



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

Community Life

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

Directive #1

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Date: October 28, 2017

To: Parish Council, Community Life Chair
From: Bernadette Veitch, Diocesan Community Life Chair
CC: Diocesan Executive, Provincial Community Life Chair

*"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."*

Martin Luther King Jr.

Welcome to incoming new and returning Community Life Council Chairs. Let me introduce myself; I have held several President's positions (some more than once) in parishes throughout the Diocese of Kingston. I was the Region One Rep. on the Diocesan Executive (when we had one) and Education and Health Chair many years ago. I am pleased to be back with this fine group of women, on this Executive, and am looking forward to sharing ideas, concerns and issues, as we learn, share and pray for change over the next two years.

FOCUS FOR 2017-2018 – Dignity of Persons

Provincial President Anne Madden has challenged us to focus on **Homelessness**. Many factors can contribute to an individual being homeless and makes it difficult to regain self-sufficiency, especially when homelessness is for long periods of time. I was asked to compile a list of services/organizations in our Diocese that service the homeless and forward it on to the Provincial President for their meeting on October 12. If you have something exciting and interesting going on in your area that you would like to add to the resource list, please contact me and I will forward it on to my Provincial counterpart.

It will have come and gone by now, but October 10, 2017 is set aside as World Homeless Day, to draw attention and educate people about homelessness and to celebrate and support local good works and to highlight local issues.

Here are some websites that address homelessness with suggestions for action:

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/employmentsocialdevelopment/programs/communities/homelessness/understanding.html>
- <http://homelesshub.ca>
- <http://homelesshub.ca/CommunityProfiles>

- <https://www.thestar.com/opinion/commentary/2017/05/31/commonmisconceptions-about-homelessness.html>
- Hidden homelessness in Canada - Statistics Canada

Please research others that will give ideas and suggested actions. Perhaps you would share those with me that I can pass on to my provincial counterpart.

Development and Peace

I attended a Justice and Peace Meeting at St. Joseph Church in September. This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Justice and Peace Commission, a joint commission of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Kingston and the Anglican Diocese of Ontario. Recently the Holy Father proclaimed November 19, 2017 to be the first World Day of the Poor. How will we answer Pope Francis's call? The Commission would like to have a better understand of the great work that is being done at the parish level. They have developed a survey, the results of which will help to address many of the needs of both the Commission and the parishes. Your Parish Priest is being asked to consult with Parish Groups to complete a survey on behalf of your Parish. The survey can be found in the Justice and Peace section of the Archdiocese of Kingston website, www.romancatholic.kingston.on.ca.

On October 14, 2017 Development and Peace Caritas Canada (celebrating 50 years this year) and the Catholic Women's League of St. Joseph Parish, Kingston, will have held their workshop May Peace Be with Her, on women's influence on the Peace process. Did you know that peace agreements are 35% more likely to hold for at least 15 years when women help draft them? In a world increasingly threatened by war, it is time to find new ways of creating peace. Women are a key part of the solution. Stay tuned for more information coming from that workshop.

Respectfully submitted.