

**Kingston Diocesan Council of  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Community Life Standing Committee  
We have Seen the Lord - As People of Faith**

**Directive # 2**

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**Date: February 1, 2014**

**To:** Parish Council Community Life Standing Committee Chairpersons  
**From:** Elizabeth Knudson, Diocesan Community Life Standing Committee Chair

We have many opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus reaching out to those in need; upholding the dignity of the impoverished; protecting the right of persons'; using our voice for social change; working for a just society; welcoming the stranger; prayerfully and financially supporting people in developing countries.

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace

**1% can make a difference!** Since 1969 CWL supported thousands of women in the Global South through the 1% program. This program encourages all CWL members to contribute 1% of all personal and luxury items, as well as 1% raised by CWL councils to projects that aim to empower women and improve their standard of living. Together we are strong women building stronger communities. Contact information for development and peace, [info@devp.org](mailto:info@devp.org)

Marty's Dream

Former National Spiritual Advisor Archbishop Martin Currie (St John's) is an Episcopal representative with Chalice. As a legacy to Archbishop Currie all councils are encouraged to participate in a project close to his heart. The project is called Marty's Dream. The dream is to construct a hostel for girls and guardians at St. Michaels Parish (Kete Krachi) in the Northwestern part of the Catholic Diocese of Jasikan in the Volta Region of Ghana. Teenage girls travel from surrounding communities to obtain an education they cannot receive at home, the current living arrangements are deplorable and unsanitary. It is also dangerous and they are preyed upon by boys and men and become pregnant. When this happens they have to return home and this marks the end of their education. Living in a safe and secure accommodation would prevent the girls from being placed in dangerous circumstances. The goal of this project is to ensure the girls get an education and go on to pursue further educational opportunities and return to their communities as leaders and role model for others.

Lets have fun fulfilling this dream by being creative in how the money is raised. One way is to sell Marty's muffins after Mass. Please send money collected by cheque made out to the Archdiocese of St. John's at P.O. Box 1363, St. John's, NL, A1C 5N5. Mark it to the attention of Marty's Dream and indicate that it is from the League. The Archdiocese of St. John's will issue tax receipts for all monies donated.

## Trafficking

Pope Francis has directed that the problem of human trafficking be studied. This prompted a group of women religious to ask the pope to raise greater awareness in the church about the issue and a worldwide day of prayer and fasting has been established. It is February 8<sup>th</sup>, the Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita who was a Sudanese slave who found freedom in Italy and became a nun in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Many people are not aware that human trafficking is actually taking place in Canada and this is one of the great barriers preventing it from being stopped. Two excellent sources of information to refer to are the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Joy Smith Foundation websites.

## Poverty and Homelessness

It is said that giving to the poor is good for our health and this message is found in scripture time and time again. The Honourable Candice Bergen, Minister of State reported that cities in Canada are seeing the homeless population shrink. Members should not be lulled into complacency. The winter months are especially challenging. So give generously. Giving needs to be seen not as charity but as obligation, as justice, as something we owe. Teach us to share with each other, at home and abroad, the good things God has given us.

Respectfully Submitted  
Elizabeth Knudson