to follow and perhaps a personal pause for thought before purchasing another case of water!

It is election year for the Kingston Diocesan Council. As past presidents, you are eligible to let your name stand for a position as a member of the diocesan executive. From a personal view point, I can't tell you how enriching this experience has been for me! My understanding of the League has grown by leaps and bounds, beautiful friendships have been made and a deepening of my faith has occurred. Remember, you need only to begin with a desire to serve. Together, with other executive members, you will grow and learn. It is a beautiful journey, one in which I sincerely hope your discernment will guide you into say YES! I eagerly await the return of your forms sent to you in December. We need to hear back from each of you so please, the letter of regret, if that is your decision at this time, must be returned as well. Please don't hesitate to call or email with any questions you may have. Remember, forms received postmarked after March 15th will not be considered.

Respectfully submitted.