



Nova Scotia Provincial Council
Catholic Women's League of Canada
Community Life #4
Care for our Common Home

To: Wanda Bruckschwaiger, Antigonish Diocesan Community Life Chairperson
Ethel Jack, Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Community Life Chairperson
From: Catherine Gonvales
Date: May 15, 2020
CC: Glenda Carson, Nova Scotia Provincial President
Janice MacDougall, Antigonish Diocesan President
Janet Terrio, Halifax Yarmouth Diocesan President
Nova Scotia Provincial Executive (for information)
Marie Rackley, National Chairperson of Community Life

My dear sisters in the League,

During these uncertain times when we do not know much about what tomorrow will bring, people need the League more than ever and indeed our members are responding in different ways.

For sure, most of us have become prayer warriors as we believe in the power of prayers and the mercy and compassion of the Almighty. I personally look forward to praying the daily Rosary with Fr. Patrick, (Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Cape Breton – Facebook live 11 am)} and have shared this info with many friends including council members from my parish. I may be sitting in my home praying the Rosary, but I feel so connected with my sisters; it has created a bond, a relationship. Then there is the eagerness to participate in the daily Mass. I do miss receiving Jesus sacramentally, but I am so grateful that we can celebrate the daily Mass even when our churches are closed. Thanks to technology! It is said **Faith is an absence of Fear**; so, let our faith sustain us during these times of tribulation.

Even though we cannot meet in person, many of us are calling members and friends to establish contacts specially with those who are alone, vulnerable, bereaved and are assuring them that better days are ahead. We are also sharing emails and text messages. Many of us are checking on neighbours and running errands for them. A lot of good, immense love and caring and sharing has been displayed during these challenging times. Everyone is trying to do something for someone in their community to show them that they care. Members are encouraged to support agencies which service the poor and the disadvantaged in our communities. There is the St. Vincent de Paul society in our churches, soup kitchens and food banks where many of us use to volunteer or donate and now because we are vulnerable or have family members who are vulnerable at home, we are unable go there physically to help out. However, we can certainly drop off food and \$ donations. In these

trying times when so many have lost their jobs, the need is even more.

Then there are the CWL heroes who are making masks to stem the spread of COVID 19 in their communities. Some are also making Johnny coats for senior homes and baking treats for essential workers.

Community life lives and the councils continue to serve those in need. Let us continue to share our gifts and talents by lending a hand to those in need. In doing so, we are serving God and Canada.

Laudato Si' week is coming up, May 16-24th. Pope Francis invites us to celebrate Laudato Si Week. <https://laudatosiweek.org/>

This week celebrates the 5th anniversary of Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home, Pope Francis's papal encyclical on the environment and human ecology.

There are many online activities and prayers that can be found at <https://laudatosiweek.org/activities>

There is also an **online petition for climate justice action** - found at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdz5ZGXgsnWhW6dqYcpq-7CbV2rMxSlp97hj3sQNNrrDETTWQ/formResponse>

Open the letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau from Canadian Catholics regarding the Climate Emergency. The Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth invites all Catholics in Canada - individuals, parishes and congregations - to sign on the petition by **May 22**.

I have just received updates and pertinent info from Adah Ogbe, Development and Peace Animator. On the April 28, the Executive Committee of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace met. This second joint session paved a clearer working path to implement recommendations of the organizational analysis and further specifications. The first change is that the number of elected CCODP's National Council will be reduced from 21 to 11 and four bishops will be appointed by the CCCB for a total of 15 members. This new structure will allow for more fruitful collaboration and will lead to improved efficiency, transparency and accountability in all decision-making processes. It is interesting and informative!

<https://www.devp.org/en/pressroom/2020/comm2020-05-04>

Recd info from Adah on presentation made in February during the Share Lent Workshop in Halifax on "Our Common Home" derived from Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si. It focuses on the indigenous communities threatened in the Amazon by illegal mining. There is also a petition urging the Brazilian government to protect the indigenous people in Brazil and we as individuals can be part of this.

https://www.devp.org/sites/www.devp.org/files/documents/materials/devpeace_commonhome_solidarity_letter_en.pdf

https://www.devp.org/sites/www.devp.org/files/documents/materials/devpeace_petition_mercosur_en.pdf

Also received info on the Atlantic Regional Assembly of D&P for the Atlantic on **May 23** and they are expecting the bishops to be a part of it. We are welcome to join the Assembly as many of the existing issues regarding D&P will be discussed.

[Rn7LIVoG https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqf-uqrz8jG9ZTJGbaCZ5BDQN-](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqf-uqrz8jG9ZTJGbaCZ5BDQN-Rn7LIVoG)

Agenda for the day is posted on the Diocesan websites.

On the Archdiocese website, there is info on Eco Justice and how D&P is responding to the needs of the marginalized in Nigeria during this pandemic and their focus is more in Northeast Nigeria where Boko Haram is active and is causing havoc.

<https://www.halifaxyarmouth.org/pastoral-services/eco-justice/item/development-and-peace-caritas-canada-covid-19-in-nigeria>

Since National is waiting for all issues with CCCB and D&P partners to be resolved before we overtly support them, these links will be posted on the Diocesan websites. Indeed, there is a lot of interesting reading material in these communiques.

Most parish councils presented the Pieta Bhavan, Kerala India National project to their councils during their January and February meetings and hopefully there will be an opportunity for all councils to donate and support this worthy cause once we resume our monthly meetings.

Let us continue praying for victims of human trafficking, for all families who lost their loved ones in the recent shooting in Nova Scotia, for all essential workers and for the indigenous people.

I pray that you and your families stay safe and blessed. May our Lady of Good Counsel protect us, guide us, pray for us and be with us during these trying times.

Catherine Gonsalves
NS Provincial Community Chair