



Nova Scotia Provincial Council
Catholic Women's League of Canada
Christian Family Life Communique # 2
One Heart, One Voice, One Mission
(Together We Serve)

To: Diocesan Counterparts (*For distribution to all parish councils*)
From: Theresa Duann, Nova Scotia Provincial Christian Family Life Chairperson
Date: October 22, 2016
Copied: Provincial President, Peggy MacNeil and Executive (for information)
National Chairperson, Doreen Gowans (for information)

Prayer: *O Lord, help us to see your face in the eyes of every person we meet, so that we may be empowered to bring justice and peace to those who need our help.*

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Thirty-two people were charged in connection with an international human trafficking sting. Unbelievably, most have a connection to Halifax, investigators revealed. Police in Nova Scotia were part of more than 50 districts involved in "Operation Northern Spotlight"; a six day investigation conducted by Canadian Police and the FBI. The thirty-two were charged with seventy-eight offences, and police ensured that sixteen people working in the sex trade against their will, or as minors, were brought to safety. So far, there is no evidence to link these individuals to North Preston's Finest. N.P.F, is a gang known for trafficking girls to Toronto.

There have been no human trafficking convictions in Nova Scotia during the past six years. The main reason for this is the victims are reluctant to come forward and press charges. Human trafficking is a worldwide issue and the police pool resources and share intelligence to locate victims and assist them. They do this on an ongoing basis and every night they are out there.

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

The Catholic Church is struggling with offering a funeral to someone who has chosen suicide. You can remember in past years you were buried "outside the fence" if you were not in good standing with the church. Six Bishops of Alberta and Northwest Territories have released guidelines last month instructing priests to refuse funerals for people who have chosen assisted dying. This is the Year of Mercy. Alberta is considered a very conservative province; Quebec and British Columbia are considered very liberal and the rest of us were not rated. The church has to guard against making decisions on whom you ask in the church.

SAFE SPACES

According to the Canadian Encyclopedia, 75% of Nova Scotia's population is identified as Christians in 2011. The next largest religion is "Islam" at 1% of the provinces' population. 21% did not identify with any religion. Nova Scotia is also made up of smaller communities of other religions. Education Minister, Karen Casey, agrees with the idea of safe spaces in schools for students to practice their religious beliefs. Some schools have already found safe space where students can meet.

The positives:

- help students to understand, support and appreciate differences in each others' religious belief.
- the tolerance level is much higher than in the past
- comes at a time when Nova Scotia is becoming more ethnically and religiously diverse.